

MEMBERS QUESTIONS – COUNCIL

26 FEBRUARY 2026

1. Question from Cllr. Rosemary Dartnall

The reply to my recent Cabinet question about North West Road project spending raises many further questions, including;

1. Two NWR delegated spending requests were agreed by Council allowing, first £17m and second, a further £17m, totalling £34m. At the time of the second request, the Oxon Link Road and NWR were combined into a single project, called NWRR. Opposition parties, on the second request, asked for spending to be halted until the position on government funding was clarified, but the Council went ahead. Why was £39m of tax payers money spent when only £34m was allowed?
2. How much spending was delegated for the Oxon Link Road?
3. Balfour Beatty's contract (£5.1m) went through procurement. But, it's implied by the words "the Council's term contractor" that both WSP (£25.4m) and Kier (£2.9m), were engaged as existing suppliers, seemingly without normal Council process. Were Kier and WSP contracted for NWR/OLR through competitive procurement? If so, please supply evidence
4. WSP's colossal £25.418m payment for preliminary works, included preparing the planning application. Planning permission was never secured because of concerns that subsurface development could damage Shrewsbury's water supply. WSP's subsurface investigation works should have established clearly whether, or not, this risk was present. It can only be said that WSP failed to carry out their work successfully. Will the council now obtain compensation from WSP for this costly failure?

2. Question from Cllr. Chris Lemon

There is growing anecdotal evidence that many new developments around Shrewsbury are not being adopted in a timely manner by Shropshire Council, with some residents being in situ for more than 10 years without enjoying the benefits of adoption. It is clear that residents in the recently built developments in Weir Hill, along Otley Road, and on the Bowbrook Meadows and Red Deer Road builds in Radbrook are all suffering from the consequences of non-adoption. Having spoken to residents, Shropshire Council officers and developers over a number of years, it remains unclear to me and my residents why the developments in my division have not been adopted, with no one able to give local councillors an estimate of when adoption will happen.

Can Shropshire Council provide an explanation for the continuing non-adoption of the Bowbrook Meadows and Red Deer Road developments, provide a time-frame for the same and reassure residents that solving non-adoption issues, most acutely with inconsiderate parking generated in the main by the nearby Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, are a high priority for the Council. There does not appear to be any incentive for the Council to expedite adoption of new developments, can I be reassured otherwise?

3. Question from Cllr. Elizabeth Barker

Across the United Kingdom, thousands of our own people are sleeping rough, including many who have worn the uniform and served this country with honour. At a time when British veterans, British families and vulnerable British citizens are struggling to secure a roof over their heads, it is vital that this council stands firm in defending their interests first and foremost.

To pull from the Veterans' Survey 2022 (ONS) statistic Official data shows that around 1 in 400 UK veterans are homeless, rough sleeping, or living in a refuge and to also pull from Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2024 (UK Government) it recorded 4,667 people sleeping rough across England on a single night in autumn 2024, the majority of whom were UK nationals, these are the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us, being left behind and neglected when they need help the most.

According to new shelter research, 124,210 families faced homelessness in 2024/25 from that figure, 70,630 single-parent households in England faced homelessness in 2024/25 That is 1 in every 24 single-parent families.

This is not a fringe problem, this is a national failure that has crept into every region.

Therefore, could the council Leader set out the administration's position on the Government's pilot scheme to build council-owned housing specifically for asylum seekers? And should such a scheme ever be proposed for Shropshire, can the administration confirm whether it would oppose any initiative that redirects local authority land, funding, or resources away from the needs of British citizens the very people this council is elected to serve?

4. Question from Cllr. Harry Hancock-Davies

In light of the proposed 9% Council Tax increase, expected to generate £8.8 million, how does the administration justify imposing this significant rise on residents while more than £20 million in arrears remains unpaid of which £10–£15 million is likely to be recoverable? Why has maximising collection of existing debt not been prioritised before raising Council Tax for those who already pay in full?

5. Question from Cllr. Chris Naylor

I'm delighted this new Lib Dem Administration has made it a priority to fix Shropshire's potholes, and very pleased indeed to see updates on the tens of thousands of potholes filled and the many miles of road resurfaced.

I know this is thanks to the Cabinet Member and many hard-working staff and contractors, however I wonder if he might help me understand firstly how priorities are set for pothole filling and for resurfacing, and secondly what plans he has to enable local councillors to contribute to that prioritisation process division by division.

More specifically in Burnell I have - east of the A49 - gardens in Church Preen which were open for international visitors now closed because coaches won't travel the potholed lanes, a car dealer in Frodesley losing trade because the roads are too bad for test drives, and many other farmers and businesses suffering vehicle damage and losing custom. Let alone residents who refuse to use their own near-impassable lane, forced to go 'the long way round'.

Most obviously the Church Preen-Kenley lane, which the Cabinet Member has kindly visited – described by a Highways staffer recently as 'shocking' – is still unrepaired. Works have been promised again and again but nothing has been done. Whereas I get a series of alerts for 'surface dressing', 'sweeping', 'resurfacing' west of the A49 - which are of course welcome, but to me seem much lower priority.

How do I get a chance to help set priorities locally?

6. Question from Cllr Susan Coleman

I recently asked officers about the lack of a forward plan; this is the decision-making process for all projects.

After 10 months in charge, I would have expected the current administration and executive management team to have formulated a plan, indeed the administration campaigned that they would be transparent, so could the Leader please tell us when our council taxpayers will find out what exactly their plan is.