

# Cabinet

# Agenda

4<sup>th</sup> May 2006

The Cabinet will meet at the **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **THURSDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**  
at **1.45 P.M.**

The agenda will be :

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence.**

**(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Members are reminded that they should disclose the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as District/Borough councillors and as members of the Warwickshire Police Authority are declared below:

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Peter Fowler, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council and the Warwickshire Police Authority.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Member of Rugby Borough Council.

Councillor Chris Saint, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council and the Warwickshire Police Authority.

Councillor Bob Stevens, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

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The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web  
[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers)



**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th April 2006 and Matters Arising.  
(For exempt items see later on the agenda).**

**(4) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.**

## **PART A - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION (WHITE PAPERS)**

### **2. Announcement by Peugeot of the Closure of the Ryton Plant**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy. **TO FOLLOW**

Cabinet will consider the consequences of the recent announcement about the proposed closure of the Peugeot plant at Ryton.

For further information please contact: David S. Williams, County Economic Development Officer. Tel: 01926 412401, e-mail: [davidswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:davidswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **3. Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector**

The report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development.

The report introduces a Strategy for Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the period from 2006 to 2111 and summarises the development and consultation process followed in producing the Strategy.

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet approves the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006-2111 for implementation.

For further information please contact: John Lyons, Community Development Officer. Tel: 01926 746824, e-mail: [johnlyons@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnlyons@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **4. Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire**

The report of the Chair of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The report summarises the approach taken by the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the multi-agency approach taken to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire and outlines the subsequent outcomes.

Cabinet is asked to lend its support to the use of the additional resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the profile of the issues highlighted.

## **Recommendation from the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-**

That Cabinet supports the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the priority of the issues listed in the report.

For further information please contact: Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 412476, e-mail: [jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk) or: Gereint Stoneman, Corporate Review Officer. Tel: 01926 412379, e-mail: [gerientstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:gerientstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **5. White Paper: Our Health, Our Care, Our Say**

The report of the Strategic Director for Adult Health & Community Services.

The report provides an outline of the main thrusts of the White Paper “ Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” and an initial assessment of local issues for adult social care, health and well being pending a further report.

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet supports the development of local partnership working to offer better community based health care services and to requests further reports on developing this agenda as soon as possible.

For further information please contact: Graeme Betts, Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services. Tel: 01926 412198, e-mail [graemebetts@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:graemebetts@warwickshire.gov.uk) or Michael Hake, Interim Head of Services Tel: 01926 412198.

### **6. Funding for the Customer Service Centre**

The report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development on behalf of the Modernisation Fund Group.

The report sets out a recommendation from the Modernisation Fund Group (established by Council in February) for additional funding for the Customer Service Centre.

#### **Recommendation from the Modernisation Fund Group**

That Cabinet approves the additional funding of £785,000 to meet the existing shortfall for 2006/07 and recognise that a further £500,000 will be required for staffing and further development work within the Customer Service Centre during 2006/07.

For further information please contact: David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and Development. Tel: 01926 412564, e-mail:

[davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk) or: Kushal Birla, Head of Customer Service and Access. Tel: 01926 736362 , e-mail: [kushalbirla@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:kushalbirla@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**7. Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon**

The report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development.

Local members - Councillors Richard Hyde and Mike Perry.

The report relates to a Zebra Crossing which has been proposed as part of a traffic management scheme for Bridgetown, funded through the Trinity Mead development. The crossing forms part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, local safety schemes and a facility for Quality Pedestrian Corridors.

The proposal was agreed by the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15th March. The Area Committee's decision was subsequently called-in by Councillor Izzie Secombe, in her capacity as a Cabinet member, for determination by the Cabinet.

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet considers the proposal.

For further information please contact: Pete Keeley, Principal Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 412450, e-mail: [petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**8. Additional Road Maintenance Funding - North Warwickshire**

The report of the Chair of the North Warwickshire Area Committee.

The North Warwickshire Area Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy setting out the Capital Programme for Transport 2006-07 in the North Warwickshire Area. Additional to the delegated budget of £40,000 for transport projects, is an amount of £300,000 available for capital funded road maintenance schemes. The Area Committee agreed to request approval from the Cabinet to use the allocation of £300,000 for structural road maintenance and improvement schemes.

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet gives approval for the use of the delegated budget of £300,000 for capital funded structural road maintenance schemes be expanded to include road improvements.

For further information please contact: Alison Williams, North Warwickshire Area Tel: 01827 721084, e-mail: [alisonwilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:alisonwilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk) or: Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 418079, e-mail: [annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **PART B - ITEMS FOR EN BLOC DECISIONS (YELLOW PAPERS)**

### **9. School Term and Holiday Dates 2007/08**

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

This report asks Cabinet to approve the school term and holiday dates for 2007/08.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the school term and holiday dates calendar for 2007/08 attached as Appendix A to the Strategic Director's report be adopted.

For further information please contact: Craig Pratt, Principal Administrative Officer. Tel: 01926 412001, e-mail: [craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **10. Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Businesses**

The report of the Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In March 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. The County Council has been working beyond these guidelines for some time.

The Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, on 16 March 2006, on this issue recommends that Cabinet adopt the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide.

#### **Recommendation from the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-**

That Cabinet adopts the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide.

For further information please contact: Jean Hardwick , Principal Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 412476, e-mail: [jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk) or: Leigh Hunt, Business Support Officer. Tel: 01926 412247, e-mail: [leighhunt@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:leighhunt@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **11. Response to the Consultation on the Revision of England's Waste Strategy**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

England's Waste Strategy was published in 2000. It set out how England's waste

should be managed, setting challenging targets for recycling, composting and recovery of waste. The Government has published a review of the Strategy, with the proposal to publish the revised Strategy later in the year. The overall approach of the review is supported.

### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet supports the proposed response to the review of England's Waste Strategy.

For further information please contact: Kalen Wood, Projects Manager, Waste Management. Tel: 01926 418064, e-mail: [kalenwood@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:kalenwood@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **12. Government Consultations on EU Funding Proposals for 2007-2013 and the UK's New Assisted Areas Map**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The Government is consulting on its proposals for the new Structural Fund programme, new England Rural Development programme and new Assisted Areas map. This report summarises the main issues in the three consultations and requests Cabinet support for the steps being taken to maximise the benefits of future regional policy and funding for Warwickshire.

### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet:-

- (1) Supports the steps being taken to maximise the benefits of future regional policy and funding for Warwickshire.
- (2) Requests further reports as the new European Union (EU) funding programmes and new UK Assisted Areas map develop.

For further information please contact: Matthew Epps, Regeneration Policy and Europe. Tel: 01926 412566, e-mail: [matthewepps@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:matthewepps@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
or: Mandy Walker, Regeneration Projects Manager. Tel: Tel. 01926 412843, e-mail: [mandywalker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mandywalker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **13. Any Other Items**

To consider any other items that the Chair decides are urgent.

## **PART C - EXEMPT ITEMS (PURPLE PAPERS)**

#### **14. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

To consider passing the following resolution:

'That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3, 4 & 5 of the Local Government Act 1972'.

(NB. Copies of extracts describing exempt information are available in Warwickshire Libraries, the County Council Handbook and the Access to Information Register held in my office).

#### **15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and Matters Arising.**

#### **16. Funding the Implementation of the Equal Pay Strategy**

The report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development.

The Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendation of the Modernisation Fund Group relating to the allocation of resources from the Modernisation Fund to support the costs of implementing the Equal Pay Strategy.

For further information please contact: David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance & Development. Tel: 01926 412564, e-mail [davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk)

#### **17. Warwick - 31 Shakespeare Avenue**

The report of the Strategic Director of Resources

Local member - Councillor Raj Randev:

The report seeks approval to sell 31 Shakespeare Avenue, Warwick.

For further information please contact: Harvinder Singh, Estates Surveyor. Tel: 01926 418093, e-mail: [harvindersingh@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:harvindersingh@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Shire Hall,  
Warwick**

**JIM GRAHAM,  
Chief Executive**

**April 2006**

## Cabinet Membership

Councillor Alan Farnell (**Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet**) (**Policy and Governance**),

[cllrfarnell@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrfarnell@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor John Burton (**Schools**),

[cllrburton@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrburton@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Alan Cockburn (**Corporate Services**),

[cllrcockburn@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcockburn@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Peter Fowler (**Family Services**),

[cllrfowler@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrfowler@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Colin Hayfield (**Adult and Community Services**),

[cllrhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Martin Heatley (**Environmental Services**),

[cllrheatley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrheatley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Richard Hobbs (**Community Safety**),

[cllrhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Chris Saint (**Economic Development**),

[cllrsaint@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsaint@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (**Children's Services**),

[cllrmsseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmsseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Councillor Bob Stevens (**Performance Management**),

[cllrstevens@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrstevens@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Non-voting Invitees - Councillor June Tandy (**Leader of the Labour Group**) [cllmrstandy@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllmrstandy@warwickshire.gov.uk) and Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (**Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**) [cllrroodhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrroodhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk), or their representatives.

**General Enquiries:** Please contact Pete Keeley, Member Services, Performance and Development Directorate Tel: 01926 412450 Email: [petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Enquiries about specific reports:** Please contact the officers named in the reports.

# The reports referred to are available in large print if requested.

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**The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006.**

**Present**

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillor Alan Farnell (Chair) (Policy and Governance),  
“ John Burton (Schools),  
“ Alan Cockburn (Corporate Services),  
“ Peter Fowler (Family Services),  
“ Colin Hayfield (Adult and Community Services),  
“ Richard Hobbs (Community Safety),  
“ Martin Heatley (Environment),  
“ Chris Saint (Economic Development),  
“ Izzi Seccombe (Children’s Services),  
“ Bob Stevens (Performance Management).

**Non-Voting Invitees:**

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group,  
“ Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

**Other Members:**

Councillors John Appleton, David Booth, Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Josie Compton, Anne Forwood, Richard Grant, Marion Haywood, Mick Jones, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy, Tim Naylor, Raj Randev and Sid Tooth.

**(1) Apologies for absence.**

None.

**(2) Members’ Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as District/Borough councillors and as members of the Warwickshire Police Authority are declared below:

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Member of Warwick District Council.  
Councillor Peter Fowler, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.  
Councillor Colin Hayfield, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.  
Councillor Richard Hobbs, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council and the Warwickshire Police Authority.  
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Member of Rugby Borough Council.

Councillor Chris Saint, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.  
Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council  
and the Warwickshire Police Authority.  
Councillor Bob Stevens, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Josie Compton declared a personal interest in any matters affecting the Warwick District Council, as a member of that Council.

Councillor Anne Forwood declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 – 2006/07 Revenue Estimates.

Councillors David Booth and Izzi Seccombe declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 – Admission Arrangements – September 2007, as School Governors.

Councillors John Appleton and Bob Stevens declared personal interests in Agenda Item 27 – Southam Town Centre Redevelopment.

Councillor Alan Farnell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Schools Organisation Framework 2005/2010, because his wife was the headteacher at one of the schools listed in the report.

### **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and Matters Arising.**

With regard to Minute 4, the Establishment of Warwickshire's Safeguarding Children Board, the reference to the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Family Services should be referred to the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 meeting, as amended be approved.

There were no matters arising.

### **(4) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.**

None.

Councillor June Tandy and several other Councillors expressed concern that Agenda Item 26 relating to the 2006/07 Annual Efficiency Statement for the Council as Fire Authority was to be considered in private and requested the Cabinet to consider the matter public.

During the discussion, members were advised that the report raised certain labour relations issues and although the officers considered it was appropriate for the matter to be considered in private, the Cabinet could decide to consider the matter in public if it so wished.

Following a vote the Cabinet decided that having regard to the exempt information contained in the report it should be considered in private.

## **2. 2006/07 to 2008/09 Medium Term Efficiency Plan**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which sought members' approval of the medium term efficiency strategy and plan. The report provided a forecast level of efficiency gains that were expected to be achieved in 2006/07 that would be submitted to the government in the Council's 2006/07 Forward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement.

In response to comments made during the debate, Dave Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources, indicated that consideration would be given to including more detail in future reports although regard must be had to the readability of the report.

Members noted that further reports on efficiency savings would be submitted to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Approves the Medium Term Efficiency Strategy, attached at Appendix A to the report.
- (2) Approves the Medium Term Efficiency Plan, attached at Appendix B to the report.
- (3) Notes the forecast of efficiency gains for 2006/07.
- (4) Approves the draft 2006/07 forward-looking Annual Efficiency Statement attached at Appendix D for submission to the Government.
- (5) Authorises the Strategic Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leaders and Chief Executive to make any changes necessary to the 2006/07 Forward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement prior to its submission to the government on 18 April 2006.

## **3. 2006/07 Revenue Estimates**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Resources which provided members with further details on Strategic Directors detailed proposals for the use of the resources allocated at Council on 7 February 2006 and their comments on the implications for their service.

During his introduction of this item, Councillor Alan Cockburn suggested that with regard to the proposed increases in the cost of meals on wheels, whereas he had no objection to the proposed increases for the coming year, he felt that the costs for future years should be examined by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee possibly during the late Summer/Autumn.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Approves the detailed estimates for each service directorate as outlined in Appendices A to G of the report and in the accompanying separate document titled “2006/07 Revenue Budget – Detailed Service Estimates”,
- (2) Approves the grants to voluntary organisations listed in section 3 of Appendix A of the report.
- (3) Approves the increase in charges of 35p per meal for meals on wheels and lunch clubs for 2006/07 to allow a phasing out of the management fee as detailed in section 4 of Appendix A and that the cost of meals for subsequent years be examined by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4. Children and Young People’s Plan**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought the Cabinet’s approval to the first Children and Young People’s Plan.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Izzi Seccombe members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- o The Plan was a strategic document and underlying documents would contain targets.
- o The Plan submitted to the Cabinet would be strengthened in relation to targets and partnership working.
- o Consideration should be given to the way in which the Plan was to be scrutinized given that the Council was one of several partners .
- o The Stratford on Avon District Council had been involved in the preparation of the Strategy through its involvement with the Strategic Partnership Board.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet recommend to Council that the first Children and Young People’s Plan be approved for further development in consultation with partners, stakeholders, and children, young people and their families over the next 18 months.

#### **5. School Organisation Framework 2005/10**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which provided feedback on the formal consultation and sought approval to a document amended in the light of comments and other developments.

Following introductory comments from Councillor John Burton, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse suggested that, the consultations proposed with schools about the use of school accommodation should include the possibility of use for

developments such as one stop shops.

Resolved:-

- (1) That responses to the consultation on the draft School Organisation Framework be noted.
- (2) That the School Organisation Framework 2005/10 be approved as amended.

## **6. Admission Arrangements – September 2007**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

The paper contained responses to the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for September 2007 and also proposed arrangements for admissions to Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools.

During his introduction of the item Councillor John Burton stressed the need for parents to be made aware of the timetable for admissions arrangements.

Councillor David Booth drew attention to the disadvantages of the time table to members of the armed forces.

It was then Resolved:-

That Cabinet endorse :

- (1) the responses to the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements and confirm their determination for admissions in September 2007, and
- (2) the proposed admission arrangements from the Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools listed in para. 3 of the Strategic Director's report.

## **7. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

The Cabinet was requested to approve the countywide multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy approved by Crime and Disorder Partnerships at district level as a basis for tackling anti-social behaviour. The Strategy related to the Corporate Objective of: 'To reduce crime and improve the safety of the community'.

During his introduction of the item Councillor Richard Hobbs drew attention to the likely need for a review of the Strategy bearing in mind the changes under Police reform and in the Crime Reduction Partnerships.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet endorse the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and action plan on behalf of the County Council.
- (2) That in view of the changing agenda of the Crime Reduction Partnerships and the fast and ever changing view of the Home Office on Police Reform, the Cabinet ask the Strategic Director of Community Protection to review the Strategy in six months time.

**8. Capital Expenditure on New Youth & Community and Adult & Community Learning Facilities in Stratford**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People & Families and the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services.

Approval was sought for the use of a capital grant from the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust to meet the needs of the Youth & Community and Adult & Community Learning Services in Stratford.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the capital projects identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report be added to the 2006/07 capital programme at an estimated total cost of £106,000, to be funded from the grant receivable from the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.
- (2) That the balance of the grant be available for corporate capital resources.
- (3) That, in the unlikely event that more funds are needed to complete the project, the matter be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration.

**9. Change to Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought approval to proposals to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby, following the response to formal consultation.

Following comments from Councillor John Burton it was Resolved:-

That Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby, from 25 to 30 places per year.

**10. Change to Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young

People and Families which sought approval to proposals to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford, following the response to formal consultation.

Following comments from Councillor John Burton it was Resolved:-

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the proposal to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford, from 45 to 60 places per year.

## **11. Stratford Vision**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy which asked the Cabinet to note the contents, and support where appropriate the Vision Document, published by Stratford on Avon District Council in January this year.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Chris Saint, it was suggested that the Stratford on Avon Area Committee should be kept informed of any developments .

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet notes the contents of the Stratford-upon-Avon Vision document and suggests further investigations into the transport proposals through the review of the Transport Strategy later this year.
- (2) That the Stratford on Avon Area committee be kept informed of progress with the Vision.

## **12. Speed Limit on the B4086 Banbury Road at Kineton**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Stratford Area Committee.

Following formal advertisement of a proposed 30 mph and 40 mph speed limit on the B4086 Banbury Road, Kineton, five objections were received from residents.

The objections were considered by the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15th March.

The Committee resolved that a 30 mph speed limit should be applied to the whole length of Banbury Road concerned rather than the speed limit proposals which were advertised.

Given that such a speed limit would not be in accordance with the Council's normal policy, the Cabinet was asked to consider the matter.

The Area Committee had recommended that the Cabinet resolves either:

- (1) notwithstanding that this is not in accordance with the Council's normal

policy, that a Traffic Order be advertised replacing the existing 40 mph speed limit on the B4086 Banbury Road, Kineton by a 30 mph speed limit;

or (if option (1) was not acceptable)

(2) that a Traffic Order be made in the following terms:

- (i) That the existing 40 mph limit be retained on the B4086 Banbury Road, Kineton with a 36 metre extension of the 30 mph speed limit as advertised;
- (ii) That speed reducing measures be introduced as described in this report to encourage compliance with both speed limits.

During his introduction of the item Councillor Martin Heatley suggested that the Cabinet should defer consideration of the matter pending receipt of new speed limit guidelines from the ODPM. He indicated that when the new guidelines had been received a workshop would be held for Councillors and representatives of the district /borough councils.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- o An in depth review be undertaken of A and B roads with poor accident records so that decisions could be taken under the new guidelines.
- o The Parish Council had rejected a 30 mph speed limit along the whole section of the road concerned because of the engineering measures that would be needed.
- o There was concern that deferment would lead to delay in reaching a decision concerning Banbury Road. New guidelines were expected during May/June although there was no guarantee regarding the timing.
- o With regard to the process for considering the expected guidelines, it was proposed that a scrutiny workshop be held on 12st September following which the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider the issues before making recommendations to the Cabinet. It would then be appropriate for the Cabinet to consider the proposals relating to Banbury Road at Kineton.
- o It was suggested that a seminar for Town/Parish Councils should be held in parallel to the seminar being arranged for members.
- o The Government should be asked to confirm the publication arrangements for the new guidelines.
- o Having regard to the length of time that could be taken in preparing a new strategy, members considered that a time limit should be set for the consideration of the Kineton proposals.

It was then Resolved:-



That consideration of the proposed speed limit on the Banbury Road at Kineton be deferred to enable re-consideration of the council's speed limit policy following receipt of the new guidelines but, in any event, the speed limit proposal for the Banbury Road be reconsidered by the end of November 2006.

### **13. Revised Policy for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossings and Pedestrian Phases at Traffic Signals.**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The report set out a revised policy for the provision of pedestrian crossings and pedestrian phases at traffic signals to ensure the most effective use of the available resources.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:-

- (1) Approves the Policy for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossings and Pedestrian Phases at Traffic Signals in Appendix A of the report together with the associated Technical Procedure.
- (2) Authorises the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy or his nominee to review, amend or update the Technical Procedure in accordance with the Policy as he considers appropriate.

### **14. Warwickshire County Council Submission to the DTI Energy Review**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy was considered.

The report summarised the current Energy Review Consultation Paper – Our Energy Challenge (securing clean, affordable energy for the long term) – Have Your Say.

The paper contained a draft County Council response to the specific questions raised within it. The consultation was taking place at a highly relevant time and coincided with work on developing a countywide Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Cabinet was asked to consider and comment upon the draft response before it was submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) prior to the consultation deadline of 14th April 2006.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet agrees the response to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Energy Review attached as Appendix B to the report.

### **15. Charges to District Councils for the Disposal of Trade Waste**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy was considered.

The report recommended charges to District Councils for disposal of trade waste collected in 2006/07.

Resolved:-

That the charges for the disposal of general trade waste collected by the District Councils in 2006/2007 be:-

Ling Hall - £32.19 per tonne  
Wilnecote - £37.99 per tonne  
Judkins - £45.16 per tonne  
Hunters Lane - £56.07 per tonne

## **16. Request for Financial Assistance for Home Adaptation for a Disabled Person**

The report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services was considered.

The report dealt with a proposed loan for a house extension for a person with disabilities to facilitate access to basic facilities within the home.

The report also sought delegated authority to enable the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services to make such payments in future without reference to the Cabinet. These would then be included in the periodic review of the Capital Programme reported to Cabinet.

Resolved:-

- (1) [That the Cabinet](#) approves an increase to the capital programme by up to £7,000, financed from revenue, to provide an [interest free loan to Mrs X](#) for [the purpose of financing the extension to her house, subject to terms and conditions approved by the](#) Strategic Director of Performance and Development.
- (2) That the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services be authorised to make grants or loans for house adaptations for people with disabilities in accordance with the agreed policy, on terms and conditions approved by the Strategic Director of Performance and Development. Any payments made to be included in the periodic review of the Capital Programme reported to Cabinet.

## **17. North Leamington School - Best Value**

The report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered

The report described the procedures to be put in place to ensure that best value

was achieved in the procurement of the new North Leamington School.

Resolved:-

That the strategy described in the report of the Strategic Director of Resources for achieving best value in redeveloping North Leamington School be approved.

**18. Instrument of Government for New Woodlands School Opening in April 2006**

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered.

Approval was sought for the draft instrument of government for the new Woodlands School opening in April 2006.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the draft instrument of government for Woodlands School as described in Appendix A of the Strategic Director's report.

**19. Railways Act 2005 – Consultation on Provisions on Closures and Minor Modifications**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy was considered.

The Department for Transport had published consultation on the implementation of the Closures and Minor Modifications provisions of the Railways Act 2005. The provisions set out criteria for the possible withdrawal of railway services and closure of railway stations. It was recommended that Cabinet noted the contents of the report and approved the proposed response of the County Council.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the proposed response to the Department for Transport's consultation on the implementation of the Railways Act 2005 Provisions on Closures and Minor Modifications.

**20. Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Sale of Aerosols to Minors**

The report of the Strategic Director, Adult, Health & Community Services was considered.

Section 54 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 makes it an offence for a person to sell an aerosol paint container to a person under the age of sixteen. The report asked the Cabinet to delegate the duty to enforce this to the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services. Through the recent budget process, Council had decided to pursue a campaign to secure compliance and allocated the necessary funding.

Resolved:-

That the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services or his/her nominee be authorised to exercise the functions of the County Council in relation to offences concerning the sale of alcohol to children under Section 54 the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and that the Strategic Director of Performance and Development be requested accordingly to amend Paragraph 13 of Part 6, Section 10, Part 2 of the Constitution to include references to the above.

## **21. Irrecoverable Debt**

The report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development was considered.

A company owing the County Council money has gone into voluntary liquidation and Legal Services have established that there are no known assets and no chance of the outstanding amount of £1,550.00 being recovered.

Resolved:-

That the debt worth £1,550.00 outlined in the report be written off as irrecoverable.

## **22. Smallholdings Estate: Maintenance and Improvement Liability Recovery**

The report of the Directorate of Environment and Economy was considered.

This report requested agreement to raise the cap level of funds to bring the County Smallholdings Estate into good condition from £287,000 to £375,000 from receipts for the sale of Smallholding Estate land as agreed by the Smallholdings Panel on 29th November 2005.

Resolved:-

That the proportion of receipts from the sale of Smallholding Estate land to be used for strategic land purchases and essential maintenance and improvement of the Smallholdings Estate, capped at £287,000 be raised to £375,000 to bring the County Council Farm Estate into good condition.

## **23. Any Other Items**

There were no urgent items to consider.

## **24. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

Resolved:-

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 the Local Government Act 1972'.

**25. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and Matters Arising. Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

**26. 2006/2007 Annual Efficiency Statement**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection / County Fire Officer which provided members with the opportunity to comment on the Fire and Rescue Service draft Annual Efficiency Statement for 2006/2007 to be submitted to the ODPM.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet notes the requirements placed on the Fire Authority as a result of the Government's efficiency agenda.
- (2) That the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the issue at the earliest opportunity and report back to the Cabinet with options for making the required efficiency savings.

**27. Southam Town Centre Redevelopment**

The report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered

The Cabinet considered present position regarding the feasibility of establishing a Joint Service Centre One Stop Shop in Southam. It was proposed that a further report would be submitted when negotiations have developed further.

**28. Rugby Paddox Primary School - Payment of Compensation**

The report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered.

The Cabinet approved negotiations relating to a compensation settlement with the claimant.

The Cabinet rose at 3.50 p.m.

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Cabinet

**Date of Committee** 4th May 2006

**Report Title** **Announcement by Peugeot of the Closure of the Ryton Plant**

**Summary** The Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to convene a meeting of his Committee to scrutinise the consequences of the proposed closure of the Peugeot plant at Ryton, the measures being taken to meet the needs of the workforce and to address the impact on the local economy.

**For further information please contact** David S Williams  
County Economic Development Officer  
Tel. 01926 412401  
davidswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** None.

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  .....  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members  Councillor P Barnes )  
Councillor M Jones ) for information  
Councillor P Morris-Jones )
- Cabinet Member  Councillor C Saint  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – comments incorporated.
- Finance  .....

- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny and recommendations.
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Cabinet – 4th May 2006

### Announcement by Peugeot of the Closure of the Ryton Plant

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

##### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to convene a meeting of his Committee as a matter of urgency to scrutinise the impacts and consequences of the proposed closure of the Peugeot plant at Ryton and the measures being taken to meet the needs of the workforce and to address the impact on the local economy.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The future of the Ryton plant has been in doubt since Peugeot decided not to assemble a successor to the 206 there. The announcement at Easter, however, of closure by mid 2007 came as a surprise because, as recently as last year, Peugeot spokespersons were claiming the future of the plant was secure up to 2010.
- 1.2 A number of reasons have been advanced for the closure and these include:-
- (i) **Market conditions** - In the last few months of 2005 and into 2006 sales of superminis declined and the 206 was faced by fierce competition. As a consequence Peugeot revised their estimates of the market for 206 downwards by 1/3.
  - (ii) **Production costs and logistics** – Peugeot assemble the 206 at Ryton and at Poissy. The cost of building a 206 at Ryton was €415 (£287) greater than at Poissy, Paris because of higher wages, energy costs and the need to import 75% of the parts used in the cars built at Ryton. In 2003 the foundations were laid for a PSA group plant in Trnava, Slovakia, where it is estimated that costs will be around 10% less than at Ryton.
  - (iii) **Under-capitalisation** - It would cost €255 million to bring Ryton up to the standards of Peugeot's modern plants on the Continent and even then it would still be a more expensive production site. On the 19th April 2006 the DTI claimed it had "Done everything possible to encourage Peugeot to keep Ryton open, including an offer two years ago of a £14.4 million



grant to enable it to produce an extra model” but Peugeot claim this would have had little overall beneficial effect.

- 1.3 The essentials of the decisions announced by Peugeot on 18th April 2006 are that:-
- (i) Car assembly at the Ryton plant will finish in 2007.
  - (ii) The whole workforce, 2300, will lose their jobs with around 1000 finishing in July 2006 and the remainder going when the factory closes.
  - (iii) The plant will be closed down in two phases. In July 2006, the two working shifts in the plant will be merged into a single shift. It will then slowly phase out production, with closure by mid-2007.
  - (iv) The company has undertaken to consult trade unions before the closure and will provide a support package for staff and try to help as many workers as possible to find alternative employment.

## **2. A Partnership Response to the Closure**

- 2.1 Sadly, the last few years have seen major redundancies and even closure of important manufacturing businesses in Coventry and Warwickshire, culminating in the MG Rover closure last year with such a significant impact to local businesses in the supply chain. Public sector agencies including the Learning and Skills Council, Job Centre Plus, DTI, Advantage West Midlands and Business Link as well as the local authorities and the Chamber of Commerce now have a partnership approach to responding to this sort of situation. A first meeting of the partnership took place with the Secretary of State, Alan Johnson, on 18th April and subsequent meetings are planned to develop the sub region's response to the closure.
- 2.2 Warwickshire County and Rugby Borough Councils are part of the partnership and will be looking to ensure that the impact of the potential closure on Warwickshire's economy and its communities is minimised.

## **3. Potential effects on Warwickshire**

### **Addressing the Needs of the Workforce and Local Communities**

- 3.1 At this stage we have no details of the residences or age profile of the workforce but recent Peugeot redundancies suggest that at least 550 of the 2300 redundancies will be from Warwickshire, with a significant proportion coming from Bedworth and Nuneaton. Although many of the redundancies last year were from age groups to whom early retirement was an attractive option, we suspect that this may not be the case now and we can anticipate that a higher proportion of those made redundant will be looking for new jobs with pay levels comparable with those they have left. There are jobs available in Coventry and Warwickshire but few vacancies match the skills of the assembly workers or the incomes they currently take home. The impact to families concerned can be imagined.

## **The Supply Chain and Support Services**

- 3.2 Advantage West Midlands (AWM) estimates that only 2 to 3000 UK jobs in the UK supply chain will be affected by the closure of Peugeot. At this stage the information available suggests that few of these are located in Warwickshire but the impact on them could be significant. We anticipate that Peugeot will make available information on its suppliers and this will enable the partnership to get a better insight into the extent of the problem for Warwickshire and Coventry and how to address the problems. We can also expect an impact on service companies such as those involved with logistics, cleaning and catering but here again the extent of the problem is not known at this stage.

## **Options for the Future**

- 3.3 The potential closure of Peugeot is the latest in a series of blows to manufacturing in Coventry and Warwickshire and would represent the end of volume car assembly in the sub region. Last year the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee examined the future of the motor industry in Warwickshire and concluded that the future lay primarily in the advanced technology sectors of the industry. Events such as this announcement on one hand and the proposals by Prodrive for Fen End, on the other, appear to confirm this view. Even so, the Peugeot announcement poses other questions for the Council on how it can work most effectively to respond to such an event.
- 3.4 At this stage, the partnership is developing a plan for managing the impact of the closure of the plant which includes:-
- (i) Support targeted to companies in the supply chain.
  - (ii) Support to new business start-ups by ex Peugeot workers.
  - (iii) Negotiating redundancy terms for the ex workers.
  - (iv) Planning the future of the site to ensure it is retained for employment uses.
  - (v) Developing training and retraining programmes, and looking at the potential for securing dispensations for those affected to retain their benefits while undertaking training.
- 3.5 These approaches are seen as addressing the economic impact of closure.
- 3.6 The Unions are currently campaigning for the plant to remain open and this would be the ideal but closure remains the most likely scenario. Nevertheless, Council may feel there could be more that should be done to assist the families and businesses affected by closures such as this. Members may feel they should use the opportunity presented through the overview and scrutiny process to look into situations such as this and related actions by the organisations involved. The Peugeot announcement has raised concerns on a number of levels and it is therefore recommended that the Chairman of the Economic

Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to convene a meeting of his committee as a matter of urgency to scrutinise the impacts and consequences of the proposed closure of the Peugeot plant at Ryton and the measures being taken to meet the needs of the workforce and to address the impact on the local economy.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

28th April 2006



- Other Strategic Directors  Graeme Betts  
Dave Clarke
- District Councils  Letters to Chief Executives
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Consultation with Voluntary and Community Sector

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## The Cabinet - 4 May 2006.

### Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector

#### Recommendation

That Cabinet approve the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006-2111 for implementation

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 A review of the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) was undertaken in 2004. A report setting out the scope of the sector, the basis of our relationship with it and a set of detailed recommendations for improvement, was approved by Cabinet in October 2004 following reference to Overview & Scrutiny and Area Committees.
- 1.2 Cabinet asked that a Strategy be produced to implement the review, including further work on the detailed actions needed to change existing arrangements and to promote and market our relationship more effectively. Cabinet also asked that the Strategy should be developed in parallel with the Social Services Department's audit of adult community and voluntary sector service provision, as it was clear that the development of good practice in contracting with the VCS needed to be driven through Social Services, which was the largest contracting department with the sector.
- 1.3 In order to do this, I established a short term Implementation Group, chaired by myself, and comprising representatives from the VCS and officers from Council Departments. The terms of reference of the group were to produce the Strategy, to include the following components:
  - A framework to ensure that all work with the VCS is developed within a corporate approach
  - This framework to guide the Councils' one-to one relationship with the VCS, but in the context of our Partnership working through the Warwickshire Compact and Local Strategic Partnerships
  - An action plan to implement the detailed recommendations contained within the 2004 report and to consider the relevant forums, meetings, events and other communication channels needed to support the relationship
  - A clear and robust performance management framework to support the relationship

- 1.4 The process of bringing together VCS representatives and council officers through the Implementation Group (and its sub groups) proved to be extremely effective and enabled us to engage with the sector in a way that has not been possible before. The Group completed its work in June 2005 and produced a revised set of recommendations, which had the full support of the VCS representatives.
- 1.5 I reported progress to the Cabinet in August 2005, when you agreed the Implementation Group's recommendations as the basis for wider consultation within the VCS and with our other partners, and the production of a strategy.

## **2. Outcome of Consultation**

- 2.1 A draft strategy was produced for consultation, which took place between November and January. Under the requirements of the Warwickshire Compact, a consultation period of 12 weeks is the norm. This included a launch at the annual meeting of organisations within the Warwickshire Compact and it was then circulated to these organisations and more widely within the voluntary and community sector, including a series of forums organised by the local Council for Voluntary Service in each area.
- 2.2 There was widespread support for the development of the Strategy and for the range of actions suggested. The general response from the community was that the draft strategy needed only minor changes and the key messages were that in developing the action plan we needed to bear in mind the following:
- Whilst a clearer framework for contracting was welcomed by VCS organisations we should ensure that this does not result in added bureaucracy or red tape and that we do not drive out partnership working
  - There was a very strong concern that the Council could see the achievement of Best Value as being only to achieve efficiencies and economies and this could increasingly result in contracts being awarded to larger (often external) organisations to the detriment of smaller local providers - ultimately this would reduce community activity
  - There was evidence of widespread access through e-mail/websites across the sector and this provided a real opportunity to achieve much more effective and timely communication, rather than hard copy newsletters
  - The strategy focuses mainly on organisation and groups – we should be more proactive in promoting volunteering.
- 2.3 Only one response was received from District/Borough Councils. Warwick District Council indicated they wanted to be fully involved in the review. Subsequent discussions with officers from the other Districts indicated that they were all looking at similar issues and would wish to be involved with us

- 2.4 The consultation responses were considered by the Adult and Community Services OSC on 16 February. They were supportive of the draft Strategy and made a number of points, including:
- Whether VCS organisations were underselling themselves when contacting with the Council and cutting costs in order to compete with bigger providers
  - Whether we have the staffing capacity to do all this work
  - That members' roles on management committees should be reviewed as soon as possible and clarified in time for inclusion with the approval of this strategy by Cabinet.
- 2.5 On the last point a review of members' roles is included within the action plan and I feel it would slow down the implementation process if this report was to be delayed until this work is done. I will ensure it is prioritised for early completion.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The strategy has now been re-drafted in the light of the various comments received and this is now attached for approval by Cabinet. At this final stage I would like to make the following points:
- The development of Local Area Agreements has become a key driver for this work during the past year, as emphasised at the recent Partnership Summit and the Strategy has been tuned to reflect this.
  - I have convened the standing joint officer/VCS group to manage the implementation of the Strategy (point 1 on the action plan) and I will chair this group to ensure that it has the necessary status and access to resources.
  - A number of sub-groups will be convened to progress the actions under four main headings – Contracting, Infrastructure, Governance and Communications. The sub-groups' first tasks will be to allocate specific responsibilities and agree a timetable
  - Links will continue to be made with the Adult and Community Services Directorate's review of adult social services provision.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director  
Performance and Development  
April 2006





## **Cabinet Version**

# **Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006 - 2011**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 A review of the way in which the County Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) work together was undertaken during 2004 and 2005. This Strategy has been developed from the recommendations made in the review and subsequent consultation, and will determine how we will work together more effectively with the VCS over the next five years.

1.2 The VCS is important to the County Council. It is a major partner of the Council in promoting active communities and in service provision. We spend nearly £40 million a year with voluntary and independent organisations, inclusive of specific grants received from Government. Social care contracts with independent providers are by far the biggest area of spending, but all service directorates have significant dealings with the sector.

1.3 The County Council is in the process of developing a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with central government, for implementation from April 2007. The Council is also engaged in a process of modernising its organisational structure and ways of working in order to be able to improve its performance. Amongst other things, we need to give added focus to partnership working, customer service and community engagement.

1.4 As one of the Council's major partners, the VCS will have an important role to play in helping us to implement the LAA and improve the ways in which we work, based on the principles and arrangements set out in this Strategy and the Warwickshire Compact. It is acknowledged that the Strategy and its action plan will need to be reviewed during its lifetime in line with the changing circumstances.

## **2. The Warwickshire Compact**

2.1 The County Council supports the Warwickshire Compact as a framework for guiding relationships between public agencies and VCS organisations in Warwickshire. This Strategy is in line with Compact principles and is, in effect, how the Council intends to implement the provisions of the Compact. To reinforce this link a copy of the summary version of the Warwickshire Compact is included as part of the Strategy, at Appendix 1.

## **3. The Scope of the Sector**

3.1 The VCS comprises around half a million voluntary groups in the UK with an annual income of over £20 billion. It includes organisations that provide services to people who need help, advice or care, as well as those that people join to take part in sport and leisure, or political, religious and social affiliation. VCS organisations range from small local community groups to large national and international voluntary organisations, with all sizes in between.

3.2 Public donations and Government funding are the main sources of income. Government provides around 37%, with local authorities contributing about a third of this. The sector is dominated in funding terms by the big national charities, which account for 60% of total income.

3.3 There is no simple definition of what distinguishes a community group from a voluntary organisation, but community groups tend to be less formal and member led, whereas voluntary organisations tend to employ staff and be more formally constituted.

3.4 There are around 4,000 VCS organisations in Warwickshire, including sporting and social organisations, cubs and brownies, village hall committees, youth groups, social care providers and support groups and early years providers etc. Of these, there are about 2,500 organisations affiliated to Councils for Voluntary Service, 1,250 registered charities and 500 faith-based groups. There are also around 200 town and parish councils, and whilst these are not normally defined as VCS organisations, they are often the focus for local community activity, particularly in the rural areas.

