Cabinet

Date: Thursday, 8 October 2020
Time: 1.45 pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams

Membership
Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair)
Councillor Peter Butlin
Councillor Les Caborn
Councillor Jeff Clarke
Councillor Andy Crump
Councillor Colin Hayfield
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Jeff Morgan
Councillor Heather Timms

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Members' disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting 7 - 12

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020.

(4) Public Speaking

To note any requests to speak on any items that are on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Scheme (see footnote to this agenda).

2. On-street Parking Management Changes 13 - 26

This report seeks Cabinet approval to a series of changes to the management of on-street car parking.

3. Local Transport Plan Refresh

27 - 36

A report that seeks Cabinet approval for the process to be followed during the refresh of the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan.

4. Revenue Investment Funds 2020/21 Quarter 2 Report

37 - 42

Cabinet is asked to approve support from the Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund for six projects.

5. Adult and Community Learning Proposed Advisory Board

43 - 48

Cabinet is asked to approve the formation of an Advisory Board to have oversight of, and support the development of, the Council's Adult and Community Learning service.

6. Education Sufficiency Annual Update 2020

49 - 90

Cabinet is asked to endorse the Annual Education sufficiency Update 2020 and the proposed schemes to ensure sufficiency of school places in Warwickshire.

7. Warwickshire Education Strategy Update and Refresh

91 - 114

This report asks Cabinet to note the updates on the Warwickshire Education Strategy and endorse the recommendations to refresh it based on feedback received from stakeholders setting a refined course for the remaining three years of the five-year strategy.

8. Integrated Risk Management Plan: Assurance Panel

115 - 118

This report concerns the Integrated Risk Management Plan and the establishment of a assurance panel to monitor its delivery.

9. Strategic Framework 2020-2025 - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Provision in Warwickshire

119 - 142

This report sets out the strategic direction of Warwickshire County Council working in partnership with health, education and police, to the provision of suitable, well managed sites and services which protect and support both the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities as well as local residents and businesses.

10. Establishment of a Residents' Panel

143 - 148

This report asks Cabinet to agree to the establishment of a residents' panel for Warwickshire.

11. Addition of Capital Scheme at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School to the Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2020/21

149 - 152

A report seeking Cabinet approval for the provision of a new specialist resourced facility in Henley in Arden.

12. Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) CIF Bid

153 - 170

In November 2018 Corporate Board supported the further development of capital investment proposals in Nuneaton in order to drive regeneration, deliver the vision held by WCC and NBBC, and drive the change needed to support growth of the local economy. This report seeks Cabinet approval for projects proposed under that scheme.

13. WCC response to Government "Planning for the Future" Consultation

171 - 200

On August 6th, the government released its consultation “Planning for the Future”, which has an end date of October 29th. This report asks Cabinet to approve the Warwickshire County Council response to this consultation.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Members of the Public

To consider passing the following resolution:

‘That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972’.

15. (Exempt) Warwickshire Property and Development Company

201 - 626

An exempt report regarding the establishment of a property and development company for Warwickshire.

16. (Exempt) Economic Outlook and Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF)

627 - 704

This report is part of the County’s recovery programme, which is based on three distinct phases, During the Recovery Plan development, Member Working Groups considered the key challenges and solutions which could be used to support recovery in terms of Economy, Place and Climate Change.

17. (Exempt) Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Continual Improvement and Change: Consultation update on Risk management and Mitigation for Day Crewing Plus Arrangements.

705 - 710

An exempt report concerning changes to day crewing arrangements.

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

To download papers for this meeting scan here with your camera

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the Code of Conduct. These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting
The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet

Tuesday, 29 September 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members
Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair)
Councillor Peter Butlin
Councillor Les Caborn
Councillor Colin Hayfield
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Jeff Morgan
Councillor Jeff Clarke
Councillor Andy Crump
Councillor Heather Timms

Officers

Others Present

Councillors Adkins, Barker, Boad, Cooke, Dirveiks, Gifford, Golby, Holland, Jenns, Kondakor, Pandher, Parsons, Roodhouse and Webb.

1. General

(1) Apologies

No apologies were received.

(2) Members' disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 10 September 2020 were agreed.

(4) Public Speaking

There were no public speakers

2. Devolution and Local Government Reform

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet) reminded members of the process followed to date. The outcome of the 22 September meeting of Council had been reported to the Secretary of State Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP on the 23 September. The Secretary of State had, in turn, indicated that the White Paper is likely to be published in October. He accepted that he had yet to receive the County Council's case for change report but agreed that once he received it he would place it before the Prime Minister. Members were reminded that the decision of whether or not to submit the Case for Change rested with Cabinet.

Councillor Seccombe submitted that the principal concern must be to achieve the best outcome for all residents and communities. Without change it was probable that taxes would need to be increased or services reduced. The third option was to consider organisational changes which would lead to greater efficiencies and cost savings.

Recognising that the Pandemic has led to the situation where people are losing their jobs and houses, the responsible solution is to ask the Secretary of State to invite all councils in Warwickshire to make a submission. Councillor Seccombe closed by stating that she favoured a single unitary council model but acknowledged that this would require testing. Only when the Secretary of State had invited that submission could consultation commence.

Councillor Helen Adkins (Leader of the Labour Group) stated that the County Council was attempting a "power grab". The desire for consultation was being ignored. Councillor Adkins requested sight of all correspondence on the matter between the Council's leadership and government. This was agreed to by Councillor Seccombe.

Councillor Keith Kondakor recognised the need for reform of local government in Warwickshire but stated that whilst pace would be required so too would a degree of care. It was stressed that there are some services that should not be forgotten. For example, council housing in Nuneaton and Bedworth is very important. Councillor Kondakor added that staffing especially at district and borough councils is a major problem. In Nuneaton there are not enough staff to undertake air quality or biodiversity work. The staff in councils work very hard but there is not enough of them. A wholesale move to Warwick would be inappropriate he stated. Finally it will be very important to get the democratic structures right.

Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) reminded members that the Conservative election manifesto 2019 gave a clear statement on devolution. The White Paper will expand on this. The case for local government reform was clear with overspends in key children's services areas. Unitarisation would bring economies of scale and greater empowerment to town and parish councils.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) asked whether the Resolution from Council would be sent to the Minister and whether, following the invitation to district and borough councils to make a joint submission, any responses

had been received. He observed that at some point it will ne necessary for council Leaders to sit around a table and have a sensible discussion on future models of local government in the county.

Councillor Seccombe confirmed that the Resolution of Council would be sent with the report. She informed Cabinet that one response had been received that being from the Leader of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Dave Parsons (Deputy Leader of the Labour Group) stated that Matt Western MP had contacted the office of Robert Jenrick MP but they had no record of a conversation between him and Councillor Seccombe. The reason he raised this was more out of concern that the Minister's office did not appear to have kept a record. Councillor Parsons raised concerns that the timetable for progressing the matter is tight. He agreed with Councillor Kondakor that people are concerned that power will be focused on Warwick and felt that more needs to be known regarding double devolution. The Council, he concluded, had been facing financial challenges for ten years. This had been increased by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regarding consultation, Councillor Seccombe observed that the process requires that this should occur after the submission. This had not been the case with Warwick District Council and Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture) stressed that if a unitary council is created the County Council also will cease to exist. Any consultation exercise needs to be well informed and include local debates with residents. She closed by observing that efforts to address climate change will require significant resources which may only become available if local government reform goes ahead.

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) argued that Warwickshire Councils needs to display leadership to continue to provide services to the people of Warwickshire. He agreed that this was not a power grab adding that pace is required if quality services are to continue to be delivered.

Councillor Clare Golby expressed her concern that many people did not appear to understand the process. Location is an irrelevance. It had been shown that governance can occur remotely from people's houses. It was important that she should be able to be part of the conversation to represent the interests of her constituents.

Councillor Seccombe observed that the reorganisation debate had commenced in June. Three months had already passed. The longer it takes to submit the longer it will be before financial challenges can be addressed.

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) suggested that the matter should be put into the hands of the Secretary of State as soon as possible. He recognised that change could be uncomfortable for many, but it was inevitable owing to the financial situation currently being faced by councils. Commencing the process now will provide ample time to find the best solution.

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) reminded members that Council had discussed the two-tier system and found it to be broken. There was now a need to progress the matter. As soon as the Minister extends his invitation so then can consultation commence.

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) stated that initiatives around integrated health had been very successful; illustrating the benefits of joined up working. Residents he had spoken to supported the concept on unitarisation.

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) recognised that although the County Council had not started the unitarisation debate in Warwickshire, it is now having to lead on it. She observed that during the Pandemic all tiers of local government in Warwickshire had worked well together as had those in Heath. The focus should be on the customer and finding what is best for them.

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) observed that Covid-19 had presented the greatest challenge to the Country since WW2. There is a need to invest in localism, he added. One unitary council is favoured as among other things two unitary councils would complicate the operation of the Fire and Rescue Service. Residents only see one council but some services that are divided between different councils (eg grass cutting) are inefficient and expensive as a result.

Councillor Sarah Boad (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) expressed her regret that the County Council and the Warwick District Council/Stratford on Avon District Council reports were unlikely to be submitted at the same time. She was pleased to see reference to the town and parish councils, due to her soon needing to Chair a meeting of parish councils to discuss devolution.

In response to a question from Councillor Boad, Councillor Seccombe informed Cabinet that a request made by the Leader of Warwick District Council to speak at Cabinet had been rejected. Cabinet was informed that an exception had been made for him to speak to Cabinet in August.

Councillor Seccombe continued that she had been disappointed not to have been asked to engage in the proposals put forward by Stratford and Warwick District Councils. Joint engagement would arguably produce the best outcome for Warwickshire residents and consideration should be given to the establishment of one or two unitary authorities.

In consulting, people need to be clear on the implications of different models. For example, a two unitary council model would result in children's services being run by an arm's length trust.

A vote of Cabinet members was held. The recommendations were agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That:

1. Having regard to the decision made, and the views expressed, by the Council at its meeting on 22nd September 2020, the Strategic Case for Change should be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in order to seek from Government an invitation to enter into conversation and consideration of the future local government structure for Warwickshire

2. The Chief Executive is required to submit the Strategic Case for Change to MHCLG before close of business on 30th September 2020.

3. Exclusion of Press and Members of the Public

The resolution was agreed.

4. Consideration of the Exempt Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 September 2020

The exempt minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

The meeting rose at 11.01

…….
Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet

8 October 2020

On-street Parking Management Changes

Recommendations

That Cabinet approves:

1) the variation of charges for on-street parking throughout the Civil Parking Enforcement areas of Warwickshire pursuant to section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in accordance with the pricing structure proposed in this report.

2) drafting and consulting on the necessary variation orders pursuant to sections 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 throughout the Civil Parking Enforcement areas of Warwickshire to introduce a virtual permit system and make the other changes to that system proposed in this report.

3) the maintenance of the current permit pricing scheme.

4) establishing a short-duration Cross-Party Working Group as proposed in paragraphs 2.45-2.50 to make recommendations as to the future basis of permit pricing and the opportunities for parking management to promote environmental sustainability and the visitor and general economy.

1.0 Key Issues

1.1 Proposals to change the management of on-street parking within the civil parking enforcement (CPE) areas of Warwickshire were presented at Cabinet on 11 April 2019.

1.2 Further to that meeting, a period of public consultation on the proposals was carried out from 22 July 2019 to 22 September 2019. All residents eligible for parking permits (over 17,000) were contacted, with a response rate of close to 15%. 85% of those contacted did not respond. No inference of acceptance of the proposed changes is taken from this. Guesthouses, local BID companies and Chambers of Trade were written to and the Chief Officers of affected districts and boroughs were contacted.

1.3 The results of that consultation were collated and analysed and presented on 9 January 2020 at Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) together with a report containing amendments to the original parking proposals.

1.4 The contents of the papers giving details of the original Cabinet proposals from 11 April 2019 and the OSC discussions are publicly available through WCC's Democratic Services or directly through the Council website. Minutes of these meetings are also accessible through these routes.

1.5 The following bullet points summarise the headline responses of the feedback analysis and comments made during the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 January:

- disagreement with the proposal to raise permit costs in line with the published prices
- criticism of the proposal to raise permit prices in light of a parking budget surplus
- request for annual parking reports to demonstrate parking finances
- broad agreement with the move away from paper-based permitting to digital virtual permits
- agreement to control visitor permit misuse through the introduction of online virtual permitting
- concern that those without internet access may struggle to use the new virtual permitting system
- agreement with removing the proposal to limit visitor parking through an annual allowance of hours
- criticism of the increase to guesthouse visitor parking from £3 to £5 per 24 hours and switch to virtual online permitting from the existing scratchcard process.

1.6 Traffic management objectives to guide the exercise of powers to regulate on-street parking are contained in section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which is in Appendix A. These objectives include aims such as the safe and convenient flow of traffic, air quality standards and sustainability and the proposals in this report have to be considered against those criteria.

1.7 The law also requires that the County Council keep a single ring-fenced on-street parking account for all on-street parking income and expenditure. It is permissible to seek to recover the costs of regulating on-street parking, but it is not permissible to set charges for the purpose of achieving a surplus. If charges which are set in order to achieve the traffic management objectives produce a surplus, that is permissible; what is not permissible is setting charges *with the objective* of creating or increasing a surplus. Legislation requires that any surplus on the parking account can only be used for road/traffic schemes, environmental schemes and public transport.

1.8 The Government's Guidance for Local Authorities on Enforcing Parking Restrictions says "Civil parking enforcement should contribute to the authority's transport objectives. A good civil parking enforcement regime is one that uses quality-based standards that the public understands, and which are enforced fairly, accurately and expeditiously." A fuller extract from the Guidance relating to policy objectives is set out in Appendix A. The proposals in this report seek to achieve transport objectives within a framework that

distributes costs and discourages abuse in a manner that is fair and equitable for all kinds of users of parking spaces.

2.0 Options and Proposals

Proposals

Residents permit pricing

2.1. Residents' permit schemes are almost always introduced at the request of the residents themselves, following consultation. Almost half (43%) of Warwickshire's housing stock does not provide off-street parking. These schemes are one of the ways Warwickshire manages the demand for kerbside space from all of the competing demands upon it, in the discharge of its duties under section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (see Appendix A). In 2007, Cabinet adopted a policy in which it is stated that the permit scheme should be self-financing.

2.2. These permit schemes incur a cost burden which involves maintaining a permit database, managing applications and issuing permits, the legal aspect of varying the traffic regulation orders underpinning the schemes, on-street lining and signing, providing enforcement through civil enforcement officers and managing a robust, open, transparent and legally compliant penalty charge notice processing and appeals process.

2.3. Charges for residents' permits were first introduced in 2004/5 at £15 and have risen in price just once since then, in 2016, to £25. The cost of administering the permit scheme is not met fully by the revenue obtained from charging for permits. Analysis has shown that the full cost of administering the permit scheme is close to £80 per permit. We charge £25. Other civil parking enforcement income effectively subsidises the permit scheme.

2.4. Warwickshire's current charges are low in comparison to other local authority areas (see tables below). Nationally, the latest available figures (2016) showed that the average cost of residents' on-street parking permits was £64 each, which is significantly higher than the current cost of Warwickshire's permits. The proposed price rises should be considered therefore against both local and national charges.

Table 1. Comparison with neighbouring shire county resident's parking permit charges, taken from their latest available data:

Local Authority	1st permit	2nd permit	3rd permit	Visitors permit*
Warwickshire	**£25**	**£25**	**£25**	**£25**
Derbyshire	£35	£50	£50	£13
Leicestershire	£50	£50	n/a	£10
Staffordshire	£49	£49	n/a	£49
Gloucestershire	£60	£120	n/a	£12
Oxfordshire	£65	£65	£130	£25
Northamptonshire	£35	£35	n/a	£35

Table 2. Comparison with Midlands councils' resident's permit costs, taken from their latest available data:

Local Authority	1st permit	2nd permit	3rd permit	Visitors permit*
Warwickshire	**£25**	**£25**	**£25**	**£25**
Worcester City	£30	£40	£60	varies
Birmingham	£19	£38	£38	75p/day
Coventry	£20	£20	£20	-
Sandwell	£31.80	£37.10	£50.90	£7.20/week
Walsall	£40	£50	n/a	n/a
Solihull	£108	£108	£108	£108

* Visitor permit restrictions and conditions of use vary considerably between local authorities so direct comparison is difficult.

2.5. The consultation feedback has demonstrated that the option to increase permit prices at all is generally unwelcome, with a significant number of negative comments.

2.6. Additionally, since the proposals were first put forward, the world has been struck by the coronavirus pandemic. The UK has not escaped the impact of the disease which has resulted in not only the sad loss of many people, but also had significant economic effects on businesses and individuals alike.

2.7. Therefore, in recognition of these on-going impacts, the consultation feedback and the concerns raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is proposed to maintain the current resident permit pricing as shown below:

2.8. Residents' permits will stay at **£25** for each permit up to a maximum of three residents permits per eligible property, as is the case currently at the majority of eligible properties. Visitor's permits will also remain at **£25.**

2.9. The existing £25 annual permit charge will therefore see all day all year round on-street parking remain at under **seven** pence per day for the vast majority of permit holders who have just one permit.

2.10. The proposed Cross-Party Working Group will then consider any future permit price rise mechanisms in the context of greater benchmarking with other Local Authorities, inflationary pressures, the ringfenced account, and the costs of administering a resident's permit scheme. Given there has been no price rise since 2016, the proposed Cross-Party Working Group will also consider the appropriate timescales for regular review of permit charges.

2.11. This approach considers and accommodates much of the feedback we received during the period of the consultation in relation to permit charges and takes account of the serious impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Digital online permitting

2.12. The move towards online virtual permitting was identified in the original contract with NSL when civil parking enforcement was brought back under Warwickshire County Council control in 2014.

2.13. The switch to a digital online permitting system was broadly supported both in terms of using it to manage their own permit applications and to control the misuse of visitors permits. Three quarters of respondents indicated that they would use such a system to manage their own permits, with half in agreement that visitor permit misuse should be tackled this way and just over one third against.

2.14. Paper based permitting systems are increasingly rare in the marketplace with more and more operations switching over to digital systems. These include vehicle excise duty, tv licensing and passport applications. Last year more rail tickets were used digitally than via traditional paper tickets.

2.15. The relative lack of paper based permitting systems on the market will lead to additional costs for Warwickshire CC in sourcing and procuring a replacement to the existing system. There is also the question of technical support which is unlikely to be developed further for such systems.

2.16. The provision of a digital online process has been identified as a move towards greater efficiency and, because such efficiency requirements have been built into the contract with the service provider, this is cost neutral in procurement terms to the council. This would not be the case with a replacement paper-based permit system.

2.17. There was some criticism of the proposal to move to online digital permitting systems from respondents who had no access to the internet. Analysis shows that this was a fairly common comment from elderly respondents. Our approach, as outlined in the consultation documentation, is to provide a phone and postal service to manage the small number of permit holders to whom this applies.

2.18. An alternative approach might be for friends or family to manage the account holder's account on their behalf.

2.19. It is proposed to formally consult upon the introduction of the online digital permitting system. The introduction would be from the start of the next financial year 2021/22.

Proposals - Visitors

2.20. The cost of purchasing a visitor's permit will stay at **£25** per annum. This will remain at the same cost as the residents permits.

2.21. The increasing scarcity of paper-based permitting systems and the likely additional costs faced by the council in sourcing and implementing a system which will need to be technically supported throughout the lifetime of the contract means that a switch to a digital system for managing visitor's permits is necessary and proposed.

2.22. It is intended therefore to manage visitor parking through the online digital permitting system requiring the visitor's registration number to be logged. This is purely so that civil enforcement officers (CEOs) can see, via their handheld devices, which cars are parked legitimately.

2.23. It is proposed to formally consult upon the introduction of the online digital permitting system. The introduction would be from the start of the next financial year 2021/22.

2.24. We will retain an effective phone management service for those without internet access. This will allow residents to manage their visitors at or before their time of arrival without having to go online. However, we anticipate that the vast majority of users will register their visitors quickly and easily online.

2.25. Alternatively, family members may wish, with the agreement of the account holder, to manage the service on their relative's behalf. Visitors may be logged in advance of their visit or at the time of their arrival. We intend to address any concerns over ease of use with detailed communication before the new system goes live. We will also monitor usage of the online and phone systems and review as necessary.

2.26. There will be no annual hours limit on visitor parking. The proposal to provide an annual allowance of hours for visitor parking is removed. The current system of one visitor vehicle at a time will be reflected in the new online virtual permitting process. As with the current arrangement, multiple visitor vehicles at the same time will not be allowed through the visitor's permit system.

2.27. Once a visitor's vehicle is registered, they will not need to re-register each time they arrive, unless a different visitor has been registered in the meantime. This, in effect, mirrors the current system of passing a paper permit to each new visitor upon their arrival.

2.28. The registration of visitor's vehicle details will go a small way to reducing the misuse of visitor's permits but will not provide the degree of control that was anticipated through use of an annual hourly parking allowance. Additional kerbside space is therefore unlikely to be released.

2.29. The visitor vehicle information will be held securely on our service provider's servers in much the same way that existing data for resident's permits is managed.

Proposals - Guesthouse visitors

2.30. The guesthouses which use the current permit scratchcard scheme were contacted as part of the consultation. The responses were broadly critical of the proposed change.

2.31. Following consideration at OSC, the current scratchcard system will remain and proposals to change the guesthouse visitor permit system will be considered by the Cross-Party Working Group, which will also take a broader view at the impact of parking on tourism in general.

Proposals - Stratford Park and Ride

2.32. Users of quarterly and annual season tickets at Stratford Park and Ride will be required to use the online digital permitting system, which will allow them to park on site and board the bus into Stratford. Currently this is managed through a paper permit approach.

2.33. Daily and monthly ticket purchasers at the Park and Ride users will continue to be able to purchase their tickets from the existing ticket machines.

Proposals - Pay and Display Charges

2.34. It is recommended to increase the on-street pay and display charges in line with the proposals contained within the Cabinet report of 11 April 2019.

2.35. Our Local Transport Plan (LTP3) indicates that differential pricing should not be used as a competitive tool between towns within Warwickshire and the removal of the price difference for on-street pay and display charging achieves this end (see table below).

Table 4. Proposed changes to pay and display charges

	Existing on-street (Kenilworth only)	Existing on-street (Warwick, Leamington, Rugby and Stratford)	Proposed on-street (all Warwickshire, where charges apply)
30 mins	£0.50	£0.55	£0.60
60 mins	£1.00	£1.10	£1.20
90 mins	-	£1.65	£1.80
120 mins	£2.00	£2.20	£2.40

2.36. The small proposed increase to pay and display parking prices will harmonise charges across the county and re-introduce linear charging which will make payment and time-keeping much easier for users.

2.37. The proposed prices create a bigger differential between on-street and off-street parking which will help to encourage uptake of parking in district and borough town centre car parks and free up kerbside space. This is in line with our parking policy and LTP3.

2.38. The use of pay and display charges for short stay on-street parking in parts of Warwickshire will continue to contribute directly to the delivery of a proportionate enforcement response. This has increased turnover of kerbside space and had a beneficial impact on trade within the town, as shoppers vacate kerbside parking places at regular, frequent intervals throughout the day.

