

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Warwick Area Committee</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>21 June 2005</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>First Annual Review of Area Working in Warwick</b>
<b>Summary</b>	The purpose of this report is to highlight some of the key achievements of area working in Warwick during 2004/05.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	Peter Hunter Area Manager Tel: 01926 736136 peterhunter@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	No.
<b>Background papers</b>	None

### CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cllr Boad as Chair
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Carter, County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Chief Officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Health Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....

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**

### **Warwick Area Committee - 21 June 2005**

#### **First Annual Review of Area Working in Warwick**

#### **Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive**

##### **Recommendation**

That the Area Committee notes the report.

##### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to highlight some key achievements of area working in Warwick during 2004/2005 in terms of the Area Committee, the Area Team and major successes in funding and partnership activities.

##### **2. Warwick Area Committee**

- 2.1** The committee met 8 times in 2004/5. Items considered at these meetings covered the local activities of virtually all County Council public facing departments and covered the activities of partner organisations and partnerships in Warwick District.
- 2.2** Of particular note were 2 special meetings of the committee, providing an opportunity for an in depth debate on important local issues. These meetings were on the issue of navigation on the River Avon and traffic management proposals in Warwick Town Centre. These meetings were well attended by members of the public, who had an opportunity to participate in the debate. In all some 200+ members of the public attended Warwick Area Committee meetings in 2004/5.
- 2.3** In addition to public attendance at the special meetings listed above, there was regular public attendance at the bi monthly area committee meetings. Members of the public have regularly used the opportunity to ask questions at public question time. Some 12 public questions were raised with committee during 2004/5 in addition to members of the public participating in numerous debates at meetings.
- ##### **3. Area Committee Funds**
- 3.1** The Warwick Area Committee had some £148,000 at its disposal in 2004/5 in the Community Development Fund, Well-being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund. Those funds were virtually all spent last year, on projects meeting the agreed priorities of the committee. Only some £3,000 was carried over unspent.

### **Community Development Fund**

- 3.2** The Community Development Fund assisted 9 locally-based projects which were funded to a total of some £31,000

### **Wellbeing Fund**

- 3.3** The Well-being 2004/5 was used to support 19 projects that contributed towards the achievement of the objectives of the emerging community plan for the area. Some £66,000 of Well-being fund awards were made in 2004/5.

### **Social Inclusion Fund**

- 3.4** The Social Inclusion Fund was used to support 10 initiatives that contributed to the objectives of the County Council's Social Inclusion Strategy and those of the emerging Community plan for the area. Grants totalling some £47,500 were made.

## **4. Support for Councillors – Electoral Divisional Panels and other local forums**

- 4.1** The Area Office supports a number of Electoral Divisional Panels and other forums that enable councillors to engage with the communities that they serve.

### **Milverton**

- 4.2** The Milverton Electoral Divisional Panel, Chaired by Councillor Davis has operated successfully for many years. The panel involves representatives of a variety of organisations in Milverton and interested individuals. Warwick District Council and Warwickshire Police regularly attend the meetings, which now take place at Leamington Fire Station. The panel met 4 times in 2004/5.

### **Rowington**

- 4.3** The Rowington Electoral Divisional Panel was Chaired by Councillor Compton and involved representatives of Parish Councils within the division. (Rowington Division ceased to exist with the 2005 boundary changes, but it is anticipated that similar arrangements will be in place for Councillor Compton in the Leek Wootton division). The panel met 3 times in 2004/5.

### **Whitnash**

- 4.4** The Whitnash Electoral Divisional Panel, Chaired by Councillor Kirton has operated successfully for many years. The administration of the panel is undertaken by the Area Office. The Whitnash panel covers a comprehensive range of local issues, but with a strong community safety emphasis. It involves representatives of many organisations in Whitnash with Warwick District Council and Warwickshire Police represented as appropriate. In addition to regular meetings, there have this year been visits to the Trident Technology Centre and to Warwickshire Police Communication Centre. The Whitnash panel met 6 times in 2004/5.

### **Warwick West – Forbes Estate**

- 4.5** A community forum has operated in Warwick West, chaired by Councillor Randev, concentrating on issues on the Forbes Estate. Meetings have been

held at Racing Club Warwick. The meetings are open to members of the local community. Warwick District Council and Warwickshire Police regularly attend. The forum has covered a range of issues this year, but there has been a focus on problems of anti social behaviour and as a result of this, the Area Office has been central in bringing various agencies together to focus on problems, particularly in Shakespeare Avenue. The forum met 3 times in 2004/5.

#### **4.6 Warwick North**

In November 2004, Councillor Browne organised a Warwick North residents meeting involving the County Council, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire Police and James Plaskitt MP. The meeting was supported by the Area Office.

### **5. Small Area Inter Agency Working**

**5.1** One initiative that the Area Office has led on this year has been the establishment of small area inter-agency working in parts of Warwick District. The two areas chosen have been the Sydenham area of Leamington Spa and the Packmores / The cape area of Warwick. These areas were selected because of the relatively high levels of deprivation and the lack of any coordinated action in those areas by the main public agencies locally.

#### **5.2 Sydenham**

In Sydenham, there has been a focus on bringing all of the main agencies in the area together to agree common priorities and to seek to establish an action plan to address those priorities. The work commenced in the summer of last year. Successes include various environmental improvements in the area and the establishment of a Portuguese Community Support worker post, based at the Sydni centre, to work with the Portuguese community locally. There is a significant concentration of Portuguese families in this part of Leamington Spa. The Area Office is committed to developing the work in Sydenham over the coming year.

#### **5.3 Packmores /The Cape, Warwick**

In the Packmores / The Cape area in Warwick there has been a similar attempt to bring together all of the main agencies working in the area. There have been several successes in the area. Following the first inter agency meeting, Warwickshire Police responded by making a Community Support Officer available to serve the estate. Her introduction to the area has proved very successful. Tim Healey, the Warwick Community Partnership Officer successfully brought together young people and residents in the Wedgnock Green area to help to resolve anti social behaviour issues, and the Community Learning Partnership, using Warwick Area Committee funds, successfully launched the "Help a mate", family learning programme in the area. Again there is a strong commitment to continue this work in 2005/6.

**5.4** The Area Office has also contributed to established inter-agency working in the Lillington and Brunswick areas of Leamington Spa.

## **6. The Warwick Partnership**

**6.1** The Area Team has played a central role, in partnership with Warwick District Council, in co-ordinating the work of the Warwick Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Warwick Area. The Partnership was established in autumn 2003 and has now completed the preparation of Warwick 2020, the Community Plan for the Warwick Area. The final version of the Community Plan will be published shortly. David Carter, as WCC Chief Officer assigned to the Warwick Area has also played a key role in the strategic development of partnership working locally, working closely with Janie Barrett, Warwick District Council's Chief executive.

**6.2** The Local Strategic Partnership involves several theme groups and community of interest groups and the Area Office are involved in supporting many of these groups. Involvement in theme groups has focussed on the Community Learning Partnership, where the Area Office has been involved in using Area Committee funds to launch the "Help a Mate" family learning programme in the Packmores / The Cape area of Warwick through the Community Learning Partnership. This initiative is shortly to be extended into Lillington. There has also been consistent involvement in the Warwick Partnership Culture and Environment groups.

## **6.3 Supporting the Warwick Partnership's Community and Voluntary Sector Network**

The Warwick Partnership includes several local forums representing community of interest groups. The Area Office have been directly involved in supporting 3 of these groups:

**a) Disability Forum** - Using Area Committee funds, a local disability forum has been established to provide disabled people with a voice in the Warwick Partnership.

**b) BME Forum** – The Area Office has been involved in facilitating the operation of the Southern Area Black and Minority Ethnic Forum and has facilitated the establishment of a strategic sub group of the BME Forum that was established to ensure that BME issues were addressed by the Warwick Partnership

**c) Older People** – The Area Office has worked with the District Council and CVS to appoint a part time worker to facilitate the operation of the Warwick District Policy for Older People Group – providing an older people's voice in the Warwick Partnership. Area Committee funds have contributed to the establishment of this post.

**6.4** The Area Committee also funded a part time worker based at CVS Warwick District whose role has been to support community and voluntary sector representatives on the Warwick Partnership Board and to assist with community and voluntary sector engagement in the community planning process

## **7.0 Area Business Planning**

**7.1** The Area Office is responsible for co-ordinating the production of the Area Business Plan for the Warwick Area. The Area Business Plan is intended to inform members of the performance of County Council departments at a local

level and enable members to identify and investigate further any performance concerns highlighted in the reports.

## **8.0 Support for the Community and Voluntary Sector – the role of the Community Partnership Officer**

**8.1** The Community Partnership Officer provides support and advice to community and voluntary sector organisations in the area. Much of this support involves helping organisations find funding. The Area Office have been instrumental in setting up a funders forum arrangement across South Warwickshire to develop a co-ordinated approach to funding community and voluntary sector projects in the area.

**8.2** Another initiative with the community and voluntary sector, supported by the Area Office, is the work of the Warwick District Welfare Rights Group who have been working to develop a welfare benefits outreach service for the area. The money for the initial research to provide background information on which to base this initiative came from Warwick Area Committee funds. It is hoped that this project will gain substantial funding from Warwickshire County Council's LPSA2 bid to Government.

**8.3** Finally under this heading, the Area Office provides significant support for the Warwick District Community Action Forum. This is a quarterly meeting open to all who work in the community and voluntary sector and public bodies who work with the sector. The meeting provides for discussion on current topics of interest, and provides an opportunity for information exchange and networking. The meetings regularly attract some 100 attendees and are again funded by monies made available by Warwick Area Committee.

## **9. Co-ordination of County Council activity at a local level.**

**9.1** The Area Office is involved in co-ordinating the activity of County Council departments across Warwick District, especially when departments are involved in multi agency working on complex, cross cutting issues. There are several examples of this, but the most complex recent example has been Kenilworth Town Centre, where the Area Office has sought to co-ordinate the contributions of six County Council departments involved in the work on the future development of the Town Centre and integrate those contributions with those of the District Council.

## **10. Communication Local Lines**

**10.1** In an attempt to better publicise County Council activity at a local level, the Area Team produced the first edition of Local Lines, a newsletter aimed at local councils and community organisations, aimed at signposting assistance available from the County Council and County Councillors in their locality. A similar newsletter has been issued in all five areas and will be produced twice a year.

### **Inform**

**10.2** The Area Office also produces the bi weekly "Inform" electronic publication, intended to provide Councillors with an update on current local issues.

## **11. Summary**

- 11.1** This is the first Annual Report for Area Working, which is designed to highlight some local activities and achievements. The report does not detail all activities but it is hoped that it will serve as a timely reminder of what key aspects have been delivered at the same time as performance reports are also being considered. It is hoped that the Area Committee will find this information useful.

DAVID CARTER  
County Solicitor and Assistant  
Chief Executive  
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17 May 2005