



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

Date: Monday, 27 April 2026

**Committee:
Cabinet**

Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, 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 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 on the agenda (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)

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 (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Cabinet

Heather Kidd
Alex Wagner
Bernie Bentick
Roger Evans
Andy Hall
Ruth Houghton
James Owen
Rob Wilson
David Vasmer
David Walker

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: ashley.kendrick@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 (Pages 1 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2026.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is not later than 12 noon on Wednesday 29 April 2026.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions from Members of the Council. Deadline for notification is not later than 12 noon on Wednesday 29 April 2026.

6 Scrutiny Items

7 Shropshire Council Corporate plan 2026/27-2030/31 (Pages 9 - 54)

Lead Member: Councillor Heather Kidd, Leader

Lead Officer: Tanya Miles, Interim Chief Executive

8 Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy (Pages 55 - 96)

Lead Member: Councillor Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care

Lead Officer: Wendy Bulman, Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead

9 Local Plan – Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Making and Scoping Consultation (Pages 97 - 480)

Lead Member: Councillor David Walker, Portfolio Holder for Planning

Lead Officer: Eddie West, Planning Policy & Strategy Manager

10 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10 June 2026.



Committee and Date

Cabinet

6 May 2026

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2026

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

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick

Email: ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 250893

Present

Councillor Heather Kidd (Leader)

Councillors Alex Wagner, Bernie Bentick, Roger Evans, Andy Hall, Ruth Houghton, James Owen, Rob Wilson, David Walker and Tom Dainty (Substitute) (substitute for David Vasmer)

In attendance

Councillors Rosemary Dartnall (Group Leader – Labour), Duncan Kerr (Group Leader – Green & Progressive Independents), Dawn Husemann (Leader – Reform UK), Dan Thomas (Group Leader – Conservatives), Greg Ebbs, and Sam Walmsley (remote). Tanya Miles (Interim Chief Executive), Rachel Robinson (Executive Director for Public Health), Duncan Whitfield (Interim Executive Director S151), Tim Collard (Monitoring Officer), Ashley Kendrick (Democratic Services Officer), Laura Tyler (Service Director – Commissioning), Claire Evans (Senior Programme Officer) (remote), Gavin Waite (Waste Management Service Director) (remote), Matt Potts (Service Manager - Economy Funding and Skills) (remote), Paul Gossage (Head of Culture, Leisure & Tourism) (remote)

153 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor David Vasmer (Councillor Tom Dainty deputised).

154 Disclosable Interests

No declarations were received.

155 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record.

156 Public Question Time

One public question was received:

Andrew Sceats, in relation to Cornovii Development Ltd.

The full question and response provided can be found on [Responses to Public Questions - Cabinet 15 April 2026.pdf](#)

157 Member Question Time

Two questions were received:

Councillor Alan Holford, in relation to speed limit reductions.

Councillor Harry Hancock-Davies, in relation to a pedestrian crossing near Shillingston Drive. In response to a supplementary question, in the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment, the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth provided reassurance that an update would be provided to the local member for Battlefield as soon as possible.

The full questions and responses provided can be found on [Responses to Member Questions - Cabinet 15 April 2026.pdf](#)

158 Scrutiny Items

a Scrutiny Item - Part One report of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task and Finish Group

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group presented an overview of the group's work, explaining that the review had been undertaken to improve understanding, transparency and governance of the CIL process.

The Task and Finish Group put forward eight recommendations. These included consideration of the current 90:10 split between local and strategic CIL; the development of an annual CIL strategy approved by Cabinet and Full Council; increased Member involvement and transparency around the Infrastructure Investment Group (IIG), including formal minutes and wider reporting; learning from the Cornwall model; improved communication and engagement with town and parish councils; better access to CIL information for Members; clearer communication to residents on the benefits of CIL-funded schemes; and further work to explore alternative governance arrangements.

Members emphasised the importance of transparency, fairness and ensuring that communities directly impacted by development receive appropriate mitigation. Concerns were raised about cross-boundary impacts, delivery of funded schemes, and the need for clearer feedback to Members, town and parish councils and residents on how CIL and developer contributions are spent.

Members welcomed the work of the Task and Finish Group and supported the direction of travel set out in the recommendations. It was noted that Task and Finish Groups are advisory in nature and intended to inform Cabinet decision-making. Cabinet agreed that the report provided a strong evidence base for further consideration and development of proposals.

RESOLVED:

That further work on the recommendations of the Community Infrastructure Levy Task and Finish Group be accepted and taken forward for consideration by Cabinet.

b Scrutiny Item - Partnership Working Task and Finish Group Verbal Update

The Chair of the Partnership Working Task and Finish Group provided a verbal update on engagement with town and parish councils regarding the devolution of street scene services. Feedback from workshops highlighted the need for early and meaningful engagement, clearer communication, improved data transparency, respectful officer behaviours and flexibility to reflect local capacity.

Concerns were raised about consultation occurring after decisions had effectively been made, inconsistencies in information provided, and a lack of trust where engagement was perceived as transactional or dismissive.

The Task and Finish Group concluded that successful devolution would depend not only on process but on confidence, partnership working and co-design. Key issues identified included variability in local capacity, the need for a shared data audit, clarity on what services would be devolved, and the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. Specific issues raised during the Oswestry workshop included transport connectivity, digital infrastructure, street scene data accuracy and the resource implications for hub councils.

Recommendations to Cabinet included committing to early engagement before preferred models are fixed, setting clear expectations for officer engagement, improving transparency and accessibility of information, establishing a single point of contact for town and parish councils, tailoring arrangements to local circumstances, and undertaking a review of pilot arrangements following implementation.

Members welcomed the report and thanked the Task and Finish Group for its work. Members acknowledged the importance of partnership, culture change and learning from pilot schemes. It was noted that further information and formal reporting would return to scrutiny, and that expressions of interest for future participation would be invited as part of the next phase.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update from the Partnership Working Task and Finish Group be noted and that Cabinet look forward to receiving the final report.

159 Financial Monitoring Period 11

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report and advised that the forecast overspend had reduced for the second consecutive month, with a further improvement since Period 10. While the Council remained in a financial emergency position, officers were confident that improved monitoring arrangements and the use of actual expenditure data had strengthened financial control.

Members noted that the majority of the forecast overspend continued to relate to Care and Wellbeing and Children's Services, reflecting demand pressures and previously

unrealisable savings. It was emphasised that statutory services would continue to be delivered at minimum required levels while efforts to minimise expenditure and maximise income continued.

Members welcomed the progress made, acknowledged the work of officers and the finance team, and noted that further reports would be brought forward, including the year-end outturn and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- A. Confirmed that the s151 Officer continues to ensure that actions taken by other senior officers under the declared Financial Emergency to reduce the variation from budget at outturn are continued.
- B. Noted the continued use of the Budget, Transformation and Change Panel (formerly the Operations Boards) and the Workforce Review Board with a view to enhancing the control of spend and authorisation of projects.
- C. Noted the forecast overspend at Period 11 of £49.374m.
- D. Noted the forecast level of savings to be delivered by the end of the financial year at Period 11 of £17.726m (29.60%).
- E. Noted the forecast General Fund Balance of £5.000

160 Crisis Resilience Fund Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report, which replaced the previous Household Support Fund and provides targeted support to residents experiencing financial hardship. It was noted that the funding is provided by central government and includes a specific allocation to support households using oil, LPG and other solid fuels.

Cabinet noted that the fund will be delivered through partnership working with the voluntary and community sector, applying a “no wrong door” approach to access and aiming to provide timely support in urgent cases. It was confirmed that blanket schemes could not be used under the funding criteria and that support would be targeted at those in greatest need, including households not in receipt of benefits.

Members emphasised the importance of clear and accessible communications, including information for Members and community venues, to ensure residents are aware of the support available.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet reviewed the proposed schemes outlined in the attached Appendix 1
2. That Cabinet delegated approval of the finalised delivery plan to the Councils S.151 Officer in consultation the Portfolio Holder for Finance.
 - 2.1 That the finalised delivery plan, as set out in Appendix 1, was approved for implementation by the Crisis & Resilience Fund working group and Voluntary and Community Sector partners and is shared with the Department for Work & Pensions as required as part of this fund.

3. That Cabinet advocated for and encouraged the entire Council to support the “no-wrong-door approach” for crisis and resilience support both as Portfolio Holders and Local Members.
4. That further information in various formats (leaflets, PDF, jpg) be made available to members for sharing within their local communities.

161 Introduction of Weekly Food Waste Collections

The Deputy Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment presented the report, which set out proposals for planning for the delivery of this regulated service and the approach to funding the new requirement for weekly food waste collections in Shropshire for all households.

It was noted that, although a one-off capital grant had been received from DEFRA, no ongoing revenue funding had been provided to meet the estimated annual cost of operating the service. Cabinet was advised that Shropshire Council’s current financial position, contractual arrangements and infrastructure constraints meant that the service could not be introduced at this time without creating further financial pressure.

Cabinet discussed the environmental importance of food waste collection and acknowledged concerns raised about compliance with national legislation. Members noted the complexities arising from existing contracts, rurality and processing capacity, and that further work was required to identify a sustainable and equitable solution for the whole county.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet noted:

- a. The new legislative requirement to provide weekly food collection from 31 March 2026 for every home in Shropshire
- b. That compliance with the new arrangement has not been possible at this time as a result primarily of contractual and financial constraints
- c. The comments from The Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 29th January 2026 as set out in the report
- d. The initial capital and revenue funding already available to the Council to support design and implementation

And instructed the Service Director for Place Shaping:

- e. To undertake further work with the current contractor to assess the full costs and timing of a fully compliant scheme
- f. To update a complete risk assessment of the plan moving forward
- g. Separately to consider the need for an application to DEFRA for exemption from the regulatory requirements on the basis of rurality and contractual complexity.
- h. To write formally DEFRA to confirm the Council's position and plans to design and assess the full cost of the project and the likely timescales involved, again subject to affordability
- i. To report further to Cabinet in July 2026 updating them on progress.

162 Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report which sought Cabinet approval to adopt the Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code as a material consideration in the planning decision making process following a public consultation that took place between October 2025 to January 2026.

It was noted that the Design Code had been developed through the national Design Code Pathfinder Programme and informed by public consultation. The Code will support the implementation of Local Plan policies, provide clarity for developers and decision-makers, and act as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Cabinet noted that the Design Code focuses on design quality and place-making and will also provide a template for potential use in other market towns.

Members welcomed the Design Code as a means of protecting the character of Shrewsbury town centre while supporting high-quality future development. Concerns were raised regarding levels of public engagement; however, it was emphasised that the Design Code relates specifically to design principles and does not replace wider consultation on transport or infrastructure proposals.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet agreed to approve adoption of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code as set out in Appendix 1, to provide guidance on the application of the Local Plan policies and form a material consideration in the planning decision-making process.

163 Adoption of the Destination Management Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth presented the report which set out a strategic framework to support the visitor economy up to 2029.

It was noted that the Plan aims to grow tourism in a sustainable, accessible and inclusive way, supporting local businesses, communities and employment while safeguarding Shropshire's natural and historic environment. The Plan had been informed by consultation with stakeholders and aligns with the development of the Telford and Shropshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership.

Members discussed the importance of partnership working, securing external funding and ensuring that tourism growth benefits both urban and rural communities. Concerns were raised regarding the evidence base and delivery arrangements; however, Cabinet recognised the value of having a strategic framework to guide future activity and investment.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet endorsed the Destination Management Plan and delegated to the relevant Service Director, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to work with partners and stakeholders to deliver the plan.

164 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 6 May 2026.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and Date

**Cabinet 6 May 2026
Council 14 May 2026**

Item

Public



Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026- 2030

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles – Interim Chief Executive		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd - Leader		

1.0 Synopsis

This report seeks approval of the Corporate Plan for 2026-2030 by Cabinet and Council. The Plan replaces the Shropshire Plan and sets out a proposed vision and priority ambitions that will provide the context for the Council’s business and budget planning. It will help guide and determine what we focus on to deliver, enable, and influence better outcomes for Shropshire and its residents, while becoming financially sustainable.

The Plan provides a strategic framework rather than a detailed delivery plan. While it sets out our ambitions and overall direction, the scale of our commitments and the pace of delivery must remain realistic and affordable. This will require a clear focus on prioritisation within available resources and may, in some cases, involve changes to service standards or service levels.

2.0 Executive Summary

2.1 The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council’s direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire’s future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership. This focus is particularly important given the Council’s financial position.

2.2 The Plan’s priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including the New Direction report (Council 25/09/25) local data and insight, resident feedback (including budget consultation), engagement with staff, councillors, and partners, and consideration of national/regional policy developments, local priorities, statutory duties and responsibilities, the Improvement Plan and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

2.3 The six priority ambitions are:

1. A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce supported to excel
 2. Communities that are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
 3. People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
 4. Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and to thrive at every stage of life
 5. An environment that harnesses our natural assets, and supports wellbeing
 6. A thriving economy that benefits everyone
- The first priority ambition is at the centre of everything we do and underpins the other five.

- 2.4 For each ambition the Plan explains why it is a priority for Shropshire and summarises the key things the Council will focus on delivering, enabling or influencing, including the strategies, plans, programmes and partners that we work with and through to deliver against the ambitions.
- 2.5 The Plan recognises the priority of financial sustainability. While it is important to have overall ambitions as a context for Council activity, the scale and pace of delivery against them must remain realistic and affordable. Service standards, levels of provision and the pace of delivery need to be aligned to available resources, recognising this may require difficult choices, reduced service levels in some areas, and prioritisation to ensure financial sustainability.
- 2.6 It will also require us to think about the role and purpose of the Council in delivering outcomes, and a need to consider where it is more economical, efficient and effective to achieve outcomes by working differently with partners, partnerships, and communities themselves. This will involve a greater emphasis on enabling and influencing and exploring and maximising the opportunities of working in partnership with town and parish councils, Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) organisations, communities and through our statutory and non-statutory partnerships.
- 2.6 The Plan is a strategic framework, not a detailed delivery plan. Delivery will be determined and driven through strategies, service plans and programmes. Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children’s social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year to determine commitments and activity, ensuring they remain aligned to limited resources available.
- 2.7 An annual review of the Plan and our commitments against it will help enable us to do that, and to respond to any changes and developments that require amendments to priorities. It will also support earlier conversations with partners on alternative delivery approaches ahead of autumn budget setting. The key commitments for 2026/27 will be presented to Cabinet as part of the performance framework that will be used to report progress, delivery and impact.
- 2.8 The framework will also include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It is anticipated KPIs will include measures that have been used to demonstrate performance against the Shropshire Plan, and metrics from the *Local Outcomes Framework*. That Framework, formally published in February 2026, sets out the

key outcomes that central and local government want to achieve together for people and places, focusing on results that matter most to residents. The framework will be presented to the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th June 2026 and Cabinet for approval on 10th June 2026.

- 2.9 The Corporate Plan sits alongside the Improvement Plan and Financial Strategy, to provide a strategic basis for everything we do. Together the suite of plans set out the priority ambitions we need to focus on, summarise how we need to improve as an organisation to contribute to them in the most effective, economical and efficient way as a ‘Best Value’ authority, and how we need to become financially sustainable and reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government. The suite of plans sits top of the council’s ‘golden thread’, aligning organisational priorities through to service planning and individual staff Performance Development Reviews.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- 3.1 Consider and recommend the draft Corporate Plan 2026-30 to Council for approval
- 3.2 Note the underlying need for financial recovery and sustainability, the need to align delivery commitments to the Council’s financial position, and the potential impact on service standards
- 3.3 Note that a performance framework will be developed (and presented to Cabinet on 10th June 2026) providing a basis for reporting progress, delivery and impact against the priority outcomes – including:
- (i) a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including the relevant Local Outcome Framework measures
 - (ii) a set of key delivery commitments against each of the priority ambitions
 - (iii) an annual review report, summarising delivery over the previous 12 months, and refreshing the commitments for the next 12 months (to ensure alignment with our financial position and sustainability)

Council is asked to:

- 3.4 Consider and approve the Corporate Plan 2026-2030
- 3.5 Note the underlying need for financial recovery and sustainability, the need to align delivery commitments to the Council’s financial position, and the potential impact on service standards

Report

4.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal.

4.1 Risk table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Failure to approve the Corporate Plan – weakening the strategic basis and context for our business and budget planning	The priority ambitions are based on what data and insight, engagement, and statutory responsibilities suggest are the things that are most important for the Council to focus on. The Improvement Plan and Financial Plan also provide a context and basis for our business planning, prioritisation, policy development and decision making.
Failure to keep the council aligned to the delivery of the Corporate Plan ambitions	Develop and roll-out the business and budget planning approach to take place each summer, enabling a cross-cutting thematic view of how the priority ambitions will be delivered. Service Plans to be developed at directorate and service level as appropriate. SMART outcomes and plans established and in place
The Plan does not reflect changing circumstances e.g. financial sustainability and changing national context	Undertake horizon scanning during the plan development to identify known policy developments and seek confirmation from subject matter experts. Annual budget and business planning provides the opportunity to systematically update plans to take account of policy developments and financial sustainability.

4.2 It is a legal requirement, laid upon us as a public sector body through the Equality Act 2010, for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. Carrying out impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010. We need to be in a position to be able to demonstrate to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) that we have made every effort to carry out our equality impact screenings, and that we have done so at every stage where it would be appropriate to do so. In Shropshire, the tool that we use to do this work is referred to as an **Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)**. The ESHIA for the Corporate Plan 2026-2030 is attached at appendix 2 of this report.

4.3 The Equality Act 2010 describes nine Protected Characteristics groupings or characteristics that people may share, e.g. Age, Disability, Race. Local authorities such as us and other public sector organisations are obliged to have ‘due regard’ to the needs of people in these groupings in our decision-making processes. In this stocktake ESHIA record, initial assessment of the Corporate Plan in its draft form is that there is potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact across all nine groupings, as well as for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care.

- 4.4 The Council also considers those in the grouping of veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families, in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that ‘due regard’ is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021. Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households in our large and sparsely populated rural county; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances.
- 4.4 At this stage, the anticipated likely positive impacts include mitigation and prevention of poor health outcomes, better paid jobs and carbon reduction. Priorities include efforts to address inequalities; to identify and support vulnerable children, young people, adults and families; to ensure that there is a range of affordable and appropriate and specialised accommodation; and to achieve shared priorities with partners around transport; digital and mobile connectivity; employment, skills and the economy; and the environment.
- 4.5 As a strategic document for the Council, the priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan encompass both health and wellbeing across all groupings, with a policy intention to contribute positively to the wider determinants of health. There is a clarity of focus on:
- Tackling health inequalities
 - Promoting well-being, including the role of the environment for physical and mental health
 - Embedding prevention with partners
 - Enabling communities to be safe
 - Partnership working to tackle domestic abuse
 - Supporting people as they move through life events

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented regularly reported to Cabinet.
- 5.2 Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council to reduce and remove any non-essential spending to help ensure the Council's financial sustainability. While there are no financial implications arising directly from this report and the draft Corporate Plan, it is noted that financial sustainability represents the core of the Corporate Plan.
- 5.3 Services must be aligned to the limited resources the Council has available whilst ensuring we deliver our statutory duties at the minimum statutory level. It is recognised that this involves some difficult decisions that need to be taken and communication with our stakeholders, including our residents, that is adequate and proportionate.

- 5.4 Having an agreed Corporate Plan will provide context and basis to inform the development of the financial strategy and budget setting and relationships with all third parties, including contractors, the voluntary sector and residents, embracing change and transformation as necessary.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan is a key strategy of the Council, setting out the priorities that will guide what the Council commits to deliver, enable and influence. In doing so, as well as informing what staff do, the plan also shapes what Members will be focusing on e.g. through their work on overview and scrutiny committees.
- 6.2 Having an agreed plan in place, alongside the Financial Plan and Improvement Plan, will provide the focus for the business plans and budget planning and setting by the Council – helping to ensure our commitments are grounded in the reality of our financial position. It will also support discussions and decision making with partners locally, including the development of a Partnership Plan, as well as position the Council for discussions regionally and nationally.

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

[New Directions for Shropshire](#) – Council 25 September 2025

[Improvement Plan](#) – Council 11 December 2025

[Medium-term Financial Plan 2026/27- 2030/31](#) – Council 26 February 2026

Local Member: *All*

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix 1: Draft Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Appendix 2: ESHIA Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Rebuilding Shropshire Together

May 2026

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Appendix 1

Draft for consideration by
Cabinet 06/05/26



Shropshire Council is at a pivotal moment. Our financial position means we need to live within our means, while we build a stronger future for our county and its communities.

We are setting a new direction for the Council over the next four years, rooted in realism, responsibility and ambition. Our plan reflects both the challenges we face and the opportunities we must grasp. It is focused on **rebuilding Shropshire together**.

Financial sustainability underpins this Plan. We must be honest about the resources available to us and disciplined in how we use them. That means being focused on needs, not wants, and ensuring that every pound we spend delivers the greatest possible benefit and impact for our residents and communities. This Corporate Plan therefore goes hand-in-hand with our Improvement Plan and Financial Plan, providing a single, coherent direction for the Council. One that is focussed on achieving financial sustainability and delivering our statutory responsibilities in the most effective, efficient, and economical way.

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To do this, our role and purpose as a Council must change. We will continue to focus on our responsibilities, particularly in supporting and protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities and our ambition to be a child friendly Shropshire. But we also recognise that we cannot deliver everything alone. Increasingly, our role must be enabling, facilitating and influencing — working with our partners, town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sector, businesses and, most importantly, our communities — to achieve outcomes, develop and embed resilience, and realise the greatest possible impact for Shropshire and its residents.

This Plan is built around clear priority ambitions and outcomes. It focuses on what we know matters most to Shropshire: connected communities; safe and inclusive places with homes that meet people's needs; opportunities for people to thrive and be healthy at every stage of life; a protected environment that promotes wellbeing; a fair and thriving economy - all supported by a Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and a workforce that is supported to excel. These priorities reflect both the realities of Shropshire today and the future we are planning for.

We want communities across Shropshire to feel pride in where they live, confidence in the services they rely on, and trust that the Council is focused on the right things. That means working in partnership, listening carefully, and being open about the challenges we face as well as the opportunities ahead. We will work in line with our organisational values and future council principles which together guide our behaviours and actions.

By being clear about our priorities, aligning our resources, and working together around shared outcomes, we can build a Shropshire that is sustainable, connected and resilient.

Councillor Heather Kidd
Leader of Shropshire Council

Tanya Miles
Interim Chief Executive, Shropshire Council

Sustainable – Resilient – Together

Sustainable: We need to live within our means, protect our environment and support a strong local economy, so services and opportunities remain sustainable for the long term

Resilient: We want to build strong communities that can respond to change and future challenges, where people stay healthier and independent for longer, and where council services are there when they are most needed.

Together: We want to be a council that works closely with its communities and partners, and a county that is well connected, so people can easily access services, opportunities and support they need.



Section	Purpose	Page
1. Introduction	This section explains the purpose of the Plan, its relationship with other strategic documents such as the Improvement Plan and the Financial Strategy	4
2. Our context	This section summarises what Shropshire is like currently and how it is expected to look in the future, providing the context to our priority ambitions.	9
3. Our ambitions and what we will focus on	This section sets out the priority ambitions and what the council will be focused on, which have been informed by a range of data, evidence and engagement.	12
4 How we will work and making sure we deliver	This section provides a summary of the arrangements that provide assurance we are delivering the Plan. It sets out how the Council will measure delivery against priority ambitions through a new performance framework and shares our values and future council principles which guide how we operate and deliver.	20

Section 1 Introduction



Purpose of this Plan

This Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets out the priority ambitions we will focus on as a Council over the next four years to deliver, enable, and influence better outcomes for Shropshire and its residents, while becoming financially sustainable.

The Plan provides the context for how we plan our activity and spend our money. Alongside our Improvement Plan and Financial Plan, it provides a clear strategic basis for our decision-making and everything we do.

The Plan helps us to stay focused on what is most important for Shropshire, aligned to our financial sustainability, and our continued improvement as an organisation.

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Working with our partners and communities we want Shropshire to be a place where....

- there is a financially sustainable council, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel
- communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
- people live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
- everyone has an opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life
- an environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing
- a thriving economy that benefits everyone



Data, insight and engagement that have informed the Plan

The Plan and its priorities have been informed by a range of data and evidence. Our data led approach has been combined with insights from staff, elected members, our work with partners, and communities, and takes account of what we understand the international, national, regional, and local socio-economic and policy landscape is likely to be over the next few years and further into the future.

The Plan has also been shaped by the financial position of the Council. While we remain ambitious about the outcomes we want to see achieved for our county and residents, we also know that what the council can deliver is dependent on its financial sustainability, and our improvement as an organisation, and a need to focus on what we are statutorily required to deliver, enable and influence.

The Plan has been informed by:

- ['A New Direction'](#) presented to the Council meeting in September 2025, outlining the strategic direction and priorities proposed by the administration
- Data and evidence provided by the Council's Business and Intelligence Team, drawing on a range of data sources and other insights, including forecasting what Shropshire could be like in 2050 to inform a long-term context.
- Engagement and consultation – including resident engagement carried out during 2025 and the recent Budget Consultation (December 2025 - January 2026). Engagement has also been carried out with council staff, elected members, residents and partners during February, March and April 2026.
- Existing priorities, plans and strategies – including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, Economic Growth Strategy, Waste Prevention Strategy and Youth Strategy.

- Statutory requirements – including ensuring vulnerable people are safe and have access to the care they need, access to social housing and specialist housing for those who need it, and the health and well-being of Shropshire communities.
- Our Medium-Term Financial Plan and Improvement Plan – recognising that the Council needs to be realistic about what can be achieved given its financial position and the need to continue to deliver less and enable more.

Three Plans: One Direction

The Corporate Plan does not stand alone. It is part of our suite of strategic plans that together set the direction for the Council – including:

- i. The Improvement Plan which sets out how we will improve as an organisation so we can operate in the most effective, efficient and economical way
- ii. Our Financial Plan which summarises the financial position, and how we will reduce our reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government and become financially sustainable over the medium term

Together they set the strategic direction for the council over the coming 4 years, establishing the foundation for the council to be financially sustainable, and better equipped to deliver, enable and influence outcomes for residents and communities

The Plans provide the context and basis for our business and budget planning, helping to shape the focus and priorities for our service plans, teams and individuals – ensuring everything we do is focused on our financial sustainability, our organisational improvement, or the ambitions set out in this Plan.

Organisational Improvement

The Council's Improvement Plan was agreed by Council on the 11 December 2025. The Plan was developed as a response to:

- Feedback in various external reports which made recommendations to address the financial position and improve other areas including corporate governance.
- A 'financial emergency' declared by the Cabinet in September 2025, which required immediate actions to reduce overspending.

The Statutory 'Best Value' Guidance for councils which sets out the characteristics of a well-functioning authority. We know there are areas to improve before we can confidently demonstrate excellence against all characteristics.

The Improvement Plan sets out the priorities and programmes of action, to achieve the aims of being a council that:

- Is financially stable and sustainable
- Has clear priorities and purpose:
- Supports and enables its workforce to excel

Our People Plan has been developed to drive forward how we support and enable our staff and ensure to deliver the services and change required.

The Improvement Plan also sets out the future council principles which will guide how we work and provide a basis for our continued improvement and transformation into a council that is financially sustainable and equipped to deliver, enable, and influence the ambitions and outcomes set out in this Corporate Plan in the most effective, efficient and economical way.

Financial Sustainability

We need to ensure the Council can deliver outcomes now and in the future within its available resources. Our Medium-Term Financial Plan, agreed by the Council on the 26 February 2026, includes a commitment to develop a Financial Sustainability Strategy setting out how the Council will reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government.

This includes a transformation portfolio driven by the Future Council principles (page 22) and focused on modernising and changing how we do things to:

- Reduce the cost of services and operate more efficiently as an organisation
- Generate additional income from a variety of sources
- Reduce demand for services with a focus on early help and prevention
- Work in partnership, ensuring residents receive support they need, but not necessarily through council services
- Use digital technology to improve and enable service delivery

Economic growth can also make a contribution to our financial sustainability by broadening the local tax base and reducing demand-led pressures, while also creating jobs, raising incomes and improving life chances and opportunities for residents.

We will also continue to make an evidence-based case for Government funding that is more aligned to the demographics and rurality of Shropshire.

Our financial and non-financial strategies will be aligned with this Corporate Plan and a common focus of ensuring residents and businesses receive appropriate services that are affordable within the Council's financial resources. We will review what we will be doing to realise our ambitions each year to ensure that we are doing this. This may mean our aspirations and ambitions need to be lowered.

Delivering our ambitions and priorities

This Corporate Plan is a strategic framework rather than a detailed delivery plan. What we deliver, enable and influence against the priority ambitions will be determined and driven through a range of strategies, service plans and programmes. For each of the ambitions we have listed the key plans and strategies that drive our delivery, role and purpose. Many of these will be reviewed and revised over the coming months.

Partnership working: We work with and through a range of partnerships to deliver services and outcomes, recognising that modern local government no longer delivers outcomes on its own. These partners and partnerships are also listed and include a range of statutory and non-statutory partnerships.

Prevention and reducing demand: We are committed to promoting prevention and resilience, and reducing demand, for services and support, resolving issues as soon as possible. We take a targeted approach to tackling inequalities, improving how we do what we do, and making sure that people get the right support at the right time helping to prevent problems before they arise.

Reviewing our priorities: Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children’s social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year, as well as the review and refresh of strategies, to determine commitments and activity, ensuring they remain aligned to resources available.

Participation and engagement: We will redesign and strengthen how we work together with our communities and those who require support and services to deliver, enable and influence sustainable outcomes.

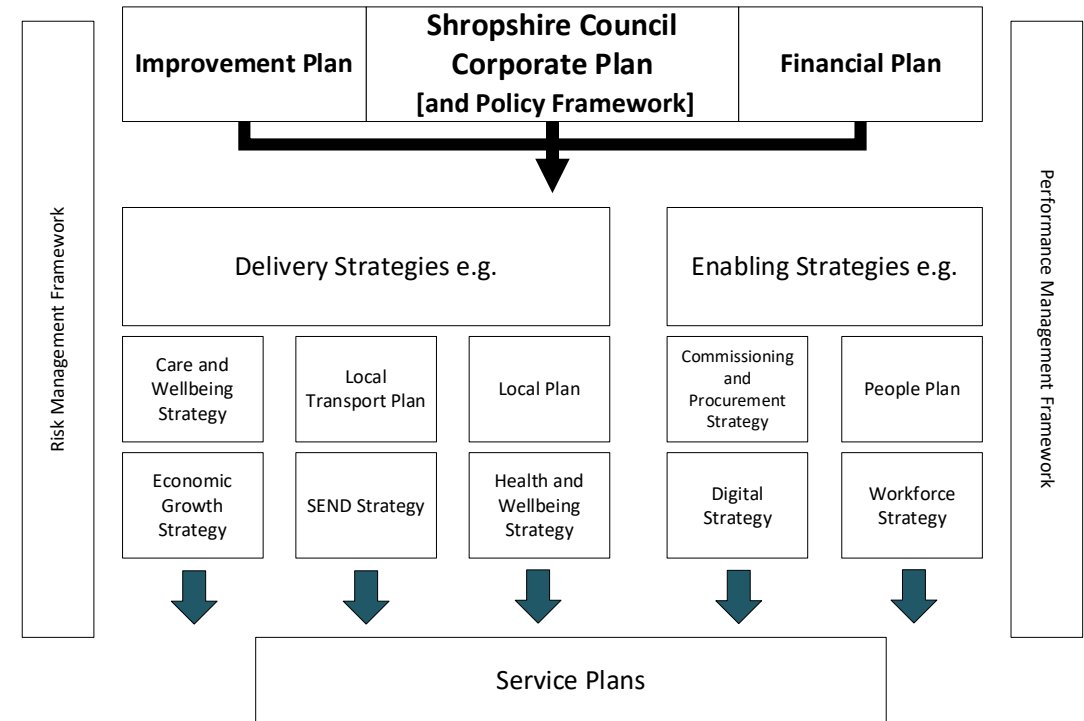


Figure 1: How our plans and strategies work together to deliver our priorities and ambitions.

Section 2 Our context



National and regional policy direction

Our Corporate Plan needs to set the direction for the council in the context of national policy and likely changes and developments that are expected to follow them. For example, the new requirements for Spatial Development Strategy and national reforms in Children's Social care

Cross border relationships and working

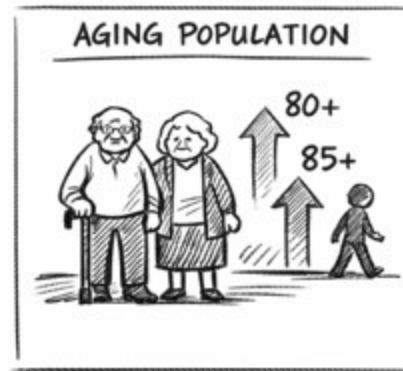
Our border with Wales and our close geographic, environmental, social and economic relationships with our neighbouring Welsh Local Authorities, such as Powys County Council, is reflected in our partnerships and our role needs to be recognised in our strategic plans. Some examples include the Marches Forward Partnership and the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme.



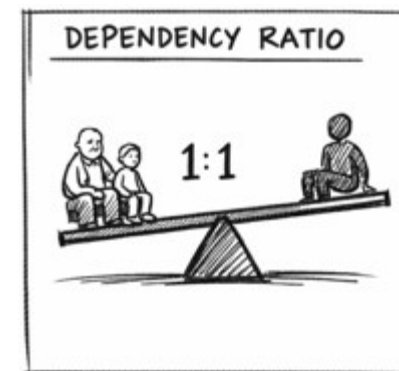
We have used long-term data and forecasts to understand how Shropshire may change by 2050 and what we need to do now to shape a positive future. An ageing population and more people living with long-term conditions will increase demand for care and support, making promoting prevention, healthy choices and strong communities more important than ever. We also need a strong local economy that builds on Shropshire’s strengths, including its natural environment, tourism, agriculture and health and care, while attracting and retaining young people through good jobs, affordable homes and a great quality of life, and making Shropshire child friendly. As a large and rural county, reliable highways, active travel opportunities, and digital connectivity are essential to help people stay connected to work, education, services, family and friends. Our plans must also help communities adapt to climate change and strengthen resilience for the years ahead.



More people will live in Shropshire, increasing pressure and demand on homes, services, highways and local infrastructure.



Many more residents will be much older, while fewer children and young adults will live in the county.



There will be almost one person needing support for every person of working age.



More residents will live with long-term illness or disability, driving much higher demand for care and support.



More people aged 65+ will live alone and fewer families with children will need homes that suit different life stages.



Hotter summers and wetter winters will increase health risks, flooding, travel disruption and damage to homes and businesses

Section 3

Our ambitions and what we will focus on



This section sets out priority ambitions we will focus on to guide what we deliver, enable and influence for Shropshire and its residents. It sets out the direction that the council is working towards.

For each of these ambitions we have summarised:

- **Why it is a priority for Shropshire:** so that people understand why it is important for our county and communities, and why we need to focus on it. (*Why*)
- **What we will focus on:** sets out the areas that matter most, helping people understand where the Council's attention will be directed, including statutory responsibilities and existing plans. These priorities will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant. Detailed delivery commitments will be set out through service plans and new strategies, aligned to the Council's financial position and available resources. (*What*)
- **The plans, programmes and strategies** that help to deliver the ambitions demonstrating our current commitments and strategic intentions. The strategies and plans listed in the following sections are examples of those we have in place and are not an exhaustive list. (*How*)
- **Partners and partnerships we work with to realise the ambitions:** so people understand that we work with and through a range of partnerships (statutory and non-statutory) to deliver services and outcomes, recognising that modern local government no longer delivers outcomes on its own. Where there is joint delivery, we will be clear about our contribution, dependencies and risks, and report progress transparently. (*How*)

Our ambitions and focus



Why

What

How

Our ambition

A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel

Why this is a priority

There have been several events, external reports and recommendations identifying areas where the Council needs to improve, including a 'financial emergency' declared by the Cabinet in September 2025. A Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge delivered in July 2025 provided observations and recommendations for improvement, including addressing the financial position and other areas of how the Council operates – including corporate governance and employee engagement. An External Auditor letter and subsequent Statutory Recommendation identified that the Council must take steps to review service delivery, improve robustness of savings plans and prevent reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The Best Value Duty Statutory Guidance for Best Value Authorities provides the characteristics of a well-functioning authority, and we know that there are areas to improve on before we can confidently demonstrate excellence against all characteristics.

Page 29
What we will focus on

- Delivering our Improvement Plan, reviewing and refreshing priority programmes to respond to changing circumstances and context
- Implementing a Financial Sustainability Strategy, as part of our overall Financial Plan, that reduces our reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the government.
- Delivering a programme of transformation and change that is driven by the Financial Sustainability Strategy to reduce costs and increase income
- Strengthening financial management practices including procurement and contract management, budget monitoring and forecasting, income collection and debt recovery
- Implementing our People Plan to become an organisation people are proud to work for, feel valued, and can thrive with the right support and development
- Developing how the council supports, enables, empowers and influences others to deliver priority outcomes

- Improvement Plan
- People Plan
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Capital Strategy
- Digital Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Risk Management Strategy

Plans, strategies and programmes

- Shropshire Council Improvement and Assurance Board (SCIAB)
- Local Government Association (LGA)

Partners and partnerships

Our ambition

Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure

Why this is a priority

Shropshire is the 2nd largest inland council (1,235 square miles) and its rural character makes good roads and transport vital. There are 3,240 miles of highways with 91% classed as rural, and with long distances between our towns, services and employment, we know people rely on safe, well-maintained roads to go about their daily lives. Greener and more flexible transport options help reduce isolation, support those without access to a car, and keep our market towns vibrant. Improving travel times and infrastructure strengthens the whole county by opening up opportunities for work, education and healthcare, especially in our most remote communities, contributing to physical, mental and economic health. Expanding public transport, cycling, walking and EV access, can also help protect Shropshire’s natural environment while helping people move more freely, affordably and sustainably. For a county as large, rural and community focused as ours, getting transport right isn’t just practical – it is essential for fairness, wellbeing and long-term prosperity.

What we will focus on

- Tackling potholes and improving the condition of our roads – through our highway maintenance contract and service, understanding risk and within available resources.
- Maintain our transport infrastructure and Rights of Way in line with our asset management strategy
- Develop plans and strategies that promote joined up transport and infrastructure, alongside housing growth, economic development and environmental protection
- Work with partners to deliver integrated public transport (e.g. bus, rail, demand responsive services, community transport) and sustainable travel options, including active travel, across urban and rural areas
- Work with partners and communities to improve road safety through education, reviewing speed and weight limits, enforcement, and engineering measures
- Enable the rollout of EV charging infrastructure across the county, utilising the DfT Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund

- Local Transport Plan 4
Local Plan
Spatial Development Strategy
Economic Growth Strategy
Local Cycling & Walking infrastructure Plan
Bus Service Improvement Plan
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)
Programme

**Plans,
strategies
and
programmes**

- Town and Parish Councils
Voluntary and Community Sector –
Community Transport
National Infrastructure Network
Management Organisations
Transport providers
Regional and national funding bodies

**Partners and
partnerships**

Our ambition

People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs

Why this is a priority

As a large area with dispersed communities, where more than 50% of the population live in rural areas, Shropshire's future success depends on creating the conditions for safe, stable and resilient places to live. Ensuring access to appropriate, affordable and well-located housing is essential for supporting community cohesion, enabling people to remain in their local areas, and sustaining the services that rural communities rely on. Improving the health and well-being of residents and reducing inequalities in health outcomes is a key contributor. Strengthening community safety—through coordinated prevention, early intervention and safeguarding—helps protect vulnerable residents, reduces crime and antisocial behaviour, and builds public confidence. By working closely with partners, local stakeholders and communities, Shropshire can create a more integrated system that tackles the root causes of housing pressures and safety concerns, reduces demand on the council and public services, and supports sustainable, inclusive growth across the county.

What we will focus on

Developing a Local Plan that meets the Government's requirements for Shropshire and addresses locally identified housing in communities through the affordability and mix of housing type and tenure, enabling people to live in communities closer to where they work and their social support and networks.

Encouraging and empowering communities to act locally and be proud of their area and promote increased opportunities to share knowledge and skills in communities.

Tackling health inequalities and promoting safety and well-being in our communities, including by statutory and regulatory action, embedding prevention through our work with partners.

Implementing the Local Youth Offer, working with our partners to transform and embed it in early intervention and prevention, education, health and community safety.

Working with our partners to develop and deliver a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and safe accommodation through our Domestic Abuse Partnership.

Working with our partners to tackle crime and disorder in Shropshire and increase safety and resilience of our more vulnerable communities.

Housing Strategy
Local Plan
Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy
Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy
Youth Strategy
Community Safety Partnership Strategy
Children's Service Reform Plan

Plans, strategies and programmes

Registered Housing Providers
Businesses and Employers
Housing providers, builders, developers
West Mercia Police
Fire and Rescue Service
Safeguarding Community Partnership
Town and Parish Councils
Voluntary and Community Sector

Partners and partnerships

Our ambition

Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life

**Why this is a
priority**

Our older population is significantly higher than the national average (26.4% v.19.5% ONS 2024 mid year estimate) and is forecast to continue to grow further over the coming years. We have children and families who also need our help and support. Tackling inequalities and improving wellbeing in our communities helps people have better outcomes and reduces demand for support. Our children, adults, families, and carers need access to the right support and care for their needs at the right time, delivered through good quality sustainable services. There are a range of national children’s services reforms to implement as we develop a child friendly Shropshire, and a continued need to work with our partners to safeguard vulnerable people of all ages. Our work with our partners across the NHS, VCSE, care and housing providers, and communities also delivers integrated, multiagency support including through hubs, promoting independence, and safe transitions—particularly when people leave hospital and where young people move from children’s social care into adulthood. Early intervention and prevention can help reduce long term needs and promote independence, enabling people to live in the right home with the right support, if and when they need it, and ensure that those working in health and care can live and work within the communities they serve, supporting a resilient locally anchored workforce.

**What we will
focus on**

Delivering our statutory duties for Adult Social Care and Children’s social Care including supporting vulnerable people to live in safe and caring homes and ensuring that they have their voices heard.

Our ambition to be a ‘child friendly’ county and responding to the national Children’s Social Care reforms

Supporting people who are moving through life events e.g. from children’s social care to adulthood and adulthood to older age

Supporting people of all ages to be as independent as they can be and lead fulfilling lives including working with our partners to enable children to achieve their potential

Delivering our statutory public health and protection responsibilities including work with our partners in our communities to improve wellbeing and address inequalities

Fulfilling the Council’s statutory education responsibilities and work with schools and partners to support improved outcomes, including enabling children and young people with SEND (EHCP) to be supported in mainstream education

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Prevention Framework
Inequalities Plan
Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy
Education Excellence strategy
All-Age Autism Strategy
All-Age Carers Strategy
Youth Strategy
Children’s Participation & Impact Strategy
SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy

**Plans,
strategies
and
programmes**

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Trusts
Primary Care Networks, GP practices and community health providers
Partners in Care (Social Care Providers)
Schools and Further Education colleges
Voluntary and Community Sector

**Partners and
partnerships**

Our ambition

An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing

Why this is a priority

Shropshire’s natural and historic environment and cultural economy is one of our greatest assets, economically and for its contribution to improving the mental and physical health of our residents. 23% of the area is designated as an AONB and we have one of the largest rights of way networks in England, but the amount of accessible green space (27.84sqm) is below the recommended level (28.2sqm) and forecast to reduce. Creating the conditions for healthier lifestyle choices enables and empowers people to take control of their own health and wellbeing and become less reliant on public services. Climate change continues, and it is important we remain prepared for the challenges and opportunities arising from it. Continuing to deliver our climate change strategy and progressing towards carbon neutrality for both the council and the wider county is central to securing a resilient, sustainable future. Investing in green infrastructure, including local area energy plans, and driving nature recovery through strong local partnerships helps with this. There are a range of statutory responsibilities under the Climate Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 to minimise waste and promote sustainable behaviours across communities.

What we will focus on

Aligning our health improvement activity and promoting the positive role of the environment with national priorities and working in prioritised neighbourhoods and hubs to focus action where it matters most.

Improving population health through a 'Health in All Policies' approach and strengthening public protection

Encouraging and empowering our communities and stakeholders, to progress the environment policy and requirements, and continue to promote climate action and work towards being carbon neutral.

Delivering our statutory environmental duties including our Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and other regulations that help support pollution control nature restoration, climate change and public wellbeing.

Working with our neighbouring councils, land-owners and voluntary groups to prepare for and respond to the impact of climate change and waste minimisation.

Building local area energy planning into our planning activity

Local Plan
Health & Wellbeing Strategy
Corporate Climate Strategy & Action Plan
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy
Waste Prevention Strategy for Shropshire

**Plans,
strategies
and
programmes**

Primary Care Networks, GP practices and community health providers
Voluntary and Community Sector
Town and Parish Councils
Marches Forward Partnership
Landowners

**Partners and
partnerships**

Our ambition

A thriving economy that benefits everyone

Why this is a priority

Shropshire’s long-term prosperity depends on creating the right conditions for sustainable growth, productive businesses, and a skilled local workforce. A clear spatial development strategy with strong links and relationships with our neighbouring councils, will enable us to shape growth in a way that strengthens communities, supports key economic sectors and contributes to our financial sustainability as a council. Ensuring that skills provision aligns with current and future labour market demand will help retain young people and working age adults, while giving employers reliable access to a strong local talent pipeline. Continued investment in digital and mobile connectivity is essential for enabling businesses to innovate and compete, particularly in rural areas. By maximising the county’s distinctive strengths and opportunities – including being a destination people choose to visit, the renewable and green economy, evolving agricultural and engineering technologies, health and care, and nationally significant heritage skills – Shropshire can attract new investment and safeguard high value employment. Expanding apprenticeships, training, and work pathways further increases opportunity and participation, underpinning a resilient, future ready economy.

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What we will focus on

- Setting a clear direction and strategy for our economy to attract investment, linking to transport infrastructure and housing provision and supporting key economic sectors
- Delivery of a Destination Management Plan to grow tourism, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, enhance access and inclusion and follow restorative tourism practices
- Influencing and working with utilities and telecoms sectors to deliver future-proof mobile, broadband, and wider infrastructure that supports development, businesses, and economic growth across Shropshire
- Ensuring the development of our economy has robust links to our plans for homes, transport and infrastructure
- Working with business sectors, schools and higher education providers to understand the skills gaps and workforce capacity to realise the opportunities from demographic, technological, and economic change
- Working with our partners to retain and attract young people to choose Shropshire to work and live in, including the development and promotion of clearer career pathways and opportunities

Local Plan
Economic Growth Strategy
Spatial Development Strategy
Local Transport Plan
Get Marches Working Plan
Shropshire Education
Destination Management Plan (DMP)

**Plans,
strategies
and
programmes**

Marches Forward Partnership
Integrated Care Board
Department of Work and Pensions
Local businesses and business networks
Schools, HE and FE colleges
West Midlands Combined Authority
Town partnerships and place-based groups e.g. Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership, Future Oswestry

**Partners
and
partnerships**

Section 4 How we work – Making Sure We Deliver





Figure 2: our organisational values

Our **values** drive our culture, building strong partnerships, developed by good relationships, working together, with respect, creating opportunities, seeking understanding and developing a 'can do' culture with high standards



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Figure 3: principles that guide how we operate, improve and transform

Our **principles** guide how we work and provide a basis for our continued improvement and development into a council that is financially sustainable and equipped to deliver, enable, and influence for Shropshire and its residents in the most effective, efficient and economical way.

Performance Management Framework

Alongside this new Corporate Plan, a strengthened Performance Management Framework is being developed to ensure everyone in the organisation is working towards the ambitions set out in the Corporate Plan, our Improvement Plan, and our aim of financial sustainability.

The key features of the Performance Management Framework are:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** A set of KPIs helps demonstrate the outcomes we are trying to improve and the progress and impact we are making. These will draw on the nationally set Local Outcomes Framework (LOF) as well as including other measures we identify locally.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Quarterly reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees against the Corporate Plan KPIs. Additionally, we will produce an *Annual Review Report* summarising delivery and impact against the Corporate Plan priorities.
- **Annual review of what we will focus on:** Will enable an agile response to changes and developments that require amendments to our priorities, ensuring that what we are focusing on aligns to the financial sustainability of the Council.
- **Business and Budget Planning:** Directorates and service areas produce a Service Plan, setting out their contribution to the delivery of the Corporate Plan
- **Performance Development Reviews (PDRs):** ensures a clear link between individual objectives, directorate/service plans and the Corporate Plan, Improvement Plan and Financial Plan. This is the 'golden thread' (figure 3) which enables staff to understand how they contribute to delivering the council's overall priorities.

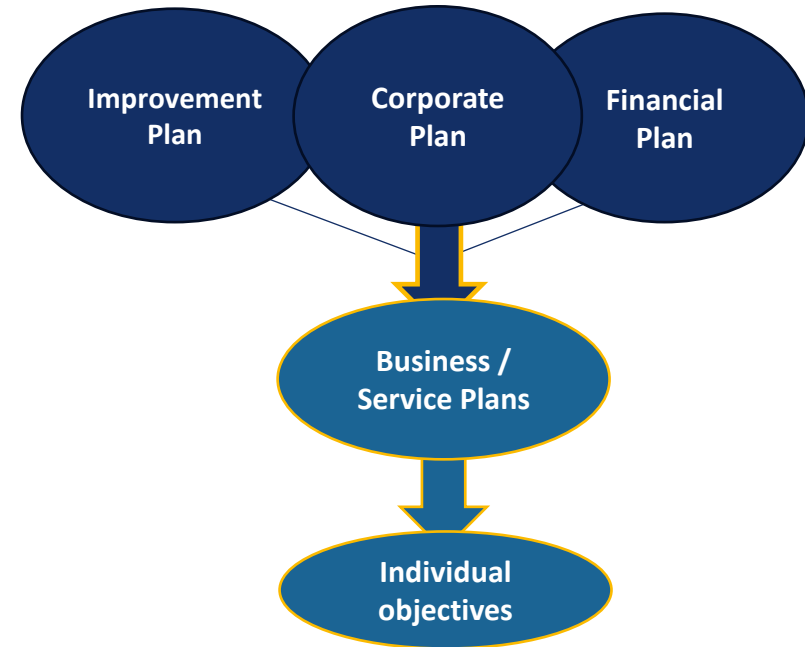


Figure 3: The 'Golden Thread'

Communication and engagement

Regular communication on the plan and progress and impact will take place to ensure that staff and Members are kept up to date. This will keep the delivery of the plan firmly in focus and partners and residents will also be kept informed about the delivery of the plan.

There will be ongoing engagement with staff as the plan rolls out which will form part of the Council's redeveloped staff engagement approach. There will also be engagement as appropriate and required with residents and those who receive services as projects to deliver the plan are implemented.

Rebuilding Shropshire Together

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Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2026

Please note that part A and part B of this document should be completed.

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
<i>Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030</i>

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
<i>Tom Dodds</i>

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (Stage One) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

If completion of a Stage One screening assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above, and complete both part A and part B of of this template. If a Full or Stage Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative impact or positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
<p>The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council's direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire's future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership.</p> <p>As an overarching plan, the Corporate Plan sets out high-level views of what the Council will be focusing on delivering. It has strong links to the Council's current and emerging strategies, including those in partnership, whether with organisations through the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin ICS, or with town and parish councils. Actions identified in the delivery plans may require ESHIAs of their own.</p> <p>The Plan's priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including local data and insight, resident and</p>

organisational feedback (including budget consultation), and engagement with staff, councillors, residents and partners. This has aided the stocktake assessment, grounding it in evidence and setting the scene for ongoing engagement across all groupings in the community and in the workforce.

The Equality Act 2010 describes nine Protected Characteristic groupings or characteristics that people may share, eg Age, Disability, Race. Local authorities such as ourselves and other public sector organisations are obliged to have 'due regard' to the needs of people in these groupings in our decision-making processes. In this stocktake ESHIA record, initial assessment of the Corporate Plan in its draft form is that there is potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact across all nine groupings, as well as for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care. The Council also considers those in the grouping of **veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families**, in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that 'due regard' is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021.

Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households in our large and sparsely populated rural county; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances. Inclusion health groups (those with multiple overlapping risk factors) are also included.

At this stage, the anticipated likely positive impacts include mitigation and prevention of poor health outcomes and promotion of positive health outcomes through the current, and to be refreshed Health and Wellbeing strategy, developing a thriving economy which will include better paid jobs and carbon reduction. Priorities include efforts to address inequalities; to identify and support vulnerable children, young people, adults and families; to ensure that there is a range of affordable and appropriate and specialised accommodation; and to achieve shared priorities with partners around transport; digital and mobile connectivity; employment, skills and the economy; and the environment.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

As a strategic document for the Council, the priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan encompass both health and wellbeing across all groupings, with a policy intention to contribute positively to the wider determinants of health.

There is a clarity of focus on:

- Tackling and reducing health inequalities

- Promoting well-being, including the role of the environment for physical and mental health, through Planning Policy and promotion of/access to Shropshire's natural landscapes.
- Embedding prevention and early intervention with partners
- Enabling communities to be safe
- Partnership working to tackle domestic abuse
- Supporting people as they move through life events, with an understanding of predicted demographic change and service demand planning.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The delivery of the Corporate Plan priority ambitions is a central component of the Council's Performance Management Framework which is being refreshed and strengthened alongside the new plan.

Performance dashboards will set out the relevant measures against each of the six priority ambitions. These will be maintained as the data becomes available, providing a rolling view of the progress and impact of the delivering the Council's priorities for officers and Members.

As well as the visibility of progress and impact from the dashboards there will also be quarterly reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet that will highlight key points by exception, providing the opportunity to identify any positive or negative impacts and any mitigating actions that will be taken.

There will be an annual review of progress against the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the intention is to share this using an Annual Report. This will be followed by annual Budget and Business Planning which will enable the council to be agile and responsive to changing needs and demands and ensure that resources are targeted where they need to be. Service Planning will be carried out each year to set out the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

This will provide the scope to identify any gaps relating to equalities issues arising from the circumstances in which people and households find themselves, including changes in circumstance driven by the significant rise in fuel costs and/or location in the county such as living in more rural areas, as well as challenges for individuals and their families, including hidden or more visible disabilities.

The delivery of the priorities will also be a central feature of annual Business and Budget Planning activity and the Service Plans that will be completed at Service Director or Head of Service level as appropriate. These will have more detail on the actions being taken. These plans and the projects and programmes set out within them will be available to inform the annual review and development of the Strategic for Overview and Scrutiny work programme that will identify opportunities for the committees to identify topics that they could look into during their work and add value for the Council and communities.

Projects progressing the key deliverables for the priority ambitions are likely to require ESHIAs and service areas will accordingly need to carry out engagement with the groups and communities within their scope, as well as potentially seeking expertise from cross-organisation teams where appropriate. The completed Service Plans can be reviewed to identify the actions and key deliverables that are expected to require an ESHIA.

Associated ESHIAs

The impact assessment carried out for the Shropshire Plan provides useful context. It may be viewed as such alongside ESHIAs carried out in relation to service area strategy and Council-wide strategy. Additionally, the ESHIA carried out for the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives Action Plan 2024-2028 provides policy context in regard to our efforts to comply with our Public Sector Equality Duty, to continue to work with partners and communities, and to demonstrate good practice in doing so. The ESHIA for the Action Plan may be found with Cabinet papers for November 2024, whilst the Action Plan itself is on our EDI pages of the website, along with our Annual Service User Diversity Reports and Workforce Diversity Reports.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact, and actions to review and monitor overall impacts, with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

A primary focus of the Plan is financial sustainability of the council. The scale and scope to which the delivery of the priority ambitions set out in the plan can and will be delivered will be set each year with this in mind.

Climate change

Climate change and the environment is cross-cutting against the six priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan e.g. in terms of EVs and green transport options, and the green economy. There is also a priority ambition on the environment that includes adaptation and resilience in relation to climate change impacts, as well as recognising the value and benefit of the environment on people's mental and physical well-being.

The achievement of the priority ambitions should support the Council to make good progress in realising our climate change ambitions and targets. Because the Corporate Plan is at the top of the council's 'Golden Thread', this focus and delivery actions will be written through the organisation e.g. in Service Plans.

The spotlight on tackling climate change in Shropshire will be maintained through the Council's Performance Management Framework with a focus on progress with the actions, projects and initiatives and the impact achieved. These will be monitored, reviewed, and reported, with action taken as required when the data is published, and they will be a feature of the Council's regular performance reporting and performance management work.

As progress is made and actions are completed, and new projects and programmes are developed, there will be scope within the delivery plan and the performance management framework to include them. They can be refreshed as and when required with new actions, measures and milestones added so that progress with and the impact of tackling climate change will always be current.

Economic and societal/wider community

As would be expected, the Corporate Plan has a strong view across all of the duties that the council is responsible for delivering, as well as areas where it plays a wider place leadership role, working with partners to achieve shared outcomes, especially where they might help prevent need and therefore demand for statutory services.

The Plan reinforces the Council's commitment to working in partnership with Town and Parish Councils, VCSE, and communities. It demonstrates recognition that the role and purpose of the council will change to having a stronger emphasis on enabling and influencing, as well as delivering services and discharging statutory functions in so doing.

There are priority ambitions that cover connected communities, safe and inclusive places, homes and housing, education and skills, jobs and the economy, and the environment. Cost-of-living and financial resilience programmes have been approved as part of the Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF) and will be delivered alongside partners for the period 2026 – 2029 who have been supported with additional (non-Council) grant funding provided by the Department for Work & Pensions.



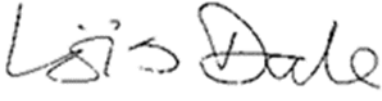

A reality for Shropshire is the long-standing trend that young people leave the area to study and for their careers, and whilst we have a growing population this is through inward migration, in the main by older people. The plan identifies that we need to consider social mobility opportunities that will make Shropshire attractive for young people to want to live and work here and for people to settle here and raise their families here.

Overall, deprivation in Shropshire is relatively low compared to the national picture. However, there are pockets of significant deprivation within certain areas and domains. Shropshire is much more deprived in the barriers to services domain and the living environment domain. Some very small, particularly rural, neighbourhoods with high deprivation may be hidden in the data as deprivation in rural areas tends to be more dispersed.

Also, in some cases people can be asset rich but cash poor, do not want to claim benefits or know what they are entitled to. For example, in our older population, many of whom are asset rich, some may still struggle to afford to heat their homes and afford the increasing cost of food. The costs of rural living can push people into poverty even if their incomes are above thresholds to claim benefits. Where possible, the CRF and programmes aim to support in these instances, either through providing cash-first payments, or more long-lasting resilience support


around income maximisation, budgeting, benefits advice or other support schemes.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer for the proposed service change		13/4/2026
Officer carrying out the screening		230/4/2026
External support* Mrs Lois Dale Senior Insights and Research EDI Specialist		19/04/2026
Phillip Northfield Public Health – Integration & Inequalities Officer		22/04/2026

*This refers to support external to the service and within the Council, e.g., the Senior Insights and Research EDI specialist, the Integration & Inequalities Officer – Public Health, other Insights and Research or Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, Climate Change specialists, etc.

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Lead officer's name		23.04.2026
Service manager's name		23.04.2026

*This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description

The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council's direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire's future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most

focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership.

The Plan sets out six priority ambitions

The six priority ambitions are:

1. A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce supported to excel
2. Communities that are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
3. People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
4. Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and to thrive at every stage of life
5. The environment is protected and people's wellbeing is supported
6. A fair, thriving economy benefits everyone

For each ambition the Plan explains why it is a priority for Shropshire and summarises the key things the Council will focus on delivering, enabling or influencing, including the strategies, plans, programmes and partners that we work with and through.

The Plan recognises the priority of financial sustainability. While it is important to have overall ambitions as a context for Council activity, the scale and pace of delivery against them must remain realistic and affordable. Service standards, levels of provision and the pace of delivery need to be aligned to available resources, recognising this may require difficult choices, reduced service levels in some areas, and prioritisation to ensure financial sustainability.

It will also require us to think about the role and purpose of the council in delivering outcomes, and a need to consider where it is more economical, efficient and effective to achieve outcomes by working differently with partners, partnerships, and communities themselves. This will involve a greater emphasis on enabling and influencing and exploring and maximising the opportunities of working in partnership with town and parish councils, Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) organisations, communities and through our statutory and non-statutory partnerships.

The Plan is a strategic framework. Delivery will be determined and driven through strategies, service plans and programmes. Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children's social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year to determine commitments and activity, aligned to resources available.

An annual review of the Plan and its commitments will enable an agile response to any changes and developments that require amendments to priorities and support

earlier conversations with partners on alternative delivery approaches ahead of autumn budget setting.

The annual review will form part of the performance management framework, demonstrating progress, delivery and impact against the Plan's ambitions. The framework will also include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be engaged in its development.

It is anticipated that those KPIs will include measures currently used to demonstrate performance against the Shropshire Plan, and metrics from the *Local Outcomes Framework*. That Framework, formally published in February 2026, sets out the key outcomes that central and local government want to achieve together for people and places, focusing on results that matter most to residents. The Framework will be presented to the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th June 2026 and Cabinet for approval on 10th June 2026.

Together with the Improvement Plan and Financial Strategy, the Corporate Plan forms the strategic basis for everything we do – setting out the priorities we need to focus on, how we will improve as an organisation to deliver those priorities in the most effective, economical and efficient way, and how we will become financially sustainable and reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government. The suite of plans sits top of the council's 'golden thread', aligning organisational priorities through to service planning and individual staff Performance Development Reviews.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

- All those who live in, work in and visit Shropshire
- Local elected councillors due to their community leadership roles
- Town and Parish Councils
- VCSE organisations and groups
- Health and social care organisations, including through the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin ICS
- Neighbouring local authorities and those with whom we work in strategic partnership, including the Britain's Leading Edge group of rural and coastal local authorities (BLE), the County Councils Network (CCN), the Rural Services Network (RSN), and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).
- Local Members of Parliament including through All Party Parliamentary Groups
- Government Departments and Agencies
- Bodies and teams with whom the Council is working in regard to its financial situation

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The Plan's priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including local data and insight, resident and organisational feedback (including budget consultation), engagement with staff, councillors, residents and partners, and consideration of national/regional policy developments, local priorities, statutory duties and responsibilities, the Improvement Plan and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

This includes Census data, IMD analysis, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and other research data collected and analysed at local, regional and national level.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

As per the above, there have been efforts to ensure that a range of feedback is sought across a range of audiences and through a number of communication mechanisms. This has aided the stocktake assessment, grounding it in evidence gathered and considered to date, and setting the scene for ongoing engagement across all groupings in the community and in the workforce.

Services must be aligned to the limited resources the Council has available whilst ensuring that we are delivering our statutory duties at the minimum statutory level. It is recognised that this involves some difficult decisions that need to be taken. Communications with our stakeholders, including our residents and those who advocate on their behalf, will need to be adequate and proportionate and transparent.

Having an agreed Corporate Plan will provide a context and basis to inform the development of the financial strategy and budget setting and relationships with all third parties, including contractors, the voluntary sector and residents, embracing change and transformation as necessary.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below this table)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have for a grouping, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young carers, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with a disability)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Disability</u> (please include cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Religion or Belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Neutral to low positive

<u>Sex</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness; and rural communities)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Other: Carers</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families (as per Armed Forces Act 2023)</u>				Neutral to low positive
<u>Other: Young people leaving care</u>				Neutral to low positive

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social				Neutral to low positive

inclusion, independence and participation? .				
<p>Will the proposal indirectly impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .</p>				Neutral to low positive
<p>Will the policy have a direct impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation? .</p>				Neutral to low positive
<p>Will there be a likely change in demand for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services? .</p>				Neutral assessment at this stage

Initial health equity assessment	
<p>For the following categories, please complete with the expected impacts of this service change on wider inequalities, not just those that are health-related (whether positive, negative, or neutral) – include any additional information you feel is pertinent or useful.</p> <p>Consider and record which you can control, which you can influence, and which may be out of your control.</p>	
Which population groups/demographics will face health impacts as a result of this change (if any)?	The Corporate Plan is a whole council plan that provides the direction that the council is taking over the coming 4 years. It identifies that there

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economically Deprived • Geographic Deprivation (inc. Rurality) – <i>if so, where?</i> • Inclusion Health & Vulnerable Groups¹ • Other 	<p>are particular communities that will benefit from more targeted support that will help address matters including health inequalities which might be as a result of access to services due to geography, socio economic situations, or as a result of illness or disability. The Plan should not impact negatively on any specific part of the community and should promote improved health equity.</p>
<p>What mitigations/enhancements are already in place, or what mitigations/enhancements do you plan to include for the foreseeable consequences of these changes?</p>	<p>The Plan provides a framework and direction that the delivery of the wider plans, strategies and programmes will support. The implementation of these will be the vehicles that takes forward the ambitions in this plan.</p> <p>The council will be developing how it works in partnership with local organisations, communities and other public sector organisations to deliver shared priorities and maximise the impact that can be realised for communities.</p>

1- *Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. Health impacts for this wide grouping will therefore potentially be the same as those recorded under the Social Inclusion category in the equality impact table.*

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Cabinet – 6 May 2026

Item

Council – 14 May 2026

Public



Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy

Responsible Officer:	Paul Clarke – Service Director (Strategy & Change)	
email:	paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk	
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Ruth Houghton - Portfolio Holder for Social Care (Adults and Children)	

1. Synopsis

This report presents the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 (Appendix 1) for approval. The Strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), in line with statutory duties, and has been informed by the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024 followed by public consultation and a completed Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) (Appendix 2).

This is a Partnership Strategy but is presented to Cabinet and Full Council for approval given the Council has a statutory leadership and co-ordination role for the Strategy under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out the Partnership’s shared approach to reducing domestic abuse and improving outcomes for victims, children and families over the next three years. The Strategy supports the ambitions in the draft Corporate Plan 2026-30, including safe places to live, opportunities to thrive and improved wellbeing.
- 2.2. The strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), informed by lived experience, local needs assessment evidence, and a public consultation held between February and March 2026. Alongside this, a Stage One Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been completed to assess the likely impacts of the strategy on protected and vulnerable groups.

- 2.3. The Strategy is structured around four inter-connected priorities:
- Victims – ensuring timely, trauma informed support and access to safe accommodation
 - Perpetrators – preventing harm and strengthening accountability and behaviour change
 - Workforce – building confidence, consistency and trauma informed practice
 - Community – strengthening awareness, prevention and shared responsibility
- 2.4. Consultation feedback demonstrated strong support for the strategy’s vision and priorities, with no substantive concerns requiring changes to the overall approach proposed. The ESHIA identifies a low to medium positive impact across protected characteristic groups and inclusion health populations, with actions identified to strengthen engagement with under-represented groups during implementation.
- 2.5. This is a Partnership Strategy, developed and owned collectively through the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. While Shropshire Council has a statutory leadership and coordination role under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the delivery of this strategy is a shared commitment across statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector. Implementation will rely on joint ownership, shared accountability, and coordinated action across agencies, rather than delivery by the Council alone.
- 2.6. The previous Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy was published in 2018. Since then, new legislation, updated needs assessments, Domestic Homicide Review learning, and changes in local need have required a refreshed strategic approach.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1. Agree the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1) and recommend its approval to Full Council
- 3.2. Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

Council is recommended to:

- 3.3 Approve the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1)
- 3.4 Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Failure to adopt the strategy would present a significant risk to the Council's ability to meet its statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It would also weaken strategic coordination, limit system learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, and reduce the Council's ability to demonstrate accountability and partnership leadership.
- 4.2. There is a risk that some groups were under-represented in the public consultation. This is mitigated through the ESHIA and a commitment to targeted engagement during delivery, particularly with minoritised and inclusion health groups.
- 4.3. Opportunities include strengthened partnership working, improved consistency of response, better use of evidence and lived experience, and more effective prevention and early intervention.
- 4.4. A key risk is the potential for fragmented delivery if partnership ownership is not maintained. This is mitigated through governance via the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which provides shared oversight, collective accountability and coordination across all partners.
- 4.5. Risk table

RISK	MITIGATION
Failure to meet statutory DA Act duties	Strategy approved and overseen by DALPB
Under-representation of some groups	Targeted engagement within action plan
Inconsistent implementation	Clear Governance and monitoring

There is no direct link to current strategic Risks

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands, and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet in September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial sustainability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):
 - scaling down initiatives,
 - changing the scope of activities,
 - delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
 - extending delivery timescales.
- 5.2. The Strategy itself does not commit the Council to new unfunded expenditure. Delivery will be supported through existing resources, external grant funding (including Domestic Abuse Act funding), and commissioning decisions brought

forward separately for approval as required. All activity will be subject to ongoing financial challenge in line with the Council's current financial position.

- 5.3. This Strategy does not represent a single organisation funding commitment. Delivery will be supported through a combination of resources, including Shropshire Council funding, external grant funding, and partner investment, both financial and in kind.
- 5.4. Statutory partners and voluntary and community sector organisations will continue to fund, commission and deliver activity within their own remits, aligned to the shared priorities set out in the strategy. Any future commissioning or funding decisions arising from the strategy will be brought forward separately for approval in line with established governance and financial processes.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The strategy has no direct negative impact on climate change. Where possible, delivery will promote digital engagement, reduce unnecessary travel, and align with the Council's wider climate commitments.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 provides a clear, shared framework for collective action across the partnership. It reflects a commitment by all partners, statutory and voluntary, to align effort, resources and expertise in order to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for victims, children and communities.
- 7.2. Approval of the strategy enables coordinated delivery, shared accountability and system-wide learning, while recognising that implementation will be achieved through joint ownership and partnership delivery, rather than through Shropshire Council alone.

List of Background Papers

- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Appendix 2: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029

Collectively endorsed and supported by all the following partners on the **Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board**:

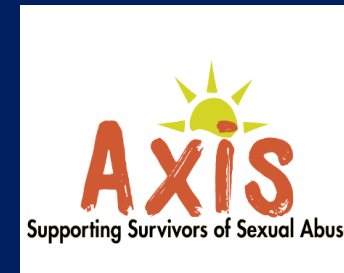


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If you need support, you are not alone

If you are being subjected to domestic abuse, or if you are worried about someone else, please remember there are support services who are ready to help. Taking the step to reach out—whether for yourself or on behalf of someone else—can feel daunting, but it is a sign of strength and courage. You do not have to manage this alone.

To find out more about the support available, please visit our [Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board webpage](#)

In an emergency:

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, **call 999 straight away**. If you are unable to speak, you can use the Silent Solution system by dialling 999 and pressing 55 when prompted—this will let the operator know you need urgent help without having to say anything.