2.39. The proposed increase to pay and display charges should be introduced early in the new year 2021, once the changes have been duly published in accordance with Section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Proposals - Parking dispensations and bay suspensions

2.40. It was highlighted in the 11 April Cabinet report that parking dispensations would be put on the same statutory footing as the existing bay suspensions.

2.41. It was further proposed that the charges for both bay suspensions and dispensations would be harmonised and amended to £15 per day per bay. This is line with existing charges nationally and those of neighbouring authorities.

2.42. The amendment to the charging scheme for dispensations and suspensions is designed to encourage swifter resolution of on-street works by businesses and a prompt return of the affected parking bays to general parking availability.

2.43. At the present time the charges have the unintended consequence of encouraging longer periods of parking space occupancy, rather than acting as

an incentive to move on promptly, as should be the case. The changes will promote more efficient working practices and help to free up kerbside space for residents.

2.44. It is recommended that these proposals should proceed as per the 11 April Cabinet report, which will entail further statutory consultation with implementation intended for April 2021. The table below is a summary of these proposed changes.

Table 5. Proposed charges for dispensations and bay suspensions

Type	Charge
Dispensation	£15 per day
Bay suspension	£60 application fee plus £15 per parking space per day

Proposals – Cross-Party Working Group

2.45. Following discussion at Overview and Scrutiny in January 2020 and with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, it was agreed that a short duration Cross-Party Working Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning, be established to consider the items indicated in the paragraphs below. Whilst the political balance rules do not formally apply, the aim would be for the Working Group to be politically and geographically representative of the county. The Group would not be intended to operate as a formal committee and the access to information framework will not be applicable. The aim is for the Working Group to carry out its work between early April and early July 2021 and report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

2.46. The basis for any future permit price rises. These will take into account a permit pricing mechanism which may consider inflationary pressure and the costs of administering a permit scheme.

2.47. The environmental aspects of parking management. Included in this element will be the implications of the climate emergency declared by Warwickshire and the districts and boroughs, how parking policy may have a beneficial impact on air quality, the possibility of emissions-based charging and a consideration of any such changes on lower income areas of the county.

2.48. The influence of parking management on tourism. Guesthouse visitor parking provision will be considered alongside other aspects such as appropriate signage and the balance between on-street and off-street parking for tourists.

2.49. Warwickshire's vision includes a desire to support a strong and vibrant economy. Accordingly, the Cross-Party Working Group will also consider the potential for business permitting.

2.50. Subject to approval of the creation of the Cross-Party Working Group by Cabinet, officers will draw up detailed terms of reference and proposals for membership for approval by the Portfolio Holder, taking into account the recommendations of Corporate Board, Democratic Services and party leaders/spokespersons. If possible, given the county-wide reach of the items for consideration, each of the constituent District and Boroughs should be represented by a County Councillor with a ward within their boundaries.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 The formal consultation on the move to digital online permitting will take place upon approval of the proposals by Cabinet. Our service provider, NSL, will fund the procurement of the new permitting system, PermitSmarti, as a result of their contractual commitments.

3.2 The purchase of a new digital permitting system has been identified as a requirement of the contractual arrangement between NSL and WCC and will incur no additional cost to the Council.

3.3 Failure to adopt new digital technology is likely to incur additional financial cost and delay for the council as it would be required to seek, through a competitive tendering process, whether a replacement paper-based permitting system is available.

3.4 This is also likely to have impacts on the ability of residents to apply for, renew and pay for permits as the existing paper permit system becomes increasingly obsolete and technically unsupported. The council may be forced to seek temporary replacement processes at additional cost while new systems are sought.

3.5 The administrative cost of running a permit scheme is not met by the existing permit pricing arrangements, which has identified an administrative burden of close to £80 per permit.

3.6 Previous proposals had identified and consulted upon two permit pricing options, namely a tiered option of £35/£55/£80 for first, second and third permits or a flat rate option of £80 per permit.

3.7 The tiered permit option would have resulted in an additional annual income of £178,525, compared to the current permit pricing structure, while the flat rate option would have produced an additional annual income of £713,625.

3.8 However, the financial impact of Covid-19 on Warwickshire's communities and economy is recognised. Lockdown resulted in much reduced income for many of Warwickshire's businesses and residents and had significant impact on revenue from pay and display parking for the Council.

3.9 In previous years, CPE has generated a surplus of between £1.5m and £2m. WCC experienced an average monthly loss of income of £230,000 over CPE

as a whole during the lockdown period. This impact, together with freezing permit prices, will lead to an estimated reduction in parking income for 2020/21 of £1,436,339.

3.10 It is worth emphasising that any income arising from civil parking enforcement may only be spent on the management of CPE itself plus highways improvements, public transport and environmental improvement, all of which directly benefit Warwickshire residents.

4.0 Environmental Implications

4.1 Warwickshire CC declared a climate emergency on 25 July 2019. The County's approach is to put environmental issues at the heart of its decision making.

4.2 The switch to digital permitting will result in reduced use of paper, as permits and letters will be greatly reduced in number.

4.3 The proposed Cross-Party Working Group will consider environmental issues as part of its remit, with a view to encouraging more sustainable forms of transport.

5.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, work to vary the relevant traffic regulation orders will start from October 2020 with a view to implementation of the agreed changes from April 2021.

5.2 The variations will formalise the switch to digital permitting and the regulation of suspensions and dispensations.

5.3 The proposed increase and harmonisation of pay and display charges across Warwickshire will, subject to Cabinet approval, be implemented following advertisement by Notice on or shortly after 1 January 2021.

5.4 It is intended for the short duration Cross-Party Working Group to start work on 5 April and conclude by 5 July, reporting subsequently to Communities Overview and Scrutiny and thereafter to Cabinet.

5.5 OSC criticised the absence of regularly published annual parking reports. The missing reports, for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19 are now being prepared and the aim is to publish in October 2020.

5.6 A comprehensive appraisal of parking policies will subsequently take place as part of the review of the Local Transport Plan.

Background papers

1. EqIA – virtual permitting
2. EqIA – parking and permit charges

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Jon Rollinson	jonrollinson@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	David Ayton-Hill	davidayton-hill@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jeff Clarke	jeffclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None
Other members: Cllrs Golby, Shilton, Fradgley, Holland and Kondakor

Appendix A

Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

(1) It shall be the duty of every ... local authority upon whom functions are conferred by or under this Act, so to exercise the functions conferred on them by this Act as (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in subsection (2) below) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway ...

(2) The matters referred to in subsection (1) above as being specified in this subsection are—

(a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

(b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;

(bb) the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy);

(c) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and

(d) any other matters appearing to ... the local authority to be relevant.

Guidance for Local Authorities on Enforcing Parking Restrictions Updated 22 June 2020

2.1 Policy objectives

Civil parking enforcement should contribute to the authority’s transport objectives. A good civil parking enforcement regime is one that uses quality-based standards that the public understands, and which are enforced fairly, accurately and expeditiously.

Enforcement authorities should aim to increase compliance with parking restrictions through clear, well designed, legal and enforced parking controls. Civil parking enforcement provides a means by which an authority can effectively deliver wider transport strategies and objectives. Enforcement authorities should not view it in isolation or as a way of raising revenue.

Local authorities should ensure that parking in town centres and other shopping areas is convenient, safe and secure, including appropriate provision for motorcycles

and deliveries. Parking policies, including enforcement, should be proportionate and should not undermine the vitality of town centres.

Enforcement authorities should design their parking policies with particular regard to:

- managing the traffic network to ensure expeditious movement of traffic, (including pedestrians and cyclists), as required under the Traffic Management Act 2004 Network Management Duty
- improving road safety
- improving the local environment
- improving the quality and accessibility of public transport
- meeting the needs of people with disabilities, some of whom will be unable to use public transport and depend entirely on the use of a car

managing and reconciling the competing demands for kerb space

Agenda Item 3

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Local Transport Plan Refresh

Recommendatios

1) That Cabinet endorses the proposals in this report regarding democratic oversight and decision making, timescales, and financing of the Local Transport Plan refresh project.

2) That Cabinet approves the further development of the Issues and Opportunities that the next Local Transport Plan could address and authorises the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolioholder for Transport & Planning, to approve materials for public consultation at the earliest opportunity in 2021.

3) That Cabinet establishes a Cross-Party Working Group to be consulted on the refresh, chaired by the Portfolioholder for Transport & Planning and with other members nominated by the Group Leaders, in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached as **Appendix B**.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The current iteration of Warwickshire County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) has become outdated despite having an intended life up to 2026.

1.2 A refresh of the Local Transport Plan has been commissioned and will be overseen by Warwickshire County Council's Place Programme Board.

1.3 Officers propose to carry out further work with external partners to develop "dashboards" to present the Issues and Opportunities around LTP to the public. This is with a view to carrying out a formal public consultation on them early in 2021. This will determine the relative priorities of the refreshed Local Transport plan and inform how the final document is drafted. A sample dashboard is included in **Appendix A**.

1.4 This consultation will determine the relative priorities of Warwickshire's next Local Transport Plan before further approval is sought from Cabinet to draft a new plan following formal consultation.

1.5 Officers seek approval from the Cabinet to proceed with this approach and then report back to Cabinet on the findings of the formal consultation in due course.

1.6 Officers also seek approval to form a Cabinet Working Group to be consulted on the progress of the LTP throughout its life. The proposed Terms of Reference for the group are attached as **Appendix B**. It is not intended that the Group will operate as a formal committee and the access to information framework will not be applicable. Whilst the political balance requirements do not formally apply, the membership of the Group would approximate to those requirements.

1.7 The group will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economy. Nominations for the remaining members will be sought from party leaders following approval from Cabinet.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The Local Transport Plan is a key policy document for Warwickshire County Council and our partners. Section 108 and 109 of the Transport Act 2000 require the County Council to prepare the plan, keep it under review and alter or replace it when appropriate (consulting with relevant authorities, transport organisations and other appropriate people). It governs the majority of work within Communities Group that takes place on or near to the public highway; plays a key role in the deployment and maintenance of millions of pounds of County owned assets and is a relevant document in the planning process which therefore determines the County Council's ability to respond to planning applications as the local Highway Authority.

2.2 In a number of areas, the policies and strategies contained in LTP3 have become outdated. This is in terms of current practice within WCC and wider considerations, particularly the increased focus on climate change and the response to COVID-19.

2.3 In its current format it is not possible to amend one part of the LTP without going through a significant consultation process to replace the document in its entirety.

2.4 This project offers an opportunity to incorporate several new and emerging issues at local, regional and national levels into the Local Transport Plan. These include;

- 2.4.1 The reorganisation of the County Council and the new organisational priorities that have emerged from that process,
- 2.4.2 The County's declaration of a climate emergency,
- 2.4.3 The inception of the West Midlands Combined Authority, particularly its transport arm Transport for West Midlands,
- 2.4.4 National efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 with numerous impacts on transport,
- 2.4.5 The County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.5 In its current form the LTP is not considered to be a very accessible document. In order to make the next LTP more accessible and manageable in

terms of length officers propose to explore a modular approach to the next iteration of the LTP. A modular document could,

2.5.1 be tailored for different audiences

2.5.2 have sections or modules updated at different times without the need to renew the whole LTP.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 The project will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 The Local Transport Plan sets out the County Council's policies and strategies for maintaining and developing the transport network within Warwickshire and for interacting with wider regional, sub-regional, national and international transport connectivity. The document is also a material consideration within the planning process and has a role in defining infrastructure requirements to support housing and employment growth.

4.2 The document therefore has significant scope to aid the County Council in its efforts to address the climate emergency by driving decarbonisation in both public and private modes of transport whilst also contributing to the achievement of the Council's wider plans and objectives. The new plan will be accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (assuming no change in legislation).

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 Anticipated timescales for this project are as follows,

5.1.1 Refinement of Issues and Opportunities “dashboards” for public consultation – October – December 2021

5.1.2 Public consultation on the relative priorities of LTP Issues and Opportunities – Q1 2021

5.1.3 Analysis of results Q2 2021

5.1.4 Seek Cabinet approval to draft a new LTP Q2/3 2021

5.1.5 Public consultation on a draft LTP Q3/4 2021

5.1.6 Seek Full Council approval of new LTP Q4 2021

5.1.7 Publication of the Local Transport Plan is anticipated for late 2021 or early 2022

Appendices

1. Appendix A Sample dashboard for further development prior to consultation
2. Appendix B Proposed Cabinet Working Group Terms of Reference

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Author	Garry Palmer	garrypalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	David Ayton-Hill	
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning	

The report was not circulated to members prior to publication:

Environment

The LTP will consider the environment with the focus on protecting our climate and enhancing our spaces. This covers responding to the affects of **climate change** and the **net zero carbon target** and driving a more **sustainable** future.

Differences

Throughout Warwickshire the activities of people and organisations have an impact on our environment.

- Energy
- Water quality and management
- Habitats and wildlife
- Air quality
- Noise
- Historic and built environment

Warwickshire

The county has **9 AQMAs**, covering 4 out of the 5 local authorities*

Climate emergency declared on the on 25th July 2019**

Aim to reduce average annual **total carbon dioxide** emissions from the corporate property estate by **2.5%** per £million Expenditure***

Choices

What are the most important environmental issues for Warwickshire?

Should the LTP prioritise the environment ahead of other themes?

An LTP with a strong environmental focus could prioritise meeting net zero carbon emissions targets and reducing wider environmental impacts from transport

Challenges and Opportunities

- Carbon emissions
- Climate change resilience
- Energy supply and security
- Renewable energy
- Scarcity of resources
- Air quality

Sources: *https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps/ **https://www.climateemergency.uk/ ***https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-599-80

Warwickshire County Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Warwickshire County Council

Review Topic	**Local Transport Plan Refresh Project**
Cross-Party Working Group Members	The group will consist of seven members of Warwickshire County Council as follows, • Four Conservative Councillors • One Liberal Democrat County Councillor • One Labour County Councillor • One Green County Councillor The Chair will be the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning Members of the group will be able to vote on proposals for inclusion in the strategy. Other County Councillors will be able to attend meetings of the group and contribute to discussions but will not be able to vote.
Key Departments	Communities Directorate – Transport and Economy
Support Officers	Officer to be determined – Democratic Services Team Ian Marriott – Corporate Legal Service Manager Philippa Young – Commissioning Manager – Transport and Highways Garry Palmer – Strategy and Policy Lead – Transport and Highways
Timescales/ completion	• Refinement of Issues and Opportunities "dashboards" for public consultation – October – December 2021 • Public consultation on the relative priorities of LTP Issues and Opportunities – Q1 2021 • Analysis of results Q2 2021 • Seek Cabinet approval to draft LTP Q2/3 2021 • Draft new LTP Q3 2021 • Seek Full Council approval of new LTP Q4 2021 • Publication of the Local Transport Plan is anticipated for late 2021 or early 2022.
Rationale (Key issues and/or reason for doing the review)	The Local Transport Plan is a key policy document for Warwickshire County Council and our partners. It governs the majority of work within Communities Directorate that takes place on or near to the public highway; plays a key role in the deployment and maintenance of millions of pounds of County owned assets and is a relevant document in the planning process which therefore determines the County Council's ability to respond to planning applications as the local Highway Authority. The timing of this project allows the new Local Transport Plan to take account of several new and emerging issues at local, regional and national levels. These include;

	• the reorganisation of the County Council and the new organisational priorities that have emerged from that process, • the County's declaration of a climate emergency • the inception of the West Midlands Combined Authority, particularly its transport arm Transport for West Midlands • the national efforts to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 with numerous impacts on transport • the response to COVID-19 For a project of this scope an impact Warwickshire County Council would like to take all necessary steps to ensure that a wide range of representative views are brought forward for consideration. There will also be a requirement to engage with numerous democratic oversight and decision making points along the way. To enable a wide engagement whilst making these processes as efficient as possible it is proposed that this member group acts as the conduit to provide member led insight into all democratic processes and committee meetings throughout the life of the project.
Objectives of Review (Specify exactly what the review should achieve)	The objective of the exercise is to ensure that proposals relating to the Local Transport Plan have been rigorously tested from a political perspective before formal decisions are made in order to produce a robust and effective Local Transport Plan that meets the requirements of the County Council, its partners and the communities it serves.
Scope of the Topic (What is specifically to be included/excluded)	The following is <u>included</u> in the scope of the review: The remit of this cross-party working group is to comment on the evidence and proposals leading to publication of Warwickshire's next Local Transport Plan focusing on the following themes: (i) Document structure (ii) Policy approach (iii) Area Strategies. The following falls outside the scope of the review and will be <u>excluded</u>: ➢ Funding arrangements ➢ National Policy Frameworks.
How will the public be involved?	An extensive consultation process will form part of the Local Transport Plan development process. Recognising the limitations posed by Covid-19 this will include the use of social media, online questionnaires, virtual meetings and press releases.
Which partners could be involved?	Potential for the following groups to be consulted / give evidence: • District and Borough Councils • Highways England • Public transport providers • West Midlands Combined Authority • HS2 • Solihull MBC

	• Coventry CC • Town and Parish Councils
What primary / new evidence is needed?	• Data, surveys, modelling, analysis that will inform the new Plan • Project Delivery Plan • Officer /Councillor/ Partner views on the delivery of the project • A list of interested parties/ partners and respective roles
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (i.e. background information, existing reports, legislation, central gov reports)	• Relevant reports / research / guidance on delivery of Transport Plans nationally – to be researched • Other to be identified during technical evidence gathering stage
Indicators of Success (What factors would tell you what a good review should look like? What are the potential outcomes of the review e.g. service improvements, policy change, etc?)	The review will conclude by presenting realistic, evidence-based and well-reasoned recommendations to decision makers, together with a persuasive narrative that supports the changes proposed. Any recommendations with financial implications should identify potential funding streams accordingly. The review will be successful if the new Local Transport Plan commands wide support and is revealed by effective monitoring to be delivering its objectives

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 4

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Revenue Investment Funds 2020/21 Quarter 2 Report

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1) Support the progress made on the Economic Recovery Strategy with a new Digital Marketplace project approved by Corporate Board under the under the authorisation delegated to Chief Executive at a cost of £0.050m.

2) Approve the creation of an external Community Investment fund using £1m funds from the Revenue Investment Fund for Climate Change, to be managed by the Climate Change Delivery Group and allocated as per the process detailed in this report.

1. Purpose of the report and context

1.1. As part of the 2020/21 budget, Council approved the creation of four Revenue Investment Funds, with a total allocation of £20m, to provide opportunities to run initiatives to meet objectives of tackling climate change, investing in commercialism, sustaining prevention of demand within communities and investment in place shaping including scoping capital and development opportunities for better value service provision. The indicative allocation of the resources between the funds was then updated by Cabinet in June to reflect the increased need to invest in economic recovery post Covid-19. The breakdown of these funds is below:

Council Investment Funds	Total £000s
Sustaining Prevention Fund – A fund to pump-prime upfront investment in demand management and early intervention initiatives prior to the financial benefits accruing.	5,000
Climate Change Fund – A fund to invest in priorities flowing from the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and Council Plan 2025	4,000
Commercial Fund – A fund to deliver commercial investment in outcomes for Warwickshire arising from the commercial strategy.	3,500
Place Shaping and Capital Investment Fund – A fund to support capital feasibility work, investment in place and to improve delivery.	7,500
Total MTFS Allocation	20,000

1.2. The funds are outside of core budgets, and members approved a four-stage approval process for projects seeking funding:

- Stage 1: A project proposal document is developed and reviewed by Gateway Group/Corporate Board as to the strategic fit with the priorities in the Council Plan;
- Stage 2: The business case for the project is then prepared and an Investment Panel, made of representatives from Finance, Project Management Office and managers from services across the organisation, provides a technical evaluation and commentary on the proposal;
- Stage 3: Gateway Group use this technical evaluation alongside their own analysis of project governance and feasibility, to recommend the projects to Corporate Board if under £0.1m per project, or Cabinet if over this value for approval; and
- Stage 4: Cabinet approve/reject the allocations over £0.1m and note the projects under this value approved by Corporate Board. If the project is approved, funding is transferred to the service, and if savings have been identified flowing from the investment these are built into the medium-term financial strategy.

1.3. The scheme detailed in section 2 of this paper is part of the Economic Recovery Programme supported in principle by Cabinet in June 2020, on the basis that individual projects within the programme would go through the governance arrangements set out above. Subject to Cabinet's decision today a total of six projects will now be funded from the Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility fund, leaving £6.842m in this fund for further initiatives across the next five years.

1.4. Section 3 details the proposal to create a Climate Change Community Investment Fund (CC-CIF), to allow investment in initiatives proposed by community organisations to enhance local climate change agendas. The fund would be created by taking £1m from the Climate Change Revenue Investment Fund, leaving £3m in the internal fund for further initiatives across the next 5 years. A bid to the Capital Investment Fund for matching Capital grant capacity is being considered alongside this,and will come to Cabinet for decision separately.

2. Description of the Schemes

Digital Marketplace

2.1. Corporate Board have approved £50,000 from the Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund for the Employee Assistance for Economic Recovery Project, with the project sponsor being the Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning for Communities.

2.2. The project will support schools, training providers and businesses by providing much needed digital resources to help bridge the existing gap of face to face interaction left by the Covid-19 outbreak. It will use employers and experts to create film pieces and additional resources for careers sessions, where currently additional curriculum classes have taken precedence, meeting an urgent need to explore how we might support schools to deliver Careers support digitally.

2.3. During its evaluation, the panel has requested that emphasis during the design phase of the project is given to involvement of internal stakeholders such as Communications and Marketing Team, Education Services and ICT, and for the project to include engagement with vulnerable or disadvantaged young people. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

3. Climate Change Community Investment Fund

Intended outcome of the Fund

3.1 Aims

- To take action to progress the Council's objectives on climate change mitigation included in its adopted Council Plan 2025, in response to declaring a climate emergency in July 2019.
- To take action to progress the Climate Change priority set out in the Council's adopted COVID-19 Recovery Plan, namely the action *"For immediate impact on carbon reduction, create a grant funding scheme available to our communities to take action on local carbon reduction initiatives and projects".*
- Progressing the Council's climate change agenda by enabling and recognising the role of local action through the support of and in partnership with the voluntary and community sector, parish and town councils and climate change organisations to deliver local climate change mitigation projects.
- Supporting local action to deliver climate change mitigation and thereby promote creative funding approaches and embracing social value so that communities can deliver their own solutions.

3.2 An officer Climate Change Delivery Group, overseen by Strategic Directors for Resources and Communities, would be established to provide the appropriate governance to oversee the delivery of the Climate Change programme. This Group will seek to gain an understanding across our communities of the demand and interest in this proposal for a fund and will consider a further bid through the Capital Investment Fund for specific Capital funding for grants to community-based schemes dependant on feedback received.

3.3 The operation of the fund, including communication, approval and monitoring processes will be carried out by a Climate Change Community Investment Fund Panel, overseen by the Climate Change Delivery Group.

3.4 It is proposed that the Council's already established Climate Emergency Cross-Party Group Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change is part of the bid evaluation process. This will be supported by officer representatives from key specialisms such as climate change, finance, localities, and any other expertise depending upon the nature of the bids. Cabinet will receive future reports on the awards of Fund and progress on the success and performance of the projects being delivered.

3.5 The fund will be open to local community groups/organisations, Parish, Town and District/Borough Councils. Bids to the Fund will be evaluated for their climate change and environmental benefit, value for money and community involvement and prioritised for funding according to pre-set criteria.

