

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

Date: Date Not Specified

Committee:
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 12 October 2026

Time: 2.30 pm

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](#)

Richard Phillips
Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chris Naylor (Chair)

Dawn Husemann (Vice-Chair)

Bernie Bentick

Ed Bird

Duncan Borrowman

Rosemary Dartnall

Gary Groves

Malcolm Myles-Hook

Mark Owen

Charles Shackerley-Bennett

Sam Walmsley

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk

When attending this meeting, Members are reminded of the three principles of the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics Civility Pledge:

1. *Use a civil and constructive tone in debate*
2. *Act with integrity, honesty and compassion*
3. *Behave respectfully towards others, including those I disagree with*

*(Please note that while we strive to live stream meetings, technical issues may occasionally occur. In the event of a technical disruption, the meeting will be paused to try to resolve the issue. Should it not be possible to resume the live stream, the meeting will proceed as scheduled, and a backup recording will be made available after the meeting. Any disruption to the live stream does not affect the legality of the meeting).

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 - 4)

Members are asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2026.

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 Tuesday 6 October 2026.

5 Members' Question Time

To receive any questions from Members of the Council. Deadline for notification is not later than 12 noon on Tuesday 6 October 2026.

6 Adult Social Care Transformation Plan

The purpose of this report is to set out the Council's Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, including the proposed approach, expected benefits, and decisions required to support sustainable, high-quality services for residents.

Contact: Laura Tyler/Natalie McFall

REPORT TO FOLLOW – To allow further changes to be made to the report following informal Cabinet.

7 Work Programme (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider proposals for the Committee's work programme 2026 – 2027 attached.

Contact: Claire Braddock, Overview & Scrutiny Officer

8 Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next meeting is scheduled for 30 November 2026.



Committee and Date

Finance and Improvement
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

12 October 2026

FINANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2026

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

10.00 am - 12.40 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward Committee Officer

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Chris Naylor (Chair), Dawn Husemann (Vice-Chair), Ed Bird, Rosemary Dartnall, Gary Groves, Malcolm Myles-Hook, Mark Owen, Charles Shackerley-Bennett and Sam Walmsley

In Attendance

Councillor Heather Kidd (Leader), Councillor Roger Evans (Portfolio Holder for Finance), Councillor James Owen (Portfolio Holder for Housing), Tanya Miles (Chief Executive), Rachel Robinson (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), Paul Clarke (Service Director – Strategy & Change), Richard Phillips (Service Director – Legal & Governance), Kassandra Polyzoides (Interim Service Director Place Shaping – Remote) Duncan Whitfield (Interim S151 Officer), Tom Dodds (Overview & Scrutiny Manager), Claire Braddock (Overview & Scrutiny Officer), Tim Ward (Democratic Services Officer).

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernie Bentick and Duncan Borrowman

17 Disclosable Interests

Councillor Mark Owen informed the meeting that with regard to Item 7 he was a member of the board of STAR Housing

18 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record.

19 Public Question Time

Two public questions had been received:

John Palmer, in relation to the disposal of council assets.

Andrew Sceats, in relation to Cornovii. In response to a supplementary question the Chair noted that the current report focused on future options rather than the company's history but agreed the points raised should inform any retrospective review. It was agreed that the Interim S151 Officer would provide a fuller response to the points raised outside of the meeting

The full questions and responses can be found on [Response to Public Questions - 7 September 2026.pdf](#)

20 Members' Question Time

There were no questions from Members

21 Exceptional Financial Support: External Assurance Review

The Committee considered the Exceptional Financial Support: External Assurance Review report which shared the report of an 'Assurance Review' undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in April 2026 as part of the arrangements associated with the Council receiving Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government, identified significant challenges facing the Council, and made a series of recommendations intended to support financial recovery and long-term sustainability.

Members welcomed progress but remained concerned that the council still lacked a clear, financially credible route to close the long-term budget gap. Particular concern was expressed about the need to move beyond process and demonstrate measurable delivery, sustainable savings, and transparent public assurance.

The committee broadly supported the report and agreed that recommendations to Cabinet should include strengthening the finance function, receiving a concise traffic-light summary of progress against the CIPFA recommendations, and improving the public accountability of the Improvement Board.

22 Cornovii Developments Ltd

The Committee considered the Cornovii Developments Ltd report which set out options for the Council's future relationship with Cornovii Developments Ltd (CDL). The report recognised that the company had delivered high-quality homes on difficult sites but concluded that its business model depended on council borrowing that was no longer affordable in the context of the financial emergency and exceptional financial support and it was recommended that Option 6, a structured closure over a managed period, was the least disadvantageous and lowest-cost option.

Members generally supported this approach, while stressing the need to protect tenants and to understand the full financial implications for taxpayers. The committee asked that Cabinet consider a member-led mechanism to review the history of Cornovii and capture lessons learned, while minimising additional cost and officer resource demands.

23 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2026/27

The Committee received the Financial Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 of the 2026/27 financial year. Officers described the position as cautiously positive, with the council broadly tracking the budget set for the year but emphasised that this was an early position and that risks remained, particularly around demand-led services and the need for stronger accountability and forecasting.

