

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 26 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Partnering to provide services for your area

As the most local form of government in Shropshire I am writing to ask for your help with how we deliver services in your area.

There are many great examples already of ourselves and town and parish councils working to deliver these services across our county and residents have told us how much they appreciate their council doing this.

Listening to local councils, many of you have told us, that you are willing to help provide or contribute to services and facilities in your local areas for the benefit of your residents especially if there is a chance we will no longer be able to provide them, or in the same way we do now, in the future.

We really appreciate these offers and that in return we must make sure we are organised in responding to them and provide you with clear information that allows you to make decisions and justify your involvement and the expenditure of public funds on any services.

That is why we are inviting your council to complete a short survey (6 simple questions) to indicate whether you are interested in a conversation with us (or not) around providing or contributing towards local services (or considering the current or future arrangements if we are already working with you).

By starting with a focus upon two areas of services which local councils have told us are important (and Shropshire Council face significant financial challenges in delivering due to well publicised increases in inflation and demand for our statutory services, like social care) we hope significant progress can be made quickly for the benefit of local people.



Our culture and leisure services and facilities (libraries, leisure centres, outdoor recreation sites, museums, etc.) enhance lives in our county and we need assistance in giving them a bright future as many elements are not statutory (required to be provided by law). In addition, our local 'street scene' (roadside verges, sign cleaning etc) gives people a sense of pride in their area and can benefit from additional support.

We are suggesting these conversations will not be 'one-size fits all' rather something that can be agreed that is realistic for all parties and can give certainty for the next few years. The initial conversations are not binding in any way but allow us to understand who may be able to help and is willing and who is not. We are conscious that all councils work slightly differently but would appreciate an indication either way at your earliest convenience as we all head into budget setting season later in the year.

We appreciate the work you are already doing for your communities and hope that we will be able to work together for the benefit of local people.

As a great many councils across the county are members, we have been taking the time to talk with SALC and are grateful for their support for the approach we are taking in discussing these matters with you.

To complete the survey, follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SALC24> Our deadline for responses is **16 September 2024**. However, the sooner we hear from you, the sooner we can start our conversation.

Yours sincerely



Lezley Picton
Leader