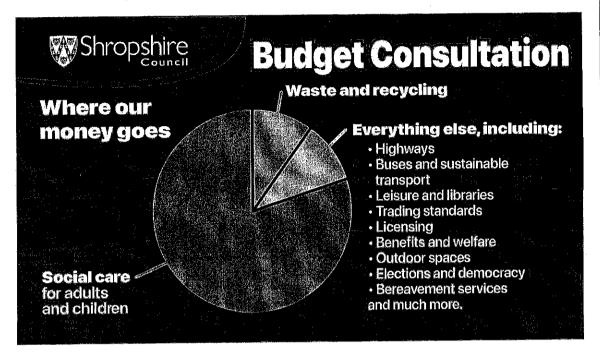
Community and Governance Meeting 23 January 2025
Appendix CG141



Shropshire Council Budget Consultation 25/26

#### 1. Introduction

Like councils all over the country, Shropshire Council's day-to-day budget is under pressure, especially as a growing number of people need essential services, like social care (for adults and children), which accounts for almost 80% of its budget.



To save money, the council has had to make some tough choices. Some of the changes Shropshire Council has already made this year include changes to garden waste collection and charging, using fewer buildings, reducing staff size, changes to CCTV monitoring and homeless accommodations.

The exact figure for next year's budget isn't clear yet, but the council expects more savings will be needed.

The council is asking you for your opinions on more changes to help further reduce day-to-day spending in 2025/26.

This survey includes proposals that have been discussed by all party group leaders on Shropshire Council, as ideas they would like the public to have their say on.

The outcome of the survey will help make decisions in setting the budget, which will be voted on by the full council in February 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your valuable feedback.



## 2. Prioritisation of Approaches

First, we want to ask you about how we prioritise our approach to achieving a balanced budget.

Listed below are the different approaches the council could take to balance its budget.

- Reducing costs and improving efficiency by changing how we operate
- Increasing income raised through fees and charges
- Reducing spend on suppliers, contracts and third parties
- Reviewing staffing levels

* Please rank these approaches in the order in which you think they should be prioritise	€CI.
(you can move the options up and down in the list by using the arrows on the left):	

≡		Reducing costs and improving efficiency by changing how we operate
≡	2*)	Increasing income raised through fees and charges
≣	3 *)	Reducing spend on suppliers, contracts and people we buy services from
<b>=</b>		Reviewing staffing levels

Please add anything else you would like to say about our approach to prioritisation:



#### 3. Specific Proposals

Next, we have several specific proposals that Shropshire Council is considering implementing to make savings, generate income, or reduce costs in the coming year.

These proposals cover the following topics:

- · Council tax
- · Household Waste Collections, Recycling, and Energy Conservation
- Parking and Park & Ride
- Shrewsbury Museums and Art Galleries

You can choose which proposals you wish to respond to questions about. We will ask you whether you want to answer questions about each proposal. If you choose to do so, you will be directed to more information about each proposal and a set of questions asking for your feedback. You can answer questions about none, some, or all of these proposals - it's up to you.

\* First of all, would you like to provide feedback relating to specific proposals to increase council tax?



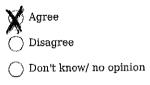


## **Council Tax**

Council tax accounts for an ever-growing part of Shropshire Council's funding, as Government grants have reduced significantly. The Government assumes in its funding calculations for Shropshire Council, that we will increase council tax next year by 4.99%. This is made up of a 2% part of council tax that can only be used on adult social care (the "adult social care precept") and 2.99% to support all other council services.

Increasing council tax by 4.99% raises approximately £10m for Shropshire Council. However, this isn't enough to cover the expected growth in demand for services and rising costs. If the council does not increase council tax it will have to find more savings.

\* What is your view on Shropshire Council's proposal to increase council tax by 4.99% (2.99% on council tax, 2% on the adult social care precept)? This is equivalent to an extra £1.65 a week for a band D property.



\* If allowed by Government, please indicate whether you would agree or disagree with applying council tax increases at a <u>higher</u> level?

(For example, on a band D property, 2% additional council tax above the 4.99% increase would be equivalent to an additional 66p per week.)

Agree
Disagree
No opinion / don't know

X	Maney of		softlement	taun			
lov. De	farrer	and	settlement increase	id for	rural	LAs	
			·				



\* Would you like to provide feedback on specific proposals around Household Waste Collections, Recycling, and Energy Conservation?





## Household Waste Collections, Recycling, and Energy Conservation Proposals

Shropshire council is considering several proposals that will involve waste collection and energy conservation. To read more detail on these proposals, you can link to information sheets relating to each area.

