



Shropshire Council Profiles

PROJECT EXECUTIVE & PROJECT BOARD

GEORGE CANDLER - DIRECTOR OF PLACE & ENTERPRISE.

George has worked in local government for nearly 30 years and in Shropshire since 2006. His current role as Director of Place & Enterprise has overall responsibility for all of the traditional place-based functions across the county including Highways and Environmental Maintenance, Passenger Transport, Waste Services, Libraries, Leisure and Culture, Community Working, Strategic Planning, Development Management, Broadband, Economic Growth, Property and Estates, Commercial Services, Procurement and Contract Management and the Commissioning Support Unit.

The role is strategically driving forward and leading on the council's place shaping role, in particular the recently launched economic growth strategy and commercial strategy for the council. Partnership working is key and the role is engaged at a regional level (non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Midlands Engine), sub regional level (Marches LEP) as well as working closely with neighbouring authorities including Staffordshire and mid-Wales.

George has led and directed numerous large scale projects including most recently the multi million pound acquisition of three shopping centres in Shrewsbury.

GEMMA DAVIES – HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Gemma joined Shropshire Council in January of this year to take on the role of Head of Economic Growth. Responsibilities include; planning and planning policy; strategic economic growth projects and initiatives including Connecting Shropshire Broadband scheme, Shropshire Growth Hub and physical developments including Shrewsbury Sustainable Urban Extensions; as well business engagement, support and inward investment. Gemma's role involves working closely with a number of external organisations and partnerships including the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), West Midlands Combined Authority, Higher and Further Education providers and Central Government departments. Since joining Shropshire Council, Gemma has led the preparation of a new economic growth vision and strategy for the County.

Gemma has over 12 years' experience in the public sector working across economic development and programme management and recently the devolution agenda for Cheshire West and Chester Council. Gemma's career began at Chester City Council as an Economic Development Officer after graduating from Lancaster University in 2004 with a BA Economics Degree. Gemma is originally from Walsall in the West Midlands and has lived in Lancaster and Anglesey before moving to Chester over 10 years ago.

HELEN POWELL (LEGAL SERVICE MANAGER) - LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Helen will be leading on the commission of external legal support in order to deliver the NWRR project. Commissioning through Shropshire Councils Legal Framework, evaluation of invited tenders will be based on extensive demonstrable experience in legal support of successful similar large infrastructure projects.

MATT JOHNSON – STRATEGIC TRANSPORT AND CONTRACTS MANAGER

Matt leads on both road and rail policy for Shropshire Council, and is also involved in regional and cross Welsh border initiatives such as Midlands Connect, the West Midlands Combined Authority, and the development of the West Midlands Rail devolved rail franchise.

For the last 2 years, Matt has taken the lead client role for Shropshire Council in managing externally funded major highway infrastructure projects. Such projects deliver both new infrastructure within Shropshire, but are also closely aligned to the Councils wider Economic Growth ambitions. Two successful bids to the Growth Deal round 2 have resulted in the £12m Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package, and the £12.5m Oxon Link Road project now being in



their delivery phase. Matt is also leading on the Outline Business Case development process in pursuance of the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road. Matt and Shropshire Council continue to work successfully on these initiatives in partnership with their term consultants WSP.

Matt has been with Shropshire Council for 10 years, and in that time has led on a number of key service area developments including the local subsidised rural bus network review, the development of the Community Transport sector and a Community Transport Consortium, and the design of the innovative and National Transport Award winning “ShropshireLink” demand responsive Local Bus network. Matt has been with Shropshire Council for 10 years, and in that time has led on a number of key service area developments including the local subsidised rural bus network review, the development of the Community Transport sector and a Community Transport Consortium, and the design of the innovative and National Transport Award winning “ShropshireLink” demand responsive Local Bus network.

JAMES WALTON – S151 OFFICER

James has been a qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy for over 20 years and has worked within local government since 1989. He has experience of working across a number of organisations in senior positions and has been the Council’s Chief Financial Officer since 2013. James has extensive experience in many facets of public finance and, as well as Shropshire Council, is also the Section 151 Officer or Treasurer for the following organisations:

- The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
- West Mercia Energy
- Shropshire County Pension Fund
- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

At Shropshire Council, James sits on the Council’s Senior Management Team and manages around 200 staff. James has had involvement in a number of large scale schemes and projects since 2000, throughout his time at Shropshire Council (and Shropshire County Council before that), and has helped progress the North West Relief Road project over that time.



