

## **Motion calling for an Independent Review into “serious governance failings”**

The Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups (Alan Mosley, Alex Phillips and David Vasmer) on Shrewsbury Town Council have examined the contents of the Public Interest Report (PIR) issued by the External Auditor.

We note that “serious governance failings within Shrewsbury Town Council have been identified”.

We therefore have a responsibility to make sure that lessons are identified and actions are taken as a consequence. We propose a Review which considers fully the issues identified in the Public Interest Report.

The public needs to have confidence that this process has been undertaken transparently and without prejudice. Hence, our view that it needs to be undertaken independently of anyone who has been involved to date.

We envisage the reviewer will present the report in the Autumn 2020 and that it will be published and discussed at a publicly accessible meeting of the Town Council.

**Therefore, we propose that an Independent Review should be commissioned, to be undertaken by a ‘person of note’ fully independent of the Council, who will consider evidence and submissions from all interested parties.**

**We further propose the following Terms of Reference be adopted:**

1. Did the Council take all reasonable steps to ensure that the sale of the Greenfields land was carried out in accordance with relevant legal requirements regarding its ownership, designation and usage?
2. Following on from the sale of the land, are there any realistic legal impediments to its development, subject to planning permission, and, if so, what course of action should the council take to ensure that these matters are considered fully in accordance with the law?
3. Has the Council acted in a reasonable manner in its dealings with the Greenfields Residents Associations?
4. Are there any other matters outstanding which the Council needs to consider regarding its role in the sale of the land at Greenfields?
5. What lessons does the Council need to learn from the findings in the External Auditor’s Public Interest Report of “serious governance failings”.
6. In the light of the findings of the Judicial Review and recommendations within the PIR, what amendments to the Council’s Policy and Procedures should be made in accordance with ‘best practice’.

**Furthermore, we propose that we, as Group Leaders, be designated to manage the process. This to include the preparation of all documentation necessary for establishing the scope and specifications for the review, the procurement and appointment process, together with timelines and reporting process.**

**Proposed by** - Alan Mosley – Leader of Shrewsbury Town Council and Leader of the Labour Group

**Seconded by** -Alexander Phillips –Leader of the Conservative Group

**Supported by** - David Vasmer – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group