

Shropshire Council
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY3 8HQ

Date: 17th June 2025

Dear Town or Parish Council,

Further to the message sent earlier this month about Shropshire Council's intention to reset our relationship with Town and Parish Councils, I am writing to share with you the next step in that process: a more formal **Call for Information** and accompanying survey.

This marks a serious commitment to doing things differently. For too long, partnership working between Shropshire Council and Town and Parish Councils has not been what it should be. That must change.

We want to work more closely with you to deliver services more effectively, support local decision-making, and rebuild trust that we know has been eroded over the years.

The purpose of this survey is to help shape a new and long-term policy for joint working – one that acknowledges that no two communities are the same. What works for a sparse rural parish may not work for a large market town, and our future approach to working with communities across Shropshire must reflect that.

Submissions can come from your council collectively or from individual councillors or clerks. All contributions will be reviewed by the **Transformation and Improvement Overview Scrutiny Committee**, which I chair. We will use your views to make formal recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council by the end of 2025.

You can complete the survey online here, and find details of other ways to respond below: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TownParishCouncilsJune25>

We would be grateful for responses by **Monday 18th August**.

We also want to hear about *quick wins* – ideas that could be trialled or implemented sooner. For instance, street scene and environmental maintenance are areas where some Town and Parish Councils may already feel ready to pilot new approaches.

If there are ways we can move ahead swiftly and to mutual benefit, please don't hesitate to get in touch now. We are open to new ideas, pilot schemes, and collaborative models that reflect the diversity of our county.

As my colleague Councillor Alex Wagner has mentioned in an earlier letter, we would in particular welcome your reflections on:

- How a new style of partnership should work in practice;
- Your experience engaging with Shropshire Council (e.g. planning, highways, developer levies, communications);
- Where things could improve;
- And which services might be better delivered locally—whether by your council, local providers, or in partnership with us.

We understand that not every community will want or be able to move at the same pace. That's why this is not a one-size-fits-all proposal, but a flexible and collaborative approach shaped around your circumstances.

This is not a tick-box exercise. We are serious about building something better – together. If you'd prefer to respond in a different format, a printable version of the survey is attached and can be returned to TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk or posted to:

Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team

Shropshire Council
PO Box 4826
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ

Thank you for your time, your partnership, and your commitment to improving outcomes for the residents we all serve.

Yours faithfully,

David Minnery

Chair, Transformation and Improvement Overview Committee
Councillor for Market Drayton South Division

