



Committee and Date

Council

INSERT NEXT MEETING DATE

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2025

**In the The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ
10.00 am - 3.45 pm**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman) Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Ted Clarke, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Richard Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Peggy Mullock, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, John Price, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Andrew Sherrington, Colin Taylor, Dan Thomas, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

74 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Julia Buckley, Steve Charmley, Rachel Connolly, Gerald Dakin, Tracey Huffer, Kevin Pardy and Robert Tindall

75 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were 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.

76 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

77 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 12 December 2024, which had been emailed prior to the meeting.

78 Public Questions

Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Terri Trickett, Carolyn Mahy, Victoria Moore, Jon Moore, Shauney Connor and Frank Oldaker. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are available from the web page for the meeting.

[Public Questions Council 27 February 2025 with Responses.pdf](#)

Petition

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Huw Rees, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requested that the Council:

Uphold the Listed Buildings Act 1990 to restore the New Market Buildings, a grade II listed building in Bridgnorth that has fallen into a dangerous state of disrepair. If the owner does not make repairs within a reasonable timeframe, we call for a Compulsory Purchase Order to bring the building back into public ownership.

In presenting his petition Mr Rees outlined the history of the building and commented that one use for the building once refurbished could be as a community hub.

Several Members commented that the New Market Hall was an important building and should be maintained.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets thanked Mr Rees for bringing his petition. He advised Members that the Council had carried out some work on the building to make it safe, the cost of which would be reclaimed through a charge on the building. He stated that the Council was trying to maintain a dialogue with the owner of the building to ensure its retention.

The Portfolio Holder proposed that the Council hold a meeting with the petitioner, MP for South Shropshire and other stakeholders to take the matter forward to ensure the long-term future sustainability of the building.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

That the Council hold a meeting with the petitioner, MP for South Shropshire and other stakeholders to take the matter forward to ensure the long-term future sustainability of the building.

79 Questions from Members

The Chair advised that 6 questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.

Question from Councillor Simon Harris regarding obtaining extra funding to assist with caring for Shropshire's rough sleepers. There was no supplementary question

Question from Councillor Rob Wilson regarding the road surface on Shelton Road. There was no supplementary question

Question from Councillor Roy Aldcroft regarding abandoned trailers on the A53. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder agreed to update Councillor Aldcroft with timescales for the removal of the trailers

Question from Councillor Pam Moseley regarding a new road layout at Belvidere Road/rail bridge. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder agreed to update Councillor Moseley with timescales for the works

Question from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall regarding the Toucan Crossing on Oteley Road, By way of supplementary question Councillor Dartnall asked for an update on the timescales for the proposed works and suggested that in the interim cyclists be diverted to remain on the path to ensure their safety.

Question from Councillor David Vasmer regarding the North West Relief Road. There was no supplementary question.

80 Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2029/30

It was proposed by Councillor Lezley Picton, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications, and seconded by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities that the report of the Executive Director, Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Rosemary Dartnall proposed that recommendation 3.1 be amended to read:

"3.1. It is recommended that members consider the recommendations set out below in five separate sections (A to E). Each of the five sections will be voted on as an individual component of the financial strategy."

This was seconded by Councillor Roger Evans

On taking a vote the amendment was not supported

By way of amendment Councillor Roger Evans proposed that Section A be voted on separately to Sections B to E. This was seconded by Councillor Andy Boddington

On taking a vote the amendment was not supported

On being put to a recorded vote with 39 Members voting for, 17 against and 10 abstentions as follows:

For

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Davenport, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, Turley, Wild, B Williams and Wynn

Against

Councillors Bentick, Boddington, Davies, R Evans, Green, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, Kidd, Minnery, Parry, Sherrington, Taylor, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

Abstentions

Councillors Bagnall, Clarke, Dartnall, Dean, J Evans, Halliday, Kerr, Moseley, Mosley and Parsons

RESOLVED:

In respect of council tax:

- 1) Approve a 4.99% Council tax rise (a 2.99% increase to Council tax and a 2% increase to Adult Social Care Precept) resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,806.67 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 42b).
- 2) In accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, approve the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area to be as follows:

Property Band	2025/26 Charge £
A	1,204.45
B	1,405.19
C	1,605.93
D	1,806.67
E	2,208.15

F	2,609.64
G	3,011.12
H	3,613.34

- 3) approve a total precept of £219,282,837.
- 4) approve the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 4 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2025/26.