Bidding Process

3.6 The bidding process will be developed once the Fund is approved and will follow similar process to the internal Investment Fund processes. Part of the setup of the Fund will be identifying Voluntary and Community Sector groups who are likely to be able to assist community groups in preparing bids.

3.7 The Council will publicise the Fund among relevant networks and signpost prospective bidders to where assistance with bids can be accessed through Community and Voluntary Sector groups and climate change organisations, many being in Warwickshire. Initial communications will include researching likely interest in this Fund to determine expected take up and type of bid likely to be received, at which the bidding process can be refined.

3.8 All bids will be expected to include an estimated cost of administration of the initiative, outputs to be funded and outcomes expected.

3.9 Preference will be given to those bids which include an element of secondary funding, through match funding, partnership initiatives or any other financial contribution. This will allow the Fund to cover a greater number of initiatives while showing the community engagement in the idea. Bids from profit making organisations will be considered, but weighted on the basis of demonstrating innovation, climate change impact and match funding.

Approval Process

3.10 Following the evaluation process outlined in paragraph 3.4, it is proposed the Climate Change Delivery Group is given delegated authority to approve and process the transfer of the grant, along with a set of conditions of its spending and monitoring expected. Decisions will be based on the recommendations of the Climate Change Community Investment Fund Panel.

3.11 Where a successful project proposes the spend of grant over a period of time longer than 12 months, the payment of the grant will be phased according to achievement of milestones which will need to be set out in the bid.

Monitoring Process

3.12 Approval of any bids will include the requirement for a short return from the bidder on the achievements of the completed project and its impacts on climate change. This will be set out in any grant conditions. The intention is to ensure that the grant has been spent on the objectives and outputs detailed in the bid, with any underspent or cancelled development returned to the Fund.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of the project in section 2 is limited to the amounts detailed. The Investment Panel have highlighted the need for exit strategies to ensure further funding is not committed without prior approval being sought. The anticipated financial benefit from the investments is to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on longer term business rate and council tax income through maintaining a vibrant economy.

4.2 The funding for the Community Fund is limited to the £1m detailed within this report. Allocation of this fund will be through capital or revenue grant to community organisations, with conditions given relating to unspent funds, responsibility of the receiving organisation to fund overspends against the project, and monitoring information on milestone achievements to be returned. There is no expectation for a financial return to the Council on the grants, and no intention for funding to be paid back, unless not spent or spent on outputs

not part of the initial bid approved. Administration of the Fund will be delegated to the Climate Change Delivery Group and overseen by Corporate Board and Finance Strategy Team. The costs of administration of the Fund which cannot be met through existing resource will be met by the Fund itself, reducing the amount available, but limiting the use of additional resource to only that necessary to communicate, administer and monitor the process, bids, transactions and initiatives.

5. Environmental Implications

5.1 The intention of the Community Climate Change Fund is to financially support external initiatives which have a positive impact on the environment in line with our climate change agenda. Individual bids will be assessed on their impact on the environment.

6. Background Papers

None

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Authors	Andrew Healey Steve Smith	andrewhealey@warwickshire.gov.uk stevesmithps@warwickshiregov.uk
Assistant Director	Andy Felton Steve Smith	andrewfelton@warwickshire.gov.uk Stevesmithps@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Rob Powell	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:
Cllr Peter Butlin, Cllr Heather Timms, Cllr Clare Golby, Cllr David Shilton, Cllr Adrian Warwick, Cllr Parminder Singh Birdi, Cllr Maggie O'Rourke, Cllr Sarah Boad, Cllr Judy Falp, Cllr Keith Kondakor, Cllr John Holland, Cllr Jenny Fradgley

Agenda Item 5

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Adult and Community Learning Proposed Advisory Board

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the formation of an Advisory Board to have oversight of, and support the development of, the Council's Adult and Community Learning service.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Council's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) service[1] provides a wide range of community-based courses[2] for adults across the County and is funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and learner fees.

1.2 Oversight of the ACL service is currently via the Education Service's SLT. This proposal to establish an Advisory Board would strengthen the strategic direction of the service by supporting and challenging service managers to more closely align the aims of the service to Council priorities, particularly in relation to the employment and skills agenda.

1.3 The Service was last inspected by Ofsted in 2016 and received a 'Good' outcome. The Service is due another Ofsted inspection within the next six months.

1.4 At inspection, Ofsted expect to see evidence that the strategic direction of the ACL service is being developed and supported by a board that knows its strengths and understands its weaknesses. In addition, the board would be expected to challenge managers to improve the quality of teaching and learning and performance monitoring systems.

1.5 The Advisory Board will take the lead in establishing a county-wide vision for adult and community learning, with strong underpinning values and firmly driven by the needs of the County.

1.6 The proposed remit of the Advisory Board is to:

- Maintain an overview of priorities for adult education and post-19

[1] https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/1211/adult-learning

[2] NEW ACL-WARWICKSHIRE Programme FINAL.pdf

provision, delivery and service transformation within the national and regional context.

- Make recommendations regarding the service's strategic aims and objectives based on national priorities and those of key stakeholders such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Ofsted, and the Warwickshire County Council corporate strategic priorities.
- Provide independence of judgement and scrutiny of service provision to ensure the best possible quality of provision and outcomes for learners.
- Assess current levels of performance and agree actions and targets to develop further improvements.
- Ensure effective pace and progress of the actions in the Service's Quality Improvement Plan through performance management arrangements.
- Provide support and robust challenge on all activity and plans.
- Provide support and guidance to the service to secure additional income generation to ensure sustainability and growth.
- Raise the profile of the Service with internal departments and external organisations with a view to generating new business opportunities.
- Support the Service to meet its statutory duty to provide equality of opportunity for learners, to safeguard learners and to meet the Prevent agenda.
- Be accountable to the WCC Corporate Board, reporting progress and providing updates at agreed frequency.

1.7 Proposed membership of the Advisory Board to include:

- Portfolio holder for Education Services
- Assistant Director for Education Services
- Service Manager Education Delivery Services
- Service Manager for Economy and Skills
- Delivery Lead for ACL
- Representative from People Services Commissioning
- National Careers Service (Prospects)
- Representative from the voluntary and community sector
- Representative from Job Centre Plus
- Representative from the education sector, eg Higher Education.

1.8 It is proposed the Advisory Board meets three times a year, in November, March and July.

1.9 A proposed schedule of reports will be discussed and agreed at the first meeting of the Board.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no direct financial implications apart from the time commitment for those involved in attending Advisory Board meetings and reading papers.

Also, the time required within the ACL service to ensure reports are prepared to the schedule agreed by the Board.

2.2 However, if the service does not have an effective board maintaining oversight of its activities and supporting its strategic direction, there is a risk that, at the next inspection, Ofsted does not judge leadership and management of the service to be at least 'good'. This outcome could have an adverse impact on the service's ESFA funding and the service's financial sustainability in the medium term.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 In the 2019-20 academic year, the ACL service received around £1.75m of ESFA funding and approximately 2500 learners accessed at least one course during the academic year. Prior to Covid-19 lockdown, courses were delivered at community venues across the county. Since March 2020, all courses have been delivered online.

4.2 Two types of courses are provided by the ACL service:

- **Community Learning** courses that are generally recreational and support wellbeing
- **Skills** courses that give the opportunity to undertake qualifications such as English, maths, ICT and ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language).

Learners are encouraged to progress between courses and build their skills for life and, where appropriate, for work.

4.3 The ACL service is managed by the Delivery Lead, who also leads the Adult Education Service in Coventry (joint post). In total, the Service has around 80 staff: tutors, managers, learning support assistants and administrators.

4.4 The ACL service supports both of the WCC corporate outcomes:

- Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent
- Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 If Cabinet approves the formation of an Advisory Board for the Adult and Community Learning Service in October 2020, the first meeting of the Advisory Board will take place in November 2020 or early December 2020.

APPENDIX Proposed Terms of Reference for the ACL Advisory Board.

Background Papers

None.

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Author	Judy Hallam	judyhallam@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Ian Budd	ianbudd@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Cllr Colin Hayfield	colinhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was shared with Councillor Colin Hayfield prior to publication.

APPENDIX Proposed Terms of Reference for the ACL Advisory Board.

Warwickshire County Council
Adult and Community Learning Service
Advisory Board - Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Advisory Board

The main function of the Board is to secure a sound basis for continuous improvement for the Adult and Community Learning (ACL) service for all ESFA Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded activity.

The Board will be responsible for taking the lead in establishing a county wide vision for the ACL service, with strong underpinning values and firmly driven by the needs of the county, in which all have a commitment to a broad scope of governance arrangements.

The Board will provide a forum in which members can develop a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to strengthening the quality of provision and outcomes for learners delivered by the ACL service. It will scrutinise adult learning provision to assess its success in meeting the needs of individuals, communities, businesses and the future prosperity and wellbeing of the County.

The Board will provide a formal structure within the existing Council leadership structure to oversee the work of the ACL service and provide collaborative leadership in shaping its direction in order to secure and improve outcomes for learners.

Objectives

The Board will:

- Maintain an overview of priorities for adult education and post-19 provision, delivery and service within the national and regional context.
- Make recommendations regarding the service's strategic aims and objectives based on national priorities and those of key stakeholders such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Ofsted, and the Warwickshire County Council corporate strategic priorities.
- Provide independence of judgment and scrutiny of service provision to ensure the best possible quality of provision and outcomes for learners.
- Assess current levels of performance and agree actions and targets to develop further improvements.
- Ensure effective pace and progress of the actions in the Service's Quality Improvement Plan through performance management arrangements.
- Provide support and robust challenge on all activity and plans.

- Provide support and guidance to the service to secure additional income generation to ensure sustainability and growth.
- Raise the profile of the Service with internal departments and external organisations with a view to generating new business opportunities.
- Support the Service to meet its statutory duty to provide equality of opportunity for learners, to safeguard learners and to meet the Prevent agenda.
- Be accountable to the WCC Corporate Board, reporting progress and providing updates at agreed frequency.

Membership

- Portfolio holder for Education Services (Chair)
- Assistant Director for Education Services
- Service Manager Education Delivery Services
- Service Manager for Economy and Skills
- Delivery Lead for ACL
- Representative from People Services Commissioning
- National Careers Service (Prospects)
- Representative from the voluntary and community sector
- Representative from Job Centre Plus
- Representative from the education sector e.g. Higher Education.

Advisory Board arrangements

The Board will meet three times a year in November, March and July with dates of meetings identified in advance. Additional meetings will be called where members identify the need.

The ACL service will provide appropriate administrative resource to ensure all Board Meetings have an accurate record of discussions and agreed actions. Agendas and papers for meetings will be circulated one week in advance of meetings, or earlier where documents are particularly large or require full sign off at Board meetings.

Board members will be responsible for providing support and challenge on all aspects of provision. Some Board members will have specified lead roles linked to the Ofsted Judgement Indicators.

Agenda Item 6

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Education Sufficiency Annual Update 2020

Recommendation

That Cabinet endorse the Annual Education sufficiency Update 2020 and the proposed schemes to ensure sufficiency of school places in Warwickshire.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The update attached as an Appendix, outlines pupil number forecasts from September 2020 covering a 5 year period for primary phase and a 7 year period for secondary phase and provides an overview of the forthcoming pressures expected during that period.

1.2 Details of how any expected pressures will be met, including current planned or proposed capital schemes, are outlined in each section. All proposals are subject to change in response to relevant changes in housing developments in the area and the impact on expected need for places.

1.3 Demand for school places is expected to continue to increase across many parts of the county, predominantly in line with housing growth. It is expected the significant pressures will be at secondary age level as larger primary cohorts move through to secondary school. Increased demand at primary level could continue where there is expected housing growth in line with current housing trajectories. However, the economic effect of COVID-19 could result in a reduction in housing growth impacting on the level and timing of any potential new provision or expansion of existing provision.

1.4 Pupil forecast data indicates significant pressure on Secondary school places will arise in Atherstone, Nuneaton, Rugby, Leamington and Warwick, Shipston and Stratford upon Avon.

1.5 In addition, it is expected there will be pressure for in year places as primary cohorts' progress through the academic year in the Baddesley Grendon, North and East Nuneaton, South Leamington, Bidford, and Kineton Primary planning areas. This is likely to be localised affecting the most popular schools while capacity remains available at alternative primary schools in neighbouring planning areas in the local area.

1.6 Where an increase in pupil numbers is expected parental preference dictates not all schools will see a uniform increase in demand. The strategy aims to retain a minimum of 4% capacity in each year group across any given planning area to ensure places remain available to accommodate additional pupils as new families that move into an area. Work will be required to assist and encourage all schools to be proactive in their approach to attracting pupils in order to prevent large disparities between schools that are at capacity and those that are significantly under capacity. This will be undertaken as a proactive approach alongside the ongoing work to assist schools with deficit budgets.

1.7 Pressure on SEND places will initially be addressed by supporting and equipping mainstream schools to ensure a greater proportion of learners with EHC plans at school age are supported in their local mainstream setting, developing the second phase of 'resourced provision', establishing a new special school on the former Pears site and completing existing expansion projects. Improving the commissioning of high needs places, to ensure sufficiency of local specialist provision, sits within the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

1.8 Pupil forecast data factors in the expected impact of housing developments across the county, the timescales for delivery of which are reliant on the data produced by the local planning authorities. The expected demand for in year places particularly may not be fully realised where this data deviates from the reality of the delivery of new housing.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The full extent of the financial implications are yet to be quantified and detailed costing will be provided once design and feasibility work has been undertaken for each individual project outlined in this update.

2.2 Initial cost estimates relating to additional provision, particularly new schools, have been produced utilising national benchmarking data. Work is ongoing to identify the expected capital requirements and funding profile for all future Education Capital projects over the short to medium term.

2.3 All proposed education capital projects are considered against independently published third-party data to benchmark the cost to the County Council of providing school places and ensuring effective allocation of resources.

2.4 There is the likelihood that the consideration of any Carbon Neutral build methods will increase overall costs beyond the existing benchmarks.

2.5 Basic Need grant funding is provided by the DfE to deliver the expected requirement for mainstream places across the 4-16 age range. This grant

is calculated on a per pupil basis for mainstream places and excludes those places as a result of housing growth which are expected to be funded via developer contributions.

2.6 Available Basic Need capital resources currently total £26,452,000. However, as outlined there are multiple demands expected on this funding to deliver Education Capital projects across the county to ensure sufficient school places are available.

2.7 Warwickshire's Basic Need grant funding allocation to be received in 2021 has been confirmed at £24,136,000

2.8 Basic Need grant funding for 2022 and beyond is not yet known.

2.9 The need to forward fund education infrastructure before receipt of developer contributions together with competing demands to utilise Basic Need capital resources for education provision such Early Years sufficiency, SEND provision and condition of the school estate will put significant pressure on the funding requirements to provide sufficient school places.

2.10 Developer contributions will continue to be sought to provide the new provision needed as a result of housing growth and funds secured relevant to each individual scheme will be utilised where appropriate to deliver the schemes proposed.

2.11 The initial revenue costs for the new schools and additional classes at existing schools will need to be met utilising Dedicated Schools Grant, Pupil Growth Funding.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 Following the County Council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency the design brief for all Education Capital projects will require the consideration of Carbon Neutral build methods to ensure the environmental impacts of delivering and operating the new provision are reduced where possible.

3.2 Environmental risk assessments together with mitigation statements to reduce any potential environmental impacts are required for each capital project. Where a risk of environmental damage is identified measures will be required to ensure these risks remain at a minimum throughout the construction process.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Section 3 in the Annual Update outlines the key sufficiency challenges which provide the context to the practical implementation of sufficiency proposals.

4.2 Housing growth in line with current housing trajectories across the county is expected to increase the long-term demand for school places as new families move into the county. This is by far the biggest challenge in ensuring sufficiency of school places and the expected impact of this housing growth is included in the pupil forecast data presented. However as new families move into Warwickshire over the next academic year the level of short term demand for places will vary depending on the age of the children and availability of places in the relevant year groups at local schools. Where possible the available capacity in areas with housing growth should exceed the 4% target to account for these variances

4.3 There can often be pressure for school places when families apply late or part way through the academic year and schools are already at capacity. The allocation of school places is administered in line with the School Admission Code published by the Department for Education (DfE) and all processes must be undertaken in line with this legislation. In order to overcome this issue the target is to maintain 4% capacity in any given year group across each planning area, however there is no provision within the code that would allow schools or Local Authorities to hold places at any school to accommodate those late or in year applicants.

4.4 All school places offered are done so in line with the relevant admission arrangements for that school. For academies the responsibility for setting the schools admission policy, including oversubscription criteria, lies with the academy trust. Warwickshire County Council works in partnership with all of the Warwickshire family of schools, however it is not always the case that the admission arrangements set by an academy trust will give full consideration to the Local Authorities strategic approach to ensuring sufficiency of school places.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 Proposed schemes outlined in the sufficiency update will be worked up though the initial feasibility stages via the Education Capital Access and Organisation Working Group.

5.2 Following confirmation of the availability of funding, the appropriate consultations, and feasibility studies all projects require agreement by the Education Capital Access and Organisation Board.

5.3 Once agreed by the Board all individual capital projects outlined will be subject to future reports to Cabinet for funding approval.

Appendix

Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2020

Background Papers

None

Supporting Paper

Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2023.

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith, Bern Timings	emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk, berntimings@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Ian Budd	Ianbudd@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning	colinhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was considered by the Children and Young People OSC.

This page is intentionally left blank

Warwickshire County Council

Education Services

Annual Education Sufficiency Update

September 2020

Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. Covid-19 Pandemic Impacts 4

3. Key sufficiency challenges 4

4. North Warwickshire 5

4.1. Primary 5

4.2. Secondary 6

5. Nuneaton and Bedworth 8

5.1. Primary 8

5.2. Secondary 10

6. East Warwickshire 12

6.1. Primary 12

6.2. Secondary 14

7. Central Warwickshire 15

7.1. Primary 15

7.2. Secondary 17

8. South Warwickshire 19

8.1. Primary 19

8.2. Secondary 22

9. Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision 24

9.1. Special School Growth 24

10. Appendix 1 – Primary Planning Areas 28

11. Appendix 2 – Secondary Planning Areas 34

12. Appendix 3 – Pupil yield figures 36

1. Introduction

1.1. This annual sufficiency update is published to provide the current context for the delivery of the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018 - 2023.

1.2. This update outlines pupil number forecasts from September 2020 covering a 5 year period for primary phase and a 7 year period for secondary phase, and provides an overview of the forthcoming pressures expected during that period.

1.3. All pupil forecasts include all currently approved housing developments as at time of publication. WCC Education Services work collaboratively with the five District and Borough planning authorities and the progress of proposed and approved housing development across the county is continually monitored. The underlying data relating to housing trajectories is subject to change.

1.4. Details of how any expected pressures will be met, including current planned capital schemes, are outlined in each section. These may change in response to relevant changes in housing developments in the area and the impact on expected need for places. All individual projects are subject to the availability of funding and the appropriate consultations, feasibilities, and approvals.

1.5. Full analysis of Early Years sufficiency across the county is outlined in the Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020 link.

1.6. The most up to date pupil yield figures used when assessing likely additional pupils generated by new housing development are included within this update as Appendix 3.

1.7. Details of WCC's approach to meeting need arising from housing development and requests for financial contributions from developers is available in WCC Developers' Guide to Education Contributions 2019 link.

1.8. From publication in September 2020 this sufficiency update will cover the academic year 2020/2021 and will be followed by an update on an annual basis.

2. Covid-19 Pandemic Impacts

2.1. At the time of publication in September 2020 the economic outfall from the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential impact that this might have on school place requirements is not yet known. Changes in demand will be kept under review and subsequent years pupil forecast data will be adjusted to factor in and shifts in demand for school places or disruptions to housing developments across the county if required.

2.2. Financial impacts related to Covid-19 cost increases and related time frame extensions required on future education capital projects will be assessed at the feasibility stage for the individual proposed schemes.

2.3. Delivery of capital schemes is ongoing during the pandemic with WCC major construction projects following relevant government guidance and contractors carry-out site-specific risk assessments for site operating procedures including social distancing and cleaning hygiene. Schools will also need to consider any construction works as part of their health and safety risk assessments

3. Key sufficiency challenges

3.1. **Housing development** - Housing growth across the county is expected to increase the long-term demand for school places as new families move into the county. This is by far the biggest challenge in ensuring sufficiency of school places and the expected impact of this housing growth is included in the pupil forecast data presented in this document. However as new families move into Warwickshire over the next academic year the level of short term demand for places will vary depending on the age of the children and availability of places in the relevant year groups at local schools. Where possible the available capacity in areas with housing growth should exceed the 4% target to account for these variances.

3.2. **In year applications -** There can often be pressure for school places when families apply late or part way through the academic year and schools are already at capacity. The allocation of school places is administered in line with the School Admission Code published by the Department for Education (DfE) and all processes must be undertaken in line with this legislation. In order to overcome this issue the target is to maintain 4% capacity in any given year group across each planning area, however there is no provision within the code that would allow schools or Local Authorities to hold places at any school to accommodate those late or in year applicants.

3.3. Admission arrangements - All school places offered are done so in line with the relevant admission arrangements for that school. For academies the responsibility for setting the schools admission policy, including oversubscription criteria, lies with the academy trust. Warwickshire County Council works in partnership with all of the Warwickshire family of schools, however it is not always the case that the admission arrangements set by an academy trust will give full consideration to the Local Authorities strategic approach to ensuring sufficiency of school places.

4. North Warwickshire

4.1. Primary

4.1.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Capacity - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Arley	2020/21	65	53	18%	455	360	21%
	2021/22	65	45	31%	455	361	21%
	2022/23	65	54	17%	455	365	20%
	2023/24	65	43	35%	455	348	23%
	2024/25	65	47	27%	455	349	23%
Atherstone	2020/21	150	123	18%	1050	934	11%
	2021/22	150	136	9%	1050	973	7%
	2022/23	150	144	4%	1050	988	6%
	2023/24	150	113	25%	1050	979	7%
	2024/25	150	132	12%	1050	970	8%
Baddesley Grendon	2020/21	30	35	-17%	210	214	-2%
	2021/22	30	38	-28%	210	219	-4%
	2022/23	30	31	-4%	210	216	-3%
	2023/24	30	32	-6%	210	224	-7%
	2024/25	30	35	-15%	210	218	-4%
Coleshill	2020/21	212	207	2%	1484	1358	8%
	2021/22	212	185	13%	1484	1369	8%
	2022/23	212	199	6%	1484	1394	6%
	2023/24	212	183	14%	1484	1375	7%
	2024/25	212	189	11%	1484	1357	9%
Kingsbury	2020/21	105	88	16%	735	621	15%
	2021/22	105	92	12%	735	640	13%
	2022/23	105	72	32%	735	631	14%
	2023/24	105	69	35%	735	603	18%
	2024/25	105	78	26%	735	602	18%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Capacity - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Polesworth	2020/21	157	135	14%	1099	1105	-1%
	2021/22	157	143	9%	1099	1108	-1%
	2022/23	157	161	-3%	1099	1124	-2%
	2023/24	157	145	7%	1099	1119	-2%
	2024/25	157	147	6%	1099	1110	-1%
North Polesworth	2020/21	32	25	23%	224	182	19%
	2021/22	32	29	9%	224	192	14%
	2022/23	32	26	18%	224	196	12%
	2023/24	32	20	36%	224	186	17%
	2024/25	32	26	19%	224	192	14%

4.1.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

4.1.3. Current pupil forecasts for North Warwickshire show the majority of planning areas are predicted to have available capacity in excess of the 4% target.

