

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council



Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31st March 2024

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

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UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

**Shrewsbury Town Council
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024**

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Mayor

David Vasmer

Councillors

Bernard Bentick
Rosemary Dartnall
Mary Davies
Julian Dean
Phil Gillam
Nat Green
Kate Halliday
Chris Lemon
Pam Moseley
Alan Mosley
Kevin Pardy
Alexander Phillips
Elisabeth Addams
Alexander Wagner
Becky Wall
Robert Wilson

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

Further information about the accounts is available from Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1JD. 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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 premises licence provides 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 along the whole of Victoria Avenue, allowing for a safer route along the river path.

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.

A number of footpaths have been upgraded to improve connectivity around the town and usage.

The Town Council manages some 250 acres of Countryside made up of grazing land, sites of special scientific interest and community woodlands. These areas have proved valuable to residents during the last few years.

Allotments

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

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

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Community Centres, Youth Services and Community Safety

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

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. Whilst initially part funded by Shropshire Council, the cost of funding Young Shrewsbury is borne by the Town Council precept.

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

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.

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. The Town Council has commenced a replacement programme.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 and a £250k budget was agreed to support 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.

Public Conveniences

There are 4 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 £4,000 per annum to all Councillors under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

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.

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 endeavours.

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

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 of 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 2023 to 31st March 2024 was approved by the Full Council in January 2023. The precept was set at £1,670,237 which equates to £63.26 at band D. The following budget comparison shows the actual spend against budget, with corresponding variances.

Budget Comparison for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £
Income			
Grants	247,505	-	247,505
Markets	401,164	376,750	24,414
Residential and commercial rents	48,703	38,393	10,310
Interest and Investment income	357,806	141,650	216,156
Community Centres, Youth and sports facilities	101,634	55,296	46,338
Grounds maintenance countryside & allotments	1,945,828	1,916,563	29,265
Other including sale of assets, S106 and CIL	449,664	-	449,664
	3,552,304	2,528,652	1,023,652
Expenses and capital costs			
Management and support costs	(780,251)	(764,222)	(16,029)
Democratic	(110,137)	(130,473)	20,336
Markets	(115,155)	(148,797)	33,642
Residential and commercial rents	(971)	(7,071)	6,100
Community Centres, Youth and sports facilities	(268,225)	(311,015)	42,790
Grounds maintenance and allotments	(2,219,650)	(2,296,711)	77,061
Public conveniences	(161,925)	(198,957)	37,032
Bus shelters & Streetlighting	(143,142)	(121,746)	(21,396)
Christmas lights	(55,082)	(61,560)	6,478
Capital purchases and projects	(1,197,579)	(135,000)	(1,062,579)
Earmarked and other specific reserves (net)	(167,155)	(23,441)	(143,714)
	(5,219,272)	(4,198,993)	(1,020,279)
Transfer to / (from) general reserves	3,269	(104)	3,373
Precept	1,670,237	1,670,237	-

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Variations

Overall the position is £3,373 better than budgeted. This is in part due to increased income and higher returns on investments from rising interest rates coupled with controlling costs despite inflationary pressures, there was a small surplus taken to general reserves.

On the income side there was an overall positive variance of £1,023,652 which is the difference between actual and budgeted figures. The positive variance is due to receipts of £449,664 for CIL and S106 received in the year with other positive variances.

The positive variance of £24,414 in Markets was due to increased income from the Market Hall and higher commission from the Livestock Market.

During the year, interest rates rose to 5.25% which was not anticipated in the budget setting process increasing interest returns significantly.

No grants were budgeted for and £247,505 were received in the year for capital and revenue.

Income from sporting, commercial rents, horticultural works and concessions increased from the levels set in the budget.

The expenditure variance overall is a negative (£1,020,279) which was due to the accounting treatment of earmarking unspent CIL, S106 and capital expenditure including capital projects classified as revenue.

The impact of the current high inflation have fed in to rising costs particularly fuel and electricity. To ease the pressure some vacant staff positions have not immediately been filled or replaced.

The negative capital expenditure variance of (£1,062,579) is due to the Fixed Asset additions, replacing of vehicles and equipment and land and property additions identified in a long term plan and covered by provisions. Capital projects also funded by provisions but not capitalised due to being replacements are included and add to the variance.

