

Shropshire Council
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY3 8HQ

Date: 3rd June 2025

Dear Town or Parish Council,

A New Approach to Partnership with Town and Parish Councils

Shropshire Council has not done a good enough job of working with Town and Parish Councils in partnership over its 16-year history. This must change.

As part of our commitment to work more closely with communities, the new Administration at the Council is looking to reset its relationship with Town and Parish Councils.

We want to deliver services more effectively, support local decision-making, and rebuild trust with the public and Town and Parish Councils. That starts with listening.

We know that what works for the sparsest rural parish and what works in the largest market town are not one and the same, and want to see new Council policy designed with that in mind.

As a result, Shropshire Council is planning to put out a **Call for Information** to gather views from Town and Parish Councils. This would run for two months and help shape a new policy, which will be looked at and developed cross-party through our Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee. **We hope to see recommended policy changes to Cabinet and Full Council before the end of 2025.**

We'd particularly like to hear:

- Your views on how the partnership should work and how we have an equal say in making our communities and services the best they can be;
- Your experiences engaging with Shropshire Council (e.g. highways, planning, developer levies, communications);
- Your thoughts on how we can improve;
- And which services you believe could be better delivered locally either by Town and Parish Councils, using local providers, or in partnership with Shropshire Council.

We want to move at a pace you feel is best for you and your communities as we appreciate that some areas may be ready to move faster than others.

In addition, we are happy to consider piloting new arrangements or testing your ideas and suggestions in order to see how they work. This approach is intended to be **flexible and collaborative**, not one-size-fits-all.

The Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and other partners will play a key role, but we want to ensure that we hear from all of our Town and Parish Councils, either individually or in clusters.

Above all, this is about delivering better outcomes for residents, by empowering communities and treating partners with the respect and professionalism they deserve, which is why we want to collaborate and cocreate with you rather than taking the top-down approach we've all been used to seeing.

This is an exciting chance for change and we look forward to sharing more detail in the very near future and hearing your views. We are ready to listen.

Alex Wagner

Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, with responsibility for Communities
Councillor for Quarry and Coton Hill Division

David Minnery

Chair, Transformation and Improvement Overview Committee
Councillor for Market Drayton South Division