Members raised issues including the treatment of parish and town council contributions to services, recruitment difficulties across key professional areas, the need for clearer transformation business cases, and the overspend risk in children's services. The Chair proposed that these issues be reflected in recommendations or follow-up requests to Cabinet.

24 Q1 Performance Report

The committee received the Q1 Performance report. They welcomed the revised performance reporting format, which brought together delivery commitments, traffic-light ratings and key performance indicators. Members felt the report was a significant improvement and provided a better basis for assessing progress against the corporate plan.

Some concern was expressed that the tone of the financial sustainability section might appear more positive than the position felt in scrutiny discussions, given the continuing scale of the council's financial challenge.

25 Assets Member Briefing

The committee agreed that members needed a clearer understanding of the council's asset base before scrutinising asset disposal strategy. Members requested more accessible information on the categories, scale, value and use of council assets, as well as the criteria and governance arrangements for identifying disposals.

It was agreed that a revised briefing should be prepared, potentially for an all-member session or a future scrutiny meeting, with greater granularity and clearer definitions of asset categories and terminology.

26 Work Programme

The Committee considered its future work programme and potential areas for further development.

The Scrutiny Officer suggested that instead of having 2 meetings in November a meeting be held in October to look at items such as Adult Social Care

Transformation, the Devolution of Strategic Partnerships paper and possibly the Assets briefing.

27 Date of Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Monday 16th November but that this may be brought forward to October and that they would be advised of the new date as soon as it was to hand.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2025 / 2026 / 2027

COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Holders	All Member Briefing	Task and Finish Group followed by a report to Committee	Report straight to committee	Previous topic of review - an update against the action plan
19-Jan-26	Draft Financial Strategy 2026/2027—2030/2031	James Walton	Roger Evans			✓	
19-Jan-26	Capital Strategy 2025/27	James Walton	Roger Evans			✓	
09-Feb-26	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2025/26	Mannie Ketley	Roger Evans			✓	
09-Feb-26	Financial Strategy 2026/2027—2030/2031	Mannie Ketley	Roger Evans			✓	
09-Feb-26	Fees and Charges 2026/27	Mannie Ketley	Roger Evans			✓	
13-Feb-26	Partnership Working T&F Group	Tim Collard	Alex Wagner		✓ To report at regular intervals throughout programme		
13-Apr-26	Part One report of the CIL Task and Finish Group	Greg Ebbs	David Walker		✓ To report at regular intervals throughout programme		
08-Jun-26	Performance Monitoring Report Q4 and Corporate Plan Performance Framework	Paul Clarke / Jess Edwards	Heather Kidd			ü	
08-Jun-26	Financial Outturn 2025/26	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			ü	
08-Jun-26	Improvement Plan—Update Report	Paul Clarke	Heather Kidd			ü	
08-Jun-26	PWC Local Partnerships Report	Rachel Robinson	Alex Wagner			ü	
08-Jun-26	Aquamira Learning Disability day service	Natalie McFall	Ruth Houghton			ü	

08-Jun-26	Helena Lane Older people's Day Service	Natalie McFall	Ruth Houghton			ü	
07-Sep-26	Exceptional Financial Support: External Assurance	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
07-Sep-26	Gornovii Developments Ltd	Duncan Whitfield	James Owen			✓	
07-Sep-26	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2026/27	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
07-Sep-26	Performance Monitoring Report Q1	Paul Clarke / Tom Dodds	Heather Kidd			✓	
07-Sep-26	Assets Member Briefing	Steve Law / Kassandra Polyzoides	Roger Evans	✓			
12-Oct-26	ASC Transformation	Laura Tyler / Natalie McFall	Ruth Houghton			✓	
09-Nov-26	Draft Budget	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
09-Nov-26	Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2027 - 2032	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
30-Nov-26	Improvement Plan: Annual Review & Refresh	Paul Clarke	Alex Wagner				
30-Nov-26	post Cabinet look at Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2026/27	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
30-Nov-26	post Cabinet look at Performance Monitoring Report Q2	Paul Clarke / Jess Edwards	Heather Kidd			✓	
30-Nov-26	Council Tax	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
30-Nov-26	Fees and Charges	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
30-Nov-26	post Cabinet look at Capital Strategy	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
08-Feb-27	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 (Period 8) 2026/27	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	

08-Feb-27	Medium Term Financial Plan 2027/28 – 2031/32	Duncan Whitfield	Roger Evans			✓	
08-Feb-27	Performance Monitoring Report Q3	Paul Clarke / Jess Edwards	Heather Kidd			✓	

Other identified areas of interest from Committee discussions, including topics for briefings and potential Task and Finish Groups:

Planned Task and Finish groups		
North West Relief Road (in conjunction with E&E as lead committee)	first meeting diaried	
Partnership Working - Phase 3	Autumn / Winter 2026	
Planned Member Briefings		
Assets	Oct (date tbc)	
Medium Term Financial Plan	13th July	✓
SEND	13th July	✓
Adult Social Care Finance	21st Sept	✓
Other items for consideration		
Use of Consultants		
Devolution	To take place Autumn / Winter 2026	

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