

Shrewsbury Town Council Residents' Survey and Visioning

Proposed: Rob Wilson

Seconded: David Vasmer

This Council notes:

1. The latest set of elections for Shrewsbury Town Council took place on 6th May 2021.
2. The results of the Local Elections represented a political shift in the makeup of the Council.
3. At the Full Council meeting held on 13th September 2021, the Town Clerk presented a paper “to seek Council’s approval in undertaking an in-house visioning exercise to develop a Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan to assist the Town Council in its service delivery over the next 4 financial years ending in the 2025/26 financial year.
(<https://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/36-Agenda18-Visioning-Exercise.pdf>).
4. It was resolved:
 - a. That the contents of the report be noted.
 - b. That the plan for the Visioning Exercise be agreed.
 - c. That members of Full Council commit to active participation in this exercise.
5. The proposed timetable was:
 - a. Initial Session w/c 27th September 2021
 - b. Follow-Up Session w/c 18th October 2021
 - c. Action Plan Session w/c 15th November 2021
 - d. Final Session w/c 29th November 2021
 - e. Presented to Finance & General Purpose Committee 6th December 2021
6. The first Visioning session was planned for 6th October 2021.
7. On 5th October 2021 it was decided that the proposed Visioning Sessions throughout October and November should be cancelled on risk of COVID outbreak grounds.
8. The Big Town Plan Masterplan Vision was published in January 2021, and sets out the vision for the development of Shrewsbury over the next 20 years, under the direction of the Big Town Plan Partnership (a joint venture between Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council and Shrewsbury BID).
9. Many Town Council’s run annual residents’ surveys to assess satisfaction with council services and seek views on other services that could be run by the council. For example:
 - a. Witney Town Council (<https://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/news/witney-town-council-annual-residents-satisfaction-survey-2022/>),
 - b. Frome Town Council (<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-chance-to-help-to-shape-our-town/>),
 - c. Flitwick Town Council (<https://www.flitwick.gov.uk/flitwick-residents-annual-survey-2022/>),
 - d. Woodley Town Council (<https://www.woodley.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/woodley-residents-survey/>),
 - e. Knaresborough Town Council (http://www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/Resident_Survey_41356.aspx).
10. The largest 5 civil parishes in England (Northampton, Sutton Coldfield, Weston-Super-Mare, Crewe and Shrewsbury) do not, it appears, currently run an annual residents’ survey.
11. There is a sum of £8000 in the earmarked reserves for “Community Engagement”.

This Council resolves:

1. To launch an annual Shrewsbury Residents' Survey, including, but not limited to:
 - a. assessing satisfaction with the services currently run by the Town Council,
 - b. seeking views on other services that could be provided by the Town Council.
2. To recommence the "Visioning Exercise" at the earliest possible opportunity to provide direction for Shrewsbury Town Council's decision making through to the end of the 2025/26 financial year.