UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council

Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31st March 2026

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Contents

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Mayor

Bernard Bentick

Councillors

Rosemary Dartnall
Jamie Daniels
Julian Dean
Adam Fejfer
Rhys Gratton
Kate Halliday
Harry - Hancock-Davies
Ben Jephcott
Emma Micklewright
Vicky Moore
Alan Mosley
Kevin Pardy
Jon Tandy
David Vasmer
Alexander Wagner
Robert Wilson

Clerk to the Council

Helen Ball BA Hons, FSLCC

Internal Auditors

Auditing Solutions Ltd
Clackerbrook
46 The Common
Bromham
Chippenham
SN15 2JJ

External Auditors

PKF Littljohn LLP
SBA Team
1 Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4HD

Further information about the accounts is available from Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1JD. It is the Council's policy to provide full information about its affairs. Interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised in the press and on the Council's notice boards, and on the website.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

Shrewsbury Town Council is part of the 'parish council sector' and as such, is the first tier of local government, the closest council body to the residents of Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury Town Council works closely with the other tiers of local government for the area, namely Shropshire Council, with a view to facilitating a 'joined up' approach across all parties in order to deliver the highest quality services and facilities to the local residents.

The Town Council is continually updating its objectives, however the following strap line has been adopted:

Putting Shrewsbury First

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Town Council is: To create civic pride by providing a safe, tidy environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. We aim to improve people's quality of life by providing recreational areas and facilities for the public to pursue hobbies, a variety of sporting activities or just relax.

To provide an opportunity for young children to develop social skills and appreciate the value of play via the provision of safe children's play areas.

To provide a voice for the residents of Shrewsbury and be an advocate on all issue affecting the town.

Our Vision

To provide civic leadership in all aspects of making Shrewsbury socially, environmentally, economically and culturally sustainable and promote Shrewsbury as a good place to live, work and raise a family.

Our Aim

Our aim is to encourage and promote the best environmental, social, economic and commercial practices in and for the town of Shrewsbury, and to effectively, efficiently and economically manage our assets and resources to deliver the services for which we have responsibility, for the betterment and benefit of the local community and to secure value for money.

Following a series of sessions with the Town Councillors, a consultation exercise was undertaken to establish six pillars of ambition:

- Building Resilient Communities for Shrewsbury
- Supporting Shrewsbury residents to live active and healthy lives through the provision of quality services
- Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage
- Creating a greener and better-connected Shrewsbury
- Maintaining a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation
- Taking Positive action to tackle climate change

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Shrewsbury Town Council is widely consulted on a range of strategic priorities, from the recently announced cycle network to large developments planned over the next 30 years, through the Local Development Framework, Core Strategy documents and local planning issues. Its also an active partner of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership.

DIRECT SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

The Quarry and Dingle

The Quarry continues to be used for a wide range of planned activities from the Food Festival to the weekly ParkRun events, and is used most weekends of the year. As well as the planned activities it is the hub for the residents and visitors to Shrewsbury for leisure and recreational purposes every day of the year.

The Town Council premises licence provides a wide range of diverse events in the Quarry and is allowing musical groups to use the band stand. The Public Conveniences in the Quarry are now open for longer during British Summer Time in line with the opening hours of the Dingle the beautiful tranquil garden designed by Percy Thrower in the heart of the Quarry.

Solar footway lights have been installed along the whole of Victoria Avenue, allowing for a safer route along the river path.

Playing Fields and Open Spaces

The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of playing fields and open spaces located in the town. This responsibility includes the grass cutting, litter picking and all other maintenance costs.

A number of footpaths have been upgraded to improve connectivity around the town and usage.

The Town Council manages some 250 acres of Countryside made up of grazing land, sites of special scientific interest and community woodlands. These areas have proved valuable to residents during the last few years.

Allotments

There are twelve allotment sites, and the waiting list for prospective allotment holders continues to be long. In these days of financial constraints, this type of pastime is increasing in popularity whilst also providing a good workout.

Play Areas

The maintenance of the Town Council's many play areas continues to be a priority. Specifically trained personnel inspect the play areas every week, for both Health and Safety and maintenance issues, and they are also inspected annually by ROSPA. Spring programmes of refurbishment are carried out to ensure the equipment is ready for the busy spring / summer season.

The Quarry Play Park incorporating the Splash Park is now an established visitor destination in its own right.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Community Centres, Youth Services and Community Safety

The Town Council owns two Community Centres one in Castlefields run by local residents in Castlefields. The other in Ditherington is operated by the 4 All Foundation as part of the Marches Academy Trust outreach programme.

The council runs the Young Shrewsbury youth service offering both youth sessions and outreach services to young people. A Youth Town Council has also been established, engaging with all senior schools in the town.

The Council funds Town Rangers to work in the town centre and the park and to act as Taxi Marshalls on Fridays and Saturdays to address antisocial behaviours and work with all Team Shrewsbury Partners.

Sports Facilities

Shrewsbury Town Council owns two sports pavilions at the County Ground and Springfield, with associated football pitches and cricket wickets, these facilities are used by numerous teams, through the year. There are other football pitches available and through a "key scheme" there are tennis and crown green bowling facilities available.

The Monkmoor Recreation Park which includes Astroturf, and grass football pitches, tennis courts, croquet and bowls is now being run and managed by Shrewsbury Town Council. The freehold is in the process of being transferred from Shropshire Council.

Grounds Maintenance

This area is one of the largest costs to Shrewsbury Town Council. The work is carried out by an in-house team of grounds maintenance staff across all the assets and amenity areas as well as Shropshire Council premises within the Town which are operated via a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This agreement expired on 31st March 2025, Shropshire Council Cabinet agreed to a scheme of delegation under S101 Local Government Act 1972 for all horticultural services work.

The Council also operates a number of minor contracts for schools and neighbouring parish councils.

Stepping up Team

A stepping up fund was added to the budget for 2025/26 to employ staff and resources to enhance the works done by Shropshire Council which are valued by Shrewsbury residents. This work has been well received with input from stakeholders on future works to be undertaken

Christmas lights

The Town Council is responsible for the Christmas lights displayed in the town. These are all LED to reduce energy consumption and increase brightness. 2024 was the first of a three year contract.

Bus shelters

The cleaning and repairing of all the bus shelters in the town with the exception of the Raven Meadows Bus Station is undertaken by the Town Council, green sedum roofs are being trialled. The Town Council has commenced a replacement programme and is in the final stage.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Climate Emergency

The Council declared its climate emergency in March 2019 committing to become carbon neutral by 2030. A new climate change committee has been set up to oversee this commitment and a £250k budget was agreed to support this commitment.

Street lights

The Town Council is responsible for all aspects of repairing and running over 450 footway lights around the town, and enhanced along the towpath and Castle Walk Footbridge which are all LED.

