



Committee and Date

Council

INSERT NEXT MEETING DATE

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.00 am - 1.25 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

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

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt and Lezley Picton (Leader)

Councillors Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Ted Clarke, Rachel Connolly, Gerald Dakin, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Parady, Tony Parsons, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, David Vasmer, Claire Wild, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

101 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ed Bird, Paul Gill, Elliot Lynch, David Minnery, Robert Tindall, Kevin Turley, Alex Wagner and Mark Williams

102 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

103 Minutes

Councillor Dean advised that with regard to paragraph 2 on page 11 of the document pack, it was he, not Councillor Vasmer that had accepted the proposed amendment

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

104 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 2 March 2023, which had been circulated by email.

105 Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Mike Streetly, John Lill, Dr Natasha Harlow, Dr Jamie Russell, Rita Makin and Debbie Feasey on behalf of the residents of Underdale. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 30th March, 2023, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

106 ICT & Digital Strategy

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital Councillor Rob Gittins and seconded by Councillor Dan Thomas, that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Heather Kidd proposed that the following be added to the recommendation: -

The Council will provide a detailed Welfare Policy, including in an accessible and easy read format, for those who are vulnerable and who may struggle to access the digital world. In addition to vulnerable people with disabilities this will also include those with poor or no mobile signal and those with limited access to broadband and hardware as outlined in the strategy. Emergency access when systems fail should also be covered.

This was seconded by Councillor Ruth Houghton.

On being put to a vote the amendment was not supported.

Councillor Julia Evans commented that in some cases there was not a reduction in carbon emissions but simply a transfer from the corporate to the private and asked whether any analysis of the "carbon transfer" was planned. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital agreed to look into this.

On being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED**:

That Council adopt the ICT and Digital Strategy as set out in Appendix A and endorse the core objectives of the digital county.

107 Local Government Act 1972, Section 101 Formal application to add bridleways in the parish of Claverley and parish of Bobbington in Staffordshire - Delegation to Staffordshire County Council to Investigate and Determine this Cross Border Claim

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital Councillor Rob Gittins and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services Councillor Richard Marshall, that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Shropshire Council delegates the function of determining the formal applications for bridleway additions in the Parish of Claverley in Shropshire and Bobbington in Staffordshire, to Staffordshire County Council, as the claimed routes link with each other.

108 Scrutiny Improvement Review 2022

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Lezley Picton and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ian Nellins, that the report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance and the Statutory Scrutiny Officer , a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that paragraph 3.2 of the recommendation be replace with the following:

Confirm the proposed change to the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to 4 committees that will take effect from the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2023 as contained in Appendix 2 subject to altered remits and titles as follows:

Replace 'Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee' with 'Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee' with the second point in the remit to be reworded; Overall effectiveness of the Improvement and Transformation programme.

Under Priorities for each of the other committees add: Improvement and Transformation programme as it pertains to the Directorate(s) listed below.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Julia Evans.

On taking a vote the amendment was not supported.

Councillor Heather Kidd requested that a review of how the new structure was working was carried out after 12 months.

The Leader asked that thanks be passed to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer for the significant amount of work undertaken in producing the report.

On taking a vote it was **RESOLVED:**

That Members

1. Support, through their involvement and commitment, the collaborative approach to developing Overview and Scrutiny at the Council in response to the review and on an ongoing basis
2. Confirm the proposed change to the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees 4 committees that will take effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023. (See Appendix 2 for the proposed committees)
3. Confirm that there will be 11 Members on each Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. Agree that the Monitoring Officer makes all necessary changes to the Constitution that are required to reflect the new Overview and Scrutiny Structure.

109 **Communities Overview Committee Annual Report 2021/22**

The Chair of the Communities Overview Committee, Councillor Robert Macey, presented the annual report of the Committee for 2021-22. He outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. He then took questions.

Members noted the contents of the report.

110 **Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22**

The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Steve Charmley, presented the annual report of the Committee for 2021-22. He outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and also the work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. He then took questions.

Councillor Kidd requested that Joint HOSC also provide an annual report next year.

Members noted the contents of the report.

111 **People Overview Committee Annual Report 2021/22**

The Chair of the People Overview Committee, Councillor Peggy Mullock, presented the annual report of the Committee for 2021-22. She outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. She then took questions.

Members noted the contents of the report.

112 Place Overview Committee Annual Report 2021/22

The Chair of the Place Overview Committee, Councillor Barrow, presented the annual report of the Committee for 2021-22. She outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee, and officers for all their work. She also thanked representative from outside organisations that has contributed to the work of the committee. She then took questions.

Members noted the contents of the report.

113 Performance Management Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22

The Chair of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Claire Wild, presented the annual report of the Committee for 2021-22. She outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. She then took questions.