“For survivors, a strategy is not an abstract document. It becomes real in the moment we reach out for help, often at the point of crisis, fear, exhaustion, or trauma. The priorities of this strategy should therefore be grounded in what survivors actually experience when engaging with systems that are meant to protect and support us.”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Foreword



"We welcome you to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029. Domestic abuse remains a significant concern in Shropshire and nationally, causing lasting harm to individuals, children, families, and communities. It deeply affects physical and mental health, can threaten housing and financial security, strain social connections, and at its worst, results in loss of life. Ending domestic abuse requires collective action. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) is dedicated to addressing domestic abuse. Success depends on coordinated efforts involving all sectors, people with lived experience, and the wider community. We thank everyone who contributed, especially victims and survivors whose experiences have shaped this strategic response."

Laura Fisher, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Chair



"Domestic abuse is a significant public health issue and a key area of focus highlighted in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, that impacts the wellbeing, safety and long term outcomes of individuals and families across Shropshire. As a partnership, we have a responsibility to respond with clarity, compassion and evidence based action. This strategy brings together partners from across our system to ensure victims and survivors receive timely, trauma informed support, and that prevention, early intervention and accountability are embedded in all that we do. It reflects the voices of those with lived experience and recognises the unique challenges of our rural county. By working collectively, we can reduce harm, strengthen community resilience, and create the conditions for every person in Shropshire to live free from abuse."

Rachel Robinson, Deputy Chair of Shropshire Community Safety Partnership and Shropshire's Director of Public Health



"I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and to the ambitions set out in this new strategy. Domestic abuse has profound and lasting impacts on health, wellbeing and safety, and we recognise our responsibility as health leaders to respond with compassion, clarity and action. This strategy places victims and survivors at its heart, strengthens accountability for those who cause harm, and empowers our communities and workforce to act confidently and early. Our nursing and wider clinical teams will continue to champion trauma informed practice, accessible routes to support and strong collaboration across agencies. We are committed to ensuring every person affected by domestic abuse is heard, protected and supported to rebuild their lives. Together, we will help shape a safer Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, one where domestic abuse is prevented, support is timely and effective, and every individual can live free from fear, harm and coercion."

Vanessa Whately, Interim Chief Nursing Officer for the Cluster of NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and NHS Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent



"Domestic abuse affects individuals, families and communities across Shropshire, and tackling it requires strong partnership working. This strategy brings together the insight of survivors, local partners and our workforce to set a clear, shared direction for preventing harm, supporting victims, and holding perpetrators to account. By working together across our rural county, we can build a safer Shropshire where people feel heard, protected and able to access the support they need".

Cllr Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care



"Domestic abuse destroys lives, and the rising number of cases in West Mercia underlines just how vital it is that we continue to invest in services and work collaboratively to protect victims and drive meaningful behaviour change. From our rural villages to our urban towns and cities, domestic abuse impacts all parts of West Mercia. That is why I am committed, as set out in my Safer Communities Plan, to doing all I can to ensure we deliver the support victims need, wherever they live, and to keep pushing for a society free from abuse."

John Campion, Police Crime Commissioner

Executive summary

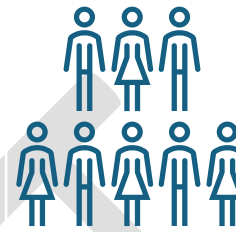
This strategy sets out a collaborative, multi-agency plan to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire over the next three years. Developed by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) in partnership with Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and input from the community.

This strategy focuses on the four priorities:

- Victims
- Perpetrators
- Workforce
- Community

The strategy recognises that ending domestic abuse in Shropshire requires collective action across all sectors and communities. It aligns with national legislation as outlined in The DA Act 2021 and will be delivered through a joint action plan overseen by the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

Progress will be monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure effective support and continuous improvement.



Co-production with those who have lived experience has been key to the development of this strategy.

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will oversee the progress of these strategic priorities through its accompanying delivery plan.

Priority 1: Victims

Priority 2: Perpetrators

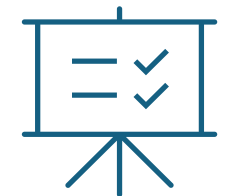
Priority 3: Community

Priority 4: Workforce



The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is responsible for the implementation of this strategy.

The strategy is underpinned by an action plan that will be championed by each partner within the Shropshire DALPB



Understanding domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, or violent behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, economic, digital abuse and so-called honour-based abuse. It is rarely limited to a single event; instead, it is most often characterised by a sustained pattern of behaviour that may escalate in frequency or severity over time.

For the full statutory definition of domestic abuse, [please see the Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#).

Domestic abuse is driven by a desire for power and control and increasingly, some perpetrators use technology such as smartphones, social media, GPS tracking, and digital monitoring to intimidate and control victims, extending abuse beyond physical spaces and into every aspect of daily life. Abuse may continue or intensify after separation, with long-term impacts on victims' emotional wellbeing, sense of safety, and ability to live independently.

Domestic abuse is perpetrated by people of all genders and occurs across all relationship types, including heterosexual and same-sex relationships, former partners, and within non-traditional family structures. Attempts to leave or end a relationship can increase risk, with abuse escalating through harassment, stalking, intimidation, threats, manipulation, and control via children, finances, housing, or ongoing communication.

Who Can Be Affected?

- Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, disability, or background. However, people's experiences of abuse—and their ability to access support—are shaped by wider social, cultural, and structural factors that influence risk, disclosure, and recovery.
- Children, including unborn children, who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, even where they are not directly subjected to abusive behaviour. Exposure to domestic abuse can have significant and long-lasting impacts on children's emotional wellbeing, development, behaviour, and life chances.
- Domestic abuse may occur within any personal relationship, including between intimate partners, ex-partners, family members, parents and children, siblings, carers, or individuals who share parental responsibility.
- Abuse may also extend to pets or animals, with threats, neglect, or harm used as a means of control, intimidation, and emotional manipulation. Fear for the safety of animals can present a significant barrier to leaving an abusive situation or seeking help.

Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA)

In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is recognised as an integral aspect of the broader definition of domestic abuse. In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is defined as harmful acts—physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, digital, stalking, harassment, coercive, controlling, or financial—by a child (any age) toward a parent, guardian, carer, or primary care provider. Siblings are also recognized as victims according to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Professionals prefer the term "child or young person causing harm/using harmful behaviour," when the child is under 16, and acknowledge these children may also be victims of abuse or trauma. CPA is treated as part of the broader definition of domestic abuse in Shropshire

Why women are at a higher risk of domestic abuse

While domestic abuse can affect anyone, national evidence consistently shows that women are disproportionately affected, both in terms of prevalence and severity. [The Office for National Statistics](#) estimates that in the year ending March 2025, 2.2 million women experienced domestic abuse, compared with 1.5 million men, meaning women were significantly more likely to be victims in the past year (ONS, 2025). Women also experience domestic abuse more frequently, over longer periods of time, and are more likely to be subjected to coercive control, sexual violence, and post separation abuse.

Evidence from the [Women's Aid Federation of England](#) further highlights the gendered nature of domestic abuse. Its Annual Audit 2025 shows that the vast majority of survivors accessing specialist domestic abuse services are women, most of whom have experienced sustained abuse over an average of several years, often alongside caring responsibilities for children. Women's Aid also reports that abuse is overwhelmingly perpetrated by male partners or ex partners, reinforcing the link between domestic abuse and wider patterns of violence against women and girls.

The risks faced by women increase at key points, particularly during pregnancy, separation, and attempts to leave an abusive relationship. Women are significantly more likely to experience escalating harm, stalking and harassment following separation, and remain at highest

risk of serious injury or death during these periods. National data consistently shows that women account for the majority of victims in domestic homicide cases, underscoring the need for early, coordinated and trauma informed intervention.

At the same time, women's experiences of domestic abuse are shaped by intersecting inequalities. Disabled women, women from minoritised ethnic communities, women with insecure immigration status, and women living in poverty or rural isolation face heightened risk and additional barriers to safety and support. Women's Aid highlights ongoing gaps in access to refuge and community-based services, particularly for those with complex needs, further compounding vulnerability.

Recognising that domestic abuse is a gendered crime does not diminish the experiences of male victims or those of other genders. Instead, it enables responses that are proportionate, evidence based and rooted in an understanding of risk. This strategy therefore adopts a gender informed, trauma aware approach that recognises women's heightened risk while remaining inclusive of all victims and responsive to diverse experiences.

This reflects the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, which identifies domestic abuse as a core form of gender-based violence requiring whole system, trauma informed responses to reduce harm and prevent escalation.

Barriers to Accessing Support

Despite the prevalence of domestic abuse, many victims encounter significant personal, practical, cultural, and systemic barriers when seeking help. These barriers often intersect, compounding risk and isolation. Common barriers include social isolation from friends and family, financial dependence on the perpetrator, fear of escalation or retaliation, stigma, lack of awareness of rights or available support, and difficulties accessing services. Barriers may also include dependence on the perpetrator for care or accommodation, language or communication needs, fear of discrimination or statutory involvement, and limited availability of specialist services. Some individuals face heightened risk or additional barriers to safety and support. This includes disabled and neurodivergent people, those from minoritised ethnic or faith communities, people with insecure immigration status, and those experiencing rural isolation.

Recognising and addressing these barriers is essential to ensuring that services, professionals, and communities respond proactively, equitably, and effectively to all those experiencing domestic abuse. Responses must be inclusive, trauma-informed, and adaptable to meet diverse and intersecting needs, particularly for those who may be less visible or face additional disadvantage.

Risks, impacts and our response

Domestic abuse places individuals at significant risk of serious harm and death and is closely associated with suicide, self-harm, and homicide—particularly where abuse is escalating or where victims attempt to resist, disclose, or leave. Domestic homicide reviews consistently identify coercive control, psychological abuse, separation, and isolation as key risk factors. Professor Jane Monckton Smith’s research shows similar escalation patterns in both domestic homicide and suicide cases linked to abuse, with her Suicide Timeline. This evidence reinforces that suicide in the context of domestic abuse is often a preventable outcome of prolonged harm, rather than an isolated incident. For further information around Shropshire’s strategy around suicide see the [Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy](#). For further information on domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides in England and Wales, see [the Domestic Abuse Homicide Project](#).

Recent research from the [Vulnerability Knowledge Practice Programme](#), national policing’s research and development unit, has reviewed all Domestic Homicide Reviews nationwide over four years. It found that “suspected victim suicides” following domestic abuse now outnumber homicides, emphasising the need to support those at risk of suicide as well as homicide. This research provides new insights into suicide risk factors, and locally, a 7-minute brief was created to summarise these details [here](#).

Domestic abuse can have lasting effects, causing emotional and psychological harm, substance misuse, homelessness, and social exclusion. It also impacts physical health, economic stability, and safe relationships. Children exposed to abuse face higher risks of emotional harm, behavioural issues, and poor educational outcomes.

Domestic Abuse in Rural Shropshire

Shropshire is a predominantly rural county, characterised by a dispersed population, considerable geographic distances, with numerous small towns and villages. This rural setting shapes daily life and presents distinct challenges, particularly in terms of access to services, public transport, and community resources.

Rurality shapes how domestic abuse is experienced and responded to, with evidence showing that abuse in rural areas can last longer and remain hidden for extended periods. The [Rural Crime Network's](#) 2019 Captive and Controlled report found that domestic abuse lasts on average up to 25% longer in rural areas. While subsequent research continues to highlight increased risk in rural communities, no updated national study has produced a revised comparative statistic to the one produced in 2019; therefore, the domestic abuse local partnership board has used this evidence to inform the strategy and will ensure rurality is embedded across all future action plans

Geographic isolation limited public transport, reduced access to specialist services and concerns about anonymity in close-knit communities can all create additional barriers to disclosure and support. These factors can increase risk and allow abuse to escalate, particularly where coercive control is present.

This strategy recognises rurality as a defining local factor and commits the Partnership to embedding a rural-aware approach across prevention, identification and support, ensuring responses are accessible, effective and responsive to the needs of people living in Shropshire's rural and dispersed communities.

The impact of living in rural areas often means that those experiencing domestic abuse face unique obstacles, such as longer distances to travel to access help and fewer available services tailored to their circumstances. In many small communities, survivors may worry about being recognised or judged, which can deter them from seeking assistance or reporting incidents.

Furthermore, perpetrators may exploit these conditions by restricting movement, monitoring communications, or isolating victims from potential sources of support. The heightened risk associated with these dynamics means abuse can persist for longer periods without intervention. Recognising these challenges, the strategy aims to strengthen outreach, increase training for professionals in rural settings, and develop innovative solutions—such as mobile and digital support—to ensure that no one is left behind.

We consulted with a specialist from Rural Initiatives Tackling Abuse (RITA), when shaping this strategy to ensure our collective action plans reflect the specific challenges and context of rural Shropshire. Further information on their work can be found at the [Churchill Fellowship](#).

“Rurality adds another layer of complexity. Survivors in rural areas may be isolated, have limited access to services, or fear lack of anonymity. Awareness campaigns and workforce training must account for these challenges, ensuring that prevention and support are accessible to all, regardless of geography”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Introduction

Developed by the [Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board \(DALPB\)](#) this strategy helps Shropshire Council meet statutory requirements by setting the strategic direction of support in safe accommodation for all victims. It also sets out how we will meet the wider needs of adults and children impacted by domestic abuse either as a victim or someone who uses harmful and abusive behaviours, and how we will support our communities and workforce in responding effectively and proportionately.

Co-production and the voice of lived experience

Victims and survivors from Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), led by Shropshire Council's Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT), have played a key role in shaping the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy, which has been vital in developing this strategy, making sure it is co-produced, inclusive, and truly reflects the voices of those affected by domestic abuse in Shropshire.

Members involvement involved:

- Co-designing the strategy through active participation in partnership board workshops
- Shaping the strategy by providing lived experience quotes which are embedded throughout
- Informing, drafting and decision making at key stages of development and refinement
- Contributing to consultation by taking part in the public consultation process
- Sense checking all strategy drafts, providing feedback prior to sign off

We acknowledge these views may not represent everyone's perspective and remain committed to learning from a range of experiences in our ongoing work. We thank our LEAG members for their dedication, which has ensured our approach stays focused on the needs of victims and survivors and continually informed by the realities faced in our communities.

Previous strategy

In 2018, we published a [Domestic Abuse Strategy](#) spanning the period 2018-2020. The pandemic meant this strategy was not reviewed or updated. Since the Domestic Abuse Act introduced new statutory duties, we have made key progress that has allowed us to identify future priorities for our partnership.

- Formed the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory multi-agency body under the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
- Shropshire Council formed a Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT) which in turn recruited a Lived Experience Advisory Group to inform decision making and strategic direction.
- Delivered comprehensive Domestic Abuse Needs Assessments ([2022](#) and [2024](#)) which were, and will continue to be used to inform commissioning decisions and shape strategic priorities.
- An Operational Domestic Abuse Forum was re-formed to enable operational and tactical frontline services/professionals to feed directly into Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board decision-making.
- Delivered the [Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) in line with statutory duties.

Needs Assessment

The most recent [Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#) was released in 2024 and aimed to create a comprehensive picture of domestic abuse across the county. Developed in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the assessment looks at the demand for support in safe accommodation and identifies gaps in provision. Our needs assessment also looks at the wider support needs of victims and those using harmful and abusive behaviours. It includes national and local prevalence data and insights from those with lived experience and services across the county.

Key findings of the needs assessment fall into the following themes:



- Data
- Lived experience
- Housing
- Strategic Leadership
- Education/Training

The needs assessment concludes with recommendations aimed at improving accommodation-based and community-based services and creating a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse in Shropshire.

“Reliance on a single agency to hold risk ignores the reality that survivors interact with multiple services, often simultaneously”

- A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Gap Analysis

Following on from the needs assessment, a detailed gap analysis was completed, to highlight areas where services, support, or resources could be improved. The analysis was later shared with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the Lived Experience Advisory Group, who were invited to examine the findings and work together to pinpoint urgent priorities and long-term actions for their organisations or groups. This collaboration contributed to shaping the strategy and its key priorities.

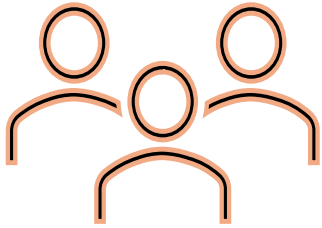
Definitions used in this strategy:

Throughout this strategy, we have adopted the term ‘victim’, to maintain consistency with the language used in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as well as in statutory guidance and reporting. We acknowledge, however, that the experiences of those affected by domestic abuse are varied and deeply personal, and not everyone who has experienced, or is currently experiencing, domestic abuse chooses to identify as a ‘victim’. For many, alternative terms such as ‘survivor’ may be preferred, reflecting their individual journey and resilience.

In addition, this strategy uses the term ‘perpetrators’, in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to describe the person causing harm. This terminology is used irrespective of whether the abuse has led to criminal proceedings, as it is intended to focus on behaviours that cause harm rather than legal convictions. We recognise the importance of language and strive to ensure our approach remains sensitive and inclusive, whilst being consistent for strategic and operational purposes.

Shropshire profile

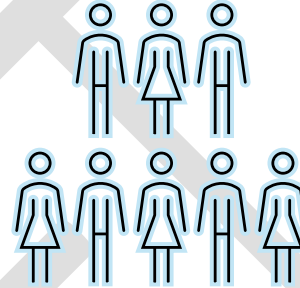
Please note, in line with our domestic abuse needs assessment 2024, this profile uses data from the [Office of National Statistics 2021 census](#).



Shropshire has a population of 323,619, including 163,927 females, 159,692 males, and 48,000 children under age 15.



Approximately 57% of Shropshire's population is living in rural settlements (ONS).



In Shropshire 40.3% of the population are aged over 54 years. 20.0% (64,838) of Shropshire's population were aged under 19



139,583 Households in Shropshire. there 18,585 households with 2 or more children living in the property, equating to 14% of all households on Shropshire.



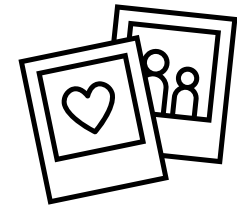
96.7% of Shropshire residents identified as White, compared to 81.0% in England. The Asian population was 1.3% in Shropshire versus 9.6% nationally.



In total approximately 800 people (0.3%) in Shropshire selected a gender identity different from birth compared to England and the West Midlands (0.5%).



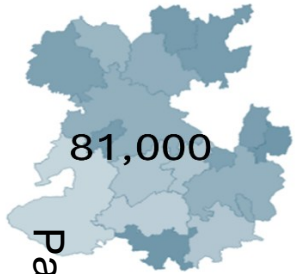
36,594(26.2%) households had one person disabled under the Equality Act Similar to England



A total of 6,318 people (2.3%) in Shropshire described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientation.

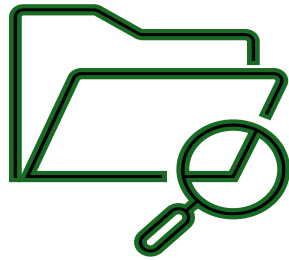
Shropshire Domestic Abuse Profile

Please note: This profile uses data from the [2024 Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#), reflecting information provided by local services between 2022 and 2024. The DALPB is dedicated to reviewing domestic abuse data for an accurate understanding of need.



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Taking the nationally recognised statistic that 1 in 3 females are subjected to domestic abuse in their lifetime and 1 in 6 men, it could be assumed that: If 323,619 people lived in Shropshire, 54,000 women and 27,000 men in Shropshire are subjected to domestic abuse in their lifetime. We can also assume based on national research, that if 1 in 10 families are affected by CPA then at least 13,958 families in Shropshire are affected by CPA.



At time of needs assessment, Shropshire had completed 2 [Domestic Homicide Reviews](#). The Shropshire safeguarding community partnership have also released learning briefings around these reviews.



According to West Mercia Police between 2022 and 2024 a total of 6,379 domestic abuse offences and 8,277 incidents took place in Shropshire



Between 2022 and 2024, 577 referrals were received and accepted for MARAC. 232 of these, were repeat referrals



Between 2022 and 2024 a total of 3,299 Operation Encompass notifications were sent to schools regarding domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in which children are in the household

Vision, Goal and Approach

This Strategy has been informed by stakeholder engagement from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors as well as by public feedback but, most importantly, it has been informed by the voices and experiences of victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

We united around a shared inspirational vision. Together, we then determined the goal of our strategy over the next three years, along with outlining the approach we will use to achieve it. Vision: To end domestic abuse, Goal: Reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire,

VISION

- To end domestic abuse

GOAL

- Reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire

APPROACH

- One single agency can not achieve this alone; partnership working is key

Chosen Strategic Priorities



Victims



Perpetrators



Community



Workforce

What we mean by our strategic priorities

Our approach is built around four connected priorities. Together, they reflect a whole-system response that protects victims, prevents further harm, strengthens professional practice and builds safer communities.

- **By victims, we mean** anyone affected by domestic abuse, including adults and children, regardless of gender, age, background or circumstance. This includes those directly abused and children (including unborn children) who see, hear or are otherwise impacted by abuse.

- This priority focuses on ensuring victims are safe, believed and supported, through timely, trauma informed responses, access to advocacy and safe accommodation, and inclusive services that reduce harm, remove barriers support and enable recovery.

- **By perpetrators, we mean** individuals who use abusive, controlling or harmful behaviours within domestic or family relationships, whether or not they are known to the criminal justice system.

- This priority focuses on preventing further harm by holding those who abuse to account, reducing repeat offending, and supporting effective interventions that challenge and change abusive behaviour to improve safety for victims and communities.



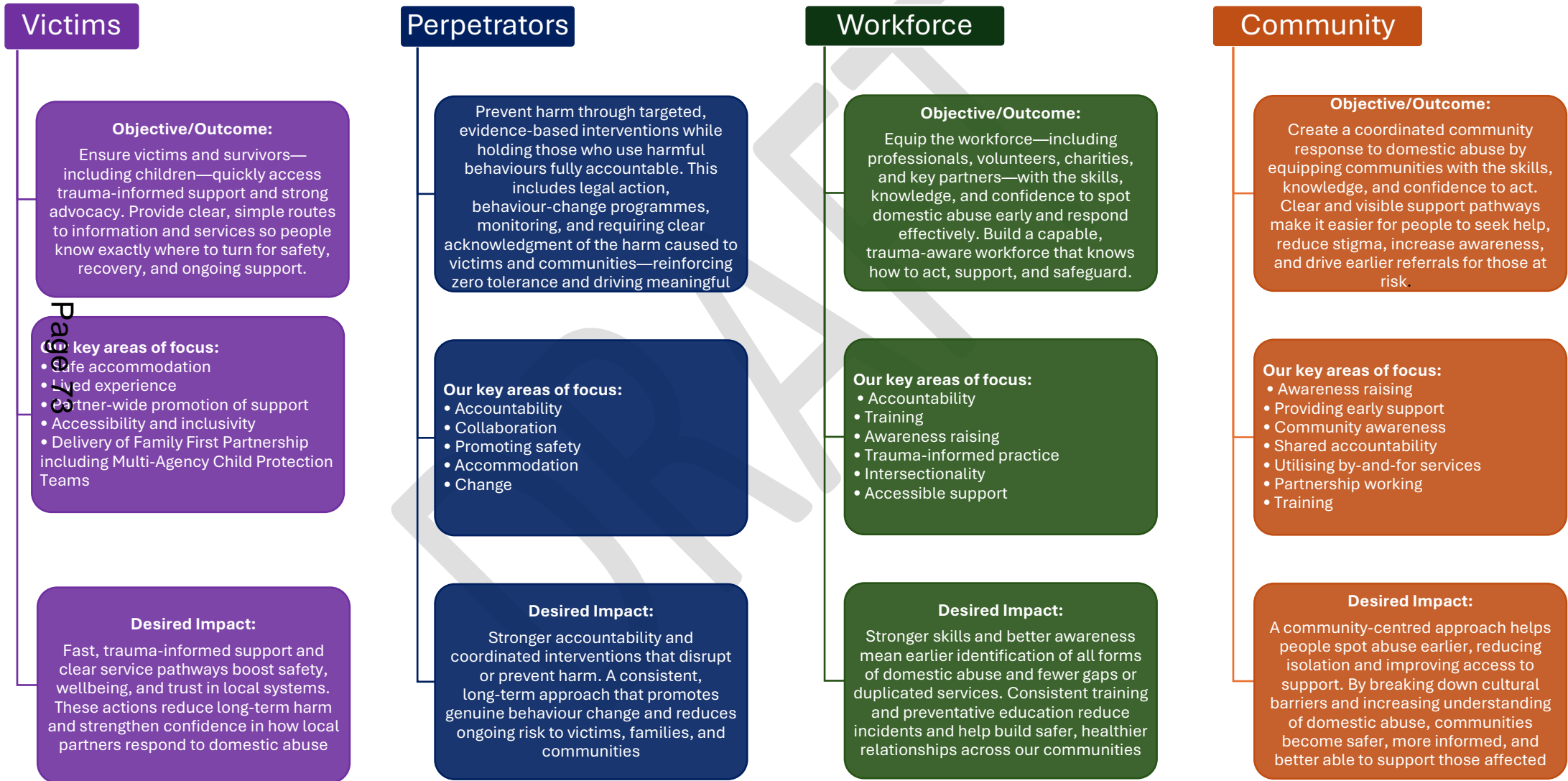
- **By workforce, we mean** all paid and voluntary staff who may come into contact with domestic abuse through their roles, including those working across statutory services, health, housing, education, social care, criminal justice, and the voluntary and community sector.

- This priority focuses on equipping the workforce with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise domestic abuse early, respond safely and proportionately, manage risk effectively, and deliver consistent, trauma informed practice across services.

- **By community, we mean** the people and places across Shropshire where individuals live, work and connect, including families, friends, neighbours, employers, faith groups, schools and local organisations.

- This priority focuses on building a coordinated community response that raises awareness, reduces stigma, encourages early help seeking and promotes shared responsibility for preventing domestic abuse and supporting those affected.

Framework for action – our priorities



Commissioning and resourcing

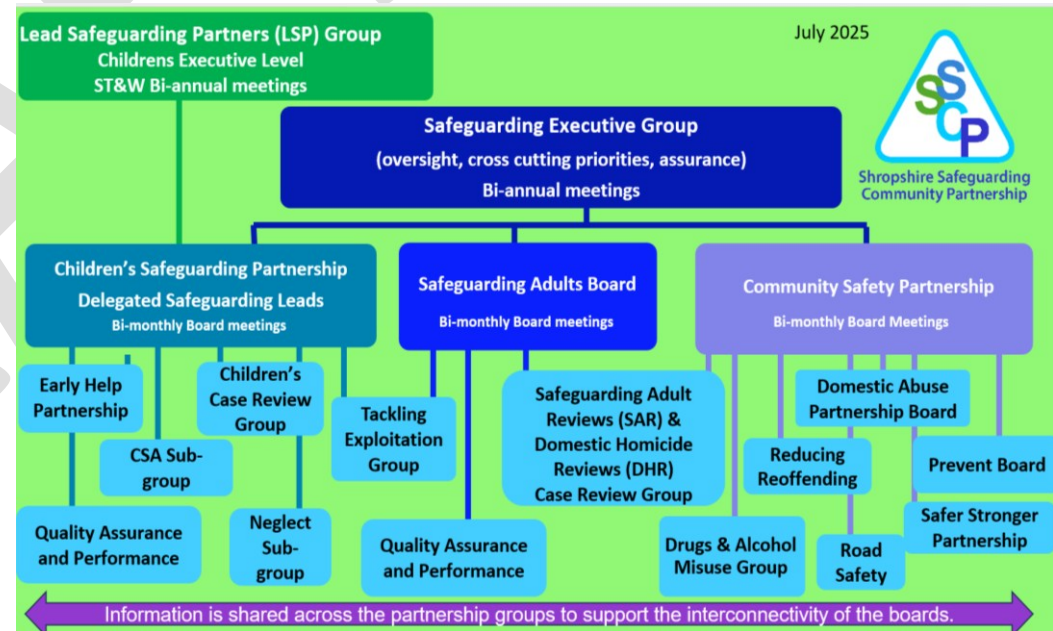
This strategy intentionally focuses on setting out our shared priorities and the impact we want to achieve them, rather than detailing specific actions at this stage. This approach is designed to ensure partners, professionals and communities clearly understand the direction of travel and the outcomes we are collectively working towards. A detailed action plan will sit alongside this strategy and will be developed, published and refreshed as we move through the three-year life of the strategy, allowing us to remain responsive to emerging evidence, learning and local need.

We have also taken this approach in recognition of the current financial climate, where commissioning and resourcing are increasingly challenging and funding is limited. Rather than setting out a fixed and ambitious action plan at the outset, this strategy allows us to be realistic and responsive about what can be delivered over time. This ensures we remain focused on our shared vision and priorities, while developing and sequencing actions in a way that is achievable, sustainable, and informed by available resources.

Governance and Accountability

The [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#) brings together a wide range of statutory and voluntary partners to prevent and address child and adult safeguarding concerns and promote community safety, with independent scrutiny provided by the Independent Chair. Domestic abuse is a recognised priority within the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership, and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (operates within this governance framework and is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

The structure chart of the safeguarding community partnership:



Next steps

This Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy will be in place for a three-year period. The Partnership will keep the strategy under continuous review to ensure it remains aligned with emerging evidence, statutory guidance, and local and national policy developments. Delivery of the strategy will be supported through a Joint Action Plan, developed collaboratively by all partners, including the Lived Experience Advisory Group.

For each of the four strategic priorities, the Joint Action Plan will set out clear actions, identifies the responsible partner(s), defines delivery timescales, and specifies the intended outcomes. The Joint Action Plan is a live, working document.

It will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, with progress monitored regularly. Arrangements are in place to support transparent monitoring, shared accountability and public reporting of progress, ensuring that partners are collectively responsible for delivering meaningful and measurable change Collaboration Opportunities between the partnerships

Domestic abuse is everyone's business and is a shared concern across the partnership structure. There are a series of ways in which the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board have agreed to collaborate with the aim to improve collaboration at both a strategic and operational level:

1. Joint ongoing communications/advertising campaign
2. Operational/tactical leads task and finish groups
3. Agency/person led workshops

Scrutiny

Scrutiny will be delivered through a robust governance framework led by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and reporting into the community safety partnership. Progress will be monitored quarterly, with annual reports published for transparency. Survivor voices will be embedded in evaluation processes, and findings will inform continuous improvement and commissioning decisions.

Conclusion

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out a collaborative, evidence-based approach to tackle domestic abuse. By working with partners and centring survivors' experiences, the strategy focuses on accountability, ongoing improvement, and trauma-informed, inclusive support. Our Lived Experience Advisory Group will inform us at every step whether we are making a difference and heading towards our goal of reducing domestic abuse in Shropshire.

“Systems must adapt to reality, not expect survivors to adapt to them. If the priorities outlined in this strategy are implemented meaningfully, they can ensure that survivors and children are not only protected but empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Lived experience Advisory Group statement

As Lead of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), I submit this response on behalf of myself and Lived Experience Advisory Group members.

“We welcome the direction of the strategy and would like to express our appreciation to Shropshire Council for recognising the value of lived experience by supporting my role and the development of the Lived Experience Advisory Group. Employing a dedicated role to work alongside survivors and draw directly on lived experience expertise is a strong and positive step towards embedding best practice in responses to domestic abuse.

Through the Domestic Abuse Prevention Team, and through my role, we are actively working to ensure that lived experience voice is embedded across all aspects of our work – shaping decision making, influencing practice, and strengthening system responses rather than being limited to consultation alone.

Lived Experience Advisory Group members consistently highlight the importance of trauma informed, consistent responses that recognise non physical abuse, long term harm and the cumulative impact of systems. We would welcome clearer detail on how survivor feedback will continue to influence implementation and how lived experience will be meaningfully and safely involved going forward. The Lived Experience Advisory Group looks forward to continued collaboration and supports an ongoing commitment to treating lived experience as expertise central to improving outcomes for those subjected to abuse”



Kate Connor, Shropshire Councils Domestic Abuse Lived Experience Project Officer

[Please visit Kate Connor’s blog and access information on how you can join the Lived Experience Advisory Group](#)

“In LEAG we share, we care,
Our voices rise, our thoughts laid bare,
Together we plan, together we try,
To make things better, reaching for the sky”

-A poem written by a Lived Experience Advisory group member about the group

Appendix

Legislative framework

Protecting victims and preventing domestic abuse are key aims of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#). Part 4 of the Act is set out to ensure victims of domestic abuse and their children can access support in safe accommodation.

Section 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act requires local authorities in England to establish a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The board must be consulted whenever the authority carries out certain defined activities.

- Evaluating the need for accommodation-based support for all domestic abuse victims in their area, including those who may need help across local borders.
- Developing and publishing a strategy for delivering such support locally, with reference to the findings of the needs assessment.
- Implementing the strategy through decisions to commission or withdraw services.
- Reviewing and measuring how effective the strategy is.
- Reporting progress to central government.

The [Victims and Prisoners Act 2024](#) includes that local policing bodies, authorities, and Integrated Care Boards in England must work together to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and violent crime. They are required to jointly assess needs and create a unified plan to improve services.

Relevant National Strategies/Plans

- [Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2025-2030.](#)
- [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)
- [NHS 10-year plan](#)
- [A National Plan to End Homelessness](#)
- [Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#)
- [Multi-agency child protection teams: regulation-making powers - GOV.UK](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Rural domestic abuse: The Paradox of community](#)

Relevant Local documents/Strategies/Plans

- [Shropshire Safe Accommodation Strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Child To Parent Abuse Policy](#)
- [Shropshire Community Safety Strategy](#)
- [Safeguarding process in Shropshire](#)
- [Shropshire Health and Wellbeing strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Serious Violence Strategy](#)

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Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2026

Please note that part A and part B of this document should be completed.

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
<i>Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy</i>

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
<i>Wendy Bulman</i>

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (Stage One) ESHIA Only?	X	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		X

If completion of a Stage One screening assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above, and complete both part A and part B of of this template. If a Full or Stage Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative impact or positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
<p>The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy was created by Shropshire Council, working alongside partners of the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Board will agree priorities and objectives over the next three years to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire.</p> <p>This collaborative effort ensures that the Council meets its duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Central to the strategy is the provision of a clear and inclusive definition of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy proactively addresses the needs of individuals in statutory Protected Characteristic groupings, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, as well as local communities that may require additional support.</p> <p>There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation. It is important to note that there is intersectionality between these groupings.</p>

In Shropshire, there is an additional focus on those at risk of social exclusion, as well as inclusion health groups. This group also encompasses people who are homeless or have experienced rough sleeping, especially over extended periods as well as those with other overlapping risk factors such as substance misuse, poverty or trauma among others. While not a statutory protected characteristic, social exclusion is considered a crucial category to ensure the strategy is inclusive of vulnerable individuals and households, particularly those experiencing or fleeing domestic abuse, where relocation from support networks is a potential risk. Furthermore, the strategy considers all residents of Shropshire which includes Young People Leaving Care, Carers (including young carers), and Veterans and Serving Members of the Armed Forces and their families as local groupings requiring support.

To mitigate any negative impacts and enhance positive outcomes, the strategy completed a comprehensive consultation process involving feedback from a wide range of individuals and stakeholder organisations. This approach was intended to evaluate and address any potential negative consequences of the strategy, as well as to identify opportunities to strengthen its positive impact on the wellbeing of Shropshire residents.

Initial screening before the consultation indicated that the strategy would likely have a low to moderate positive effect on individuals and households within protected and local groups. By focusing on improving accessibility, reducing inequalities, and achieving better outcomes for everyone, the strategy aims to tackle and reduce rates of domestic abuse throughout Shropshire. It identifies four main priorities—victims, perpetrators, community, and workforce—to address domestic abuse locally and provide support for all protected and vulnerable groups. The public consultation for the draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy took place online between February 2 and March 2, 2026, and collected 73 responses. Of the 69 participants who clarified their role, most (50) responded as individuals, with the remainder (19) representing organisations. Of these organisational respondents, 40% (10) were from public service providers, 20% (5) from 'Other' categories, and 12% (3) from strategic or cross-boundary organisations and local partnerships. Most respondents had a Shropshire (SY) postcode, though some organisational representatives may reside outside the county.

Demographic Profile of respondents

- Gender (69 respondents): 81% female (56), 13% male (9), 6% preferred not to specify (4)
- Age (68 respondents): largest group 45–54 years (32%, 22), followed by 55–64 years (29%, 20), then 35–44 years (16%, 11)
- Gender identity: 91% (62 of 68) reported gender remained unchanged since birth; 9% (6) preferred not to say; no respondents indicated a change
- Sexual orientation (67 respondents): 84% straight or heterosexual (56), 15% preferred not to specify (10), 2% bisexual (1)
- Pregnancy status (66 respondents): 86% not pregnant (57), 8% preferred not to say (5), 6% not applicable (4)
- Disability (67 respondents): 60% no (40), 24% yes (16), 16% preferred not to respond (11)

- Condition details (26 respondents): 62% preferred not to specify (16), mobility concerns 15% (4), mental health concerns 12% (3)
- Neurodiversity (64 respondents): 77% no (49), 13% preferred not to say (8), 11% yes (7)
- Care leaver status: no responses, aspect unanalysed
- Religion (66 respondents): 49% no religion (32), 32% Christian (21), 15% preferred not to disclose (10), Buddhist, Agnostic, Muslim each 2% (1)

The impact assessment in the draft ESHIA remains unchanged, as the majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the strategy’s vision and priorities. Most participants agreed that the strategy is accessible and meets statutory duties, and no substantial concerns were raised requiring revision of the initial positive impact assessment.

While responses were captured from a diverse range of sectors, including data on gender, age, disability, neurodiversity, and care leaver status, some notable gaps emerged. Specifically, there were no responses from individuals who identify as transgender, those from ethnic backgrounds other than white or white British, or members of faith communities. This lack of feedback limits our understanding of these groups’ perspectives, highlighting a risk that the strategy may not fully address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

To address these gaps, the action plan will incorporate targeted measures to improve engagement and support for underrepresented groups, ensuring their voices inform service development and delivery. Although the overall impact assessment did not change after consultation, feedback identified areas for further engagement. The strategy will proactively seek to reach and support groups whose perspectives were not reflected in the initial consultation—strengthening equality, social inclusion, and the effectiveness of domestic abuse services throughout Shropshire.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

It is recognised that there will be challenges of disruption and social isolation, which the Council and partners seek to address within the strategy, along with emphasising the need for further exploration to identify effective ways of mitigating potential negative impacts. Priority actions will incorporate health, wellbeing, economic, and wider community considerations, aiming to maximise positive outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse. Given the profound consequences of domestic abuse—including murder, suicide, physical injuries, chronic health conditions, trauma, anxiety, depression, and long-term emotional harm for both adults and children—the strategy seeks to address these issues holistically and promote resilience and recovery.

For example, some safe accommodation offers a significant positive impact for all individuals fleeing domestic abuse. By providing a secure environment, it enables those affected to escape from their perpetrators and relocate to a space where their whereabouts are unknown and inaccessible to those posing a risk. This transition reduces stress and anxiety and allows individuals to receive essential

support in a protected setting, leading to improvements in both mental and physical health and overall wellbeing.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge the potential negative consequences associated with such displacement. Leaving behind their original location, individuals may become isolated from family, friends, and established support networks, which can adversely affect mental wellbeing and contribute to feelings of loneliness. This concern is particularly pronounced for children and young people, who may have to move school or college, lose contact with friends, and be separated from familiar social activities. These changes can make it difficult for them to express their feelings or discuss their challenges, potentially resulting in negative health and wellbeing outcomes. It should be noted however that the improvements in safety, and access to effective support services provide far greater positive impacts than the negative impacts resulting from remaining in a potentially dangerous situation. Where possible, suitable mitigations would be put in place against these negative impacts.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The development of the final strategy is shaped by the public consultation feedback and insights, as well as valuable insights from our Lived Experience Advisory Group. Recognising that domestic abuse impacts far more than just those directly involved, the strategy is designed with the broader community in mind. An action plan will underpin the strategy, with regular monitoring and annual reviews to ensure it remains effective. These reviews will incorporate feedback from individuals who have firsthand experience of domestic abuse, ensuring that lived experience continues to inform service development and commissioning.

As the strategy is implemented, the monitoring and review process will focus on identifying opportunities to increase positive outcomes for victims, perpetrators, staff, and the wider public. Ongoing engagement and evaluation will be central to this approach, enabling the strategy to adapt to emerging needs and insights.

Over the coming months and years, specific actions to review and monitor a range of impacts will be developed as the new strategy and commissioned service are rolled out. This process will remain responsive to any local changes arising from national developments, particularly the awaited publication of an updated Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Code of Practice. The draft Code, still with the Minister for Women and Equalities following national consultation—where Shropshire Council contributed—reflects the Supreme Court ruling that Sex as a Protected Characteristic refers to the biological sex recorded at birth.

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIA re Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025.

Given the importance of addressing homelessness, rough sleeping, temporary accommodation, independent living, and specialist accommodation within the

context of domestic abuse, it is crucial that our Housing ESHIAs remain closely aligned with this strategy. Ensuring that these ESHIA documents are interconnected will help support individuals affected by domestic abuse and those experiencing housing instability.

After the public consultation period for the draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy concluded, a second screening ESHIA was undertaken. This allowed us to incorporate feedback received during the consultation, ensuring our approach remains responsive and effective.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact, and actions to review and monitor overall impacts, with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is designed not only to support those directly affected by domestic abuse, but also to address its wider impacts across the community. This includes careful consideration of environmental, economic, societal, and human rights factors to seek to ensure an holistic and effective approach.

Climate Change

While the strategy has a minimal direct effect on climate change, its implementation can influence environmental outcomes through the way services are delivered. Activities such as outreach travel and building use contribute to carbon emissions and resource consumption. To minimise environmental impact, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will promote the use of safe digital meetings, and regular reviews of travel, energy consumption, and procurement practices. These measures are intended to keep the service's climate footprint as low as possible, in line with local commitments.

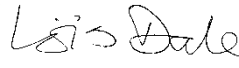

Economic and Societal/Wider Community Impacts

The consequences of domestic abuse extend far beyond individual households. Economically, it leads to lost employment, decreased productivity, financial instability, housing disruption, and heightened demand for public services, including health, policing, social care, and housing support. At the societal level, domestic abuse undermines community cohesion, increases feelings of fear and isolation, puts strain on both voluntary and statutory services, and perpetuates intergenerational cycles of harm. These factors establish domestic abuse as not only a personal crisis but also a significant public health, economic, and community issue.

Human rights considerations are also central to the strategy. For example, the right to family life may be raised by perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly when their children are provided with safe accommodation. The strategy will address such issues as partnership work develops further, with a focus on minimising any potential negative impacts.

Taken together, the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is integral to creating positive change, addressing not only immediate safety needs but also broader economic, social, and environmental challenges within the community.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Wendy Bulman Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead	W BULMAN	3 April 2026
<i>Officer carrying out the screening (if different from the above)</i>		
<i>External support*</i> Mrs Lois Dale Senior Insights and Research Specialist		31 st January 2026
Phil Northfield Public Health Integration & Inequalities Officer		2 nd April 2026

**This refers to support external to the service and within the Council, e.g., the Senior Insights and Research EDI specialist, the Integration & Inequalities Officer – Public Health, other Insights and Research or Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, Climate Change specialists, etc.*

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Wendy Bulman	W BULMAN	3 April 2026

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (“the Act”) sets out statutory duties for local authorities. In summary these are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) (in line with core membership set out in the Act and statutory guidance), which will carry out a governance and consultative role as it performs certain specified functions;

- assess the need for safe accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area;
- in consultation with the partnership board, develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality – which is based on the needs assessment, is implemented through commissioning decisions, and includes monitoring and evaluation

The most recent Domestic Abuse Strategy was published in 2018 following consideration by members. The strategy overarching goals were to stop domestic abuse and address prevention, provision of services and partnership working.

The production and publishing of a Domestic Abuse Strategy every 3 years is a statutory duty of the Local Authority and as such there could be consequences for failing to deliver Part 4 of the Act.

As per our statutory duty, in 2024 Shropshire Council conducted a Needs Assessment to inform commissioning of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in all forms of safe accommodation as defined in the Act. In addition to supporting the Council in meeting our statutory duty we delivered a full review which has informed the development of this wider strategy and the development of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse.

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy overarching goal is to reduce domestic abuse within Shropshire. Developed in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and individuals with lived experience, this strategy aims to address the needs of survivors and vulnerable populations across Shropshire. The framework is structured around four main priorities—victims, perpetrators, communities, and workforce—all aimed at reducing domestic abuse across Shropshire.

The Strategy outlines priority actions in the following areas:

- The **'Victims'** priority aims to ensure that victims and survivors, including children, promptly receive trauma-informed support and advocacy. Providing clear guidance to available information and services will facilitate access to further assistance, help mitigate long-term harm, and foster greater trust in local systems.
- The **'Workforce'** priority seeks to provide professionals with essential skills, knowledge, and confidence to respond effectively to domestic abuse. This approach will improve the identification of abuse, address gaps in service provision, and contribute to the reduction of domestic abuse incidents.
- The **'Perpetrators'** priority focuses on preventing harm through targeted interventions and holding individuals who engage in harmful behaviours accountable, thereby reinforcing a zero-tolerance approach and encouraging behavioural change.
- The **'Community'** priority is dedicated to equipping communities with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to respond appropriately. By

promoting clear pathways to support, this objective aims to lower barriers to assistance, reduce stigma, raise awareness, and encourage early referrals for victims seeking help.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

- All those fleeing domestic abuse
- All those experiencing domestic abuse or at risk of domestic abuse
- Families and friends of those affected
- Support networks for those affected
- Agencies and providers involved
- Lived Experience Advisory Group
- Joint Commissioning Delivery Group.
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB)
- Community Safety Partnership
- Government departments
- Neighbouring local authorities

Evidence used for screening of the service change

- 2018 Strategy
- 2024 Needs Assessment
- 2025 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy
- Shropshire-wide Domestic Abuse Survey
- Statutory duties and guidance
- Safeguarding protocols and procedures

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Workshops with the DALPB and lived experience advisory groups to ensure the strategy was co-produced and meets the needs of individual people and organisations.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below this table)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have for a grouping, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young carers, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with a disability)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Disability</u> (please include cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Religion or Belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)			Low to medium positive impact	

<u>Sex</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness; and rural communities)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Other: Carers</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families (as per Armed Forces Act 2023)</u>			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Other: Young people leaving care</u>			Low to medium positive impact	

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a direct impact on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?			Low to medium positive, balanced in favour of positive	

<p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p> <p>.</p>			<p>impacts, with low negative of potential disruptions to pre-existing support networks</p>	
<p>Will the proposal indirectly impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p> <p>.</p>			<p>Low to medium positive, balanced with low negative of potential disruptions to support networks</p>	
<p>Will the policy have a direct impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p>			<p>Low to medium positive, balanced with low negative of potential disruptions to support networks. Positive impact on wider communities that experience neighbour incidences of domestic abuse.</p>	
<p>Will there be a likely change in demand for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p> <p>.</p>			<p>Medium positive as there should be a reduction in demand for access to health and social care services</p>	

Initial health equity assessment

For the following categories, please complete with the expected impacts of this service change on wider inequalities, not just those that are health-related (whether positive, negative, or neutral) – include any additional information you feel is pertinent or useful.

Consider and record which you can control, which you can influence, and which may be out of your control.

<p>Which population groups/demographics will face health impacts as a result of this change (if any)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economically Deprived • Geographic Deprivation (inc. Rurality) – <i>if so, where?</i> • Inclusion Health & Vulnerable Groups¹ • Other 	<p><i>Positive impacts expected on socio-economically deprived, and inclusion health and vulnerable groups, however domestic abuse occurs in any home environment.</i></p>
<p>What mitigations/enhancements are already in place, or what mitigations/enhancements do you plan to include for the foreseeable consequences of these changes?</p>	<p><i>Overall, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is expected to have a net positive impact on inclusion health groups, particularly people experiencing homelessness, social exclusion, and multiple disadvantage. The strategy demonstrates strong alignment with health inequalities objectives through its focus on intersectionality, lived experience, safeguarding, and equitable access to support. Any potential negative impacts are recognised and actively mitigated through partnership working, consultation, and ongoing governance</i></p>

1- *Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. Health impacts for this wide grouping will therefore potentially be the same as those recorded under the Social Inclusion category in the equality impact table.*

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision-making processes. These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Stage One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change. For example, a Stage One ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the national Protected Characteristic groupings and our additional local categories. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second Stage One ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive.

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called 'due regard' of the needs of people in Protected Characteristic groupings.

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be high negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to take advice on whether or not to carry out a full report, or Stage Two assessment. This is resource intensive but will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Stage Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government. The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet or to Strategic Licensing Committee.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions will you take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any likely positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010. The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation. There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief. We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

For the individuals and groupings who may be affected, ask yourself what impact do you think is likely and what actions will you currently anticipate taking, to mitigate or enhance likely impact of the service change? If you are reducing a service, for example, there may be further use you could make of awareness raising through social media and other channels to reach more people who may be affected.

Social inclusion is then a wider additional local category we use in Shropshire, in order to help us to go beyond the equality legislation in also considering impacts for individuals and households with regard to the circumstances in which they may find themselves across their life stages. This could be households on low incomes, or households facing challenges in accessing services, such as households in rural areas, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as refugee families or rough sleepers.

Please note that veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families are a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under Armed Forces legislation. In practice, we had been doing so for a number of years now.

We also identify two further distinct separate local groupings due to their circumstances: care leavers, as vulnerable individuals, and carers, due to the support they give and the support they need.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove or reconfigure a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

Carry out and record your equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.
- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is an area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we ask service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities.

A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

Provision or change to a service that allows greater reach to those most in need, this can involve relocation, pooling of resource/efficiency changes, or digitisation of some provision. It may also involve greater opportunities for employment, decreasing socio-economic inequality. Physical alternatives to be made available (where practical) to be offered wherever possible to avoid digital exclusion and reduce social isolation. These changes can be either positive or negative depending on the proposal.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and

changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives. It could also involve virtual support sessions/appointments to avoid unnecessary travel and provide greater flexibility with individuals work schedules. It may involve greater internet connectivity, to improve remote working opportunities and air pollution concerns, or improved communications coverage through closer partnership working – targeting those most in need of specific information.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and wellbeing.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk or engage in active travel. Increasing physical activity and minimising the time spent sitting down helps to maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and depression. The UK Chief Medical Officers recommend that adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity, each week. At a wider level, reductions in vehicular emission lead to better air quality, and a reduction in NO₂ in the atmosphere.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and wellbeing of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. This can reduce the risks of cold related health effects, as well as reduce the financial burden on the population, whose ability to shoulder these costs can vary. Often a health promoting approach

also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further advice: please contact Lois Dale via email

Lois.Dale@shropshire.gov.uk

Or

Phil Northfield via email Phillip.Northfield@shropshire.gov.uk



Cabinet | May 6th 2026

Item

Public



Local Plan – Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Making and Scoping Consultation

Responsible Officer:	Eddie West		
email:	Edward.West@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 254 617
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor David Walker		

1. Synopsis

This report seeks the approval of a new Plan-Making timetable and Project Initiation Document aligning with Government expectations and approval to issue a Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Making on the Council’s next Local Plan (scheduled to formally commence in September 2026) following the completion of a mandatory ‘scoping’ stage. It also seeks approval to undertake public consultation on a ‘Scoping Document’ and associated documents between May and July.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Council are at the very start of the process to prepare a new Local Plan for Shropshire. This report sets out a number of documents associated with the first stage of this new process – known as the ‘notification and scoping’ stage. This includes the publication of a new Plan making timetable (appendix 1), and seeks approval to consult on a ‘Scoping’ document (appendix 4) and a draft Community Hierarchy (appendix 5) for public consultation.

- 2.2. National Planning regulations and guidance has been subject to several recent high profile changes, including to the manner in which Council's prepare Local Plans. It is proposed the Council undertake the preparation of the new Local Plan in line with the new plan-making arrangements, which is characterised by a more efficient 30 month preparation and adoption process following an initial 'notification and scoping' stage of at least four months.
- 2.3. The Local Plan will be vital in providing the vision, objectives, and long-term spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire to 2046, and as such is an opportunity to give spatial expression to a number of related Council strategies and objectives, including the emerging Corporate Plan and the 'New Direction for Shropshire' paper published in 2025.
- 2.4. This report seeks approval to commence the 'scoping' stage by approving the Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Making (Appendix 2).
- 2.5. The purpose of the scoping document is to seek stakeholder views at the outset of the plan making process. This includes, but is not limited to, local residents, parish and town councils, infrastructure providers, statutory agencies, local businesses, developers and agents.
- 2.6. The scoping document therefore purposely **does not** define either a future spatial strategy or future site allocations; these issues will be addressed in future consultation stages once we have gathered initial thoughts and collected additional evidence. Nevertheless, the scoping stage is an important first step in the Local Plan preparation process and one where the views of stakeholders can meaningfully shape the future direction of the Local Plan.
- 2.7. This Cabinet report also seeks approval for the publication and consultation of a draft 'Community Hierarchy', which is the first step in a process of defining a spatial strategy for the distribution of growth in the Local Plan.
- 2.8. Following the conclusion of the notification and scoping stage, and subject to passing an initial self-assessment readiness 'Gateway' check, the Council will formally commence plan making in September 2026 in line with the agreed plan making timetable.
- 2.9. The Local Plan will, as a minimum, need to enable the delivery of Shropshire's housing needs, as calculated using the national standard methodology, as well as providing land allocations and policies for other evidenced need, such as for employment land. It also has the opportunity to provide new local planning policies to enable the sustainable delivery of proposed site allocations, although it should not duplicate policies already provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet

- 3.1. Agree the publication of the **Plan-Making Timetable (Appendix 1)** and that any subsequent changes to this timetable are delegated to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.
- 3.2. Agree the publication of the **Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Making (Appendix 2)** in May 2026.
- 3.3. Agree the **Local Plan Project Initiation Document (PID) (Appendix 3)**, including the governance and decision making arrangements included in Figure 4.1 of the PID, and that any subsequent changes to the PID are delegated to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.
- 3.4. Agree the publication of the **Local Plan Scoping Document (Appendix 4)**, the **Draft Community Hierarchy (Appendix 5)**, the **Draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology (Appendix 6)** and the **SEA Screening Report (Appendix 7)** for public consultation in line with the engagement strategy outlined in the PID, and that any minor changes to these documents ahead of publication are delegated to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.
- 3.5. Agree that delegated responsibility is given to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, for the preparation and consultation of an SEA/SA Scoping document within the Local Plan ‘notification and scoping’ stage.
- 3.6. Note the **Equalities, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Stage One Screening Record** (Appendix 8)
- 3.7. Agree, that delegated authority is given to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to agree the completion of Gateway 1 (Self- Assessment) upon the completion of the ‘Scoping’ stage, in order to commence the formal commencement of the plan making in September 2026.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Section 9 of the Local Plan PID (Appendix 3) covers identified risks and mitigation measures for the Local Plan process.
- 4.2. As set out within the PID’s Risk Management Log there are a number of significant risks identified that could impact upon the delivery of the Local Plan, and overall it is considered programme of work within a more condensed timeframe will be realistic, but extremely challenging.

- 4.3. Whilst proposed responses or mitigation measures have been set out, seeking where possible to manage these risks, some areas of risk are outside the Council's control, which could curtail many of the proposed mitigation measures. Resourcing is clearly an area where the Council does have a large element of control, and it is considered this is an area where many of the proposed mitigation measures sit.
- 4.4. As a result of the work undertaken in late 2025 and early 2026, most notably around early pre-plan making evidence base collection, and the external funding received from MHCLG in to support the implementation of Plan making (totalling £178k), there are currently no 'red' risks identified which require immediate senior management action. However, there are a number of areas which require continued management monitoring. These will be kept under regular review as part of the ongoing project management of the Local Plan.
- 4.5. An initial Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been undertaken at this point and included as Appendix 8 to this report. Further ESHIAs will be carried out at timely stocktake moments during the Local Plan process. As the Local Plan process is a matter of significant public interest, with ongoing consultation and engagement throughout the regulatory stages of Plan-making, it will be important to utilise specified periods of public consultation alongside the continuous efforts of the Council to listen to and account for the needs of diverse communities and stakeholders across what is a large and sparsely populated rural county.
- 4.6. At this stage, ahead of the proposed consultation, initial assessment is that there is potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact across all nine Protected Characteristic groupings for whom we are obliged to have 'due regard' in our decision-making processes, as per the Equality Act 2010. This could potentially rise to medium positive for those in the intersecting groupings of Age and Disability. There is likewise potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care. The Council also considers those in the grouping of veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families, in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that 'due regard' is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021.
- 4.7. Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances. For these additional categories, there is also potential for the impacts to increase to Medium Positive, particularly given efforts envisaged to improve health and wellbeing outcomes across communities.
- 4.8. These positive impacts will be achieved through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of all groups in our communities.
- 4.9. It is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will positively contribute to the health equality of all groups in Shropshire. The vision, measurable outcomes and

spatial strategy will be informed by and responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire, particularly its rurality and the pockets of socio-economic deprivation across the county. It will also set out to be responsive to the needs of all groups within our communities. At this stage, there are considered to be Neutral to Low positive impacts to be achieved directly on an individual's health/mental health/wellbeing, indirectly on an individual's ability to improve their own health/wellbeing and directly on the community, in regard to the social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health, with potential for this to increase to Medium Positive. It will be important to ensure that opportunities are taken throughout the Local Plan process in regard to addressing the wider determinants of health, tackling inequalities, and empowering communities to take proactive steps to improve health and well being, not least through consultation and engagement with agencies involved in these endeavours.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):
- scaling down initiatives,
 - changing the scope of activities,
 - delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
 - extending delivery timescales.
- 5.2. Section 6 of the Local Plan PID (Appendix 3) covers financial resourcing and management. The Local Plan process is a matter of significant public interest, and is defined by a prescribed regulatory framework and national expectations in terms of output. This process includes a number of financial implications, which it is largely the responsibility of the Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fund.
- 5.3. The Local Plan process is split into two distinct elements; preparation and examination. In line with the proposed plan making time table (appendix 1), the preparation element is due to formally commence in September 2026 and last for 24 months. This follows a mandatory process of 'scoping', beginning in May 2026 and lasting four months.
- 5.4. The plan preparation process is driven by evidence collection and prescribed stages of public consultation, as set out in the proposed Local Plan timetable. It is envisaged that during the remainder of 2026 and the first half of 2027, the Council will need to commission external consultants to support on several aspects of evidence base collation. The Council recently received £108k from MHCLG as a Local Plan Implementation Fund, and this has been ringfenced to support the commissioning of necessary evidence. This is in addition to the £70k of support

the Council received in February 2025 which has been used to commission a new Green Belt Study to support ongoing Local Plan work.

- 5.5. This external funding has been very much welcomed, however there remains a likelihood that additional funding will be required during 2026 and 2027. It is envisaged this will be supported by the Planning Policy consultancy budget, with wider funding sources to be further explored, including from wider Planning service income where appropriate.
- 5.6. Section 7 of the Local Plan PID (Appendix 3) covers the expected evidence base requirements of the Plan. Whilst the evidence burden upon an LPA has long been an area of financial outlay in the preparation of a Local Plan, the Council will be using as much existing available evidence as possible, whether this be evidence collected to support the now 'withdrawn' Local Plan in 2025, or evidence collected by other areas of the Council. The collection of new evidence will therefore be targeted and proportionate, but must be to a level to enable the preparation of a 'sound' Local Plan with minimal risk.
- 5.7. The examination of the Local Plan, expected in late 2028, is a cost covered by the Local Planning Authority. This is primarily to fund the cost of the Planning Inspectorate in examining the Plan. The Council does not have any discretion in the number of Inspectors appointed as this is a matter for the Planning Inspectorate.
- 5.8. It is important to note the new plan making system expects a much shorter and focussed examination process, with this process now envisaged to last six months, rather than the average of over a year from the 'legacy' plan making system. This is likely to have a positive impact on the Council's financial outlay, although it must also be stressed this process has not been tested in practice and therefore at this stage it is difficult to assess the likely financial burden to the Council.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The new Local Plan will need to adequately plan for new housing and employment growth over a 20 year period, as well as any other land uses where evidence indicates a need. It will also need to develop new planning policies to support the implementation and delivery of site allocations in a sustainable manner. The new Local Plan will need to in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which continues to include a policy of the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as well as specific policies on meeting the challenge of climate change.
- 6.2. The Council are at the earliest stage of plan making, and therefore at this time there are no firm proposals for either future site allocations or new planning policies. However, as part of the Scoping consultation a new draft 'community hierarchy' has been prepared (appendix 5) and subject to Cabinet approval will be subject to public consultation. This seeks to provide a starting point for the future distribution of development. It uses the new DfT connectivity tool, which seeks to 'score' settlements based upon their ease of connectivity to a range of services and facilities, using non-car-borne transport modes. Section 7 to this report expands upon this.

7. Background

- 7.1. Planning has seen some significant changes at the national level in the past few years. Most recently, the Government has introduced a new Plan-making system in March 2026 and enacted the Planning and Infrastructure Act in December 2025.
- 7.2. Central to these national changes has been the objective to utilise the important role Planning has to further stimulate economic growth and to support a positive and plan-led approach to ensuring a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of current and future populations.
- 7.3. It is important to remember that a Local Plan covers a number of policy areas, including but not exclusively dealing with new housing provision. It is ultimately a document designed to manage land use change over a minimum 15 year period (from adoption), in a manner which responds to the evidential needs of communities. The Local Plan will therefore be vital in providing the vision, objectives, and long-term spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire to 2046.
- 7.4. The remit and scope of a Local Plan is driven to a large degree by the expectations and requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by MHCLG. The NPPF has recently been subject to a national consultation proposing some notable changes to its content and layout. It is expected the final version of the NPPF will be published by the Government in summer 2026.
- 7.5. Policy PM2 of the draft NPPF includes the following requirements for the preparation and of a Local Plan:
 - 7.5.1. Setting out a spatial strategy, policies for the minimum amount of development to be provided, land allocations and broad locations for growth, and designations for a period of no less than 15 years from the point of adoption;
 - 7.5.2. Identifying the contributions expected from development towards meeting affordable housing requirements and on and off site infrastructure; and
 - 7.5.3. Establishing planning policies only where these support the delivery of specific allocated sites.
- 7.6. The draft NPPF requires the preparation of a Local Plan in 30 months, following the completion of at least a 4 month ‘scoping’ period at the start of the process. The recently published Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (the Local Planning regulations) provide the prescribed regulatory stages of plan-making, and it is important the Council follows this carefully. To support the implementation of the new plan making system, MHCLG have usefully published an online ‘roadmap for plan making’ which provides additional guidance on the delivery of a Plan and the processes involved.

- 7.7. The first important step in this process is to publish a plan-making timetable in line with Regulation 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The proposed plan-making timetable is included as Appendix 1 to this report and Recommendation 1 seeks Cabinet agreement of this timetable for publication.
- 7.8. There is an expectation the Council will monitor progress against the plan-making timetable on a monthly basis, as such recommendation 1 seeks approval for any subsequent changes to the plan-making timetable to be delegated to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, in order to avoid any unnecessary delays to the programme.
- 7.9. The Plan Making Timetable sets out a programme for the preparation and adoption of three documents, these are:
- 7.9.1. The Shropshire Local Plan (2046);
 - 7.9.2. The associated Policy Map; and
 - 7.9.3. The updated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.
- 7.10. The timetable for the preparation and adoption of the next Shropshire Local Plan reflects national expectations of achieving this in a 30 month timeframe, plus an additional minimum 4 month ‘Scoping’ stage at the beginning of the process.
- 7.11. The new plan-making system includes three specific stages of consultation and a number of ‘Gateway’ assessments, whilst the Plan is in preparation and ahead of its submission for independent examination. The below table provides a summary of the stages of the new plan-making system and when the programme envisages these occurring during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan:

Consultation: scoping May-Sept 2026	Seeking views on what the plan should contain and how we should engage with stakeholders going forward. This is to occur during the notification period.
Gateway 1: self-assessment Sept 2026	Involves the Council undertaking a self-assessment of its readiness to start the 30-month plan preparation process.
Consultation: content & evidence May – June 2027	Minimum 6 week consultation. Seeking views on the proposed vision, objectives and spatial strategy. This stage will include initial policies and draft site allocations.
Gateway 2: independent review July-August 2027	Seeking observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate to support early resolution of any potential ‘soundness’ issues and progress towards meeting Gateway 3 requirements.
Consultation: proposed Local Plan April – June 2028	Minimum 8 week consultation. Seeking views on a fully formed draft Local Plan.
Gateway 3: stop or go July – August 2028	Planning Inspectorate to decide whether the draft Local Plan meets prescribed requirements and ready to be submitted for examination.

	Prescribed requirements relate to legal compliance, availability of submission documents and whether we and the Local Plan are ready to proceed.
Submission August 2028	Formal submission of the draft Local Plan for examination. Triggers commencement of the examination.
Examination August 2028 – February 2029	Undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate to assess whether the draft Local Plan is legally compliant & sound – meets the tests of soundness in national planning policy. Those who have made representations on the plan during the consultation on the proposed Local Plan will have the right to present their views to the inspector.
Adoption March 2029	Subject to conclusions of the examination and decision of full Council. Adoption brings the next Local Plan into effect.

- 7.12. Whilst the Policy Map is identified as a separate entry on the plan-making timetable, it is directly linked to the preparation and adoption of the next Shropshire Local Plan, as its role is to indicate spatially where the policies of the next Shropshire Local Plan will apply. As such, it follows the same preparation and adoption timeframe as the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.13. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule sets out the financial charges placed upon new development to help fund infrastructure. The current CIL Charging Schedule was adopted in 2012, with rates increasing in line with indexation in the following years. It is considered the preparation of a new Local Plan is an ideal time to commence a review of the CIL Charging Schedule given the shared evidence requirements, most notably an updated Viability Assessment. It is however important that the next Shropshire Local Plan is at a suitably advanced stage to inform progress of the CIL Charging Schedule, with at least draft policies and draft site allocations identified. As such, the proposed timeframe for the review of the CIL Charging Schedule anticipates the submission for independent examination occurring in February 2028, roughly six months before the submission of the next Shropshire Local Plan for examination.
- 7.14. Appendix 2 of the report sets out the Council’s draft ‘Statement of Intention to Commence Plan Making’ in compliance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The purpose of this notice is to formally signal the intention to commence preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. Its publication ‘triggers’ the minimum 4 month notification period. Recommendation 2 of this report seeks agreement to publish this notice.
- 7.15. Appendix 3 of the report is the proposed Project Initiation Document (PID) for preparation of the Local Plan. The purpose of this document is to set out the project management framework, and provides clarity on the intended scope, governance arrangements, resources and timelines. Recommendation 3 of this report seeks Cabinet agreement to publish this Project Initiation Document. As the Project Initiation Document aligns with and complements the plan-making timetable, recommendation 3 seeks approval for any subsequent changes to it to

- be delegated to the Interim Service Director for Place Shaping in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, so as to avoid any unnecessary delays to the programme.
- 7.16. Appendix 4 to this report consists of the draft ‘scoping consultation’ document. Recommendation 4 of this report seeks approval to publish this document for public consultation in line with the engagement strategy outlined in the PID.
- 7.17. This ‘scoping consultation’ will be for a minimum of 6 weeks and is intended to happen during the 4 month ‘scoping’ notification period. It would constitute the first of three formal stages of consultation to inform preparation of the Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.18. The purpose of the scoping document is to seek stakeholder views at the outset of the plan making process. This includes, but is not limited to, local residents, parish and town councils, infrastructure providers, statutory agencies, local businesses, developers and agents. The document therefore purposely **does not** define either a future spatial strategy or future site allocations; these issues will be addressed in future consultation stages once we have gathered initial thoughts and collected additional evidence. Nevertheless, the scoping stage is an important first step in the Local Plan preparation process and one where the views of stakeholders can meaningfully shape the future direction of the Local Plan. As such, the document raises a number of questions the Council is particularly seeking feedback on, including:
- 7.18.1. The key priorities for the **vision** and **measurable outcomes** for the delivery of the Local Plan.
- 7.18.2. The key considerations for the future identification of a **spatial strategy** to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
- 7.18.3. The **approach to identifying and assessing** potential site allocations.
- 7.18.4. Matters that would benefit from being addressed by **local planning policies** to complement new national decision-making policies.
- 7.18.5. How we should effectively **engage** communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
- 7.18.6. The **evidence** required to support the next Local Plan.
- 7.19. Importantly, as this first consultation seeks views on the ‘scope’ of the next Local Plan, it **does not identify proposed options** – including on the approach to the levels and distribution of growth and **does not include draft site allocations**.
- 7.20. A summary of each of the areas addressed in the proposed ‘Scoping Consultation’ document follows:

- 7.21. The vision of the next Shropshire Local Plan will set out our aspirations for Shropshire over the period to 2046, whilst the measurable outcomes will support the monitoring of progress towards delivering the Local Plan vision.
- 7.22. The ‘Scoping Consultation’ document identifies initial considerations that we believe will inform the development of the vision and measurable outcomes, informed by consideration of:
- 7.22.1. The requirements of national planning policy.
 - 7.22.2. Collected evidence particularly where it identifies ‘baseline’ conditions and any local issues and opportunities.
 - 7.22.3. Other Council strategies, including the administrations ‘New Direction for Shropshire’ and the emerging Corporate Plan.
 - 7.22.4. Analysis of Shropshire’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
 - 7.22.5. Responses to consultations on the Scoping document.
 - 7.22.6. Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.

Beginning to Develop the Spatial Strategy

- 7.23. Whilst the context of plan making and expectations on housing growth have recently changed, Local Plans should still advance a strategy build around ensuring sustainable development, improving the lives of communities and protecting important environmental assets. Having a Local Plan in place will allow an area to grow in a managed way and also provides a greater element of certainty to communities about what to expect.
- 7.24. The Spatial Strategy is central to the delivery of the Local Plan. It will establish clear expectations for the **amount and distribution of development**, whilst also identifying **locations that should be conserved or enhanced** for specific purposes such as landscape conservation and habitat improvement.
- 7.25. The ‘Scoping Consultation’ document **does not** identify the spatial strategy, rather it identifies what we believe are the key considerations to develop this as part of the next stage of plan making. We are therefore seeking views on whether we have identified the correct issues, and if there are any other issues we should be considering.
- 7.26. With regard to the amount of housing development to be planned for within the spatial strategy, the ‘Scoping Consultation’ document indicates the starting point is local housing need, which Government has made clear in their recent draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the minimum amount of housing areas should be planning for.

