

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 15:58:32 British Summer Time

Subject: A New Way of Working Together
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 at 17:14:05 British Summer Time
From: James Walton
Attachments: Council Partnerships - Memorandum of Understanding - Aug25.pdf

Dear Town and Parish Councils

As you will recall, Shropshire Council's Deputy Leader, Alex Wagner, and Chair of Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee, David Minnery, reached out to you in June 2025 to get your views on resetting our relationships as we look to work more closely in true partnership for the benefit of our local communities.

I know that Alex and David have been humbled by the responses so far and, where you have suggested a willingness for further discussions, we will be contacting you in the near future to make arrangements and are looking to set a new policy aimed at working in closer partnership.

In the meantime, we have been working with colleagues at Shrewsbury Town Council, with whom we already have an existing working relationship on issues including street maintenance, to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set out a clear framework in which to move forward successfully.

The MoU is not a legal document but more a formal agreement of how we want to work together in mutual respect, trust, and transparency, as equal partners from the very beginning.

It is a template document that we can sign together to symbolise our commitment going forward. It is intended to set a basis of collaborating that we recognise may eventually reach different outcomes for different areas, but which we hope can provide solutions for both the sparsest most rural parish and the largest market town.

If you would be happy to sign up to the document, then please respond to me and we will work with you to make the necessary arrangements.

We are excited by what we can achieve together and hope you will see this as a helpful first step to resetting our relationship and working as equals. We remain ready to listen.

James Walton
Executive Director (Section 151)

Tel: 01743 258915
Mob: 07815 470882
Email: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk

Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer): Shropshire Council
Treasurer: Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
Treasurer: West Mercia Energy
