

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

Date: Tuesday, 11 November 2025

Committee:
Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 19 November 2025

Time: 10.30 am

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

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

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that 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

Members of Cabinet

Heather Kidd
Alex Wagner
Bernie Bentick
Roger Evans
Andy Hall
Ruth Houghton
James Owen
Rob Wilson
David Vasmer
David Walker

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable 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 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is not later than 12 noon on Thursday 13th November 2025.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions from Members of the Council. Deadline for notification is not later than 12 noon on Thursday 13th November 2025.

6 Scrutiny Items

a Scrutiny Item - Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2): Project 2 - Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury

To receive a verbal report from Councillor Ed Potter, Chair of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2025/26

Lead Member – Cllr Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Lead Officer – James Walton, Executive Director (S151 Officer)

REPORT TO FOLLOW

8 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2025/26 (Pages 9 - 36)

Lead Member – Cllr Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities

Lead Officer – Jess Edwards, Business Intelligence and Insight Manager

9 Annual H&S Performance Report 2024/25

Lead Member – Cllr Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Lead Officer – Sam Williams, Service Director – Enabling

REPORT TO FOLLOW

10 Skateboard & BMX Pump Track Provision in Oswestry

Lead Member – Cllr Heather Kidd, Leader

Lead Officer – Steve Law, Head of Property & Development

REPORT TO FOLLOW

11 Update on Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (Pages 37 - 46)

Lead Member – Cllr David Vasmer, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment

Lead Officer – Hayley Deighton, Strategic Partnerships Manager

12 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

13 Exempt Minutes

To confirm the exempt minutes from the meeting held on 15 October 2025.

14 Education Place Planning Phase 4

Lead Member – Cllr Andy Hall, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Lead Officer – David Shaw, Director – Children's Services

REPORT TO FOLLOW

15 Special Education Needs Provision - Capital Works

Lead Member – Cllr Andy Hall, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Lead Officer – David Shaw, Director – Children's Services

REPORT TO FOLLOW

16 Chief Executive and Chief Officer 2025/26 Pay Award Options (Pages 47 - 54)

Lead Member – Cllr Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Lead Officer – Sam Collins-Lafferty, HR & OD Manager

17 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3 December 2025.



Committee and Date

Cabinet

19 November 2025

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025

In The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

10.30 am – 12.10 pm

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillors Heather Kidd, Alex Wagner, Bernie Bentick, Roger Evans, Andy Hall, Ruth Houghton, James Owen, David Vasmer and David Walker

Other Members Present:

Group Leaders: Dawn Husemann (Reform UK), Dan Thomas (Conservative), Rosemary Dartnall (Labour), Duncan Kerr (Deputy Group Leader Green and Progressive Independent)

Councillor Ed Potter, Chair of Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Samuel Walmsley, Chair of Highways Contract Task and Finish Group

49 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Wilson.

50 Disclosable Interests

Councillor James Owen and Councillor David Walker both declared an interest in item 6a, Skateboard and BMX Pump Track Provision in Oswestry, as they were members of Oswestry Town Council.

51 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September be confirmed as a correct record.

52 Public Question Time

Public questions were received from John Crowe in relation to the Guildhall and Shirehall and John Palmer in relation to the North West Relief Road.

The full questions and responses to them are available here: [Response to Public Questions - 15.10.2025.pdf](#)

53 Member Question Time

Councillor Chris Lemon had submitted a question in relation to bus services for Bowbrook Meadows and Darwin's Walk in Radbrook.

The full question and response to it is available from here: [Response to Member Questions - 15.10.2025.pdf](#)

54 Scrutiny Items

a Scrutiny Item - Skateboard & BMX Pump Track Provision in Oswestry

Cllrs James Owen and David Walker left the meeting for the duration of this item.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report and corrected the names of the local members as listed at the end of the report to Councillors James Owen, Duncan Kerr, Wendy Owen and Mark Owen. The Cabinet discussed work undertaken in looking at a transfer of land in Oswestry to Oswestry Town Council for a skatepark and BMX pump track, as recommended by the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that Cabinet supported the need and benefits of such a facility and confirmed that he had instructed officers to complete an options appraisal of available sites, aiming for a recommendation at a future cabinet meeting.

Responding to a question about timescale he explained that Shropshire Council would be required to consult and complete an options appraisal before any transfer was made but proposed an additional recommendation that he instruct the Head of Property and Development that the work is to be undertaken rapidly with a report on the options appraisal brought back to the Cabinet meeting on 19 November 2025. The additional recommendation was seconded.

RESOLVED:

3.1 that Cabinet accepts the need, demand and benefit of a skatepark and BMX Pump Track in Oswestry and will work to deliver a new facility in an appropriate location in partnership with Oswestry Town Council (contingent on the Town Council's support and funding.)

3.2 to instruct the Head of Property and Development to complete an options appraisal of available sites within the Council's ownership, considering the most appropriate and beneficial location, and bring back a report to a future Cabinet meeting with a final recommendation.

3.3 to instruct the Head of Property and Development that the work is to be undertaken rapidly with a report on the options appraisal brought back to the Cabinet meeting on 19 November 2025.

b Scrutiny Item - Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group Briefing Paper

Councillor Dawn Husemann, Chair of the Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group provided an update on the work of the Group. She presented the initial findings and recommendations of the Group, which had conducted research and interviews to identify key factors for successful partnership working between Shropshire Council and Town & Parish Councils.

The update highlighted three critical areas:– communication; support and training; and provision of essential information, as foundational to the success of the partnership and specific actions needed in each area, such as improving communication channels, providing a single point of contact, and ensuring transparency about service transfers.

Next steps were outlined for exploring proposals for clustering arrangements, emphasising the importance of engaging volunteers and stakeholders, and the need for ongoing scrutiny to ensure the partnership foundations are robust and effective.

Cabinet welcomed the Task and Finish Group's report, thanking it for the valuable, well-researched body of work and recommendations informing decision making for partnership working and service transfers. The Deputy Leader emphasised the importance of the recommendations, and said the administration aimed to accept and implement them as much as possible, particularly recognising the need for culture change and improved communication with town and parish councils.

Cabinet acknowledged the challenges ahead, especially the diversity among town and parish councils and reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing scrutiny and further work utilising the Group's findings.

55 CPC Action Plan

The Leader introduced the report explaining that the action plan was based on 10 recommendations for improvement set out in the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge report. The plan was being integrated into the Council's Improvement Board which would be chaired by an independent chair and include group leaders and mentors. The LGA had provided funding and additional support to help implement the action plan, recognising the council's significant financial stress and limited internal capacity.

The action plan addressed both financial and cultural change with a focus on valuing staff, improving recruitment and retention and supporting residents.

There was cross-party support for the plan, with an emphasis on need for fundamental cultural change and readiness to support the Improvement Board.

RESOLVED:

To agree the CPC action plan and the plan's integration into the overarching improvement plan as the first section of the Council's Strategic Plan.

56 Financial Monitoring Period 5

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the period 5 report which showed the council's financial position at the end of August, with a worsening forecast and a predicted overspend of £1.251 million if no further reductions or income increases occurred. The budget and savings target for the year was set by the previous administration, requiring £41m in savings not previously achieved, plus another £19 million for the current year totalling £60 million. Of this there were no concrete plans in place to save over £28 million. Net expenditure was predicted to increase by £35.5 million, and even after using all general reserves, an overspend would remain.

The Portfolio Holder said that the emergency measures implemented in September, including spend control boards and a focus on reducing spend and delivering savings should be reflected in improvement in the period 6 report.

Discussion covered how central government funding formulas did not recognise the cost of delivery of rural services and disadvantaged rural councils like Shropshire. The removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, and statutory service pressures (especially adult and children's social care) were driving overspends. Efficiency savings alone would not be enough, and difficult decisions on service changes would be needed. The Leader reiterated that the Administration was committed to transparency and consultation with councillors and the public on proposals.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet Members:

A. Ensure emergency action is continued by all Officers between October and March to improve the forecast position (currently a projected spend over budget at Period 5 of £35.531m). Such action should predominantly focus on reducing spend, increasing income, delivering remaining savings and significant mitigating actions to control in-year spending pressures.

B. Note that Operations Boards, which have been in place from August 2025, continue to challenge all in-year spending.

C. Note that the Period 5 position (as at the end of August) forecasts indicative level of savings delivery of £33.981m (57%),

D. Note the projected General Fund Balance is now negative (£1.251m), indicating a potentially illegal financial position by the end of the financial year if proposed action does not improve this position.

E. Note that, in light of the Council's current financial position and ongoing engagement with MHCLG, active discussions regarding Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) have commenced

57 Draft Financial Strategy 2026/27 - 2030/31

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the first MTFS under the new administration, covering the latest forecast for 2025/26, an early draft for 2026/27, and indicative figures for subsequent years.

Despite current financial measures, a savings shortfall of approximately £26 million remained, with further mitigating actions to be reflected in the December update. A potential funding gap of £81.7 million for the next financial year was reported, alongside a cumulative gap of £139 million over five years. Exceptional Financial Support from government was expected to be required, and discussions were ongoing. The Portfolio Holder highlighted depleted reserves and worsening projections compared to the previous year.

Significant pressures on adult and children's social care were identified as major cost drivers, with growth assumptions of 6.5% for adults and 12% for children in 2026/27. The robustness of these projections were discussed and the importance of detailed analysis to ensure efficiency and accuracy. During discussion, members noted demographic challenges, complexity of social care cases, and high referral rates, particularly in domestic abuse cases. Initiatives such as the Stepping Stones project aimed to reduce demand, but progress would take time. Responding to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Social Care reported that benchmarking showed Shropshire's placement costs remain mid to low compared to neighbouring authorities, and the Local Government Association would support transformation in adult social care.

The Leader emphasised the need for transparency and early communication of difficult decisions to residents. Consultations on the budget would begin in December, with urgent proposals brought forward to inform towns and parishes as they prepared precepts for January and February. A Budget Forum would precede formal meetings, and the aim to become an enabling authority, allowing local councils to take on services where appropriate was emphasised. Members stressed the importance of giving residents time to plan for the impact of these decisions.

The Portfolio Holder noted that Shropshire was not alone in facing these challenges, with many shire authorities in similar positions. Lobbying through the County Councils Network (CCN) and support from the LGA were ongoing to secure government assistance and address the financial emergency. The MTFS sets out the scale of the challenge and the urgent need for collaborative action to deliver a sustainable financial position.

RESOLVED:

3.1 That Cabinet discuss the emerging pressures for the coming year and in the context of the new direction for Shropshire Council work alongside officers to identify and agree the decisions necessary to achieve a legal budget for 2026/27 and a balanced financial position across the medium term.

3.2. That Cabinet requires Officers to continue work to; • Reduce all non-essential spend for 2025/26 and review identified pressures • Prepare savings options for the coming year,

to secure a balanced budget for approval by Council in February 2026. • Work with MHCLG to actively pursue options for Exceptional Financial Support over the MTFS Period

58 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code

The Deputy Leader explained that the Ombudsman has introduced a new complaints handling code for councils, with much more stringent recommendations. While not a legal requirement, councils were being strongly advised to have it in place by March 2026 and to start self-assessing against it from next year. The new code set tougher targets, such as a 10-day response time for stage 1 complaints (with an additional 10 days for extensions), compared to the council's current 30-day target. The council's average was below 20 days, but the new code would require faster responses.

The Deputy Leader acknowledged that meeting the new standards would require significantly more resources. Given current financial constraints, the council could not commit extra resources to complaint handling, any additional resources would be better used to improve services and reduce complaints in the first place.

A “best endeavours” approach was proposed —self-assessing against the Ombudsman's code and aiming to meet the new requirements as far as possible, while being honest about limitations due to lack of resources.

He reported that a self-assessment had found that the council fully complied with 27 elements of the code, partly complied with 23, and did not comply with 16. The council did not currently have a “positive complaint handling culture” and needed to improve in this area. He emphasised the need for a culture change - seeing complaints as opportunities to learn and improve, and treating complainants with respect and positivity.