- 7.27. Using Government’s standard methodology, we have calculated the current local housing need for Shropshire as **2,030 dwellings per annum**. This represents a significantly higher housing need than planned for through previous Local Plans. Future employment needs will be informed by a new Economic Development Needs Assessment, to be commissioned by the Council in the spring.
- 7.28. Importantly, the ‘Scoping Consultation’ document also identifies and seeks views on other considerations relevant to the spatial strategy. These include:
- 7.28.1. The infrastructure capacity of settlements to be informed by ongoing discussions with infrastructure providers;
 - 7.28.2. The deliverability of development, reflecting viability and market conditions;
 - 7.28.3. The need to conserve and enhance important natural, built and historic environmental assets, which contribute to Shropshire’s unique character.
 - 7.28.4. The specific housing needs of groups in our communities, recognising the critical role of affordable and specialist housing.
 - 7.28.5. Supporting economic growth and creating the right conditions for inward investment.
 - 7.28.6. Consideration of supporting unmet needs from adjoining and closely related authorities, where fully evidenced and sustainable to do so.
 - 7.28.7. Responses to the ‘scoping’ consultation and emerging evidence.
- 7.29. A **draft Community Hierarchy** has been prepared (appendix 5 of this report) to complement the Scoping document. Recommendation 4 of this report seeks approval to publish this document for public consultation.
- 7.30. A ‘Community Hierarchy’ involves an assessment of *specific and consistent criteria* on the characteristics of an area, and is an important first step in the preparation of a spatial strategy by categorising Shropshire’s many and varied communities. **However, it does not in itself establish growth requirements for settlements – this will be for a later stage of plan making once the Council has considered a range of other relevant issues, including infrastructure constraints.**
- 7.31. The draft Community Hierarchy uses a methodology which combines an analysis of the size of a community (using population and dwelling stock data) and an assessment of it’s connectivity to services, informed by the Department for Transport (DfT) Connectivity Tool. The DfT tool provides an assessment of the ability for those living and working within a community to access a variety of employment, services and social engagement opportunities through sustainable transport modes.
- 7.32. The DfT Connectivity Tool has been developed nationally to support plan making and to provide a robust and consistent measure of the ease of connectivity to

services and facilities. It uses information on potential travel destinations, the transport infrastructure network, and willingness to travel data in order to provide a consistent 'connectivity score' using non-car-borne transport.

- 7.33. Using defined thresholds, a range of community categories have been identified, ranging from Shrewsbury as the largest and most connected community, a range of Principle and Key Centres, through to a number of rural communities. In order to distinguish more effectively between Shropshire's many and varied rural communities, the Community Hierarchy proposes three different categories of rural area: primary, secondary and tertiary connected villages.
- 7.34. The Council are particularly interested in hearing consultation responses on the draft Community Hierarchy. Once we've assessed feedback later in the 2026, and made any appropriate changes, the Council will use the final version of the hierarchy alongside wider evidence to begin establishing growth strategies for communities. These will be consulted on in 2027.

Beginning to develop future site allocations

- 7.35. Site allocations consist of specific areas of land designated in a Local Plan for a particular form of development or land-use. Site allocations will form an important mechanism to support the delivery of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.
- 7.36. The 'Scoping Consultation' document **does not identify any proposed allocations**. Rather, it seeks views on the forms of development for which allocations are required.
- 7.37. To support this, the Council have prepared a draft methodology for how we intend to assess site options as part of the plan making process. The draft Site Identification and Assessment document is included as appendix 6 of this report, and recommendation 3.4 seeks approval to publish this document for public consultation alongside the 'Scoping Consultation' document.
- 7.38. The future identification of preferred site allocations will be informed by the outcome of the 'call for sites' exercise carried out by the Council in autumn 2025. Information from the call for sites will be made available as part of the consultation on the scoping document.

Developing Local Planning Policies

- 7.39. Planning policies set out the standards and expectations of development proposals, supporting the delivery of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.

7.40. The ‘Scoping Consultation’ document does not identify proposed planning policies. Rather, it seeks views on what issues would benefit from being addressed in local planning policy as we develop the Local Plan. It should be recognised that there is a general expectation from Government that new Local Plans will contain fewer policies as many policy areas are addressed at the national level in the updated NPPF. However, there remains scope to develop genuinely local policies to complement the NPPF, and we are particularly interested in hearing feedback from communities and other stakeholders on this matter.

Undertaking Effective Engagement

7.41. Engagement is critical to informing the preparation of the Local Plan. To facilitate effective engagement the ‘Scoping Consultation’ document outlines and seeks views on the proposed approach to engagement during the plan-making process.

Evidence

7.42. The ‘Scoping Consultation’ document identifies the existing and emerging evidence base available to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. It then identifies additional evidence that it is proposed to be progressed during the plan-making process seeking views on this evidence and whether any other areas need to be addressed.

7.43. As part of the plan-making process, it is necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). The first stage of this process is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening to determine whether further SEA assessment is required.

7.44. An SEA Screening has been undertaken (appendix 7 of this report) which concludes that further SEA will be required during the plan-making process. Recommendation 3.4 of this report seeks approval to publish this document alongside the ‘Scoping Consultation’ document.

7.45. The next stage of this process is for the Council to prepare and consult on an SEA Scoping document (note - this is different to the Local Plan Scoping document). We are currently awaiting further information from Government regarding the expected scope of this assessment, and therefore to avoid aborted work, recommendation 3.7 of this report requests delegated authority for officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to prepare this report and to consult on it during the Notification and Scoping Stage.

8. Conclusions

8.1. The Council are at the very start of the process to prepare a new Local Plan for Shropshire. This report sets out a number of documents associated with the first stage of this new process – known as the ‘notification and scoping’ stage. This includes the publication of a new Plan making timetable (appendix 1), and seeks approval to consult on a ‘Scoping’ document (appendix 4) and a draft Community Hierarchy (appendix 5) for public consultation.

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

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Plan Making Timetable

Appendix 2 – Notice to Commence Preparation of the Local Plan

Appendix 3 – Plan Project Initiation Document

Appendix 4 – Shropshire Local Plan – Scoping Consultation

Appendix 5 – Draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy

Appendix 6 – Draft Methodology – Site Identification & Assessment

Appendix 7 – SEA Screening Assessment

Appendix 8 – Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment

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SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Plan-Making Timetable

Version 1

May 2026

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1. Overview

What is a Plan-Making Timetable?

- 1.1. A Plan-Making Timetable is a 'project plan' identifying the planning policy documents Shropshire Council is intending to prepare over the next 3-year period.
- 1.2. A Plan-Making Timetable is a requirement of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Part 2, Regulation 4.

What is the purpose of this Plan-Making Timetable?

- 1.3. The main purposes of this Plan-Making Timetable are to:
 - a. **Establish the Council's priorities** for the preparation of new planning policy documents and associated work programmes.
 - b. **Inform the community and other interested stakeholders** of the timescales they can expect for the preparation and adoption of new planning policy documents for the area.
- 1.4. For each planning policy document that the Council is intending to prepare, the Plan-Making Timetable explains:
 - a. Its purpose and scope.
 - b. Conformity requirements.
 - c. Relevant framework guiding their preparation.
 - d. The geographical area that it will cover.
 - e. Any other organisation(s) involved in leading its production.
 - f. The resources the Council will require to prepare it.
 - g. The overarching timetable for its production.

h. Timescales to key milestones in its production - including when public consultation and 'gateway' assessments (checkpoints during the plan-making process to ensure plans are positively progressing in a way that is legally compliant and capable of being found 'sound' – the first 'gateway' is a self-assessment, the second and third 'gateways' are undertaken by an independent examiner) will take place.

1.5. This Plan-Making Timetable will also identify planning policy documents that may be prepared for the area by other organisations.

What timescale is addressed in this Plan-Making Timetable?

1.6. This Plan-Making Timetable covers the 3-year period from **April 2026 to March 2029**.

How often will this Plan-Making Timetable be updated?

1.7. To ensure our communities and other stakeholders remain informed on our intended timescales for preparing planning policy documents, the Council is committed to keeping this Plan-Making Timetable up to date.

1.8. As such, it will be reviewed monthly and appropriately updated if there are any changes to the dates associated with key milestones for preparing any planning policy document.

How will we record changes to our Plan-Making Timetable?

1.9. If we make any updates to this Plan-Making Timetable, the version number in the top right of the document will be updated.

1.10. Furthermore, we will prepare a concise schedule detailing any amendments, which we will make available on our website alongside this Plan-Making Timetable.

How can you view the Plan-Making Timetable?

- 1.11. To provide our communities and other stakeholders access to this Plan-Making Timetable, it will be made available to view:
- a. On Shropshire Council’s Planning Policy webpage via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>
 - b. At Shropshire Council’s Head Office - the [Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury SY3 8HQ](#) during specified opening times.
- 1.12. Digital access to this Plan-Making Timetable can be facilitated through use of computer/tablet facilities (subject to availability) at:
- a. ‘Shropshire Local’ facilities during their specified opening times. Information on Shropshire Local facilities is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>
 - b. Shropshire Libraries during their specified opening times. Information on Shropshire libraries is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>

If I need further information about the Plan-Making Timetable, who should I contact?

- 1.13. Further information on this Plan-Making Timetable and the planning policy documents referenced within it can be found on the Shropshire Council Planning Policy Website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy>
- 1.14. Further information can also be obtained by contacting Shropshire Council’s Planning Policy team. To do so please:
- a. Email: planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk or
 - b. Phone: 0345 678 9004

2. Proposed Planning Policy Documents

Shropshire Council Schedule

2.1. Figure 2.1 outlines the planning policy documents that Shropshire Council is intending to prepare over the 3-year period from **April 2026 to March 2029**.

Figure 2.1: Schedule of Proposed Planning Policy Documents

Document	Intention to Commence	Commencement	Submission	Adoption
Shropshire Local Plan (incorporating the Mineral and Waste Plan)	May 2026	September 2026	September 2028	March 2029
Policy Map	May 2026	September 2026	September 2028	March 2029
Updated Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule	May 2026	October 2026	February 2028	March 2029

2.2. The following sections provide further details on each of these documents.

3. Shropshire Local Plan

Reasoning

- 3.1. Shropshire Council is required to regularly review its Local Plan - at least every five years. These reviews are to ensure the Local Plan remains 'up-to-date' and significant weight can be applied to its policies in decision making.
- 3.2. Recent years have seen significant change to the national planning picture, with the introduction of a new plan-making process and ongoing change to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out Government's planning policies. This has led to important contextual change locally.
- 3.3. As a result, Shropshire Council intends to progress the next **Shropshire Local Plan**.

Purpose and Scope

- 3.4. The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Shropshire Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.
- 3.5. As Shropshire Council is also a Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the **next Mineral and Waste Plan** for Shropshire. This enables a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.

Conformity

- 3.6. The next Shropshire Local Plan is required to be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and any sufficiently advanced Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) within the relevant geographical area.
- 3.7. The NPPF sets out Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides the framework for the preparation of planning policy documents and constitutes a significant material consideration when making decisions on planning applications. The current NPPF was published in December 2024 (with

targeted updates in February 2025). However, Government recently consulted on proposed reforms to the NPPF which it is anticipated will be introduced later in 2026.

3.8. SDS are new sub-regional planning policy documents that will look ahead at least 20 years and set the framework for Local Plans, ensuring that they meet local housing needs, co-ordinate the provision of strategic infrastructure, grow the economy and improve the environment and climate resilience. SDS will be prepared by ‘Strategic Planning Boards’, which will consist of strategic planning authorities like Shropshire Council. The specific sub-regional geography that will include Shropshire has yet to be confirmed. Currently it is anticipated that the next Shropshire Local Plan will be prepared in advance of the SDS that addresses Shropshire.

Framework

3.9. The next Shropshire Local Plan will be prepared under Government’s new plan-making arrangements, characterised by a more efficient 30-month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four-month scoping stage prior to commencement).

3.10. The ‘groundwork’ for these arrangements was laid in the Levelling-up & Regeneration Act (2023) and they were enacted through the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2026).

3.11. Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the new plan-making arrangements:

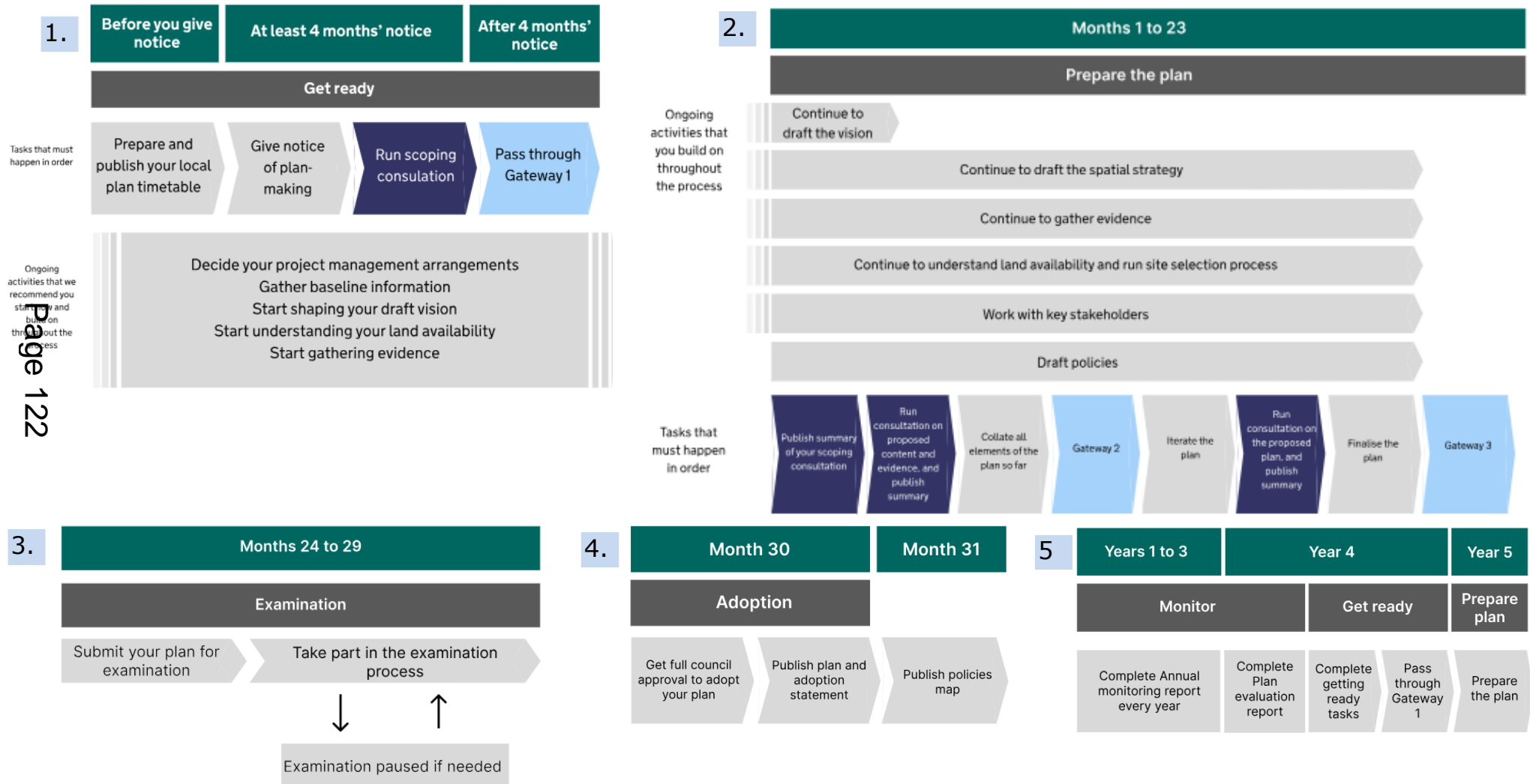
Figure 3.1: Overview of the New Plan-Making Arrangements¹



¹ MHCLG, (2026), 30-month Local Plan process: an overview, <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

3.12. Figure 3.2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the new plan-making arrangements:

Figure 3.2: Breakdown of the New Plan-Making Arrangements²



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² MHCLG, (2026), 30-month Local Plan process: an overview, <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

3.13. Figure 3.2 illustrates that the new plan-making process continues to include an independent examination in its latter stages, undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate. The examination is also expected to be more efficient – undertaken over a 6 month period. The role of the examination continues to be to ensure the next Shropshire Local Plan is ‘sound’ - positive, appropriate, realistic, and consistent with national policy.

Figure 3.3: Shropshire Council Administrative Area

Lead Organisation(s)

3.14. In fulfilling its statutory role as the Local Planning Authority and Mineral & Waste Planning Authority, Shropshire Council is responsible for leading the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Geographical Area

3.15. The next Shropshire Local Plan will cover Shropshire Council’s administrative area, as detailed in Figure 3.3:

Resource Requirements

3.16. The Council’s Plan-Making Project Initiation Document (PID) details the resources required to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan.

3.17. In summary, required staff resourcing includes the core Planning Policy staff supported by staff across a wide range of other council services. Financial resources required include that to commission key evidence, secure necessary technical/legal support, fund consultation processes and fund the examination process (including the planning inspectorate costs).



Overarching Timetable and Timescales to Key Milestones

3.18. The intended programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including timescales to key milestones is detailed in Figure 3.4:





Figure 3.4: Next Shropshire Local Plan Timetable

	2026										2027											
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Shropshire Local Plan (2046)																						
Key Decision Points		©																				
Key Milestones		❶																				
Consultation Periods		C1	C1	C1											C2	C2						
Gateway Checks						G1										G2	G2					
Supporting Technical Assessments																						
Strategic Environmental Assessment																						
Habitats Regulations Assessment																						
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment																						




	2028												2029									
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar							
Shropshire Local Plan (2046)																						
Key Decision Points			© / ❖																			
Key Milestones																						
Consultation Periods				C3	C3	C3																
Gateway Checks							G3	G3														
Supporting Technical Assessments																						
Strategic Environmental Assessment																						
Habitats Regulations Assessment																						
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment																						

Key






Plan-Making Stages

-  Notification stage
-  Production stage
-  Examination stage
-  Adoption




Decision Points

-  Cabinet decision
-  Full Council decision
-  Inspectors Report




Plan-Making Milestones

-  Issue intention to commence plan-making
-  Commencement of plan-making
-  Submission
-  Anticipated hearing dates
-  Anticipated adoption






Consultation Periods

-  Consultation: scoping
-  Consultation: content & evidence
-  Consultation: proposed Local Plan





Gateway Checks

-  Consultation: scoping
-  Consultation: content & evidence
-  Consultation: proposed Local Plan




Strategic Environmental Assessment Stages

-  Screening
-  Scoping
-  Assessment of reasonable options and effects of proposals
-  Draft Environmental Report
-  Final Environmental Report

Habitat Regulations Assessment Stages

-  Scoping
-  Where necessary appropriate assessment
-  Draft Report
-  Final Report

Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment Stages

-  Appraisal
-  Draft Report
-  Final Report

3.19. Figure 3.5 provides a complementary activity log, detailing key activities within the intended programme for preparing the next Shropshire Local Plan. It also includes when these activities are likely to occur, reflecting the intended programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan in Figure 3.4.

Figure 3.5: Next Shropshire Local Plan Activity Log

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
1	Developing project management process and structure, governance risk register and ensuring resources are in place to begin the project	January 2026	May 2026
2	Scoping, collating and procuring early evidence and scoping strategic environmental assessment	March 2025	September 2026
3	Scoping and production of an engagement strategy / Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings / early engagement about forthcoming plan production	March 2025	September 2026
4	Call for sites	July 2025	October 2025
5	(Statutory) Notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026	May 2026
6	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment – screening	March 2026	May 2026
7	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	March 2026	May 2026
8	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2026</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
9	Public consultation – scoping (minimum 6 weeks)	May 2026	July 2026
10	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment – scoping	August 2026	October 2026
11	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment – scoping	August 2026	October 2026
12	Gateway 1 – self-assessment and commencement of plan-making	September 2026	September 2026
13	Preparation of vision and measurable outcomes for consultation	October 2026	November 2026
14	Identification of reasonable options and preferred option for spatial strategy	November 2026	March 2027
15	Initial site assessment process	November 2026	March 2027
16	Initial local policy development	November 2026	March 2027
17	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment	November 2026	March 2027
18	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment	November 2026	March 2027
19	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	November 2026	March 2027

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
20	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2027</i>	<i>May 2027</i>
21	Public consultation – content and evidence (minimum 6 weeks)	May 2027	June 2027
22	Gateway 2 – independent review (by the planning inspectorate)	July 2027	August 2027
23	Continued development of draft plan including responding to consultation and any further evidence gathering	September 2027	March 2028
24	Finalisation of site assessment process	September 2027	March 2028
25	Finalisation of local policy development	September 2027	March 2028
26	Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings / early engagement about next stage of plan production	September 2027	March 2028
27	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment	September 2027	March 2028
28	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment	September 2027	March 2028
29	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	November 2027	March 2028
30	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
31	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
32	Public consultation – proposed Local Plan (minimum 8 weeks)	April 2028	June 2028
33	Gateway 3 – stop or go (by the planning inspectorate)	July 2028	August 2028
34	Plan Submission	August 2028	August 2028
35	Independent Examination (indicative – specific timescales determined by the planning inspectorate)	August 2028	February 2029
36	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2029</i>	<i>March 2029</i>
37	Plan adoption (indicative)	March 2029	March 2029

4. Policy Map

Reasoning

- 4.1. The policy map indicates spatially where the policies in planning policy documents apply. To support the next Shropshire Local Plan, the Council is intending to prepare the **next policy map** for Shropshire.

Purpose and Scope

- 4.2. The next policy map will not introduce new planning policy, rather it indicates spatially where the policies of the next Shropshire Local Plan and other adopted planning policy documents for Shropshire apply. This includes the location and extent of settlements, site allocations, policy designations (such as Green Belt) and historic and natural environment designations.

Conformity

- 4.3. The next policy map will support the understanding and application Local Plan and other adopted planning policy documents for Shropshire. As such, it will be in conformity with these documents.

Framework

- 4.4. Consistent with the next Shropshire Local Plan, the next policy map will be prepared under Government's new plan-making arrangements.

Lead Organisation(s)

- 4.5. Alongside preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, Shropshire Council will lead the preparation of the next policy map for Shropshire.

Geographical Area

- 4.6. The next policy map will cover Shropshire Council's administrative area, as detailed in Figure 3.3.

Resource Requirements

4.7. Preparation of the next policy map will form part of the process of preparing the next Shropshire Local Plan. The Council’s Plan-Making Project Initiation Document (PID) details the resources required to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Overarching Timetable and Timescales to Key Milestones

4.8. The intended programme for the preparation of the next policy map aligns with the intended programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This intended programme, including timescales to key milestones, is detailed in Figure 4.1:

Figure 4.1: Next Policy Map Timetable

	2026										2027											
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Next Policy Map (2046)																						
Key Decision Points	©										©											
Key Milestones											① ①											

	2028												2029		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Next Policy Map (2046)															
Key Decision Points	© / ◇												◇		
Key Milestones				②		②		②		③			④		

Key

Policy Map Milestones

- ① Optional consultation on initial draft Local Plan policy map
- ② Consultation on initial draft Local Plan policy map
- ③ Submission
- ④ Anticipated adoption of full Development Plan policy map*

Decision Points

- © Cabinet decision
- ◇ Full Council decision

*The adopted policy map will reflect the policies of both the next Local Plan and other adopted planning policy documents for Shropshire.

4.9. Figure 4.2 provides a complementary activity log, detailing key activities within the intended programme for preparing the next policy map. It also includes when these activities are likely to occur, reflecting the intended programme for the preparation of the next policy map in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.2: Next Policy Map Activity Log

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
1	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2026</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
2	Development of initial draft Local Plan policy map	November 2026	March 2027
3	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2027</i>	<i>May 2027</i>
4	Optional public consultation – initial draft Local Plan policy map (minimum 6 weeks)	May 2027	June 2027
5	Development of draft Local Plan policy map	September 2027	March 2028
6	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
7	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
8	Public consultation – draft Local Plan policy map (minimum 8 weeks)	April 2028	June 2028
9	Submission alongside next Shropshire Local Plan	August 2028	August 2028
10	Informs independent Examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan (indicative – specific timescales determined by the planning inspectorate)	August 2028	February 2029
11	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2029</i>	<i>March 2029</i>
12	Development Plan policy map adoption (indicative)	March 2029	March 2029

5. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

Reasoning

- 5.1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on new development to help fund supporting infrastructure. CIL only applies in areas where a CIL Charging Schedule setting out levy rates has been adopted.
- 5.2. Shropshire Council was one of the first CIL Charging Authorities in the Country, having adopted its current CIL Charging Schedule in January 2012. Whilst the economic context has changed since its adoption, the levy rates in this CIL Charging Schedule have been kept up to date through annual indexation.
- 5.3. However, rates can only be revised to reflect wider changes to planning policy and infrastructure requirements through a review of the CIL Charging Schedule.
- 5.4. It is considered opportune to review the CIL Charging Schedule for Shropshire alongside preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, as this approach supports the alignment of these two documents. This approach also enables a shared evidence base, increasing consistency and efficiency; and enables the achievement of an appropriate balance between ensuring development remains viable whilst also funding its fair share of infrastructure improvements.

Purpose and Scope

- 5.5. The new CIL Charging Schedule will detail the levy rates applicable to development in Shropshire - based on the size, type and location of new development. These rates will be responsive to and inform the next Shropshire Local Plan, particularly:
 - a. The approach to the delivery of the infrastructure required to support achievement of the next Shropshire Local Plan's vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046.
 - b. The policy requirements in the next Shropshire Local Plan that have viability implications for development.

Conformity

- 5.6. Through a shared evidence base, the new CIL Charging Schedule for Shropshire will be in conformity with the next Shropshire Local Plan - responsive to and informing its proposals.

Framework

- 5.7. The framework for the new CIL Charging Schedule is detailed within the Planning Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended), which are closely related to but not part of the statutory planning framework.
- 5.8. This preparation process includes an independent examination in its latter stages, undertaken by an Independent Examiner. The purpose of this examination is to ensure it is legally compliant, supported by appropriate evidence (particularly on viability) that has informed proposed rate(s) and demonstrates they will not undermine the deliverability of the Local Plan, and has been informed by appropriate levels of consultation.

Lead Organisation(s)

- 5.9. Shropshire Council will lead the preparation of the new CIL Charging Schedule for Shropshire.

Geographical Area

- 5.10. The new CIL Charging Schedule will cover Shropshire Council's administrative area, as detailed in Figure 3.3.

Resource Requirements

- 5.11. Preparation of the new CIL Charging Schedule will require staff and financial resources. Staffing resources required include the core Planning Policy staff, supported by staff across a wide range of other council services. Financial resources required include that to commission key evidence, secure necessary technical/legal support, fund consultation processes and fund the examination process (including the planning inspectorate costs).

Overarching Timetable and Timescales to Key Milestones

5.12. The intended programme for the preparation of the new CIL Charging Schedule aligns with the intended programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This intended programme, including timescales to key milestones, is detailed in Figure 5.1:

Figure 5.1: New CIL Charging Schedule Timetable

	2026										2027															
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
New CIL Charging Schedule																										
Key Decision Points																		© / ♦								
Key Milestones											①			②						③			③		④	

	2028												2029																	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar															
Next Local Plan (2046)																														
Key Decision Points													♦																	
Key Milestones	④		⑤														⑥		⑥		⑥		⑥		⑥		⑥		⑦	

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Key

CIL Charging Schedule Production Stages

- Production stage
- Examination stage
- Adoption

Decision Points

- © Cabinet decision
- ♦ Full Council decision
- ® Inspectors Report

Plan-Making Milestones

- ① Commence evidence base preparation
- ② Commence preparation of draft CIL Charging Schedule
- ③ Consultation on draft CIL Charging Schedule
- ④ Review of consultation responses
- ⑤ Submission
- ⑥ Lead-in to adoption
- ⑦ Adoption

5.13. Figure 5.2 provides a complementary activity log, detailing key activities within the intended programme for preparing the next policy map. It also includes when these activities are likely to occur, reflecting the intended programme for the preparation of the next policy map in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.2: New CIL Charging Schedule Activity Log

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
1	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2026</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
2	Development of evidence base	October 2026	September 2027
3	Development of draft CIL Charging Schedule	April 2027	September 2027
4	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>September 2027</i>	<i>September 2027</i>
5	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>September 2027</i>	<i>September 2027</i>
6	Public consultation – draft CIL Charging Schedule (minimum 6 weeks)	October 2027	November 2027
7	Review of consultation responses and finalisation of draft CIL Charging Schedule	December 2027	January 2028
8	Submission	February 2028	February 2028
9	Independent Examination on new CIL Charging Schedule (indicative – specific timescales determined by the planning inspectorate)	February 2028	June 2028
10	Lead-in to adoption (indicative)	<i>July 2028</i>	<i>February 2029</i>
11	<i>Full Council decision</i>	March 2029	March 2029
12	CIL Charging Schedule adoption (indicative)	March 2029	March 2029

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6. Other Organisations Planning Policy Documents

Other Organisations Schedule

- 6.1. Whilst Shropshire Council is the Local Planning Authority for its administrative area, certain planning policy documents for this area are led by other organisations.
- 6.2. As Shropshire Council does not lead their production, we cannot detail their intended timescales in this Plan-Making Timetable. However, we can identify those planning policy documents led by other organisations that we anticipate will be progressed over the 3-year period from **April 2026 to March 2029**:

Figure 6.1: Schedule of Planning Policy Documents Other Organisations May Progress

Document	Responsible Body	Geography	Purpose
Spatial Development Strategy	'Strategic Planning Boards' consisting of strategic planning authorities like Shropshire Council	Sub-regional. Specific sub-regional geography that includes Shropshire yet to be confirmed	A new sub-regional planning policy document that will look ahead at least 20 years and set the framework for Local Plans, ensuring that they meet local housing needs, co-ordinate the provision of strategic infrastructure, grow the economy and improve the environment and climate resilience.

Document	Responsible Body	Geography	Purpose
Neighbourhood Plan	Neighbourhood Plan Group – appointed by the relevant Town or Parish Council	Designated Neighbourhood Plan Areas – often consistent with Town or Parish Council administrative areas	<p>Neighbourhood Plans set out a positive vision and strategy for change in a way that meets identified local need and make sense for local people. To support this vision and strategy they can include planning policies and site allocations.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with ‘strategic policies’ in national policy, sub-regional policy and adopted / emerging Local Plans. For this reason, they cannot propose lower levels of development than in adopted / emerging Local Plans or ‘de-allocate’ sites.</p>

- 6.3. When available, further information on the progression of a Spatial Development Strategy relevant to Shropshire will be made available on the Council’s planning policy website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>
- 6.4. Further information on ‘made’ (adopted) and emerging Neighbourhood Plans in Shropshire is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-and-community-led-plans/>

Shropshire Council

Notice to Commence Preparation of the Shropshire Local Plan

8 May 2026



Notice to Commence Preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan

Shropshire Council gives notice of its intention to commence the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Part 4, Regulation 19.

Purpose of this Notice

This notice is to inform communities and other interested stakeholders that Shropshire Council is intending to commence preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Subject of this Notice

This notice relates to the document titled: **Shropshire Local Plan**.

Viewing this Notice

This notice can be viewed on the Planning Policy pages of the Shropshire Council website, via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/>

A copy of this notice can also be viewed at: **The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ**.

Publication Date of this Notice

This notice was published on the: **8 May 2026**.

Intended Date of Commencement

Shropshire Council will allow a minimum 4 month notification period before formally commencing preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

It is anticipated formal commencement of the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan will occur in: **September 2026**.

Production Timetable

The intended timescales for production of the next Shropshire Local Plan are detailed in Shropshire Council's: **Plan-Making Timetable**.

This timetable is available on the Shropshire Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>. The timetable will be kept under review and updated where necessary during preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Scope of the Document Subject to This Notice

The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Shropshire Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.

The next Shropshire Local Plan will also incorporate the entirety of next **Mineral and Waste Plan** for Shropshire.

Lead Organisation(s)

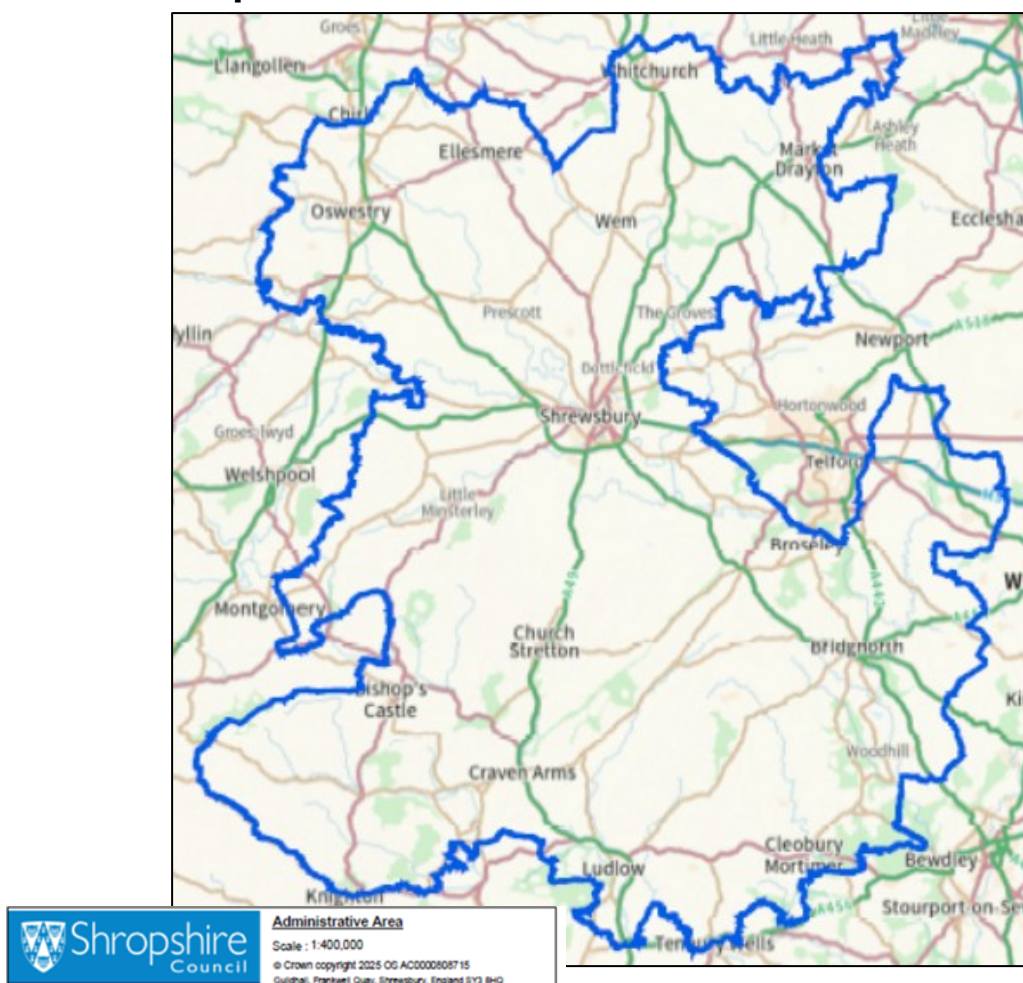
In fulfilling its statutory role as a Local Planning Authority and Mineral & Waste Planning Authority, Shropshire Council is responsible for leading the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Geography

The next Shropshire Local Plan will cover Shropshire Council’s administrative area – the Office for National Statistics (ONS) code for which is E06000051.

The boundary for this administrative area is detailed in the following map.

Shropshire Council: Administrative Area Boundary



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Shropshire Council

Project Initiation Document Shropshire Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

May 2026



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1. Overview

Project Details

Project Title:	Shropshire Local Plan
Project Initiation Document Version:	1
Project Initiation Date of Publication:	May 2026

Purpose of this Project Initiation Document

- 1.1. This Project Initiation Document (PID) sets out the management framework and approach to delivering the next Shropshire Local Plan. It provides clarity on the plan's scope, governance arrangements, resources and timelines.
- 1.2. The PID is designed as a reference tool for the project team, Councillors and stakeholders - supporting effective decision-making and ensuring everyone involved understands their roles and responsibilities throughout the plan-making process.
- 1.3. This PID has been prepared utilising the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) template.

2. Place Scope

Role of the Local Plan

- 2.1. Our Local Plan is vital - providing the vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the long-term sustainable development of Shropshire¹.

Current Local Plan

- 2.2. The adopted Local Plan for Shropshire currently consists of the Core Strategy (2011) and Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2015), collectively covering the period 2006-2026.
- 2.3. Alongside 'made' Neighbourhood Plans, the adopted Local Plan forms the Development Plan for Shropshire – the principal basis for making planning decisions and directly shaping future growth, development, and the sustainability of our communities.
- 2.4. To ensure our Local Plan remains up-to-date we have a statutory requirement to review it at least every five years. Given changes to local circumstances and national policy it is considered that a full review of our Local Plan is now required.
- 2.5. **As such, Shropshire Council is commencing preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.**

Summary of the Scope of Next Shropshire Local Plan

- 2.6. The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Shropshire Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.
- 2.7. As Shropshire Council is also a Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the next Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire. This approach allows for a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.

¹ All references to Shropshire relate to Shropshire Council's administrative area.

Relationship to other Documents

- 2.8. The next Shropshire Local Plan will positively respond to and support the delivery of a range of other Shropshire Council strategies. It will also respond to relevant documents produced within the wider West Midlands region and nationally.
- 2.9. A number of key documents prepared by Shropshire Council have a link to the Local Plan. Some of these are completed, whilst others remain in preparation but will be completed during the Local Plan preparation process:

Local

- a. The Shropshire Corporate Plan (under review).
- b. New Direction for Shropshire.
- c. Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- d. Corporate Climate Strategy: Towards Net-Zero Carbon.
- e. Corporate Climate Action Plan.
- f. Shropshire Local Transport Plan 4.
- g. Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- h. Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy.
- i. Shrewsbury Public Transport Plan (in preparation).
- j. Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- k. Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy.
- l. Shropshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy.
- m. Best Start in Life Plan.
- n. Shropshire Education Excellence Strategy.
- o. Shropshire Housing Strategy.
- p. Shropshire's Social Care Market Position Statement.
- q. Shropshire Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy.
- r. Shropshire Assistive Technology & Telecare Strategy.
- s. Shropshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- t. Shropshire Hills Management Plan.
- u. Shropshire Cultural Strategy.

Other

- a. Marches Forward Partnership Proposition.
- b. West Midlands Design Charter.
- c. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- d. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

3. Plan Timeline

Plan-Making Timetable

- 3.1. Shropshire Council have produced a Plan-Making Timetable detailing the intended programme for the preparation and adoption of new planning policy documents – including the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 3.2. This Plan-Making Timetable is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>

Plan Timeline Summary

- 3.3. The intended programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including timescales to key milestones is provided within the Plan-Making Timetable. A summary of this intended programme is provided within Figure 3.1:

Figure 3.1: Timetable for Plan-Making - Key Activities & Milestones

4 Month Notification and Scoping Period	Publish notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026
	Consultation: scoping	May – July 2026
30 Month Plan-Making Period	Plan Progression September 2026 – August 2028	Gateway 1: self-assessment September 2026
		Consultation: content & evidence May – June 2027
		Gateway 2: independent review July – August 2027
		Consultation: proposed Local Plan April – June 2028
		Gateway 3: stop or go July – August 2028
		Submission August 2028
		Examination August 2028 – February 2029
	Adoption March 2029	

3.4. To ensure the programme for preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan remains up-to-date, the Plan-Making Timetable will be subject to regular reviews.

3.5. Figure 3.2 provides an activity log detailing key activities within the intended programme for preparing the next Shropshire Local Plan. It also includes indicative timescales for when these activities are likely to occur, reflecting timescales within the intended programme.

Figure 3.2: Activity Log

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
1	Developing project management process and structure, governance risk register and ensuring resources are in place to begin the project	January 2026	May 2026
2	Scoping, collating and procuring early evidence and scoping strategic environmental assessment	March 2025	September 2026
3	Scoping and production of an engagement strategy / Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings / early engagement about forthcoming plan production	March 2025	September 2026
4	Call for sites	July 2025	October 2025
5	(Statutory) Notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026	May 2026
6	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment – screening	March 2026	May 2026
7	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	March 2026	May 2026
8	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2026</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
9	Public consultation – scoping (minimum 6 weeks)	May 2026	July 2026
10	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment – scoping	August 2026	October 2026
11	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment – scoping	August 2026	October 2026
12	Gateway 1 – self-assessment and commencement of plan-making	September 2026	September 2026
13	Preparation of vision and measurable outcomes for consultation	October 2026	November 2026
14	Identification of reasonable options and preferred option for spatial strategy	November 2026	March 2027
15	Initial site assessment process	November 2026	March 2027
16	Initial local policy development	November 2026	March 2027

	Activity	Indicative Start:	Indicative End:
17	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment	November 2026	March 2027
18	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment	November 2026	March 2027
19	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	November 2026	March 2027
20	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>May 2027</i>	<i>May 2027</i>
21	Public consultation – content and evidence (minimum 6 weeks)	May 2027	June 2027
22	Gateway 2 – independent review (by the planning inspectorate)	July 2027	August 2027
23	Continued development of draft plan including responding to consultation and any further evidence gathering	September 2027	March 2028
24	Finalisation of site assessment process	September 2027	March 2028
25	Finalisation of local policy development	September 2027	March 2028
26	Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings / early engagement about next stage of plan production	September 2027	March 2028
27	(Statutory) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment	September 2027	March 2028
28	(Statutory) Habitats Regulations Assessment	September 2027	March 2028
29	Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	November 2027	March 2028
30	<i>Cabinet decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
31	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2028</i>	<i>March 2028</i>
32	Public consultation – proposed Local Plan (minimum 8 weeks)	April 2028	June 2028
33	Gateway 3 – stop or go (by the planning inspectorate)	July 2028	August 2028
34	Plan Submission	August 2028	August 2028
35	Independent Examination (indicative – specific timescales determined by the planning inspectorate)	August 2028	February 2029
36	<i>Full Council decision</i>	<i>March 2029</i>	<i>March 2029</i>
37	Plan adoption (indicative)	March 2029	March 2029

Plan Stage

3.6. The key stages in the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan and progress at time of publication are as follows:

- Before notice of intention to commence plan-making
- Notice of intention to commence plan-making
- Consultation – scoping
- Gateway 1 – self-assessment
- Consultation – content & evidence
- Gateway 2 – independent review
- Consultation – proposed Local Plan
- Gateway 3 – stop or go
- Examination
- Adoption

4. Governance and Decision Making

Summary of Governance

- 4.1. The key decision points within the programme for the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan are illustrated within **Error! Reference source not found.** above.
- 4.2. The following summarises the governance arrangements for the key decisions points:

Figure 4.1: Governance Arrangements for Key Decision Points in the Plan Making Programme

Decision		Governance Arrangements
1a	Timetable for plan-making	Cabinet decision – necessary future updates delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Service Director for Place Shaping
1b	Issue intention to commence plan-making	Cabinet decision
	Undertake public consultation – scoping	
1c	Agreement of Statement of Common Ground to inform plan-making	Delegated to the Planning Policy and Strategy Manager
1d	Undertake gateway 1 – self-assessment	Finalisation delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Service Director for Place Shaping
	Commencement of plan-making	
2a	Undertake public consultation – content & evidence	Cabinet decision
2b	Undertake gateway 2 – independent review	Finalisation delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Service Director for Place Shaping
3a	Undertake public consultation – proposed Local Plan	Cabinet decision Full Council decision
3b	Undertake gateway 3 – stop or go	Finalisation delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Service Director for Place Shaping
	Submit Local Plan for examination	
4	Adoption of Local Plan	Full Council decision

Decision Making

- 4.3. **Cabinet** is responsible for decisions at key milestones in the plan-making process. Cabinet consists of up to 10 Councillors, these are the Leader (elected by Council for a 4-year term of office), and the other members as appointed by the Leader.
- 4.4. **Full Council** is responsible for determining whether to undertake the Gateway 3 – stop or go consultation, whether to submit the Local Plan for examination and whether to adopt the Local Plan. The full Council comprises of 74 members, elected for a 4-year term of office.
- 4.5. To ensure effective governance, Cabinet and Full Council may delegate the finalisation of decisions where they are dependent on the outcomes of actions associated with other decisions to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Service Director for Place Shaping.

Portfolio Holder

- 4.6. Councillor David Walker is the Planning Portfolio Holder, responsibilities of which include preparation of the Local Plan. Councillor Bed Jephcott is the deputy to the Planning Portfolio Holder.

Lead Officer(s)

- 4.7. Kassandra Polyzoides is the Service Director for Place Shaping. This directorate contains the Policy and Environment Service including the Planning Policy team responsible for undertaking the work necessary to produce the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 4.8. Andy Wigley is the Policy and Environment Service Manager. This service includes the Planning Policy team responsible for undertaking the work necessary to produce the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 4.9. Edward West is the Planning Policy and Strategy Manager, responsible for the Planning Policy team which undertakes the work necessary to produce the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Advisory Board

- 4.10. The Local Plan Member Group is a cross-party Councillor forum for the consideration and discussion of issues relevant to the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan and other related planning policy documents. The group is non-decision making.

5. Staff Resource and Management

Overview

- 5.1. Staff resourcing required to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan includes core Planning Policy staff (further details follow) supported by staff across a wide range of other council services will be required.

Management of the Local Plan Programme

Name	Job Title	FTE
Edward West	Planning Policy and Strategy Manager	1

Project Manager

Job Level	Job Title	Dedicated?	Internal or External
Helen Davies	Technical Support Officer	No	Internal

Core Local Plan Team

Job Level	Post status	Job Title(s)	FTE	Estimated % time preparing Local Plan
Principal Planner	Occupied	Principal Planning Policy Officers	2	80%
Senior Planner	Occupied	Senior Planning Policy Officers	1.5	80%
Senior Planner	Vacant	Senior Planning Policy Officer	1	N/A
Planner	Occupied	Community Led Housing Enabler	1	75%
Planner	Occupied	Planning Policy & Neighbourhood	1	20%
Graduate Officer	Vacant	Graduate Planning Policy Officer	2	80%
Support Staff	Occupied	Planning Policy Support Officer	1	50%

Core Support Team

Job Level	Post status	Job Title(s)	FTE	Estimated % time preparing Local Plan
Manager	Occupied	Housing Enablement Manager	1	15%
Officer	Occupied	Housing Enablement Officer	0.8	15%
Officer	Occupied	Place Plan Officer	2.5	25%

Wider Corporate Support Needs

What is required	When will it be required	Who will deliver (Teams and Job Titles)
Support during preparation and analysis of evidence base	Throughout baselining and other evidence preparation	Data, Analysis & Intelligence Officer(s)
Support during preparation and analysis of evidence base Support during site assessment and policy development	During evidence preparation, the site assessment process and policy development	Heritage Officer(s)
		Ecology Officer(s)
		Green Infrastructure Advisor(s)
		Tree Protection Officer(s)
		Highways Officer(s)
		Flood & Water Management Officer(s)

External Support Needs

What is required	When will it be required
Consultants to prepare key components of the evidence base and provide necessary support during examination	During evidence preparation and where necessary during the Local Plan examination.

6. Financial Resourcing and Management

Overview

- 6.1. Financial resourcing required to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan includes that to:
 - i. Commission key components of the required evidence base.
 - ii. Cover the costs of any required consultancy staff during the examination - where required to support the Council's position.
 - iii. Hire necessary venues during preparation and subsequent examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - iv. Produce necessary material during preparation and subsequent examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - v. Employ a programme officer to undertake necessary administration during the examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - vi. Secure necessary legal support during preparation and subsequent examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - vii. Cover the costs of the Planning Inspectorate during plan preparation and examination.
 - viii. Meet any additional preparation or examination costs.

Funding

- 6.2. The Council received £70k from MHCLG in February 2025 to commission a new Green Belt Study which will support the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 6.3. The Council also recently received a further £108k from MHCLG as a Local Plan Implementation Fund. This is to be used to support the commissioning of further necessary evidence.
- 6.4. There remains a likelihood that additional funding will be required during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. It is envisaged this will be supported by the Planning Policy consultancy budget, with wider funding sources to be further explored, including from the wider Planning service income where appropriate.

Monitoring

- 6.5. Shropshire Council undertakes budget monitoring on a monthly basis.

7. Evidence

Existing Evidence

7.1. To ensure the efficient use of our resources, we have reviewed the evidence base prepared to inform previous Local Plans in Shropshire and other work undertaken by the Council to determine that which is suitable to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. Identified evidence includes:

Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Green Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Green infrastructure - Leisure - Ecology	- Sport England	N/A	Completed
Playing Pitch Strategy	Shropshire	External	- Green infrastructure - Leisure - Ecology	- Sport England	N/A	Completed
Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy	Shropshire	Internal	- Green infrastructure - Leisure - Ecology	- Sport England	N/A	Completed
Historic Farmsteads Characterisation	Shropshire	Internal	- Heritage	- Historic England	N/A	Completed
Historic Landscape Character Assessment	Shropshire	Internal	- Heritage	- Historic England	N/A	Completed
Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Heritage	- Historic England	N/A	Completed
Landscape Typology	Shropshire	External	- Landscape - Green infrastructure	N/A	N/A	Completed
Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment	Selected Communities in Shropshire	External	- Landscape - Green infrastructure	N/A	N/A	Completed

Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Shropshire Strategic Employment Assessment	Shropshire	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic growth - Data, analysis & intelligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development industry - Business community 	N/A	Completed
West-Midlands Strategic Employment Assessment	West Midlands	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic growth - Data, analysis & intelligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development industry - Business community - Other Local Planning Authorities 	N/A	Completed
Mineral Safeguarding Assessment	Shropshire	External	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mineral facility operators. - Adjoining Mineral Planning Authorities - West Midlands Aggregate Working Partnership 	N/A	Completed
Town Centres Study	Shropshire	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development industry - Business community 	N/A	Completed
Renewable Energy Opportunity Mapping	Shropshire	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups 	N/A	Completed

7.2. In advance of issuing our notification of an 'intention to commence' plan-making, we have also secured several new key pieces of evidence to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:

Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Local Housing Need Assessment	Shropshire	Internal	- Housing - Data, Analysis & Intelligence	- Homes England - ONS - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government	N/A	Completed
Supported Specialist Housing and Accommodation Needs Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Housing	- Homes England - ONS	N/A	Completed
Housing Demand Assessment	National and Shropshire	External	- Housing	- Homes England - Experian	N/A	Completed
Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Gypsy & traveller liaison officer - Housing	- Gypsy and traveller communities	N/A	Completed

7.3. The evidence is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>

Wider Strategies

7.4. Another source of existing evidence is wider Council strategies which can provide important context and justification for proposals. Perhaps more importantly, their consideration provides an opportunity to enable the delivery of their ambitions through our next Shropshire Local Plan. The following table provides a summary of wider strategies that may inform and support preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for county-level nature recovery to establish priorities and measurable targets for restoring nature in Shropshire.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/
Corporate Climate Strategy: Towards Net-Zero Carbon	2020	2020 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the Council to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/
Corporate Climate Action Plan & Project Pipeline with Monitoring Report 2025	2020	Ongoing	ENVIRONMENT	The portfolio of projects and actions to reduce carbon emissions.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/
Shropshire Hills Management Plan	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the sustainable future for the National Landscape of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to conserve and enhance this landscape and its communities.	https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/a-special-place/management-plan/2025-30-management-plan
New Direction for Shropshire	2025	Ongoing	STRATEGY	Setting out the Administrations proprieties for the Council.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committees-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Corporate Plan (currently under review)	2026	2026 - 2030	STRATEGY	Setting out what the Council intends to focus on over the next 4 years and what we aim to achieve with our partners and communities. To provide a clear basis for our business planning and prioritisation, helping us to plan our services and activity in the context of the overall ambitions we want to see achieved for Shropshire and its residents.	https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/
Shrewsbury Big Town Plan	2018	2018 - 2038	STRATEGY	The vision for how the town of Shrewsbury should evolve over the two decades to 2038 as the Strategic Centre of the County.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/16707/shrewsbury-big-town-plan.pdf
Shropshire Local Transport Plan (currently under review)	2011	2011 - 2026	TRANSPORT	The vision, objectives, and policies for managing and improving all aspects of transport and highways in Shropshire to support economic growth, reduce carbon emissions from transport, and improve access to services for rural communities.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/local-transport-plan/
Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan	2024	Ongoing	TRANSPORT	The vision for bus travel in Shropshire which highlights a programme of investment in the current bus offer in the county to create opportunities for bus travel to be a realistic first choice of travel for residents and visitors.	https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Shropshire-Bus-Service-Improvement-Plan-June-2024.pdf

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan	2023	2023 - 2032	TRANSPORT	The vision for improving the safety, comfort and attractiveness of walking and cycling in the county.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/active-travel/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/
Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy	2024	2024 - 2034	TRANSPORT	The vision to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport and to reduce the use of private motor vehicles within central Shrewsbury to make the town a more attractive place to live, visit, and conduct business.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committees-services/documents/s39384/Shrewsbury%20Movement%20Public%20Space%20Strategy-01112024%201019.pdf
Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a connected, competitive and sustainable economy and outlines key priorities and targets for economic development.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/business-support/shropshire-s-economic-growth-strategy-2022-2027/
Shropshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a "healthy and fulfilled population" in Shropshire with key priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/
Best Start in Life Plan	2021	2021 - 2024	ECONOMY	The vision for improving outcomes in the critical early years of a child's life to ensure every baby and young child has a strong start to their life journey.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/shropshire-best-start-in-life-programme/shropshire-best-start-in-life-plan/
Shropshire Education Excellence Strategy	2022	2022 - 2025	ECONOMY	The vision to support schools and education to raise standards and achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committees-services/documents/s43267/Item%206%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20Shropshire%20Education%20Excellence%20Strategy.pdf

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Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Housing Strategy	2020	2020 - 2025	HOUSING	The vision for everyone to have the "right home in the right place" with objectives and actions to meet local housing needs.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/22599/housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf [shropshire.gov.uk]
Shropshire Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy	2023	2023 - 2028	HOUSING	The vision for improving choice and access to housing and independent living opportunities for older people, adults with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committees/services/documents/s36997/Appendix%20I%20Draft%20Independent%20Living%20and%20Specialist%20Accommodation%20Strategy.pdf
Shropshire Social Care Market Position Statement	2024	2024 - 2027	HOUSING	The vision for commissioning local care services in Shropshire from social care providers.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/27821/shropshire-market-position-statement-24-27.pdf
Shropshire Assistive Technology & Telecare Strategy	2023	Ongoing	HOUSING	The vision for assistive technology and telecare in Shropshire to support older and vulnerable people's independence, preventative care, timely hospital discharge, and safeguarding of older adults.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-social-care/schemes-and-teams/assistive-technology/
Shropshire Cultural Strategy	2021	2021 - 2031	LEISURE	The ambition and strategic priorities for the cultural sector in Shropshire for the ten years to 2031.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/vibrant-shropshire/

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Further Evidence

7.5. The Council will progress additional evidence to inform preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. Key additional evidence that will be progress to support the next Shropshire Local Plan is summarised in the table below:

Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Baselining and monitoring	Shropshire	Internal	- Data, Analysis & Intelligence	- ONS	N/A	Ongoing
Economic Development Needs Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Economic growth - Data, analysis & intelligence	- Development industry - Business community	N/A	To be commissioned
Place Plans	18 covering Shropshire	Internal	- Highways - Education - Flood and water management - Leisure	- Town & Parish Councils - Key infrastructure providers	- Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment - Whole Plan Viability & Market Capacity Report	Live documents to be reviewed based on the emerging Shropshire Local Plan
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Shropshire	Internal	- Highways - Education - Flood and water management - Leisure	- Town & Parish Councils - Key infrastructure providers	- Place Plans - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment - Whole Plan Viability & Market Capacity Report	To be progressed alongside the drafting of the next Shropshire Local Plan

Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Green Belt Study	Shropshire	External	N/A	- Adjoining Local Authorities	N/A	Ongoing
Community Hierarchy	Shropshire	Internal	- Data, Analysis & Intelligence	- Town & Parish Councils - Key infrastructure providers - Department for transport	N/A	Consultation draft
Site Identification and Assessment Methodology	Shropshire	Internal	- Data, Analysis & Intelligence - GIS	- MHCLG	N/A	Consultation draft
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Shropshire	To be determined	- Highways - Heritage - Ecology - Trees - Public protection - Flood and water management - Landscape - Green infrastructure	- Environment Agency - Natural England - Historic England	- Habitats Regulations Assessment - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Hierarchy of Settlements - Site (Selection) Assessment	Screening undertaken To be progressed alongside the drafting of the next Shropshire Local Plan

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Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Habitats Regulations Assessment	Shropshire	To be determined	- Ecology	- Environment Agency - Natural England	- Strategic Environmental Assessment - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Hierarchy of Settlements - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be progressed alongside the drafting of the next Shropshire Local Plan
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment	Shropshire	To be determined	- Equality	- MHCLG	- Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Hierarchy of Settlements - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be progressed alongside the drafting of the next Shropshire Local Plan
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Data, analysis & intelligence - Housing services	- Development industry	- Specialist Housing Needs Assessment	To be commissioned

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Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Site Assessment (Selection) Process	Shropshire	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highways - Heritage - Ecology - Trees - Public protection - Flood and water management - Landscape - Green infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development industry - Key infrastructure providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Habitats Regulations Assessment - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Hierarchy of Settlements - Studies identifying constraints and opportunities - Viability Study 	To be progressed following confirmation of Site Identification and Assessment Methodology
Duty to Cooperate Process & Activity Log	Shropshire	Internal	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adjoining Local Authorities - Other duty to cooperate bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessments to inform duty to cooperate discussions 	Ongoing
Housing Land Supply Evidence	Shropshire	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Housing Need Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment 	Annual review
Authority Monitoring Report (including Employment Land Supply Evidence)	Shropshire	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic growth - Data, analysis & intelligence - Development Management 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Land Supply Evidence 	Annual review

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Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Local Aggregate Assessment	Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin	Internal	- Data, Analysis & Intelligence	- Mineral facility operators. - Adjoining Mineral Planning Authorities - West Midlands Aggregate Working Partnership	N/A	Annual review
Water Cycle Study	Shropshire	External	- Flood and water management	- Water companies - Environment Agency - Natural England	- Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be commissioned
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Shropshire	External	- Flood and water management	- Water companies - Environment Agency - Natural England	- Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be commissioned
Sequential & Exception Flood Risk Assessment (if required)	Shropshire	To be determined	- Flood and water management	- Water companies - Environment Agency - Natural England	- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be progressed

Emerging Evidence	Geography	Production	Key Stakeholders		Inter-Dependencies	Status
			Internal	External		
Green Belt Exceptional Circumstances Statement (if required)	Shropshire	Internal	- To be determined	- To be determined	- Green Belt Study - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be determined if necessary
National Landscape Exceptional Circumstances Statement (if required)	Shropshire	Internal	- To be determined	- To be determined	- Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be determined if necessary
Whole Plan Viability & Market Capacity Report	Shropshire	External	- Highways - Education - Flood and water management - Leisure services	- Development industry - Key infrastructure providers	- Place Plans - Strategic Infrastructure & Investment Plan - Local Housing Need Assessment - Economic Development Needs Assessment - Site (Selection) Assessment	To be commissioned

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7.6. Once completed, this evidence will be made available on the Council website via:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>

7.7. Further evidence base requirements may become apparent as preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan progresses.

8. Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement Approach

- 8.1. This section of the PID outlines our intended approach to stakeholder engagement. This approach may be supplemented informed by responses to our Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

Nation Policy Context

- 8.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear on the importance of engagement to inform plan-making.
- 8.3. In particular, paragraph 16 c) of the NPPF specifies that Local Plans should be: *"Shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees"*.
- 8.4. Paragraphs 24-28 of the NPPF detail expectations for 'effective cooperation' with adjoining Local Planning Authorities and prescribed bodies on *"strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries"* confirming that a *"duty to cooperate"* applies.
- 8.5. This cooperation should involve *"effective and on-going joint working"* and *"to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground"*.
- 8.6. Paragraph 25 of the NPPF also recognises the value of engagement with *"local communities and relevant bodies"* on strategic matters. This is then reflected within the 'thematic' elements of the NPPF.
- 8.7. To support understanding of the NPPF, Government has also prepared National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The NPPG on Plan-Making (ID61) further emphasises the importance of effective engagement during plan-making.
- 8.8. This includes specifying at paragraph 34 that plan-making should be informed by *"effective engagement and consultation with local communities, businesses and other interested parties."* Paragraph 35 expands on this, detailing how to keep communities informed on plan-making.
- 8.9. The NPPG (ID61) also identifies the role of engagement with specific bodies during plan-making, including infrastructure providers.

Value of Engagement

- 8.10. We recognise the significant contribution that our local communities, Town and Parish Council's, organisations and all other interested stakeholders can make to the next Shropshire Local Plan. We also understand that the next Shropshire Local Plan will affect everybody who lives, works or visits Shropshire and that planning can be emotive.
- 8.11. For these reasons, we understand the value and importance of proactive engagement during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

Stages of Engagement

- 8.12. Government guidance² indicates engagement to inform plan-making is to be undertaken through three stages of consultation.
- 8.13. Consistent with this guidance, preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan will be informed by engagement with stakeholders through three stages of consultation. Figure 8.1 summarises the approach we will take to these stages of consultation:

Figure 8.1: Consultation on the Next Shropshire Local Plan

Stage	Consultation Duration	Consultation Methods
Public Consultation Scoping	Minimum 6 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Email notification of consultation to statutory and general consultees on the Local Plan Consultation Database.- Email notification of consultation to Town and Parish Council's via the Shropshire Association of Local Councils.- Press release issued at start of the consultation. Opportunities for a further press release 'towards the end' of consultation considered.- Consultation documents available on Council's website.- Hard copy of consultation documents available at Shropshire Council's head office (Guildhall, Shrewsbury).- Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at 'Shropshire Local' facilities during their open times.- Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at public libraries during their open times.- Public and Town and Parish Council consultation event(s) as appropriate.

² MHCLG (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

Stage	Consultation Duration	Consultation Methods
Public Consultation Content & Evidence	Minimum 6 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email notification of consultation to statutory and general consultees on the Local Plan Consultation Database. - Email notification of consultation to Town and Parish Council's via the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. - Press release issued at start of the consultation. Opportunities for a further press release 'towards the end' of consultation considered. - Consultation documents available on Council's website. - Hard copy of consultation documents available at Shropshire Council's head office (Guildhall, Shrewsbury). - Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at 'Shropshire Local' facilities during their open times. - Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at public libraries during their open times. - Public and Town and Parish Council consultation event(s) as appropriate.
Public Consultation Full Draft Local Plan	Minimum 8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email notification of consultation to statutory and general consultees on the Local Plan Consultation Database. - Email notification of consultation to Town and Parish Council's via the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. - Press release issued at start of the consultation. Opportunities for a further press release 'towards the end' of consultation considered. - Consultation documents available on Council's website. - Hard copy of consultation documents available at Shropshire Council's head office (Guildhall, Shrewsbury). - Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at 'Shropshire Local' facilities during their open times. - Access to consultation documents via computer/tablet facilities at public libraries during their open times. - Public and Town and Parish Council consultation event(s) as appropriate.

Achieving Clear Engagement

8.14. We understand that planning can be technical and this can sometimes lead to uncertainty. As such, we want to ensure our consultations are as clear as possible. To do so, we will aim to:

- a. Use plain-English and avoid 'jargon' and unnecessary acronyms. Where required, include a glossary of terms and acronyms.
- b. Undertake consultations at appropriate stages, informed by sufficient evidence to support proposals and enable effective responses.

- c. Provide clear details on how to respond to each consultation and in what time period.
- d. Publicise consultations in a cost effective manner.
- e. Publicise any events that form part of a consultation on the Council's website and hold them at appropriate and accessible locations (including appropriate disabled access).
- f. Provide a summary of responses received.

Effectively Publicising Engagement

8.15. Reflecting Shropshire Council's objective of making 'digital the preferred way to work and transact' and the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making³, digital means of communication will be our main approach to publicise engagement. This includes:

- a. Notifications on the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>
- b. Notifications issued via **email** to those on the Planning Policy consultation database.
You can register for inclusion on our consultation database at:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/remain-informed-on-plan-making-in-shropshire/>
- c. Creation of dedicated consultation webpages within the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform:
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>
- d. Facilitating further publicity of the consultation by the media through **digital 'press releases'** issued via the Council's newsroom platform:
<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/>
- e. Use of **social media** to further raise awareness of consultations.

8.16. However, we recognise digital means of communication may not always reach all our interested stakeholders. Therefore, they will be complemented through other means. This may include:

- a. Issuing notification emails to **Town and Parish Council's** and rely on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations.
- b. Use of **Shropshire Association of Local Council meetings** to further publicise consultations to Town and Parish Council's and rely

³ MHCLG (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations.

- c. Where appropriate, displaying leaflets or posters in public buildings such as our head office, libraries and Shropshire Local facilities.
- d. Where appropriate, undertaking community meetings and/or drop-in events to publicise consultations.

Reaching Individuals

- 8.17. We know many individuals in our communities – whether residents, undertaking business, or carrying out leisure activities; will have a keen interest in shaping the next Shropshire Local Plan. As such, our approach to publicising engagement seeks to support these individuals to ‘get involved’.

Reaching Groups

- 8.18. We also recognise the importance of ‘reaching’ a broad range of stakeholder groups in our communities during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:
- a. Elected Councillors.
 - b. Town and Parish Councils.
 - c. Businesses operating in Shropshire.
 - d. Major landowners in Shropshire.
 - e. Agents and developers operating in Shropshire.
 - f. Relevant Government departments.
 - g. Statutory / prescribed bodies.
 - h. Infrastructure providers and operators.
 - i. Interest groups - environmental, amenity, community and voluntary groups (at a local, regional or national level).
- 8.19. Parish and Town Councils play a particularly important role in enabling an effective ‘first point of contact’ with local communities. We recognise that there is particular value in using these local councils to promote plan-making engagement relevant to their locality and that they have an important role in galvanising and expressing local issues and concerns during this engagement.
- 8.20. Thee 74 Elected Councillors in Shropshire Council also play a vital role in representing local concerns and aspirations across a variety of issues, including planning. We offer training to all Elected Councillors to support them in promoting and facilitating community responses to plan-making engagement.

8.21. Our approach to publicising engagement seeks to support these groups to 'get involved'.

Engaging Those That Are Hard to Reach

8.22. In line with the Equality Act (2010) we want to be inclusive when we consult, to ensure that everyone that is interested can 'get involved'.

8.23. Shropshire contains groups within our communities, such as young people, older people, young working families, the business community, those who work long hours, those living in certain places such as remote rural areas, people from ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, migrant populations, Gypsies and Travellers, and those that are digitally excluded through limited broadband access at home.

8.24. Our approach to publicising engagement will seek to help overcome the barriers that can prevent those in these groups from 'getting involved'.

8.25. This involves effective use of the Council's website to make documents widely available, supporting access via computer/tablet facilities at our libraries and Shropshire Local's, and making a hard copy of the document available at our headquarters.

8.26. Where consultation events are undertaken, this may also involve being flexible over the timing of an event, using visual aids or ensuring that venues are accessible.

8.27. Furthermore, the next Shropshire Local Plan will be informed by Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments undertaken at relevant stages of plan-making.

Effectively Publicising Other Milestones

8.28. In addition to public engagement exercises, we recognise the importance of keeping communities, organisations and all other interested stakeholders informed on progress towards other milestones in the plan-making process.

8.29. The key mechanism to do so will be the planning policy webpages accessible via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>. We will endeavour to keep these pages up-to-date throughout the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

8.30. The Planning Policy Consultation Database will form another important mechanism for keeping local communities, organisations and all other interested stakeholders informed during preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

- 8.31. Specifically, those on the Planning Policy Consultation Database will be notified of key events during the plan-making process, including when we:
- a. Publish the statutory notice - intention to commence plan-making.
 - b. Submit the Local Plan for examination.
 - c. Adopt the Local Plan.
- 8.32. To support those wishing to register for inclusion on the Planning Policy Consultation Database, we have created an online tool, available at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/remain-informed-on-plan-making-in-shropshire/>

Providing Access to Engagement Materials

- 8.33. Reflecting Shropshire Council's objective of making 'digital the preferred way to work and transact' and the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making⁴, engagement materials will primarily be made available through the Council website. Specifically:
- a. Consultation documents will be made available on a dedicated consultation webpage in the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform: <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>
 - b. A Link to the dedicated consultation webpage will be provided from the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>
- 8.34. To facilitate digital access to the consultation documents, we will:
- a. Liaise with colleagues operating 'Shropshire Local' facilities to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on 'Shropshire Local' facilities is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>
 - b. Liaise with colleagues operating Shropshire libraries to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on Shropshire libraries is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>

⁴ MHCLG (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

- 8.35. However, we recognise there may be limited circumstances where digital access to consultation documents may not be appropriate. Therefore, we intend to complement digital access by providing:
- a. A hard copy of consultation documents at Shropshire Council's head office: [Guildhall Frankwell Quay Shrewsbury Shropshire SY3 8HQ](#)
- 8.36. We also appreciate that different formats and languages may be more helpful for individuals according to their circumstances. Dependent on the circumstances, we will consider providing relevant information in an alternative appropriate format, although we may be required to charge the cost of doing so.

Supporting Effective Responses

- 8.37. To support stakeholders responding to our consultations, we will:
- a. Prepare **guidance** summarising the purpose of the consultation and providing details of how to respond and in what time period.
 - b. Provide a **consultation response form**⁵ in an appropriate format. It will detail required information and support structuring of responses.
- 8.38. Reflecting Shropshire Council's objective of making 'digital the preferred way to work and transact', we will encourage stakeholders to submit their responses digitally, either using an online survey form or by returning a completed response form by email (with an email address provided to which consultations responses can be submitted for each consultation).
- 8.39. In the limited circumstances where responses exceed 20mb in size, the Council will facilitate digital submission via our Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system (the Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities).
- 8.40. We also recognise that submitting consultation responses digitally from home is not always possible. In such circumstances, responses can be submitted digitally using public computer/tablet facilities at:
- a. 'Shropshire Local' facilities, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>
 - b. Shropshire libraries, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>

⁵ Whilst respondents will be encouraged to use this response form, we will accept responses in other formats.

8.41. Furthermore, whilst our preference is that responses are submitted digitally, we will also accept responses by post. As such, a postal address will be provided to submit responses to each consultation.

How We Respond to Consultations

8.42. Following a period of consultation Shropshire Council will give due consideration, prepare a summary of the consultation responses, and then publish the summary of responses.

8.43. Responses to the scoping consultation and content & evidence consultation will inform the ongoing development of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

8.44. Responses to the proposed Local Plan consultation will be submitted to the Inspectors to inform examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

8.45. *It is important to note that when undertaking plan-making it is not uncommon for draft proposals to be controversial and often lead to significant levels of objection. Whilst all consultation responses will of course be considered, it is the material planning considerations identified through the consultation which are of most importance, and not necessarily the volume of response made.*

Approach to the Duty to Cooperate

8.46. Shropshire Council is committed to proactive and ongoing engagement with neighbouring: Strategic Planning Authorities⁶; Local Planning Authorities; and County Councils when planning for strategic cross boundary matters. Our neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and County Councils are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a. Cheshire West & Chester Council | h. Stafford Borough Council |
| b. Cheshire East Council | i. Staffordshire County Council |
| c. Herefordshire Council | j. Telford and Wrekin Council |
| d. Malvern Hills District Council | k. Worcestershire County Council |
| e. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council | l. Wrexham County Borough Council |
| f. Powys County Council | m. Wyre Forest District Council |
| g. South Staffordshire District Council | |

⁶ This geographic scope of Strategic Planning Authorities to be finalised.

