

## CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2026

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

#### Public Questions

##### 1. Geoff Elner

###### Question:

I would like to know why the winter preparedness plan was not followed this year. The Gritting team as usual did a good job other than that the plan failed. Who is responsible for initiating the plan, and want to know the reason why it didn't happen. Why were the council not prepared for winter weather, snow and ice, why were so many salt boxes empty, why had they not been refilled from the previous winter, who should have monitored the levels, but didn't. Various Shropshire Councillors have acknowledged the plan wasn't followed and given conflicting statements as to why, some have said its on oversight, too many inexperienced new councillors and portfolio holders. Some have said the policy has changed and Shropshire Council will no longer refill salt boxes, existing boxes will not be replaced and no new bins will be supplied and town and parish councils will have to buy them themselves. When was this agreed? devolution of services is only being discussed and currently there is no agreement. What are the facts, surely keeping roads safe is an essential responsibility of SC. Residents in rural areas were unable to help themselves because they were not given the tools and equipment to enable them to do so. Fix my street requests to refill bins were not actions in time. Overall it was simply not good enough. Please could whoever is in charge resolve matters for this winter

##### 2. John Palmer

###### Question:

Shropshire Council's Strategic Risks grid, due its biannual update in February, looks to have a glaring omission?

Nowhere does another pandemic explicitly feature on it: its absence is telling.

Is it complacency, optimism bias, groupthink, 'Shropshire exceptionalism' of the Cabinet for not raising this with current management?

The recent Module 2 reports of the COVID-19 Inquiry, published 20 November 2025, analyse the crimes of "too little, too late" by most in authority.

At least 700 people died of COVID-19 in Shropshire (source: Director of Public Health's Annual Report, 2020 and 2021).

Where's the local accountability for what happened? Have local decision-makers of the time, Conservatives, ever publicly apologised and expressed regret?

The local health infrastructure has been in crisis for years, and still is; and Shropshire Council's decline in staff numbers across a broad range of crucial disciplines does not bode well, come the time?

Especially if we were to face an increased poisonous influence from the anti-vax, anti-lockdown, let-it-rip, divisive minority of the far right?

### **3. Christopher James**

#### **Question:**

Up to the end of 2025 were any road safety audits carried out for the Shrewsbury station gyratory project and, if not, why not?

### **4. Megan Frost**

#### **Question:**

Given the importance of swimming facilities for both physical & mental health, safety, and community wellbeing, can the Cabinet explain the specific reasons that have led to the decision to pause the new swimming pool project, including what factors have changed since last month when it passed through the Scrutiny Committee and what evidence has been used to justify this pause? What criteria will determine whether and when the project proceeds?