The Deputy Leader said the council would be transparent with members and the public about the challenges in meeting the new code. He reiterated that the aim was to improve complaint handling holistically, as part of a broader push to be a more open and customer-friendly council.

RESOLVED:

3.1 That Cabinet support the application of the Code from 1st April 2026, focusing on compliance whilst acknowledging that resource challenges may lead to some practical challenges and delays and noting that action may be taken by the Ombudsman in respect of any failures to implement the Code in full from the new financial year.

3.2 That Cabinet acknowledges that collective effort will be required across the Council to ensure that complaints are prioritised appropriately.

3.3 That Cabinet support the requirement within the Code for Oversight and Scrutiny of the complaints handling processes and annual reporting to Elected Members (to include the Ombudsman's annual letter and performance data).

59 Highways Future Operating Model

Ahead of the resolution to exclude press and public due to the need to discuss exempt information, the Leader invited the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment to speak so that he was able to reiterate that the Administration recognised highways are critically important for residents and was one of its key priorities.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment explained that the new administration wished to see greater control of core highway services with high level of collaboration with local providers, town and parish councils. He thanked the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group for the work they had done and extremely useful recommendations helping to shape the process going forwards. A contract extension of one year with Kier was proposed which would allow the council to continue to develop a future service model that aligned with its vision.

The Chair of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee said cross party working had been essential in evaluating and informing the proposals recommended to Cabinet. The Task and Finish Group had worked closely with council officers and gained valuable insights and understanding of highways services, especially in relation to the Kier contract. Additionally, the Scrutiny Committee recognised that more time was needed to shape new ways of working for the future, especially taking into account the roles that town and parishes can play in the future service model, and the work of the Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group

60 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

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

61 Scrutiny Item - EXEMPT Report of the Highways Contract Review Task and Finish Group

RESOLVED:

To consider and take into account the recommendations set out in the report to inform decisions regarding the highways future operating model.

62 Highways Future Operating Model Report

RESOLVED:

To approve the recommendations set out in the report.

63 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 10.30 am.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Committee and Date

Cabinet
19th November 2025

Item

Public



Q2 Performance Report

Responsible Officer:

Rachel Robinson

email: rachel.robinson@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 258918

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):

Cllr Heather Kidd - Leader

1. Synopsis

The Shropshire Plan clarifies our vision and priorities, aligning our resources to deliver positive outcomes for our people, businesses and communities. Delivery of our outcomes is measured through the developing Performance Management Framework, demonstrating progress to date.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Shropshire Plan (TSP) 2022 to 2025 was created to clarify Shropshire Council's vision, priorities and strategic objectives. These objectives are the outcomes we aim to achieve within our available financial envelope. The Shropshire Plan is structured around four key priorities: Healthy People, Healthy Economy, Healthy Environment and Healthy Workforce. We monitor our success and understand delivery of our strategic objectives within each 'Healthy' through a suite of Key Performance Indicators (our performance framework), which forms the basis of this report.

2.2. This performance report covers the second quarter of the 2024/25 financial year (July to September 2025). Performance is reported on an exception basis, where performance may not be meeting targets.

2.3. The interactive [The Shropshire Plan Performance Dashboard](#) is the main source of performance information enabling greater insight, transparency and scrutiny of the Council's performance and delivery of its outcomes. This visualises each KPIs trends and comparison to other local authorities where possible. **This report should be viewed in conjunction with the dashboard- see the 'New Data This Quarter' page.** A guide on navigating the dashboard is included in the Appendices.



2.1. The Corporate Plan is undergoing its refresh and the plan for 2025/26-2026/27 will be considered by Council in December 2025. Subject to Council approval, the performance management framework (PMF) will need to be reviewed and strengthened to align with our strategic objectives to ensure we are an evidence-led and performance-managed council. A full list of the current KPIs can be found in the Appendix.

2.2. This Performance Report complements the Financial Outturn Q1 2025/26 Report but provides a different perspective. We may therefore find that the position on KPIs is favourable, but that the finance position is adverse because the activity levels (the cost drivers) are higher than anticipated. As Shropshire Council continues to manage an unprecedented financial position, significant management action is required over the remainder of the financial year to ensure the Council's financial survival. This may involve scaling down initiatives, changing the scope, delaying implementation, or extending delivery timescales therefore potentially impacting on performance in some areas.

Key Findings and context

2.3. In Quarter 2 of 2025/26, a total of 41 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been updated in [The Shropshire Plan Performance Dashboard](#). 14 of these KPIs are grey, meaning that they do not have a target set for various reasons, such as: information only indicators or the KPI definition has changed.

Of the 27 newly reported KPIs with targets:

- 74% (20KPIs) are above their target (green).
- 4% (1 KPI) of indicators were similar to their target (amber).
- 22% (6 KPIs) are below their target and are exceptions (red).** The reasons for this are reported in the [Additional Information section](#) of this report.

2.4. **Healthy People:** Demand for adults and children's social care remains high this quarter. We continue to experience a significant rise in the number of requests for education, health and care plans for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Staff shortages have led to delays in meeting the government's 20-week timescales. Despite creating specialist teams and recruiting permanent staff, resources are still insufficient in meeting rising demand, making it difficult to achieve

timeliness targets. Whilst the suicide rate in Shropshire has risen to above the national average, we remain mid range compared to our statistically similar neighbours. Food hygiene statutory inspections in Q2 is slightly behind target due to staff vacancies, and increased poor compliance in premises requiring more extensive follow up. Uptake of free early education among 2 and 3 year olds remains strong, supporting better developmental outcomes. Adult social care support in the community also remains high this quarter, we continue to support more people to live in their communities. Support of the Early Help Team and timely delivery of targeted early interventions continues to be good and we continue to remain in contact with almost all of our care leavers.

Modified	Indicator Name	Latest	Shropshire	Target	On Target?	Indicator Trend
28/10/2025	(NEW) HP35 - HP35 - Rate of people with Learning Disabilities that live in their own home or with family	Sep-25	83.4%	-	—	
28/10/2025	(NEW) HP33b - Top quartile performer for the rate of admissions to residential and nursing care (65+)	Sep-25	310.3	-	—	
28/10/2025	(NEW) HP33a - Top quartile performer for the rate of admissions to residential and nursing care (18-64)	Sep-25	8.2	-	—	
28/10/2025	(NEW) HP32 - HP32 - The proportion of long-term adult social care users in receipt of community-based services	Sep-25	71.4%	68.5%	✓	
14/10/2025	(NEW) HP31 - % of Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (exc exceptions)	Sep-25	13.8%	50%	✗	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HP3 - Percentage of high-risk businesses, subject to a planned inspection, which were inspected to ensure compliance	Sep-25	29%	50%	✗	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HP24b - % of children accessing free early education at 3yrs	Sep-25	98%	96.4%	✓	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HP24a - % of children accessing free early education at 2yrs	Sep-25	95%	83%	✓	
03/11/2025	(NEW) HP22 - % of care leavers the service remains in touch with	Sep-25	99%	96%	✓	
03/11/2025	(NEW) HP20 - Targeted Early Interventions - All outcomes achieved	Sep-25	86%	80%	✓	
03/11/2025	(NEW) HP19 - Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	Sep-25	71%	-	—	
03/11/2025	(NEW) HP18 - % Assessment timeliness: within 45 working days	Sep-25	83%	-	—	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HP14 - Rate of deaths by suicide (per 100,000 population) - PHE E10	2022/24	13.5	10.7	✗	

2.5. Healthy Environment: Key measures around waste, recycling and pollution show that we are sending a smaller proportion of waste to landfill and are maintaining environmental permit inspections. Availability of the infrastructure to deliver high speed internet remains high across Shropshire, however coverage does not mean that residents or businesses are connected or able to access the service. An area may be marked as having superfast broadband coverage because the network infrastructure (such as fibre-optic cables) is in place, but the service is not yet live or operational. We are successfully maintaining the number of volunteers who support the Culture, Leisure and Tourism service, providing social and physical benefits and work experience opportunities.

Modified	Indicator Name	Latest	Shropshire	Target	On Target?	Indicator Trend
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEn7 - Tonnage of household waste recycled	Jun-25	22,461	-	—	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEn6 - % of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	Jun-25	52.7%	52.6%	✓	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEn17 - Increase the proportion of Premises with access to gigabit broadband (> 1,000Mbps)	Sep-25	76.9%	72.3%	✓	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEn16 - Increase the proportion of Premises with access to superfast broadband (> 30Mbps)	Sep-25	99.7%	99.5%	✓	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HEn15 - Number of Environmental Permit inspections completed against statutory target (100%)	Sep-25	28%	15%	✓	
23/10/2025	(NEW) HEn13 - Number of volunteer hours supporting community, leisure and tourism services	Sep-25	9,959	-	—	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEn10 - Improve energy efficiency of Council buildings – Energy consumption per SqM	Jun-25	17	-	—	

2.6. Healthy Economy: We are showing strong economic performance in the county among measures for benefits and employment with rates of households in receipt of universal credit, out of work claimants and young people not in education, training and employment being favourable compared to regional and national rates. Food hygiene compliance remains high, supporting a vibrant food, tourism and leisure sector. Planning applications continue to be delivered within target. Although more affordable homes were delivered this quarter, a current challenge for the council is an increasing number of households presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness which has led to a rise in households in B&B accommodation.

Modified	Indicator Name	Latest	Shropshire	Target	On Target?	Indicator Trend
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEC4 - Households in receipt of Universal Credit - to be lower than English and regional rates	May-25	15.7%	24.2%	✓	
29/10/2025	(NEW) HEC25 - Planning Applications - other	Sep-25	93.7%	70%	✓	
29/10/2025	(NEW) HEC24 - Planning Applications - minor	Sep-25	80.4%	70%	✓	
29/10/2025	(NEW) HEC23 - Planning Applications - major	Sep-25	86.4%	60%	✓	
23/10/2025	(NEW) HEC22 - Percentage of food establishments that are 'broadly compliant'	Sep-25	98.2%	97%	✓	
01/10/2025	(NEW) HEC18 - Reduction of households in B&B accommodation	Sep-25	100	60	⚠	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEC17 - Delivery of affordable homes	Sep-25	178	-	⚠	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEC14 - Out of work claimant rates to remain lower than the Region and England	Sep-25	2.4	4.1	✓	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HEC13 - Young people (16 - 17) Not in Employment Education or Training	Sep-25	3.1%	3.4%	✓	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEC12 - Number of apprenticeship achievements in the county	2024/25	1,400	-	⚠	
28/10/2025	(NEW) HEC11 - Paid employment for people with Learning Disabilities	Sep-25	5.5%	-	⚠	
09/10/2025	(NEW) HEC1 - Levels of investment – target £350 million – 2022 – 27	Sep-25	£336,419,291	£225,000,000	✓	

2.7. Healthy Workforce: We are receiving more positive feedback from residents and customers and a lower number of complaints suggesting the delivery of high-quality services. However, despite a reduction in the use of interim and agency staff, the council is experiencing rising rates of sickness absence and staff turnover, which is placing additional strain on remaining staff.

Modified	Indicator Name	Latest	Shropshire	Target	On Target?	Indicator Trend
22/10/2025	(NEW) HO7 - % of Council tax collected	Sep-25	56.6%	56.9%	⚠	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO2 - Number of complaint investigations	Sep-25	188	265	✓	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HO19 - Number of data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner	Sep-25	3	-	⚠	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO15 - % of staff who have completed their Personal Development Plans	Sep-25	29%	-	⚠	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO13 - Average number of days lost to sickness absence per year	Sep-25	10.4	8	⚠	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO12 - Agency staff as a % of the workforce	Sep-25	3.1%	4.1%	✓	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO11 - Staff turnover rates	Sep-25	7.8%	7%	⚠	
16/10/2025	(NEW) HO1 - Number of compliments	Sep-25	122	112	✓	

2.8. In Quarter 2, 3 KPIs continue to be exceptions. Progress updates from officers can be found in the [Additional Information section](#).

