

- 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

Agenda No

The Cabinet - 13th July 2006.

Safer Neighbourhood Policing Areas

Joint Report of the Strategic Director, Performance & Development and Strategic Director, Community Protection

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the proposals put forward by Warwickshire Police for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis; and
2. Responds to the Police that whilst these are not appropriate structures for locality working for the County Council, we will continue dialogue with the Police and the Police Authority as to how we can make our locality approaches effective together.

1. Background

- 1.1 Warwickshire Police is in the process of rolling out a new approach to local policing. Known as 'Safer Neighbourhoods', this is a national initiative driven by the Home Office. More information has been provided by the Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team in the form of a report attached as Appendix 1. The aim is to have these new arrangements in place by November 2006.
- 1.2 The Safer Neighbourhood approach would see the reconfiguration of current local arrangements into local areas based largely around groupings on district/ borough council boundaries. Within 'areas' police resources would be allocated across neighbourhood teams. The Police's aspiration is that a neighbourhood team could be made up of police officers, police community support officers, community wardens, special constables, volunteers and partners, all working together in partnership. The proposals for the district areas are set out at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 A key feature of the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative is the requirement for the police to consult with the local community on their priorities for improving community safety in the area. The PACT process (Partners and Communities

Together) will offer a range of mechanisms for the Police, together with all partner agencies, to engage local communities on a broad range of concerns.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Warwickshire County Council is in the midst of a transformational change programme. A key element of this is a desire to move closer to communities, putting the customer first through enhanced local access to services. We are currently considering a range of options through which to pilot locality working and this is the subject of another agenda item for this Cabinet meeting – Customer Service and Access Strategy.
- 2.2 The Council's own aspiration is to enhance local delivery through a range of delivery channels such as information kiosks; the customer service centre; one-stop shops; extended schools. Given the countywide nature of our service delivery, current thinking is that we should be aiming to enhance local access within localities of approximately 25 – 30,000 population. In doing so, the County Council would wish to join up with partners in local delivery so as to make it easier for our shared citizens to access a range of public services.
- 2.3 Our emerging Customer Access Strategy is based on the premise that we will be seeking a range of innovative solutions through which citizens can access key information and services. Shared facilities, resources, technology and information channels are one of the most significant ways by which we and other public agencies can improve service accessibility and standards of delivery.
- 2.4 The County Council also has well established community engagement mechanisms in place within each of the district/borough areas. Within the Safer Neighbourhood proposals the Police are intending to establish consultation mechanisms based upon each of the Neighbourhood Team areas. This may present difficulties in terms of confusion with the Council's Electoral Divisional Panels and other consultation fora already established. Whilst we may not be able to align boundaries for service delivery with all partners, we could and should make sure that we align our governance/community engagement arrangements, so as not to create confusion for the public.

3. Moving Forward

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Areas proposed by the Police have been subject to consultation with each of the five local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In addition the local borough and district councils have also been consulted. The product of those consultations is the proposed Neighbourhood Areas set out at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The County Council Area Committees have been involved informally in the consultation. Officers have represented the Council on the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Board, and the County Council has been formally consulted on the proposals.

- 3.3 The County Council will be moving forward with its Customer Service and Access Agenda and will wish to engage with partners in so doing. The local delivery of policing functions is a key service with which the Council would wish to join-up locally. Whilst the proposed Neighbourhood Policing areas are significantly smaller in size than the localities the Council is advocating (25,000 – 30,000 population), the Neighbourhood Policing Team has assured officers that this will not be a barrier to the future joint provision of services and sharing of resources locally.
- 3.4 From the community safety perspective the development of safer neighbourhoods is seen as a positive initiative which will allow all partners to engage with communities to address those very issues which most concern them: local disorder, anti-social behaviour etc. It means that these local issues will have a higher priority for the Police and this is welcomed.
- 3.5 It will also be very important to be closely involved in the further development of this initiative. The issues raised through an extended PACT process will affect all and we shall need to develop strong mechanisms to enable County Council services to respond to them as appropriate. If made to work, the PACT process could be a very effective tool for community engagement.

3.4 Cabinet is recommended to:-

- I. Note the proposals put forward by Warwickshire Police for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis; and
- II. Respond to the Police that whilst these are not appropriate structures for locality working for the County Council, we will continue dialogue with the Police and the Police Authority as to how we can make our locality approaches effective together.

DAVID CARTER
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Performance & Development

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Community Protection

Shire Hall
Warwick

11 July 2006

Safer Neighbourhoods Areas

What is Neighbourhood Policing?

Neighbourhood policing is the police services commitment to improving the quality of life of communities by working together with partners, targeting the issues that communities identify as those that matter. In Warwickshire this will be known as Safer Neighbourhoods.

Safer Neighbourhoods is based on local priorities identified by local people as the issues that need to be dealt with in their area and Police and partners will work together to tackle them. It is vital that local people work with them to improve the quality of life in their area.

This is the communities opportunity to influence the service provided by the police and partners in neighbourhood areas. National guidance recommends that a neighbourhood is usually a geographic area which is of a size that best serves the needs of the local communities reflecting the people that live within it. Within Warwickshire neighbourhoods are generally based on the 105 ward structure.

A neighbourhood team can be made up of police officers, police community support officers, community wardens, special constables, volunteers and partners, all working together in partnership.

Safer Neighbourhoods means that communities will know who their neighbourhood officer is, how to contact them and what they are doing to address local crime and disorder priorities. Safer Neighbourhood teams will work closely with residents to improve neighbourhoods. The police will continue to provide emergency and 24 hour response; but the main focus of Safer Neighbourhood policing teams will be dealing with local problems and priorities.

The Right People, at the Right Places, in the Right Numbers.

Neighbourhood policing aims to achieve:

The Right People, at the Right Places, in the Right Numbers, in order to create neighbourhoods that are safe and feel safe.

For successful implementation and sustainable operations there are three guiding themes:

1. Dedicated and accountable resources with geographic ownership;
2. Intelligence led targeting of the issues that matter most to the public;
3. Joint action by the police, partner agencies and the public.

A Police Project Team based at Leek Wootton Headquarters was formed in 2005 to deliver the introduction of Neighbourhood policing across the county. Initially, the government set a target implementation date of April 2008, which following the recent budget announcements concerning the acceleration of the increase in Police Community Support Officers this date has been brought forward to April 2007. However, the Police authority and Chief Constable have already committed to introducing Safer Neighbourhoods in Warwickshire by November 2006.

Consequently, the project team is engaged in a large number of activities to ensure successful implementation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams later this year.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Areas.

Fundamental to the successful implementation of Safer Neighbourhood Policing is the identification of neighbourhood areas, this work has been completed and has led to the identification of 31 individual neighbourhood areas. It is recognised that some communities are not based on geographical neighbourhoods and may be defined as 'shared interest' communities.

The following process has been applied in scoping and defining the geographical areas:

- Consultation has taken place with external stakeholders and partners – this work has been replicated across the five policing districts and has included elected members at Parish and Town Councils, County Council and District/Borough level.
- Internal consultation has taken place with District/Borough and County Councils.
- Internal police consultation has taken place with managers and practitioners through 121 meetings and focus groups.
- The views of commercial business, retail and licensed premises have informed the scoping process.
- Mapping information using the West Mercia police model (population, deprivation and crime and disorder incidents) has been undertaken – this model has been included within the force Safer Neighbourhoods Policy.

To compliment this process cognisance has been taken of further factors impacting on neighbourhood policing this includes geography, social isolation and potential future developments.

The following areas are defined:

North Warwickshire District – 4 Neighbourhood Areas

- East
- North
- South
- West

Nuneaton & Bedworth District – 8 Neighbourhood Areas

Area 1

- Nuneaton Town Centre (Part Abbey)
- Bedworth Town Centre (Part Bede)
- Wem Brook

Area 2

- Abbey (Part)
- Wem Brook (Part)

Area 3

- Attleborough
- Wem Brook (Part)
- Arbury

Area 4

- Weddington
- St Nicolas
- Whitestone

Area 5

- Bar Pool
- Kingswood

Area 6

- Camphill
- Galley Common

Area 7

- Bede (Part)
- Poplar

- Exhall (Part)
- Bulkington

Area 8

- Exhall (Part)
- Heath
- Slough

Rugby District – 7 Neighbourhood Areas

Area 1

- Wolvey
- Fosse
- Avon & Swift

Area 2

- Earl Craven and Wolston
- Ryton on Dunsmore
- Lawford and Kings Newnham

Area 3

- Leam Valley
- Dunchurch and Knightlow

Area 4

- Rugby Town East (Hillmorton ,Paddox and Eastlands)

Area 5

- Rugby Town North (Brownsover North,Brownsover South,Benn and Newbold)

