

The Town Council considered the survey put out by Shropshire Council at the meeting held on 28.8.24. The Town Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor put together a response to this survey which can be seen in Appendix A

Whilst a response has not been received agenda from Shropshire Council at the time of issuing the, it is possible that Shropshire Council may approach the Town Council in the coming weeks to discuss the provision of funding from the Town Council to support the continuation of some local services in the town.

If the Town Council decides to provide funding to Shropshire Council to enable them to continue to run certain services the town, unless funding to the services that the Town Council currently provides is cut in the 2025-26 budget, it is inevitable that any decision to support Shropshire Council run services will result in an increase in the annual precept. Therefore, before any final decision is taken on this matter, it is recommended that the Town Council consults with the community of Wem. The responses would then help the Town Council decide on what services (if any) to provide financial support for.

As the Town Council sets its budget in January 2025 it is vital that if a consultation is to be undertaken, it must be completed before the end of November to give council time to consider it prior to budget setting.

#### **Clerks Recommendation**

**To establish a working party composed of the Town Clerk and up to 3 councillors (including Mayor and Deputy Mayor) to meet with representatives from Shropshire Council to discuss any future funding proposals.**

**That subject to the outcome of this meeting, to delegate authority to the working party to compose and arrange for the distribution of a survey seeking the views of the community of Wem on what services they consider to be a priority and how much additional precept they may be prepared to pay to support these services. Survey to be sent out prior to the October meeting.**

## Appendix A

**FUTURE OPTIONS WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS SURVEY**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this quick survey, your feedback is appreciated.

What is your name?	Penny O'Hagan
Which town or parish Council are you responding on behalf of?	Wem
What position do you hold regarding the town or parish councils?	Town Clerk
Who do you want us to speak with as the lead contact for these conversations? Please provide their email address.	Penny O'Hagan info@wem.gov.uk
Please chose from the following options the one that best describes the current position with regard to the request for help from Shropshire Council:	
1. Yes we are in a position to help, please get in touch for a conversation.	
2. Yes, we are willing to help but it depends on the resources required, please get in touch for a conversation.	X
3. No, we are willing to help but do not have the resources available.	
4. No, unfortunately we are no in a position to help.	
Please tell us more about the option you chose if you wish to.	
<p>The Town Council would be willing to discuss options with Shropshire Council however the council is not willing to provide financial support just to keep the same level of service as currently provided to residents.</p> <p>If any financial support is provided to run services in the town it will be on the condition that Shropshire Council commits to work with the Town Council to shape and develop these services to ensure that they meet the needs of the community. The Town Council has a strong track record of providing services locally and Shropshire Council must be willing to listen and learn from our experiences and ways of working.</p> <p>The Town Council may decide to undertake a community consultation if any financial support is to be provided will result in an increase in the precept to ensure that it has the backing of the community. Therefore, it is important that conversations start as soon as possible as a final decision on this matter will need to be made by 31.12.24</p> <p>The Town Council would prefer an initial face to face meeting with officers to discuss any proposals.</p>	
So that we can make the most of your time when we speak, could you just outline any particular services or facilities or locations you want to particularly consider in relation to culture and leisure or 'streetscene'.	
The Town Council is open to discussions on any services.	