Public Conveniences

There are 4 public conveniences located around the town which are maintained by the Town Council. There is a constant battle with anti social behaviour, which the Town Council is taking into consideration for any planned improvements, deep cleansing has been incorporated into the maintenance routines. There are now longer opening hours for some key sites during the summer and some events.

Civic Pride

Shrewsbury Town Council has taken over the civic responsibilities from the former Borough Council, the Mayor continues to be a focal point and figurehead to promote Shrewsbury and the Town Council.

The Mayor, Councillors and officers contribute to the Annual Town Meeting, Mayor Making Ceremony as well as Remembrance Sunday and other Civic events throughout the year.

The Mayoral Awards were introduced to recognise enterprise, endeavours and contribution across various awards ranging from business, environmental, community youth and tourism.

Members Allowances

The seventeen councillors are all entitled to receive a small allowance for their work as Town Councillors. The Town Council adopted the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in allocating £1,000 per annum to all Councillors under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

In addition the Mayor and Deputy Mayor receive a combined total of £6,500 per annum, to contribute towards the expenses of running the office of Mayor, in accordance with s15(5) Local Government Act 1972.

Britain in Bloom

Shrewsbury is often referred to as the Town of Flowers due to its success in Britain in Bloom and Entente Florale. The Town Council strives to continue this tradition to ensure that Shrewsbury is a welcoming town improving the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike through floral endeavours.

The Council encourages local business to participate by selling hanging baskets and maintains and waters them at competitive rates.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Other Services and events

The Town Council works alongside other bodies or provides grants to put on events in the town during the year including the Christmas Lights switch-on, Carols in the Square.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Shrewsbury Town Council currently receives no money from Central Government. It is self funding except for a small precept levied on the ratepayers of Shrewsbury, which constitutes a very small portion of the overall Council Tax bill; Only residential dwelling council tax is included in the precept of the Town Council, business rates being excluded.

Shrewsbury Town Council has a significant Service Level Agreement to provide Grounds Maintenance for Shropshire Council until 2024/25. Shropshire Council cabinet resolved to extend under a scheme of delegation and the agreement is in the process of being finalised.

The budget for the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 was approved by the Full Council in January 2025. The precept was set at £2,389,594 which equates to £87.04 at band D. The following budget comparison shows the actual spend against budget, with corresponding variances.

Budget Comparison for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £
Income			
Grants	55,091	-	55,091
Markets	452,494	397,158	55,336
Residential and commercial rents	49,601	43,041	6,560
Interest and Investment income	289,255	252,600	36,655
Community Centres, Youth and sports facilities	107,213	94,600	12,613
Grounds maintenance countryside & allotments	1,701,641	1,747,179	(45,538)
Other including sale of assets, S106 and CIL	178,130	-	178,130
	2,833,425	2,534,578	298,847
Expenses and capital costs			
Management and support costs	(862,505)	(853,674)	(8,831)
Democratic	(237,280)	(144,485)	(92,795)
Markets	(160,145)	(143,349)	(16,796)
Residential and commercial rents	(1,550)	(5,701)	4,151
Community Centres, Youth and sports facilities	(332,450)	(325,861)	(6,589)
Grounds maintenance and allotments	(2,704,759)	(2,908,292)	203,533
Public conveniences	(145,007)	(205,150)	60,143
Bus shelters & Streetlighting	(132,336)	(132,423)	87
Christmas lights	(70,637)	(61,589)	(9,048)
Capital purchases and projects	(650,511)	(135,000)	(515,511)
Earmarked and other specific reserves (net)	74,702	(9,096)	83,798
	(5,222,478)	(4,924,620)	(297,858)
Transfer to / (from) general reserves	541	(448)	989
Precept	2,389,594	2,389,594	-

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Variances

Overall the position is £989 better than budgeted. This is in part due to increased income and higher returns on investments coupled with controlling costs despite inflationary pressures, and not immediately replacing vacant positions there was a small surplus taken to general reserves.

On the income side there was an overall positive variance of £298,847 which is the difference between actual and budgeted figures. The positive variance is primarily is due to receipts of £178,130 for CIL received in the year with other positive variances.

The positive variance of £55,336 in Markets was due to increased income from the Market Hall and higher commission from the Livestock Market.

During the year, interest rates started to fall which was anticipated in the budget setting process but this was not as fast or hard as expected leading to higher interest returns.

No grants were budgeted for and £55,091 was received in the year for revenue expenditure.

Income from sporting, commercial rents and concessions increased from the levels set in the budget. There was lower than expected receipts from Shropshire Council in respect of delegated grounds maintenance compared to the budget.

The expenditure variance overall is a negative (£297,858) which was due to the accounting treatment of earmarking unspent CIL, S106 and capital expenditure including capital projects classified as revenue.

The impact of the current high inflation have fed in to rising costs particularly fuel and electricity. To ease the pressure some vacant staff positions have not immediately been filled or replaced. Election costs represents the Democratic variance which occurs every 4 years.

The negative capital expenditure variance of (£515,511) is due to the Fixed Asset additions, replacing of vehicles and equipment and capital projects funded by provisions but not capitalised due to being replacements but are included and add to the variance.

There is a positive net variance on movement of earmarked reserves compared to the budget due to reserves used in the year.

The total income and expenditure surplus of £541 was carried forward to the General Fund per the Statement of Reserves on page 25.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

Fixed Asset additions

During the year, the beaver enclose was completed and the beavers introduced and land repurchased added as Land and Buildings. A number of grounds maintenance machines were upgraded as part of the fleet management process, with the replaced machines being sold at a public auction.

Accounting policies

The Town Council has not made any changes to the accounting policies in the year.

Borrowing facilities

Shrewsbury Town Council does not currently owe the Public Works Loans Board any money. The Council does not have a fixed borrowing facility and finances are raised, if required on a project by project basis.

Funding

The Town Council's current capital expenditure plans will be funded through underspend on the revenue budget and earmarked reserves. The surplus for the year is initially transferred to the general reserves before being earmarked for specific projects.

Financial statements

The Town Council's Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2026 are set out in pages 10 - 36 of this document. They consist of the following statements:

- The Statement of Accounting Policies
  This statement details the legislation and the accounting principles on which the financial statements are prepared.

- The Annual Governance Statement
  This statement by the Town Council confirms there is a sound system of internal control in place and that all regulations and proper practices have been adhered to in the preparation of the end of year accounts.

- The Statement of Responsibilities
  This statement identifies the Town Council's responsibilities and identifies the officer who is responsible for the Town Council's financial affairs.

- The Income and Expenditure Account
  This document shows the Income generated and the total Expenditure incurred on the services provided by the Town Council for the year.