Area 6

- Rugby Town West (New Bilton, Bilton, Overslade,Admirals and Caldecott)

Area 7

- Rugby Town Centre (Newbold Town and Caldecott Town)

Stratford upon Avon District – 4 Neighbourhood Areas

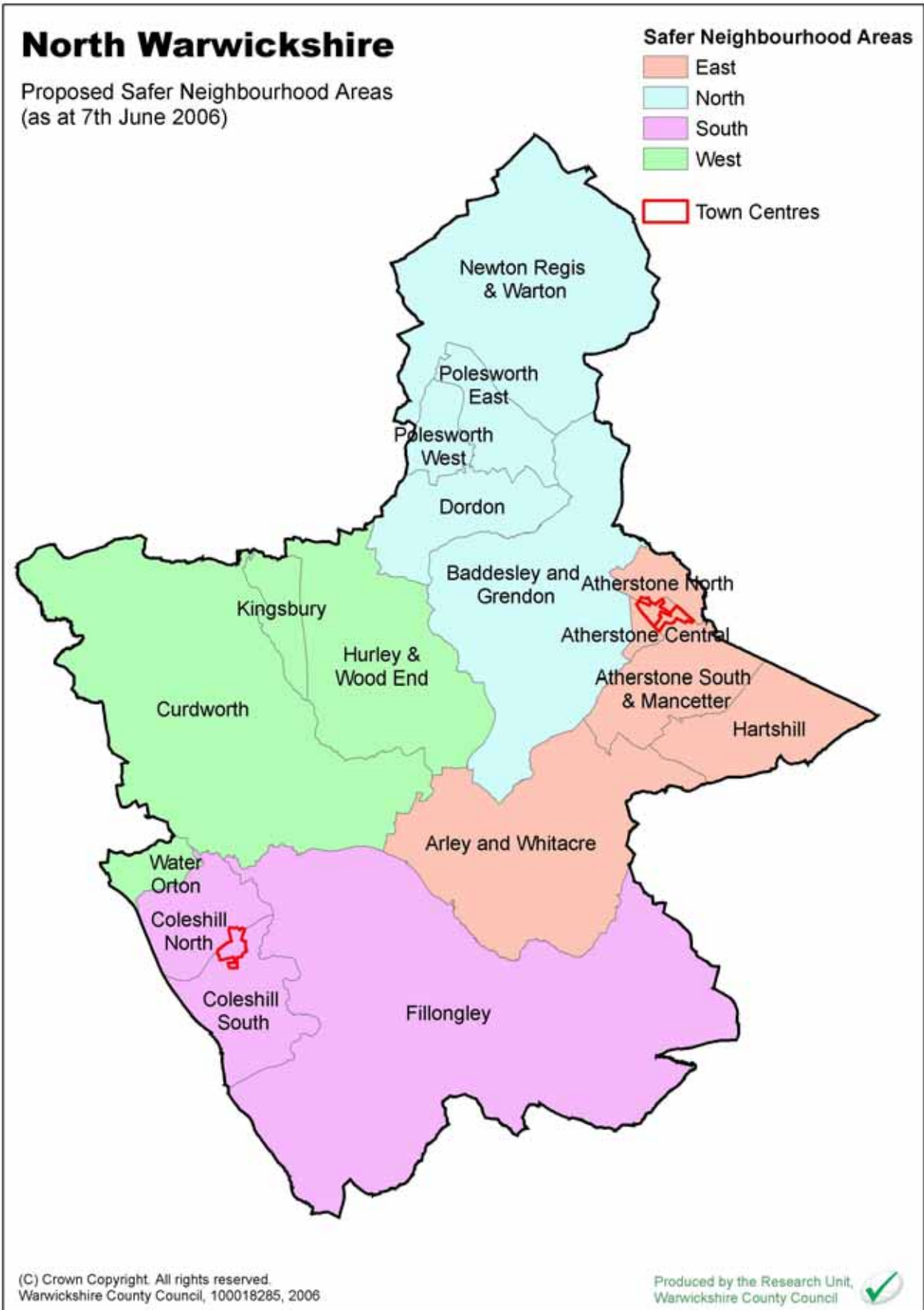
- Alcester
- Stratford Town
- Stratford Rural
- Southam

Warwick District – 8 Neighbourhood Areas

- East
- Kenilworth
- Leamington North
- Leamington South
- Warwick
- West
- Whitnash
- Leamington Town Centre

Conclusion

The 31 Safer Neighbourhood Teams are shown below on the Police District maps. It is recommended that Warwickshire County Council Cabinet support the forces plan to introduce Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the 31 Neighbourhood Areas.



