

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

AGENDA ITEM 5

QUESTION 1

MR STEPHEN MULLOY, Shrewsbury resident, will ask the following question to the Speaker:

Preamble

The Council's Constitution places the burden of **'conscience of the Council'** on the Speaker's shoulders, and the Council, through the Code of Corporate Governance, is dependent on its members and staff delivering excellent corporate governance which requires them to conduct themselves in accordance with the high standards expected by the citizens of Shropshire.

The first Principle of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance is:

'Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law' and states:

"Local government organisations are accountable not only for how much they spend, but also for how they use the resources under their stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes they have achieved. In addition, they have an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, they can demonstrate the appropriateness of all their actions across all activities and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law"

Question:

Can I ask Cllr Hunt, in his role of Speaker and conscience of the Council, if:

- i. He feels that complacency about political sponsorship in Shropshire is over-influencing important issues at a local level through the perpetual motion of favours and patronage and leading to a lack of respect for the rule of law, and;
- ii. Does he feel that the Members Register of Interests serves any useful purpose in modern day politics, and if he does, will;

- iii. He, in light of recent revelations, consider publicly advising members, at the start of the next Full Council meeting, of the need to ensure that their declarations of interest are correct and up-to-date?

CLLR VINCE HUNT, the Speaker has replied as follows:

- i. I do not feel that.
- ii. The Register of Interests is a statutory requirement, my views as to relevance are immaterial. Parliament clearly feels this is appropriate and relevant in the present day.
- iii. We already have a reminder of declaring interests on all Council agendas.
