

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council



Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31st March 2021

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Contents

	Pages
Annual Report	1 - 9
Statement of Accounting Policies	10 - 13
Annual Governance Statement	14 - 20
Statement of Responsibilities	21
Income and Expenditure Account	22
Statement of Movement of Reserves	23
Balance Sheet	24
Notes to the Accounts	25 - 34

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Mayor

Phil Gillam

Councillors

Peter Adams until 10/05/2021
Bernard Bentick from 10/05/2021
Gwen Burgess until 10/05/2021
Rosemary Dartnall from 10/05/2021
Mary Davies from 10/05/2021
Julian Dean
Hannah Fraser until 10/05/2021
Phil Gillam
Nat Green
Kate Halliday
Ioan Jones until 10/05/2021
Chris Lemon from 10/05/2021
Jane Mackenzie until 10/05/2021
Pam Moseley
Alan Mosley
Peter Nutting until 10/05/2021
Kevin Pardy
Alexander Phillips
Elisabeth Roberts from 10/05/2021
Keith Roberts until 10/05/2021
David Vasmer
Alexander Wagner from 10/05/2021
Becky Wall
Robert Wilson from 10/05/2021

Clerk to the Council

Helen Ball BA Hons, FSLCC

Internal Auditors

Auditing Solutions Ltd
Clackerbrook
46 The Common
Bromham
Chippenham
SN15 2JJ

External Auditors

PKF Littljohn LLP
SBA Team
1 Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4HD

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Further information about the accounts is available from Riggs Hall, The Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AS. It is the Council's policy to provide full information about its affairs. Interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised in the press and on the Council's notice boards, and on the website.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

Shrewsbury Town Council is part of the 'parish council sector' and as such, is the first tier of local government, the closest council body to the residents of Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury Town Council works closely with the other tiers of local government for the area, namely Shropshire Council, with a view to facilitating a 'joined up' approach across all parties in order to deliver the highest quality services and facilities to the local residents.

The Town Council is continually updating its objectives, however the following strap line has been adopted:

Putting Shrewsbury First

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Town Council is: To create civic pride by providing a safe, tidy environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. We aim to improve people's quality of life by providing recreational areas and facilities for the public to pursue hobbies, a variety of sporting activities or just relax.

To provide an opportunity for young children to develop social skills and appreciate the value of play via the provision of safe children's play areas.

To provide a voice for the residents of Shrewsbury and be an advocate on all issue affecting the town.

Our Vision

To provide civic leadership in all aspects of making Shrewsbury socially, environmentally, economically and culturally sustainable and promote Shrewsbury as a good place to live, work and raise a family.

Our Aim

Our aim is to encourage and promote the best environmental, social, economic and commercial practices in and for the town of Shrewsbury, and to effectively, efficiently and economically manage our assets and resources to deliver the services for which we have responsibility, for the betterment and benefit of the local community and to secure value for money.

To achieve our aim we will strive to:

- Provide high quality value for money local services
- Be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the local community
- Promote the town of Shrewsbury and Shrewsbury Town Council at local, county, regional, national and international levels
- Develop partnership and agency working with the public, voluntary and private sectors for the benefit

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

of the community

- Promote environmental sustainability and Fair Trade
- Involve local people in meaningful dialogue to shape vision and policy
- Help create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, disabilities, culture, income, race or religion and which seeks to develop their well being, knowledge, understanding and mutual cooperation.

Shrewsbury Town Council is widely consulted on a range of strategic priorities, from the recently announced cycle network to large developments planned over the next 30 years, through the Local Development Framework, Core Strategy documents and local planning issues.

DIRECT SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

The Quarry and Dingle

The Quarry continues to be used for a wide range of planned activities from the Flower Show, Food Festival to the weekly ParkRun events, and is used most weekends of the year. As well as the planned activities it is the hub for the residents and visitors to Shrewsbury for leisure and recreational purposes every day of the year. The Town Council has altered the premises licence to provide a wide range of diverse events in the Quarry and is allowing musical groups to use the band stand. The Public Conveniences in the Quarry are now open for longer during British Summer Time in line with the opening hours of the Dingle the beautiful tranquil garden designed by Percy Thrower in the heart of the Quarry.

Solar footway lights have been installed up to kingsland bridge, a further extension up to porthill is being investigated

Playing Fields and Open Spaces

The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of playing fields and open spaces located in the town. This responsibility includes the grass cutting, litter picking and all other maintenance costs.

The footpaths are being improved to improve connectivity around the town and usage.

The countryside land within the town boundary is now under the control and management of Shrewsbury Town Council with the freehold in the process of being transferred from Shropshire Council, and this asset will compliment the other open spaces for the town residents.

Allotments

There are twelve allotment sites, and the waiting list for prospective allotment holders continues to be very long. In these days of financial constraints, this type of pastime is increasing in popularity whilst also providing a good workout. The Council is exploring new opportunities to develop new sites to reduce the waiting lists.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Play Areas

The maintenance of the Town Council's many play areas continues to be a priority. Specifically trained personnel inspect the play areas every week, for both Health and Safety and maintenance issues, and they are also inspected annually by ROSPA. Spring programmes of refurbishment are carried out to ensure the equipment is ready for the busy spring / summer season.

The new and extended Quarry Play Park incorporating the Splash Park continues to be a great success and more features will be added and longer opening hours explored.

Community Centres, Youth Services and Community Safety

The Town Council owns two Community Centres which are run by local residents in the Castlefields and Ditherington area.

Following the cancellation of Youth Provision by Shropshire Council, the Town Council restarted the service in early 2016 employing a full time professional and part time posts to work at various locations and the management of the Grange Centre. This is part funded on a diminishing level by Shropshire Council and will evolve to meet the needs of the young people of Shrewsbury.

Four neighbourhood warden positions deal with specific daily tasks in all the wards but are also available to respond in a quick and timely manner to any issues.

Sports Facilities

Shrewsbury Town Council owns two sports pavilions at the County Ground and Springfield, with associated football pitches and cricket wickets, these facilities are used by numerous teams, through the year. There are other football pitches available and through a "key scheme" there are tennis and crown green bowling facilities available.

During the year, drainage and levelling works were completed at Radbrook Road recreation ground. The Astro turf pitch has recently been replaced at Monkmoor, the fence and floodlights were also upgraded.

The Monkmoor Recreation Park which includes Astro turf, and grass football pitches, tennis courts, croquet and bowls is now being run and managed by Shrewsbury Town Council. The freehold is in the process of being transferred from Shropshire Council.