Several Members commented that they felt that the reports of the Scrutiny Committees for 2022/3 should be presented earlier and that they should be more focussed on the outcomes of the work carried out.

Members noted the contents of the report.

114 Report of Chairman of Standards Committee

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor David Evans, presented his report which set out the way in which allegations that Unitary/Town/Parish Councillors had failed to comply with their code of conduct were dealt with in 2022.

Councillor Roger Evans asked for clarification of how the Council deals with breaches concerning pecuniary interests.

Councillor Julia Buckley commented that only a small percentage of complaints were referred to the committee and asked how the number of cases referred to committee compared with other authorities.

Members noted the contents of the report.

115 Changes to Committee Membership

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the following amendments to committee membership be agreed

Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Robert Tindall ceases to be a member of the Housing Supervisory Board
Councillor David Minnery ceases to be a substitute member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Ruth Houghton is appointed as a member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Roger Evans is appointed as a substitute member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

RESOLVED:

That

Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Robert Tindall ceases to be a member of the Housing Supervisory Board
Councillor David Minnery ceases to be a substitute member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Ruth Houghton is appointed as a member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Councillor Roger Evans is appointed as a substitute member of the Housing Supervisory Board

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

116 **Motions**

The following motion was received from Councillor Julian Dean supported by the Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups

Water Quality, Sewage and Planning

This Council notes:

Residents are deeply concerned about water quality and the impact of regular wastewater discharge, which includes untreated sewage, into our rivers, and the impact this has on wildlife and on human health.

Releasing sewage into rivers is no longer an emergency-only situation occurring as a result of severe storms, but a regular occurrence even in 'normal' rainfall, and that we are in a situation of cumulative overload on the sewage and wastewater system.

Whilst there are long term commitments, there are no plans in place which will address the immediate unacceptable situation either locally by Severn Trent Water or Wales Water or by national government.

Both the emerging Local Plan and national planning policy requires a robust approach to both water quality and pollution and a recent legal opinion from the Environmental Law Firm confirms the need to consider cumulative impact. To date, it has not been the practice of council planners to ask water companies to report on cumulative impact i.e., whether or not development may lead to any potential increase in 'emergency' discharge into rivers and seas. The Shropshire Water Cycle Study 2020 identified relevant issues.

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise this Council's obligation to protect its rivers and watercourses, including from the cumulative impacts of pollution, in line with the existing and emerging Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. Recognise that deterioration of water quality occurs due to cumulative impact of multiple sewage discharge events, or "sewage overload".
3. Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge so that this is factored into decisions made in new iterations of the local plan, including the overall level of future development.
4. Seek to better understand the cumulative impact of wastewater discharge including untreated sewage on our local rivers, wildlife and the health of our residents, with regular overview and scrutiny by Shropshire Council.
5. Continue to take a lead on addressing this issue, working constructively with other agencies. In particular, we request the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee to review and challenge Severn Trent Water on its investment plans as laid out in their Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan.
6. Ask Severn Trent Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required), and to consider requiring as a condition for support that Grampian conditions are applied to allow time for upgrades in waste water systems to be completed where appropriate.
7. Require planning officer reports relating to major development to include specific sections on the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses (i.e. cumulative impact),

or to flag if this information is not fully available so that this information (or the lack of it) is clearly and transparently set out.

8. In pursuit of existing and emerging planning policies, in particular DP19 in the draft Shropshire Local Plan, to make use of Grampian Conditions which can delay completion or occupation of new developments until specified infrastructure - in this case; appropriate upgrades to the sewage management system – are completed.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kate Halliday

By way of amendment Councillor Richard Marshall proposed the following: -

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise this Council's obligation to protect its rivers and watercourses, including from the cumulative impacts of pollution, in line with the existing and emerging Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. Recognise that deterioration of water quality occurs due to cumulative impact of multiple sewage discharge events, or "sewage overload".
3. Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge so that this is factored into decisions made in new iterations of the local plan, including the overall level of future development.
4. Seek to better understand the cumulative impact of wastewater discharge including untreated sewage on our local rivers, wildlife and the health of our residents, with regular overview and scrutiny by Shropshire Council.
5. Continue to take a lead on addressing this issue, working constructively with other agencies. In particular, we request the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee to review and challenge Severn Trent Water on its investment plans as laid out in their Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan.
6. Ask Severn Trent Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify whether there is a mapped CSO in the sewer network downstream of each development and which treatment works will be managing the sewage. Information should be provided on whether flows produced by the proposed development is likely to increase the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required), and to consider requiring as a condition for support that Grampian conditions are applied to allow time for upgrades in waste water systems to prevent these discharges to be completed where appropriate.
7. Require planning officer reports relating to major development to include specific sections on the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses (i.e. cumulative impact),

or to flag if this information is not fully available so that this information (or the lack of it) is clearly and transparently set out.