PROJECT ASSESSMENT TEAM

RICHARD EDWARDS – ESTATES TEAM LEAD PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM

Richard Edwards MRICS is a Chartered Surveyor and a Registered Valuer, with over 35 years qualification experience in all property related matters, including acquisitions, management and disposals. His career spans local authority, private practice, government departments and quangos, and has a depth of experience, particularly in commercial property, sales and lettings and valuations complying with RICS Standards.

He is an experienced and skilled negotiator with prominence on achieving results. He has extensive knowledge of accounts and successfully running multi million pound budgets.

Since joining Shropshire Council in 2006 his work has included all aspects of land and property with particular emphasis on the wider commercial aspects.

Current projects include the Estates lead in the Oxon Link Road, North West Relief Road, Oswestry Innovation Park and Shrewsbury Business Park Phase 3.

DONNA PAYNE – CAPITAL BUSINESS PARTNER

Donna has over 17 years' experience in the public sector working across finance and accounting. During the past 10 years her role has been predominantly focused on Capital projects within the Council. A part qualified CIPFA accountant, Donna is an experienced capital accountant responsible for monitoring and reporting on multi-million pound project budgets.

Her role is to monitor project budgets against actual expenditure and report to the project executive accordingly. She is responsible for the financing of projects and advising the board on any financial matters.

TIM COLLARD (LEGAL SERVICE MANAGER) - LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Tim will be leading on the commission of external legal support in order to deliver the NWRR project. Commissioning through Shropshire Councils Legal Framework, evaluation of invited tenders will be based on extensive demonstrable experience in legal support of successful similar large infrastructure projects.

TIM ROGERS – TEAM LEADER DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Tim is a fully qualified planning professional with 25 years of local government experience dealing with planning applications and enquiries across a wide range of development types and scales. Since 2013 he has been responsible for the management of a team of around 30 professional officers dealing with all aspects of development management at Shropshire Council.

Tim was the case officer for the application to deliver almost 300 dwellings together with adjacent employment/commercial land as part of the first phase of the Shrewsbury West sustainable urban extension, including securing contributions towards the delivery of the Oxon Link Road as part of the NWRR.

NIGEL DENTON– COMMISSIONING DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT MANAGER

Nigel is the Corporate Commissioning Development & Procurement Manager at Shropshire Council and is responsible for overseeing procurement activity within the Council. Nigel has been in his role as the Council's corporate procurement lead for 13 years and he has over 21 years' experience in Public Sector Procurement. He is legally trained and qualified and manages a team of 15 people providing procurement management support and commissioning/contract support



GARETH PROFFITT – COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Gareth has worked as a communications officer for Shropshire Council (and previously for Shropshire County Council) since 2005, and has more than 20 years' experience of working in communications and marketing roles in the public and private sector.

His role is to provide communications advice and support to a number of service areas, notably highways and transport, working closely with Cabinet members, directors and senior officers to prepare and deliver communications strategies. He also leads on proactive and reactive media relations.

Gareth has led the communications for the Shropshire highways asset management strategy, and for the Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package, and for a number of other high profile issues.

JANE COOPER– RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Jane is part of the Risk Management and Insurance Team at Shropshire Council and is responsible for overseeing risk management and business continuity activity within the Council, ensuring the Opportunity Risk Management Strategy is maintained and adhered to. Jane has worked within local government for 19 years, as a school business manager for nine years and in her current role for ten years. Jane has qualifications from the Institute of Risk Management (CIRM) and also the Business Continuity Institute (BCI). Jane has been, and continues to be, involved in key project undertakings of the Council ensuring a robust risk management process is in place and providing assurance to programme boards.

DR SUE SWALES – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TEAM LEADER (ECOLOGY)

Sue has been an ecologist working for local authorities for 30 years with experience of ecological research, land management, biodiversity promotion and regulation. She has held a range of team management and technical roles and has worked closely with statutory agencies, other stakeholders and the voluntary sector throughout. She has long experience of fund raising and financial and project management. Sue has produced a variety of published material and provided presentations and training for volunteers, contractors, council officers and members on a wide range of biodiversity and regulatory topics. She is Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist.

Sue has worked in Shropshire since 2002, providing technical ecological advice to council departments and managing the work of the Council's Ecology Team. She is responsible for the provision of expert ecology consultee comments on planning applications, advice on biodiversity planning policy, production of Habitats Regulations Assessments of the local plan as well as proposed development projects for the LPA. She has also acted as expert witness in hearings and inquiries. Sue has liaised with ecological consultants dealing with the Oxon Link Road and associated projects as ecological consultee to the planning authority and is currently providing ecological pre-application advice on the NWRR.