

Shropshire Councillor Report

Firstly, thank you for inviting me here tonight.

The council's overall position was set in the budget, which was adopted last January. The new administration will need to operate within this framework this year.

- Savings required this year: £57m
- Reserves: £5m (audit says SC should have £15-20m)
- CIL money: £30m unspent
- Overspend: projected to be £34m. One department accounted for almost half of that.
- The last admin borrowed £26.9m in March to avoid bankruptcy and balance the budget. That will cost £1.3m in interest a year from the council's revenue.
- Price Waterhouse Coopers had been engaged by the previous council to identify savings, but PWC are costing the council £17,000 a day. Many of the existing savings identified aren't achievable.

Alarming, the council has had no controls in place for any contracts, making monitoring of performance and outcomes almost impossible. Yet Keir's contract was extended for a year just before the election.

Overall, there is a 2-year backlog for adopting new roads and for Traffic Regulation Orders. Channels of communication internally and externally are now very poor. The new administration is determined to improve this, transparency and partnership working.

Shropshire Council's corporate structure has already been moved away from departmental silos to a leadership board, with staff reporting to multiple members of the board. The Chief Executive believes this will even out resources across the council structure and encourage more joined-up working.

The new administration has appointed a Leader, a Deputy Leader, Cabinet members, as well as Overview and Scrutiny committees. These items were ratified at the Full Council meeting on May 22nd. I am pleased to join the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Standards Committee. I will also represent the council on the Bayston Hill Quarry Liaison Committee and NABMA (The National Association of British Markets).

Members are now undergoing induction training, which is scheduled to conclude in July.

On Monday 6th May, I signed my Declaration of Acceptance of Office at my first induction session, which included official photos, collecting passes and IT equipment. At the same time, my council email went live.

Since then, I have begun casework which has included meeting with Joe Walmsley, Route Manager for National Highways. As a result, I will be organising a residents meeting with both him and West Mercia Police so that villagers can voice their concerns. Joe has also assured me that the speed enforcement bay on the A49 is in the process of being cleared. I am also hoping the meeting will find

a solution to the parking issue some residents are having since they lost The Three Fishes carpark. I have tried several avenues but so far to no avail.

I have discussed pavement parking, road and path obstructions and driveway blocking in local roads and cul-de-sacs with local residents and will address these concerns by collaborating with the Parish Council Road Safety Working Group and the local Police Team.

Recently, I organised a meeting with Janet Cobb from 'Restoring Shropshire's Verges' for villagers interested in restoring a verge on Overdale Road. We aim to begin preparing and planting from the end of August.

I have also spoken with Kelvin Hall, Planning Officer for Land West Lyth Hill Road application. I discussed my concerns over the 'Walking Audit' submitted by Redrow as part of their Active Travel commitment. I have now uploaded these comments to the planning portal.

As a result of residents contacting me, I have been collaborating with PCSO Stuart Roberts and Halls Letting Agents to address some safety and behaviour concerns involving young people particularly on the stairway to the flats above The Parade. The PCSO will be monitoring the area at key times and Halls are writing to the residents of the flats to ask that they lock the access gate at night.

As part of my work in the village, I intend to be an accessible and visible councillor. I am organising local surgeries and drop-in sessions at various times to meet villagers' needs. These will be advertised via The Villager, social media, and newsletters.

Cllr Teri Trickett

Shropshire Council: Bayston Hill