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## News in brief

● **HOME FURNISHINGS** store Ikea says many Shropshire homes are waste of space – it found that the average cost of wasted space in a home, over a 25-year mortgage, is an eye-watering £54,290. Property specialist Roger Southam explained: "The findings are very revealing. Never forget, absolutely every square inch of your home costs you money. If you're not using it, you're losing it. Firstly, don't automatically use rooms the way they've

always been used. Think of them as blank spaces and work out which room types actually suit your family's needs. Then get rid of the clutter by using smart storage and making better use of space. The result can be anything from creating a family entertainment room, which saves on spending going out, to creating a room to rent, which actually brings money in. Whatever you choose, focus on making every room in the house work for you."