

December 2025



OVERVIEW

The focus throughout November has been on Council Finances. Following a 'deep dive' exercise as recommended by the Independent Review Board and instructed by CEO Tania Miles, the current predicted overspend is £12m in this financial year. This figure simply cannot be achieved through internal savings which is why the administration has turned to central government for emergency funding (loan).

Every portfolio holder is working with their teams at the council to find additional savings and to approach finances differently. In my portfolio: Children & Education, we have proposed closing the School's Library Service which is currently operating at a loss with only 13 schools actively using the service. Our proposal is to gift the resources to schools across the county to support the governments objective to ensure all primary schools have an internal library. The closing of the Shropshire School Library Service will save the council £102,000 per annum.

A41 Update: Following on from the Amey report and recommendations, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Council Highways teams have been holding meetings to discuss the next steps. Although the report concluded that Average Speed Cameras may not deliver the desired outcome on the A41, it is specifically this scheme that is financially supported by the PCC and therefore we may still look to implement cameras with attention to additional items as highlighted in the report. The PCC has been invited to all meetings but at the moment does not appear to be attending.

This month I have been working very closely with residents in Caynton regarding a mass chicken egg production planning application which has required a considerable amount of attention.

I have also spent a good proportion of the month in my role as trustee of the SYA working to address some issues that arose and have now been concluded.

(11/11/25) SYA AGM: The Lodge, Shrewsbury. More on the charity at www.sya.org.uk

(19/11/25) Full cabinet meeting, agenda and decisions can be found here: [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025, 10.30 am — Shropshire Council](#)

(21/11/25) Lib Dem Finance meeting: to discuss current position

(25/11/25) Shropshire Youth Foundation Board Meeting: Discussion and approval of grant applications supporting Youth Projects across the whole of Shropshire.

(25/11/25) Portfolio Holders Meeting: Teams

CASEWORK

Casework	Issue Raised / Portfolio	Actions
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Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident communication shared with planning portfolio holder. (03/06/25) Emma Green (<i>Planning Enforcement Leader</i>) has replied directly to a resident concern outlining the stages for legal involvement. I will continue to chase. planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk can be used to report any breaches of planning. I am still chasing updates on this one.
A41 Safety	HIGHWAYS/POLICE: Update on the installation of average speed cameras along the A41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above update.
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (09/06/25) I have contacted the case officer regarding the general position of this application having been made aware of community concerns. (17/07/25) No communication received, concerns raised by the Lib Dem administration over the lack of response from officers. (01/09/25) Email received from case officer to confirm the current position of this application (updates available on the planning portal). (21/09/25) Request for this to be called-in to the Northern Planning Committee.
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production Caynton	PLANNING: Consultation Extended to 05/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have held a meeting with residents on site and have formally objected to the proposal on environmental reasons. I attended an extraordinary PC Meeting with Childs Ercall PC to object. Continuous communication with the residents.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Here are questions posed by parish councillors across the division and updates/answers at present.

Question	Answer / Outcomes
What services are specifically provided by SC across our Parishes?	I have asked a question but I am awaiting a solid response. This should help our parish councils decide which services they may want to take on under the Shropshire Partnership.
A41 Flooding Underpass	Raised with highways
Eaton On Tern Solar Farm - Will residents benefit financially?	Officers still investigating. I have had no updates.
How much do we pay for Fix My Street?	Still awaiting a response from the council but the administration have raised concerns with this service so it is on our radar for improvement.
A41: How much did the Amey report cost?	No specific figure available as this project is lead by Telford & Wrekin Council and so far, no 'finance' has been requested.
Market Drayton Public Toilets: Who paid for these and was the process conducted appropriately.	I have had confirmation from the MD Town Clerk that the town council are responsible for this project and that that the project was put to tender.

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