## **4. The Basis of the Strategy**

4.1 The Strategy focuses on those VCS organisations that operate on a “not for profit” basis in support of the social, economic, environmental well-being of the community and or wish to work in partnership with the Council in support of our Corporate Business Plan, the Strategic Plan for Warwickshire and local Community Strategies. In particular the VCS works with the Council in helping us

- ❑ Exercise corporate governance
- ❑ Provide council services
- ❑ Achieve our overarching corporate objectives

4.2 Under the Local Area Agreement, this partnership working will become increasingly focused on pooling resources to achieve improved outcomes under the five blocks of work making up the LAA. These relate to:

- Children, young people and their families
- Safer and Stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people
- Economic development and enterprise
- The environment

In addition to these specific blocks of work, the Council is committed to upholding the following guiding aims. These are to:

- Ensure improvement for all, but with fastest improvement for the most deprived
- Provide equality of opportunity for all
- Be a customer focused organisation
- Take account of the needs of future generations in our planning

The VCS is an important partner in helping us to achieve these outcomes and guiding aims and is an important contributor to all of them.

## **5. Principles underpinning the Strategy**

5.1 The Strategy is focused on the circumstances in which the responsibilities of the Council to provide services and promote the well-being of the community, come together with the independent aims of VCS organisations. This is based on a number of principles:

The Council accepts that -

- In it's dealing with the VCS, it needs to operate in a more consistent and corporate way than in the past and act as one Council, rather than a collection of directorates.
- It cannot and should not attempt to meet all the needs of communities itself, through the direct provision of public services.
- It should support the development of active communities with the capacity to do things for themselves, with appropriate help.
- This help includes the need to support and sustain the infrastructure of the VCS
- The VCS needs to be independent and driven by its own aims and objectives.
- It needs to work in partnership with other public agencies and VCS organisations, both thorough Local Strategic Partnerships, other formal partnerships, and at more informal levels.
- It should fulfil its obligations under the Warwickshire Compact - the Strategy clarifies these obligations.

Mirroring the above, the VCS asserts that:

- It has the capacity and experience to deliver services more effectively, flexibility and innovatively than the Council, in some circumstances

- ❑ It has a tradition of helping the most disadvantaged or hardest to reach in society,
- ❑ It does not exist to fill gaps in public services.
- ❑ It must retain its independence and be free to criticise the Council where appropriate, without fear of losing its funding
- ❑ Has its own resources that it can bring to the table and add value to public services, but should not be expected to use its resources to subsidise public spending
- ❑ Is the organised community - its eyes, ears and voice. It has a legitimate role in representing the community in Community Planning and Local Strategic Partnerships.

## **6. How We Will Work with the VCS**

The following are the main areas of activity between the Council and the VCS. In relation to these we will adopt more detailed principles.

- ❑ Contracting for Service delivery
- ❑ Supporting the VCS Infrastructure
- ❑ Developing effective communications and consultation
- ❑ Working together to ensure good governance

### **6.1 Contracting for Service delivery**

- ❑ We will adopt a procurement protocol to determine how to involve the VCS in contracting for service delivery.
- ❑ We acknowledge that the choice of provider might be influenced by a range of factors such as, the supply market, locality, specialist skills, size of the contract, and relationship with existing providers etc. Also, we have to comply with EU regulations.
- ❑ We accept that the VCS cannot be treated as a special case in the market, but we acknowledge the contribution/added value it provides and try to utilise this in the context of our competition rules.
- ❑ We acknowledge that the Council needs to manage the market to achieve both short-term and long-term objectives. In doing so we are mindful that there is a risk in tendering that, if applied bluntly, it might drive out partnership.
- ❑ We need to have a view about whether the excessive use of large outside providers, with the capacity to tender competitively (and undercut or bear loss-leaders on the local price) puts at risk the capacity and activity of local communities.
- ❑ We will develop processes spanning all departments that ensure we use the VCS in a consistent and positive way and to monitor the level of business placed with the sector.

- We will consider ways of supporting the VCS to enable it to compete, both within the sector itself and with the private sector. “Meet the buyer events” and training are two of the ways we can help.
- We will develop standardised corporate documentation for tendering and for contracts, service level agreements (proportionate to value) and processes for paying for services
- We accept that the VCS should have the right to charge full cost recovery of overheads when contracting for services and we will seek to achieve an appropriate formula for assessing these.
- We accept the need for medium term, as opposed to short-term (one year) contracts, with three to five year agreements as the norm and appropriate review processes
- We accept that risks needs to be shared appropriately and effective review arrangements need to be in place to ensure that services can be fine-tuned and service failures avoided
- We acknowledge the difficulties faced by the VCS in maintaining capacity when much of their funding relates to fixed terms. The Council is unlikely to be able to pick up the costs at the end of such funding. Potential problems should be considered at the outset, so that agreed exit strategies can be developed at the start and thereby reduce the incidence of recrimination at the end
- Any support other than direct funding (e.g. accommodation and back-office services) should normally be justified as part of a grant or contract and charged at normal rates, although there may be some scope for providing facilities without charge when these are freely available

## **6.2 Supporting the Infrastructure**

- We will establish a joint officer/VCS forum to guide work on developing procurement and contracting practice and to be the focal point for links with the various community forums (children, adult, BME etc) and with LSPs and the Warwickshire Strategic Partnership.
- We recognise the special role that some VCS organisations have as strategic partners and community representatives, which suggests a more permanent funding arrangement than might be possible through tendering. However there is general consensus that the concept of permanent core funding and the shape of the infrastructure needs to be reviewed over time in line with ChangeUp principles, We will work jointly with the VCS in doing this.
- We feel that responsibility for providing core funding should rest with the most appropriate Council directorate.
- We recognise that District/Borough Councils are also significant core funders of the VCS infrastructure and that we need to work closely with

them and the other public sector partners that use infrastructure services if we are to review the arrangements effectively.

### **6.3 Developing effective Communications and Consultation**

- We recognise the need to work closely with VCS infrastructure organisations, as representatives of the VCS in helping us to develop our working relationships, but we also need to communicate more widely with the sector as a whole in developing a better understanding of what we can do to support the community and how it can help us. There are a number of ways in which we can do this.
- Through the joint forum referred to in 6.2 above, we will monitor this strategy and make specific links with a number of community forums, covering areas such as disability, BME issues, the needs of younger and older people etc
- We will develop the Council's website by bringing together community information more effectively and making links with key VCS websites
- We will develop the County Council's community information database held by the Library service, with a view to making it a comprehensive database, with the capacity to become the sole database for information on Warwickshire communities
- We will develop our consultation processes with the VCS to ensure a more consistent approach
- We will review our publications to ensure more effective communication and consultation and provide opportunities for the VCS to use them to promote its services

### **6.4 Working together to ensure good governance**

- We will review our support of volunteering. Active communities require large numbers of volunteers. This applies to the running of clubs and community organisations and the activities and services they provide and to provision of public services through the willingness of people to become school governors, foster parents or magistrates – and to stand for election as councillors.
- We will develop an Employee Volunteering Policy for the Council as part of our approach to ensuring a good work/life balance for our staff and promoting active communities
- As part of this we will consider the scope for extending placements and secondments etc with the VCS, as a two-way process.
- We will improve the consistency and coherence in the way in which we operate and support partnership working, ensuring we make best use of resources by partners.

- We will review the way in which we make one-off grants available to support community activity and ensure that these are coordinated effectively through area committees
- We will review the basis on which elected Members should be appointed to outside bodies and the process for reporting their work to Council, to clarify the expectations of all involved
- We will consult with the VCS as a matter of routine during service reviews, the development of all area based strategies, and the local impact of county strategies.

## **7. Action Plan**

7.1 A number of the above principles and recommendations for action have already been agreed and can be implemented quickly and easily. Other actions will require further discussion or consultation and may require specific agreements or protocols to be produced. The actions proposed are set out in the Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 to this Strategy.

## **8. Managing the Strategy**

8.1 The Performance and Development Directorate (reporting to the Strategic Directors' Management Team) will coordinate the implementation of this Strategy and the Council's overall activity and performance management in relation to working with the VCS.

8.2 The joint officer/VCS forum referred to in section 6.1 will be chaired by the Strategic Director for Performance and Development and this will bring together officers from all the Council's directorates, the borough/district councils and the VCS to progress the Action Plan. The forum will establish four sub-groups to drive the main areas of activity identified in section 6 and these will identify lead responsibilities and set completion dates for each action.

8.3 Progress on the Action Plan will be reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees and there will be an annual progress report to Cabinet. Regular liaison will be maintained with the appropriate Cabinet members.

David Carter  
Strategic Director – Policy and Development  
April 2006

## Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006 - 2011 – Action Plan

	Action	Outputs	Lead Responsibility	Date by
1	To establish a joint standing- group of Council officers and VCS representatives to manage the Strategy	To monitor progress on implementing all aspects of the Strategy and to generally act as a forum for considering matters relating to the council and the VCS	John Lyons	Immediate
2	To develop the Council's Procurement Strategy to include a protocol for commissioning services with the VCS	To have a consistent approach corporately and throughout all council Departments	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
3	To process-map the existing procurement flow-chart as the basic framework for deciding how to involve the VCS in contracting.	To have a consistent approach corporately and throughout all council Departments	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
4	To develop a key performance indicator to track performance on level of business placed with the VCS	To be able to measure increase/decrease in level of business	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
5	To establish customer liaison arrangements with VCS	To develop a VCS customer liaison function (e.g. to set up meet the buyer, training and procurement support) including consideration of a new support post	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
6	To develop standard (and simplified) corporate documents and protocols for tendering and contracting with the VCS	To produce contracts with agreed standard terms, to include duration, payment terms, risk sharing, review and exit arrangements	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
7	To develop a consistent practice in relation to the calculation and charging of overheads	To produce a protocol to clarify for the circumstances in which full cost recovery of overheads should be made and how they are calculated	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
8	To investigate the possibility of adding VCS organisations onto main WCC contracts for utilities and other services	To support the capacity of the community by enabling VCS organizations to take advantage of discounts and council support services etc., where possible	Contracting Sub-group	TBA
9	To review practice and produce a new protocol on core funding, in line with ChangeUp	To establish a basis for fair allocation and levels of funding related to specified outcomes, with a view to moving to full cost recovery, to involve all funders to ensure the overall level of support meet community needs	Infrastructure Sub-Group	TBA
10	To review the shape of the VCS infrastructure to take account of strategic coordination in line with ChangeUp	To review the role of organisations forming the infrastructure and the potential for rationalisation and or devolvement	Infrastructure Sub-Group	TBA
11	To review the Council's arrangements for applying annual targets on grants to VCS core funded organisations	To clarify the Council's intentions with regard to whether efficiency targets are to be applied to VCS grants and if so whether Departments should be treated consistently to encourage the appropriate location of such grants	Infrastructure Sub-Group	TBA
12	To develop links between the JSG (1 above) and the various other	To propose how the overall corporate relationship might be	Governance Sub-Group	TBA



	community forums (BME, POP, YPF etc) and partnerships (LSPs)	linked into the various other circumstances in which the Council, the VCS and other public sector partners inter-relate		
13	To enhance the role of Area Committees as the focal point for allocating small grants	To consider the practicality of all small grants, corporate and departmental, being rationalised, for allocation by Area Committees, on the advice of the proposed community workers group (see action 22)	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
14	To ensure coherence between the Area Committee review of grant allocation and the work following on from the Strategic Review of Services for Young People regarding the grant making and other roles of the ACECs	Enhanced coherence of area grant making activities	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
15	To consider ways in which the Area Committees, through existing ACEC members and others, might develop 'Community Panels' to give advice on grant allocation and other aspects of their work	Enhanced community involvement in decision making regarding area based grants  More informed decision making	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
16	To develop a procedure to guide the letting or selling of Council accommodation to VCS organisations.	To clarify the circumstances in which the council might make property available to VCS groups, the terms under which it should be let and the relationship to grants and service contracts, based on Best Value	David Halsall  (Completed subject to consultation)	Done
17	To develop a protocol for establishing more effective links between the VCS and Area committees	To improve the current ad-hoc relationships by agreeing amore formal involvement of the VCS in developing the Area Business Plan, Local Area Agreements, community plans and by presentations to the committees from time to time on their work	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To request Area committees to consider using VCS facilities for their meetings to make them more visible in the community and to promote community involvement	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
18	To make better use of community facilities	For both WCC and VCS to publicise the availability of meeting rooms and other facilities(to be let under normal arrangements)	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
19	To assist capacity building in the VCS by the development of protocol for the involvement of VCS representatives in Council training programmes and in reciprocal arrangements with the VCS	To include consideration of advertising courses on offer, making a number of places available to the VCS, involving it in the planning and design of course and joint development/mentoring activities	Governance Sub-Group	TBA
20	To review the Council's support for volunteering	To consider the role of Volunteer Centres within the VCS and the way in which the Council supports these and more generally promotes	Governance sub-group	TBA

		volunteering as a lifetime activity for all		
21	To develop an Employee Volunteering Policy for the County Council as part of the Work-Life Balance strategy, to provide opportunities to support the capacity of the VCS and to widen the experience of staff.	To consider arrangements for time off for staff willing to provide volunteer support to the VCS. Departments to consider how they will promote volunteering, including whether they will appoint departmental champions	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	To consider how to extend placements, secondments, joint projects and mentoring etc between the sectors	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	To consider continuous service entitlements for people transferring between the County Council and the VCS	Governance sub-group	TBA
22	To improve community development standards and the way resources are allocated between the County Council and the VCS to support community work	To formalise the establishment of local "community workers" groups in all five areas, with agree terms of reference to include responsibility for considering local funding applications for recommendation to Area Committees	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	To develop common community development standards	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	To develop a protocol to encourage joint discussion on the development of new posts and external funding bids to avoid duplication, encourage efficiency and avoid problems due to external grants expiring	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	The VCS to consider proposals to extend take up of approved quality marks and for this to result in protocol for the quality assurance of organisations eligible for Council funding	Governance sub-group	TBA
23	To review the basis on which Members (and staff) should be appointed to outside bodies, including VCS organisations	To clarify the circumstances in which the Council should nominate an elected member or officer to serve on an outside body.	Governance sub-group	TBA
	Ditto	To clarify the expectations of the Council in respect of the elected member or officer's role in relation to the Council's interests and charity law	Governance sub-group	TBA
24	To revise the Communities page on the WCC website to make it more effective as a source of information on WCC activity in relation to the VCS and activity within the VCS as a whole	To bring together all community related information on the website, to consider scope for adding additional information and make links to key VCS websites	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
25	To improve the promotion of WCC website Communities page	To create a leaflet and press release detailing the services that can be accessed from the webpage once the improvements have been undertaken.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA

26	To develop the Community Information database (CID) held by Libraries service with a view to it becoming the definitive database of VCS organisations in Warwickshire	To produce a promotion plan to increase the use of the CID to inform groups of the process and benefits of registration and to encourage existing registered groups to add information to their entry.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To encourage groups to take up services on offer such as free webpage hosting service	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To explore the relationship between CID and other local and general databases and specialist databases such as "Up2date" for young people in Coventry and Warwicks.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
27	To consider the possibility of using CID to provide a 'who to consult' list for public sector consultation with the VCS	To ask groups to register on CID the circumstances in which they would like to be consulted – either in all cases or in respect of more specialist aspects of public service activity.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To develop CID to link it to the Corporate Consultation Database to enable it to handle such requests	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
28	To improve the corporate consultation process generally by creating a Compact compliant leaflet on 'How to consult with the VCS' to complement the leaflets for other target audiences.	To produce a leaflet as suggested and to develop a standard 'who to consult' list of VCS groups on general and specific services developments.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
29	To ensure the WCC consultation strategy provides for the VCS to be consulted as a matter of routine on all corporate service reviews, the development of all area based strategies and policies, and the local impact of county strategies.	To review the Corporate Consultation Strategy and Area consultation to ensure its processes include routine consultation with the VCS as required	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To ensure that Area Committee arrangements and corporate projects (e.g. Children Act and Adult Services review) include VCS consultation and do not create separate processes	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
30	To survey all current newsletters, leaflets and publications with a view to rationalisation and developing better communication between the Council and the VCS	To rationalise WCC publications that go to the VCS.	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To have a permanent slot for VCS issues in the Warwickshire View	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To consider the use of use e-mail newsletters, e-mail alerts and the Warwickshire Web	Communication Sub-Group	TBA
	Ditto	To investigate the continued need for 5 separate CVS newsletters	Communication Sub-Group	TBA

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Cabinet

**Date of Committee** 04 May 2006

**Report Title** Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire

**Summary** The attached report summarises the approach taken by the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the multi-agency approach taken to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire and outlines the subsequent outcomes.

The Cabinet is asked to lend its support to the use of the additional resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the profile of the issues highlighted. In paragraph 4.2, sub-paragraph (f) – (i) of the attached report.

**For further information please contact:**

Jean Hardwick Principal Committee Administrator Tel: 01926 412476 jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk	Gereint Stoneman Corporate Review Officer Tel: 01926 412379 gerientstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No.

**Background papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  All Members Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  Councillor Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Jane Pollard

- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  David Carter, William Brown
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  CI Mike Slater
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Agenda No

### Cabinet - 4 May 2006

#### Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire

#### Report of the Chair, Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

##### **Recommendation**

The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends Cabinet to support the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the priority of the issues listed in paragraph 4.2, sub-paragraphs (f) – (i) of the attached report (as set out in paragraph 2.2 below).

##### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 28 February 2006, considered the attached report. This was the final report following a series of meetings where aspects of the County Council's Crime and Disorder Strategy were considered.
- 1.2 Discussion at these meetings generated strong feelings from Members about the value, appropriateness and effectiveness of the current approach employed to tackle anti-social behaviour. A further meeting was held to look at the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Member discussion informed the development of a set of Key Lines of Enquiry which were taken forward into the second stage of the scrutiny exercise and put to an expert panel.
- 1.3 This full, single-issue scrutiny exercise was conducted on the 8 February 2006. John Hedge, Chair of Thames Valley Partnership was invited as the key note speaker to present on the benefits of delivering a 'balanced approach' to Anti-Social Behaviour, and a 15 person expert panel, involving all community safety and criminal justice agencies, provided an opportunity for Members to understand how community safety in Warwickshire could be improved by addressing the current levels of anti-social behaviour. The outcomes of this meeting were presented to the Committee on 28 February 2006.

## **2.0 Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 28 February 2006 – Outcomes and Next Steps.**

2.1 The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 February 2006, having successfully completed the scrutiny event, were assured of a range of actions that would be taken forward (listed in paragraph 4.2, sub-paragraphs (a) – (e) of the attached report).

2.2 Additionally, Members highlighted other issues that they recognised as being important in addressing anti-social behaviour, listed in paragraph 4.2, sub paragraphs (f) – (i), namely -.

- “
- (f) There is a need to engage with the local Criminal Justice Board in developing strategies to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.
  - (g) Poor parenting is a common theme underlying ASB and there is need for early intervention systems within the county.
  - (h) Mediation Services can play an important role in supporting community resilience and dealing with the issues around ASB and the need to establish and fund robust services can probably only be addressed at county level.
  - (i) There is a need to establish more robust communication systems within communities to highlight both specific incidents of ASB and the good work which is being undertaken to address these.”

2.3 In this connection the Committee asks Cabinet to support the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the priority of the issues listed above.

COUNCILLOR JOHN  
HAYNES  
Chair, Community Safety  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

Shire Hall  
Warwick

06 March 2006

## Appendix to Agenda No

### AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

**Name of Committee**                      **Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of Committee**                      **28<sup>th</sup> February, 2006**

**Report Title**                                **Single Issue Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire – Final report**

**Summary**                                    This report summarises the approach taken by the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the multi-agency approach taken to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire and outlines the subsequent outcomes.

