

## SALC meeting report 19th March 2026

Shropshire Council Finances. Shropshire Council had received almost £200m of *Emergency Financial Support*; £71.1m to balance 2025/26 budget & £122m for the following year to ensure a balanced budget for this and the next year. This included £22m overspend that could not be met from any other budget.

The North West Relief Road bill of £32m should be settled by the end of March. The remaining £163m bill is impossible to finance. DfT had never promised to finance the scheme. However the Oxon Link Road scheme was still on the capital programme.

All Capital Projects have been reviewed and paused unless needed on Health & Safety Grounds. Locally this means a pause in the new pool at the Sundorne Sports Village. Where the capital spent would be covered by increased revenue (eg Theatre Severn seating), projects would continue.

Council Tax. Shropshire Council has increased the council tax by 8.99%. There is £26m in unpaid Council Tax. Previous staff redundancies had left a backlog in dealing with both Planning and Council Tax staff. There is recruitment to address these shortfalls.

Social Care. There remains inequalities in rural areas with Shropshire receiving one of the worst government funding settlements in the country. Whilst Shropshire Council saw its allocation reduced significantly, Telford & Wrekin Council received a 9% increase in grant allocation.

Potholes. Some additional funding received.

Crisis Resilience Fund of £3.5m received. To be decided how best to distribute.

Combined Authorities. Shropshire has 1/4 million (237,000) population; combined authorities "need" 1.5m population. Possible different combinations with Shropshire, are with those not yet aligned - Telford, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. SC & TWC are looking to work more collaboratively to potentially attract further funding as Government only want to direct resources to combined authorities. TWC wanted to align with the West Midlands Combined Authority but they don't want Telford.

Government also want to reduce the number of police forces. The West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner was currently consulting on people's views.

All in the Rural areas felt that big was not better.

### Services devolved to town/parish councils

Shrewsbury Town Council are taking over all Streetscene services including litter picking, bin emptying, weed killing, graffiti removal, road and footway sweeping (previously Shropshire Council's contractor *Idverde*). Two staff TUPE'd and a further seven recruited. All mechanical sweepers and vehicles would be ready for 1<sup>st</sup> April start.

This service together with funding to support CCTV Monitoring and cover non-statutory services had resulted in the council doubling Council Tax.

The Council has increased communications and undertaken surveys. This had resulted in positive engagement and very few complaints about council tax increases.

Martyn's Law and the potential implications for Parish & Town Councils as a result of the new legislation. Update presentation by Helen Ball.

*Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025) became law on April 3, 2025, requiring UK venues with capacities over 200 to implement mandatory security measures, training, and emergency plans. Named after [Martyn Hett](#), it splits requirements into a Standard Tier (200-799 capacity) and Enhanced Tier (800+ capacity) to improve terror attack preparedness.*

*Key Details:*

- *Scope: Applies to locations such as restaurants, shops, cinemas, sports grounds, and community centres, and public events.*
- *Standard Tier (200-799 capacity): Requires venues to undertake training, share information, and have a prepared safety plan.*
- *Enhanced Tier (800+ capacity): Requires a formal risk assessment, documented security plan, and potential physical measures like CCTV or enhanced security staff.*
- *Purpose: To improve public safety and ensure consistent, nationwide security protocols in response to the 2017 Manchester Arena attack.*
- *Compliance: The [Security Industry Authority \(SIA\)](#) will likely act as the regulator.*

See the ProtectUK website <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law>

Helen Ball was national lead on Martyn's Law for both NALC & SLCC, the Chair of the Joint Martyn's Law Steering Group and sat on the Home Office Panel reviewing the guidance.

SALC are looking into arranging a mini-conference on Martyn's Law.

Shrewsbury Town Council were awarded £96k of National Lottery Million Hours Funding to undertake a youth project designed to address youth ASB in the town centre.

Regarding Assertion 10 (and dedicated email addresses)

Assertion 10 for the new 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) requirement for UK parish/town councils focusing on digital, data, and IT compliance.

*NALC's Legal Team response if Parish Council unable to comply with Assertion 10:*

The most likely outcome is an 'other matter' or possibly a qualified audit. However, the council also needs to consider bad publicity and erosion of public trust. There is also the possibility of individuals complaining to regulatory bodies such as the ICO resulting in an investigation and ultimately a fine/prosecution.

MD. April 2026