

From: Dianne Dorrell <dianne.dorrell@shropshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2021 16:06
Subject: Shropshire Council Review Of Planning Committees

Forwarded on behalf of Shropshire Council's Place Overview Committee

Dear Parish Council

The Place Overview Committee is examining Shropshire Council's decision in 2019 to reduce the number of planning committees from three to two, removing its central planning committee that covered Shrewsbury and neighbouring divisions. The Council decision required overview and scrutiny to review the decision after two years. As part of its work, the committee is seeking the views of all councillors, as well as town and parish councils throughout Shropshire.

We would therefore be grateful if you could share your thoughts with us on the impact of the 2019 decision.

The questionnaire below provides a number of questions to help prompt your thoughts on lines of enquiry that committee members are pursuing. You do not need to answer all of them, or indeed any of them as there is an opportunity to add any other thoughts you might have.

As time is tight to complete this work, please send your responses to us by Friday 1 October.

Kind regards

Sam.Johnson@shropshire.gov.uk

Place Overview Committee
Review of planning committee structures

What do you think has been the impact of reducing the number of committees from three to two?

- Does this result in less informed decision making?
- Does this result in less representative decision making?
- Does this result in less emotive decision making?

How should elected members determine planning applications with strategic implications across Shropshire, but significant local impact, such as the North West Relief Road? Should this be by a local committee or by a strategic committee covering the local authority area?

Do you think – or do think committee members – are more inclined to go with officer recommendations when they have less knowledge or connection to an area?

Do members feel that they are listened to by planning officers when they request applications go to committee?

What would help local members to be more involved in the decision about whether an application goes to committee?

- Would a pre-meeting with the committee chair and planning officer help?
- Would direct links to planning applications streamline the process of reviewing applications?

Parish and town councils: Do you think you are provided with sufficient planning training to put relevant planning reasons for refusal forward?

Should elected members be required to visit the site of a planning application before they make a decision about it?

Are there any other comments or observations that you'd like to make?