

Clerk to the Town Council  
**By email**

3rd March 2024

Dear Helen

I am writing to inform you about some important news related to University Centre Shrewsbury (UCS).

The University has been in talks about the future of our strategic partnership with Shropshire Council which created UCS in 2015. It has been a hugely positive partnership which has helped bring higher education opportunities to Shropshire. However, in common with other local authorities the Council is under significant financial pressure, and unfortunately is no longer able to support the partnership in the same way. In addition, the University executive team has been reviewing its overall strategy in light of financial strain on the HE sector. After careful deliberation, it has now concluded that it is not financially sustainable for the University to be the sole supporter of UCS from September, as it is currently configured.

We are committed to ensuring that all our current students at UCS will be supported to complete their qualifications and are looking at the best ways for this to happen. This might include delivery from other locations or alternative methods of teaching. We are also discussing how we might use existing specialist facilities to deliver these courses.

We are aware of how important higher education is for the workforce development and skills agenda of Shropshire, and will be engaging with key partners, including Shropshire Council, about how the University of Chester can best support this work.

We would like to thank you for your support of UCS, and want to highlight the many hundreds of graduates who are now working across Shropshire and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Paul Johnson  
Deputy Provost  
University of Chester