- The Statement of Movements of Reserves
  This statement shows the effect on the Town Council's surplus or deficit after allowing for movements in reserves.

- The Balance Sheet
  This sets out the financial position of the Town Council on 31st March. It shows the value of its assets, the value of its cash and bank values, how much it is owed and how much it owes together with the balance of reserves at its disposal.

- Notes to the Accounts
  These provide further information on the amounts included in the financial statements.

Future Developments

Additional services and provision was added to the budget for 2026/27 to employ staff and resources to take over the running of Street Scene from Shropshire Council and consider other services which are valued by Shrewsbury residents.

Provision was also made in the 2026/27 budget to enhance The Councils capability to do more whilst also adding funds for schemes to improve play areas, youth service enhancement, and a new cost of living grants fund.

The capital expenditure for the vehicle and equipment replacement plans will continue, with a consideration to the climate emergency declaration, other capital programmes are only in their infancy but funds have been earmarked to finance them.

Shrewsbury Town Council is being consulted on any reductions to services and facilities by Shropshire Council to find viable solutions to minimise any loss for residents.

Shrewsbury Town Council will update its Medium Term Financial Plan during 2026/27, which puts in place a financial strategy for the new electoral term to achieve these objectives.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2026

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – A Practitioners Guide (England).

These accounts have been prepared having regard to the fundamental accounting concepts of:

- Going Concern
- Prudence
- Accruals
- Relevance
- Consistency
- Reliability
- Comparability
- Understandability
- Materiality

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Prior to 1st April 2016, the Town Council's accounts were prepared in line with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE 2008) which has been replaced by FRS102. In accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015, the Town Council is considered a "smaller body" and subject to "Limited Assurances" Audit. The change from the FRSSE to FRS102 has not resulted in any changes of accounting policies.

Fixed Assets

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets above the Town Council de-minimis (currently £5,000) is capitalised on an accruals basis in the accounts. Expenditure on fixed assets is capitalised, provided that the fixed asset yields benefits to the Town Council and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. Expenditure on fixed assets is then included in the Balance Sheet with a corresponding transaction shown in the Capital Financing Account.

Depreciation is provided on all operational buildings (but not land), as well as other assets. Depreciation is not shown in the Council's Income and Expenditure account but is transferred directly to the Capital Financing Account.

Fixed Assets are included in the Balance Sheet at valuations current on 31st March 2010. These assets together with subsequent acquisitions and enhancements and will not be subject to revaluations.

Commercial and residential properties are classed as investment properties and revalued on a 5 yearly basis. The changes in the Market Value are taken to Asset Revaluation Reserve, having previously been impaired prior by Julian Spencer (MRICS).

Depreciation Policy

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Buildings and leasehold land are depreciated over the shorter of 50 years or the anticipated remaining useful lives on a straight line basis.
- Freehold land is not depreciated.

- Non Operational Assets (including Investment Properties) are not depreciated.
- Vehicles, plant and equipment and furniture over 3 to 10 years on a straight line basis.
- Play equipment over 5 to 10 years on a straight line basis.
- Community Assets are not depreciated.

Only fixed assets purchased in the first half of the year are depreciated in the year of acquisition.

Disposals

Where an asset is disposed of at a value above the de-minimis limit (currently £5,000), the proceeds of which are a capital receipt under the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, the resultant gain or loss is reported in the Income and Expenditure Account and the proceeds are carried to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve.

Grants or Contributions from Government or Related Bodies

Any grants or contributions are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account and earmarked in reserves if unspent.

Where a fixed asset has been acquired or improved with the financing either wholly or in part by a grant or contribution from government or a related body, e.g. Sports Council, the full amount of the grant has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account to offset the cost of purchasing the relevant asset.

This represents a change from previous years where balances were held as a Creditor on the balance sheet if unspent as noted in the financial summary page 6, and only released as income to match expenditure in the year.

Investments

Investments are included in the Balance Sheet at historic cost and realised gains or losses are taken into the Income and Expenditure account as realised.

Stocks

Stocks where relevant are being constantly replaced and their value is not material to assessing the Town Council's state of affairs as a result stock is written off directly to revenue expenditure.

Debtors and Creditors

The revenue accounts of the Town Council are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Accounting and Audit Regulations. That is sums due to or from the Town Council during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. Exceptions to this are payment of regular quarterly and other accounts (e.g. telephones, electricity) if the amount is not material. This policy is applied consistently each year. Therefore, it will not have a material effect on the year's accounts or on the Town Council's annual budget.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2026

The Town Council reviews the level of its commercial debtors on a regular basis and provisions are made, as required, where the likelihood of amounts proving ultimately collectable is in doubt.

Value Added Tax

Income and Expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT suffered/collected is recoverable from or payable to HM Revenue and Customs. Any amounts not so recoverable are treated as a separate expense.

External Loan Repayments

Details of the Town Council's external borrowings if relevant are shown in the notes.

The Town Council is required by the Guide to incorporate external borrowings in its Balance Sheet.

Leases

The Town Council has no finance leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to revenue on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Reserves

The Town Council maintains certain earmarked reserves to meet general and specific future expenditure. The purpose of the Town Council's reserves is explained in the notes.

The Capital Financing Account is maintained to manage the accounting processes for tangible fixed assets and investment properties, and does not represent usable resources for the Town Council.

Capital receipts arising from the disposal of fixed assets are taken to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as they are used to finance new capital expenditure.

CIL, S106 and neighbourhood fund receipts are treated as income and then earmarked at year end if unspent and released in subsequent years when expenditure is incurred.

Interest and Investment Income

All interest and investment receipts are credited initially to general funds.

Pensions

The pension costs that are charged against precept in the Town Council's accounts, in respect of its employees, are equal to the contributions paid to the funded pension scheme for those employees.

These contributions are determined by the fund's actuary on a triennial basis and are set to meet 100% of the liabilities of the pension fund, in accordance with relevant government regulations.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2026

The actuarial valuation in 2023 increased the rate to 17.6% effective April 2023. The 2026 valuation affecting the 2026/27 accounts for a 3 year period reduces down to 14% as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

Acquired and Discontinued Operations

Income and expenditure relating to an acquired or discontinued operation would be shown separately on the Income and Expenditure Account. Any liabilities in respect of discontinued operations would be disclosed separately as a note to the Balance Sheet.

Exceptional, Extraordinary Items and Prior Period Adjustments

Any Exceptional or Extraordinary Items will be disclosed on the face of the Income and Expenditure accounts and explained in the notes to the accounts.