- 8.47. We will also engage with certain Local Planning Authorities that are not neighbouring (as they do not directly adjoin Shropshire Council's administrative area) but with which have a functional relationship.
- 8.48. The approach to and frequency of engagement with neighbouring Strategic Planning Authorities, neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, neighbouring County Councils and closely related Local Planning Authorities will inevitably vary, dependent on whether potential strategic cross boundary matters exist.
- 8.49. However, it will include:
- a. Positive 'duty to cooperate' discussions at appropriate times during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - b. Inviting them to respond to the stages of consultation undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 8.50. Shropshire Council will also positively contribute to West Midlands Development Needs Group meetings, which involves a number of these neighbouring and closely related Local Planning Authorities and facilitates duty to cooperate engagement on housing, employment and other strategic development.
- 8.51. Furthermore, Shropshire Council will positively contribute to West Midlands Aggregate Working Party and West Midlands Technical Advisory Board meetings, which involve a number of these neighbouring and closely related Local Planning Authorities (with mineral and waste planning responsibilities) and facilitates duty to cooperate engagement on these issues.
- 8.52. Shropshire Council is also committed to proactive and ongoing engagement with other prescribed bodies when planning for strategic cross boundary matters.
- 8.53. Prescribed consultation bodies defined in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (as amended) and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) are:
- a. The Environment Agency
 - b. Historic England
 - c. Natural England
 - d. Natural Resources Wales
 - e. National Highways
 - f. Midlands Connect
 - g. Shropshire Council Highways Authority
 - h. Office of Rail and Road
 - i. Civil Aviation Authority
 - j. Sport England

- k. Shropshire Integrated Care Board
 - l. Homes England
- m. Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Partnership
- n. The Coal Authority
- o. Marches Local Nature Partnership
- p. Network Rail
- q. Scottish Power Energy Networks
- r. Western Power Distribution
- s. National Grid
- t. National Gas
- u. Cadent Gas
- v. Wales & West Utilities
- w. Welsh Water
- x. Severn Trent Water Ltd
- y. United Utilities
- z. Persons with powers under Electronic Communications Code with communications apparatus in Shropshire.

- 8.54. The approach to and frequency of engagement with prescribed bodies will also inevitably vary, dependent on whether potential strategic cross boundary matters exist. However, it will include:
- a. Necessary 'duty to cooperate' discussions at appropriate times during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - b. Inviting them to respond to the stages of consultation undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Monitoring Effectiveness of Engagement

- 8.55. Our approach to consultation is considered sufficiently flexible to respond to new ways of engaging that may emerge during preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This flexibility means regular alterations of approach may not be necessary, but the Council is committed to monitoring effectiveness and where necessary will update its approach.
- 8.56. It is anticipated such updates could be made in response to:
- a. Alterations to the types of groups who should be consulted.
 - b. New methods for informing and involving the public, such as changes to technology or responding to emerging best practice.
 - c. Responding to the emerging practices of locality working by the Council.
 - d. Responding to low turnouts at consultation events, or low response rates to consultations.

9. Risks and Mitigation

Summary of Key Risks Identified

- 9.1. Figure 9.1 is the Risk Management Log which summarises analysis of the areas of uncertainty and risk facing production of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 9.2. Where possible, before the Risk Management Log was finalised the Council identified opportunities to eliminate or minimise risks, which are embedded in the proposals for the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 9.3. However, as detailed within the Risk Management Log, the Council have identified a number of significant risks that could impact upon the delivery of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 9.4. Whilst proposed responses or mitigation measures have been set out, seeking where possible to manage these risks, some areas of risk are outside the Council's control, which could curtail many of the proposed mitigation measures.
- 9.5. In conclusion, the risk assessment would suggest that the programme for preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan remains realistic, but extremely challenging. Therefore, if production milestones are missed it could be difficult to 'get back on track' without impacting on other elements of the overall programme.
- 9.6. The most fundamental overall mitigation measure that can be made is to ensure sufficient resources are available throughout preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan and to build-in realistic document production timescales from the outset.

Figure 9.1: Next Shropshire Local Plan Risk Management Log

Area of Uncertainty/Risk		Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Total Risk Score	Response / Counter Measures
1	Revision/changes to PID.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of PID delayed. • Causes slippage in overall programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	3	3	9 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close relationship and advocacy with members and directors.
2	Achievability of timescales associated with the new plan-making process and/or revision/changes to the plan-making timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work cannot be progressed to published programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. • Causes slippage in overall programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. • Objectives on quality compromised. 	3	4	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate delegations to review programme for next Shropshire Local Plan where necessary. • Close relationship and advocacy with members and directors. • Project management. • A strong case for setting an appropriate budget to deliver next Shropshire Local Plan and costs/budget kept under review. • Ensure next Shropshire Local Plan is founded on a robust but proportionate evidence base. • Utilise best practice and national templates (where available) to support the process.
3	Constrained Council financial resources – insufficient budgetary provision to adequately finance preparation of next Shropshire Local Plan. Rising Inspectorate fees are also noted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work cannot be progressed in accordance with programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. • Objectives on quality compromised. 	3	4	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong a case for setting an appropriate budget to deliver the next Shropshire Local Plan and costs/budget kept under review. • Use of funding for Service improvements. • Maximise use of matrix management to draw on suitable staff resources within the Council. • Expand partnership working to draw upon the skills and resources within other organisations. • Review timetables where necessary.

Area of Uncertainty/Risk		Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Total Risk Score	Response / Counter Measures
4	Lack of in-house skills for specialised areas of policy work/background studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow progress causing a slippage in programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. • Evidence base challenged or undermined. • Quality compromised. 	4	3	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain training for areas where expertise is lacking. • Review the adequacy of staffing as part of annual service reviews. • Expand partnership working. • Seek to 'draw-in' support from the 'Planning Advisory Service' (PAS). • In some cases it will be more efficient to engage consultants where specialist skills are required to short timescales and in-house development is unrealistic.
Page 182	Project team required to contribute to other work priorities (e.g. planning appeals & infrastructure planning).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverts Team from preparation of next Shropshire Local Plan causing a slippage to the programme. 	4	3	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan a Corporate Priority. • Identify key staff to be 'shielded' from other work. • Increase size of team.
6	Staff turnover and recruitment difficulties. Some staff turnover might be expected over the period of preparing the next Shropshire Local Plan and this could have a considerable impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced capacity causing slippage or failure of programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	3	4	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take prompt action to fill vacancies, with staff with required skills. • Pay recruitment / retention incentives. • Where recruitment difficulties are encountered, consider interim arrangements such as temporary appointments, use of agency staff or secondment of staff.
7	Staff absence (e.g. long term sickness, maternity leave).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced capacity causing slippage or failure of programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	4	3	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider interim arrangements such as temporary appointments, buying in agency staff or secondment of staff. • The adequacy of staffing levels will be evaluated through the monitoring of the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Area of Uncertainty/Risk		Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Total Risk Score	Response / Counter Measures	
Page 183	8	Joint working with other internal departments and / or external authorities causes delay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes a slippage in slippage of programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	4	3	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible, ensure programme for next Shropshire Local Plan is realistic and reflects partner organisations ability to contribute to joint working. Ensure commitment to milestone dates and resource allocation is obtained from relevant parties in advance in particular HE, NE and EA. Consider involvement mechanisms carefully, seeking to ensure stakeholders feel engagement is worthwhile. Consider ways to help improve the ability of local stakeholders to get involved and where possible will look to achieve efficiencies by linking with Community Enablement Team processes for example.
		Volume of work greater than anticipated (e.g. higher level of representations than expected).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes slippage of programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	4	3	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible, ensure programme for next Shropshire Local Plan is realistic but has some flexibility built in. Monitor progress against LDS. Consider additional resources.
	10	Uncertainty associated with the processes and requirements of the forthcoming new plan-making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow progress causing a slippage in programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. Evidence base challenged or undermined. Quality compromised. 	3	4	12 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to 'draw-in' support from the 'Planning Advisory Service' (PAS). Utilise best practice and national templates (where available) to support the process.

Area of Uncertainty/Risk		Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Total Risk Score	Response / Counter Measures
11	Planning Inspectorate unable to meet the timescale for examination and/or reporting. Risk considered to increase under new plan making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination and/or report is delayed. Key milestones in programme not met. 	3	3	9 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the programme for next Shropshire Local Plan is in place there is a Service Level Agreement with PINS regarding the proposed public examination dates within it. Close liaison with PINS to ensure early warning of any problems. Experience has shown PINS delays inevitably occur during examination, which can lead to uncertainty with decision taking and at appeal.
Page 184	Political considerations – all key stages in the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan involve Member decisions. Reports also need to be prepared around a month before the date of decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in membership of Local Plan Member Group. Change in approach / priorities arising from new members. 	2	3	6 (low)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead-in-time to member decisions has been allowed for in programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. Members involved in process to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan in order to provide ownership, leadership and commitment to future implementation. It is proposed that quarterly performance against these indicators will be included in the Council's performance management framework.
13	Next Shropshire Local Plan found unsound.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Shropshire Local Plan cannot be adopted without significant additional work 	2	4	8 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure next Shropshire Local Plan is founded on a robust evidence base and environmental assessment and well audited community and stakeholder engagement. Keep in view best practice elsewhere. Obtain training for areas where expertise is lacking.
14	Legal challenge on procedural grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted Local Plan quashed. Additional workload. 	2	4	8 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all relevant regulatory procedures are complied with.

Area of Uncertainty/Risk		Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Total Risk Score	Response / Counter Measures
15	National planning policy changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty & delay. • Need to revise scope, content or programme for next Shropshire Local Plan. 	3	3	9 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer level / political engagement with MHCLG. • Careful project design and management, including particularly the measures identified under 2-10 above.

Matrix

Risk Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		1	2	3	4	5
RISK LIKELIHOOD						

15 - 25	High	Immediate Senior Management action
8 - 12	Medium	Manage closely at Directorate, or equivalent level
4 - 6	Low	Continue to manage at Manager level
1 - 4	Very Low	Continue to manage at Service level

10. Approval of this Project Initiation Document

Author

Name:	Title	Date Approved
Edward West	Planning Policy and Strategy Manager	

Portfolio Holder & Lead Officer

Name:	Title	Date Approved
Councillor David Walker	Planning Portfolio Holder	
Kassandra Polyzoides	Service Director for Place Shaping	

Shropshire Council Cabinet

Date of Meeting	Decision
6 May 2026	

11. Change Log

Log of Changes

Date of change (Specifying version)	Author	Reason	Updated Version Title

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Shropshire Council

Shropshire Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

Scoping Consultation

May 2026



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1. The Local Plan

What is the Local Plan

- 1.1. Our Local Plan is vital – to support our communities, strengthen our economy and enhance our environment.
- 1.2. The Local Plan provides the vision and objectives, the measurable outcomes and the spatial strategy to manage the sustainable development of Shropshire.
- 1.3. The currently adopted Local Plan for Shropshire consists of the Core Strategy (2011) and Site Allocations & Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2015) that collectively cover the period 2006-2026.
- 1.4. Alongside the Local Plan, there are a number of 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans which are prepared by Parish and Town Councils.
- 1.5. Together, these documents form the Development Plan for Shropshire – the starting point when determining planning applications for development.

Reviewing the Local Plan

- 1.6. We are required to regularly review our Local Plan - at least every five years. These reviews are to ensure our Local Plan remains 'up-to-date' and significant weight may be applied to its policies in decision making.
- 1.7. Recent years have seen significant changes to the national planning picture, with the introduction of a new plan-making process and ongoing changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out Government's planning policies in England. This has led to important contextual changes locally.
- 1.8. **As a result, we have now issued an intention to commence the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.**
- 1.9. This next Shropshire Local Plan will be progressed under Government's new plan-making process, which is characterised by a more efficient 30-month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four-month scoping stage prior to its formal commencement).
- 1.10. This scoping consultation is the first mandatory consultation which forms part of the four-month scoping stage of the plan-making process.
- 1.11. There are two further mandatory consultation stages in the new plan-making process, offering further opportunities for communities and other

stakeholders to consider and influence the content of our next Local Plan. These consultations play an important role in ensuring our next Local Plan positively manages the long-term sustainable development of Shropshire.

- 1.12. The new plan-making process continues to include an independent examination in its latter stages, undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate. The Examination is also expected to be more efficient – undertaken within a 6 month period. The Examination continues to focus on whether the next Shropshire Local Plan is 'sound' – this means it is **positive, appropriate, realistic, and consistent with national policy.**

Scope of the Next Shropshire Local Plan

- 1.13. The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish the vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to **2046.**
- 1.14. It will be informed by assessments of need for housing (including affordable housing and specialist accommodation), employment and other appropriate land-uses. To meet identified needs, the next Shropshire Local Plan will allocate land and provide policies to manage development.
- 1.15. Crucially, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also be informed by an **Infrastructure Delivery Plan**, identifying the infrastructure it is forecast will be required for new planned growth and how the infrastructure will be funded and delivered - 'on-site, through 'developer contributions' and/or from other sources. This infrastructure is likely to include additional school places, highway works, public transport and active travel improvements, new and enhanced GP practices, and leisure and community facilities.
- 1.16. To ensure the delivery of essential infrastructure, the next Shropshire Local Plan will identify the on-site infrastructure required for allocated sites and include policies outlining the 'developer contributions' required for the provision of infrastructure from development.
- 1.17. The next Shropshire Local Plan also provides an opportunity to consider and respond to evidenced local issues and opportunities, thereby maximising the potential of development to meet community needs and conserve and enhance our natural, built and historic environment.
- 1.18. As Shropshire Council is also a Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the **Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire.** This allows a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.

Policy Map

The next Shropshire Local Plan will be supported by a policy map which will indicate spatially where the policies of the next Shropshire Local Plan apply. This includes the location and extent of settlements, site allocations, policy designations (such as Green Belt) and historic and natural environment designations.

Supporting Technical Assessments

1.19. To support the preparation of our next Local Plan, we have undertaken initial technical screening. Through this process we have determined that the next Shropshire Local Plan will be informed and evaluated through several technical assessments. These are:

- a. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of environmental effects.
- b. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considering effects on the integrity of protected European wildlife sites.
- c. Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) to ensure we meet our general equality duty.

Community Infrastructure Levy

1.20. Alongside the preparation of our next Local Plan, we are also intending to review our **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule**.

1.21. The CIL Charging Schedule establishes the amount of CIL payable from new development which is used to fund necessary infrastructure improvements.

1.22. Whilst the review of the CIL Charging Schedule is a separate process to the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, these processes are complementary and will share evidence.

1.23. The intention of the review of the CIL Charging Schedule is to deliver an appropriate balance between ensuring development remains viable whilst also funding its fair share of infrastructure improvements.

Key Milestones in Plan-Making

1.24. The next Shropshire Local Plan will be prepared using Government's new plan-making process which introduces changes to the process and specific timescale expectations.

1.25. Figure 1.1 provides a succinct summary of the key milestones within the new plan-making process:

Figure 1.1: Timetable for Plan-Making

Key Milestone	Summary
Notification: intention to commence	Notification period must be at least four months. Opportunity to promote the plan-making process.
Consultation: scoping	Seeking views on what the plan should contain and how we should engage with stakeholders going forward. This is to occur during the notification period.
Gateway 1: self-assessment	Involves the Council undertaking a self-assessment of its readiness to start the 30-month plan preparation process.
Consultation: content & evidence	Minimum 6 week consultation. Seeking views on the proposed vision, objectives and spatial strategy. This stage will include initial policies and draft site allocations.
Gateway 2: independent review	Seeking observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate to support early resolution of any potential 'soundness' issues and progress towards meeting Gateway 3 requirements.
Consultation: proposed Local Plan	Minimum 8 week consultation. Seeking views on a fully formed draft Local Plan.
Gateway 3: stop or go	Planning Inspectorate to decide whether the draft Local Plan meets prescribed requirements and ready to be submitted for examination. Prescribed requirements relate to legal compliance, availability of submission documents and whether we and the Local Plan are ready to proceed.
Submission	Formal submission of the draft Shropshire Local Plan for examination. Triggers commencement of the examination.
Examination	Undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate to assess whether the draft Local Plan is legally compliant & sound – meets the tests of soundness in national planning policy. Those who have made representations on the plan during the consultation on the proposed Local Plan will have the right to present their views to the inspector.
Adoption	Subject to conclusions of the examination and decision of full Council. Adoption brings the next Shropshire Local Plan into effect.

Timetable for Plan-Making

1.26. To support the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan we have produced a plan-making timetable, outlining when we anticipate key activities will occur and key milestones will be reached. This programme reflects the Government’s 30-month timeframe for plan production (plus a minimum 4 month notification period). The timetable will be kept under-review throughout the plan-making process.

1.27. This full timetable is available on the Council website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>.

1.28. A summary of this timetable is provided in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Timetable for Plan-Making - Key Activities & Milestones

4 Month Notification and Scoping Period	Publish notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026	
	Consultation: scoping	May – July 2026	
30 Month Plan-Making Period	Gateway 1: self-assessment	September 2026	
	Consultation: content & evidence	May – June 2027	
	Gateway 2: independent review	July – August 2027	
	Consultation: proposed Local Plan	April – June 2028	
	Gateway 3: stop or go	July – August 2028	
	Submission	August 2028	
	Examination	August 2028 – February 2029	
	Adoption	March 2029	
	Plan Progression September 2026 – August 2028		

2. Scoping Consultation

Purpose of this Consultation

- 2.1. Before commencing the 30 month programme outlined in our plan-making timetable, we are seeking the views of *our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders* on the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 2.2. Specifically, we are seeking initial views on what the next Shropshire Local Plan should contain and our approach to engagement during its preparation. This includes the 'scoping' of:
 - a. The key priorities for the **vision** and **measurable outcomes** for the delivery of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - b. The key considerations for identifying a **spatial strategy** to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
 - c. The **approach to identifying and assessing** potential site allocations.
 - d. Matters that would benefit from being addressed by **local planning policies** to complement new *national decision-making policies*.
 - e. How we should effectively **engage** communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
 - f. The **evidence** required to support the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 2.3. Importantly, as this first consultation seeks views on the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan, it **does not identify proposed options – including on the approach to the levels and distribution of growth and does not include draft site allocations**.
- 2.4. We anticipate the second consultation on content & evidence will start to identify our preferred options – including on the approach to the levels and distribution of growth and site allocations.
- 2.5. We anticipate that the third consultation on the proposed Local Plan will then seek to finalise our preferred approach – including to the levels and distribution of growth and site allocations.
- 2.6. These two further stages of consultation are scheduled for May 2027 and April 2028 respectively.

Structure of this Consultation

- 2.7. This Consultation Document includes a section summarising each of the policy areas within the 'scoping' consultation. Each section identifies those initial considerations considered to be 'in scope' and poses questions on each matter for our stakeholders.
- 2.8. The final question of the 'scoping consultation' provides an opportunity to provide views on any other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

2.9. *For transparency, each question is numbered and highlighted in a green 'question box'.*

- 2.10. All the questions asked throughout the consultation document are also included in Appendix 3 of this 'scoping' document.

How to Respond to this Consultation

- 2.11. To support communities and other stakeholders that wish to respond to this consultation, we have prepared an **online response form**, available via the 'get involved' webpage at:
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>.
- 2.12. We believe this online response form makes it quicker and easier for communities and other stakeholders to respond and will also help us to consider responses more efficiently. As such, our preference is that responses are submitted using this online response form.
- 2.13. However, we understand that some may wish to submit their responses in another format. As such, an alternative response form has also been made available via the 'get involved' webpage at:
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>.
- 2.14. Responses made using the **online response form** will be submitted on completion. Responses in other formats can be submitted via email to: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk or post to: *Tell Us, Shropshire Council, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ*

3. The Vision and Measurable Outcomes

Overview

- 3.1. The purpose of a Local Plan vision is to set out aspirations for how an area will change. The purpose of the associated measurable outcomes is to support the monitoring of progress towards delivering the Local Plan vision. National guidance specifies:
 - a. A Local Plan vision is to consist of a **vision statement** and a series of **key aims and objectives** – which should be ambitious but responsive to what the Local Plan can realistically achieve.
 - b. There should be no more than **10 measurable outcomes** in a Local Plan – they should be tangible, locally specific and easy to monitor (linked to quantitative and qualitative targets).

A Vision for Shropshire

- 3.2. The vision of the next Shropshire Local Plan should be locally distinctive – capturing our aspirations for Shropshire over the period to 2046 and beyond. It should include a Shropshire-specific vision statement supported by ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire.
- 3.3. Our measurable outcomes should ‘flow’ from the aims and objectives of our vision, to outline how the desired changes will be delivered and measured.
- 3.4. Importantly, our vision, the aims and objectives and associated measurable outcomes should provide the framework for preparing the wider Local Plan and provide an effective basis by which to monitor delivery after its adoption.

Key Priorities

- 3.5. The first step in preparing the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan will be to identify ‘key priorities’ for Shropshire. To identify these ‘key priorities’, we will consider the following:
 - a. The requirements of national planning policy.
 - b. Collected evidence particularly where it identifies ‘baseline’ conditions and any local issues and opportunities.
 - c. Other Council strategies, including the administration’s ‘New Direction for Shropshire’¹ and the emerging Corporate Plan².

¹ Shropshire Council, (2025), <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf>

² Shropshire Council, (2026), <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/>

- d. Analysis of Shropshire’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- e. Responses to consultations undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
- f. Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.

National Planning Policy

3.6. Having reviewed the requirements of existing and emerging national planning policy, we believe the most important considerations when identifying ‘key priorities’ for our vision and measurable outcomes are:

- a. Planning to deliver a **sufficient number of new homes** that are of the right size, type and tenure to meet needs and enhance sustainability.
- b. Making available **sufficient new employment land** to enable sustainable economic growth which supports local businesses and inward investment.
- c. Promoting the long-term **vitality and viability** of our **town centres**.
- d. Protecting and enhancing our treasured **natural, built and historic environment**.
- e. Supporting the **transition to net zero** and planning for the mitigation and adaptation of our **changing climate** and the delivery of **clean and renewable energy and water**.
- f. Delivering **safe, healthy, well-designed, high quality and sustainable places** for all.
- g. **Promoting connectivity** supported by effective communication systems and accessible/sustainable/active modes of transport.
- h. **Safeguarding mineral resources** and ensuring a **sufficient supply of minerals** to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods the country needs.
- i. Meeting our future needs to **re-use, recycle and responsibly dispose of waste materials** generated in Shropshire.

Question 1.

How important do you feel each of the identified national considerations are when determining the ‘key priorities’ of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant.

Local Plan Evidence and Other Council Strategies

- 3.7. A review of collected evidence and other Council strategies confirmed the considerations identified when reviewing national planning policy requirements were relevant in a local context.
- 3.8. However, this analysis identified locally specific considerations we believe to be of significance in identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes. Of significant value in this process were the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire' and the emerging Corporate Plan. Identified considerations include:
- a. **Infrastructure-led:** ensuring sufficient infrastructure is available or provided to support development.
 - b. **Rurality:** embracing the rural characteristics of Shropshire.
 - c. **Meeting housing needs of our communities:** particular priorities are affordable housing, key worker housing and specialist housing that supports independence of older people.
 - d. **Supporting employers:** facilitating the growth aspirations of existing and new employers.
 - e. **Complementary development:** recognising the importance placed on housing and employment development nationally, providing for other complementary land-uses (including open space) and infrastructure to create sustainable places.
 - f. **Nature recovery:** facilitating the **Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy** to benefit biodiversity & our wider environment.
 - g. **Locally responsive design:** Achieving high-quality and sustainable design responsive to the diverse characteristics of our communities.
 - h. **Health and inclusivity:** supporting the well-being and integration of existing and new communities.
 - i. **Town centres:** supporting their vitality and appropriate diversification.
 - j. **Changing climate and net zero:** Supporting the transition to net zero and mitigation/adaptation to a changing climate in a predominantly rural area.
 - k. **Connectivity:** Use of active travel and public transport and access to services and facilities in a predominantly rural area.

Question 2.

How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant.

Shropshire: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

- 3.9. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis provides a 'structured' way to understand and present the context of an area. National guidance specifies that SWOT analysis may support the preparation of a Local Plan vision and measurable outcomes.
- 3.10. Therefore, to support identification of the 'key priorities' for our vision and associated measurable outcomes we have undertaken a SWOT analysis for Shropshire, summarised in Figure 3.1:

Figure 3.1: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis for Shropshire

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and the diverse characteristics of our communities. • Rural communities with connectivity to services and facilities. • Network of interconnected towns providing services and facilities. • Rurality valued by residents, businesses and visitors. • Rich and diverse natural/historic environment. • High-levels of economic activity – amongst those seeking employment. • Valued mineral working infrastructure and significant committed mineral reserves. • Recognition of Shropshire as a leading tourism destination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing demographic of our population. • Low wage economy. • High levels of worklessness – people not seeking employment. • Affordability of housing – particularly in our rural communities. • Potential locations with infrastructure capacity constraints – transport, education and health. • Significant reliance on private transport due to our rurality. • Impacts of rurality on the delivery of new electronic communications technologies. • Constraints on road and rail networks providing connectivity beyond Shropshire.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing rurality and supporting rural services. • Capitalising on locations with 'headroom' or potential to increase infrastructure capacity. • Strategic corridors: particularly the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line linking <i>Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton</i>. • Potential parkway station at Shrewsbury. • Potential for new self-contained communities. • Extensive site promotions during call for sites. • Opportunities promoted for mineral working if required to ensure sufficient supply. • Wider renewable energy use through greater access to technologies and enhanced supply. • Improving distribution of electric vehicle charging and uptake of electric vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our changing climate and impacts on communities and the environment through extreme weather, flooding, over-heating etc. • Challenges in providing services due to our large and predominantly rural geography. • Ageing demographics with implications for labour supply and housing/support needs. • Residential market capacity and absorption rates. • Material and labour supply constraints. • National and international events that impact on Shropshire.

Question 3.

Are there any other strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats we should consider when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answer.

Consultation

- 3.11. Through consideration of national planning policy, current local plan evidence, other Council strategies and the Shropshire SWOT analysis we have identified considerations we believe to be of relevance in identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes – these are detailed in paragraphs 3.6, 3.8 and Figure 3.1.
- 3.12. Importantly, identification of the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes will be directly informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation – we want to understand what our stakeholders consider to be the 'key priorities' for Shropshire.

Question 4.

Please identify any additional considerations you believe to be of relevance when identifying the 'key priorities' for the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan.

Please explain your answer.

- 3.13. The vision of the next Shropshire Local Plan will also be informed by responses to subsequent stages of consultation undertaken to inform it.

Technical Assessment

- 3.14. The preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including its vision, will be informed by technical assessments including SEA, HRA and ESHIA.

Next Steps

- 3.15. Following the conclusion of this 'scoping' consultation we will finalise the 'key priorities' for the vision of our next Local Plan.
- 3.16. Informed by these 'key priorities', an initial vision will be drafted. This will be subject to engagement through the second consultation on the content & evidence for the next Shropshire Local Plan.

- 3.17. Our intention is that the vision will be flexible enough to be refined through the plan-making process, informed by further detailed evidence and responses to Local Plan consultations.
- 3.18. Figure 3.2 summarises the process we intend to follow in order to draft and then subsequently finalise the locally distinctive vision for the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Figure 3.2: Local Plan Vision – Next Steps

Step	Process
Finalise 'Key Priorities'	<p><i>Considerations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements of national planning policy. - Evidence supporting the next Shropshire Local Plan and objectives of wider Council strategies. - Shropshire SWOT analysis. - Responses to this 'scoping' consultation. - Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.
Prepare Draft Vision	<p><i>Vision parameters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structured around 'key priorities'. - Shropshire specific vision statement. - Ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire. - Clear and concise. - Flexible to allow refinement through the plan-making process.
Undertake Engagement on Draft Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek views on draft vision of all stakeholders through Consultation on Content & Evidence.
Finalise Draft Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informed by responses to the Consultation on Content & Evidence and any further detailed evidence. - Views sought on the final draft vision through the Consultation on the Proposed Local Plan.

4. The Spatial Strategy

Overview

- 4.1. A spatial strategy provides the 'framework' to achieve the vision and measurable outcomes of a Local Plan.
- 4.2. To do so, it establishes clear expectations for the **amount and distribution of development**, whilst also identifying locations that should be **conserved or enhanced** for specific purposes such as landscape conservation, habitat improvement and containing larger urban areas.

Amount of Development

- 4.3. The 'starting point' of a spatial strategy is generally the amount of development to be identified in the Local Plan - how much housing and employment should we plan to deliver?

Housing

- 4.4. The amount of housing planned to be delivered is known as the 'housing requirement'.

Local Housing Need

- 4.5. When preparing options for the 'housing requirement' the starting point is local housing need, which Government has made clear is the **minimum** amount of housing to be planned for – on this we have no choice.
- 4.6. To assess local housing need, Government have developed a 'mandatory standard methodology'. This involves consideration of two key datasets:
 - a. **Existing housing stock** – how many existing homes there are.
 - b. **The housing affordability ratio** – how 'affordable' is existing housing.
- 4.7. Using this methodology, we have calculated that in Shropshire (at 31st March 2026) there is an annual local housing need of **2,030 dwellings**, equating to **40,600 dwellings** over the 20-year period to 2046.
- 4.8. This calculation is summarised in our Local Housing Need Assessment, available on our website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.
- 4.9. Every year, Government updates the two key datasets that inform the 'mandatory standard methodology'. Whilst it is understood there is no

specific requirement for evidence to be updated during the plan-making process, these changes will be kept 'under-review'.

Local Considerations

4.10. We consider there are a number of other relevant local considerations when preparing options for the 'housing requirement' for Shropshire. These are:

- a. **Infrastructure capacity:** Ensuring sufficient infrastructure capacity to support existing and new communities.
- b. **Deliverability:** Reflecting capacity in the market, particularly as local housing need is much higher than both that calculated using previous methodologies and planned for in the adopted Local Plan (an annual average of 1,375 dwellings).
- c. **Natural, built and historic environment:** Conserving and enhancing the assets that make Shropshire unique.
- d. **Housing needs of groups in our communities:** Seeking to meet the needs of groups in our communities – recognising the critical role of affordable and specialist housing in doing so.
- e. **Economic growth:** Recognising the role new housing plays in attracting working age people into the county to support economic growth, providing further employment opportunities for our communities.

Other Considerations

4.11. National policy requires that we consider whether any unmet housing needs are arising in neighbouring areas that would be appropriate and sustainable to accommodate in Shropshire.

4.12. We are committed to undertaking effective co-operation with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities during the plan-making process. However, due to the significant changes that have occurred to the plan-making process and national policy we do not consider that it can currently be determined if unmet housing needs are likely to arise in neighbouring areas and if they do, whether it would be sustainable and appropriate to accommodate them in Shropshire.

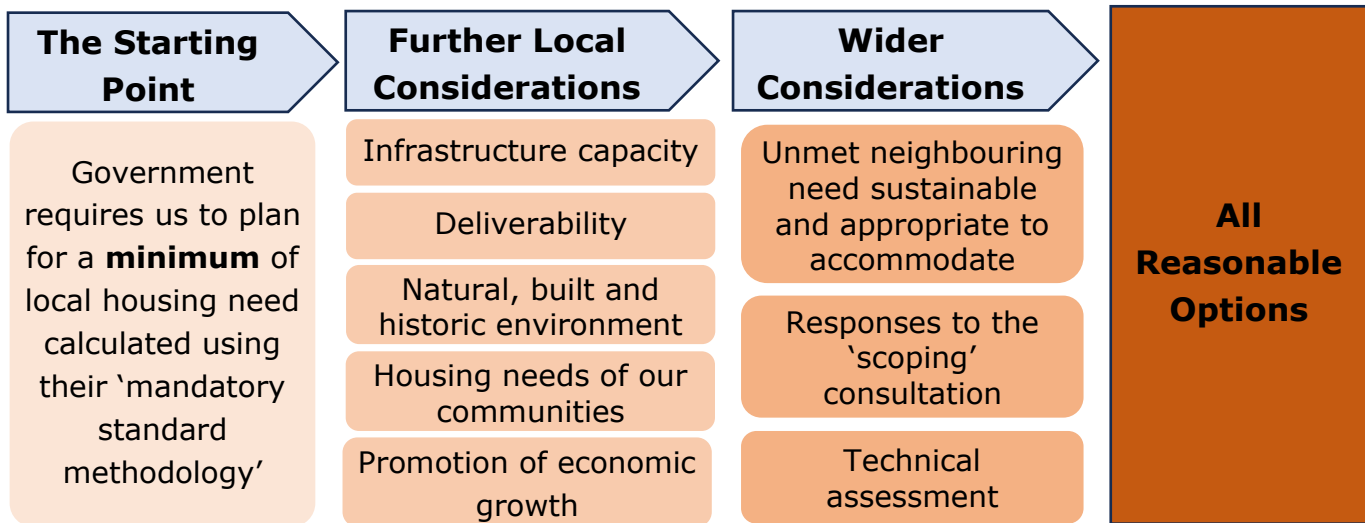
Consultation and Technical Assessment

4.13. The preparation of reasonable options and subsequent identification of the preferred option for the 'housing requirement' will be informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation and various technical assessments.

Summary

4.14. Figure 4.1 summarises the various factors we consider should inform the preparation of options for the 'housing requirement' for Shropshire:

Figure 4.1: Considerations - 'Housing Requirement' Options



Question 5.

Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.

Question 6.

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Employment

4.15. The amount of employment land to be made available for economic development is known as the 'employment land requirement'.

4.16. The Local Plan must ensure that the scale of the 'employment land requirement' will meet Shropshire's 'local employment land needs' arising from local business growth and inward investment into Shropshire.

Local Employment Land Needs

4.17. When preparing options for the 'employment land requirement', the starting point is to understand the demands and opportunities for economic growth in Shropshire. This will be achieved through an **Economic Development Needs Assessment** which will describe the

County's 'local employment land needs' and recommend 'reasonable options' for the 'employment land requirement'.

- 4.18. Although there is a standard method for assessing housing need, there is no nationally prescribed approach for assessing 'local employment land need'. The methodology used to assess the County's 'local employment land need' will therefore reflect national guidance and best practice for assessing local business growth, inward investment and the future growth of the local economy in Shropshire.
- 4.19. To ensure the amounts of housing and employment development to be planned for in the spatial strategy will be in balance, the assessment of the future 'local employment land need' will consider the alignment between jobs growth from economic investment and the growth in labour from meeting the housing needs of the County.
- 4.20. This seeks to ensure that businesses and investors in Shropshire will be able to employ people who live in the County and that new households including some existing Shropshire residents, will have the opportunity to live and to work in the County.

Local Considerations

- 4.21. We believe there are other relevant local considerations when preparing options for the 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire. These are:
 - a. **Balanced growth:** Ensuring that housing and employment growth are balanced and complementary.
 - b. **Infrastructure capacity:** Ensuring sufficient infrastructure capacity to support existing and new businesses and their employees.
 - c. **Deliverability:** Reflecting capacity and demand in the market.
 - d. **Natural, built and historic environment:** Conserving and enhancing the assets that make Shropshire unique.
 - e. **Needs and aspirations of local employers in existing sectors:** Supporting growth of valued local businesses and associated employment opportunities.
 - f. **Attracting new employers into existing sectors and investment into new sectors:** Complementing and diversifying the businesses and employment opportunities in Shropshire.
 - g. **Modernising Shropshire's local economy:** meeting the needs of investors in Shropshire for good quality, accessible investment locations and modern business premises providing contemporary business services and infrastructure with opportunities to access 'new' technologies.

Other Considerations

- 4.22. National policy requires that we consider whether any unmet employment land needs are arising in neighbouring areas and also whether it would be appropriate and sustainable to accommodate these 'unmet' needs in Shropshire.
- 4.23. We are committed to undertaking effective co-operation with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities during the plan-making process. However, significant changes are now being implemented in both the plan-making process and in national policy. This makes it difficult to determine whether unmet employment land needs will arise in neighbouring areas and also whether it is appropriate and sustainable to accommodate any 'unmet' needs in Shropshire.

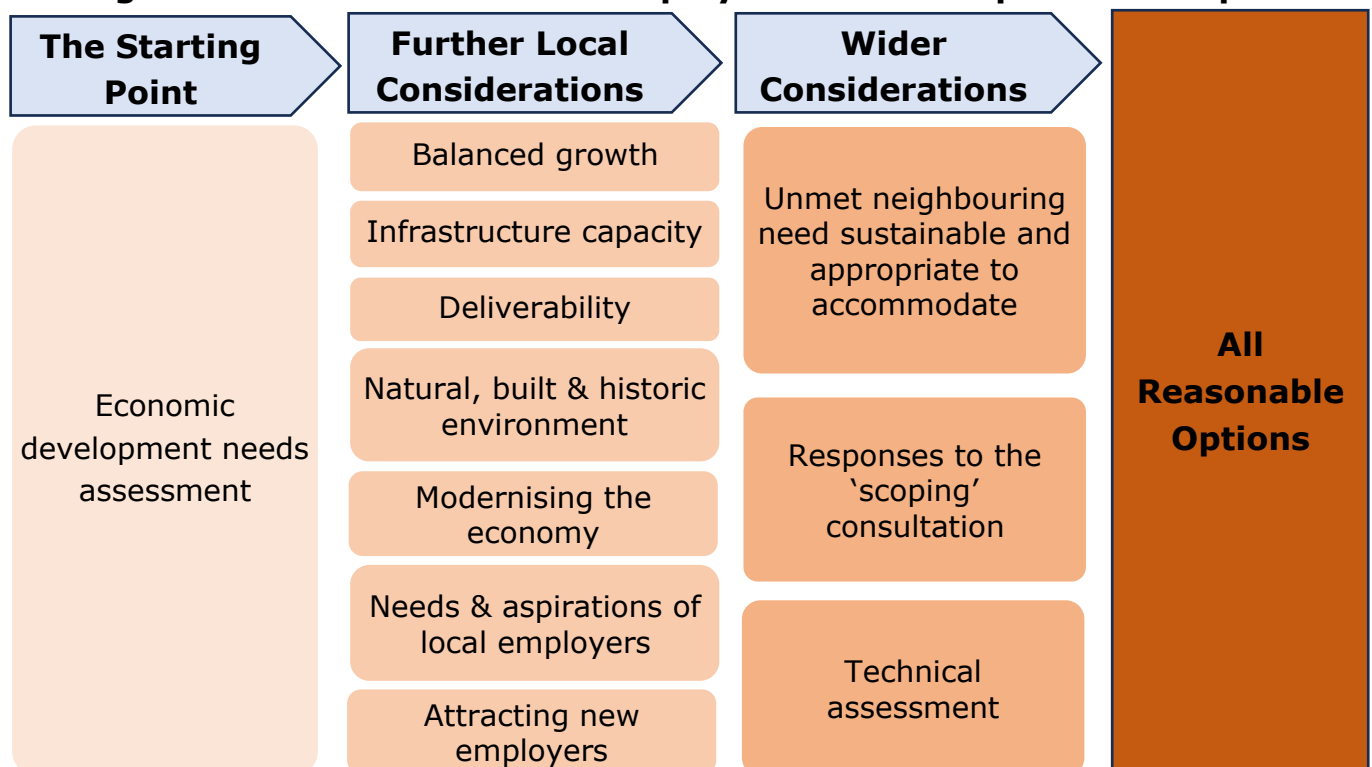
Consultation and Technical Assessment

- 4.24. The preparation of 'reasonable options' and the subsequent identification of the preferred option for the 'employment land requirement' will be informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation and various technical assessments.

Summary

- 4.25. Figure 4.2 seeks to summarise the various factors that we consider should inform the preparation of 'reasonable options' for the 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire:

Figure 4.2: Considerations - 'Employment Land Requirement' Options



Question 7.

Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.

Question 8.

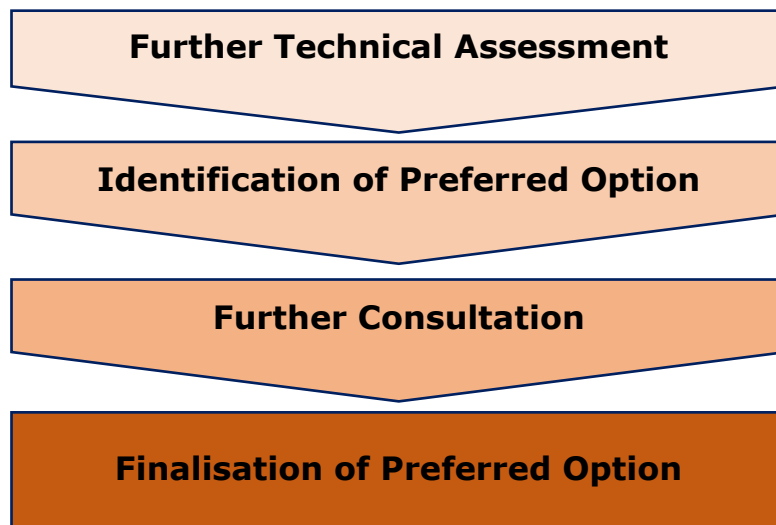
Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Next Steps

4.26. Figure 4.3 summarises the subsequent process we intend to follow to initially identify and then finalise the preferred options for the 'housing requirement' and 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire.

Figure 4.3: Preferred Options - Housing and Employment Land Requirements



Distribution of Development

4.27. In Shropshire, we consider that central to our spatial strategy will be the approach to the distribution of development – deciding where new development should occur.

4.28. This is because of our geography. Shropshire is large, diverse and predominantly rural and it contains hundreds of communities (including towns, villages, hamlets and other named locations consisting of scattered groups of houses) which are themselves varied in size, function, character and identity.

Key Principles

4.29. Reflecting the diversity of Shropshire and our communities, we consider the following 'key principles' should underpin our options for the distribution of development:

- a. Enable our **rural communities** to become more sustainable and thrive, particularly those that offer their residents and businesses good connectivity to services and facilities.
- b. Support the continued role of our **urban communities** as centres for services, facilities and economic development that serve both their residents and businesses and those of their rural hinterlands.
- c. Facilitate appropriate and complementary **new communities** which enhance the sustainability of Shropshire.
- d. Recognise the important role of our **strategic corridors** – the key road and rail links supporting connectivity.
- e. Respond to the **wider rurality** of our County, including enabling appropriate development in the countryside.

Question 9.

Do you agree with these 'key principles' for the approach to the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree.

Preparing Options for the Distribution of Development

4.30. To prepare options for the distribution of development that are responsive to our proposed 'key principles' we believe they should be informed by consideration of our communities and their attributes:

- a. **Community characteristics:** Including the size of the community and the ability of residents and businesses to access services and facilities.
- b. **Infrastructure capacity:** Existing infrastructure capacity and the ability to enhance capacity to support existing and new residents & businesses.
- c. **Demand:** Understanding of demand for properties.
- d. **Constraints:** Factors that have implications for development capacity including material planning matters, such as... physical features and the historic and natural environment.
- e. **Opportunities:** Factors that can support and enhance development capacity including complementary investment activities, opportunities to support continued/enhanced infrastructure provision, economic opportunities, access to strategic corridors, availability of brownfield land and unique or significant development opportunities.

Community Characteristics

- 4.31. We consider the characteristics of our communities the logical 'starting point' when developing options for the distribution of development. This is because characteristics such as size and access to services and facilities influence the role of our communities and their ability to sustainably support new development.
- 4.32. Consideration of the characteristics of communities is best achieved through the preparation of a Community Hierarchy, which uses specific and consistent criteria on community characteristics to group them based on their similarities.
- 4.33. As such, we have developed a draft methodology for a Shropshire Community Hierarchy which considers community size and connectivity – utilising data that is nationally endorsed but also responsive to and appropriate in a Shropshire context.
- 4.34. This draft methodology and the draft conclusions of its application are summarised in the **draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>.
- 4.35. Crucially, whilst we consider the characteristics of our communities the logical 'starting point' we recognise there are a number of other important attributes such as infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities that must inform options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

Question 10.

Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate 'starting point' when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Question 11.

Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with the methodology and/or conclusions of the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy.

Infrastructure Capacity

- 4.36. Sustainable development meets the needs of our existing and new residents and businesses - including the need to access necessary infrastructure. Furthermore, we recognise that the capacity of infrastructure is often a concern to communities when faced with new development.
- 4.37. For this reason, we consider that the existing infrastructure capacity of our communities and the ability to sustainably enhance infrastructure capacity should inform the preparation of options for the distribution of development in Shropshire. This would be achieved through proactive 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers.
- 4.38. Complementary to this consideration when preparing options for the distribution of development, it is expected that infrastructure capacity will also inform the wider plan-making process. Infrastructure capacity will inform the identification of proposed allocations and the site guidelines which will manage their development. It will also inform the preparation of policies detailing when 'developer contributions' are required from development and how any contributions are prioritised to support infrastructure provision.
- 4.39. This will be achieved through continued 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers and the preparation of an **Infrastructure Delivery Plan** to identify the infrastructure considered necessary to support new planned growth and the approach to its funding and delivery.
- 4.40. We will also utilise the consultations that form part of the plan-making process to seek views on the infrastructure required to support the achievement of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Demand

- 4.41. The demand for properties within our communities is a valuable indicator of those that would most benefit from additional growth to meet the needs of residents and support businesses. Therefore, we consider that property demand is a positive consideration when preparing options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.
- 4.42. One effective assessment of property demand is that undertaken by the University of Warwick, which utilises 'Rightmove data' to determine 'housing gaps' and 'tightness ratios'. Their overarching report and conclusions for Shropshire are available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.

- 4.43. Other sources of evidence on property demand include:
- a. The Council's HomePoint - housing waiting list:
<https://shropshirehomepoint.co.uk/>
 - b. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment to be prepared to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan - assessing the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in our communities.
 - c. Local housing need surveys undertaken over the last 5 years.
 - d. The Economic Development Needs Assessment to be prepared to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan - assessing the employment needs of our communities.

Constraints

- 4.44. Due to Shropshire's diverse geography, there are a range of different factors that have the potential to constrain development. Such factors are generally not 'negatives' often relating to physical features or historic / natural environment assets that help make our communities unique.
- 4.45. Where such constraints exist, they generally affect specific parts of a community rather than the community as a whole. As such, they can be managed through appropriate site selection, effective design and layout of development and/or delivery of appropriate mitigation.
- 4.46. However, there are some instances where these factors can constrain the development potential of a whole community – a good example is where communities are located within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, which is a treasured landscape that requires a more considered approach to development.
- 4.47. As a result, we feel that constraining factors should be considered when preparing options for the distribution of development in Shropshire. To do so, we intend to:
- a. Identify factors that have the potential to constrain development in Shropshire as part of a 'baselining' process.
 - b. Give consideration to these factors to determine whether any of the factors may reduce a communities development capacity.
- 4.48. This process will be informed by engagement with relevant statutory consultees (such as Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and specialist input from relevant Council services (such as our Ecologists and Historic Environment Officers).
- 4.49. For the avoidance of doubt, consideration of constraining factors will also inform the identification of proposed allocations and the site guidelines which will inform their development.

Opportunities

4.50. We believe there are many opportunities unique to Shropshire and that the preparation of options for the distribution of development within it should be responsive to them. Those opportunities we have already identified include:

a. **Strategic Corridors***: Key rail and road routes within Shropshire which support connectivity within Shropshire and provide links to the wider West Midlands and beyond. They support the connectivity of our communities to employment, services and infrastructure and create opportunities for sustainable growth and investment.

The strategic corridor with greatest potential to support sustainable growth is undoubtedly that formed by the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line, linking *Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton*.

**Further information on the strategic corridors in Shropshire is provided in Appendix 2 of this document.*

b. **Supporting Rural Services**: Proud to be rural, sustainable growth within our rural communities can provide opportunities to support the continued provision of valued rural services.

c. **Supporting Economic Growth**: Our communities, particularly the larger communities, provide the logical focus for economic development and business growth and investment.

d. **Wider Council Strategies**: Opportunities for sustainable growth arising from wider Council strategies or for sustainable growth to facilitate the delivery of wider Council strategies.

e. **Shrewsbury Parkway Station**: A key aspiration of 'Shrewsbury Moves' is a parkway station outside the town to complement existing rail services in the town centre. Feasibility work has been progressed for this project which presents opportunities for complementary sustainable growth.

f. **Capitalising on Infrastructure**: Locations with 'headroom' in existing infrastructure or where significant infrastructure 'investment' is planned may present opportunities for sustainable growth.

g. **Potential for New Settlements**: Any strategically located sites of a sufficient scale to create new self-contained communities, complementary to our existing communities.

They would offer a mix of housing, employment, infrastructure (including schools, health services and transport networks), services (retail and community facilities) and green space.

- 4.51. Further opportunities that may be identified relate to complementary investment activities, availability of brownfield land, unique development proposals and specific sites with potential to form new settlements.
- 4.52. To identify further opportunities, we intend to:
- a. Identify development opportunities in Shropshire as part of a 'baselining' process.
 - b. Give consideration to these factors to determine whether any of the factors increase an existing community's development capacity or establish the potential to develop new communities.
- 4.53. This process will be informed by proactive 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers.

Question 12.

Do you agree that the infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities associated with our communities should form an important consideration when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?
Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree.

Question 13.

Are there any additional matters we should consider when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?
Please explain your answer.

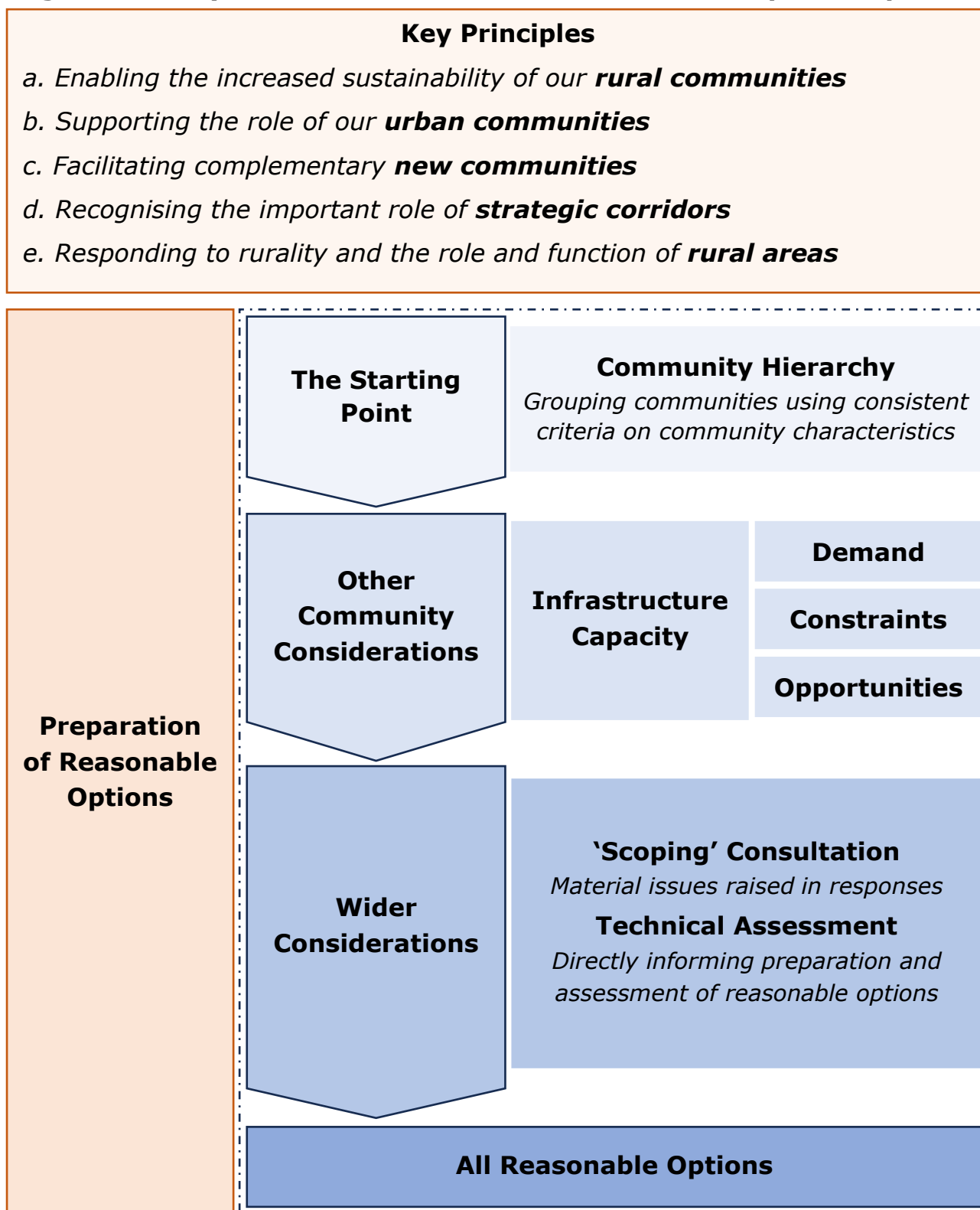
Consultation and Technical Assessment

- 4.54. In addition, the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including reasonable options for the distribution of development and the subsequent identification of the preferred option for the distribution of development, will be informed by technical assessments including SEA, HRA and ESHIA.

Summary

4.55. Figure 4.4 summarises the considerations we believe should inform the preparation of options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

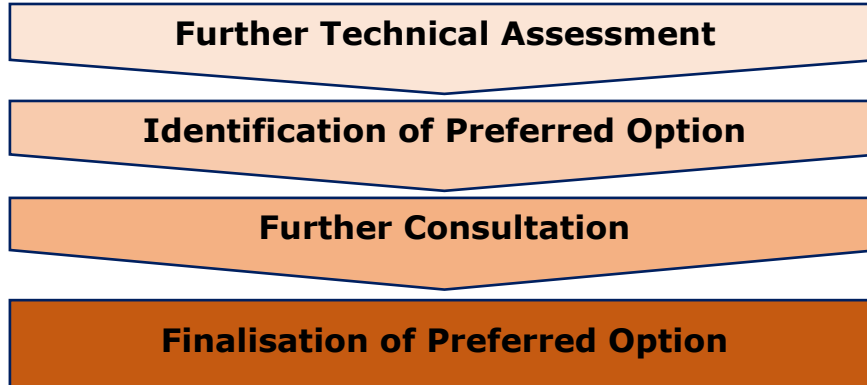
Figure 4.4: Key Considerations - Distribution of Development Options



Next Steps

4.56. Figure 4.5 summarises the subsequent process we intend to follow to initially identify and then finalise the preferred option for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

Figure 4.5: Preferred Distribution of Development Option



Areas and Assets to be Conserved or Enhanced

4.57. Within our spatial strategy, complementary to decisions on the amount and distribution of development, is the identification of locations that should be conserved or enhanced.

4.58. In Shropshire, we are very fortunate to have a rich and diverse built, natural and historic environment. As such, consistent with national policy, we consider it is important that our spatial strategy identifies and supports the conservation and enhancement of our:

a. Designated historic environment assets in Shropshire, including:

- i. Two world heritage sites (which are cross-border).
- ii. Registered battlefield.
- iii. 34 registered historic parks or gardens (3 are cross-border).
- iv. 128 Conservation Areas.
- v. Around 440 scheduled monuments.
- vi. Around 7,000 listed buildings.

b. Designated natural environment assets in Shropshire, including:

- i. The Shropshire Hills National Landscape (around 23% of Shropshire).
- ii. 6 special areas of conservation (cross-border assets).
- iii. 2 phases of Ramsar sites (cross-border assets).
- iv. 4 national and 33 local nature reserves.
- v. 111 sites of special scientific interest.
- vi. Ancient woodland (around 2% of Shropshire).
- vii. 1,000's of veteran trees and trees subject to preservation orders.

4.59. Further, we have a wealth of non-statutory, non-designated heritage assets and significant archaeological potential. We consider these assets should be recognised and given proportionate consideration within our spatial strategy.

Question 14.

Do you agree our spatial strategy should ensure proportionate consideration is given to non-designated heritage assets and areas of archaeological potential?

Please explain your answer.

4.60. To support nature recovery in Shropshire, we have prepared a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This identifies where action for nature can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment (known as potential areas of particular importance for biodiversity).

4.61. We consider our spatial strategy provides an important opportunity to maximise the potential of these 'action areas'.

Question 15.

Do you agree our spatial strategy should support achievement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy - maximising the potential of the locations identified where action can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment?

Please explain your answer.

Question 16.

Are there any other areas or assets you believe should be identified for conservation or enhancement within our spatial strategy?

Please explain your answer.

5. Identifying and Assessing Sites

What are Site Allocations

- 5.1. Site allocations consist of specific areas of land designated in a Local Plan for a particular form of development or land-use.
- 5.2. The purpose of a site allocation is to ensure sufficient land is available in the right locations to achieve the spatial strategy of a Local Plan.

Site Allocations in Shropshire - Required Uses

- 5.3. Decisions on the forms of development or land-uses for which allocations are required is dependent on a range of factors, including:
 - a. The requirements of national planning policy and guidance.
 - b. The Local Plan vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.
 - c. Evidence underpinning the Local Plan.
- 5.4. Based on these factors, we expect the next Shropshire Local Plan to include allocations for the following:
 - a. Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
 - b. Development of specialist housing for older people.
 - c. Gypsy and traveller pitches.
 - d. Employment or employment-led mixed use development (including for waste management).
 - e. Retail and leisure.

Question 17.

In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations for these uses?

- Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
- Development of specialist housing for older people.
- Gypsy & traveller pitches.
- Employment or employment-led mixed use development.
- Retail and leisure development

Please explain your answer.

- 5.5. We are also considering whether there is a need to identify areas of search or allocate land for renewable energy generation and mineral working (sand & gravel and crushed rock aggregates).
- 5.6. For renewable energy, this decision on the appropriate approach will be information by consideration of evidence on renewable energy needs and

opportunities. The preferred approach would be expected to facilitate appropriate renewable energy generation in Shropshire.

- 5.7. For mineral working, this decision will be informed by consideration of the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) for Shropshire³ and ongoing aggregate monitoring undertaken through the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party (a technical group set-up by Government).
- 5.8. Regarding sand & gravel aggregates, the latest Shropshire LAA forecasts sufficient reserves exist to meet demand over the proposed plan period and maintain required reserves at the end of this period⁴.
- 5.9. However, this conclusion includes reserves associated with allocations in the adopted Local Plan, which will not be 'carried over' unless re-allocated in the next Shropshire Local Plan. Countering this is the fact that Shropshire Council has recently reached a 'resolution to grant' planning permission for several proposals which it is anticipated will in due course increase committed reserves by around 6 million tonnes and there are further planning applications pending consideration.
- 5.10. Regarding crushed rock aggregates, the Shropshire LAA forecasts that sufficient reserves exist to meet demand over the proposed plan period, but that insufficient reserves exist to maintain the required level of future reserves from the end of the proposed plan period⁴. However, since the base date for this assessment, planning permission (TWC/2022/0547) was granted for 21.0mt of crushed rock aggregate at Leaton Quarry. It is considered this additional provision is sufficient to maintain the required reserves from the end of the plan period.
- 5.11. The next Shropshire Local Plan could provide the opportunity to complement identified reserves of sand & gravel and crushed rock aggregate to provide greater certainty of supply into the future.

Question 18.

In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations or areas of search for these uses?

- Sand & gravel aggregate working.
- Crushed rock aggregate working.
- Renewable energy generation.

Please explain your answers.

³ The latest LAA for Shropshire is available on the Council website via:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring/local-aggregates-assessment/>

⁴ The Shropshire LAA considered the period to 2045 rather than 2046, but it is considered the conclusion remains applicable.

Identifying Sites

- 5.12. It is important that we consider as many sites as possible, as this will provide greater choice when determining proposed site allocations.
- 5.13. To ensure the identification of sites is comprehensive, we have produced a proposed site identification methodology⁵, which includes consideration of a range of sources.
- 5.14. This proposed site identification methodology is summarised in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.
- 5.15. *Please Note: Not all identified sites will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

Question 19.

Do you agree with our proposed site identification methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Please explain your answer.

Question 20.

Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

Call for Sites

- 5.16. As detailed in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document**, a key process we have already undertaken to identify sites is the '**call for sites**'.
- 5.17. Through this '**call for sites**' we invited stakeholders (including developers, landowners, public bodies and the general public) to propose land they think is right for development.
- 5.18. We have now [mapped all the sites promoted through the 'call for sites' process](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/) and they can be viewed on the Council website at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.
- 5.19. *Please Note: Not all sites promoted through the 'call for sites' will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

⁵ The methodology focuses on the identification of housing and employment sites. It would be appropriately adapted for out uses such as gypsy and traveller pitches and mineral extraction.

Ongoing Invitation: Promotion of Sites

- 5.20. Another key process in our **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** we are currently using to identify sites is an **'ongoing invitation'** to promote sites.
- 5.21. This 'ongoing invitation' provides a further opportunity for stakeholders to propose land to be considered for development.
- 5.22. Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote a site are available at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/promoting-a-site-for-allocation/>.
- 5.23. *Please Note: Not all sites promoted through the 'ongoing invitation' will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

Ongoing Invitation: Minerals

- 5.24. We are also continuing to invite stakeholders to promote land for potential mineral working.
- 5.25. Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote land is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/promoting-a-mineral-working-opportunity/>.
- 5.26. *Please Note: Not all land promoted through the 'ongoing invitation' will be proposed for allocation for mineral working. Proposed mineral working allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

Assessing Sites

- 5.27. We recognise the importance of ensuring proposed allocations are identified through a comprehensive site assessment process. As such, we have produced a proposed site assessment methodology⁶, informed by:
- a. Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development'⁷ and use of the Department for Transport Connectivity Tool.
 - b. Consideration of local circumstances – recognising the characteristics of Shropshire.
 - c. Responses to a targeted engagement exercise with selected statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.

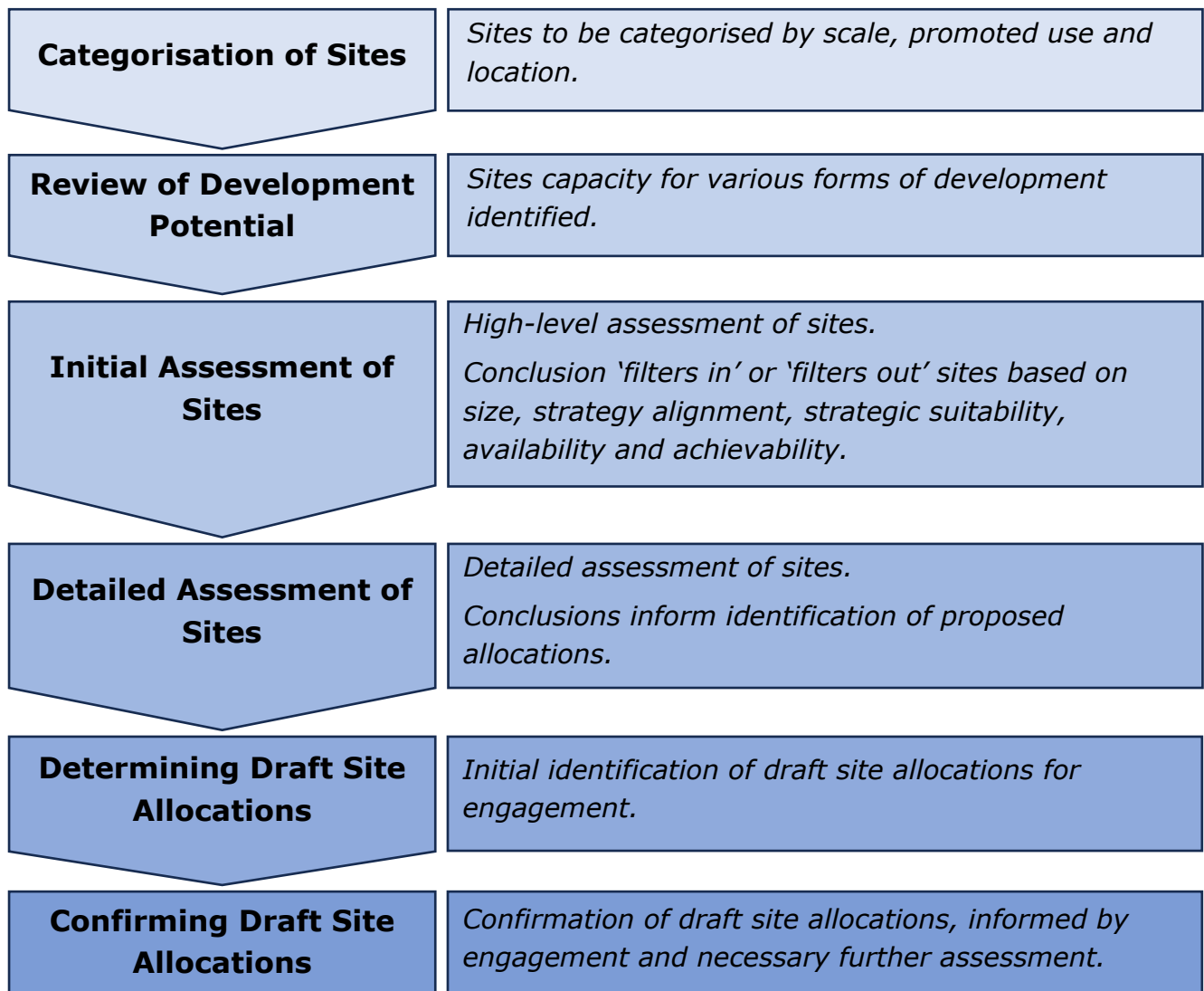
⁶ The methodology focuses on the assessment of housing and employment sites. It would be appropriately adapted for out uses such as gypsy and traveller pitches and mineral extraction.

⁷ MGCLG, (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/selecting-identifying-and-assessing-sites-for-local-plans>

5.28. This proposed site assessment methodology is summarised in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tlfw2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.

5.29. The key stages of this proposed site assessment methodology are summarised in Figure 5.1:

Figure 5.1: Key Stages in the Draft Site Assessment



Question 21.

Do you agree with our proposed site assessment methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Please explain your answer.

Question 22.

Are there any other factors we should consider within our assessment?

Next Steps

5.30. Informed by the responses to this 'Scoping Consultation', we will finalise the Site Identification and Assessment Methodology. The methodology will then be applied to:

a. Identify further sites for consideration.

b. Assess identified sites.

c. Determine draft site allocations.

d. Undertake engagement on draft site allocations.

This may be through the consultation on content & evidence and/or the consultation on the proposed Local Plan.

e. Review responses to engagement and undertake any further necessary assessment.

f. Confirm draft site allocations.

6. Policy Areas

What are Planning Policies

- 6.1. Planning policies set out the standards and expectations of development proposals. They form the 'starting point' when making decisions on planning applications and can support achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of a Local Plan.

The Role of National Policy

- 6.2. Alongside the introduction of a new plan-making process, Government is undertaking wider changes to the planning system. One such change is the introduction of *national decision-making policies*.
- 6.3. These *national decision-making policies* will provide consistent policy on key planning issues that are relevant across England and thereby reduce the need for local policies on these issues within Local Plans.
- 6.4. Draft *national decision-making policies* were recently the subject of consultation as part of a draft NPPF. Further information on this consultation is available at:
<https://gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>.
- 6.5. Crucially, *national decision-making policies* do not remove the need for nor the value of policies in Local Plans. Rather, *national decision-making policies* allow the policies in Local Plans to be **more focused** on locally specific issues and objectives that can support achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Scope of Local Planning Policy

- 6.6. The scope of policies in our next Local Plan will be informed by a range of considerations, including:
 - a. The scope of the *national decision-making policies* that were recently the subject of consultation by Government.
 - b. Evidence informing the next Local Plan - both existing and emerging.
 - c. Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
 - d. Objectives of wider Shropshire Council strategies.
 - e. Responses to consultations undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
- 6.7. As plan-making progresses, these considerations will provide further clarity on the policy areas of value in the next Shropshire Local Plan.

6.8. Based on an initial consideration, we have identified 'broad areas' where policies could support achievement of locally specific issues and objectives and achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:

a. Density, design, climate adaptation/mitigation and health:

- *Prioritisation of brownfield land.*
- *Appropriate minimum densities of development.*
- *Locally-specific design and layout expectations.*
- *Promotion of health and social interaction.*
- *Water efficiency.*
- *Accessibility requirements for housing.*
- *Approach to nationally described space standards for housing.*
- *Identify environmental opportunities and safeguards in Shropshire.*

b. Infrastructure, open space and developer contributions:

- *Local communications and transport objectives.*
- *Local parking standards for residential and non-residential development.*
- *Contributions expected from development towards infrastructure.*
- *Standards on the amount and quality of green infrastructure and open space.*
- *Make provision for appropriate infrastructure development.*
- *Considerations for infrastructure to avoid operation and potential future expansion constraints.*

c. Housing mix - size, type and tenure:

- *Appropriate mix of dwelling sizes.*
- *Proportions and tenures of affordable dwellings required.*
- *Proportions of specialist housing for older/disabled people required.*

d. Approach to affordable housing:

- *Opportunity locations and approaches to deliver affordable housing.*

e. Managing new and existing employment and waste facilities:

- *Our economic vision and strategy.*
- *Appropriate safeguarding of existing employment sites.*
- *General range of uses appropriate on employment land.*

f. Vitality and viability of town centres:

- *Town centre hierarchy and opportunity areas within them.*
- *The strategy for our town centres – including appropriate uses.*
- *Approach to town centre development in other locations.*

g. Renewable energy:

- Identify locations with potential for renewable/low carbon energy.
- Considerations for renewable and low carbon energy development to avoid operation and potential future expansion constraints.

h. Mineral safeguarding and supply:

- Ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals.
- Safeguarding of mineral resources.

i. Site specific requirements:

- Specific expectations for each site allocation.

6.9. **Importantly, any policies that have implications for the viability of development will be 'tested' through a Viability Assessment, which forms an important part of our next Local Plans evidence.**

6.10. This Viability Assessment will inform the simultaneous review of the CIL Charging Schedule, ensuring a 'joined up' approach.

6.11. The Council's aim is to ensure that policy requirements in the next Shropshire Local Plan and the CIL contributions required under a new CIL Charging Schedule, will maximise the benefits for our communities whilst ensuring the viability of development.

Question 23.

Do you agree with these identified 'broad policy areas' that would be addressed in our next Local Plan?

Please explain your answers.

Question 24.

Are there any other 'broad policy areas' that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan?

Please explain your answer.

Next Steps

6.12. Following the conclusion of this 'scoping' consultation we will finalise the list of 'broad areas' that local policies should address.

