



<b>Communities Overview Committee</b>	<u>Item</u>
<b>23 March 2022</b>	<u>Public</u>

## **Communities Overview Committee Work Programme 2021-2022**

### **Responsible officer**

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### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This paper presents the Communities Overview Committee’s proposed work programme for the 2021-2022 municipal year. During the course of its work programme, the committee will also
- Scrutinise emerging thematic priorities
  - respond to emerging issues and
  - follow up on previous work.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Committee members to:
- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**
  - suggest changes to the committee work programme and
  - recommend other topics to consider.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The work programme provides the opportunity for the committee to plan its work for the next twelve months. In planning its work, it should aim to produce a programme that features a combination of:
- scrutiny of council priorities, through its corporate plan (The Shropshire Plan)
  - forthcoming policy proposals, as listed in the Forward Plan and from discussions with officers and administration members.
  - community priorities that the public bring to the attention of elected members.
  - priorities for action resulting from the council’s financial and capital strategies.
  - the work of our partners, for example the Marches Local Enterprise partnership or
  - following up on previous recommendations from the committee.

### 3.2 **The Shropshire Plan**

Shropshire Council's overarching corporate plan, The Shropshire Plan, is currently in draft stage and has yet to be approved by Council. The Plan, when approved, will contain:

- Corporate priorities which the council's directorates will be responsible for delivering;
- Plans and policies which together will deliver the priorities of the corporate plan; and
- A suite of performance management information that will allow elected members to scrutinise both the delivery of plans and policies, but also to determine whether those plans and policies had resulted in the expected change in performance.

3.3 The plan provides a valuable opportunity for the committee to review its work programme, to ensure that it supports the corporate and service priorities and objectives in the plan. To take advantage of this opportunity, officers plan a dedicated committee work programming session in May 2022.

3.4 Shropshire Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions is attached as **appendix 2**. There will be an opportunity for further scrutiny of the Shropshire Plan when it has been approved by Council in May this year.

### 4.0 **Next steps**

4.1 Officers will present a refreshed work programme at each committee meeting. In addition the committee will meet informally between committee meetings to discuss which topics they wish to scrutinise at future meetings.

<b>List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
None
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
All
<b>Local Member</b>
All
<b>Appendices</b>
Overview and scrutiny work programme

Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions

**Appendix 1**  
**Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2021 to 2022**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a further update on work to maximise access to public rights of way, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital works funding</li> <li>Income retainment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Communities, Place, Tourism and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbal update from portfolio holder.</li> </ul>	21 July 2021
Armed Forces Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek assurance that Shropshire Council supports serving and former armed forces personnel through its armed forces covenant.</li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Climate Change, Natural Assets & Green Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Armed Forces Covenant</li> <li>Armed Forces Covenant action plan</li> <li>Armed Forces Needs Assessment</li> </ul>	21 July 2021
<b>BRIEF</b> <i>Community and Public Transport</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of current and proposed changes to community and public transport service commissioning and funding.</li> </ul>	Head of Transport		13 Sep 2021
Domestic Abuse services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To scrutinise services in Shropshire to support victims of domestic abuse.</li> <li>To ensure current funding and infrastructure meets the needs of people in Shropshire.</li> </ul>	Connexus  Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse contract and funding arrangements</li> <li>Service specification</li> <li>Service use rates</li> </ul>	25 Oct 2021
Bus Back Better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To scrutinise proposals for new rural bus services in Shropshire,</li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Communities,		25 Oct 2021

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
	funded through the Bus Back Better government funding.	Place, Tourism and Transport		
<b>Briefing</b> <i>Flood risk management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of how Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency and other partners respond to both groundwater and river flooding.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director, Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings from review of response to 2018/19 flooding.</li> </ul>	15 Nov 2021
Flooding – community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive an update on work to embed lesson learned from 2018/19 and 2019/2020 flooding</li> </ul>	Assistant Director, Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020 scrutiny committee report and recommendations</li> </ul>	24 Nov 2021
Economic Growth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of the economic growth plan</li> <li>Identify topics of focus for the 2022/2023 work programme</li> </ul>	Executive Director, Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft economic growth plan</li> </ul>	23 March 2022
Draft revised housing allocations policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutinise draft revised allocations policy, following the committee’s working group review of the policy in 2021.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Homes and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Allocations Policy</li> </ul>	23 March 2022

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Housing Review of the Housing Revenue Account Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutinise arrangements to renew Arms-Length Management Organisation contract with STAR Housing</li> </ul>	Executive Director, Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract arrangements</li> </ul>	23 March 2022
Blue Badge online applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To scrutinise the challenges arising from online applications for Blue Badge parking permits.</li> </ul>	Age Concern Head of Business & Consumer Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	23 March 2022
Work programme review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the work of the committee to date.</li> <li>• Identify priority topics for the committee.</li> <li>• Identify data and information required to support scrutiny of priority topics.</li> </ul>	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee remit</li> <li>• Committee recommendations from 2020-2021</li> </ul>	May 2022
<b>Briefing</b> <i>Social housing in Shropshire</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of social housing in Shropshire</li> </ul>	Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	March 2022

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the barriers to developing affordable housing to rent or buy in rural areas</li> <li>• Scope a broader piece of work to identify recommendations for Cabinet.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	June 2022
Domestic Abuse strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutinise draft domestic abuse strategy.</li> </ul>	Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft strategy</li> <li>• Recommendations from committee from September 2021 meeting.</li> </ul>	June 2022
Armed Forces Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on work to review the Covenant action plan.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated covenant action plan.</li> </ul>	July 2022

Affordable and key worker housing – request from Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Taxi and private hire shortages

- Licensing changes
- Data on shortages
- Licensing requirements

Waste minimisation strategy

Draft flood management strategy before it goes to Cabinet

Communications to elected members

- Health matters
- Flooding matters
- Roadworks