There is a adverse net variance on movement of earmarked reserves compared to the budget as more added to reserves than used in the year.

The total income and expenditure surplus of £3,269 was carried forward to the General Fund per the Statement of Reserves on page 23.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Fixed Asset additions

During the year, Livesey House was moved into with additional costs of £25,972 along with 2 new tracks (BMX) and the beaver enclosure added as Land and Buildings. A number of grounds maintenance machines were upgraded as part of the fleet management process, with the replaced machines being sold at a public auction.

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 2024 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.
- 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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

- 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 previous years, with more to follow in 2025.

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 is about to publish its visioning exercise and will update its Medium Term Financial Plan during 2024/25, which puts in place a financial strategy for the next electoral term to achieve these objectives.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2024

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, having previously been impaired prior to the 2021 valuation by Julian Spencer (MRICS).

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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2024

- Non Operational Assets (including Investment Properties) are not depreciated.
- 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 2024

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.

CIL, S106 and neighbourhood fund receipts are treated as income and then earmarked at year end if unspent and released in subsequent years when expenditure is incurred.

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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Accounting Policies 31 March 2024

The recent actuarial valuation increased the rate to 17.6% effective April 2023, the next valuation is due
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 2024

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. This is also broadcast and public watching online have the ability to ask questions.
- 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 Snapchat.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2024

- The Town Council has a bi-monthly newsletter that residents can automatically receive email alerts for. The newsletters are uploaded onto the website and promoted through social media.
- 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

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

- The Town Council annually reviews 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.
- The Group Leaders meet members of the Senior Management team regularly to discuss priorities
- The Town Council has been developing a Long-term vision which will set out clear objectives for the next electoral term

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

- The Town Council in April 2021 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 for greater member/staff relations
- The Town Council has reviewed its values as part of the visioning exercise

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 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 receive 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

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

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2024

- 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, this has recently been reviewed
- 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 Rialtas Suite 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. Prior to investing in CCLA, the Town Clerk and RFO were required to undertake competency training, to ensure sound financial decisions were being made.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2024

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 2023/24 to reflect this change as recommended by JPAG.

Reserves – General Reserves are below levels for the sector but sufficient liquidity to cope with emergencies and working capital. Earmarked Reserves reviewed at budgeting and end of year.

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, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
- iii The Town Council operates an online banking system which requires payments to be approved by any two of the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & 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 2024

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 2021 following the last Council Elections.

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.

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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2024

Assertion 5 – Risk Management

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.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Governance Statement 31st March 2024

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.

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 has concluded. The Supreme Court upheld Dr Day's claim. The Town Council has concluded its negotiations with CSE and an agreement to repurchase the land has been agreed. This shall be completed in the early part of 2024/25 Financial Year.
- ii The Town Council continues to be greatly impacted by significant emergency scenarios that were unforeseen and beyond their control; namely significant flooding of the River Severn.
- iii The Town Council continues to be in negotiation with Shropshire Council over the future of the Horticultural Service Level Agreement which is scheduled to expire on 31st March 2025.
- iv In February 2024 Shropshire Council published its MTFP outlining the need to make £62m of cuts to its revenue budget in 2024/25. These cuts are likely to impact on non-statutory services many of which are provided in Shrewsbury. The Town Council has set up a Member / Officer working group to consider the implications of these budget cuts both to the Town Council and the town.

Approval of Statement

This statement was approved by the Full Council on Monday 24th June 2024 when authority was granted for the Mayor of Shrewsbury and Town Clerk to sign.

Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council (David Vasmer).....

Town Clerk (Helen Ball)

On behalf of Shrewsbury Town Council

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Responsibilities for the Accounts 31st March 2024

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 2024 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 2024, and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Signed:
Responsible Financial Officer

Date:

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Income and Expenditure Account 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Precept	3	1,670,237		1,551,586	
Grants received	4	247,505		207,680	
Rental Income, Interest and Investment Income		817,071		618,375	
Charges made for services		2,037,539		1,921,895	
Other Income, contributions incl CIL and S106		<u>450,189</u>	<u>5,222,541</u>	<u>485,993</u>	<u>4,786,029</u>
Expenditure					
Direct Service Costs:					
Salaries and Wages		(2,000,387)		(1,841,774)	
Other Costs	24	(2,161,344)		(1,531,024)	
Grant-aid Expenditure		(19,839)		(19,988)	
Democratic, Management and Civic Cost:					
Salaries and wages		(433,219)		(376,418)	
Other Costs	24	<u>(437,329)</u>	<u>(5,052,118)</u>	<u>(1,038,366)</u>	<u>(4,807,570)</u>
Exceptional Items					
			-		-
Net surplus / (deficit) for the Year			<u>170,423</u>		<u>(21,541)</u>

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Statement of Movement of Reserves 31st March 2024

	Note	Balance 1 April 2023	Net Movement In Year	Balance 31 March 2024	Purpose of reserve
Reserves available for council use to fund future expenditure					
General Fund		345,579	3,269	348,848	Resources available to meet shortfall in running costs
Earmarked Reserves	16	5,268,155	167,154	5,435,309	Resources available for specific purposes
Usable Capital Receipts	19	614,073	-	614,073	Proceeds of fixed asset sales for future capital investment
		<u>6,227,807</u>	<u>170,423</u>	<u>6,398,230</u>	
Reserves not available to fund future expenditure					
Capital Financing Account	17	6,341,936	249,507	6,591,443	Fixed asset transactions transferred to the Balance Sheet.
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18	67,434		67,434	Investment properties fairvalue increase
		<u>6,409,370</u>	<u>249,507</u>	<u>6,658,877</u>	
Reserves C/F to Balance Sheet		<u>12,637,177</u>	<u>419,930</u>	<u>13,057,107</u>	

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Balance Sheet 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets:					
Land and Buildings	9	4,220,718		4,062,685	
Vehicles and Plant	9	687,534		596,060	
Non - operational	9	5,625		5,625	
Investment Properties	9	705,000		705,000	
Long Term Investments	10	<u>1,040,000</u>	6,658,877	<u>1,040,000</u>	6,409,370
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	200,774		243,792	
Short term investments		6,150,000		5,900,000	
Cash at Bank and In-hand		<u>702,533</u>		<u>524,241</u>	
		<u>7,053,307</u>		<u>6,668,033</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accrued expenses	14	<u>655,077</u>		<u>440,226</u>	
		655,077		440,226	
Net Current Assets					
			6,398,230		6,227,807
			<u>13,057,107</u>		<u>12,637,177</u>
Financed by:					
Reserves available to the council					
Usable Capital Receipts	19		614,073		614,073
Earmarked Reserves	16		5,435,309		5,268,155
General Reserve			<u>348,848</u>		<u>345,579</u>
			6,398,230		6,227,807
Reserves not available to the council and represent the net investment in fixed assets					
Capital Financing Account	17		6,591,443		6,341,936
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18		<u>67,434</u>		<u>67,434</u>
			6,658,877		6,409,370
			<u>13,057,107</u>		<u>12,637,177</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 2024

1 Interest and Investment Income	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest Income - General Funds	310,392	118,826
Investment Property Fund - General funds	47,414	40,767
	<u>357,806</u>	<u>159,593</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 £3,780, (prior year £3,200). These fees are set by the Audit Commission.

3 Precept	2024	2023
	£	£
Precept received from Council Taxpayers of Shrewsbury	<u>1,070,237</u>	<u>1,551,586</u>

4 Grants Received

	2024	2023
	£	£
The National Foundation for Youth Music	-	2,981
Shropshire Council - various	37,538	30,211
UK Live	-	15,000
WMP - Crime Commissioner - Safer Streets	66,480	152,488
Queens Canopy	-	7,000
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	143,487	-
	<u>247,505</u>	<u>207,680</u>

5 Employees

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Full-time and part-time permanent staff including apprentices and cover for maternity and long term sick	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>
Number of staff employed at year end	<u>75</u>	<u>72</u>

All staff are paid within nationally agreed pay scales

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2024

Number of employees whose remuneration excluding employers pension contributions was over £60,000 in bands of £10,000 was:

Band	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 to £69,999	-	1
£70,000 to £79,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

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

Ratio	2024 Number	2023 Number
Pay multiple between Head of Service and Median Salary	<u>2.86 to 1</u>	<u>2.98 to 1</u>

6 Members Allowances

Summary of Members allowances paid during the year

	2024		2023	
	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel £	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility & Travel £
Bernie Bentick	1,000	-	1,000	-
Rosemary L W Dartnell	1,000	-	1,000	-
Mary Davies	1,000	-	1,000	-
Julian S Dean (mayor)	1,000	-	1,000	-
Phil Gillam (Deputy & Mayor-reduced)	1,000	-	1,000	-
Nat J Green	1,000	-	1,000	-
Kate M Halliday	1,000	-	1,000	-
Chris J Lemon	1,000	-	1,000	-
Pam A Moseley	1,000	-	1,000	-
Alan M Mosley	1,000	-	1,000	-
K J Pardy	1,000	-	1,000	-
Alexander Phillips	1,000	-	1,000	-
Elisabeth Addams (Mayor / Deputy)	1,000	-	1,000	5,000
David Vasnier	1,000	1,500	1,000	-
Alex Wagner	1,000	-	1,000	-
Becky A Wall (Deputy)	1,000	5,000	1,000	1,500
Rob M Wilson	1,000	-	1,000	-

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2024

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 Council.

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 2024 was £325,737 (prior year £260,228). There were no outstanding contributions at the Balance sheet date.

The Town Council's employer's contributions rate has increased following the recent revaluation to 17.6% (previously 14.8%) of employee's pensionable pay, this will be reviewed next on 1st April 2026.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2024

9 Fixed Assets

	Tangible fixed assets				Total £
	Land and buildings £	Vehicles and plant £	Non - operational £	Investment Properties £	
Cost					
Brought forward	6,389,413	1,489,734	5,625	705,000	8,589,772
Additions	352,596	278,600	-	-	631,196
Disposals	-	(164,647)	-	-	(164,647)
Revaluation / (impairment)	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,742,009</u>	<u>1,603,687</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>705,000</u>	<u>9,056,321</u>
Depreciation					
Brought forward	2,326,729	893,674	-	-	3,220,403
Charged for the year	194,562	138,226	-	-	332,788
Disposals	-	(115,747)	-	-	(115,747)
	<u>2,521,291</u>	<u>916,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,437,444</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,062,684</u>	<u>596,060</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>705,000</u>	<u>5,369,369</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,220,718</u>	<u>687,534</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>705,000</u>	<u>5,618,877</u>

Costs of additions to Land and buildings were final improvements of Livesey House, two new wheeled tracks (BM's) and the beaver enclosure. Vehicles and plant included upgrading and replacing the current fleet.

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.

10 Long Term Investments

	CCLA Property Fund £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1st April 2023	1,040,000	1,040,000
Additions / (disposals)	-	-
As at 31st March 2024	<u>1,040,000</u>	<u>1,040,000</u>

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2024

11 Financing of Capital Expenditure

	2024 £	2023 £
The following capital expenditure during the year:		
Vehicles and plant purchased (net)	113,959	133,561
Land and buildings purchased (net)	352,596	570,541
Investment properties (net)	-	-
Long Term Investments (net)	-	-
	466,549	704,102
Financing:		
Precept, Revenue Income, Capital sales and Earmarked Reserves	245,812	640,202
Commuted Sums received	77,250	83,900
Grants Received	143,487	-
	466,549	704,102

12 Information on Assets Held

Fixed assets owned by the Town Council include the following:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Land and Buildings		
Livesey House	1	-
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	47	41
Vehicles and Plant		
Mayoral car	0	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 2024

13 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	25,389	53,691
Prepayments and accrued income	175,385	190,101
	<u>200,774</u>	<u>243,792</u>

14 Creditors and accrued expenses	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	116,236	124,431
Other Creditors	25,206	23,902
Payroll Taxes and Social Security	40,948	37,749
VAT	40,842	(2,652)
Accruals	278,963	255,807
Income in Advance	152,882	989
	<u>655,077</u>	<u>440,226</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 2023/24 was £2,679, prior year £2,620. An electric vehicle for mayoral use is also leased in 2023/24 £4,905 was paid, prior year £4,905. These amounts have been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	4,905	-
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	2,678	7,331
Annual obligations expiring after five years	-	-
	<u>7,583</u>	<u>7,331</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 2023/24 was £5,000, prior year £5,000 this amount has been charged to the relevant service heading in the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Annual obligations expiring within one year	5,000	5,000
Annual obligations expiring between two and five years	-	-
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 2024