Grounds Maintenance

This area is one of the largest costs to Shrewsbury Town Council. The work is carried out by an in-house team of grounds maintenance staff across all the assets and amenity areas as well as Shropshire Council premises within the Town which are operated via a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

The Council also operates a number of other minor contracts for schools and neighbouring parish councils.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Christmas lights

The Town Council is responsible for the Christmas lights displayed in the town. These are now all LED to reduce energy consumption and increase brightness. A new display was unveiled in 2020 and will be changed in 2024.

Bus shelters

The cleaning and repairing of all the bus shelters in the town with the exception of the Raven Meadows Bus Station is undertaken by the Town Council, green sedum roofs are being trialled.

Climate Emergency

The Council declared its climate emergency in March 2019 committing to become carbon neutral by 2030. A new climate change committee has been set up to oversee this commitment

Street lights

The Town Council is responsible for all aspects of repairing and running over 450 footway lights around the town, and enhanced along the towpath and Castle Walk Footbridge which are all LED.

This project was completed in 2020 having being held up due to floods and then coronavirus.

Public Conveniences

There are 5 public conveniences located around the town which are maintained by the Town Council. There is a constant battle with anti social behaviour, which the Town Council is taking into consideration for any planned improvements, deep cleansing has been incorporated into the maintenance routines. There are now longer opening hours for some key sites during the summer and some events.

Civic Pride

Shrewsbury Town Council has taken over the civic responsibilities from the former Borough Council and the Mayor continues to be a focal point and figurehead to promote Shrewsbury and the Town Council.

The Mayor, Councillors and officers contribute to the Annual Town Meeting, Mayor Making Ceremony as well as Remembrance Sunday and other Civic events throughout the year.

The Mayoral Awards were introduced to recognise enterprise, endeavours and contribution across various awards ranging from business, environmental, community youth and tourism.

Members Allowances

The seventeen councillors are all entitled to receive a small allowance for their work as Town Councillors. The Town Council adopted the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in allocating £1,000 per annum to all Councillors under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

In addition the Mayor and Deputy Mayor receive a combined total of £6,500 per annum, to contribute towards the expenses of running the office of Mayor, in accordance with s15(5) Local Government Act 1972. Due to Coronavirus and reduced appearances, the amounts were reduced for 2020/21.

Britain in Bloom

Shrewsbury is often referred to as the Town of Flowers due to its success in Britain in Bloom and Entente Florale. The Town Council strives to continue this tradition to ensure that Shrewsbury is a welcoming town improving the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike through floral enhancement.

The Council encourages local business to participate by selling hanging baskets and maintains and waters them at competitive rates.

All floral beds and roundabouts form part of the Shrewsbury in Bloom sponsorship package, the proceeds from which funds community enhancements.

Other Services and events

The Town Council works alongside other bodies or provides grants to put on events in the town during the year including the Christmas Lights switch-on, Carols in the square.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Shrewsbury Town Council currently receives no money from Central Government. It is self funding except for a small precept levied on the ratepayers of Shrewsbury, which constitutes a very small portion of the overall Council Tax bill; Only residential dwelling council tax is included in the precept to the Town Council, business rates being excluded.

Shrewsbury Town Council has a significant Service Level Agreement to provide Grounds Maintenance for Shropshire Council until 2024/25.

The budget for the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 was approved by the Full Council in January 2020. The precept was set at £1,525,610 which equates to £60.25 at band D. The following budget comparison shows the actual spend against budget, with corresponding variances.

Budget Comparison for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £
Income			
Grants	66,621	-	66,621
Markets	247,613	370,972	(123,359)
Residential and commercial rents	24,300	40,704	(16,404)
Interest and Investment income	59,885	69,528	(9,643)
Community centres, Youth and sports facilities	41,101	59,535	(18,434)
Grounds maintenance countryside & allotments	1,620,580	1,668,695	(48,115)
Other including sale of assets, S106 and CIL	399,612	-	399,612
	2,459,712	2,209,434	250,278

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Expenses and capital costs

Management and support costs	(597,340)	(618,614)	21,274
Democratic	(62,015)	(110,009)	47,994
Markets	(112,593)	(118,039)	5,446
Residential and commercial rents	(6,654)	(4,524)	(2,130)
Community centres, Youth and sports facilities	(269,087)	(271,016)	1,929
Grounds maintenance and allotments	(1,835,622)	(1,897,922)	62,300
Public conveniences	(125,580)	(141,676)	16,096
Bus shelters	(45,679)	(40,821)	(4,858)
Street lighting	(60,928)	(51,898)	(9,030)
Christmas lights	(56,366)	(60,663)	4,297
Capital	(331,177)	(140,000)	(191,177)
Earmarked and other specific reserves (net)	(555,268)	(271,112)	(284,156)
	(4,058,309)	(3,726,294)	(332,015)
Transfer (from) / to general reserves	(81,562)	175	(81,737)
Precept	1,517,035	1,517,035	-

Variances

Overall the position is £81,737 worse than budgeted. This small deficit due to coronavirus has been taken from general reserves.

On the income side there was an overall positive variance of £250,278 which is the difference between actual and budgeted figures. The positive variance is due to receipts of £399,612 for CIL and S106 received in the year. If this is discounted there is a deficit of £149,334 due to coronavirus affecting income streams during the entire financial year.

The negative variance of (£123,259) on Markets was due to reduced operating days and capacity due to coronavirus restrictions and reduced commission from the Livestock Market.

In March 2020 the Bank of England base rate fell to a historical low of 0.1% which impacted returns in the current financial year.

No grants were budgeted for and £66,621 were received in the year.

Due to coronavirus income from sporting, commercial rents and horticultural works has been impacted due to restrictions but will rebound when lifted.

The expenditure variance overall is a £332,015 which was due to the new accounting treatment of earmarking unspent CIL, S106 and capital monies coupled with capital expenditure plus capital projects but classified as revenue.

The Council has been operating under the cloud of Coronavirus for the entire financial year, while there have been additional costs due to signage, cleaning products there have been lower costs in some instances due to reduced service provision and some small positive variances. There have also been staff who have left and not immediately replaced resulting in underspending of budgets

There have also been underspends on the grants schemes run by the council and children's play areas, the latter due to closed play areas during the first lockdown.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

The street lighting variance is due to completing the conversion of lights to LED which is funded from earmarked reserves.

