

Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Guildhall  
Frankwell Quay  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 8HQ

Date: Friday, 5 September 2025

**Committee:**  
**Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:** Monday, 15 September 2025  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Venue:** The Shrewsbury Room, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

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

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email [democracy@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@shropshire.gov.uk) to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated above.

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council YouTube Channel: [Here](#)

Tim Collard  
Service Director, Legal and Governance

**Members of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Ed Potter (Chair)	Brendan Mallon
Sam Walmsley (Vice-Chair)	David Minnery
Donna Edmunds	Chris Naylor
Craig Emery	Wendy Owen
Gary Groves	Sharon Ritchie-Simmons
Alan Holford	

Your Committee Officer is:

**Sarah Townsend** Committee Officer  
Tel: 01743 257721  
Email: [sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk)

# **AGENDA**

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Disclosable Interests**

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

## **3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)**

To consider the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025. (Attached).

Contact: Sarah Townsend (Tel: 01743 257721)

## **4 Public Question Time**

To receive any questions or petitions from the public of which notice has been given. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 12 noon on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## **5 Member Question Time**

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 12 noon on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## **6 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Pages 5 - 6)**

To consider proposals for the Committee's Work Programme 2025-2026. (Attached).

Contact: Claire Braddock (Tel: 01743 258913)

**7 Exclusion of Press and Public**

To resolve 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 Procedure Rules, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

**8 Highways Contract Review**

Exempt report of the Highways Contract Review Task and Finish Group. (To Follow).

Contact: Claire Braddock (Tel: 01743 258913)

**9 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee**

The Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

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## **Committee and Date**

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2025**

**In the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ**

**2.00 p.m. - 2.32 p.m.**

**Responsible Officer:** Sarah Townsend Committee Officer

Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

### **Present:**

Councillors Ed Potter (Chairman), Sam Walmsley (Vice-Chair), Donna Edmunds, Craig Emery, Gary Groves, Alan Holford, Chris Naylor, Sharon Ritchie-Simmons, Rhys Gratton (Substitute) (substitute for Wendy Owen) and Dawn Husemann (Substitute) (substitute for Brendan Mallon)

### **Others present at the meeting:**

Councillor Roger Evans – Portfolio Holder for Finance  
Councillor James Owen – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure  
Councillor Rob Wilson – Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth  
James Walton, Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)  
Steve Law, Head of Property and Development  
Tom Dodds, Scrutiny Manager  
Claire Braddock, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

## **5 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brendan Mallon and Wendy Owen.

Councillor Dawn Husemann was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Brendan Mallon and Councillor Rhys Gratton was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Wendy Owen.

## **6 Disclosable Interests**

There were no interests declared.

## **7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

2. That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 be approved as a correct record.

## 8 Public Question Time

### Public Question

A public question had been received from Mr John Palmer regarding whether the new Chairman of the committee would be recommending that the committee freshly scrutinise the subscription timescales concerning garden waste collection annual charges for 2025/26. Mr Palmer was in attendance to ask his question and the response to the question was provided by the Chairman. A full copy of the question and response provided is available from the web page for the meeting.

### Petition for Skateboard Facility and Pump Track in Oswestry

A petition bearing 423 signatures had been received from Ms Olly Rose and Mr Theo Merchant and asked Shropshire Council to pass the unused land to the north of Oswestry Leisure Centre to Oswestry Town Council on condition that it is used for a skateboard facility and pump track.

Ms Olly Rose and Ms Daisy Kirtley (local resident) were present at the meeting and presented the petition to the committee. They explained that Oswestry Town Council had received requests and a petition from local young people requesting a skatepark and pump track, Oswestry Town Council had both the money and the will to complete it, such a facility would help to encourage exercise and promote a healthy lifestyle, ancient woodlands and protected bluebells were currently being damaged in the absence of proper provision and planning permission for this type of use was given in 2008 and amended in 2012 but had not materialised.

In debating the petition, committee discussion and comments covered:

- The importance of young people, the facilities that were in place for them and the importance of the council in listening and working with them to help meet their needs was emphasised.
- A skateboard facility and pump track would promote exercise, provide increased mental and physical health benefits, help towards achieving overweight and obesity targets and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Having listened to the petitioners, there was clearly both a need and a demand for these facilities in Oswestry.
- Frustration was expressed regarding the delay to date, given that planning permission had been granted back in 2008 and it was questioned why nothing had happened. The committee were keen to see progress now being made.
- Whether the committee could scrutinise the length of time that it takes for decisions to be made as due to the delay, whole generations of children had missed out in Oswestry.