#### **Proposals on Changes to Bin Collections:**

Shropshire Council is looking to change how frequently it collects non-recyclable waste bins. Currently, non-recyclable waste is collected every two weeks, recyclable waste is collected every two weeks, and garden waste is collected every two weeks.

We are planning to continue garden waste collection every two weeks. However, we are proposing moving to three week collections of either non-recyclable waste collections or *both* non-recyclable waste and recycling collections.

Please give us your feedback on the following proposed changes to these collections:

**Option 1** Your non-recyclable waste bin would be emptied every three weeks. All recycling would continue to be collected every two weeks. Garden waste subscription collections would remain every two weeks. This option could start from April 2025 at the earliest.

**Option 2** Both non-recyclable waste and other recycling would now be on a three-week schedule. Garden waste subscription collections would remain every two weeks.

\* Please tell us which of the two options above you prefer.

Even if you don't like either option, we still want to hear which you would prefer over the other.



* Please tell us to what degree you would support each option:						
	Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	
	Strongly support	Suppon. ⊗				
Option 1			<b>0</b> 2			
Option 2	O	0	<b>\X</b> 2			
Please use this s	pace to provide a	ny alternative	suggestions to	these option	ıs.	
Like to en	kourge rev	eyelij				
		gyglys <del>ka kielist a transport y tyr y tyr blanda a praesty wyklest</del>				
* Do you think week collection		could manage	e if non-recyclab	le waste col	lection went to a 3-	
Yes, I could	l manage					
Yes, I could	d manage if I recycle	more				
Yes, with s	ome support					
It might be	a challenge at some	times of year				
I would str	uggle to manage, eve	n with efforts to	recycle more			
I would no	t manage					
* In 2026, Sh	ropshire Council	will be introd	acing a free wee	kly food col	lection.	
Is there any a	additional support	the Council on-recyclable	could provide, w waste bin collec	hich would tion? (tick a	make it easier for all that apply)	
An extra b	in or larger bin					
Extra recy	cling containers					
Expert, pr	Expert, practical advice on waste reduction and recycling					
Help with	Help with or advice on home composting					
Other (ple	ase specify)					
Lance towns	Contract	00 NP	COSCEM	agraphic by the state of the st	Marine State of Astronomy Very Comment of the State of th	
Extra	Containers	U- ) + VU	ر			

.

Shropshire Council works to meet the Equalities Duty and consider social inclusion and health impact within all policy and service changes. We would like to know if the proposals would affect you because of your protected characteristics. There are nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

For each of the protected characteristics below, please say if the proposals would have a positive, or negative, or no effect on you because of your protected characteristic.

If you do not meet one of these protected characteristics, you do not need to answer this question.

	The proposed changes	The proposed changes would have a negative	The proposed changes
,	would have a positive impact	impact	would have no impact
Age		Q	
Disability	$\bigcirc$		
Gender reassignment		o Otto	
Pregnancy and maternity	0		
Marriage or divil partnership (in employment only)	Ö	O	
Race	$\circ$		$\bigcirc$
(Religion or belief			
Sex	$\bigcirc$		$\circ$
Sexual orientation			
	lse you would like to say a ristics (yours or others)?	about the impacts of th	nese proposals on
AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	A Proposition of the Control of the		

### **Street Lighting Conversion**

The Council has identified three viable options for achieving savings through changes to street lighting. Each of these options would require some capital investment, usually equipment or machinery, but would save crucial day-to-day costs of running this service where savings are needed at present to balance the council's budget. The options being considered are:

- Option 1: Convert all remaining streetlight bulbs to LEDs (circa 1133 lights). This would require capital investment of £500,000 but yield estimated revenue savings of £109,000 per year.
- Option 2: Convert Heritage Lantern bulbs to LEDs (circa 950 lanterns). These are street lamps in a

<ul> <li>historic style. This would require capital investment of £950,000 but yield an estimated revenue savings of £104,000 per year.</li> <li>Option 3: The council currently turns street lights off for several hours during the dark hours every night. Currently, in some areas, street lights remain on all night in areas where there are more people and traffic, typically at junctions. We could shut off some or all of these during dark hours, which could save up to £209,000 of revenue per year with a £395,000 capital investment.</li> </ul>							
For transparence with increased s	y, the council's preferre afety risks.	ed options are	e options 1 and 2, s	since Option 3	would come		
* Please rank t	the options in the ord	ler that you	would prefer the	em to be carr	ried out.		
(You can chang	ge the order by using	, the up and	down arrows to	the left of th	is question).		
<b>■ 2</b> €	Option 1						
<b>3</b>	Option 2						
	Option 3						
* Please tell us	s to what degree you	would supp	ort each option.				
	en 1 ut	Course and	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose		
Option 1	Strongly support	Support	Tor oppose	Oppose			
Option 2	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	<b>⊘</b>	0			
Option 3'							
Please use thi	s space to provide an	ıy alternativ	e suggestions to	these propos	sals:		
	d to view house						

Shropshire Council works to meet the Equalities Duty and consider social inclusion and health impact within all policy and service changes. We would like to know if the proposals would affect you because of your protected characteristics. There are nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

For each of the protected characteristics below, please say if the proposals would have a positive, or negative, or no effect on you because of your protected characteristic.

If you do not meet one of these protected characteristics, you do not need to answer this question.

		The proposed changes	
	The proposed changes	would have a negative	The proposed changes
•	would have a positive impact	impact	would have no impact
Age			
Disability		0	
Gender reassignment	Y, O		
Pregnancy and	$\bigcirc$		$\circ$
maternity			
Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)		O.	
Race			$\circ$
Religion or belief			
Sex	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Sexual orientation	$\sim 10^{-1}$		
	else you would like to say eristics (yours or others)?	about the impacts of t	hese proposals on



\* Would you like to provide feedback on specific proposals around parking and Park & Ride in Shrewsbury?





# Parking and Park & Ride Proposals

**Increased Car Parking Charges** 

The Council has responsibility to manage traffic within Shropshire. We do this through a range of measures including signage, repairs, road layout, traffic controls such as traffic lights, for example. Another part of this is charges for car parking. Charges are levied to encourage responsible parking in designated areas, and enforced by penalties being applied as appropriate. Income received from car parking charges is then used to help support out traffic management responsibilities. The Council is considering increasing car parking charges to reduce the cost of our overall traffic management operations, potentially reducing costs by £0.5m.

* To v	what extent do you support the proposal to increase car parking charges across the
count	
	Strongly support
$\circ$	Support
	Neither support nor oppose
$\bigcirc$	Oppose
$\bigcirc$	Strongly oppose

Please use this space to provide any alternative suggestions to how we should look at car parking charges throughout the county:

par must be a lot cheeper then parking in town.

Shropshire Council works to meet the Equalities Duty and consider social inclusion and health impact within all policy and service changes. We would like to know if the proposals would affect you because of your protected characteristics. There are nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

For each of the protected characteristics below, please say if the proposal would have a positive, or negative, or no effect on you because of your protected characteristic.

If you do not meet one of these protected characteristics, you do not need to answer this question.

		The proposed changes	The proposed changes
	The proposed changes would have a positive impact	would have a negative impact	would have no impact
Age	Would have a positive impact		
Disability	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	
Gender reassignment	O		
Pregnancy and	$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$
maternity			
Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)		Ó	
Race	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Religion or belief	Ön te		
Sex	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	0
Sexual orientation	0		
Is there anything	else you would like to say	about the impacts of the	ne proposal on protected
characteristics (ye			
Special a Special Spec		THE SECOND THE SECOND TO THE SECOND THE SECO	

## Park & Ride Services in Shrewsbury

Park & Ride services in Shrewsbury currently cost Council Tax payers £250,000 per annum. To remove this subsidy in the next financial year, the service area is considering the following two options for making these savings:

- Option 1: Increase usage of Park & Ride to reduce its costs. The council could invest some of the funding
  allocated through the Bus Service Improvement Plan process, increasing the frequency of the service to
  provide more journeys between the sites and the town centre. As a result of those frequency
  improvements, we believe that passengers numbers would grow and revenues increase, which would
  bring about a reduction in overall council costs.
- Option 2: Pause or cease Park & Ride services to realise a cost reduction in public transport of £250k.

For transparency, the council's preferred option is Option 1.

Note: Ludlow park and ride services aren't included as part of this consultation. This service is grant funded until 2026/27 so doesn't form part of the council 2025/26 revenue budget plans.

	hich of these options you	ı preter.			
Option 1					
Option 2					
* To what extent wo	ould you support impleme	enting these options?			
		Neither support	Oppose Strongly oppose		
ACCURATION OF THE	Strongly support Support	nor oppose C	Oppose Strongly oppose		
Option 1	Y Y				
Option 2		O			
	ce to provide any alterna	tive suggestions to thes	se options:		
If we pause	we will lose				
•					
health impact within would affect you be characteristics defined.	l works to meet the Equain all policy and service of ecause of your protected ined in the Equality Act 2	changes. We would like characteristics. There a 2010.	to know if the proposals are nine protected		
For each of the propositive, or negative	tected characteristics be ve, or no effect on you be	low, please say if the procause of your protected	roposal would have a l characteristic.		
If you do not meet one of these protected characteristics, you do not need to answer this					
question.					
question.		The proposed changes			
	The proposed changes would have a positive impact	The proposed changes would have a negative impact	The proposed changes would have no impact		
	The proposed changes would have a positive impact	would have a negative	The proposed changes		
		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Gender		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Gender reassignment Pregnancy and		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Genders reassignment Pregnancy and maternity  Marriage or civil		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Gender reassignment Pregnancy and maternity Marriage or civil a partnership (in employment only)		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Gender reassignment Pregnancy and maternity Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only) Race		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Genders reassignment Pregnancy and maternity Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only) Race Religiomor belief		would have a negative	The proposed changes		
Age Disability Gender reassignment Pregnancy and maternity Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only) Race Religion or belief Sex Sexual orientation	would have a positive impact	would have a negative impact  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O	The proposed changes		



\* Would you like to provide feedback on specific proposals around Shrewsbury Museums and Art Galleries?



 $\bigcirc$  No



#### **Shrewsbury Museums and Art Galleries Proposal**

It is proposed that a change of operating hours at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery (SM&AG) and Shrewsbury Castle is implemented from January 2025. Under current operating hours, both facilities close on a Monday from November to April. It is proposed that from January 2025, these sites move to closure on a Sunday and a Monday all year round, opening Tuesday to Saturday. It is estimated that this change will help to meet a savings target of under £50,000.

* Do you support or oppose this proposal?	
○ Strongly support	
Support	
Neither support nor oppose	
Oppose	
Strongly oppose	
Please use this space to provide any alternative suggestions to this proposal:	

Shropshire Council works to meet the Equalities Duty and consider social inclusion and health impact within all policy and service changes. We would like to know if the proposals would affect you because of your protected characteristics. There are nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

For each of the protected characteristics below, please say if the proposal would have a positive, or negative, or no effect on you because of your protected characteristic.

If you do not meet one of these protected characteristics, you do not need to answer this question.

		The proposed changes	
	The proposed changes	would have a negative	The proposed changes
M	vould have a positive impact	impact	would have no impact
Age			
Disability		0	The second secon
Gender reassignment	0	On **	
Pregnancy and maternity	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Marriage or civil partnership (in spendoyment only)		O.,	
Race	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Religion or belief			
Sex	$\bigcirc$		$\circ$
Sexual orientation			
Is there anything el characteristics (you		about the impacts of t	he proposal on protected



# 4. Feedback on Other Ways of Achieving Savings and Generating Income

The council is considering a number of possible options for achieving the necessary savings and/or generating income to offset budget pressures.

The following options are simply suggestions for consideration at this time. Any significant changes to these services will require their own separate consultations in due course. At this point, we just want to get a sense of your general views on these options.

Please tell us to what degree you would support the following proposals that are being considered:

* Increasing the number of foster carers across the county (estimated £1.375m savings)
X Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:

by revising our current processes we believe we could collect more of the unpaid debt, reducing pressure on our budgets. Increasing debt collection by the council (estimated £1.4m savings)
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
* Household recycling centres will be closed on certain days (estimated £0.39m)
(Note: this option has already been consulted on earlier in 2024, but no action has been taken yet).
Strongly support
X Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
* Greater enforcement of car parking tickets, littering fines, and other civil measures. (estimated £0.30m savings)
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:

\* The Council has a good track record for collecting debts owed to the Council. However,

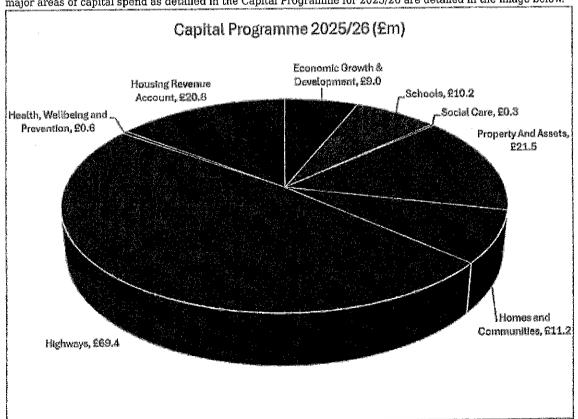
* Introduce and enforce residential parking permits (estimated £0.1m savings).
◯ Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
Support in areis where necessary.
st Review and potentially reduce some leisure provision (estimated £0.35m savings).
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
* Asking other organisations (such as town or parish councils) to take on and run council- operated leisure centres. (estimated £0.2m savings)
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
▼ Oppose
Strongly oppose
C) Swongt oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
* Management of green spaces will be passed to town or parish councils, where they choose to take that on. (estimated £0.2m savings)
Strongly support
Support
F.
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose

Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:
Conditions such as additional funding to support P/T canal
funding to support 1/1 coming
* Asking people self-funding for social care to make a greater contribution (estimated £1m savings)
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Please tell us if you have any further comments to make about this possible future option:



#### 5. Capital Programme

Alongside an extensive transformation and efficiency programme, the Council is also planning to invest £143m in a capital programme in 2025/26. Capital projects are one-off investments typically into buildings or infrastructure or machinery. Capital funding cannot by law be used to meet the day-to-day costs of running council services - for example we cannot move money from a capital scheme to pay for adult social care costs. However, we will consider investing in projects that will help deliver the Shropshire Plan priorities and also schemes that may help deliver efficiencies within the revenue budget. A breakdown of the major areas of capital spend as detailed in the Capital Programme for 2025/26 are detailed in the image below.



The Council identifies high priority capital schemes which, once a clear business case has been approved, will be included in the capital programme. The Council has currently identified a further £239m of such schemes to be considered over the next 5 years. Most of the Council's capital investment is funded from external grants (such as government grants) and contributions (such as developer contribution linked to key schemes). Other schemes can be funded through capital asset sales or borrowing from Government. The Council always seeks to maximise external contributions and capital receipts, so reducing the cost to the council taxpayer.

The outline areas of spend for the priority schemes includes developments. Investing in maintaining and improving primary and secondary schools across the county, measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's housing stock, and development of new social and affordable housing for local people. Other specific projects across the county include SpArC Leisure Centre in Bishops Castle, Whitchurch Civic Centre, Whitchurch Leisure Centre, the Shrewsbury Smithfield Riverside Development, Swimming in Shropshire, Highways projects including the North West Relief Road.

* Overall, how supportive are you of Shropshire Council's plans for investment in capita schemes as outlined for 2025/26?
X Support
Support some aspects, but not all
Oppose
On't know/ unsure
Please tell us which capital investment plans you particularly like:
Must invest a capital project in
Must invest a capital project in MD & NWRR (North West Relief Roca)
Please tell us which capital investment plans you particularly don't like:
Please tell us anything else you wish to about Shropshire Council's capital investment plans for 25/26:



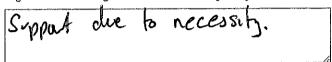
# **6. Overall Thoughts (Including Alternative Suggestions)**

\* Thinking about every individual's role to play, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am aware of the need for the council to change the way it delivers its services	0		Ö	0	
I accept that budget reductions have to be made by the council	0		0	0	
I believe the council is doing its best under difficult circumstances	Ö	<b>S</b>	Ö"		
I understand that inflation, the cost of living crisis, and now significant increased demand have added to the council's already difficult financial situation	0			0	0

outlined for 2024/25?
Strongly support
Support
Neither support nor oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose

Please share your ideas for how we might make further savings or provide any alternative suggestions to those set out within the proposals. The council will consult further on any significant changes to services or policy as it works to implement the agreed budget plan.



If you would like to say more about the budget consultation, or have questions about the consultation, please email us: tellus@shropshire.gov.uk

If you would like to sign up to receive notices of future consultations linked to the budget please <u>follow this link</u> to sign up to receive updates.



### 7. About You

We use this information to make sure that we're engaging with all sections of our community, that responses are representative and to further our understanding of the feedback obtained. You don't have to complete this section if you don't want to. Please answer any questions you feel able to.

In what capacity are you completing this survey? (Please select all that apply)
A local resident
A representative of a local business or commercial organisation A member of a local interest or community group
A representative of a local town, parish or rural parish council A Shropshire ward councillor
A Shropshire Council employee
A visitor to Shropshire or a member of the public living elsewhere None of these
Prefer not to say
Other (please specify)
How did you hear about this consultation?
Council new story online
Council email or alert
○ Shropshire Star
C Local radio
Social media
○ Word of mouth
Other



#### How we will use the information you have provided

The information you have provided will be used by Shropshire Council to influence the work of the finance team and other services across the council. We will only publish anonymised responses, parts of responses, or a summarised version of responses and will ensure individual survey respondents cannot be identified. Your response will be stored and kept in line with Shropshire Council's Retention Schedule.

The survey results will be shared with other services within Shropshire Council and anonymised data may be shared with services commissioned by Shropshire Council.

We will not share your data with any external third parties. A summary report will be developed and made available. Your information will be held securely, only shared internally where necessary. We comply with data protection laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information on how information is held by Shropshire Council and your rights to gain access to the information we hold on you please see our corporate privacy policy at <a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy">www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy</a>

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.