6.13. These 'broad areas', will inform decisions on the evidence required to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan and the development of policy.

6.14. In due course, draft policies will be subject to consultation. This may be through the second consultation on content & evidence and/or the third consultation on the proposed Local Plan.

7. Effective Engagement

Value of Engagement

- 7.1. We recognise the significant contribution that our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders can make to the next Shropshire Local Plan. We also understand that the next Shropshire Local Plan will affect everybody who lives, works or visits Shropshire and that planning can be emotive.
- 7.2. For these reasons, we understand the value and importance of proactive engagement during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

The Need for Effective Engagement

- 7.3. One of the key characteristics of the Government's new plan-making process, is a more efficient 30 month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four month scoping stage prior to its commencement).
- 7.4. As this is a much more prescriptive timescale than the previous system, we need to be more targeted and effective with our engagement.

Our Proposed Approach to Engagement

- 7.5. Reflecting both the **value** of engagement and our need to undertake more **targeted and effective** consultation, we have prepared draft stakeholder engagement 'parameters' in our **Project Initiation Document**, available on our website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>.
- 7.6. To inform and finalise our engagement 'parameters', we are keen to use this consultation to understand the views of our stakeholders.

Stages of Engagement

- 7.7. Government guidance⁸ indicates engagement to inform plan-making is to be undertaken through three stages of consultation.
- 7.8. Consistent with this guidance and to inform the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, we wish to engage with stakeholders through the

⁸ MHCLG (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

three statutory consultations (of which, this Scoping Consultation is the first).

7.9. These three stages of consultation are summarised in Figure 7.1:

Figure 7.1: Stages of Consultation

Consultation	Summary
Scoping (this consultation)	Seeking views on what the plan should contain and how we should engage with stakeholders going forward.
Content & evidence	Minimum 6 week consultation. Seeking views on the proposed vision, objectives and spatial strategy. May include initial policies and draft site allocations.
Proposed Local Plan	Minimum 8 week consultation. Seeking views on a fully formed draft Local Plan.

Clear Engagement

7.10. We understand that planning can be technical and this can sometimes lead to uncertainty. As such, we want to ensure our consultations are as clear as possible. To do so, we will aim to:

- a. Use plain-English and avoid 'jargon' and unnecessary acronyms. Where required, include a glossary of terms and acronyms.
- b. Undertake consultations at appropriate stages, informed by sufficient evidence to support proposals and enable effective responses.
- c. Provide clear details on how to respond to each consultation and in what time period.
- d. Publicise consultations in a cost effective manner.
- e. Publicise any events that form part of a consultation on the Council's website and hold them at appropriate and accessible locations (including appropriate disabled access).
- f. Provide a summary of responses received.

Publicising Engagement

7.11. We believe that digital means of communication are the most effective and efficient way to publicise consultations to our communities. This view is consistent with the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making⁸.

7.12. Therefore, the main ways we intend to publicise our engagement activities is through digital means of communication. This includes:

- a. Notifications on the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>.
- b. Notifications issued via **email** to those on the Planning Policy consultation database.
You can register for inclusion on our consultation database at:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/remain-informed-on-plan-making-in-shropshire/>.
- c. Creation of dedicated consultation webpages within the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform:
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
- d. Facilitating further publicity of the consultation by the media through **digital 'press releases'** issued via the Council's newsroom platform:
<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
- e. Use of **social media** to further raise awareness of consultations.

7.13. However, we recognise digital means of communication may not always reach all our interested stakeholders. Therefore, we intend to complement them through other means. This may include:

- a. Issuing notification emails to **Town and Parish Councils** and rely on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations and the importance placed on effective working relationships with Town and Parish Council's in the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire'.
- b. Use of **Shropshire Association of Local Council meetings** to further publicise consultations to Town and Parish Councils and rely on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations and the importance placed on effective working relationships with Town and Parish Councils in the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire'.
- c. Where appropriate, displaying leaflets or posters in public buildings such as our head office, libraries and Shropshire Local's.
- d. Where appropriate, undertaking community meetings and/or drop-in events to publicise consultations.

7.14. Where appropriate, we will also utilise complementary measures to help overcome barriers that can prevent hard to reach groups from 'getting involved'.

Providing Access to Engagement Materials

- 7.15. We believe the most effective and efficient way to provide access to engagement materials is digital. This view is consistent with the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making⁸.
- 7.16. As such, we are proposing that engagement materials will primarily be made available through the Council website. Specifically:
- a. Consultation documents will be made available on a dedicated consultation webpage in the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform: <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
 - b. A Link to the dedicated consultation webpage will be provided from the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>.
- 7.17. To facilitate digital access to the consultation documents, we will:
- a. Liaise with colleagues operating 'Shropshire Local' facilities to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on 'Shropshire Local' facilities is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>.
 - b. Liaise with colleagues operating Shropshire libraries to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on Shropshire libraries is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>.
- 7.18. We recognise there may be limited circumstances where digital access to consultation documents may not be appropriate. Therefore, we intend to complement digital access by providing:
- a. A hard copy of consultation documents at Shropshire Council's head office: [Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8HQ](#).

Supporting Responses to Engagement

- 7.19. To support stakeholders wishing to respond to our consultations, we will:
- a. Prepare **guidance** summarising the purpose of the consultation and providing details of how to respond and in what time period.
 - b. Provide a **consultation response form**⁹ in an appropriate format. It will detail required information and support structuring of responses.

⁹ Whilst respondents will be encouraged to use this response form, we will accept responses in other formats.

- 7.20. Our preference is that consultation responses are submitted digitally, either using an **online response form**, as this makes it quicker and easier for stakeholders to respond and will also help us to consider responses more efficiently.
- 7.21. However, we understand that some may wish to submit their responses in another format. As such, we will also provide a response form in another format which can be submitted via email or post.
- 7.22. In the limited circumstances where response material exceeds 20mb in size, the Council will facilitate digital submission via our Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system (the Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities).
- 7.23. We also recognise that submitting consultation responses digitally from home is not always possible. In such circumstances, responses can be submitted digitally using public computer/tablet facilities at:
- a. 'Shropshire Local' facilities, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>.
 - b. Shropshire libraries, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>.
- 7.24. Furthermore, whilst our preference is that responses are submitted digitally, we will also accept responses by post. As such, a postal address will be provided to submit responses to each consultation.

Summarising Responses to Engagement

- 7.25. Following the conclusion of each consultation undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan, we will give due consideration to the responses received, prepare a summary of the consultation responses, and then publish the summary of responses.
- 7.26. Responses to the scoping consultation and content & evidence consultation will inform the ongoing development of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.27. Responses to the proposed Local Plan consultation will be submitted to the Inspectors to inform examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.28. *It is important to note that when undertaking plan-making it is not uncommon for draft proposals to be controversial and often lead to significant levels of objection. Whilst all consultation responses will of course be considered, it is the material planning considerations identified*

through the consultation which are of most importance, and not necessarily the volume of responses made.

Question 25.

To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach to ensuring engagement on the next Local Plan is:

- Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.
- Clear, though use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms where possible.
- Well publicised, through a digital-led approach.
- Accessible, through a digital-led approach.
- Convenient, supported by a digital consultation response form.
- Transparent, with a summary of responses provided.

Please explain your answers.

Question 26.

Are there any other criteria we could use to ensure our consultations are clear, well publicised, accessible, convenient and transparent - particularly where they can support us engaging hard to reach groups?

Please explain your answer.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Engagement

7.29. Our approach to consultation is considered sufficiently flexible to respond to new ways of engaging that may emerge during preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This flexibility means regular alterations of approach may not be necessary, but the Council is committed to monitoring effectiveness and where necessary will update its approach.

7.30. It is anticipated such updates could be made in response to:

- a. Alterations to the types of groups who should be consulted.
- b. New methods for informing and involving the public, such as changes to technology or responding to emerging best practice.
- c. Responding to the emerging practices of locality working by the Council.
- d. Responding to low turnouts at consultation events, or low response rates to consultations.

8. Evidence

Evidence

- 8.1. Evidence shapes and underpins Local Plans. It shapes them by providing an understanding of local context (needs, opportunities and constraints) thereby informing proposals. It underpins them by providing justification for proposals – necessary to demonstrate ‘soundness’.
- 8.2. Government specifies Local Plan evidence should be *relevant, proportionate, not unnecessarily extensive and drawn from suitable up-to-date sources.*

Our Evidence

- 8.3. We want to ensure the evidence shaping and underpinning our next Local Plan is **proportionate and robust**. Reflecting this, we are drawing on a variety of sources in forming our evidence base.
- 8.4. The evidence to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan will be made available on the Council website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.

Reviewing Existing Evidence

- 8.5. To ensure the efficient use of our resources, our starting point was to review the evidence base prepared to inform previous Local Plans in Shropshire and other work undertaken by the Council.
- 8.6. Through this review, we have identified key evidence we consider is appropriate to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:

- a. Green Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment
- b. Playing Pitch Strategy
- c. Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy
- d. Historic Farmsteads Characterisation
- e. Historic Landscape Character Assessment
- f. Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment
- g. Landscape Typology
- h. Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment
- i. Strategic Employment Sites Assessments
- j. Mineral Safeguarding Assessment
- k. Town Centres Study
- l. Renewable Energy Opportunity Mapping

Reviewing Wider Strategies

- 8.7. Another source of existing evidence for our next Local Plan is wider Council strategies. Such strategies can provide important context and justification for proposals. Perhaps more importantly, their consideration provides an opportunity to enable delivery of their ambitions through our next Local Plan.
- 8.8. A summary of wider strategies that may inform and support preparation of our next Local Plan is provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

Completed Evidence

- 8.9. In advance of issuing our notification of an 'intention to commence' plan-making, we have secured several new key pieces of evidence to inform our next Local Plan. This includes:
 - a. Local Housing Need Assessment
 - b. Supported Specialist Housing and Accommodation Needs Assessment
 - c. Housing Demand Assessment
 - d. Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Emerging Evidence

- 8.10. Alongside the evidence completed in advance of issuing our notification of an 'intention to commence' plan-making, we have also begun preparing other key pieces of evidence to inform our next Local Plan. This includes:

- a. **Baselining and monitoring:** Compiling demographic, economic and environmental data detailing the needs, opportunities, constraints and the wider context of Shropshire.
Initial baselining is available via our information, intelligence and insight webpages at:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/information-intelligence-and-insight/>.
The Council's latest Local Plan monitoring reports (Authority Monitoring Report, Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement, Brownfield Land Register and Local Aggregates Assessment) are available via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring/>.
- b. **Economic Development Needs Assessment:** Determining the County's local employment land needs and recommending reasonable options for the 'employment land requirement'. A brief for the preparation of an Economic Development Needs Assessment has been prepared and a tender to seek appropriate consultants will be issued soon.

- c. **Place Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plan:** Identifying key infrastructure needs and aspirations and the infrastructure it is forecast will be required to support growth and how it is intended to be funded and delivered.
Our Place Plans are 'live' documents updated on a rolling basis. Further information is available on our website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/>.
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be informed by our Place Plans and wider evidence and engagement to support our next Local Plan.
- d. **Green Belt Study:** Assessing the performance of Green Belt in Shropshire against nationally defined purposes and determining components that meet the definition of 'grey belt'. Land Use Consultants (LUC) have been commissioned to undertake this Study, which is expected to be completed and published in summer 2026.
- e. **Community Hierarchy:** Assessing our communities' characteristics to gain a greater understanding of their function and to group them based on their similarities.
A draft Community Hierarchy has been prepared and views on its methodology and conclusions are sought through this 'scoping' consultation.
The draft Community Hierarchy is available on the Council website via:
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>.
- f. **Site Identification and Assessment Methodology:** Detailing the proposed approach to the identification and assessment of sites, culminating in the initial identification and subsequent confirmation of proposed allocations.
A draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology has been prepared and views on it are sought through this 'scoping' consultation.
The draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology is available at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.

Further Evidence

- 8.11. To ensure the evidence shaping and underpinning our next Local Plan is **proportionate and robust** we have identified additional evidence we intend to prepare during the plan-making process.

8.12. Further evidence we intend to prepare includes:

- a. **Strategic Environmental Assessment:** Assessing environmental effects of proposals - undertaken alongside preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan to inform and evaluate.
The need for and value of this assessment was determined through 'Initial Screening', available on the Council website via:
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>
- b. **Habitat Regulations Assessment:** Evaluating potential impacts on protected European wildlife sites (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites).
- c. **Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment:** Ensuring 'due regard' is being given to equality, equity, social inclusion and health and wellbeing within the next Shropshire Local Plan. Supports us in meeting our general equality duty.
- d. **Outputs of Monitoring Processes:** Engagement undertaken on housing, aggregates and employment land supply.
- e. **Strategic Housing Market Assessment:** Analysing the size, type and tenure of market, affordable, and specialist housing needed to meet the needs of the different groups in our communities.
- f. **Site Assessment Process:** Applying the finalised Site Identification and Assessment Methodology to identify proposed allocations for inclusion in the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- g. **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:** Assessing flood risk from all sources, current and future.
- h. **Water Cycle Study:** Analysing impacts on water supply, wastewater collection and treatment and water quality.
- i. **Viability & Market Absorption Study:** Assessing the viability of development and the ability of the market to absorb new development – thereby informing any local standards and policy requirements (including affordable housing contributions).
This Viability Assessment will inform the parallel review of the CIL Charging Schedule, ensuring a 'joined up' approach.

Question 27.

Is there any other evidence you feel we may need to inform our next Local Plan that would be relevant and proportionate?

Please explain your answer.

Question 28.

Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of our next Local Plan.

Appendix 1: Shropshire's Wider Strategies

These wider strategies may inform and support the preparation of a new Local Plan.

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for county-level nature recovery to establish priorities and measurable targets for restoring nature in Shropshire.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/
Corporate Climate Strategy: Towards Net-Zero Carbon	2020	2020 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the Council to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/
Corporate Climate Action Plan & Project Pipeline with Monitoring Report 2025	2020	Ongoing	ENVIRONMENT	The portfolio of projects and actions to reduce carbon emissions.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/
Shropshire Hills Management Plan	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the sustainable future for the National Landscape of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to conserve and enhance this landscape and its communities.	https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/a-special-place/management-plan/2025-30-management-plan
New Direction for Shropshire	2025	Ongoing	STRATEGY	Setting out the Administration's proprieties for the Council.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20A%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Corporate Plan (currently under review)	2026	2026 - 2030	STRATEGY	Setting out what the Council intends to focus on over the next 4 years and what we aim to achieve with our partners and communities. To provide a clear basis for our business planning and prioritisation, helping us to plan our services and activity in the context of the overall ambitions we want to see achieved for Shropshire and its residents.	https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/
Shrewsbury Big Town Plan	2018	2018 - 2038	STRATEGY	The vision for how the town of Shrewsbury should evolve over the two decades to 2038 as the Strategic Centre of the County.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/16707/shrewsbury-big-town-plan.pdf
Shropshire Local Transport Plan (currently under review)	2011	2011 - 2026	TRANSPORT	The vision, objectives, and policies for managing and improving all aspects of transport and highways in Shropshire to support economic growth, reduce carbon emissions from transport, and improve access to services for rural communities.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/local-transport-plan/

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan	2024	Ongoing	TRANSPORT	The vision for bus travel in Shropshire which highlights a programme of investment in the current bus offer in the county to create opportunities for bus travel to be a realistic first choice of travel for residents and visitors.	https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Shropshire-Bus-Service-Improvement-Plan-June-2024.pdf
Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan	2023	2023 – 2032	TRANSPORT	The vision for improving the safety, comfort and attractiveness of walking and cycling in the county.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/active-travel/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/
Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy	2024	2024 - 2034	TRANSPORT	The vision to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport and to reduce the use of private motor vehicles within central Shrewsbury to make the town a more attractive place to live, visit, and conduct business.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s39384/Shrewsbury%20Movement%20Public%20Space%20Strategy-01112024%201019.pdf
Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a connected, competitive and sustainable economy and outlines key priorities and targets for economic development.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/business-support/shropshire-economic-growth-strategy-2022-2027/
Shropshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a “healthy and fulfilled population” in Shropshire with key priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Best Start in Life Plan	2021	2021 - 2024	ECONOMY	The vision for improving outcomes in the critical early years of a child's life to ensure every baby and young child has a strong start to their life journey.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/shropshire-best-start-in-life-programme/shropshire-best-start-in-life-plan/
Shropshire Education Excellence Strategy	2022	2022 - 2025	ECONOMY	The vision to support schools and education to raise standards and achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s43267/Item%20%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20Shropshire%20Education%20Excellence%20Strategy.pdf
Shropshire Housing Strategy	2020	2020 - 2025	HOUSING	The vision for everyone to have the "right home in the right place" with objectives and actions to meet local housing needs.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/22599/housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf [shropshire.gov.uk]
Shropshire Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy	2023	2023 - 2028	HOUSING	The vision for improving choice and access to housing and independent living opportunities for older people, adults with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.	https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s36997/Appendix%20I%20Draft%20Independent%20Living%20and%20Specialist%20Accommodation%20Strategy.pdf
Shropshire Social Care Market Position Statement	2024	2024 - 2027	HOUSING	The vision for commissioning local care services in Shropshire from social care providers.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/27821/shropshire-market-position-statement-24-27.pdf

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Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Assistive Technology & Telecare Strategy	2023	Ongoing	HOUSING	The vision for assistive technology and telecare in Shropshire to support older and vulnerable people's independence, preventative care, timely hospital discharge, and safeguarding of older adults.	https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-social-care/schemes-and-teams/assistive-technology/
Shropshire Cultural Strategy	2021	2021 - 2031	LEISURE	The ambition and strategic priorities for the cultural sector in Shropshire for the ten years to 2031.	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/vibrant-shropshire/

Appendix 2: Shropshire's Strategic Corridors

Strategic Corridors form a branching network of strategic, major and local road routes. The road routes are supported in the north, east and west of Shropshire by four Rail Routes to Birmingham, Manchester, Chester, Cardiff and Llanelli.

Transport Network	Strategic Corridors	Strategic Routes	Local Routes
Trans-European Strategic Road Network and Midlands Rail Network 244	M6 - M54 - A5 with the Birmingham to Shrewsbury Rail Route	M6 Junction 10A at Wolverhampton to Chester for A55 Jnc. 38 for North Wales and Holyhead Seaport, Anglesey and M56 Jnc. 15 and M53 Jnc. 11 into North West and rail services from Birmingham, Wolverhampton & Chester	Shifnal to Oswestry by-passing Shrewsbury connecting with A41, A464, A442, B5061, A49, A458, A488 & A483
	A483(T) with the Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Route & potential to link Oswestry to Gobowen on the Cambrian Heritage Railways line	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to M4 at Llanelli for South Wales & the South-West and rail services from Chester	Oswestry and Chirk Bank to Llandrindod Wells connecting with A458, A490 & A489
English Strategic & Major Road Networks	A49(T)south & A49north with the Manchester to Cardiff Rail Route via Shrewsbury and other stations in the County	M6 & M56 at Warrington to M50 & A40 at Ross on Wye	Whitchurch to Ludlow by-passing Shrewsbury connecting with A41, A495, A53, A5, A489, A4113, A4117 & A456
	A53	Shrewsbury to Newcastle Under Lyme for A500 Stoke on Trent & M6 Jnc. 15	Shrewsbury to Market Drayton connecting with A41 & A51
	A51	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to M42 at Sutton Coldfield	Connecting A525 Whitchurch and A53 Market Drayton to Woore, Nantwich, Stoke on Trent & Stone
	A456	A49 at Ludlow to M5 & A4540 at Birmingham city centre	Woofferton (Ludlow) to Burford, Bewdley & Kidderminster

Transport Network	Strategic Corridors	Strategic Routes	Local Routes
West Midlands to Wales Strategic, Major & Local Road Networks and Welsh Rail Network	A458(T), A458 & A454	A470 Conwy, A487 Bangor, A489 Machynlleth to Halesowen & the M5	Welshpool to Bridgnorth bypassing Shrewsbury connecting with A5, A4169, A442 & A454
	A489 with Heart of Wales Craven Arms to Llanelli Rail Route	A489 at Craven Arms to A487 at Machynlleth	Craven Arms to Newtown connecting with A488, A490, A483, A470 & A487
	A488	A5 at Shrewsbury to A44 & A483 at Llandrindod Wells	Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle, Clun and Knighton connecting with A489 & A4113
Shropshire to West Midlands Major & Local Road Networks	M54 - A464 - A4169 - A442	M54 at Shifnal to A456 at Kidderminster	Shifnal to Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock connecting with A464, A4169, A458
	A41	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to A4150 in Wolverhampton city centre	Whitchurch to Albrighton connecting with A49, A53, A518, A442, M54, A464 & A454
Shropshire Local Road Network	A495	A49 at Whitchurch to A483 at Oswestry	connecting with A49, A41, A525, A528 & A5/A483

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Appendix 3: 'Scoping' Consultation Questions

This appendix provides a consolidated list of the questions asked through the consultation document.

The Vision and Measurable Outcomes

Question 1.

How important do you feel each of the identified national considerations are when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant.

Question 2.

How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant.

Question 3.

Are there any other strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats we should consider when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

Please explain your answer.

Question 4.

Please identify any additional considerations you believe to be of relevance when identifying the 'key priorities' for the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan.

Please explain your answer.

The Spatial Strategy

Question 5.

Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.

Question 6.

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Question 7.

Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.

Question 8.

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Question 9.

Do you agree with these 'key principles' for the approach to the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree.

Question 10.

Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate 'starting point' when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Question 11.

Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy?

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with the methodology and/or conclusions of the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy.

Question 12.

Do you agree that the infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities associated with our communities should form an important consideration when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree.

Question 13.

Are there any additional matters we should consider when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Please explain your answer.

Question 14.

Do you agree our spatial strategy should ensure proportionate consideration is given to non-designated heritage assets and areas of archaeological potential?

Please explain your answer.

Question 15.

Do you agree our spatial strategy should support achievement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy - maximising the potential of the locations identified where action can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment?

Please explain your answer.

Question 16.

Are there any other areas or assets you believe should be identified for conservation or enhancement within our spatial strategy?

Please explain your answer.

Identifying and Assessing Sites

Question 17.

In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations for these uses?

- Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
- Development of specialist housing for older people.
- Gypsy & traveller pitches.
- Employment or employment-led mixed use development.
- Retail and leisure development

Please explain your answer.

Question 18.

In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations or areas of search for these uses?

- Sand & gravel aggregate working.
- Crushed rock aggregate working.
- Renewable energy generation.

Please explain your answers.

Question 19.

Do you agree with our proposed site identification methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Please explain your answer.

Question 20.

Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

Question 21.

Do you agree with our proposed site assessment methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Please explain your answer.

Question 22.

Are there any other factors we should consider within our assessment?

Policy Areas

Question 23.

Do you agree with these identified 'broad policy areas' that would be addressed in our next Local Plan?

Please explain your answers.

Question 24.

Are there any other 'broad policy areas' that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan?

Please explain your answer.

Effective Engagement

Question 25.

To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach to ensuring engagement on the next Local Plan is:

- Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.
- Clear, through use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms where possible.
- Well publicised, through a digital-led approach.
- Accessible, through a digital-led approach.
- Convenient, supported by a digital consultation response form.
- Transparent, with a summary of responses provided.

Please explain your answers.

Question 26.

Are there any other criteria we could use to ensure our consultations are clear, well publicised, accessible, convenient and transparent - particularly where they can support us engaging hard to reach groups?

Please explain your answer.

Evidence**Question 27.**

Is there any other evidence you feel we may need to inform our next Local Plan that would be relevant and proportionate?

Please explain your answer.

Question 28.

Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of our next Local Plan.

Shropshire Council

Draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy



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1. Introduction

Shropshire Overview

- 1.1. Shropshire¹ is a large, diverse, and predominantly rural county, containing hundreds of communities of various size, function, character, and identity.
- 1.2. These communities include towns, villages, other predominantly built-up areas, hamlets, and other named locations consisting of scattered groups of houses.
- 1.3. Due to these characteristics it is considered beneficial to produce a 'community hierarchy'.

What is a Community Hierarchy?

- 1.4. A 'community hierarchy' involves an assessment of *specific and consistent criteria* on community characteristics to gain a greater understanding of community function and group them based on their similarities.
- 1.5. Generally, the larger and more connected communities are categorised higher in the 'community hierarchy' and the smaller and less connected communities are categorised lower within the 'community hierarchy'.

Approach to the Shropshire Community Hierarchy

- 1.6. In positively responding to the characteristics of Shropshire, it is considered the *specific and consistent criteria* considered should address community size and community connectivity.

Purpose of this Document

- 1.7. This document summarises the assessment methodology, results of the assessment, and its application to determine a 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire.

Use of the Shropshire Community Hierarchy

- 1.8. The 'community hierarchy' will form a key part of the evidence that underpins the next Shropshire Local Plan. Specifically, it will inform decisions on:
 - a. The overarching approach to the strategic distribution of development in the spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.

¹All references to Shropshire relate to Shropshire Council's administrative area.

- b. The role of individual communities in supporting the overarching approach to the strategic distribution of development of the spatial strategy in the next Local Plan.
 - c. The specific strategies for individual communities within the next Local Plan.
- 1.9. However, the 'community hierarchy' does not itself define the approach to the strategic distribution of development within the spatial strategy. This is because other evidence must be considered - including that related to infrastructure capacity, demand for housing and employment, constraints and opportunities within our communities.

2. Policy Context

Local Policy

- 2.1. The adopted Local Plan for Shropshire currently consists of the Core Strategy (2011) and Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2015), collectively covering the period 2006-2026.
- 2.2. Alongside 'made' Neighbourhood Plans, the adopted Local Plan forms the Development Plan for Shropshire – the starting point when determining planning applications.
- 2.3. Local Planning Authorities, such as Shropshire Council, are required to regularly update the Plan, at least every five years. The maintenance of an up-to-date Local Plan allows a Council to apply significant weight to its policies in decision making.
- 2.4. Over recent years there have been significant changes to planning nationally. Given these changes, it is considered that a full review of our Local Plan is now required.
- 2.5. This 'community hierarchy' will form part of the evidence base for the next Local Plan.

National Policy

- 2.6. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out Government's policies for plan-making and decision-taking in England. In this way, it provides a framework for Local Planning Authorities producing Development Plans.
- 2.7. It is considered this 'community hierarchy' can support the next Shropshire Local Plan in aligning with a number of key principles in the NPPF for the preparation of Development Plans. This includes:
 - a. Development Plans should *"be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development"* (paragraph 16(a)).
 - b. Strategic policies within Development Plans should *"set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places..."* (paragraph 20).
 - c. To support sustainable transport objectives, Development Plans should ensure they are *"actively managing patterns of growth..."*, focusing significant development at *"locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes"* whilst recognising that *"opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary*

between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making” (paragraphs 109 & 110).

- d. Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. Planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth and recognises and addresses the specific locational requirements of different sectors (paragraphs 85, 86 and 87).
- e. To support the vitality of town centres, *“planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities...”* planning policies should *“define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability...”* (paragraph 90);
- f. To support Government’s objective of *“...significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed...”* and that *“...the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed...”* (paragraph 61). A key mechanism for this is Development Plans.
- g. To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be *“located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.”* As such, planning policies in Development Plans should *“identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services”* and recognise that where there are groups of smaller communities *“development in one village may support services in a village nearby”* (paragraph 83).
- h. Planning policies in the Development Plan should *“avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside...”* (paragraph 84).

2.8. Government has recently consulted on proposed changes to the NPPF. It is also considered that this ‘community hierarchy’ can support the next Shropshire Local Plan in aligning with many of the key principles for the preparation of Development Plans in the consultation draft of the NPPF. With specific regard to the draft plan-making policies, this includes:

- a. Draft Policy PM2: Local Plans should set out *“a positive vision and spatial strategy...”*.
- b. Draft Policy PM8: The preparation of Development Plans should be underpinned by evidence that is *“relevant...proportionate...and drawn from suitable and reliable sources that are sufficiently up-to-date.”*

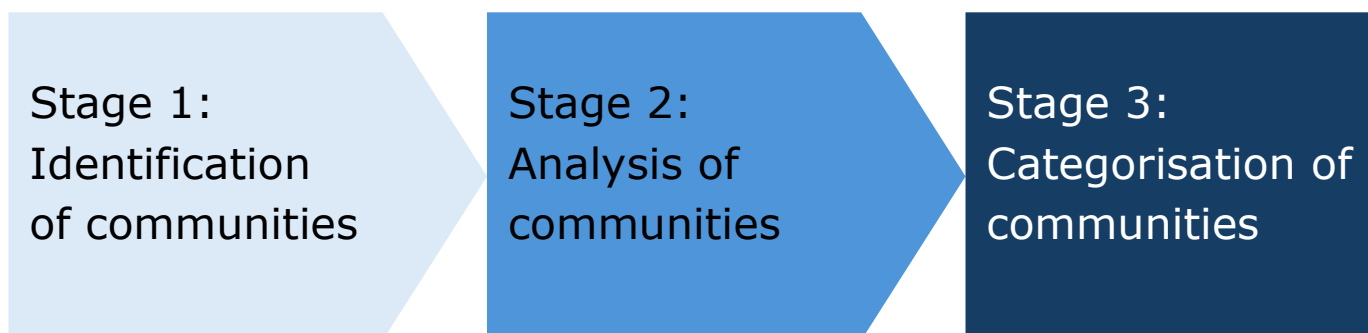
- c. Draft Policy S1: Development Plans should be positive *"providing for new development, and improvement of the environment, in a way which promotes a sustainable pattern of growth..."*.
- d. Draft Policy S2: Development Plans should include a *"spatial strategy setting clear expectations for the location of development..."* including the identification of *"settlements within the development plan area..."*.
- e. Draft Policy CC1: To support a proactive approach to mitigating climate change and support the transition to net zero, Development Plans should propose *"development patterns through their spatial strategy and allocations which: can help contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions..."*
- f. Draft Policies HO3-6: To support the delivery of a sufficient supply of homes, Development Plans should identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites to meet or exceed the housing requirement and meet the needs of different groups and supports the *"vitality of rural communities and enable villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services..."*
- g. Draft Policy E1: To support a strong and effective economy, Development Plans should *"set out a clear economic vision and strategy, which takes a positive, proactive and realistic approach to encouraging sustainable economic growth in both urban and rural areas..."*. This should have regard to the *"...specific locational requirements of different sectors..."*
- h. Draft Policy TC1: Development Plans should *"promote the long-term vitality and viability of town centres..."*.
- i. Draft Policy GB4: Any alterations to Green Belt boundaries should *"promote sustainable patterns of development..."*.
- j. Draft Policy TR1: Development Plans should consider sustainable transport opportunities from the outset so *"it is reflected in the vision for the plan area and its specific proposals, and forms an integral part of a plan's strategy for creating well-designed, sustainable, inclusive and popular places..."* This includes *"locating proposed development where it can support sustainable patterns of movement and make effective use of existing or proposed transport infrastructure..."*.
- k. Draft Policy HC1: Development Plans should promote *"...healthy and inclusive places..."*.
- l. Draft Policy P1: Development Plans should consider wider opportunities to reduce air, water, soil and noise pollution *"...through the spatial strategy..."*.

3. Methodology

Key Principles

- 3.1. To ensure a proportionate and robust process that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire underpins this 'community hierarchy', a multi-stage assessment process has been identified.
- 3.2. The stages of this assessment are detailed in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Stages of the 'Community Hierarchy' Assessment



Stage 1: Identification of Communities

- 3.3. The first stage of the assessment involves identification of those communities suitable for inclusion in the 'community hierarchy'.
- 3.4. Recognising the diverse size, function, character and identity of our communities, Shropshire Council determined to include all 'recognisable named communities'. A 'recognisable named community' comprises towns, villages, other predominantly built-up areas, hamlets, and other named locations consisting of scattered groups of houses.
- 3.5. Whether a scattered group of houses constitutes a community is a matter of judgment in each case, particularly where the number of dwellings is small or dispersed. This judgement is based on the number of houses, their proximity to each other, and whether the houses are occupied by households from different families.).
- 3.6. A 'recognisable named community' will usually:
 - a. Be named on the Ordnance Survey map.
 - b. Be referred to in a consistent way by local people.
 - c. Have a place name that is shared by a number of dwellings (although this may not be reflected in the postal address).
- 3.7. In some instances 'recognised named communities' closely adjoin and function together. In such circumstances, they may be 'grouped' for the purpose of this 'community hierarchy'.

Stage 2: Analysis of Communities

- 3.8. The second stage of the assessment involves the analysis of communities using *specific and consistent criteria*.
- 3.9. In positively responding to the characteristics of Shropshire as a large, diverse, and predominantly rural county, Shropshire Council concluded that the *specific and consistent criteria* considered should address community size and community connectivity.

Community Size

- 3.10. Community size is a positive consideration when determining the 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire as size influences such factors as existing: infrastructure provision; active travel and public transport opportunities; local employment opportunities; and service proximity and variety. Size also often influences levels of housing and employment need and opportunity that exists within the community.
- 3.11. Key indicators of the size of a community are **resident population** and the **number of dwellings**. As such, Shropshire Council determined these indicators are appropriate to inform the 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire.
- 3.12. To estimate the resident population of a community and number of dwellings within a community a series of datasets are utilised. These are latest address point data, Census (2021) data, and the latest Mid-Year Population Estimate at small geographies at the time of assessment (2024) data.
- 3.13. For the avoidance of doubt, where communities cross the Shropshire boundary only the resident population and number of dwellings within the part of the community located in Shropshire has been included within this assessment.

Connectivity

- 3.14. Connectivity (specifically to employment, services and social engagements) is a positive consideration when determining an appropriate 'community hierarchy' as it illustrates the ability for those living and working within a community to access a variety of employment, services and social engagement opportunities - supporting the ability to meet their needs.
- 3.15. Shropshire Council considers the **maximum 'overall connectivity score' for a community** resulting from the new Department for Transport Connectivity Metric (which can be analysed using the associated Connectivity Tool) constitutes an effective indicator of

connectivity to employment, services and social engagements. As such, Shropshire Council concluded this data is appropriate to inform the 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire.

- 3.16. For the avoidance of doubt, this metric assesses the ability to access all potential destinations for employment, services and social engagements via public transport and active travel. As such, it is **not limited** to those located within a community, instead it considers all those accessible to the community. This includes where employment, services and social engagement opportunities are across the Local Authority boundary, including in Wales.
- 3.17. A publicly accessible version of the Connectivity Tool is available at: <https://connectivity-tool-lite.dft.gov.uk/index>
- 3.18. The use of this tool is supported by a Written Ministerial Statement from the Secretary of State for Transport addresses the Connectivity Tool which includes recognition that *"This landmark platform will serve as the new national metric of connectivity, transforming how we plan for new development and the transport infrastructure needed to support it, ensuring new homes and services can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport, helping kickstart economic growth, and delivering the Government's house building targets."*²
- 3.19. It is also supported by correspondence from the Chief Planner at MHCLG who specified in correspondence to Local Planning Authorities that *"The Connectivity Tool has been explicitly designed for planning professionals working in transport and the built environment. It enables plan-makers and decision-takers to locate development in the most sustainable locations and plan for the transport infrastructure required to support it."*³
- 3.20. The Department for Transport provide a detailed overview of the methodology utilised in the preparation of this Connectivity Metric on the GOV.UK website: <https://gov.uk/government/publications/transport-connectivity-metric/transport-connectivity-metric>
- 3.21. In summary, the Connectivity Metric measures an individual's ability to reach employment, services and social engagements. To do so, it *"measures opportunity to travel to various destinations, weighted by people's overall proclivity to take those options."*

²<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-12-11/hcws1155>

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/694294709273c48f554cf4eb/Chief_Planner_Newsletter_December_2025.pdf

3.22. This calculation involves consideration of:

1. The potential '*origin or trips*'.
2. The potential '*destination of trips*'.
3. The *transport infrastructure network* between these locations - for driving, public transport and active travel.
4. The *willingness to travel* (travel behaviour).

Origin of Trips

3.23. To identify the potential '*origin of trips*', the Connectivity Metric divides all of England and Wales into a 100m² grid areas, and for each identifies a main origin point ('population-weighted centroid') identified using Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Base data and Office for National Statistics (ONS) data.

Destination of Trips

3.24. To identify the potential '*destination of trips*', the Connectivity Metric considers the location of key employment, services and social engagements. This includes:

- a. Education - primary and secondary schools, further education (ages 16-18), special needs schools, and private education. The key data source is the Department for Education official records.
- b. Leisure and community - pub/bar/nightclubs, sports facilities, cultural facilities, recycling centres, post offices/post boxes, cinemas/theatres, halls/social clubs, job centres, places of worship, libraries, banks /financial services, and green spaces. The key data sources are OS Address Base, OS Greenspaces, and OpenStreetMap data repositories.
- c. Healthcare - pharmacies, general practices, opticians, dentists, hospitals, private healthcare, and emergency departments. The key data source is NHS England.
- d. Shopping - petrol stations, restaurants/takeaways, general retail shops, supermarkets, and convenience stores. The key data source is the OS Address Base supplemented by OpenStreetMap data.
- e. Employment – based on an assessment of the number of jobs for each 100m² area, with each individual job counting towards its 'employment value'. The key data source is the ONS Business Register and Employment Survey data.
- f. Social visits - Each residential building is taken as a separate destination, with the number of people to visit in each estimated by dividing all those living in the Output Area (a small-scale assessment unit used when analysis Census data) by the total dwellings in that Output Area. The key data source is the OS Address Base.

Transport Infrastructure Network

- 3.25. To determine the *transport infrastructure network* between these locations the Connectivity Metric creates a network of the routes available for each of the following modes of transportation:
- Driving – including private car, taxi, van / lorry, minicab, motorcycle / scooter / moped, and other private transport.
 - Public transport – including buses, trains, trams, light rail, ferries, and underground services.
 - Active travel – including walking and cycling.
- 3.26. Travel times are determined using network provider data, informed by calculations at various times of the day - dependent on the mode of transport⁴, and adjusted to reflect such factors as congestion and topography. The key dataset for driving is the OS MasterMap network data; for walking and cycling it is OpenStreetMap data; and for public transport it is timetables data by Basemap (with the NaPTAN dataset used for quality assurance).
- 3.27. For the avoidance of doubt, when calculating public transport travel times the Connectivity Metric includes allowances for:
- Walking from the origin to the first public transport link and walking from the final public transport link to the destination.
 - Where travel requires multiple public transport connections, allowances for any walking between them and if relevant waiting times.

Willingness to Travel

- 3.28. To determine willingness to travel, the Connectivity Metric analyses data from the National Travel Survey (2011-2020) for trips to each of the identified key employment, services and social engagement location types.
- 3.29. The Connectivity Metric includes a maximum reasonable travel time of 1 hour and 'weighting' so longer travel times contribute less to overall connectivity – the specific 'weighting' is responsive to consideration of such factors as type of destination, mode of transport, and time of day.
- 3.30. Furthermore, the Connectivity Metric also includes 'weighting' responsive to the principle of diminishing returns, meaning where multiple equivalent facilities are accessible, those that involve longer travel times

⁴For driving, calculations are undertaken at morning rush hour (7am-10am), midday (10am-4pm), evening rush hour (4pm-7pm) and night (7pm-7am). For public transport, calculations are undertaken at 10-minute intervals between 6am and 10pm. For active travel a calculation at 8am is undertaken as representative for the whole day.

contribute less to overall connectivity – the specific ‘weighting’ is responsive to such factors as the type of destination.

Overall Connectivity Score

- 3.31. Using the potential destinations, transport infrastructure network, and willingness to travel data, the Connectivity Metric generates an ‘overall connectivity score’ from 0 to 100. This score is *“calculated as a percentage of the most connected location in the country”*.
- 3.32. This ‘overall connectivity score’ is based on all the potential destinations within the Connectivity Metric via public transport and active travel, reflecting the planning principle of promoting travel via most sustainable modes of transport.
- 3.33. The contribution to the ‘overall connectivity score’ of each potential destination via each mode of transport is calculated using ‘weighted averages’ determined by the *“number of trips as reported in the National Travel Survey for each combination of purpose, mode and time of day.”*
- 3.34. In summary, the ‘overall connectivity score’ calculation by mode of transport is based on approximately: 52% public transport, 40% walking, and 8% cycling.
- 3.35. The ‘overall connectivity score’ allows an understanding of the connectedness of existing places - how easily the occupants can access the places they need to go.

Connectivity of Specific Locations

- 3.36. The Connectivity Tool allows Local Planning Authorities to identify the ‘overall connectivity score’ for any individual origin grid area in England and Wales resulting from the application of the Connectivity Metric.
- 3.37. However, the Connectivity Tool also allows the ‘overall connectivity score’ for specific locations, such as communities, to be analysed. This analysis provides the specific locations:
 - a. Maximum ‘overall connectivity score’, this being the highest-scoring origin grid square within the ‘specific location’.
 - b. Average ‘overall connectivity score’, this being the average of the origin grid squares in the ‘specific location’.
 - c. Lowest ‘overall connectivity score’, this being the lowest-scoring origin grid square in the ‘specific location’.
- 3.38. User guidance provided by the Department for Transport cautions that the connectivity of larger ‘specific locations’ can vary significantly and as such the average connectivity score is not necessarily representative of its overall connectivity. Furthermore, when defining ‘specific locations’ for

assessment within the Connectivity Tool, the number and characteristics of our communities (including that many have a dispersed community pattern) also means that both the average and minimum connectivity score may not necessarily be representative.

- 3.39. Conversely, the maximum connectivity score of a 'specific location' is considered to provide a clear and consistent indication of the highest connectivity score within a 'specific location', therefore allowing for direct comparison of the maximum connectivity of our communities.
- 3.40. Therefore, Shropshire Council concluded that the **maximum 'overall connectivity score' for a community** is the most appropriate indicator for consideration when defining a 'community hierarchy'.

Connectivity a Local Context

- 3.41. Recognising that connectivity varies across the country and to provide local context, the Connectivity Tool identifies 'overall connectivity score banding' by Local Authority administrative area. Shropshire Council considers this Local Authority 'overall connectivity score' banding provides valuable context when analysing the maximum 'overall connectivity score' for a community in the context of a 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire.
- 3.42. The 'overall connectivity score' banding in Shropshire Council's administrative area is as follows:

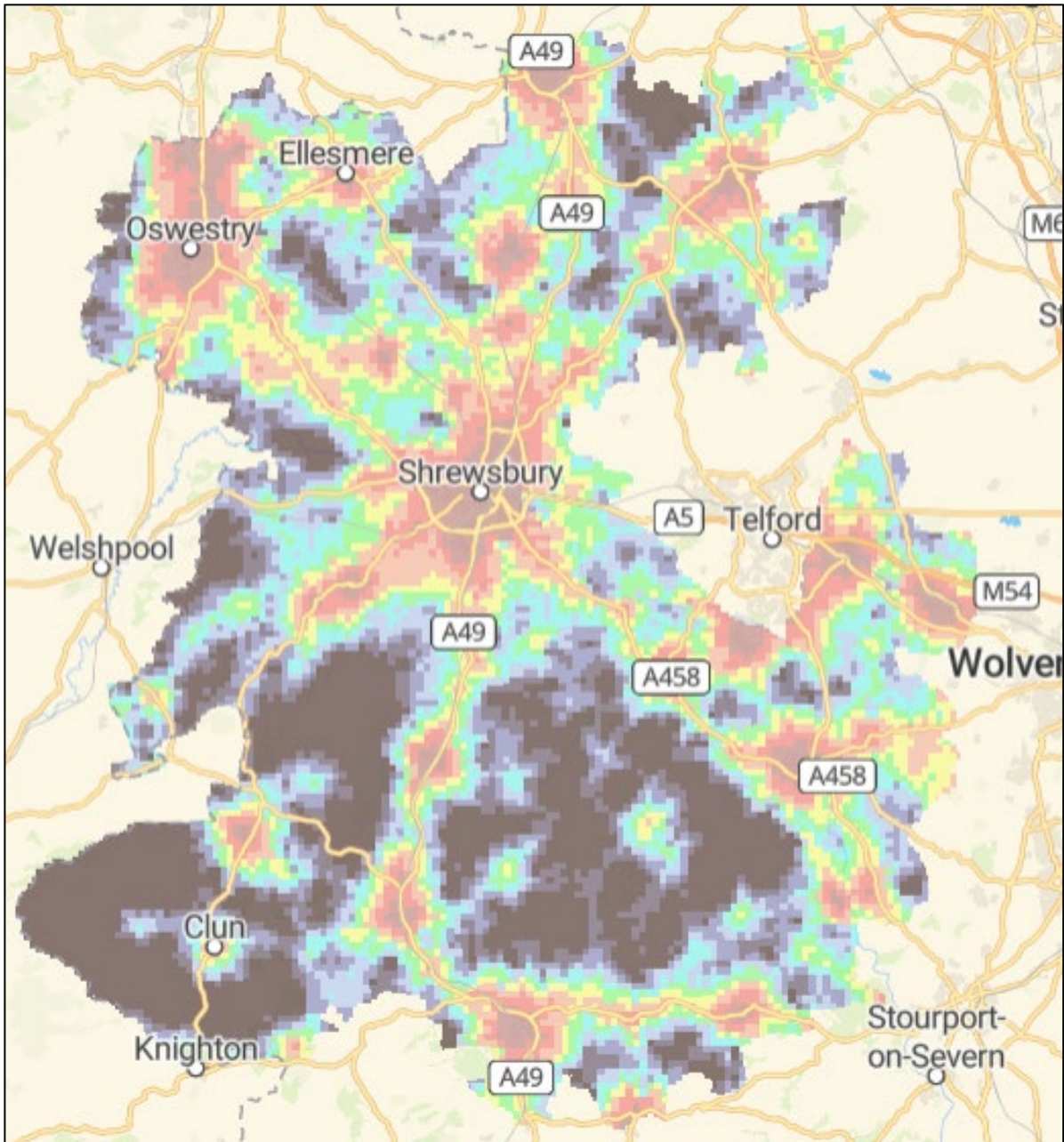
Figure 2: Connectivity Bands in Shropshire

Band	Connectivity Score Range:
A	29-79
B	21-28
C	17-20
D	14-16
E	11-13
F	9-10
G	7-8
H	5-6
I	4
J	1-3

- 3.43. Notably, the bands do not include a consistent 'range' of scores, reflecting the prevalence of lower scoring areas due to the rurality of Shropshire.

3.44. This banding is illustrated graphically on the below map:

Figure 3: Map Illustrating Connectivity Bands in Shropshire⁵



⁵ Department for Transport, (2025), Connectivity Tool, ©MapTiler and ©OpenStreetMap
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Stage 3: Categorisation of Communities

- 3.45. The third stage of assessment involves the categorisation of communities. This categorisation is based on the outputs of Stage 2 of the assessment for each of the communities identified through Stage 1 of the assessment.
- 3.46. Specifically, in combination community size and community connectivity will inform the categorisation of recognised named communities to form the 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire. The intention is that this categorisation is responsive to the 'similarities' and 'differences' of our communities, based on their size and connectivity.

Community Categories

- 3.47. Having considered the characteristics of Shropshire and our communities, Shropshire Council has concluded that community categories appropriate for inclusion within the 'community hierarchy' are:

Figure 4: 'Community Hierarchy' Categories

Strategic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest urban community in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Highest levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Principal Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger urban communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Higher levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Key Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller urban communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • High levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Primary Connected Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger rural communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Moderate levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Secondary Connected Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate rural communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Moderate levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Tertiary Connected Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller rural communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Moderate levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
Other Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallest rural communities in terms of resident population and dwellings. • Lower levels of connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.

Community Category Thresholds

- 3.48. The identification of the 'thresholds' for each of the community categories inevitably involves application of planning judgement.
- 3.49. This planning judgement is informed by consideration of the characteristics of Shropshire and our diverse communities, the resident population and household characteristics of our communities, the maximum 'overall connectivity scores' of our communities, and the 'overall connectivity score banding' for Shropshire.
- 3.50. Through application of professional judgement, Shropshire Council has determined appropriate 'thresholds' for the community categories included within our 'community hierarchy'.
- 3.51. These 'thresholds' involve two gateways, with a community only included within a community category where it passes both of these gateways.
- 3.52. The first gateway is based on community resident population and dwellings. Within this gateway:
- a. The minimum requirement for urban communities is a **1,500 resident population and 750 dwellings**, which having reflected on the characteristics of our communities is considered an appropriate distinction between urban and rural communities in a Shropshire context.
 - b. The minimum requirement for connected villages is a **150 resident population and 75 dwellings**, which having reflected on the characteristics of our communities is considered an appropriate distinction between the more sizeable rural communities and smaller rural communities in a Shropshire context.
- 3.53. The second gateway is based on the maximum 'overall connectivity score' of the community. Within this gateway:
- a. The minimum requirement for urban communities aligns with the minimum 'overall connectivity score' to be categorised as **Band A** in the 'overall connectivity score banding' by Local Authority administrative area.
 - b. The minimum requirement for connected villages aligns with the minimum 'overall connectivity score' to be categorised as **Band F** in the 'overall connectivity score banding' by Local Authority administrative area.

3.54. The 'threshold gateways' for the community categories of the Shropshire 'community hierarchy' are:

Figure 5: Community Category Threshold Gateways

Community Category	Gateway One			Gateway Two
	Population	&	Dwellings	Maximum Connectivity Score
Strategic Centre	50,000 or more	&	25,000 or more	75 or more (Band A)
Principal Centre	8,000 or more	&	4,000 or more	60 or more (Band A)
Key Centre	1,500 or more	&	750 or more	29 or more (Band A)
Primary Connected Village	700 or more	&	350 or more	21 or more (Band B or higher)
Secondary Connected Village	300 or more	&	150 or more	14 or more (Band D or higher)
Tertiary Connected Village	150 or more	&	75 or more	9 or more (Band F or higher)
Other Communities	149 or less	&	74 or fewer	8 or less (Band G or lower)

4. Assessment

Stage 1: Identification of Communities

- 4.1. Stage 1 of the assessment involved identification of the 'recognisable named communities' in Shropshire which are to be included within the 'community hierarchy'.
- 4.2. Using the methodology outlined for this stage of assessment within this document, around 550 recognised names communities were identified.
- 4.3. These communities and the main parish and place plan area within which they are located are detailed in Figure 6 (communities are organised alphabetically – grouped by place plan area).

Figure 6: 'Recognised Named Communities' Identified in Shropshire

Community	Main Parish ⁶	Place Plan Area
Albrighton	Albrighton & Donington	Albrighton
Beckbury	Beckbury	Albrighton
Boningale	Boningale	Albrighton
Cosford (including RAF Cosford)	Albrighton & Donington	Albrighton
Grindle	Ryton	Albrighton
Ryton (near Beckbury)	Ryton	Albrighton
Tong	Tong	Albrighton
Asterton	Myndtown	Bishop's Castle
Aston Pigott	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Aston Rogers	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Basford & Edgton	Edgton	Bishop's Castle
Beckjay	Clungunford	Bishop's Castle
Bedstone	Bedstone	Bishop's Castle
Bentlawnt	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Binweston	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Bishop's Castle	Bishop's Castle	Bishop's Castle
Brockton (Lydbury North)	Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle
Bromlow	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Brompton	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Bryn	Clun	Bishop's Castle
Bucknell	Bucknell	Bishop's Castle
Cefn Einion	Mainstone	Bishop's Castle
Chapel Lawn	Clun	Bishop's Castle
Chirbury	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Clun	Clun	Bishop's Castle
Clunbury	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Clungunford & Abcott	Clungunford	Bishop's Castle
Clunton	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Colebatch	Colebatch	Bishop's Castle
Crowsnest	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Eyton (Lydbury North)	Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle

⁶Please note: Some communities are located in multiple parishes, only that considered to contain the majority of the built form is identified.

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Gravels, Gravels Bank & Hemford	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Hope	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Hopesgate	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Hopton Castle	Hopton Castle	Bishop's Castle
Hopton Heath	Clungunford	Bishop's Castle
Kempton	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Lea	Lydham	Bishop's Castle
Little Brampton	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Llanfair Waterdine	Llanfair Waterdine	Bishop's Castle
Lydbury North	Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle
Lydham	Lydham	Bishop's Castle
Mainstone	Mainstone	Bishop's Castle
Marton	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Meadowtown	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
More	More	Bishop's Castle
Newcastle On Clun	Newcastle-On-Clun	Bishop's Castle
Norbury	Norbury	Bishop's Castle
Obley	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Pennerley, Tankerville & The Bog	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Pentirvin	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Pentre (Clun)	Clun	Bishop's Castle
Pentreheyling	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Priest Weston	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Purslow	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Ratlinghope	Ratlinghope	Bishop's Castle
Rorrington	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Rowley	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Shelderton	Clungunford	Bishop's Castle
Shelve	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Snailbeach	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Stiperstones & Perkins Beach	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Stowe	Stowe	Bishop's Castle
Twitchen	Clunbury	Bishop's Castle
Walcot	Withington	Bishop's Castle
Walkmill	Norbury	Bishop's Castle
Wentnor	Wentnor	Bishop's Castle
Weston (Stowe)	Stowe	Bishop's Castle
Whitcot	Norbury	Bishop's Castle
Whitcot Keysett	Newcastle-On-Clun	Bishop's Castle
Worthen & Brockton	Worthen With Shelve	Bishop's Castle
Wotherton	Chirbury With Brompton	Bishop's Castle
Ackleton	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Acton Round	Acton Round	Bridgnorth
Alveley	Alveley & Romsley	Bridgnorth
Astley Abbots	Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth
Aston Botterell	Aston Botterell	Bridgnorth
Aston Eyre	Aston Eyre	Bridgnorth
Badger	Badger	Bridgnorth
Billingsley	Billingsley	Bridgnorth
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth
Broad Oak & Six Ashes	Alveley & Romsley	Bridgnorth

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Brockton (Sutton Maddock)	Sutton Maddock	Bridgnorth
Burwarton	Burwarton	Bridgnorth
Chesterton	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Chetton	Chetton	Bridgnorth
Claverley	Claverley	Bridgnorth
Cleobury North	Cleobury North	Bridgnorth
Colemore Green	Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth
Cross Lane Head	Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth
Deuxhill	Deuxhill	Bridgnorth
Ditton Priors	Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth
Eardington	Eardington	Bridgnorth
Fenn Green	Alveley & Romsley	Bridgnorth
Glazeley	Glazeley	Bridgnorth
Hampton Loade	Chelmarsh	Bridgnorth
Heathton & Draycott	Claverley	Bridgnorth
Hilton	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Middleton Priors	Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth
Middleton Scriven	Middleton Scriven	Bridgnorth
Monkhopton	Monkhopton	Bridgnorth
Morville	Morville	Bridgnorth
Muckley	Acton Round	Bridgnorth
Muckley Cross	Acton Round	Bridgnorth
Neenton	Neenton	Bridgnorth
Netchwood Common	Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth
Nordley	Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth
Nordley Common	Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth
Norton	Stockton	Bridgnorth
Oldbury	Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth
Quatford	Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth
Quatt	Quatt Malvern	Bridgnorth
Romsley	Romsley	Bridgnorth
Roughton	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Rudge	Rudge	Bridgnorth
Rudge Heath	Claverley	Bridgnorth
Shipley	Claverley	Bridgnorth
Sidbury	Sidbury	Bridgnorth
Stableford	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Stanmore	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Stockton	Stockton	Bridgnorth
Sutton Maddock	Sutton Maddock	Bridgnorth
The Down	Chetton	Bridgnorth
The Hobbins	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Tuckhill	Alveley and Romsley	Bridgnorth
Upton Cressett	Upton Cressett	Bridgnorth
Weston Heath (near Sheriffhales)	Sheriffhales	Bridgnorth
Wooton	Quatt Malvern	Bridgnorth
Worfield	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Barrow	Barrow	Broseley
Broseley	Broseley	Broseley
Posenhall	Barrow	Broseley
The Smithies	Barrow	Broseley

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Acton Burnell	Acton Burnell	Church Stretton
Acton Scott	Acton Scott	Church Stretton
All Stretton	Church Stretton	Church Stretton
Cardington	Cardington	Church Stretton
Church Stretton	Church Stretton	Church Stretton
East Wall	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Enchmarsh	Cardington	Church Stretton
Frodesley	Frodesley	Church Stretton
Hatton	Eaton-Under-Heywood	Church Stretton
Heath Common	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Hope Bowdler	Hope Bowdler	Church Stretton
Leebotwood	Leebotwood	Church Stretton
Little Stretton	Church Stretton	Church Stretton
Longnor	Longnor	Church Stretton
Longville In The Dale	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Minton	Church Stretton	Church Stretton
Picklescott	Smethcott	Church Stretton
Pitchford	Pitchford	Church Stretton
Plaish	Cardington	Church Stretton
Rushbury & Roman Bank	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Soudley	Eaton-Under-Heywood	Church Stretton
Ticklerton	Eaton-Under-Heywood	Church Stretton
Wall Under Heywood	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Wallbank	Rushbury	Church Stretton
Woolstaston	Woolstaston	Church Stretton
Besom Woods & Wheathill	Wheathill	Cleobury Mortimer
Boraston	Boraston	Cleobury Mortimer
Bromdon	Wheathill	Cleobury Mortimer
Button Bridge	Kinlet	Cleobury Mortimer
Button Oak	Kinlet	Cleobury Mortimer
Catherton Common	Hopton Wafers	Cleobury Mortimer
Chorley	Stottesdon	Cleobury Mortimer
Cleobury Mortimer	Cleobury Mortimer	Cleobury Mortimer
Coppice Gate	Kinlet	Cleobury Mortimer
Coreley	Coreley	Cleobury Mortimer
Doddington	Hopton Wafers	Cleobury Mortimer
Farlow	Farlow	Cleobury Mortimer
Hints	Coreley	Cleobury Mortimer
Hopton Bank	Hopton Wafers	Cleobury Mortimer
Hopton Wafers	Hopton Wafers	Cleobury Mortimer
Kinlet	Kinlet	Cleobury Mortimer
Loughton	Wheathill	Cleobury Mortimer
Milson	Milson	Cleobury Mortimer
Nash	Nash	Cleobury Mortimer
Neen Savage	Neen Savage	Cleobury Mortimer
Neen Sollars	Neen Sollars	Cleobury Mortimer
Oreton	Farlow	Cleobury Mortimer
Silvington	Wheathill	Cleobury Mortimer
Spurtree	Boraston	Cleobury Mortimer
Stottesdon	Stottesdon	Cleobury Mortimer

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Abdon	Abdon & Heath	Craven Arms
Aldon	Craven Arms	Craven Arms
Aston Munslow	Munslow	Craven Arms
Aston-On-Clun	Hopesay	Craven Arms
Beambridge & Aston Mill	Clunbury	Craven Arms
Bouldon	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Brandhill	Onibury	Craven Arms
Broome	Hopesay	Craven Arms
Bushmoor & Leamoore Common	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Cheney Longville	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Clee St Margaret	Clee St. Margaret	Craven Arms
Cleedownton	Stoke St. Milborough	Craven Arms
Cleestanton	Stoke St. Milborough	Craven Arms
Cockshutford	Clee St. Margaret	Craven Arms
Corfton & Corfton Bache	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Craven Arms	Craven Arms	Craven Arms
Culmington	Culmington	Craven Arms
Diddlebury	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Felhampton	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Great & Little Sutton	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Heath	Abdon & Heath	Craven Arms
Holdgate	Abdon & Heath	Craven Arms
Hopesay	Hopesay	Craven Arms
Hopton Cangeford	Hopton Cangeford	Craven Arms
Holderley	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Hungerford & Broadstone	Munslow	Craven Arms
Long Meadow End	Hopesay	Craven Arms
Marshbrook	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Middlehope	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Munslow	Munslow	Craven Arms
Peaton	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Peatonstrand	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Rowton (Craven Arms)	Craven Arms	Craven Arms
Seifton	Culmington	Craven Arms
Seifton Bache	Culmington	Craven Arms
Sibdon Carwood	Sibdon Carwood	Craven Arms
Stanton Lacy	Stanton Lacy	Craven Arms
Stoke St Milborough	Stoke St. Milborough	Craven Arms
Stokesay	Craven Arms	Craven Arms
Strefford	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Stretford Bridge	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
The Hope	Stanton Lacy	Craven Arms
Tugford	Abdon & Heath	Craven Arms
Upper and Lower Hayton & Haytons Bent	Stanton Lacy	Craven Arms
Upper Affcot	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Vernolds Common	Culmington	Craven Arms
Westhope	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
Whittingslow	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Wistanstow	Wistanstow	Craven Arms
Woolston (Wistanstow Parish)	Wistanstow	Craven Arms

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Bagley	Hordley	Ellesmere
Breadon Heath	Welshampton And Lyneal	Ellesmere
Cockshutt	Cockshutt	Ellesmere
Colemere	Welshampton And Lyneal	Ellesmere
Dudleston	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Dudleston Heath	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Ellesmere	Ellesmere Urban	Ellesmere
Elsion	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
English Frankton	Cockshutt	Ellesmere
Hordley	Hordley	Ellesmere
Lee	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Lower Frankton	Whittington	Ellesmere
Lower Hordley & Bagley Marsh	Hordley	Ellesmere
Lyneal	Welshampton And Lyneal	Ellesmere
New Marton	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Perthy & Welsh Frankton	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Petton	Petton	Ellesmere
Street Dinas	St. Martin's	Ellesmere
Tetchill	Ellesmere Rural	Ellesmere
Welshampton	Welshampton And Lyneal	Ellesmere
Chelmarsh	Chelmarsh	Highley
Highley	Highley	Highley
Sutton	Chelmarsh	Highley
Angel Bank & Farden	Bitterley	Ludlow
Ashford Bowdler	Ashford Bowdler	Ludlow
Ashford Carbonell	Ashford Carbonel	Ludlow
Batchcott & Richards Castle	Richard's Castle	Ludlow
Bedlam	Bitterley	Ludlow
Bitterley	Bitterley	Ludlow
Bromfield	Bromfield	Ludlow
Burford	Burford	Ludlow
Caynham	Caynham	Ludlow
Clee Hill	Caynham	Ludlow
Cleeton St Mary	Bitterley	Ludlow
Dhustone	Caynham	Ludlow
Duxmoor & Whittytree	Onibury	Ludlow
Greete	Greete	Ludlow
Hope Bagot	Hope Bagot	Ludlow
Knowbury	Caynham	Ludlow
Ludlow	Ludlow	Ludlow
Middleton	Bitterley	Ludlow
Onibury	Onibury	Ludlow
Overton	Richard's Castle	Ludlow
Priors Halton	Bromfield	Ludlow
Snitton	Bitterley	Ludlow
The Sheet	Ludford	Ludlow
Walton (Onibury)	Onibury	Ludlow
Whitton	Whitton	Ludlow
Woofferton	Richard's Castle	Ludlow
Adderley	Adderley	Market Drayton
Allfordgreen	Child's Ercall	Market Drayton

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Bletchley	Moreton Say	Market Drayton
Cheswardine	Cheswardine	Market Drayton
Child's Ercall	Child's Ercall	Market Drayton
Chipnall	Cheswardine	Market Drayton
Crickmery & Wistanswick	Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Eaton Upon Tern	Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Hinstock	Hinstock	Market Drayton
Hodnet	Hodnet	Market Drayton
Howle	Child's Ercall	Market Drayton
Lockleywood	Hinstock	Market Drayton
Longford	Moreton Say	Market Drayton
Longslow	Moreton Say	Market Drayton
Marchamley	Hodnet	Market Drayton
Market Drayton	Market Drayton	Market Drayton
Mill Green	Hinstock	Market Drayton
Moreton Say	Moreton Say	Market Drayton
Norton In Hales	Norton In Hales	Market Drayton
Ollerton	Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Peplow	Hodnet	Market Drayton
Rosehill	Sutton Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Soudley (Great)	Cheswardine	Market Drayton
Stoke Heath	Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Stoke Upon Tern	Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Ternhill	Sutton Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Wollerton	Hodnet	Market Drayton
Woodseaves	Sutton Upon Tern	Market Drayton
Woore, Ireland's Cross & Pipe Gate	Woore	Market Drayton
Arscott	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Asterley	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Cruckmeole	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Cruckton	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Edge	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Habberley	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Hinton	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Horsebridge	Minsterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Lea Cross	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Minsterley	Minsterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Plealey	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Plealey Road & Halston	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Ploxgreen	Minsterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Pontesbury	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Pontesbury Hill	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Pontesford	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Shorthill	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Bourton	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Bourton Westwood	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Brockton (Stanton Long)	Stanton Long	Much Wenlock
Buildwas	Buildwas	Much Wenlock
Callaughton	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Church Preen	Church Preen	Much Wenlock

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Cressage	Cressage	Much Wenlock
Easthope	Easthope	Much Wenlock
Farley	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Gleedon Hill	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Harley	Harley	Much Wenlock
Homer	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Hughley	Hughley	Much Wenlock
Kenley	Kenley	Much Wenlock
Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Sheinton	Sheinton	Much Wenlock
Shipton	Shipton	Much Wenlock
Stanton Long	Stanton Long	Much Wenlock
Stretton Westwood	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
Babbinswood	Whittington	Oswestry
Bronygarth & Castle Mill	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry
Cefn Blodwel	Llanyblodwel	Oswestry
Chirk Bank	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry
Coed-Y-Go	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Crickheath	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Croesaubach	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Eardiston	Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
Edgerley	Kinnerley	Oswestry
Glynmorlas & Rhyn	St. Martin's	Oswestry
Gobowen	Selattyn & Gobowen	Oswestry
Grimpo	West Felton	Oswestry
Haughton (West Felton)	West Felton	Oswestry
Hindford	Whittington	Oswestry
Kinnerley	Kinnerley	Oswestry
Knockin	Knockin	Oswestry
Knockin Heath, Dovaston & Dovaston Bank	Kinnerley	Oswestry
Llanyblodwel	Llanyblodwel	Oswestry
Llanymynech	Llanymynech & Pant	Oswestry
Llynclys	Llanyblodwel	Oswestry
Maesbrook & Maesbrook Green	Kinnerley	Oswestry
Maesbury	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Maesbury Marsh	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Middle & Lower Hengoed	Selattyn & Gobowen	Oswestry
Middleton & Aston Square	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Morton & Morton Common	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Nantmawr	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Oswestry	Oswestry	Oswestry
Pant	Llanymynech & Pant	Oswestry
Pant Glas	Selattyn & Gobowen	Oswestry
Park Hall	Whittington	Oswestry
Pentre (Wilcot)	Kinnerley	Oswestry
Pont Faen	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry
Porthywaen	Llanyblodwel	Oswestry
Queens Head	West Felton	Oswestry
Rednal	West Felton	Oswestry
Rhoswel	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Rhyd-y-Croesau	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Ruyton XI Towns	Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
Selattyn	Selattyn & Gobowen	Oswestry
St Martins	St. Martin's	Oswestry
St Martins Moor	St. Martin's	Oswestry
Sweeney Mountain & Nant-Y-Caws	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
The Wern	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry
Treflach	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Trefonen	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Upper Hengoed	Selattyn & Gobowen	Oswestry
Weirbrook	Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
Wern Ddu	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
West Felton	West Felton	Oswestry
Weston Rhyn & Preesgweene	Weston Rhyn	Oswestry
Whittington	Whittington	Oswestry
Woolston Bank	Oswestry Rural	Oswestry
Wykey	Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
Crackley Bank	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
Heath Hill	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
Kemberton	Kemberton	Shifnal
Lilyhurst	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
Sheriffhales	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
Shifnal	Shifnal	Shifnal
Tong Norton	Tong	Shifnal
Weston (Monkhoppton)	Monkhoppton	Shifnal
Alberbury	Alberbury With Cardeston	Shrewsbury
Albrighton (Pimhill)	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Annscroft	Longden	Shrewsbury
Astley	Astley	Shrewsbury
Atcham	Atcham	Shrewsbury
Baschurch	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill	Shrewsbury
Berrington	Berrington	Shrewsbury
Berwick	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Bicton	Bicton	Shrewsbury
Bings Heath	Astley	Shrewsbury
Bomere Heath	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Cardeston	Alberbury With Cardeston	Shrewsbury
Castle Pulverbatch	Church Pulverbatch	Shrewsbury
Chavel	Ford	Shrewsbury
Church Pulverbatch	Church Pulverbatch	Shrewsbury
Conover	Conover	Shrewsbury
Cound & Upper Cound	Cound	Shrewsbury
Coundmoor & Evenwood Common	Cound	Shrewsbury
Cross Houses	Berrington	Shrewsbury
Donnington & Charlton Hill	Wroxeter And Uppington	Shrewsbury
Dorrington	Conover	Shrewsbury
Eaton Constantine	Leighton & Eaton Constantine	Shrewsbury
Ensdon	Montford	Shrewsbury

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Exfords Green	Longden	Shrewsbury
Eyton On Severn	Wroxeter And Uppington	Shrewsbury
Felton Butler	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Fitz	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Ford	Ford	Shrewsbury
Ford Heath	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Forton Heath & Mytton	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Four Crosses, Shepherds Lane & Calcott	Bicton	Shrewsbury
Garmston	Leighton & Eaton Constantine	Shrewsbury
Grafton	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Great Ness	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Halfway House	Alberbury with Cardeston	Shrewsbury
Hanwood	Great Hanwood	Shrewsbury
Hanwood Bank	Great Hanwood	Shrewsbury
Haughton (Upton Magna)	Upton Magna	Shrewsbury
Hookagate	Longden	Shrewsbury
Hopton Valeswood	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Kinton	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Leaton	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Leighton	Leighton & Eaton Constantine	Shrewsbury
Little Ness	Little Ness	Shrewsbury
Longden	Longden	Shrewsbury
Longden Common	Longden	Shrewsbury
Longwood	Leighton & Eaton Constantine	Shrewsbury
Lyth Bank & Lyth Hill	Longden	Shrewsbury
Melverley	Melverley	Shrewsbury
Melverley Green	Melverley	Shrewsbury
Merrington	Bomere Heath & District	Shrewsbury
Montford	Montford	Shrewsbury
Montford Bridge	Montford	Shrewsbury
Nesscliffe	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Nox	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Preston	Upton Magna	Shrewsbury
Preston Gubbals	Bomere Heath and District	Shrewsbury
Preston Montford	Bicton	Shrewsbury
Ruckley & Langley	Ruckley and Langley	Shrewsbury
Rushton	Wroxeter And Uppington	Shrewsbury
Ryton (Condover)	Condover	Shrewsbury
Shrawardine	Montford	Shrewsbury
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury
Stanwardine in the Fields	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Stapleton	Condover	Shrewsbury
Stapleton Common	Longden	Shrewsbury
Stoney Stretton	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Uffington	Uffington	Shrewsbury
Upper Astley	Astley	Shrewsbury
Uppington	Wroxeter And Uppington	Shrewsbury
Upton Magna	Upton Magna	Shrewsbury
Vennington	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Vron Gate	Westbury	Shrewsbury

Community	Main Parish⁶	Place Plan Area
Walford Heath & Oldwood	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Wattlesborough Heath	Alberbury With Cardeston	Shrewsbury
Westbury	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Westley	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Weston Lullingfields	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Weston Wharf & Weston Common	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Wilcott	Great Ness	Shrewsbury
Withington	Withington	Shrewsbury
Wollaston	Alberbury With Cardeston	Shrewsbury
Wrentnall	Church Pulverbatch	Shrewsbury
Wroxeter	Wroxeter And Uppington	Shrewsbury
Yeaton	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
Yockleton	Westbury	Shrewsbury
Aston	Wem Rural	Wem
Barkers Green	Wem Rural	Wem
Brown Heath	Loppington	Wem
Burlton	Loppington	Wem
Clive	Clive	Wem
Dobsons Bridge & Roving Bridge	Whixall	Wem
Edgebolton & Moretonmill	Shawbury	Wem
Edstaston	Wem Rural	Wem
Great Wytheford	Shawbury	Wem
Grinshill	Grinshill	Wem
Hadnall	Hadnall	Wem
Harmer Hill	Myddle, Broughton & Harmer Hill	Wem
High Hatton	Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Wem
Hollinwood	Whixall	Wem
Lee Brockhurst	Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	Wem
Loppington	Loppington	Wem
Moreton Corbet	Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	Wem
Myddle	Myddle, Broughton & Harmer Hill	Wem
Newtown	Wem Rural	Wem
Noneley, Commonwood & Ruewood	Loppington	Wem
Northwood	Wem Rural	Wem
Platt Lane	Whixall	Wem
Preston Brockhurst	Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	Wem
Quina Brook	Wem Rural	Wem
Sansaw Heath	Grinshill	Wem
Shawbury	Shawbury	Wem
Stanley Green	Whixall	Wem
Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Wem
Tilley	Wem Rural	Wem
Waterloo	Whixall	Wem
Welshend	Whixall	Wem
Wem	Wem Urban	Wem

Community	Main Parish ⁶	Place Plan Area
Weston And Wixhill	Weston-Under-Redcastle	Wem
Weston Heath (Weston under Redcastle)	Weston-Under-Redcastle	Wem
Whixall	Whixall	Wem
Yorton	Myddle, Broughton & Harmer Hill	Wem
Ash Magna & Ash Parva	Whitchurch Rural	Whitchurch
Broughall	Whitchurch Rural	Whitchurch
Calverhall	Ightfield	Whitchurch
Darliston	Prees	Whitchurch
Fauls	Prees	Whitchurch
Grindley Brook	Whitchurch Urban	Whitchurch
Ightfield	Ightfield	Whitchurch
Prees	Prees	Whitchurch
Prees Green	Prees	Whitchurch
Prees Heath	Whitchurch Rural	Whitchurch
Prees Higher Heath	Prees	Whitchurch
Prees Lower Heath	Prees	Whitchurch
Tilstock	Whitchurch Rural	Whitchurch
Whitchurch	Whitchurch Urban	Whitchurch

Stage 2: Analysis of Communities

4.4. Stage 2 of the assessment involved the analysis of communities using *specific and consistent criteria*. As detailed within the methodology outlined in this document, this criteria is:

- a. **Community Size** – Using resident population and the number of dwellings present.
- b. **Community Connectivity: Employment, Services and Social Engagements** – Using the maximum ‘overall connectivity score’ for a community resulting from the new Department for Transport Connectivity Metric.

4.5. The results of this analysis are detailed in Figure 7:

Figure 7: Size and Connectivity of Communities in Shropshire

Key		
Population	Dwellings	Maximum Connectivity Score
50,000 or more population.	25,000 or more dwellings.	75 or more connectivity score.
8,000-49,999 population.	4,000-24,999 dwellings.	60-74 connectivity score.
1,500-7,999 population.	750-3,999 dwellings.	29-59 connectivity score.
700-1,499 population.	350-749 dwellings.	21-28 connectivity score.
300-699 population.	150-349 dwellings.	14-20 connectivity score.
150-299 population.	75-149 dwellings.	9-14 connectivity score.
149 or less population.	74 or fewer dwellings.	8 or less connectivity score.

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Albrighton	Albrighton	4,726	2,209	54
Beckbury	Albrighton	235	99	18
Boningale	Albrighton	53	23	38
Cosford (including RAF Cosford)	Albrighton	1,639	365	46
Grindle	Albrighton	29	16	14
Ryton (near Beckbury)	Albrighton	79	43	13
Tong	Albrighton	171	27	16
Asterton	Bishop's Castle	27	14	5
Aston Pigott	Bishop's Castle	29	16	12
Aston Rogers	Bishop's Castle	46	25	12
Basford & Edgton	Bishop's Castle	64	34	6
Beckjay	Bishop's Castle	15	8	10
Bedstone	Bishop's Castle	76	36	13
Bentlawnt	Bishop's Castle	79	38	10
Binweston	Bishop's Castle	12	6	12
Bishop's Castle	Bishop's Castle	1,567	872	47
Brockton (Lydbury North)	Bishop's Castle	47	25	15
Bromlow	Bishop's Castle	69	35	9
Brompton	Bishop's Castle	21	10	12
Bryn	Bishop's Castle	10	6	5
Bucknell	Bishop's Castle	373	202	25
Cefn Einion	Bishop's Castle	26	11	3
Chapel Lawn	Bishop's Castle	26	14	3
Chirbury	Bishop's Castle	188	97	23
Clun	Bishop's Castle	665	366	26
Clunbury	Bishop's Castle	91	46	13
Clungunford & Abcott	Bishop's Castle	187	97	11
Clunton	Bishop's Castle	120	61	8
Colebatch	Bishop's Castle	67	31	31
Crowsnest	Bishop's Castle	43	23	16
Eyton (Lydbury North)	Bishop's Castle	21	11	7
Gravels, Gravels Bank & Hemford	Bishop's Castle	100	49	9
Hope	Bishop's Castle	41	20	10
Hopesgate	Bishop's Castle	6	3	10
Hopton Castle	Bishop's Castle	51	24	8
Hopton Heath	Bishop's Castle	34	17	12
Kempton	Bishop's Castle	70	36	6
Lea	Bishop's Castle	11	5	13
Little Brampton	Bishop's Castle	12	6	11
Llanfair Waterdine	Bishop's Castle	41	23	7
Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle	208	111	20
Lydham	Bishop's Castle	101	46	18
Mainstone	Bishop's Castle	17	7	3
Marton	Bishop's Castle	103	55	15
Meadowtown	Bishop's Castle	18	10	5
More	Bishop's Castle	18	9	12
Newcastle on Clun	Bishop's Castle	157	80	11

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Norbury	Bishop's Castle	60	31	12
Obley	Bishop's Castle	22	11	2
Pennerley, Tankerville & The Bog	Bishop's Castle	106	54	10
Pentirvin	Bishop's Castle	20	11	9
Pentre (Clun)	Bishop's Castle	13	7	3
Pentreheyling	Bishop's Castle	23	11	9
Priest Weston	Bishop's Castle	68	36	5
Purslow	Bishop's Castle	18	9	8
Ratlinghope	Bishop's Castle	19	10	3
Rorrington	Bishop's Castle	30	16	6
Rowley	Bishop's Castle	37	18	5
Shelderton	Bishop's Castle	14	7	9
Shelve	Bishop's Castle	19	9	7
Snailbeach	Bishop's Castle	195	104	18
Stiperstones & Perkins Beach	Bishop's Castle	127	65	13
Stowe	Bishop's Castle	20	10	14
Twitchen	Bishop's Castle	48	24	10
Walcot	Bishop's Castle	4	2	19
Walkmill	Bishop's Castle	14	7	10
Wentnor	Bishop's Castle	60	31	8
Weston (Stowe)	Bishop's Castle	12	6	9
Whitcot	Bishop's Castle	17	9	11
Whitcot Keysett	Bishop's Castle	50	27	7
Worthen & Brockton	Bishop's Castle	534	270	18
Wotherton	Bishop's Castle	41	22	10
Ackleton	Bridgnorth	253	118	14
Acton Round	Bridgnorth	14	10	13
Alveley	Bridgnorth	1,433	704	36
Astley Abbots	Bridgnorth	65	31	29
Aston Botterell	Bridgnorth	25	12	5
Aston Eyre	Bridgnorth	27	19	15
Badger	Bridgnorth	85	43	14
Billingsley	Bridgnorth	189	62	11
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth	11,996	6,206	72
Broad Oak & Six Ashes	Bridgnorth	31	17	9
Brockton (Sutton Maddock)	Bridgnorth	62	25	41
Burwarton	Bridgnorth	96	45	10
Chesterton	Bridgnorth	59	26	14
Chetton	Bridgnorth	104	31	3
Claverley	Bridgnorth	707	300	24
Cleobury North	Bridgnorth	28	13	14
Colemore Green	Bridgnorth	37	18	17
Cross Lane Head	Bridgnorth	67	32	43
Deuxhill	Bridgnorth	14	4	4
Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth	493	215	20
Eardington	Bridgnorth	391	150	34
Fenn Green	Bridgnorth	49	30	28

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Glazeley	Bridgnorth	58	17	7
Hampton Loade	Bridgnorth	211	106	15
Heathton & Draycott	Bridgnorth	107	49	20
Hilton	Bridgnorth	241	78	27
Middleton Priors	Bridgnorth	40	21	13
Middleton Scriven	Bridgnorth	73	21	4
Monkthopton	Bridgnorth	121	39	6
Morville	Bridgnorth	87	38	31
Muckley	Bridgnorth	16	11	18
Muckley Cross	Bridgnorth	13	9	20
Neenton	Bridgnorth	71	34	8
Netchwood Common	Bridgnorth	36	17	8
Nordley	Bridgnorth	44	21	19
Nordley Common	Bridgnorth	72	34	17
Norton	Bridgnorth	149	71	21
Oldbury	Bridgnorth	234	108	54
Quatford	Bridgnorth	364	200	32
Quatt	Bridgnorth	67	35	19
Romsley	Bridgnorth	76	38	22
Roughton	Bridgnorth	47	23	31
Rudge	Bridgnorth	41	18	19
Rudge Heath	Bridgnorth	20	12	26
Shipley	Bridgnorth	22	13	26
Sidbury	Bridgnorth	25	11	3
Stableford	Bridgnorth	59	28	14
Stanmore	Bridgnorth	115	53	36
Stockton	Bridgnorth	10	5	16
Sutton Maddock	Bridgnorth	74	30	25
The Down	Bridgnorth	33	10	14
The Hobbins	Bridgnorth	328	149	37
Tuckhill	Bridgnorth	20	12	9
Upton Cressett	Bridgnorth	7	5	8
Weston Heath (near Sheriffhales)	Bridgnorth	47	20	12
Wooton	Bridgnorth	28	14	11
Worfield	Bridgnorth	249	120	36
Barrow	Broseley	19	8	25
Broseley	Broseley	4,981	2,341	52
Posenhall	Broseley	28	12	30
The Smithies	Broseley	19	8	10
Acton Burnell	Church Stretton	543	118	18
Acton Scott	Church Stretton	21	11	13
All Stretton	Church Stretton	286	153	42
Cardington	Church Stretton	134	57	7
Church Stretton	Church Stretton	3,408	1,929	56
East Wall	Church Stretton	39	18	8
Enchmarsh	Church Stretton	23	10	6
Frodesley	Church Stretton	88	39	13
Hatton	Church Stretton	15	7	6

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Heath Common	Church Stretton	2	1	11
Hope Bowdler	Church Stretton	128	58	24
Leebotwood	Church Stretton	145	65	21
Little Stretton	Church Stretton	236	129	29
Longnor	Church Stretton	206	95	28
Longville In The Dale	Church Stretton	77	36	6
Minton	Church Stretton	31	17	14
Picklescott	Church Stretton	43	20	6
Pitchford	Church Stretton	77	42	14
Plaish	Church Stretton	35	15	5
Rushbury & Roman Bank	Church Stretton	41	20	12
Soudley	Church Stretton	39	18	15
Ticklerton	Church Stretton	46	22	9
Wall Under Heywood	Church Stretton	114	55	12
Wallbank	Church Stretton	41	19	9
Woolstaston	Church Stretton	30	14	11
Besom Woods & Wheathill	Cleobury Mortimer	51	27	5
Boraston	Cleobury Mortimer	41	17	21
Bromdon	Cleobury Mortimer	56	30	5
Button Bridge	Cleobury Mortimer	55	31	18
Button Oak	Cleobury Mortimer	67	43	22
Catherton Common	Cleobury Mortimer	146	61	17
Chorley	Cleobury Mortimer	130	58	9
Cleobury Mortimer	Cleobury Mortimer	2,880	1,366	47
Coppice Gate	Cleobury Mortimer	39	21	13
Coreley	Cleobury Mortimer	35	16	7
Doddington	Cleobury Mortimer	279	143	26
Farlow	Cleobury Mortimer	12	6	14
Hints	Cleobury Mortimer	140	65	20
Hopton Bank	Cleobury Mortimer	75	32	23
Hopton Wafers	Cleobury Mortimer	86	50	21
Kinlet	Cleobury Mortimer	51	27	21
Loughton	Cleobury Mortimer	11	6	5
Milson	Cleobury Mortimer	40	19	5
Nash	Cleobury Mortimer	34	15	13
Neen Savage	Cleobury Mortimer	4	2	28
Neen Sollars	Cleobury Mortimer	69	33	9
Oreton	Cleobury Mortimer	159	78	11
Silvington	Cleobury Mortimer	24	13	4
Spurtree	Cleobury Mortimer	59	25	42
Stottesdon	Cleobury Mortimer	175	77	18
Abdon	Craven Arms	27	15	5
Aldon	Craven Arms	15	9	15
Aston Munslow	Craven Arms	98	53	17
Aston-On-Clun	Craven Arms	180	103	17
Beambridge & Aston Mill	Craven Arms	30	15	14
Bouldon	Craven Arms	26	15	5
Brandhill	Craven Arms	20	11	6
Broome	Craven Arms	101	60	17

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Bushmoor & Leamoor Common	Craven Arms	86	41	22
Cheney Longville	Craven Arms	38	19	25
Clee St Margaret	Craven Arms	87	44	5
Cleedownton	Craven Arms	28	12	5
Cleestanton	Craven Arms	19	8	10
Cockshutford	Craven Arms	29	15	4
Corfton & Corfton Bache	Craven Arms	101	49	14
Craven Arms	Craven Arms	2,347	1,167	52
Culmington	Craven Arms	117	60	6
Diddlebury	Craven Arms	199	90	17
Felhampton	Craven Arms	25	12	21
Great & Little Sutton	Craven Arms	19	11	4
Haytons Bent & Up Lo Hayton	Craven Arms	105	55	5
Heath	Craven Arms	13	7	5
Holdgate	Craven Arms	18	10	4
Hopesay	Craven Arms	66	33	10
Hopton Cangeford	Craven Arms	11	5	5
Horderley	Craven Arms	11	6	8
Hungerford & Broadstone	Craven Arms	54	29	5
Long Meadow End	Craven Arms	60	30	24
Marshbrook	Craven Arms	41	20	19
Middlehope	Craven Arms	13	6	3
Munslow	Craven Arms	97	52	12
Peaton	Craven Arms	21	12	7
Peatonstrand	Craven Arms	19	11	5
Rowton (Craven Arms)	Craven Arms	14	8	14
Seifton	Craven Arms	51	26	9
Seifton Bache	Craven Arms	23	12	8
Sibdon Carwood	Craven Arms	8	4	26
Stanton Lacy	Craven Arms	21	11	15
Stoke St Milborough	Craven Arms	83	35	5
Stokesay	Craven Arms	26	15	42
Strefford	Craven Arms	38	19	24
Stretford Bridge	Craven Arms	40	20	39
The Hope	Craven Arms	27	14	17
Tugford	Craven Arms	25	14	4
Upper Affcot	Craven Arms	16	8	21
Vernolds Common	Craven Arms	37	19	9
Westhope	Craven Arms	44	25	4
Whittingslow	Craven Arms	19	9	9
Wistanstow	Craven Arms	144	71	35
Woolston (Wistanstow Parish)	Craven Arms	40	19	19
Bagley	Ellesmere	55	27	9
Breadon Heath	Ellesmere	44	20	12
Cockshutt	Ellesmere	565	255	23
Colemere	Ellesmere	59	31	15

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Dudleston	Ellesmere	28	13	13
Dudleston Heath	Ellesmere	463	418	29
Ellesmere	Ellesmere	4,340	2,279	54
Elson	Ellesmere	89	40	40
English Frankton	Ellesmere	36	16	10
Hordley	Ellesmere	24	12	9
Lee	Ellesmere	59	19	23
Lower Frankton	Ellesmere	55	25	12
Lower Hordley & Bagley Marsh	Ellesmere	85	42	11
Lyneal	Ellesmere	137	72	10
New Marton	Ellesmere	15	7	14
Perthy & Welsh Frankton	Ellesmere	196	91	23
Petton	Ellesmere	73	34	12
Street Dinas	Ellesmere	45	21	23
Tetchill	Ellesmere	313	111	23
Welshampton	Ellesmere	240	113	21
Chelmarsh	Highley	362	117	21
Highley	Highley	3,310	1,562	39
Sutton	Highley	56	22	22
Angel Bank & Farden	Ludlow	228	103	26
Ashford Bowdler	Ludlow	41	23	23
Ashford Carbonell	Ludlow	269	169	23
Batchcott & Richards Castle	Ludlow	36	20	18
Bedlam	Ludlow	76	35	13
Bitterley	Ludlow	95	45	19
Bromfield	Ludlow	88	42	27
Burford	Ludlow	1,156	563	55
Caynham	Ludlow	145	67	17
Clee Hill	Ludlow	633	341	34
Cleeton St Mary	Ludlow	51	23	11
Dhustone	Ludlow	88	38	29
Duxmoor & Whittytree	Ludlow	48	25	19
Greete	Ludlow	24	14	13
Hope Bagot	Ludlow	32	14	12
Knowbury	Ludlow	357	162	20
Ludlow	Ludlow	10,443	5,826	65
Middleton	Ludlow	89	43	25
Onibury	Ludlow	107	56	28
Overton	Ludlow	63	35	27
Priors Halton	Ludlow	13	6	29
Snitton	Ludlow	18	8	15
The Sheet	Ludlow	219	153	48
Walton (Onibury)	Ludlow	11	6	16
Whitton	Ludlow	47	27	6
Woofferton	Ludlow	48	27	22
Adderley	Market Drayton	200	98	16
Allfordgreen	Market Drayton	45	23	8

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Bletchley	Market Drayton	51	22	21
Cheswardine	Market Drayton	436	232	20
Child's Ercall	Market Drayton	449	211	10
Chipnall	Market Drayton	86	46	14
Crickmery & Wistanswick	Market Drayton	595	102	16
Eaton Upon Tern	Market Drayton	141	61	7
Hinstock	Market Drayton	571	246	25
Hodnet	Market Drayton	555	308	33
Howle	Market Drayton	7	4	10
Lockleywood	Market Drayton	69	30	20
Longford	Market Drayton	71	31	29
Longslow	Market Drayton	41	18	38
Marchamley	Market Drayton	178	81	18
Market Drayton	Market Drayton	12,828	6,184	67
Mill Green	Market Drayton	36	15	20
Moreton Say	Market Drayton	48	21	23
Norton In Hales	Market Drayton	288	138	18
Ollerton	Market Drayton	58	25	7
Peplow	Market Drayton	35	14	6
Rosehill	Market Drayton	274	38	28
Soudley (Great)	Market Drayton	113	54	18
Stoke Heath	Market Drayton	337	77	20
Stoke Upon Tern	Market Drayton	120	52	15
Ternhill	Market Drayton	848	408	33
Wollerton	Market Drayton	189	87	25
Woodseaves	Market Drayton	138	59	28
Woore, Ireland's Cross & Pipe Gate	Market Drayton	1,065	497	28
Arcscott	Minsterley & Pontesbury	56	27	25
Asterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury	98	47	18
Cruckmeole	Minsterley & Pontesbury	45	21	31
Cruckton	Minsterley & Pontesbury	90	42	27
Edge	Minsterley & Pontesbury	19	9	15
Habberley	Minsterley & Pontesbury	62	36	21
Hinton	Minsterley & Pontesbury	29	14	22
Horsebridge	Minsterley & Pontesbury	36	14	26
Lea Cross	Minsterley & Pontesbury	69	33	27
Minsterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury	1,732	815	38
Plealey	Minsterley & Pontesbury	112	54	26
Plealey Road & Halston	Minsterley & Pontesbury	48	23	28
Ploxgreen	Minsterley & Pontesbury	110	48	33
Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury	1,689	876	47
Pontesbury Hill	Minsterley & Pontesbury	238	107	43
Pontesford	Minsterley & Pontesbury	90	52	44
Shorthill	Minsterley & Pontesbury	40	19	26
Bourton	Much Wenlock	93	52	10
Bourton Westwood	Much Wenlock	14	8	25
Brockton (Stanton Long)	Much Wenlock	152	44	10
Buildwas	Much Wenlock	139	71	25

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Callaughton	Much Wenlock	32	18	24
Church Preen	Much Wenlock	42	18	7
Cressage	Much Wenlock	684	309	29
Easthope	Much Wenlock	73	29	7
Farley	Much Wenlock	23	10	20
Gleedon Hill	Much Wenlock	18	8	33
Harley	Much Wenlock	135	64	20
Homer	Much Wenlock	250	111	37
Hughley	Much Wenlock	51	22	8
Kenley	Much Wenlock	62	27	8
Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock	2,090	1,109	50
Sheinton	Much Wenlock	36	17	15
Shipton	Much Wenlock	33	20	6
Stanton Long	Much Wenlock	55	22	5
Stretton Westwood	Much Wenlock	34	19	20
Babbinswood	Oswestry	165	73	36
Bronygarth & Castle Mill	Oswestry	98	44	28
Cefn Blodwel	Oswestry	16	8	9
Chirk Bank	Oswestry	512	253	49
Coed-Y-Go	Oswestry	64	28	46
Crickheath	Oswestry	68	28	19
Croesaubach	Oswestry	23	11	22
Eardiston	Oswestry	37	16	14
Edgerley	Oswestry	54	26	10
Glynmorlas & Rhyn	Oswestry	65	31	34
Gobowen	Oswestry	2,922	1,432	52
Grimpo	Oswestry	46	21	20
Haughton (West Felton)	Oswestry	22	10	9
Hindford	Oswestry	40	20	22
Kinnerley	Oswestry	242	124	25
Knockin	Oswestry	177	98	24
Knockin Heath, Dovaston & Dovaston Bank	Oswestry	150	81	24
Llanyblodwel	Oswestry	71	36	13
Llanymynech	Oswestry	579	250	35
Llynclys	Oswestry	268	128	29
Maesbrook & Maesbrook Green	Oswestry	158	70	12
Maesbury	Oswestry	179	99	30
Maesbury Marsh	Oswestry	226	111	22
Middle & Lower Hengoed	Oswestry	134	59	43
Middleton & Aston Square	Oswestry	29	23	32
Morton & Morton Common	Oswestry	98	41	22
Nantmawr	Oswestry	51	25	11
Oswestry	Oswestry	18,681	8,896	73
Pant	Oswestry	949	450	35
Pant Glas	Oswestry	46	20	27
Park Hall	Oswestry	479	212	55
Pentre (Wilcot)	Oswestry	42	20	10

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Pont Faen	Oswestry	35	18	39
Porthywaen	Oswestry	130	71	26
Queens Head	Oswestry	98	45	29
Rednal	Oswestry	33	15	9
Rhoswel	Oswestry	241	102	46
Rhyd-y-Croesau	Oswestry	12	6	6
Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry	907	365	25
Selattyn	Oswestry	123	55	26
St Martins	Oswestry	2,782	1,285	46
St Martins Moor	Oswestry	65	31	42
Sweeney Mountain & Nant-Y-Caws	Oswestry	132	67	40
The Wern	Oswestry	78	35	35
Treflach	Oswestry	187	94	23
Trefonen	Oswestry	676	311	33
Upper Hengoed	Oswestry	78	35	34
Weirbrook	Oswestry	35	15	27
Wern Ddu	Oswestry	8	4	7
West Felton	Oswestry	972	433	34
Weston Rhyn & Preesgweene	Oswestry	1,490	749	45
Whittington	Oswestry	1,640	777	42
Woolston Bank	Oswestry	26	21	19
Wykey	Oswestry	45	19	10
Crackley Bank	Shifnal	45	22	26
Heath Hill	Shifnal	75	32	15
Kemberton	Shifnal	178	90	32
Lilyhurst	Shifnal	24	10	17
Sheriffhales	Shifnal	282	118	20
Shifnal	Shifnal	9,855	4,306	61
Tong Norton	Shifnal	177	28	15
Weston (Monkhopton)	Shifnal	56	18	5
Alberbury	Shrewsbury	131	59	10
Albrighton (Pimhill)	Shrewsbury	31	15	35
Annscroft	Shrewsbury	248	97	24
Astley	Shrewsbury	104	51	32
Atcham	Shrewsbury	106	55	26
Baschurch	Shrewsbury	2,041	928	37
Bayston Hill	Shrewsbury	4,766	2,143	57
Berrington	Shrewsbury	64	30	27
Berwick	Shrewsbury	46	22	29
Bicton	Shrewsbury	354	140	40
Bings Heath	Shrewsbury	63	30	30
Bomere Heath	Shrewsbury	1,263	596	29
Cardeston	Shrewsbury	39	22	16
Castle Pulverbatch	Shrewsbury	128	55	9
Chavel	Shrewsbury	40	19	33
Church Pulverbatch	Shrewsbury	44	19	9
Condover	Shrewsbury	685	314	33

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Cound & Upper Cound	Shrewsbury	119	56	21
Coundmoor & Evenwood Common	Shrewsbury	96	36	11
Cross Houses	Shrewsbury	915	415	34
Donnington & Charlton Hill	Shrewsbury	34	16	10
Dorrington	Shrewsbury	733	558	36
Eaton Constantine	Shrewsbury	122	64	14
Ensdon	Shrewsbury	20	10	18
Exfords Green	Shrewsbury	34	17	20
Eyton On Severn	Shrewsbury	15	7	8
Felton Butler	Shrewsbury	25	12	17
Fitz	Shrewsbury	37	16	12
Ford	Shrewsbury	585	289	33
Ford Heath	Shrewsbury	52	23	16
Forton Heath & Mytton	Shrewsbury	199	86	14
Four Crosses, Shepherds Lane & Calcott	Shrewsbury	158	90	47
Garmston	Shrewsbury	63	33	15
Grafton	Shrewsbury	126	54	13
Great Ness	Shrewsbury	82	40	23
Halfway House	Shrewsbury	206	76	17
Hanwood	Shrewsbury	642	288	35
Hanwood Bank	Shrewsbury	592	264	35
Haughton (Upton Magna)	Shrewsbury	13	5	15
Hookagate	Shrewsbury	126	55	38
Hopton Valeswood	Shrewsbury	140	55	23
Kinton	Shrewsbury	81	36	21
Leaton	Shrewsbury	23	11	23
Leighton	Shrewsbury	114	60	17
Little Ness	Shrewsbury	159	52	16
Longden	Shrewsbury	288	132	26
Longden Common	Shrewsbury	102	51	13
Longwood	Shrewsbury	36	19	13
Lyth Bank & Lyth Hill	Shrewsbury	202	92	29
Melverley	Shrewsbury	37	15	9
Melverley Green	Shrewsbury	99	41	8
Merrington	Shrewsbury	31	15	23
Montford	Shrewsbury	33	16	17
Montford Bridge	Shrewsbury	325	153	28
Nesscliffe	Shrewsbury	385	179	27
Nox	Shrewsbury	16	7	17
Preston	Shrewsbury	31	12	17
Preston Gubbals	Shrewsbury	36	17	25
Preston Montford	Shrewsbury	7	5	28
Ruckley & Langley	Shrewsbury	43	19	10
Rushton	Shrewsbury	38	18	10
Ryton (Condover)	Shrewsbury	172	72	29
Shrawardine	Shrewsbury	102	50	10
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury	80,831	38,366	79

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Stanwardine in the Fields	Shrewsbury	48	23	18
Stapleton	Shrewsbury	102	52	24
Stapleton Common	Shrewsbury	76	38	17
Stoney Stretton	Shrewsbury	44	19	14
Uffington	Shrewsbury	139	65	37
Upper Astley	Shrewsbury	85	40	34
Uppington	Shrewsbury	58	27	11
Upton Magna	Shrewsbury	244	95	22
Vennington	Shrewsbury	49	21	10
Vron Gate	Shrewsbury	16	7	8
Walford Heath & Oldwood	Shrewsbury	164	77	18
Wattlesborough Heath	Shrewsbury	187	66	15
Westbury	Shrewsbury	555	215	14
Westley	Shrewsbury	28	10	15
Weston Lullingfields	Shrewsbury	97	47	19
Weston Wharf & Weston Common	Shrewsbury	136	66	17
Wilcott	Shrewsbury	403	69	21
Withington	Shrewsbury	157	70	15
Wollaston	Shrewsbury	30	10	11
Wrentnall	Shrewsbury	37	16	11
Wroxeter	Shrewsbury	66	31	17
Yeaton	Shrewsbury	48	21	15
Yockleton	Shrewsbury	208	90	15
Aston	Wem	73	29	35
Barkers Green	Wem	49	21	34
Brown Heath	Wem	19	9	9
Burlton	Wem	114	45	13
Clive	Wem	391	185	34
Dobsons Bridge & Roving Bridge	Wem	78	33	11
Edgebolton & Moretonmill	Wem	167	62	30
Edstaston	Wem	42	22	21
Great Wytheford	Wem	32	12	15
Grinshill	Wem	160	76	30
Hadnall	Wem	645	282	37
Harmer Hill	Wem	338	175	20
High Hatton	Wem	68	27	8
Hollinwood	Wem	125	56	12
Lee Brockhurst	Wem	125	45	13
Loppington	Wem	278	128	13
Moreton Corbet	Wem	36	13	22
Myddle	Wem	447	199	20
Newtown	Wem	92	39	13
Noneley, Commonwood & Ruewood	Wem	77	31	26
Northwood	Wem	102	44	8
Platt Lane	Wem	52	23	12
Preston Brockhurst	Wem	61	22	20

Community	Place Plan	Size		Connectivity: Maximum Overall Score
		Population	Dwellings	
Quina Brook	Wem	89	33	15
Sansaw Heath	Wem	63	30	21
Shawbury	Wem	1,551	698	37
Stanley Green	Wem	102	45	12
Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Wem	179	89	14
Tilley	Wem	57	25	44
Waterloo	Wem	31	13	13
Welshend	Wem	29	13	12
Wem	Wem	6,191	2,990	57
Weston And Wixhill	Wem	149	67	16
Weston Heath (Weston under Redcastle)	Wem	44	20	12
Whixall	Wem	80	34	14
Yorton	Wem	52	25	31
Ash Magna & Ash Parva	Whitchurch	150	70	27
Broughall	Whitchurch	53	24	35
Calverhall	Whitchurch	190	91	7
Darliston	Whitchurch	43	19	19
Fauls	Whitchurch	110	49	13
Grindley Brook	Whitchurch	118	55	36
Ightfield	Whitchurch	198	95	9
Prees	Whitchurch	832	425	31
Prees Green	Whitchurch	101	38	25
Prees Heath	Whitchurch	227	111	31
Prees Higher Heath	Whitchurch	1,176	618	25
Prees Lower Heath	Whitchurch	88	33	22
Tilstock	Whitchurch	380	170	30
Whitchurch	Whitchurch	9,632	5,483	67

- 4.6. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it is evident from Figure 7 that there is a synergy between community size (resident population and the number of dwellings present) and community connectivity (maximum 'overall connectivity score' resulting from the new Department for Transport Connectivity Metric).
- 4.7. Specifically, in Shropshire the highest connectivity scores are achieved by the larger communities, demonstrating that generally the higher the resident population and numbers of dwellings, the greater the ability to support higher concentrations of destinations - enhancing connectivity.
- 4.8. However, it is also apparent that those communities with good access to such communities via more frequent public transport, less congested roads and/or more direct cycle and pedestrian routes also achieve higher connectivity scores, irrespective of their own resident population and number of dwellings.

Stage 3: Categorisation of Communities

- 4.9. Stage 3 of the assessment involved the categorisation of communities. The methodology outlined in this document for this stage of the assessment is based on the outputs of Stage 2 of the assessment for each of the communities identified through Stage 1 of the assessment.
- 4.10. Specifically, the methodology involves 'grouping' of communities into seven categories, defined by specific thresholds consisting of 'two gateways'. These are:

Figure 8: Community Category Threshold Gateways

Community Category	Gateway One			Gateway Two
	Population		Dwellings	Maximum Connectivity Score
Strategic Centre	50,000 or more	&	25,000 or more	75 or more (Band A)
Principal Centre	8,000 or more	&	4,000 or more	60 or more (Band A)
Key Centre	1,500 or more	&	750 or more	29 or more (Band A)
Primary Connected Village	700 or more	&	350 or more	21 or more (Band B or higher)
Secondary Connected Village	300 or more	&	150 or more	14 or more (Band D or higher)
Tertiary Connected Village	150 or more	&	75 or more	9 or more (Band F or higher)
Other Communities	149 or less	&	74 or fewer	8 or less (Band G or lower)

- 4.11. **Gateway one** relates to community size, using resident population and the number of dwellings present. **Gateway two** relates to community connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.
- 4.12. Gateway one performance is calculated using latest address point data, Census (2021) data, and the latest Mid-Year Population Estimate at small geographies at the time of assessment (2024) data.
- 4.13. Gateway two performance is calculated using the maximum 'overall connectivity score' for a community resulting from the new Department for Transport Connectivity Metric. This metric assesses the ability to access all potential destinations for employment, services and social engagements via public transport and active travel. As such, it is not limited to those located within a community, instead it considers all those accessible to the community. This is considered a more effective indicator of connectivity.

4.14. For the avoidance of doubt, a community is only included within a community category where it passes both of these gateways.

4.15. Reflecting the community categories and associated thresholds within the methodology outlined in this document, through this stage of assessment a 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire has been identified. This is detailed in Figure 9:

Figure 9: Shropshire Community Hierarchy

Category	Community	Place Plan
Strategic Centre	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury
Principal Centre	Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth
	Ludlow	Ludlow
	Market Drayton	Market Drayton
	Oswestry	Oswestry
	Shifnal	Shifnal
	Whitchurch	Whitchurch
Key Centre	Albrighton	Albrighton
	Baschurch	Shrewsbury
	Bayston Hill	Shrewsbury
	Bishop's Castle	Bishop's Castle
	Broseley	Broseley
	Church Stretton	Church Stretton
	Cleobury Mortimer	Cleobury Mortimer
	Craven Arms	Craven Arms
	Ellesmere	Ellesmere
	Gobowen	Oswestry
	Highley	Highley
	Minsterley	Minsterley & Pontesbury
	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock
	Pontesbury	Minsterley & Pontesbury
	St Martins	Oswestry
Wem	Wem	
Whittington	Oswestry	
Primary Connected Village	Alveley	Bridgnorth
	Bomere Heath	Shrewsbury
	Burford	Ludlow
	Cosford (including RAF Cosford)	Albrighton
	Cross Houses	Shrewsbury
	Dorrington	Shrewsbury
	Pant	Oswestry

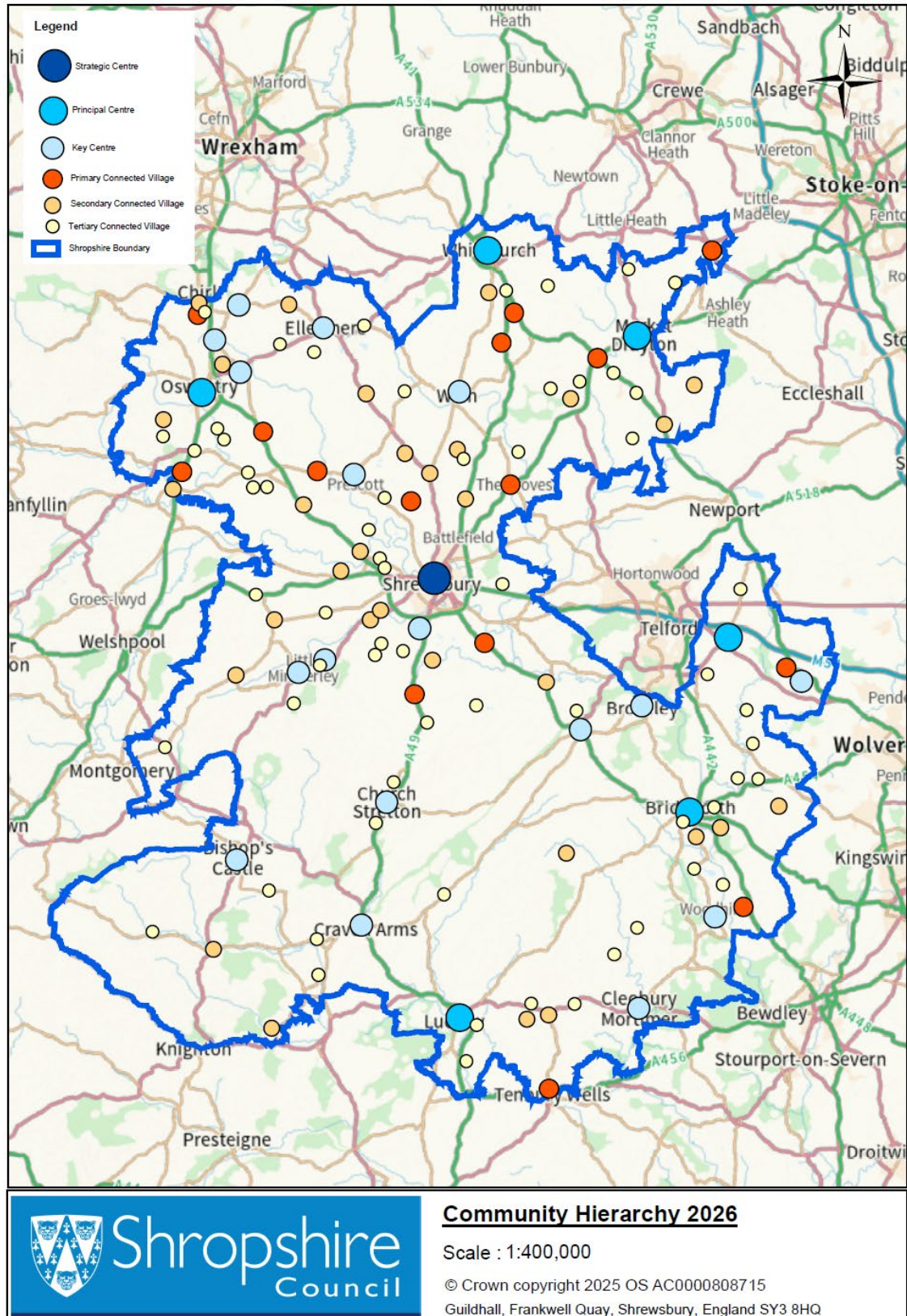
Category	Community	Place Plan
Primary Connected Village	Prees	Whitchurch
	Prees Higher Heath	Whitchurch
	Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
	Shawbury	Wem
	Ternhill	Market Drayton
	West Felton	Oswestry
	Weston Rhyn & Preesgweene	Oswestry
	Woore, Ireland's Cross & Pipe Gate	Market Drayton
Secondary Connected Village	Bucknell	Bishop's Castle
	Cheswardine	Market Drayton
	Chirk Bank	Oswestry
	Claverley	Bridgnorth
	Clee Hill	Ludlow
	Clive	Wem
	Clun	Bishop's Castle
	Cockshutt	Ellesmere
	Condover	Shrewsbury
	Cressage	Much Wenlock
	Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth
	Dudleston Heath	Ellesmere
	Eardington	Bridgnorth
	Ford	Shrewsbury
	Hadnall	Wem
	Hanwood	Shrewsbury
	Hanwood Bank	Shrewsbury
	Harmer Hill	Wem
	Hinstock	Market Drayton
	Hodnet	Market Drayton
	Knowbury	Ludlow
	Llanymynech	Oswestry
	Montford Bridge	Shrewsbury
	Myddle	Wem
	Nesscliffe	Shrewsbury
	Park Hall	Oswestry
	Quatford	Bridgnorth
	Tilstock	Whitchurch
Trefonen	Oswestry	
Westbury	Shrewsbury	
Worthen & Brockton	Bishop's Castle	
Tertiary Connected Village	Ackleton	Bridgnorth
	Acton Burnell	Church Stretton
	Adderley	Market Drayton

Category	Community	Place Plan
Tertiary Connected Village	All Stretton	Church Stretton
	Angel Bank & Farden	Ludlow
	Annscroft	Shrewsbury
	Ashford Carbonell	Ludlow
	Aston-On-Clun	Craven Arms
	Beckbury	Albrighton
	Bicton	Shrewsbury
	Chelmarsh	Highley
	Child's Ercall	Market Drayton
	Chirbury	Bishop's Castle
	Clungunford & Abcott	Bishop's Castle
	Crickmery & Wistanswick	Market Drayton
	Diddlebury	Craven Arms
	Doddington	Cleobury Mortimer
	Forton Heath & Mytton	Shrewsbury
	Four Crosses, Shepherds Lane & Calcott	Shrewsbury
	Grinshill	Wem
	Halfway House	Shrewsbury
	Hampton Loade	Bridgnorth
	Hilton	Bridgnorth
	Homer	Much Wenlock
	Ightfield	Whitchurch
	Kemberton	Shifnal
	Kinnerley	Oswestry
	Knockin	Oswestry
	Knockin Heath, Dovaston & Dovaston Bank	Oswestry
	Little Stretton	Church Stretton
	Llynclys	Oswestry
	Longden	Shrewsbury
	Longnor	Church Stretton
	Loppington	Wem
	Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle
	Lyth Bank & Lyth Hill	Shrewsbury
	Maesbury	Oswestry
Maesbury Marsh	Oswestry	
Marchamley	Market Drayton	
Newcastle on Clun	Bishop's Castle	
Norton In Hales	Market Drayton	
Oldbury	Bridgnorth	
Oreton	Cleobury Mortimer	
Perthy & Welsh Frankton	Ellesmere	
Pontesbury Hill	Minsterley & Pontesbury	

Category	Community	Place Plan
Tertiary Connected Village	Prees Heath	Whitchurch
	Rhoswiel	Oswestry
	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
	Snailbeach	Bishop's Castle
	Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Wem
	Stoke Heath	Market Drayton
	Stottesdon	Cleobury Mortimer
	Tetchill	Ellesmere
	The Hobbins	Bridgnorth
	The Sheet	Ludlow
	Treflach	Oswestry
	Upton Magna	Shrewsbury
	Walford Heath & Oldwood	Shrewsbury
	Welshampton	Ellesmere
	Wollerton	Market Drayton
	Worfield	Bridgnorth
Yockleton	Shrewsbury	
Other Communities	<p>All other communities which are for planning policy purposes classified as hamlets or other named locations consisting of scattered groups of house.</p> <p>Such communities are outside the predominantly built-up area.</p>	

4.16. Figure 10 illustrates the spatial distribution of those communities identified as a Strategic Centre, Principal Centre, Key Centre, Primary Connected Village, Secondary Connected Village, or Tertiary Connected Village within the Shropshire community hierarchy.

Figure 10: Map Illustrating the Spatial Distribution of Communities in the Shropshire Community Hierarchy



5. Conclusion

Methodology

- 5.1. Shropshire Council considers the defined methodology for this 'community hierarchy' is proportionate and robust. It draws upon *specific and consistent criteria*, utilising comprehensive datasets, which provide a valuable insight into the characteristics of our communities.
- 5.2. Planning judgement is required in establishing the 'thresholds' between the different community categories, but it is considered these 'thresholds' are entirely appropriate having been informed by consideration of the characteristics of Shropshire.

Assessment

- 5.3. Shropshire Council considers that the assessment undertaken is consistent with the defined methodology and results in the identification of an appropriate 'community hierarchy' for Shropshire.
- 5.4. This 'community hierarchy' is responsive to the size of our communities and their connectivity to employment, services and social engagements.

Application of the 'Community Hierarchy'

- 5.5. The 'community hierarchy' will form a key part of the evidence that underpins the next Shropshire Local Plan. Specifically, it will inform decisions on:
 - a. The overarching approach to the strategic distribution of development in the spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.
 - b. The role of individual communities in supporting the overarching approach to the strategic distribution of development of the spatial strategy in the next Local Plan.
 - c. The specific strategies for individual communities within the next Local Plan.
- 5.6. Crucially, whilst the 'community hierarchy' is considered a key part of the evidence supporting the next Local Plan, other evidence will also inform these decisions. This may include evidence related to such factors as:
 - a. The infrastructure capacity of our communities.
 - b. The known demand for housing and employment opportunities in our communities.
 - c. The constraints present within our communities.
 - d. The opportunities that may exist within our communities.

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Shropshire Council

Draft Methodology: Site Identification & Assessment



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1. Introduction

Purpose of this Document

- 1.1. This document summarises the Council's proposed methodology to achieve a comprehensive and proportionate site identification and assessment process. This methodology is intended to align with and achieve the requirements of:
 - a. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out Government's planning policies for England.
 - b. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations).
- 1.2. The methodology is based on the guidance provided by Government on 'Selecting Sites for Development'¹, whilst also positively responding to local circumstances and responses to targeted engagement with selected statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.
- 1.3. It is intended to provide a 'standard approach' for the identification and assessment of housing and employment sites, informing the determination of draft allocations for inclusion in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. These allocations will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the County to 2046.
- 1.4. *This methodology would be adapted for other uses such as gypsy & traveller provision, minerals extraction, renewable energy, retail development, and leisure development - where allocations for such uses are considered necessary and appropriate.*

The Next Local Plan

- 1.5. Shropshire Council is shortly to commence preparation of its next Local Plan. This will establish the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for sustainable development in Shropshire.
- 1.6. The next Local Plan will be informed by assessments of need for housing (including specialist accommodation to meet needs of gypsies and travellers, older people and those with disabilities and special needs), employment and other appropriate land-uses. To meet these identified needs, the next Local Plan will allocate land and provide policies to

¹ MGCLG, (2025), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/selecting-identifying-and-assessing-sites-for-local-plans>

determine applications for 'windfall' proposals on sites which are not allocated for development.

- 1.7. Whilst ensuring sufficient development occurs to meet needs is important, the next Local Plan will also seek to do much more, including:
 - a. Enabling delivery of the type, size, tenure and location of housing and other accommodation necessary to meet the needs of our new and existing communities.
 - b. Enabling the delivery of a suitable mix and location of employment land and floorspace to support the growth of the local economy and support job creation to meet the needs of our new and existing communities.
 - c. Supporting the vitality and vibrancy of our town and rural centres.
 - d. Securing the supply of minerals and ensuring necessary waste management capacity to support economic growth, housing, and infrastructure projects.
 - e. Delivering the infrastructure necessary to support new development and meet the needs of our new and existing communities – complemented by our Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Place Plans.
 - f. Safeguarding our valued built, historic and natural environment.
 - g. Supporting our transition to net zero and our adaptation to climate change.
 - h. Facilitating high-quality and accessible design that complements and enhances character and supports the wellbeing and vibrancy of our communities.

The Role of Allocations

- 1.8. Allocations ensure sufficient and appropriately located land will be available that is capable of delivering sustainable development and meeting the identified needs of our existing and new communities through to 2046.
- 1.9. This land and the development to be provided must also contribute to the wider priorities of the vision, objectives, and spatial strategy of the next Local Plan. As such, they will provide for an appropriate housing and employment mix; support our town centres; support the delivery of necessary infrastructure; safeguard the built, historic and natural environment; facilitate our transition to net zero and our adaptation to climate change; and achieve high-quality and accessible design across Shropshire.

2. Methodology Overview

Starting Point

- 2.1. The Council's proposed site identification and assessment methodology is intended to align with and achieve the requirements of:
 - a. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out Government's planning policies for England.
 - b. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations).
- 2.2. The methodology is based on the guidance provided by Government on 'Selecting Sites for Development'², whilst also positively responding to local circumstances and responses to targeted engagement with selected statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.

An Iterative Process

- 2.3. The proposed site identification and assessment methodology involves an iterative process that fully integrates the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of sites. The key stages of this iterative process and their purpose is summarised in Figure 2.1, with further details of each provided in subsequent chapters.

Figure 2.1: Site Assessment Process

Stage 1: Identify Sites	<p>Consistent with Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, identification of sites will draw on a large range of partners and sources of information. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Existing allocations in the adopted Development Plan without planning permission.b. Sites identified in the Brownfield Land Register without planning permission.c. Sites that previously benefited from planning permission where the consent has lapsed but the development of the site remains viable.d. Sites subject to recent planning applications that were refused or withdrawn but where the issues affecting the site may be resolved.e. Surplus land or land likely to become surplus in public sector ownership (including land held by the Council).f. Sites submitted during a 'Call for Sites' undertaken between 10th July 2025 and 2nd October 2025.g. Sites submitted during the 'ongoing invitation to promote sites'. <p><i>The 'Call for Sites' and 'ongoing invitation to promote sites' provides an opportunity for all interested parties to promote sites for consideration. This includes sites promoted during previous land availability or intensification assessments, sites subject to recent pre-application or planning application, land in public sector ownership, vacant / derelict land and buildings, re-development or intensification opportunities, and opportunities to extend existing settlements.</i></p>
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² MGCLG, (2025), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/selecting-identifying-and-assessing-sites-for-local-plans>

Stage 2: Assess Sites	Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, assessment of sites will involve:	
	Categorisation	Sites categories will be defined by: a. Scale. b. Promoted use. c. Location.
	Development Potential	Development potential initially determined using standard assumptions responsive to local circumstances. Potential for refinement informed by promoter information and assessment.
	Part A: Initial Assessment	<p>Part A: Initial Assessment will involve:</p> <p>a. High-level assessment of suitability. Considering planning constraints; physical constraints; and natural, built and historic environment assets and settings affected. <i>Incorporating conclusions of SEA of sites.</i></p> <p>b. Consideration of alignment with emerging vision, objectives & spatial strategy for distribution of development in next Local Plan.</p> <p>c. High-level assessment of availability.</p> <p>d. High-level assessment of achievability and viability.</p> <p>Culminates in a conclusion on whether a site proceeds to Part B: Detailed Assessment. Sites will not proceed where:</p> <p>a. Strategic suitability: Significant physical, natural environment, or built/historic environment affects are identified.</p> <p>b. Strategy alignment: Site does not align with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.</p> <p>c. Availability: Insufficient certainty exists that the site is available for relevant form(s) of development.</p> <p>d. Size: Alone or in combination site too small for allocation.</p> <p>e. Achievability: Insufficient certainty exists about site viability.</p>
	Part B: Detailed Assessment	<p>Part B: Detailed Assessment will draw on Part A: Initial Assessment (<i>including conclusions of SEA of sites</i>) to:</p> <p>a. Undertake detailed assessment of suitability for development through consideration of:</p> <p>i. Services, facilities and infrastructure requirements and opportunities, informed by existing accessibility and capacity.</p> <p>ii. Natural, built and historic environment assets and settings.</p> <p>-Identify on/off site assets and settings that may be affected.</p> <p>-Determine contribution of site (in current form) to these identified assets and their settings.</p> <p>-Determine impact development of sites may have to these identified assets and their settings.</p> <p>-Explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and minimise or avoid harm to these identified assets and their settings.</p> <p>iii. Identify physical constraints to development or through development impact upon a wider area and explore opportunities to mitigate them and create enhancement.</p> <p>iv. Planning and other strategic considerations.</p> <p>b. Further consider alignment with emerging vision, objectives and spatial strategy for distribution of development in next Local Plan.</p> <p>c. Undertake detailed assessment of availability.</p> <p>d. Undertake detailed assessment of achievability and viability.</p> <p>Culminates in a conclusion which informs identification of draft allocations in Stages 3 and 4 of the assessment.</p>

**Stage 3:
Determine
Draft
Allocations**

Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, determination of draft allocations will largely be undertaken on a settlement basis (with the exception being those that have the potential to form a new settlement, which will be considered collectively) informed by consideration of:

- a. Categorisation in Stage 2 of the assessment.
- b. Ability to deliver strategic development.
- c. Conclusion on alignment with emerging vision, objectives and spatial strategy for distribution of development in next Local Plan. In particular the proposed role of the associated settlement (where applicable) and sites relationship to this settlement.
- d. Connectivity of the site.
- e. Conclusions on suitability (including consideration of planning constraints; physical constraints; and natural, built and historic environment assets and settings affected - *incorporating conclusions of SEA of sites*) in Stage 2 of the assessment.
- f. Conclusions on availability in Stage 2 of the assessment.
- g. Conclusions on achievability (including viability) in Stage 2 of the assessment.
- h. The ability to achieve an efficient use of land.
- i. Alternative or competing land uses.
- j. Timescales for delivery to ensure new development can be provided throughout the proposed period of the next Local Plan.
- k. Other evidence prepared to inform the next Local Plan.
- l. Competing sites.
- m. Potential cumulative benefit(s) and impact(s) of sites.

Stage 3 culminates in identification of the proposed approach to each site, including identification of initial draft allocations. This will be supported by a summary explanation of the reasons for this approach.

Stage 3 will also indicate any additional evidence required to support draft allocations. The outcomes of Stage 3 to be subject to appropriate engagement.

**Stage 4:
Confirm
Draft
Allocations**

Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, confirmation of draft allocations will largely be undertaken on a settlement basis (with the exception being those that have the potential to form a new settlement, which will be considered collectively).

In confirming draft allocations, Stage 4 will draw on the conclusions of Stages 2 and 3 of this assessment and information from the engagement following Stage 3.

Stage 4 will culminate in confirmation of the proposed approach to each site, including confirmation of draft allocations. This will be supported by a summary explanation of the reasons for this approach.

Output

- 2.4. This iterative approach to site assessment reflects Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and is also considered responsive to local circumstances. It will ensure that all sites are assessed as potential allocations in a consistent, objective and transparent manner.
- 2.5. Through this assessment, draft allocations will be identified which are capable of achieving sustainable development that contributes towards meeting the needs of our communities and supporting the proposed vision, objectives, and spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.

3. Stage 1: Identification of Sites

Overview

- 3.1. **Stage 1** involves the **identification of sites** for assessment.
- 3.2. The methodology for this stage of assessment is informed by Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and responsive to local circumstances.

Parameters

- 3.3. The three key parameters for the identification of sites are:
 - a. Assessment area.
 - b. Site size.
 - c. Proposed use.

Assessment Area

- 3.4. The assessment area aligns with the geography to be addressed in the next Local Plan – this being Shropshire Council's administrative area.
- 3.5. Sites outside of this assessment area are unsuitable for consideration within this assessment. In circumstances where sites are partly within the assessment area and partly beyond, only the component within it will be assessed.

Site Size

- 3.6. A minimum site size threshold of 0.2ha is applied. Such a threshold is considered appropriate as it is responsive to the diverse characteristics of Shropshire and those below it unlikely to accommodate 5 or more dwellings or 500m² floorspace of economic development. Sites below this threshold will not be assessed.

Proposed Use

- 3.7. Sites will initially be assessed where promoted for housing-led development (including specialist housing) or employment-led development. This will allow for consideration of sites for a variety of different types of housing and employment uses.
- 3.8. *Sites for other purposes will be assessed where it is determined that allocations for these purposes are necessary and appropriate. In such circumstances, this methodology would be appropriately adapted for these purposes.*

Types of Site

- 3.9. Consistent with Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development', a large range of partners and sources of information will be drawn upon to identify sites for inclusion within the assessment.
- 3.10. Figure 3.1 summarises the mechanisms to be used to identify sites for inclusion within the assessment, detailing how they align with the potential sources identified by Government in their guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development'.

Figure 3.1: Type of Site

Types of Site	Data Source(s)	Approach
Allocations in current Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess allocations for housing-led development or employment-led development in current Local and Neighbourhood Plans without planning permission at 31st March 2026.</p> <p><i>Allocations for housing-led development or employment-led development with extant planning permission at 31st March 2026 are considered suitable, available and achievable (including viable). Such sites will only be further assessed if actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>
Sites in the Brownfield Land Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brownfield Land Register -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites identified in the Brownfield Land Register that have not been subject to redevelopment and are without planning permission at 31st March 2026.</p> <p><i>Guidance stipulates sites should not be removed from the Brownfield Land Register once redeveloped, such sites will not be assessed unless actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p> <p><i>Sites in the brownfield land register with extant planning permission at 31st March 2026 are considered suitable, available and achievable (including viable). Such sites will only be further assessed if actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>

Types of Site	Data Source(s)	Approach
Sites subject to planning applications (permissions and previous refusals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Planning application records -Development start and completion records -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites that had planning permission for 5 or more dwellings and/or 500m² of employment floorspace, where planning permission has subsequently lapsed in the last 5 years and it has not been subject to a subsequent planning permission for housing-led development or employment-led development.</p> <p>Assess sites subject to a planning application for 5 or more dwellings and/or 500m² of employment floorspace refused or withdrawn in the last 5 years, where planning permission has not subsequently been granted for housing-led development or employment-led development.</p> <p><i>Sites with extant planning permission for residential or employment development at 31st March 2026 are considered suitable, available and achievable (including viable). Such sites will only be further assessed if actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>
Sites subject to pre-application submissions (in agreement with developers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites subject to pre-application submissions where they are promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites processes.</p> <p><i>Pre-applications are generally confidential. The most effective mechanism to secure agreement for their inclusion is through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>
Sites identified in current or previous Land Availability Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites included in Land Availability Assessments where they are promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites processes.</p> <p><i>The Council's last Land Availability Assessment was completed in 2018. To ensure confidence that identified sites remain available for development, they will be assessed if actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>

Types of Site	Data Source(s)	Approach
Land owned by the Local Authority and other public bodies in consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National register of public sector land -Engagement with strategic plans of relevant public sector bodies -Submissions to the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites by public sector bodies -Submission to the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites by Shropshire Council Estates 	<p>Assess identified surplus land or land likely to become surplus in public sector ownership (including land held by the Council).</p> <p><i>If land is not identified as surplus or likely to become surplus it will not be assessed unless actively promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites.</i></p>
Land identified in new or previous capacity or intensification assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites included within Capacity or Intensification Assessments where they are promoted through the Call for Sites or ongoing invitation to promote sites processes.</p> <p><i>The Council has not undertaken a recent Capacity or Intensification Assessment.</i></p>
Vacant and derelict land and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brownfield Land Register -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess vacant and derelict land and buildings identified through these mechanisms (subject to the caveats identified for sites in the Brownfield Land Register).</p>
Land in alternative use that may be suitable for re-development, such as commercial buildings or car parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brownfield Land Register -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess land in alternative use that may be suitable for re-development identified through these mechanisms (subject to the caveats identified for sites in the Brownfield Land Register).</p>
Sites with opportunities to intensify uses or redevelop areas (particularly in urban areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brownfield Land Register -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites with opportunities to intensify uses or redevelop areas identified through these mechanisms (subject to the caveats identified for sites in the Brownfield Land Register).</p>
Sites providing opportunities to extend existing settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Call for Sites -Ongoing invitation to promote sites 	<p>Assess sites providing opportunities to extend existing settlements identified through these mechanisms.</p>

Call for Sites

- 3.11. A Call for Sites is an important and effective mechanism for identifying potential development sites. It involves inviting stakeholders (including developers, landowners, public bodies and the general public) to propose land they think is right for development.
- 3.12. Shropshire Council conducted a Call for Sites and associated Call for Mineral Working Opportunities between the 10th July 2025 and 2nd October 2025.
- 3.13. To support those intending to respond to this Call for Sites, an interactive response form was prepared (in Spreadsheet format), detailing required information. A copy of this response form is provided Appendix 1 of this document.
- 3.14. A similar interactive response form was also prepared (in Spreadsheet format) for those wishing to promote mineral working opportunities. A copy of this response form is provided Appendix 2 of this document.
- 3.15. To publicise the Call for Sites and associated Call for Mineral Working Opportunities a number of mechanisms were utilised, including:
 - a. Consultation webpage created in the Council's 'Get Involved' facility (see Appendix 3).
 - b. Complementary Call for Sites webpage created in the Planning Policy element of the Council's website (see Appendix 4). Similar webpage created for the Call for Mineral Working Opportunities (Appendix 5).
 - c. Notification of Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities issued via email to all those on the Planning Policy Consultation Database. This includes adjoining and closely related Local Planning Authorities, infrastructure providers, businesses, interest groups, agents, land promoters, developers, the general contact for Town and Parish Council's in Shropshire (for dissemination), and interested individuals (Appendix 6).
 - d. Notification of Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities issued via email to those on the Council's Agent and Developer Forum (Appendix 6).
 - e. Notification of Call for Mineral Working Opportunities issued via email to West Midlands Aggregate Working Party members (Appendix 7).
 - f. Press release issued at the commencement of the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises (Appendix 8).
 - g. Press release issued at the approximate mid-point of the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises (Appendix 9).

- h. Press release issued with one week remaining of the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises (Appendix 10).
- i. Shropshire Council social media posts issued at various points during the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities period (Appendix 11).
- j. Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Planning social media post at commencement of the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities period (Appendix 12).
- k. Various agents and site promoters operating in Shropshire issued press releases and social media posts advertising Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises (examples in Appendix 13).
- l. Various news articles published regarding Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises (examples in Appendix 14).
- m. Officers attending public meetings during the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises publicised the processes.

3.16. As a result of these mechanisms, around 750 sites were promoted during the Call for Sites exercise and a further 10 areas were promoted during the Call for Mineral Working opportunities exercise.

Ongoing Invitation to Promote Sites

- 3.17. Following the conclusion of the Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities exercises, a complementary ongoing invitation to promote sites was launched.
- 3.18. This process allows for the continued submission of sites which the Council will endeavour to consider within this site assessment process – caveated by the fact that if the submission is made after the completion of the assessment process this may not be achievable.
- 3.19. The ongoing invitation to promote sites is publicised on a Promoting a Site for Allocation webpage within the Planning Policy element of the Council’s website (see Appendix 15). A similar webpage was created for the ongoing invitation to promote mineral working opportunities (Appendix 16).
- 3.20. The Council will also utilise the initial Scoping Consultation during the notification of intention to commence plan-making period and subsequent Plan Content and Evidence Consultation to further publicise this ongoing invitation.

4. Stage 2: Assessment of Sites

Overview

- 4.1. **Stage 2** involves the **assessment of sites**.
- 4.2. The methodology for this stage of assessment is informed by Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and responsive to local circumstances.

Categorisation of Sites

- 4.3. To support the assessment of sites, they are first categorised. This involves the 'grouping' of sites based on their characteristics.

Purpose

- 4.4. The purpose of this categorisation is to:
 - a. Gain an early understanding of the type and amount of different development opportunities.
 - b. Support identification of where additional evidence may be required to support certain types of development opportunities.
 - c. Inform the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.
 - d. Support the consistency of assessment of similar types of sites within the wider Stage 2 of the site assessment process.
 - e. Inform decisions on the type of sites to take forward as draft allocations in Stages 3 and 4 of the site assessment process.

Categorisation in Shropshire

- 4.5. Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, three site characteristics will inform the categorisation of sites in Shropshire.

First Characteristic

- 4.6. The **first site characteristic** that will inform the categorisation of sites is scale. Specifically, sites will be divided into four types based on their size (gross). The site scale types are:
 - a. Small scale sites up to 1ha.
 - b. Moderate scale sites up to 3ha but more than 1ha.
 - c. Large scale sites of up to 25ha but more than 3ha.
 - d. Strategic scale sites of more than 25ha.
- 4.7. Due to the nature of this site characteristic, each site will feature in only one of the site scale types.

Second Characteristic

- 4.8. The **second site characteristic** that will inform the categorisation of sites is promoted use. Specifically, sites will be divided into six promoted use types, based on the use for which they are promoted. The types are:
- a. Residential-led development (including specialist housing for older people and/or disabilities with special needs).
 - b. Employment-led development.
 - c. Gypsy & Traveller development.
 - d. Renewable energy provision.
 - e. Retail and/or leisure development.
 - f. Mineral working opportunity.
- 4.9. Sites will initially be assessed where promoted for housing-led development (including specialist housing) or employment-led development. This will allow for the consideration of sites for a variety of different types of housing and employment uses.
- 4.10. *Where sites are promoted for other purposes, such as gypsy & traveller provision, minerals extraction, renewable energy, retail development and leisure development they will be assessed where it is determined that allocations for these purposes are necessary and appropriate. In such circumstances, this methodology would be appropriately adapted for these purposes.*
- 4.11. As some sites are promoted for multiple purposes they may feature in more than one of the promoted use types. This will be recognised when considering total development potential to avoid 'double counting'.

Third Characteristic

- 4.12. The **third site characteristic** that will inform the categorisation of sites is location. Specifically, sites will be grouped based on the settlement to which they are associated.
- 4.13. **Identification of settlements in Shropshire will be undertaken within the Shropshire Community Hierarchy.**
- 4.14. Where sites are not associated with an identified settlement, they will either be allocated to the rural area (where 25ha or less in size) or the strategic sites category (where 25ha or more in size).
- 4.15. Due to the nature of this site characteristic, each site will feature in only one of the site location types.

Site Categories in Shropshire

4.16. Utilising the three characteristics of scale, promoted use and location, sites will be categorised, the categories to be used are summarised in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: Site Categories in Shropshire

Category	Criteria		
	Scale	Promoted Use	Location
Small scale residential or residential-led mixed use	Up to 1ha	-Residential or residential-led mixed use -Specialist housing	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use	Up to 3ha but more than 1ha	-Residential or residential-led mixed use -Specialist housing	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Large scale residential or residential-led mixed use	Up to 25ha but more than 3ha	-Residential or residential-led mixed use -Specialist housing	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Strategic Site for residential or residential-led mixed use	More than 25ha	-Residential or residential-led mixed use -Specialist housing	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for other strategic sites group
Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use	Up to 1ha	-Employment or employment-led mixed use	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use	Up to 3ha but more than 1ha	-Employment or employment-led mixed use	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use	Up to 25ha but more than 3ha	-Employment or employment-led mixed use	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for rural area
Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use	More than 25ha	-Employment or employment-led mixed use	Category to be replicated for each settlement and for the other strategic sites group

4.17. Sites can be re-categorised if additional information (for instance regarding promoted use(s)), becomes available which indicates that this is appropriate.

4.18. Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' includes examples of the site categories that might be identified for housing-led development and employment-led development. Figure 4.2 summarises the general alignment of these examples with the Shropshire categories.

Figure 4.2: General Alignment – Shropshire Site Categories and Example Categories in Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development'

Example Categories in Government Guidance	Shropshire Categories
New settlements	-Strategic Site for residential or residential-led mixed use
Large scale urban extensions	-Large scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Strategic Site for residential or residential-led mixed use
Larger town centre redevelopment or new urban quarters	-Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Large scale residential or residential-led mixed use
Estate regeneration	-Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Large scale residential or residential-led mixed use
Smaller or medium scale previously developed land	-Small scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use
Smaller or medium scale urban extensions to towns or villages	-Small scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use
Town or village infill	-Small scale residential or residential-led mixed use -Moderate scale residential or residential-led mixed use
Offices, leisure and retail	-Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use
Research, development, and knowledge (including studios and university development)	-Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use
Industrial	-Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use
Logistics	-Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use
Data centres	-Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use
Employment-led mixed use	-Small scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Moderate scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Large scale employment or employment-led mixed use -Strategic site for employment or employment-led mixed use

Development Potential

- 4.19. To support the assessment of sites, the development potential of those promoted for housing-led development and employment-led development is also determined. Development potential is the consideration of a site's capacity for various forms of development.
- 4.20. *Where sites are promoted for other purposes, such as gypsy & traveller provision, minerals extraction, renewable energy, retail development and leisure development, development potential will be assessed where it is determined that allocations for these purposes are necessary and appropriate. In such circumstances, this methodology would be appropriately adapted for these purposes.*

Considerations

- 4.21. Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' suggests factors should be considered when determining the development potential of sites promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development. These are:
- a. The need to make the most efficient use of land.
 - b. Evidence gathered through the call for sites process.
 - c. The distinction between gross and net site areas.
 - d. The potential to use indicative density multipliers - for example size and location, based on existing densities or consideration of what an appropriate density could be in the future.
 - e. Adopted or emerging policies, for instance relating to density, car parking, design, green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain.
 - f. Commercial viability.
 - g. Site specific opportunities.

Development Potential in Shropshire

- 4.22. Reflecting the Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, a two stage approach will be utilised to determine development potential.
- 4.23. Initially, development potential will be calculated using standard assumptions on net site areas and site density, informed by recognition of the need to make efficient use of land, evidence gathered through the call for sites process, recognition of the distinction between gross and net site areas, the value of indicative density multipliers, current understanding of current and emerging policy (locally and nationally), viability considerations, and the characteristics of Shropshire.

4.24. These standard assumptions may then be refined where a site is identified as a proposed allocation in Stages 3 and 4 of this assessment.

Initial Assessment

4.25. The standard assumptions applied to calculate the initial development potential of sites promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development are summarised in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: Calculation of Site Capacity

Type of Development	Calculation of Net Site Area	Net Capacity
Residential-Led	<p><i>Up to 1ha: 100% of gross site area.</i></p> <p><i>Up to 3ha (but more than 1ha): 80% of gross site area.</i></p> <p><i>Up to 25ha (but more than 3ha): 70% of gross site area.</i></p> <p><i>More than 25ha: 60% of gross site area.</i></p>	<p>35 dwellings per hectare in urban settlements or potential new settlements.</p> <p>25 dwellings per hectare in rural settlements.</p>
Employment-Led	35% of total site area.	

Refinement

4.26. Any refinement of a sites development potential (in circumstances where it is identified as a proposed allocation in Stages 3 and 4) will be informed by:

- a. Documentation submitted in relation to the site.
- b. Site specific characteristics and constraints.
- c. Relevant existing development schemes.
- d. Consideration of surrounding land uses and the users of this land.
- e. Consideration of the impact on surrounding constraints.
- f. Consideration of best practice and guidance on site densities.

Part A: Initial Assessment

4.27. **Part A: Initial Assessment** is a technical and high-level strategic assessment of the suitability (including through the SEA of sites), availability, and achievability (including viability) of sites promoted for housing-led development or employment-led development. This assessment will culminate in a conclusion on whether a site proceeds to **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.

- 4.28. *Sites for other purposes will be assessed where it is determined that allocations for these purposes are necessary and appropriate. In such circumstances, this methodology would be appropriately adapted for these purposes.*
- 4.29. As this is an initial assessment, further constraints and opportunities associated with each site may become apparent as they progress through the assessment process.
- 4.30. Part A: Initial Assessment will not identify draft allocations and will not be sufficient, in isolation, to identify the constraints and opportunities present to support the determination of a planning application for proposed development of a site.