The negative capital expenditure variance of £191,177 is due to the replacing of vehicles and equipment, and land and property additions identified in a long term plan and covered by provisions.

There is a negative net variance on movement of earmarked reserves compared to the budget due to more receipts of CIL, S106 not spent and subsequently earmarked as reserves in the year.

The total income and expenditure deficit of £81,562 was carried forward to the General Fund per the Statement of Reserves on page 23.

Fixed Asset additions

During the year, a number of grounds maintenance machines were upgraded as part of the fleet management process including an electric utility vehicle with the replaced machines being sold at a public auction. A new play park at Sweetlake Meadows was opened and solar footway lights installed in the Quarry.

Accounting policies

The Town Council has not made any changes to the accounting policies in the year.

Borrowing facilities

Shrewsbury Town Council does not currently owe the Public Works Loans Board any money. The Council does not have a fixed borrowing facility and finances are raised, if required on a project by project basis.

Funding

The Town Council's current capital expenditure plans will be funded through underspend on the revenue budget and earmarked reserves. The surplus for the year is initially transferred to the general reserves before being earmarked for specific projects.

Financial statements

The Town Council's Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2021 are set out in pages 10 - 34 of this document. They consist of the following statements:

- The Statement of Accounting Policies

This statement details the legislation and the accounting principles on which the financial statements are prepared.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

- The Annual Governance Statement
This statement by the Town Council confirms there is a sound system of internal control in place and that all regulations and proper practices have been adhered to in the preparation of the end of year accounts.
- The Statement of Responsibilities
This statement identifies the Town Council's responsibilities and identifies the officer who is responsible for the Town Council's financial affairs.
- The Income and Expenditure Account
This document shows the Income generated and the total Expenditure incurred on the services provided by the Town Council for the year.
- The Statement of Movements of Reserves
This statement shows the effect on the Town Council's surplus or deficit after allowing for movements in reserves.
- The Balance Sheet
This sets out the financial position of the Town Council on 31st March. It shows the value of its assets, the value of its cash and bank values, how much it is owed and how much it owes together with the balance of reserves at its disposal.
- Notes to the Accounts
These provide further information on the amounts included in the financial statements.

Future Developments

A capital programme of works and improvements across all its estate and services to enhance and improve the provision in excess of £1.5million was agreed by The Council in 2018 a number of projects were completed in 2020, with more to follow in 2021.

The capital expenditure for the vehicle and equipment replacement plans will continue, with a consideration to the climate emergency declaration, other capital programmes are only in their infancy but funds have been earmarked to finance them.

Shrewsbury Town Council is being consulted on any reductions to services and facilities by Shropshire Council to find viable solutions to minimise any loss for residents.

Shrewsbury Town Council will update its Medium Term Financial Plan during 2021/22, which puts in place a financial strategy for the next 3 - 5 years, to incorporate the council's visions following elections in May 2021.

The Coronavirus pandemic was a consideration for the whole of the financial year, it is anticipated the financial impact will be minimal in future years, assuming no further lockdowns or restrictions.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2021

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – A Practitioners Guide (England).

These accounts have been prepared having regard to the fundamental accounting concepts of:

- Going Concern
- Prudence
- Accruals
- Relevance
- Consistency
- Reliability
- Comparability
- Understandability
- Materiality

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Prior to 1st April 2016, the Town Council's accounts were prepared in line with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE 2008) which has been replaced by FRS102. In accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015, the Town Council is considered a "smaller body" and subject to "Limited Assurances" Audit. The change from the FRSSE to FRS102 has not resulted in any changes of accounting policies.

Fixed Assets

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets above the Town Council de-minimis (currently £5,000) is capitalised on an accruals basis in the accounts. Expenditure on fixed assets is capitalised, provided that the fixed asset yields benefits to the Town Council and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. Expenditure on fixed assets is then included in the Balance Sheet with a corresponding transaction shown in the Capital Financing Account.

Depreciation is provided on all operational buildings (but not land), as well as other assets. Depreciation is not shown in the Council's Income and Expenditure account but is transferred directly to the Capital Financing Account.

Fixed Assets are included in the Balance Sheet at valuations current on 31st March 2010. These assets together with subsequent acquisitions and enhancements and will not be subject to revaluations.

Commercial and residential properties are classed as investment properties and revalued on a 5 yearly basis. The changes in the Market Value are taken to Asset Revaluation Reserve.

Depreciation Policy

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Buildings and leasehold land are depreciated over the shorter of 50 years or the anticipated remaining useful lives on a straight line basis.
- Freehold land is not depreciated.
- Non Operational Assets (including Investment Properties) are not depreciated.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2021

- Vehicles, plant and equipment and furniture over 3 to 10 years on a straight line basis.
- Play equipment over 5 to 10 years on a straight line basis.
- Community Assets are not depreciated.

Only fixed assets purchased in the first half of the year are depreciated in the year of acquisition.

Disposals

Where an asset is disposed of at a value above the de-minimis limit (currently £5,000), the proceeds of which are a capital receipt under the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, the resultant gain or loss is reported in the Income and Expenditure Account and the proceeds are carried to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve.

Grants or Contributions from Government or Related Bodies

Any grants or contributions are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account and earmarked in reserves if unspent.

Where a fixed asset has been acquired or improved with the financing either wholly or in part by a grant or contribution from government or a related body, e.g. Sports Council, the full amount of the grant has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account to offset the cost of purchasing the relevant asset.

This represents a change from previous years where balances were held as a Creditor on the balance sheet if unspent as noted in the financial summary page 6, and only released as income to match expenditure in the year.

Investments

Investments are included in the Balance Sheet at historic cost and realised gains or losses are taken into the Income and Expenditure account as realised.

Stocks

Stocks where relevant are being constantly replaced and their value is not material to assessing the Town Council's state of affairs as a result stock is written off directly to revenue expenditure.

Debtors and Creditors

The revenue accounts of the Town Council are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Accounting and Audit Regulations. That is sums due to or from the Town Council during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. Exceptions to this are payment of regular quarterly and other accounts (e.g. telephones, electricity) if the amount is not material. This policy is applied consistently each year. Therefore, it will not have a material effect on the year's accounts or on the Town Council's annual budget.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2021

The Town Council reviews the level of its commercial debtors on a regular basis and provisions are made, as required, where the likelihood of amounts proving ultimately collectable is in doubt.

Value Added Tax

Income and Expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT suffered/collected is recoverable from or payable to HM Revenue and Customs. Any amounts not so recoverable are treated as a separate expense.

