

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Frankwell Quay,
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ
Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 24 September 2026

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

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

Members of the Council – a briefing note will be circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting with important housekeeping details and arrangements for the meeting.

Members of the Public – If you wish to attend the meeting, please e-mail democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check whether a seat will be available for you.

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

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

Richard Phillips
Service Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Duncan Borrowman
(Chairman)
Gary Groves (Vice-Chair)
Heather Kidd (Leader)
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
Tom Dainty
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
Harry Hancock-Davies
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
Chris Naylor
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
Rob Wilson

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

When attending this meeting, Members are reminded of the three principles of the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics Civility Pledge:

1. *Use a civil and constructive tone in debate*
2. *Act with integrity, honesty and compassion*
3. *Behave respectfully towards others, including those I disagree with*

*(Please note that while we strive to live stream meetings, technical issues may occasionally occur. In the event of a technical disruption, the meeting will be paused to try to resolve the issue. Should it not be possible to resume the live stream, the meeting will proceed as scheduled, and a backup recording will be made available after the meeting. Any disruption to the live stream does not affect the legality of the meeting).

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary 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 (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2026.

4 Announcements

To receive such communications as the Chairman, Leader and Head of Paid Service may desire to lay before the Council.

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is 12 noon on Friday 18 September 2026.

6 Questions from Members

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2. Deadline for notification is 12 noon on Friday 18 September 2026.

7 Senior Management Structure & Appointments (Pages 11 - 28)

Report of the Chief Executive

Contact Tanya Miles – tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

8 Exceptional Financial Support: External Assurance Review (Pages 29 - 54)

Report of the Interim Executive Director (S151)

Contact Duncan Whitfield – duncan.whitfield@shropshire.gov.uk

9 Local Transport Consolidated Funding

Report of the Service Director – Infrastructure

Contact Andy Wilde – andy.wilde@shropshire.gov.uk

REPORT TO FOLLOW - Further discussion is required with the Portfolio Holder/s before publication

10 Shropshire Achieving and Thriving in Education Strategy 2026 – 2029 (Pages 55 - 96)

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Contact David Shaw - david.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk

11 Independent Remuneration Panel Report (Pages 97 - 108)

Report of the Service Director – Legal & Governance

Contact Richard Phillips - richard.phillips@shropshire.gov.uk

12 Annual Scrutiny Report (Pages 109 - 136)

Report of the Service Director – Strategy & Change

Contact Paul Clarke paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk

13 Changes to Committee Membership (Pages 137 - 138)

To approve the changes to committee membership – report attached.

14 Motions

The following motions have been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16:

a Motion received from Councillor Alan Holford and supported by Bernie Bentick, Duncan Borrowman, Adam Fejfer, Gary Groves, Ruth Houghton, Heather Kidd, Rosie Radford, Alex Wagner and Alison Williams

This Council:

1. Acknowledges the cultural memory of Saint Erkenwald and the high altar stone of Old St Paul's Cathedral is deeply held in both Shropshire and London, and notes recent research suggests that physical items associated with them may have been placed at Soulton Hall for safe keeping.
2. Observes that if these items were translated, their protection formed part of a broader pattern of statecraft by Sir Rowland Hill of Soulton (Lord Mayor of London 1549–50), who repeatedly used his authority to preserve endangered books, records, and cultural heritage, offering a principled response to the destruction, violence, and profound loss of human life during the upheavals of the sixteenth century.
3. Expresses gratitude to James D. Wenn and James Syrett of Byrga Geniht Ltd, and to Aed Thompson, for their research and expertise in bringing these matters to light.
4. Expresses thanks to the Ashton family and their ancestors. Their continuous care of Soulton Hall has preserved this history during dangerous times, and they are now presenting it to the public with care and discernment.
5. Recognises that these events offer a rare chance to build understanding and bridge divides between different faith communities today.
6. Highlights the ancient Quit Rents ceremony – a shared tradition between Shropshire and the City of London spanning over 800 years where these historical matters were formally addressed during the 813th ceremony.
7. Affirms that Shropshire deeply values its close relationship with the City of London built over centuries and continuing today.

b Motion received from Councillor Julian Dean and supported by the Green and Progressive Independent Group
Council notes:

- The Summer of 2026 is expected to have been the hottest on record for the UK, with 6 out of 7 of the hottest recorded summers all coming in the last 8 years.
- The previous winter was the wettest on record for many parts of the UK. Average winter rainfall has risen from around 290mm in the 1970s and 1980s to 380mm in the decade up to 2021.
- The Climate Change Committee states that "The UK's preparations for climate change are inadequate", and "Adaptation is needed now to ensure that the UK is prepared for today's extreme weather as well as the rapidly increasing severity of future risks. The costs of these impacts are already being felt, and the risks will continue to grow even if international targets to limit global warming are met. Action is needed now whilst we still have the opportunity to address these risks in a way that is both cost-effective and timely"
- That from 30 Nov 2026, Phase 2 of Awaab's Law will extend social landlords' duties to significant excess heat and cold hazards.
- The TUC heat campaign calling for the urgent modernisation of Health and Safety standards, including a legal maximum working temperature of 30°C (27°C for strenuous work), above which non-essential work is paused or adapted.
- The Public and Civil Servants union has highlighted in the early Summer that "We are seeing [Whitehall] job cuts in key policy areas despite the mounting evidence that we need to do more, not less to restore nature and mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis."

