

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE****14 January 2026****Officer:** Stuart Farmer – Operations Manager**STEPPING UP TEAM UPDATE****Purpose**

To update the Council the work and implementation of the Stepping Up Team.

Ward Visits

The planned ward visits have continued over recent months with a visit to Column and Sutton following the cancelation of the Castlefields and Ditherington Visit.

The dates of the ward visits have been diarised with the ward members and other organisations who have been encouraged to attend. Planned visits between this meeting and the next are as follow:

- Copthorne 23rd January – Works planned 23rd February 2026
- Harlescott 18th February – Works planned 16th March 2026
- Meole 11th March – Works planned 6th April 2026

Programme of Works

The Operations Manager maintains the master spreadsheet of works with these being added to from public enquiries, councillor requests as well as officer reports.

Criteria of Works

The team has a spreadsheet with all tasks that have been identified either by the staff themselves, by Councillors, by the public and of late forwarded by Shropshire Council because their team haven't the resources to do them. Each task is reviewed to determine whether.

- (i) it is the responsibility of others and if it is, they are informed
- (ii) we have the capacity and resources to undertake the work
- (iii) whether there are any timeframes that need to be considered for the work to be done (for example, working out of nesting periods, knowing when other traffic management functions are being undertaken at the same time, any embargos and whether there are clusters of work in one area). Upon that staff allocate jobs to the Stepping up Team.

Work Completed to Date

During the Autumn season the team have focused on leaf clearing at all locations across Shrewsbury, this is following requests from all possible reporting areas.

One of the bigger clearance tasks was completed at the Bus Station following a request from Shropshire Council Officers. This was completed over the quieter times to allow access into all areas and parking bays on the site. The site was reported as dangerous during a wet period.

Bench installations have taken place in areas following Councillor requests, this has been completed alongside the Shrewsbury Menshed who have been refurbishing them. The team have been delivering benches and cast-iron bins to the Shed for refurb.

Town Centre Vacuum Machine

In recent weeks the team have taken delivery of a new Town Centre vacuum machine which has enabled the team to efficiently clean kerb and building edges. The machine was seen in operation in the Town centre for the first time last week and was welcomed by the public who could see an improvement with the ability to collect all manner of detritus. Due to the machine being battery operated it is extremely quiet with a battery range to last all day. It also provides a low-pressure jet wash that can be used for disinfecting areas as and when required.



Vehicles

The team have also taken delivery of a new caged tipper and flatbed tipper in recent weeks. These are awaiting livery to be added before they will start being used.

Winter Maintenance

Since returning from the Christmas Holidays another task the team (along with other teams) has been tasked with is winter maintenance, Shrewsbury Town Council were able to redeploy a number of staff into the Town Centre on Friday of last week to clear snow and ensure the Town was accessible. This was completed using existing equipment including mower brushes and hand tools.

Litter Picking

Litter Picking has continued in all areas of the Town and Town Centre on a regular basis, this is focused on areas that have been highlighted as being hot spots.

By way of a reminder, if Councillors are arranging litter picks the team will be able to assist with the delivery of equipment and collection of the bags. This can be arranged by contacting the Operations Managers, giving advance notice.

Re-Visiting of Sites

Re-visits to some of the sites have also been required to maintain the areas. These have included areas such as the Sutton Bridge. This is mostly due to leaf litter and weed growth. This will continue to be an issue and is something that the manager of the service is very conscious of. Time has been allocated for some re-visits to prevent the build-up occurring again wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.