In respect of the revenue budget:

- 5) approve the 2025/26 gross budget of £767.007m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 3.
- 6) note the key changes to the MTFS since the January update as outlined in Appendix 1:
 - the public consultation and related findings
 - the collaborative budget process and findings
 - the Financial Settlement and implications for the Council
 - the Collection Fund outturn and the impact on next year
 - the latest budget forecast for the current year and the resulting likely impact on reserves in this year and next (also included in the MTFS assumptions)
 - Inclusion of the updated Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
- 7) note the alignment of this report with other reports in this agenda, including the Fees and Charges proposals, and the proposed Treasury Strategy.
- 8) note the revised funding gap for the years 2026/27 to 2029/30.
- 9) Continue to manage the substantial risk in delivering a balanced budget over 2025/26 by retaining the seven risk areas set out in paragraph 4.2 for monthly reporting

In respect of the reserves position:

- 10) note the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves as set out in Section 6.1 – 6.3 of the MTFS at Appendix 1
- 11) Approve the recommended level of general fund balances to support the 2025/26 revenue budget of £46.860m, noting that the projected balance is presently below this for 2025/26 at £32.714m.

- 12) Note the risk assessed level and budgeted level of general reserves for the following four years and the need to profile savings delivery over this period, necessitating the recommended level of general reserves to be held at £7.214m in 2026/27, £19.214m in 2026/27, £24.214m in 2028/29 and £34.214m in 2029/30.

In respect of the capital programme and strategy:

- 13) note the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts as detailed in section 8.1 of the MTFS at Appendix 1 including the application made in December 2024 for a capitalisation direction for the financial year 2024/25.
- 14) agree the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2024/25 – 2029/30 attached as Appendix 2.
- 15) note the prioritised capital schemes identified at Appendix 2 section 8 including the need to identify and confirm funding sources for these schemes.
- 16) agree the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 section 6 and Annex B to the Capital Strategy including a virement of £5m between Capital Receipts and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 17) note that provision is included within the budget for future investment in a transformation programme.
- 18) Note the financial implications of the four scenarios in the NWRR project as set out in Section 8.13 of the Capital Strategy (Appendix 2).

In respect of the Pay and Rewards Policy:

- 19) agree the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 5.

81 Fees & Charges 2025/26

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities, and seconded by Councillor Simon Jones that the report of the Executive Director, Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Members

1. Note the breakdown of the total income for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and that the proposed 2025/26 charges for discretionary services represent £55.117m of the £103.858m of income derived from Fees and Charges.

2. Approve the charges for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented from 1 April 2025.
3. Note that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to Cabinet and Council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November.
4. Note that the proposal in adult social care services for Assistive Technology and Maintenance Charges is under consultation.
5. Revise housing rents as follows (subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill):
 - I. Social Housing rents for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025.
 - II. Affordable rents for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025.
 - III. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
 - IV. All accommodation charges for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025.
 - V. Service charges continue to be set based on actual cost

82 Treasury Strategy 2025/26

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities, and seconded by Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Executive Director, Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Full Council: -

1. Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2025/26, set out in appendix 1 (parts 1-3).
2. Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 (part 4) in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments.
3. Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1 (part 5), in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
4. Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 1 (part 6).

5. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
6. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.
7. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to increase the PRS Loan Facility from £10m to up to £30m, pending Housing Supervisory Board consultation and cabinet approval.

83 Shropshire Council Strategic Operating Model

It was proposed by Councillor Lezley Picton, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications, and seconded by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities that the report of the Chief Executive, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED:

That Council

Notes the continued work being undertaken to resize and rightsize the Council to ensure delivery of the proposed new operating model, delivering a sustainable and agile organisation of the future and

- Approves the proposed updated new operating model
- In accordance with Article 12.2 (a) of Part 2 of the Constitution, receives this report of the Head of Paid Service outlining the proposed new staffing structure of the Council, including the number and grades of posts in the senior management team that will enable delivery of the new operating model which is designed to effectively discharge the functions that the Council is responsible for.

84 Waste Prevention Strategy

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, and seconded by Councillor Roy Aldcroft that the report of the Assistant Director – Homes and Communities, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Consider the Waste Prevention Strategy for Shropshire 2024-2030 in terms of its aim to reduce waste, reduce council expenditure on waste management, and deliver environmental, economic and social benefits.

2. Adopt the Waste Prevention Strategy for Shropshire 2024-2030.
3. Agree the recommendation of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12/09/24) for Shropshire Council to phase out the use of disposable cups on all its sites; and extend this approach to single use plastics where possible.
4. Agree a relaxation to the HWRC booking system to remove the need for cars to book, thus enabling domestic users easier access to HWRC sites to separate their waste into the correct recycling streams.

