



Committee and Date

Council

INSERT NEXT MEETING DATE

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2025

**In the The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ
Times Not Specified**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

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

Present

Councillors Duncan Borrowman and Heather Kidd (Leader)
Councillors Gary Groves (Vice-Chair), Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader), Sho Abdul, Caroline Bagnall, Elizabeth Barker, Bernie Bentick, Neil Bentley, Ed Bird, Jeremy Blandford, Andy Boddington, Thomas Clayton, Susan Coleman, Rachel Connolly, Jamie Daniels, Rosemary Dartnall, David Davies, Pamela Davies, Andy Davis, Julian Dean, Joshua Dickin, Mandy Duncan, Greg Ebbs, Susan Eden, Donna Edmunds, Craig Emery, Brian Evans, Roger Evans, Adam Fejfer, Rhys Gratton, Andy Hall, Kate Halliday, Nick Hignett, Alan Holford, George Hollyhead, Ruth Houghton, Dawn Husemann, Peter Husemann, Benedict Jephcott, Robert Jones, Duncan Kerr, Christopher Lemon, Nigel Lumby, Brendan Mallon, Sarah Marston, David Minnery, Vicky Moore, Mark Morris, Alan Mosley, Malcolm Myles-Hook, James Owen, Mark Owen, Wendy Owen, Vivienne Parry, Ed Potter, Rosie Radford, Sharon Ritchie-Simmons, Carl Rowley, Charles Shackerley-Bennett, Colin Stanford, Jon Tandy, Colin Taylor, Dan Thomas, Teri Trickett, David Vasmer, Beverley Waite, David Walker, Sam Walmsley, Alison Williams and Rob Wilson

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Dainty, Harry Hancock-Davies and Chris Naylor

17 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.

18 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2025, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

19 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 22 May 2025, which had been circulated at the meeting.

Birthday Honours

The Chairman congratulated all those awarded honours in the 2025 Birthday Honours List

20 Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Andrew Sceats, Tamarin Bibow and John Palmer. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are available from the web page for the meeting

[Responses to Public Questions.pdf](#)

21 Questions from Members

The Speaker advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.

Question from Councillor Susan Coleman regarding the Connect on Demand Service. By way of supplementary question Councillor Coleman asked what the Administration was doing to push for the additional funding required. The Portfolio Holder assured her that they would continue to lobby the county's MPs to push for more revenue funding from the government whenever they're able to.

Question from Councillor Brendan Mallon regarding safety around the installation of battery energy storage systems. By way of supplementary question Councillor Mallon asked What is the liability on the Council, given that we do not have robust set of requirements and standards to work to. The Portfolio Holder assured Councillor Mallon that safety matters were fully considered during the planning process but that Officers would consider the points that he had raised.

Question from Councillor Carl Rowley regarding expenditure on the North West Relief Road. There was no supplementary question

22 Financial Outturn 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by Councillor Sho Abdul, that the report of the Executive Director Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the revenue budget:

- a) Note that the outturn for overall variance in the year is £34.230m above budget.
- b) Note that the consequent level of the General Fund Balance is £4.823m
- c) Note the use of £7.726m of Earmarked Reserves and Provisions and the resulting level of earmarked reserves of £25.455m (£18.762m if the balances held by schools are excluded).
- d) Note the £47.194m savings delivery achieved over the year
- e) Note that the combination of earmarked and un-earmarked (General) reserves of £33.275m is below a level that would be regarded as appropriate, taking into account local circumstances. The MTFS sets out an agreed plan to restore these balances to safer levels.