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan, utilising the interactive [Shropshire Plan Performance Dashboard](#)
- Collectively review and align Shropshire's Performance Management Framework and the associated suite of KPIs with the new administration's priorities, Corporate Plan and the Local Government Outcomes Framework metrics.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- The management of the Council's Performance Management Framework is a key process in ensuring strategic risks are mitigated and the Council can carry out business as intended and planned for within TSP.
- The management of key performance indicators is a key process to monitoring progress in the delivery of outcomes as set out in TSP. This provides insight into whether corrective action is required to bring performance back on track.

- 4.3. The performance report and dashboard provide a high-level lens into the performance of Shropshire Council allowing for further targeted detail analysis to support the mitigation of any risks identified.
- 4.4. Regular financial reporting is part of the governance and risk management approach within the Council ensuring that it delivers sustainable and value for money services as required under statute. Risk management continues to be an active part of this process, and Officers review potential risk and opportunity scenarios each month. The Council holds two finance related strategic risks regarding managing the current financial situation and so this remains under constant review to consider appropriate management action of the situation.
- 4.5. The dashboard includes instructions for use and a feedback form is available for questions or feedback. Members have been shown how to use the dashboard, and the Business Intelligence and Insight team are available for training for new Members.
- 4.6. Monitoring will be in place using the dashboard so any issues can be resolved in a timely manner.
- 4.7. Ultimately, the Council must risk assess the delivery of strategic objectives within TSP and adjust, accordingly, to ensure an acceptable balance of outcomes are achieved at a strategic level. This may mean the prioritisation of some objectives over others to react to the evidence presented within the PMF. It may not be possible to achieve optimal performance across all indicators and it may be necessary to oversee expected reductions in performance in some areas to remain within the overall financial envelope and ensure full focus is given to prioritised areas of activity by officers including significant management action required over the remainder of the financial year to ensure the Council's financial survival.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):

- scaling down initiatives,
- changing the scope of activities,
- delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
- extending delivery timescales.

5.2 The performance report provides progress on key activity targets which will have correlation to financial performance

5.3 It should be noted that positive improvement on activity may not necessarily

correspond to financial improvement, and this should be drawn out in the narrative of the financial and performance reports.

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.2 The performance report includes KPIs for Healthy Environment with measures for monitoring Shropshire Council's direction of progress on climate change.
- 6.3 Recommendations within the Climate Strategy and Action Plan Monitoring Report 2023 were agreed by the Council on the 18th of July 2024, including two recommendations specific to key performance indicators which will be incorporated into the Shropshire Plan Performance Report for future reporting: Specific carbon emission reductions by activity and Energy efficiency.
- 6.4 Climate Change also has significant implications for Healthy People, a Healthy Economy and a Healthy Organisation and further work to develop additional KPIs, in partnership with the Climate Team will reflect this. There has been a reduction in size of the Climate Change team and as a result, future work programmes are being reviewed. Further indicators will be made available as new data becomes available to ensure that as high a percentage as possible of primary data collected is based on measured carbon emissions via a clear and transparent process such as carbon accounting, rather than estimating scope 3 emissions based on spend.
- 6.5 Measuring emissions also provides a baseline for setting climate targets and deciding where to start reducing emissions. Repeating the measurement process annually allows Shropshire Council to track and report progress in a clear, transparent way to ensure that key stakeholders - members, regulators, employees, members of the public, other local authorities and system partners are informed about our collective climate action and impact.

7 Background

- 7.2 The focus of the Council in 2025/26 and the immediate future is necessarily directed at the delivery of a balanced budget, and is currently, therefore, the highest priority strategic objective within TSP balanced alongside protecting our most vulnerable children.
- 7.3 Information on each KPI is presented within [The Shropshire Plan Performance Dashboard](#), which is published on a quarterly basis on the Council's website performance webpage. This includes performance status (red, amber, green - currently reported based on variation from the target), trends and benchmarking information, where available. See the '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' to view thresholds for variation. A guide on navigating the dashboard is included in the Appendices.
- 7.4 The approach being taken by Shropshire Council is progressive and in advance of many other authorities and this places us in a strong position to continually improve our approach to managing performance and ultimately providing evidence of our ability to deliver the outcomes set out in TSP.
- 7.5 The dashboard is designed to be a dynamic tool, continuously improving based on user feedback and emerging requirements. Feedback on the design and usability of

the dashboard and performance webpage is welcomed. A feedback form is available for questions and queries, which are reviewed regularly with responses provided and published where appropriate alongside the dashboard.

- 7.6 In July 2025, the Government published a new draft Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF), setting out a proposed structure for how central and local government might work together to measure progress on key public service outcomes. This includes 15 priority outcome areas to support more consistent, transparent monitoring of local performance over time. These will be underpinned by outcome metrics drawing from existing data sources to show how progress will be measured. The metrics will be confirmed in December 2025, with a 'go live' date in April 2026, which will be reported annually.
- 7.7 The newly elected administration of Shropshire Council assumed office in May 2025. A thorough review of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), involving Portfolio Holders, relevant Members, Executive Directors, and Assistant Directors, is necessary to ensure alignment with the priorities of the new administration, the Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF), and the updated Corporate Plan. The complete list of current KPIs is provided in the Appendix.

8 Additional Information

Improvements of note

- 8.2 **HP24a and HP24b - % of children accessing free early education at 2yrs and 3yrs:** the proportion of children accessing free early education at 2 years continues to perform well. We are happy to report that Shropshire holds a code validation rate of 95% for 2 year olds. This means that 95% of parents with a child who is 2 years old turn this code into an actual early years place. In comparison, West Midlands and Nationally held data shows 94%. This ultimately is an indication of the health of the sufficiency picture in Shropshire and the hard work that is done to ensure timely submission of codes to providers in order to transform this into a place. Shropshire also holds a 98% code validation rate for children accessing free early education at 3 years meaning that 98% of parents who request a code are able to convert this into an active early years place within a setting. In comparison, the national picture data shows 96% while West Midlands neighbours average at 94%. We are reported to be 2nd in the country overall, behind a small local authority and this is celebrated within the Early Years team and made possible through hard work and our relationships with providers and settings to ensure the codes can be converted effectively and efficiently.
- 8.3 **HEc1 - Levels of investment – target £350 million – 2022 – 27:** Levels of Investment continue to rise. Between July and September 2025, the amount of investment secured was significantly higher than the quarterly target (£90 million against a target of £15 million). However, it is expected that investment levels will fluctuate considerably on a quarterly basis and historic figures are liable to change if additional investments are identified. Shropshire continues to perform well against the cumulative target, and as of September 2025 was 50% ahead of target.
- 8.4 **HEn6 - % of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting:** there has been an improvement this quarter to 52.7%, now meeting the target for the first

time in since Q3 24/25. Subscriptions rose significantly in spring which led to an extension and reopening of signups to accommodate demand.

- 8.5 **HO12 - Agency staff as a % of the workforce:** With ongoing efforts to reduce third-party spending, the number of agency staff has continued to decline, down to 3.1% of our workforce being agency staff bringing us below our target.

Exceptions

There are 6 exceptions reported in Quarter 2 from the newly reported data:

Modified	Indicator Name	Latest	Shropshire	Target	On Target?	Indicator Trend
14/10/2025	(NEW) HP31 - % of Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (exc exceptions)	Sep-25	13.8%	50%	▶	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HP3 - Percentage of high-risk businesses, subject to a planned inspection, which were inspected to ensure compliance	Sep-25	29%	50%	▶	
22/10/2025	(NEW) HP14 - Rate of deaths by suicide (per 100,000 population) - PHE E10	2022/24	13.5	10.7	▶	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO13 - Average number of days lost to sickness absence per year	Sep-25	10.4	8	▶	
21/10/2025	(NEW) HO11 - Staff turnover rates	Sep-25	7.8%	7%	▶	
01/10/2025	(NEW) HEc18 - Reduction of households in B&B accommodation	Sep-25	100	60	▶	

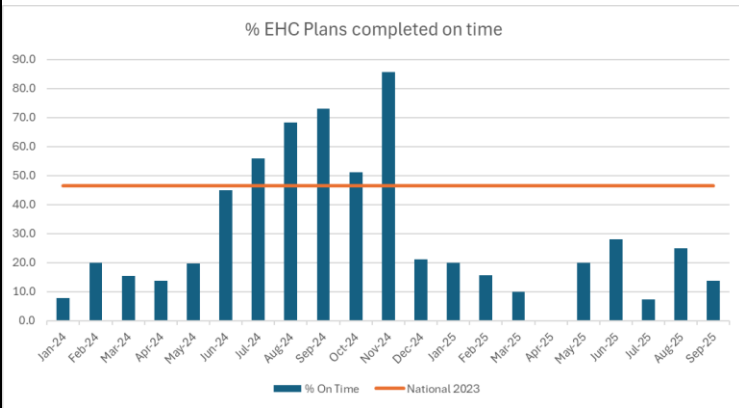
(Source: [The Shropshire Plan Performance Dashboard](#))

Table 1 provides progress updates from officers regarding KPIs that remain as exceptions in quarter 2, as well as newly identified exceptions for this quarter.

Interpretation: Red dots indicate where a KPI is not meeting the target (exception) and green dots indicate where the KPI is meeting the target.

	Q1 2025/26	Q2 2025/26
Exception in Q1 and Q2	●	●
Exception in Q1 only	●	●
New exception in Q2	●	●

Table 1. Exceptions

KPI No.	KPI name	Q1 2025/26	Q2 2025/26	Progress update from Council officers
HP13	% of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks (excl. exceptions)	●	●	The quarterly EHCPs issued within 20 weeks dropped from 18.5% in Q1 to 13.5% in Q2, still well below the 50.0% target and behind 2024 figures for England (46.4%), statistical neighbours (50.2%), and the regional average (42.3%). The chart below shows the monthly rate for Shropshire which has been under target since December 2024. Reasons for this are detailed below.  Team Structure & Restructure: Up to December 31, 2024, the SEN Team consisted of 25 staff (including Senior SEN Case Officers, Annual Review Officers, ECHNA Coordinators) and a separate Business Support Team of 6 staff handling administrative tasks. In January 2025, after formal consultation starting in October 2024, the team was restructured and became the EHCP Team, aiming for a permanent and sustainable workforce. Leadership Changes: An Interim Team Manager had led the team for two years, overseen by a strategic lead for SEND. The current EHCP Team Manager was appointed after an open recruitment process. Strategic oversight is now provided by the Principal Educational Psychologist and Early Intervention Lead. Staffing Challenges: The service relied heavily (~ 80%) on contract Case Officers, which led to instability due to short notice periods (one week) and difficulties in timely recruitment. This caused a staff deficit. Recruitment & Current Team Composition: A comprehensive recruitment process began in January 2025, resulting in 7 permanent EHCP Case Officers starting on May 1, 2025. The team now includes 19 permanent staff, 3 FTE contract staff in the Annual Review Recovery Team