Prior Period Adjustments are material adjustments applicable to prior years for changes in accounting policies or the correction of fundamental errors. Any adjustments referring to earlier accounting years are made by adjusting the comparative figures for the preceding year and adjusting the opening balances of reserves accordingly and explained in the notes to the accounts.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Where a material post Balance Sheet event occurs which provides additional evidence relating to conditions existing at the Balance Sheet date or indicates the going concern concept to a material part of the Town Council is not appropriate, changes are made in the amounts included in the statement of accounts.

Any occurrence of a material post Balance Sheet event which concerns conditions which did not exist at the balance sheet date are disclosed in the notes to the accounts detailing the nature of the event and where possible an estimate of the financial effect.

Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not disclosed in the accounting statements, if any such assets or liabilities exist then these are disclosed as notes to the accounts.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Scope of Responsibility

Shrewsbury Town Council is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Town Council follows the general principles of Best Value in making arrangements to secure the continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Having said that, the Town Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011 established Shrewsbury Town Council as a "Smaller Body" and as such is subject to the "Limited Assurances" audit. The Town Council has however made a conscious decision to prepare a wider ranging Governance Statement.

The Town Council approved and adopted on 7 September 2009 a Code of Corporate Governance in accordance with CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

This statement explains how the Town Council has complied with the code.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Town Council is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Town Council to monitor the achievement of its overarching objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

In developing a Code of Corporate Governance, the Town Council has six core principles by which it operates:

1 **Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;**

- The Town Council holds an Annual Town Meeting to help gauge local feeling on issues. This is also broadcast and public watching online have the ability to ask questions.
- The Town Council have been the lead organisation in the set up and delivery of Team Shrewsbury a process of integrated community management
- Members publish newsletters in their wards to keep the community and allow for two way process of communication
- The Town Council has updated its website to allow for greater information sharing and engagement
- The Town Council has a social media presence using Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn and Tick Tok.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

- The Town Council has undertaken a process of developing a Corporate Plan, which has involved both Members, staff and has been subject to public consultation before adoption.
- The Town Council has been an active partner of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, taking soundings from the general public, community groups, businesses and other interested community groups and stakeholders

2 Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;

- The Town Council annually reviews its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- There is a Scheme of Officer Delegation to ensure effective decision making
- The Town Council has developed a number of operational policies which have been updated to reflect legislative changes.
- The Committee Chair meets members of the Senior Management team regularly to discuss priorities
- The Town Council has developed a Long-term vision which sets out clear objectives for the electoral term

3 Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;

- The Town Council in April 2021 adopted the Code of Conduct adopted by Shropshire Council and all Councillors have signed up to abide by that code
- The Town Council has a Councillor/Employer Protocol
- The Town Council has a Joint Consultative Committee for greater member/staff relations
- The Town Council has reviewed its values as part of the visioning exercise

4 Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;

- The Town Council has an established Committee system with clear delegated powers, this allowing Full Council to act as the Overviewer and Scrutineer of Committee decisions
- All Committee dates are listed on the Council website annually and on every noticeboard throughout the town
- All Meeting Agendas, Reports and Minutes are uploaded to the Council's website
- The Town Council holds an annual review of the management of risk and this is signed off by the Policy & Resources Committee
- All Town Council meetings are broadcast live on Microsoft Teams
- Minutes of all meetings are uploaded onto the Councils website within a month

5 Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective

- All new employees undertake an Induction Programme and receive a Staff Handbook
- All Councillors are given a New Members pack at the start of every electoral term
- The Town Council is a member of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils and regularly encourages its members to attend the training courses offered.
- The Town Council continues to appoint Apprentices designed to develop succession planning
- The Town Council has membership of a number of specialist organisations to help it discharge its functions around Markets, Allotments and Town Centre Management
- The Town Council reviews its training programme annually

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

6 Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

- The Town Council embraces all forms of media including website, social media, newsletters, noticeboards and public meetings to engage with the public at large
- The Town Council provides proper opportunity for the public to exercise their elector's rights in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations
- The Town Council operates a robust Complaints Procedures, and has a specific Complaints Committee
- The Town Council has responded to all Freedom of Information Requests in the required timescales
- All meetings are open to the public and all agendas are placed on the website 7 days in advance

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Section 1

The Town Council must respond to a number of Assertions in the Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR. Below is the manner in which the Town Council is comfortable in responding in the affirmative to those Assertions.

Assertion 1 – Financial management and preparation of accounting statements

We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year and for the preparation of the accounting statements

Budgeting – The preparation of the Budget and the Monitoring thereafter is the responsibility of the Policy & Resources Committee. The Budget is prepared annually at the December meeting of the Committee in readiness for Full Council approval in January and onward notification to Shropshire Council of precept requirement to meet their end of January deadline. Actual performance against budget is monitored quarterly by the Policy & Resources Committee. Additionally in the event that the Town Council is to take on a new project or service there is a full review of the Council's ability to maintain/sustain that activity ahead of implementation, an example of this is the reports in January 2026 to take over Street Cleaning from Shropshire Council

Accounting records and supporting documents – The Town Council appointed its Accountant as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to be responsible for the financial administration in accordance with s151 Local Government Act 1972. The RFO has determined a system of financial controls that meets the size of the organisation whilst discharging the Town Council's duties under Regulation 4 Accounts & Audit Regulations. Prompt recording of all financial transactions is carried out through the Rialtas Suite Accounting Package with this package facilitating the preparation of the End of Year Accounts and the accounting statements in Section 2 of the Annual Return.

Bank Reconciliation – All accounts held by the Town Council are reconciled by the RFO on a monthly basis as well as annually in preparation of the end of year accounts and the Annual Return. There are also internal controls which place a duty on both the Town Clerk and a Member of the Town Council who is not a Bank Signatory to validate those reconciliation reports.

Investments – The Town Council holds a number of investments to ensure that any amounts surplus to the current requirements achieve as maximum a return on investment as possible. All these investments are invested in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments reported to the Policy & Resources Committee who review the Council's Investment Strategy on an annual basis. Prior to investing in CCLA, the Town Clerk and RFO were required to undertake competency training, to ensure sound financial decisions were being made.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Statement of Accounts – Arrangements are in place to enable the preparation of an accurate and timely statement of accounts in compliance with its statutory obligations and proper practices. In 2009 when the Town Council was established it fell within the requirements for FRSSE Accounting, but following the "Limited Assurance" Audit being extended to the Town Council, members agreed to continue with the preparation of more detailed accounts; this allows for greater transparency for the public on how public funds are used but also provides better monitoring between accounting years.

The Town Council has noted that FRSSE has been replaced by UK GAAP (FRS102) for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2016 and have prepared the accounts for 2025/26 to reflect this change as recommended by Smaller Authorities Proper Practice Panel (SAPPP).

Reserves – General Reserves are below levels for the sector but sufficient liquidity to cope with emergencies and working capital. Earmarked Reserves reviewed at budgeting and end of year.