High-Level Assessment of Suitability

- 4.31. Suitability is the consideration of whether a site will provide an appropriate location for development, when considered against relevant constraints and their potential to be mitigated.
- 4.32. Determination of high-level suitability will be informed by a range of factors, including:
- a. The character of the site, including any existing use(s).
 - b. The nature of site boundaries - type and clarity.
 - c. The site location and surroundings - adjoining use(s).
 - d. Proximity and relationship to the built form of a settlement.
 - e. Connectivity to key services and facilities using the Government's Connectivity Tool (<https://connectivity-tool-lite.dft.gov.uk/index>). This considers access by walking, cycling and public transport to key services and facilities including those for education, healthcare, leisure and community uses, shopping, employment and residential.
 - f. High-level identification and assessment of planning and legal objectives and constraints:
 - i. Consistency with the spatial strategy of the adopted Development Plan.
 - ii. Alignment with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.
 - iii. Whether the site is located in the Green Belt.
 - iv. Whether the site is located in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.
 - v. Known legal covenants affecting the site.

- g. High-level identification and assessment of physical constraints:
 - i. Site topography and ground conditions.
 - ii. Ability to gain vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access to the site.
 - iii. Whether the site is crossed by a public right of way.
 - iv. Whether the site has overhead or underground infrastructure, such as pylons, water/gas pipes and electricity cables which may impact on development/levels of development.
 - v. Whether the site contains or adjoins a main river, identified ordinary watercourse or identified culvert.
 - vi. Flood risk to the site or immediate access – rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers, historic flood events and flood defences.
 - vii. Located in an aquifer or source protection zone for groundwater.
 - viii. Whether the site contains existing public open space.
 - ix. Landscape and visual sensitivity.
 - x. If relevant, agricultural land quality of the site.
 - xi. Whether the site contains peat soils.
 - xii. Whether the site is in a mineral safeguarding area or coal authority consultation area.
 - xiii. Risk of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour) or contamination on the site.
 - xiv. Air quality management areas.
- h. Conclusions of the SEA of sites.
- i. High-level identification and assessment of the effects on natural environment assets:
 - i. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) – all or part contained on site or within 2km.
 - ii. Ramsar Sites – all or part contained on site or within 2km.
 - iii. National Nature Reserves (NNR's) – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - iv. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) – all or part contained on site, it's impact risk zone (where identified) or within 500m.
 - v. Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) – all or part contained on site or within 100m.
 - vi. Ancient Woodland – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - vii. Potential Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity³ – all or part contained on site or within 250m.

³ As identified within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

- viii. Local Wildlife Sites or Regional Geological and Geomorphological Sites – all or part contained on site or within 250m.
- ix. Veteran Trees or Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders – located on site or within 30m.
- j. High-level identification and assessment of the effects on built and historic environment assets:
 - i. World Heritage Sites or their designated buffers – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - ii. Scheduled Monuments – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - iii. Registered Battlefields – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - iv. Registered Parks or Gardens – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - v. Conservation Areas – all or part contained on site or within 500m.
 - vi. Listed Buildings – all or part contained on site or within 500m.

4.33. *The use of 'defined distances' to natural, built and historic environment assets constitutes a starting point for the identification and consideration of assets that may be affected by development. This approach is considered proportionate for this **Part A: Initial Assessment** and responsive to the iterative site assessment process.*

4.34. **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will entail a more comprehensive identification and consideration which will not be limited to assets in 'defined distances'.

4.35. *For natural environment assets, this will be undertaken using a 'source-pathway-receptor' approach to consider potential effects on the integrity of natural environment assets, through review by ecology and arboricultural officers.*

4.36. *For built and historic environment assets, this will be undertaken using a four stage process: identification of on and off-site assets and their settings that could be affected; determine the contribution the site (in current form) makes to these assets and their settings; Determine the impact(s) development of the site could have on these assets and their settings; and explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to these assets and their settings, through review by heritage officers.*

4.37. Informed by these factors, the **Part A: Initial Assessment** will reach a high-level conclusion on the suitability of the site.

4.38. The options for this high-level conclusion will be as follows:

a. **Suitable – subject to further detailed assessment.** Where all of the following apply:

- Clear site boundaries could be established (through visible elements such as natural features such as rivers, site topography or hedgerows, and/or development features such as roads or property curtilages) and the proposed use or mix of uses could be appropriate on the site and in its setting.
- The site is generally accessible to services and facilities, or there could be potential to appropriately enhance access to services and facilities*.
- There are no known high-level legal, policy, physical, natural environment, historic environment, built environment, or other constraints that will prevent development for the relevant use or mix of uses, or these constraints could potentially be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation**.

b. **Not Currently Suitable - further detailed assessment required.** Where all of the following apply:

- Clear site boundaries could be established (through visible elements such as natural features such as rivers, site topography or hedgerows, and/or development features such as roads or property curtilages) and the proposed use or mix of uses could be appropriate on the site and in its setting, if facilitated by the next Local Plan.
- The site is generally accessible to services and facilities, or there could be potential to appropriately enhance access to services and facilities*.
- The proposed use or mix of uses on the site is not consistent with the spatial strategy of the adopted Development Plan; but if facilitated by the next Local Plan they could align with the distribution of development proposed in the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.
- There are no known high-level legal, policy, physical, natural environment, historic environment, built environment, or other constraints that will prevent development for the relevant use or mix of uses, or these constraints could potentially be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation**.

c. **Not Suitable.** Where one or more of the following apply:

- The proposed use or mix of uses on the site are not consistent with the spatial strategy of the adopted Development Plan and will not align with the distribution of development proposed in the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan (which will be informed by existing and the potential to enhance connectivity to services and facilities*).
- There are known high-level legal, policy, physical, natural environment, historic environment, built environment, or other constraints (informed by the ability to establish appropriate site boundaries and whether the proposed use or mix of uses could be appropriate on the site and in its setting) that will prevent residential-led development or employment-led development and it is considered these constraints could not be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation.
 - Significant legal/policy constraints which it is considered could not be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation include circumstances where the site does not align with the distribution of development proposed in the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan; where the site is located within the Green Belt (including Grey Belt) or the Shropshire Hills National Landscape; and where the site is subject to legal covenants restricting development for the proposed use or mix of uses.
 - Significant physical constraints which it is considered could not be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation will include circumstances where the site is landlocked (cannot be accessed); where the site is some distance from the built form (unless this distance is formed from other relevant site promotions or it could represent a potential strategic site/use appropriate to such a location); where the majority of the site is in river flood zones 2 and/or 3 or can only be appropriately accessed through river flood zones 2 and/or 3; where the majority of the site forms identified open space; or where the site has a severely adverse topography.
 - Significant natural environment constraints include where the majority of the site has been identified as a natural environment asset– unless there is potential for the asset to be positively integrated into the development.
 - Significant built and historic environment constraints include where the majority of the site has been identified as a built or heritage asset – unless there is potential for the asset to be positively integrated into the development.

Suitable access to services and facilities will vary between different uses. As this is a high-level assessment, where sites are subject to known limitations on access to services and facilities, but it is considered access could potentially be appropriately enhanced (through either additional provision or appropriate enhancement to access links), this will be reflected in the suitability conclusion. However, further detailed consideration within **Part B: Detailed Assessment will be required to confirm if such enhancements are appropriate, effective, achievable, and any implications on the overall developable area.*

***As this is a high-level assessment, where sites are subject to known constraints which it is considered could potentially be appropriately mitigated, this will be reflected in the suitability conclusion. However, further detailed consideration within **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will be required to confirm if such mitigation is appropriate, effective, and any implications on the overall developable area. Due to the high-level strategic approach to this Step of the site assessment process, it will not include sequential/exception flood risk and associated mitigation considerations. As such, sites predominantly in river flood zones 2 and/or 3 or directly accessed through river flood zones 2 and/or 3 will be classified as '**Not Suitable**'.*

High-Level Assessment of Availability

- 4.39. Availability is the consideration of whether a site is believed to be available or likely to become available for a particular form of development.
- 4.40. A site will be considered available or likely to become available for residential-led development or employment-led development, when, on the best information (confirmed by the call for sites, information from site promoters, or legal searches where appropriate), there is confidence that no legal or ownership impediments prevent the development of the site. This includes:
 - a. Where the site is actively promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development during the 'Call for Sites' or invitation to promote sites exercises.
 - b. Where the site is actively promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development during preparation of the next Local Plan or associated evidence.
 - c. Where there had been a Planning Application submitted in the last five years for residential-led development or employment-led

development but was unsuccessful for issues that may be resolved or was successful but has since lapsed on a site which remains viable for development.

4.41. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** will reach a high-level conclusion on the availability of the site comprising one of the following:

- a. **Available.**
- b. **Not Currently But Likely To Become Available.**
- c. **Availability Unknown.**
- d. **Not Available.**

High-Level Assessment of Achievability (including Viability)

4.42. Achievability is the consideration of whether there is a reasonable prospect that a particular form of development will occur on the site at a particular point in time. This is essentially a judgement about the economic viability of a site and the capacity of a developer to complete the development over a certain period.

4.43. This high-level assessment will consider the reasonable prospect for residential-led development or employment-led development to occur on the site at a particular point in time. This includes:

- a. Where the site is actively promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development during the 'Call for Sites' or invitation to promote sites exercises.
- b. Where the site is actively promoted for residential-led development or employment-led development during the preparation of the next Local Plan or associated evidence.
- c. Where there had been a Planning Application submitted in the last five years for residential-led development or employment-led development but was unsuccessful for issues that may be resolved or was successful but has since lapsed on a site which remains viable for development.

4.44. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** will reach a high-level conclusion on the achievability and viability of the site comprising one of the following:

- a. **Achievable and Viable.**
- b. **Achievability and Viability Unknown.**
- c. **Not Achievable and Viable.**

Conclusion: Filtering Sites out of the Assessment Process

4.45. Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, **Part A: Initial Assessment** will culminate in an overarching conclusion on whether a site proceeds to **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.

4.46. The options for this high-level conclusion are:

- a. *Accepted - Subject to Further Detailed Assessment*. For completeness, such sites will proceed to **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.
- b. *Consider Further Through Site Assessment Process*. Such sites will proceed to **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.
- c. *Filtered Out*. Such sites will not proceed to **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.

4.47. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** conclusions regarding suitability, availability and achievability (including viability) will determine which of these conclusions is appropriate for each site.

4.48. Specifically, a site will be '*Accepted - Subject to Further Detailed Assessment*' where the **Part A: Initial Assessment** concludes it is:

- a. Of an appropriate size to be allocated in the Local Plan.
- b. Suitable for the relevant form of development - subject to further detailed assessment.
- c. Available or likely to become available for the relevant form of development.
- d. Achievable and viable for the relevant form of development.

4.49. To determine whether remaining sites will be '*Considered Further Through Site Assessment Process*' or '*Filtered Out*', five indicators from the conclusions of the **Part A: Initial Assessment** will be applied. These are:

- a. Size of each site.
- b. Alignment with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.
- c. High-level suitability of each site.
- d. High-level availability of each site.
- e. High-level achievability and viability of each site.

Size

- 4.50. Shropshire Council recognises the important contribution small and medium sized sites can make to meeting housing and employment needs and that such sites traditionally represent a significant component of sites that arise in Shropshire.
- 4.51. However, the Council considers a minimum size threshold is important for allocations. This is because very small sites are considered inappropriate to allocate in the next Local Plan and where they are appropriate for development this is more effectively facilitated through other mechanisms.

- 4.52. Very small sites (unless there is potential for allocation as part of a wider site) will be '*Filtered Out*'. In this context, very small sites will consist of:
- a. Sites of less than 0.2ha in rural settlements that align with the distribution of development proposed in the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan, unless there is potential for allocation as part of a wider site which in combination exceed 0.2ha size.
 - b. Sites of less than 0.2ha in urban settlements within/partly within the Green Belt or Shropshire Hills National Landscape, unless there is potential for allocation as part of a wider site which in combination exceed 0.2ha size.
 - c. Sites of less than 0.5ha in other urban settlements, unless there is potential for allocation as part of a wider site which in combination exceed 0.5ha size.

Strategic Alignment

- 4.53. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** will consider the alignment of each site with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.

4.54. If a site is in a location that does not align with the distribution of development proposed in the emerging spatial strategy of the next Local Plan it would not support achievement of the emerging vision, objectives, or spatial strategy.

4.55. Generally this applies to sites not associated with a 'settlement' as identified within the Community Hierarchy. The exception will be circumstances where the site could represent a potential strategic site.

4.56. Such sites are unsuitable for allocation and as such will be '*Filtered Out*'.

High-Level Suitability

4.57. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** of suitability will identify sites which are 'Not Suitable' for development due to the existence of known high-level legal, policy, physical, natural environment, historic environment, built environment, or other constraints that will prevent development for housing-led development or employment-led development and it is considered these constraints could not be suitably overcome through appropriate mitigation.

4.58. Sites identified as 'Not Suitable' for development will generally be '*Filtered Out*'.

4.59. Exceptions exist where the site is deemed 'Not Suitable' due to its location within the Green Belt, location within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, and/or all immediate access point(s) being located in flood zones 2 and/or 3. These are exceptions as their consideration extends beyond the scope of the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

Specifically:

- a. For sites located in the Green Belt to be considered suitable there is generally an expectation that exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Consideration of whether this is the case cannot be undertaken in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.
- b. For sites located in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape to be considered suitable, a decision on whether it constitutes major development and if so whether exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated is required. This process cannot be undertaken in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.
- c. For sites where all immediate access points are through Flood Zones 2 and/or 3, to be considered suitable it must be informed by sequential and/or exception test, demonstrated that appropriate mitigation is possible, and demonstrated that development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. This process cannot be undertaken in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

4.60. Therefore, unless '*Filtered Out*' for other reasons, sites affected by these exceptions will be '*Considered Further Through the Site Assessment Process*' to allow the implications of these constraints to be considered in the **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.

Availability

4.61. As part of the high-level assessment of availability, the **Part A: Initial Assessment** will determine whether a site is available – this is a key consideration when establishing whether sites are deliverable or developable. If a site is not currently available or not likely to become available for housing-led development or employment-led development then it is very unlikely to be developed for these purposes and is therefore an unsuitable allocation for them.

4.62. Sites without sufficient certainty regarding availability for housing-led development or employment-led development will be '*Filtered Out*'.

4.63. In this context, sites without sufficient certainty regarding availability will consist of:

- a. Those identified as 'Availability Unknown' for housing-led development or employment-led development in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.
- b. Those identified as 'Not Available' for housing-led development or employment-led development in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

Achievability & Viability

4.64. As part of the high-level assessment of achievability (including viability), the **Part A: Initial Assessment** will determine whether there is a reasonable prospect for housing-led development or employment-led development to occur on the site, at a particular point in time. If the achievability and viability of a site for housing-led development or employment-led development is unknown or it is considered that housing-led development or employment-led development is not achievable and/or not viable it is unlikely to be developed for these purposes and is therefore an unsuitable allocation for them.

4.65. Sites without sufficient certainty regarding achievability (including viability) for housing-led development or employment-led development will be '*Filtered Out*'.

4.66. In this context, sites without sufficient certainty regarding achievability (including viability) will consist of:

- a. Those identified as 'Achievability and Viability Unknown' for housing-led development or employment-led development in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.
- b. Those identified as 'Not Achievable and Viable' for housing-led development or employment-led development in the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

Part B: Detailed Assessment

- 4.67. **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will provide a thorough analysis of those sites which the **Part A: Initial Assessment** concluded should proceed to this more detailed assessment.
- 4.68. The 'starting point' for the analysis in **Part B: Detailed Assessment** is the initial assessment of suitability, availability and achievability (including viability) of sites within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**. This approach reflects the iterative approach to site assessment and ensures the conclusions of the SEA of sites (incorporated into the **Part A: Initial Assessment**) directly informs the **Part B: Detailed Assessment**.
- 4.69. This detailed analysis will involve specialist input from relevant Council Services and information from the wider evidence base that will inform the next Local Plan.
- 4.70. Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development', local circumstances and to support transparency 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) ratings will be utilised:
- a. When considering factors that affect site suitability.
 - b. To summarise the suitability, availability and achievability of a site.
 - c. To illustrate the overall score of the site.

Detailed Assessment of Suitability

- 4.71. The **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will involve a comprehensive assessment of site suitability, through consideration of:
- a. The characteristics of the site, including any existing use(s), adjoining use(s), and site boundaries.
 - b. The sites proximity and relationship to the built form.
 - c. Alignment with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.
 - d. Connectivity to key services and facilities using Government's Connectivity Tool.
 - e. Whether the site is located within the Green Belt. If so, performance of Green Belt, whether it is Grey Belt, and the potential for harm to the remaining Green Belt within the plan area if the site is released.
 - f. Whether the site is located within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.
 - g. Legal covenants affecting the site.

- k. Physical constraints.
- l. Conclusions of the SEA of sites.
- m. Natural environment assets affected.
- n. Built and historic environment assets and settings affected.
- o. Services, facilities and infrastructure requirements and opportunities, informed by existing accessibility and capacity.
- p. Strategic considerations.

4.72. For each suitability consideration, where relevant opportunities, for management of identified constraints and/or enhancement will also be considered and summarised.

Summarising Suitability Considerations

4.73. To support the transparency of this comprehensive assessment of a sites suitability, 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) ratings will be assigned across each of these considerations. The intention of these ratings is to provide a simple and visual indication of the 'performance' of a site.

4.74. The RAG rating against each consideration will generally be interpreted as follows:

Red	-Development of the site will require significant supporting management and/or mitigation.
Amber	-Development of the site will require some supporting management and/or mitigation.
Green	-Development of the site will be unlikely to require supporting management and/or mitigation.

4.75. Importantly, it should be noted that whilst a 'Red' rating might relate to an insurmountable constraint which prevents development of a site, in general neither an 'Amber' nor a 'Red' rating necessarily preclude development or prevent a site being identified as a proposed allocation. Rather, the 'Amber' and 'Red' ratings are intended to indicate key considerations for a site, which if it is identified as a proposed allocation would need to be addressed through appropriate mitigation.

4.76. Furthermore, it will not be appropriate to 'sum' the RAG ratings to give a 'total' rating for the *suitability conclusion*, as each consideration is unique and its implications for the potential development of a site requires individual consideration. For example:

- a. Whilst a site having a smaller number of 'Amber' or 'Red' ratings than others could indicate it is more suitable, this is not necessarily the case where one relates to an insurmountable issue.

b. Conversely, whilst a site having a larger number of 'Amber' or 'Red' ratings than others could indicate it is less suitable, this is not necessarily the case where all constraints could be suitably mitigated and it offers wider 'benefits or opportunities'.

4.77. Also to support transparency, for each suitability consideration, opportunities for management of identified constraints and/or enhancement will be identified within a short qualitative summary.

4.78. The following sections summarise the approach to the comprehensive assessment of each consideration and the associated approach to their RAG rating and summary of opportunities for management of identified constraints and/or enhancement.

Characteristics of the Site

4.79. The detailed assessment of the characteristics of a site will 'draw' upon the high-level assessment undertaken within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**. In particular, the high-level assessment of site character, the nature of site boundaries, and the site location and surroundings.

4.80. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site Characteristics:

Red	-Mixed site (significant greenfield and brownfield components) with unclear site boundaries; or -Predominantly greenfield site with unclear site boundaries.
Amber	-Predominantly brownfield site with unclear site boundaries; or -Mixed site (significant greenfield and brownfield components) with in the main clearly defined site boundaries; or -Predominantly greenfield site with generally clearly defined site boundaries.
Green	-Predominantly brownfield site with generally clearly defined site boundaries.

Site Proximity and Relationship to Built Form

4.81. The detailed assessment of the proximity and relationship of a site to the 'core' built form of a settlement will 'draw' upon the high-level assessment undertaken within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

4.82. In determining the 'core' built form of a settlement, consideration will be given to existing settlement development boundaries (where available), settlement character and local distinctiveness, and the characteristics of the relevant settlement – for instance whether it has a nucleated or dispersed character and whether it has a linear or complex pattern of buildings.

4.83. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site Proximity and Relationship to Built Form:

Red	-Site is some distance from the 'core' built form of the relevant settlement, separated by other land not promoted for development.
Amber	-Site is in close proximity to the 'core' built form of the relevant settlement; or -Site is separated from the 'core' built form of the relevant settlement only by land promoted for development.
Green	-Site is within the 'core' built form of the relevant settlement; or -Site immediately adjoins the 'core' built form of the relevant settlement.

Alignment with Emerging Vision, Objectives, and Spatial Strategy for the Distribution of Development in the Next Local Plan

4.84. The conclusion to the **Part A: Initial Assessment** involved consideration of the alignment with the emerging vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.

4.85. The **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will give further consideration to this alignment, with a particular focus on the sites potential to align with and support the achievement of the emerging spatial strategy for the distribution of development in the next Local Plan.

4.86. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site Alignment with Vision, Objectives and Spatial Strategy:

Red	-Consider the site development <u>will not</u> align with or support achievement of the emerging spatial strategy for the distribution of development which seeks to deliver sustainable development through a 'sound' Local Plan.
Amber	-Consider the site development <u>may</u> align with and support achievement of the emerging spatial strategy for the distribution of development which seeks to deliver sustainable development through a 'sound' Local Plan.
Green	-Consider the site development <u>will</u> align with and support achievement of the emerging spatial strategy for the distribution of development which seeks to deliver sustainable development through a 'sound' Local Plan.

Connectivity to Services

4.87. The detailed assessment of a sites connectivity to services will 'draw' on the high-level assessment of access to services within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**, undertaken using the Government's Connectivity Tool.

4.88. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site Connectivity:

Red	-Sites highest Local Authority Band connectivity score is within the lower ranges for the Connectivity Tool (G-J).
Amber	-Sites highest Local Authority Band connectivity score is within the median ranges for the Connectivity Tool (D-F).
Green	-Sites highest Local Authority Band connectivity score is within the upper ranges for the Connectivity Tool (A-C).

4.89. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Connectivity:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Green Belt

4.90. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** will identify those sites located within the Green Belt. Where this is the case for a site, further detailed analysis in the **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will establish whether this could enable the development of land around a railway station (and if so whether this railway station is located in a top 60 Travel to Work Area in England by Gross Value Added (GVA) and in the normal weekday timetable is served throughout the daytime by four trains per hour or two trains per hour in any one direction), the performance of the relevant Green Belt, whether it meets the definition of Grey Belt, and any potential harm to the remaining Green Belt within the plan area if a site were to be released for development.

4.91. This analysis will be directly informed by the conclusions of the Green Belt Study for Shropshire – which aligns with national policy and guidance on Green Belt (including that regarding the identification and approach to Grey Belt land).

4.92. The Council recognises that before concluding land should be released from the Green Belt (including that classified as Grey Belt) there is a need to consider whether it would enable the development of land around stations or whether having examined all other reasonable options that exceptional circumstance exist.

4.93. This Site Assessment process facilitates this consideration of all reasonable alternatives and will inform decisions on whether exceptional circumstances exist for the release of land from the Green Belt in Shropshire.

4.94. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site Green Belt Status:

Red	-Site is located in the Green Belt and does not meet the Grey Belt definition; or -Site is located in the Green Belt and does meet the definition of Grey Belt, but it is considered its release from the Green Belt for development will fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan.
Amber	-Site is located in the Green Belt and does meet the Grey Belt definition and whilst there may be harm to the Green Belt if it is released for development this will not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan.
Green	-Site is not located within the Green Belt.

4.95. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Green Belt Status:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

National Landscape

4.96. The **Part A: Initial Assessment** will identify those sites located within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Where this is the case for a site, further detailed analysis in the **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will consider potential harm to the National Landscape if a site were to be developed.

4.97. This analysis will be directly informed by consideration of the purposes for which the National Landscape was designated and the objectives of the latest Management Plan.

4.98. The Council recognises that it is necessary to demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist and that it is in the public interest for major development within National Landscapes. This Site Assessment process will inform decisions on whether such exceptional circumstances and public interest exist.

4.99. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Site National Landscape Status:

Red	-Site is located in the National Landscape and of a size that means development will likely constitute major development.
Amber	-Site is located in the National Landscape but not of a size that means development will likely constitute major development.
Green	-Site is not located within the National Landscape.

4.100. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site National Landscape Status:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Legal Constraints

4.101. The detailed assessment of legal constraints to development of a site proposed for residential-led development or employment-led development will 'draw' on the high-level assessment undertaken within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

4.102. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Sites Known Legal Constraints:

Red	-Known legal constraint(s) exist which are considered will restrict the development of the site for residential-led development or employment-led development.
Amber	-Known legal constraint(s) exist, but it is considered they will not restrict the development of the site for residential-led development or employment-led development.
Green	-No known legal constraint(s) to development of site exist for residential-led development or employment-led development.

4.103. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Known Legal Constraints:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:

Opportunities for enhancement:

Physical Constraints

4.104. Physical constraints to be considered through this comprehensive assessment include:

- a. Site topography and ground conditions.
- b. Ability to gain vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access to the site.
- c. Ability of the highway network to accommodate traffic associated with the site.
- d. Whether the site is crossed by a public right of way.
- e. Whether the site has overhead or underground infrastructure, such as pylons, water/gas pipes and electricity cables which may impact on development/levels of development.
- f. Whether the site contains or adjoins a main river, identified ordinary watercourse or identified culvert.
- g. Flood risk to the site or immediate access – rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers, historic flood event, and flood defences.
- h. Located in an aquifer or source protection zone for groundwater.
 - i. Whether the site contains existing public open space.
 - j. Landscape and visual sensitivity.
- k. If relevant, agricultural land quality of the site.
 - l. Whether the site contains peat soils.
- m. Whether the site is in a mineral safeguarding area or coal authority consultation area.
- n. Risk of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour) or contamination on the site.
- o. Air quality management areas.

4.105. A two-Step process will be utilised to identify and assess physical constraints to a site:

- 1. Identify physical constraints to the development of the site or constraints caused by the development of the site which could impact

on the wider area. This will be informed by the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.

2. Explore opportunities to manage identified physical constraints and through this achieve enhancement of the site and its surroundings.
- 4.106. To support this two-Step process, specialist input will be secured from the following Council Services:
- a. Highway Planning: Regarding the ability to achieve an appropriate access to the site, ability for the highway network to accommodate traffic associated with the site (including the strategic highway network managed by National Highways where relevant), initial consideration of necessity of mitigation, and views on whether any mitigation initially considered necessary could be achievable and viable.
 - b. Public Protection: Regarding risk of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour), on-site contamination, and air quality management areas.
- 4.107. Furthermore, the conclusions of key evidence base assessments will also support this two-Step process. This includes the:
- a. Shropshire Landscape Typology.
 - b. Shropshire Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment.
 - c. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
 - d. Open Space Assessment.
 - e. Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- 4.108. A RAG rating will be assigned to each of the listed potential physical constraints as follows:

Site Physical Constraint – Topography:

Red	-Adverse topography - significant grading earthworks and/or supporting mitigation will be required, which may be disproportionate; or -Adverse topography for which grading and earthworks are unachievable.
Amber	-Topography is gently sloping or undulating such that more than minimal but less than significant grading earthworks and/or supporting mitigation will be required.
Green	-Relatively flat topography with no grading earthworks and/or supporting mitigation. -Relatively flat topography with only minimal grading earthworks and/or supporting mitigation required.

Site Physical Constraint – Access:

Red	-Direct and safe access onto highway network is achievable and can be maintained but only with significant enabling works and/or supporting mitigation, which may be disproportionate; or -Direct access onto highway network cannot be achieved.
Amber	-Direct and safe access onto highway network is achievable and can be maintained, with more than minimal but less than significant enabling works and/or supporting mitigation.
Green	-Existing direct and safe access onto highway network is present and can be maintained; or -Direct and safe access onto highway network achievable and can be maintained with minimal enabling works and/or supporting mitigation.

Site Physical Constraint – Highway Network:

Red	-Existing highway network at access point(s) likely to be unsuitable for the traffic associated with development, without significant enabling works and/or supporting mitigation, which may be disproportionate or unviable; or -Existing highway network at access point(s) likely to be unsuitable for traffic associated with development and could not be made so with enabling work and/or supporting mitigation.
Amber	-Existing highway network at access point(s) likely to be unsuitable for traffic associated with development, but could be made suitable with more than minimal but less than significant enabling works and/or supporting mitigation.
Green	-Existing highway network at access point(s) likely to be suitable for traffic associated with development; or -Existing highway network at access point(s) likely to be unsuitable for traffic associated with development, but could be made suitable with minimal enabling works and/or supporting mitigation.

Site Physical Constraint – Public Right of Way:

Red	-Public rights of way covering 50% or more of the site.
Amber	-Public rights of way within the site.
Green	-No public rights of way within the site.

Site Physical Constraint – Overhead or Underground Infrastructure:

Red	-Overhead or underground infrastructure located on site and considered to 'sterilise' the development of more than 50% of site – either directly or through associated easements.
Amber	-Overhead or underground infrastructure located on site and considered to 'sterilise' the development of 50% or less of the site – either directly or through associated easements.
Green	-No known overhead or underground infrastructure on site.

Site Physical Constraint – Main River, Ordinary Watercourse or Culvert:

Red	-Site includes the central line of a main river, identified ordinary watercourse or identified culvert.
Amber	-Site within 20m of the central line of a main river or identified ordinary watercourse.
Green	-Site does not contain and is not within 20m of the central line of a main river or identified ordinary watercourse.

Site Physical Constraint – River Flood Risk:

Red	-More than 50% of site in river flood zones 2 and/or 3; or -All potential immediate access(es) to site through river flood zones 2 and/or 3.
Amber	-50% or less of total site area located in river flood zones 2 and/or 3, and one or more potential immediate access points in river flood zone 1.
Green	-Site and one or more potential immediate access(es) entirely in river flood zone 1.

Site Physical Constraint – Non River Flood Risk (Surface Water, Groundwater and Sewers):

Red	-More than 50% of site in a non-river flood risk zone; or -All potential immediate access(es) to site through non-river flood risk zone.
Amber	-50% or less of site located in non-river flood risk zone, and one or more potential immediate access points outside the non-river flood risk zone.
Green	-Site and one or more potential immediate access(es) out of the non-river flood risk zone.

Site Physical Constraint – Historic Flood Events:

Red	-More than 50% of site located within an area recorded by the Environment Agency as subject to an historic flood event that meets there set criteria.
Amber	-50% or less of site located within an area recorded by the Environment Agency as subject to an historic flood event that meets there set criteria.
Green	-Site not located within an area recorded by the Environment Agency as subject to an historic flood event that meets there set criteria.

Site Physical Constraint – Flood Defence:

Red	-More than 50% of site benefits from flood defences currently owned, managed or inspected by the Environment Agency.
Amber	-50% or less of site benefits from flood defences currently owned, managed or inspected by the Environment Agency.
Green	-Site does not benefit from flood defences currently owned, managed or inspected by the Environment Agency.

Site Physical Constraint – Aquifer and Source Protection Zones:

Red	-More than 50% of site within a Principal or Secondary (A) Aquifer or Source Protection Zone 1.
Amber	-50% or less of site within a Principal or Secondary (A) Aquifer or Source Protection Zone 1; or -More than 50% of site in Source Protection Zones 2 or 3.
Green	-Site not located within a Principal or Secondary (A) Aquifer or Source Protection Zone; or -50% or less of site in Source Protection Zones 2 or 3 (unless any part of site is located in Source Protection Zone 1).

Site Physical Constraint – Open Space:

Red	-More than 50% of site consists of designated open space.
Amber	-50% or less of site consists of designated open space.
Green	-None of site consists of designated open space.

Site Physical Constraint – Landscape and Visual Sensitivity:

Red	-More than 50% of site located in a landscape parcel with very high or high landscape or visual sensitivity for residential-led or employment-led development.
Amber	-50% or less of site located in a landscape parcel with very high or high landscape or visual sensitivity for residential-led or employment-led development; or -More than 50% of site located in a landscape parcel with medium-high landscape or visual sensitivity for residential-led or employment-led development; or -No specific landscape or visual sensitivity assessment available.
Green	-All of site located within a landscape parcel with medium, medium-low or low landscape or visual sensitivity for residential-led or employment-led development; or -50% or less of site located within a landscape parcel with medium-high landscape or visual sensitivity for relevant use or mix of uses (unless any part of the site is located in very high or high landscape or visual sensitivity for relevant use or mix of uses).

Site Physical Constraint – Agricultural Land Quality:

Red	-More than 50% of site consists of grades 1 or 2 agricultural land quality.
Amber	-50% or less of site consists of grades 1 or 2 agricultural land quality; or -More than 50% of site consists of grade 3 agricultural land quality.
Green	-Site consists entirely of grades 4, 5, non-agricultural and/or urban agricultural land quality; or -50% or less of site consists of grade 3 agricultural land quality (unless any part of the site consists of grades 1 or 2 agricultural land quality).

Site Physical Constraint – Peat Soils:

Red	-More than 50% of site consists of identified peat soils.
Amber	-50% or less of site consists of identified peat soils.
Green	-Site does not contain identified peat soils.

Site Physical Constraint – Mineral Safeguarding Area:

Red	-More than 50% of site located in a mineral safeguarding area.
Amber	-50% or less of site located in a mineral safeguarding area.
Green	-None of site located in a mineral safeguarding area.

Site Physical Constraint – Coal Authority Reference Area:

Red	-More than 50% of site located in a Coal Authority reference area.
Amber	-50% or less of site located in a Coal Authority reference area.
Green	-None of site located in a Coal Authority reference area.

Site Physical Constraint – Pollution:

Red	-Site adjoins potential source(s) of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour) such as an industrial site, landfill or sewage treatment works.
Amber	-All or part of site within 200m of potential source(s) of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour) such as an industrial site, landfill or sewage treatment works.
Green	-No known potential sources of pollution (including air, water, noise and odour) such as an industrial site, landfill or sewage treatment works within 200m of all or part of site.

Site Physical Constraint – Contaminated Land:

Red	-Known contamination of the land (including close/historic landfills) within the site.
Amber	-No known contaminated land (including close/historic landfills) within the site, but site history suggests there is reasonable potential for contaminated land on the site.
Green	-No known contaminated land (including close/historic landfills) within the site and site history does not suggest reasonable potential for contaminated land on site.

Site Physical Constraint – Air Quality Management Area:

Red	-All or part of site located in an Air Quality Management Area.
Amber	-All or part of site located within 200m of an Air Quality Management Area.
Green	-None of site located in or within 200m of an Air Quality Management Area.

4.109. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Physical Constraints:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Conclusions of the SEA of sites

4.110. The next Local Plan will be supported by SEA. This process will include the assessment of the reasonable options for allocations. The conclusions of this assessment will directly inform this Part B: Detailed Assessment, with an appropriate RAG rating assigned - responsive to these conclusions.

Natural Environment Assets and Settings

4.111. Natural environment assets to be considered through this comprehensive assessment include:

- a. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC’s).
- b. Ramsar Sites.
- c. National Nature Reserves (NNR’s).
- d. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) and their impact risk zone.

- e. Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).
- f. Ancient Woodland.
- g. Veteran Trees or Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders.
- h. Potential Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity⁴.
- i. Local Wildlife Sites or Regional Geological and Geomorphological Sites.
- j. Priority habitats and/or species.

4.112. A three-Step process will identify and assess natural environment assets which could be affected by development of a site:

1. Identify on-site and off-site natural environment assets that could be affected by development of a site, using a 'source-pathway-receptor' approach.
 - i. Identification of natural environment assets present on a site will be informed by the **Part A Initial Assessment**.
 - ii. Identification of other natural environment assets with potential to be affected by development of a site will also be informed by the **Part A Initial Assessment**, which uses 'defined distances' to identify assets in proximity of a site⁵.
 - iii. Identification of other natural environment assets with the potential to be affected by development of a site will be further complemented by the comprehensive consideration of environmental assets and the potential for development to impact upon them.
2. Determine the impact development of the site could have on any identified natural environment assets, using a 'source-pathway-receptor' approach.
3. Explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to any identified natural environment assets.

4.113. To support this three-Step process, specialist input will be secured from the following Council Services:

- a. Ecology: to identify natural environment assets on-site and off-site with the potential to be affected by development of the site; determine the impact(s) development of the site could have on any relevant natural environment assets; and explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to any relevant natural environment assets.
- b. Arboricultural Services: to identify trees, woodland, hedgerows and other such natural environment assets with the potential to be

⁴As identified within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

⁵The Council recognises the use of 'defined distances' to natural environment assets is only a starting point for identifying assets that may be affected by development.

affected by development; determine the impact(s) development of the site could have on such natural environment assets; and explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to such natural environment assets.

4.114. Furthermore, the conclusions of key evidence base assessments will also support this three-Step process. This could include:

- a. Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- b. Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- c. Environmental Networks Assessment and Guidance.
- d. Identification of sites within the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (which will be undertaken in accordance with best practice including Natural England’s Guidance on HRA assessment).
- e. River Clun Assessments.
- f. Shropshire Landscape Typology.
- g. Shropshire Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment.

4.115. A RAG rating will be assigned to each of the listed potential physical constraints as follows:

Natural Environment Asset – Special Areas of Conservation:

Red	-All or part of site within a Special Area of Conservation.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a Special Area of Conservation.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a Special Area of Conservation.

Natural Environment Asset – Ramsar Sites:

Red	-All or part of site within a Ramsar Site.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a Ramsar Site.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a Ramsar Site.

Natural Environment Asset – National Nature Reserves:

Red	-All or part of site within a National Nature Reserve.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a National Nature Reserve.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a National Nature Reserve.

Natural Environment Asset – Sites of Special Scientific Interest:

Red	-All or part of site within a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Amber	-All or part of site located in a Site of Special Scientific Interest impact risk zone; or -No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Green	-No part of site within a Site of Special Scientific Interest impact risk zone, and site is not considered to have potential to impact on a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Natural Environment Asset – Local Nature Reserves:

Red	-All or part of site within a Local Nature Reserve.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a Local Nature Reserve.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a Local Nature Reserve.

Natural Environment Asset – Ancient Woodland:

Red	-All or part of site contains Ancient Woodland.
Amber	-No part of site contains Ancient Woodland, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on it.
Green	-No part of site contains Ancient Woodland and it is not considered to have potential to impact on it.

Natural Environment Asset – Veteran Trees/Tree Preservation Orders:

Red	-All or part of site contains a veteran tree(s) or a tree(s) subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on a veteran tree(s) or a tree(s) subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a veteran tree(s) or a tree(s) subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Natural Environment Asset – Potential Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity:

Red	-More than 50% of site within area identified as potential area of particular importance for biodiversity within the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Amber	-Less than 50% of site within area identified as potential area of particular importance for biodiversity within the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Green	-No part of site within area identified as a potential area of particular importance for biodiversity within the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Natural Environment Asset – Local Wildlife Sites and Regional Geological and Geomorphological Sites:

Red	-All or part of site within a Local Wildlife Site or Regional Geological and Geomorphological Site.
Amber	-No part of site within, but without appropriate mitigation its development is considered to have potential to impact on, a Local Wildlife Site or Regional Geological and Geomorphological Site.
Green	-No part of site within and is not considered to have potential to impact on a Local Wildlife Site or Regional Geological and Geomorphological Site.

Natural Environment Asset – Priority Habitats and/or Species

Red	-Significant potential for priority habitats and/or species on sites.
Amber	-Some potential for priority habitats and/or species on sites.
Green	-Limited potential for priority habitats and/or species on sites.

4.116. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Natural Environment Considerations:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:

Opportunities for enhancement:

Built and Historic Environment Assets and Settings

4.117. Built and historic environment constraints to be considered through this comprehensive assessment include:

- a. World Heritage Sites and their designated buffers.
- b. Scheduled Monuments.
- c. Registered Battlefields.
- d. Registered Parks and Gardens.
- e. Conservation Areas.
- f. Listed Buildings.
- g. Non-designated heritage assets.
- h. Known or potential archaeological assets.

4.118. A four-Step process will be used to identify and assess built and historic environment assets which could be affected by development of a site:

1. Identify on-site and off-site built and historic environment assets and their settings that could be affected by development of a site.
 - i. Identification of built and historic environment assets and their settings present on a site will be informed by the **Part A Initial Assessment**.
 - ii. This will be complemented by further consideration of whether the site forms part of the setting of a built and historic environment asset, whether the site contains any non-designated heritage assets, whether the site is known to contain archaeological assets, and whether the site has the potential to contain archaeological assets.
 - iii. Identification of other built and historic environment assets and their settings with potential to be affected by development of a site will also be informed by the **Part A Initial Assessment**, which utilised 'defined distances' to identify assets in proximity of a site⁶.

⁶ The Council recognises use of 'defined distances' to built and historic environment assets and their settings constitutes only a starting point for the identification of assets that may be affected by development.

- iv. Identification of other built and historic environment assets and their settings with the potential to be affected by development of a site will be further complemented by the comprehensive consideration of all built and historic environment assets and their settings and the potential for development of a site to impact upon them.
2. Determine the contribution the site (in current form) makes to any identified built and historic environment assets and their settings that could be affected.
 3. Determine the impact(s) development of the site could have on any identified built and historic environment assets and their settings. In doing so, assessment will consider the significance of assets and their settings and how this significance may be affected by development.
 4. Explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to any identified built and historic environment assets and their settings.
- 4.119. To support this four-Step process, specialist input will be secured from the Council's Historic Environment Services to identify built and historic environment assets and their settings on-site and off-site with the potential to be affected by its development; determine the contribution the site (in its current form) makes to any relevant built and historic environment assets; determine the impact development of the site could have on any relevant built and historic environment assets; and explore opportunities to maximise enhancement and either avoid or minimise harm to any relevant built and historic environment assets.
- 4.120. Furthermore, the conclusions of key evidence base assessments will also support this two-Step process. This could include:
- a. Historic Environment Record.
 - b. Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project.
 - c. Historic Landscape Character Assessment.
 - d. Relevant Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
 - e. Relevant World Heritage Site Reports.
 - f. Shrewsbury Registered Battlefield Assessment.
 - g. Shropshire Landscape Typology.
 - h. Shropshire Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment.

4.121. A RAG rating will be assigned to each of the listed potential physical constraints as follows:

Built & Historic Environment Asset – World Heritage Sites:

Red	-All or part of site within a World Heritage Site or its 'designated buffer'.
Amber	-No part of site within a World Heritage Site or its 'designated buffer' but site considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the World Heritage Site and/or its setting.
Green	-No part of site within a World Heritage Site or its 'designated buffer' and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such development does not have potential to impact on a World Heritage Site or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Scheduled Monuments:

Red	-Site contains all or part of a Scheduled Monument.
Amber	-Site does not contain all or part of a Scheduled Monument but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Scheduled Monument and/or its setting.
Green	-Site does not contain all or part of a Scheduled Monument and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such development does not have potential to impact on a Scheduled Monument or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Registered Battlefields:

Red	-All or part of site within a Registered Battlefield.
Amber	-No part of site within a Registered Battlefield but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Registered Battlefield and/or its setting.
Green	-No part of site within a Registered Battlefield and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such development does not have potential to impact on a Registered Battlefield or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Registered Parks and Gardens:

Red	-All or part of site within a Registered Park or Garden.
Amber	-No part of site within a Registered Park or Garden but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Registered Park or Garden and/or its setting.
Green	-No part of site within a Registered Park or Garden and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such it does not have potential to impact on a Registered Park or Garden or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Conservation Areas:

Red	-All or part of site within a Conservation Area.
Amber	-No part of site within a Conservation Area but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Conservation Area and/or its setting.
Green	-No part of site within a Conservation Area and it is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such it does not have potential to impact on a Conservation Area or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Listed Buildings:

Red	-Site contains all or part of a Listed Building.
Amber	-Site does not contain all or part of a Listed Building but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Listed Building and/or its setting.
Green	-Site does not contain all or part of a Listed Building and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such it does not have potential to impact on a Listed Building or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Non-Designated Heritage Assets:

Red	-Site contains all or part of a Non-Designated Heritage Asset.
Amber	-Site does not contain all or part of a Non-Designated Heritage Asset but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on the Non-Designated Heritage Asset and/or its setting.
Green	-Site does not contain all or part of a Non-Designated Heritage Asset and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. As such it does not have potential to impact on a Non-Designated Heritage Asset or its setting.

Built & Historic Environment Asset – Archaeological Assets:

Red	-Site contains all or part of a known Archaeological Asset(s).
Amber	-Site does not contain all or part of a known Archaeological Asset(s) but makes a contribution (in current form) to its setting and without appropriate mitigation, development has potential to impact on Archaeological Asset(s) and/or its setting; or -Site considered to have potential to contain Archaeological Asset(s).
Green	-Site does not contain all or part of a known Archaeological Asset(s) and is not considered to make a contribution (in current form) to its setting. Furthermore, site is not considered to have potential to contain all or part of an Archaeological Asset(s). As such it is not considered to have the potential to impact on an Archaeological Asset(s) or its setting.

4.122. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Site Built and Historic Environment Considerations:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Infrastructure Requirements and Opportunities

- 4.123. The detailed assessment of each sites infrastructure (built and natural) requirements and opportunities will, in the first instance 'draw' on the high-level assessment of access to services undertaken using Government's Connectivity Tool within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**.
- 4.124. This will be complemented by the Council's understanding of infrastructure capacity and needs (on a settlement basis) through the Strategic Infrastructure and Investment Plan, Place Plans, and associated processes.
- 4.125. It will also be complemented by wider evidence such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy and engagement (on a settlement basis) with key strategic infrastructure providers including highways, health, and education.
- 4.126. Furthermore, the wider comprehensive assessment of site suitability is expected to identify infrastructure needs and opportunities. This includes assessment work undertaken by specialist services (Highways Planning, Public Protection, Ecology, Arboriculturists, and Historic Environment).
- 4.127. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Infrastructure Requirements:

Red	-Significant known additional infrastructure required to support development, with particular regard to highways, health and education.
Amber	-More than minimal but less than significant known additional infrastructure required to support development, with particular regard to highways, health and education.
Green	-None or only minimal known additional infrastructure required to support development, with particular regard to highways, health and education.

- 4.128. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Infrastructure Requirements:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Strategic Considerations

- 4.129. The detailed assessment of each sites suitability will include specific consideration and identification of any relevant strategic matters.
- 4.130. These strategic considerations may vary between settlements – recognising their differing characteristics, constraints and opportunities, and priorities.
- 4.131. They could be identified through a number of mechanisms, including assessment work undertaken by specialist services (Highways Planning, Public Protection, Ecology, Arboriculturists, and Historic Environment); and the findings of evidence base documents.
- 4.132. The RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Strategic Considerations:

Red	-Significant other negative strategic considerations.
Amber	-No significant other strategic considerations.
Green	-Significant other positive strategic considerations.

- 4.133. Where relevant, opportunities for management of identified constraints or enhancement will be summarised as follows:

Infrastructure Requirements:

Opportunities to manage identified constraints:	
Opportunities for enhancement:	

Summary

- 4.134. Recognising the many considerations that inform consideration of the suitability of a site, the detailed assessment of each sites suitability will include a summary of:
- The key considerations identified through the assessment process.
 - Opportunities for management of identified constraints.
 - Opportunities for enhancement.
- 4.135. This summary will support the identification of a conclusion on the suitability of the site.

Conclusion

- 4.136. Informed by the detailed assessment of suitability (underlying data and RAG ratings), opportunities for management of identified constraints and/or enhancement, the data underlying this assessment, and the resultant summary, the **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will reach a conclusion on the suitability of the site.
- 4.137. This conclusion will be expressed using a 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) rating. The intention of this rating is to provide a simple and visual indication of the 'suitability' of a site.
- 4.138. This RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Suitability Conclusion:

Red	-Site does not offer a suitable development location or there are known constraints which significantly impact development potential and cannot feasibly be overcome with mitigation.
Amber	-Site offers a potentially suitable location, but has constraints which may impact development potential, or -Site needs further assessment before it can be deemed suitable.
Green	-Site offers a suitable location for the land use, and any known constraints can be feasibly overcome with mitigation.

- 4.139. This suitability conclusion will inform the *overarching conclusion* to Stage 2: Assessment of Sites. It will also inform Stages 3 and 4 of the site identification and assessment, through which draft allocations within the next Local Plan are identified.

Detailed Assessment of Availability

- 4.140. The detailed assessment of availability will 'draw' significantly on the high-level assessment of availability undertaken within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**. Further consideration of information on availability will be required to provide confidence the site is available for the relevant use or mix of uses.
- 4.141. The **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will then reach a conclusion on the availability of the site, which will be expressed using a 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) rating. The intention of this rating is to provide a simple and visual indication of the 'availability' of a site.

4.142. This RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Availability Conclusion:

Red	-No reasonable prospect site could be available for development within the time envisioned.
Amber	-Site has legal or ownership issues considered capable of being resolved and it could be available for development in the envisioned timescale, or -Site needs further assessment before it can be deemed available.
Green	-Reasonable prospect site will be available for development within the time envisioned and there are no known legal or ownership issues.

4.143. Each site allocated a Green or Amber RAG rating will be assigned a five year timescale banding, indicating when it is expected delivery could commence. These bands are:

Years 0-5
Years 6-10
Years 11-15
Years 16 or beyond

4.144. Those sites allocated a Red RAG rating will not be assigned a five year timescale banding, rather they will be identified as:

'Not deliverable or developable within reasonable timescales'

4.145. The availability conclusion and availability banding will inform the *overarching conclusion* to Stage 2: Assessment of Sites. It will also inform Stages 3 and 4 of the site identification and assessment, through which draft allocations within the next Local Plan are identified.

Detailed Assessment of Achievability (including Viability)

4.146. The detailed assessment of achievability and viability will 'draw' on the high-level assessment of achievability and viability undertaken within the **Part A: Initial Assessment**. Further detailed assessment of the achievability and viability of comparable site typologies for most sites and specific consideration of the large-scale strategic sites (with capacity for 250 or more dwellings or 25ha or more of employment land) will be undertaken to inform this process.

4.147. The **Part B: Detailed Assessment** will reach a conclusion on the achievability and viability of the site informed by this analysis, which will be expressed using a 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) rating.

4.148. The intention of this rating is to provide a simple and visual indication of the 'achievability' of a site.

4.149. This RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Achievability Conclusion:

Red	-No reasonable prospect site could be capable of being developed within the time envisioned.
Amber	-Capability to deliver site in the time envisioned is limited and resolution or timing of resolution is unknown, or -Site needs further assessments of some aspects of achievability.
Green	-Reasonable prospect site is capable of being developed within the time envisioned.

4.150. The achievability (including viability) conclusion will inform the *overarching conclusion* to Stage 2: Assessment of Sites. It will also inform Stages 3 and 4 of the site identification and assessment, through which draft allocations within the next Local Plan are identified.

Overarching Conclusion

4.151. Stage 2 will culminate in an *overarching conclusion* which will inform the identification of draft allocations in Stages 3 and 4 of the assessment.

4.152. This *overarching conclusion* will be expressed using a 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' (RAG) rating. The intention of this rating is to provide a simple and visual indication of the *overarching conclusion* for the site.

4.153. In reaching this *overarching conclusion*, sites proposed for residential-led development or employment-led development will be considered on a **settlement basis** - in recognition of the size & characteristics of Shropshire and the importance of meeting the needs of our communities.

4.154. This overarching conclusion will be informed by both the underlying data and the conclusions of the Part A and Part B assessments of suitability, availability and achievability (including viability). However, it is important to specify that in reaching this *overarching conclusion* planning judgement is required, balancing the material considerations identified for each site.

4.155. This RAG rating will be assigned as follows:

Overarching Conclusion:

Red	A likely unmitigable or a significant number of suitability, availability or achievability (including viability) constraint(s) have been identified. Site is <u>not currently a candidate</u> for allocation in the next Local Plan*.
Amber	A number of suitability, availability or achievability (including viability) constraints have been identified that need mitigation or further assessment. Site is <u>still currently a candidate</u> for allocation in the next Local Plan.
Green	Few or no suitability, availability or achievability (including viability) constraints have been identified that need mitigation. Site is a <u>strong candidate</u> for allocation in the next Local Plan.

**Please Note: The Council may re-consider sites assigned this RAG rating, informed by the outcomes of further assessment and consultation.*

4.156. **The overarching conclusion RAG rating will be supported by a concise summary explanation for further transparency.**

4.157. Each site allocated an Green or Amber RAG rating for its *overarching conclusion* will also be assigned deliverability banding, indicating when it is expected delivery could commence. These bands are:

Potentially Deliverable Site	Potentially suitable for development, available now, with at least some development achievable within 5 years of the likely adoption date of the next Local Plan.
Potentially Developable Site	Potentially suitable for development, with reasonable prospect it could be available and achievable at the time envisioned. This normally means at least some development could occur in the period addressed in the next Local Plan (but after the first five years of the likely adoption date of the next Local Plan).
Potentially Long-Term Site	Potentially suitable for development, with reasonable prospect it could be available and achievable at the longer-term time envisioned. This normally means development could occur beyond the period addressed in the next Local Plan.

4.158. To ensure the robustness of the planning judgement exercise undertaken in reaching the *overarching conclusion* for each site, an internal review will be undertaken. This will involve a review of sites and outcomes, on a settlement basis, within the Planning Policy Team.

5. Stage 3: Determining Draft Allocations

Overview

- 5.1. **Stage 3** involves the **selection of draft allocations** that it is considered will support the achievement of the vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the next Local Plan.
- 5.2. The conclusions of Stage 2 will directly inform this process, with a positive 'feedback' loop employed. This means the conclusions of Stage 2 may be updated following consideration in Stage 3 and subsequent engagement with stakeholders.
- 5.3. The methodology for this stage of assessment is informed by Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and is also responsive to local circumstances.

Local Context

- 5.4. Determination of draft allocations will largely be undertaken on a **settlement basis**.
- 5.5. The exception to this is the consideration of those sites that have the potential to form a new settlement, which will be considered collectively.

Approach to Determining Draft Allocations

- 5.6. Reflecting Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and local circumstances, determination of draft allocations will be informed by consideration of:
 - a. The type and category of the site, determined in Stage 2 of the assessment.
 - b. The ability to deliver strategic development – either alone or in combination.
 - c. Conclusions on the sites alignment with the emerging vision, objectives and spatial strategy for distribution of development in the next Local Plan. In particular the proposed role of the associated settlement (where applicable) and sites relationship to this settlement.
 - d. The connectivity of the site.
 - e. Conclusions (and associated underlying data) on the sites suitability (including consideration of planning constraints; physical constraints; and natural, built and historic environment assets and settings affected - *incorporating conclusions of SEA of sites*) in Stage 2 of the

assessment. This includes the potential benefit(s) and impact(s) of sites, informed by the site assessment process.

- f. Conclusions (and associated underlying data) on the sites availability in Stage 2 of the assessment.
 - g. Conclusions (and associated underlying data) on the sites achievability (including viability) in Stage 2 of the assessment.
 - h. The ability to achieve an efficient use of land.
 - i. Alternative or competing land uses.
 - j. Timescales for delivery to ensure new development can be provided throughout the proposed period of the next Local Plan.
 - k. Other evidence prepared to inform the next Local Plan.
 - l. Competing sites and the scale of the potential development both of individual sites and sites cumulatively.
 - m. Potential cumulative benefit(s) and impact(s) of sites.
- 5.7. Importantly, the ultimate decision on draft allocations requires the application of planning judgement, balancing the material considerations for each site and considering the requirement to deliver a 'sound' Local Plan.

Conclusion

- 5.8. Stage 3 will culminate in the identification of the proposed approach to each site, including identification of those that are proposed to form draft allocations. This will be supported by a **summary explanation** of the reasoning for this approach.

Draft Allocations: Capacity & Development Guidelines

- 5.9. For sites identified as draft allocations, development potential and initial development guidelines (including design requirements) will also be identified.
- 5.10. Development potential will be informed by the assessment undertaken in Stage 2. Where appropriate, this will be refined by consideration of information submitted in relation to the site, site specific characteristics and constraints, relevant existing development schemes, consideration of surrounding land uses and users, consideration of the impact on surrounding constraints, and consideration of best practice guidance and Government policy on site densities.

5.11. Initial development guidelines (including design requirements) will be informed by the Stage 2 assessment and further discussions with infrastructure providers.

Information Requirements

5.12. Where relevant, Stage 3 will indicate additional evidence required to support the progression of draft allocations.

Review

5.13. To ensure the robustness of the planning judgement exercise undertaken in identifying draft allocations, an internal review will be undertaken. This will involve a settlement-by-settlement review of sites and outcomes within the Planning Policy Team.

5.14. Furthermore, the draft allocations will be appropriately reviewed through associated supporting assessment processes including SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Engagement

5.15. Appropriate engagement on the outcomes of Stage 3 will be undertaken. Through this engagement, all interested parties including infrastructure providers and site promoters (landowners, agents, developers etc) will be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on the outcomes of this assessment and the conclusions reached on draft allocations.

6. Stage 4: Confirming Draft Allocations

Overview

- 6.1. **Stage 4** involves the **confirmation of draft allocations** that will be included in the next Local Plan. This will consist of sites it is considered will support the achievement of the next Local Plans vision, objectives and spatial strategy.
- 6.2. In confirming draft allocations, a methodology informed by Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and also responsive to local circumstances will be employed.

Local Context

- 6.3. Confirmation of draft allocations will largely be undertaken on a **settlement basis**.
- 6.4. The exception to this is the consideration of those sites that have the potential to form a new settlement, which will be considered collectively.

Approach to Confirming Draft Allocations

- 6.5. In confirming draft allocations, Stage 4 will draw on the conclusions of Stages 2 and 3 of this assessment and information from the engagement following Stage 3.
- 6.6. Importantly, confirmation of draft allocations requires the application of planning judgement, balancing the material considerations for each site and considering the requirement to deliver a 'sound' Local Plan.

Conclusion

- 6.7. Stage 4 will culminate in confirmation of the proposed approach to each site, including confirmation of draft allocations. This will be supported by a summary justification of the reasons for this approach.

Format of Conclusions

- 6.8. The decisions on the proposed approach to each site, including confirmation of draft allocations and rationale will be outlined in a summary table.
- 6.9. For each site the rationale will be clear and succinct, with the specific considerations for each site made clear – including appropriate cross-

references to Stages 2 and 3 and information from the engagement following Stage 3.

6.10. This summary table will include:

Assessment Stage	Information
Stage 1	a. Sites name and reference.
	b. Sites location using eastings/northings – with an accompanying interactive map illustrating the sites location.
	c. Identification of the associated settlement.
Stage 2	a. The assigned site category.
	b. Summary of the sites development potential.
	c. Suitability, RAG rating conclusion in Stage 2 – Part B of the assessment.
	d. Availability RAG rating conclusion in Stage 2 – Part B of the assessment.
	e. Anticipated delivery timescales (where appropriate including details of anticipated phasing for larger sites).
	f. Achievability (including viability) RAG rating conclusion in Stage 2 – Part B of the assessment.
	g. Overarching RAG rating conclusion in Stage 2 – Part B of the assessment.
	h. Whether it has been determined to be a ‘potentially deliverable site’, ‘potentially developable site’ or ‘potentially long-term site’.
	i. The summary of the justification for the overarching RAG rating conclusion in Stage 2 – Part B of the assessment.
Stage 3	a. The proposed approach to the site, including whether it is proposed to form a draft allocation.
	b. A summary explanation of the reasoning for this approach.
Stage 4	a. The approach to the site in the next Local Plan, including whether it is a confirmed draft allocation.
	b. A summary explanation of the reasoning for this approach.

Design Review

- 6.11. The Council is intending to utilise the 'Design Review' process to further inform and refine design requirements for draft allocations that meet one or more of the following criteria:
- a. 250 or more dwellings.
 - b. 10ha or more gross employment land.
 - c. Located in the Green Belt.
 - d. Subject to constraints the Council considers would benefit from consideration through 'Design Review'.
- 6.12. This process will be **funded by the site promoter** and undertaken by an independent panel of professionals with architecture and design expertise.
- 6.13. Recommendations of the 'Design Review' process will be made public. Where completed before the final stage of consultation on the next Local Plan, they will inform the guidelines included within the next Local Plan and inform masterplanning to be undertaken by the site promoter. Where completed after the final stage of consultation on the next Local Plan, they will inform masterplanning to be undertaken by the site promoter.
- 6.14. The benefits of this 'Design Review' process include:
- a. Helping improve site guidelines, providing greater certainty on design expectations for site promoters, communities and decision makers.
 - b. Assisting in maximising opportunities and managing constraints - including through provision of a fresh perspective.
 - c. Supporting a collaborative masterplanning processes through identification of key design considerations.
 - d. Providing a starting point for early engagement with key infrastructure providers and statutory consultees.
 - e. Providing greater certainty of deliverability during the examination of the Local Plan and subsequent planning application processes.
 - f. Streamlining subsequent planning application processes.
 - g. Assisting achievement of a high-quality design that meets needs and supports function.
- 6.15. Where, collaborative masterplanning is progressed for a proposed site allocation following the 'Design Review' process, the Council will give proactive consideration to its inclusion within the next Local Plan where it is completed before the final stage of consultation on the next Local Plan.

Appendix 1: Call for Sites Interactive Response Form

Please complete this Site Promotion Form if you would like to promote land for development in Shropshire Council's administrative area.

When completing this Site Promotion Form please:

- > Answer all questions as accurately and fully as you can.
- > Attach a plan(s) clearly identifying the location and boundaries of the site (**red line boundary**).
- > If the site is in multiple ownerships, attach a plan identifying the extent of each owners interest.
- > If relevant, attach a plan identifying adjoining land in the same ownership (**blue line boundary**).
- > Attach any available indicative plans or supporting material for the sites potential development.

Please note, we cannot accept:

- > Anonymous promotions or those without clear contact details.
- > Those without the details in this form and a location plan.

Site promotions will be considered through the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA). The SLAA is a high-level site assessment which forms part of the evidence base for Plan-Making.

Please do not assume a site will be considered if previously promoted to the Council.

If you wish to promote more than one site, please use a separate form for each site.

[Personal data will be processed in line with our Planning Policy Privacy Notice.](#)

Section 1. Site Promotion

Site address:	
Post code:	
If known, site location - Easting:	
If known, site location - Northing:	
Site description:	
Total site area (Ha):	
Developable site area (Ha):	

Section 2. Personal Details

Section 2a - Promoters Details:

Name:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Post code:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
Interest in the site:	

Section 2b - Promoters Agents Details (if applicable):

Name:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Post code:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	

Section 3. Landowner and Developer Information

Section 3a – Landowner Details:

If the promoter is not the landowner or multiple landowners exist, please detail them below.

If necessary, please detail additional landowners separately and enclose with the submission.

Landowner 1 name:	
Landowner 1 organisation:	
Landowner 1 address:	
Landowner 1 post code:	
Landowner 1 email address:	
Landowner 1 proportion of site owned:	
Landowner 2 name:	
Landowner 2 organisation:	
Landowner 2 address:	
Landowner 2 post code:	
Landowner 2 email address:	
Landowner 2 proportion of site owned:	
All landowner(s) consent to promotion:	

Section 3b – Developer Interest:

Level of developer interest in site:	
Further information:	

Section 4. Site Information

Section 4a – Land Use Details:

All current land use(s):	
All previous land use(s):	
Relevant planning permissions:	
Type of site (greenfield, brownfield or mixed use):	
If mixed use, brownfield percentage:	

Brownfield (previously developed land) is defined in [Annex 2 of the NPPF](#).

Section 4b – Site Constraints:

Please detail all known potential constraints to the site.

Does site have a road frontage suitable for a site access?	
Any legal covenants on the site that could limit development potential?	
Any natural environment designations on or in close proximity of the site?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Natural environment designations and close proximity (as the crow flies) to the site include:

Special Area of Conservation (1km); Special Protection Area (1km); Ramsar Site (1km); Ancient Woodland (500m); National Nature Reserve (500m); Site of Special Scientific Interest (500m); and Local Nature Reserve (100m).

Any historic environment designations on or in close proximity of the site?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Historic environment designations and close proximity (as the crow flies) to the site include: World Heritage Sites or its buffer zone (300m); Registered Battlefield (300m); Conservation Area (300m); Scheduled Monument (300m); Registered Park/Garden (300m); and Listed Building (300m).

Any physical constraints affecting the site?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Physical constraints include topography, ground conditions, contamination, noise, odour, flooding, pipelines and pylons.

Any other factors that may constrain development of the site?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Section 5. Proposed Future Uses

Section 5a – Proposed Uses:

Please detail ***all potential uses*** for which you are promoting the site.

Sites should only be promoted for uses which you consider to be available, achievable and viable.

>A site is considered available when, on best information, there is confidence no legal or ownership problems exist which restrict development of the land.

>A site is considered achievable where there is a reasonable prospect that all or a significant component of the proposed use could be developed on the site by 2045/46.

>A site is considered viable where the value generated by its development exceeds the cost of the development, provides a sufficient incentive for the land to come forward and development to be undertaken, and can achieve a policy compliant development – including delivering appropriate quantities of affordable housing and necessary supporting infrastructure/developer contributions.

New settlement - generally 25ha or more in size and consisting of sustainable mix of uses, community facilities & infrastructure:	
Sustainable urban extension to a settlement - generally 200 dwellings or more and consisting of a sustainable mix of uses, community facilities & infrastructure:	
Mixed use development:	
Housing development - suitable mix of sizes, types and tenures:	
Specialist housing development - older people, children, or those with disabilities & special needs:	

Gypsy and Traveller / Travelling Showperson provision:	
Employment development - such as R&D, offices, labs, light / general industry, logistics / distribution, warehousing, data centres, gigafactories & waste management:	
Retail and leisure development:	
Energy generation facilities:	
Other development:	

Section 5b - Site Capacity:

Please detail sites capacity and appropriate density for **all potential uses** detailed in Section 5a.

Capacity:	
Appropriate site density:	
Further details:	

Section 5c – Timescales for Availability:

Please detail sites availability timescales for **all potential uses** detailed in Section 5a/5b.

When could site be available:	
Expected lead-in times:	
Expected annual delivery rates:	
Further details:	

Section 5d – Achievability and Viability:

Please detail the sites achievability and viability for **all potential uses** detailed in Section 5a/5b.

Confirm you consider identified potential use(s) & timescales are achievable & viable:	
Further details:	

Section 6. Any Additional Information

Please provide any additional information:	
--	--

Section 7. Confirmation

Please confirm that submission includes:

Site location plan(s) (red line boundary):	
If the site is in multiple-ownerships, Land Ownership Plan(s):	
If relevant, plan(s) of adjoining land in same ownership (blue line boundary):	

Please confirm that:

Submission includes all relevant available supporting material:	
Landowners grant permission to Shropshire Council to access site to assess suitability:	
Information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge:	
Submission is made in one format only:	

Completed Site Promotion Forms can be submitted to Shropshire Council via email to: planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk

Please Note: If supporting material exceeds 20mb, please notify us via the above email address. We can then facilitate submission via the Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system. The Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities.

If you are unable to submit this Site Promotion Form via email, it can be submitted via post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ.

It is not necessary to submit multiple copies of this form by email and post.

***Appendix 2: Call for Mineral Working Opportunities
Interactive Response Form***

Please complete this Promotion Form if you would like to promote land for mineral workings in Shropshire Council's administrative area.

When completing this Site Promotion Form please:

- > Answer all questions as accurately and fully as you can.
- > Attach a plan(s) clearly identifying the location and boundaries of the land (**red line boundary**).
- > If the land is in multiple ownerships, attach a plan identifying the extent of each owners interest.
- > If relevant, attach a plan identifying adjoining land in the same ownership (**blue line boundary**).
- > Attach any available indicative plans or supporting material for potential mineral working.

Please note, we cannot accept:

- > Anonymous promotions or those without clear contact details.
- > Those without the details in this form and a location plan.

Please do not assume land will be considered if previously promoted to the Council.

Please use a separate form for each area of land you wish to promote.

[Personal data will be processed in line with our Planning Policy Privacy Notice.](#)

Section 1. Land Promotion

Section 1a - Details:

Address:	
Post code:	
Location - Easting:	
Location - Northing:	
Total land area (Ha):	
Workable land area (Ha):	
Description:	
Type of promotion:	
Type of mineral resource present:	
Further information on mineral resources:	

Section 1b - Capacity:

Total resource present (approximate):	
Workable resource present (approximate):	

Section 1c - Timescales for Availability:

> Land is considered available for mineral working when, on best information, there is confidence no legal or ownership problems exist which restrict mineral working.

When could land be available for working:	
Expected lead-in times:	
Expected annual mineral production rate:	

Section 1d – Achievability and Viability:

> Mineral working is considered achievable where there is a reasonable prospect all or a significant component could be undertaken by 2045/46.

> Mineral working is considered viable where the value generated by its working exceeds costs of this working, provides a sufficient incentive for the land to come forward, and can achieve a policy compliant development – including appropriate supporting infrastructure/developer contributions.

Confirm you consider mineral working in specified timescales is achievable & viable:	
Further details:	

Section 2. Personal Details

Section 2a - Promoters Details:

Name:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Post code:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
Interest in the site:	

Section 2b - Promoters Agents Details (if applicable):

Name:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Post code:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	

Section 3. Landowner and Operator Information

Section 3a – Landowner Details:

If the promoter is not the landowner or multiple landowners exist, please detail them below.

If necessary, please detail additional landowners separately and enclose with the submission.

Landowner 1 name:	
Landowner 1 organisation:	
Landowner 1 address:	
Landowner 1 post code:	
Landowner 1 email address:	
Landowner 1 proportion of site owned:	

Landowner 2 name:	
Landowner 2 organisation:	
Landowner 2 address:	
Landowner 2 post code:	
Landowner 2 email address:	
Landowner 2 proportion of site owned:	

All landowner(s) consent to promotion:	
--	--

Section 3b – Mineral Operator Interest:

Level of mineral operator interest in the land:	
Further information:	

Section 4. Site Information

Section 4a – Land Use Details:

All current land use(s):	
All previous land use(s):	
Relevant planning permissions:	
Type of land (greenfield, brownfield or mixed use):	
If mixed use, brownfield percentage:	

Brownfield (previously developed land) is defined in [Annex 2 of the NPPF](#).

Section 4b – Site Constraints:

Please detail all known potential constraints to the land.

Does the land have road frontage suitable for a site access?	
Any legal covenants on the land that could limit mineral working potential?	
Any natural environment designations on or in close proximity of the land?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Natural environment designations and close proximity (as the crow flies) to the site include:

Special Area of Conservation (1km); Special Protection Area (1km); Ramsar Site (1km); Ancient Woodland (500m); National Nature Reserve (500m); Site of Special Scientific Interest (500m); and Local Nature Reserve (100m).

Any historic environment designations on or in close proximity of the land?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Historic environment designations and close proximity (as the crow flies) to the site include:

World Heritage Sites or its buffer zone (300m); Registered Battlefield (300m); Conservation Area (300m); Scheduled Monument (300m); Registered Park/Garden (300m); and Listed Building (300m).

Any physical constraints affecting the land?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Physical constraints include topography, ground conditions, contamination, noise, odour, flooding, pipelines and pylons.

