

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006

**Report Title** Update on Rugby Area Business Plan

**Summary** This report provides a response to queries raised at November's Area Committee with regards to area performance

**For further information please contact:** Claire Wildsmith Area Administrative Officer Tel: 01788 533570 clairewildsmith@warwickshire.gov.uk Sarah Butter Area Administrative Assistant sarahbutter@warwickshire.gov.uk

**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)  Cllr John Vereker, Chair - Rugby Area Committee
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Peter Endall, Solicitor
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  Noel Hunter
- 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

# Rugby Area Committee –11<sup>th</sup> January 2006

## Update on Rugby Area Performance

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

#### **Recommendation**

That members comment on this report as they consider appropriate.

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 In November, members considered the half-year forecasts of performance for the Area Business Plan.

1.2 Members raised a number of queries that officers were unable to answer in detail at the meeting, and this report provides a brief response to these queries.

1.3 Members may wish to indicate if they would like to consider any of these matters in further detail at a future meeting.

1.3 In March, the Committee will have the opportunity to consider performance in more detail around the following areas previously agreed by the committee:

- youth services
- road casualties
- community-based services for older people
- household waste.

1.4 Additionally, members will have the opportunity to discuss crime and disorder at a special workshop on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **2. Responses to Members' queries on half-year performance:**

##### **2.1 Unauthorised absences at school**

*Members asked why we appear to have missed our Rugby area targets.*

Unfortunately, the target provided at the beginning of the year was incorrect. Rugby's performance is satisfactory, broadly in line with the County average, and moving in the right direction.

*(Answer provided by Peter Thompson, Education Dept).*

## **2.2 Anti-bullying**

*Members requested a brief up-date on the County-wide anti-bullying strategy, and how this might impact on the Rugby area.*

Warwickshire now has an anti-bullying co-ordinator in post – Leslie-Anne Newton. The aims of her first year in post are to map the County's current position, to develop positive working relationships, and to increase consistency of practice

Developments to date include:

- [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/bullying](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/bullying) - a web-site to share information, and with practical guidance and resources to download.
- consultation with variety of key stakeholders – including two workshops in the Rugby area – to support the development of the countywide anti-bullying strategy
- profile raising/Publicity – including photos of Rugby Area Head Teachers promoting Anti-Bullying Week in November.
- A new Warwickshire Anti-Bullying Logo, developed by young people

Upcoming developments include:

- A Countywide & multi-agency accepted definition of bullying
- A Database of school staff - adults with lead responsibility for bullying
- Localised advice/guidance on policy process and content
- Draft Anti-Bullying Strategy

*(Answer provided by Peter Thompson, Education Dept).*

## **2.3 Consumer Education Events**

*Members queried the reasons behind the staff shortages which have led to the failure to deliver a programme of consumer education events in Benn Ward. Due to illness and bereavement, the small team carrying out this work had been unable to deliver activities as planned. The team is now back to full capacity.*

*(Answer provided by Linda Smith, LHTS Dept).*

## **2.4 Vital Villages**

*Members requested a brief summary of the support that was provided to village shops and rural communities in the Rugby area through the Vital Villages programme, and whether there is a continuation strategy for this work.*

The Vital Villages Programme has provided specialist support and funding to rural enterprises in the Rugby area – including grant awards to Shilton Village Hall and shop, Churchover Village Hall, Malt Kiln Farm Shop, Birdingbury Stores, Vicarage Farm Shop and Wolvey Post Office & Store.

WCC together with the Borough and District Councils are continuing to provide some funding to Warwickshire Rural Community Council to keep the Vital Villages Field Officer in post for another year, and this will be reviewed early in 2006.

Vital Villages was a six year scheme funded through the Government's Single Regeneration Budget and it is unlikely that it will be possible to maintain the same

level of support without external funding. A full evaluation report on the Vital Villages Scheme is available from the Area Office.

*(Answer provided by Roy Shearing, PTES Dept)*

## **2.5 Wheels to Work**

*Members asked why it has only been possible to find 3 new or replacement mopeds for the Rugby area.*

The Forecast was provided in the half-year report was pessimistic, and it is now likely that we will meet the 2005-06 target of securing 5 new or replacement mopeds for the Rugby area.

*(Answer provided by Stephen Roots, PTES Dept).*

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director of  
Performance and  
Development

Shire Hall  
Warwick