- If the skateboard facility and pump track were to go ahead, Oswestry Town Council should be encouraged to have a proper consultation process with the local young people who would use it regarding the design of the track. This would ensure that it meets both their wants and needs and is not underutilised.
- The Portfolio Holder for Finance clarified that Oswestry Town Council have the Capital Receipt for this and would be fully funding it themselves, at no cost to Shropshire Council, other than the loss of the land.
- The damage that had been done to nearby ancient woodland and protected bluebells was of particular concern and needed to be addressed to make sure that it does not continue to be mistreated.
- Whether the council could review outside spaces facilities for youths across the county and in particular, address obesity with apparatus equipment. The Chairman explained that this could be considered as part of the committee's work programme should the rest of the committee be in agreement and would be discussed within their informal work programming session.
- With Oswestry growing, there may be a future need for expansion of the leisure facilities or car parking for the leisure centre, so the design and location of the skateboard facility and pump track would need to take this into consideration.
- Should the proposed skateboard facility and pump track not be well used or falls out of favour, the option to revert this facility back to Shropshire Council or for it to be used for other similar youth / leisure activities would be beneficial.
- The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure disclosed that whilst he was an Oswestry Town Council Member he was in attendance at the meeting as Portfolio Holder for Shropshire Council and was speaking as such. He explained that both the administration and himself, as the relevant Portfolio Holder, were willing to consider the transfer through a lease of part of the land, rather than through the whole parcel of the land.

Prior to the committee's consideration of a recommendation, the Head of Property and Development explained that planning permission had been granted but that the land, approximately two hectares adjacent to the leisure centre, was not currently being used and therefore remains as was. It could be considered as part of the wider work around transfers of spaces to local town and parish councils.

**RESOLVED:**

Recommendation to Cabinet – Recognising the general support for the petition that has been put forward, it was agreed that it be passed to the relevant Portfolio Holder to explore the most appropriate route for transferring the land to Oswestry Town Council.

**9 Member Question Time**

None had been received.

**10 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 (7) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

**11 Exempt Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:**

That the exempt minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

**12 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 commencing at 2.00 p.m. However, at the committee's informal work programming session, consideration would be given to potentially holding a meeting in September (date and time to be confirmed).

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....



## Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee High-Level Work Programme – 2025/2026

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	All Member Teams Briefing	Task and Finish Group	Report to committee	Previous topic of review - an update against the action plan
August 2025	Highways Contract Review	Laura Tyler / Andy Wilde		✓	Sept 2025	
September 2025	Waste Contract Oversight – Veolia Contract	Laura Tyler / Gavin Waite	✓ 24 Sept 2025 (evening briefing date tbc)			
November 2025	Waste Contract Oversight – Veolia Contract	Laura Tyler / Gavin Waite			General discussion at Nov Committee following the All-Member briefing	
November 2025	Developer Contributions	Eddie West / Tim Collard				✓
November 2025	Sports Village Development	Laura Tyler / Grant Wilson			✓	
November 2025	Leisure	Laura Tyler / Grant Wilson			✓	
Date tbc	Waste	Laura Tyler / Gavin Waite			✓	
tbc - Jan 26 or Mar 26	Signs / Banners	Richard Ealey / Jane James				✓
January 2026	Community Safety and Crime Prevention – Annual Report to Committee	Rachel Robinson / Jane Rose			✓	

Other identified areas of interest from Committee discussions, including topics for briefings:

## Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee High-Level Work Programme – 2025/2026

Waterways and River quality, Flood Resilience and Surface Water Management	Short Term Priority
20 mph	Short Term Priority
Economic Growth	Short Term Priority
Shrewsbury Riverside development	Short Term Priority – but at the right time
Town Centre regeneration schemes / Sustainable Transport / High Streets / Empty Homes (possible link to Short-Term Lets and Housing Market Impact)	Medium Term Priority
Adoption of Estates / S38/278 Agreements and Road Adoption	Medium Term Priority
Playpark Upkeep / Youth Engagement	Medium Term Priority
Tourism	Medium / Long Term Priority
Bus Services	Long Term Priority
Short-Term Lets and Housing Market Impact	Long Term Priority
Green Economy	Long Term Priority
Pyrolysis	Long Term Priority
Reporting Frameworks	Long Term Priority