

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2025

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

2.00 p.m. - 4.12 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer

Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

Present

Councillors Joyce Barrow (Chairman), Garry Burchett, Rachel Connolly, Julian Dean, Roger Evans, Nick Hignett, Alan Mosley, Ed Potter, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

31 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

32 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Nick Hignett be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

33 Disclosable Interests

There were no interests declared.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14th November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

35 Public Question Time

A public question had been received from Councillor Chris Lemon, Shrewsbury Town Councillor for Radbrook Division, on behalf of the residents of Bank Drive West regarding flooding during times of high or persistent rainfall being a major problem on Bank Drive West in Radbrook. Mr Lemon was in attendance to ask the question and also handed in a petition concerning this issue to be passed onto the relevant Council Officer. The response to the question was read out by the Overview and

Scrutiny Officer. A full copy of the question and response provided is available from the web page for the meeting.

36 Member Question Time

A Member question had been received from Councillor Bernie Bentick regarding the felling of an oak tree on Washford Road in Meole Village. Councillor Bentick was not in attendance to ask his question and it was therefore read out on his behalf by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer. The response to the question was read out by the Chairman, Councillor Barrow. A supplementary question had been received from Councillor Bentick regarding whether the replacement oak tree would be of the nearest age to the one felled which is commercially available and was read out by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer. Councillor Barrow confirmed that Councillor Bentick would receive a response to his supplementary question in writing. A full copy of the question and response provided is available from the web page for the meeting.

A Member question had been received from Councillor Rob Wilson regarding an update on the change in usage of the Household Recycling Centres since the booking system became operational and the change in reports of fly tipping since the system became operational. Councillor Wilson was in attendance to ask his question and the response was provided by the Waste Contract and Climate Manager and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport. Councillor Wilson asked a supplementary question regarding the number of fixed penalty notices issued in 2024 for fly tipping in Shropshire and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport responded. A full copy of the question and response provided is available from the web page for the meeting.

37 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Manager explained that the next meeting of the committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 6th March 2025 and that the pre-election period commenced on Monday, 10th March 2025. Due to the closeness of these two dates and there being no agenda items allocated to the 6th March meeting, it was therefore being proposed that this meeting be cancelled.

It was commented that the new committee should determine its work programme and that it would be useful for them to have a list of items that the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered over the last four years, as well as any outstanding items, so that the new committee were well informed and could take forward those items they see fit.

RESOLVED:

1. That the next meeting of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on Thursday, 6th March 2025 be cancelled.

2. That a list of the work undertaken by the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the last four years be recorded, including any outstanding items, in order to be considered by the new committee following the May 2025 local election.

38 **Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Annual Report 2023/24**

The committee received the report of the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Business Manager which informed them that the Annual Report was a joint report, for Community Safety, which fulfils the Statutory Duty to produce a needs assessment for the Community Safety Partnership. Bringing the report to committee fulfils the Statutory and Duty for committee to review or scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken, by the Responsible Authorities for Community Safety. The committee were asked to focus on the Community Safety Partnership elements of the Annual Report and consider the actions taken and current performance.

Councillor Simon Jones, Deputy Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health was in attendance and it was noted that the report wrongly referred to him as the Portfolio Holder rather than the Deputy Portfolio Holder. Also in attendance in the room was Rachel Robinson (Executive Director of Health), Jane Rose (Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Business Manager) and Eryn Cookson (Anti-Social Behaviour Lead Officer). Attending remotely was Paula Mawson (Assistant Director – Integration and Healthy People), Wendy Bulman (Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead) and Lorna Tilley (Head of Service, West Mercia Youth Justice Service). It was noted that the Police were unable to attend the meeting and had therefore sent their apologies.

A question was asked regarding why members views on the priority setting process for the revised / new Strategy to be in place from April 2025 was being considered in the exempt part of the meeting and the Executive Director of Health explained that members might wish to provide information that may be sensitive, given some of the topics to be discussed as well as share local intelligence. In addition, some of the Police data to be presented was not available for wider circulation.

Members received a presentation regarding the role and function of the Community Safety Partnership, its current priorities and the Annual Report 2023/24. In responding to questions, committee discussion and comments covered:

- Work was currently being undertaken to bring multi-agency teams together from both within the Council and from wider external agencies in order to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour.
- The Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy had recently been adopted by full Council and it would be useful for conversations to be had with those Officers that had been involved with the strategy.
- Whilst the report fulfils the statutory duty to produce an annual report for both Adult and Children's safeguarding arrangements and the needs assessment for Community Safety Partnership, it was commented that not much information had been included regarding community safety and issues such as road safety. The Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

Business Manager explained that it was planned to separate out the reports in future years and it was recognised that the community safety elements needed to be clearer and stronger.

- Those schools that had not taken up the offer of hate crime sessions delivered by the Youth Engagement Team would be followed up to establish the reasons why.
- It was clarified that there had been 18,216 total recorded crime offences reported to the Police within 2023/24 and that this figure related to the county of Shropshire.
- The scope of the work on community safety covered issues around crime and disorder. Therefore, river safety and home safety were not included.
- Success was measured against each of the priority areas and the various success statements. Dashboards and action plans had also been set up.
- It was commented that whilst the majority of anti-social behaviour occurs in more urban setting wards, when it does occur in a rural area, it is often magnified.
- The Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership was funded through a multi-agency budget as detailed within the annual report and it was noted that the Council contribution in 2022/23 and 2023/24 was £234,580.00. Whilst it was currently planned that this funding would be maintained, the need to manage within budgets was acknowledged.

39 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 (7) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

40 Community Safety Partnership Prioritisation Strategy 2025/26

Having considered the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Annual Report 2023/24 in the public part of the meeting, the committee were asked for their views on the priority setting process for the revised / new Strategy to be in place from April 2025.

41 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee

It was noted that the next meeting of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that had been scheduled to be held on Thursday, 6th March 2025 had been cancelled.

Signed (Chairman)
Date: