

After the prolonged struggle to cover this year's £60m revenue shortfall, the Council are now determinedly trying to address this coming years £20m revenue deficit. The deadline for the staff voluntary redundancy scheme has been further extended. To date over 100 voluntary redundancies have been accepted, including those of a significant number of senior managers.

The complicated wholesale migration of all Council activities from Shirehall down to Frankwell Guild Hall is nearing completion and the Shirehall building is about to be entirely shut down.

The Council is currently much occupied with organising and managing arrangements for the County wide elections on May 1st. All 74 seats on Shropshire Council and all seats on the 147/350 Town/Parish Councils across the County are subject to re-election every four years.

Continuation of the very controversial plans for a new Shrewsbury Northwest Relief Road are in some doubt, depending on the political balance of the new Shropshire Council after May 1st.

STAR Housing, who manage the former Council housing stock across the County, have been awarded a £9.5m "warm homes" grant to improve the energy efficiency of their rented housing. They plan to better the condition of 1,300 properties over the next three years.

Shropshire's adult social care service is rated as "Good" after latest government inspections.

70,00 Shropshire residents have signed-up for the new annual £ 54 green bin collection charge.

To combat fly tipping, a Council/Police project has begun, using CCTV in the known hotspots.

Locally: New signage/interpretation boards have been installed on Lyth Hill. Horse drawn bracken rolling and hosting of docile dexter cattle will resume across the hill n summer. Steady clearance of scrub and holly, to encourage growth of new oak, continues in Spring Coppice.