Any other factors that may constrain mineral working of the land?	
If yes, please detail them and outline any evidence and mitigation options:	

Section 5. Any Additional Information

Please provide any additional information:	
--	--

Section 6. Confirmation

Please confirm that submission includes:

Land location plan(s) (red line boundary):	
If the land is in multiple-ownerships, ownership plan(s):	
If relevant, plan(s) of adjoining land in same ownership (blue line boundary):	

Please confirm that:

Submission includes all relevant available supporting material:	
Landowners grant permission to Shropshire Council to access land to assess suitability:	
Information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge:	
Submission is made in one format only:	

Completed Promotion Forms can be submitted to Shropshire Council via email to: planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk

Please Note: If supporting material exceeds 20mb, please notify us via the above email address. We can then facilitate submission via the Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system. The Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities.

If you are unable to submit this Promotion Form via email, it can be submitted via post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ.

It is not necessary to submit multiple copies of this form by email and post.

Appendix 3: 'Get Involved' Webpage

shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/

Local Plan Examinati... Draft Shropshire Lo... Consultation Repts Core Strategy SAMDev CL Policy SharePoint Idox Planning Apps Intranet Land Use Monitorin... All Bookmarks

Closes
02
OCT
2025

Calling for locations for development

Comment on this new proposal.

Data protection

Information collected in our surveys will only be used by us (Shropshire Council) to inform the immediate and future provision of our services. The information you provide will be kept confidential in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#). It will not be shared outside of Shropshire Council. Information collected via our online surveys (hosted on the SurveyMonkey website) will be stored on SurveyMonkey's servers in the United States of America and SurveyMonkey gives an undertaking never to disclose the survey questions or your responses to others without permission.

Contact Shropshire Council
Complaints
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Newsroom
Cookie information
About this site
Accessibility statement
Privacy
Data protection and FOIs
Modern slavery statement
@ShropCouncil

Maps
Leave website feedback

Govroom

09:33
11/07/2025



Calling for locations for development

Home > Planning policy > News > Calling for locations for development

10 July 2025 Last updated at 10:33

To inform the next Local Plan, we're undertaking a 'call for sites' and 'call for mineral working opportunities', inviting the submission of sites for consideration as locations for development or mineral working to meet the future needs of Shropshire. Submissions are welcome from 10 July 2025 to 2 October 2025.

Recent news

- Calling for locations for development
- Hearings holding letter issued
- Draft Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document
- Inspectors' initial questions
- Examination of the Shropshire Local Plan (2016 - 2038)

Archive

- July 2025
- October 2024
- January 2023
- November 2021
- October 2021
- December 2020

Contact Planning Policy

- ✉ planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk
- ☎ 0345 678 9004
- 📍 Planning Policy
Shropshire Council
PO BOX 4826
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ

Appendix 4: Call for Sites Local Plan Webpage

Call for sites

To inform the next Local Plan for Shropshire, we're undertaking a 'Call for sites' from 10 July 2025 to 2 October 2025.

The purpose of this is to provide an opportunity for landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties to promote sites for consideration as potential allocations for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Sites can be promoted for one or more uses, including but not limited to: new settlements, large scale sustainable urban extensions to existing settlements, sustainable mixed use development, housing, employment, retail and leisure, or renewable energy generation.

If you wish for a site to be considered as a potential allocation for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire, it's important that you promote it through this process.

Please don't assume a site will be considered because you've previously promoted it to the council.

How to promote a site

If you wish to promote a site, please complete [the site promotion form](#). You'll also need to provide appropriate site location plans and any relevant supporting material. Completed forms can be submitted to planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

Related documents

[Site promotion form.xlsx](#)

If you're unable to submit this information via email, it can be posted to Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it's not necessary to submit copies by both email and post.

What happens to promoted sites?

Sites promoted through this process will be reviewed by the council through a site assessment process. This process will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints – examples of key factors to be considered through this process are included on [the constraints map](#). Importantly, this process will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the site assessment undertaken will be made publicly available on this website.

Please note that not all promoted sites will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan. Furthermore, not all promoted sites will be supported as planning applications.

Frequently asked questions

[Why undertake a 'call for sites'?](#)

It's important that the council understands where land is potentially available for a range of types of development. This will inform decisions on appropriate sites to identify as potential allocations in the next Local Plan – reflecting constraints, opportunities, and infrastructure needs and capacity.

[Who can submit a site?](#)

The process is open to all: landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

However, if you don't own the land you'll need to specify who does and whether they support the site promotion.

Do I need to use the site promotion form?

The form ensures that all necessary information is provided and will support the timely review of sites by the council. As such, we don't encourage promotions in other formats.

Will all sites promoted be allocated?

No, not all promoted sites will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan. Furthermore, not all promoted sites will be supported as planning applications.

What happens if sites overlap?

Some parcels of land are submitted to the council by more than one promoter, or the site promoter wishes for different components of a site to be considered separately. This won't affect the assessment process undertaken for the site.

When will the public see sites promoted during the call for sites?

All sites promoted, and the site assessment process undertaken, will be made publicly available on this website in due course. Specific timescales will depend on the number of site promotions received.

Can anyone comment on sites promoted through the call for sites?

We're not inviting comments from other parties on the sites promoted through this process. However, informed by the subsequent site assessment process and other relevant evidence, we'll start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, including proposed site allocations. As such, the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in October 2026.

[Can anyone comment on the site assessment process?](#)

We're not inviting comments on our site assessment process yet. However, it will be made publicly available as part of the evidence base that informs proposals within the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, including proposed site allocations. As such, the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in October 2026.

[What are the next steps?](#)

All sites promoted during the call for sites process will be considered through the subsequent site assessment process. Informed by the site assessment process and other relevant evidence, we'll start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, including proposed site allocations. As such, the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in October 2026.

Contact Planning Policy

planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk

0345 678 9004

Planning Policy
Shropshire Council
PO BOX 4826
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ

***Appendix 5: Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Local
Plan Webpage***

Call for mineral working opportunities

To inform the next Local Plan for Shropshire, we're undertaking a 'Call for mineral working opportunities' from 10 July 2025 to 2 October 2025.

The purpose of this is to provide landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, operators and any other interested parties the opportunity to promote land for mineral working.

These land promotions can consist of specific site opportunities with known mineral resources, general areas with known mineral resources, or general areas where there are potential mineral resources.

The main types of minerals present and worked in Shropshire are sand and gravel aggregates, crushed rock aggregates, building stone, and brick / fire clay.

It's important that you promote land through this process if you consider that it has known or potential mineral resources, the potential for mineral working, and wish for it to be considered as a specific mineral site allocation, preferred area for mineral working with known mineral resources, or a general area of search with the potential for mineral working where there are potential mineral resources.

Please don't assume that land will be considered because you've previously promoted it to the council.

How to promote land

If you wish to promote a site, please complete [the mineral working opportunities promotion form](#).

Related documents

[Mineral working opportunities promotion form.xlsx](#)

You'll also need to provide appropriate site location plans and any relevant supporting material. Completed forms can be submitted to

planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

If you're unable to submit this information via email, it can be posted to Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it's not necessary to submit copies by both email and post.

What happens to promoted land?

Land promoted through this process will be reviewed by the council through a site assessment process. This process will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints – examples of key factors to be considered through this process are included on [the constraints map](#). Importantly, this process will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the site assessment undertaken will be made publicly available on this website.

Please note that not all promoted sites will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan as a mineral site allocation, preferred area for mineral working with known mineral resources, or general area of search with the potential for mineral working where there are potential mineral resources. Furthermore, not all promoted land will be supported as planning applications.

Frequently asked questions

Why undertake a 'call for mineral working opportunities'?

It's important that the council understands the locations of land with known or potential mineral resources that are potentially available for mineral working. This will inform decisions on the need to identify locations for mineral working, and if so the proposed approach for doing so, in the next Local Plan – reflecting constraints, opportunities, and infrastructure needs and capacity.

Who can submit land?

The process is open to all: landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, operators and any other interested parties.

However, if you don't own the land you'll need to specify who does and whether they support the land promotion.

Do I need to use the site promotion form?

The form ensures that all necessary information is provided and will support the timely review of land by the council. As such, we don't encourage promotions in other formats.

Will all land promoted through this process be allocated as a mineral working site, identified as a preferred area for mineral working, or identified as a general area of search for mineral working?

No, not all promoted land will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan. Furthermore, not all promoted land will be supported as planning applications.

What happens if land promotions overlap?

Some parcels of land may be submitted to the council by more than one promoter, or the land promoter may wish for different components of a site to be considered separately. This won't affect the assessment process undertaken for the land.

When will the public see sites promoted during the call for mineral working opportunities?

All land promoted, and the assessment process undertaken, will be made publicly available on this

website in due course. Specific timescales will depend on the number of land promotions received.

[Can anyone comment on land promoted through the call for mineral working opportunities?](#)

We're not inviting comments from other parties on land promoted through this process. However, informed by the subsequent assessment process and other relevant evidence, we'll start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. This includes in relation to the need to identify locations for mineral working, and the proposed approach to doing so at those locations. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals as part of the next Local Plan, with the first formal stage of consultation scheduled to commence in October 2026.

[Can anyone comment on the mineral working assessment process?](#)

We're not inviting comments on our site assessment process yet. However, it will be made publicly available as part of the evidence base that informs proposals within the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, with the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan scheduled to commence in October 2026.

[What are the next steps?](#)

All land promoted during this process will be considered through the subsequent assessment process. Informed by the assessment process and other relevant evidence, we'll start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, with the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan scheduled to commence in October 2026.

Contact Planning Policy

planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk

0345 678 9004

Planning Policy

Shropshire Council

PO BOX 4826

Shrewsbury

SY1 9LJ

Appendix 6: Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Notification Email - Local Plan Consultation Database and Agent & Developer Forum

‘Call for Sites’ Notification

To inform the next Local Plan, Shropshire Council is undertaking a ‘Call for Sites’ from the **10th July 2025 to the 2nd October 2025**.

This ‘Call for Sites’ invites landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties to promote sites for consideration as potential allocations for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Sites can be promoted for one or more uses, including but not limited to, new settlements, large scale sustainable urban extensions to existing settlements, sustainable mixed use development, housing, employment, retail and leisure, or renewable energy generation.

To promote a site, please use the Council’s **Site Promotion Form**, which is available on the Council website at: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-sites/>

Completed **Site Promotion Form’s** and accompanying documents (location plans and any other relevant information) can be submitted to Shropshire Council via email to: planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

Please Note: If accompanying documents exceed 20mb in size, please notify us via the above email address. We can then facilitate submission via the Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system. The Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities.

If you are unable to submit the **Site Promotion Form** and accompanying documents via email, it can be submitted via post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it is not necessary to submit the form by both email and post.

If you wish for a site to be considered as a potential allocation for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire, it is important that you promote it through this ‘Call for Sites’. **Please do not assume a site will be considered because you have previously promoted it to the Council.**

Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Notification

Also to inform the next Local Plan, Shropshire Council is undertaking a ‘Call for Mineral Working Opportunities’ from the **10th July 2025 to the 2nd October 2025**.

This ‘Call for Mineral Working Opportunities’ provides landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, operators and any other interested parties the opportunity to promote land for mineral working.

These land promotions can consist of specific site opportunities with known mineral resources, general areas with known mineral resources, or general areas where there is potential mineral resources.

The main types of minerals present and worked in Shropshire are sand & gravel aggregates, crushed rock aggregates, building stone, and brick / fire clay.

To promote land, please use the Council’s **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form**, which is available on the Council website at: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-mineral-working-opportunities/>

Completed **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form’s** and accompanying documents (location plans and any other relevant information) can be submitted to Shropshire Council via email to: planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

Please Note: If accompanying documents exceed 20mb in size, please notify us via the above email address. We can then facilitate submission via the Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system. The Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities.

If you are unable to submit the **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form** and accompanying documents via email, it can be submitted via post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it is not necessary to submit the form by both email and post.

It is important that you promote land through this 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' if you consider it has known or potential mineral resources; the potential for mineral working; and wish for it to be considered as a specific mineral site allocation, preferred area for mineral working with known mineral resources, or general area of search with the potential for mineral working where there are potential mineral resources. **Please do not assume land will be considered because you have previously promoted it to the Council.**

What Happens Next

Sites promotions through the 'Call for Sites' and land promotions through the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' will be reviewed by the Council through site assessment processes. These processes will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints – examples of key factors to be considered through these processes are included on the Constraints Map available on the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/30693/examples-of-large-scale-constraints.pdf>

Importantly, these processes will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the assessments undertaken will be made publicly available on the Council website.

These assessments will inform proposals within the next Local Plan. Timescales for the production of the next Local Plan, including intended periods of public consultation, are detailed in the Council's Local Development Scheme, available on the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/29482/local-development-scheme-lds-february-2025.pdf>

Further Information

For further information on the 'Call for Sites' including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-sites/>

For further information on the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-mineral-working-opportunities/>

Appendix 7: Call for Mineral Working Opportunities – West Midlands Aggregate Working Party Notification Email

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Shropshire Council: Call for Mineral Working Opportunities
Date: 10 July 2025 17:31:02
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear All,

Please see below Notification from Shropshire Council's Local Plan team regarding the '**Call for Mineral Working Opportunities**', which is now open.

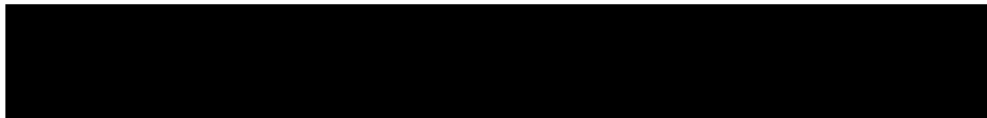
All the relevant information, links and dates are detailed within the notification pasted **below**.

Should you have any further questions or issued, please do not hesitate to email me.

Many thanks in advance,

Kind Regards,

Vsevolod (Seva) Lobov (BSc)
Senior Planning Consultant
Planning Consultancy – Place Services - Capita Public Service



'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' Notification

To inform the next Local Plan, Shropshire Council is undertaking a 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' from the **10th July 2025 to the 2nd October 2025**.

This 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' provides landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, operators and any other interested parties the opportunity to promote land for mineral working.

These land promotions can consist of specific site opportunities with known mineral resources, general areas with known mineral resources, or general areas where there is potential mineral resources.

The main types of minerals present and worked in Shropshire are sand & gravel aggregates, crushed rock aggregates, building stone, and brick / fire clay.

To promote land, please use the Council's **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form**, which is available on the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-mineral-working-opportunities/>

Completed **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form's** and accompanying documents (location plans and any other relevant information) can be submitted to Shropshire Council via email

to: planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

Please Note: If accompanying documents exceed 20mb in size, please notify us via the above email address. We can then facilitate submission via the Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system. The Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities.

If you are unable to submit the **Mineral Working Opportunities Promotion Form** and accompanying documents via email, it can be submitted via post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it is not necessary to submit the form by both email and post.

It is important that you promote land through this 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' if you consider it has known or potential mineral resources; the potential for mineral working; and wish for it to be considered as a specific mineral site allocation, preferred area for mineral working with known mineral resources, or general area of search with the potential for mineral working where there are potential mineral resources. **Please do not assume land will be considered because you have previously promoted it to the Council.**

What Happens Next

Land promotions through the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' will be reviewed by the Council through a site assessment process. This process will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints – examples of key factors to be considered through this process are included on the Constraints Map available on the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/30693/examples-of-large-scale-constraints.pdf>

Importantly, this process will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the assessments undertaken will be made publicly available on the Council website.

The assessments will inform proposals within the next Local Plan. Timescales for the production of the next Local Plan, including intended periods of public consultation, are detailed in the Council's Local Development Scheme, available on the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/29482/local-development-scheme-lds-february-2025.pdf>

Further Information

For further information on the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Council website at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-mineral-working-opportunities/>

Thank you

Kind Regards

Planning Policy

Shropshire Council

If you would like more information about Shropshire Council services, please [visit our website](#) or [sign up for email updates](#)

Appendix 8: Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Commencement Press Release

10/07/2025 - [Permalink](#)

Call for sites as work set to begin on new Local Plan

Related topics: [Planning](#)

Councillor David Walker

Shropshire Council has confirmed its intention to commence work on a new Local Plan in January 2026. This follows the proposed withdrawal of the current draft Local Plan from the examination process, which full Council is being asked to agree [at its meeting next week \(17 July 2025\)](#).

The new Local Plan process will respond to the Government's recent mandatory housing targets, but will also seek to provide a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county.

Early evidence is now being collected to inform the new Plan. This includes a new 'Call for Sites' process, which runs for 12 weeks from 10 July to 2 October 2025.

This 'Call for Sites' invites landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties to promote sites for consideration as potential allocations for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire. This is important as the county needs to understand what development options are open for consideration, and to inform future Plan preparation.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to, new housing, large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, employment, retail and leisure, renewable energy generation and mineral extraction.

Once the council has an understanding of the site options, it will undertake site assessment work early next year and prepare a draft Plan for consultation in autumn 2026.

David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, said

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[Praise for resurfacing of Gravel Hill in Ludlow](#)
11/07/2025

[Important information about 101 and 8/8A bus services](#) 11/07/2025

[Call for sites as work set to begin on new Local Plan](#) 10/07/2025

[Refurbishment of Meole Brace footbridge update](#) 10/07/2025

[RSPAWIR delivers ground-breaking rural mobile connectivity report to MPs](#)
10/07/2025

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[Highways, transport and environmental maintenance](#)

[Housing](#)

[Leisure, culture and heritage](#)

The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options.

“Clearly the council is not where it wants to be. Withdrawing the draft plan from the current examination is a significant decision. With recent changes to the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework, and their new mandatory housing targets, we would have needed to adjust the plan now anyway.

“This does provide an opportunity to deliver a new local plan that works for Shropshire. It is important that the plan boosts the local economy, creates quality local jobs, provides more affordable housing for Shropshire people, and addresses the infrastructure challenges facing the county. All whilst protecting our precious historic and environmental assets which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work.”

”

Anyone interested in promoting a site, should use the council’s Site Promotion Form, [which is available on the council website](#).

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Appendix 9: Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Mid-Point Press Release

22/06/2025 - Penmafnik

Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' process remains ongoing until 2 October 2025

Related topics: [Community](#) / [Corporate](#) / [Economic growth](#) / [Finance and budget](#) / [Housing](#) / [Planning](#) / [Uncategorized](#)



William Farr House – Redevelopment of brownfield site to provide extra-care affordable housing

The 'Call for Sites' provides an opportunity to promote land for consideration as a potential allocation for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. It is open to landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

The next Local Plan for Shropshire will need to respond to the Government's new mandatory housing targets. But it will also seek to do much more, providing a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county. As a result, the 'Call for Sites' process is important to inform plan-making and our understanding of available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Cllr David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, said:



“The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county. All whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work.

“The ‘call for sites’ will ensure the council fully understands available development options and will inform preparation of the next Local Plan. I would encourage all interested parties to get involved.”



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[Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' process remains ongoing until 2 October 2025](#)
22/08/2025

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[New business growth service launches to empower Shropshire businesses](#)
21/08/2025

[Pupils congratulated as GCSE results announced](#) 21/08/2025

Appendix 10: Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Final Week Press Release

25/09/2025 - [Permalink](#)

One more week to respond to Local Plan ‘call for sites’

Related topics: [Planning](#)

Landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations and developers have one more week to respond to Shropshire Council’s ‘Call for Sites’ – part of the development of Shropshire’s new Local Plan.

The ‘Call for Sites’ process provides insight on available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Sites promoted through this process will be assessed by the council as potential allocations for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. They can be promoted for a range of uses, such as large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and [page 405](#) minor working.

The next Local Plan will provide a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county.

More information on the 'Call for Sites' and the council's site promotion form is [available here](#).

More information on the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' and the mineral working promotion form is [available here](#).



Councillor David Walker

David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, said:



“The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options.

“The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county; all whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work.”



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Appendix 11: Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities Social Media Posts



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- shropshire.gov.uk
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Shropshire Council

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Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' process remains ongoing until 2 October 2025. The 'Call for Sites' provides an opportunity to promote land for consideration as a potential allocation for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. It is open to landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

The next Local Plan for Shropshire will need to respond to the Government's new mandatory housing targets. But it will also seek to do much more, providing a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county. As a result, the 'Call for Sites' process is important to inform plan-making and our understanding of available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire.


More information on the 'Call for Sites' and the Council's site promotion form is available in the link in the comments.



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 **Shropshire Council** 26 Sept 2025 · [globe icon] ...

 Hello landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations and developers. You have until Thurs 2 Oct to respond to our 'Call for Sites'.

Sites will be assessed by the council as potential development sites in Shropshire's new Local Plan.

They can be promoted for a range of uses, such as large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

 For more follow the link in the comments.



 11  4 

Shropshire Council's Post



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11,739 followers
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Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' process remains ongoing until 2 October 2025. The 'Call for Sites' provides an opportunity to promote land for consideration as a potential allocation for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. It is open to landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

The next Local Plan for Shropshire will need to respond to the Government's new mandatory housing targets. But it will also seek to do much more, providing a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county. As a result, the 'Call for Sites' process is important to inform plan-making and our understanding of available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

More information on the 'Call for Sites' and the Council's site promotion form is available here. <https://orlo.uk/q34gJ>





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Appendix 12: Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder Social Media Post at Commencement of Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities

Cllr David Walker: Whittington Division's post



Shropshire Council has now issued its 'call for sites' to developers, agents, land owners and other interested parties.

The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options.

Clearly, the council is not where it wants to be. Withdrawing the draft plan from the current examination is a significant decision. With recent changes to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and their new mandatory housing targets, we would have needed to adjust the plan now anyway.

This does provide an opportunity to deliver a new local plan that works for Shropshire. It is important that the plan boosts the local economy, creates quality local jobs, provides more affordable housing for Shropshire people, and addresses the infrastructure challenges facing the county. All whilst protecting our precious historic and environmental assets, which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work

Previous allocated sites won't carry over due to the Government's updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its stiff mandatory housing targets for Shropshire.



NEWSROOM.SHROPSHIRE.GOV.UK

Call for sites as work set to begin on new Local Plan - Shropshire Council Newsroom

This 'Call for Sites' invites landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and ...

8

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Appendix 13: Examples of Agent & Site Promoters Press Releases and Social Media Posts Advertising Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities

[Back to all](#)[Planning, Land Promotion, News](#)

17th July 2025

Shropshire Council Launches New Local Plan Process – Call for Sites Now Open

[Get In Touch](#)

Shropshire Council has confirmed that work will begin on a new Local Plan in January 2026, marking a significant milestone in guiding the future development of the county. This follows the recent withdrawal of the previous draft Local Plan from the formal examination process.

The new Local Plan will be designed to respond to the Government's mandatory housing targets introduced in December 2024, while also establishing a clear and sustainable strategy to manage growth across Shropshire. It aims to balance housing, infrastructure, environmental protection, and economic needs in a way that benefits communities across the county.

Call for Sites – Now Open Until 2 October 2025

As part of the early evidence-gathering stage, the Council has launched a 12-week 'Call for Sites', running from 10 July to 2 October 2025.



- Local organisations
- Community groups
- Other interested parties

What Type of Land Can Be Submitted?

Sites can be submitted for a range of future land uses, including, but not limited to:

- New housing
- Large-scale urban extensions or new settlements
- Mixed-use developments
- Employment, retail, and leisure schemes
- Renewable energy generation
- Mineral extraction

Why Submit?

Submitting a site is non-binding, but it could unlock new development opportunities, increase the strategic value of your land, and help shape the future direction of your community.

At Berrys, our experienced planning team can manage the full submission process on your behalf. We can also advise on whether it may be beneficial to submit a pre-application enquiry, outline planning application or full planning application alongside your Call for Sites submission.

If you'd like to discuss a potential site or need guidance on planning and development opportunities, please contact our Shrewsbury Planning Team for a no-obligation initial consultation on 01743 271697.

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Roger Parry & Partners LLP is with Shropshire Council and 5 others.

21 July · 🌐



Shropshire Council Launches "Call for Sites" - Could Your Land Be the Next Opportunity?

****Shropshire Council Launches "Call for Sites"*****

Shropshire Council is inviting all landowners, developers, and "Call for Sites" parties to put forward potential sites for development as part of its New Local Plan. This initiative seeks to identify land suitable for housing, employment, retail, leisure, and renewable energy projects.

The "Call for Sites" runs from 10th July to 2nd October 2025 — a key window to shape the future of Shropshire's communities. If YOU OWN or KNOW of land near existing settlements that may be suitable for development, NOW is the time to act.

Roger Parry & Partners are here to HELP... Our accredited and expert team can guide you through the submission process and assess your site's potential.

Contact us today on 01743 791336 to discuss your land and how it could play a role in Shropshire's future.

****Let's unlock the possibilities together.**

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[#localplan2025](#) [#shropshire](#) [#opportunity](#) [#FuturePlanning](#)

Shropshire Council's
'CALL FOR SITES'
Deadline 2nd October 2025

**IS YOUR LAND
THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY?**

Suggested land for housing development, employment,
retail, leisure, or renewable energy projects...

Contact our team of experts at

Roger Parry & Partners
www.rogerparry.net

Appendix 14: Examples of News Articles Regarding Call for Sites and Call for Mineral Working Opportunities

Local plan work set to start again for Shropshire Council as authority issues fresh call for development sites

Shropshire Council is set to start work on a new local plan, and is asking people to put forward potential development sites.

By **Dominic Robertson** | Published 18 hours ago | Last updated 18 hours ago |

 [1 Comments](#)

The authority's previous draft local plan was effectively scrapped after planning inspectors asked the council to withdraw it earlier this year.

The plan is a vital document for all local councils, allowing it to control where houses and other developments are built.

The council's absence of an up-to-date local plan, and issues with demonstrating a five-year-supply of housing sites, has given a boost to developers looking to build on areas which may previously have been rejected.

Now the council has confirmed its intention to commence work on a new local plan in January 2026 - with the hope of having a draft ready for consultation in autumn of the same year.

Full council will be asked to complete the formal withdrawal of the abandoned draft local plan at its meeting next Thursday (July 17).

The new local plan will have to take into account the Government's new mandatory housing targets, which represent a huge increase in the numbers demanded for the Shropshire Council area.

The authority is now asking people and organisations to put forward sites they believe are suitable for development.

A statement from the council said: "The new local plan process will respond to the Government's recent mandatory housing targets, but will also seek to provide a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county.

"Early evidence is now being collected to inform the new plan. This includes a new 'Call for Sites' process, which runs for 12 weeks from July 10 to October 2, 2025.

"This 'Call for Sites' invites landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties to promote sites for consideration as potential allocations for development to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

"This is important as the county needs to understand what development options are open for consideration, and to inform future plan preparation.

"Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to, new housing, large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, employment, retail and leisure, renewable energy generation and mineral extraction.

"Once the council has an understanding of the site options, it will undertake site assessment work early next year and prepare a draft plan for consultation in autumn 2026."



[Take a Look
Inside Luli's
Repulsive
Shrewsbury
Mansion](#)

Councillor David Walker

David Walker, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for planning, said: "The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options.

"Clearly the council is not where it wants to be. Withdrawing the draft plan from the current examination is a significant decision. With recent changes to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, and their new mandatory housing targets, we would have needed to adjust the plan now anyway.

“This does provide an opportunity to deliver a new local plan that works for Shropshire.

"It is important that the plan boosts the local economy, creates quality local jobs, provides more affordable housing for Shropshire people, and addresses the infrastructure challenges facing the county - all whilst protecting our precious historic and environmental assets which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work."

Anyone interested in promoting a site can use the council's site promotion form, [which is available on the council website.](#)

Shropshire Council invites more suggestions for where to build houses in the county

Shropshire Council is asking for more suggestions for where to build homes in the county.

By **Dominic Robertson** | Published Aug 25 |  [9 Comments](#)

The authority is again asking developers, businesses, organisations and landowners for potential sites as it looks to put together its next local plan.

[Shropshire Council](#) has been left in local plan-limbo, with its previous effort to complete the vital document abandoned after [planning inspections effectively ordered the council to withdraw the document](#).

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The local plan is a policy which sets out specific pieces of land across the county which can be used to build homes or business developments.



William Farr House – the former hospital site opposite Royal Shrewsbury Hospital which is being redeveloped as extra-care affordable housing.

It also effectively protects other pieces of land from development, due to the fact that a proposals for sites outside the local plan can largely be rejected.

That situation, combined with the county's current shortfall on the five year land supply - a stockpile of land to be developed which is required by government, and the Labour government's huge increase in housing targets for Shropshire Council, is set to have significant consequences with the council left in a weakened position when it comes to refusing controversial housing developments.

The latest 'Call for Sites' provides an opportunity to promote land for consideration as a potential allocation for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including, but not limited to, large scale housing developments or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

A statement from the council said: "The next Local Plan for Shropshire will need to respond to the Government's new mandatory housing targets.

"But it will also seek to do much more, providing a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county.

"As a result, the 'Call for Sites' process is important to inform plan-making and our understanding of available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire."

Councillor David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, said: "The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county. All whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work."

"The 'call for sites' will ensure the council fully understands available development options and will inform preparation of the next Local Plan. I would encourage all interested parties to get involved."

More information on the 'Call for Sites' and the Council's site promotion form is available via: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-sites/>

More information on the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' and the Council's site promotion form is available via: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/call-for-mineral-working-opportunities/>

Conversation

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One week left to suggest where more houses should be built in Shropshire as part of county's new Local Plan

Landowners, businesses, organisations and developers have one week left to respond to Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' as part of the development of the county's new Local Plan.

By **Megan Jones**

Published Sep 26

Last updated Sep 26

 [Comments](#)

The authority is currently asking for suggestions for potential sites as it looks to put together its next Local Plan

Shropshire Council has begun preparations for its next Local Plan - an important policy which designates specific pieces of land across the county for future housing or business development.

But the authority was left in limbo earlier this year, with its previous effort to complete its plan abandoned after planning inspections effectively ordered the council to withdraw the document over concerns about a lack of land supply.



Councillor David Walker

In August, beginning its preparations for its next Local Plan, Shropshire Council issued a 'Call for Sites' and invited organisations to chip in with ideas on where new developments could be built around the county.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including, but not limited to: large scale housing developments or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

David Walker, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for planning, said: "The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options."

"The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing - for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county; all whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work."

More information on the 'Call for Sites' is online on the [Shropshire Council website](#), with suggestions welcome until next Thursday (October 2).

Conversation

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Shropshire Council asks for land submissions to help meet housing targets

NEWS

August 26, 2025

 By Shropshire Live

Shropshire Council is urging landowners, businesses, and developers to submit potential sites for consideration as part of the county's next Local Plan.



The brownfield site at William Farr House is being redeveloped to provide extra-care affordable housing. Photo: Shropshire Council

The 'Call for Sites' process is currently open and will run until October 2nd, 2025.

The initiative is designed to gather information on available land that could be allocated for various developments, including housing, employment, retail, leisure, and renewable energy generation.

- Advertisement -

The next Local Plan will aim to meet new mandatory government housing targets while also providing a framework for sustainable development across Shropshire. A key focus will be on delivering more affordable housing for local residents.

Speaking about the process, Councillor David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, highlighted the dual importance of the plan. "The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs," he said. "All whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work."

The 'Call for Sites' is crucial for informing the council's preparation of the new Local Plan, ensuring they have a comprehensive understanding of development options available to meet the county's future needs.

Interested parties, including landowners and site promoters, can find more information and access the site promotion forms on the [Shropshire Council website](#).

One more week to respond to Shropshire Council's Local Plan 'call for sites'

NEWS

September 27, 2025



By Shropshire Live

Landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations and developers have one more week to respond to Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' – part of the development of Shropshire's new Local Plan.



Councillor David Walker. Photo: Shropshire Council

The 'Call for Sites' process provides insight on available development options to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Sites promoted through this process will be assessed by the council as potential allocations for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. They can be promoted for a range of uses, such as large scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

- Advertisement -

The next Local Plan will provide a positive framework for achieving a sustainable development across the county.

David Walker, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for planning, said:

"The call for sites is an important first step to build a positive development framework for the county for the new plan period and beyond. I would encourage interested parties to get involved so the council can fully understand the development options.

"The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county; all whilst protecting our precious built, historic and natural environment which makes Shropshire such a great place to live and work."

More information on the 'Call for Sites' and the council's site promotion form is [available here](#).

More information on the 'Call for Mineral Working Opportunities' and the mineral working promotion form is [available here](#).

Shropshire Council 'Call for Sites' open until October 2025

27TH AUGUST [PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT](#)



The William Farr House, a redevelopment of brownfield site to provide extra-care affordable housing



By Alexandra Cooke

AI Assisted reporter

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Shropshire Council's 'Call for Sites' process remains open until October 2, 2025.

This initiative allows landowners and developers to promote land for potential development in Shropshire's next Local Plan.

The council is looking at various uses for these sites, including sustainable urban extensions, mixed-use development, new housing, employment, retail, leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

The new Local Plan will address the Government's mandatory housing targets and aim to create a sustainable development framework across the county.

Councillor David Walker, cabinet member for planning, said: "The next Local Plan for Shropshire provides an important opportunity to provide more housing – particularly affordable housing – for Shropshire residents, boost the local economy and create quality local jobs, and address the infrastructure challenges facing the county.

"The 'call for sites' will ensure the council fully understands available development options and will inform preparation of the next Local Plan."

More details about 'Call for Sites' are on Shropshire Council's website.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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***Appendix 15: Ongoing Invitation to Promote Sites Local Plan
Webpage***

Promoting a site for allocation

[Home](#) > [Planning policy](#) > [Next Local Plan](#) > Promoting a site for allocation

Have your say

We're currently consulting on [three planning policy-related proposals](#).

[Dismiss](#)

To inform the next Local Plan, Shropshire Council undertook a 'call for sites' between the 10 July 2025 and 2 October 2025. Sites promoted through this exercise will be considered through a site assessment process as potential allocations in the next Local Plan to accommodate the development to meet the future needs of Shropshire.

Whilst the 'Call for sites' period has now closed, if you do still wish to promote sites for consideration as proposed allocations for development, please complete and submit the [site promotion form](#) to planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk. Submitted forms need to be accompanied by **appropriate site location plan(s)** and any available **relevant supporting material**. Sites can be promoted for one or more uses, including but not limited to: new settlements, large scale sustainable urban extensions to existing settlements, sustainable mixed use development, housing, employment, retail and leisure, or renewable energy generation.

If you're unable to submit this information via email, it can be posted to Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it's not necessary to submit copies by both email and post.

Wherever possible, we will consider site promotions submitted after the close of the 'call for sites' within the site assessment process which will be undertaken to inform the identification of proposed allocations in the next Local Plan. However, if site promotions are received after the completion of the site assessment process this may not be achievable. Where this is the case we will endeavour to consider them within a future site assessment, but this may not inform the next Local Plan.

Frequently asked questions

Related documents

- [Site promotion form.xlsx](#)

▼ Why are site promotions allowed after the 'call for sites'?

It's important that the council understands where land is potentially available for a range of types of development. This will inform decisions on appropriate sites to identify as potential allocations in the next Local Plan – reflecting constraints, opportunities, and infrastructure needs and capacity.

▼ Who can submit a site?

The process is open to all: landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

However, if you don't own the land you'll need to specify who does and whether they support the site promotion.

▼ Do I need to use the site promotion form?

The form ensures that all necessary information is provided and will support the timely review of sites by the council. As such, we don't encourage promotions in other formats.

▼ Will all sites promoted be allocated?

No, not all promoted sites will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan. Furthermore, not all promoted sites will be supported as planning applications.

▼ What happens if sites overlap?

Some parcels of land are submitted to the council by more than one promoter, or the site promoter wishes for different components of a site to be considered separately. This won't affect the assessment process undertaken for the site.

▼ When will the public see sites promoted during the call for sites?

All sites promoted, and the site assessment process undertaken, will be made publicly available on this website in due course. Specific timescales will depend on the number of site promotions received.

▼ [Can anyone comment on site promotions?](#)

We're not inviting comments from other parties on site promotions. However, informed by the subsequent site assessment process and other relevant evidence, we will start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, including proposed site allocations. As such, the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2026.

▼ [Can anyone comment on the site assessment process?](#)

We're not inviting comments on our site assessment process yet. However, it will be made publicly available as part of the evidence base that informs proposals within the next Local Plan. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, including proposed site allocations. As such, the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2026.

▼ [What is the site assessment process?](#)

Our site assessment process will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints. Examples of key factors to be considered through this process are included on [the constraints map](#). Importantly, this process will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the site assessment undertaken will be made publicly available on this website.

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***Appendix 16: Ongoing Invitation to Promote Mineral
Working Opportunities Local Plan Webpage***

Promoting a mineral working opportunity

[Home](#) > [Planning_policy](#) > [Next Local Plan](#) > Promoting a mineral working opportunity

Have your say

We're currently consulting on [three planning_policy-related proposals](#).

[Dismiss](#)

To inform the next Local Plan, Shropshire Council undertook a 'call for mineral working opportunities' between the 10 July 2025 and 2 October 2025. Land promoted through this exercise will be considered through an assessment process, which will inform the approach to meeting mineral demand in Shropshire.

Whilst the 'call for mineral working opportunities' period has now closed, if you do still wish to promote land (specific site opportunities with known mineral resources, general areas with known mineral resources, or general areas where there are potential mineral resources) for consideration, please complete and submit the [mineral working opportunities promotion form](#) to planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk. Submitted forms need to be accompanied by **appropriate site location plan(s)** and any available **relevant supporting material**.

If you're unable to submit this information via email, it can be posted to Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ. However, it's not necessary to submit copies by both email and post.

Wherever possible, we will consider land promotions submitted after the close of the 'call for mineral working opportunities' within the assessment process which will inform the approach to meeting mineral demand in Shropshire. However, if land promotions are received after the completion of the assessment process this may not be achievable. Where this is the case we will endeavour to consider this land within a future assessment, but this may not inform the next Local Plan.

Frequently asked questions

Related documents

- [Mineral working opportunities promotion form.xlsx](#)

Can anyone comment on land promotions for mineral working?

We are not inviting comments from other parties on land promotions for mineral working. However, informed by the subsequent assessment process and other relevant evidence, we will start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. This includes in relation to the need to identify locations for mineral working, and if so the proposed approach to doing so. We are keen to hear thoughts on these proposals as part of the next Local Plan, with the first formal stage of consultation scheduled to commence in late 2026.

What is the assessment process?

Our assessment process will include consideration of site opportunities and constraints – examples of key factors to be considered through this process are included on the [constraints map](#). Importantly, this process will also include consideration of infrastructure needs and capacity.

In due course, all submissions and the assessment undertaken will be made publicly available on this website.

Who can submit land?

The process is open to all: landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, operators and any other interested parties.

However, if you don't own the land you'll need to specify who does and whether they support the land promotion.

Do I need to use the site promotion form?

The form ensures that all necessary information is provided and will support the timely review of land by the council. As such, we don't encourage promotions in other formats.

Will all land promoted through this process be allocated as a mineral working site, identified as a preferred area for mineral working, or identified as a general area of search for mineral working?

No, not all promoted land will be proposed for allocation within the next Local Plan. Furthermore, not all promoted land will be supported as planning applications.

▼ [What happens if land promotions overlap?](#)

Some parcels of land may be submitted to the council by more than one promoter, or the land promoter may wish for different components of a site to be considered separately. This won't affect the assessment process undertaken for the land.

▼ [When will the public see sites promoted during the call for mineral working opportunities?](#)

All land promoted, and the assessment process undertaken, will be made publicly available on this website in due course. Specific timescales will depend on the number of land promotions received.

▼ [Can anyone comment on land promoted through the call for mineral working opportunities?](#)

We're not inviting comments from other parties on land promoted through this process. However, informed by the subsequent assessment process and other relevant evidence, we'll start to develop proposals for inclusion in the next Local Plan. This includes in relation to the need to identify locations for mineral working, and the proposed approach to doing so at those locations. We're keen to hear thoughts on these proposals as part of the next Local Plan, with the first formal stage of consultation scheduled to commence in October 2026.

▼ [Can anyone comment on the mineral working assessment process?](#)

We are not inviting comments on our assessment process yet. However, it will be made publicly available as part of the evidence base that informs proposals within the next Local Plan. We are keen to hear thoughts on these proposals, with the first formal stage of consultation on the next Local Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2026.

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Shropshire Council

Shropshire Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

May 2026



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1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process designed to evaluate and communicate the potential environmental effects of a plan, alongside its reasonable alternatives. The purpose of SEA is to guide and shape the plan-making process, preventing or reducing adverse impacts and enhancing opportunities for positive outcomes. In doing so, SEA aims to strengthen a plan's overall contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2. SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations), which transcribed the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) into UK law.
- 1.3. The stated objective of the SEA process is *"to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development"*¹.

SEA of Local Plans

- 1.4. The SEA Regulations require the 'responsible authority' to 'determine' whether SEA is required, with the process used to do so termed SEA Screening.
- 1.5. Shropshire Council is the 'responsible authority' for the next Shropshire Local Plan and therefore responsible for undertaking SEA to 'determine' whether SEA is required to inform its preparation.

The Next Shropshire Local Plan

- 1.6. The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish the vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to **2046**.
- 1.7. It will be informed by assessments of need for housing (including affordable housing and specialist accommodation), employment and other appropriate land-uses. To meet identified needs, the next Shropshire Local Plan will allocate land and provide policies to manage development.

¹ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive

- 1.8. Crucially, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also be informed by an **Infrastructure Delivery Plan**, identifying the infrastructure it is forecast will be required for new planned growth and how the infrastructure will be funded and delivered - 'on-site, through 'developer contributions' and/or from other sources. This infrastructure is likely to include additional school places, highway works, public transport and active travel improvements, new and enhanced GP practices, and leisure and community facilities.
- 1.9. To ensure the delivery of essential infrastructure, the next Shropshire Local Plan will identify the on-site infrastructure required for allocated sites and include policies outlining the 'developer contributions' required for the provision of infrastructure from development.
- 1.10. The next Shropshire Local Plan also provides an opportunity to consider and respond to evidenced local issues and opportunities, thereby maximising the potential of development to meet community needs and conserve and enhance our natural, built and historic environment.
- 1.11. As Shropshire Council is also a Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the **Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire**. This allows a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.
- 1.12. This next Shropshire Local Plan will be progressed under Government's new plan-making process. This is characterised by a more efficient 30-month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four-month scoping stage prior to its formal commencement).
- 1.13. Guidance published by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to support implementation of this new plan-making process provides useful context when undertaking SEA Screening of Local Plans.
- 1.14. It specifies Local Planning Authorities "*will need to carry out SEA if it meets certain criteria set out in regulation 5 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*"², continuing to state that Government expects "*all Local Plans will need to carry out SEA*"².

² MHCLG, (2026), Guidance - 30-month local plan process: an overview, <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

2. SEA Screening

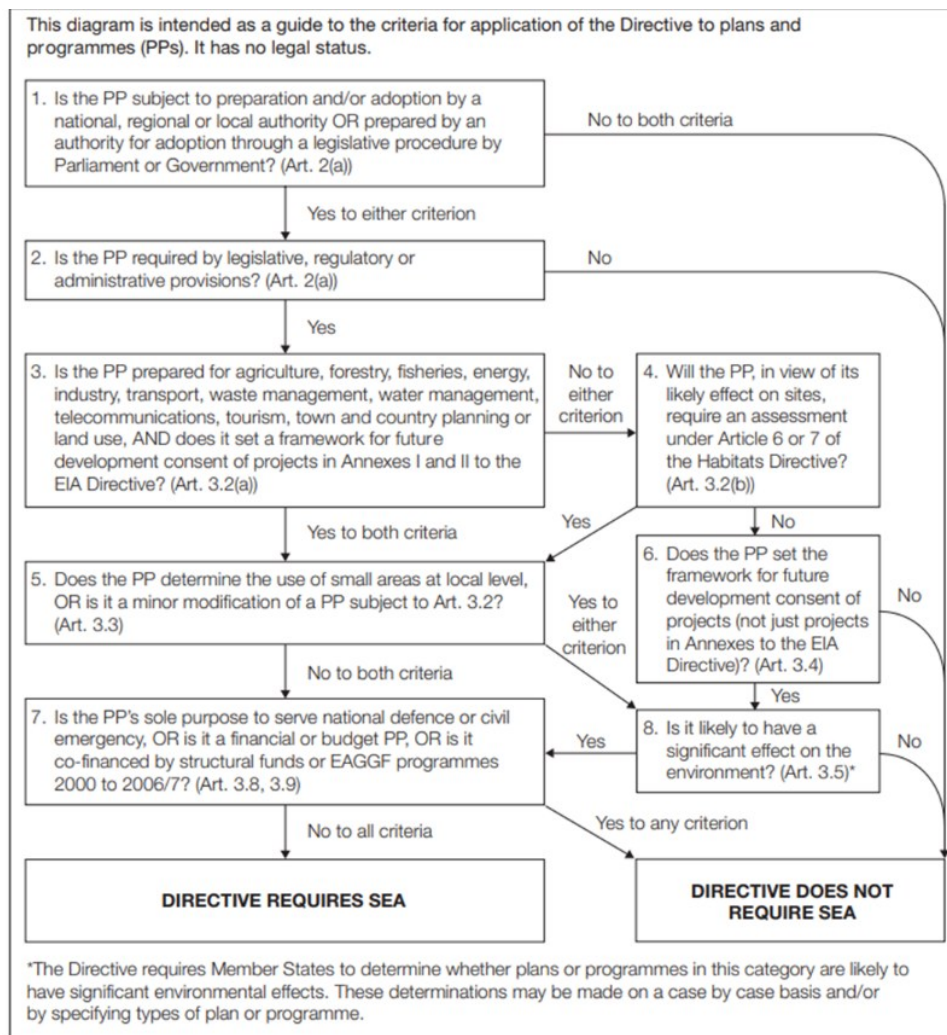
Introduction

2.1. The purpose of this SEA Screening exercise is to establish, from the outset, whether there is a need to undertake SEA to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.

How to Undertake an SEA Screen

2.2. The 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'³ (which is equally applicable to the SEA Regulations) provides a flow diagram which summarises the SEA screening process. This flow diagram forms Figure 2.1:

Figure 2.1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



³ MHCLG (then ODPM) (2005), <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78ec0740f0b62b22cbddd2/practicalguidesea.pdf>

SEA Screen of the next Shropshire Local Plan

- 2.3. The process outlined in Figure 2.1 has been applied when undertaking the SEA 'screening' of the next Shropshire Local Plan. Specifically, a series of questions were drawn from the criteria from the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (summarised in Figure 2.1) which were used to 'screen' the next Shropshire Local Plan – based on our current understanding of its likely 'scope'.
- 2.4. These questions and the assessment of next Shropshire Local Plan are summarised within Figure 2.2:

Figure 2.2: Application of the SEA Directive

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
1. Is the plan or programme subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The next Shropshire Local Plan is to be prepared and adopted by a local authority: Shropshire Council. Preparation and adoption of the next Shropshire Local Plan is in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (as amended).
2. Is the plan or programme required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Local Planning Authorities are legally required to produce Local Plans, such as the next Shropshire Local Plan, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (as amended).

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
<p>3. Is the plan or programme prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))?</p>	Y	<p>The next Shropshire Local Plan is prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes.</p> <p>The next Shropshire Local Plan will set the framework for the future development consent of projects, which may include development which may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA Directive.</p> <p>Specifically, it will contain criteria and/or conditions which guide the way a consenting authority decides an application for development consent.</p> <p>Development consent is defined in the EIA Directive as "<i>the decision of the competent authority or authorities which entitled the developer to proceed with the project</i>" (Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive).</p>
<p>4. Will the plan or programme, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))?</p>	Y	<p>Due to the inclusion of site allocations, the next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential for significant effects on European natural designations and as such Habitats Regulations Assessment will be required.</p>
<p>5. Does the plan or programme determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)</p>	N	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>6. Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)</p>	Y	<p>The next Shropshire Local Plan will both allocate land for development and through local planning policies provide a framework for the determination of planning applications thereby providing a framework for the future development consent of projects.</p>

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
7. Is the plan or programme's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	The next Shropshire Local Plan does not serve national defence or civil emergency purposes, nor is it cofinanced by structural funds or EAGGF programmes.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Y	The local planning policies and site allocations of the next Shropshire Local Plan have the potential for a significant effect on the environment. Further information is provided within Figure 2.3.

2.5. When deciding whether the next Shropshire Local Plan might have significant effects on the environment (Question 8), its potential scope needs to be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. This process is summarised within Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3: Assessment of the Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

Criteria for Determining Likely Significance of Effects	Likely Significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard to:		
(a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	Yes	The next Shropshire Local Plan would contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects through the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations.
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	Yes	The next Shropshire Local Plan is likely to influence other future statutory Development Plans. This includes Supplementary Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

Criteria for Determining Likely Significance of Effects	Likely Significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Yes	Local Plans are expected to be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), at the heart of which is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that " <i>all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects</i> " (paragraph 11, NPPF 2024).
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan	Yes	There is potential for environmental impact from the proposals in the next Shropshire Local Plan due to the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations.
(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	Yes	The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to impact on the implementation of community legislation on the environment. It will form the next Mineral & Waste Plan for Shropshire – as such it is linked to waste management. Furthermore, it will influence and draw upon the Wastewater Management Plans of the water companies operating in Shropshire.

Criteria for Determining Likely Significance of Effects	Likely Significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	<p>The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to have enduring environmental effects due to the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations. As these effects relate to development, they may not be reversible.</p> <p>However, whilst this potential exists, it is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will through its local planning policies result in positive impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the national requirement for most new development to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain provides the opportunity for site allocations to achieve environmental benefit.</p>
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	<p>The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to cause cumulative effects on the environment due to the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations. However, whilst this potential exists, it is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will through its local planning policies result in positive impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the national requirement for most new development to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain provides the opportunity for site allocations to achieve environmental benefit.</p>

Criteria for Determining Likely Significance of Effects	Likely Significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	Yes	The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to cause transboundary effects on the environment due to the inclusion of local policies and site allocations. However, whilst this potential exists, it is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will through its local planning policies result in positive impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the national requirement for most new development to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain provides the opportunity for site allocations to achieve environmental benefit.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Yes	The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to contribute to risks to human health and the environment due to the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations. However, this is deemed to be extremely unlikely.
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects of the local planning policies and site allocations within the next Shropshire Local Plan will depend on its vision and spatial strategy, but it has the potential to extend across Shropshire Council’s administrative area. There is also potential for transboundary impacts on other local planning authorities’ administrative areas.

Criteria for Determining Likely Significance of Effects	Likely Significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
<p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ii. Exceeded environmental quality standards iii. Intensive land-use 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to affect the special natural characteristics of the area due to the inclusion of local planning policies and site allocations.</p> <p>The next Shropshire Local Plan has the potential to introduce development which exceeds environmental quality standards or limit values.</p> <p>The next Shropshire Local Plan 2046 has the potential to introduce development which constitutes intensive land-use.</p> <p>However, whilst this potential exists, it is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will through its local planning policies result in positive impacts on the environment. Furthermore, the national requirement for most new development to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain provides the opportunity for site allocations to achieve environmental benefit.</p>
<p>(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The local planning policies and site allocations in the next Shropshire Local Plan have the potential to affect areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>

3. Conclusion

SEA Screening of the Next Shropshire Local Plan

- 3.1. The conclusion of this SEA Screen of the next Shropshire Local Plan is that based on its likely 'scope', it has the potential to have a significant effect on the natural environment.
- 3.2. **As such, it is Shropshire Council's opinion that the emerging Shropshire Local Plan should be 'screened in' to the Strategic Environment Assessment process.**

Scope of the Next Shropshire Local Plan

- 3.3. This SEA screening has been undertaken in advance of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence Preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan and the first stage of consultation (referred to as the 'scoping consultation' stage) undertaken to inform preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 3.4. The purpose of the 'scoping consultation' will be to seek initial views on what the next Shropshire Local Plan should contain and Shropshire Councils approach to engagement during its preparation. This will include 'scoping':
 - a. The key priorities for the **vision** and **measurable outcomes** for the delivery of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - b. The key considerations for identifying a **spatial strategy** to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
 - c. The **approach to identifying and assessing** potential site allocations.
 - d. Matters that would benefit from being addressed by **local planning policies** to complement new *national decision-making policies*.
 - e. How we should effectively **engage** communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
 - f. The **evidence** required to support the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 3.5. Importantly, as this 'scoping consultation' will seek views on the scope of the next Local Plan and **will not identify proposed or preferred options or identify draft site allocations** SEA is not required to inform this stage of consultation.

Next Steps

- 3.6. The next step in the SEA process will be to define the proposed 'scope' of the assessment. The 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'⁴ (which is equally applicable to the SEA Regulations) summarises the five steps to do so as:
- a. **Identifying other relevant plans:** to establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors, programmes and environmental to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help protection objectives to identify SEA objectives.
 - b. **Collecting baseline information:** to provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.
 - c. **Identifying environmental problems:** to help focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting of the SEA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring.
 - d. **Developing SEA objectives:** to provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.
 - e. **Consulting on the scope of SEA:** to ensure that the SEA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan or programme.
- 3.7. **The Council intends to consult on the scope of the SEA during the 'notification period' for the next Shropshire Local Plan.**
- 3.8. SEA will through the assessment of environmental effects, inform the development/refinement of reasonable options and selection of preferred options within the next Shropshire Local Plan – this includes the identification of preferred site allocations.

⁴ MHCLG (then ODPM) (2005), <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78ec0740f0b62b22cbddd2/practicalguidesea.pdf>

Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2026

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
<p>Shropshire Local Plan</p> <p>The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.</p> <p>The next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the next Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire. This enables a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.</p> <p><i>Stage: Scoping Consultation</i></p>

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Daniel Corden – Principal Planning Policy Officer

Decision, review, and monitoring		
Decision	Yes	No
Initial Stage One ESHIA Only?	X	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		X

If completion of a Stage One screening assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above, and complete both part A and part B of this template. If a Full or Stage Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative impact or positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
<p>Subject to approval, the next Shropshire Local Plan will be at the ‘scoping’ consultation stage. This is the first of three formal stages of consultation to inform the next Local Plan, seeking views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key priorities for the vision and measurable outcomes for the delivery of the next Local Plan. • The key considerations for identifying a spatial strategy to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire. • The approach to identifying and assessing potential site allocations. • Matters that would benefit from being addressed by local planning policies to complement new national decision-making policies.

- How we should effectively engage communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
- The evidence required to support the next Local Plan.

At this stage, ahead of the proposed consultation, it is considered that this ‘scoping’ consultation will support the next Shropshire Local Plan in having Neutral to Low Positive impacts across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined by the Equality Act 2010.

This will be achieved through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of all groups in our communities.

Achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be supported by site allocations and local planning policies:

- Identification of site allocations will be informed by a robust assessment process which includes social, environmental and economic considerations.
- Local policies will address such issues as the design and density of development, ensuring an appropriate housing mix - size, type and tenure and affordability, supporting the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, promotion of health and wellbeing, delivery of infrastructure and open space, promoting new and enhancing existing employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of our town centres.

There is potential for this to rise to a Low to Medium Positive impact to be experienced in the intersecting Age and Disability Protected Characteristic groupings through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of these groups – informed by a supported specialist housing accommodation assessment, strategic housing market assessment, economic development needs assessment and infrastructure delivery plan.

There is likewise potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care. The Council also considers those in the grouping of veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families, in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that ‘due regard’ is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021.

Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances. For these additional categories, there is also potential for the impacts to increase to Medium Positive, particularly given efforts envisaged to improve health and wellbeing outcomes across communities.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

At this stage, it is considered that this 'scoping' consultation will support the next Shropshire Local Plan in having neutral to low positive health and wellbeing impacts, potentially increasing to medium positive impacts.

This will be achieved through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of all groups in our communities.

Achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be supported by site allocations and local planning policies:

- Identification of site allocations will be informed by a robust assessment process which includes social, environmental and economic considerations.
- Local policies will address such issues as the design and density of development, ensuring an appropriate housing mix - size, type and tenure and affordability, supporting the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, **promotion of health and wellbeing**, delivery of infrastructure and open space, promoting new and enhancing existing employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of our town centres.

There is potential for Low to Medium positive impacts to be achieved directly on an individual's health/mental health/wellbeing, indirectly on an individual's ability to improve their own health/wellbeing and directly on the community (social, economic and environmental living conditions) that would impact health.

This would be through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of these groups – supported by policies which address the design, density, health and wellbeing, and infrastructure and open space provision within development.

There is potential for Low to Medium positive impacts to be achieved on the demand for or access to health and social care services. This would be through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of these groups – supported by proactive engagement with infrastructure providers (including the ICB) and an infrastructure delivery plan.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

This ESHIA is associated with the 'scoping' consultation, intended to inform preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

It is envisaged that any issues or opportunities relating to equality, social inclusion and health considerations raised during this consultation will be reviewed when the

consultation process concludes and will inform and preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

Further ESHIA's will be undertaken to inform development of the next Local Plan (in advance of two further stages of consultation). These assessments will inform consideration of the equality, social inclusion and health impacts.

These two further consultations will then provide further opportunity for stakeholders to identify equality, social inclusion and health considerations which will be reviewed following the conclusion of the consultation process and inform the continued preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

The Council will draw upon the learning from pedestrianisation efforts in market towns in Shropshire, which are building upon Covid-19 measures that led to improved physical access around towns by people in Protected Characteristic groupings and those we may describe as vulnerable. The Council will also draw upon strategic policy around public transport infrastructure including Active Travel, and best alignment with economic growth strategy development and with implementation of cultural and leisure strategy actions. These strategies all very much include efforts to promote social inclusion and in so doing achieve equality of opportunity for people in Protected Characteristic groupings to safely access economic, leisure and cultural opportunities in market towns.

Associated ESHIAs

- ESHIA's for current and emerging Supplementary Planning Documents and other Planning Guidance prepared to support understanding and application of policies in the adopted Development Plan. This includes
 - The Ironbridge Gorge WHS SPD.
 - The Design of New Dwellings draft SPD.
 - The Design of Residential Extensions draft SPD.
 - Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code.
- ESHIAs for the previous Shropshire Local Plan Review.
- ESHIAs for the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021 and Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact, and actions to review and monitor overall impacts, with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

Subject to approval, the next Shropshire Local Plan will be at the 'scoping' consultation stage. This is the first of three formal stages of consultation to inform the next Local Plan, seeking views on:

- The key priorities for the vision and measurable outcomes for the delivery of the next Local Plan.
- The key considerations for identifying a spatial strategy to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
- The approach to identifying and assessing potential site allocations.

- Matters that would benefit from being addressed by local planning policies to complement new national decision-making policies.
- How we should effectively engage communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
- The evidence required to support the next Local Plan.

It is considered that this ‘scoping’ consultation will support the next Shropshire Local Plan in positively contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and supporting positive economic and societal impacts.

It is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will positively contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will be achieved through a proactive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the needs of our communities. In particular, it is expected that the vision and measurable outcomes of the next Shropshire Local Plan will seek to support the transition to net zero and the spatial strategy will be responsive to the connectivity of communities to services and facilities – thereby supporting the ability to travel via sustainable and active modes.

Achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be supported by site allocations and local planning policies:

- Identification of site allocations will be informed by a robust assessment process which includes social, environmental and economic considerations of direct relevance to mitigating / adapting to our changing climate.
- Local policies will address such issues as the design and density of development, **supporting the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change** and delivery of infrastructure and open space, promoting new and enhancing existing employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of our town centres.

It is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will support positive economic and societal impacts. This will be achieved through a proactive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that is responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and supports the delivery of development that meets the needs of our communities. In particular, it is expected that the vision and measurable outcomes of the next Shropshire Local Plan will seek to support positive economic growth and the achievement of the housing needs of all in our communities and the spatial strategy will be responsive to economic needs and opportunities and the housing needs of our communities.

Achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be supported by site allocations and local planning policies:

- Identification of site allocations will be informed by a robust assessment process which includes social, environmental and economic considerations.
- Local policies will address such issues as ensuring an **appropriate housing mix - size, type and tenure and affordability**, supporting the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, promotion of health and wellbeing, delivery of infrastructure and open space, **promoting new and enhancing existing employment opportunities** and the vitality and viability of our town centres.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer for the proposed service change Edward West		21/04/2026
Officer carrying out the screening Daniel Corden		21/04/2026
External support* Mrs Lois Dale Senior Insights and Research EDI Specialist		21/04/2026

**This refers to support external to the service and within the Council, e.g., the Senior Insights and Research EDI specialist, the Integration & Inequalities Officer – Public Health, other Insights and Research or Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, Climate Change specialists, etc.*

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Lead officer's name Daniel Corden		21/04/2026
Service manager's name Edward West		21/04/2026

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The adopted Development Plan forms the 'starting point' when determining planning applications for development.</p> <p>In Shropshire, the adopted Development Plan comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The adopted Local Plan, which consists of the Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and Site Allocations & Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (adopted 2015).• 'Made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans. <p>Local Planning Authorities are required to regularly review their Local Plan - at least every five years. These reviews are to ensure our Local Plan remains 'up-to-date' and significant weight may be applied to its policies in decision making.</p> <p>Recent years have seen significant changes to the national planning picture, with the introduction of a new plan-making process and ongoing changes to the National</p>

Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out Government's planning policies in England. This has led to important contextual changes locally.

As a result, Shropshire Council considers there is a need to review its Local Plan (incorporating the entirety of the Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire). Therefore, subject to approval by Cabinet:

- A new Plan-Making timetable and Project Initiation Document detailing the timescales, key milestones and process to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan will be issued.
- A notice of an intention to commence preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan will be issued.
- A 'scoping' consultation, which constitutes the first of three formal stages of consultation to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan, will be undertaken.

This ESHIA is associated with the 'scoping' consultation, intended to inform preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. Subsequent ESHIA's will be undertaken alongside each of the consultations to inform the next Local Plan.

The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.

Maintaining an up to date Local Plan will support the Council's ability to deliver development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of all groups in our communities.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

- All those within our local communities.
- Local MP's, Councillors and Town & Parish Councils as the representatives of local communities.
- All those working in and visiting Shropshire.
- The voluntary and community sector.
- Organisations with strategic or cross boundary economic and environmental interests, including neighbouring local planning authorities
- A range of stakeholders, including the development industry, local businesses, housing associations, utilities companies, and the land based sector.
- Government Departments and Agencies.
- All other interested stakeholders.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

Key evidence that will support the screen of the service change includes:

- The requirements of national planning policy.
- The adopted Development Plan – particularly 'made' Neighbourhood Plans.

- Existing and emerging evidence base that will underpin the next Local Plan, as detailed in the Shropshire Local Plan Project Initiation Document. This includes:
 - Evidence on ‘baseline’ conditions, local issues and local opportunities – such as that from analysis of Census data and community demographic profiles.
 - Evidence base prepared to inform previous Local Plans that has been reviewed and considered appropriate to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.
 - Wider Council strategies and associated evidence. This includes the draft Corporate Plan, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, current Economic Growth Strategy, Local Transport Plan, Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Housing Strategy, Social Care Market Position Statement, Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Shropshire Hills Management Plan.
 - Further evidence considered necessary and proportionate to inform the next Local Plan e.g. from Census data analysis and IMD analysis.
- Responses to consultations undertaken to inform the next Local Plan – this includes the ‘scoping’ consultation.
- Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.

Evidence to inform the next Local Plan will be made available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>

Additional contextual information about Shropshire provided on the information, intelligence and insight webpages via <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/information-intelligence-and-insight/> will also be drawn upon.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

This ESHIA is associated with the ‘scoping’ consultation to be undertaken before formally commencing preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. It seeks view on the scope of:

- The key priorities for the vision and measurable outcomes for the delivery of the next Local Plan.
- The key considerations for identifying a spatial strategy to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
- The approach to identifying and assessing potential site allocations.
- Matters that would benefit from being addressed by local planning policies to complement new national decision-making policies.
- How we should effectively engage communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
- The evidence required to support the next Local Plan.

The ‘scoping’ consultation constitutes the first of three formal stages of consultation to be undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. Subsequent ESHIA’s will be undertaken alongside each of the consultations to inform the next Local Plan.

The proposed approach to engagement is detailed in the Shropshire Local Plan Project Initiation Document and is proposed to take place between May and July 2026.

As part of the remit of this ‘scoping’ consultation is to seek views on engagement, it may be subject to refinement as plan-making progresses.

Key principles within the proposed approach to engagement include:

- Clear engagement: use of plain-English and avoid unnecessary acronyms.
- Publicising engagement: use of the Council website, planning policy consultation database, digital press releases, social media, Town & Parish Council’s, VCSA mailings and Local Councillors as effective conduits into their communities, where appropriate displaying leaflets/posters in public buildings, and where appropriate undertaking public meetings/drop-in events.
- Easy access to consultation documents: use of the Council website, facilitation of digital access at libraries and ‘Shropshire Local’ facilities, and provision of a hard copy at the Council’s head office (Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8HQ).
- Supporting responses: clear guidance on the purpose of the consultation, provision of a consultation response form and guidance on how to respond.
- Transparency of responses: production of a response summary.

The ‘scoping’ consultation sets out to demonstrate how we can ensure our consultations are clear, well publicised, accessible, convenient and transparent – supporting engagement across groupings including those who may often be under-represented.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below this table)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have for a grouping, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Protected characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact Stage Two ESHIA required	High positive impact Stage One ESHIA required	Medium positive or negative impact Stage One ESHIA required	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) Stage One ESHIA required
<u>Age</u> (including children, young people, young carers, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with a disability)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive

Protected characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) Stage One ESHIA required
<u>Disability</u> (including cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (including associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (including associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (including associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Race</u> (including ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Religion or Belief</u> (including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Sex</u> (including associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (including associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage

Protected characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) Stage One ESHIA required
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (including households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness; and rural communities)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive
<u>Other: Carers</u> (including families and friends with caring responsibilities)				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive
<u>Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families (as per Armed Forces Act 2023)</u>				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive
<u>Other: Young people leaving care</u>				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?				✓Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
<p>Will the proposal <i>indirectly</i> impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p>				<p>✓ Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive</p>
<p>Will the policy have a <i>direct</i> impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health? For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p>				<p>✓ Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive</p>
<p>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services? For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p>				<p>✓ Neutral to low positive at this stage, potential to increase to medium positive</p>

Initial health equity assessment	
<p>For the following categories, please complete with the expected impacts of this service change on wider inequalities, not just those that are health-related (whether positive, negative, or neutral) – include any additional information you feel is pertinent or useful. Consider and record which you can control, which you can influence, and which may be out of your control.</p>	
<p>Which population groups / demographics will face health impacts as a result of this change (if any)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economically Deprived • Geographic Deprivation (inc. Rurality) – <i>if so, where?</i> • Inclusion Health & Vulnerable Groups¹ • Other 	<p>It is expected that the next Shropshire Local Plan will positively contribute to the health equality of all groups in Shropshire.</p> <p>This will be achieved through an inclusive vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy that support the delivery of development that meets the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of all groups in our communities.</p> <p>The vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be informed by and responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire, particularly its rurality and the pockets of socio-economic deprivation across</p>

	<p>the county. It will also set out to be responsive to the needs of all groups within our communities.</p> <p>Achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy will be supported by site allocations and local planning policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of site allocations will be informed by a robust assessment process which includes social, environmental and economic considerations. • Local policies will address such issues as the design and density of development, ensuring an appropriate housing mix - size, type and tenure and affordability, supporting the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, promotion of health and wellbeing, delivery of infrastructure and open space, promoting new and enhancing existing employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of our town centres.
<p>What mitigations / enhancements are already in place, or what mitigations / enhancements do you plan to include for the foreseeable consequences of these changes?</p>	<p>The next Local Plan will include a vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy which set out to be responsive to the characteristics of Shropshire and the needs of all groups within our communities. This will positively contribute to the enhancement of health equality.</p> <p>Furthermore, local policies within the next Local Plan will address such issues as the design and density, housing mix - size, type and tenure and affordability, climate adaptation / mitigation, health and wellbeing, infrastructure and open space provision and employment opportunities. These policies will positively enhance the contribution the next Local Plan makes to health equality and positively contribute to the mitigation of any adverse effects on health equality. ESHIA's will be undertaken alongside each of the consultations to inform the next Local Plan. This cyclical process will ensure that equality, health and social inclusion is proactively considered throughout the plan-making process.</p>

1- Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. Health impacts for this wide grouping will therefore potentially be the same as those recorded under the Social Inclusion category in the equality impact table.

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision-making processes. These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Stage One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, a Stage One ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the national Protected Characteristic groupings and our additional local categories. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second Stage One ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive.

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called 'due regard' of the needs of people in Protected Characteristic groupings.

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be high negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to take advice on whether or not to

carry out a full report, or Stage Two assessment. This is resource intensive but will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Stage Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government. The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet or to Strategic Licensing Committee.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions will you take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any likely positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010.

The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation.

There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief. We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through

having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

For the individuals and groupings who may be affected, ask yourself what impact do you think is likely and what actions will you currently anticipate taking, to mitigate or enhance likely impact of the service change? If you are reducing a service, for example, there may be further use you could make of awareness raising through social media and other channels to reach more people who may be affected.

Social inclusion is then a wider additional local category we use in Shropshire, in order to help us to go beyond the equality legislation in also considering impacts for individuals and households with regard to the circumstances in which they may find themselves across their life stages. This could be households on low incomes, or households facing challenges in accessing services, such as households in rural areas, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as refugee families or rough sleepers.

Please note that veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families are a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under Armed Forces legislation, although in practice we have been doing so for a number of years now.

We also identify two further distinct separate local groupings due to their circumstances: care leavers, as vulnerable individuals, and carers, due to the support they give and the support they need.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove or reconfigure a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

Carry out and record your equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.

- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is an area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we ask service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities.

A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

Provision or change to a service that allows greater reach to those most in need, this can involve relocation, pooling of resource/efficiency changes, or digitisation of some provision. It may also involve greater opportunities for employment, decreasing socio-economic inequality. Physical alternatives to be made available (where practical) to be offered wherever possible to avoid digital exclusion and reduce social isolation. These changes can be either positive or negative depending on the proposal.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives. It could also involve virtual support sessions/appointments to avoid unnecessary travel and provide greater flexibility with individuals work schedules. It may involve greater internet connectivity, to improve remote working opportunities and air pollution concerns, or improved communications coverage through closer partnership working – targeting those most in need of specific information.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and wellbeing.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk or engage in active travel. Increasing physical activity and minimising the time spent sitting down helps to maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and depression. The UK Chief Medical Officers recommend that adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity, each week. At a wider level, reductions in vehicular emission lead to better air quality, and a reduction in NO₂ in the atmosphere.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and wellbeing of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. This can reduce the risks of cold related health effects, as well as reduce the financial burden on the population, whose ability to shoulder these costs can vary. Often a health promoting approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further advice: please contact

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or

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