**For further information please contact:**

Gereint Stoneman Corporate Review Officer Corporate Review Team Tel: 01926 412378 <a href="mailto:gereintstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk">gereintstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>	Tricia Morrison Corporate Review Manager Corporate Review Team Tel: 01926 736319 <a href="mailto:triciamorrison@warwickshire.gov.uk">triciamorrison@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**      No

**Background papers**

County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Progress Report, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2005

County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Progress Report on four of the seven priorities, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2005

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2006

#### **CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Hobbs
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Pollard
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>



- Other Strategic Directors  David Carter, William Brown
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police  Mike Slater
- Other Bodies/Individuals

**FINAL DECISION** **No**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:** Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**28<sup>th</sup> February, 2006**

**Single Issue Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire –  
Final report**

**Report of the Chair of the Community Safety  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

- (i) Endorse the Outcomes of the scrutiny event and Next Steps as set out in Section 4.0 of this report
- (ii) Identify which of the above should be referred to Cabinet

## **1.0 Background to the scrutiny exercise**

1.1 On 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee received Part 1 of a two part report on the County Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. The report concentrated on three of the seven thematic areas addressed by the Strategy:

- Fear of crime
- High crime areas
- Prolific and Priority offenders

1.2 The second part of the report was presented to the Committee's meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and concentrated on the remaining four priority areas, namely:

- Alcohol related violence
- Young People as victims and offenders
- Drug related crime
- Liveability

1.3 Consideration of these reports generated strong feeling within the Committee and generated a debate on the value, appropriateness and effectiveness of the current approaches employed to tackle anti-social behaviour within the communities served by Members of the Committee and in Warwickshire generally.

1.4 Committee members recognised that the County Council has a key contribution to make to the work of multi agency partnerships working towards safer communities and further acknowledged the valuable contribution which can potentially be made through the proposed Local Area Agreements Framework.

- 1.5 With this in mind the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that a full scrutiny exercise be conducted, involving all community safety and criminal justice agencies to provide an opportunity for Members to understand how they can improve Community Safety in Warwickshire by addressing the current levels of anti-social behaviour

## 2.0 Scrutiny event

- 2.1 On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Warwickshire was presented to Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee for comment and discussion. The member discussion held at this meeting subsequently informed the development of a set of Key Lines of Enquiry which were to be taken forward into the second stage of the scrutiny exercise and put to an expert panel
- 2.2 On 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Community held a single issue meeting focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire. John Hedge, Chair of the Thames Valley Partnership was invited as key note speaker to present on the benefits of delivering a 'balanced approach' to Anti-Social Behaviour. Informed by the agreed set of Key Lines of Enquiry Members were then given the opportunity to question a panel of expert representatives from the main agencies in Warwickshire dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 2.3 The Panel membership is outlined in the table below and its strength and breadth is testament to the positive relationships which exist between these agencies and the WCC Community Safety Team, who were responsible for the composition of the panel:

Panel member	Role/Agency
John Hedge	Chair of Thames Valley Partnership
Andrew Lawrence	Head Of Community Support (WCC)
Julie Sullivan	Corporate Community Safety Manager (WCC)
Paul Littler	County Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
Mike Slater	Chief Inspector Warwickshire Police
Diane Johnson	Manager Youth Offending Team
Michael Maguire	Manager Positive About Young People (WCC)
Mark Lynn	Crown Prosecution Service
Mick Taylor	Chief Clerk to Magistrates Courts (Warwickshire)
Katherine Grasby	Senior Solicitor (WCC)
Spencer Payne	Community Safety Information Analyst (WCC)
Rachel Jackson	Regeneration Officer Nuneaton & Bedworth (CDRP officer)
Cheryl Bridges	CDRP Officer, North Warwickshire DC
Dave Gormal	Head Of Community Safety Rugby Borough (CDRP officer)
Pete Cutts	Community Safety Officer Warwick District (CDRP officer)
Steve Newman	Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator - Stratford District Council (CDRP officer)
Ruth Mountstephen	Observer - Head of Community Services - Stratford District Council
Robert Walsh	Observer - Community Safety Co-ordinator - Stratford District Council

### 3.0 Key issues raised

3.1 The list below highlights the main issues which were discussed between Elected Members and Expert Panelists:

- How do we address the need for both a strategic approach to ASB and a solution to ASB as it occurs 'in your face'?
- Do we need to find more resources for mediation and can we make our mediation services more effective?
- Does the balanced approach to ASB give enough emphasis to punishment?
- Are we using ASBOs correctly and is the support available to enforce orders effectively available?
- How can we involve the Voluntary and Community Sector more effectively in reducing ASB?
- What is the role of parents and parental responsibility in reducing ASB?
- How do we address the importance of early intervention with families and young children?
- How much and how effective are the current levels of publicity relating to positive outcomes in reducing ASB?
- How can we effectively communicate within the community around ASB issues?
- What is the role of CDRPs and the relationship with the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee?
- How do we address the need to recognise the relationship between Drugs, Alcohol and ASB?
- How does the Magistrates Court address the perceived, public perception around sentencing and ASB?

3.2 The issues raised within this forum will be taken forward by the Community Safety Team and their partner agencies to ensure that the positive approach taken by the Committee will continue.

**NB.** The detailed minutes provide a full record of the questions asked by Members and answered by the panelists.

## 4.0 Outcomes and Next steps

4.1 Following the successful completion of the scrutiny event Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee now understand:

- What is currently recognised/defined as 'Anti-Social Behaviour'
- The County Council's remit and role in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour
- The contribution made by partner agencies in reducing Anti Social Behaviour.
- The current infrastructure within Warwickshire for addressing Anti-Social Behaviour

4.2 To ensure Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny are confident that Anti-Social Behaviour is being positively addressed in Warwickshire the following actions will be taken to address issues raised by the scrutiny event:

- (a) Mike Slater, Chief Inspector of Warwickshire Police has agreed to review the involvement of Elected Members in the ASBO process and subsequent publication and awareness raising of successful prosecutions.
- (b) Mark Lynn, Chief Crown Prosecutor from the Crown Prosecution Service has agreed to report Members' concerns raised at the scrutiny event back to his team of Prosecutors.
- (c) Mick Taylor, Chief Clerk to Magistrates Courts (Warwickshire) has agreed to report Members' concerns relating to sentencing raised at the scrutiny event back to Magistrates in Warwickshire.
- (d) Cllr Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, has agreed to progress the issues raised over elected Members representation on CDRPs and investigate the effectiveness of test purchases in light of shopkeepers only selling alcohol to known young people.
- (e) Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety from 1st April, 2006 will bring a report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact of the Crime and Disorder Act, The Respect Agenda and Local Area Agreements on the role and remit of the Committee.

Furthermore the following general points are recognised by the Committee:

- (f) There is a need to engage with the local Criminal Justice Board in developing strategies to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- (g) Poor parenting is a common theme underlying ASB and there is need for early intervention systems within the county.
- (h) Mediation Services can play an important role in supporting community resilience and dealing with the issues around ASB and the need to establish and fund robust services can probably only be addressed at county level.
- (i) There is a need to establish more robust communication systems within communities to highlight both specific incidents of ASB and the good work which is being undertaken to address these.

4.3 Anti-Social Behaviour is a very broad topic area, which will continue to form a major part of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee's remit. The Committee sincerely thanks all the panel members for their support and participation and encourages the collaborative approach taken for this event to be adopted in future work which the Committee undertakes in addressing Community Safety within Warwickshire.

4.4 This report along with the minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 will be made available to all panel Members for circulation within the agencies that they represent.

Cllr John Haynes  
Chair of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

February, 2006

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**4 May 2006**

**Report Title**

**WHITE PAPER: Our Health, Our Care, Our Say**

**Summary**

Provision of outline main thrusts of the White Paper “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” and an initial assessment of local issues for adult social care, health and well being pending a further report.

**For further information please contact:**

Graeme Betts  
Strategic Director

Michael Hake  
Interim Head of Service

Tel: 01926 - 412198

Tel: 01926 - 412198

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]**

No

**Background papers**

Reports on Green Paper [Independence, well Being and Choice, 2005]:

Adults & Community Services OSC – 21 June 2005

Cabinet - 21 July 2005.

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members

Lead Cabinet Member

Cllr Colin Hayfield

Cabinet Member

Chief Executive

Legal

Jane Pollard

Finance

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

**FINAL DECISION No**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation



**Cabinet - 4 May 2006**

**Our Health, Our Care, Our Say:  
A new direction for community services (Cm 6737)**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Adult Health &  
Community Services**

**Recommendation**

To support the development of local partnership working to offer better community based health care services and to request further reports on developing this agenda as soon as possible.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Published on 21 March 2005, ***“Independence, Well-being and Choice”***, the Government’s Green Paper on Adult Social Care was a consultation document on proposals for the future direction of social care for adults in England.
- 1.2 Publication was followed by a period of national consultation during which a broad consensus emerged around the issues within the Green Paper.
- 1.3 In January 2006 the Government published its White Paper on community services: ***“Your health, your care, your say”***. Implementation of the White Paper is intended to secure the following results:
  - People will be helped in their goal to remain healthy and independent
  - People will have real choices and greater access in both health and social care
  - Far more services will be delivered – safely and effectively – in the community or at home
  - Services will be integrated, built around the needs of individuals and not service providers, promoting independence and choice
  - Long standing-inequalities in access and care will be tackled.

- 1.4 The White Paper outlines the Government intention to achieve four main goals:
- Provide better prevention services and earlier intervention
  - Give people more choice and a louder voice
  - Do more on tackling inequalities and improving access to community services
  - Give more support for people with long-term needs.
- 1.5 The White Paper affirms the commitment to the seven key outcomes for social care set out in the Green Paper [See Appendix A]. The standards and criteria to be used for performance assessment by the Commission for Social Care Inspection [CSCI] now reflect the importance attaching to these outcomes.
- 1.6 The key measures for both health and social care in this context are around shared leadership for well-being and social inclusion where:
- Councils and PCTs, as commissioning organisations, develop partnerships to promote health, well-being and inclusion.
  - The role of Local Strategic Partnerships [LSPs] as the “Partnership of Partnerships” and a possible duty of co-operation where local area agreements [LAAs] are seen as a key driver.
  - Statutory Directors together with the Director of Public Health will play a central role in assessing health and social care needs of local populations within a systems wide and inclusive approach to these issues underpinned by timely, robust and accurate information.
  - Care closer to home, with a realignment of health resources towards primary care, prevention and accessible community facilities; including co-located health and social care alongside others [e.g., advice services] will develop.
  - A sustained realignment of health and social care systems into “ a whole systems” framework emerges so that community services are delivered in an integrated way around:
    - Shared outcomes
    - Shift from hospital to community based care
    - Performance assessment
    - Inspection regimes
    - Aligned budget cycles
    - Increased joint commissioning
    - Integrated workforce planning

- A strong focus on commissioning, joint commissioning and a more standardised approach to procurement [away from 150 different local approaches] with support from the Care Services Improvement Partnership [CSIP] to develop more diverse social care markets is in place.
- Delivery of services will be integrated through joint teams, the role of community matrons and use of Assistive Technology.
- Choice and control within social care will be promoted through direct payments and individual budgets [Note: neither apply to health care where choice is facilitated differently].
- Citizen engagement is reinforced through commissioning and Local Area Agreements, with strengthened duties to consult and increased importance attaching to user surveys.

1.7 There is a strong emphasis on enabling health, independence and well being through new “life checks”, especially in priority areas. Promoting mental well-being is to be placed at the heart **of “Choosing Health – making healthy choices easier ”** [2004] Specific provision is made for:

- A new “Quality Outcomes Framework” by 2008/09 with a focus on self-care within health.
- Personal health and social care plans as part of an integrated health and social care record by 2010.
- Joint health and social care managed networks /teams to support people with complex needs by 2008.
- Information prescriptions for people with long term health and social care needs by 2008
- A new deal for carers
- Self care becoming a key competency for health staffs.

## 2. Delivering the agenda locally

2.1 Few of the issues in the White Paper impacting on social care require legislation to take them forward. There are, however, several areas where guidance is promised which may need to be allowed for in considering how to take forward the agenda locally.

2.2 The main challenges are around how we organise and work together for local people to deliver quality reliable, responsive and resourced services that meet expectations and deliver outcomes that matter. There is a strong emphasis on working in partnership. An initial assessment suggests:

- The Council’s modernisation approach with its emphasis on devolved, joined up and locality working links well to the White Paper agenda.

- The reconfiguration of PCTs and health services offers opportunities to:
  - Generate a shared vision and understanding of priorities and outcomes for people.
  - Review current strategies and joint working not just with health but also more widely in line with the Warwickshire summit.
  - Generate joint appointments around commissioning and provision of health and well being services.
  - Explore a joint appointment for a director of public health.
  - Review arrangements for governance and scope for partnership boards; including joint strategic commissioning with Coventry for specialist provision.
  - Further develop joint teams in the areas of mental health [currently co-located]; learning disability and older people.
  - Explore co-location with General Practices and the more general development of one front line consistent with the principle of “no wrong front doors”.
  - Establish a base line for current Health Act 1999 and related health payments to the Council and for a movement towards more pooled and joint budgets in the future.

The White Paper also points to a need to:

- Develop a more explicit approach to evidence based and outcome focussed strategic commissioning statements around:
  - Extra care housing and care homes
  - Support of Carers
  - Valuing People
  - Mental Health Services
  - Older People – quality of life and healthier communities
  - Assistive Technology and adaptations to promote independence
  - Supporting People
- Explore more integrated partnership working with district councils to promote independence and well-being; especially in the areas of assistive technology, adaptations and meeting housing and accommodation needs of vulnerable people
- Deliver the “Bit of Help” service and the preventative agenda around the inherent links with supporting people, districts, community protection, information, and community and voluntary services.
- Commission and develop locality services in partnership with community and voluntary services to sustain independence and well-being.
- Review the current approach to direct payments so as to improve “ take-up” and levels of satisfaction.

- Be more customer focussed by reframing current information [data] flows on user and carer feedback and to utilise them more explicitly in service development and planning.
- Improve performance management and generate a performance improvement culture consistent with EFQM [European Foundation for Quality Management] involvement.
- Develop information and advice services and accessibility to information around health and social care.
- Consider the implications of “Foundation Status” for partnership working and more generally for acute services [and the review] in Warwickshire.

2.3 The White Paper with its emphasis on collaboration between local health services and social services, as a keystone for delivery, is consistent with the framework within which the new Directorate is working. The County Council has already recognised a need for change and partnership. A process of organisational transformation has commenced. This includes:

- Delivery of the requirements of the Children Act 2004; and,
- Fundamental reconsideration of the way services are delivered across the Council; and,
- A much wider emphasis on change and “whole organisation” solutions for the people of Warwickshire; and,
- Adding capacity by working in partnership with others.

2.4 This approach aligns well with the principles of public service reform. It offers real opportunities to take forward this White Paper agenda within Warwickshire.

GRAEME BETTS  
Strategic Director of Adult Health &  
Community Services

Shire Hall  
Warwick

April 2006

## APPENDIX A

### INDEPENDENCE, WELL BEING AND CHOICE\*

#### THE SEVEN KEY OUTCOMES

- **Improved Health:** enjoying good physical and mental health [including protection from abuse and exploitations]. Access to appropriate treatment and support in managing long-term conditions independently. Opportunities for physical activity.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** access to leisure, social activities and life-long learning and to universal public and commercial services. Security at home, access to transport and confidence in safety outside the home.
- **Making a Positive Contribution:** active participation in the community through employment or voluntary opportunities. Maintaining involvement in local activities and being involved in policy development and decision-making.
- **Exercise Choice and Control:** through maximum independence and access to information. Being able to choose and control services. Managing risk in personal life.
- **Freedom from Discrimination and Harassment:** equality of access to services. Not being subject to abuse.
- **Economic Well-Being:** access to income and resources sufficient for a good diet, accommodation and participation in family and community life. Ability to meet costs arising from specific individual needs.
- **Personal Dignity:** keeping clean and comfortable. Enjoying a clean and orderly environment. Availability of appropriate personal care.

\*Independence, well-being and choice – Our Vision for the future of social care for adults in England, Department of Health, March 2005. p.26

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Cabinet

**Date of Committee** 4 May 2006

**Report Title** Funding for the Customer Service Centre

**Summary** This report sets out a recommendation from the Modernisation Fund Group (established by Council in February) for additional funding for the Customer Service Centre.

**For further information please contact:** David Carter Strategic Director Performance & Development Tel: 01926 412564 Kushal Birla Head of Customer Service and Access Tel: 01926 736362

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No.

**Background papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  countywide
- Other Elected Members  Modernisation Fund Group 6/4/06 (Cllrs Farnell, Stevens, Tandy, Naylor and Roodhouse) Leaders Liaison Group 11/4/06
- Cabinet Member  Councillor Alan Cockburn, Portfolio holder for Corporate Services - support recommendation
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  .....
- Finance  Dave Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....

- Health  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION: YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....



**Cabinet - 4 May 2006.**

**Funding for the Customer Service Centre.**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development on behalf of the Modernisation Fund Group**

**Recommendation from the Modernisation Fund Group**

That Cabinet approve the additional funding of £785,000 to meet the existing shortfall for 2006/07 and recognise that a further £500,000 will be required for staffing and further development work within the Customer Service Centre during 2006/07 (*para.4 refers*).

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Customer Service Centre (CSC) was set up to explore the potential for a service that enabled people to telephone the County Council with queries, complaints or requests for service, and that at least 80% of the time they will be able to have their problem dealt with by the one person answering their call.
- 1.2 There were two other issues that the County Council wished to address. Firstly, despite best efforts there still remained an inconsistency in the level and quality of service provided across the county, depending on your first point of contact. Secondly, professional staff often had to deal with routine work that could be undertaken by less specialist staff. The CSC was a way of releasing professional staff to make best use of their time.
- 1.3 The CSC primary focus was therefore:
  - To make it easier for people to contact the County Council
  - To improve the quality and consistency of services
  - To free up professional expertise to focus on specialist tasks
- 1.4 In 2004 Cabinet approved a 5-year programme to develop the CSC. The overall objectives of the 5-year programme were:
  - Over the next five years, we should develop the pilot centre into a full-blown CSC, which handles not only telephone access to the County Council, but also acts as the first-line provider of services.

- For people who want to visit Council offices or designated One Stop Shops, the reception desks would link-up with the CSC and would allow the same 'one-stop' services to be offered in a consistent manner.
- The overall approach would complement the self-service facilities available via the County's web site and would draw on the same underlying information and databases.

## 2.0 Present Position

- 2.1 The CSC opening hours are:        Monday to Friday 08:00am - 20:00pm  
    Saturday                     09:00am - 16:00pm

N.B. Bank Holiday opening continues to be trialled

- 2.2 The CSC presently incorporates the following services:

Enquiry Type	Enquiry Description	Estimated Annual Call Volume
Switchboard	All incoming calls to 410410 and those sites where all calls are initially channelled through the central facility	660,000
Car Clear	Abandoned vehicle scheme to support the reduction in arson related crime. Liaising with Districts, Boroughs and the Police.	1200
Library Enquiries for 13 Libraries	General advice line providing information and services to library customers.	113,000
Social Care	Information requests, signposting and contact assessments to determine eligibility. Working with the DWP to make benefit referrals.	35,000
Disabled Parking Badges (Calls)	Providing information and support regarding the application process and eligibility	11,500
Disabled Parking Badges (Processing)	Receipting and processing applications for Disabled Parking Badges to determine eligibility and produce the badge. Liaising with GPs to confirm Health related issues affecting eligibility.	10,000
Vintage	General advice on any service (not just WCC provided) for anyone over the age of 50.	600
Street Lighting	Recording reports of faulty street lighting and illuminated signs.	9,500
Web Enquiries	Acting as a filtering point for web enquiries generated the Web Feedback and routing requests etc. to the appropriate services for response.	4,200

## 3.0 Funding

- 3.1 The CSC is presently funded from the corporate e-Government budget where there is currently a shortfall in budget. As a consequence of this shortfall

development work has ceased and permanent recruitment has been halted with temporary staff being utilised as an interim measure.