85 HRA 30 Year Business Plan

It was proposed by Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets, and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration that the report of the Assistant Director – Homes and Communities, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED

That Council approve

1. An increase in the HRA permitted borrowing envelope from £122m to a maximum of £174m as per the schedules in section 7 of HRA Business Plan to fund a new development programme to deliver 509 units in the next five years.
2. The reletting of properties at target rent at the change of tenancy in line with government guidelines, delivering a saving of £5.9m over the life of the current plan, the equivalent of funding 50 new affordable homes, and allowing STaR Housing to limit their additional borrowing ask to the maximum of £174m.
3. The setting of HRA budgets in line with the overall programme values as set out in tables in section five.

86 Proposal to replace the Children's Improvement Board with a Children's Partnership Ambitions Board

It was proposed by Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, and seconded by Councillor Peggy Mullock that the report of the Executive Director of People and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED

- 3.1. That Council agree the Participation and Impact Strategy for young people and note the ambitions set out in the strategy
- 3.2. Endorse the Council's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have influence over decisions and actions on services that affect them

87 Children's Participation and Impact Strategy

It was proposed by Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, and seconded by Councillor Nick Bardsley that the report of the Executive Director of People and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED

That Council approves the replacement of the Children's Improvement Board with the establishment of a Children's Partnership Ambitions Board with the Draft Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1 and Draft Action Plan set out at Appendix 2.

88 Annual Report of Portfolio Holder Finance Corporate Resources and Communities

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance Corporate Resources and Communities that the report and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Butler presented and amplified his report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

89 Annual Report of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Peggy Mullock, Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the annual report of the Committee for 2023-24. She outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work.

Members noted the contents of the report

90 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health

It was proposed by Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Motley presented and amplified her report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

91 Appointment to Committees

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the amendments to committee membership as set out in the agenda papers be agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to committee membership as set out in the agenda papers be agreed.

92 Motions

Motion received from Councillor David Vasmer and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

North West Relief Road Inquiry

1. The original cost of the North West Relief Road was £71m in 2019 and, on this basis, the Government pledged funding of £54m with a clear warning that any cost increases would be the responsibility of Shropshire Council. That meant the total cost to Shropshire Council at that time was estimated at £17m.
2. In 2021 on the basis of the Outline Business Case the cost of the NWRR was estimated at £81m meaning that the cost to Shropshire Council had now risen to £27m
3. Before Christmas Shropshire's External Auditor confirmed that the cost of the NWRR had now gone up to £178m and Shropshire Council's contribution to £124m
4. The Environment Agency were never happy about the route of the road since a major roundabout junction was placed directly over ground from which much of Shrewsbury's water is drawn and have therefore been very reluctant to support the application because the spillage of any toxic substance would make the ground water unusable while piling work could also damage the town's water supply
5. The NWRR will be a major contributor to the release of carbon which was underestimated when the road was first planned. Recently Shropshire Council has been forced to admit that the contribution has more than doubled from 26,711 tonnes of carbon to 55,904. Originally it had been estimated that the scheme's impact could be mitigated by 2030 but now Shropshire has asked the Northern Planning Committee to revise a condition so that it has until 2050 to offset the road's emissions.
6. A substantial amount of money has already been spent on a road that does not have planning permission or an approved Full Business Case. In the current budget there is provision for £44.8m to be spent on the NWRR
7. That Shropshire Council has commissioned utility diversion work before the NWRR has secured a decision planning notice or a commitment from the Government for extra funding.

This Council Notes

1. Shropshire Council has failed to hit numerous deadlines so that a road that was originally planned for completion in 2020 has not been started
2. Recently Shropshire Council's External Auditor was highly critical of Shropshire Council for failing to make plans in the event of the Road being cancelled and for failing to oversee the planning and preparations for the Road properly.

This Council will appoint a North West Relief Road Inquiry, funded from the development reserve and the invest to save reserve which contain in total £7.9m.to consider:

1. Management of the project
2. The decision-making process
3. Whether there was sufficient scrutiny and challenge within the Council
4. Whether there was effective separation of powers between the Council as a developer and as a planning authority
5. Whether alternative options were considered, both with regard to traffic mitigations for the town – especially given the additional travel demands likely to result in the South East of Shrewsbury from planned development in the Draft Local Plan, and with regard to the possibility of Government funding not being forthcoming.
6. Whether a review of the road was undertaken once the Council had agreed to reach carbon net zero by 2030

This was seconded by Councillor Rob Wilson.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed the following be added to the motion:

Council further resolves to require the administration to develop ‘off-ramp’ proposals between now and the end of April that will protect the council taxpayers of Shropshire from potential financial burden of a failed project whilst addressing the need for improved transport infrastructure and travel options that will reduce congestion and provide opportunities that are not car dependent.

