

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SLA WORKING GROUP HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE

21 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT

Councillors Julian Dean, Pam Moseley, Alan Mosley (Chair), & Rob Wilson

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources), Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager) & Danny Powell (Operations Manager)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Alex Wagner

20/24 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

All Councillors present declared personal interests in being members of Shropshire Council

21/24 NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Town Clerk apologised that she had not yet prepared the notes due to other work pressures. Members reflected on the previous meeting's discussions.

22/24 MEETING WITH LEADER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Councillors Mosley & Wilson, the Town Clerk & Head of Resources updated the wider Working Group on the meeting with the Leader & Chief Executive of Shropshire Council.

They welcomed the fact that the Town Council wanted to engage on helping to address budgetary pressures and reduced services within the town.

They were keen to look at things in three phases:

- SLA – what would happen to service delivery of SLA work post April 2025 – they were keen for the arrangements to continue but in a service delegation way rather than a formal contract. They were more keen to develop an outcome driven agreement rather than the services being client managed at micro level
- SLA + - they were happy to explore other ways that the two councils could work more collaboratively.
- SLA ++ - there was apprehension as to what the Devolution Whit Paper might have in store for existing unitary authorities that may not meet the population capacity to meet the requirements of a central government devolution plan. They were therefore keen that cultural assets were managed in a way that meant that decisions were made locally so were keen to explore options for the two councils to work in a collaborative way to ensure this remained.

- The Leader and Chief Executive were aware that the Town Council had already relinquished £250k from the SLA to support budget pressures and they were very grateful for the Town Council's proactive approach
- There were discussions around the Golf Course

23/24 SLA PROGRESS SO FAR

Discussions continued with Shropshire Council staff around the SLA and the draft report to Cabinet was shared with the Working Group; this would help inform the Town Council's report to Cabinet. Members considered their approach as Shropshire Councillors to the Cabinet meeting; they would contact their respective political group leaders. It was agreed that Councillors Mosley would seek to present to Cabinet his concerns in his capacity as Leader of the Town Council

24/24 CORPORATE PLAN – ACTION PLAN

The Group used the meeting to start to go through the Corporate Plan to determine any amendments in readiness for budget setting.

25/24 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Meetings would continue to be fortnightly and would also begin to pick up discussions around the Strategic Plan Actions.