

## Shropshire Councillor Report - February 2026

### **Draft Medium Term Financial plan 2026/27 to 2030/31**

The estimated budget gap for 2026/27 is £130m and this gap is projected to increase across the medium term.

Since October, the budget setting process has continued with a focus to address the fundamental issues that have resulted in significant demand pressures in 2024/25 and 2025/26. Recognising the significant proportion of Council spend on Social Care services, independent benchmarking has been undertaken via the Local Government Association (LGA) for both Adult and Children's Social Care.

Overall however, it is not possible to balance this budget without Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government, which would be in the form of significant borrowing for this year, next year and across the medium term. Therefore, the Council submitted its application for EFS. For 2025/26 application was for £71.4m. For 2026/27 an application for £130m was submitted.

EFS is not intended as a long-term solution, nor is it sustainable, it needs to include a transformation and change programme to reduce the cost of services through cashable savings, increased partnership working and generation of income from a variety of sources. This will include a review of asset disposal to identify opportunities for both capital and revenue income generation. A refreshed transformation and change programme, will be presented to Cabinet and Council during 2026/27, setting out how the Council will become financially stable.

### **Capital Strategy**

Cabinet have undertaken a review of the current 2025/26 Capital Programme, as approved in February 2025 and identified the next steps for a number of schemes.

This includes the Sundorne Swimming Pool scheme which is paused pending a review of Shropshire's overall leisure centre requirements and Leisure Strategy development. The Pride Hill Shopping Centre Regeneration is also paused pending a wider regeneration and asset review.

Work on the Shrewsbury Smithfield / Riverside Development park - construction will continue in line with commissioned contract arrangements and is fully funded from Levelling Up Funding. Remaining project paused pending site masterplan review.

The former White Horse Hotel, Wem – refurbishment scheme is to be paused pending an options review.

### **Provider Services Redesign**

It was agreed that there will be a public consultation for 8 weeks on the future of Helena Lane Day Service and the potential transfer of the Aquamira day service to the Abbots Wood

site. Following the period of consultation, final recommendations will be presented to Cabinet for determination.

People who use day centres in Shropshire, their family members, carers, members of the public, professionals and our stakeholders can have their say on proposed changes to Shropshire Council's in-house day services.

This consultation is open until 26 March 2026 [Day centres consultation | Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#)

### **Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 and new Shropshire Hills National Landscape Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

Cabinet has approved a Management Plan for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (renamed but still formally designated as an 'area of outstanding natural beauty'). This is required every five years under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. The new Plan has been prepared over the last two years by the National Landscape Team and Partnership, and the draft Plan was out for public consultation between mid-May and mid-July. The National Landscape covers 23% of Shropshire and also extends into Telford & Wrekin, whose Council must also approve the Plan.

### **Draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029**

This strategy sets out a collaborative, multi-agency plan to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire over the next three years and is working to address the inequalities between rural and urban living. This consultation is open until March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026.  
<https://staff.shropshire.gov.uk/news/domestic-abuse-consultation/>

### **Local casework**

I recently met with the traffic engineer responsible for our area, during which I raised concerns about the continuing deterioration of the road from the A528 to Petton. Although I submitted a request for works last summer and a number of reports have been made via FixMyStreet, the engineer was not previously aware of the extent of the issue. During our discussion, even using Google Street View, he was able to clearly see that the road surface has significantly deteriorated.

Following this, he has requested that a further inspection be carried out. While it is not possible at this stage to confirm whether this will accelerate any repair work, having another officer directly engaged with the matter is a positive step. I will continue to apply pressure to ensure the need for repairs remains visible.

In addition, I have asked that Park Lane, near the Parklands, be considered alongside this work, particularly given the recently approved planning application in close proximity.

### **Road Closures**

None at present