In particular, the administration should request discussions with the Department for Transport that put forward Shrewsbury Moves proposals and proposals to improve some edge of town roundabouts as alternatives to the North West Relief Road such that continue to protect council tax payers from potential repayment of money already spent, and highlight to Government how Shrewsbury Moves in particular aligns with a sustainable transport future for the town and county in a way that the North West Relief Road does not.

Councillor Vasmer indicated that he was willing to accept the amendment.

By way of amendment Councillor Rosemary Dartnall proposed that the paragraph – “This Council will appoint a North West Relief Road Inquiry, funded from the development reserve and the invest to save reserve which contain in total £7.9m.to consider” be amended to read “This Council will appoint a North West Relief Road Task and Finish Group.to consider”

This was seconded by Councillor Tony Parsons.

On taking a vote Councillor Dartnall’s amendment was not supported.

On taking a vote Councillor Vasmer’s motion as amended by Councillor Dean was not supported

Motion received from Councillor Bernie Bentick and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

This Council Notes:

1. The decision of the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (STW ICB) to announce the GP Out of Hours Contract preferred provider status to Medvivo in preference to the existing operator, ShropDoc.
2. The extension of the standstill period after announcement of the preferred provider due to challenge of the procurement decision.
3. That Medvivo is a profit generating enterprise that is a subsidiary or partner of the multinational HealthHero organisation which markets Telemedicine.
4. That ShropDoc is a well known and respected not for profit local service, with almost 30 years’ experience and an outstanding CQC rating.
5. That a local petition called “Save Our Shropdoc” gained over 12,000 signatures in 10 days.
6. That as Medvivo/HealthHero advertise that they are Telemedicine organisations, from available information it is unclear how they will provide the same volume and quality of service, at a lower cost than the current contract, while also making a profit.

This Council Resolves to ask the STW ICB:

1. If the contract has not been issued, to halt the current procurement process until further scrutiny has been carried out on the timings of the previous contracts, to whom they were awarded, to confirm the precise

amount of any reduction in the value of the proposed contract and how this will affect the existing service provision.

2. Whether the contract has been awarded or not, to fully engage with Shropshire's residents and health watchdogs before drawing up any revised contracts for GP and related Out of Hours Services and any new services.
3. To report every 3 months to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how the Out of Hours contract is performing, including the number of referrals into Secondary Care, face-to-face Primary Care Centre consultations, home visits and telecare consultations, plus the volume and type of any complaints and adverse outcomes.
4. To provide detailed information of how the contract handover period will be managed and the governance systems in place to assure quality of service, avoid delays and avoid patient harm due to the new provider's unfamiliarity with providing an Out of Hours service in Shropshire, its health systems and its geography.

By way of amendment Councillor Elner asked that the words "every three months" in paragraph 3 be replaced with "regularly". Councillor Bentick indicated that he was willing to accept this.

On taking a vote it was **RESOLVED**:

That the Council ask the STW ICB:

1. If the contract has not been issued, to halt the current procurement process until further scrutiny has been carried out on the timings of the previous contracts, to whom they were awarded, to confirm the precise amount of any reduction in the value of the proposed contract and how this will affect the existing service provision.
2. Whether the contract has been awarded or not, to fully engage with Shropshire's residents and health watchdogs before drawing up any revised contracts for GP and related Out of Hours Services and any new services.
3. To report regularly to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how the Out of Hours contract is performing, including the number of referrals into Secondary Care, face-to-face Primary Care Centre consultations, home visits and telecare consultations, plus the volume and type of any complaints and adverse outcomes.
4. To provide detailed information of how the contract handover period will be managed and the governance systems in place to assure quality of service, avoid delays and avoid patient harm due to the new provider's unfamiliarity with providing an Out of Hours service in Shropshire, its health systems and its geography.

Motion received from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall and supported by the Labour Group

Local Government Pay.

A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS

This council notes:

- Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. Research by UNISON has shown that councils across England, Wales and Scotland are facing a collective funding shortfall of more than £4bn by the financial year 2024/25 and a cumulative funding gap of £8bn by 2025/26. The last Government's 'levelling up' pots of money did little to help
- Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they worked to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.
- Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff have endured the worst cost of living crisis in a generation.
- At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector. There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.
- Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2025 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

1. Local government workers keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
2. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

3. Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- A. Subject to paragraphs B and C below, support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers for an increase of £3,000 on all pay points.
- B. Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
- C. Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- D. Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign.
- E. Encourage all local government workers to join a union

The was seconded by Councillor Caroline Bagnall.

On taking a vote the motion was not supported

93 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Councillor David Minnery that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, be received and noted.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

94 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items

95 **Exempt Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

96 **Warm Homes Funding Bid**

It was proposed by Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets, and seconded by Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder For Climate Change, Environment and Transport that the report of the Assistant Director – Homes and Communities, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed

Signed (Chairman)

Date: