

CABINET – 15 OCTOBER 2025

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Public Questions

1. John Crowe

Question: *Does the Council a) recognise the limitations of the Guildhall to function properly as the HQ for the Council and b) accept the evidence recently provided by SOS that Shropshire's Shirehall remains substantially sound and a viable option as the home of the Council, together with other tenants who provide revenue rental income for the Council?*

Response from Roger Evans Portfolio Holder for Finance

The new administration is at present carrying out a full review of the whole of the Shirehall site. The official policy made a few years ago is that the site and buildings are surplus to requirements however that is being reviewed. We expect to make any alterations that we feel are needed to the present policy at the December meeting of the council.

Most staff have now of course moved to other locations with the result that only very few continue working in the building to facilitate its final clearance. The move to the Guildhall delivered some vital savings that the authority needed to make for this current fiscal year. The Guildhall building was already in the Council's ownership and became available following the departure of the University of Chester.

2. John Palmer

Question: *Is the Cabinet in favour of holding an inquiry into the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road project?*

Response from Councillor Heather Kidd, Leader

Our manifesto stated we would investigate the handling and decision making process relating to the North West Relief Road and did not commit to a Public Enquiry. The Financial emergency means that we cannot afford the officer time or the funding to do this formally. We will be asking Scrutiny to add this to their work programme as a lessons learnt Task & Finish Group. This is vital for the future financial health of the organisation and for future project delivery.