Nuneaton & Bedworth

Proposed Safer Neighbourhood Areas
(as at 7th June 2006)

Safer Neighbourhood Areas

- N&B Town Centres
- N&B 2
- N&B 3
- N&B 4
- N&B 5
- N&B 6
- N&B 7
- N&B 8

Town Centres



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





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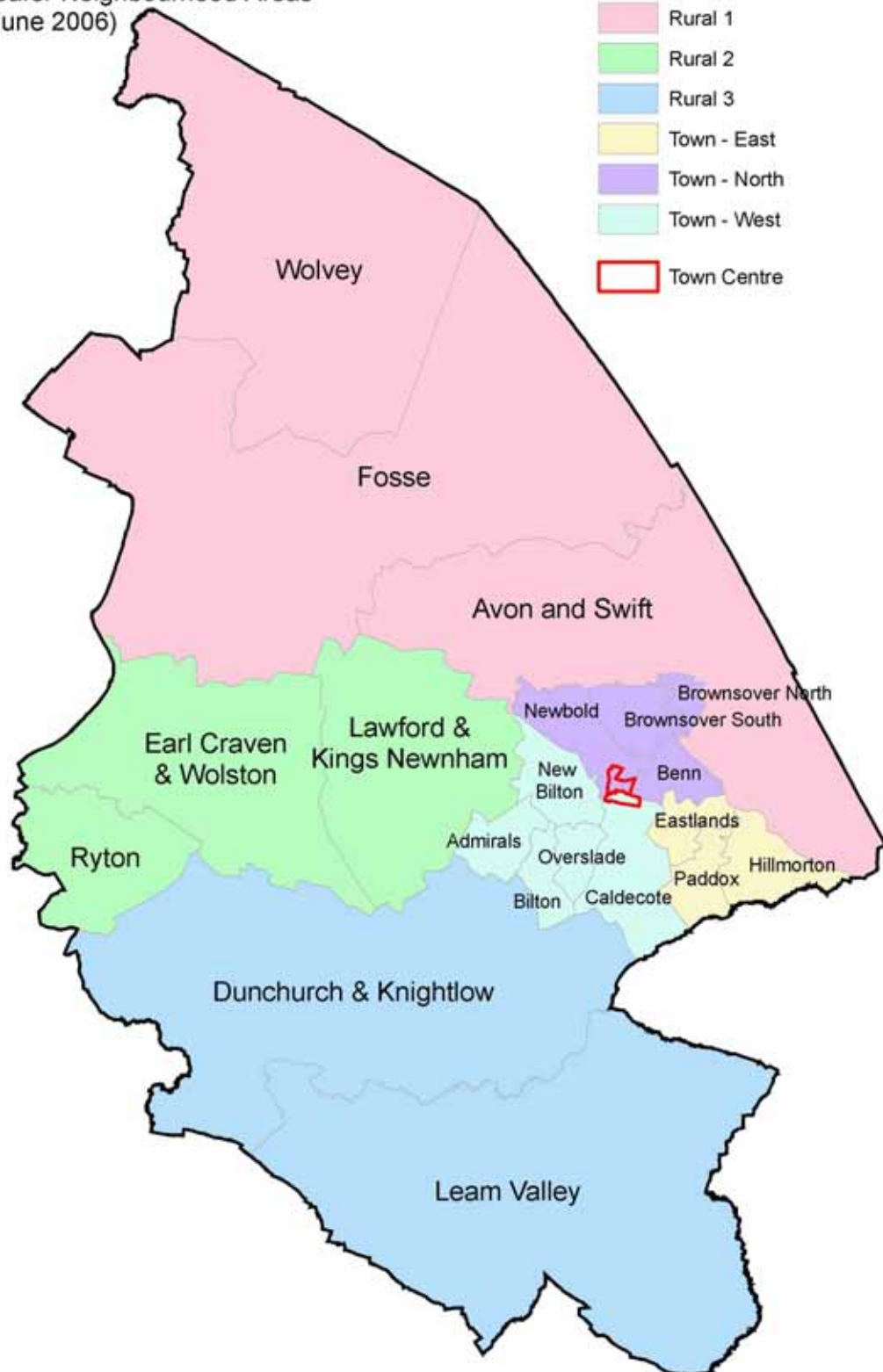


Rugby

Proposed Safer Neighbourhood Areas
(as at 7th June 2006)