Assertion 2 – Internal Control

We maintained an adequate system of internal controls, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations – The Town Council annually reviews and amends its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Reviews are ratified at the Annual meeting of Council.

Safe and Efficient Arrangements to Safeguard Public Money – The Town Council operates a number of practical controls on how it safeguards money including how the authority orders goods and services, incurs liabilities, manages debtors, makes payments and handles receipts, with the RFO having formal responsibility for administering the Town Council's financial affairs.

- i All orders for payment are signed by any two of six member signatories on the main bank account
- ii The Town Council has an Imprest Account to allow for smaller day-to-day transactions; this account requires any two of either the six member signatories or the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
- iii The Town Council operates an online banking system which requires payments to be approved by any two of the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO, following approval by two of the six Councillor signatories
- iv Changes to accounts with banks or financial institutions are approved by Full Council with the signatories to those accounts being reviewed annually
- v Corporate Credit Cards are held by the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO to ensure the day-to-day business of Council is maintained; these have defined limits and are cleared monthly by direct debit from the main bank account.
- vi The Town Council reviews its Risk Management Strategy annually including its policy on the prevention of Fraud and Corruption.

Employment – All employee remunerations are approved by the Town Council and all payroll matters including duties under employment legislation and pension obligations are undertaken by the Shropshire Council Payroll Team. As a regular check the Internal Audit reviews a sample of salaries whenever they visit.

VAT – The RFO has set in place a robust arrangement for handling the Town Council's responsibilities with regards to VAT ensuring that regular returns are made to HMRC.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Fixed Assets & Equipment – The RFO maintains the Town Council's Fixed Asset Register ensuring the register is updated with any new purchases or disposals with appropriate arrangements for the use of any capital receipts.

Review of Effectiveness – The Town Council annually reviews its effectiveness of its internal controls as part of the end of year accounting process; this in turn feeds into the preparation of Section 1 of the Annual Report.

Assertion 3 – Compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices

We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.

Acting within its powers – The Town Council is keen to ensure that all decisions it makes are within the existing statute, therefore members are well aware of the list of Statutes & Regulations that it must work towards. The Mayor (in the case of Full Council) and the various Committee Chairs have a duty to ensure that any item which is placed on an agenda falls within the powers and duties of a Local Council.

General Power Of Competence – In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, the Town Council resolved that it had met the criteria to use the General Power of Competence at its Annual Town Council Meeting in May 2025 following the last Council Elections.

Dispensations – Post elections a number of councillors are twin-hatted members of Shropshire Council. Following discussions with the monitoring officer, those councillors with roles on Cabinet have been granted dispensations to discuss matters relating to both Councils.

Assertion 4 – Exercise of public rights

We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts & Audit Regulations.

Exercise of Public Rights – In accordance with ss26&27 Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 the RFO publishes the Annual Return as well as the Unaudited Statement of Accounts on the Town Council's website and on Noticeboards. The RFO prepares a statement that sets out details of how public rights can be exercised as set out in Regulation 15(2)(b) including the period for the exercise of public rights and are published on the Town Council's Website and Noticeboards

External Auditor's Review – in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Accounts & Audit Regulations, the RFO publishes on the Town Council's website and our Noticeboards a Notice of Conclusion of the external auditor's limited assurance review of the annual return.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Assertion 5 – Risk Management

We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

Identifying & Assessing Strategic Risks – The Town Council operates under a Risk Management Strategy which is reviewed by the Policy & Resources Committee annually. As part of the strategic risk review all significant risks are reported to the Policy & Resources Committee.

New Service Risks - The Town Council has developed a programme for identifying risks associated with taking over new services. These are reported to the Policy & Resources Committee as part of the wider determination of service delegation.

RAMS & COSHH Assessments - Throughout the year a wider programme of risk management has been undertaken, with all recommendations being logged on the Worknest Portal and actions assigned to officers. All RAMS and COSHH Assessments are being reviewed to align with a new template

Building Inspections - All buildings have been programmed for general and fire risk assessments with a project plan for implementation of actions.

Assertion 6 – Internal Audit

We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

Internal Audit – The Town Council has appointed Auditing Solutions to undertake its programme of internal audit, looking primarily at the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes taking into account current guidance for smaller authorities, a 5 year plan ending 2028/29 identifies key themes for review. The Auditors typically visit the Town Council 3 times a year, these inspections are done on site and remotely with the council providing all necessary information. Auditors provide a comprehensive report on work undertaken; this is presented to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration. Annually The Council reviews the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process to ensure that it meets the size, needs and functions of the organisation. The scope and plan of the audit remains unchanged from that approved in 2019/20, this can be amended and enhanced for changes to services and requirements as needed in the future.

Provision of Information – All necessary steps are taken to facilitate the work of those conducting the internal audit and all staff and relevant information are made available to assist in the process. The Responsible Financial Officer oversees the process.

Assertion 7 – Reports from Auditors

We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

Internal Audit Reports – All internal Audit Reports are presented to the Policy & Resources Committee for sign off and consideration of actions. Those actions are reported in the Minutes as a permanent record. All reports are published on the Council website.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

External Audit Reports - Annually the conclusion of audit is presented to Council for consideration of any recommendations / actions. These reports are published on the Council website.

Assertion 8 Significant Events

We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.

Significant Events – The Town Council is not aware of any events that took place in the financial year that have a financial impact on the Town Council, however cognisance should be made of the following:

i A dispute remains between Donors and Greenfields Community Group regarding the use of paid back legal costs and the group's entitlement to use these funds. Until this matter is fully addressed, the Council has resolved not to accept any funding as part payment towards any new infrastructure on site. All infrastructure on site during this financial year have been fully funded by the Town Council.

ii The Town Council continues to be greatly impacted by significant emergency scenarios that were unforeseen and beyond their control; namely significant flooding of the River Severn.

iii The Town Council and Shropshire Council have a interim delegation agreement which allows the Town Council to legally carry out various services. Work is ongoing regarding a Delegation Framework to allow for additional services to be added.

iv During this financial year, Shropshire Council received Exceptional Financial Support to address significant funding gaps. The Town Council has established a budget for 2027/27 which mitigates against any loss of Council Services and the need for the Town Council to take on those services.

v Local elections were held on 1st May 2025 for both Shrewsbury Town and Shropshire Council

Assertion 9 – Trust Funds

(For Local Councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and if required, independent examination or audit.

The Town Council does not operate any Trust Funds.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Assertion 10 – Digital and data compliance

We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.