			(ARRT), 4 EHCP Case Officers on one-year fixed contracts for Annual Reviews, and Business Support Officers). A business plan has been developed to secure these resources. Demand & Process Adjustments: Due to rising demand for Needs Assessments locally and nationally, and the need to induct and train new Case Officers in Q1 and Q2, the Business Support Team has taken on the Needs Assessment process up to the 'yes to plan' stage (the first 12 weeks of the statutory timescale). This enables Case Officers to focus on plan writing and statutory casework. Growth in EHCPs: There has been an increased demand on the workforce with number of children and young people with EHC plans increasing to 3,016 as of January 2025 census day, a 21% rise from 2024, which is faster than the national increase of 11%. EHCNA requests have also increased, for example there were 47 requests in January 2024 compared to 80 in January 2025. During 2024, the Team's focus was on timeliness and making a recovery from 7.9% in January 2024 and achieving 38.6% by December 2024. It has been necessary to evaluate and understand current risk and demand in some areas of the service. For example, the Annual Reviews. The SEN Team, prior to 2025, had focussed largely on the increasing demand for EHCNAs and the resulting writing of plans. In managing the reach for achieving the KPI target of 50%+ timeliness (HP31), and in response to the Written Statement of Need from the Ofsted outcome in 2022, response times of Annual Reviews had slipped. The impact of this resulted in a significant backlog of Annual Reviews. In order to manage recovery of this area of work, it was necessary to develop a further arm to the team, the Annual Review Recovery Team (ARRT) which was formed in November 2024.. ARRT is now made up of a Senior EHCP Case officer on a fixed term contract for one year and 3 FTE contract staff. After advertising the 3 posts for Case Officers, the calibre of and skill-set of applicant therefore remaining staff were retained given their skills, knowledge and understanding of Shropshire, for the life of the project. This is under constant review. This surety of the main cohort of the team has been achieved in terms of permanent staffing but resource versus demand and achieving statutory timescales remains a risk. This is similar in the ARRT. As we continue to review the backlog, the progress is limited, due to the poor quality of previous plans and those which have remained unamended for too long. 90% of Annual reviews in the backlog, require amended plans and case work to complete to a standard which achieves our quality assurance thresholds. Actions to date: ➤ Service redesign.
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				➤ Thorough induction and training programme for new and existing staff. ➤ Weekly group case discussion providing on-going learning, reflective practice and development opportunities. ➤ Monthly supervision sessions 121 to target individual performance and gaps in knowledge. ➤ Weekly monitoring of the drafts and finals due by Seniors EHCP Case Officers and overseen by the Team Manager, with a narrative on progress and barriers to progress. ➤ Weekly focus areas for the team cohorts, for example, those cases extending beyond 30 weeks to finalise. Art of the possible conversations. ➤ Review of the Quality Assurance framework, to allow for smarter working and faster churn. ➤ Improved quality of EHC Plans. ➤ Improved communication with families and partners through Touch Point and communications strategy. ➤ Planned, joined up working to support achieving phase transfer deadlines. ➤ Development of internal processes in collaboration with partners to support rigour around decision making, for example, Cease EHCP Panel supported by multi-agency partners and an EOTIS (Education Other Than In School) Policy. ➤ Key staff assigned to Local Authority Specialist Settings/ Schools – Senior EHCP Case Officers fortnightly meeting with our LA special schools. ➤ Data quality cleanse.
				What is needed: Review of service resource versus demand.
HO13	Average number of days lost to sickness absence per year	●	●	The sickness absence average to September 2025 is 10.4 days lost per FTE, up from 9.2 last quarter and above the 8-day target. If this trend continues, 2025/26 could see over 11 lost days per FTE. For 2024/25, Shropshire matched the regional (10.2 days) and national (9.5 days) medians, but forecasts for 2025/26 suggest it will exceed both, even if benchmarking figures rise. Several factors will influence the increase in sickness absence, including the cost of living crisis causing stress outside the workplace and financial pressures within the Council leading to pressure on resources. To address this increase, the Council is focusing on more targeted monitoring, proactive HR interventions, and increased utilisation of HR surgeries with managers and signposting to new implemented Employee Assistance Programme.
HEc18	Reduction of households in B&B accommodation	●	●	In Q2 25/26, there were 100 households in B&B accommodation, more than the target of 60. B&B numbers have been monitored weekly since May 2022, where the highest recorded number of placements was 198 households provided with accommodation using hotels. Since this date the number of households placed in B&B has steadily decreased in Shropshire, falling to 69 households in March 2025. However, more recently there has been a rising trend to

			September 2025 with the latest figure showing a rise of 6 households compared to the previous quarter. Whilst Shropshire showed a fall to March 2025, nationally, there was a rise with the total number of households in temporary accommodation now at record levels in England, both for households with and without children. Most people in B&B accommodation in Shropshire are single / couple households (ie, have a 1 bed need) therefore we have focused on increasing in-house temporary accommodation at this cohort of clients. In January 2025 we opened the Tannery which is 60 bedspaces for single applicants and saw our weekly numbers in B&B drop as low as 58 households in mid March 2025. We have an additional 50 units opening during October and November 2025 which should see numbers decrease again. The number of households in B&B placements has increased at the end of Q2 and there are three central factors that have affected this performance. 1. There has been a reduction in available alternative temporary accommodation with the number of voids taking longer to be returned via STAR Housing. STAR have advised they have a new contractor in place, and the backlog will be back to normal by mid-October. This impact is estimated at 30 units of accommodation. 2. There has been a reduction generally of social housing lettings. This year to date there has been a 25% reduction in available properties to let via HomePoint. This has meant a significant reduction in homeless households moving out of temporary accommodation into permanent housing. The estimated effect of this is between 20 - 30 more placements in B&B placements. 3. The three new temporary accommodation facilities at Coton Hill House, Parish Rooms and 70, Castle Foregate have been handed back to us much later than expected. If these had been returned during Q1 of 2025 then this would have reduced numbers in B&B by 40 - 50. These facilities are due to be let in the next quarter and with the return of the backlog of voids we should return figures to below target. The reason that this figure is rising in recent quarters is because Shropshire is seeing an increase in the number of households presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness, with an 11% rise between 24/45 to 2025/26 (Q1-3). This trend is also happening nationally. Further to this, we have seen a decrease in the available properties being let via social housing providers – we suspect this is due to a reduction in new build scheme completing this year but are in discussion with our partners. Although the numbers have not decreased to the levels we predicted, they have decreased from the forecasted figures we had prior to the investment in and opening of our in-house
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				temporary accommodation schemes. Reducing the numbers in B&B has a significant cost benefit to the Council but equally demonstrates significantly better outcomes for those clients able to access more intense support and therefore be better equipped to sustain a tenancy long term. In the recent Corporate Peer Challenge, the hard work of the Housing team was recognised by the reviewers who stated “There are examples of excellence such as the approach to homelessness ...”																																				
HO17	Responding to FOIs within statutory timescales (20 working days)	●	●	Shropshire’s Q1 figure was 60%, which is below the 95% ICO target. The September figure is not available and will become available in late October as FOIs received on 30 September are not due for release until 29 October. Therefore, we are reporting a partial figure for Q2, the average for the months of July and August. In June and July, 57% of FOIs were responded to within the statutory timescales indicating that this KPI will likely continue to be an exception. <table><tr><th>Year: 2025</th><th>Number received</th><th>% on time</th><th>Quarterly Average</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>153</td><td>75</td><td rowspan="3">72%</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-25</td><td>164</td><td>73</td></tr><tr><td>Mar-25</td><td>180</td><td>67</td></tr><tr><td>Apr-25</td><td>127</td><td>66</td><td rowspan="3">62%</td></tr><tr><td>May-25</td><td>141</td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td>Jun-25</td><td>120</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>Jul-25</td><td>150</td><td>59</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Aug-25</td><td>137</td><td>55</td><td>57%</td></tr><tr><td>Sep-25</td><td>108</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td></tr></table> In 2024, Shropshire’s rate was 71% (with 1,447 FOIs received) lower compared to Staffordshire at 80% (1,695 FOIs received). Planned improvements • Change in process currently underway: reducing the overall burden by sending directly to teams due to respond and reducing the need for responses to be authorised by Service Directors. • Greater awareness and guidance: being reviewed as part of the NOM agreed by Leadership Board on 7 October 2025 • Encouraging Teams to publish as much information as possible where information is requested frequently or where they anticipate local interest and increased enquiries	Year: 2025	Number received	% on time	Quarterly Average	Jan-25	153	75	72%	Feb-25	164	73	Mar-25	180	67	Apr-25	127	66	62%	May-25	141	55	Jun-25	120	64	Jul-25	150	59		Aug-25	137	55	57%	Sep-25	108	TBC	TBC
Year: 2025	Number received	% on time	Quarterly Average																																					
Jan-25	153	75	72%																																					
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Mar-25	180	67																																						
Apr-25	127	66	62%																																					
May-25	141	55																																						
Jun-25	120	64																																						
Jul-25	150	59																																						
Aug-25	137	55	57%																																					
Sep-25	108	TBC	TBC																																					

HO19	Number of data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner	●	●	In Q2, there were 3 breaches reported to the ICO (Information Commissioners Office) compared to 2 breaches last quarter. In Q2, there was a significant number of breaches reported to Information Governance Team (IGT), with 70 breaches reported compared to 43 the previous quarter: <u>2025</u> Q1 : 2 reported to the ICO out of a total of 43 breaches reported to Information Governance Q2 : 3 reported to the ICO (70 breaches in total) This is a significant increase <u>2024</u> Q1 : 2 reported to the ICO (65 breaches in total) Q2 : 3 reported to the ICO (55 breaches in total) Q3 : 4 reported to the ICO (52 breaches in total) Q4 : 2 reported to the ICO (42 breaches in total) Information Governance Team (IGT) has updated and added to the advice and guidance on the Intranet, including a team briefing sheet that we ask managers to include on team meetings if their areas experience a high number of incidents. Along with the offer to attend team meetings and discuss any issues. IGT are approaching other key areas, eg business support teams, to ensure they know what to do if there is an incident so that the right actions are taken asap to reduce the impact on those affected. Statistics relating to breaches is reported quarterly to Information Governance Leadership and Organisational Oversight group (IGLOO). It was agreed at the last IGLOO – September 2025, that IGT will report to Service Directors monthly and give them a breakdown of the following: • the number of breaches • the level of risk associated with them (0 – incident but no actual breach; 1 – a low level breach; 2 – a medium level breach; 3 – serious breach reportable to the ICO) • the cause of the breach • link to best practice, advice and guidance on actions they may take to reduce the number • an offer to work directly with the team to discuss issues and talk through solutions.

HP3	Percentage of high-risk businesses, subject to a planned inspection, which were inspected to ensure compliance			This KPI relates to high risk food business inspections (Cat A and B).The Food Hygiene Inspection Performance against Food Standards Agency Code of Practice are below:			
				Inspection Category	Inspections Done (Q2)	Total Number Due (Q4)	Percentage
				A	9	13	69%
				B	19	84	23%
				High risk food hygiene performance shows we have completed 29% at the end of Q2. The reason for this is that not all of the year's programme of premises are equally spread across the year – 85% of those due by the end of Q2 were completed. The figure is against the Q4 target. Due to staff vacancies, we are slightly behind our Q2 performance. Increased poor compliance in premises means longer and more follow up in poorer performing premises. Due to recruitment difficulties we still have 1 FTE vacancy within the team. We are 3 FTE below the minimum resource level required on our service plan to complete 100% of all categories of inspections. Due to significant non compliances longer interventions and follow ups are required in high risk food premises. We have undertaken a total of 677 interventions by Q2 including 110 complaints, 17 food samples. We have received 336 new registration requests by Q2.			
HO11	Staff Turnover rate (%)			The staff turn over rate increased significantly between Q1 and Q2, up from 5.1% to 7.8%, with almost a third of all voluntary leavers sighting 'career change' as their reason for leaving and a majority of those being front line staff. Just over 60% of voluntary leavers (from non Shire Services areas which have different drivers) had 2 or less years service. Overall turnover for this quarter is slightly above target however is comparative to the same quarter for last year.			
HEn6	% household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting			This KPI is reported in arrears, the rate reported in this Q2 2025/26 report is showing the figure for Q1 of 2025/26. There has been a slight increase in the recycling percentage for Q1 2025-2026, up from 43.7% to 52.7%, now above target and higher than the latest comparator data for England (42.7%, 2023/24). This improvement is largely due to the warmer months, which has led residents to dispose of more garden waste. Spring 2025 was particularly good for growing, and we noticed a significant boost in subscriptions during these months. In fact, the demand was so high that we had to extend and then reopen the subscription sign-ups to accommodate everyone.			
HEc7	Improving productivity in reducing the gap in GVA per hour worked with the national average by 50% by 2027		N/A	In June 2025, the latest published figure (2023) for the GVA per hour worked was published by ONS. The KPI was reported in the Q1 2025/26 report, as a 23.7% gap between Shropshire and England. This KPI is based on annual rather than quarterly data; as such there is no up-date for quarter 2.			