4.1.4. Polesworth primary planning area is currently forecast a possible overall in-year pressure due to the popularity of the schools with children from outside of the area. This will be monitored closely although available capacity is expected in the neighbouring North Polesworth planning area.

4.1.5. Baddesley Grendon planning area is expected to have pressure for reception entry moving forward. The level of need is not expected to sustain a viable expansion of the only school in this planning area, Woodside C of E Primary School, as sufficient capacity exists at schools in the neighbouring Atherstone primary planning area to accommodate the expected increase in need.

4.2. Secondary

4.2.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Capacity - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Atherstone	2020/21	120	134	-12%	600	699	-17%
	2021/22	120	150	-25%	600	735	-22%
	2022/23	120	179	-50%	600	786	-31%
	2023/24	120	172	-44%	600	822	-37%
	2024/25	120	190	-59%	600	862	-44%
	2025/26	120	176	-47%	600	900	-50%
	2026/27	120	163	-35%	600	910	-52%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Capacity - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Coleshill	2020/21	210	209	1%	1050	1070	-2%
	2021/22	210	209	1%	1050	1058	-1%
	2022/23	210	210	0%	1050	1056	-1%
	2023/24	210	209	0%	1050	1050	0%
	2024/25	210	209	1%	1050	1048	0%
	2025/26	210	208	1%	1050	1045	0%
	2026/27	210	208	1%	1050	1042	1%
Kingsbury	2020/21	126	127	-1%	630	701	-11%
	2021/22	126	127	-1%	630	678	-8%
	2022/23	126	127	-1%	630	668	-6%
	2023/24	126	127	0%	630	649	-3%
	2024/25	126	127	0%	630	616	2%
	2025/26	126	127	0%	630	614	2%
	2026/27	126	127	0%	630	614	3%
Polesworth	2020/21	240	245	-2%	1200	1255	-5%
	2021/22	240	247	-3%	1200	1260	-5%
	2022/23	240	248	-3%	1200	1283	-7%
	2023/24	240	244	-2%	1200	1280	-7%
	2024/25	240	243	-1%	1200	1264	-5%
	2025/26	240	240	0%	1200	1236	-3%
	2026/27	240	240	0%	1200	1213	-1%

4.2.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

4.2.3. Current forecasts for North Warwickshire show that in contrast to the primary, the majority of secondary planning areas are predicted to be over capacity. It is expected that there will be in-year pressure in the Atherstone area due to slightly higher primary cohorts and the build out of approved housing development in the area.

4.2.4. To accommodate demand in the Atherstone planning area the Queen Elizabeth Academy have proposed a new classroom block and will admit an additional 30 pupils for Year 7 entry in September 2021. The academy trust are undertaking delivery of this project which will enable the school to expand by a form of entry. A further form of entry will also potentially be needed over the next 5 to 7 years and will need further consideration alongside plans for additional capacity in neighbouring planning areas and the timing of housing development in the local area.

4.2.5. The Coleshill planning area is expected to be at or slightly over capacity for both Year 7 and across other year groups. The school increased its PAN to 210 from September 2017, increasing capacity by an additional 150 places across the school

over the following 5 years. This increase will enable the school to accommodate demand from both in and out of county children. An additional classroom block has been delivered for the 2020/21 academic year to allow the school to accommodate the increased pupil numbers as they roll out across all year groups.

4.2.6. Kingsbury planning area is expected to be at capacity moving forward. This is a result of the schools popularity with families resident outside of Warwickshire and Kingsbury School have admitted above the published admission number to accommodate demand.

4.2.7. The Polesworth planning area is currently expected to be slightly over capacity owing to the ongoing popularity of the school with pupils from outside of Warwickshire for Year 7 entry. Given this fact, there may be pressure for in-year applications if pupils move into the area and the school is at capacity. and places allocated at the next nearest school with available space likely requiring the provision of home to school transport.

4.2.8. A review of the accommodation at The Polesworth School will be undertaken to inform future expansion proposals, ensuring the school is able to meet the expected need from approved and future housing development in the area. This follows the construction of a replacement classroom block under the Priority School Building Programme project currently being undertaken by the Department for Education (DfE) at the school.

5. Nuneaton and Bedworth

5.1. Primary

5.1.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Capacity - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Bedworth South West	2020/21	240	205	15%	1680	1421	15%
	2021/22	240	187	22%	1680	1408	16%
	2022/23	240	205	15%	1680	1406	16%
	2023/24	240	202	16%	1680	1410	16%
	2024/25	240	201	16%	1680	1392	17%
Wolvey and Bulkington	2020/21	90	86	4%	630	558	11%
	2021/22	90	92	-2%	630	553	12%
	2022/23	90	93	-3%	630	565	10%
	2023/24	90	75	17%	630	550	13%
	2024/25	90	87	3%	630	551	13%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Capacity - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Bedworth North East	2020/21	270	261	3%	1906	1849	3%
	2021/22	270	227	16%	1906	1812	5%
	2022/23	270	224	17%	1906	1766	7%
	2023/24	270	255	5%	1906	1769	7%
	2024/25	270	235	13%	1906	1741	9%
Nuneaton North West	2020/21	259	247	5%	1837	1742	5%
	2021/22	259	219	15%	1837	1748	5%
	2022/23	259	265	-2%	1837	1771	4%
	2023/24	259	248	4%	1837	1773	3%
	2024/25	259	251	3%	1837	1768	4%
Nuneaton West	2020/21	450	404	10%	3270	2875	12%
	2021/22	450	407	10%	3270	2857	13%
	2022/23	450	391	13%	3270	2789	15%
	2023/24	450	372	17%	3270	2765	15%
	2024/25	450	391	13%	3270	2748	16%
Nuneaton North and East	2020/21	490	526	-7%	3430	3465	-1%
	2021/22	520	500	4%	3640	3546	3%
	2022/23	520	519	0%	3640	3626	0%
	2023/24	520	516	1%	3640	3682	-1%
	2024/25	520	535	-3%	3640	3739	-3%

5.1.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

5.1.3. Bedworth South West and Bedworth North East primary planning areas are currently expected to have sufficient capacity to meet need in the area. This includes increased capacity at Newdigate Primary School from 1.5fe to 2fe from September 2018, creating an additional 105 places across the school over the next 7 years.

5.1.4. There is likely to be some overall pressure from the 2020 academic year onwards in the Nuneaton North East planning area. This is primarily as a result of new families moving into the area in line with housing development. The schools in this area are popular and often oversubscribed from reception entry. Where necessary, in-year applications would be accommodated in neighbouring Nuneaton schools where sufficient places exist to meet this need.

5.1.5. Lower Farm Academy opened in September 2019 with 30 places in Reception to meet the forecast need in the North of Nuneaton; this additional Reception capacity is included in the data above. The school is being delivered as part of the Central Government Free School programme and will grow to 60 places per year group to help meet the longer term need for places in line with housing development in this area of Nuneaton. The school is currently in temporary accommodation while the permanent

build is completed and will offer a total of 420 additional primary school places once fully opened. Work will be undertaken with the academy trust to open additional places across other year groups should there be the need following the delivery of the permanent school buildings.

5.1.6. In order to build some capacity into the Nuneaton North and East planning area of for the 2019/20 academic year an additional class was opened in Year 2 (current Year 3 2020/21) at Weddington Primary School, providing an additional 30 places in that year group.

5.2. Secondary

5.2.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Places Available - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Hartshill	2020/21	210	198	6%	1050	1011	4%
	2021/22	210	197	6%	1050	1030	2%
	2022/23	210	221	-5%	1050	1055	0%
	2023/24	210	218	-4%	1050	1080	-3%
	2024/25	210	219	-4%	1050	1082	-3%
	2025/26	210	210	0%	1050	1075	-2%
	2026/27	210	213	-1%	1050	1076	-2%
Bedworth	2020/21	470	411	13%	2350	2023	14%
	2021/22	470	476	-1%	2350	2119	10%
	2022/23	470	478	-2%	2350	2231	5%
	2023/24	470	459	2%	2350	2279	3%
	2024/25	470	471	0%	2350	2275	3%
	2025/26	470	457	3%	2350	2304	2%
	2026/27	470	445	5%	2350	2260	4%
Nuneaton	2020/21	956	958	0%	4780	4519	5%
	2021/22	956	1015	-6%	4780	4737	1%
	2022/23	956	1069	-12%	4780	4947	-3%
	2023/24	956	1014	-6%	4780	5018	-5%
	2024/25	956	1040	-9%	4780	5093	-7%
	2025/26	956	1020	-7%	4780	5136	-7%
	2026/27	956	1027	-7%	4780	5130	-7%

5.2.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

5.2.3. The Hartshill planning area is expected to see a decrease in the available capacity at Year 7 in the next few years with a shortfall for Year 7 intake expected by September 2022. This will be monitored and bulge classes may be required to accommodate the shortfall. The academy trust is undertaking a review of the schools existing accommodation, and working in partnership with the LA, proposals for redevelopment are being considered.

5.2.4. The Bedworth planning area is currently predicted to have available capacity in both Year 7 entry and overall in the next 5 years. However, there is expected to be a slight pressure for Year 7 entry in September 2021 and September 2022. This situation will need careful monitoring particularly if any of the current strategic housing allocations are approved which could require additional capacity at Ash Green School.

5.2.5. Ash Green School has admitted over PAN for the last 3 years to accommodate localised demand from within the school's priority area. Further work will be undertaken with the Academy Trust to review of the accommodation on site to meet expected need from approved and future development in the Bedworth area.

5.2.6. The Nuneaton planning area is currently forecast to have an overall shortfall of places available from 2021. The expected shortfall in neighbouring Hartshill may compound this issue with any available in-year capacity at Nuneaton schools being utilised by children from the Hartshill planning area. In-year applications will be monitored closely and will require close working with the existing secondary schools to ensure all children moving into the area can be accommodated.

5.2.7. Across Nuneaton we will work with schools to ensure space in existing buildings is being utilised to accommodate any in-year pressure or for Year 7 entry should there be a need for additional classes as the academic year progresses.

5.2.8. Etone College admitted an additional 30 pupils for Year 7 entry in September 2020 to accommodate demand in the Nuneaton planning area. It is expected this increase will be required permanently, providing an additional 150 places in the area over the next 4 years. Proposals to provide additional accommodation from 2022 to support a sustained increase in pupil numbers are currently being progressed with the academy trust.

5.2.9. At the time of publication in September 2020 the outcome of the Central Government Free School Wave 14 is still unknown. Warwickshire County Council provided supporting information and evidence of need to the DfE and a number of multi academy trusts have submitted bids to operate a new secondary school in the North of Nuneaton. It is expected this new provision will meet the longer term demand for places in Nuneaton and delivery of this new school is not dependant on the DfE but will be undertaken by the Council if no trust is successful in their free school bid with the DfE.

5.2.10. Assessment of the potential to expand Higham Lane School will be undertaken to inform expansion to accommodate demand from the initial phases of housing growth in the North of Nuneaton. Timing of any potential expansion of this school is dependent on the outcome of the above Free School Wave and associated expected delivery of the new school should any bid be successful.

6. East Warwickshire

6.1. Primary

6.1.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Rugby North Central	2020/21	405	368	9%	2859	2905	-2%
	2021/22	405	360	11%	2859	2948	-3%
	2022/23	405	400	1%	2859	2997	-5%
	2023/24	405	355	12%	2859	3016	-6%
	2024/25	405	395	3%	2859	3054	-7%
Rugby North of the Railway	2020/21	240	230	4%	1560	1580	-1%
	2021/22	240	202	16%	1560	1638	-5%
	2022/23	240	225	6%	1560	1636	-5%
	2023/24	240	205	15%	1560	1599	-3%
	2024/25	240	215	10%	1560	1573	-1%
The Revel	2020/21	45	47	-4%	315	303	4%
	2021/22	45	38	15%	315	296	6%
	2022/23	45	45	1%	315	293	7%
	2023/24	45	44	3%	315	288	8%
	2024/25	45	42	6%	315	292	7%
Dunchurch	2020/21	78	66	16%	498	472	5%
	2021/22	78	64	17%	498	467	6%
	2022/23	78	60	24%	498	458	8%
	2023/24	78	46	41%	498	437	12%
	2024/25	78	57	27%	498	429	14%
Rugby Rural	2020/21	137	110	19%	959	857	11%
	2021/22	137	113	18%	959	832	13%
	2022/23	137	119	13%	959	811	15%
	2023/24	137	111	19%	959	784	18%
	2024/25	137	115	16%	959	769	20%
Rugby South Central	2020/21	210	179	15%	1470	1409	4%
	2021/22	210	165	21%	1470	1388	6%
	2022/23	210	179	15%	1470	1381	6%
	2023/24	210	161	23%	1470	1344	9%
	2024/25	210	175	17%	1470	1355	8%
Rugby West	2020/21	240	228	5%	1660	1691	-2%
	2021/22	240	211	12%	1660	1707	-3%
	2022/23	240	227	5%	1660	1690	-2%
	2023/24	240	179	25%	1660	1604	3%
	2024/25	240	199	17%	1660	1548	7%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Long Lawford	2020/21	90	72	20%	630	521	17%
	2021/22	90	70	22%	630	530	16%
	2022/23	90	68	25%	630	508	19%
	2023/24	90	59	34%	630	502	20%
	2024/25	90	66	27%	630	496	21%

6.1.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

6.1.3. The increased housing development and migration into Rugby town over recent years has seen the need for expansions and bulge classes at primary schools across the town. The result is forecast capacity above the 4% target across the majority of planning areas, particularly for Reception entry moving forwards. There may be pressure for in-year applications towards the north of the town but sufficient capacity is expected at other schools across Rugby to accommodate those families moving into the area.

6.1.4. Significant housing development in Rugby North of the Railway is expected to lead to an increase in demand for primary school places longer term to meet this need a new 1fe primary school is planned as part of the Rugby Gateway development. In addition, there is an historical mismatch in capacity at infant and junior level in this area. Work is ongoing in partnership with the infant and junior schools in this area to undertake a strategic review of current and future provision in this area to ensure the short and long term need for places is met.

6.1.5. St Gabriel's C of E Academy opened from September 2018 on the housing development at Houlton in the east of Rugby to accommodate demand for primary school places from the new housing. The new school has opened as a 1fe (210 places) primary school offering places in all year groups. Longer term the site provides the option to expand to 3fe (630 places) as the housing development at Houlton progresses. Localised pressure may be experienced for in year applications as the housing continues to build out and new families move to the development, however it is expected sufficient capacity will be available at other local primary schools to accommodate this in year movement.

6.2. Secondary

6.2.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Places Available - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Rugby South	2020/21	1042	1163	-12%	5210	5302	-2%
	2021/22	1072	1169	-9%	5360	5468	-2%
	2022/23	1072	1254	-17%	5360	5721	-7%
	2023/24	1072	1221	-14%	5360	5853	-9%
	2024/25	1072	1193	-11%	5360	5970	-11%
	2025/26	1072	1281	-20%	5360	6071	-13%
	2026/27	1072	1256	-17%	5360	6149	-15%
Rugby North	2020/21	220	243	-11%	1100	1288	-17%
	2021/22	220	254	-16%	1100	1366	-24%
	2022/23	220	287	-30%	1100	1419	-29%
	2023/24	220	289	-31%	1100	1461	-33%
	2024/25	220	286	-30%	1100	1490	-35%
	2025/26	220	300	-36%	1100	1537	-40%
	2026/27	220	298	-35%	1100	1580	-44%

6.2.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

6.2.3. Current forecasts include all approved housing developments and show secondary schools in Rugby are expected to be over capacity for Year 7 entry from September 2020. This includes the additional capacity provided by Rugby Free Secondary School which opened from September 2016 towards the south of the town providing an additional 6fe per year group.

6.2.4. Rugby Free Secondary School, Bilton School and Ashlawn School admitted an additional 30 pupils each for Year 7 entry in September 2020, in addition to an additional 55 places admitted at Harris C of E Academy for Year 7 entry in September 2020, as temporary bulge classes to accommodate demand in the Rugby area.

6.2.5. In order to meet the expected shortfall in Secondary places across Rugby the proposed secondary school on the Houlton development will be opened from September 2021. The new school will open as 6fe (900 places plus 6th form) initially to meet the demand expected across Rugby as well as that from the Houlton development, with further expansion expected longer term beyond the current forecast period in line with growing need. This school will be delivered in partnership between the developers of Houlton and ESFA and will be operated by the Transforming Lives Educational Trust. This new school is not included in the capacity data shown above at this time but will provide an additional 180 places for year 7 entry in 2021.

6.2.6. Lawrence Sherriff School admitted an additional 30 places from September 2020 and have officially increased the admission number to 150 from September 2021

following a successful bid to secure funding from the DfE to expand Grammar provision. This will increase capacity by an additional 150 places across the school over the next 5 years. Given the selective nature of Grammar schools it is likely not all of these places will be offered to children from the Rugby area in any given year, however the school have altered the admission arrangements for 2021 onwards to further support the offer of places to children in Rugby and the local area.

6.2.7. Following the opening of the new secondary school on Houlton there is still a slight pressure expected on secondary school places across Rugby. The preference to meet this shortfall is for the expansion of existing secondary schools in the area. However, if the capacity required to meet this need is not available on existing school sites, WCC will review options with the developer of Coton Park East in the north of Rugby for a new secondary school to be located on that development. This will only be implemented when the options for expansion at existing schools have been exhausted.

7. Central Warwickshire

7.1. Primary

7.1.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Kenilworth	2020/21	275	259	6%	2009	1961	2%
	2021/22	275	232	16%	1979	1935	2%
	2022/23	275	259	6%	1949	1946	0%
	2023/24	275	210	24%	1949	1896	3%
	2024/25	275	234	15%	1949	1866	4%
North Leamington	2020/21	360	307	15%	2520	2338	7%
	2021/22	360	334	7%	2520	2329	8%
	2022/23	360	355	1%	2520	2366	6%
	2023/24	360	346	4%	2520	2370	6%
	2024/25	360	350	3%	2520	2390	5%
South Leamington	2020/21	478	457	4%	3346	3376	-1%
	2021/22	478	495	-4%	3346	3642	-9%
	2022/23	478	546	-14%	3346	3868	-16%
	2023/24	478	558	-17%	3346	4017	-20%
	2024/25	478	550	-15%	3346	4096	-22%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Radford Semele	2020/21	30	33	-9%	210	252	-20%
	2021/22	30	34	-14%	210	267	-27%
	2022/23	30	30	0%	210	264	-26%
	2023/24	30	27	10%	210	250	-19%
	2024/25	30	28	6%	210	237	-13%
Southam	2020/21	208	182	13%	1456	1360	7%
	2021/22	208	185	11%	1456	1378	5%
	2022/23	208	163	21%	1456	1373	6%
	2023/24	208	170	18%	1456	1364	6%
	2024/25	208	177	15%	1456	1332	9%
Napton	2020/21	38	38	0%	266	280	-5%
	2021/22	38	37	3%	266	274	-3%
	2022/23	38	36	5%	266	267	0%
	2023/24	38	30	22%	266	255	4%
	2024/25	38	35	8%	266	256	4%
Warwick	2020/21	395	329	17%	2765	2501	10%
	2021/22	395	345	13%	2765	2508	9%
	2022/23	395	350	11%	2765	2499	10%
	2023/24	395	325	18%	2765	2450	11%
	2024/25	395	343	13%	2765	2428	12%

7.1.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

7.1.3. The Leamington area is facing significant pressure over the coming years due to housing development. It is expected that South Leamington primary planning area will be over capacity for Reception entry from September 2021 onwards with possible in-year pressure from 2020. However, this need for additional school places is disproportionate across the town with significant short falls expected across the South Leamington planning area and sufficient capacity expected to continue across schools in the North Leamington primary planning area.

7.1.4. Design and development is underway on a new All-Through School to the South of Leamington/ Warwick, with a currently proposed opening date of September 2023, offering an additional 30 reception places in the first year. This school will grow to provide 2fe additional primary provision, or 420 additional places, in the South Leamington primary planning area.

7.1.5. Heathcote Primary School opened from September 2017 as 1fe (210 places) and has proved popular with residents in the surrounding area. The school admitted and an additional 30 Reception places in September 2019 and has permanently

expanded the Reception intake to 60 places from 2020. Work is currently underway to deliver the additional accommodation needed to support this permanent expansion to 2fe (420 places).

7.1.6. Whitnash Primary School has admitted additional children to offer 60 places for reception entry and work is underway to deliver the accommodation needed once the school reaches capacity for 2fe from September 2022. This has increased capacity by an additional 105 places across the school over 7 years and ensures the school is supported and grows alongside the proposed new schools in the Warwick and South Leamington primary planning areas.

7.1.7. Radford Semele primary planning area is currently forecast to have a pressure on places from the 2020 academic year onwards, this is primarily as a result of housing development and in-year applications would be accommodated in neighbouring Leamington schools.

7.2. Secondary

7.2.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Places Available - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Warwick and Leamington	2020/21	1051	1032	2%	5255	4942	6%
	2021/22	1051	1127	-7%	5255	5230	0%
	2022/23	1081	1169	-8%	5405	5501	-2%
	2023/24	1081	1248	-15%	5405	5808	-7%
	2024/25	1081	1219	-13%	5405	5981	-11%
	2025/26	1081	1187	-10%	5405	6051	-12%
	2026/27	1081	1255	-16%	5405	6118	-13%
Kenilworth	2020/21	270	283	-5%	1350	1411	-5%
	2021/22	270	293	-8%	1350	1440	-7%
	2022/23	270	286	-6%	1350	1462	-8%
	2023/24	270	291	-8%	1350	1467	-9%
	2024/25	270	286	-6%	1350	1452	-8%
	2025/26	270	296	-10%	1350	1460	-8%
	2026/27	270	283	-5%	1350	1439	-7%
Southam	2020/21	270	281	-4%	1350	1428	-6%
	2021/22	270	275	-2%	1350	1434	-6%
	2022/23	270	274	-1%	1350	1423	-5%
	2023/24	270	275	-2%	1350	1417	-5%
	2024/25	270	277	-2%	1350	1401	-4%
	2025/26	270	286	-6%	1350	1411	-5%
	2026/27	270	278	-3%	1350	1416	-5%

7.2.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

7.2.3. Current forecasts show secondary schools in the Warwick and Leamington planning area are expected to be over capacity from September 2021. As larger primary cohorts continue to transfer through to secondary school and housing development within the area progresses this shortfall is expected to increase rapidly and will likely support a new secondary school as early as September 2023.

7.2.4. From September 2019, Campion School is increasing capacity from just over 5fe to 7fe, with the published admission number (PAN) increasing from 155 to 210 with each incoming Year 7 cohort, meaning the overall capacity of the school will gradually rise from 775 to 1,050 pupils. Work is currently ongoing with the school to ensure this increased intake is phased from September 2019 to address expected shortfalls in the Warwick and Leamington secondary planning area.

7.2.5. Myton School as an academy are reviewing options for future site redevelopment that would enable the school to offer additional 6th form provision and in turn provide capacity for additional places per 11-16 year group to help ensure there are sufficient places across the Warwick and Leamington secondary planning area to meet future demand. Work will be undertaken to support the Academy's proposals ensuring they align with the wider need for additional education provision across Leamington and Warwick.

7.2.6. A new All-Through school is planned for South Leamington, proposed to open in September 2023. This will provide an additional 6fe (900 places plus 6th form), to meet the expected shortfall in places across the Warwick and Leamington secondary planning area. Design and development is currently underway with the new school expected to offer an additional 180 secondary places for each year 7 intake from 2023.

7.2.7. The Kenilworth planning area is currently expected to be over capacity owing to increasing primary cohorts and the popularity of the school with pupils from outside the area. Given this fact there may be pressure for in-year applications if pupils move into the area. In addition, proposed housing development will increase this pressure further.

7.2.8. Kenilworth School is currently expected to relocate to a new site within the town from September 2022. As part of the relocation project additional capacity will be provided to accommodate the expected growth in secondary pupil numbers as a result of approved and proposed housing development in Kenilworth town.

7.2.9. In addition to the relocation and expansion of Kenilworth School there are proposals for a new 6fe secondary school as part of the proposed development to the north of Kenilworth on the Coventry border, known as King's Hill. The impact of this development is likely to be towards the end of the current forecast period. Initial Secondary age children generated as result of this development may need to be

accommodated via temporary arrangements which would require collaboration with existing local secondary schools.

7.2.10. The Southam planning area is expected to experience some in year pressure as a result of the housing development in the local area. This will be monitored closely and in turn may also place additional pressure on the neighbouring planning area of Warwick and Leamington.

7.2.11. Working with the academy trust a review of accommodation and site capacity at Southam College has being undertaken to inform any future requirements for expansion of the school to accommodate demand from proposed additional housing in the Southam area.

8. South Warwickshire

8.1. Primary

8.1.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Alcester	2020/21	131	104	21%	917	850	7%
	2021/22	131	103	22%	917	856	7%
	2022/23	131	101	23%	917	855	7%
	2023/24	131	100	24%	917	846	8%
	2024/25	131	109	17%	917	851	7%
Bidford	2020/21	90	95	-6%	630	650	-3%
	2021/22	90	89	1%	630	677	-7%
	2022/23	90	70	23%	630	676	-7%
	2023/24	90	99	-10%	630	686	-9%
	2024/25	90	82	9%	630	669	-6%
Henley	2020/21	66	48	27%	462	321	30%
	2021/22	66	41	38%	462	306	34%
	2022/23	66	40	39%	462	283	39%
	2023/24	66	43	35%	462	278	40%
	2024/25	66	41	38%	462	275	41%
Tanworth	2020/21	30	38	-26%	210	206	2%
	2021/22	30	29	4%	210	200	5%
	2022/23	30	30	-1%	210	203	3%
	2023/24	30	30	1%	210	199	5%
	2024/25	30	30	1%	210	200	5%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Claverdon	2020/21	30	29	3%	210	210	0%
	2021/22	30	25	18%	210	208	1%
	2022/23	30	28	8%	210	211	0%
	2023/24	30	19	38%	210	198	6%
	2024/25	30	24	21%	210	192	8%
Kineton	2020/21	118	117	0%	826	792	4%
	2021/22	118	114	3%	826	819	1%
	2022/23	118	125	-6%	826	847	-2%
	2023/24	118	129	-10%	826	890	-8%
	2024/25	118	139	-18%	826	938	-14%
The Dassett	2020/21	45	46	-1%	315	225	28%
	2021/22	45	33	27%	315	230	27%
	2022/23	45	36	21%	315	230	27%
	2023/24	45	35	22%	315	226	28%
	2024/25	45	37	18%	315	231	27%
Ettington	2020/21	30	32	-5%	210	219	-4%
	2021/22	30	37	-24%	210	229	-9%
	2022/23	30	32	-7%	210	230	-9%
	2023/24	30	21	31%	210	220	-5%
	2024/25	30	31	-3%	210	220	-5%
Tysoe	2020/21	30	19	36%	210	131	38%
	2021/22	30	22	27%	210	133	37%
	2022/23	30	21	32%	210	140	33%
	2023/24	30	12	58%	210	131	38%
	2024/25	30	18	39%	210	132	37%
Ilmington	2020/21	15	17	-14%	105	120	-15%
	2021/22	15	18	-23%	105	119	-14%
	2022/23	15	17	-13%	105	121	-15%
	2023/24	15	15	-2%	105	119	-13%
	2024/25	15	16	-10%	105	118	-12%
Welford	2020/21	30	25	17%	210	219	-5%
	2021/22	30	27	9%	210	213	-2%
	2022/23	30	31	-2%	210	213	-2%
	2023/24	30	24	19%	210	204	3%
	2024/25	30	28	7%	210	199	5%
Shipston	2020/21	75	65	14%	525	528	-1%
	2021/22	75	63	17%	525	537	-2%
	2022/23	75	67	10%	525	521	1%
	2023/24	75	45	40%	525	486	7%
	2024/25	75	55	27%	525	455	13%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Places Available - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Stratford Town	2020/21	345	322	7%	2415	2178	10%
	2021/22	345	291	16%	2415	2225	8%
	2022/23	345	279	19%	2415	2225	8%
	2023/24	345	291	16%	2415	2262	6%
	2024/25	345	309	10%	2415	2320	4%
Stratford Rural	2020/21	97	98	-1%	679	604	11%
	2021/22	97	94	3%	679	616	9%
	2022/23	97	87	10%	679	616	9%
	2023/24	97	73	25%	679	597	12%
	2024/25	97	85	13%	679	588	13%
Studley	2020/21	107	85	20%	749	671	10%
	2021/22	107	94	12%	749	671	10%
	2022/23	107	80	25%	749	642	14%
	2023/24	107	82	23%	749	622	17%
	2024/25	107	86	20%	749	617	18%
Compton and Brailes	2020/21	25	23	7%	175	157	11%
	2021/22	25	26	-6%	175	163	7%
	2022/23	25	23	8%	175	164	6%
	2023/24	25	22	11%	175	167	5%
	2024/25	25	23	7%	175	164	6%
Warwick Rural	2020/21	60	55	8%	420	374	11%
	2021/22	60	58	4%	420	380	9%
	2022/23	60	54	10%	420	373	11%
	2023/24	60	53	11%	420	365	13%
	2024/25	60	53	11%	420	370	12%
Quinton	2020/21	60	59	1%	420	305	27%
	2021/22	60	55	9%	420	346	18%
	2022/23	60	70	-16%	420	404	4%
	2023/24	60	66	-10%	420	450	-7%
	2024/25	60	74	-24%	420	500	-19%

8.1.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

8.1.3. The majority of primary planning areas across South Warwickshire are expected to have sufficient capacity to accommodate the need in the area. However, several areas may have very slight pressures for both Reception entry and overall capacity; these areas will be closely monitored as the academic year progresses.

8.1.4. Bidford Planning Area is forecast to experience to be slightly over capacity for September 2023 and experience some in year pressure as a result of housing in the

local area. Birth cohorts will continue to be monitored to ensure any requirement for permanent additional capacity in the area is sustainable.

8.1.5. In Kineton primary planning area there is currently forecast to be a slight in-year pressure on Reception and overall capacity from September 2021, increasing towards the end of the current forecast period. This is due to the reported build out of housing development at Gaydon Lighthorne Heath. This will be monitored and options reviewed to provide additional accommodation at the existing Lighthorne Heath Primary School, prior to the relocation and expansion of the school beyond the current forecast period as part of the development.

8.1.6. Ettington primary planning area is expected to have short term pressure on Reception places for September 2020 and longer term pressure on in-year places overall. This will be monitored closely as the academic year progresses.

8.1.7. Ilmington primary planning area is forecast to have pressure for Reception entry and overall capacity. This situation will be monitored closely due to the rural nature of the planning area.

8.1.8. Quinton primary planning area is currently forecast to have a shortfall from September 2022 due to housing development at Long Marston Airfield and Meon Vale.

8.1.9. Tudor Grange Primary Academy, Meon Vale opened in September 2019 to provide an initial 30 places in Reception in the Quinton primary planning area. ESFA are currently progressing construction of the new school. The school opened as 1fe for Reception only, intended to grow organically by one year group each academic year. Once the permanent school building is complete discussions will be held with the Academy Trust to explore the opportunity of opening additional classes if required to meet demand in the area. It is also expected this new school will meet the need for primary places from the initial phases of the neighbouring development at Long Marston Airfield, prior to additional new primary provision opening beyond the current forecast period.

8.2. Secondary

8.2.1. Pupil forecasts

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Places Available - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Alcester and Studley	2020/21	570	577	-1%	2850	2873	-1%
	2021/22	570	580	-2%	2850	2916	-2%
	2022/23	570	606	-6%	2850	2991	-5%
	2023/24	570	614	-8%	2850	3036	-7%
	2024/25	570	619	-9%	2850	3022	-6%
	2025/26	570	636	-12%	2850	3072	-8%
	2026/27	570	621	-9%	2850	3105	-9%

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Places Available - PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Places Available	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Henley	2020/21	140	139	1%	700	669	4%
	2021/22	140	140	0%	700	704	-1%
	2022/23	140	139	1%	700	716	-2%
	2023/24	140	139	1%	700	716	-2%
	2024/25	140	139	1%	700	704	-1%
	2025/26	140	139	1%	700	705	-1%
	2026/27	140	137	2%	700	702	0%
Kineton	2020/21	180	170	5%	900	824	8%
	2021/22	180	170	6%	900	833	7%
	2022/23	180	182	-1%	900	868	4%
	2023/24	180	185	-3%	900	913	-1%
	2024/25	180	186	-3%	900	922	-2%
	2025/26	180	187	-4%	900	951	-6%
	2026/27	180	187	-4%	900	977	-9%
Shipston	2020/21	120	149	-25%	600	668	-11%
	2021/22	120	146	-22%	600	720	-20%
	2022/23	120	155	-29%	600	763	-27%
	2023/24	120	141	-17%	600	770	-28%
	2024/25	120	161	-34%	600	793	-32%
	2025/26	120	140	-17%	600	778	-30%
	2026/27	120	150	-25%	600	774	-29%
Stratford	2020/21	497	511	-3%	2485	2404	3%
	2021/22	497	494	1%	2485	2455	1%
	2022/23	497	532	-7%	2485	2547	-3%
	2023/24	497	543	-9%	2485	2630	-6%
	2024/25	497	544	-9%	2485	2677	-8%
	2025/26	497	548	-10%	2485	2729	-10%
	2026/27	497	570	-15%	2485	2816	-13%

8.2.2. Commentary and Sufficiency Proposals

8.2.3. Pupil forecasts for Alcester and Studley planning area currently suggests pressure across the area however this is likely to be centred on Alcester town rather than Studley. Pressure from in-year applications will need to be monitored closely owing to the selective nature of Grammar schools in this area and the popularity of schools in this area with out of county children at Year 7 entry.

8.2.4. Kineton High School has increased the PAN from September 2018 onwards offering an additional 150 places across the school over the next 5 years. It is likely there will be a shortfall as a result of housing development across the area towards the end of the forecast period. This may initially be presented as increasing in-year pressure as the academic year progresses and ultimately this will likely require expansion of Kineton High School beyond the forecast period to meet this demand.

8.2.5. The Shipston planning area is currently forecast to be over capacity moving forward as a result of housing development within the planning area. This situation will

be monitored closely and again may initially be presented as increasing in-year pressure as the academic year progresses.

8.2.6. Bulge classes may be required to accommodate potential additional children ahead of a permanent expansion of Shipston High School, before a new secondary school is opened (beyond the current forecast period) as part of proposed large-scale Garden Village development at Long Marston. Work will be undertaken with Shipston High School to identify the additional accommodation needed for future.

8.2.7. Stratford planning area is expected to have pressure on places moving forward, this is due in part to the popularity of the Grammar schools with children from outside of the Stratford area.

8.2.8. Stratford upon Avon School admitted an additional 25 pupils for Year 7 entry in September 2019 and September 2020 to accommodate demand in the Stratford area. This is in advance of permanent expansion of the school by at least 1fe. Proposals to provide additional accommodation from 2022 to support a sustained increase in pupil numbers are currently being progressed with the academy trust.

9. Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision

9.1. Special School Growth

9.1.1. In 2017, special schools in Warwickshire supported 1,271 learners with SEND. The needs assessment at that time forecast, based on population growth, increasing prevalence and growing demand for specialist provision that by 2022/23 an additional 259 spaces (additional 20%) would be required taking the total requirement to 1,530. As a result, a number of expansion projects in local special schools have taken place in the period 2017-2020.

9.1.2. In January 2020, special schools in Warwickshire supported 1,558 learners with SEND. Nationally, there has been significant growth in demand for specialist provision as an alternative to mainstream provision at school age recognised in national reports by the Public Accounts Committee and National Audit Office. The table below shows the proportion of learners in different types of settings between 2017 and 2020.

Year	Area Name	Number of children and young people for whom the authority maintains a statement of SEN, or EHC plan	%						
			Mainstream	Special	ISP - School Age	ISP - Post 16	AP	FE	Other
2017	ENGLAND	287,290	44.0%	36.0%	5.2%	1.1%	0.8%	9.7%	3.3%
2017	WEST MIDLANDS	32,257	40.1%	43.3%	4.1%	1.2%	0.4%	7.7%	3.2%
2017	Statistical Neighbour Average	3,113	43.5%	39.5%	4.9%	0.8%	0.4%	7.5%	3.4%
2017	Warwickshire	3,260	45.8%	37.3%	8.6%	0.4%	0.0%	6.6%	1.3%
2018	ENGLAND	319,819	40.9%	34.8%	4.9%	1.3%	0.7%	12.5%	2.7%
2018	WEST MIDLANDS	36,320	34.9%	43.5%	4.3%	2.3%	0.4%	11.0%	2.7%
2018	Statistical Neighbour Average	3,450	41.1%	38.0%	4.7%	0.7%	0.5%	11.5%	2.3%
2018	Warwickshire	3,509	37.9%	40.1%	7.4%	0.9%	0.0%	10.3%	2.8%
2019	ENGLAND	353,995	39.8%	33.6%	5.0%	1.4%	0.8%	14.1%	5.3%
2019	WEST MIDLANDS	39,570	32.5%	41.3%	4.1%	2.8%	0.4%	13.5%	5.3%
2019	Statistical Neighbour Average	3,794	40.4%	36.0%	4.8%	1.0%	0.4%	12.6%	4.8%
2019	Warwickshire	3,848	33.3%	37.8%	6.6%	1.2%	0.0%	16.0%	5.0%
2020	ENGLAND	390,109	39.6%	32.1%	5.0%	1.6%	0.8%	14.4%	6.4%
2020	WEST MIDLANDS	41,897	32.3%	40.6%	4.2%	2.6%	0.5%	13.9%	5.9%
2020	Statistical Neighbour Average	4,139	40.1%	34.4%	4.8%	1.3%	0.4%	13.3%	5.8%
2020	Warwickshire	4,299	29.7%	34.6%	6.1%	1.2%	0.0%	18.9%	9.5%

Proportion of learners in different types of settings between 2017 and 2020
ISP= Independent Specialist Provision, AP = Alternative Provision, FE= Further Education

9.1.3. The Warwickshire SEND & Inclusion Change Programme (implementing the SEND & Inclusion Strategy) commits Warwickshire to:

- Supporting and equipping mainstream schools to ensure a greater proportion of learners with EHC plans at school age are supported in their local mainstream setting
- Developing the second phase of 'resourced provision' or specialist partnerships – as a bridge between mainstream and specialist placements, focussing on social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH)
- Establishing a new special school on the Pears site to accommodate needs that cannot currently be met through the local offer of specialist provision (and therefore result in placements in more expensive independent alternative provision)
- Completing existing expansion projects within the local offer of provision.

9.1.4. Admissions to local specialist provision are approved through the Warwickshire SEND Provision Panel.

9.2. Sufficiency Proposals

9.2.1. The table below sets out existing projects for ensuring sufficiency of specialist placements and proposals under development.

Education Area Served	Expanding or establishing specialist provision	Developing resourced provision or specialist partnerships
North Warwickshire	**Under development:** Proposal to transfer the Packington Lane site to **Woodlands School** (part of **Unity Academy Trust)** to facilitate reconfiguration of existing provision and some expansion of capacity.	**In progress:** Installation of SEND base at **The Coleshill School** for up to 10 pupils to facilitate partnership arrangement with Woodlands School **Under development:** Development of specialist nurture provision at **Woodlands School** to provide short term intervention for learners experiencing mental health difficulties impacting on their ability to access learning in the school environment. **Under development:** Phase 2 resourced provision in North/Nuneaton & Bedworth as part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme
Nuneaton & Bedworth	**In progress:** Increased classroom space for additional learners in last two years at **Oak Wood Primary and Oak Wood Secondary**. Further capacity to be completed Autumn 2020 **In progress:** New 80-place specialist school for children with ASD/SEMH who are exhibiting behaviours that challenge at **the Pears site**. Opening September 2021	**Under development:** Phase 2 resourced provision in North/Nuneaton & Bedworth as part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme
East Warwickshire	*No current projects for further expansion of specialist provision in East Warwickshire (NB. Quest Academy opened in new premises in Rugby in September 2019)*	**In progress:** Implementation of resourced provision at **Paddox Primary School** (during academic year 2020/21) **Under development:** Phase 2 resourced provision in East as part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

Education Area Served	Expanding or establishing specialist provision	Developing resourced provision or specialist partnerships
Central Warwickshire	**Completed:** Amalgamation of Round Oak School and Ridgeway School received Cabinet approval May 2020 for implementation September 2020. Therefore, from September 2020 Ridgeway School will extend their age range to 19, provide additional special school places and re-name the school **The Evergreen School**.	**Under development:** Phase 2 resourced provision in Central/South as part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme
South Warwickshire	*No current projects for further expansion of specialist provision in South Warwickshire*	**In progress:** Implementation of resourced provision at **Welford on Avon Primary School** (during academic year 2020/21) **Under development:** Phase 2 resourced provision in Central/South as part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme
Countywide Provision	*No current projects for further expansion of countywide specialist provision (NB. Expansion works at Exhall Grange School completed in 2019)*	

9.3. As part of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme, officers will continue to explore opportunities for capital investment, based on a clear business case, to support the education of learners with SEND, particularly in the South of the County.

10. Appendix 1 – Primary Planning Areas

Primary Planning Area	Schools
Arley	Arley Primary School
	Bournebrook C of E Primary School
Atherstone	Outwoods Primary School
	Racemeadow Primary Academy
	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
Baddesley Grendon	Woodside C of E Primary School
Coleshill	Coleshill C of E Primary School
	Curdworth Primary School
	High Meadow Community School
	St Edward's Catholic Primary School
	Shustoke C of E Primary School
	Water Orton Primary School
North Polesworth	Austrey C of E Primary School
	Newton Regis C of E Primary School
Polesworth	Birchwood Primary School
	Dordon Primary School
	The Nethersole C of E Academy
	Warton Nethersole's C of E Primary School
Kingsbury	Hurley Primary School
	Kingsbury Primary School
	Wood End Primary School
Bedworth North East	All Saints Bedworth C of E Primary School
	The Canons C of E Primary School
	Race Leys Infant School
	Race Leys Junior School
	St Francis' Catholic Primary School
	St Michael's C of E Primary School
Bedworth South West	Exhall Cedars Infant School
	Goodyers End Primary School
	Keresley Newland Primary Academy
	Newdigate Primary School
	St Giles Junior School
	Wheelwright Lane Primary School
Wolvey and Bulkington	Arden Forest Infant School
	St James' C of E Junior School
	Wolvey C of E Primary School
Nuneaton North West	Camp Hill Primary School
	Galley Common Infant School
	Michael Drayton Junior School
	Nathaniel Newton Infant School
	Nursery Hill Primary School
	St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Primary Planning Area	Schools
Nuneaton West	Park Lane Primary School
	Abbey C of E Infant School
	Chilvers Coton Infant School
	Croft Junior School
	Glendale Infant School
	Middlemarch Junior School
	Queen's C of E Academy
	St Paul's C of E Primary School
	Stockingford Primary School
Nuneaton North East	All Saint's C of E Primary School
	Chetwynd Junior School
	Lower Farm Academy
	Milby Primary School
	Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Academy
	St Joseph's Catholic Junior School
	St Nicolas C of E Academy
	Weddington Primary School
	Wembrook Primary School
	Whitestone Infant School
Rugby North of the Railway	Boughton Leigh Infant School
	Boughton Leigh Junior School
	Brownsover Community Infant School
	Riverside Academy
	Rugby Free Primary School
Rugby North Central	Abbot's Farm Infant School
	Abbot's Farm Junior School
	Eastlands Primary School
	English Martyrs Catholic Primary School
	Hillmorton Primary School
	Northlands Primary School
	Paddox Primary School
	St Andrew's Benn C of E Primary School
	St Gabriel's C of E Academy
	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore C of E Primary School
Rugby South Central	Oakfield Primary School
	Rokeby Primary School
	St Marie's Catholic Primary School
	St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School
	St Oswald's C of E Primary School

Primary Planning Area	Schools
Rugby West	Bawnmore Infant School
	Bilton Infant School
	Bilton C of E Junior School
	Cawston Grange Primary School
	Henry Hinde Infant School
	Henry Hinde Junior School
Dunchurch	Dunchurch Infant School
	Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior School
	Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School
Rugby Rural	Binley Woods Primary School
	Knightlow C of E Primary School
	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
	Provost Williams C of E Primary School
	Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School
The Revel	The Revel C of E Primary School
Long Lawford	Long Lawford Primary School
Kenilworth	All Saints' C of E Primary School
	Burton Green C of E Primary School
	Clinton Primary School
	Park Hill Junior School
	Priors Field Primary School
	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
	St John's Primary School
	St Nicholas C of E Primary School
	Thorns Infant School
North Leamington	Brookhurst Primary School
	Cubbington C of E Primary School
	Lillington Primary School
	Milverton Primary School
	Our Lady & St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
	St Paul's C of E Primary School
	St Peter's Catholic Primary School
	Telford Infant School
	Telford Junior School

Primary Planning Area	Schools
South Leamington	Bishop's Tachbrook C of E Primary School
	Briar Hill Infant School
	Clapham Terrace Primary School
	Heathcote Primary School
	Kingsway Primary School
	Shrubland Street Primary School
	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
	St Margaret's C of E Junior School
	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
	Sydenham Primary School
	Whitnash Primary School
Radford Semele	Radford Semele C of E Primary School
Southam	Bishop's Itchington Primary School
	Harbury C of E Primary School
	Long Itchington C of E Primary School
	Southam Primary School
	Southam St James' C of E Primary School
	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
	Stockton Primary School
Napton	St Lawrence C of E Primary School
	The Priors School
Warwick	All Saint's C of E Junior School
	Aylesford School (Primary)
	Budbrooke Primary School
	Coten End Primary School
	Emscote Infant School
	Newburgh Primary School
	St Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School
	Westgate Primary School
	Woodloes Primary School
Alcester	Coughton C of E Primary School
	Great Alne Primary School
	Tudor Grange Primary Academy, Haselor
	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
	St Nicholas' C of E Primary School
Bidford	Bidford-On-Avon C of E Primary School
	Dunnington C of E Primary School
	Salford Priors C of E Primary School
	Temple Grafton C of E Primary School
Claverdon	Claverdon Primary School

Primary Planning Area	Schools
Henley	Henley-in-Arden Primary School
	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
	Wootton Wawen C of E Primary School
Tanworth	Tanworth-in-Arden C of E Primary School
The Dassett	The Dassett C of E Primary School
	Temple Herdewyke Primary School
Ettington	Ettington C of E Primary School
Kineton	Kineton C of E Primary School
	Lighthorne Heath Primary School
	Moreton Morrell C of E Primary School
	Wellesbourne C of E Primary School
Tysoe	Tysoe C of E Primary School
Compton and Brailes	Acorns Primary School
	Brailes C of E Primary School
Ilmington	Ilmington C of E Primary School
Quinton	Quinton Primary School
	Tudor Grange Primary Academy, Meon Vale
Shipston	Newbold and Tredington C of E Primary School
	Shipston-on-Stour Primary School
Stratford Rural	Barford St Peter's C of E Primary School
	Hampton Lucy C of E Primary School
	Loxley C of E Primary School
	Snitterfield Primary School
	Wilmcote C of E Primary School
	Wolverton Primary School
Stratford Town	Alveston C of E Primary School
	Bishopton Primary School
	Bridge Town Primary School
	Shottery St Andrew's C of E Primary School
	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School
	Stratford-upon-Avon Primary School
	Thomas Jolyffe Primary School
	Holy Trinity C of E Primary School (formerly The Willows)
Welford	Welford-on-Avon Primary School
Studley	Mappleborough Green C of E Primary School
	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
	Studley St Mary's C of E Academy
	Studley Infant School
Warwick Rural	The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School
	Lapworth C of E Primary School

11. Appendix 2 – Secondary Planning Areas

Secondary Planning Area	Schools
Atherstone	The Queen Elizabeth Academy
Coleshill	The Coleshill School
Kingsbury	Kingsbury School
Polesworth	The Polesworth School
Bedworth	Ash Green School
	Nicholas Chamberlaine School
Hartshill	Hartshill School
Nuneaton	Etone College
	Higham Lane School
	St Thomas More Catholic School
	The George Eliot School
	The Nuneaton Academy
Rugby South	Ashlawn School
	Bilton School
	Harris C of E Academy
	Lawrence Sheriff School
	Rugby High School
	Rugby Free Secondary School
Rugby North	The Avon Valley School
Warwick and Leamington	Aylesford School
	Campion School
	Myton School
	North Leamington School
	Trinity Catholic School
Kenilworth	Kenilworth School
Southam	Southam College
Alcester and Studley	Alcester Academy
	Alcester Grammar School
	St Benedict's Catholic High School
	Studley High School
Henley In Arden	Henley In Arden School
Kineton	Kineton High School
Shipston	Shipston High School
Stratford	King Edward VI School
	Stratford Girls' Grammar School
	Stratford Upon Avon School

12. Appendix 3 – Pupil yield figures

The following pupil yield figures are currently used when calculating the expected additional pupils generated by new housing development.

Area	Current pupil yield per year group, per 100 new homes
North Warwickshire Borough	2.75
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough	2.97
Rugby Borough	4.83
Stratford on Avon District	3.56
Warwick District	4.54

Agenda Item 7

Cabinet

08 October 2020

Warwickshire Education Strategy Update and Refresh

Recommendation

To note the updates on the Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy and endorse the recommendations to refresh it as set out in Appendices 3 and 4

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Following an internal annual review of the Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy 2018-2023 (see **Appendix 1**) and the subsequent collection of stakeholder feedback concluded in the 2020 spring term, changes are proposed to the strategy (see **Appendix 2**) to address the areas identified in need of development and to increase the strategy's overall impact.

1.2 It is proposed that the strategy is refreshed and relaunched with two key documents: a refreshed Education Strategy statement of priorities leaflet (see **Appendix 3**) outlining the framework and the ambitions of the strategy alongside a 'You said, We did' document (see **Appendix 4**) to explain the rationale and directly link the amendments made to the feedback received from stakeholders.

1.3 Feedback from education system stakeholders in Warwickshire suggested that broadly the strategy highlights the priority aspects of education and therefore any refresh should only involve minor modifications rather than a major change or entirely new strategy.

1.4 A key point for development was a clarification of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) priority. Stakeholders were clear that significant change in this area is much needed for resilience. The significance of the SEND change programme was recognised across all phases of education and specifically there is a support for the principle and benefits of delivering an inclusive education system and an increasing appetite for the change projects securing this.

1.5 Stakeholders identified a more ambitious approach to early years education and the benefits that early learning can offer in relation to family resilience and improved learning outcomes. Additionally, there is a strong desire amongst the education community for a change of approach to curriculum development

and education safeguarding as these were flagged as areas that were perhaps more under-developed than they should be.

1.6 Considering this feedback, it was made a priority of the refresh to reconfigure WE2 so that all messaging around SEND is as clear as possible whilst also taking the opportunity to emphasise our commitment to supporting a broad, empowering and creative curriculum and the importance of an inclusive education for learners with SEND and other additional needs.

1.7 It is proposed that the emphasis of WE2 will shift away from curriculum to SEND and vulnerable groups to emphasise the theme of inclusion and reflect the growing level of demand in this area. Meanwhile, curriculum development will become a part of the WE3 Family of Schools priority and a workstream for the Education Challenge Board providing the accountability needed to drive forward this area of work.

1.8 The visual layout of the leaflet has been altered to draw attention to the SEND and Inclusion priority as a key theme that features across all priority areas as we support children throughout their journey from infancy to adulthood.

1.9 Addressing feedback on safeguarding, the statement; “Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of learners is paramount in all areas of work”, has been moved to the main body of the strategy leaflet to emphasise from a visual point of view that this is not something forgotten about when you turn the page, but a value that is embedded across all priorities in the strategy. Additionally, the opportunity has been taken to inform stakeholders of a widening of support for schools on this subject in the ‘You Said, We Did’ document.

1.10 It is also proposed that the ‘WE’ abbreviations are removed from the Education Strategy statement of priorities leaflet and anywhere else they appear in the strategy, as these have previously been identified as a potential barrier to engagement, particularly to those new to the strategy.

1.11 The wording of each section has been amended so that it succinctly summarises the contents of, and directly links to the sub strategies that underpin each of the priorities which are the main vehicles for achieving the objectives stated. These are: ‘Securing the Best Start to Life’, ‘Supporting Inclusion for Learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Including Vulnerable Groups, ‘Celebrating Warwickshire’s Family of Schools’ and ‘Championing Employability’.

1.12 A graph that links the priorities with the relevant sub strategy can be found on our website and will be updated following the approval of the amendments in this paper.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The funding of Education Services resource capacity to enable the continued delivery of the Warwickshire Education Strategy is dependent on both an annual budget setting process and inclusion in the WCC MTFS 2020-2025.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 Sustainability initiatives will be encouraged where appropriate within the Education Strategy.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 A frequently mentioned topic from headteachers attending the spring term heads conference was the challenges they are facing with support for children with additional needs, explaining that they are “struggling to meet the needs of some children” calling for more specialist places in Warwickshire. The existing SEND & Inclusion strategy on the other hand encourages an inclusive education with a key outcome of getting more children with SEND into mainstream settings as the vast majority of children benefit academically, socially, in confidence and self-esteem from education in community mainstream schools rather than in what are often described as more “specialist” settings.

4.2 Such feedback highlights that the WE2d (SEND) section of the strategy in its current form is either not effective in its promotion of an inclusive education and/or that, regardless of the message, not enough support is available for mainstream settings to sufficiently cope. As one headteacher put it: “the rise of need within SEND (low level and complex needs) needs to be captured in a refreshed way within the strategy.”

4.3 Further feedback also indicated that the narrative of WE2 (An Empowering Curriculum) as a whole, is not clearly understood. It was shown that there is not enough evidence of a broad and balanced curriculum or offerings of opportunities for headteachers to educate themselves on curriculum development - “we want to broaden our horizons.”

4.4 Other comments highlighted the foundation of Early Years as “essential from as early an age as possible if we are going to support our most vulnerable families”, supporting our view that securing the best possible start to life is critical for a child’s development and for making progress across several priories in this strategy.

4.5 Another frequent source of comment from leaders highlighted the importance of education safeguarding, particularly following recent Ofsted inspections across the county. Although a statement on safeguarding exists on the front page of the existing strategy leaflet, and work is ongoing to deliver more resilient support for education safeguarding, there is perhaps an opportunity to

reiterate our commitment to the statement and detail progress made in this workstream.

4.6 Youth Parliament told us they want to see more careers education and guidance highlighting a need to engage with this group more as part of the employability priority.

4.7 The matter was considered by the Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14th July 2020 with no comments from the members present against the proposals.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 It is proposed to relaunch the refreshed strategy with approval in September 2020.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Annual Review Autumn 2019
Appendix 2: Warwickshire Education Strategy Leaflet as is
Appendix 3: Warwickshire Education Strategy Leaflet to be
Appendix 4: You Said, We Did

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Philip Ransford	philipransford@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Ian Budd	ianbudd@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning	colinhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was previously shared with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy 2018-2023

‘Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence’

Review

Autumn 2019

Warwickshire County Council

Introduction

The Warwickshire Education Strategy is about keeping the safety, wellbeing and learning experience of children and young people at the heart of everything we do. We value the partnership that underpins this work. We have a shared interest in improving outcomes for children and young people to help them be the best that they can be. We will be a learning partnership, reflecting and taking on board the lessons learned from our own experiences and from comparable organisations.

Ian Budd
Assistant Director for Education Services

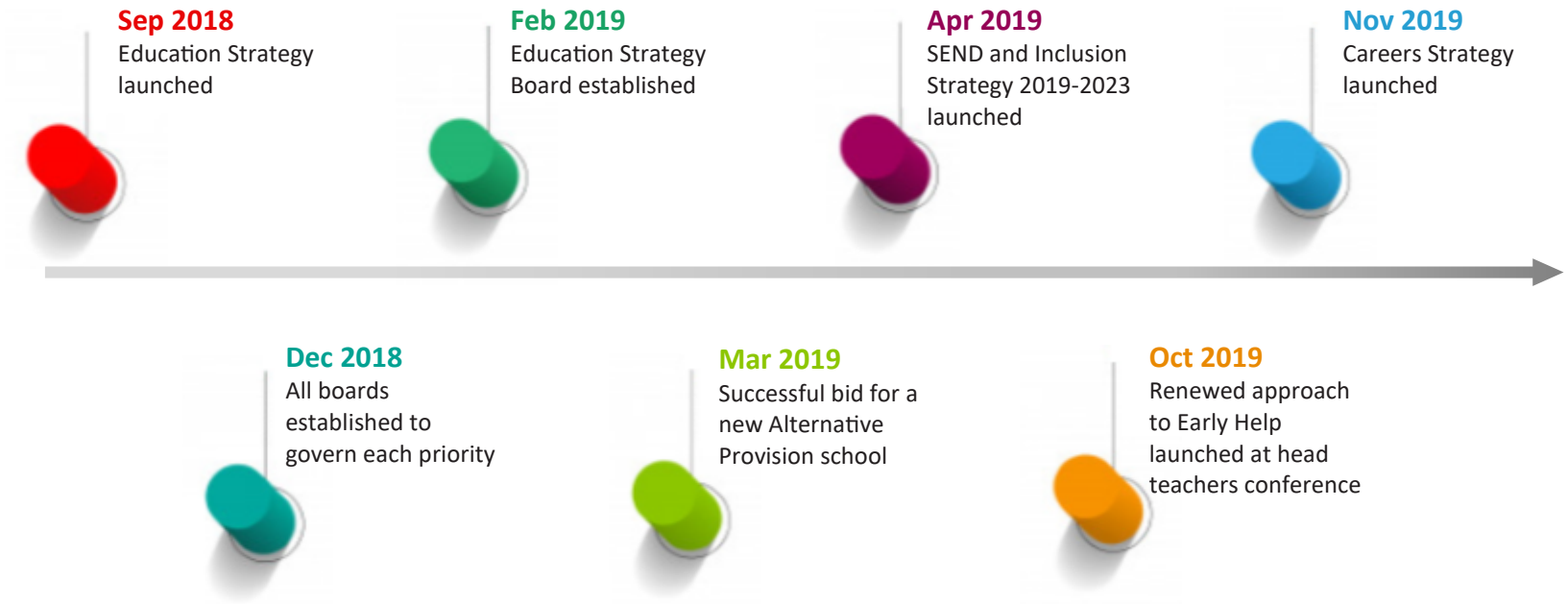
This year we have reintroduced the concept of an annual plan, do, review, analyse cycle for our education strategy. This review is at the heart of that cycle. We will listen to and respect those we serve. We will recognise effort, achievement and contribution. We will be helpful, reliable and accountable for all our actions.

Peter Kent
Chair of the Education Challenge Board and headteacher, Lawrence Sheriff School

Over my 21 years as a headteacher education strategies have come and gone. To be honest the only one that really sticks in my mind or indeed speaks to me about the job I do each day in school, is this one. The brevity and clarity of the document are entirely admirable, but for me the part that really matters is it's ongoing commitment to us all working together to co-construct the future in the best interests of children in Warwickshire.

This annual review provides a very encouraging assessment of our successes to date. Whilst much has already been achieved, we recognise that there is still work to do and will continue to draw on that spirit of shared enterprise as we move towards the ambitious goals that we have set ourselves.

The journey so far



Early Years

Our challenge is to foster children's love of learning from birth through early childhood and into Year 1 so that all young children achieve their potential.

Together, we will champion the **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS). In 2018/19 we will:

- co-ordinate high quality training
- help parents to provide language-rich learning at home
- secure sufficient childcare
- check that safeguarding arrangements are robust.

Achievements in 2018/19:

- Early Years Aspiration Networks launched to provide workforce development opportunities to improve quality of provision and outcomes for children
- Early Years board established to govern and implement this priority
- Integrated Early Years Strategy 2020-25 drafted
- The percentage of early years providers that are judged by Ofsted as good / outstanding in Warwickshire continues to exceed the national figure
- Early Years sufficiency assessment completed for 2019 concluding that the supply of early years and childcare places in Warwickshire is good

Next steps:

Publish an integrated Early Years strategy that is endorsed by Warwickshire Cabinet and is sufficiently resourced

Embed the work of the Early Years Board to monitor the Early years strategy

Secure funding for a ring-fenced budget for 2-year olds with physical disabilities to enable them to access provision

Future Priorities:

Improve support for workforce development across the sector to improve quality standards

Provide support for the Early Years sector to improve the home learning environment

In Focus

The gap in Good Level of Development at age five for disadvantaged compared with non-disadvantaged learners has increased in Warwickshire reflecting the national picture.

The draft early years strategy considers approaches to closing the gap for the early years cohort. Closing the gap remains a priority across all formal key stages in this strategy

Learners Currently Missing Education

Next steps:

Identify a sponsor for new AP free school

Ensure new AP free school is fit for purpose to support the WCC strategy

Continue development of the alternative provision offer within the primary school sector

Continue to support existing AP providers to become registered with the DfE and deliver value for money.

Ongoing review of the ABP structures and procedures maximising the success of the reintegration of vulnerable children through managed moves or FAP

The wellbeing of **Learners currently missing education** will improve as will their educational outcomes.

By September 2019, all children and young people of school-age will have a suitable educational placement, and will be enjoying their learning. We will support children and young people who find conventional schooling difficult so that they can still achieve their potential.

Achievements in 2018/19:

Alternative Provision framework launched in Dec 2018 with second round of providers added in summer 2019

New single Fair Access Protocol for primary and secondary launched.

Elective Home Education parents forum launched developing positive links between EHE families and the LA

Successful bid for a new Alternative Provision free school that will cater for some of the most vulnerable children in Warwickshire

AP alliance which is supporting alternative providers to raise standards through the quality assurance processes and preparation for registration with the DfE

New managed move protocol established and working effectively, showing a 50% reduction in permanent exclusions

In Focus

Reduce the length of time that children remain in Alternative Provision (AP) following permanent exclusions by preparing them for reintegration into mainstream via the fair access protocol.

This will mean that children will have access to a broader and balanced curriculum within their mainstream that is not always available in Alternative Provision improving their life chances.

Learners eligible for Pupil Premium

In Focus

Warwickshire disadvantaged leaners attainment in all formally assessed Key Stages compared to national disadvantage attainment shows Warwickshire is behind:

Closing the gap board agreed a change of emphasis that closing the gap be a priority across all related services

	2018 (WCC)	2018 (national)
EYFSP (GLD)	56%	57%
Phonics	70%	72%
KS2 (RWM)	47%	51%
KS4 (E&M)	22%	25%

Achievements in 2018/19:

- Primary admissions 2020/21 oversubscription criteria now includes disadvantaged children to increase their chances of getting a place at their preferred school
- Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) narrowing the gap project RAG rated green overall before the DfE ended the programme
- Nuneaton Education Strategy launched as part of the transforming Nuneaton programme
- Refresh of web pages improving the application process for Free School Meals has achieved an increase in applications
- Disadvantaged learners in all formally assessed Key Stages are reaching at least the levels of the equivalent cohort nationally.
- The first priority of the Warwickshire School Improvement Strategy is the close the gap for disadvantaged

The gaps between the achievements of learners eligible for **Pupil Premium**: and those of their peers, will narrow, particularly at age 11 and 16.

We will celebrate the achievement of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding and we will give those who need it, extra support to catch up. We will check on this every November from 2019 to 2023.

Next steps:

Publish delivery plan for the Nuneaton Strategy and support its roll out across the three task groups; best start, ready for working life, empowering schools

Establish an alternative set of measures to demonstrate impact of closing the gap work in Warwickshire

Future priorities:

Working to improve the number of 11+ pupils accessing the 11+ test by disadvantages

Secure funding for the continuation of key projects that support disadvantaged pupils in Warwickshire

Children who are Looked After

Children who are Looked After will be supported to reach their potential.

We will provide a wide range of opportunities such as leisure activities and apprenticeships. We will remove barriers and raise educational aspirations for Children who are Looked After and Care Leavers.

Achievements in 2018/19:

- Positive changes to school cultures with an increase in Attachment Aware, Trauma Informed Schools and Designated training reducing fixed term exclusions
- Virtual School service infrastructure consolidated to implement this priority
- Virtual School Advisory Board established to govern and implement this priority
- Revised and developed processes to better support Children Looked After with an EHC plan in times of transition
- Effectively meeting revised duties around children previously looked after and working closely with the adoption team to improve educational experience and outcomes

In Focus

Warwickshire's attainment gap between Children Looked After and all children has increased in 2019 whilst the national gap has decreased however the progress data is positive.

Further analysis is being undertaken to fully understand the cause of this gap increase with additional data available in the Spring term.

	2018 (WCC)	2018 (National)	2019 (WCC)	2019 (National)
EYFSP (GLD)	2.4%	24.5%	21.8%	22.8%
KS1	11.5%	38.4%	12.3%	37.9%
KS2 (RWM)	26.2%	40.3%	30.7%	37.2%
KS4 (E&M)	28.9%	35.5%	35.1%	33.3%

Next Steps:

To assess and develop the offer of Warwickshire Schools that have an offer for asylum seekers and raise awareness of Asylum seeker needs in all Warwickshire schools

Support and challenge schools to understand and manage the causes of behaviour problems that lead to exclusions.

Encourage schools to continue their support for children that have moved location until they find a new permanent school place.

Future priorities:

Develop Virtual School Governance Board to enhance support for Warwickshire's Children Looked After (CLA), CLA living in Warwickshire and Children Previously Looked After

Learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

In Focus

Significant overspend forecasted for learners with high needs, children with disabilities and transport for SEND reflecting the national picture:

Parliamentary select committee concluded that Local Authorities across the UK have a significant shortfall in funding whilst the National Audit Office has declared the system for supporting pupils with SEND financially unsustainable.

WCC's proportion of the £700m additional funding for SEND across the nation announced by the DfE for 2020-21 only offsets a small proportion of the forecasted overspend. WCC are continuing to push for government reforms.

Achievements in 2018/19:

- 93% of children with EHC Plans in Good or Outstanding Schools; all specialist provision judged Good
- % of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks has increased from 60% in 2018 to 86% across the first three quarters in 2019
- 57 supported internships in Warwickshire
- SEND and Inclusion Strategy launched in April 2019 identifying a further six priorities in this area
- All statements converted to EHCPs meeting DfE SEND reform requirements
- Peer review highlighted strengths in relation to; robust working practices for Early Years, supported internships and employability aspirations and supporting children with complex needs
- 54 Early Years' settings have achieved the WIncKs status with a school aged pilot version launched in 15 schools

Learners with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** (SEND) will be able to succeed in schools and settings close to home, and they will be supported towards becoming independent and employable.

We will continue to increase the number of high quality places in Warwickshire special and mainstream schools and settings. We will ensure that legal requirements for SEND assessments are met.

Next steps:

Implement and monitor SEND and Inclusion Strategy

To review and update the SEND Provision Matrix making it clear to schools and parent and carers what is expected as a graduated response to individual needs.

To publish a Warwickshire joint commissioning plan for learners with SEND, setting out how local needs are to be met through the local offer services.

To work with employers, schools and colleges to increase the offer of supported internships

Strengthen practice around co-production with parents and young people

Learners with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs

Next steps:

Work with NHS colleagues to ensure good places for schools and trainees

Work with DFE to facilitate Mental Health Lead training

Complete review of SEMH provision in Warwickshire Schools

Continue roll out of WISSSP project

Future Priorities:

Secure long term funding for SEMH

Good practice sharing established through School Improvement's WISSSP and Family Wellbeing's SEMH audit

As a result of nurturing support from local communities, professionals, parents and learners with **social, emotional and mental health needs** will grow in confidence.

We will help learners to bounce back when things get tough by developing expertise in colleges, classes, schools and settings to support resilience and emotional wellbeing. We will provide clear routes to access local support services.

We will implement a Warwickshire Workload Charter to help school leaders demonstrate that staff workload is reducing.

Achievements in 2018/19:

Supporting the South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in its roll out of the Mental Health Trailblazer; the government's new approach to supporting children and young people with mental health issues

Following the successful pilot of a dedicated nurse lead for Emotional Mental Health & Wellbeing within the School Health and Wellbeing Service, the role has been embedded as a core part of the new contract from November 2019

12 schools have achieved the Warwickshire Fair Workload Charter

Hub schools established to work together to develop a sustainable model which meets needs of their children and young people as part of the WISSSP project

Pilot CYP coaching programme is being rolled out in Nuneaton secondary schools as part of the Nuneaton Education Strategy

In Focus

The Warwickshire Improving SEMH and SEND in Schools Project (WISSSP) aims to help mainstream schools to meet the needs of their most challenging children through workforce development. This project has been rolled out since summer 2019 and continues until December 2020.

The funding for WISSSP and other projects supporting young people with SEMH is a non WCC controlled, finite resource and as such there is no specific financial commitment to this priority. A future priority is to secure the sustainability of this priority with a longer term funding plan.

Warwickshire's Family of Schools

Our challenge is for all learners to enjoy a high quality learning experience.

We will celebrate Warwickshire's **Family of Schools**: teaching schools, school companies, academies, community, Diocesan, maintained, multi-academy trusts, nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and school governors.

