

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2024

**In the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

10.00 - 11.40 am

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward Committee Officer

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Present

Councillors Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Garry Burchett, Rachel Connolly, Nick Hignett, Alan Mosley, Ed Potter, Rob Wilson, Nicholas Bardsley (Substitute) (substitute for Joyce Barrow), Julia Evans (Substitute) (substitute for Julian Dean) and Peggy Mullock (Substitute) (substitute for Paul Wynn)

13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce Barrow, Julian Dean and Paul Wynn.

Councillor Nick Bardsley substituted for Councillor Joyce Barrow, Councillor Julia Evans substituted for Councillor Julian Dean and Councillor Peggy Mullock substituted for Councillor Paul Wynn.

Apologies for absence were also received from Mark Barrow (Executive Director Place).

14 Disclosable Interests

There were no declarations made.

15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11th July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

16 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

17 Member Question Time

There were no questions from Members.

18 Draft Waste Minimisation Strategy

Members received the report of the Assistant Director – Homes & Communities, which proposed the adoption of a new Waste Prevention Strategy for the period 2024 – 2030. In introducing the report, she reminded Members that a motion to create a new waste prevention strategy was unanimously supported at Council in December 2023 and that subsequently a new strategy had been produced.

The Technical Support and Projects Manager, Waste advised that Shropshire produced a higher quantity of waste than both its neighbouring councils and its statistical neighbours which was in part due to the demographic makeup of the county. He informed the meeting that the two highest waste streams were garden waste and food waste and commented that the high levels of garden waste reflected the types of dwellings in the county which were mainly detached and semi-detached with large gardens and that there was work to be done around educating people in order to reduce avoidable food waste.

A Member commented that the majority of new build were detached houses and stated that we should be looking to create more mansion blocks in our urban town centres which would be good for both the economy and in terms of waste reduction. He asked how planning could contribute to the strategy. The Technical Support and Projects Manager, Waste commented that in the past planning policies had been used and that it may be worth reviewing the current policies and seeing what new policies could be introduced. The Assistant Director – Homes & Communities commented that the Big Town Plan in Shrewsbury was looking at the potential to put larger residential blocks in the town centre. She added that there was work being done in the market towns to look at opportunities such as flats over shops and conversions of unused shops and other buildings.

A Member raised the importance of repair cafes and furniture reuse schemes and asked whether enough was done to promote such schemes. Other comments were made around the need to educate the public more and ways of doing this. It was agreed that Town and Parish Councils were a valuable resource in terms of communications.

A Member asked what progress had been made in renegotiating the contract with Veolia in order to get best value for money and asked whether the committee could receive a report at a future meeting. The Assistant Director – Homes & Communities advised that talks were ongoing with Veolia with regards to the waste contract. She commented that forthcoming legislation and other changes within the waste industry would have an impact on both the Council and Veolia which would give the opportunity for a different approach and amendments to the contract. She agreed to bring an update report to a future meeting.

Other comments made were –

- A concern that there could be an increase in fly tipping as a result of the introduction of charges for green waste and the booking system for the Household Recycling Centres.
- The Council should set an example by phasing out the use of disposable cups especially at Council meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- a) Approve the Waste Prevention Strategy for Shropshire 2024-2030 for subsequent adoption by Council.
- b) Request that a report is brought to a future meeting updating the committee on work to update the waste contract.
- c) That Shropshire Council phases out the use of disposable cups on all its sites.

19 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer advised that in addition to the update report on the waste contract that the committee has requested, the next meeting would receive reports on River Water Quality, the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme and follow up items on the new Housing Developments Task and Finish Group's recommendations and the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Task and Finish Group's recommendations.

20 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee

Members were advised that the Committee was scheduled to next meet on Thursday, 14th November 2024 at 2.00 p.m. at the Shirehall.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: