

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of Council
Held at Livesey House, 7 St Johns Hill, Shrewsbury at
6pm on Monday 16 March 2026

PRESENT

Councillors A Wagner (Mayor), B Bentick (Deputy Mayor), J Daniels, R Dartnall, J Dean, A Fejfer, R Gratton, H Hancock-Davies, B Jephcott, E Micklewright, A Mosley, J Tandy, D Vasmer and R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources), Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer) and three members of the public.

102/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Halliday, Moore & Pardy and Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk).

103/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Twin hatted members declared personal interests in matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council
Councillor Wagner	Declared an interest in Item 10 of the agenda (Service Devolution) as he is the Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council and will not take part in any discussions
Councillor Wilson	Member of Shropshire Council Cabinet
Councillor Vasmer	Portfolio Holder for Highways & Environment at Shropshire Council
Councillors Bentick, Wilson & Vasmer	Declared that they had been granted dispensations under the Granting of Dispensation Policy in relation to the items on Service Devolution

104/25 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 26 January 2026 be submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Full Meeting of Council on 26 January 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

105/25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising for consideration

106/25 ANNOUNCEMENTS

106.1 MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had a very busy calendar since the last meeting of Full Council and that there were too many announcements to go through. He informed members that on Sunday he had attended his last civic event of his mayoral year which was the Shrewsbury School Divine Service in State. This was a lovely event to be part of, and he wished to pay thanks to Sally Nicholson, Mayor Secretary, for arranging all the mayoral events superbly and to all staff who assisted in the events.

106.2 TOWN CLERK ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that she was conscious of not presenting formally to Council the Town of Culture Expression of Interest. As she had previously reported there had been a useful workshop which helped to gather information on the type of theme that would form part of the overall proposal. The theme was around the fact that the greatest theory of global humanity evolved from the walking in the Shrewsbury fields of a young boy with an appetite for how nature evolved. So it seemed only natural to embed a theory of evolution into developing a Cultural Strategy to address some of the town's current challenges around an ageing population, lack of skills and capacity for young people, not to mention climate change and flood resilience to create a lasting cultural legacy that addressed those challenges.

There was considerable energy and enthusiasm for partners to help, including the National Trust, English Heritage, Event Organisers, Businesses, Tourism Strategists, Creatives, schools and Colleagues and many had worked with Officers to draft the 4500-word submission which had to be sent to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport by 31 March. Government would in turn shortlist a number of applicants to develop a final plan to be submitted by the Autumn; shortlisted applicants would be provided with a £60,000 fund to develop that plan with a view to being nominated as the Town of Culture 2028 with the potential of £3m of seed funding. This wasn't a Town Council Expression of Interest, more their facilitation (as probably the best organisation to facilitate it) of lots of external ideas; this was a

Town submission. There was also much merit in capturing these ideas to help to create a Cultural Strategy for the Town as a side product of this collaboration. The Town Clerk would circulate a final draft later next week.

107/25 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that standing orders had been followed in seeking questions ahead of the meeting, but she had accepted questions up until 4pm on the day of this meeting.

Three public questions had been received.

Question One:

“In light of the significant public concern following the recent redesign of the station gyratory near Shrewsbury railway station, particularly regarding traffic congestion, safety, and emergency vehicle access, what position has Shrewsbury Town Council taken on the scheme and has the council formally raised any concerns with Shropshire Council; and in the context of further proposals linked to the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, including the suggested cycling route through the grounds of Shrewsbury Castle and the Dana area, does the Town Council support these proposals in principle, and what considerations, including public consultation, heritage impact, safety, and other relevant factors, does the council believe should be applied before changes affecting historic areas of the town are progressed?”

Councillor Wilson thanked the member of the public for their question. He replied to say that Shrewsbury Town Council, via the Big Town Plan partnership, had raised concerns regarding the Station Gyratory scheme repeatedly since it was first conceived. This was noted in the Task & Finish reported completed by Shropshire Council’s Economy & Environment Committee in November/December 2025. During the previous Council term 2021-2025, Shrewsbury Town Council supported the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy, and opposed the construction of the North West Relief Road. This remained the adopted position of the Council. There was a motion later on the agenda related to the Station Gyratory scheme.

Question Two:

“As a recognised stakeholder in the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, could Shrewsbury Town Council please clarify:

- 1. What precise role it currently plays in shaping, influencing, or representing residents’ views on the transport and town centre proposals associated with the plan, and*
- 2. How and when does the council ensure that local public opinion is properly reflected when major or significant changes affecting the town centre are proposed?”*

Councillor Wilson thanked the member of the public for their question. He replied to say that the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan had been built based on thorough, open, public engagement. For example, the original Big Town Plan received over 2500 responses. Through the Big Town Plan partnership, the Town Council had played a central role in the development of the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy. This had involved promotion of the public consultations and debate by councillors represented each of Shrewsbury's 17 wards. All changes to the Roads and Transport though remained the responsibility of Shropshire Council as the Highways Authority. All changes to the highway required a statutory consultation which were promoted to and open to all members of the public.

Question Three:

"Following the statement from Church Stretton council, what is Shrewsbury Town Council's view on our lamp posts being used as flag poles for political purposes? What action has it taken, and what plans does it have, to stop this appropriation of public property? Assuming most of the lamp posts belong to Shropshire Council, will the Town Council press Shropshire Council to pursue the people responsible for the costs incurred in taking down the flags rather than expecting council taxpayers foot the bill?"

Councillor Wilson thanked the member of the public for raising this important question regarding the use of lamp posts as flag poles for political purposes. He recognised the significance of this issue and firmly supported the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance, and individual liberty. In particular, the rule of law was paramount, and there were clear legal frameworks governing the use of public infrastructure such as lamp posts.

They were proud to fly the Union Flag in the Quarry as a symbol of unity, and to honour the flags of the Allied Forces during Remembrance Sunday. These occasions reflected both their respect for national heritage and their commitment to appropriate and lawful use of public spaces.

Regarding the recent concerns, the Town Council was in direct communication with Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police. They continued to discuss the issue with Shropshire Council and National Highways to ensure that everyone's views were considered, and to address any misuse of public property in accordance with the law. Whilst most lamp posts were owned by Shropshire Council and National Highways, they would always try to work in partnership to tackle common problems. They believed it was important to remove unauthorised flags from lamp posts, but they would always act in line with the legal requirements and best practice, respecting both the community and the public interest.

From April the Town Council would be 'stepping up' further than before, taking on Street Cleansing from Shropshire Council. It was clear that the proliferation of cable ties on the town's lamp posts was unsightly and did not present the best version of

their town. As they do more to clean up the town, he asked all residents to do what they could to keep Shrewsbury clean and tidy.

As conversations progressed, their priority remained the fair and lawful treatment of public property and ensuring that any associated costs were managed appropriately. They appreciated the public's vigilance and concern for the town's image and wellbeing and would continue to work closely with all relevant authorities to uphold these principles.

(One member of the public left the meeting).

Councillor Mosley enquired about the protocol around these questions and could members ask supplementary questions. Councillor Wagner said he would not have any opposition to altering standing orders to account for this.

108/25 MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were two motions submitted by Members.

(i) Town of Shrewsbury Massachusetts 300th Anniversary of Incorporation - Councillor Jon Tandy

This Council Notes:

- 1. That the Town of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its incorporation on 15th December 2027, having been officially incorporated on 15th December 1727.*
- 2. That Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, was first settled around 1717, developing along one of the historic Boston Post Roads, forming a civic and residential centre that remains recognisable today.*
- 3. That the town was named for Shrewsbury, England, reflecting the longstanding and unbreakable link.*
- 4. Shrewsbury Town Council (UK) continues to uphold the historic civic traditions upheld by the former Borough Mayors. The Mayor is the First Citizen of the town and plays an important ambassadorial role. A role which dates back as far as 1638.*
- 5. That preparations in Massachusetts are already underway for the tricentennial led by the establishment of Shrewsbury300 which is planning to establish a few cornerstone events throughout the year.*
- 6. That the 300th anniversary presents a rare opportunity for Shrewsbury (UK) to recognise the shared name, heritage, and historical connections between the two towns, and to strengthen civic, cultural and community ties.*

This Council Resolves:

1. To pledge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on 15th December 2027.

2. To establish a cross-party, member-led working group, chaired by the Mayor, to consider how Shrewsbury (UK) can contribute to and support the anniversary celebrations.

a. To invite other notable civic representatives to join the working group, including, but not limited to former Mayors and Juila Buckley MP

3. For the Mayor to write to the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, extending congratulations and asking how Shrewsbury (UK) may support or collaborate with them.

This motion was duly seconded by Councillor Feijfer.

Councillor Mosley commented that he did not know what civic links the USA had and had they asked to come over here or us or for us to travel over there. Councillor Tandy replied to say they had to have talks with them and see if this could be moved forward, he would like the Town Council to be involved. Councillor Wilson confirmed it would be good to be involved; Councillor Wilson directed members to the Council Trophy Cabinet and civic gifts that had been presented to past Mayors. He also advised that the Mayors of Shrewsbury had been in attendance at celebrations for both the 200th and 250th anniversary of their incorporation. Councillor Mosley also added that officer time should not be put into this as they were already busy.

Councillor Dartnall also commented that it would be good to be involved but she was concerned about the potential costs involved and a budget would be required.

Councillor Wagner agreed this would be a nice opportunity to promote Shrewsbury as there were historic links between the two towns but agreed that expenditure needed to be watched.

Councillor Bentick commented that this was a good opportunity and fully supported the motion.

Councillor Jephcott supported the motion as it was a good idea for the two Shrewsbury's to talk to each other, but he agreed with the comment of budget precautions. He also asked if the link between Shrewsbury & Zutphen could be re-established.

RESOLVED:

That the Council agrees:

- 1. Celebrate the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on 15th December 2027;**
- 2. Establish a cross-party, member-led working group, chaired by the Mayor, to consider how Shrewsbury (UK) can contribute to and support the anniversary**

celebrations., including inviting other notable civic representatives to join the working group, including, but not limited to former Mayors and Juila Buckley MP;

- 3. For the Mayor to write to the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, extending congratulations and asking how Shrewsbury (UK) may support or collaborate with them.**

(ii) Shrewsbury Movement Strategy - Councillor Alan Mosley

Shrewsbury Town Council recognised that the impact of the new Station Gyratory system had caused great and ongoing, inconvenience, stress, hardship and had impacted on the wellbeing for large numbers of residents which we represent. They also believed that businesses and visitors had also suffered as a consequence of the scheme.

We note that the Task and Finish Group established by Shropshire Council identified shortcomings in the work and made significant recommendations, including:

- Rigorous and independent safety review*
- The concerns of blue light services*
- The planning, governance and management*
- Reliable data collection, monitoring and response*
- In house resource provision and control*
- Financial implications*
- Consequences for associated neighbourhoods*
- Consultation and coordination with stakeholders*
- Lessons to be learned*

We support these recommendations which were adopted by Cabinet on 3rd December and urge that the work be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

However, we are also only too aware that the levels of publicity and reputational damage has caused many to reconsider or learn about the overall Movement Strategy for Shrewsbury (MS), which is designed to encourage active travel and reduce private car journeys, especially through the Town Centre. These are objectives which we support but which are now being questioned.

This is particularly the case given the on-going negative reports, the serious findings of the Task and Finish Group and the fact that the consultants who prepared the MS also endorsed the Gyratory Scheme as did Active Travel England.

The severe financial difficulties facing Shropshire Council and the clarity that the North West relief Road is now cancelled greatly add to the growing sense of uncertainty and foreboding around the current MS plans.

We therefore call upon Shropshire Council to recognise this widespread push-back and the lessons to be learned from the Gyratory work. We further ask that, in the interest of Shrewsbury's residents, businesses and visitors, no further work should be undertaken by Shropshire Council on the current MS until an in depth and independent review is undertaken, including alternative solutions with greatly enhanced public and stakeholder involvement and assurance that finance is available to properly implement any scheme.

Councillor Mosley added that he was not against the Movement Strategy as he had helped to devise it and recommended it and still advocated it by and large, but since the scheme was launched certain things had happened. It raised questions about capacity and capability of those who were responsible for the highway schemes and who would be responsible for implementation of the Movement Strategy. He added that when the Movement Strategy was consulted on there were more people who were dissatisfied than those who were satisfied. There was a pushback to try and re-ascertain the principles of the Movement Strategy and engage more with the public and stakeholders to learn lessons and peoples' experiences of it. He asked that no further work should be done until an independent review was carried out and there was an assurance that finance was available. Shropshire Council were in crisis and the North West Relief Road was now cancelled. He asked for a 'what if' the NWRR did not happen, and it was up to the then leadership and consultant. Task & Finish was critical and they needed to recognise and reassert the principles of the Movement Strategy and engage with stakeholders and the public to develop more confidence.

Councillor Dartnall seconded Councillor Mosley motion.

Councillor Wilson proposed the following amendment to the motion which had been seconded by Councillor Dean.

Amendment to Councillor Mosley's motion.

To delete paragraph's 4-7 from "However" onwards.

Replace with:

This Council notes that on 26th February 2026 Shropshire Council cancelled the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road due to it being unaffordable. We further note that this council in the 2021-2025 term repeatedly opposed the building of the North West Relief Road, whilst also supporting the Shrewsbury Movement & Public Space Strategy. This was based in the fact that the Movement & Public Space Strategy, commissioned by the Big Town Plan Partnership, was written both with and without the North West Relief Road, and that this happened due to the opposition of Shrewsbury Town Council to the North West Relief Road.

This Council resolves to continue its support for the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy.

Councillor Wilson added that the gyratory had not been implemented well and there were a lot of flaws and there was a lot of work trying to resolve that, but to tie that with the wider Movement Strategy was stretching it a bit. He commented that Councillor Mosley was 'sitting on the fence' as he had supported the Movement Strategy for the past four years. Councillor Wilson did worry about the cost and likely delay in progressing the Movement Strategy were Councillor Mosley's resolution be adopted. Councillor Mosley had spoken of the lack of public support but on the Big Town Plan Website, it showed that in 2024 there were 4,000 responses collected.

Councillor Mosley responded saying that the overall response had been very positive which was great to see but he believed things had changed. If there was to be better public transport, they needed to do something about the traffic in the town as there couldn't have one without the other. He confirmed he did worry about costs and starting again.

Councillor Hancock Davies commented that the motion was well principled, but he agreed with Councillor Wilson. He added that the public won't get used to the gyratory and that the findings of the Task & Finish group were quite damning. People felt endangered by the current configuration of the gyratory and everyday there was a chance of injury. Until the floating bus stop and cycleway were removed then people wouldn't feel safe in the town. Evidence had been asked for multiple times, and it was a disgrace that it was continuing because lives were being put at risk.

Councillor Mickelwright supported the amendment and said it would be better to educate people rather than scrap the whole system because one aspect wasn't working.

Councillor Bentick strongly supported the amendment adding that to suggest the gyratory issue represented the whole of the plan was not credible. He hoped that the Big Town plan moved into execution and delivery as soon as it could.

Councillor Jephcott commented that the gyratory was an odd hybrid but that they may as well run with it. It was a badly designed and conceived scheme. He commented that Councillor Mosley wished to wait for a second review, but he said they should get on and put right the mess that had been left and not have constant reviews. Professional people were required to design the scheme, and they should stick to the plan and deliver it properly.

Councillor Dean commented that the scheme was alongside the North West Relief Road, it had been badly executed and that Highways were not thinking of the whole town. The Movement Strategy related to the whole Big Town Plan and the gyratory proved that tweaking was not an answer. He added that any suggestion on assurances on financing was ill-thought through as there would never have been

funding in advance. The new Government wouldn't take on services and it was a tragic outcome after promising change.

Councillor Vasmer said that this was a tragic motion and that it undermined key cooperation over the Movement Strategy. They had been consulting on it for years and supported it and it was a shame that this motion had come to Council. He supported the amendment as they needed the Movement Strategy activated and to move forward.

Councillor Mosley responded to say he agreed with the views on the Movement Strategy, but he didn't have confidence that it could work or be afforded in an appropriate way and that residents would be happy to see a review of the scheme. He asked why members did not want to involve more people in this. He said there should be a review to ensure they had the right scheme at the right time with the right money.

A vote was taken on the amendment of which 2 were against and 12 in favour.

A Vote to accept the motion as amended was 2 against and 12 in favour.

RESOLVED:

That This Council notes that on 26th February 2026 Shropshire Council cancelled the Shrewsbury North-West Relief Road due to it being unaffordable.

It further notes that this Council in the 2021-2025 term repeatedly opposed the building of the North-West Relief Road, whilst also supporting the Shrewsbury Movement & Public Space Strategy. This was based in the fact that the Movement & Public Space Strategy, commissioned by the Big Town Plan Partnership, was written both with and without the North-West Relief Road, and that this happened due to the opposition of Shrewsbury Town Council to the North-West Relief Road.

This Council resolves to continue its support for the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy.

109/25 SERVICE DEVOLUTION UPDATE

Councillor Wagner, having declared an interest being the Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, left the meeting and Councillor Bentick took over the role of Chairman.

The Town Clerk presented a report into Service Devolution activity since the last meeting. She had tried to capture all the activity that had been undertaken over the last few weeks since Council resolved to take on Streetscene Services.

At the January meeting of Full Council, she stressed that it would be a difficult task, but she was pleased to say all actions were progressing to timescales, and there would be a deliverable service ready by the 1 April.

Recruitment had been completed as had procurement and operational staff and equipment would be ready for 1 April. TUPE discussions were going well and both staff who were to transfer to the Town Council were fully on board with the ethos of the Council in wanting to deliver a better service.

Talks were ongoing with Shropshire Council regarding the Delegation Agreement, Purchase Orders for the new Service Delegation and clarity on outstanding issues including Trees, what happened in the Rural Areas, Carpark & Park & Ride Maintenance and other operational issues like the Life Buoy Inspections. She was sure that these could be resolved ahead of the 1 April start date.

There were still a number of tasks to do including:

- Undertaking a Bin Audit to determine condition and replacement need including any spare parts
- Working on the preferred bin for replacement acknowledging the need for some recycling functionality
- Clearing out the inside of the bins as there was a lot of detritus within receptacles

There was also lots of work around rotas and zoning to tie in with the recently published DEFRA Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse Statutory Guidance particularly around priority zoning:

- (1) Town Centre and Trading Centres throughout the town
- (2) School and High Residential Footfall Areas
- (3) Normal Residential Streets
- (4) Woodlands and Parklands

This service wasn't just about the town centre. Places like Coleham, New Park Road Shops, Mount Pleasant, Abbey Foregate, Gains Park Shops, Copthorne Road Shops, Sutton Farm, Radbrook, Welshpool Road, Meole Estate, Monkmoor Road and Whitchurch Road were all in Zone 1.

Communications were also a big part of the plan; staff were completely on board about how to communicate and monitor progress.

The Town Clerk appreciated at the last Full Council there were some concerns around risks to the Council. She was comfortable that they had a deliverable service and their ability to hit the ground running was well on track.

Councillor Mosley queried the cleaning up around shops as these were not in public ownership. The Town Clerk reported that the public realm was the Council's priority,

but those non-public areas would be reviewed and discussed with the respective landowners.

Councillor Dartnall sought clarification on 'Fix My Street'. The Town Clerk reported that Shropshire Council had been working with Fix My Street to ensure that any issues reported through the platform which fell within the Town Council's Street scene responsibilities or ownership were automatically be forwarded to the Town Council. This would ensure that residents experienced a seamless reporting process and would not need to submit duplicate reports to different authorities. Shropshire Council acknowledged that the system was not great, but it would automatically contact Shrewsbury Town Council. In the short-term customer service would deal with enquiries until the system was up and running. Shropshire Council were helping to ensure the system was streamlined.

Councillor Hancock-Davies commended the Town Council staff on the work that had been completed to get this service in place by 1 April. He queried how the Town Council would work around the January backlog and what areas would be affected by the backlog, and would the public be notified. He also enquired as to who would deal with issues on the Battlefield Link Road.

The Town Clerk referred back to the Code of Practice, working through priority zones and clear standards. Most of the work the Town Council would be starting with would clear some of the backlog straight away. There was also a programme for replacement bins. The new team and the TUPE staff had a new mindset and approach to their work, and the public should see a difference. There would be significant communications posted and the public would actively see the work being done. She added that the Battlefield Link Road was part of National Highways and did not fall under the Town Council's new remit.

Councillor Wilson said that great credit was to be given to the staff for their work over the last two months. He had confidence in the team that residents would expect. He thanked all Town Council staff on all levels for their work.

Councillor Dean asked about staff morale and if they were looking forward to working at the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that morale was good and that staff were looking forward to the new work. Herself and the Deputy Town Clerk had spoken to the TUPE staff at length. They commented that they were frustrated by previous management instructions and that they liked the idea of being part of a wider proactive team.

Councillor Vasmer commented on local jobs for local people, and he paid tribute to the Town Council staff for the work getting the team together. He himself was looking forward to the 1 April and to see a change in how the town was cleaned.

Councillor Tandy asked if Councillors had to go through Fix My Street; the Town Clerk confirmed that once the management system was up and running, Councillors would be able to log in with a Councillor identified email address. In the meantime there would be a dedicated email address for the Town Councillors to use.

Councillor Mosley queried who would deal with graffiti, fly tipping and weed spraying and that it would be useful to see a schedule of work to be implemented and who would be responsible. The Town Clerk replied that weed spraying would fall under the Town Council. Graffiti on public highways would also fall under the Town Council and the Stepping Up team were also dealing with Fly Tipping issues. Enforcement of Fly Tipping would remain with Shropshire Council, but the Town Council would work closely with them to identify fly tippers. The Town Clerk advised that the maintenance schedule and shape files were part of the Service Devolution Report to the January Meeting of Full Council; she would resend the details. It was asked if the Town Council would do the investigations into fly tipping, but it was confirmed that they would not, it would still be up to Shropshire Council to prosecute but the Town Council would investigate details.

Councillor Bentick gave his appreciation for the hard work staff and officers had put in to getting the team operational. He asked the Operations Manager if councillors could be given notice of when their ward areas would be swept so residents could remove their cars. The Town Clerk confirmed that a schedule would be given to members, just like they did with the bus shelter replacement programme, and they would ensure it was not the same day as refuse collections.

Councillor Wilson wished for a message of thanks to be passed to all staff for their hard work.

RESOLVED

That the update be received and accepted.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

Councillor Wagner re-joined the meeting and resumed the role of Chairman.

110/25 QUARRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that progress had started on developing a Conservation Management Plan for the Park. Camlins had been appointed alongside other local contractors including Berrys to look at the plan holistically. Officers had been pulling together data to help inform their project plans. They were also looking to undertake a World Café Event at the Annual Town Meeting next month to understand what the public would like to see in the park.

The Working Group had member involvement and those Councillors whose wards abutted the Park had been invited to future meetings so that Camlins could capture how the park operated as a social space as well as a movement space between the residential areas and the town centre.

Councillor Dean welcomed the report and for being involved in the Working Group. He asked if it would be worthwhile doing a letter drop to residents regarding the plan as it may be a useful way to engage the public.

Councillor Mosley commented that it would need to be a town wide consultation.

Councillor Wagner stated that this plan was overdue and welcomed the progress and that having a wider plan with public engagement was required.

The Town Clerk confirmed they were keen for public engagement as the Quarry was a widely used park.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

111/25 MILLION HOURS FUNDING

The Town Clerk reported on the Million Hours Project; a National Lottery Funded project to address youth ASB in the town centre. £96260 had been received from the National Lottery, the total amount requested. Given this had been a vastly over-subscribed fund and closed ahead of the expected closing date, it was testament to the richness of the bid to deliver some very defined outputs.

This was a fund that was only open to certain wards in the country that showed significant spikes in Youth ASB and Quarry & Cotton Hill was only one of two wards in the county that could apply.

The project was designed to increase detached youth work and ranger support on the streets with a view to engaging with young people and diverting them into other forms of youth activity, working with a broad range of partners. The Project would also raise young people's awareness of some key issues including knife crime, alcohol and substance misuse, county lines and mental health in young people so that they could maximise safeguarding and referrals and in certain cases ensure there was an element of waiting well for young people on very lengthy support waiting lists.

Within the 2026/27 budget they had allocated an additional £75k of youth funding. This would be utilised to expand this process out into the residential outliers where there were spikes in youth ASB and utilising an established process in the town centre would help to address other out of town issues.

As part of this process, there had been discussions with the British Ironworks Foundation about hosting the Knife Angel in July 2026, creating contextual awareness, raising sessions for schools and youth clubs but also campaigns to be run by the Youth Workers and Rangers on the streets. They were also looking to bring Youth Workers from Birmingham with lived experiences to share their involvement in these issues and looking to book theatre groups who had developed very meaningful mini plays which really drummed home these kinds of messages.

Overall, there was a lot of partners engagement and appetite and it was very much hoped that there could be a local legacy of thinking differently about Youth Activity. This was seen as a catalyst project for the Shropshire Council Youth Transformation Pilot.

Councillor Wagner commented that the Town Centre was a magnet for Anti-Social Behaviour. Prevention was needed and anything that would prevent the problem getting worse was welcomed. He was enthusiastic about this project and thanked the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for submitting the bid.

Councillor Mosley commented that he didn't think the majority lived in the Quarry & Coton Hill ward and asked how this was going to be spread out across all member wards. The Town Clerk advised that this funding was designed to address the area where ASB was committed not the location from where the individual came. It was hoped the additional Youth funds would address any issues created by young people in their respective wards.

Councillor Dartnall queried a financial implication and asked if the £25,000 was additional to the £75,000 set aside in the recent budget. The Town Clerk confirmed that the £25,000 was additional and did not come from the allocated £75,000.

Councillor Tandy asked if there was a time limit on the project. The Town Clerk said there was lottery funding until the end of May with additional resource found to the end of the Summer Holidays making it a 26-week programme.

Councillor Bentick commented this was exciting for Young People and was good timing regarding the time of the year. He asked if organisations that delivered for Shropshire Council could be involved and were the SC Youth Team integrated into the plans. Was there any information that could be advertised within their wards. The Town Clerk confirmed information could be sent out and that SC were involved at the beginning, and they see it as a good project.

Councillor Mosley asked who oversaw the finance and it was confirmed that it was the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Councillor Mosley asked how they would ensure sustainability and could a report be brought to a future meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed a report could be done and there were monitoring arrangements with the National Lottery and these would also be shown.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted;**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk brings a report to a future meeting to show the Finance of the funding.**

112/25 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 February 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 9 February 2026 be received and adopted.

113/25 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Operations Committee held on 4 March 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 be received and adopted.

114/25 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10 February and 10 March 2026 were submitted as circulated as read.

Councillor Dean added that the delegation on tree applications was working well and thanked the officers involved.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10 February and 10 March 2026 be received and adopted.

115/25 COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee held on 4 February 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 4 February 2026 be received and adopted.

116/25 WORKING GROUPS

116.1 YOUTH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 22 January 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 22 January 2026 be received and adopted

116.2 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Shrewsbury In Bloom working group held on 12 February 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Shrewsbury In Bloom working group held on 12 February 2026 be received and adopted.

117/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items being considered involve the disclosure of confidential information.

The Mayor advised that live streaming of this meeting would now stop. He thanked members of the public for logging in. All papers relating to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

118/25 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 25 February 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 25 February 2026 be received and adopted.

119/25 CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked members and staff for their attendance and closed the meeting.