Safer Neighbourhood Areas

-  Rural 1
-  Rural 2
-  Rural 3
-  Town - East
-  Town - North
-  Town - West
-  Town Centre



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Stratford-on-Avon

Proposed Safer Neighbourhood Areas
(as at 7th June 2006)

Safer Neighbourhood Areas

- Alcester
- Southam
- Stratford Rural
- Stratford Urban
- Town Centre



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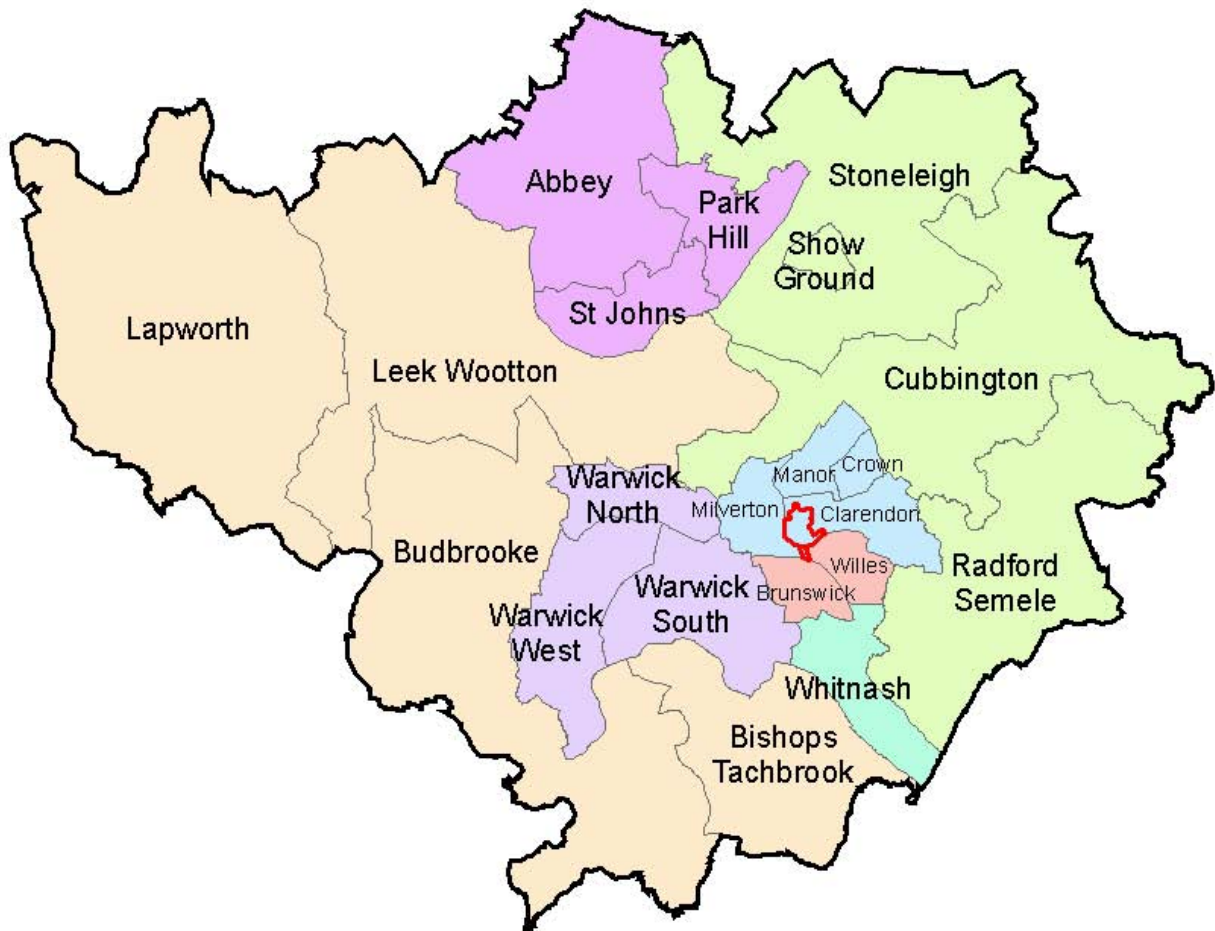


Warwick

Proposed Safer Neighbourhood Areas
(as at 7th June 2006)

Safer Neighbourhood Areas

- Warwick
- Kenilworth
- Leamington North
- Leamington South
- Whitnash
- East
- West
- Town Centre



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