External Loan Repayments

Details of the Town Council's external borrowings if relevant are shown in the notes.

The Town Council is required by the Guide to incorporate external borrowings in its Balance Sheet.

Leases

The Town Council has no finance leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to revenue on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Reserves

The Town Council maintains certain earmarked reserves to meet general and specific future expenditure. The purpose of the Town Council's reserves is explained in the notes.

The Capital Financing Account is maintained to manage the accounting processes for tangible fixed assets and investment properties, and does not represent usable resources for the Town Council.

Capital receipts arising from the disposal of fixed assets are taken to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as they are used to finance new capital expenditure.

Interest and Investment Income

All interest and investment receipts are credited initially to general funds.

Pensions

The pension costs that are charged against precept in the Town Council's accounts, in respect of its employees, are equal to the contributions paid to the funded pension scheme for those employees.

These contributions are determined by the fund's actuary on a triennial basis and are set to meet 100% of the liabilities of the pension fund, in accordance with relevant government regulations.

The next actuarial valuation is due 2023, there were no changes at the last valuation.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2021

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

Acquired and Discontinued Operations

Income and expenditure relating to an acquired or discontinued operation would be shown separately on the Income and Expenditure Account. Any liabilities in respect of discontinued operations would be disclosed separately as a note to the Balance Sheet.

Exceptional, Extraordinary Items and Prior Period Adjustments

Any Exceptional or Extraordinary Items will be disclosed on the face of the Income and Expenditure accounts and explained in the notes to the accounts.

Prior Period Adjustments are material adjustments applicable to prior years for changes in accounting policies or the correction of fundamental errors. Any adjustments referring to earlier accounting years are made by adjusting the comparative figures for the preceding year and adjusting the opening balances of reserves accordingly and explained in the notes to the accounts.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Where a material post Balance Sheet event occurs which provides additional evidence relating to conditions existing at the Balance Sheet date or indicates the going concern concept to a material part of the Town Council is not appropriate, changes are made in the amounts included in the statement of accounts.

Any occurrence of a material post Balance Sheet event which concerns conditions which did not exist at the balance sheet date are disclosed in the notes to the accounts detailing the nature of the event and where possible an estimate of the financial effect.

Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not disclosed in the accounting statements, if any such assets or liabilities exist then these are disclosed as notes to the accounts.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

Scope of Responsibility

Shrewsbury Town Council is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Town Council follows the general principles of Best Value in making arrangements to secure the continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Having said that, the Town Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011 established Shrewsbury Town Council as a "Smaller Body" and as such is subject to the "Limited Assurances" audit. The Town Council has however made a conscious decision to prepare a wider ranging Governance Statement.

The Town Council approved and adopted on 7 September 2009 a Code of Corporate Governance in accordance with CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

This statement explains how the Town Council has complied with the code.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Town Council is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Town Council to monitor the achievement of its overarching objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

In developing a Code of Corporate Governance, the Town Council has six core principles by which it operates:

1 Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;

- The Town Council holds an Annual Town Meeting to help gauge local feeling on issues
- The Town Council have been the lead organisation in the set up and delivery of Team Shrewsbury a process of integrated community management
- Members publish newsletters in their wards to keep the community and allow for two way process of communication
- The Town Council has updated its website to allow for greater information sharing and engagement
- The Town Council has a social media presence using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and
- The Town Council has funded a bi-monthly wrap around of the admag to publicise activities, and

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

of late has developed a newsletter that the public can subscribe to through the website.

- The Town Council has been an active partner of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, taking soundings from the general public, community groups, businesses and other interested community groups and stakeholders
- The Town Council has been an active partner in the Shrewsbury Recovery Task Force, an organisation tasked to developing a plan to support the recovery of the town from coronavirus. This has included liaising with residents, businesses and other stakeholders

2 Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;

- The Town Council annually reviews updated its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- There is a Scheme of Officer Delegation to ensure effective decision making
- The Town Council has developed a number of operational policies which have been updated to reflect legislative changes including Equality and General Permitted Development Rights
- The Group Leaders meet members of the Senior Management team regularly to discuss priorities
- The coronavirus crisis has involved greater collaboration with members

3 Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;

- The Town Council adopted the Code of Conduct adopted by Shropshire Council and all Councillors have signed up to abide by that code
- The Town Council has a Councillor/Employer Protocol
- The Town Council has set up a Joint Consultative Committee that allows for greater member / staff relations
- The Town Council has hosted virtual council meetings during the 202/21 year, this has resulted in increased public, members and press engagement

4 Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;

- The Town Council has an established Committee system with clear delegated powers, this allowing Full Council to act as the Overviewer and Scrutineer of Committee decisions
- All Committee dates are listed on the Council website annually and on every noticeboard throughout the town
- All Meeting Agendas, Reports and Minutes are uploaded to the Council's website
- The Town Council holds an annual review of the management of risk and the this is signed off by the Finance & General Purposes Committee

5 Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective

- All new employees have an induction pack
- All Councillors are given a New Members pack at the start of every electoral term
- The Town Council is a member of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils and regularly encourages its members to attend the training courses offered.
- The Town Council continues to appoint Apprentices designed to develop succession planning
- The Town Council has membership of a number of specialist organisations to help it discharge its functions around Markets, Allotments and Town Centre Management

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

6 Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

- The Town Council embraces all forms of media including website, social media, newsletters, noticeboards, public meetings to engage with the public at large
- The Town Council provides proper opportunity for the public to exercise their elector's rights in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations
- The Town Council operates a robust Complaints Procedures
- The Town Council has responded to all Freedom of Information Requests in the required timescales
- All meetings are open to the public and all agendas are placed on the website 7 days in advance

Annual Return- Section 1

The Town Council must respond to a number of Assertions in the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return. Below is the manner in which the Town Council is comfortable in responding in the affirmative to those Assertions.

Assertion 1 – Financial management and preparation of accounting statements

We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year and for the preparation of the accounting statements

Budgeting – The preparation of the Budget and the Monitoring thereafter is the responsibility of the Finance & General Purpose Committee. The Budget is prepared annually at the December meeting of the Committee in readiness for Full Council approval in January and onward notification to Shropshire Council of precept requirement to meet their end of January deadline. Actual performance against budget is monitored quarterly by the Committee. Additionally in the event that the Town Council is to take on a new project or service there is a full review of the Council's ability to maintain/sustain that activity ahead of implementation.