Partnership KPIs

HP14	Rate of deaths by suicide (per 100,000 population)			The latest DHSC Fingertips data (three-year average 2022–2024) shows that Shropshire’s suicide rate has risen to 13.5 per 100,000, which is statistically higher than the England average (10.9 per 100,000) and currently the highest in the West Midlands. While this position is concerning, Shropshire remains mid-range compared with its statistical neighbours (ranked 7th of 16), suggesting that broader demographic and geographic factors may be influencing risk. Every death by suicide is a tragedy for families, friends, and communities. Reducing suicide is a shared responsibility across our whole system and communities. No single, organisation can prevent suicide alone – it requires every partner, employer, service and resident to play their part in creating hope, reducing stigma and ensuring that people in distress receive timely and compassionate support. Shropshire has a well-established multi-agency Suicide Prevention partnership with clear governance, shared accountability, and active delivery of a robust local action plan. Significant new work has been implemented in 2024–25 to strengthen prevention, awareness, and community resilience. Partners are asked; • Promote the new Orange Button Community Scheme to recruit a network of trained volunteers to promote talking about suicide and reducing stigma Orange Button Community Scheme Shropshire Council • Encourage take-up and completion of suicide prevention training (including the free to access Zero Suicide Alliance e-learning available at: ZSA FREE online training) • Embed safety planning approaches across all services as supported by the publication of the NHS England Staying Safe from Suicide guidance and free training available at: MindEd Hub • Be aware and share information about local support Mental health Shropshire Council and Suicide concerns and prevention Shropshire Council Work is underway through the Suicide Prevention Action Group to review data in detail, identify contributory themes and ensure current initiatives and the refreshed 2025/26 Action Plan are focused on the greatest areas of impact.
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				We will be reviewing data/intelligence to help understand specific themes that may have contributed towards this increase but also recognise we did undertake an audit last year of suicide deaths covering the period 2021-2023 and many of these themes will still apply to latest reporting period given the cross over timeframes. The initiatives that have been launched in 2025 following recognition of the increasing rate over the past few years include the following • Launch of the Orange Button Community Scheme in September 2025 and the Suicide Prevention Network are in the process of recruiting volunteers to this and raising the profile of the offer • New suicide death review panels (launching soon, delayed due to getting ISA in place and logistics with partners but with a new PH Development Officer in place as of August 2025 this has helped to progress) • Refresh of Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan in July 2025. We have been meeting with partners to add further detail and understanding as to their role and how to demonstrate progress • Continued focus on subsidised training and promotion of suicide prevention resources – this includes working with Joint Training to design a new half day training course for awareness and safety planning. The group have designed a training matrix for suicide prevention, bereavement and self-harm to help the workforce understand what is available, what is most appropriate for their role and how to access – this will be published within the next month. I am in discussion with Joint Training as to how we can undertake a suicide skills audit across the workforce to help identify where gaps may still be and what can be done to try and influence. • Publication of the GP and Primary Care Suicide Prevention toolkit launched at the GP Safeguarding forum in April 2025 • Launch of a MH Community Grant aimed at SMI cohorts with suicide risk – our Action Group supported review of applications to award funds to community organisations supporting a range of offers including programmes aimed at men/boys from designs in mind, Eastern European populations from Shropshire European Organisation, a programme aimed at men who have been victims of sexual abuse by Axis, Shropshire Supports Refugees with targeted offers to address wellbeing concerns and Men's Sheds to strengthen their local offer to engage men with open, safe discussions about anything they are struggling with including loneliness.
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				Our Action Group will be refreshing the Healthy Shropshire webpage information and the Zcard (as there are some offers which have changed during the course of this year)
HEc6	% of households in fuel poverty (annual)		N/A	In Quarter 1 2025/26, the latest published figure (2023) for the % of households in fuel poverty in Shropshire was reported as 17.7%, higher than the national rate of 11.4%, second highest among our statistical neighbours and 8 th highest nationally. This measure is based on annual rather than quarterly data; as such there is no up-date for quarter 2.

9 Conclusions

- 9.2 The key performance pressure remains the delivery of a balanced budget which are detailed in the financial report.
- 9.3 Considering the financial constraints, overall Q2 25/26 shows reasonable performance in achieving The Shropshire Plan and its objectives, with 78% of the 27 newly updated indicators meeting or exceeding their target.

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

Local Member: All

Consultation with Local Member – Please consider the Local Member Protocol (see page E60 onwards of part 5 of the Constitution) and determine whether it is necessary to consult with the local member over the proposal set out in this report. This may not always be applicable (eg where the proposal affects all of Shropshire) but it should always be a consideration and in some cases a necessity so as to comply with the spirit of the Protocol.

Appendices

KPI List

A guide on navigating the dashboard (Video):

[The Shropshire Plan Performance Report Walkthrough.mp4](#)

KPI ID	Key Performance Indicator	Frequency	Strategic Objective	Rationale	Ambition	Responsible	Accountable	Portfolio Holders	Format
HEc1	Levels of investment – target £350 million – 2022 – 27	Annual	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Attracting additional investment will provide opportunities to develop business growth, infrastructure and facilities to enhance the lives of residents, visitors and business.	Achieve	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	£
HEc10	Increase the proportion of people that are employed within high skilled occupations	Annual	Skills and Employment	Developing and attracting high skilled employment roles to the county will help retain talent and improve levels of workplace pay	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	%
HEc11	Paid employment for people with Learning Disabilities	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	Supporting people with learning disabilities to achieve paid employment can increases self-confidence and independence whilst reducing reliance on others. Measure within the ASCOF framework	Maintain	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Andy Hall	%
HEc12	Number of apprenticeship achievements in the county	Annual	Skills and Employment	To develop the Shropshire talent pool and retain skilled workers within the county	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	Number
HEc13	Young people (16 - 17) Not in Employment Education or Training	Annual	Skills and Employment	Young people not in employment, education or training can lead to poorer life opportunities with potential long-term reliance on public services, poor economic, social and health outcomes	Maintain	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HEc14	Out of work claimant rates to remain lower than the Region and England	Quarterly	Skills and Employment	Claimant rates data are updated monthly and provide a regular and earlier insight to the local economy than many time lagged economic data sets.	Achieve	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	Number
HEc15	Maintaining 5-year housing land supply	Annual	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Authorities are currently required to identify a suitable supply of development land to meet planned housing requirements. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is currently at committee stage in the House of Lords. If this bill is enacted the need for a 5 year supply may be removed.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	David Walker	Number
HEc16	Developing new homes	Annual	Housing	The supply of appropriate housing is required to support people throughout their lives. Enabling families to grow and develop, people with specific needs to remain independent within their communities and key workers to settle in the county. Providing employment and training opportunities in the sector.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	James Owen	Number
HEc17	Delivery of affordable homes	Quarterly	Housing	The supply of decent affordable housing to buy or rent supports the local economy and is proven to deliver improved labour opportunities, educational outcomes for children, health benefits and reductions in crime.	Achieve	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	James Owen	Number
HEc18	Reduction of households in B&B accommodation	Quarterly	Housing	Temporary emergency accommodation should be a short-term solution for households with children. Reducing the number of children in temporary accommodation will improve health and educational outcomes	Reduce	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	James Owen	Number
HEc19	Key stage 2 results in Reading, Writing and Maths to be inline or better than national average	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	Helping our children to get a good start in their academic career. Falling behind in education standards at an early age will hinder progression to further education and employment opportunities	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HEc2	Reduce the workplace pay gap with the national average by 50% by 2027	Annual	Skills and Employment	Pay rates in the Shropshire workplace are lower than the national average. This in part reflects the reliance on lower paid sectors including care, retail, tourism and leisure. Reduction of the pay gap will help retain the talent pool within the county and indicate positive outcomes for the economic growth strategy including the availability of more high paid employment opportunities	Achieve	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	%
HEc20	Attainment 8 inline or better than national average	Annual	Skills and Employment	Attainment 8 achievements are an indicator of the quality of education received and a culmination of primary and secondary school education.	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	Number
HEc21	Reduce the % of workforce with no or low level qualifications	Annual	Skills and Employment	A qualified workforce helps to raise the standards for businesses within the county and offers superior life opportunities for the population. A better qualified workforce should also help attract better wages and support the aspirations to close the workplace pay gap.	Reduce	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	%
HEc22	Percentage of food establishments that are ‘broadly compliant’	Quarterly	Strong safe and vibrant destination	To promote and improve the standard of food hygiene compliance within Shropshire. To support and develop a vibrant food, tourism and leisure sector. The ratings of this indicator are for those premises with a food hygiene rating of 3 or above.	Maintain	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	David Walker	%
HEc23	Planning Applications - major	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Planning permission is the legal process of determining whether proposed developments should be permitted. Planning permission is the approval needed before various forms of construction, expansion or sometimes demolition can begin. Shropshire Council aims to assess applications efficiently and effectively ensuring local and national planning policies are adhered to.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	David Walker	%

HEc24	Planning Applications - minor	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Planning permission is the legal process of determining whether proposed developments should be permitted. Planning permission is the approval needed before various forms of construction, expansion or sometimes demolition can begin. Shropshire Council aims to assess applications efficiently and effectively ensuring local and national planning policies are adhered to.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	David Walker	%
HEc25	Planning Applications - other	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Planning permission is the legal process of determining whether proposed developments should be permitted. Planning permission is the approval needed before various forms of construction, expansion or sometimes demolition can begin. Shropshire Council aims to assess applications efficiently and effectively ensuring local and national planning policies are adhered to.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	David Walker	%
HEc3	Resident Pay to remain within 5% of the national average	Annual	Skills and Employment	Above average resident pay is a good indicator of a skilled workforce who can command a higher wage and are attracted to live in the county, albeit by sometimes working for employers outside of the area	Achieve	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	£
HEc4	Households in receipt of Universal Credit - to be lower than English and regional rates	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	Useful indicator of the local economic climate and difficulties households may be facing. Regular updates available and therefore provides more timely data than many economic datasets.	Achieve	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Rob Wilson	%
HEc5	B01b - Children in absolute low income families (under 16s)	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	Improving household income will help reduce the % of children classed as living in poverty. Living in poverty can lead to long-term health conditions which require on-going support	Reduce	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Rob Wilson	%
HEc6	% of households in fuel poverty	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	A cross cutting indicator where improvements to household disposable income will improve affordability of fuels. The rural challenges of off grid results in higher costs for oil and other fuels. Renewable technologies provide an opportunity to develop new lower cost solutions.	Maintain	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	James Owen	%
HEc7	Improving productivity by reducing the gap in Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked with the national average by 50% by 2027	Annual	Skills and Employment	GVA is a key economic indicator and measures the productivity of locations, sectors, businesses and employees. Rural areas typically have lower levels of productivity. Increased GVA benefits the local economy and its residents.	Reduce	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	%
HEc8	Maintaining the supply of employment land	Annual	Connectivity and Infrastructure	The supply of suitable employment land is required to respond to existing local business needs and to encourage business start-ups and inward investment opportunities. To provide opportunities to develop centres of employment across the county.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	Rob Wilson	Number
HEc9	Net increase in the number of jobs – baseline 135500 target 140,500 by Mar 2027	Annual	Skills and Employment	Key indicator within the economic growth strategy. Jobs growth is required to support population growth and to minimise the need to out-commute.	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Rob Wilson	Number
HEn1	Visitors to outdoor recreation sites	Quarterly	Natural Environment	Access to outdoor space provides physical and mental health benefits. It can improve self-esteem and improve the quality of life. The outdoor recreation sites of Shropshire Council showcase the natural environment and attract visitors to the county	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Alex Wagner	Number
HEn10	Improve energy efficiency of Council buildings – Energy consumption per SqM	Annual	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Energy efficient buildings used by the Council will reduce heat loss, improve energy efficiency and reduce excessive energy use and associated costs	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Letter
HEn11	% of streetlights converted to LED	Annual	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Energy efficient street lighting will reduce improve energy efficiency and reduce excessive energy use and associated costs	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn13	Number of volunteer hours supporting community, leisure and tourism services	Quarterly	Partnerships	Volunteers who support the Culture, Leisure and Tourism service provide value added services. For the individual it provides social and physical benefits whilst for some it is an opportunity to gain valuable work experience	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Alex Wagner	Number
HEn14	Number of public electric vehicle charging points installed	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	The sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles is due to end in 2030. The increase in electric vehicles will require investment to develop suitable charging facilities across all communities. As a rural county the ownership of cars and vans is higher than the national average and access to charging points will be required	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HEn15	Number of Environmental Permit inspections completed against statutory target (100%)	Annual	Natural Environment	Reduce pollution from industrial and commercial operations to protect the environment. Carry out statutory Inspections of permitted industrial and commercial sites that emit pollutants in accordance with a risk-based inspection programme as set out in the statutory guidance.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HEn16	Increase the proportion of Premises with access to superfast broadband (>30Mbps)	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Shropshire residents, visitors and SMEs are increasingly reliant on digital platforms to work, learn, communicate and do business. Good broadband infrastructure is vital to support digital inclusion.	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Alex Wagner	%
HEn17	Increase the proportion of Premises with access to gigabit broadband (>1,000Mbps)	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Gigabit-capable broadband enables residents and businesses to do more online and at much quicker speeds, improving productivity and encouraging economic growth.	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	Alex Wagner	%

