**Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley – Annual Report April 2023 by Dan Morris Cllr for Burnell**

In 2022/23 Shropshire Council set out its 4 priorities in its strategic planning document for 2022-2025

* Healthy People
* Healthy Economy
* Healthy Environment
* Healthy Organisation

Healthy People:

* SC will tackle inequalities, including rural inequalities, and poverty in all its forms; providing early support and interventions that reduce risk and enable children, young people, adults and families to achieve their full potential and enjoy life.
* SC will support Shropshire residents to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, choosing healthy lifestyles and preventing ill-health, reducing need for long term or hospital care.
* SC will work with partners to develop, commission and deliver the right services and support that meet the needs of children, young people, adults and families in the right place, at the right time

Healthy Economy

* SC will provide access to lifelong learning, supporting people and our communities to prosper, and through providing the right skills developing greater productivity and improved wages.
* SC will develop Shropshire as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to attract people to live in, work in, learn in and visit the county.
* SC will deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities.
* SC will ensure an appropriate mix of housing in the right areas of the county when supporting people with disabilities and to attract the right workforce for the employment needs and opportunities located there; reducing distances travelled to work

Healthy Environment

* SC will deliver the Council’s Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, promoting the means to tackle climate change and reduce the carbon footprint including the adoption of low carbon energy for council’s assets and for communities.
* SC will enable safer, sustainable, diverse and inclusive communities that pull together by reducing anti-social behaviour and risk of harm; addressing the issues they face; and adopting the waste hierarchy to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover from all household waste.
* SC will maintain, protect, and enhance our outstanding natural and historic environment, promoting positive behaviours and greater biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

Healthy Organisation

* SC will enable a skilled, happy, healthy, diverse, inclusive, empowered, and proud workforce that influences and leads change, addressing any inequalities.
* SC will continuously develop our response to disruptive incidents affecting Shropshire communities, strengthening our ability to absorb shock, adapt and make changes, sustain positive change, and anticipate future shocks.
* SC will communicate clearly and transparently about what Shropshire Council delivers, signposting to the right places for services and support, and listen to what communities say about their place and what they need.
* SC will put our resources in the right place using accurate data, insights, and evidence to support the delivery of the organisation’s priorities and balance the books.
* SC will ensure councillors are supported to advocate for their constituents but to also be ambassadors for the council

The recently agreed Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) last week (2nd March 2023) is the key strategic document within The Shropshire plan that defines how finances over the medium term will be allocated and aligned to the outcomes set within the plan. Council tax has been set at 4.99% for the coming year at the same council meeting.

The MTFS is determined by The Shropshire Plan outcomes and priorities – the budget for next year has been led by SC priorities, rather than the other way around. The MTFS brings together the planned revenue and capital estimates for resources and spending across the coming 5 years. It is shaped by the priorities of the Shropshire Plan, and clearly sets out the financial challenge and the opportunity created by successfully tackling that challenge.

SC still must close a budget gap of £51m. Most of these savings will come from continuing to think, act and work differently, as set out in the above-mentioned Shropshire Plan. Since the Plan was launched, SC colleagues are responding to this and challenging positively to how things are done.

To achieve such a target of closing £51m budget gap, SC will need to transform and reduce the size and shape of the council, how it works and align this to the Shropshire Plan. SC has no choice but to do this because it must become sustainable. To achieve this SC expects to invest between £1m - £3m over the next three years with a transformation partner to help accelerate and implement the changes needed.

When the Council launched the Shropshire Plan, the council said it would appoint this transformation partner to work to make these changes. The partner will help SC put in place the 'machinery' needed to enable services to transform and provide the much-needed capacity, capability, and resource to move at pace and achieve the savings that have to be made.

The priority of the council for the coming year will therefore be to make transformative change to make the council fit for the future within the priorities of The Shropshire Plan.

Cllr Dan Morris April 2023