Accounting records and supporting documents – The Town Council appointed its Accountant as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to be responsible for the financial administration in accordance with s151 Local Government Act 1972. The RFO has determined a system of financial controls that meets the size of the organisation whilst discharging the Town Council's duties under Regulation 4 Accounts & Audit Regulations. Prompt recording of all financial transactions is carried out through the RBS Omega Financial Accounting Package with this package facilitating the preparation of the End of Year Accounts and the accounting statements in Section 2 of the Annual Return.

Bank Reconciliation – All accounts held by the Town Council are reconciled by the RFO on a monthly basis as well as annually in preparation of the end of year accounts and the Annual Return. There are also internal controls which place a duty on both the Town Clerk and also a Member of the Town Council who is not a member of the Finance & General Purpose Committee or a Bank Signatory to validate those reconciliation reports.

Investments – The Town Council holds a number of investments to ensure that any amounts surplus to the current requirements achieve as maximum a return on investment as possible. All these investments are invested in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments reported to the Financial & General Purpose Committee who review the Council's Investment Strategy on an annual basis.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

Statement of Accounts – Arrangements are in place to enable the preparation of an accurate and timely statement of accounts in compliance with its statutory obligations and proper practices. In 2009 when the Town Council was established it fell within the requirements for FRSSE Accounting, but following the “Limited Assurance” Audit being extended to the Town Council, members agreed to continue with the preparation of more detailed accounts; this allows for greater transparency for the public on how public funds are used but also provides better monitoring between accounting years.

The Town Council has noted that FRSSE has been replaced by UK GAAP (FRS102) for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2016 and have prepared the accounts for 2020/21 to reflect this change as recommended by JPAG.

Assertion 2 – Internal Control

We maintained an adequate system of internal controls, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations – The Town Council annually reviews and amends its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Reviews are ratified at the Annual meeting of Council.

Safe and Efficient Arrangements to Safeguard Public Money – The Town Council operates a number of practical controls on how it safeguards money including how the authority orders goods and services, incurs liabilities, manages debtors, makes payments and handles receipts, with the RFO having formal responsibility for administering the Town Council's financial affairs.

- i All orders for payment are signed by any two of six member signatories on the main bank account
- ii The Town Council has an Imprest Account to allow for smaller day-to-day transactions; this account requires any two of either the six member signatories or the Town Clerk, Operations Manager & RFO
- iii The Town Council operates an online banking system which requires payments to be approved by any two of the Town Clerk, Operations Manager & RFO, following approval by two of the six Councillor signatories
- iv Changes to accounts with banks or financial institutions are approved by Full Council with the signatories to those accounts being reviewed annually
- v Corporate Credit Cards are held by the Town Clerk & RFO to ensure the day-to-day business of Council is maintained; these have defined limits and are cleared monthly by direct debit from the main bank account.
- vi The Town Council reviews its Risk Assessments annually including its policy on the prevention of Fraud and Corruption.

Employment – All employee remunerations are approved by the Town Council and all payroll matters including duties under employment legislation and pension obligations are undertaken by the Shropshire Council Payroll Team. As a regular check the Internal Audit reviews a sample of salaries whenever he visits.

VAT – The RFO has set in place a robust arrangement for handling the Town Council's responsibilities with regards to VAT ensuring that regular returns are made to HMRC.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

Fixed Assets & Equipment – The RFO maintains the Town Council's Fixed Asset Register ensuring the register is updated with any new purchases or disposals with appropriate arrangements for the use of any capital receipts.

Review of Effectiveness – The Town Council annually reviews its effectiveness of its internal controls as part of the end of year accounting process; this in turn feeds into the preparation of Section 1 of the Annual Report.

Assertion 3 – Compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices

We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.

Acting within its powers – The Town Council is keen to ensure that all decisions it makes are within the existing statute, therefore members are well aware of the list of Statutes & Regulations that it must work towards. The Mayor (in the case of Full Council) and the various Committee Chairmen have a duty to ensure that any item which is placed on an agenda falls within the powers and duties of a Local Council.

General Power Of Competence – In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, the Town Council resolved that it had met the criteria to use the General Power of Competence at its Annual Town Council Meeting in May 2017 following the last Council Elections. The Audit Regs (Coronavirus) Amendment Regs have given flexibility in managing the Exercise of Public Rights. The approach was agreed by council on 18th March 2020, these arrangements have continued throughout the financial year.

Assertion 4 – Exercise of public rights

We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts & Audit Regulations.

Exercise of Public Rights – In accordance with ss26&27 Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 the RFO publishes the Annual Return as well as the Unaudited Statement of Accounts on the Town Council's website and on our Noticeboards. The RFO prepares a statement that sets out details of how public rights can be exercised as set out in Regulation 15(2)(b) including the period for the exercise of public rights. In addition to publication on the Town Council's Website and our Noticeboards an advertisement is taken out in the Shropshire Star and Shrewsbury Chronicle.

External Auditor's Review – in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Accounts & Audit Regulations, the RFO publishes on the Town Council's website and our Noticeboards a Notice of Conclusion of the external auditor's limited assurance review of the annual return.

Assertion 5 – Risk Management

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

Identifying & Assessing Risks – The Town Council undertakes an assessment of risk for every facet of its work and there are specific Risk Assessments for all specialist areas. In addition annually the Town Council undertakes a general assessment of risk using the LCRS Software and all areas requiring further action are reported annually to Council. During the year additional COVID Risk Assessments were undertaken to combat the pandemic and maintain both public and staff safety.

Assertion 6 – Internal Audit

We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

Internal Audit – The Town Council has appointed Auditing Solutions to undertake its programme of internal audit, looking primarily at the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes taking into account current guidance for smaller authorities, a 5 year plan identifies key themes for review. The Auditors usually visit the Town Council 3 times a year, these inspections have been done remotely with the council providing all necessary information locally. Auditors provide a comprehensive report on work undertaken; this is presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration. Annually we review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process to ensure that it meets the size, needs and functions of the organisation. The 5 year plan is approved by the Council, the latest plan was approved in 2019/20.

Provision of Information – All necessary steps are taken to facilitate the work of those conducting the internal audit and all staff and relevant information are made available to assist in the process. The Responsible Financial Officer oversees the process.

Assertion 7 – Reports from Auditors

We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

Internal Audit Reports – All internal Audit Reports are presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for sign off and consideration of actions. Those actions are reported in the Minutes as a permanent record. All reports are published on the council website.

External Audit Reports - Annually the conclusion of audit is presented to Council for consideration of any recommendations / actions. These reports are published on the Council website.

