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Committee and Date

Transformation and
Improvement Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

9 June 2025

TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025

**In the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

10.00 am

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

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

Present

Councillor Claire Wild

Councillors Joyce Barrow (Vice-Chair), Thomas Biggins, Rosemary Dartnall, Roger Evans, Peggy Mullock, Andrew Sherrington, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers (Substitute) and David Vasmer (Substitute)

56 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors David Minnery (substituted by David Vasmer) and Robert Tindall (substituted by Edward Towers).

57 Disclosable Interests

None received.

58 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

59 Public Question Time

A public question had been received from Mike Streetly, in relation to the full business case for the North West Relief Road.

The Chair advised that as the question was for the Portfolio Holder, the question would be directed to Cabinet for a response.

60 Member Question Time

There were no members' questions.

61 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3

The Executive Director for Resources provided an overview of the financial monitoring report, highlighting a projected overspend of £35.561 million. e explained the breakdown of overspends due to demand pressures and non-achievement of savings, and the general fund balance.

Concerns were raised about the Place Directorate's consistent overspend, highlighting specific areas such as waste management and highways. Members were reminded of the challenges of balancing the budget and the impact of social care costs.

Members inquired about the potential shortfall in capital receipts and the need for borrowing. James explained the factors affecting capital receipts and the possibility of short-term borrowing to cover the costs.

Members queried the financial implications of the Northwest Relief Road project. It was clarified that the project risk is minimal for the current financial year, but there are risks associated with future years.

62 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2024/25

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital introduced the quarter three performance monitoring report, highlighting improvements in adult social care, school readiness, broadband access, and workforce training, as well as areas needing further attention, including response times for freedom of information requests.

In response to queries received the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education provided updates on EHCP improvements and the Leader advised that the goal was to eliminate B&B usage by the end of the financial year.

63 Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2029/30

The Executive Director for Resources introduced the financial strategy report, emphasising that it was primarily for cabinet review, with further details to be included in the final report for full Council. He acknowledged that the collaborative budget group meetings were ongoing, which impacted the completeness of the current report.

Members noted the proposed savings of £8.8 million for the next financial year, which included an increase of £3.7 million from the previously identified medium-term financial strategy; together with £11 million demand mitigation primarily related to social care growth.

The complexity of the financial environment and the ongoing efforts to manage the budget realistically were emphasised. Members acknowledged the importance of reserves and the dynamic nature of budget planning.

It was confirmed that the previously discussed income strip model was not being taken forward.

64 **Work Programme**

No discussion on the work programme took place. Thanks were given to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities, Assistant Director for Finance and Technology, Executive Director for Resources and the finance team for their contributions throughout the year.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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