

Shropshire Place Plan Review 2023

Update for Shrewsbury Town Council September 2023

Background

Place Plans are Shropshire Council documents and are part of the Councils Local Development Plan. They provide evidence of the infrastructure needed to support the delivery of new housing and economic development land in the county.

By infrastructure we mean items like new and improved highways, school place provision, and utilities such as electricity, water and broadband, not the general maintenance of existing infrastructure which Shropshire Council has responsibility for. There are 18 Place Plans in Shropshire with a town at its centre, surrounded by a rural hinterland.

Shrewsbury Town Council is part of the Shrewsbury Place Plan which also include Town and Parish Councils in the surrounding hinterland around Shrewsbury

The Place Plans list infrastructure in 3 categories A, B and Neighbourhood

A and B strategic infrastructure projects are linked directly to the delivery or support of new development. These projects are likely to be delivered by Shropshire Council or an infrastructure provider such as the Severn Trent, Network Rail or Western Power

Neighbourhood projects are more locally based and reflect the wider pressures development places on an area. These projects would generally be led by a Town or Parish Council or community group and include things like community buildings, play areas public open spaces and rights of way.

The last major review of Place Plans took place in 2019, but due to the Covid pandemic no major review or engagement with Town and Parish Councils has taken place since then, so during 2023 a significant review of the Place Plans has been taking place.

Aims of the review

The review of the Place Plans has four aims which are:

- To review key A and B infrastructure projects in Shropshire planned by Shropshire Council Departments, as well as external partners such as utility providers, the Environment Agency and NHS
- To re-engage with Town and Parish Councils and update them on strategic priorities in their area and review their local Neighbourhood infrastructure projects
- Develop new IT and analysis tools to review and manage the Place Plan information, and to make the Place Plans more accessible to partner organisations and the general public
- Provide an accurate and up to date evidence base of infrastructure requirements in Shropshire, which will form the basis of the Shropshire Council Annual infrastructure Statement and aid decision making which is important in the current economic climate.

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Work so far in 2023

- Discussions have taken with all Shropshire Council departments on their key infrastructure requirements, evidencing links to strategic plans, policies and identified need. Key departments include highways, education, culture and leisure and over 600 projects were identified in this part of the review. *Around 100 of these projects are located in the Shrewsbury Town Council area.*
- A new IT system has been developed to record the Place Plan projects which will allow much more scrutiny and analysis of projects, and support the allocation of resources to projects. It will support a new Place Plan website to be launched in the autumn, and allow Town and Parish Councils to nominate projects to be included in the Place Plans
- An engagement process with Town and Parish Councils to update them on the strategic projects identified through the internal review; introduce them to the new nomination process and discuss their Neighbourhood infrastructure projects
- The engagement has been supported by SALC with regular updates through their Committee and meeting structures, which we will continue as the Place Plan review process continues
- Linking **Section 106 projects** to the Place Plans to better understand infrastructure need resulting from specific developments and to ensure spend is focused on these areas
- Working with the Strategic Infrastructure Network, through which key infrastructure they provide is added to the Place Plans and provides details of both short term infrastructure needs, but is anticipating future needs over the next 20- to 30 years
- Review of completed projects over the last 3 years (See Appendix 1 Shrewsbury Town Council Completed projects)

Work with Shrewsbury Town Council and Councillors

The aim of this meeting is to review with Shrewsbury Town Council the Strategic Project list identified by Shropshire Council and partner organisations which is included in Appendix 1 and is show using the Shropshire Council division boundaries.

The initial review has identified around 100 A and B infrastructure projects in Shrewsbury which range from large scale projects such as the redevelopment of the riverside (Project 816) and development of swimming and leisure provision in Shrewsbury (project 819) to smaller projects linked to development such as an improved Puffin Crossing on the A458 Welshpool Road (project 207)

Through the Town Councillors and Town Council staff we'd like your feedback on whether there are any strategic projects missing from this list?

Please note that Shropshire Council is waiting on an update from the Integrated Care Board on their assessments on where health care provision needs to be upgraded or developed and will be included in the Place Plans once this process has concluded.

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As work on the Shrewsbury Big Town plan progresses, including the movement strategy this will also be included in the Place Plan, so there is no need to add items from these fields of work at this stage

In addition the review process also provides the opportunity for Shrewsbury Town Council to add additional **Neighbourhood projects** into the Shrewsbury Place Plan

The Town Council owns, manages and maintains a range of infrastructure in the town. While it is not necessary to add in every piece of infrastructure, any areas of infrastructure that need improvements, investment and upgrading due to pressures from development can be included. These can include areas such as community buildings, parks and play areas, footpaths and green infrastructure. By including the projects in the Place Plan this can help show the wider development needs of an area and may help provide evidence for external funding applications in the future.

These should be evidence projects with a clear purpose, rather than just aspirational projects.

We are happy for community led neighbourhood projects to be included, but would ask that they gain the support of the Town Council for their project who can nominate it on their behalf.

Requests to add both strategic infrastructure, and neighbourhood projects can be made via an online nomination form by the Town Council

[Place Plan Project Nomination Form](#)

Alternatively if there are a lot of projects to be added I can provide an Excel spreadsheet on which the projects can be listed and then upload them to our system in one go.

On completion of a nomination form the project will be allocated a reference number which can be used to review the projects progress.

In addition I'm happy to meet up with Councillors in their areas to review projects, and have undertaken a number of these meetings with Councillors over the summer. If any other Councillors would like to contact me my details are included below

What happens next?

This stage of the Place Plan engagement process with Shropshire Council departments, external providers and Town and Parish Councils is drawing to a close, and the evidence collected will form the basis of the **Shropshire Council Annual Infrastructure Statement**, which is a statutory document we have to publish annually, outlining the Infrastructure Shropshire Council needs to support its development plan. The Statement will be presented to Shropshire Council Cabinet in November.

If there are any important strategic infrastructure projects we need to include for Shrewsbury, that are not already on the list it would be helpful if we can have these nominations by the middle of October.

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While the Annual Infrastructure Statement will be published in November, the Place Plans remains an active live document which we will keep under constant review and as new evidence, strategies and infrastructure priorities emerge these will be added to the Place Plans

New Place Plan webpages will be launched in the autumn as well, to provide a clearer view of the infrastructure identified in each Place Plan, and to help Shropshire Council provide Town and Parish Councils with clear updates and monitoring on the delivery of projects.

Place Plan officers will also continue to maintain the links with Town and Parish Councils and help keep them updated on the projects in their area and provide a link to Shropshire Council through which new ideas and projects can be discussed. I'm keen to get to know your areas and identify the projects needed in your area, and to be a point of contact for you at Shropshire Council.

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Appendix 1

Shrewsbury Town Council Strategic Place Plan Projects September 2023

Appendix 2

Shrewsbury Town Council Completed Place Plan Projects