

Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 16 November 2021  
:

**Committee:  
Communities Overview Committee**

**Date: Wednesday, 24 November 2021**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**Venue: Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached

Members of the public will be able to access the live stream of the meeting by clicking on this link:  
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/CommunitiesOverviewCommittee24November2021>

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public but this will be limited for health and safety reasons.

If you wish to attend the meeting please e-mail [democracy@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@shropshire.gov.uk) to check that a seat will be available for you.

Tim Collard  
Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services

**Members of Communities Overview Committee**

Ted Clarke  
Mark Jones  
Nigel Hartin  
Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman)  
Duncan Kerr

Christian Lea  
Elliott Lynch  
Robert Macey (Chairman)  
Dan Morris  
Vivienne Parry

Your Committee Officer is:

**Emily Marshall** Committee Officer  
Tel: 01743 257717  
Email: [emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

**1 Apologies for absence and substitutions**

**2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To consider the Minutes of the Communities Overview Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**4 Public Question Time**

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

**5 Member Question Time**

To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

**6 Flooding**

An update on work to strengthen the community response to severe flooding.

Report to Follow

**7 Work Programme Review (Pages 5 - 8)**

To consider the future work programme of the Committee. [Report attached]

Contact Danial Webb. Tel 01743 258509

**8 Date/Time of next meeting**

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on XXXX at XXX

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Communities  
Overview Committee

24 November 2021

10.00 am

Item  
3  
Public

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2021

**Responsible Officer:** Emily Marshall

Email: emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257717

### Present

Councillor Robert Macey (Leader)

Councillors Ted Clarke, Mark Jones, Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, Dan Morris and Vivienne Parry

### 13 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nigel Hartin.

### 14 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

### 15 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2021

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 16 Public Question Time

Two questions were received from Professor John Whitelegg relating to bus services and related CO2 emissions and the adoption of CPRE's "one bus, every hour, every village" standard. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

### 17 Member Question Time

There were no questions from Members.

## 18 Domestic Abuse

Following a report from Laura Fisher, Head of Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living on Domestic Abuse, Members were provided with an overview of the Domestic Abuse Bill which was signed into law on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Beverley Hull, Service Manager, Adult Services provided members with figures of those fleeing domestic abuse currently using the service.

Wendy Bulman, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service Manager, advised members that they have commissioned the service on behalf of Shropshire Council for the past 5 years; ending in March 2022. She provided an overview of the services they provide, including refuge accommodation, safe housing, outreach work and empowerment and educational programmes.

Following questions from members, the committee:

- Ask that the new Domestic Abuse Strategy is brought to the committee prior to going to Cabinet. Also, that the Strategy considers how Overview and Scrutiny could be part of the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Seek confirmation that a Workforce Policy tackling domestic abuse is in place for Shropshire Council and if not recommends to development of one.
- Request that officers give consideration to including a Town and Parish Council and Community information/training element within the Strategy.
- Suggest consideration to what measures can be put in place to assist children who need to move schools as a consequence of domestic abuse.
- Ask STAR Housing what they could do in terms of domestic abuse.
- Requests updates on how Children's Services are involved in the development of the strategy.
- Requests updates on progress towards the White Ribbon accreditation.

## 19 Rural and Community Transport

The Chairman welcomed James Willocks, Passenger Transport Group Manager, to the meeting. James provided an update regarding the bid which has been submitted as part of the National Bus Strategy; the deadline for which is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Officers have developed an ambitious but practical Bus Service Improvement Plan as part of the bid; broken into three sections: Recovery, Levelling Up and Building Back Better. The outcome of the funding bid will be known in early December.

As part of the Plan, a survey was carried out to seek the views of residents on the provision of public transport in Shropshire.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of transport available in rural areas, the type and size of vehicles being used for public transport on particular routes, and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The Committee noted the results and volume of responses to the survey and is encouraged and supportive of the bid to the Department of Transport and look forward to receiving further updates on the progress of the bid.