In respect of ringfenced funding:

- f) Note the performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - £3.124m (13%) surplus outturn for 2024/25 on £23.054m turnover, and the resulting level of the HRA reserve of £14.861m.
- g) Note the outturn for the DSG and the consequent level of the DSG reserve.
- h) Note that the level of school balances has decreased by £0.647m, from £7.340m in 2023/24 to £6.693m, in the financial year

In respect of the capital programme:

- i) Approve the net budget variations of £1.946m to the 2024/25 capital programme (in Appendix 9) and the re-profiled 2024/25 capital budget of £112.640m.
- j) Approve the re-profiled capital budgets of £152.574m for 2025/26, including slippage of £4.819m from 2024/25, £72.350m for 2026/27 and £45.212m for 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix 13.
- k) Accept the outturn expenditure set out in Appendices 10 and 11 of £107.820m representing 95.7% of the revised capital budget for 2024/25.
- l) Approve retaining a balance of capital receipts set aside of £24.432m as at 31st March 2025 to generate a one-off Minimum Revenue Provision saving of £0.222m in 2025/26

23 Annual Treasury Report 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by Councillor Sho Abdul, that the report of the Executive Director Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

3.1. Approve the actual 2024/25 prudential and treasury indicators contained in the report.

3.2. Note the annual treasury management report for 2024/25

24 Annual Assurance Report of the Audit Committee to Council 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Duncan Kerr, Chair of the Audit Committee and seconded by Councillor Kate Halliday, that the report of the Executive Director Resources, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Accept the contents and judgements in this report
2. Agree to change the name of the Committee to that of the Audit and Governance Committee
3. Agree that the membership of the Committee be increased so that it comprises nine councillors, and one Independent non-voting person.
4. Agree to appoint the additional four Councillors in accordance with the requirements of political balance.

25 Constitution of Committees and the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups - Audit Committee

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure that the report of the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Duncan Kerr proposed that the committee did not allow substitute members. This was seconded by Councillor Kate Halliday. On taking a vote the amendment was not supported

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approves the change of name of the Audit Committee to the Audit and Governance Committee and an increase in its membership from five to nine members.
2. That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendix 1.
3. That the leaders of the Liberal Democrat, Reform UK and Conservative groups notify officers which members will take up the additional Audit Committee seats available to their group.

26 Pyrolysis Second Site Increase in Budget

It was proposed by the Councillor Rob Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report of the Assistant Director – Transformation and Efficiency, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth stated that he wished to add an additional recommendation: -

- 3.3 The council will not utilise biomass from household green waste or food waste unless this is explicitly approved by the Service Director for Strategy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve an increase in budget of the pyrolysis project by around £1.3m from £2m as outlined in the council paper, approved by full Council on 21st September 2023, to £3.3 million.
2. That Council delegate authority to the Service Director Strategy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth, to negotiate and agree the terms of any and all agreements necessary for the implementation and ongoing operation of the project.
3. That the Council will not utilise biomass from household green waste or food waste unless this is explicitly approved by the Service Director for Strategy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth.

27 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care that the report of the Assistant Director – Transformation and Efficiency, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Agree to approve and publish the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025 as set out in Appendix 2
2. Agrees this document will be incorporated into a partnership-wide domestic abuse strategy, with clearly defined actions to address the recommendations set out in the 2024 Needs Assessment

28 Withdrawal of Local Plan from Examination and Next Steps

It was proposed by the Councillor David Walker, Portfolio Holder for Planning and seconded by Councillor Ben Jephcott that the report of the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Rachel Connolly proposed that the following be added to the recommendations:

In the light of the additional risk of speculative development, coupled with the large number of new councillors, council asks for urgent advice and guidance for all councillors on how to best represent residents concerns and demands as large scale planning applications are mooted, received and processed, with a view to helping both members and officers to get the best outcomes possible for existing residents and our environment.

Councillor Walker indicated that he would accept the amendment

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agrees the withdrawal of the draft Local Plan (2016-2038) from the Examination in accordance with Section 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
2. That in the light of the additional risk of speculative development, coupled with the large number of new councillors, council asks for urgent advice and guidance for all councillors on how to best represent residents concerns and demands as large scale planning applications are mooted, received and processed, with a view to helping both members and officers to get the best outcomes possible for existing residents and our environment

29 Appointments to Outside Bodies

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and seconded by the Leader Councillor Heather Kidd that the report of the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

- a. Note the agreed appointments as attached at Appendix 1 & 2.
- b. Note that Councillor Heather Kidd has replaced Councillor Roger Evans on the Local Government Association General Assembly and Councillor Dawn Husemann has been appointed to the vacancies on the Local Government Association General Assembly and the County Council Network Council.

