

Urgent Question from Councillor Nat Green

Following the incident at the Lion Hotel on 8th December, it was clear that serious issues arose regarding the welfare of evacuated residents and businesses. I understand that Shropshire Council officers involved in the operation are undertaking a debriefing. Could councillors be told when that report will be produced, and could it be made available to all members at the earliest opportunity?

Response from Councillor Richard Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services

As part of the multi-agency response to the incident, the Council's Emergency Planning Team, On-call officers and volunteers, implemented its Rest Centre Plan, together with transportation to aid members of the public. The aim of a Rest Centre is to care for evacuees who need temporary accommodation or shelter due to an incident or emergency.

In addition to the council's official allocated rest centre, some local businesses / organisations voluntarily provided locations for dispersed members of the public to shelter whilst the incident was ongoing, and I would like to extend my appreciation for their actions during the cold evening.

Shropshire council staff responded very quickly to the incident and worked through until midnight across formal and informal rest centres / sites to assess the needs of the dispersed public.

The cordon was lifted by the Police at around midnight when the police were satisfied the area was safe and when all members of public affected had vacated the rest centres and other sites.

I would like to thank all Shropshire Council staff who responded to the incident, dropping many of their plans they had in place that evening, and going above and beyond their day to day duties. They responded professionally and worked in a calm matter in what was a stressful and evolving situation. The resilience of the Council and our community was truly demonstrated that evening.

As with all emergency incidents, reviews are undertaken to help improve plans and preparedness for future events, and I will be liaising with the Emergency Planning team in due course to understand learning outcomes from the event with regard to future rest centre exercises. However, I must stress that some information contained within emergency plans and

information gathered from a debriefing, is sensitive and will not be made publicly available as this information could prejudice future operations