Assertion 8 Significant Events

We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2021

Significant Events – The Town Council is not aware of any events that took place in the financial year that have a financial impact on the Town Council, however cognisance should be made of the following:

- i The proceedings brought against Shropshire Council by Dr Day in relation to the planning decision on a parcel of land previously owned by the town council is ongoing. The claimant lodged an appeal against the decision of the Judicial Review Proceedings. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, Dr Day has subsequently lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court. During this year the Council commissioned an Independent Review into the recommendation of a Public Interest Report issued by the External Auditor, the outcome of this review is yet to be published.
- ii The Council's future plans for its permanent administrative base remains unresolved.
- iii The Sunday Market has been taken over by more robust and transparent operation. The Council pursued lost income through the Town & Country Markets administrators, all outstanding funds have been written off.
- iv The HMRC investigation into charging VAT on market pitches has concluded, the outcome of which is that there is no financial impact on the Town Council.
- v The Town Council continues to be greatly impacted by two significant emergency scenarios that were unforeseen and beyond their control; namely (i) significant flooding of the River Severn which resulted in structural damage to assets and loss of income from the market and (ii) Coronavirus which has virtually decimated the income streams of the Council since 23rd March 2020 and are likely to have continuous effect on those income streams both in the short and medium term. Lockdown measures continue to affect the operations of the Council, Senior Management Team continue to have enhanced delegated authority to discharge council functions.
- vi Local Council elections are to take place in May 2021. There are a number of councillors who are not standing for re-election, it is envisaged there will be a significant turnover of councillors. Every effort will be made to ensure induction of new councillors to facilitate good decision making.

Approval of Statement

This statement was approved by the Full Council on Monday 28th June 2021 when authority was granted for the Mayor of Shrewsbury and Town Clerk to sign.

Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council (Julian Dean).....

Town Clerk (Helen Ball)

On behalf of Shrewsbury Town Council

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Responsibilities for the Accounts 31st March 2021

The Town Council's Responsibilities

The Town Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs, including the appointment of an Internal Auditor.
- To secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- To approve the accounts and annual return.
- To set a budget and determine a precept levy on the local rating authority.

The Responsible Financial Officer's Responsibilities

The RFO is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts as contained in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils (Part 3) - A Practitioners Guide (England) "The Guide"*, to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In preparing the statements of accounts, the RFO has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent, and complied with the guide.

The RFO has also:

- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsible Financial Officer's Certificate

I hereby certify that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the position of Shrewsbury Town Council at 31 March 2021, and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Signed:
Responsible Financial Officer

Date:

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Income and Expenditure Account 31st March 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Precept	3	1,517,035		1,233,447	
Grants received	4	66,621		28,611	
Rental Income, Interest and Investment Income		342,306		463,835	
Charges made for services		1,636,804		1,739,456	
Other Income, contributions incl CIL and S106		<u>413,982</u>	3,976,748	<u>582,205</u>	4,047,554
Expenditure					
Direct Service Costs:					
Salaries and Wages		(1,648,978)		(1,640,268)	
Other Costs	24	(1,194,709)		(1,729,520)	
Grant-aid Expenditure		(10,888)		(19,156)	
Democratic, Management and Civic Cost:					
Salaries and wages		(341,473)		(293,403)	
Other Costs	25	<u>(306,994)</u>	(3,503,042)	<u>(313,376)</u>	(3,995,723)
Exceptional Items			-		-
Net Surplus for the Year			<u>473,706</u>		<u>51,831</u>

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Movement of Reserves 31st March 2021

	Note	Balance 1 April 2020	Net Movement In Year	Balance 31 March 2021	Purpose of reserve
Reserves available for council use to fund future expenditure					
General Fund		423,367	(81,562)	341,805	Resources available to meet shortfall in running costs
Earmarked Reserves	16	4,143,975	555,268	4,699,243	Resources available for specific purposes
Usable Capital Receipts	19	594,073	-	594,073	Proceeds of fixed asset sales for future capital investment
		<hr/> 5,161,415	<hr/> 473,706	<hr/> 5,635,121	
Reserves not available to fund future expenditure					
Capital Financing Account	17	5,894,194	27,288	5,921,482	Fixed asset transactions transferred to the Balance Sheet.
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18	-	67,434	67,434	Investment properties fairvalue increase
		<hr/> 5,894,194	<hr/> 94,722	<hr/> 5,988,916	
Reserves C/F to Balance Sheet		<hr/> 11,055,609	<hr/> 568,428	<hr/> 11,624,037	

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Balance Sheet 31st March 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets:					
Land and Buildings	9	3,657,561		3,682,831	
Vehicles and Plant	9	580,730		575,238	
Non - operational	9	5,625		5,625	
Investment Properties	9	705,000		590,500	
Long Term Investments	10	<u>1,040,000</u>	5,988,916	<u>1,040,000</u>	5,894,194
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	197,002		195,296	
Short term investments		5,450,000		4,700,000	
Cash at Bank and In-hand		<u>573,767</u>		<u>783,323</u>	
		6,220,769		5,678,619	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accrued expenses	14	<u>585,648</u>		<u>517,204</u>	
		585,648		517,204	
Net Current Assets			5,635,121		5,161,415
			<u>11,624,037</u>		<u>11,055,609</u>
Financed by:					
Reserves available to the council					
Usable Capital Receipts	19		594,073		594,073
Earmarked Reserves	16		4,699,243		4,143,975
General Reserve			<u>341,805</u>		<u>423,367</u>
			5,635,121		5,161,415
Reserves not available to the council and represent the net investment in fixed assets					
Capital Financing Account	17		5,921,482		5,894,194
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18		<u>67,434</u>		-
			5,988,916		5,894,194
			<u>11,624,037</u>		<u>11,055,609</u>

These accounts have been approved by the Town Council.

.....
Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council

.....
Responsible Financial Officer

Date:

Date:

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

1 Interest and Investment Income	2021 £	2020 £
Interest Income - General Funds	16,268	50,691
Investment Property Fund - General funds	43,617	44,602
	<u>59,885</u>	<u>95,293</u>

2 Audit Fees

Fees payable for the limited assurance audit carried out by the Town Council's auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP, in the year are £3,200, (prior year £3,200). These fees are set by the Audit Commission.

3 Precept	2021 £	2020 £
Precept received from Council Taxpayers of Shrewsbury	<u>1,517,035</u>	<u>1,233,447</u>

4 Grants Received	2021 £	2020 £
WMP - Crime Commissioner	2,789	1,250
The National Foundation for Youth Music	21,292	26,861
Shrewsbury Food Hub	500	500
Youth Endowment Fund	35,040	-
Environment Agency	7,000	-
	<u>66,621</u>	<u>28,611</u>

5 Employees

The average weekly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Full-time and part-time permanent staff including apprentices and cover for maternity and long term sick	<u>79</u>	<u>83</u>
Number of staff employed at year end	<u>75</u>	<u>82</u>

All staff are paid within nationally agreed pay scales

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

Number of employees whose remuneration excluding employers pension contributions was over £50,000 in bands of £10,000 was:

Band	2021 Number	2020 Number
£50,000 to £59,999	1	1
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The pay multiple between the Head of Service and Median salary of the council is:

Ratio	2021 Number	2020 Number
Pay multiple between Head of Service and Median Salary	<u>3.15 to 1</u>	<u>3.06 to 1</u>

6 Members Allowances

Summary of Members allowances paid during the year

	2021		2020	
	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel and Subsistence £	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel and Subsistence £
Peter M Adams	1,000	-	1,000	36
Gwen Burgess (Mayor - reduced)	1,000	1,250	618	-
Julian S Dean	1,000	-	1,000	-
Hannah Fraser	1,000	-	1,000	-
Phil Gillam (Mayor - reduced / Deputy)	1,000	500	1,000	1,500
Nat J Green	1,000	-	1,000	-
Kate M Halliday	1,000	-	930	-
Ioan G Jones	1,000	-	1,000	-
Nic Laurens	-	-	333	-
J Mackenzie	1,000	-	1,000	-
Pam A Moseley	1,000	-	1,000	-
Alan M Mosley	1,000	-	1,000	-
Peter A Nutting (Mayor)	1,000	7	1,000	5,023
K J Pardy	1,000	-	1,000	-
Alexander Phillips	1,000	-	1,000	-
Keith R Roberts	1,000	10	1,000	108
David Vasmer	1,000	-	1,000	5
Becky A Wall	1,000	-	1,000	-

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

7 Related Party Transactions

The Town Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have potential to control or influence the Town Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Town Council. Disclosure of these transactions allow readers to assess the extent to which the Town Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another parties ability to bargain freely with the Town

The Town Council has a SLA with Shropshire Council for a 10 year period for various grounds maintenance work in and around Shrewsbury, entered into from 1st April 2009. There are a number of Town Councillors which sit on both Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council. On the 12th November 2012 the Town Council granted dispensation to all twin-hatted members in respect or pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising out of their membership of Shropshire Council when matters relating to Shropshire Council are discussed by the Town Council. This resolution was taken following changes to the Code of Conduct as a result of The Localism Act 2011.

8 Participation in Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Town Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Town Council has a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Town Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme for civilian employees, administered locally by Shropshire County Pension Fund. This is a defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Town Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The cost to the Town Council for the year ended 31st March 2021 was £238,661 (prior year £235,054). There were no outstanding contributions at the Balance sheet date.

The Town Council's employer's contributions rate remains following the recent revaluation remains at 14.8% of employee's pensionable pay, this will be reviewed again on 1st of April 2023.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

9 Fixed Assets

	Tangible fixed assets			Investment Properties	Total
	Land and buildings £	Vehicles and plant £	Non - operational £	£	£
Cost					
Brought forward	5,590,552	1,289,152	5,625	590,500	7,475,829
Additions	139,030	115,315	-	-	254,345
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation / (impairment)	-	-	-	114,500	114,500
	<u>5,729,582</u>	<u>1,404,467</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>705,000</u>	<u>7,844,674</u>
Depreciation					
Brought forward	1,907,721	713,914	-	-	2,621,635
Charged for the year	164,300	109,823	-	-	274,123
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,072,021</u>	<u>823,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,895,758</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2020	<u>3,682,831</u>	<u>575,238</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>590,500</u>	<u>4,854,194</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,657,561</u>	<u>580,730</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>705,000</u>	<u>4,948,916</u>

Costs of additions to Vehicles and plant included upgrading and replacing the current fleet including an electric buggy. Land and buildings was completion of pitch improvements at Radbrook Recreation Ground, Quarry solar lights phase 1 and new play area at Sweetlake.

Although classified as capital expenditure, certain minor equipment purchases are not included above as they are not material in overall value.

The asset values are not updated. The value of the assets transferred from SABC were the Net Book Value (NBV) as at 31st March 2009.

Investment properties have been revalued at their market values subject to current lease and service occupancy at the 31st March 2021 by Julian Spencer (MRICS) which have increased in value, having previously been impaired resulting in creation of revaluation reserve, and will be revalued in 5 years time

10 Long Term Investments

	CCLA Property Fund £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1st April 2020	1,040,000	1,040,000
Additions / (disposals)	-	-
As at 31st March 2021	<u>1,040,000</u>	<u>1,040,000</u>

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

11 Financing of Capital Expenditure

	2021 £	2020 £
The following capital expenditure during the year:		
Vehicles and plant purchased (net)	115,315	142,312
Land and buildings purchased (net)	139,030	183,075
Investment properties (net)	-	-
Long Term Investments (net)	-	-
	<u>254,345</u>	<u>325,387</u>
Financing:		
Precept, Revenue Income, Capital sales and Earmarked Reserves	199,345	202,312
Commuted Sums received	55,000	123,075
	<u>254,345</u>	<u>325,387</u>

12 Information on Assets Held

Fixed assets owned by the Town Council include the following:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Land and Buildings		
Glasshouse	1	1
STC - Weeping Cross Centre	1	1
Public conveniences	5	5
The Quarry and Dingle	1	1
Sports pavilions	2	2
Tennis courts	3	3
Bowling greens	3	3
Rec grounds and play areas	various	various
Gardens and grounds	various	various
Open spaces	various	various
Allotments	12	12
Community centres	2	2
Footway lights	400+	400+
Solar footway lights	21	-
Vehicles and Plant		
Mayoral car	1	1
Vehicles and mowers	various	various
Trailers	various	various
Equipment	various	various
Office equipment	various	various
Non - operational		
Civic Regalia and silver	various	various
Investment Properties		
Commercial premises	3	3
Residential premises	1	1

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

13 Debtors	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Debtors	6,880	54,704
Prepayments and accrued income	190,122	140,592
	<u>197,002</u>	<u>195,296</u>