HEn2	Public Rights of Way TBC					Andy Wilde	James Walton		
HEn3	% of principal roads that should be considered for maintenance	Every 2 years	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Whilst primarily an infrastructure objective the highways network the impact of potholes and poor road surfaces exacerbates pollution and emissions from vehicles.	Reduce	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn4	% of non-principal roads that should be considered for maintenance	Every 2 years	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Whilst primarily an infrastructure objective the highways network the impact of potholes and poor road surfaces exacerbates pollution and emissions from vehicles.	Reduce	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn5a	% of street scene inspections meeting the required standards of cleanliness (Litter and Detritus)	Quarterly	Safe Communities	Unclean streets and surrounds not only look unpleasant they can increase anti-social behaviour and place people and animals at risk of harm. Overgrown verges can reduce visibility to pedestrians and drivers. Maintaining good standards of cleanliness contributes to making Shropshire attractive for residents, businesses and visitors	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn5b	% of street scene inspections meeting the required standards of cleanliness (Weeds)	Quarterly	Safe Communities	Unclean streets and surrounds not only look unpleasant they can increase anti-social behaviour and place people and animals at risk of harm. Overgrown verges can reduce visibility to pedestrians and drivers. Maintaining good standards of cleanliness contributes to making Shropshire attractive for residents, businesses and visitors	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn6	% of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	Quarterly	Natural Environment	Increasing recycling helps preserve precious natural resources for future generations. It reduces pollution and helps conserve energy	Increase	Laura Tyler	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HEn7	Tonnage of household waste recycled	Quarterly	Natural Environment	Increasing recycling helps preserve precious natural resources for future generations. It reduces pollution and helps conserve energy	Increase	Laura Tyler	James Walton	David Vasmer	Number
HEn8	Net carbon emissions – tonnes of co2 per person	Annual	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Key to the corporate climate change strategy. Reducing CO2 emissions will improve air quality and help mitigate the impact of global warming. Emissions per head of population in Shropshire	Reduce	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HEn9a	Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Solar)	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Generation of renewable energy by different means will improve energy security and reduce the need for fossil fuels. Increased generation will reduce CO2 and may provide additional income or reduce energy costs within Council buildings.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HEn9b	Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Wind)	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Generation of renewable energy by different means will improve energy security and reduce the need for fossil fuels. Increased generation will reduce CO2 and may provide additional income or reduce energy costs within Council buildings.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HEn9c	Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Hydro)	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Generation of renewable energy by different means will improve energy security and reduce the need for fossil fuels. Increased generation will reduce CO2 and may provide additional income or reduce energy costs within Council buildings.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HEn9d	Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Bioenergy)	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Generation of renewable energy by different means will improve energy security and reduce the need for fossil fuels. Increased generation will reduce CO2 and may provide additional income or reduce energy costs within Council buildings.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	David Vasmer	Number
HO1	Number of compliments	Quarterly	Communicate Well	Positive feedback from residents and customers are an indication of quality in the delivery of services	Increase	Tim Collard	James Walton	Alex Wagner	Number
HO10	Reducing bad debt by 10% per year	Annual	Align our resources	Reduction of bad debt is part of sound financial management to protect the delivery of vital services to our communities. Good financial practices and decision making indicates a well-trained workforce	Reduce	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	tbc
HO11	Staff turnover rates	Quarterly	Best Workforce	High turnover of staff may be an indication of unhappiness in the workforce including; workload, stress, poor terms and conditions. High turnover then places additional strain on remaining staff and budgets. Calculation - number of voluntary leavers in the period expressed as a percentage of the total workforce this is then expresed as an annualised percentage with the percentage for each quarter multiplied by 4	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%
HO12	Agency staff as a % of the workforce	Quarterly	Align our resources	The use of interim and agency staff for short-term cover, although often essential, can result in additional costs. It can also result in a lack of consistency for vulnerable customers and difficulties in managing or developing the team	Reduce	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%

HO13	Average number of days lost to sickness absence per year	Quarterly	Best Workforce	High sickness rates are a potential indicator of deep-seated issues which may result in the increase of sickness and stress related issues. This in turn causes additional pressure on other staff and budgets. Calculation - Average number of days lost per fte expressed as an annualised figure, average lost days per fte for the quarter multiplied by 4	Reduce	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	tbc
HO14	Number of employees enrolled on the apprenticeship programme	Quarterly	Best Workforce	Developing the talent pool within the Council encourages long-term career development. Investment in staff can increase staff morale and retention rates.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	Number
HO15	% of staff who have completed their Personal Development Plans	Quarterly	Best Workforce	Shropshire Council is committed to developing its staff and has invested in the Getting Leadership Right programme. All staff should receive an annual personal development plan to identify required outputs, training and development needs. Effective use should cascade the ambitions of the Shropshire Plan to all staff	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%
HO16	% of staff who rate Shropshire Council as a good employer		Best Workforce	A high-level indicator to demonstrate that staff consider their employer to be good and would recommend employment to others. A low score indicates dissatisfaction could result in high turnover, high sickness rates and a lack of commitment to achieving good outcomes.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%
HO17	Responding to Freedom of information Requests within statutory timescales (20 working days)	Quarterly	Communicate Well	There are legislative timescales for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Failure to respond within 20 working days will result in enforcement action by the regulating body, Information Commissioners Office (ICO).	Reduce	Tim Collard	James Walton	Alex Wagner	%
HO18	% of staff and members who have completed the cyber security training (on time)	Quarterly	Absorb, adapt, anticipate	Risks from cyber-attack are a daily occurrence and could put the Council and its customers at risk. Mandatory training is required on an annual basis to help protect the Council and its data assets	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Alex Wagner	%
HO19	Number of data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner	Quarterly	Best Workforce	A data breach could adversely affect individuals' rights and freedoms, for example identity theft for employees and customers of the Council. Data breaches could result in financial penalties including compensation paid to the data subject and other legal implications.	Reduce	Tim Collard	James Walton	Alex Wagner	Number
HO20a	Number of complaint investigations	Quarterly	Communicate Well	A high number of complaints may indicate dissatisfaction with Council services.	Reduce	Tim Collard	James Walton	Alex Wagner	Number
HO20b	Reducing paper storage through digitisation – number of incoming mail pages converted	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Increased use of digitisation will reduce the amount of paper that needs to be manufactured, distributed, purchased and stored. This has both environmental and financial benefits for the council.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Alex Wagner	Number
HO20b	Reducing paper storage through digitisation – number of document pages converted	Quarterly	Climate Change Strategy and Actions	Increased use of digitisation will reduce the amount of paper that needs to be manufactured, distributed, purchased and stored. This has both environmental and financial benefits for the council.	Increase	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Alex Wagner	Number
HO21	Member attendance at full council	Quarterly	Strong Councillors	Illustrates all party participation	Increase	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	tbc
HO3	% of complaints upheld by the ombudsman	Annual	Communicate Well	This indicator provides assurance about the quality of Council services and policies. High levels of complaints upheld by the ombudsman may indicate failings with the authority.	Reduce	Tim Collard	James Walton	Alex Wagner	%
HO4	Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (ASC)	Annual	Best Workforce	Overall indicator of satisfaction from Adult Social Care customers. ASCOF 3a is a key performance indicator in the national framework and indicates satisfaction with staff and delivery partners.	Increase	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Ruth Houghton	%
HO5	Resident satisfaction with Highways and Transport services	Annual	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Overall indicator of satisfaction with Highways and Transport across the county. Improved satisfaction is a reflection of good work and communications Acting on feedback is an indication of good communication	Increase	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	%
HO6	Budget outturn vs budget	Quarterly	Align our resources	Delivering a well-managed budget is essential for the financial stability of the Council in delivering services to the communities of Shropshire	Achieve	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	£
HO7	% of Council tax collected	Quarterly	Align our resources	Reductions in central government funding places a greater importance on the need to collect Council Tax. High rates of collection will protect the delivery of essential services .	Maintain	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%
HO8	Average number of days to process new housing benefit claims	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	Efficient processing of claims shows good working practices. A speedy turn-around time supports vulnerable households in need and supports the local economy	Reduce	Sam Williams	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	Number
HO9	Committed CIL funding to support priority ‘A+B’ projects within the Place Plans	Quarterly	Connectivity and Infrastructure	Developer contributions offer the opportunity to access funding to enhance facilities and infrastructure for a wide range of local and strategic schemes.	Achieve	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	Roger Evans	%

HP1	Average happiness score (ONS - well-being estimates)	Annual	Self-Responsibility	People with higher well being have lower rates of illness, recover more quickly and for longer, and generally have better physical and mental health.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP10	C21 Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	Alcohol-related hospital admissions are used as a way of understanding the impact of alcohol on the health of a population.	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP11	C16 The percentage of adults who are overweight or obese	Annual	Self-Responsibility	Obesity is associated with reduced life expectancy and is a risk factor for a range of chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, at least 12 kinds of cancer, liver, and respiratory disease, and can also impact on mental health. The risk and severity of these diseases increases with a higher body mass index (BMI).	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP13	Proportion of service users reporting an improvement in wellbeing scores following a social prescribing intervention	Quarterly	Self-Responsibility	Social prescribing is part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The NHS has committed that at least 900,000 people will benefit from social prescribing by 2024.Social prescribing is a non-medical programme designed to help people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP14	Rate of deaths by suicide (per 100,000 population) - PHE E10	Annual	Self-Responsibility	Suicide is a significant cause of death in young adults, and is seen as an indicator of underlying rates of mental ill-health. Suicide is a major issue for society and a leading cause of years of life lost	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP15	Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) (per 100,000 population) - PHE E09b	Annual	Self-Responsibility	People with a long-standing mental health problem are twice as likely to smoke, with the highest rates among people with psychosis or bipolar disorder. Compared with the general patient population, patients with SMI are at substantially higher risk of obesity, asthma, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cardiovascular disease.	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP16	Cost of Living Vulnerability Index ranking (CCP cost of living index)	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	The cost of living crisis poses a significant and immediate threat to worsening living standards in the poorest places and further place-based inequalities.	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
Page 33 HP17	Proportion of Shropshire's population living in decile 1 and 2 in a rural setting (Rural index of deprivation for health)	Every 4 Years	Tackle Inequalities	Shropshire is the second largest inland county in the country and is well known for its rolling hills and beautiful rural landscape.Overall, health outcomes are better in rural areas than in urban areas, however indicators can mask small pockets of significant deprivation and poor health outcomes. Rural living has challenges in terms of: employment (lower wages and opportunities, especially for young people); fuel poverty; housing quality, availability and cost; public transport; access to health and other services and digital access. It is well-documented that the budget required by rural households for a minimum acceptable standard of living is considerably higher than elsewhere in the UK. Funding is also an issue; Rural areas received less funding per resident under NHS allocations to Clinical Commissioning Groups prior to the introduction of integrated care boards, and receive less Public Health funding per head of population compared to our urban Local Authorities	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP18	% Assessment timeliness: within 45 working days	Quarterly	Early Intervention	It is important that assessments occur in a timely manner. This ensures appropriate actions are put in place.	Increase	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HP19	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	To ensure children who are required to be looked after, enjoy a stable and settled homelife to support them to achieve the best possible outcomes.	Increase	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HP20	Targeted Early Interventions - All outcomes achieved	Quarterly	Early Intervention	Support of the Early Help Team and timely delivery of targeted interventions can prevent escalation of needs and future crisis. A key element of supporting children and their families to stem future needs	Increase	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HP21	Looked After Children by placement location: % Placed within 20 miles of the child's home	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	Ensuring Shropshire is able to provide a range of appropriate support enabling children to remain in or near their home county.	Reduce	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HP22	% of care leavers the service remains in touch with	Quarterly	Tackle Inequalities	Remaining in touch with care leavers assists with providing ongoing support and guidance. The service is also able to track key outcome measures for care leavers living in suitable accommodation and being in Employment, Education or Training (EET)	Maintain	Sonya Millier	James Walton	Andy Hall	%
HP23	% of schools rated good or outstanding	Termly	Partnerships	This indicator provides a high-level indication of the quality of state schools that our pupils are attending. The % of outstanding or good schools should be inline or better than the national average . (State schools receive funding through their local authority or directly from the government. The main types are community Schools also called local authority maintained schools, foundation, voluntary, academies and free schools)	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%

