

Shropshire Councillor Report – March 2026

Shropshire Council Budget 26/27

The Council agreed its budget for 2026/27 at a meeting of Full Council on 26 February. Like around 40 councils nationally, Shropshire Council will rely on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government to balance its budget for the year ahead. EFS is not grant funding but borrowing that must be repaid with interest, meaning the council must continue to minimise how much it relies on this support while working towards long-term financial sustainability.

To stabilise the council's financial position, councillors agreed a number of measures, including:

- An 8.99% increase in Council Tax – this is 4% more than it is normally capped at which will raise an additional £8.8 million in vital income for the council.
- Stopping the North West Relief Road project, which is no longer affordable given current financial pressures and rising projected costs.
- Rationalising the capital programme, including pausing or stopping capital schemes.

These decisions will help ensure the council can continue to deliver essential services while reducing its reliance on EFS in future years.

The council recognises the financial pressures facing many households and is encouraging residents who may struggle with the Council Tax increase to seek support.

[Information about the help available can be found on the council's website here.](#)

Town and Parish Council Asset Transfer Policy and Process

Cabinet approved the Town and Parish Council Asset Transfer Policy at a meeting on 11th February. This will provide a transparent and structured framework for transferring suitable council owned assets to Town and Parish councils to meet local needs and achieve local visions for the future in ways that may be more efficient and effective than the larger council.

Town/Parish Councils must be able to demonstrate the need within their community and a small business case is required to show the intended use to benefit the community.

Shropshire Support Finder 2026

An updated guide to help Shropshire residents find information about health and social care support, voluntary organisations and community-based activities that are available across Shropshire can be found here [Shropshire Choices Support Finder | Care Choices](#)

Roads to be surface dressed

More than 70 stretches of road across Shropshire are set to be treated this spring and summer as part of Shropshire Council's 2026 surface dressing programme – work that will play a key role in improving the county's roads and preventing potholes.

The work is due to be carried out from 22 April 2026 and will be carried out by Kier on behalf of the council. The 72 sites identified for are located across the county and include all types of road, from urban roads to major 'A' and 'B' roads.

Dates and details of work will be available on the [One Network interactive roadworks website](#) once road space permits have been granted.

Surface dressing is a quick, efficient and cost-effective way of preventing potholes, maintaining skid-resistance and waterproofing road surfaces. It forms a major part of the council's annual road maintenance programme and is being carried out alongside other preventative and reactive maintenance work.

Road Closures

None known at present