8. In pursuit of existing and emerging planning policies, in particular DP19 in the draft Shropshire Local Plan, to make use of Grampian Conditions which can delay completion or occupation of new developments until specified infrastructure - in this case; appropriate upgrades to the sewage management system – are completed.
9. A task and finish group was established to look at water quality, which for a variety of reasons did not progress, therefore it is requested that the Chair of Place Scrutiny re-establish the Task and Finish Group, and on its conclusion take the findings to the relevant scrutiny committee and also to Cabinet.
10. In addition, the Scrutiny Chair is requested to write to both the Rt Hon Phillip Dunne MP, as the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and The River Severn Partnership requesting their collaboration and participation in the Water Quality Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Dean indicated that he would accept the amendment.

On taking a vote the motion was supported and it was RESOLVED:

That Council resolves to:

1. Recognise this Council's obligation to protect its rivers and watercourses, including from the cumulative impacts of pollution, in line with the existing and emerging Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. Recognise that deterioration of water quality occurs due to cumulative impact of multiple sewage discharge events, or "sewage overload".
3. Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge so that this is factored into decisions made in new iterations of the local plan, including the overall level of future development.
4. Seek to better understand the cumulative impact of wastewater discharge including untreated sewage on our local rivers, wildlife and the health of our residents, with regular overview and scrutiny by Shropshire Council.
5. Continue to take a lead on addressing this issue, working constructively with other agencies. In particular, we request the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee to review and challenge Severn Trent Water on its investment plans as laid out in their Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan.
6. Ask Severn Trent Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify whether there is a mapped CSO in the sewer network downstream of each development and which treatment works will be managing the sewage. Information should be provided on whether flows produced by the proposed development is likely to increase the number or

duration of sewage discharges into local rivers, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required), and to consider requiring as a condition for support that Grampian conditions are applied to allow time for upgrades in waste water systems to prevent these discharges to be completed where appropriate.

7. Require planning officer reports relating to major development to include specific sections on the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses (i.e. cumulative impact), or to flag if this information is not fully available so that this information (or the lack of it) is clearly and transparently set out.
8. In pursuit of existing and emerging planning policies, in particular DP19 in the draft Shropshire Local Plan, to make use of Grampian Conditions which can delay completion or occupation of new developments until specified infrastructure - in this case; appropriate upgrades to the sewage management system – are completed.
9. A task and finish group was established to look at water quality, which for a variety of reasons did not progress, therefore it is requested that the Chair of Place Scrutiny re-establish the Task and Finish Group, and on its conclusion take the findings to the relevant scrutiny committee and also to Cabinet.
10. In addition, the Scrutiny Chair is requested to write to both the Rt Hon Phillip Dunne MP, as the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and The River Severn Partnership requesting their collaboration and participation in the Water Quality Task and Finish Group.

The following motion was received from Councillor Andy Boddington and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

On 9 March, Transport Secretary Mark Harper announced that overall active travel funding for the current parliamentary term is being reduced from £3.8 billion to £3 billion.

The active travel budget allocated in the October 2021 was £710m of which £480m is yet to be spent. The £100m budget over two years announced by Transport Secretary on 9 March represents a spending cut of £380m on the 2021 plans. This calls into question whether the government can achieve the ambitions of its Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS2), which aims at promoting cycling and walking across the country. This cut makes it unlikely the government will achieve its target of 50% of all journeys in English towns and cities being walked or cycled by 2030.

The benefits of active travel have been widely recognised:

- **Climate change:** Active travel promotes the objectives of the council and the government in meeting the net zero 2050 target.
- **Health:** Active travel is a low cost way to improve health, reducing the costs of poor health to the NHS.

- **Value for money:** Active travel schemes are more cost effective with cost benefits ratios up to six time great than road schemes
- **Personal costs:** Active travel reduces the costs of travel to work and other destinations.

The cut in national funding has implications for the council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which is currently out for consultation. Implementation for any schemes that might be agreed under LCWIP is currently unfunded.

Given these priorities, we urge the council to make clear the importance of national funding for active travel and urge it to reverse the cuts announced on 9 March. We also urge it to allocate ringfenced local funding.

This council agrees:

1. It confirms its commitment to supporting active travel and achieving a modal shift from cars to walking and cycling.
 2. To request the Leader to follow the lead of the Mayor of the West Midlands and others in writing to ministers to express concerns about the cuts to active travel funding.
 3. To allocate a budget within its own resources for active travel from 2024/25.
- On taking a vote the motion was not supported.

117 Questions from Members

The Chairman advised that no questions had been received.

118 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Councillor Nigel Hartin that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

119 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

120 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved, and signed as a correct record

121 Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by the Councillor Mark Jones that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of People, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

122 Letting of Former Morrisons Supermarket, Station Road, Oswestry

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by the Councillor Mark Jones that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

Signed (Chairman)

Date: