

COUNCIL 11 MAY 2023

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question from Heather Waters

Government recently introduced controversial legislation that requires voters on polling day to show photo ID when casting their votes at polling stations. This country has never accepted the need for universal photo ID, which is a document carried at all times by citizens in many neighbouring countries. Consequently, a good number of UK citizens do not automatically possess accepted methods of photo ID for this purpose. It falls to local authorities to provide the new ID.

How many residents in Shropshire are expected to need additional photo ID for voting?

How many have already applied for this new document?

What is the expected cost to financially-challenged Shropshire Council of issuing these new documents?

Will government directly fund the issue of voter ID documents or are Shropshire council tax payers expected to pay?

Question from Linton Waters

Shropshire Council undertook to develop Climate Emergency mitigation training for all teams across the council, all councillors, including the cabinet and to appoint Climate Emergency Champions in all council departments. This was an appropriate undertaking to guarantee all decision makers understand the enormity of the challenge that is upon us.

It is that vital that sound climate-friendly decision making runs through all council projects and day-to-day management. Knowledge is key in being certain each and every decision does not hamper work to reduce carbon emissions but positively contributes to climate mitigation aims.

Can you confirm how many council staff, managers, councillors and cabinet members have undertaken and completed carbon literacy and mitigation training?

If not all staff/councillors please state when this essential training will be complete.

Question from Tom Forrester

Shropshire Council is looking to reduce public access to its call centre by reducing the call centre hours and thereby saving £85,000 whilst it is still preventing direct public access to the Shirehall.

How can Shropshire Council justify this cost saving when it is spending an undisclosed remuneration to an unknown number of its own staff via 'loss of office' payments which include £117,000 to one member of staff alone on top of their existing salary?

The Council have already partially upheld a complaint about the biased consultation process undertaken to gather local residents' views on reducing the call centre hours.

Should the review of call centre hours and other community service cost savings under consideration be postponed until we can establish just how much money is being wasted on loss of payments being paid to its own staff as this money could be better used to help sustain and improve our vital local services?