

JULY 2025

OVERVIEW

The council finances for year 2024-25 closed with an overspend of just over £34m with £4.8m in reserves. The administration will aim to close the current financial year with a safe £15m in reserves. Senior officers will continue to provide the administration with monthly updates and have agreed with the Transformation and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel to provide specific financial modelling earlier so that the panel have time to be more proactive in their scrutiny.

The Spending Review as outlined by the Chancellor earlier in June has created more financial strain for the council having removed some grant options which rural counties benefitted from. However, we await the full funding formula review which could potentially be more beneficial to rural counties.

All funding for Neighbourhood Plans has also been removed with immediate effect as part of the funding review. This will have implications for planning across the country. Shropshire Council are working at pace to secure a Local Plan 2025-45.

West Mercia PCC John Campion has outlined that with the current financial constraints, PCSO service may no longer be available after 8pm. The Liberal Democrat administration is opposed to this move and have written to John Campion to express our concerns, especially regarding rural crime.

On 9th June I attended an online meeting with the Highways Senior Officer Andy Wilde who shared some interesting facts & figures for Shropshire which I have included at the end of this report for your reference. The team are working on a Local Transport Plan (LTP4) but are waiting for central government to release their LTP4 before the document goes to full council.

The administration is having productive conversations with central government regarding the financial liability of the North West Relief Road project which, as outlined in our manifesto, we intend to cancel completely and explore alternative and more cost effective provisions for the Shrewsbury network. This NWRR project has currently cost £39m with a predicted overall cost of £215m. To progress, Shropshire Council would need to borrow at least £128m (the original overall cost of the project was £74m).

I have started an initial report into the possibility of changing the speed limit through Soudley and Mill Green. I will be liaising directly with residents regarding this over the next few months.

You should have received an email letter from Cllr David Minnery requesting input from parish/town councils about our Shropshire Plan. All responses are welcome to help us shape the direction in resetting our relationship. The survey can be found here: [Call for Information: Town and Parish Councils June 2025 Survey](#)

SURGERIES & PUBLIC MEETINGS

No meetings planned as yet.

CASEWORK

Casework	Issue Raised / Portfolio	Actions
Dodecote Drive, Childs Ercall	HIGHWAYS: Road condition and promises made by previous administration and not acted on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NB raised with CEO as bad practice. Email chain forwarded to highways portfolio holder. Resident updated Highways have confirmed that they have this road on their schedule and will confirm actions.
Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident communication shared with planning portfolio holder. (03/06/25) Emma Green (<i>Planning Enforcement Leader</i>) has replied directly to a resident concern outlining the stages for legal involvement.
A41 Safety	HIGHWAYS/POLICE: Update on the installation of average speed cameras along the A41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (26/05/25) Letter received from Mark Pritchard MP outlining that money has been secured but requires Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils to complete a 'Route Study' which has been actioned by contractor Amey. (04/06/25) Shropshire Highways: <i>"I can confirm that Amey on behalf of Telford & Wrekin are making some final amendments, namely including some final comments. Although we have not had a date confirmed we are anticipating the report will be available in the next month or so"</i>.
A41 Closures	Concerns raised from Goldstone Hall & The Wharf regarding financial impact on the current and planned closure (Aug)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (03/06/25) email to Telford & Wrekin Highways portfolio holder expressing concerns and requested sight of an impact assessment.
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (09/06/25) I have contacted the case officer regarding the general position of this application having been made aware of community concerns.

UPDATES

There are currently no specific updates.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Here are questions posed by parish councillors across the division and updates/answers at present.

Question	Answer / Outcomes
Speed testing on Childs Ercall roads?	(09/06/25) I have forwarded the email chain to the senior officers and requested an update.
Eaton On Tern Solar Farm - Will residents benefit financially?	
Will SC develop their own definition of sustainability that	Answer from Cllr David Walker: <i>Thank you for the suggestion. Unfortunately, whatever we do has to be compatible with national policy. It can't run counter</i>

will be taken forward to be used in the new local plan?	<i>to it. But I appreciate the argument and we will be trying to make sure the plan covers our needs better.</i>
Why are pickup vehicles classed as restricted at recycling centres?	<p>Answer from Waste Management: <i>Providing we are talking about a 4x4 with a pickup/goods rear, then these are allowed into the recycling centres, but they do have to book and are limited to 12 visits per year. Generally, these vehicles are often used by traders to bring illegal waste into sites and so are limited in visits to help reduce trade waste abuse.</i></p> <p><i>Further information on vehicle restrictions can be found on our website:</i></p> <p>https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/household-recycling-centres/household-recycling-centre-bookings/van-and-trailer-restrictions/</p>
Green bin revenue raised v cost of fly tipping.	This is a scheme we are looking into as a whole administration and I hope to provide figures in the near future.
Rural Bus Service	<p>For context: Bus Service (No.2) Bill is currently on the 2nd reading in Parliament which will allow great power and funder for bus services operated by local authorities.</p> <p>Answer from Cllr Rob Wilson & Cllr Robert Jones (portfolio for transport) <i>"Our general plan is, as set out in our manifesto, to work towards bringing buses back under public control. The Bus Services (No. 2) Bill is going to be crucial to how we achieve that as it will enable us to consider different models for franchising and allow us to move away from the current model focused on commercial viability and subsidy dependency."</i></p> <p>Cllr Heather Kidd (Leader) and Cllr Rob Wilson (Transport) have written a joint letter to Julia Buckley MP (Shrewsbury) asking for her to encourage Government for additional funding to support the needs of Shropshire Transport as currently we received £4m in additional funding for buses, 53rd lowest out of 73 allocations.</p> <p>Helen Morgan MP (North Shropshire) will continue to fight for additional funding and recognition for improved services across the whole of Shropshire.</p>

HIGHWAYS: Facts & Figures

- 3,206 miles of road (70% minor roads)
- 868 miles of footway
- 2,583 miles of verge
- 95,667 gullies
- 19,935 lamps
- 127 signalised junctions
- 1,514 bridges
- Circa 700 issues being logged via FixMyStreet per week.
- 25 Gritters - responsible for 28% of the road network (mostly A & B roads)
- 1,200 grit bins: each visited and mapped. All filed over spring/summer ahead of winter need

Financial Year 2024/25:

- 80% of potholes filled in house
- 96% are repaired on 1st visit
- 40 completed surface dressing projects

Financial Year 2025/26:

- 40 more surface dressing projects covering ½ million square meters of road (£10/spm)
- Three dedicated in house 'pothole' teams introduced by the new administration (north, middle, south)
- A529 Safer Road Scheme Hinstock to Adderley due to complete Autumn 2025

The council currently has two highways contractors: Kier (2018-2026) and WSP (2023-2028).