


<b>Council Meeting</b>	 Market Drayton Town Council
<b>Agenda Item: Shropshire Council update</b>	
<b>Date: 16 October 2025</b>	
<b>Appendix : CO105</b>	

### **Report of Cllr David Minnery, Shropshire Councillor for Market Drayton South, for Market Drayton Town Council**

Members will, I am sure, be aware that Shropshire Council Cabinet recently declared a formal financial emergency, it having become likely that without action reserves would become exhausted before the end of the current financial year. This has not come as a surprise given that the previous administration had to ask Government for special assistance for 2024/25.

It will not surprise you to learn that at the moment the financial situation of the Council is dominating my workload. As Chair of the Transformation & Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee I sit on the Budget Forum that meets every two weeks to co-ordinate the way forward.

It is clear that three themes of work are needed:

1. Ensure that the Council avoids issuing a S114 Notice in this financial year
2. Ensure that a sustainable budget is set for 2026/27
3. Learn what went wrong within the previous financial strategy

We are confident that we can turn things around but recognise that this will not be an overnight solution and that additional Government support will be needed for this year and probably next year too.

Council has created an internal structure to facilitate this work; this is being supported by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

Aside from that my committee has established a cross party Task & Finish Group to develop the concept of the Shropshire Partnership commitment contained in the election manifesto and that has commenced working. This is a different work stream to the Devolution of Services which is a Cabinet initiative.

As I write a press release is being drawn up to advise that our swimming centre is going to be out of use temporarily due to an unacceptable level of water loss. Contractors are being sought and remedial work will commence as soon as possible. It is not possible to carry out the works to repair the leak while the pool is operating. The pool will reopen as soon as the work is concluded; money is available within the capital budget. In the meantime work is underway with schools to agree a temporary solution for their needs. There is nothing more that I can add at this stage.

Your three Shropshire Councillors meet regularly to ensure that we are all up to speed on developments and issues that are wider than a single Electoral Division. At the moment our attention is focused on the sport and leisure provision in the town and we are hopeful that a workable and acceptable solution will be found.

As before, if anyone has any specific issues or questions please contact me, or let the Mayor or Clerk know as I am due to meet with them next Friday; hopefully my two SC colleagues can attend too.

8 October 2025