

Shropshire Councillor Report – May 2026

Shropshire Council Appoints New Chief Executive

Shropshire Council has appointed Tanya Miles as its new Chief Executive, subject to ratification by Full Council on 14 May 2026.

Tanya has served as the council's Interim Chief Executive since September 2025.

Before taking on the interim role, Tanya carried out her statutory role as Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services and she has had numerous roles in adults and children's services since joining the council in 1999 as a social worker.

Destination Management Plan Approved

Shropshire Council's Cabinet has approved a new Destination Management Plan (DMP), setting out a clear framework for how tourism and the visitor economy will be developed across Shropshire between 2026 and 2029.

Rather than focusing on increasing visitor numbers alone, the DMP aims to grow the value of tourism by encouraging longer stays, higher local spending and more year-round visits. Regenerative, accessible and inclusive tourism is central to the plan, ensuring tourism delivers benefits for the environment and local communities.

Over the next three years, the plan focuses on increasing serviced accommodation to support short breaks, strengthening Shropshire's identity as a distinctive rural destination, and delivering integrated marketing to attract staying visitors and off-peak travel. It also prioritises the development of regenerative tourism initiatives, stronger partnerships through the Telford and Shropshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership and other networks, and better use of evidence to guide decisions.

The approved DMP provides a framework that town and parish councils, destination marketing organisations and sector-specific groups can use to shape their own plans, guide local projects and support funding and investment bids aligned with an agreed county-wide strategy.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) have explored the processes of CIL allocation, governance, and member involvement to ensure that funds collected from developers are effectively used to support local and strategic infrastructure needs arising from new developments and make the recommendations detailed at 3.0 in light of their investigations. Their report was presented to cabinet with the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Consideration of the revision of the 90/10 split between CIL Local and CIL Strategic funds.

Recommendation 2 -The overall direction and prioritisation of CIL Strategic and CIL Local money be subject to an annual strategy document that is developed by Cabinet and agreed by Council.

Recommendation 3 – That Cabinet review the decision-making structure of the IIG by amending its composition to allow more Member insight.

Cabinet agreed that further work on the recommendations of the Community Infrastructure Levy Task and Finish Group be accepted and taken forward for consideration by Cabinet.

Crisis Resilience Fund

The Government funded Household Support Fund cost-of-living programme officially ended on the 31st March 2026 and is replaced by a 3-year scheme called the Crisis & Resilience Fund.

The fund provides financial support to residents who are struggling to meet essential living costs or who are facing a sudden financial crisis.

Shropshire Council has been awarded £3.67 million each year through the scheme. In addition, the council has received £758,558 of additional, one year funding to help households in need that rely on heating oil, reflecting Shropshire's rural communities.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund is designed to support a wide range of low-income households, and Crisis Payments or Resilience Services but is not limited to people receiving benefits. Support is available for individuals and families who are experiencing short term financial pressure or an unexpected drop in income.

It can support families with children, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, people with disabilities, single person households and those affected by one off financial shocks.

Shropshire Council will currently continue to provide free school meal holiday vouchers over the 2026 Easter and May half-term holidays. However, the criteria and structure of the Crisis & Resilience Fund as designated by government differ from the Household Support Fund, meaning the council cannot continue mass voucher distribution (e.g., school holiday vouchers)

Cabinet agreed that under the CRF:

- Crisis Payments should provide short term financial support for residents facing an immediate financial emergency. This may include help with essential living costs where a person has no other reasonable means of support available.
- Council Tax relief for eligible working age households currently on council tax relief (CTR) support who would be subject to the 20% minimum payment Through the Crisis & Resilience Fund will receive a direct award made to their account of £80 for the year 2026/27.
- Resilience Support: through the Community and Family Hubs and Shropshire Together directory where residents can be offered face to face or online access to a wide range of activities and support services
- Community Co-ordination: Shropshire Council proposals and plans for support schemes with the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise sector include increased access to debt advice, income maximisation and other support around financial resilience.

Residents and members can find out more or apply online via the council's website at: [what-help-can-i-claim-from-the-council/crisis-and-resilience-fund](#) or alternatively applications can be made by calling the Welfare Support Team on 0345 678 9078, or visit Shropshire local sites face to face to discuss alternative options. Residents who already had an application in progress under the Household Support Fund before 1 April 2026 do not need to reapply.

Food waste collections

The Simpler Recycling Legislation came into effect in March 2025 and aims to standardise recycling across England. It includes the statutory requirement that all Waste Collection Authorities, including Shropshire Council, must provide weekly food waste collections from all households from 31 March 2026. As a new legislative requirement, this is considered to be a "new burden" on local authorities, thereby requiring appropriate funding to be made available.

As such, Government has provided funding for initial implementation and capital costs of the scheme only i.e. waste caddies. Shropshire's funding settlement amounted to a reduction in real terms from the previous year and there is no evidence of how funding for weekly food waste collections has been included within the settlement or of the value associated to providing this service to all households each week.

Council officers have worked with both DEFRA and the current waste management provider Veolia ES Shropshire, to find the most cost-effective solution to deliver a legally compliant weekly food waste service. The current contract with Veolia does not provide for the universal service and requires negotiation of existing contractual arrangements or the creation of alternative arrangement incurring cost to the Council.

It is now understood that a number of other local authorities are also struggling to launch their own local arrangements for weekly food collections for 31st March 2026 because of a number of factors including affordability, contractual arrangements, time required to mobilise and geography (e.g. rurality) of the councils concerned. In some cases, they have applied for exemptions to the legislation.