- 3.2 The Member Modernisation Fund Group has looked at this (and it has also been considered by the Leaders Liaison Group) and has agreed to recommend that Cabinet agree to £785,000 being allocated to the CSC from the Modernisation Fund. The £785,000 will fund:

Service/Provision
Kings House infrastructure costs - £201,000
Kings House rental costs - £165,000
Highways Management – customer service centre development and integration of systems – likely to generate approximately 37,000 calls per annum,
Change of Address process – initially supporting limited services with a view to expanding to all areas
Skills for Life – National Pilot in conjunction with the DfES signposting and supporting learners into basic skills learning
Racist Incidents – reporting of racially motivated incidents funding should be met
PC Bookings – booking of library based PCs
Registrations- answering frequently asked questions and booking of appointments

- 3.3 The budget request for £785,000 is based on the figures calculated for the budget preparation process for 2006/2007 and shared with the budget teams of all three political groups by the Strategic Director of Resources.

- 3.4 The budget forecast for 2005/2006 was as follows:

<b>05/06</b>	<b>£('000)</b>
Total projected expenditure	1,580
Switchboard funding	164
E Government Funding	750
Total Budget	914
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>666</b>

- 3.5 The projected figures for 2006/2007 were as follows:

<b>06/07</b>	<b>£('000)</b>
Total projected expenditure	1699
Switchboard funding	164
E Government Funding	750
Total Budget	914
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>785</b>

- 3.6 The 2005/2006 budgets forecast shortfall has been reduced to £230,000 estimate by delaying essential development work. The 2006/2007 shortfall remains at £785,000.

- 4.1 This is about the funding commitments which the Council has already made. It is about providing essential foundations for Customer Services based around the needs of the customer rather than around the organisational structure of the Council and its partners.

## 4.0 Development of the Service

- 4.1 A further bid will be brought forward for £500,000 to fund additional developments that are set out below. The Leaders Liaison Group supported this bid being put forward.

Service/Provision
Member information – answering frequently asked questions regarding cabinet meetings and member details
Emergency planning – implementing a Countywide approach to information management during periods of emergency.
Waste Management – all enquiries relating to waste and recycling issues
Inclusion of the 19 remaining libraries
Implementation of voice recognition for the switchboard function to reduce the number of calls answered in the centre and increase self serve call resolution (not a push button IVR solution, it recognises verbal requests)
Education transport-frequently asked questions and advice on application
Free School Meals-frequently asked questions and advice on application
Education frequently asked questions
Anti Bullying-frequently asked questions
HRMS systems support-frequently asked questions and signposting
F+R Fire – Safety Helpline-frequently asked questions
F+R Help on call –frequently asked questions
F+R Home call –frequently asked questions
F+R Industrial + commercial unit –frequently asked questions
F+R Working with Young People- frequently asked questions
Traffic –frequently asked questions
Recruitment –frequently asked questions
Services for the Deaf Team-frequently asked questions
Complaints –frequently asked questions
Customer satisfaction – technology to automate satisfaction-testing activity. Initially trialled in CSC with a view to roll out for other services
Integration of Street Lighting systems – to remove duplication of effort between front and back office.
Roll out of Change of Address-incorporate other services in change of address approach where applicable.
Introduce a performance management framework-IT work to pull together relevant statistical information across all access channels

- 4.2 It is possible that additional services will be incorporated into the CSC where there are significant similarities and therefore reduced development time.
- 4.3 It is important to note that these developments will support delivery through the CSC, the One Stop Shop/Neighbourhood environment and the web access channel.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director,  
Performance & Development  
Shire Hall, Warwick, April 2006.

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> May 2006</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The report relates to a Zebra Crossing which has been proposed as part of a traffic management scheme for Bridgetown, funded through the Trinity Mead development. The crossing forms part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, local safety schemes and a facility for Quality Pedestrian Corridors.</p> <p>The proposal was agreed by the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Area Committee's decision was subsequently called-in by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, in her capacity as a Cabinet member, for determination by the Cabinet.</p>
<b>For further information please contact</b>	<p>Pete Keeley Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate. Tel: 01926 412450 petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	No
<b>Background Papers</b>	<p>Report to the Area Committee 7 letters supporting/not objecting to the scheme. 5 letters objecting to the scheme.</p>

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  Considered by the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2006

Local Member(s)  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Councillor R. Hyde comments  
"I welcome the wider debate on the need for this crossing, it not only ensures that any objector's views are fully heard it also helps to reinforce the very real need for this crossing and the widespread support for it in the local community. Cabinet should bear in mind that the need for the crossing was recognised in the school travel plan and from consultation (via a public exhibition in November 2004) with local residents. Whilst the majority of residents and the residents association have rejected traffic calming proposals for narrowings, chicanes and junction changes in this area (mainly on design grounds) they have supported this crossing.

I consider that the proposed location is the best for the children who wish to use it, as it eradicates the need to cross Hunts Road and/or Byron Road for those pupils that walk to school from the Banbury Road direction. It is also well positioned for pupils who live on the new Trinity Mead estate. It should be noted that this development is one of the largest in the whole county.

I recognise that the crossing scores low on the PV scale, however this measure does not take into account that it is mainly children who need to cross and also the increasing rise in traffic volumes due to Trinity Mead and given the support for it from the safer routes to school team and the safety team I trust that Cabinet will also recommend approval."

Councillor M. Perry

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Councillor Martin Heatley and Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Chief Executive

.....

Legal

I Marriott – comments incorporated

Finance

.....

Other Chief Officers

.....

District Councils

No objections

Health Authority

.....

Police

No objections

Other Bodies/Individuals

School Governors (Bridgetown Primary) - Support the zebra crossing.

Residents Association – support the zebra crossing.

**FINAL DECISION**

**YES/NO** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Cabinet – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near  
Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and  
Development**

**Recommendation**

That the Cabinet consider the proposal.

**1. Background**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006 the Stratford on Avon Area Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy relating to a proposed zebra crossing at Rushbrook Road, Bridgetown, Stratford upon Avon. A copy of the report is attached at **Appendix A**.

The Committee agreed to the proposed crossing at the location recommended in the report. A copy of the draft minute of the Area Committee is attached at **Appendix B**.

**2. Call-in of Area Committee's Decision**

The Area Committee's decision was subsequently called-in under Standing Order 12 by Councillor Izzi Seccombe in her capacity as a Cabinet member, for the following reasons:-

- Lack of opportunity to assess impact on local residents.
- Criteria very low for need for crossing.
- Assess other measures as alternative.

This negates the Area Committee's decision. A copy of Standing Order 12 is attached at **Appendix C**.

**3. Views of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy**

The Strategic Director has made several supplementary comments in support of his original recommendation to the Area Committee. These are attached at **Appendix D**.



#### **4. Next Steps**

The Cabinet is now asked to consider the called-in decision. The Cabinet has the power to make the decision as it sees fit.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director of Performance and Development  
Shire Hall, Warwick  
April 2006

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** **Stratford Area Committee**

**Date of Committee** **15th March 2006**

**Report Title** **Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon**

**Summary** The Zebra Crossing has been proposed as part of a traffic management scheme for Bridgetown, funded through the Trinity Mead development. The crossing forms part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, local safety schemes and a facility for Quality Pedestrian Corridors.

**For further information please contact** Jerry Birkbeck  
Environmental Design  
Tel. 01926 412640  
jerrybirkbeck@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No

**Background Papers** 7 letters supporting/not objecting to the scheme.  
5 letters objecting to the scheme.

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  Councillor R. Hyde – Supports the zebra crossing  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members  Councillor M. Perry – for information
- Cabinet Member  .....  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – comments incorporated

- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  No objections
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  No objections
- Other Bodies/Individuals  School Governors (Bridgetown Primary) - Support the zebra crossing.  
Residents Association – support the zebra crossing.

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Stratford on Avon Area Committee

### Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon

#### Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy

#### Recommendation

That the installation of a zebra crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon be supported.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2001 the developers of the Trinity Mead development adjacent to the Bridgetown estate agreed to a S106 payment of £90,000 for traffic management proposals. Extensive consultation was carried out in November 2004. A number of proposals were suggested and investigated, but some rejected as being unfeasible.
- 1.2 The Zebra Crossing forms part of the overall traffic management proposals for Bridgetown. The proposal will provide a safe crossing point for children attending Bridgetown Primary School and also benefit the wider community. The location of the crossing has been agreed through discussions with the School Governors and our Safer Routes to School staff.  
(See **Appendix A**, and **Appendix B** which is attached for Members of the Committee only).

#### 2. Consultations

- 2.1 Details of the proposals were delivered to the eight properties which would be most affected by the zebra crossing. Six responses were received, five of which raised objections, one supported the scheme.
- 2.2 Details of the proposals were sent to the Warwickshire Police and Stratford on Avon District Council. Neither raise objections.
- 2.3 Councillor Hyde, The Residents Association and School Governors support the crossing proposal.

### 3. Responses to Consultation

#### Residents Association

- 3.1 Believes the crossing will encourage and make safer the walk to school.

#### School Governors

- 3.2 Fully in support of both the need and proposed siting of the zebra crossing. The crossing is in the most natural place for children, walking and cycling.

#### Resident in support

- 3.3 Definitely a positive safety measure, sensible location.

- 3.4 Received objections:-

- (i) Concern that there aren't enough children and parents crossing to warrant a crossing.

**Response** - The crossing has the support of the Governors of Bridgetown Primary School and the location has been agreed through discussions with them and our Safer Routes to Schools staff. The Police have raised no objections.

- (ii) The crossing would be better placed further down Rushbrook Road.

**Response** - The crossing point has been confirmed as appropriate in a Stage 1 Safety Audit.

- (iii) The beacons/flood lights of the zebra crossing will disrupt the sleep of their child and cause the child stress.

**Response** – A cowling would be fitted to the rear of the beacon to reduce glare to surrounding properties.

- (iv) Concern about the flashing of the beacons day and night.

**Response** – A cowling would be fitted to the rear of the beacon to reduce glare to surrounding properties.

- (v) Loss of visitor parking.

**Response** - The scheme would result in the loss of visitor parking space. However, it is important to consider the scheme in the wider context of pedestrian safety.

- (vi) Concern that the crossing isn't enough to slow speeds along Rushbrook Road.

**Response** - A zebra crossing would help to slow speeds down. Our Safety Engineers have found from experience that most drivers are very cautious when approaching a zebra crossing, so that it would assist in slowing down vehicles exiting from Wordsworth Avenue.

- (vii) Concern that it will affect the ease/safety in which they can reverse out of their drive.

**Response** - The presence of a crossing would slow vehicles down. However, it is recognised that it could affect any individual reversing out of their drive.

- (viii) That its an "exaggeration" and not in keeping with the area, prefers the option of road humps and narrowing.

**Response** - Other options have been considered. Road humps have been considered but there were objections raised by residents at the Public Exhibition in November 2004 due to the noise and need for additional signage. The use of narrowings has been looked at, but to work effectively there would need to be a steady two-way traffic flow. If it is quiet, which it is most of the time they would have little effect on traffic speeds.

## 4. Policy Context

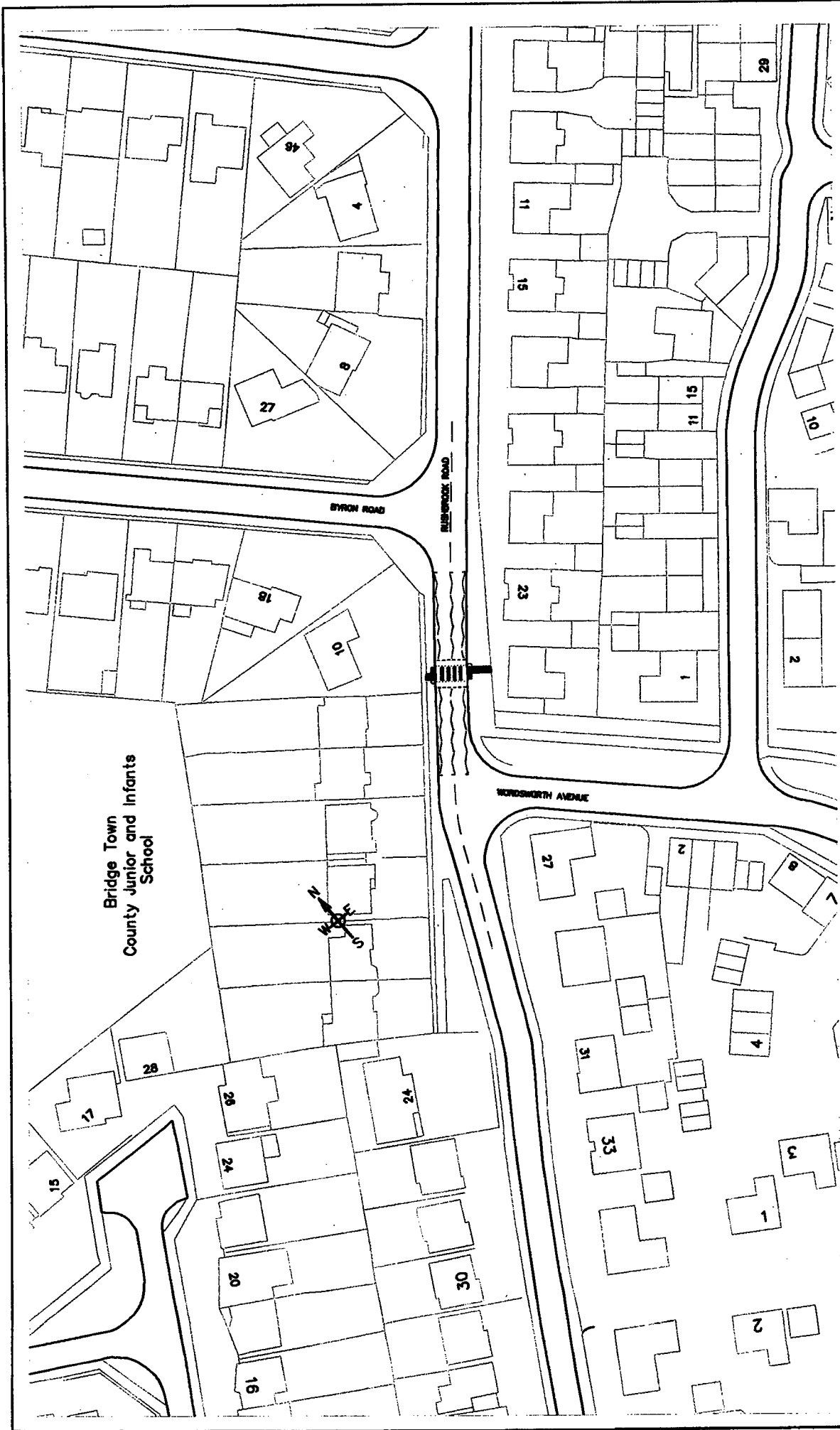
- 4.1 (i) Safer Routes to School – to encourage a modal shift - more children walking.
- (ii) Local safety schemes – likely casualty savings.
- (iii) Developer funded schemes – to mitigate anticipated traffic impact of development /pedestrian flow.
- (v) Quality Pedestrian Corridors – part of a package of measures on strategic walking corridors.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is concluded that the wider benefits of the zebra crossing are overriding in this case. The promotion of the Walking Agenda and Safer Routes to School Initiative will benefit from the installation of this crossing. The nature of the crossing is also likely to alert drivers to drive with more caution and reduce a speeding issue that is perceived by some residents.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy  
Shire Hall, Warwick  
1st March 2006

# Appendix A



TITLE		DRN	HC	CRD	GRD
PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING RUSHBROOK ROAD NEAR WORDSWORTH AVENUE STRAFORD UPON AVON		DATE	September 2005		
		SCALE	1:1000		
		DRG. NO.	SIG/2570/1/A		

STRAFORD AREA COMMITTEE 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Proposed Zebra Crossing, at Rushbrook Road near  
Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown,  
Stratford – Upon – Avon

Appendix A – Location details of Zebra Crossing

**NOTES**

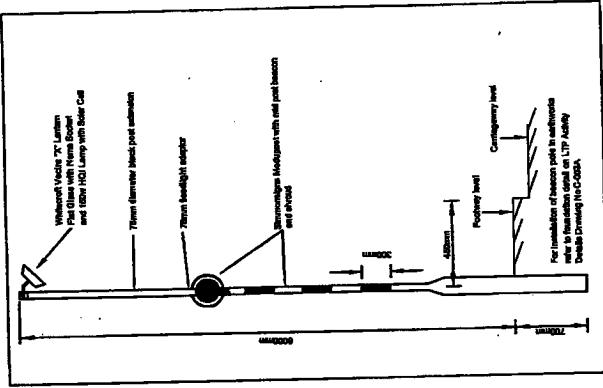
Based on the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of the Major's Stationery Office.  
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**Warwickshire Transport and Economic Strategy**  
Department of Planning,  
Warwickshire County Council

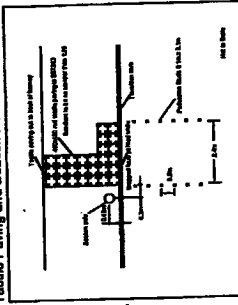
John Deegan BA MSc DipTP MCT MRTPI  
Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy  
D.S. Lynn BSc CEng MICE  
Head of Engineering Services

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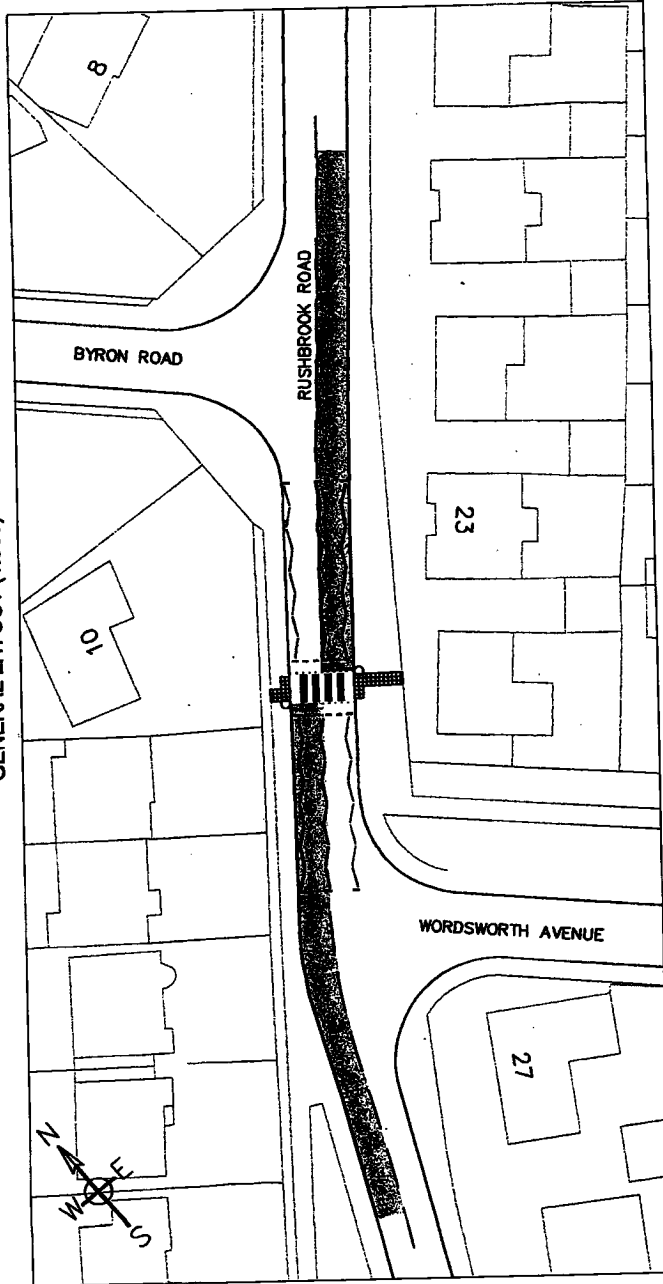
## BEACON POLE DETAILS



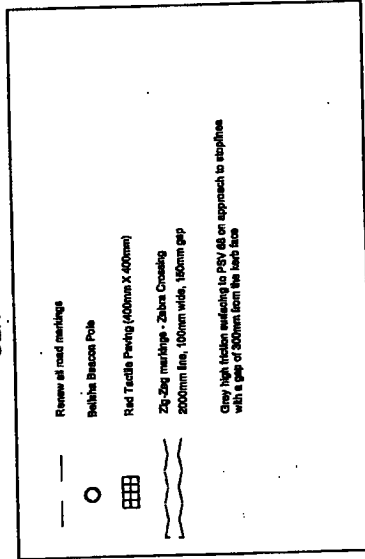
## Tactile Paving and Beacon Pole Position Detail



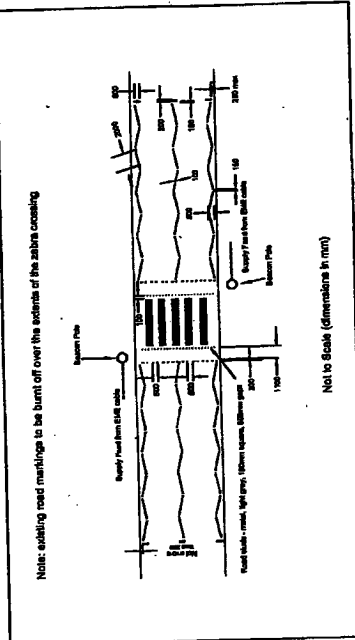
## GENERAL LAYOUT (1:500)



## GENERAL KEY



## ZEBRA CROSSING DIMENSIONAL DETAILS



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Department of Planning,  
 Warwickshire  
 Transport and Economic Strategy  
 County Council  
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STRATFORD AREA COMMITTEE 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
 Proposed Zebra Crossing, at Rushbrook Road near  
 Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown,  
 Stratford - Upon - Avon  
 Appendix B - Zebra Crossing details

Rev	Date	By	Chk	Amendment	TITLE	DRN	HC	CRD	GHD
					PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING RUSHBROOK ROAD NEAR WORDSWORTH AVENUE STRATFORD UPON AVON				
								September 2005	
								Not to Scale	
								DRG. NO.	SIG257/01/AS



## Appendix B

### 7. Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The Zebra Crossing had been proposed as part of a traffic management scheme for Bridgetown, funded through the Trinity Mead development. The crossing formed part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, local safety schemes and a facility for Quality Pedestrian Corridors.