Council-Owned Domain and Email Management - The Town Council conducts official business using council-managed digital systems and official email addresses. It operates official email accounts through a council-controlled domain; requires officers and members to use official council email addresses for council business; maintains central administrative control over user accounts; manages user access and permissions appropriately; removes or disables accounts where staff or Members cease to hold office or employment; and retains appropriate oversight of email security and account management. These arrangements support accountability and transparency; information governance compliance; secure retention of council records; and continuity of council operations.

Website Accessibility and Transparency Compliance - The Council maintains a public website to provide information, transparency and public access to council services and decision-making. The Council's website arrangements support compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018; the Freedom of Information Act 2000; the Local Government Transparency Code requirements applicable to parish and town councils; publication obligations relating to AGAR documents and financial information; and accessibility standards including WCAG 2.2 AA principles where applicable. The Council publishes agendas and minutes; policies and procedures; annual governance and accountability documents; financial information; councillor information; procurement and transparency information where required; and accessibility and privacy notices. The Council maintains an Accessibility Statement and undertakes periodic reviews of website accessibility and published content.

Data Protection and Information Governance - Shrewsbury Town Council recognises its obligations under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR); the Data Protection Act 2018; the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The Council has adopted policies and procedures intended to support lawful and proportionate processing of personal data. These arrangements include a Data Protection Policy; Privacy Notices; information handling procedures; procedures for responding to Subject Access Requests; procedures for managing Freedom of Information requests; appropriate confidentiality arrangements; secure storage and management of personal data; breach reporting and management arrangements; and records retention and disposal procedures. The Council seeks to ensure that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and transparently; data is collected only where necessary; information is retained only for appropriate periods; access to information is controlled appropriately; and confidential or sensitive information is protected.

IT Governance and Cyber Security - The Council recognises the importance of maintaining resilient and secure IT systems. The Council has implemented appropriate IT governance measures including password and authentication controls; secure user access arrangements; anti-virus and cyber-security protections; software update and patch management; backup and recovery arrangements; secure cloud or server-based storage solutions where appropriate; device and remote-working controls; and acceptable use requirements for officers and Members. The Council maintains an Information Security Policy and equivalent procedures governing the appropriate use of council systems, devices and information.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Governance Statement
31st March 2026

Training and Awareness - The Council recognises that effective compliance depends upon awareness and understanding amongst Members and officers. The Council therefore supports induction arrangements for new staff and councillors; periodic training on data protection and information governance; awareness of cyber-security risks; guidance on appropriate handling of council information; and updates on changes in legislation or proper practice guidance. Training records are maintained and all members of staff have online access to an online training programme through Worknest.

Records Management and Retention - The Council maintains arrangements for the management, retention and disposal of council records. This includes retention schedules; secure storage of electronic and paper records; archival arrangements; controlled disposal of confidential information; and management of records in accordance with legal and operational requirements.

Internal Control and Monitoring - Compliance with Assertion 10 forms part of the Council's wider governance and internal control framework. The Council demonstrates compliance through adoption and review of relevant policies; Member approval and oversight; operational management by the Town Clerk and responsible officers; periodic internal audit review; external audit and AGAR processes; monitoring of website and publication compliance; and ongoing review of digital governance arrangements.

Approval of Statement

This statement was approved by the Full Council on Monday 29th June 2026 when authority was granted for the Mayor of Shrewsbury and Town Clerk to sign.

Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council (Bernie Bentick)..

Town Clerk (Helen Ball) ....

On behalf of Shrewsbury Town Council

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Statement of Responsibilities for the Accounts
31st March 2026

The Town Council's Responsibilities

The Town Council is required:
- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs, including the appointment of an Internal Auditor.
- To secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- To approve the accounts and annual return.
- To set a budget and determine a precept levy on the local rating authority.

The Responsible Financial Officer's Responsibilities

The RFO is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts as contained in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils (Part 3) - A Practitioners Guide (England) "The Guide", to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2026 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.*

In preparing the statements of accounts, the RFO has:
- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent, and complied with the guide.

The RFO has also:
- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsible Financial Officer's Certificate

I hereby certify that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the position of Shrewsbury Town Council at 31 March 2026, and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Signed: ....
Responsible Financial Officer

Date: ....

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Income and Expenditure Account
31st March 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Precept	3	2,389,594		1,770,089	
Grants received	4	55,091		108,196	
Rental Income, Interest and Investment Income		804,605		788,927	
Charges made for services		1,806,493		2,098,004	
Other Income, contributions incl CIL and S106		167,236	5,223,019	226,999	4,992,215
Expenditure					
Direct Service Costs:					
Salaries and Wages		(2,319,513)		(2,084,551)	
Other Costs	24	(1,951,124)		(2,506,287)	
Grant-aid Expenditure		(39,911)		(39,389)	
Democratic, Management and Civic Cost:					
Salaries and wages		(416,608)		(423,936)	
Other Costs	24	(570,024)	(5,297,180)	(434,233)	(5,488,396)
Exceptional Items			-		-
Net (deficit) / surplus for the Year			(74,161)		(496,181)

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UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Statement of Movement of Reserves
31st March 2026

	Note	Balance 1 April 2025	Net Movement In Year	Balance 31 March 2026	Purpose of reserve
Reserves available for council use to fund future expenditure					
General Fund		355,858	541	356,399	Resources available to meet shortfall in running costs
Earmarked Reserves	16	5,482,118	(77,702)	5,404,416	Resources available for specific purposes
Usable Capital Receipts	19	64,073	3,000	67,073	Proceeds of fixed asset sales for future capital investment
		5,902,049	(74,161)	5,827,888	
Reserves not available to fund future expenditure					
Capital Financing Account	17	7,352,898	(178,789)	7,174,109	Fixed asset transactions transferred to the Balance Sheet.
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18	67,434	-	67,434	Investment properties fairvalue increase
		7,420,332	(178,789)	7,241,543	
Reserves C/F to Balance Sheet		13,322,381	(252,950)	13,069,431	

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Balance Sheet
31st March 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets:					
Land and Buildings	9	4,780,622		4,989,836	
Vehicles and Plant	9	710,296		679,871	
Non - operational	9	5,625		5,625	
Investment Properties	9	705,000		705,000	
Long Term Investments	10	1,040,000	7,241,543	1,040,000	7,420,332
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	204,725		290,646	
Short term investments		5,600,000		5,850,000	
Cash at Bank and In-hand		566,958		366,071	
		6,371,683		6,506,717	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accrued expenses	14	543,795		604,668	
		543,795		604,668	
Net Current Assets			5,827,888		5,902,049
			13,069,431		13,322,381
Financed by:					
Reserves available to the council					
Usable Capital Receipts	19		67,073		64,073
Earmarked Reserves	16		5,404,416		5,482,118
General Reserve			356,399		355,858
			5,827,888		5,902,049
Reserves not available to the council and represent the net investment in fixed assets					
Capital Financing Account	17		7,174,109		7,352,898
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18		67,434		67,434
			7,241,543		7,420,332
			13,069,431		13,322,381

These accounts have been approved by the Town Council.

.... **Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council**

Date: ....

.... **Responsible Financial Officer**

Date: ....

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UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

1 Interest and Investment Income	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Interest Income - General Funds	245,778	252,499
Investment Property Fund - General funds	43,476	48,434
	289,254	300,933

2 Audit Fees

Fees payable for the limited assurance audit carried out by the Town Council's auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP, in the year are £3,780, (prior year £3,780). These fees are set by the Audit Commission.

3 Precept	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Precept received from Council Taxpayers of Shrewsbury	2,389,594	1,770,089

4 Grants Received	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Shropshire Council - various	6,961	25,665
WMP - Crime Commissioner - Safer Streets	-	9,240
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	-	48,291
BID - safety equipment	-	25,000
Million Hours Youth Project	48,130	-
	55,091	108,196

5 Employees

The average weekly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2026 Number	**2025 Number**
Full-time and part-time permanent staff including apprentices and cover for maternity and long term sick	77	75
Number of staff employed at year end	77	76

All staff are paid within nationally agreed pay scales

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

Number of employees whose remuneration excluding employers pension contributions was over £60,000 in bands of £10,000 was:

Band	2026 Number	2025 Number
£70,000 to £79,999	-	1
£80,000 to £89,999	1	-
	1	1

The pay multiple between the Head of Service and Median salary of the council is:

Ratio	2026 Number	2025 Number
Pay multiple between Head of Service and Median Salary	2.9 to 1	2.9 to 1

6 Members Allowances

Summary of Members allowances paid during the year

	2026		2025	
	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel £	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel £
Bernie Bentick (Deputy)	1,000	1,500	1,000	-
Rosemary L W Darthell	1,000	-	1,000	-
Jamie Daniels	903	-	-	-
Mary Davies	99	-	1,000	-
Julian S Dean (mayor)	1,000	-	1,000	-
Adam Fejfer	903	-	-	-
Rhys Gratton	903	-	-	-
Phil Gillam (Deputy & Mayor-reduced)	99	-	1,000	-
Nat J Green	1,000	-	1,000	-
Kate M Halliday	99	-	1,000	-
Harry Hancock-Davies	903	-	-	-
Ben Jephcott	903	-	-	-
Chris J Lemon	99	-	1,000	-
Emma Micklewright	903	-	-	-
Vicky Moore	903	-	-	-
Pam A Moseley	99	-	1,000	-
Alan M Mosley	1,000	-	1,000	-
K J Pardy	1,000	-	1,000	-
Alexander Phillips	99	-	1,000	-
Jon Tandy	903	-	-	-
Elisabeth Addams	99	-	1,000	-
David Vasmer (Mayor)	1,000	-	1,000	5,000
Alex Wagner (Mayor / Deputy)	1,000	5,000	1,000	1,500
Becky A Wall	99	-	1,000	-
Rob M Wilson	1,000	-	1,000	-

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

7 Related Party Transactions

The Town Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have potential to control or influence the Town Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Town Council. Disclosure of these transactions allow readers to assess the extent to which the Town Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another parties ability to bargain freely with the Town Council.

The Town Council had a SLA with Shropshire Council for a 10 year period for various grounds maintenance work in and around Shrewsbury, entered into from 1st April 2009, which has now expired and is in the process of becoming a scheme of delegation. There are a number of Town Councillors which sit on both Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council. On the 12th November 2012 the Town Council granted dispensation to all twin-hatted members in respect or pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising out of their membership of Shropshire Council when matters relating to Shropshire Council are discussed by the Town Council. This resolution was taken following changes to the Code of Conduct as a result of The Localism Act 2011.

8 Participation in Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Town Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Town Council has a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Town Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme for civilian employees, administered locally by Shropshire County Pension Fund. This is a defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Town Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The cost to the Town Council for the year ended 31st March 2026 was £356,395 (prior year £337,893). There were no outstanding contributions at the Balance sheet date.

The Town Council's employer's contributions rate had increased following the 2023 revaluation to 17.6% (previously 14.8%) of employee's pensionable pay. From April 2026 this has decreased to 14% following most recent revaluation.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

9 Fixed Assets

	Tangible fixed assets				
	Land and buildings	**Vehicles and plant**	**Non - operational**	**Investment Properties**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost					
Brought forward	7,714,598	1,738,619	5,625	705,000	10,163,842
Additions		168,805	-	-	168,805
Disposals	-	(18,899)	-	-	(18,899)
Revaluation / (impairment)	-	-	-	-	-
	7,714,598	1,888,525	5,625	705,000	10,313,748
Depreciation					
Brought forward	2,724,762	1,058,748	-	-	3,783,510
Charged for the year	209,214	138,377	-	-	347,591
Disposals	-	(18,896)	-	-	(18,896)
	2,933,976	1,178,229	-	-	4,112,205
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2025	4,989,836	679,871	5,625	705,000	6,380,332
At 31 March 2026	4,780,622	710,296	5,625	705,000	6,201,543

Costs of additions to Vehicles and plant included upgrading and replacing the current fleet and additions for new services

Although classified as capital expenditure, certain minor equipment purchases are not included above as they are not material in overall value.

The asset values are not updated. The value of the assets transferred from SABC were the Net Book Value (NBV) as at 31st March 2009.

10 Long Term Investments

	CCLA Property Fund	Total
	£	**£**
Cost		
As at 1st April 2025	1,040,000	1,040,000
Additions / (disposals)	-	-
As at 31st March 2026	1,040,000	1,040,000

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

11 Financing of Capital Expenditure

	2026 £	2025 £
The following capital expenditure during the year:		
Vehicles and plant purchased (net)	149,906	134,932
Land and buildings purchased (net)	-	972,589
Investment properties (net)	-	-
Long Term Investments (net)	-	-
	149,906	1,107,521
Financing:		
Precept, Revenue Income, Capital sales and Earmarked Reserves	149,906	1,015,230
Commuted Sums received	-	-
Grants Received	-	92,291
	149,906	1,107,521

12 Information on Assets Held

Fixed assets owned by the Town Council include the following:	2026 Number	2025 Number
Land and Buildings		
Livesey House	1	1
Glasshouse	1	1
STC - Weeping Cross Centre	1	1
Public conveniences	5	5
The Quarry and Dingle	1	1
Sports pavilions	2	2
Tennis courts	3	3
Bowling greens	3	3
Rec grounds and play areas	various	various
Gardens and grounds	various	various
Open spaces	various	various
Allotments	12	12
Community centres	2	2
Footway lights	400+	400+
Solar footway lights	47	47
Vehicles and Plant		
Mayoral car	0	0
Vehicles and mowers	various	various
Trailers	various	various
Equipment	various	various
Office equipment	various	various
Non - operational		
Civic Regalia and silver	various	various
Investment Properties		
Commercial premises	3	3
Residential premises	1	1