Cabinet therefore noted that compliance with the new arrangement has not been possible at this time and instructed the Service Director for Place Shaping to undertake further work with the current contractor to assess the full costs and timing of a fully compliant scheme. Also, to consider the need for an application to DEFRA for exemption from the regulatory requirements on the basis of rurality and contractual complexity and to write formally DEFRA to confirm the Council's position and plans to design and assess the full cost of the project and the likely timescales involved, again subject to affordability

There will be a further report to Cabinet in July 2026 updating them on progress.

The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund

Shropshire Council has agreed to utilise over £2m of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding programme from the Dept. for Transport, alongside significant private-sector investment, to deliver new EV charge points and expand pavement-charging options for residents without driveways.

Initial analysis indicates that over 550 new charge points could be installed, doubling current provision.

The programme requires no Council capital and is expected to be financially self-sustaining. Under the concession model, the Charge Point Operator will fund installation, operation and maintenance, while the Council will receive an annual concession fee plus a share of charging revenue once utilisation grows. Income will be modest initially but is expected to increase as the network expands and EV uptake rises.

Work is underway to determine suitable locations and areas for delivery of this number of charge points. Charge points will be located on-street, in Council-owned car parks, or on third-party land where appropriate agreements are in place

Potholes: an open letter from the Cabinet member for highways

Dear residents, businesses and road users,

In recent weeks there has been a big increase in the number of potholes on roads across Shropshire. In January 2113 new potholes were reported compared to 1216 in January last year – that's an increase of 77%.

Unfortunately, winter is the time of year when potholes most commonly appear and this year the situation is worse as a result of recent extreme periods of wet, cold and further wet conditions – a situation faced by other councils across the country.

Water gets into cracks in the road, then freezes and expands, and that's why we've all seen a big increase in the number and severity of potholes. Such is the dramatic rise in the number of potholes and their severity we cannot tackle them all at once, and it's not always possible to make permanent repairs due to emergencies or where road conditions don't allow. So, on occasions we resort to a temporary safety repair until we can return in better weather to make a permanent repair. I know that this can annoy people but please be patient as we tackle the pothole backlog.

I am determined to improve Shropshire's roads and when the new administration took control of Shropshire Council last May we made it clear that tackling potholes and improving the county's roads was one of our top priorities. We immediately set up a new pothole repair team to tackle potholes on rural roads and so far, they have tackled over 2200 potholes.

Since May last year we've tackled a total of more than 25,000 potholes on roads across Shropshire – an average of more than 595 every week. However, to deal with the increase in potholes we have created three new repair teams from existing staff and increased the use of night-time working so that the average number of potholes repaired each week is over 800.

Of course, we can only carry out the work that our resources allow. In Shropshire we have one of the biggest road networks to maintain in England (the council is responsible for 3200 miles of roads) but we receive lower funding per mile than many other councils.

However, with the limited resources we receive we need to improve the roads and make them less susceptible to potholes as best we can.

How are we doing that?

Through our annual resurfacing and surface dressing programmes we've been working to improve the county's roads and prevent potholes forming in the first place. Since May last year 25 stretches of roads – measuring 61km – have been surfaced dressed, and more than 40 roads – measuring over 50km – have been resurfaced.

We're about to begin this year's programme of surface dressing, with 72 stretches of road across the county being treated to help prevent problems arising in future. And we'll soon be announcing our resurfacing programme for this year.

We have made changes to our highways contract to help ensure that we carry out more proactive surfacing work, and more, better, reactive repairs

And we've received an increased funding allocation from the Government that we'll be investing in the county's roads – but we'll continue to lobby Government for fairer funding for Shropshire.

A warm, dry spell of weather will also be of great help – ensuring that we can carry out more repairs, and reducing the number of newly created potholes.

In short, I'm determined to improve the county's roads and to make them safer for all who use them. I know this will be a challenge, but it's a challenge that councils are facing across the country and one that I'm determined to meet here in Shropshire.

It's also a challenge that you can help us with. If you spot a pothole or series of potholes in need of repair, please let us know. To report a problem, use the FixMyStreet app or visit our website – www.shropshire.gov.uk/highways. Alternatively, you can call us on 0345 678 9006. I know that there have been problems with FixMyStreet where potholes are reported to be fixed when this is not always the case. We are working to improve FixMyStreet but, in the meantime, do let me know if a response is not accurate.

I want to record the thanks of everyone at the council for the hard work undertaken by our teams who are out across the county every day fixing potholes, often in terrible conditions and at night. If you see work taking place please be patient and respectful. Our teams are working as hard as they can.

I am determined that the situation will improve over the coming months.

Yours

Councillor David Vasmer

Road Closure: B4397 Burlton to B5063 junc

Start Date: 10th April 2026

End Date: 29th May 2026

Purpose: Site 70 surface dressing including sweeping and lining as follows:

Stud removal: 10/04/26

Dressing incl w/e: 08/05/26-10/05/26

Lock Chip: 21/05/26-22/05/26

Lining: 28/05/26-29/05/26

Weekdays: 09:30-16:00

Weekends: 06:00-18:00

Please note that these works are weather dependent and subject to change.

Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

Works Promoter Ref: UJ211SD26-70

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB148314732>

Road Closure: A528, through Burlton, Burlton (Sunday working)

Start Date: 31st May 2026

End Date: 31st May 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Repair defective manhole frame and cover

Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water

Works Promoter Ref: LB7012204-000013701768B-02

Enforcement pattern for A528, through Burlton, Burlton: 9.30 - 15.30hrs

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB146673911>

Road Closure: Salters Lane, Loppington

Start Date: 8th June 2026

End Date: 8th June 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - MJ Quinn are to build 1x box

Works Promoter: OPENREACH LIMITED

Works Promoter Ref: BC518MACBWWGQWV18L-02

Enforcement pattern for Salters Lane, Loppington: 8.00 - 17.00hrs

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB148767971>