

Place Plan Frequently Asked Questions May 2023

What are Place Plans?

Place Plans provide important evidence to support the delivery of the Development Plan for the area. There are 18 Place Plan areas in Shropshire focusing on local infrastructure needs in settlements across the county associated with the planned growth.

Infrastructure can a range of things such as highway improvements (on both local and strategic networks), new or expanded education facilities, open spaces and leisure facilities, health facilities, water, electric and gas utilities, broadband and flood defences.

Different organisations are responsible for the delivery of infrastructure, and Shropshire Council works with a range of infrastructure partners in seeking to identify capacity issues, and in seeking to align investment programmes to planned levels of future growth.

Why are Place Plans important?

Infrastructure is key to securing sustainable growth in Shropshire. Place Plans provide an evidence base that support a range of council plans and help the Council prioritise resources effectively. These strategies include:

- The Local Plan;
- Economic Growth Strategy;
- Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan;
- Local Transport Plan;
- Shrewsbury Big Town Plan

Ultimately, the Place Plans provide a robust evidence base for identifying and prioritising practical infrastructure needs of area and allocating resources appropriately.

How are projects listed in the Place Plan

Infrastructure projects in the Place Plans come from a range of different Shropshire Council Departments who are responsible for Shropshire's infrastructure. External organisations that are responsible for infrastructure such as utility companies, broadband providers, the Integrated Care Board and transport infrastructure providers also add in their projects to the Place Plans

Discussions with internal Shropshire Council departments have taken place to identify their known infrastructure requirements. Key departments include Highways, Education, Culture and Leisure and Economic Growth.

Those projects associated with Section 106 (planning obligations) funding have also been included in the Place Plans to better understand infrastructure need resulting from specific developments and to ensure the widest possible information around expected delivery is available.

Place Plan Frequently Asked Questions May 2023

How are Strategic Projects identified and added to the Place Plans?

The Strategic Infrastructure Network is a new forum for strategic infrastructure providers that will meet to discuss key infrastructure needs and projects in Shropshire.

Through the evidence base created for the current Local Plan review (currently at Examination in Public) we already have a good understanding of some of the key strategic infrastructure needs of the County as a result of planned growth. The Strategic Infrastructure Network will supplement this information, including with evidence from capital investment programmes, and will support the prioritising of future resources appropriately, including the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

Engagement with Town and Parish Councils

While Place Plans are Shropshire Council documents, and primarily are focused on delivering strategic infrastructure it is important that local infrastructure requirements are reflected in the Place Plans, as these local projects help shape the area and provide important facilities for local people to use.

Through the Place Plan team at Shropshire Council we will engage with town and parish councils by

- Providing details of Shropshire Council and Strategic infrastructure projects in your Place Plan area, including details of when they are expected to be delivered;
- Provide the opportunity to nominate additional local infrastructure projects from to support your area;
- Feedback to Shropshire Council departments and strategic partners questions about their infrastructure plans for your area
- Engage with your Place Plan Officer for advice and support on local infrastructure issues in your area
- Town and Parish Councils do not need permission from Shropshire Council to spend CIL Neighbourhood Funds¹, but in order to capture as much information in one place it may be helpful to include Neighbourhood level projects in the Place Plans. This may also support requests for external funding.

Where can I view the Place Plans

Information about infrastructure projects in your Place Plan area will be listed on a new Shropshire Council website which is under development

¹ The CIL Neighbourhood Fund is 15% (capping applies) of the CIL income which is passed to the relevant Parish or Town Council annually. The Neighbourhood Fund rises to 25% (uncapped) in those areas with an approved Neighbourhood Plan.

Place Plan Frequently Asked Questions May 2023

Each Place Plan will list the strategic projects in your area, and their expected timescales for delivery, so you can check on progress of projects through the website without having to request details from Shropshire Council.

The website also has a search function making it easier to find details of specific projects in your area, or different types of infrastructure, such as highways or education projects.

The web pages are under development, but we have arranged for links to the beta version of the website to be shared with Town and Parish Councils to aid the review process.

Submission of potential projects by Town and Parish Councils

- It is anticipated that these will focus on local infrastructure projects which have been identified in your area.
- They could include items such as new or enhanced community buildings; play areas; community green spaces; sport and leisure facilities; footpaths and community energy schemes; and sustainable energy schemes.
- Projects may have been identified through Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, community consultations or through your Town and Parish Councils own programs
- Projects should be clearly defined, have local support and evidenced why they are required
- Community led projects should be nominated through the town and parish council for that area, by the town or parish clerk
- A dedicated form for submission of projects has been created, which we will share with town and parish councils you via email.

What happens on submission of a project

- You will receive a notification we have received the form
- The form will be checked by the Place Plan officer to make sure the project is not already on the Plan, and that it is an appropriate project to be included on the Place Plan
- The Place Plan officers may contact you for more information about the project
- Further discussions will be had with Shropshire Council departments and/or the Strategic Infrastructure Network to check the project is appropriate for inclusion on the Place Plan.
- If a project is not suitable to be included on the Place Plan your town or parish council will be notified of the reasons why, or a request maybe made for more evidence of need for the project
- If a project is suitable, it will be added to the Place Plan and will appear on the Place Plan for your area.
- If you are unsure about the suitability of a project for inclusion, please discuss it with your Place Plan officer

Place Plan Frequently Asked Questions May 2023

- Town and Parish Councils do not need permission from Shropshire Council to spend CIL Neighbourhood Funds², but in order to capture as much information in one place it may be helpful to include Neighbourhood level projects in the Place Plans. This may also support requests for external funding.

When is the place plan review happening

This Place Plan review started in 2023 and the aim is to have the 18 documents agreed by Shropshire Council in the autumn. Despite this, it is important to recognise that the Place Plans are intended to be 'live' documents and therefore there will be opportunity to feed in additional information and/or projects at any time. To support this we are asking Towns and Parish Council to nominate their local projects from now until **Monday 7th August 2023**.

How are projects in the Place Plans funded

Funding for projects comes from a range of different sources including core Shropshire Council funding; 106 and developer contributions; central government funding; strategic infrastructure providers as well as through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, including the Neighbourhood Fund element of the CIL.

The Place Plans are used as an evidence base to help allocate funding, and to secure external funding

Any further questions please email, placeplans@shropshire.gov.uk and a Place Plan Officer will respond to your enquiry

Further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Shropshire Council policies on the collection and distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be found on the following weblink

Website link

www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/

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