HP24a	% of children accessing free early education at 2yrs	Quarterly	Early Intervention	High take up of early education helps to support the child’s educational and social development skills for better long-term outcomes. Secondly, it may facilitate earlier identification of children at potential risk of harm.	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP24b	% of children accessing free early education at 3yrs	Quarterly	Early Intervention	High take up of early education helps to support the child’s educational and social development skills for better long-term outcomes. Secondly, it may facilitate earlier identification of children at potential risk of harm.	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP25	% of pupils receiving first choice of schools - primary	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	A high percentage of first choice schools is an indication of appropriate school place planning to ensure local preferences are met. A low % may result in a high level of appeals.	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP26	% of pupils receiving first choice of schools - secondary	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	A high percentage of first choice schools is an indication of appropriate school place planning to ensure local preferences are met. A low % may result in a high level of appeals.	Achieve	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP27	School attendance rates – secondary school	Termly	Self-Responsibility	High attendance rates support academic outcomes and provides a safe environment. Reduced attendance may place a child at harm and increase their risks of anti-social behaviour or harm. One of the key performance indicators of learning and Skills	Increase	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP28	Children who are Looked After - Overall school attendance	Termly	Self-Responsibility	Disadvantaged pupils are more likely to achieve lower attainment levels at school. Provision of the right support to keep children engaged with school can increase the chances of positive outcomes . Joint CSC and L&S measure	Increase	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP29	Suspension rates from schools	Termly	Self-Responsibility	Suspension from school risks a child falling behind in their education and not achieving their potential in further or higher education. There is also an increased risk of anti-social behaviour, harm and youth offending. One of the key performance indicators of learning and Skills	Reduce	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	Number
HP2a	Inequality in life expectancy at birth (male) - PHE A02a	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	To measure inequalities within Shropshire, enabling a focus on the deprivation that exists everywhere at small area level. By highlighting area based inequalities, it sets the context within which Shropshire can assess the other indicators within the framework and set priorities, identifying the drivers of life expectancy, especially in areas where life expectancy is low. To be in line or better than England	Maintain	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP2b	Inequality in life expectancy at birth (female) - PHE A02b	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	To measure inequalities within Shropshire, enabling a focus on the deprivation that exists everywhere at small area level. By highlighting area based inequalities, it sets the context within which Shropshire can assess the other indicators within the framework and set priorities, identifying the drivers of life expectancy, especially in areas where life expectancy is low. To be in line or better than England	Maintain	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP3	Percentage of high-risk businesses, subject to a planned inspection, which were inspected to ensure compliance	Annual	Early Intervention	Carrying out statutory inspections of high/medium-risk food businesses that are subject to planned inspections will ensure compliance with food hygiene and safety. Improved standard of Food Hygiene compliance within Shropshire will lead to a stronger economy due to increase customer attraction and satisfaction.	Increase	Tim Collard	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	%
HP30	Permanent Exclusion rates from school	Termly	Self-Responsibility	Permanent exclusion from school risks a child falling behind in their education and not achieving their potential in further or higher education. There is also an increased risk of anti-social behaviour, harm and youth offending.	Reduce	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	Number
HP31	% of Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (exc exceptions)	Quarterly	Early Intervention	To improve the % of Educational Health Care Plans issued within the national 20 week target. Delays to issuing plans can impact outcomes for children and families. Note: this indicator is reported cumulatively from Jan to Dec	Increase	David Shaw	CEO	Andy Hall	%
HP32	HP32 - The proportion of long-term adult social care users in receipt of community-based services	Quarterly	Self-Responsibility	Living in familiar surroundings can improve the quality of life and reduce anxiety. Our aim is to support people to live their best life and remain connected with their communities	Increase	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	%
HP33a	Top quartile performer for the rate of admissions to residential and nursing care (18-64)	Quarterly	Partnerships	Key measure within the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework . Aligns with the priority to support people in the community. Rates per 100,000	Maintain	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP33b	Top quartile performer for the rate of admissions to residential and nursing care (65+)	Quarterly	Partnerships	Key measure within the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework . Aligns with the priority to support people in the community. Rates per 100,000	Reduce	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP34	The number of people in long term care with digital included in their plan	Quarterly	Early Intervention	Increased use of digital technologies to support people to remain independent and safe in their own homes	Increase	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	Number
HP35	HP35 - Rate of people with Learning Disabilities that live in their own home or with family	Quarterly	Self-Responsibility	Supporting people with learning disabilities to live on their own or with family enables people to stay in their communities. It increases self-confidence and independence whilst reducing reliance on others. Measure within the ASCOF framework	Maintain	Natalie McFall	Tanya Miles	Bernie Bentick	%

HP36	Rate of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on our roads (rolling 3-year average)	Quarterly	Strong safe and vibrant destination	Rural counties see higher rates of KSI than the national average. KSI Accidents can have personal long-term impacts on health and employment for the individual and families. This may result in substantial ongoing support from the public sector.	Reduce	Andy Wilde	James Walton	David Vasmer	Number
HP4	Measles, Mumps Rubella for two doses (5 year old) - PHE DC04c	Annual	Partnerships	Vaccination provides children and adults against diseases which can lead to disability. The WHO has a target of 95% uptake of immunisation in order to maintain 'herd' immunity.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP5	Uptake of breast cancer screening - PHE C24a	Annual	Partnerships	Breast cancer screening detects cancers early. Early detection of cancer improves the chances of successful treatment. The historical rates of uptake in Shropshire has been around 80%, acheivement of this rate has been set as an objective in the ICS Health Protection Strategy.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP6	C09a- Reception: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity)	Annual	Early Intervention	The health consequences of childhood obesity include: increased blood lipids, glucose intolerance, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, increases in liver enzymes associated with fatty liver, exacerbation of conditions such as asthma and psychological problems such as social isolation, low self-esteem, teasing and bullying.	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP7	C09b- Year 6: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity)	Annual	Early Intervention	Studies tracking child obesity into adulthood have found that the probability of children who are overweight or living with obesity becoming overweight or obese adults increases with age	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP8a	School readiness: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	Annual	Tackle Inequalities		Increase	Rachel Robinson	CEO	Bernie Bentick	%
HP8b	B02a - School Readiness: percentage of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	Key measure of early years development across a wide range of developmental areas. Children from poorer backgrounds are more at risk of poorer development and the evidence shows that differences by social background emerge early in life.	Increase	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	%
HP9	C19d - Deaths from drug misuse (per 100,000 population)	Annual	Tackle Inequalities	Drug misuse is a significant cause of premature mortality in the UK	Decrease	Paula Mawson	Rachel Robinson	Bernie Bentick	Number

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Cabinet
19 November 2025

Item

Public



Update on Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Update

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr David Vasmer		

1. Synopsis

This report provides an update on the work of Joint Project Board for the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS) and seeks support for the progression of a programme of public consultation to shape development of a strategy for managing water in the upper Severn catchment.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Shropshire Plan's Healthy Environment priority highlights the importance of investment and joint working to maintain, protect and enhance our outstanding natural environment.
- 2.2 Further to recommendations approved in the report to Cabinet on 21st February 2024 entitled 'Severn Valley Water Management Update' ([Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Update 2024](#)), officers have been working with the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Powys County Council to progress work on a catchment based approach to water management in the upper Severn (SVWMS).

- 2.3 The SVWMS involves early work to develop a strategy for the upper Severn, utilising £10million of Government investment, awarded to the Environment Agency through ministerial direction in 2021.
- 2.4 As the partner with accountability for the SVWMS, the Environment Agency has led the initial stages, creating the tools and frameworks necessary to develop a technical solution of the scale required to address the significant water management risks faced by the catchment. The establishment of the Joint Project Board in 2024 recognised the importance of co-developing the strategy with the local authorities and the communities they represent.
- 2.5 The Environment Agency has requested the Joint Project Board support the next stage of public consultation. Following development of further technical work, as well as extensive partner and community engagement, this public consultation will focus on capturing input from residents, landowners, businesses, and local organisations on the emerging plan. It will have a particular emphasis on identifying ways to maximise the local benefits of water storage infrastructure beyond just water management.
- 2.6 The SVWMS presents opportunities to reduce flood risk across the catchment, whilst also supporting agriculture, improving water supply resilience, enhancing recreational access, and stimulating local economic development. The public consultation will be key to ensuring that local perspectives feed into the development of the strategy and are subsequently central to the future design and delivery of the scheme.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet agree to:

- 3.1 Note the Council's role as part of the SVWMS Joint Project Board and in advocating for a water management approach which maximises benefits for the cross border communities in Shropshire and Powys.
- 3.2 Endorse and support the next stage of public and stakeholder consultation for the SVWMS, undertaking this jointly through the Joint Project Board.
- 3.3 Delegate to the Chief Executive, responsibility for progressing the Council's support for the SVWMS through the Joint Project Board and agree to embedding the programme within the Marches Forward Partnership, thereby ensuring a joined-up approach to cross border working between Shropshire and Powys.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The SVWMS is a vital initiative to address long-standing issues of flood risk, water availability, and land use pressures across the Severn catchment. Significant opportunity is provided by the £10million Defra monies, enabling development of

a water management strategy as a response to the challenges posed both now and in the future.

- 4.2 The most up to date modelling of the upper Severn indicates significant challenges both now and into the future. This includes the potential requirement for management of over 100Mm³ of flood water during extreme wet weather events. The SVWMS has recognised that as a worse case scenario the 100Mm³ of flood water is the equivalent of 3.8 years of daily water consumption for the population of Shropshire and Powys combined (based on average household consumption of 142 litres per person per day and a combined population of 500,000 across Powys and Shropshire.) Whilst the SVWMS strategy is only looking at temporarily holding water during an extreme flood event, the public consultation does provide opportunity to help us understand the wider benefits associated with that level of water storage.
- 4.3 Based on risks associated with extreme weather events, the 'do nothing' scenario is not an option. Without intervention and a change of approach, communities, infrastructure, and local businesses are and will remain exposed to recurring and escalating water-related challenges. Independent economic analysis completed by Ernst and Young indicates that a single, significant sized flood event in the Shropshire and Powys catchment area could result insubstantial impacts to infrastructure, businesses and the local community, with socio-economic damages ranging between £111 million to £125 million if the event were to occur in 2026 rising to £205 million to £231 million if the event were to occur in 2050. This expected increase of over 80% between the event occurring next year or in 25-years' time underscores the need for a prompt intervention to avoid incurring significant costs in the future.
- 4.4 The current programme of SVWMS work is focused on the development of a strategy, with the aim of sharing this with UK and Welsh Government in early 2027. The current focus on public consultation is aimed at shaping the strategy development. At this time, no support is sought for a particular set of interventions and there is not an ask to financially support the programme. The current risks to the Council are therefore only focused on resourcing public engagement and ensuring local perspectives are reflected in the development of the strategy
- 4.5 As the funding for the SVWMS is led by the Environment Agency, delivery and expenditure on the project is being monitored by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the project risks and meeting the ministerial requirements associated with the use of the funds.
- 4.6 In line with the formal statutory role of Shropshire Council, as the Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority, the Council's role on the Joint Project Board is in guiding decision making on the project to maximise benefits to the local community and to help unlock funding to enable future delivery.
- 4.7 The Environment Agency has made an initial sum of funding available for both Shropshire Council and Powys County Council to support the resource capacity needs at this early stage in the strategy development. This funding continues to support the early local authority resourcing into the Joint Project Board and stages of public consultation.

