

Service Support Working Party

As part of discussions about the need for the Town Council to support key services at risk of being reduced or cut by Shropshire Council—such as library services or street cleaning—due to its financial pressures, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolution 18.12.26 (136/25-29)**Resolved:**

To allocate £30,000 from the Service Transformation Earmarked Reserve to allow for either time-limited support to key charitable organisations, or financial support for the local delivery of statutory services that are at risk, excluding sporting, leisure, or recreational organisations.

Budget Meeting 22.01.26 (152/25-29)**Resolved:**

- **To establish a Service Support budget line and incorporate the 2026/27 contribution allocations made under this minute point within it.**
- **To defer any decision regarding the establishment of a Working Party to discuss the remit of this budget code to the next meeting.**

As of 1 April 2026, this budget code will have £48,000 allocated: £30,000 from earmarked reserves and £18,000 representing the contributions already agreed for Millennium Green, Whitchurch Road Cemetery, Wem Town Hall, and Wem Youth Club.

Looking ahead to the 2027–28 budget, it will be important to provide clear guidance on how this budget code will be managed and how organisations can apply for funding. It is anticipated that a block amount will be allocated within the budget, followed by a competitive application process, similar to the approach currently used for small grants. To ensure this is done effectively, a Working Party is required to consider the process in detail.

Service Support Working Party**Suggested Composition**

Up to 5 councillors supported by The RFO.

Proposed Remit**The Working Party will:**

- **Outline the purpose of the Service Support budget code including what it may be used to fund, ensuring alignment with the Council's financial constraints, legal powers and community priorities.**
- **Provide guidance on the use of earmarked reserve funds within the current financial year to respond to urgent service needs, ensuring timely support for services under immediate threat.**
- **Develop a clear process for organisations to apply for funding in 2027-28 ensuring a fair and transparent process and consider how the Town Council will make organisations currently in receipt of larger contributions aware of this change,.**