30 Special Responsibility Allowances for Deputy Portfolio Holders

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report of the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve the payment of allowances for up to 10 Deputy Portfolio Holders and that the Member Allowances Scheme in Part 6 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.
2. That the Monitoring Officer seeks to identify members for appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel at a future meeting of the Council so a comprehensive review of the scheme of members allowances can be undertaken

31 LGPS - Scheme of Delegation

It was proposed by Councillor Gary Groves, Chairman, Pensions Committee and seconded by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance that the report of the Pensions Investment and Responsible Investment Manager, and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be updated to allow either the Section 151 Officer or LGPS Senior Officer to represent Shropshire County Pension Fund at the LGPS Central Shareholders Forum and vote on behalf of the Fund in the absence of the Chair of the Pensions Committee.

32 Appointment to Committees

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Duncan Borrowman and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Gary Groves 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.

33 Motions

The following motion was received from Councillor Ed Potter and supported by the Conservative Group

We all know that litter blights our roadside verges. This includes an increasing number of disused and broken temporary road signs which have been left behind and often over time lost in the undergrowth along our verges and roadside. In the Loton division this is a particular problem along the A5 and A458 as well as the more rural side roads. Once the growing season starts these signs often get covered by the vegetation and then are subsequently damaged by the hedge cutters which cut the verges. It would make sense when there are road closures on these busy roads that these disused highways signs, sandbags and traffic cones are removed. On the more minor roads and on traffic islands these could be collected by highways contractors whilst going about their daily routines and deposited back at highways depots for reuse or recycling. It is important to our residents that we all take civic pride in where we live and these simple actions of removing these discarded items will make a big difference.

1. Request that Shropshire Council Highways adopt a policy instructing all Highways works teams and contractors including utility companies who are permitted to work on the Highway remove disused and broken signs left behind by previous work schemes
2. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of National Highways to request their work teams and contractors operating in Shropshire adopt the same approach.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Request that Shropshire Council Highways adopt a policy instructing all Highways works teams and contractors including utility companies who are permitted to work on the Highway remove disused and broken signs left behind by previous work schemes

2. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of National Highways to request their work teams and contractors operating in Shropshire adopt the same approach.

Motion received from Councillor Julian Dean and supported by the Green & Progressive Independent Group

Planning for a better Shropshire

Shropshire Council recognises the need:

- to deliver the right homes, at the right price, in the right places to address the housing affordability crisis
- to provide clean energy infrastructure to support the UK's future energy needs
- to rapidly deliver projects that will help our natural environment to recover such that the UK is no longer one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We believe these aims can all be delivered alongside robust local decision making given the right mix of regulation and funding.

Council notes:

- Revisions to the 'standard method' for calculating housing targets - which has increased the housing target for Shropshire from 1070 to 1994 - but with no target for social or affordable homes, and no significant change to viability assessments which result in affordable homes schemes being scrapped or reduced. The adopted 'stock based' Standard Method fails to properly assess this area's housing need or reflect the ability to grow and provide supporting infrastructure.
- The Planning and Infrastructure Bill currently passing through Parliament. Despite pleas from across the environmental sector and cross-party support for amendments, the Bill continues to include damaging changes to planning rules such that the environmental movement has now come together to call on ministers to 'scrap part 3'.
- Proposed changes to planning decision making which will reduce the power of councils and councillors to act on behalf of their communities - this despite the fact that, nationally, 1.4 million homes had been granted planning permission since 2007 but not been built.

Council believes:

The combined effect of changes introduced by the government since last July, even when taking in to account the welcome additional funding for the Affordable Homes Programme (£39bn over 10 years), will in all likelihood fail to deliver the homes people need in Shropshire, damage efforts to recover our natural environment and further erode community trust in decision making.

Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, relevant Secretaries of State, as well as local MPs, expressing these concerns, and calling for the withdrawal of part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
2. Ask our MPs to oppose measures in part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and, should these remain in the Bill, to vote against at final reading.
3. Request portfolio holders to accelerate completion of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Transport Plan and to ensure that these policies, together with Shrewsbury Moves, are made material considerations in planning as soon as possible, and ahead of any timetable for the revised Local Plan.
4. Request portfolio holders hold urgent meetings with Registered Providers to maximise the benefit to Shropshire from the uplift to the Affordable Homes Programme.
5. Share this resolution with neighbouring councils, local civic groups, nature organisations and the local press, to encourage wider opposition and coordinated advocacy.

By way of amendment Councillor David Walker proposed the following

Planning for a better Shropshire

Shropshire Council recognises the need:

- to deliver sufficient homes, at the right price, in the right places to provide more affordable homes for Shropshire people
- to provide clean energy infrastructure to support the UK's future energy needs and economic growth
- to rapidly deliver projects that will help our natural environment to recover such that the UK is no longer one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We believe these aims can all be delivered alongside robust local decision making given the right mix of regulation and funding.

Council notes:

- Revisions to the Standard Method for calculating housing need provide a target that will exceed this rural county's capacity to deliver housing, employment and infrastructure.
- Replacement of out of date and development of new Supplementary Policy Documents (SPDs) is underway with a target date of September. The new SPDs will help provide policy clarity while the new local plan is taken forward.

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will soon go out for Public Consultation on the 6th of August. Member briefings will be organised to coincide with that.
- Successive governments have under resourced the planning system and that has weakened capacity to process major and complex applications quickly.
- The Planning and Infrastructure Bill does not take into account the advice of the Office for Environmental Protection in May 2025 that the current wording of the bill would roll back species protection.
- There is no timetable in the Bill for Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs).
- Since 2007, 1.4 million homes with planning permission have not been built [1m since 2015 according to the Planning Portal Market Index]

Council believes:

The combined effect of changes introduced by the government since last July, even when taking in to account the welcome additional funding for the Affordable Homes Programme (£39bn over 10 years), will in all likelihood fail to deliver the homes Shropshire people need in Shropshire, damage efforts to recover our natural environment and further erode community trust in decision making.

Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, relevant Secretaries of State, as well as local MPs, expressing these concerns, reiterate the concerns in the planning reform consultation responses and calling for the withdrawal of part 3 of the Planning and infrastructure Bill.
2. Ask our MPs to oppose measures in part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that reduce protections for the environment.
3. Request portfolio holders to accelerate completion of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Transport Plan and to ensure that these policies, together with Shrewsbury Moves, are made material considerations in planning decisions as soon as possible.
4. Request portfolio holders hold urgent meetings with Registered Providers to maximise the benefit to Shropshire from the uplift to the Affordable Homes Programme.
5. Share this resolution with neighbouring councils, local civic groups, nature organisations and the local press, to encourage wider opposition and coordinated advocacy.

Councillor Dean indicated that he was prepared to accept the amendment

RESOLVED

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, relevant Secretaries of State, as well as local MPs, expressing these concerns, reiterate the concerns in the planning reform consultation responses and calling for the withdrawal of part 3 of the Planning and infrastructure Bill.
2. Ask our MPs to oppose measures in part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that reduce protections for the environment.
3. Request portfolio holders to accelerate completion of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Transport Plan and to ensure that these policies, together with Shrewsbury Moves, are made material considerations in planning decisions as soon as possible.
4. Request portfolio holders hold urgent meetings with Registered Providers to maximise the benefit to Shropshire from the uplift to the Affordable Homes Programme.
5. Share this resolution with neighbouring councils, local civic groups, nature organisations and the local press, to encourage wider opposition and coordinated advocacy.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: