

Public Service Board - 23 January 2008

Area Based Grant

Report of the Accountable Officer

Recommendation

The PSB is recommended to:

- 1) Note the purpose and role of the new Area Based Grant in the funding of local services and in particular the relationship with the emerging new Local Area Agreement.
- 2) Note the details of the 2008/09 to 2010/11 Area Based Grant settlement for Warwickshire and
- 3) Comment on the process outlined in paragraph 6.5 for the allocation of Area Based Grant in 2008/09.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2007 the Government issued "Development of the new LAA Framework - Operational Guidance 2007". On 10 December 2007 this was followed up with a detailed announcement on the 2008/09 to 2010/11 Area Based Grant (ABG) Settlement. This report aims to bring these two strands together, outlining for partners, the role of ABG in relation to developing the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the relevant decision-making roles of individual partners and the PSB. The report then goes on to outline, for PSB comment, a process for making decisions on the allocation of ABG for 2008/09.

2 Local Area Agreements

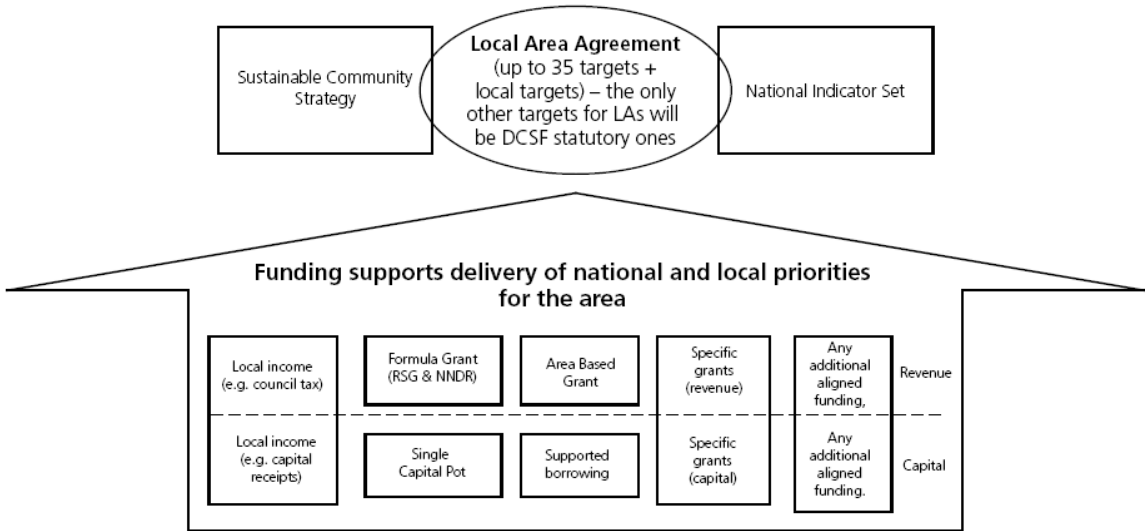
- 2.1 The LAA is an agreement between Central Government and the local authority and its partners about the priorities for the local area. The draft statutory guidance "Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities" outlines the new statutory duty on the local authority to prepare an LAA and the duty on partners, named in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to co-operate in the setting of targets. In two-tier areas the duty to prepare the LAA rests with the County Council.
- 2.2 There is also a new duty to involve which comes into force in April 2009. This is intended to give local people more opportunities to have their say and get involved in the issues that affect their local area.

- 2.3 Other papers on today's agenda outline the progress made to date on the development of the new LAA for Warwickshire and seek the views of the PSB on the emerging priorities.
- 2.4 Once there has been agreement on the priorities of an area these will need to be translated into a set of targets for the LAA. Local authorities and partners will need to consider which indicators, from the 198 in the National Indicator Set, will best help deliver the agreed priorities.

3 Funding of the LAA

3.1 In agreeing targets for inclusion in LAAs, it is also recognised that partnerships will also want to consider how they will resource the delivery of those priorities. The Local Government White Paper set out a new approach to allocating funding. This is shown in Diagram 1.

Diagram 1: Sources of Funding for the LAA



3.2 The diagram shows that from 1 April 2008 LAA Grant (the current main funding source for the LAA) ceases to exist. Rather the diagram reflects the expectation that local authorities will use all elements of their available funding to support the delivery of the LAA.

4 Area Based Grant

- 4.1 Most of the funding sources shown in Diagram 1 above are familiar. The new source of potential funding for the LAA is the ABG.
- 4.2 In 2005/06 the Government introduced LAA Grant into which a number of specific grant funding streams were pooled and allocated as a single grant for the purposes of supporting the achievement of LAA targets. LAA grant primarily acted as a means of capturing the wide range of area-based funding streams, allowing for

rationalisation of the administration and monitoring that surrounds those funding streams and increasing local flexibility over the use of funding.

- 4.3 ABG builds on this by further increasing local flexibility over the use of resources, and further reducing reporting requirements. However, unlike LAA grant, which was allocated for the purposes of supporting the achievement of LAA targets, ABG is a non-ringfenced general grant. This means there are no conditions attached to the way funding can be used.
- 4.4 As a result partners are free to use the ABG allocated to them, alongside the totality of their funding, to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas, including the achievement of LAA targets.
- 4.5 Whilst any decision on the allocation of ABG is a decision of the grant receiving body, in practice, the allocation of ABG is inextricably linked to developing and agreeing the LAA. The PSB and partners will need to be satisfied they have plans showing how they will work towards the attainment of targets and that resource plans are in place to underpin the LAA and manage any risks.
- 4.6 The Audit Commission will, through the work of its appointed auditors, assess whether resources have been used effectively, with a strong focus on value for money and efficiency as part of the use of resources element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

5 Warwickshire's Area Based Grant

- 5.1 The ABG for Warwickshire is £22.112 million for 2008/09. Future indicative levels of ABG are £33.232 million for 2009/10 and £32.659 million for 2010/11. The significant increase in grant in later years is due to the inclusion of Supporting People funding as part of ABG. Table 1 below breaks down the AGB allocations into those partners with lead responsibility for allocating the ABG. Those elements of ABG showing the LAA as the lead are the grants pooled within the existing Warwickshire LAA. The decision on the allocation of these grants also rests with the County Council as the grant receiving body.

Table 1: Summary of Warwickshire AGB 2008/09 to 2010/11				
	2007/08 £m	2008/09 £m	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m
Existing Resources				
□ LAA	6.692	6.699	6.702	6.776
□ Warwickshire County Council	13.704	14.613	15.540	14.841
Total Existing Resources	20.396	21.312	22.242	21.617
New Resources				
□ Warwickshire County Council	-	0.751	10.899	10.902
□ Nuneaton and Bedworth BC	-	0.049	0.091	0.140
Total New Resources	-	0.800	10.990	11.042
Total ABG	20.396	22.112	33.232	32.659

- 5.2 The total ABG for Warwickshire is made up of a number smaller revenue grants that have been allocated across authorities according to specific policy criteria. A full breakdown of the ABG for Warwickshire for 2008/09 to 2009/10 is attached at Appendix A. The level of grant received in 2007/08 for each individual grant, where available, has also been included for comparative purposes.

6 Allocating Area Based Grant in Warwickshire

- 6.1 Considerations about the allocation of ABG need to take account of the following:
- The on-going commitments in terms of staffing and contracts flowing from the current use of grants, by partner organisations, that are now included in ABG.
 - The views of the PSB and individual partner organisations as to the local priorities in Warwickshire, and
 - Resourcing the priorities and targets included in the emerging new LAA.
- 6.2 The timing of the announcement of ABG for 2008/09 does not fit easily with the budget process of partner organisations. For example, in the County Council provisional recommendations on the budget for 2008/09 were agreed by the Cabinet on 13 December 2007. The announcement of the grants to be incorporated within ABG was after these provisional decisions had been reached.
- 6.3 For the future further work is required to incorporate agreeing the allocation of ABG into the annual budget cycle of partner organisations. With the minimum figures for 2009/10 and 2010/11 already available, this provides a real opportunity to fully incorporate the emerging LAA priorities and targets into partners' mainstream decision-making processes.
- 6.4 2008/09 will inevitably be a transitional year when the impact of both existing commitments and the lack of lead-in time mitigates against significant changes in resource allocation. To ensure there is budget provision to meet existing commitments from 1 April 2008, for 2008/09, decisions on the allocation of ABG will be made at the full Council meeting of Warwickshire County Council on 18 March 2008. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council who will receive the new Social Cohesion Grant directly as ABG will also need to consult on the use of their ABG.
- 6.5 As part of agreeing the allocation of ABG for 2008/09 there is also a need to ensure there is a strong framework that is compelling to partners, the PSB, central government and local people that supports the decision-making. It is proposed that the following timetable set out below is adopted for deciding the allocation of Warwickshire County Council element of the ABG for 2008/09.

Table 2: Timetable for Agreeing the Allocation of 2008/09 Area Based Grant		
Date	Consideration by:	Consideration of:
23 January 2008	PSB	The initial priorities for the new LAA and any resource requirements to deliver these.
31 January 2008	Block Leads	Refinement of the initial considerations of the PSB into a working draft LAA for submission to GOWM
19 February 2008	WCC Council	Initial views of the PSB on the indicators for the new LAA and the allocation of resources with the aim of developing views on the priorities for the LAA from a WCC perspective.
20 February 2008	PSB	Details of: The on-going commitments in terms of staffing and contracts flowing from the current use of grants. Finalise the priorities for the new LAA and any resource requirements.
21 February 2008	WCC Cabinet	Details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The on-going commitments in terms of staffing and contracts flowing from the current use of grants. • The priorities and resourcing requirements identified by the PSB for the new LAA.
13 March 2008	WCC Cabinet	Recommendation to Council on the allocation of ABG for 2008/09.
18 March 2008	WCC Council	Agree the allocation of ABG for 2008/09 and the new LAA.

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and
Accountable Officer for the Warwickshire LAA

Warwickshire Area Based Grant 2008/09 to 2010/11

The table below shows the breakdown of the Area Based Grant for Warwickshire for 2008/09 to 2010/11. The 2007/08 grants received directly by partner organisations in 2007/08 are also shown for comparative purposes. The grants where the partner is shown as "LAA" indicates these grants are already pooled within the existing Warwickshire LAA

Area Based Grant	2007/08 Final £ million	2008/09 Provisional £ million	2009/10 Provisional £ million	2010/11 Provisional £ million
Existing LAA Pooled Grants				
Connexions	4.220	4.220	4.106	4.099
Positive Activities for Young People	0.159	0.159	0.274	0.355
Primary National Strategy Central Coordination	0.260	0.273	0.274	0.274
School Development grant	1.013	1.013	1.013	1.013
School Travel Advisors	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071
Secondary National Strategy-Behaviour & Attendance	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126
Secondary National Strategy-Central Coordination	0.259	0.253	0.254	0.254
Stronger Safer Communities Fund	0.584	0.584	0.584	0.584
Sub-Total	6.692	6.699	6.702	6.776
Existing County Council Grants				
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	0.224	0.153	0.154	0.155
Adults Social Care Workforce	1.222	1.222	1.269	1.316
Care Matters White Paper	0.020	0.234	0.319	0.369
Carers	1.602	1.968	2.125	2.283
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services	0.547	0.606	0.639	0.672
Children's Fund	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940
Choice Advisors	0.034	0.035	0.035	0.035
Detrunking	0.380	0.389	0.399	0.409
Education Health Partnerships	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105
Extended Rights to Free Transport	0.064	0.167	0.275	0.383
Extended Schools Start Up Costs	0.818	1.036	1.656	0.681
Mental Capacity Act & Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	0.134	0.217	0.276	0.267
Mental Health	1.057	1.189	1.249	1.310
Preserved Rights	2.800	2.572	2.454	2.347
Road Safety Grant	1.841	1.770	1.633	1.572
Rural Bus Subsidy	1.017	1.043	1.071	1.098
School Improvement Partners	0.167	0.252	0.252	0.252
School Intervention Grant	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163
Supporting People Administration	0.340	0.323	0.297	0.255
Sustainable Travel General Duty	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042
Teenage Pregnancy	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187
Sub-Total	13.704	14.613	15.540	14.841
Total Existing Grants				
	20.396	21.312	22.242	21.617

Appendix A

Area Based Grant	2007/08 Final £ million	2008/09 Provisional £ million	2009/10 Provisional £ million	2010/11 Provisional £ million
New Nuneaton and Bedworth BC Grants				
Cohesion	-	0.049	0.091	0.140
Sub-Total	-	0.049	0.091	0.140
New County Council Grants				
Child Death Review Processes	-	0.047	0.048	0.050
Children's Social Care Workforce	-	0.119	0.119	0.119
Learning and Disability Development Fund	-	0.373	0.372	0.372
Local Involvement Networks	-	0.212	0.213	0.214
Supporting People	-	-	10.147	10.147
Sub-Total	-	0.751...	10.899..	10.902..
Total New Grants	-	0.800	10.990	11.042
TOTAL AREA BASED GRANT	20.396	22.112	33.232	32.659

Warwickshire Local Area Agreement

Developing a 'Story of Place' for Warwickshire

Introduction

Critical to the development of the new LAA is an understanding of Warwickshire as 'a place'; its communities, its characteristics, its geography, its strengths and its weaknesses. Guidance on developing the new LAA suggests that the story should be a "distinctive vision and ambition of the area and the evidence base which makes clear why issues are priorities for the locality. A good 'story' is one which is credible, gets wide buy-in from stakeholders – including central government departments – and is a strong basis around which to subsequently negotiate targets for inclusion in the LAA". The reasons for developing a 'story of place' for Warwickshire include

- ⊕ To act as part of the evidence base for developing priorities within the new LAA,
- ⊕ To illustrate an audit trail for our decision-making processes,
- ⊕ To ensure buy-in from all partners to the proposed priorities,
- ⊕ To demonstrate an understanding of the people and issues in our county,
- ⊕ To provide us with the confidence to prioritise issues and take bold decisions in shifting resources to need.

Local partners should use their story of place, evidence base, and the national indicator set to develop their LAA targets.

Based around the existing six LAA Blocks, this paper helps set the scene and identifies many of the key trends, topics and issues facing partners as we move towards our new LAA. More detailed information can be found in supporting documents such as the Quality of Life Report, our analysis on narrowing the gap issues and the forthcoming State of Warwickshire Report.

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About Warwickshire

Geography

Warwickshire lies to the south and east of the West Midlands conurbation, and has well established links with Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull in the West Midlands region, but also with the South East. Despite the focus of population within the main towns of the County, a significant part of Warwickshire is rural in nature. Warwickshire lies at the heart of Britain's transport network and several key strategic routes pass through the County.

Warwickshire is a two-tier local authority area and comprises five District/Borough areas:

- North Warwickshire Borough
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough
- Rugby Borough
- Stratford-on-Avon District
- Warwick District



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Localities

At the time of preparing the new LAA, substantial effort is being invested in the development of a locality approach among partners. This relates both to the development of a localised approach to service delivery and planning and also improved arrangements for engagement with local communities. We envisage the establishment of 21 localities to form the basis for local service delivery and planning and up to 28 Locality Forums which will, with key partners (notably the County, District and Borough Councils and the Police) aim to improve and give greater coherence to the ways in which partners engage with local communities.

Population

The latest estimates, for mid-year 2006, suggest Warwickshire is home to 522,200 people. Warwickshire's population has been growing for the past three decades and the County is now home to 64,000 more people than at the start of the 1970's. Growth has been particularly rapid in recent years, with continued in-migration from the urban areas of Coventry and Birmingham a key factor behind this trend.

Population change, 1971-2006

Population	1971	1981	1991	2001	2006	Change 2001/1971	Change 2006/01
Warwickshire	458.1	477.2	487.1	506.2	522.2	10.5%	3.2%
<i>Of Which:</i>							
North Warwickshire	58.4	60.0	61.0	61.8	62.3	5.8%	0.8%
Nuneaton & B'worth	107.9	113.9	117.5	119.2	120.7	10.5%	1.3%
Rugby	84.5	87.5	85.0	87.5	90.2	3.6%	3.1%
Stratford-on-Avon	95.6	100.7	105.4	111.5	116.1	16.6%	4.0%
Warwick	111.7	115.5	118.1	126.1	132.9	12.9%	5.4%
Coventry	338.3	319.4	303.9	302.8	306.6	-10.5%	1.3%
West Midlands region	5,146.0	5,186.6	5,229.7	5,280.7	5,366.7	2.6%	1.6%
UK	55,928	56,357	57,439	59,113	60,587	5.7%	2.5%

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Growth has not been consistent across Warwickshire's five districts. In the last ten years the population of South Warwickshire (Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick districts) and Rugby combined has increased by 7.4%, compared to just 1.9% in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth.

In recent years, migration rather than natural increase (births minus deaths) has been the primary factor behind the increase in Warwickshire's population. People moving to Warwickshire from elsewhere in the UK (internal migrants) have accounted for more than 90% of the increase in Warwickshire's population since 2001. The remainder is made up of natural change and people moving to Warwickshire from overseas (international migrants).

Since the opening up of the UK labour market to citizens of the new member states of the EU in May 2004, a significant number of migrant workers have come to live and/or work in Warwickshire. Migrant workers are often transient; knowing how many there are in a local area at a particular time, and predicting future change, is difficult. Information on National Insurance numbers issued provides a measure of inflow of migrant workers from overseas, but does not record when any individual moves around the country or leaves it.

Between April 2004 and March 2007, 5750 National Insurance numbers were allocated to overseas nationals from the eight accession states (A8) living in Warwickshire. However, many of these migrants will have since left Warwickshire or returned to their country of origin. The figures suggest the greatest numbers of migrants (from the A8 states) have come to live in Stratford-on-Avon District and Rugby Borough.

The most recent population projections for Warwickshire, based on an assumption that recent trends will continue, suggest that the population of Warwickshire will reach a total of

598,700 by 2029 – an increase of 84,100 people or 16.3% on 2004. This projected increase is more than twice the expected regional growth rate.

Population projections, 2004-2029

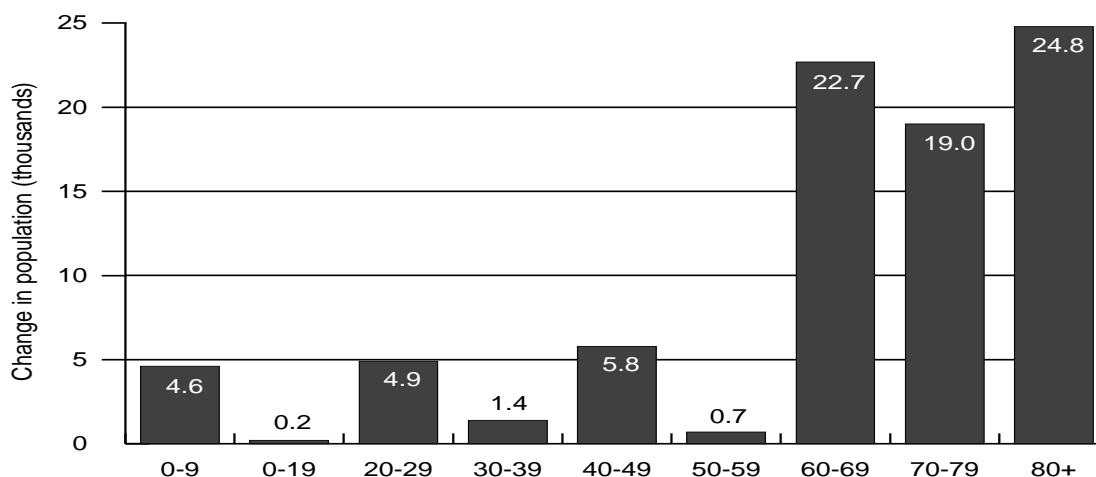
Population	2004	2011	2021	2029	Change 2021/04	Change 2029/04
Warwickshire	514.6	540.1	575.6	598.7	11.9%	16.3%
<i>Of Which:</i>						
North Warwickshire	62.0	62.6	64.0	65.0	3.2%	4.8%
Nuneaton & B'worth	120.1	122.5	126.7	129.2	5.5%	7.6%
Rugby	88.8	92.6	98.1	102.0	10.5%	14.9%
Stratford-on-Avon	113.6	120.6	129.9	136.2	14.3%	19.9%
Warwick	130.1	141.9	156.8	166.3	20.5%	27.8%
Coventry	303.6	303.9	307.7	312.4	1.4%	2.9%
West Midlands region	5,326.7	5,437.6	5,611.9	5,731.6	5.4%	7.6%
England	50,110.7	51,967.5	54,604.8	56,456.8	9.0%	12.7%

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Within Warwickshire, the South of the county is expected to experience the highest rates of growth. Growth is projected to be most rapid in Warwick District with an increase of 28% between 2004 and 2029, bringing the total population of the District to 166,300.

Across Warwickshire as a whole, the highest rates of projected population growth are in the groups aged 65 and over. The rate of growth increases with age, with the oldest age group (those aged 85 and over) projected to increase by almost 140% by 2029. This trend is reflected across all the districts and boroughs.

Projected population change in Warwickshire by age group, 2004-2029



Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Population projections help inform the planning of services and decisions about the future allocation of resources. An ageing population has implications for the future provision of many services linked to older age groups. Population projections also inform household projections, which are used to estimate the future demand for housing.

Ethnicity

The most recent population estimates by Ethnic Group suggest that non-‘White British’ groups make up approximately 9.2% of Warwickshire’s total population, an increase from 7.3% in 2001. In number terms, the ‘Asian Indian’ and ‘Other White’ ethnic groups are the largest non-‘White British’ groups in the County.

At District level, Warwick District is estimated to have the highest proportion of non-‘White British’ residents, at 14.0%, and North Warwickshire has the lowest proportion, at 5.1%.

Indians are the largest non-‘White British’ ethnic group in four of Warwickshire’s five Districts. The exception being Stratford-on-Avon, where the ‘Other White’ ethnic group is the largest.

Figure 1.4: Population estimates by ethnic group, 2005

Ethnic groups Mid-2005 estimates	Warwickshire	North Warks	Nuneaton & B'worth	Rugby	Stratford- on-Avon	Warwick
Total All Groups (100%)	518,900	62,300	120,400	89,600	114,800	131,800
Total White	487,800	60,200	112,800	83,100	111,400	120,300
<i>Of Which:</i>						
British	471,100	59,100	110,500	80,400	107,800	113,300
Irish	6,000	500	900	1,200	1,100	2,400
Other White	10,700	600	1,400	1,600	2,500	4,600
Total BME (incl. Irish & Other White)	47,600	3,100	9,800	9,200	7,100	18,500
<i>Of Which:</i>						
Mixed:	5,400	400	1,000	1,200	900	1,700
White & Black Carribean	2,200	200	500	600	300	600
White & Black African	400	–	100	100	100	100
White & Asian	1,800	100	400	300	300	700
Other Mixed	1,100	100	200	200	200	400
Asian or Asian British:	18,000	1,000	5,300	3,600	1,400	6,800
Indian	13,400	500	4,300	2,500	800	5,300
Pakistani	2,400	300	500	500	300	600
Bangladeshi	500	100	100	100	100	200
Other Asian	1,800	100	400	500	200	700
Black or Black British	3,700	400	700	1,100	600	1,200
Black Caribbean	2,100	200	400	700	300	500
Black African	1,400	100	300	300	200	500
Other Black	300	–	–	100	–	100
Chinese or Ethnic Group	3,800	200	500	500	600	1,800
Chinese	2,100	100	300	300	300	1,000
Other Ethnic Group	1,700	100	200	200	300	800

Notes: Rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding;

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Deprivation

The new English Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) have recently been released by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These are a full update of the Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID2004).

The IMD 2007 comprises seven domain indices representing the following different aspects of deprivation. These are weighted and combined to create the overall IMD.

- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education, skills and training deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Living environment deprivation
- Crime

These individual domains are referred to individually in the appropriate sections later in this report. However, some of the key issues are described here to help set the scene.

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 show that Warwickshire is ranked 123rd out of the 149 County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England, according to the rank of average score measure of deprivation, where a rank of 1 indicates the most deprived authority. This compares with a ranking of 120th on the same measure from the Indices of Deprivation 2004.

Out of the 34 County Councils, Warwickshire is now ranked 22nd compared with 20th on the 2004 Indices. Whilst, at a County level, it appears that Warwickshire is not particularly deprived, there is considerable variation across the District and Boroughs, and at a more localised level, various distinct pockets of severe deprivation exist within the County.

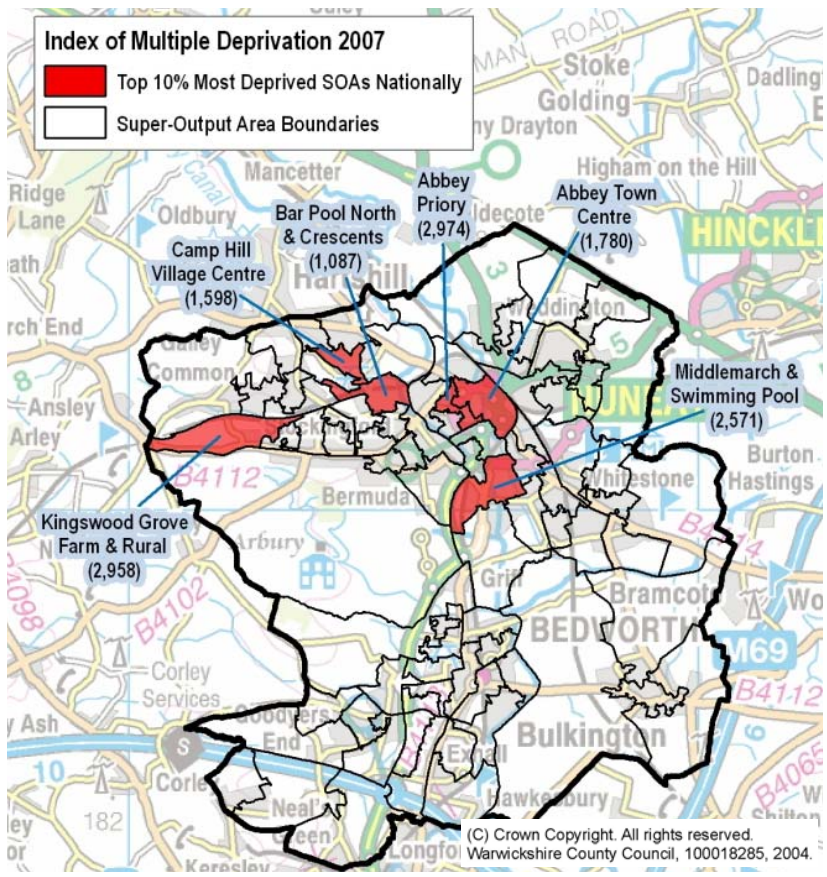
Nuneaton & Bedworth has the highest levels of deprivation in the County, indicated by the highest average SOA score. The Borough ranks as the 112th most deprived Local Authority District (out of the 354 Local Authorities in England). For comparison, Stratford-on-Avon District is the least deprived in Warwickshire with a national rank of 307th.

Relative to other English Local Authority Districts, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough and Stratford-on-Avon District are more deprived in the latest 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation than they were in the 2004 Index. Nuneaton & Bedworth has now moved into the top third most deprived local authority districts in England.

It is interesting to note that the eight most deprived SOAs on the IMD 2004 have all moved up the national rankings and are therefore ranked as being relatively more deprived on the IMD 2007. Some 22 of Warwickshire's most deprived 30 SOAs have similarly deteriorated in a national context.

The reason for this apparent decline is not clear. It could be that deprivation levels in the County have remained static in a generally improving national context, or it could be that there has been real absolute decline in some of our neighbourhoods. The fact that the average IMD deprivation score has increased between 2004 and 2007 implies that the latter of these two options is most likely.

Super-Output Areas (SOAs) in Warwickshire ranked in the Top 10% Most Deprived SOAs nationally on the IMD 2007 (Ranks are shown in brackets)



There are six Super-Output Areas (SOAs) in Warwickshire ranked within the top 10% most deprived SOAs nationally on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. These are all located within Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough (see map). This compares with only two SOAs in IMD 2004.

The most deprived SOA in the County is the Bar Pool North and Crescents SOA in Nuneaton. This area is ranked 1,087th out of the 32,482 SOAs in England on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation, placing it within the top 4% most deprived SOAs nationally.

There are a number of areas which feature within the top 10% most deprived areas nationally in a number of different domains. The Bar Pool North & Crescents area and the Camp Hill Village Centre areas in Nuneaton both feature in the top 10% most deprived areas in five out of the seven domains. These areas experience multiple-domain deprivation associated with income, employment, health, education and crime.

In addition to this, the Middlemarch & Swimming Pool area and Kingswood Grove Farm & Rural areas in Nuneaton & Bedworth show up within the top 10% most deprived nationally in three out of the seven different domains.

In general terms, the main areas of concern lie within the barriers to housing and services, education and crime domains. The barriers to housing and services domain focuses on geographical access to key local services and issues relating to access to housing, such as affordability. Within Warwickshire, 67 (or 20%) of SOAs are ranked within the top 20% most deprived SOAs in England on this measure. There are seven SOAs in Warwickshire ranked within the 1% most deprived SOAs nationally. Five are in Warwick District and two are in Stratford-on-Avon District.

A total of 41 areas in Warwickshire are ranked in the top 20% most educationally deprived areas nationally. There are now more pockets of severe deprivation linked to Education, Skills and Training, with more areas featuring within the top 1,000 most deprived SOAs nationally. These are all based in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough. Camp Hill Village Centre fares particularly poorly in this respect and is ranked as the 125th most deprived area in England.

The crime domain measures the rate of recorded crime for the four major crime types of burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence, and represents the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level. There are 13 SOAs in Warwickshire ranked within the top 10%, and 36 within the top 20% most deprived SOAs nationally on this domain. This has increased from six in the top 10% and 25 in the top 20% in the ID 2004. Nearly a third of Nuneaton and Bedworth's total SOAs are ranked within the top 20% most deprived nationally in terms of crime. The most deprived area in the County on this measure is Abbey Priory in Nuneaton which is ranked 904th nationally.

Narrowing the Gap

One of the three over-arching themes of the original Warwickshire LAA is to 'Narrow the Gap'. By narrowing the gap, we mean reduce differences across the County in terms of achievement, opportunity and quality of life.

Since the original LAA was produced, we have undertaken more detailed analysis of various key socio-economic datasets to help quantify the extent of 'the gap' and identify priority areas for improvement. A set of sixteen core indicators was selected, taking indicators across all six blocks within the original LAA, and the gap between the 'best' and 'worst' performing Districts in relation to these selected indicators was measured. This helps us understand the scale of the issue and whether there is any consistency in the extent of the gap both over time and across indicators. The analysis also identified, where possible, what improvements are needed in order to remove the gap and get all five Districts performing at the level of the current 'best performer'.

In addition, sub-District (ward) analysis was considered where possible. This enabled us to identify pockets of need that exist across parts of the County that might not necessarily be considered in a simple analysis of District-level data.

- Of the sixteen key indicators assessed, the clear message is a confirmation that the north-south divide persists in Warwickshire. This, in most cases, can be specified as a distinction between Nuneaton & Bedworth and Stratford-on-Avon/Warwick Districts.
- The only indicator that does not fit this model is 'Access to Services'. This follows a different pattern largely due to the differences between rural and urban parts of the County.
- Nuneaton & Bedworth specifically is the worst performer in by far the highest number of the sixteen indicators.
- The ward level analysis identifies a number of wards that consistently appear within the 'best' and 'worst' 5% across the County. These areas are not likely to be surprises and the analysis supports findings from previous Index of Deprivation results.
- Of more concern, is that of the thirteen indicators that can be tracked across a number of years, only two demonstrate a reduction in the gap between the 'best' and 'worst' Districts within the County. In some cases the gap continues to grow.

More information on the Narrowing the Gap analysis is available from the Warwickshire Observatory.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- Continued and significant **population growth** will place further pressures on public sector service delivery in Warwickshire. While people have been attracted by Warwickshire's low unemployment and strong quality of life offer, continued population growth is placing increased pressure on housing, planning, transport, schools, social care, and potentially community cohesion.
- In particular, the significant relative growth in the County's **elderly population** will bring specific pressures to certain areas of public service, notably health and adult social care.
- The scale of future growth will need to be anticipated and managed to limit **excessive demands** on infrastructure and some services, alongside its threat to what are widely viewed as Warwickshire's key advantages – its rural areas, pleasant and vibrant towns and quality of life.
- There are concerns, often encouraged through reports in the local and national media, around the impacts **international migrants** have on service provision. These should not be overestimated; more than 90% of net migrants to Warwickshire have come from elsewhere in the UK. A recent study commissioned by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and WCC investigating the local impact of international migrants found a generally positive picture. The report concluded by suggesting that public sector agencies should counter any exaggerated or inaccurate information about migrant worker groups with facts.
- The move towards locality working will provide both opportunities and challenges in terms of delivering public sector services and engaging our communities. Partners will need to consider how **local variations in need and conditions** will impact upon service delivery and meeting the broader aims of the LAA.
- There remains significant pockets of deprivation and the latest data suggests that, many areas in Warwickshire are **increasingly deprived** in a national context. Of particular concern will be that our most deprived areas have, over the past three years, appeared to deteriorate (compared to national trends).
- Evidence suggests that not only does the gap between our best and worst performing areas persist, but that in many indicators the **gap continues to grow**. This has significant implications for the way we as partners identify and tackle priorities.

Children & Young People

There are approximately 111,600 children and young people in Warwickshire aged under 18. This equates to 21.4% of the total population, almost identical to the national average. This figure ranges locally from 23% in Rugby and Nuneaton & Bedworth Boroughs down to below 20% in Warwick District.

Number and Percentage of 0 – 17 year olds

	Number of 0 – 17 year olds	Total population	Percentage aged 0 – 17
North Warwickshire	13,100	62,300	21.1%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	27,500	120,700	22.8%
Rugby	21,000	90,200	23.2%
Stratford-on-Avon	23,900	116,100	20.6%
Warwick	26,100	132,900	19.6%
Warwickshire	111,600	522,200	21.4%
England	10,996,700	50,762,900	21.7%

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Projections suggest that between now and 2029 there will be notable growth in the number of young people aged 0 to 4, with an estimated growth of more than 10% or 3,000. The change in this age group is not projected to be consistent across the County. In North Warwickshire, for example, the number of people aged 0-4 is projected to fall by about 3% whilst in Warwick District, the number is projected to increase by approximately 29%. Again, there are clearly implications for our service delivery particularly in terms of education provision.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has released a 2007 update to the national Indices of Deprivation. One of these indices is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, providing a measure of communities experiencing child poverty in England.

Warwickshire has three localities (Super Output Areas) within the top 10% most deprived in England, on this particular measure. All three are in Nuneaton & Bedworth (in parts of Wem Brook, Bar Pool and Camp Hill wards)

A total of 42 Warwickshire SOAs feature in the 30% most deprived SOAs in England experiencing income deprivation affecting children. Of these, 19 are in Nuneaton & Bedworth. A further ten are in Warwick District and seven are in Rugby.

Unauthorised absence in both primary and secondary schools during 2005/06 was highest in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough at 0.68% of sessions missed and lowest in Rugby Borough at 0.39%. The problem with unauthorised absence is much greater in secondary schools with the percentage of sessions missed most recently standing at 1.1% in Warwickshire. This figure has been increasing, from 0.7% in 2001/02. The Warwickshire rate compares to a figure of 1.2% across England.

Analysis of DfES data reveals that in Warwickshire 6.2% of persistent absentees are responsible for almost 30% of the total unauthorised absence; nationally this figure is 7.1% responsible for 30% of absence. When the data is split by gender, the absentee rate for boys in Warwickshire is 1.06% and for girls slightly higher at 1.11%; nationally both boys

and girls stand at 1.42%. For pupils in receipt of free school meals, the rate of unauthorised absence is 3.2% while for all other pupils the figure is 0.92% - a figure three and a half times higher.

There has been a slight improvement in the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C both nationally and within the County. In 2005/06 all districts improved on the previous academic year with Rugby, Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon all above the national average. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough increased by over four percentage points, a similar increase to that achieved last year and again the highest increase within the County. North Warwickshire recorded a slight fall.

The Department for Children Schools & Families has published GCSE attainment data for 2004/05 for all 354 local authority districts in England by pupil place of residence, as opposed to location of educational establishment. Stratford-on-Avon District is within the top 10% of local authorities for pupils attaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C grades; Rugby Borough and Warwick District are within the top half of local authorities; North Warwickshire Borough is in the third quartile and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough is just above the bottom 10% of local authorities. All districts have improved on their ranking from the previous year.

The percentage of school leavers recorded as 'Continuing in Education' increased for the third consecutive year. The rate of 80.3% is the highest ever achieved in Warwickshire and it compares favourably with the national rate of 77.9%. The total rate of 93.5% for 'Positive Outcomes' is only marginally below the record result of 2005 but has been achieved with a larger cohort. It appears, in many instances, that early follow-up by Connexions Personal Advisors helped to maintain productive contact with young people and assisted in motivating them to enter a positive destination. The Connexions September Guarantee was operated again in 2006 and contributed to the continuing high success rate.

Warwickshire's residents have been asked for their views on whether parents take adequate responsibility for the behaviour of their children. Overall, Warwickshire's results are similar to those at a regional and national level, with 60% believing that parents not taking responsibility for behaviour of their children is a problem locally. This notable majority view may have implications for the way the authority addresses community cohesion issues with our partners.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- The **projected increase** of around 3,000 in the number of young people aged 0 – 4 over the next twenty years will, if realised, have implications for service delivery. As well as school provision itself, associated issues such as child care provision, children's social care, leisure and recreational services and youth offending services will be impacted upon.
- There are pockets of **significant deprivation** specifically linked to children and young people across the County, particularly in Nuneaton & Bedworth.
- **Skills and qualification attainment levels**, although strong in overall terms, vary considerably across the County. Although Nuneaton & Bedworth has made the most significant gains in recent years, the gap between the north and south of the County persists.
- There is a perception that many **parents do not take sufficient responsibility** for the behaviour of their children. This issue will have overlap with the Stronger Communities theme.

Safer Communities

Warwickshire is one of the safest places in the country to live. Levels of recorded crime remain significantly below both national and regional averages. After an upturn in recorded crime during 2005/06, local levels have fallen again and partners are working towards achieving many of the crime reduction targets set three years ago.

Consultation exercises continue to illustrate that a low level of crime is the single most important factor in making somewhere a good place to live in Warwickshire. However, whereas in previous years crime levels have also been perceived as the issue that most needs improving locally, in 2006/07 activities for teenagers emerged as a more important priority. The 2007/08 results illustrate that improving crime levels is now down to third; activities for teenagers and now traffic congestion are deemed, by residents, to need greater attention.

What are the five things that Warwickshire's residents feel most need improving?

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Level of crime	Level of crime	Level of crime	Activities for teenagers	Activities for teenagers
2	Level of traffic congestion	Activities for teenagers	Activities for teenagers	Level of crime	Level of traffic congestion
3	Activities for teenagers	Affordable decent housing	Affordable decent housing	Level of traffic congestion	Level of crime
4	Road/pavement repairs	Level of traffic congestion	Road/pavement repairs	Affordable decent housing	Road/pavement repairs
5	Clean streets	Road/pavement repairs	Level of traffic congestion	Public transport	Affordable decent housing

Source: Warwickshire County Council Public Satisfaction Surveys

We have made notable improvements in reducing the fear of crime in Warwickshire, and current levels are at their lowest since consistent measurement began some seven years ago. Part of this improvement will be a consequence of lower rates of crime during 2007; by reducing crime itself we are likely to make some impact on fear of crime levels. But only up to a point; to make the greatest gains we will need to reduce the percentage of residents that have an inherent fear of crime. This might be as high as half the overall population for certain types of crime.

Recent analysis within the Observatory has identified the financial impact of crime upon our County. Although we are, generally, a relatively low crime area, recorded crimes against individuals and households cost Warwickshire approximately £85 million during 2006/07. That represents £233,000 every day or more than £162 throughout the year for every resident. Much of this cost directly impacts upon the Police, Primary Care Trust, County Council and partner organisations.

Whereas criminal offences often directly affect only the victim, anti-social behaviour (ASB) can on occasions impact upon whole communities. According to incidents recorded by Warwickshire Police, by far the most significant category of ASB is 'rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour', accounting for more than 30% of total incidents.

The highest rates of ASB are in Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby Boroughs, with a County average of 56 recorded incidents per 1,000 residents. This is equivalent to an incident every 18 minutes or 80 per day.

As part of the County Council's Best Value User Satisfaction Survey, residents were asked to indicate whether they considered a range of ASB types to be a problem in their local area. In general, the main area of concern appears to be teenagers hanging around on the streets (links with both Stronger and Children & Young People themes).

We now have four years' worth of trend data on perceptions of ASB. There are not many identifiable trends, and the figures have tended to fluctuate each year. However, concern over rubbish and litter, abandoned and burnt out vehicles and people using or dealing drugs has reduced each year. The only area of concern where current levels are greater than the baseline year (2003/04) is teenagers hanging around on streets. Even here, the most recent figure, 57%, is only slightly higher than the 2003/04 baseline of 54%.

It is possible to combine residents' level of concern across the different types of ASB to generate an overall composite measure of the perception of ASB. Encouragingly, the percentage of Warwickshire residents with a 'high' perceived level of ASB has decreased in each of the last four years

Partners across Warwickshire are currently deciding on priority issues associated with safer communities, which will emerge from the Partnership Strategic Assessment being produced in January 2008. Further details on decisions regarding priorities will be available in early February.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- Levels of recorded crime in Warwickshire are significantly below both national and regional averages
- Recorded crime in Warwickshire has decreased in recent months, with 2007 down 9% on 2006. This largely reflects national trends and a full assessment of why these changes have taken place locally has not been completed.
- Although fear of crime continues to be a concern locally, current levels are at their lowest since measurement began. Other issues are beginning to emerge as greater priorities for local residents, such as traffic congestion and activities for teenagers.
- Similarly, Warwickshire residents' perceptions of anti-social behaviour have improved year on year.
- The cost of crime is significant, both to individual households and agencies in Warwickshire.

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Stronger Communities

Many of the indicators and outcomes relating to Stronger Communities are perception based and it is fair to say that the evidence base for this theme is still incomplete. The 2007 LAA Survey helped to fill some of the outstanding data gaps but there are still areas where robust baselines have not been established. This makes it more difficult for us to understand what the most important issues might be, as we tend to only know about the things we ask about.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA) have recently published a joint action plan for community empowerment. This forms part of the Government’s overall strategy for constitutional renewal, as set out in the *Governance of Britain* Green Paper. The Action Plan outlines three areas of activity. The first is to widen and deepen empowerment opportunities locally. CLG states that it will work closely with local authorities to take forward the proposals in the local government white paper and that key programmes such as housing, planning and community cohesion will have community empowerment approaches embedded.

A critical counter-balance to this initiative is the finding, from our Public Satisfaction Survey, that relatively few residents want to be more involved in making decisions that affect their local area. Less than one in four stated that they wished to be more involved and, when offered the opportunity, only 26% of respondents took up the offer of joining our Citizens’ Panel.

The table below illustrates the data available on our residents’ perceptions of the ability to participate in local democracy.

Residents’ views on their ability to participate in local democracy

	Percentage of respondents who feel well informed about how they can get involved about local decision making	Satisfaction with the opportunities for participation in local decision-making provided by your Council	Agreement that you can influence decisions affecting your local area
North Warwickshire	30.6%	20.0%	30.4%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	34.4%	27.4%	38.7%
Rugby	35.3%	20.7%	22.1%
Stratford-on-Avon	44.8%	31.7%	31.2%
Warwick	29.6%	23.7%	32.4%
Warwickshire	35.2%	25.2%	31.0%

Source: Warwickshire County Council Public Satisfaction Survey

These circumstances have implications for the way we need to provide opportunities for our citizens to participate in decision-making (also see the chapter on Consultation). At

present, only 25% of our residents feel satisfied with the opportunities provided by the Council to participate in local decision-making. Only 31% feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area and 35% feel well informed about how they can get involved about local decision making. We will be expected to improve in these areas.

The promotion of integration between communities and improvement of cohesion at a local level is becoming an important national issue. In Warwickshire 45% of residents feel that in their local area, people are not treated with respect and consideration; this is slightly below the national average of 48%. However, at a local level there is considerable variation with two in three residents in Nuneaton & Bedworth feeling that there is a lack of respect in their area compared to 38% of residents in Stratford-on-Avon.

Despite this significant minority, 79% of residents feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

As mentioned in the previous section, residents have also been asked for their views on whether parents take adequate responsibility for the behaviour of their children. Overall, Warwickshire's results are similar to those at a regional and national level, with 60% believing that parents not taking responsibility for behaviour of their children is a problem locally.

Community and voluntary work can be a good gauge of community strength. Latest results from our largest consultation exercises indicate that just more than one quarter (26%) of residents have been actively involved with at least one local community or voluntary organisation in the last twelve months. Around 12% of residents state that they have been engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours per week over the past year.

Further analysis illustrates that nearly 80% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. There are variations at District level, with satisfaction levels remaining highest in the south of the County.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- There do not appear to be any significant countywide community cohesion-type issues; the majority of residents are satisfied with their local area, believe people from different backgrounds get on well together and believe people are treated with respect and consideration.
- However, this picture is not consistent across the County, with notable variations between the north and south. Further analysis would uncover pockets across the County that differ significantly from the County norm.
- Only a small proportion of our residents are satisfied with the opportunities to participate in local decision-making.
- Despite this, only a similarly small proportion of Warwickshire's residents actually want to get more involved in local democracy. We need to temper the drive for greater participation and engagement with an understanding of the reality of public desire to get more involved.
- There is still a shortage of reliable data sources for this particular theme and part of the challenge facing the new LAA is to establish robust baselines and consistent data collection techniques.

Healthier Communities & Older People

The health of the population is becoming an increasingly important issue as partners aim to encourage and support people to take greater responsibility for their own welfare, help promote healthier lifestyles and improve the quality of life for residents. In many ways, the health indicators available to us reflect the wider socio-economic profile of the County, with significant variations across our communities.

Although now slightly dated, the 2001 Census provides us with the best self-reported measure of health. In overall terms, there have been significant increases in the numbers of people in Warwickshire with a long term limiting illness since 1991, although this may reflect increases in the elderly population of the County. Geographically, the north of Warwickshire contains a greater proportion of people with a limiting long term illness than the South. Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire have experienced the largest increases in the numbers of people with long term limiting illness since 1991. The South of the County has a higher proportion of the population than the North who rate their health as good. Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick districts are the healthiest districts in the West Midlands Region. Despite the older age structure in Stratford, 71.5% of the population regard their health as good.

More recently, half of respondents to 2007/08 Public Satisfaction Survey classified their health as 'good' over the last twelve months, 40% as 'fairly good' and 10% as 'not good'. The highest percentage of respondents reporting 'good' health was in Stratford-on-Avon District (54%) and the lowest in North Warwickshire Borough (42%).

The percentage of residents taking thirty minutes or more moderate physical activity three or more times a week appears to have increased slightly during the past five years, and currently stands at 62%.

With regard to healthy eating, results from the survey are encouraging. The percentage of residents eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day has increased in all five Districts and Boroughs. However, almost three quarters of Warwickshire residents are still not eating recommended amounts of fruit and vegetables.

Levels of exercise and health eating

	Percentage of residents taking 30 minutes or more moderate physical activity three or more times per week		Percentage of residents eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day	
	2003	2007	2003	2007
North Warwickshire	50%	52%	14%	21%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	53%	59%	14%	25%
Rugby	63%	57%	10%	29%
Stratford-on-Avon	62%	69%	17%	29%
Warwick	61%	64%	17%	26%
Warwickshire	58%	62%	15%	27%

Life expectancy has risen strongly over the past couple of decades and large increases in the number of elderly people are forecast. This means that more people are living to ages in which they are increasingly likely to experience chronic disease and disability.

Although life expectancies continue to rise in Warwickshire, there has previously been little consideration of the *quality* of these extra years gained. For the first time the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published estimates of 'healthy life expectancy' (HLE) for local areas. HLE is a health indicator that combines current mortality and morbidity data and measures both the 'quantity' and 'quality' of life. Healthy life expectancy at birth is the expected number of years a newborn baby would survive and be healthy if he or she experienced the particular area's age and sex specific mortality and health rates, throughout his or her life.

Nuneaton & Bedworth is the only district within Warwickshire where Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) is below the national average for both males and females. Nuneaton & Bedworth also has the greatest difference between its life expectancy and healthy life expectancy levels.

At a very local level, healthy life expectancies vary considerably, from over 80 in Leek Wootton through to below 65 in Abbey ward in Nuneaton.

The latest Indices of Deprivation (2007) include a Health Deprivation & Disability domain. Warwickshire has six Super Output Areas within the 10% most deprived nationally. All are in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough, and 25 of the 30 most deprived in Warwickshire are within that Borough. This illustrates real concentrated deprivation of a specific type in a particular area.

As reported earlier in the paper, the number of older people in the County is increasing rapidly and projections suggest the number aged 85 plus will more than double during the next twenty years.

At present, one in six Warwickshire residents are aged 65 or more. By 2029 this is projected to be one in four. This clearly has significant implications for service demand and delivery.

Number and Percentage of 65+ year olds

	Actual 2006		Projected 2029	
	Number aged 65 plus	Percentage of total population	Number aged 65 plus	Percentage of total population
North Warwickshire	10,100	16.2%	16,400	25.2%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	18,600	15.4%	29,700	23.0%
Rugby	14,800	16.4%	23,800	23.3%
Stratford-on-Avon	22,500	19.4%	38,800	28.5%
Warwick	21,600	16.3%	32,700	19.7%
Warwickshire	87,600	16.8%	141,300	23.6%
England	8,085,700	15.9%	12,305,500	21.8%

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- Warwickshire's population, in line with national trends, is ageing and the number of people in the eldest age groups will increase notably over the next two decades. This will have significant implications for the nature and volume of services required, in particular **health and adult social care**.
- Although our residents are living longer, there is not necessarily an equal increase in **healthy life spans**. This adds to the likely pressures that will be placed on the aforementioned services.
- The issue of **unpaid carers** (including young carers) is likely to become increasingly important in the future with an ageing population and a greater proportion of older people requiring some form of care.
- The pattern of health and healthy lifestyles is **far from consistent** across the County, with a real concentration in Nuneaton & Bedworth. This will need to be addressed as part of our drive to narrow the gap.

Economic Development & Enterprise

The most recent headline economic indicators continue to suggest that Warwickshire's overall economic performance is no better than average, and in some cases recent trends are cause for concern.

For example, the slowdown in economic growth during 2005 fed through to a weaker labour market in the second-half of 2005 and most of 2006. In Warwickshire, the claimant count measure of unemployment increased faster and for longer than in most of the rest of the United Kingdom. Warwickshire experienced the fifth biggest percentage increase (41%) in claimant unemployment numbers of all 171 English and Welsh upper tier local authorities between March 2005 and March 2007 (Coventry experienced the fourth biggest increase). From June 2007, several months after the national count had begun to trend downward, the claimant count in Warwickshire has been falling.

Recent experience also highlights the increased vulnerability of Nuneaton & Bedworth. The domestic unemployment claimant count was on a rising trend throughout most of 2005 and 2006 – the negative effects of these increases in Warwickshire were disproportionate in Nuneaton & Bedworth compared to the rest of the County. Between March 2005 and March 2007 the claimant count in Nuneaton & Bedworth increased by 53% (+759), over the same period the increase for the rest of Warwickshire was 35% (+1,110).

Warwickshire's Claimant Count

	July 2004	July 2005	July 2006	July 2007
North Warwickshire	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	2.0%	2.0%	2.7%	2.6%
Rugby	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	1.9%
Stratford-on-Avon	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%
Warwick	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%	1.5%
Warwickshire	1.4%	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%
England & Wales	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	2.3%

Source: Claimant Count, National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

The claimant count unemployment rate, which for several years in Nuneaton & Bedworth was lower than the UK average is now higher. If, as forecast, the economy slows in 2008 then any impact is likely to be felt most in Nuneaton & Bedworth.

The term knowledge economy is widely used to capture the idea that there has been a shift in the nature of economic activity and the process of wealth generation in advanced countries. Government policy explicitly recognises the knowledge economy and cites its development as key to the continued growth and competitiveness of the domestic economy. The knowledge economy is difficult to define precisely in ways that are measurable. However, workplace-based estimates of employment in knowledge intensive services suggest the Warwickshire economy is less engaged in these key sectors than other areas.

The typical gross (before tax, national insurance or other deductions) annual earnings for a full-time worker living in Warwickshire were £25,100 in 2006. This is £1,300 higher than the

equivalent figure for England & Wales (£23,800) and £2,700 more than the typical earnings of West Midlands' residents (£22,400).

Within Warwickshire, earnings levels are highest for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick residents, £27,900 and £25,700 respectively. Earnings for residents of North Warwickshire are the lowest in the County, at £21,700.

Workplace earnings levels are fairly consistent across the districts with the exception of Nuneaton & Bedworth where annual earnings are £2,800 lower than in any other district. This is at least partly due to the employment structure in Nuneaton & Bedworth – the largest employment sector in the Borough is wholesale and retail where wages tend to be lower.

In 2006, the median gross (before tax, national insurance or other deductions) household income, including income from investments and benefit payments, in Warwickshire was £29,000. This is £2,000 higher than the equivalent figure for Great Britain.

Within Warwickshire household incomes are highest in Warwick District where the typical household income is £31,300, 16% higher than the equivalent figure for Great Britain.

The number of households earning less than £20,000 within Warwickshire varies from 27% in Warwick District to 35% in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough.

Higher skill levels allow workers to generate new ideas and adapt to the changing economic environment. Without access to a skilled workforce, UK businesses will find it increasingly difficult to compete and innovate, and the employment opportunities of the lowest skilled will continue to decline. Achieving a world class skills base has been identified as essential for future economic success and social justice.

Information on qualification levels is usually presented by coding individual responses to their National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) equivalency.

Qualification Levels

	NVQ4+	NVQ3+	No Qualifications
North Warwickshire	21.7%	35.5%	19.5%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	17.0%	38.0%	14.1%
Rugby	29.1%	46.9%	6.9%
Stratford-on-Avon	34.2%	52.8%	7.5%
Warwick	38.2%	59.6%	10.1%
Warwickshire	28.8%	48.0%	11.1%
England & Wales	27.0%	44.8%	13.8%

Source: National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) © Crown Copyright 2007.

Skills levels held by the resident population vary significantly within Warwickshire. Warwick has the second highest proportion of its population qualified to NVQ4 or above in the West Midlands Region. However, Nuneaton & Bedworth has one of the lowest proportions qualified to NVQ4 or above in the Region.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- There has traditionally been a perception that Warwickshire has a well-performing, leading local economy. Recent trends suggest this is not always the case, and partners will need to ensure that not only do we narrow the gap within the County but also **keep up with national progress**, specifically relating to the knowledge economy.
- As in many of the indicators used to assess difference across Warwickshire, a **north/south gap persists** in almost all economic indicators. This is often specifically a gap between Nuneaton & Bedworth and the two southern Districts.
- Although **earnings and income levels** are often above the national average, there is significant fluctuation across the County. This is reflected through variations in skills and qualification levels.

Climate Change & the Environment

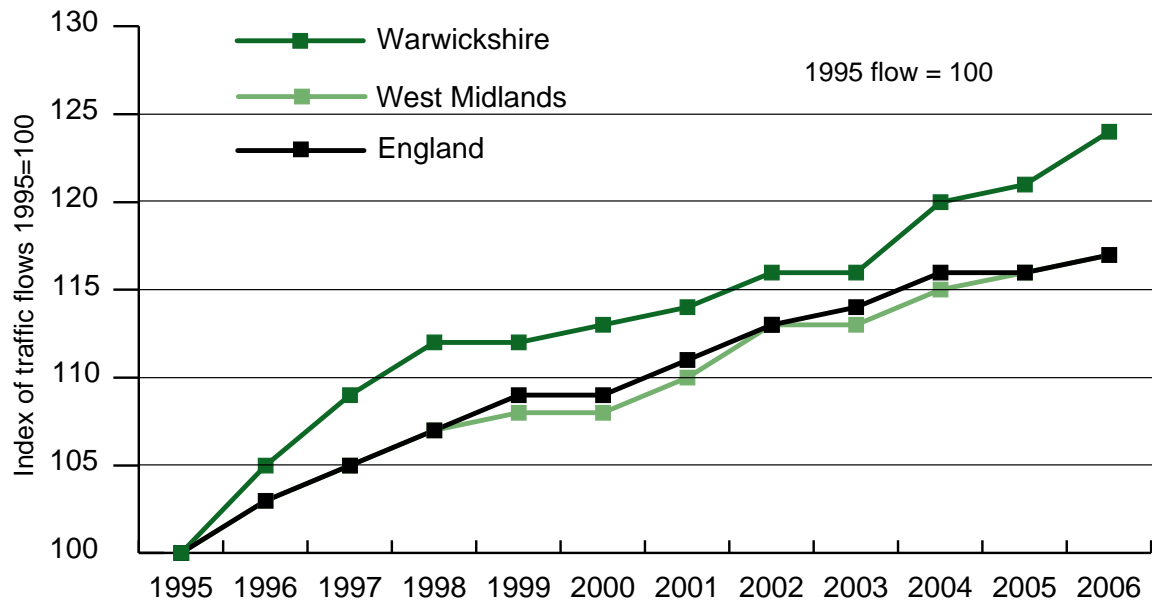
Performance on local environmental issues appears to be relatively strong. However, we clearly need to have regard for global issues that will impact on the future of the County.

Recent analysis has articulated the tension between economic growth and ‘tranquillity’ and air quality. The economic vibrancy of the County is reflected, in part, by road traffic volumes and industrial development. These characteristics are adversely impacting upon some of our environmental indicators. Warwickshire’s tranquillity map (based upon analysis by Newcastle University) illustrates that many parts of the County fall into the ‘least tranquil’ categories, and the County is graded in overall terms as the sixth least tranquil county in England.

The Department for Transport (DfT) have published data, which provide estimates of traffic levels (in million vehicle kilometres) at local authority level for the period 1995-2006. During this period growth in traffic levels within Warwickshire has been at a consistently higher level than regional and national averages.

There is now 24% more traffic on Warwickshire’s roads than in 1995; over the same period traffic flows are 17% higher for the West Midlands region and England. Warwickshire has a growing population and economy, which will continue to put pressure on traffic levels. A significantly higher number of Warwickshire residents travel to work or school by car than that recorded regionally or nationally.

Traffic Flow Index 1995 - 2006



Source: Dept. for Transport

Latest estimates suggest that more than 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide are produced in Warwickshire each year. Road transport accounts for more than four tenths of this total, with a similar proportion attributable to industry and commerce. The domestic sector accounted for the remaining fifth. The presence of significant lengths of motorway in the County clearly accounts for a notable volume of carbon dioxide emissions and places certain limitations upon our ability to influence this indicator. This places further pressure on WCC and partners to influence types of emissions that we can have more direct influence over.

Across England, combined air quality scores range from 0.40 to 2.35. Within Warwickshire, the lowest score (0.71) – representing the best air quality – occurs in part of Brailes ward in Stratford-on-Avon District; the highest score (1.65), or worst air quality, occurs in part of Water Orton ward in North Warwickshire. The map in Figure 4.1 shows the air quality scores across Warwickshire.

More than 70% of the County has a combined air quality score of less than 1.0. Air quality is worst in parts of North Warwickshire close to the M42/M6 and the town centres of Nuneaton, Warwick and Leamington. Road transport is the major contributor of pollutants in the County; busy roads and congestion exacerbate the situation.

The update to the Indices of Deprivation contains a specific domain on the Living Environment. Warwickshire fares well on this measure, with only one Super Output Area featuring within the 10% most deprived nationally (in Abbey ward, Nuneaton).

As with many of the other indicators featured in this paper, there is a cluster of deprivation in west Nuneaton, with nine of the 12 most deprived SOAs across the County located in this Borough.

A clear issue for the County is waste disposal. Warwickshire's residents currently produce about 292,000 tonnes of waste per year. Around 60% of this waste goes to landfill which, although high, is more than five percentage points lower than last year partly due to an increased amount of waste sent to the Coventry 'Energy from Waste' Plant.

Household waste produced per person ranges from 495kg in Warwick District to 592kg in North Warwickshire Borough. Over the last year, the amount of household waste produced within the County has increased by 1.2%.

Recycling and composting levels have increased, but still vary quite widely across the districts. Over 40% of waste is recycled in Stratford-on-Avon District, but only 26% in Nuneaton and Bedworth. In 2006/07 Rugby Borough and North Warwickshire Borough rolled out additional green waste collections and increased their overall recycling/composting performance by five and four percentage points respectively.

Some suggested key issues for the LAA:

- Landfill tax is currently levied at £24/tonne and is due to increase to £48/tonne by 2010/11. To reduce costs and in order to comply with EU landfill diversion targets for biodegradable waste Warwickshire needs to increase recycling and composting rates to more than 40% in the next few years. However, increasing recycling and composting alone will not be sufficient, and alternative approaches will need to be pursued.
- The floods experienced during 2007 raised awareness of this specific problem and identified real risks, particularly in the south of the County
- The need to balance economic growth (along with the demand for housing) with the need to preserve environmental quality appears to be an increasingly difficult task facing Warwickshire's partners.

Selecting indicators for the new LAA

Critical to the success of the new LAA will be the selection of appropriate indicators. The new National Indicator Set (NIS) offers 198 measures, of which up to 35 can be used in the new LAA. It will be also be possible to negotiate the inclusion of additional local indicators if partners feel this will be useful, although these will not be reported to central government.

Choosing appropriate indicators will be dependent on a range of criteria. There is clear guidance that the themes tackled in the LAA should be identified as local concerns by both partner agencies and our communities. In addition, partners may wish to focus on areas of activity where added value can be demonstrated by working together, rather than activities that would form part of individual agency's core business. The choices should also be guided by lessons learned during the first LAA, such as clear responsibilities and mechanisms for data collection. Existing Block leads have been provided with a template identifying a set of suggested criteria against which indicators in the NIS can be assessed. These include

Outcomes

- will the indicator clearly illustrate our progress towards desired LAA outcomes?

Indicator type

- has the issue been identified as a priority for residents via consultation?

Data Collection and Analysis

- is responsibility for data collection clearly identified?
- do we have baseline data? (2006/07 as minimum)?
- how frequently will the data be available?
- has an analysis of the data identified that a problem exists?
- can we get access to benchmark data?
- has an analysis of the data identified that a significant gap exists?

Narrowing the Gap

- at what geographical scale can the dataset be disaggregated to?
- can the dataset be disaggregated by age group?
- can the dataset be disaggregated by ethnicity?
- can the dataset be disaggregated by disability?
- can the dataset be disaggregated by gender?

Resources

- are resources available to the indicator via the proposed funding streams to be included in the Area Based Grant?
- is there potential for creation of stretch targets to support development of Reward Targets?

Adding Value

- does the indicator involve delivery by two or more agencies?
- realistically, to what degree do you think agencies can affect indicator?
- is this indicator a cross cutting indicator with other Blocks?
- is the improvement of related service provision a recognised priority?
- would inclusion of the target enhance levels of VCS activity?

These criteria should assist in choosing appropriate indicators from the national set and will be considered alongside the evidence base presented here and developed within individual blocks.