Council believes:

- There must be continued and redoubled efforts to move the council area, the country and the global community to net zero carbon emissions. Climate adaptation and emissions reduction must be pursued together, recognising that many measures such as increasing tree canopies, are appropriate for both.
- The increasing threat to the health and livelihoods from climate change related extreme weather requires a national planned response, the key elements of which are:
- Protecting and improving our water supply, which now clearly requires taking the industry back into public ownership together with significant investment.
- Protecting and improving the ability of land to manage flooding and fire risks by investing in and enforcing natural flood and fire risk land management.
- Protecting and improving the ability of our buildings, infrastructure and transport systems to manage the risks from flooding and prolonged extreme heat through planning and building control regulation, including natural temperature control measures such as increased tree canopy cover and external shading to reduce the need for energy intensive cooling.
- Protecting and enhancing our food security through regulations and investment in sustainable agriculture, diversifying to increase horticulture and reduce land-intensive cattle and sheep production.
- Recognising that the damaging effects of climate change unequally distributed and so adaptation measures must address these inequalities.
- The UK government must set the pace, the regulations and provide the investment for a national adaptation strategy. An initial step would be to establish a unit in Downing Street and new Cabinet Minister to coordinate and drive forward progress on adaptation and resilience.

NOTE: Adrian Ramsay is specifically calling for this in the Autumn

- The current version of the devolution agenda is putting the rapid development of adaptation and resilience measures at risk. Strategic Authorities are being established with a 'growth first' agenda, whilst cuts to both DEFRA and DESNZ have reduced Whitehall capacity to deliver the support local government needs to lead on place-based adaptation and resilience.

Council resolves:

To ask the leader to write to our MP(s) and to relevant ministers putting our council's position as outlined above and calling on government to:

- Provide adequate funding and capacity support for locally delivered adaptation and resilience measures as part of a national plan, including in particular, a fully funded heat-resilience programme for schools, hospitals, care settings and social housing.
- Recognise the role of both strategic and local authorities as much place-based adaptation and resilience work will continue to be best delivered through local authorities rather than by strategic authority mayors.
- Underpin action on both climate change mitigation and adaptation with an appropriately resourced statutory duty as supported by the Local Government Association.
- To publicly support the TUC campaign to see the law changed, so that employers and workers know when action must be taken to keep workers cooler and safer.

Council further resolves:

- To ask the council leader to identify the Cabinet role with responsibility for leading on climate change adaptation and resilience.
- To ask Cabinet to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience risks are incorporated into the Council's corporate risk-management arrangements, with identified senior officer responsibility.
- To ask Cabinet to report on how extreme heat is being addressed in the Council's adaptation and resilience work to a future full council before Summer 2027.
- To ensure that the preparation of the new Local Plan is informed by evidence of current and future climate risks, and that appropriate policies address overheating, flood risk, water scarcity and drought, green and blue infrastructure, sustainable drainage and urban tree canopy.
- To invite the relevant portfolio holder to set out the Council's developing approach to assessing and managing excess heat and excess cold in the STAR Housing stock, having regard to its statutory responsibilities under Awaab's Law.
- To continue, through existing communications and partnerships, to promote appropriate practical advice before and during periods of extreme heat and other weather extremes.
- To request the relevant scrutiny committee to consider the establishment of a Task and Finish group to both identify practical measures the Council can undertake to reduce the impact of extreme heat on our residents in the short-term and to consider evidence and planning from partners such as fire and rescue, the ICB and the education sector on climate related impacts and needs, in order to bring forward further recommendation.
- To ensure safe working practices for council workers and contractors, which may, for example, include agreeing exceptional conditions protocols and appropriate maximum working temperatures in consultation with staff trade unions.

c

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

This motion requests a review of the planned closure of Meole Brace Park and Ride based on public opinion.

There is no doubt among Meole Brace and Oxon P&R users that closure will have a negative impact on residents in Shrewsbury, the surrounding villages and Shropshire visitors to Shrewsbury from the south and east of the county town.

Concerned residents have dedicated enormous amounts of their time speaking regularly to P&R passengers at all three Shrewsbury sites over recent months. A petition asking for a review and reversal of the planned closure has reached almost 5,000 signatures. It's hard to see how this strength of opinion can be ignored.

Services users come from nearby and far away.

40% - Shrewsbury and Bayston Hill residents who find the P&R service more user-friendly than their local timetabled bus services

40% - from farther afield although within Shropshire

20% - from out of Shropshire: British regions, foreign visitors

In terms of sustainable public transport, traffic congestion, pollution levels, town centre economy and viability, Meole Brace Park and Ride fulfils its role. The opportunity cost is high - in closing Meole Brace P&R we remove its powerful contribution to the Shrewsbury Movement Strategy in the future.

Furthermore, there is good reason to expect a disproportionately negative impact from the closure on people with disability and young families. Wheelchair users and families with buggies report they are often refused from regular bus services but that P&R always allows them on board which helps explain the popularity of the service.

Most people asked, say that if the closure goes ahead they will either stay at home, drive into town or simply go elsewhere. There is no general appetite to switch to Oxon P&R because passengers recognise it is at capacity.

Conversely, Oxon passengers have expressed concern that they will be unable to access P&R, as they do now, if more users switch to this site. Surely, none of this is what councillors want – we need to support our local economy, bring passengers into town to use the businesses and attractions in Shrewsbury by continuing with a valued service for people in Shrewsbury and Shropshire.

Therefore, Cabinet is requested to consider pausing the closure plans and allow services from Meole Brace Park & Ride to continue to serve the public.