*Earlier in the meeting, during the Public Question and Answer session, Sharon Wallpole in her capacity as a local resident, a parent, the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of Bridgetown School, the Team Leader of Bridgetown School's School Travel Plan Team and the Safer Routes to Schools representative at Bridgetown School had made several points in support of the Zebra Crossing at the recommended location, as follows:*

- (1) The proposed crossing was a vital part of the 'School Travel Plan' (in final planning stages with Laura Vestry, Sustainable Travel Officer, Warwickshire County Council). The crossing was required to provide the final link to the school. It would make possible for everyone with children south of the school to get to school safely.*
- (2) Since the building of the Trinity Mead estate, traffic had increased both in volume and speed. There was no designated crossing at the proposed zebra crossing, which has always been the natural crossing for all pedestrians to the school from the estate and from across the Banbury Road.*
- (3) The proposed site was the best position for a zebra crossing because it would mean pedestrians from the south/east of school would not have to cross any other road to get to Bridgetown Primary.*
- (4) At the moment, children and parents with pushchairs congregate at the proposed site and wait for a break in traffic to cross (or a kind motorist, who is prepared to wait a couple of minutes). The group can grow to be quite large resulting children occasionally being forced into the road. If unattended children were impatient, they sometimes struck out across Rushbrook Road at any place; sometimes coming out into traffic from between parked cars. Regardless of the children's behaviour, the pavement was right next to the road. Traffic often moved at an alarming pace, considering small children are walking so near to it. A crossing would not only give safe passage, but would also serve to act as a traffic calming measure.*
- (5) The crossing was significant to the success of the School Travel Plan. Surveys conducted at Bridgetown School of children, parents and*

*staff, all suggest that there would be a dramatic decrease of travel to school by car if the crossing over Rushbrook Road was made safe (not currently viewed to be so).*

During consideration of the item, five members of the public indicated that they wished to speak in opposition to the proposal. Owing to time constraints, public question time, which had been earlier in the meeting, had been curtailed but with the concurrence of the Committee the Chair agreed to the Committee receiving one further submission from objectors.

It was stated on behalf of the objectors that:

- A wider approach to the siting of the proposed crossing was needed.
- The recommended location could not be justified by traffic flow and would lead to pedestrians crossing elsewhere.
- The proposed location would not lead to safety but would make matters worse at other end of Rushbrook Road and would not help traffic calming.
- Vehicles from properties adjacent to the proposed location would need to reverse onto the crossing.
- The Committee was urged to defer consideration of the matter to enable further consideration to be given to a wider approach to safer routes to schools.

Councillor Richard Hyde, one of the two local county councillors for the Division, indicated his support for the proposed crossing at the recommended location. He indicated that he had heard both sides of the argument and was conscious of the need for the crossing as quickly as possible in order that children could get to school safely. He drew attention to the support for the proposal from other residents, the school and the PTA.

In response to the additional points raised Jerry Birkbeck, an Environmental Design Engineer in the Environment and Economy Directorate, advised the Committee that the proposed location had been assessed by traffic engineers and complied with the criteria for such crossings. He stated that the residents adjacent to the proposed location would not have to reverse on to the crossing and indicated the benefits of all children crossing at the one point.

Following discussion it was Resolved by 3 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions:-

That the installation of a zebra crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon be supported as recommended.

**Extract from the Council's Standing Orders**

**12. Cabinet Call-in of Area Committee Executive Decisions**

Any member of the Cabinet may call-in an executive decision made by an Area Committee within 5 working days of the publication of the decision.

Where a decision has been called-in under this standing order the decision made by the Area Committee shall be of no effect.

Any call-in by a Cabinet member under this standing order shall invalidate any call-in of the Area Committee decision under standing order 11.

The Cabinet shall consider the called-in decision at its next available meeting and shall have power to make such decision as it sees fit in respect of the matter provided it falls within its powers to do so.

Nothing in this standing order prevents the Cabinet decision once made being called-in under standing order 11.

### **The Strategic Director for Environment and Economy's Supplementary Comments Relating to the Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road, Stratford upon Avon**

#### **1. Objections to the crossing**

The detailed points of objection to the proposed crossing are all adequately dealt with in the report to Stratford on Avon Area Committee of 15th March 2006. There is no need to repeat them here.

#### **2. Justification for the crossing and policy for provision of crossings**

Since Stratford Area Committee met on 15th March, a number of issues have been raised with the Environment and Economy Directorate, one of which is the lack of numerical ("PV squared") justification for the crossing.

Although the greater proportion of new pedestrian crossings are provided on the basis of need established from surveys of existing vehicle and pedestrian flows, it has long been accepted that there are other justifications for crossings such as the need to provide for and mitigate the impact of developments and to encourage children to walk to school. The revised "Policy for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossings and pedestrian Phases at Traffic Signals" was approved by Cabinet on 6th April 2006. Although the policy is mainly concerned with how the need for pedestrian crossings will be established by measuring the existing degree of conflict between pedestrians and traffic, the policy also lists four alternative approaches to providing crossings. They are as follows

**Safer Routes to School** – where the aim is to encourage more children to walk to school with less use of the car.

**Casualty Reduction Schemes** – where the rate of return from likely casualty savings is sufficient to justify the expenditure on a crossing.

**Developer-funded schemes** – where crossing facilities are required to mitigate anticipated traffic impact of developments and/or anticipated increases in pedestrian flows.

**Facilities installed on Quality Pedestrian Corridors** – where crossing facilities may be considered as part of a package of measures on a strategic walking corridor.

The proposed pedestrian crossing in Rushbrook Road, will be funded via the Section 106 Agreement dated 3rd October 2001 for the Bridgetown Development. It is part of traffic calming measures needed in the area to mitigate the additional traffic flows generated. A decision to proceed with the crossing would be consistent with the above policy.

#### **3. The needs of Bridgetown School**

Bridgetown Primary School submitted a School Travel Plan in March 2006. At a meeting with the Environment and Economy Directorate's Sustainability Unit in early March, the main issues faced by the school regarding sustainable travel to the school were discussed.

The main issue raised as a barrier to children walking and cycling to school was crossing Rushbrook Road. Page 9 of the School Travel Plan states "*The busiest pedestrian/cyclist route to school is along Byron Road from Rushbrook Road. As a result of the new Trinity Mead Estate, Rushbrook Road has had a significant increase in the volume and the speed of traffic making crossing Rushbrook Road hazardous.*" This confirms the need anticipated by the Section 106 Agreement referred to above. Objective 6 of the action plan on page 12 of the School Travel Plan contains an action to "*Pursue installation of zebra crossing on Rushbrook Road*".

The school was advised to carry out a parents survey in consultation for the Travel Plan. 134 parents returned the survey form and the results showed that 40 parents wrote that they are concerned about crossing Rushbrook Road and many parents mentioned the volume of traffic and the speed of traffic being a worry (pages 7, 8 and Appendix A of the School Travel Plan).

The School Travel Plan for Bridgetown School requires the crossing to provide the final link in walking route to the school. A letter from the Governors and Head Teacher dated 15th November 2005 states that "*The proposed site for the crossing is the most natural place for it to be. Children walking/scootering/cycling to Bridgetown School already stop to cross Rushbrook Road at this spot. Parents often are seen acting as a crossing guards in order to stop the flow of traffic and allow the children to cross safely*".

Page 3 of the School Travel Plan states

"Bridgetown (School) has been an active supported of the 'Safer Routes to School Initiative' by supporting the 'Walk to School' initiative and by attempting to establish a 'Walking School Bus'. We have also campaigned locally and, with the support of 'Safer Routes to School', have managed to successfully have a pelican crossing installed at crucial point on Banbury Road. We also host cycle training every year to our KS2 students at our school."

This is evidence that the School takes sustainable travel seriously and deserves further encouragement to promote the modal shift sought in the Council's Local Transport Plan.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The proposed crossing is justified in terms of the Council's Policy for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossings. It will help, as part of a wider measures to mitigate the effects of the housing development off Rushbrook Road. It will also have real benefits in continuing to promote sustainable travel to school. All this is achievable at the expense of the developer, not the County Council. The continuing objections of some residents are noted, but it is apparent that the needs of the wider community indicate that the opportunity should be taken to provide the crossing. It is therefore strongly recommended that Cabinet should approve the recommendation put to Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15th March 2006 i.e. That the installation of a zebra crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon be supported.

JOHN DEEGAN,  
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**04 May 2006**

**Report Title**

**Additional Road Maintenance Funding - North Warwickshire**

**Summary**

The North Warwickshire Area Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy setting out the Capital Programme for Transport 2006-07 in the North Warwickshire Area. Additional to the delegated budget of £40,000 for transport projects, is an amount of £300,000 available for capital funded road maintenance schemes. The Area Committee agreed to request approval from the Cabinet to use the allocation of £300,000 for structural road maintenance and improvement schemes.

**For further information please contact:**

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Ann Mawdsley  
Senior Committee  
Administrator  
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annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**

No.

**Background papers**

Report to the North Warwickshire Area Committee - 22 March 2006

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

North Warwickshire Area Committee

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member

Councillor Martin Heatley  
Councillor Colin Hayfield  
Councillor Peter Fowler

Chief Executive

Legal

I Marriott

J Pollard - agreed

- Finance  C Holden – comments incorporated, V Rennie
- Strategic Directors  John Deegan, David Clarke, David Carter
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Monica Fogarty, Martin Stott

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  North Warwickshire, 31 May 2006
- Further Consultation  .....

## Agenda No

**Cabinet - 04 May 2006.**

### **Additional Road Maintenance Funding - North Warwickshire**

#### **Report of the Chair, North Warwickshire Area Committee**

##### **Recommendation**

That the Cabinet give approval for the use of the delegated budget of £300,000 for capital funded structural road maintenance schemes be expanded to include road improvements.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The North Warwickshire Area Committee held a Capital Transport Programme Seminar on 1 February 2006. Included in the discussions at the seminar were the allocation of the £40,000 delegated to each Area Committee to allocate to transport projects according to local priorities and the additional £300,000 available for capital structural road maintenance schemes.
- 1.2 Following further discussions at the Area Committee meeting on 22 March, Members agreed to seek approval from the Cabinet to expand the use of the budget of £300,000 to include road improvements to meet local transport needs.

#### **2. Criteria**

- 2.1 This is a complex area where legal/accounting guidance needs to be observed. Any use of the delegated budget would be required to be assessed to ensure that it meets one of the following criteria:
  - 2.1.1 Capital spending is defined as spending on the:
    - acquisition, reclamation, enhancement or laying out of land
    - acquisition, construction, preparation, enhancement or replacement of roads, buildings and other structures
    - acquisition, installation or replacement of movable or immovable plant, machinery, apparatus, vehicles and vessels.
  - 2.1.2 In the above definition enhancement is carrying out works which are intended to:
    - lengthen substantially the useful life of the asset, or



- increase substantially the market value of the asset, or
- increase substantially the extent to which the asset can or will be used for the purposes of or in conjunction with the functions of the local authority concerned.

2.2 Under this definition improvement works and structural repairs can be capitalised if they cost more than £6,000. However, spending to ensure that the fixed asset maintains its previous standard or performance is revenue spending for example, reconstruction, resurfacing and footways are treated as capital expenditure, whereas patching is classified as revenue spending and would not be allowed. In terms of improvement projects administration costs are not allowed and nor are feasibility studies that include the preliminary analysis of options.

### **3. Conclusion**

Following discussions at seminar held on 1 February and the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 22 March, the Area Committee agreed to request approval from the Cabinet to use the allocation of £300,000 for structural road maintenance and improvement schemes adhering to the criteria as outlined above.

CLLR RAY SWEET  
Chair, North Warwickshire  
Area Committee

Shire Hall  
Warwick

03 April 2006

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**The Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Report Title**

**School term and holiday dates  
2007/08**

**Summary**

This report asks Cabinet to approve the school term and holiday dates for 2007/08.

**For further information  
please contact:**

Craig Pratt  
Principal Administrative Officer  
Tel: 01926 412001  
craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended  
decision be contrary to the  
Budget and Policy  
Framework? [please identify  
relevant plan/budget provision]**

No

**Background papers**

None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  .....
- Other Elected Members  Cllr John Whitehouse – “noted”  
C&YP O&S Spokespersons for information:  
Cllr Helen McCarthy  
Cllr Richard Grant – “supports the proposals”  
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – “noted”
- Cabinet Member  Cllr John Burton – “noted”
- Other Cabinet Members consulted  Cllr Izzi Seccombe  
Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive  .....

- Legal  Victoria Gould / Richard Freeth – “fine”
- Finance  David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources – no comments to make
- Other Strategic Directors  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Other West Midlands Local Authorities  
WCC County Teachers’ Advisory Committee

**FINAL DECISION** **YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**The Cabinet – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**School term and holiday dates 2007/08**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families**

**Recommendation:**

That the school term and holiday dates calendar for 2007/08 attached as Appendix A to the Strategic Director's report be adopted.

1. The proposed calendar for 2007/08 term dates is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. The calendar takes account of suggestions from the Local Government Association (LGA). However, in order to provide a "best-fit" with neighbouring Local Authorities, some variations from the LGA's suggested model have been necessary.
3. It has been discussed with other Local Authorities in the West Midlands Region and is recommended to Cabinet by the County Teachers' Advisory Committee.

MARION DAVIS  
Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families

22 Northgate Street  
Warwick

24<sup>th</sup> April 2006

## Proposed Warwickshire Schools' Calendar 2007/2008



Holidays



Bank Holidays



Teacher Days

2007																2008											
September					October					November					December					January				February			
Monday	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	
Tuesday	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	
Wednesday	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	
Thursday	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	
Friday	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	

2008																													
March					April					May					June					July					August				
Monday	25	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		
Tuesday	26	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		
Wednesday	27	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		
Thursday	28	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		
Friday	29	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31		

Autumn	36 days
	40
Spring	25
	23
Summer	36
	35
Total	<u>195</u>

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**04 May 2006**

**Report Title**

**Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Businesses**

**Summary**

In March 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. Warwickshire County Council has been working beyond these guidelines for some time.

The Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, on 16 March 2006, on this issue recommends that Cabinet adopt the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**

**Background papers**

None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

.....

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members

Councillors P Barnes, P Morris-Jones - for information

Cabinet Member

Councillor Chris Saint - The Concordat provides a reliable framework for the business support services provided by the County Council.

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Portfolio holder for Procurement) – I am happy to support the recommendation.

- Chief Executive  Paul White, County Procurement Officer - Signing the Concordat will reinforce the work the Council is already undertaking in this area.
- Legal  Katherine Grasby
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  John Deegan .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Agenda No

**Cabinet - 04 May 2006.**

### **Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Businesses**

#### **Report of the Chair, Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

##### **Recommendation**

The Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet adopt the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide.

##### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 In March 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. Warwickshire County Council has been working beyond these guidelines for some time.
- 1.2 On the 16 March 2006 the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, considered the attached report of the Director of Environment and Economy on this issue and resolved -

“That the Committee endorses this report and recommends the adoption of the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide by Cabinet.”

COUNCILLOR MICK JONES  
Chair, Economic Development  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

Shire Hall  
Warwick

22 March 2006



**Appendix - Agenda No  
AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Committee** 16th March 2006

**Report Title** Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Business

**Summary** In March 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. Warwickshire County Council has been working beyond these guidelines for some time, and Members are therefore asked to endorse the Concordat.

**For further information please contact** Leigh Hunt Business Support Officer - ICT  
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leighhunt@warwickshire.gov.uk  
Paul White County Procurement Officer  
Tel.01926 736146  
paulwhite@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance (ODPM, March).

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  .....  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members  Councillor P Barnes  
 Councillor M Jones } for information  
 Councillor P Morris-Jones

Cabinet Member  Councillor C Saint – for information  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

- Chief Executive  County Procurement Officer
- Legal  I Marriott – comments incorporated
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Chambers of Commerce Business Community.

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  For approval in accordance with the decisions reached by Committee.
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee -  
16th March 2006**

**Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Business**

**Report of the Strategic Director of  
Environment and Economy**

**Recommendation**

That the Committee endorses this report and recommends the adoption of the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide by Cabinet.

**1. Small Business Friendly Concordat**

- 1.1 The Small Business Friendly Concordat is a voluntary, non-statutory code of practice. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Small Business Service (SBS) strongly encourage all Local Authorities (in England) to sign up to the Concordat as provided for in the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government (October 2003). A copy of the invitation letter from the ODPM is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Concordat is to set out what small firms and others supplying Local Government can expect when tendering for Local Authority contracts. It is not intended that smaller suppliers automatically be given a competitive advantage when tendering for local government contracts due to the Concordat, but there are certainly steps that all contracting authorities can take to ensure that suppliers of all kinds are treated equally. The Concordat also sets out the standards that public sector buyers should expect from their suppliers.
- 1.3 Both the Concordat and the Good Practice Guide represent a commitment from Local Government to encourage and develop appropriate levels of competition in local government markets in order to increase value for money and foster innovation, particularly from those businesses/suppliers who may find it difficult to break into this market and ODPM stresses the important contribution that contracts with local authorities can make to the visibility of local small businesses. These may include local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which themselves could include ethnic and minority owned businesses (EMBs), women-owned businesses, social enterprises and voluntary and community organisations (VCOs). These are all sectors of the business community that can find themselves under-represented in local Government procurement and are sectors of business that the Council is encouraging to grow.
- 1.4 Over the last two years or so, the Economic Development Group has worked closely with the County Procurement Team, the Chamber and other external

partners to put in place some practical measures to assist local businesses and to help them access contracts with Warwickshire County Council. A principal driver for this was the prospect of the introduction of e-procurement. Earlier studies of the Council's supplier database had shown that the County Council is heavily dependent on Warwickshire-based businesses for the supply of goods and services, and further surveys showed that many of our suppliers had no ICT capacity or little understanding of how to engage electronically. This would mean that if a precipitate move towards e-procurement were to be adopted by the Council then the consequences could be lack of local suppliers on the one hand and a detrimental effect to the local economy on the other.

- 1.5 The Procurement Team and Economic Development Group set up a joint project with the Chamber of Commerce to run a series of events throughout the County to inform SMEs of the opportunities afforded by e-procurement, the drivers and constraints under which the Council works, and how to engage in the process. The events were also used as a vehicle to promote the ICT support and advice given by the Economic Development Group, particularly with regard to effective engagement in the e-agenda and e-commerce.
- 1.6 Alongside this activity the County's website has been enhanced to include information about working with the County Council, how to find information about tenders, policies and procedures and checklists for those wishing to win business from the Council. Over the coming months the level of information will be deepened so that where framework agreements are in place potential suppliers can contact contractors to obtain work as 2nd tier suppliers. See [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/procurement](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/procurement).
- 1.7 The aim of the project is to break down barriers between the suppliers and the Council; to enhance the sustainability of Warwickshire businesses (the skills that are being propagated are equally applicable to tendering in the private sector); and to promote efficiencies with the Authority by moving towards a full e-procurement solution.
- 1.8 This work is visionary in that it pre-empted the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide, so that Warwickshire has already put in place systems that in some respects go beyond the recommendations, and has actively engaged with our suppliers to ensure that the Government e-procurement targets are being met whilst minimising any adverse impact on local SMEs.
- 1.9 In November 2005 the council was awarded the West Midlands ICT Cluster Award for Best Public Sector Procurer in recognition of the success of this project.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the panel endorses this report and recommends the adoption of the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide by Cabinet.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy  
Shire Hall  
Warwick  
10th March 2006

Small Business Friendly Concordat: Good Practice Guidance

## National Procurement Concordat for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (full text)

A statement of principles to encourage effective trade between local authorities and small businesses.

### Introduction

We are committed to delivering locally the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government. The strategy asks local authorities to adopt a small and medium sized enterprise (SME) friendly procurement concordat and to encourage a mixed range of suppliers in order to help develop and stimulate a varied and competitive marketplace. The concordat sets out the actions that local authorities will take to make their contracts more accessible to SMEs.

Although the principles should relate to all SMEs, the concordat is particularly focused on small businesses of less than 50 employees.

We recognise the important contribution that small businesses can make to the delivery of public services and the vital role these businesses play in the national and local economy. We are committed to making the most of the benefits offered by them.

### Underlying Principles

Contracts are awarded in order to support the Best Value delivery of local government services. We will deliver value for money and take into account the whole life costs in contract decisions; this means considering quality, longer term cost and benefits as well as initial price.

We will make appropriate use of our legal powers including the power to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of our community.

All tender processes and contract awards will comply with EU Public Procurement Directives and the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and transparency and our duties under UK law.

### Local Authority Commitments

#### *Procurement strategy*

We will publish a corporate procurement strategy. The strategy will include a commitment to:

- The role procurement plays in delivering the Council's objectives and its contribution to the community strategy, workforce issues, diversity and equality and sustainability.
- How we will encourage a diverse and competitive supply market, including small firms, social enterprises, ethnic minority businesses and voluntary and community sector suppliers.

- A commitment to ensure that our approach to individual contracts, including large contracts and framework agreements etc, is supported by a sound business case and options appraisal.
- A commitment that where we decide that the best value option is to aggregate supply or let a longer term contract or framework agreement we will invite bidders to demonstrate their track record in achieving value for money through effective use of their supply chain.
- *A commitment to consider the role of SME specialist suppliers in delivering elements of larger contracts and framework agreements.*

*Access to contract opportunities*

- We will publish on our website;  
Guidance for suppliers on how to do business with the council;  
details of forthcoming bidding opportunities, and;  
contact details for each contract, with appropriate links to any regional site and the national public sector opportunities portal (to be launched Summer 2005).

*Details of our key suppliers.*

- We will advertise contracts. We will use a range of publications and other means in order to encourage greater diversity and competition.
- We will give potential suppliers an opportunity to discuss the procurement in order to understand our requirements and assess their own suitability. Nothing will be done, however, which would give a particular business or provider an unfair advantage in competing for a specific contract.
- We will work with prime contractors – both at tender stage and during the life of a contract – to establish the contribution that small firms, ethnic minority businesses, social enterprises and voluntary and community sector suppliers can play in the supply chain. We will provide details of our prime contractors on our website.

*Fair tender processes*

- We will apply our own rules and policies fairly.
- At pre-tender stage and during the tender process we will ensure that all tenderers have equal access to relevant information.
- We will keep the tender process as simple as possible in order to help minimise the costs to suppliers.
- If a pre-qualification stage is used we will use a Council-wide pre-qualification questionnaire containing common core questions with limited bespoke additions for each contract. We will work with regional and national partners to ensure a consistent approach to pre-qualification.

## Small Business Friendly Concordat: Good Practice Guidance

- We will assess potential suppliers against published pre-qualification and tender evaluation criteria. These criteria will be proportionate to the risks of the individual contract process. In particular the criteria relating to financial standing will not to be set to unreasonably exclude newer businesses.

### Feedback

*We will offer meaningful feedback to suppliers following the procurement process in order that suppliers can improve for future tenders.*

- We will seek feedback from suppliers, and their respective trade associations, on our tender processes and address where we can any problems that are brought to our attention.
- We will publish a complaints procedure.

### Contract management

- *We will treat suppliers openly and fairly. Suppliers will:*

Be paid on time. No more than 30 days from receipt of an undisputed invoice.

Receive honest and constructive feedback on the supplier's performance of the contract.

Be given notice of any performance problems and an opportunity, if appropriate, to put matters right.

- All contracts will require our suppliers to pay their sub-contractors, throughout the supply chain, within 30 days from receipt of an undisputed invoice.

### Supplier commitments

As customers we will make clear to our suppliers, and those wishing to do business with us, what is expected of them.



**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY CONCORDAT**

The ODPM, the LGA and Small Business Service want to see all local authorities sign-up to the Small Business Friendly Concordat. The Concordat is a voluntary, non-statutory document, and your signature will not only demonstrate a pledge to actively engage with small businesses, but it will also show your authority's commitment to good procurement practices in general. This in turn should help foster a professional approach to managing procurement in your authority and, in doing so, help you implement key strategic objectives and milestones in the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government.

Name of your Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position in Local authority: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Cabinet  
**Date of Committee** 4th May 2006  
**Report Title** Response to the Consultation on the Revision of England's Waste Strategy

**Summary** England's Waste Strategy was published in 2000. It set out how England's waste should be managed, setting challenging targets for recycling, composting and recovery of waste. The Government has published a review of the Strategy, with the proposal to publish the revised Strategy later in the year. The overall approach of the review is supported.

**For further information please contact** Kalen Wood  
 Projects Manager, Waste Management  
 Tel. 01926 418064  
 kalenwood@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** Review of England's Waste Strategy.

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  .....  
 (With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members  Councillor K Browne )  
 Councillor Mrs E Goode ) for information  
 Councillor Mrs J Lea )

Cabinet Member  Councillor M Heatley – Supports the revision  
 (Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive  .....

Legal  I Marriott - agreed

- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Cabinet - 4th May 2006**

**Response to the Consultation on the Revision of England's  
Waste Strategy**

**Report of the Strategic Director of  
Environment and Economy**

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet supports the proposed response to the review of England's Waste Strategy.

**1. Background Waste Strategy 2000**

- 1.1 Waste Strategy 2000 set out the agenda for a fundamental shift in waste management practice. Its main objectives were reducing environmental and health impacts of waste by:-
- (i) Encouraging waste reduction.
  - (ii) Increasing recycling, composting and recovery.
  - (iii) Promoting reuse of materials wherever possible.
  - (iv) Reducing our reliance on landfill in line with the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive.
- 1.2 Since Waste Strategy 2000 was published we have increased the amount of waste that we recycle and compost and have decreased the amount of waste that we send to landfill. However, it is acknowledged that compared to other European countries we still produce more municipal waste per head and recycle less.

**2. The Review**

- 2.1 The review of the Strategy considers:-
- (i) The direction and focus of the waste strategy.
  - (ii) What new challenges we need to address.

- (iii) What changes are needed to policy instruments and delivery arrangements to drive further progress.
- 2.2 The Waste Hierarchy is still pivotal to the waste strategy, with the review putting even greater emphasis on waste prevention and focusing on waste as a resource.
- 2.3 The key proposals identified in the review are summarised as follows:

### **National Targets**

- 2.4 Increased national targets for recycling and composting household waste are proposed, as well as new recovery targets for municipal waste (recovery includes recycling, composting and energy recovery).

Proposed national recycling and recovery targets for household and municipal waste.

	2010	2015	2020
Household recycling and composting	40%	45%	50%
Municipal waste recovery	53%	67%	75%

### **Waste Prevention**

- 2.5 A broad spectrum waste prevention target is not proposed as the Government does not consider that it would be currently practical to implement such a target. It considers a material/sector specific approach to be more viable.
- 2.6 The Review proposes putting greater focus on waste prevention and embedding this in the wider Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) agenda alongside other environmental impacts. It also proposes further action on prioritising products where waste impacts need to be tackled while reducing impacts of products through eco-design, and promoting reuse and remanufacturing of products. Further advice to businesses (particularly small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on resource efficiency and the environmental impacts of products is also advocated.

### **Energy from Waste**

- 2.7 The review supports an increase in the use of Energy from Waste (EfW) as a means of treating waste that cannot be recycled or reused. Currently 9% of municipal waste is treated using energy from waste, it is anticipated that by 2020, this will be nearer 27%. The Government will also be reviewing the potential role of EfW in its Energy Policy Review as a potential means of increasing the security of our energy supply.

### **Limiting Landfill**

- 2.8 Placing further restrictions on use of landfill in the longer term, in future the potential to landfill non-biodegradable waste only.

## **Hazardous Household Waste**

2.9 Improvements to the arrangements for collection and management of household hazardous waste.

### **2.10 Wider Strategic Role for Local Authorities**

- (i) A wider strategic role for local authorities (in partnerships) to facilitate more integrated management of different waste streams.
- (ii) To improve the interaction of producers and compliance organisations with local authorities to deliver EU and national targets.

## **Improved Integration Between Municipal and Other Waste Streams**

2.11 The report advocates sustainable waste management in non-municipal sectors including - commercial, industrial, construction, demolition, mining and quarry wastes, with greater integration of planning and procurement between municipal and some non-municipal waste.

## **3. Warwickshire County Council Response to Consultation**

3.1 The report poses 53 questions. The full list of questions is attached to this report as **Appendix B**. Rather than answer all of the questions (some of which are not directly relevant), responses and observations have been grouped together under specific topics with the relevant questions answered in brackets. The responses are included in **Appendix A**.

3.2 Overall the County Council supports the general approach proposed in review of the Waste Strategy.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

18th April 2006

**Cabinet - 4th May 2006**

**Response to the Consultation on the  
Revision of England's Waste Strategy**

**1. Policy Framework**

**(i) Producer Responsibility**

WCC consider that a statutory as opposed to a voluntary approach should be set for future producer responsibility standards. Although it is acknowledged that voluntary agreements can work in certain sectors, it is unlikely that reliance solely on voluntary commitments will have a significant impact on waste reduction, reuse and recycling in the commercial sector. (Q7)

**(ii) Effective Pricing Framework**

Although moving in the right direction, it is considered that the landfill tax is still too low for certain wastes e.g. industrial and commercial waste and as a result stifles investment in alternative treatment technologies as the cost differential between landfill and alternative treatment options is still too wide.

(iii) However, the main financial driver for diverting municipal waste from landfill is the Landfill allowance regime rather than landfill tax. (Q8)

**(iv) Individuals**

Continued support should be given to the current national waste education campaigns. However, as it sits above recycling in the waste hierarchy, greater emphasis should be put on waste prevention and minimisation. A key step forward would be to allow the WRAP funding available to local authorities on a bid basis to be used to develop and promote waste prevention and minimisation schemes as opposed to being restricted to recycling and composting (Q10)

**(v) Business**

Sustainable procurement practices should be encouraged within businesses with emphasis being placed on a whole life cycle approach to procurement (Q11).

**2. Waste Prevention in the Context of Sustainable Consumption and Production**

**(i) Prioritisation for Effective Policy Intervention**

Although progress has been made in developing markets for wood waste. It is a problem waste stream and we feel that more should be done to encourage recycling and reuse of waste wood (Q14).

- (ii) **Waste Within A Coherent Product Life-Cycle Policy**  
Well thought out product design can have a significant impact on the potential reuse or recycling potential of a product. A poor example of product design is illustrated by plastic bottles that incorporate different layers of polymer rendering them harder to recycle (Q15).
- (iii) **Encouraging SMEs to Reduce Waste**  
WCC already actively works with local businesses to promote sustainable methods of waste management. It encourages the development of collective recycling and waste management facilities on industrial estates, which increases the affordability for SMEs. This collective approach to recycling should be encouraged and supported (Q19).

### 3. Recovering Resources from Waste

- (i) **Local Authority Performance**  
WCC supports the establishment of future recycling and composting standards. Compliance with the Landfill Directive is clearly an incentive for waste disposal authorities to increase recycling and composting, (particularly as they face significant financial penalties if annual diversion targets are exceeded), however, waste collection authorities do not face the same penalties. Although in the case of the Warwickshire authorities, we have agreed to reach stretched recycling targets which are over and above current statutory targets, further targets will retain a focus on recycling and composting and ensure that future commitment is made to improving services. It is also acknowledged that there will come a point when the cost and logistics of increasing recycling become unfeasible, this should be accounted for when setting future targets (Q23).
- (ii) The introduction of material specific recycling targets would encourage the collection of materials such as plastic that do not contribute significantly to recycling rates due to their low weight. However, in setting such targets end markets for the materials need to be taken into account. There is little point collecting a material if no viable market can be found, which is a problem with certain types of plastic. The burden of increasing the collection of packaging materials should not be passed onto local authorities without financial support for carrying out these services (Q24).
- (iii) The option to allow two-tier authorities to agree targets to deliver jointly an overall target is supported. As is the establishment of a performance standard for home composting (Q25).
- (iv) **Recovering Energy from Waste**  
WCC supports the recognition of the importance that energy from waste can play in sustainable waste management and contribution to energy generation in England.



- (v) In the text of the review (paragraph 27) reference to the health effects from energy from waste is made. It is the opinion of WCC that considering the importance that is put on perceived health effects from energy from waste that this paragraph should include more detail to improve clarity.
- (vi) WCC supports the view that high levels of recycling can coexist with relatively high levels of energy from waste, as is clearly demonstrated in Europe, and that facilities taking in a mixture of municipal and commercial waste should become the norm.
- (vii) WCC welcomes the fact that the Government is considering the case for targeted financial and other support for the delivery of energy from waste (Q26).
- (viii) In Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy a preference for treating residual waste using thermal treatment such as energy from waste is stated. However, WCC believes that there is role for both 'direct incineration' and Mechanical biological treatment (MBT) producing refuse derived fuel (RDF) in the treatment of residual waste. However, securing viable long-term markets for the RDF produced is critical.
- (ix) Direct energy from waste is preferred since it is simpler, cheaper and a 'one-stop-shop'. Also, too many authorities appear to have been misled by MBT and consider it an end in itself, rather than just a pre-treatment process. (Q27).
- (x) **The Future of Landfill**  
WCC supports the statement that landfill should be the 'home' of last resort for waste, eventually taking only non-biodegradable residues from waste treatment. We should also consider the approach adopted in many European countries where all combustible waste is also banned from landfill. These changes if adopted should be phased in over a period of time (Q28).
- (xi) **Procurement of Waste Management Services**  
WCC shares the concerns expressed in the review regarding the problems with procurement of waste facilities. There are a limited number of contractors and suppliers who can bid for large contracts. Bidding for contracts is extremely costly, therefore contractors will 'cherry-pick' the most attractive contracts. This is a matter of concern for all authorities in the process of procuring facilities in order to meet their landfill diversion targets.
- (xii) A key area of concern is the Private Finance Initiative process (PFI) particularly the amount of time it takes to close a contract if using the PFI funding route, (33 months is typical), this needs to be addressed. There is also uncertainty surrounding the criteria for waste PFI which needs urgent clarification.

- (xiii) There is also needless duplication in the procurement process with respect to local authorities having to go through the same processes – the development of standardised documentation – toolkits should be developed to reduce this and also local authority reliance on consultants.
- (xiv) With the first Landfill Directive targets looming ever nearer the issues addressed in this section need to be resolved urgently as it is all too apparent that we do not have the luxury of time. Also smaller contracts designed to deliver early targets should be de-coupled from the PFI process. This should also result in more competition rather than just relying on the major players to deliver services (Q29).
- (xv) **Delivering the Market Capacity for Recycled Materials**  
WCC supports the proposed changes to the Waste Framework Directive which will clarify the use of the term waste when applied to materials such as compost and recycled secondary aggregate.
- (xvi) Public expectation with respect to recycling is increasing, which is to be applauded. However, it is difficult for a local authority to meet these expectations if a sustainable market for recyclables does not exist. This is particularly the case for plastics other than HDPE and PET. Although these materials do not contribute to landfill diversion targets they are prolific in the waste stream and high volume. It is possible that markets for these materials exist outside of the UK. However, local authorities need to be assured that the materials are being recycled in facilities that operate to acceptable standards. (Q30, Q31, Q32)
- (xvii) Commercial and Industrial waste and Construction and Demolition waste make up a greater proportion of the waste stream than municipal waste. Although industry has a financial incentive to manage its waste, industry, particularly SMEs do not necessarily have the knowledge or resources to address their waste 'problems'. One way of forcing the issue is to set targets for recycling/reducing commercial and industrial waste, however, monitoring and enforcement of standards would be challenging. Recycling of construction and demolition waste is already well established, however, WCC supports the option to apply Site Waste Management Plans to all construction projects to encourage further recycling and reuse of materials on construction projects (Q33, Q34).
- (xviii) **Hazardous Waste**  
WCC supports the proposal to expand producer responsibility to include items of hazardous waste such as garden pesticides and decorative paints (Q37)
- (xix) **Hazardous Household Waste**  
Provision is made for the disposal of hazardous waste in Warwickshire. If additional burdens are put on local authorities to collect and/or dispose of hazardous household waste, financing should be made available in order to allow services to be developed (Q38)

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

While WCC supports partnership working at a regional and sub-regional level, we acknowledge that in some instances there are significant barriers to overcome, which could delay the procurement process (Q40).

- (i) **Improved Integration of Municipal and Business Waste Management**  
In the past, WCC has been approached by local businesses for advice and assistance in developing recycling services. Wherever possible assistance is provided by the County Councils Environment Business Advisors. As a direct result several successful recycling initiatives have been established at local industrial estates. (Q44, Q45).
  
- (ii) **Local Authorities as Wider Recycling Service Providers for Business Waste**  
The review suggests that local authorities could provide greater recycling services for businesses. One suggestion is that businesses could use household waste recycling centres (HWRC) for a reasonable charge. WCC already allows trade waste users at two of its sites, where a charge is made for the waste disposed of. If this was to become a required function of local authorities investment would be required in order for it to become viable to accept trade waste at other sites. Although many of the county's HWRCs are operating close to maximum capacity and it may not be possible to open these sites to commercial users (Q46).

**Cabinet - 4th May 2006**

**Response to the Consultation on the  
Revision of England's Waste Strategy**

**Consultation Document on the Review of England's Waste Strategy**

**THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**

**CHAPTER 1 – 2006 PROGRESS REPORT AND CONSULTATION: THE  
BACKGROUND**

Question 1: Please state your views on the overall approach for the revised strategy set out in this document and any other points you wish to make. (You may like to respond to this question once you have considered the rest of the document and the other questions.)

**CHAPTER 2 – A NEW VISION**

**Recycling and Recovery Targets**

Question 2: What are your views on proposed national household recycling and composting targets and the level they should be set at? Question 3: What are your views on setting municipal waste total recovery targets?

**Landfill Targets**

Question 4: What are your views on proposed targets for the landfilling of commercial and industrial waste and the level they should be set at?

**CHAPTER 3 – THE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

**The Regulatory Framework**

Question 5: What further specific improvements, if any, would you like to see to the regulatory framework?

**Producer Responsibility and Voluntary Action**

Question 6: What scope is there for extending the stewardship or responsibility of producers and retailers for the impacts of the products they manufacture and sell, and which key products or sectors should be explored?

Question 7: What are your views on seeking voluntary agreements as an alternative to statutory approaches?

**An effective Pricing Framework**

Question 8: How effectively do current prices drive the behaviour of those involved in preventing, producing or managing waste?

Question 9: Are there further tradable allowance (or other) schemes that could be developed to help the market deliver environmental outcomes more efficiently?

### **Individuals**

Question 10: Should there be greater effort to encourage waste prevention and minimisation relative to recycling and, if so, how should this be done?

### **Business**

Questions 11: How can businesses be engaged in their capacity as purchasers and providers of services?

### **Government Leadership by Example**

Question 12: What more can the Government do to provide an example in its own waste management and product procurement policies to reduce waste and waste impacts?

### **Evidence for Development of Future Policies**

Question 13: What are the information gaps requiring waste management-related research in the short and long-term?

## **CHAPTER 4 – WASTE PREVENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

### **Prioritisation for Effective Policy Intervention**

Question 14: What products and materials do you consider should be priorities for action to reduce waste and waste impacts?

### **Waste within a Coherent 'Product Life-Cycle' Policy**

Question 15: What is the scope for reducing waste and achieving more efficient resource use at the product design phase?

Question 16: What is the scope for improving the amount of waste-related information provided about products placed on the market?

### **Product and Resource Re-use**

Question 17: What are your views on how re-use and re-manufacture could be stimulated further?

### **Engaging Business to Improve Resource Efficiency**

Question 18: What are the best ways of stimulating business action on resource efficiency, including waste prevention?

### **Encouraging SMEs to Reduce Waste**

Question 19: How can resource efficiency, including waste prevention, be stimulated among SMEs in a way which does not incur disproportionate costs?

Question 20: What role should Business Links, local authorities or other organisations play in engaging small businesses?

### **Extending the Sectoral Approach: Producer Responsibility**

Question 21: What are your views on developing a sectoral approach to waste prevention including setting waste reduction targets?

### **Reducing Environmental Impacts of Consumption**

Question 22: How do we best engage consumers to reduce waste?

## **CHAPTER 5 – RECOVERING RESOURCES FROM WASTE**

### **Local Authority Performance**

Question 23: Should we set future statutory performance standards for Local Authorities related to recycling and composting household waste and how far ahead should any future targets be?

Question 24: What are your views on the possible changes to the design of the standards suggested above?

Question 25: What are your views on the possible changes to how standards should apply to local authorities suggested above?

### **Impact on the Management of Waste Further up the Hierarchy**

Question 26: Do you have any comments on the proposal to encourage the diversion of wastes from landfill to Energy from Waste?

Question 27: Of the two main current Energy from Waste technologies . i.e. a) MBT/RDF and b) direct incineration . is there any reason to prefer one over the other), and if so, why?

### **The Future of Landfill**

Question 28: Should landfill eventually be the home of last resort taking only nonbiodegradable residues from waste treatment?

### **Procurement of Waste Management Services**

Question 29: Views are invited on the proposed actions to improve the waste procurement and how to take them forward?

### **Delivering the Market Capacity for Recycled Materials**

Question 30: What more could the government do to accelerate the development of markets for recycled materials?

### **Imports and Exports**

Question 31: How can we improve compliance with the controls that apply to the export of waste for recycling?

Question 32: What should the balance be between the development and encouragement of domestic capacity for recycling and the reliance on overseas markets?

### **Commercial and Industrial Waste**

Question 33: How can we encourage more recycling and recovery of commercial and industrial waste?

### **Construction and Demolition Waste**

Question 34: What more should we do to encourage reduction, recycling and recovery of construction and demolition waste?

### **Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

Question 35: What are the current practical and cost barriers to recycling SMEs?

Question 36: What might business and commercial providers do to overcome these barriers and how could the government support them?

### **Hazardous Waste**

Question 37: Do you think the products in paragraph 87 above are sensible priorities for new producer responsibility initiatives and should such initiatives be voluntary or statutory?

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

Question 38: Which of the options for household hazardous waste outlined above should be taken forward?

## **CHAPTER 6 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **National level**

Question 39: What are your views on the proposed Sustainable Waste Programme Board, and on ways for it to engage with waste stakeholders and the wider community?

### **Regional Level**

Question 40: Do you agree that more emphasis is needed on partnership working between local authorities at the regional and sub-regional level on waste procurement?

Question 41: What role should be played by the RDAs and local authorities respectively in developing a more closed-loop resource economy; and what activities should they undertake?

### **Local Level**

Question 42: What are your views on the characteristics for good practice in Local Government set out in Box 2?

Question 43: How effective have LAAs been to date in helping to deliver waste outcomes; and how could partnership arrangements be strengthened for the future at the local or sub-regional level?

### **Improved Integration of Municipal and Business Waste Management**

Question 44: Is there a demand from businesses for increased help from local authorities with recycling services and resource management?

### **A strategic role for Local Authorities**

Question 45: What are your views on the proposed wider strategic role for local authorities and how this could be supported?

## **Local Authorities as Wider Recycling Service Providers for Business Waste**

Question 46: What are your views on placing requirements of this kind on local authorities and/or businesses?

## **Local Authorities and Producer Responsibilities**

Question 47: What changes need to be made to ensure better interaction of producer responsibility schemes and local authorities?

## **Development of the Voluntary and Community Waste Sector**

Question 48: What are your views on the approaches above and how the Government can best facilitate a greater contribution by the voluntary and community sector in delivering waste objectives?

## **CHAPTER 7 – WASTE CRIME**

Question 49: What additional action is needed either to achieve effective enforcement or to prevent waste crime?

Question 50: Is there evidence to link the types and quality of local waste collection services and general cleanliness to levels of fly tipping? What changes can be made to service provision that will reduce fly tipping?

## **CHAPTER 8 – POLICY SUMMARY**

Question 51: Do you have any further comments?

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Alongside this consultation document we are publishing a *partial Regulatory Impact Assessment* (pRIA)<sup>126</sup> and an *Environmental Report* (ER)<sup>127</sup>, on which we invite comments.

### **Environmental Report**

Question 52: Do you have any comments on the Environmental Report? Defra welcomes views on the proposals to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the revised waste strategy, including any priority that should be given to the indicators identified and whether alternative or further indicators should be used

### **Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment**

Question 53: Do you have any comments on the Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Review of England's Waste Strategy?





- Legal  I Marriott - agreed
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  Future reports – in due course
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Cabinet - 4th May 2006**

**Government Consultations on EU Funding Proposals for  
2007-2013 and the UK's New Assisted Areas Map**

**Report of the Strategic Director of  
Environment and Economy**

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet:-

1. Supports the steps being taken to maximise the benefits of future regional policy and funding for Warwickshire.
2. Requests further reports as the new European Union (EU) funding programmes and new UK Assisted Areas map develop.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 After much uncertainty, European Union (EU) heads of state and government agreed a budget for 2007-2013 at December's European Council meeting. The European Parliament gave its agreement on 4th April 2006. Total Structural and Cohesion funding will be approximately €308 billion. 82% of the funding will go towards the Convergence Objective for the new member states and other poorer regions; 16% towards a new Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective for all other regions and 2.5% for a new European Territorial Co-operation Objective.
- 1.2 The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) estimate that the total Structural Fund allocation for the UK for 2007-2013 will be €9.4 billion (compared to €18 billion for 2000-2006). Out of this, €2.6 billion is already allocated to Cornwall, West Wales and the Valleys, and the Highlands and Islands as the UK's 'convergence regions'. The remaining €6.2 billion (£4 billion) will be for a Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme. This will replace the existing Objectives 2 and 3 and will support European Regional Development Fund measures (ERDF – infrastructure investment, business support, environmental improvements etc) and European Social Fund activities (ESF – employment, training etc). It is for the UK Government, in agreement with the European Commission (EC), to decide how this funding is allocated.

- 1.3 In addition, EU Agricultural Ministers agreed a new European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in June 2005. This will fund measures designed to improve the competitiveness of farming and forestry; improve the environment and countryside; and enhance rural quality of life and diversification of the rural economy. Agreement on the new EU budget means that the new England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) is expected to be worth approximately £24 million to the West Midlands over the seven year period.
- 1.4 Finally, new EU regional aid guidelines will apply from 2007-2013. These rules define areas most in need of economic development where aid may be awarded to businesses for the purposes of regional development. The UK's 'Assisted Areas' include 11 wards in Warwickshire. Under new guidelines, UK population coverage is being reduced along with that for other 'old' and richer member states. Certain defined priority areas in the UK still qualify automatically. Other areas face a reduction in, or loss, of coverage. Warwickshire, in particular, could lose all its coverage.
- 1.5 The Government has launched three separate, but related, consultations. The first is on the draft National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), which outlines the UK's broad strategy for use of its Structural Fund allocation. The second is on its proposals for a new ERDP. The third is on the geographical units and indicators that should be used in designating the UK's new Assisted Areas map.

## **2. National Strategic Reference Framework (New Structural Fund Programme)**

- 2.1 DTI is consulting on its draft NSRF. The NSRF, which is a requirement of the new EU Regulations, will establish broad priorities for the UK's new Structural Fund programmes. The consultation also seeks views on the Government's proposals for distributing its allocation under the new Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme and the administrative arrangements for delivering the funding. The consultation runs until 22nd May 2006.
- 2.2 Officers in the Regeneration Strategy and Europe Group have been actively working with partners to develop the region's approach to the new programme. The West Midlands Regional Assembly's European and International Affairs Partnership (EIAP) recently agreed a set of principles as the basis for the region's response to the NSRF consultation. These include:-
  - (i) All funding (ERDF and ESF) and their operational programmes should be managed 'by the region for the region' – The NSRF proposes that ERDF should continue to be delivered regionally and ESF nationally. The EIAP has agreed that the region should make the case for regions also to be able to develop their own ESF programmes within the context of national strategies. This would allow resources to be better targeted to meet the region's specific needs and strategies and would also give greater responsibility to the region.

- (ii) There should be maximum flexibility at regional level, including responsibility for ensuring alignment with related funding streams. The NSRF proposes that ERDF should be aligned with Regional Development Agency's (RDAs) 'Single Programming Budget' and other funding such as the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. It also proposes that ESF should continue to be aligned with domestic employment and skills funding, including via Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council in their capacity as co-financing organisations. Whilst simplification is to be welcomed, there is a danger that local flexibility could be lost in the process.
- (iii) The combined ERDF and ESF programme should be aligned with the West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- (iv) Government Office or another 'arms length' organisation should continue to manage the programme. The NSRF states that the current devolved and decentralised approach to regional policy will be retained and seeks views on how to improve co-ordination between the Structural Funds and domestic priorities. RDAs will be responsible for providing the policy framework for future ERDF programmes. A management role for RDAs also seems to be under consideration.

2.3 New EU Regulations strengthen the strategic focus of future spending on the Lisbon agenda for jobs and growth and the Gothenburg environmental agenda. The draft NSRF identifies broad priorities for the UK in line with the Community Strategic Guidelines at EU level and the Lisbon National Reform Plan. These are:-

#### ERDF priorities

- (i) Promoting innovation and knowledge transfer.
- (ii) Stimulating enterprise and supporting successful business.
- (iii) Ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption.
- (iv) Building Sustainable Communities.

#### ESF priorities

- (i) Extending employment opportunities.
- (ii) Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce.

2.4 Government Office is co-ordinating a Steering Group tasked with compiling the region's new Operational Programme. Advantage West Midlands (AWM) is providing the policy lead. Senior officers are also drawn from the Regional Assembly, the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, the West Midlands Higher Education Association and the Regional European and International Officer Group/ the West Midlands European Rural Group. This Group will oversee contributions from working groups and partners. It has been agreed that the EIAP will provide the central conduit for strategy development, with approval via other Boards and decision-making bodies as appropriate.

- 2.5 The Regional European Funding and Policy Group's Cohesion Sub Group has produced a draft paper setting out some initial thinking on how the region would use the new funding and making a case for significant access to the resources. The paper, which is based on the RES and other regional priorities in the context of the Lisbon Agenda and the EU guidelines, will form the starting point for the work of the above Steering Group. It will also serve as the region's policy input to the NSRF consultation.
- 2.6 The draft NSRF confirms that all parts of a region will be eligible for funding and that there will be no 'maps' – in contrast to the current Objective 2 programme. Instead, it is for regions to determine how to concentrate and target resources in support of the Lisbon agenda and their regional strategies. It is also for regions to determine a balance between investment in 'opportunity' and 'need'. Regional thinking is that the programme should be shaped by AWM's key drivers – the Regeneration Zones and High Technology Corridors geographically and the Clusters thematically. There will also be a strong urban focus, including on the City Region agenda.
- 2.7 A regional response to the NSRF consultation is currently being prepared as outlined above. Officers in the Regeneration Strategy & Europe Group are working to ensure that it reflects sub-regional and Warwickshire interests. Officers are also working through CSW Partnerships and the Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Group to ensure that the region's new Operational Programme takes into account sub-regional and Warwickshire priorities.

### **3. New England Rural Development Programme**

- 3.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is consulting on its proposals for a new ERDP. The consultation sets out DEFRA's proposed national strategy for England; including how the EAFRD will be implemented, the context for assisting rural development and what measures will be given priority. The consultation runs until 22nd May 2006.
- 3.2 The priorities for funding focus on three EU objectives for rural development (known as 'Axes'). These are:-
- (i) Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sectors.
  - (ii) Axis 2 – Improving the environment and countryside.
  - (iii) Axis 3 – Rural quality of life and diversification of the rural economy.
- 3.3 In line with the Government's commitment to Environmental Stewardship, it is anticipated that 80% of the funding will go towards Axis 2, with 10% respectively on Axis 1 & 3. Natural England (NE) will be responsible for delivering Axis 2, whilst AWM will be responsible for delivering Axis 1 and 3. The LEADER programme, with its focus on bottom up project delivery, will no longer be a separate programme but will become integrated into the ERDP, supporting all 3 axes.

3.4 The Regeneration Projects Manager is co-ordinating a formal response on behalf of Warwickshire County Council (WCC). In addition, as a member of the 'Rural Forum for Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire', WCC is providing comments for a sub-regional response, as well as feeding into the response by the West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum. WCC is also represented on the European Rural Group, which is working to co-ordinate the region's response to the new programme. The key issues for WCC are:-

- (i) 'Demonstrable and significant need' – The programme, amongst other things, aims to focus funds on areas of demonstrable and significant need. There is a concern amongst sub regional partners that this may exclude small pockets of deprivation. Partners are therefore keen to ensure that there is local and sub-regional flexibility to influence priorities and implementation. Warwickshire is fortunate in having an effective sub-regional partnership, the 'Rural Forum for Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire', and a Rural Hub, both of which are well placed to assist local delivery, along with WCC and other partners.
- (ii) Biomass – There is a very strong emphasis in the document on biomass, but little consideration of the contribution other bio fuels and energy crops could make to rural development.
- (iii) Improving economic opportunity, skills and training – Whilst these are referred to in the document, the focus is weak and not recognised as a priority in its own right to assist rural areas.
- (iv) Development of a Regional Implementation Plan for the West Midlands (RIP) and shaping of strategic investment packages – DEFRA, AWM, NE and the Forestry Commission will be the lead partners in developing the RIP. AWM are looking for a strategic investment package approach, which has synergy with the Regional Economic Strategy. It is important, therefore, that WCC and sub-regional partners input into this process in order to ensure that the right framework is in place to assist rural development in Warwickshire and the rest of the sub-region over the next seven years.

## 4. New Assisted Areas Map

4.1 DTI is consulting on the criteria and geographical units that should be used in designating the UK's Assisted Areas map for 2007-2013. This will be followed by a second round of consultation in early summer 2006 on the detail of a draft map itself. The first part of the consultation ran until 19th April 2006.

4.2 Assisted Areas are those areas most in need of economic development where, according to EU state aid rules, aid may be granted to businesses (of any size) for the purposes of regional development. The 2000-2006 Assisted Areas map includes 11 wards in Warwickshire: four in North Warwickshire, four in Nuneaton and Bedworth and three in Rugby (1991 wards). In England, the main grant scheme is DTI's Selective Finance for Investment (formerly Regional Selective Assistance). SFI helps fund new investment projects that lead to long-term improvements in productivity and/ or create or safeguard jobs.

- 4.3 Regional aid rules have wider implications for how and where public sector funding can be granted to businesses and other organisations, as well as the amounts that can be awarded. For example, SMEs in Assisted Areas may qualify for higher levels of support (known as 'top ups') from grant programmes operating nationally or region-wide. The region's approach to the new Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme should also be expected to take the new Assisted Areas map into account. Outside Assisted Areas, other types of 'horizontal' aid can be available. These rules allow support for SMEs at lower levels as well as aid for R&D, risk capital, training, employment of certain groups and environmental protection.
- 4.4 Under new EU regional aid guidelines, UK population coverage will be reduced from 30.9% to 23.9%. This reflects EU objectives of reducing the amount of state aid and of EU enlargement that led to aid being concentrated in the new, poorer member states. It also reflects the UK's sustained economic success in recent years. Cornwall, West Wales and the Valleys, the Highlands and Islands and Northern Ireland qualify automatically. This leaves 16.4% of discretionary 87(3)c coverage for the UK Government to allocate to target areas elsewhere in the UK providing they meet broad criteria and fall into categories defined in the new guidelines, subject to overall approval from the European Commission.
- 4.5 DTI has indicated that it intends to apply a 'filter' in the EU guidelines. Filter regions are defined as those areas with either a GDP per capita below the EU average or unemployment higher than 115% of the national average. The filter operates at NUTS II (e.g. Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire) or NUTS III (county or unitary) level. Warwickshire is the only part of the region to fall outside the filter and risks losing all coverage unless arguments for a special case can be made successfully.
- 4.6 In duly justified circumstances, national governments can propose areas outside the filter. The guidelines include provisions for zones which are 'undergoing major structural change, or are in serious relative decline, when compared with other comparable regions ... at Community level' and smaller zones which are 'relatively more in need of economic development than other areas in that region'. Support in such areas is at a lower cap and restricted to SMEs in the smaller areas.
- 4.7 The first stage of consultation seeks views on three issues:-
- (1) The extent to which Merseyside and South Yorkshire as the UK's 'Economic Development' regions should be covered.
  - (2) The statistics and indicators to be used and their varying importance and weight.
  - (3) The geographical units to be used.
- 4.8 Officers in the Regeneration Strategy & Europe Group are working with the Environment and Economy Directorate (EED) Research Team and regional and sub-regional partners to made the case for Warwickshire to keep Assisted Area



coverage in and around the Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone (including the Peugeot site at Ryton and Ansty). This is Warwickshire's best case statistically and strategically. Assisted Areas need a sound evidence base justifying their inclusion. Designation should also be in line with a 'clearly defined regional policy'. Regional partners are making the case for a policy-based approach based on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

- 4.9 The Strategic Director of Environment and Economy has submitted a response to DTI's first consultation as outlined above. Officers have also been working through the Cohesion Sub Group to influence the positions of regional bodies. Both the Regional Assembly and AWM recognise Warwickshire's case at this first stage of the consultation process. CSW Partnerships have also submitted a sub-regional response making the case for coverage based on the Regeneration Zone.

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19th April 2006