James Willocks was thanked for the work completed so far.

**20 Work Programme**

Members considered the forward work programme

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed committee work programme attached as appendix 1 be agreed.

**21 Date/Time of next meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Communities Overview Committee was scheduled to be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:

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<b>Communities Overview Committee</b>	<u>Item</u>
<b>24 November 2021</b>	<b><u>7</u></b> Public

## Communities Overview Committee Work Programme 2021-2022

### Responsible officer

Danial Webb, overview and scrutiny officer  
danial.webb@shropshire.gov.uk  
01743 258509

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This paper presents the Communities Overview Committee's proposed work programme for the 2021-2022 municipal year. During the course of its work programme, the committee will also
- Scrutinise emerging thematic priorities
  - respond to emerging issues and
  - follow up on previous work.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee members to:
- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**.
  - suggest changes to the committee work programme and
  - recommend other topics to consider

**List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

None

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

All

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

Overview and scrutiny work programme

**Appendix 1**  
**Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2021 to 2022**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a further update on work to maximise access to public rights of way, to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital works funding</li> <li>Income retainment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Communities, Place, Tourism and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbal update from portfolio holder.</li> </ul>	21 July 2021
Armed Forces Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek assurance that Shropshire Council supports serving and former armed forces personnel through its armed forces covenant.</li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Climate Change, Natural Assets & Green Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Armed Forces Covenant</li> <li>Armed Forces Covenant action plan</li> <li>Armed Forces Needs Assessment</li> </ul>	21 July 2021
<b>BRIEF</b> <i>Community and Public Transport</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of current and proposed changes to community and public transport service commissioning and funding.</li> </ul>	Head of Transport		13 Sep 2021
Domestic Abuse services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To scrutinise services in Shropshire to support victims of domestic abuse.</li> <li>To ensure current funding and infrastructure meets the needs of people in Shropshire.</li> </ul>	Connexus  Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse contract and funding arrangements</li> <li>Service specification</li> <li>Service use rates</li> </ul>	25 Oct 2021
Bus Back Better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To scrutinise proposals for new rural bus services in Shropshire,</li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder, Communities,		25 Oct 2021

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
	funded through the Bus Back Better government funding.	Place, Tourism and Transport		
<b>Briefing</b> <i>Flood risk management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of how Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency and other partners respond to both groundwater and river flooding.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director, Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings from review of response to 2018/19 flooding.</li> </ul>	15 Nov 2021
Flooding – community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive an update on work to embed lesson learned from 2018/19 and 2019/2020 flooding</li> </ul>	Assistant Director, Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020 scrutiny committee report and recommendations</li> </ul>	24 Nov 2021
Work programme review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the work of the committee to date.</li> <li>Identify priority topics for the committee.</li> <li>Identify data and information required to support scrutiny of priority topics.</li> </ul>	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee remit</li> <li>Committee recommendations from 2020-2021</li> </ul>	24 Nov 2021
Domestic Abuse strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutinise draft domestic abuse strategy.</li> </ul>	Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft strategy</li> <li>Recommendations from committee from September 2021 meeting.</li> </ul>	26 Jan 2022

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Information required</b>	<b>Date</b>
Working with town and parish councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how Shropshire Council works with town and parish councils to deliver local authority services.</li> <li>• Identify and recommend new ways of working with town and parish councils</li> </ul>	Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference for the committee.</li> </ul>	26 Jan 2022
<b>Briefing</b> <i>Social housing in Shropshire</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of social housing in Shropshire</li> </ul>	Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	March 2022
STAR housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutinise arrangements to renew Arms-Length Management Organisation contract with STAR Housing</li> </ul>	Executive Director, Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract arrangements</li> <li>• Benchmarking with other local authorities</li> </ul>	23 Mar 2022
Armed Forces Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on work to review the Covenant action plan.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated covenant action plan.</li> </ul>	July 2022