16 Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 01/04/23	Transfers to / (from) reserves	Use of reserves in year	Balance at 31/03/24
	£	£	£	£
General income funds				
Election cost reserve	37,500	18,750		56,250
Equipment and vehicle replacement	306,608			306,608
Children's play areas	729,624			729,624
Establishment fund	188,638	(162,666)	(25,972)	-
Quarry greenhouse	250,000			250,000
Allotments *	33,119			33,119
Visioning and Future projects	288,000			288,000
Recreation (astroturf & floodlights)	40,000	10,000		50,000
River banks incl fishing	125,447			125,447
IT upgrade and infrastructure	35,000		(11,641)	23,359
Splashpark	40,000	5,000	(7,227)	37,773
Youth and Community Centre upgrades	57,680			57,680
Dana footpath	50,000			50,000
Planned countryside works	5,000			5,000
Snow clearance equipment	-			-
Fisheries improvements & Grants	-			-
Climate Change Fund	135,350		(41,791)	93,559
Lower Quarry Toilets	45,000			45,000
BMX / Skatepark upgrades	30,000		(30,000)	-
Toilets improvements	10,000			10,000
Bus Shelters - phase 2	150,000	(26,958)	(123,042)	-
Bus Shelters - phase 3		126,958		126,958
Ash die back	87,200		(21,488)	65,712
Quarry picnic area	20,000			20,000
Public Safety incl Quarry	55,360			55,360
Ukraine Support Fund	25,000			25,000
Quarry memorials	10,000			10,000
Footway lights reserve	7,500		(7,500)	-
Beaver Project	30,000		(30,000)	-
Wall repairs		24,000		24,000
Greenfields Recreation Ground		437,666		437,666
Deferred income/grant funds #				
Neighbourhood fund (CIL) ¹	1,538,981	322,594	(136,176)	1,725,399
Committed sums (S106) ²	907,220	29,754	(177,566)	759,408
Receipts in adv incl Grants	29,928		(5,541)	24,387
	5,268,155	785,098	(617,944)	5,435,309

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 2024

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	£
Monkmoor Tennis Floodlights	58,926
Moston Road - wheeled sports track	77,250
	<u>136,176</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	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance brought forward	6,341,936	5,849,860
capital expenditure in the year (net)	466,549	650,810
Depreciation (net)	(217,042)	(158,734)
reversal of Impairment of Investment Properties	-	-
Balance carried forward	<u>6,591,443</u>	<u>6,341,936</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	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance brought forward	67,434	67,434
Revaluation of investment properties	-	-
Balance carried forward	<u>67,434</u>	<u>67,434</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 2024

19 Usable Capital Receipts

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance brought forward	614,073	614,073
Sale of land in the year	-	-
Costs associated with proceeds of sale	-	-
Balance carried forward	<u>614,073</u>	<u>614,073</u>

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

20 Contingent Liabilities

The Town Council resolved on 8th June 2022 to instruct the four group leaders to make future recommendations as to the means by which the Site (greenfields) can be returned to public ownership and made available as a public amenity. The site had previously been sold in 2017 for £550,000 and the funds are held as a Usable Capital Receipt.

The land is now back in public ownership, with a net cost of £600k. The Town Council is seeking to offset the additional amount by pursuing compensation from other parties responsible for the errors in 2017.

21 Capital Commitments

The Town Council has no capital commitments at 31st March 2024.

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

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Shrewsbury Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31st March 2024

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	2024	2023
	£	£
Other expenditure	<u>2,161,581</u>	<u>1,531,024</u>
Analysis of costs broken into principal components:		
Premises and Related Costs	280,920	231,857
Transport Costs	132,297	140,352
Supplies and Services	649,697	476,523
Support Services	218,130	165,470
Capital	980,537	516,822
	<u>2,161,581</u>	<u>1,531,024</u>

Democratic, Management and Civic Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Other expenditure	<u>437,329</u>	<u>1,038,366</u>
Analysis of costs broken into principal components:		
Premises and Related Costs	23,411	69,352
Transport Costs	24,189	21,771
Supplies and Services	22,666	25,536
Support Services	367,063	360,345
Capital	-	561,362
	<u>437,329</u>	<u>1,038,366</u>