14 Creditors and accrued expenses	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	120,465	36,567
Other Creditors	42,805	42,122
Payroll Taxes and Social Security	34,794	45,875
VAT	41,404	35,570
Accruals	318,956	356,771
Income in Advance	27,224	299
	<u>585,648</u>	<u>517,204</u>

15 Financial Commitments under operating leases

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

The Town Council uses photocopying equipment financed under the terms of an operating lease, the amount paid under this arrangement in 2020/21 was £2,620, prior year £2,620. These amounts have been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	-	-
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	2,620	2,620
Annual obligations expiring after five years	-	-
	<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,620</u>

Land and Buildings

The Town Council leases land and buildings for the provision of public conveniences under the terms of an operating lease. The amount paid under this arrangement in 2020/21 was £5,000, prior year £5,000 this amount has been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	-	-
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	5,000	5,000
Annual obligations expiring after five years	-	-
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

16 Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 01/04/20 £	Transfers to / (from) reserves £	Use of reserves in year £	Balance at 31/03/21 £
General income funds				
Election cost reserve	50,000	25,000		75,000
Equipment and vehicle replacement	237,154	34,981		272,135
Children's play areas	686,047	22,754		708,801
Establishment fund	750,000			750,000
Quarry greenhouse	250,000			250,000
Allotments (security) *	33,297		(10,412)	22,885
Future Town Council projects	120,000			120,000
Recreation (astro turf & floodlights)	-	20,000		20,000
River banks	120,000			120,000
IT upgrade and infrastructure	12,500			12,500
Splashpark	25,000	5,000		30,000
Youth service / centre upgrades	17,669			17,669
Dana footpath	50,000			50,000
Planned countryside works	5,000			5,000
Snow clearance equipment	18,240			18,240
Quarry footway solar - phase 1	72,710		(72,710)	-
Quarry footway solar - phase 2		87,500		87,500
Footway lights upgrade (Heads)	14,000		(14,000)	-
Footway lights upgrade (Columns)	1,000		(1,000)	-
Fisheries improvements & Grants	5,447			5,447
Climate Change Fund	50,000	125,000	(78,785)	96,215
Lower Quarry Toilets	45,000			45,000
BMX / Skatepark upgrades	30,000			30,000
Youth - AC programme	26,986			26,986
Abbey Gardens Improvements	10,000	10,000		20,000
Toilets improvements		10,000		10,000
Bus Shelters	50,000	33,000		83,000
Coronavirus Battle Grant fund	19,000	(13,204)	(5,796)	-
Community & public realm recovery fund		28,112		28,112
Pavilion roof repairs		15,980		15,980
Ash die back		33,000		33,000
Deferred income/grant funds #				
Neighbourhood fund (CIL) ¹	848,020	239,688	(11,200)	1,076,508
Commuted sums (S106) ²	560,854	159,924	(87,023)	633,755
Receipts in adv incl Grants	36,051		(541)	35,510
	4,143,975	836,735	(281,467)	4,699,243

Earmarked reserves represent sums set aside to fund future expenditure and projects. Inline with legislation, surplus from allotments cannot be used for general purposes and earmarked * for future projects.

Deferred income / grant funds # were previously treated as balancing items, held on the balance sheet and released when utilised. Following a change to the guidelines issued 19th March 2018 under S138A these receipts are now treated as other income and earmarked if unspent.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

¹ Amounts received in the year represent 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) received by Shropshire Council on any new developments in the Parish due to the Town Council.

Use of funds in the year	£
Contribution towards pitch improvements at Radbrook Road	11,200
	<u>11,200</u>

² Commuted Sums are agreements with developers to cover capital and maintenance of an asset over a period of time adopted by the Town Council.

17 Capital Financing Account	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward	5,894,194	5,840,750
Financing capital expenditure in the year using reserve balances (net)	199,345	192,624
Financing capital expenditure in the year using commuted sums	55,000	65,000
Depreciation (net)	(274,123)	(204,180)
reversal of Impairment of Investment Properties	47,066	-
Balance carried forward	<u>5,921,482</u>	<u>5,894,194</u>

The Capital Financing Account represents revenue and capital resources applied to finance capital expenditure and for the repayment of external loans. It also includes the reversal of depreciation and any impairments to ensure it does not impact on the amount to be met from precept. It does not represent a reserve which the Town Council can use to support future expenditure.

Certain assets were transferred from SABC at no cost. To fairly state the value of the assets and comply with the council's accounting policy these have been included in the accounts at their NBV at 31st March 2009.

18 Revaluation Reserve	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward	-	-
Revaluation of investment properties	67,434	-
Balance carried forward	<u>67,434</u>	<u>-</u>

Revaluation Reserve represents the increase in value of investment properties following revaluation but is not income available to fund services.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

19 Usable Capital Receipts	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance brought forward	594,073	657,357
(Purchase) / Sale of land in the year	-	(60,000)
Costs associated with proceeds of sale	-	(3,284)
Balance carried forward	<u>594,073</u>	<u>594,073</u>

Usable capital receipts represent proceeds of fixed asset sales for future capital investment.

20 Contingent Liabilities

The Town Council is not aware of any such liabilities at 31st March 2021.

21 Capital Commitments

The Town Council has no capital commitments at 31st March 2021.

22 Post Balance Sheet Events

The Town Council is not aware of any material events that arise after the Balance Sheet date and which did not exist at the time that need to be declared to ensure a fair presentation of the financial statements.

23 Prior Period Adjustments

There are no prior period adjustments

24 Summary of Expenditure

The summary of expenditure is based on the subjective analysis contained in the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice. Although the Town Council is no longer subject to these provisions, it is felt they give a view of the figures in a format acceptable in the production of local authority accounts.

Direct Service Cost	2021	2020
	£	£
Other expenditure	<u>1,117,876</u>	<u>1,729,520</u>
Analysis of costs broken into principal components:		
Premises and Related Costs	219,367	233,810
Transport Costs	97,095	118,513
Supplies and Services	503,895	963,692

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2021

Support Services	43,175	81,512
Capital	254,344	331,993
	<u>1,117,876</u>	<u>1,729,520</u>

	2021 £	2020 £
Democratic, Management and Civic Costs		
Other expenditure	<u>306,994</u>	<u>313,376</u>

Analysis of costs broken into principal components:

Premises and Related Costs	45,000	45,000
Transport Costs	16,438	16,368
Supplies and Services	12,215	12,144
Support Services	233,341	239,864
Capital	-	-
	<u>306,994</u>	<u>313,376</u>