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

13 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Debtors	17,714	29,823
Prepayments and accrued income	175,213	260,823
VAT	11,798	-
	204,725	290,646

14 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Creditors	122,765	153,518
Other Creditors	24,824	22,193
Payroll Taxes and Social Security	48,585	40,345
VAT	-	37,037
Accruals	343,269	334,431
Income in Advance	4,352	17,144
	543,795	604,668

15 Financial Commitments under operating leases

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

The Town Council uses photocopying equipment financed under the terms of an operating lease, the amount paid under this arrangement in 2025/26 was £2,679, prior year £2,679. An electric vehicle for mayoral use is also leased in 2025/26 £4,820 was paid, prior year £5,878. These amounts have been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	-	-
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	7,499	7,499
Annual obligations expiring after five years	-	-
	7,499	7,499

Land and Buildings

The Town Council leased land and buildings for the provision of public conveniences under the terms of an operating lease which was not renewed. The amount paid under this arrangement in 2025/26 was £0, prior year £1,250 this amount has been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	-	1,250
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	-	-
Annual obligations expiring after five years	-	-
	-	1,250

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

16 Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 01/04/24	Transfers to / (from) reserves	Use of reserves in year	Balance at 31/03/25
General income funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Election cost reserve	76,250	30,000	(87,646)	18,604
Equipment and vehicle replacement	345,175	80,000		425,175
Children's play areas	769,624	100,865	(142,312)	728,177
Quarry greenhouse	250,000			250,000
Allotments *	35,129	1,210		36,339
Visioning and Future projects	288,000	110,000		398,000
Recreation (astroturf & floodlights)	60,000	10,000		70,000
River banks incl fishing	125,447			125,447
IT upgrade and infrastructure	23,359			23,359
Splashpark	27,773	5,000		32,773
Youth and Community Centre upgrades	57,680		(23,950)	33,730
Dana footpath	70,000			70,000
Planned countryside works	5,000			5,000
Climate Change Fund	85,996		(1,424)	84,572
Lower Quarry Toilets	45,000			45,000
Toilets improvements	10,000			10,000
Bus Shelters - final phase	190,000	32,624	(167,624)	55,000
Ash die back	54,337		(17,995)	36,342
Public Safety incl Quarry	55,360			55,360
Ukraine Support Fund	25,000			25,000
Wall repairs	44,000			44,000
Greenhouse Eco heating and venting	30,000			30,000
Solar lights	50,000			50,000
Quarry gates	70,000		(70,000)	-
Health and Safety Works	20,000			20,000
Sundorne Depot Works	20,000			20,000
CRM, Automation & digitisation	40,000			40,000
Quarry Management Plan	50,000		(4,172)	45,828
Million hours project		48,130	(6,333)	41,797
Shorncliffe wheeled track improvememnts		20,000		20,000
Weeping Cross improvememts		95,000		95,000
Deferred income/grant funds #				
Neighbourhood fund (CIL) 1	1,838,114	165,836	(81,995)	1,921,955
Commuted sums (S106) 2	697,028	(100,865)	(61,371)	534,792
Receipts in adv incl Grants	23,846	(10,139)	(541)	13,166
	5,482,118	587,661	(665,363)	5,404,416

Earmarked reserves represent sums set aside to fund future expenditure and projects. Inline with legislation, surplus from allotments cannot be used for general purposes and earmarked * for future projects.

Deferred income / grant funds # were previously treated as balancing items, held on the balance sheet and released when utilised. Following a change to the guidelines issued 19th March 2018 under S138A these receipts are now treated as other income and earmarked if unspent.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

1 Amounts received in the year represent 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) received by Shropshire Council on any new developments in the Parish due to the Town Council.

Use of funds in the year	**£**
Wheeled Track	81,995
	81,995

2 Commuted Sums are agreements with developers to cover capital and maintenance of an asset over a period of time adopted by the Town Council.

17 Capital Financing Account	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Balance brought forward	7,352,898	6,591,443
capital expenditure in the year (net)	149,905	1,107,522
Depreciation (net)	(328,694)	(346,067)
reversal of Impairment of Investment Properties	-	-
Balance carried forward	7,174,109	7,352,898

The Capital Financing Account represents revenue and capital resources applied to finance capital expenditure and for the repayment of external loans. It also includes the reversal of depreciation and any impairments to ensure it does not impact on the amount to be met from precept. It does not represent a reserve which the Town Council can use to support future expenditure.

Certain assets were transferred from SABC at no cost. To fairly state the value of the assets and comply with the council's accounting policy these have been included in the accounts at their NBV at 31st March 2009.

18 Revaluation Reserve	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Balance brought forward	67,434	67,434
Revaluation of investment properties	-	-
Balance carried forward	67,434	67,434

Revaluation Reserve represents the increase in value of investment properties following revaluation but is not income available to fund services.

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

19 Usable Capital Receipts

	2026 £	2025 £
Balance brought forward	64,073	614,073
Purchase of land in the year	-	(550,000)
Sale or rights	3,000	-
Balance carried forward	67,073	64,073

Usable capital receipts represent proceeds of fixed asset sales for future capital investment.

20 Contingent Liabilities

The Town Council is not aware of any such liabilities at 31st March 2026.

21 Capital Commitments

The Town Council has no capital commitments at 31st March 2026.

22 Post Balance Sheet Events

The Town Council is not aware of any material events that arise after the Balance Sheet date and which did not exist at the time that need to be declared to ensure a fair presentation of the financial statements.

23 Prior Period Adjustments

There are no prior period adjustments.

Shrewsbury Town Council
Notes to the Accounts
31st March 2026

24 Summary of Expenditure

The summary of expenditure is based on the subjective analysis contained in the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice. Although the Town Council is no longer subject to these provisions, it is felt they give a view of the figures in a format acceptable in the production of local authority accounts.

Direct Service Cost	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Other expenditure	1,951,124	2,506,287
Analysis of costs broken into principal components:		
Premises and Related Costs	278,516	271,464
Transport Costs	150,260	141,418
Supplies and Services	685,869	655,420
Support Services	185,968	188,783
Capital	650,511	1,249,202
	1,951,124	2,506,287

Democratic, Management and Civic Costs	**2026 £**	**2025 £**
Other expenditure	570,024	434,233
Analysis of costs broken into principal components:		
Premises and Related Costs	22,549	21,093
Transport Costs	30,544	29,236
Supplies and Services	25,209	24,253
Support Services	491,722	359,651
Capital	-	-
	570,024	434,233