- 4.8 Shropshire Council has already been working with Powys County Council on a joint resource plan to ensure efficiencies in the local authority involvement. This involves hosting the work within the Marches Forward Partnership, as one of the significant cross border projects across the Marches area.
- 4.9 The Joint Project Board and local authority hosting within the Marches Forward Partnership does, and will continue to, enable a joined up approach to the project development, ensuring shared input and influence across partners from the outset of the project development.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):
- scaling down initiatives,
 - changing the scope of activities,
 - delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
 - extending delivery timescales.
- 5.2 The £10million funding for development of the SVWMS has already been agreed by the Environment Agency with Defra. The Environment Agency has secured agreement to spend this funding, following completion and sign off of a number of business cases by the Environment Agency. This is aimed at supporting the initial stages of the project's development and includes an initial circa £600,000 payment for local authority support which has been transferred to the Council under a collaboration agreement between the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council and Powys County Council.
- 5.3 In supporting the Joint Project Board, the financial implications for Shropshire Council are associated with resourcing the project development. The collaboration agreement between the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council is enabling transfer of the funding to be received by Shropshire Council to enable effective resource allocation into the project. In-kind contributions are being made by Shropshire Council in support of the Joint Project Board, in terms of sharing data and evidence, sharing office/meeting space (where appropriate) and providing access to Council partner networks and political input.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The SVWMS is aimed at providing a strategic and integrated response to the challenges of climate resilience across the upper Severn.
- 6.2 The project development seeks to pilot and test how an integrated approach to water management helps to address current and future risks and in so doing

unlocks opportunities for growth and improved wellbeing. It involves a suite of nature based measures, complimented by large scale but innovative and sensitively engineered storage, to address water management. It includes close working with water companies, Wildlife Trusts, Severn Rivers Trust, landowners and many others.

- 6.3 Taking an adaptive approach, the SVWMS allows for a long-term plan to be developed, providing a range of options to implement the most appropriate and effective actions at the right time and in the right way. It includes consideration of multiple benefits, understanding and assessing how future water management reduces risks and provides co-benefits for carbon capture and storage, biodiversity, health and wellbeing and economic growth.
- 6.4 Development and delivery of the SVWMS, as a strategic scale initiative, offers potential to scale up innovation and an integrated climate management response across the entire Severn and Wye catchment, utilising the Marches Forward Partnership and River Severn Partnership as vehicles to share learning and best practice.

7. Background

- 7.1 The SVWMS is a vital initiative to address long-standing issues of flood risk whilst also providing a framework for considering wider issues such as water availability, and land use pressures across the Severn catchment. It is an ambitious project, developing innovative and holistic approach. The SVWMS is exploring how a combination of the natural landscape and natural processes along with formal engineered solutions provide a comprehensive approach to water management. The aim is to drive a long term approach to community resilience and improved wellbeing in the face of current and future risks.
- 7.2 Water management across the upper Severn is not an issue that can be addressed at a localised level. It requires an integrated approach to catchment management and a coherent plan across multiple stakeholders, including communities between England and Wales.
- 7.3 The most up to date modelling of the upper Severn indicates significant challenges both now and into the future. This includes the potential requirement for management of over 100Mm³ of flood water during extreme wet weather events. In addition, and as the summer of 2025 has demonstrated, the increasing flood risk is coupled with increased risks of reduced water availability during drier periods. The 'do nothing' scenario is not an option. Without intervention and a change of approach, communities, infrastructure, and local businesses remain exposed to recurring and escalating water-related challenges.
- 7.4 Enhancing natural processes across the catchment, in tandem with innovative engineered solutions, presents an opportunity to enhance the catchment's ability to hold, and make use of, water to help to alleviate these pressures. The scale of the challenge means there is a need for a strategic approach that supports the future co-design and co-ownership with all partners in the region and with the community.

- 7.5 Current responsibility for water management is siloed, based on whether it is focused on flood management, water resources or water quality. There is not a mechanism that brings this together to look at the integrated water management needs of an area and future management approach. Likewise, the funding mechanisms associated with these existing partners are not necessarily geared to addressing the challenges associated with a rural catchment such as the upper Severn or the scale of the risks that we face.
- 7.6 The SVWMS offers a new way of working which sets out a comprehensive strategy for the upper Severn. It will provide a programme of delivery that can be taken forward as an adaptive approach over the short, medium and longer term, responding to changing risk.
- 7.7 The Environment Agency led the initial stages of the project development, creating the tools and frameworks necessary to develop a technical solution of the scale required to address the significant flood management challenges faced by the catchment. This included undertaking immediate delivery through a demonstrator programme to both provide short term benefits to communities whilst also demonstrating the potential innovation possible to Government and wider key stakeholders.
- 7.8 That work was used to identify “the art of the possible” and to understand the potential degree of intervention that might be required across Shropshire and Powys to mitigate some of the substantial impacts experienced from flooding, water availability and land use pressures. With subsequent work, extensive and engagement and a formal consultation process helping to further shape that work into a formal strategy.
- 7.9 As the strategy evolves, there continues to be a need for significant input from local communities. The creation of a shared vision and co-created programme of interventions across the catchment is essential in providing far greater benefits and confidence in future delivery. For the SVWMS to be successful, it needs to be much more than a technical assessment and provide a clear plan for taking forward a suite of interventions which in turn become community assets that both help to manage water and provide wider community benefits.
- 7.10 The next stage of public consultation will therefore provide opportunity to showcase the technical work to date alongside the emerging plan. It will share the scale of the challenge and important need for all the interventions to be effective and seek community input on the approach and the local opportunities it presents.
- 7.11 Engagement from previous consultation rounds and as part of the project work, provides a good basis for this next public consultation. Work to date has been supported by a growing consortium of professional bodies and local partners including input from communities facilitated through the National Flood Forum (NFF). This has provided early thinking on the type of interventions that would be both appropriate for the upper Severn landscape, taking into account a range of factors such as environmental constraints, as well as those that would be most effective in addressing the scale of risk and which work well with the existing landscape and for local communities.
- 7.12 There has been a deliberate focus on considering the role of nature-based processes which can be taken forward at pace. However, within the initial analysis

there is a recognition that such interventions can only address the risk to a certain point, beyond which there would be a dramatic impact to the upper Severn landscape and the communities within it. A balance is therefore required between delivering the optimum amount of nature-based measures alongside sympathetically designed engineered solutions. A fully integrated programme encompassing a suite of measures will both help to achieve the scale and reliability of outcomes required alongside supporting the community to help shape the outcomes they wish to see.

- 7.13 Examples of such engineered solutions exist in other catchment areas, such as in the rural areas upstream of Leeds and more locally in the RSPB site in Perry Barr (Birmingham). As illustrated by the below diagrams, such schemes have been deliberately landscaped into the environment using grassed embankments to provide sensitively designed water storage which only fills in times of flood.

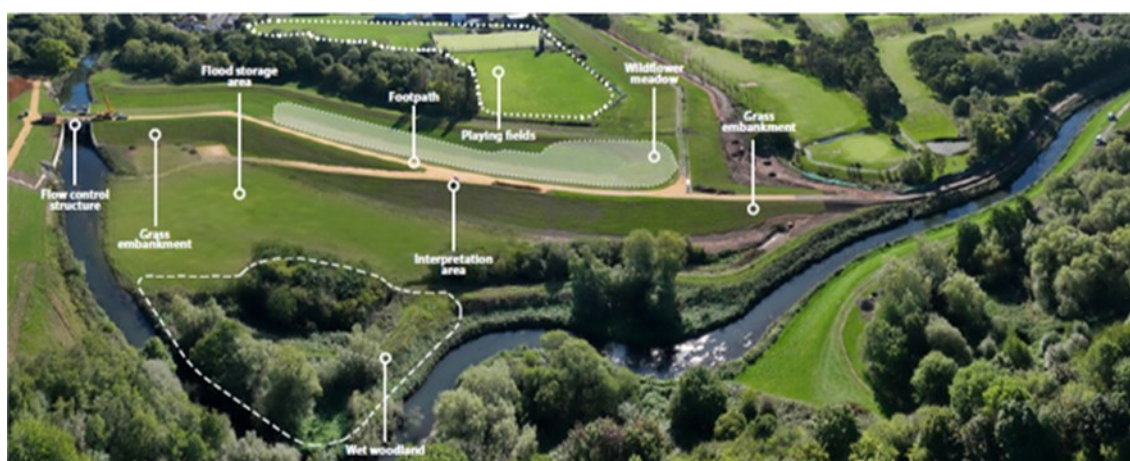


Figure 1 - Aerial Shot of temporary flood storage area in Birmingham



Figure 2 - Aerial shot of temporary flood storage area in Leeds (prior to seeding)



Figure 3 - Mock up visualisation of type of storage area envisaged to support SVWMS

7.14 In the case of SVWMS, this could potentially involve landscaped bunds that retain a maximum water height of 10m (measured from the riverbed) albeit this is based on the early and high level analysis undertaken to date. Significant community engagement and future studies will be needed before starting any level of design that would help define more definite retained water level heights. However, it is important to note that such engineering is of a dramatically reduced scale compared to the type of water management interventions that already exist across the upper Severn, such as Lake Vyrnwy.

7.15 The consultation will set out the findings from the work undertaken to date and present an emerging plan of measures that could be brought forward to manage present day and future risks. That plan will show how nature-based solutions and temporary flood water storage structures could be utilised to hold water back during flood events, reducing subsequent damage to communities and land. It will also seek to gain input on the wider opportunities that such a programme might create, such as enhanced local water resource resilience and recreation, amongst others. The consultation will also touch on work that is ongoing to establish a clear funding mechanism that enables landowners to support in the future co-design and delivery of the project whilst being rewarded for that input.

8. Additional Information

8.1 As a Defra led strategic project, flexibility has deliberately been built into the SVWMS to allow for innovation during the development phase. This is aimed at supporting the achievement of greater and multiple outcomes through an integrated approach to catchment management. The project programme therefore allows for evolution and refocus as part of the learning process and specific deliverables and outcomes may therefore change as the strategy is developed with local communities. Learning will be gathered by the Environment Agency to inform Defra ministers as well as with the wider River Severn Partnership to support wider scale up of delivery across the Severn and Wye catchment.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 Development of the SVWMS is a strategic response to the challenges of water management impacting the upper Severn catchment. As a strategy, it seeks to combine nature-based responses with appropriate, but potentially large scale, engineering to provide a complementary programme of measures that can be taken forward across the short, medium and longer term. It will help harness the natural and cultural value of the upper River Seven, as the headwaters of the UK's longest river system, and provide the catalyst for community resilience and economic prosperity.
- 9.2 Supporting the public consultation, as part of the Joint Project Board, will utilise Shropshire Council's unique position as the lead partner for Shropshire, ensuring collaborative delivery with Shropshire communities from the outset and enabling community level shaping as the strategy moves forward in its development.
- 9.3 The SVWMS will help provide a strategic framework for supporting landowning communities to understand the value of environmental management within farm businesses and enable testing of new financial mechanisms for delivery.
- 9.4 The scheme aligns with the Council's strategic objectives around flood risk management, infrastructure resilience, rural development, and community wellbeing. Developing the SVWMS will improve the natural environment for future generations and secure economic and community resilience in the face of current risks and future uncertainty.

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

Cabinet report title 'Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Update' dated 21st February 2024

Cabinet report title 'River Severn Partnership- Shropshire Flood Prevention' dated 27th September 2020

Cabinet report title 'River Severn Partnership' dated 18th November 2019

Local Member:

All Members

Appendices

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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