

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SLA WORKING GROUP HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE

5 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT

Councillors Pam Moseley, Alan Mosley (Chair), Rob Wilson & Alex Wagner

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager) & Danny Powell (Operations Manager)

43/24 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

All Councillors present declared personal interests in being members of Shropshire Council

44/24 NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Notes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

45/24 MEETING WITH SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LEADER

The Town Clerk updated the Working Group on the meeting Councillors Mosley & Wilson had with Councillor Picton, Andy Begley, Andy Wilde & Jane Trethewey.

They reiterated the importance of partnership working going forward and the level of detail in the Agreement between the two councils.

Councillor Picton detailed ongoing general discussions with Parish Councils and in particular the agreements with Church Stretton Town Council to contribute to local service delivery.

All Local Authorities were due to receive a letter from Government regarding proposals around the Devolution White Paper. Andy Begley had been speaking to fellow CEOs about what that might mean at local level and there remained a degree of uncertainty as the magic figures of 500k population for new unitary councils and 1.5m for combined authorities was unlikely to be achievable locally. Agreements were being formed elsewhere with contiguous boundary local authorities.

Current projection for the new financial settlement was forecasting a £28m reduction from last year's settlement.

Officers reported collective intentions of meeting relatively frequently in the lead up to the elections with a potential view of presenting collective ideas for future service delivery to the new administrations of both Councils. All Councillors present felt that this was a sensible approach.

The Working Group discussed the likely implications of continued financial pressures, route for combined authorities, rural versus urban and the impacts locally.

46/24 PROGRESS SO FAR

The mapping of all maintained assets was ongoing. There was still the Sports Village, Castle, Cemetery and Library to complete. It was particularly noted the role that Mike Pugh has played in pulling the data together working with Juan Hernandez and Derek Furlong.

47/24 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Stepping up consultation had now closed with only a handful of responses since reporting to Full Council.

48/24 STEPPING UP PROPOSALS

(i) General Proposals - It was reported that two members of staff had been moved from the Neighbourhood Team to start some of the minor tasks as identified by Councillors and Officers. They were working Tues, Wednesday & Thursday on these task whilst picking up routine Neighbourhood Warden tasks Monday & Friday. Public response had been positive. Some larger tasks had been identified, but these would be left until the Team was in place. There would be some publicity prior to pre-election period involving Councillors, but thereafter publicity would cease until after the election.

The Working Group discussed aspirations in the short and medium term for the Stepping Up Programme, including:

- Having Stepping Up Work in Progress Boards for the team to use
- Need to liaise with Shropshire Council & other partners including Homes Plus and Network Rail around littering and fly tipping on their land
- Need to clarify a process for the management of fly tipping
- The development of a Ward Visits Programme in the new electoral year
- Need for owner permissions. Case in point would be the clearance of the Towpath

Councillor Mosley was keen to see the towpath cleared sooner rather than later. Operations Managers detailed the complexity of the site including access by vehicles. This would be looked into.

(ii) Job Descriptions – Draft Job Descriptions were circulated for comment. These would be reviewed and presented at the next meeting. The key was to broaden the scope to allow for a large pool of potential employees to apply.

(iii) Apprenticeships – Working Group members wished to see some of the Stepping Up Posts identified for young people on apprenticeships. Operations Managers detailed the requirements to find an appropriate course to meet the operational specification of the post. The Town Council could not just appoint young people as apprentices without an appropriate qualification for them to work towards.

(iv) Other matters raised – Working Group members raised:

- **The Capital versus Revenue Budget for the Stepping Up Team** – The RFO detailed proposals within the 2025/6 budget
- **The potential requirement for additional fleet and equipment** – The Operations Managers were reviewing kit particularly around the redundancy of kit from the Golf Course

- **The Branding** – It was felt that “Stepping Up” needed to be the interim brand as the community had bought into that concept
- **Duplication** – Discussions need to take place to ensure that the Town Council wasn’t undertaking other contractor work
- **Waste** – It has been established that the waste continued to be Shropshire Council’s waste and arrangements would be made to have access to the Waste Transfer Station
- **New Regulations** – It has been established that currently these only apply to operations within a business and not public land
- **Bins** – There would need to be a maintenance plan for bins

49/24 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Next meeting 20th February 2025