We will, on an annual basis:

- Anticipate growth in demand for places, maximising use of capital funding in local areas
- Efficiently administer school admissions.
- Continue to support governors in their vital role. The Warwickshire Challenge Board will continue to lead and coordinate school improvement and will organise support for schools facing difficulties. Teaching schools and multi-academy trusts will be invited to contribute to the school-led system. In 2019 a new 'App' will be developed to promote the success of Warwickshire schools in relation to WE 1, 2, 3 and 4

'App' development discontinued following further consultation with schools

Achievements in 2018/19:

Sufficiency strategy published 2018 along with subsequent annual sufficiency update in June 2019

WCC's capital investment in Warwickshire's family of schools totalling £30m

Nuneaton Education Strategy launched as part of the transforming Nuneaton programme

The percentage of Warwickshire pupils achieving the expected standard in all formally assessed key stages is better than or in line with national average

Since 2017, 56% of schools judged as less than good have, when re-inspected achieved a good or better outcome

Redesign of web pages improving the application process for Admissions

Warwickshire School Improvement Strategy published with WCC as the champion of educational excellence

In Focus

Nuneaton has the lowest educational performance within Warwickshire with 44% of secondary school aged young people attending a school in the town which is judged by Ofsted to require improvement. BUILD ON STRENGTH

The Nuneaton Education Strategy is focused on 'Raising Aspiration, Working Together' with a multi-agency approach to improve education and prospects for the young people of Nuneaton.

Key stakeholders have now begun to work as three Task and Finish groups focused on the identified priorities:

- Best start possible start (0-5)
- Promoting Learning (5-19)
- Ready for work and life (16+)

Next steps:

Support development of the Warwickshire school improvement partnership

Publish delivery plan for the Nuneaton Strategy and support its roll out

Refresh the school improvement strategy

Future priorities:

Source funding for school improvement statutory functions

Independent travel training for pupils in special schools

Employability

Our challenge is to champion **employability** by promoting the best opportunities for all learners so that:

- The local economy can grow
- Young people can take on the responsibilities of adult life and wider participation in higher education
- Adult learners contribute to the local economy
- Young people make informed choices
- Young people move successfully into sustainable employment

We will develop and implement a county careers strategy, including apprenticeships, introduction of T-levels, monitoring numbers not in education, employment or training and liaison with the widening participation strategy

Achievements in 2018/19:

- Warwickshire Careers Hub established and integrated with WCC's Skills for Employment programme
- Supportive employers forum established enabling businesses to offer employment opportunities to young people with SEND
- 57 supported internships in Warwickshire
- Small businesses apprentice support programme launched
- New Careers Strategy developed and approved by cabinet ready for launch in 2020
- Promoted careers and apprenticeships hosting a range of events
- Supported 6,000 pupils with the Digital School House project that provides a creative, digital careers education in a series of events across Warwickshire

Next Steps:

Launch the Careers Strategy

Launch new section of the website to aid discovery employment and career opportunities

Deliver 'My World of Work' to raise awareness of careers and employment opportunities in the county's priority sectors

Continue work with supportive employers forum

Future Priorities:

Develop a strategic approach around digital skills

In Focus

The percentage of 16-17 year-olds on apprenticeships is rising in Warwickshire whilst nationally numbers are falling (shown below).

Warwickshire NEETs planning and coordination group and the Skills for Employment Programme that work with schools to improve the skills of young people, raising awareness of apprenticeship opportunities and help them find employment are schemes that can be attributed to the success.

	National	WCC	
2017	6.4%	6.0%	▼
2018	5.9%	6.6%	▲
2019	5.5%	7.6%	▲

The way forward

Refreshed delivery plan

We want to raise the aspirations of the Education Strategy to achieve more for Warwickshire

Annual Cycle

Annually, we will pause for reflection each Autumn to review the Strategy with progress against key objectives reported on a termly basis

Refresh the strategy

The Education Strategy will be refreshed in Spring 2020 as we reflect on the first 18 months of the strategy and feedback we've received

Co-production

Co-production remains at the heart of this strategy and we wish to ensure this theme continues. We will develop a form to collect feedback on how we're doing

Looking ahead - our work programme 2019/20

Review and refresh completion

We will refresh the education strategy so that it strives to achieve more and continues to meet needs in Warwickshire

⇒ Gather and review feedback from partners on Education Strategy

⇒ Combine delivery plan and dataset for enhanced visualisation of progress against our key deliverables

⇒ Publish refreshed Education Strategy

Annual reporting

We will begin the annual reporting cycle which includes:

⇒ Spring, Summer and Autumn progress summaries

⇒ Case study showcasing good practice

⇒ Annual Autumn review - published Spring 2021

Continued focus on priorities

Although the Education Strategy has been refreshed, the strategic priorities remain the focus:

⇒ Foster children's love of learning

⇒ Promote a broad and empowering curriculum

⇒ Celebrate Warwickshire's family of schools

⇒ Champion employability

This page is intentionally left blank

WE3

Our challenge is for all learners to enjoy a high quality learning experience.

We will celebrate **Warwickshire's Family of Schools**: teaching schools, school companies, academies, community, Diocesan, maintained, multi-academy trusts, nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and school governors.

WCC will, on an annual basis:

- Anticipate growth in demand for places, maximising use of capital funding in local areas
- Efficiently administer school admissions.
- Continue to support governors in their vital role.

The Warwickshire Challenge Board will continue to lead and coordinate school improvement and will organise support for schools facing difficulties. Teaching schools and multi-academy trusts will be invited to contribute to the school-led system. In 2019 a new 'App' will be developed to promote the success of Warwickshire schools in relation to WE 1, 2, 3 and 4.

WE4

Our challenge is to champion **employability** by promoting the best opportunities for all learners so that:

- The local economy can grow
- Young people can take on the responsibilities of adult life and wider participation in higher education
- Adult learners contribute to the local economy
- Young people make informed choices
- Young people move successfully into sustainable employment

We will develop and implement a county careers strategy, including apprenticeships, introduction of T-levels, monitoring numbers not in education, employment or training and liaison with the widening participation strategy.

WE1 Early Years

WE2 An Empowering curriculum

WE3 Family of Schools

WE4 Employability

Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy 2018-2023

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of learners is paramount In all areas of work.

Warwickshire County Council

WE will:

If you require a different format please contact Marketing and Communications Tel. 01926 413727

WE1

Our challenge is to foster children's love of learning from birth through early childhood and into Year 1 so that all young children achieve their potential.

Together, we will champion the **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS). In 2018/19 we will:

- co-ordinate high quality training
- help parents to provide language-rich learning at home
- secure sufficient childcare
- check that safeguarding arrangements are robust.

WE2

Our challenge is to promote a broad, empowering and creative curriculum, focusing on times of transition, and prioritising vulnerable groups:

WE2 (a) The wellbeing of **Learners currently missing education** will improve as will their educational outcomes.

By September 2019, all children and young people of school-age will have a suitable educational placement, and will be enjoying their learning. We will support children and young people who find conventional schooling difficult so that they can still achieve their potential.

WE2 (b) The gaps between the achievements of learners eligible for **Pupil Premium**: and those of their peers, will narrow, particularly at age 11 and 16.

We will celebrate the achievement of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding and we will give those who need it, extra support to catch up. We will check on this every November from 2019 to 2023.

WE2 (c) Children who are Looked After will be supported to reach their potential.

We will provide a wide range of opportunities such as leisure activities and apprenticeships. We will remove barriers and raise educational aspirations for Children who are Looked After and Care Leavers.

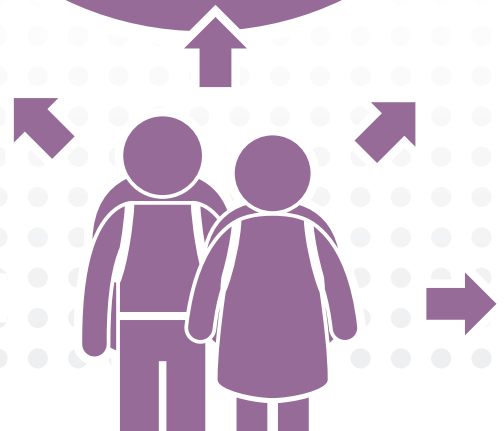
WE2 (d) Learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be able to succeed in schools and settings close to home, and they will be supported towards becoming independent and employable.

We will continue to increase the number of high quality places in Warwickshire special and mainstream schools and settings. We will ensure that legal requirements for SEND assessments are met.

WE2 (e) As a result of nurturing support from local communities, professionals, parents and learners with **social, emotional and mental health needs** will grow in confidence.

We will help learners to bounce back when things get tough by developing expertise in colleges, classes, schools and settings to support resilience and emotional wellbeing. We will provide clear routes to access local support services.

We will implement a Warwickshire Workload Charter to help school leaders demonstrate that staff workload is reducing.



Championing Employability

Our challenge is to champion employability by promoting the best opportunities so that:

- Young people can access high quality careers information, advice and guidance on a range of opportunities to make informed choices
- Young people transition successfully from education and learning into sustainable employment
- Our most vulnerable learners are particularly supported to achieve positive destinations
- Young people not in education, employment or training are supported to re-engage
- There is effective employer engagement so that education providers and young people are aware of opportunities and skills needed both now, and in the future
- Residents of all ages develop and acquire new skills throughout their lives
- The local economy can grow

We will implement and monitor Warwickshire's Careers Strategy (2019/20-2024/25), secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for young people, maintain the Local Offer; setting out what services and support are available for local young people with SEND and continuously monitor numbers of young people not in education, employment or training.

Early Years

SEND & Inclusion

Family of Schools

Employability

Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy 2018-2023

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

Warwickshire County Council

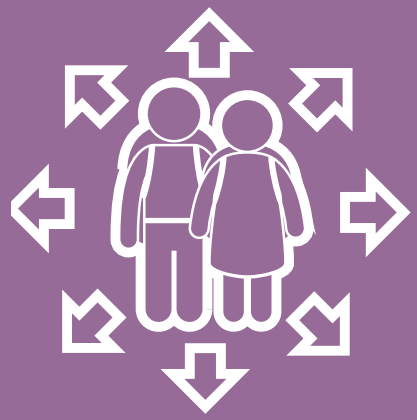
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of learners is paramount in all areas of work.

Supporting Inclusion for Learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Including Vulnerable Groups

In Warwickshire, all children and young people have the right to lead a fulfilling life and be part of their community. Our challenge is to provide an inclusive education for all children and young people within Warwickshire with a particular focus on vulnerable groups:

- SEND
- Learners missing education
- Disadvantaged learners
- Children who are looked after and care leavers
- Learners with social, emotional and mental health needs

The aim will be to turn high aspirations for all learners into a reality. We will work with partners including parents/carers, children and young people, education settings from early years to post 16 and employers to ensure our learners fulfill their potential and that their individual needs are met. We will work to narrow the gap between the achievement of all learners and their peers.



Securing the Best Start to Life

Our challenge is to foster children's love of learning from birth through early childhood and into Year 1 so that all young children achieve their potential.

Together, we will champion the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) so that all children have the best start and can be ready to learn and ready for life.

Our vision is underpinned by five core values:

- All children will have the opportunity to achieve their potential
- The importance of early childhood education is understood by all
- Inclusion and access. All children are included and can access early years services
- All children will receive a good or better early childhood education
- Children and experience responsive and joined up services

Celebrating Warwickshire's Family of Schools

Our challenge is for all learners to enjoy a high-quality learning experience through a broad, empowering and creative curriculum.

We will celebrate Warwickshire's Family of Schools, coordinate school improvement and will organise support for schools facing difficulties.

WCC will, on an annual basis:

- Anticipate growth in demand for places, maximising use of capital funding in local areas
- Efficiently administer school admissions and home to school transport
- Continue to support governors in their vital role

The Warwickshire Challenge Board will oversee the development of a sustainable self-improving education system which offers peer support and curriculum development opportunities for Warwickshire's family of schools to ensure that every child and young person receives a place at a school which offers a high-quality education

Warwickshire Education Strategy Refresh 2020

You Said, We Did

We asked Warwickshire's education system stakeholders for their views on the Warwickshire Education Strategy 2018-2023 and suggestions on how should be refreshed and refocused after two years. The key points made are shown under the 'You Said' column and our actions are indicated under 'We Did'.

	You Said	We Did
1	The priorities currently identified in the strategy are still the most significant aspects of education to focus on	Kept a focus on Early Years, SEND and Vulnerable Groups, School Improvement, Curriculum, Education Safeguarding and Employability.
2	Headteachers asked "where is there evidence of a broad and balanced curriculum?" and told us "we want to broaden our horizons." Parents also raised concerns about a "shrinking curriculum and reduced activities such as music, sport, art etc."	Moved "promote a broad, empowering and creative curriculum" out of WE2 to WE3 Family of Schools where it will become a workstream for the Education challenge board.
3	Headteachers commented on the challenges they face with providing support for children with additional needs explaining that they are "struggling to meet the needs of some children" asking for "more resourced and alternative provision" and advised that "the rise of need within SEND (low level and complex needs) needs to be captured in a refreshed way within the strategy."	WE2 has been reconfigured and renamed 'SEND and Inclusion' to emphasise our commitment to supporting with additional learning needs and our policy of achieving this through the promotion of an inclusive education. As detailed in the SEND & Inclusion Strategy, the vast majority of children benefit academically, socially, in confidence and self-esteem from education in community mainstream schools rather than further away from home or in what are often described as more "specialist" settings.
4	"Schools are being expected to provide counselling & therapy for children."	Support for children with additional Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs remains a key priority for the redeveloped WE2 SEND & Inclusion strategy.
5	"Safeguarding thresholds too high and all put on school"	Attention to safeguarding remains a commitment of the strategy as outlined on the front page of the strategy leaflet "Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of learners is a paramount in all areas of work". This statement has been moved to the main body of the strategy leaflet to ensure the message is not forgotten about when you turn the page but

		is firmly embedded across all priorities in the strategy. We will continue recent work to deliver more resilient support for education safeguarding in the future.
6	"The foundation of Early Years is essential if we are going to support our most vulnerable families. We need to start as early as possible!"	Kept Early Years as a main objective as we recognise the importance of ensuring the best start to life. An Integrated Early Years strategy has been drafted in continuation of our commitment to this priority. The role of SEND and Inclusion to support vulnerable families from an early age is acknowledged. We have shifted the emphasis of WE2 to SEND & Inclusion and reconfigured the strategy leaflet to visually demonstrate the significance of this priority across all phases of a child's education including early years.
7	Youth Parliament told us they want to see more careers education and guidance	A key objective of the WE4 Employability priority is that young people can access high quality careers information, advice and guidance on a range of opportunities to make informed choices. We will continue to champion employability by promoting the best opportunities to achieve this.
8	Don't know how to get involved in shaping the strategy	We have added a 'Play Your Part' section to the Warwickshire Education Strategy webpages which details ways in which you can contribute
9	"Communication of the progress being made within the strategy could be communicated in a stronger way"	Following on from the 2019 Annual Review, we will continue our annual and continue to update and develop the 'Our Progress' section of the Warwickshire Education Strategy webpages. Headteachers will continue to be informed of ongoing activities across each of the strategy's priorities including key developments in the weekly heads up newsletter.

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Integrated Risk Management Plan: Assurance Panel

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the proposals set out within this paper to oversee the delivery of WFRS' new Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and to monitor progress against the subsequent annual action plans.

2. That Cabinet establishes an Integrated Risk Management Plan: Assurance Panel as set out in paragraph 2.1 chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety with nominations to the Panel to be sought from the Group Leaders.

1.0 Key Issues

1.1 Previous experience: members of the previous IRMP Task and Finish Group held the view that the meetings between cross party members and officers of WFRS provided a valuable opportunity to consider and discuss fire and rescue issues in greater depth than is normally possible in formal meetings.

1.2 National Reports: The State of Fire Report: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019, Sir Thomas Winsor states that Fire Authorities need assurance that fire services are working efficiently and effectively resourcing to risk. WFRS' IRMP addresses these areas and sets out plans for managing foreseeable future risks. Sir Thomas goes on to say that this assurance should be provided through a robust performance management framework that includes regular scrutiny by Members of the Fire Authority.

1.3 The Local Government Association (LGA) recently published a governance guidance document for Fire Authority members; 'Leading the Fire Sector: Oversight of Fire and Rescue Performance'. A key recommendation within this guidance is that Fire Authorities ensure that effective scrutiny is embedded within their governance arrangements.

2.0 Options and Proposal

2.1 To create a cross-party IRMP assurance panel and widen its remit to ensure continual overview and monitoring of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). Whilst the political balance rules do not formally apply a panel size of 6 elected members would normally comprise 4 Con; 1 Lab; 1 Liberal Democrat. It is intended that the Panel should have maximum flexibility in the way that it operates. It is not intended

to operate as a formal committee and the access to information framework will not be applicable.

2.2 The Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is a technical document and involves assessing all Fire and Rescue related risk and vulnerability across the community of Warwickshire. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO), utilising his technical and operational competence, will develop and produce the IRMP and present this to Council for approval. Cabinet will then consider this against the financial and political environment and agree the actions for the next 12 months. The CFO will then, again through their technical and operational competence, deliver the IRMP on a day to day basis.

2.3. The role of the IRMP assurance panel is to ensure that the CFO is delivering the elements of the IRMP on a day to day basis in line with the agreed action plan to ensure that the best possible service is being provided to the communities of Warwickshire.

2.4 The role of the CFO is to own and lead the delivery of the IRMP on a day to day basis, ensuring the operational delivery of key services to the communities of Warwickshire.

2.5 It is suggested that the membership of the Panel should be:

Portfolio Holder
3 Conservatives
1 Labour
1 Liberal Democrat

There is also an option for the Portfolio Holder to ask a peer from another FRS to be a guest on the panel to provide a peer assessment of the delivery of the IRMP within Warwickshire. This is to create an environment of peer learning and support.

2.6 Terms of Reference

- To act as a 'critical friend' in order to challenge and monitor the delivery of the Integrated Risk Management Plan.
- To use a blend of qualitative and quantitative evidence to understand performance
- To provide independent scrutiny of the IRMP and its workstreams.
- To performance manage WFRS against the objectives set within each year's IRMP action plan.
- To act as enablers for any potential barriers to achieving objectives.
- To champion the IRMP and the work supporting it.
- To assist WFRS link in with other corporate strategic documents that are working to address the same areas.

2.7 Governance

The assurance panel will share the outcomes of its work with Corporate Board and provide update performance reports to Cabinet and escalate risks to objectives when necessary to Cabinet.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 None relating to this specific report, but financial implications would be considered during enactment of the measures proposed.

4.0 Environmental Implications

4.1 None relating to this specific report, but environmental implications would be considered during enactment of the measures proposed.

5.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

IRMP 2020/+A1:C2725 Corporate Governance Timeline for presentation at the 16.03.2021 Council Meeting

	Date	Event
Council Deadlines	01.02.2021	Draft IRMP 2025 and Consultation Report and Analysis on forward plan for 16.03.2021 council meeting
	07.03.2021	Finalisation of the report for Council
	16.03.2021	Draft IRMP and Consultation Report and Analysis considered for approval at full council meeting
Cabinet Deadlines	30.12.2020	Draft IRMP 2025 and Consultation Report and Analysis on forward plan for 11.02.2021 Cabinet meeting
	11.02.2021	Cabinet consideration of proposals for Council
Consultation Analysis and Report Writing	07.12.2020 to 05.01.2021	3 week analysis and 2 week report writing - bearing in mind Christmas
Consultation Period (8 weeks)	12.10.2020 to 06.12.2020	Proposed 8 weeks consultation period

6.0 Background papers

6.1. None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Ben Brook (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)	E: benbrook@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 07827231291
Assistant Director	Kieran Amos	kieranamos@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Andy Crump	cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Members: None
Other Members: Councillors Warwick, Singh Birdi, Falp, Boad and O'Rourke

Agenda Item 9

Cabinet

8th October 2020

Strategic Framework 2020- 2025 – Gypsy, Roma and Traveller provision in Warwickshire

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1) Approve the strategic priorities for Gypsy and Traveller Provision, set out in this report as the Strategic Framework for Gypsies and Travellers 2020-2025.

2) Approve the intention to establish a Warwickshire Multi Agency Gypsy and Traveller Hub which:-

    - Provides a consistent countywide approach to addressing unauthorised encampments.

    - Provides a co-ordinated approach to all other forms of management of local authority sites, including welfare, education, employment support, addressing discrimination and the use of enforcement powers to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour;

    - Works with planning services and private landowners to provide adequate site provision.

3) Agrees that a policy for long and short term site provision for Gypsies and Travellers together with an allocations policy will be developed with key partners and representatives of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community with a view to a further report being presented to Cabinet for approval in the Spring 2021.

1. Summary

This report sets out the strategic direction of Warwickshire County Council working in partnership with health, education and police, to the provision of suitable, well managed sites and services which protect and support both the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities as well as local residents and businesses.

2. Financial Implications

2.1. There are financial implications in the establishment of the partnership Gypsy and Traveller Hub. These costs primarily relate to maintaining the educational support provided by EMTAS for 2020/21 and beyond and do not represent an increase in expenditure. It is estimated that the equivalent costs of a post to provide this education support would be in the region of £30,000

2.2. The current council-maintained sites of The Griff, Pathlow and Alvecote require capital investment. This includes fencing improvements, increased CCTV and improved drainage and sewerage provision to Pathlow and Alvecote. The costs have been estimated at £135,000. The breakdown is as follows:-

- Fencing and associated costs £45,000
- Boundary realignment at Pathlow £70,000
- CCTV for Alvecote £20,000

2.3. The most significant capital investment relates to The Griff. At present the site provides static chalets to 25 pitches. These chalets are over 10 years old and the service is experiencing increased pressure on replacing the static homes as they come to the end of their lifespan. Reviewing the total annual maintenance costs for 2018/19 and 2019/20 the total cost was £163,000 including the refurbishment of two static chalets. Replacing like for like is financially prohibitive as a new static chalet would cost in the region of £27,000, including £3,000 for removal and disposal of the current chalets. In summary, the cost of replacing 24 chalets over the next 2 year period would be £648,000

2.4. A cost-effective solution and one which aligns the provision across all of the other council maintained sites, is to replace the current static chalets with day room provision for each pitch. The overall capital costs for these improvements is estimated at £410,000.

2.5. Based on the average repairs and maintenance cost of dayroom provision at Pathlow and Alvecote over the past two years, this would significantly reduce the annual maintenance costs at The Griff by approximately 50% per annum.

2.6. In summary, once the Days Rooms are completed, the annual maintenance costs would reduce from £81,500 to approximately £40,000 per annum.

2.7. The financial implications for the management and sustainability of Warwickshire County Council managed sites will be subject to further work, including a detailed assessment and project plan with clear recommendations.

2.8. Further financial implications will form part of the policy review, based on the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework and will be reported to Corporate Board in the Spring 2021 prior to seeking Cabinet approval. This will include

costs associated with the establishment of the Partnership Traveller Hub and partnership contributions.

2.9. Funding for the capital improvements would take place as part of an overall 2 year improvement programme and form part of the County Council's overall Capital Investment Fund Programme. A submission and project plan has been made to the Capital Investment Fund for approval. It should be noted that the capital investments highlighted in this report, still requires approval through the Capital Investment Fund programme.

2.10. This report is not seeking either approval or the granting of authority for any capital funding. This will be undertaken through the formal Capital Investment Fund process with Cabinet and Council approval as required.

