

Shrewsbury Movement Strategy - Councillor Alan Mosley

Shrewsbury Town Council recognises that the impact of the new Station Gyratory system has caused great and ongoing, inconvenience, stress, hardship and has impacted on the wellbeing for large numbers of residents which we represent. We also believe that businesses and visitors have 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.