Audit & Governance Committee

26 November 2026

Public Questions and Responses

From: Mr John Palmer

Agenda item 7, "First line assurance; Asset Disposals" contains one of the shortest reports to an audit committee ever published.

Two newly-established groups, the Governance Group and the Asset Transactions Group, have been considering asset disposals beyond the public gaze, and the report discussed at Cabinet on Wednesday 18 November - and lazily just bowled wholesale towards Audit and Governance Committee without any explanatory summarisation - fails to specify what assets Shropshire Council is looking to dispose of.

However, £3m of taxpayers' money has been approved internally between now and April 2028, just to fund this transformation work on assets. It's like a PwC contract all over again.

Does the Vice-Chair think scrutinising the way this £3m funding is spent is going to be easy?

Response:

The Committee recognises that effective oversight of this programme is important, particularly given the Council's financial position and the significance of asset disposals to its financial recovery. Formal asset disposal decisions remain subject to the Council's Constitution, Financial Rules and Scheme of Delegation. Audit and Governance Committee's role is to seek assurance that those controls and governance arrangements are operating effectively.

A verbal update on the Asset Strategy will be provided at the meeting of the Finance and Improvement Scrutiny Committee on 30th November.