2.11. All other financial implications connected to this strategy will be absorbed within the County Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy or in collaboration with partners.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1. There are potential environmental implications in the establishment of additional site provision. However, such provision will be limited as the additional provision will be sought within the proximity of current sites.

3.2. Reductions in unauthorised encampments will reduce environmental damage, specifically related to large scale or criminal fly-tipping, which give rise to significant detriment to the environment and removal costs.

4. Supporting Information

4.1. The Gypsy Roma and Irish Traveller culture and traditions have developed through a nomadic way of life over centuries. They are recognised as ethnic groups under the Race Relations Act 1976, and they are protected by the Equality Act 2010.

4.2. Historically there has been a lack of data in relation to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The Census data in 2011 enabled data to be collected on Gypsy, Traveller and Irish Travellers for the first time and 63,000 people in the UK identified as members of these groups, although this is widely accepted to be an underestimate and a figure of around 300,000 is often used.

4.3. **In 1994 the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** abolished statutory obligations on local authorities to provide accommodation and discontinued Government grants for sites. As a result, nationally, the provision of sites and places to stop for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities has not kept pace with demand, leading to increasing homelessness and forcing families into permanent "bricks and mortar" accommodation.

4.4. Numerous national reports carried out over the last two decades have highlighted the inequalities faced by The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. These include education attainment, attendance and exclusion, employment, health, criminal justice including over representation in both the youth justice system and prison estate, hate crime/ incidents, domestic abuse, bullying and lack of suitable, stable and safe accommodation.

4.5. In 2015 the Equalities and Human Rights Commission concluded that the life chances of Gypsies and Travellers have declined since 2010 and the complex contributory factors may include deprivation, social exclusion and discrimination.

4.6 Provision in Warwickshire

4.6.1. There are estimated to be approximately 400 pitches provided across Warwickshire. This is made up of a mixture of privately owned sites and local authority sites. Over 75% of sites are privately owned and maintained.

4.6.2. The statutory responsibility under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 for meeting the housing needs of those within the District/Borough boundaries rest with District and Borough councils as the Housing Authority and not the County Council. However, to ensure there is a consistent approach, the County Council has taken responsibility for the site management, repairs, maintenance and improvement of current local authority provision across the County.

4.7 Our vision

Our vision is to create strong partnerships across all sectors to provide provision that addresses inequality and creates community cohesion within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, local residents and businesses.

4.8 Our Strategic Priorities

4.8.1. Warwickshire County Council, working in partnership with local Districts, Borough and partner organisations, including police, health services and education has a number of strategic priorities in achieving our shared vision.

4.8.2. We recognise that providing a multi-agency approach which includes all agencies which have a vested interest in providing well managed and well-maintained Gypsy and Traveller provision, which creates community cohesion, is vital. Our strategic priorities reflect this approach and are shared by our partners at a District and Borough Level and with police, health services and education partners.

4.8.3 In April 2019 there was a joint partnership summit, hosted by Warwickshire County Council and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. The

summit focused on the effective management of unauthorised encampments in Warwickshire and collaborative working in Warwickshire, the region and national best practice.

4.8.4 The core themes and priorities agreed at the Summit, form the basis of this 5 year Strategic Framework.

4.9 Our strategic priorities 2020 -2025

4.9.1 Priority 1

To recognise and positively promote the culture and traditions of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities and address discrimination

The Gypsy, Roma Traveller culture, traditions and way of life have been in existence for centuries. They bring a unique perspective of social, family, economic and cultural traditions which are important to recognise, value and understand.

Working with representatives of the community we will look to explore how to bring this cultural richness to life so there is a deeper understanding, shared across communities.

What will we do?

- ✓ We will work with partner agencies, local communities to establish a series of community engagement programmes that helps to create stronger links and a better understanding of the culture and identity of Gypsies and Travellers. This will result in a long term Community Engagement Communications Strategy aimed at increasing awareness and reducing discrimination of the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Community.
- ✓ Working with local and regional colleagues who represent the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community, we will increase out national profile to ensure best practice and a consistence approach to site provision.
- ✓ We will work with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to report incidents of hate crime and discrimination and work with partner agencies to address it.

What will be the outcome?

- Through the establishment of a restorative justice approach, to improve community cohesion between local residents business and settled sites
- Increased reporting of hate crimes by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
- Increase in number of reports leading to investigation and positive outcomes.

4.9.2 Priority 2

To address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.

Health inequalities experienced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community when compared with the general population include higher rates of mortality, morbidity and long term health conditions, low child immunisation levels and a higher prevalence of anxiety and depression.

Social and economic inequalities faced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community are wide ranging and have long term impacts. Recent reports evidence:

- 4 out of 5 Gypsies and Travellers have experienced hate speech or a hate crime and only 1 in 5 sought help,
- Half of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have experienced discrimination in the workplace,
- To try and avoid racism Gypsies, Roma and Travellers try to hide their ethnicity,
- 70% said they had experienced prejudice in education, teachers being mentioned most frequently.

In Warwickshire the annual schools census data (Jan 2019) shows that 248 pupils in Warwickshire's state funded schools identified as Irish Traveller or Gypsy/Roma origin, from a total school population of 83,621. Young people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community make up approximately 0.3% of the school population. However in terms of academic achievement and higher education, young people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community are significantly under-represented. This impacts on their ability and aspirations to obtain qualifications and employment in later life.

What will we do?

- ✓ Through the establishment of a cross partnership, Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Hub, we will increase the educational and health support provided to settled communities.
- ✓ We will work with education providers to increase our offer of educational support, through schools and home tuition.
- ✓ We will work with colleges and work readiness providers to increase the support into employment.

What will be the outcome?

- Reduction in the health inequalities within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities occupying settled sites.
- Increase in young people within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community obtaining GCSE qualifications grade 4 or above, benchmarked in 2019/20.
- Number of young adults aged 16-24 who live on settled sites in full or part time employment.

- The number of young people in Warwickshire in education who identify as Irish Traveller or Gypsy/Roma origin.

4.9.3 Priority 3

To provide adequate number of pitches across the districts of Warwickshire in well managed site provision. This includes private and public permanent and stopping sites.

The census data 2011 evidenced that over half of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community who live in mobile accommodation live on privately managed sites, just under a third (29%) live on sites operated by a Local Authority or a registered provider of social housing and 14% were on unauthorised sites.

In Warwickshire there are currently 4 local authority managed permanent sites across the county providing a total of 110 pitches. This accounts for just 25% of the current site provision across the county, with 75% being available through privately managed and owned sites.

What will we do?

- ✓ Support District and Borough councils in their duty to co-operate to ensure there is sufficient pitch allocation for their areas, in the context of the county.
- ✓ To support Districts and Boroughs to maintain an accurate record of sites and pitches available across the county.
- ✓ Increase our working relationship with owners who are providing and will provide well managed private sites across the county.
- ✓ Where appropriate to develop close partnership co-operation with private site owners to improve the management and maintenance of sites in the county. This includes closer co-operation for the welfare of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities who reside in private sites.

What will the outcome be?

- Through applying the principles of the duty to co-operate, to have adequate site provision across Warwickshire. This includes a mixture of well managed public and private sites.
- An increase in the number of well managed permanent sites under private ownership.
- Creating the opportunities which enable established members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to have an increased responsibility for the day to day management of sites.

4.9.4 Priority 4

Protect law abiding Traveller communities, local residents and business through close working with landowners to ensure there is robust legal framework that addresses anti social and criminal behaviour.

There is a significant amount of legislation that impacts on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. This includes legislation which protects the rights of individuals, pitch provision and enforcement action.

In addition the County Council has an established Gypsy and Traveller Allocations Policy for its own sites, which sets out the allocation procedure and the decision-making process when allocating pitches.

What will we do?

- ✓ Review the current Gypsy and Traveller Housing Allocation Policy to ensure that the Policy reflects the roles and responsibilities in the maintenance and management of pitches, the overall site, and to those living and working in the vicinity of the site.
- ✓ Ensure the Policy had a robust enforcement action against those that are affecting the wellbeing of other residents on the site and within the vicinity.
- ✓ The Policy will address anti-social or criminal behaviour including the decision-making in the application, letting of pitches or termination of occupancy.
- ✓ Proactive engagement and site management of all Local Authority sites ensuring residents are supported to be safe, healthy and independent**.**

What will the outcome be?

- Improvement in the conditions of public owned sites and pitch facilities.
- Timely and effective enforcement action in respect of any anti-social behaviour or criminal offences impacting settled Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and local residents.
- Swifter enforcement action against individuals and families involved in or convicted of criminal and/ or anti-social behaviour, including eviction action where appropriate and proportionate to those involved in the offence.
- Increased occupation rates of Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller sites.

4.9.5 Priority 5

A consistent approach to addressing unauthorised encampments

Unauthorised encampments are normally the responsibility of the land-owner to address. We provide advice to landowners to provide timely and proportionate enforcement action. In certain circumstances, the Police also have powers to intervene.

Warwickshire has an established “Warwickshire Unauthorised Encampments Protocol 2017”. The aim of the Protocol is to enable landowners and

enforcement agencies to apply a consistent approach to addressing unlawful and unauthorised encampments. The Protocol is currently being reviewed and will form part of a countywide operating procedure to address all unauthorised encampments in a timely and proportionate manner. Warwickshire provides an Emergency Stopping Place, supporting the Police to direct unauthorised encampments to suitable short-term provision. The review of the Protocol includes a review of the Emergency Stopping Place.

The review will incorporate any changes in legislation as a direct result of the current Government consultation on "Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments". The review will also seek best practice on short term negotiated stopping as part of our consistent approach.

What will we do?

- ✓ Keep records of all Unauthorised Encampments in the County and support land owners who are repeatedly affected by unauthorised encampment.
- ✓ Review arrangements for short term stopping and the Warwickshire Unauthorised encampments Protocol 2017 to inform the County Council's approach to ensure we address unauthorised encampments swiftly and proportionately.

What will the outcome be?

- Reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments.
- Reduction in the impact on the local community in relation to behaviour that has a detrimental impact on local residents.
- Reduction in the time taken to remove unauthorised encampments, causing local significant community tensions, having an adverse impact on businesses or in unsafe locations, with formal notice being served at the earliest opportunity on all publicly owned locations.

4.10 How will we deliver our priorities

4.10.1 There is a countywide strategic Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Working Group, involving district/ borough and County Council representatives, key partner agencies and representatives of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community. The aim is to work together to agree a shared approach to provision and to establish a county wide hub which brings together expertise across partner organisations.

4.10.2 The Strategic Group will be formalised and report to the Safe in Warwickshire Partnership Board.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 The next steps will be to work with partner agencies to develop the cross partnership Gypsy. Roma and Traveller Hub. This will commence in October 2020.

5.2 In addition, the detailed Gypsy and Traveller Housing Allocation Policy, which will include the review of current and future provision will be developed. This will commence in November 2020 with a view to presenting the findings and recommendations to Cabinet in the Spring 2021.

5.3 We will complete the review of the Warwickshire Unauthorised Encampments Protocol 2017 by December 2020.

5.4 Following the GRT Summit that took place in Spring 2019, a cross partnership delivery group was established. This includes representation from District and Boroughs, Warwickshire Police, OPCC, and the GRT Liaison Federation.

5.5 The cross-partnership delivery group will lead on the development and delivery of an action plan based on the 5 strategic priorities set out above. Annual reports will be presented to the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.

6. Equality Impact

6.1 The Strategic Framework directly recognises the protected characteristics of the Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The strategic priorities make direct reference to protecting these characteristics, promoting the cultural differences and addressing the social, economic and health inequalities that exist.

6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Strategic Framework and is attached. (Appendix 1).

6.3 The need for an EIA will be reviewed regularly as part of this process, including future decisions on provision, or where major changes in legislation or policy requires it.

7.0 Appendix

7.1. EIA Form

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Author	Jonathon Toy	jonathontoy@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 418687
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins	scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Timms	heathertimms@warwickshire.gov.uk
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners	Neil Hewison (CE)	Neil.hewison1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Warwickshire Police	Martin Rone-Clarke	Martin.rone-clarke1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
GRT Liaison Federation	Adrian Jones	Adi.jones105@gmail.com
Warwick D.C	Chris Elliott (CE)	Chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A

Other members:
Cllr Heather Timms
Group Leaders
Members of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix - Warwickshire County Council Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

The purpose of an EIA is to ensure WCC is as inclusive as possible, both as a service deliverer and as an employer. It also demonstrates our compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

This document is a planning tool, designed to help you improve programmes of work by considering the implications for different groups of people. A guidance document is available here.

Please note that, once approved, this document will be made public, unless you have indicated that it contains sensitive information. Please ensure that the form is clear and easy to understand. If you would like any support or advice on completing this document, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team on 01926 412370 or equalities@warwickshire.gov.uk

Service / policy / strategy / practice / plan being assessed	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategic Framework 2020-25
Business Unit / Service Area	Trading Standards and Community Safety - Communities
Is this a new or existing service / policy / strategy / practice / plan? If an existing service / policy / strategy / practice / plan please state date of last assessment	This is a new strategic framework
EIA Review team – list of members	Jonathon Toy Cheryl Bridges Paul Gibbs Sarah McCabe Ffion Rees Charlotte Hughes

Do any other Business Units / Service Areas need to be included?	EMTAS
Does this EIA contain personal and / or sensitive information?	No
Are any of the outcomes from this assessment likely to result in complaints from existing services users, members of the public and / or employees?	

1. Please explain the background to your proposed activity and the reasons for it.

Warwickshire County Council has a lead role for Gypsy and Traveller provision across the county. This includes, the welfare of residents, managing sites, ensuring there is sufficient provision and support for the G&T community and addressing unauthorized encampments in a proportionate manner.

This report sets out the strategic direction of Warwickshire County Council working in partnership with health, education and police, to the provision of suitable, well managed sites, services which protect and support both the Gypsy and Traveller Communities as well as local residents and businesses.

The Gypsy Roma Traveller community have protected characteristics and are recognised as ethnic groups under the Race Relations Act 1976, and they are protected by the Equality Act 2010.

This EIA focuses on the priorities which have a specific relevance on equalities and the equalities duty. It should be noted that the other priorities set out in the Strategic Framework will be considered proportionately, balancing the needs of the Gypsy Roma traveler community and those of the wider communities across Warwickshire

2. Please outline your proposed activity including a summary of the main actions.

The activity directly relates to the priorities set out in the strategy:-

Priority 1 - To recognise and positively promote the culture and traditions of the Gypsy and Travellers Communities and address discrimination

Actions:-

- ✓ We will work with partner agencies, local communities to establish a series of community engagement programmes that helps to create stronger links and a better understanding of the culture and identity of Gypsies and Travellers.
- ✓ Working with local and regional colleagues who represent the Gypsy and Traveller Community, we will increase out national profile to ensure best practice and a consistence approach to site provision
- ✓ We will work with the Gypsy and Traveller community to report incidents of hate crime and discrimination and work with partner agencies to address it

Priority 2 - To address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.

Actions:-

- ✓ Through the establishment of the Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Hub, we will increase the health support provided to communities who occupy Hub sites.
- ✓ We will work with education providers to increase our offer of educational support, through schools and home tuition
- ✓ We will work with colleges and work readiness providers to increase the support into employment.

Priority 3 - To provide adequate number of pitches across the districts of Warwickshire in well managed site provision. This includes private and public permanent and stopping sites.

Actions:-

- ✓ Support District and Borough councils in their duty to co-operate to ensure there is sufficient pitch allocation for their areas, in the context of the county.

- ✓ To support Districts and Boroughs to maintain an accurate record of sites and pitches available across the County.
- ✓ Increase our working relationship with owners who are and will provide well managed private sites across the council.
- ✓ Where appropriate to develop close partnership co-operation with private site owners to improve the management and maintenance of sites in the county. This includes closer co-operation for the welfare of Gypsy and Traveller communities who reside in private sites.

Priority 4 - Protect law abiding Traveller communities, local residents and business through close working with landowners to ensure there is robust legal framework that addresses anti social and criminal behaviour.

Actions:-

- ✓ Review the current Gypsy and Traveller Housing Allocation Policy to ensure that the policy reflects the roles and responsibilities in the maintenance and management of pitches, the overall site, and to those living and working in the vicinity of the site.
- ✓ Ensure the policy had a robust enforcement action against those that are affecting the wellbeing of other residents on the site and within the vicinity.
- ✓ The policy addresses anti social or criminal behaviour including the decision making in the application, letting of pitches or termination of occupancy.
- ✓ Proactive engagement and site management of all Local Authority sites ensuring residents are supported to be safe, healthy and independent

Priority 5 - A consistent approach to addressing Unauthorised encampments

Actions:-

- ✓ Keep records of all Unauthorised Encampments in the County and support land owners who are repeatedly affected by unauthorised encampment.
- ✓ To use the review of the Warwickshire Unauthorised encampments Protocol 2017 and Emergency Stopping Place to inform the county councils approach to ensure we address unauthorised encampments swiftly and proportionately.

3. Who is this going to impact and how? (customers, service users, public and staff)

It is good practice to seek the views of your stakeholders and for these to influence your proposed activity. Please list anything you have already found out. If you still need to talk to stakeholders, include this as an 'action' at the end of your EIA. **Note that in some cases, there is a duty to consult, see more.**

The Census data 2011 evidenced that over half of the Gypsy and Traveller community who live in mobile accommodation live on privately managed sites, just under a third (29%) live on sites operated by a Local Authority or a registered providers of social housing and 14% were on unauthorised sites.

In addition the Census enabled data to be collected on Gypsy, Traveller and Irish Travellers for the first time and 63,000 people in the UK identified as members of these groups.

Health inequalities experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller community when compared with the general population include higher rates of mortality, morbidity and long term health conditions, low child immunisation levels and a higher prevalence of anxiety and depression.

Social and economic inequalities faced by the Gypsy and Traveller community are wide ranging and have long term impacts. Recent reports evidence:

- 4 out of 5 Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have experienced Hate speech or a hate crime and only 1 in 5 sought help
- Half of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have experienced discrimination in the workplace,
- To try and avoid racism Gypsies, Roma and Travellers try to hide their ethnicity
- 70% said they had experienced prejudice in education, teachers being mentioned most frequently.

In Warwickshire the annual schools census data (Jan 2019) shows that 248 pupils in Warwickshire's state funded schools identified as Irish Traveller or Gypsy/Roma origin, from a total school population of 83,621. At just 0.3% of the school population the Gypsy and Traveller community are significantly under represented which significantly impacts on their ability and aspirations to obtain qualifications and employment in later life.

4. **Please analyse the potential impact of your proposed activity against the protected characteristics.**

N.B Think about what actions you might take to mitigate / remove the negative impacts and maximize on the positive ones. This will form part of your action plan at question 7.

	What information do you have? What information do you still need to get?	Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Age	The current information is that young people who are part of the GRT community are less likely to remain in education pre and post 16.	The strategic framework highlights the continued and enhanced educational support for young people in the GRT community through the EMTAS service. The framework also highlights addressing health inequalities which currently exisit. This will be achieved through the establishment of the Partnership Hub and the continued investment in dedicated welfare support services.	x
Disability Consider • Physical disabilities • Sensory impairments • Neurodiverse conditions (e.g. dyslexia) • Mental health conditions (e.g. depression)	Health inequalities experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller community when compared with the general population include higher rates of mortality, morbidity and long term	The Strategic Framework has a direct priority "**To address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities."**	One of the potential impacts of working to address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities, is that it may be perceived by families and the

• Medical conditions (e.g. diabetes)	health conditions, low child immunisation levels and a higher prevalence of anxiety and depression.	Work with and alongside the GRT community will identify needs and gaps in service provision which as a partnership we can work to address and resolve to reduce the health inequalities faced by the community	communities that such improvements are in direct contradiction to their way of life. Enforcement action can negatively impact on access to regular health provision, preventing access to medical support services and out patient support. Welfare assessment are made prior to any enforcement action
Gender Reassignment	x	There is limited data in relation to transgender individuals, within the GRT community. However, our focus on addressing social, economic and health inequalities will have a positive impact on all individuals within the GRT community through the provision of health materials that will be available to the community.	x
Marriage and Civil Partnership	It is anticipated that the priorities will have a negligible impact on marital status. To be monitored and reviewed in line with developments.	x	x
Pregnancy and Maternity	x	Priority 2 will have a positive impact on all members of the	x

Working for Warwickshire

		community through better assessment of health needs. As part of our approach to providing adequate pitches and addressing Unauthorised Encampments, we will always consider pregnancy and maternity as part of the considerations for either support into accommodation or tolerating unauthorised encampments and negotiated stopping provision.	
Race	The Romani Gypsies and Irish Traveller culture and traditions have developed through a nomadic way of life over centuries. They are recognised as ethnic groups under the Race Relations Act 1976, and they are protected by the Equality Act 2010. Further information is required from national data on the gypsy and traveler community with the UK. We are working with regionally and national leads to address this and gain a more	The Strategic Framework sets out proposals that help recognise the protected characteristics of the GRT community and enable a greater understanding of their distinctive way of life. We recognize that there are variations across the GRT communities depending on the historical background, the strategic framework. The Framework makes a clear commitment to address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the	One of the potential impacts of working to address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities, is that it may be perceived by families and the communities that such improvements are in direct contradiction to their way of life. There is resistance, particularly in terms of educational attainment within some families and it will be vitally important to strike a balance between these

	comprehensive understand of the extent of the community across seasons.	Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.	cultural views and improving economic life choices.
Religion or Belief	The Gypsy, Roma Traveller culture, traditions and way of life have been in existence for centuries. They bring a unique perspective of social, family, economic and cultural traditions which are important to recognise, value and understand	The Strategic Framework has a direct priority *"To recognise and positively promote the culture and traditions of the Gypsy and Travellers Communities and address discrimination*"	One of the perceived negative impact is the priority to address unauthorised encampments. Unauthorised encampments are created as GRT communities move within or through areas as part of their lifestyle, for work, family or cultural reasons. Applying a consistent approach can be perceived as adversely impacting on this belief. However, the intention is to apply addressing unauthorized encampments in a fair and proportionate manner, in order to mitigate the impact
Sex	Whilst the priorities might not focus specifically on gender, it's important to note that they are intended to have a positive impact on both genders equally and that this will be monitored and reviewed in line with developments	x	x

Sexual Orientation	It is anticipated that the priorities will have a positive impact on all members of the G&T community regardless of sexual orientation. To be monitored and reviewed in line with developments.	Through our focused work to address social and health inequalities, we will work with the GRT community to provide of health promotion materials to create a better understanding and increased dialogue on sexual orientation.	x

5. **What could the impact of your proposed activity be on other vulnerable groups e.g. deprivation, looked after children, carers?**

The Strategic Framework focuses on The GRT communities as a specific vulnerable group

6. **How does / could your proposed activity fulfil the three aims of PSED, giving due regard to:**

- the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- creating equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- fostering good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- We will seek to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation by providing direct opportunities across local communities to gain a deeper understanding of the GRT community, their culture and beliefs. Our intention is to promote simpler process to increase the reporting and recording of hate related harassment and discrimination against the GRT community.
- One of our key priorities is to address the health, social and economic inequalities that exist in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities. By improving these inequalities we will look to improve life chances for the community, which, as the framework highlights are significant less compared to those communities who do not share the same protected characteristics.
- Our activity will seek to work with partner agencies and local communities to establish a series of community engagement programmes that helps to create stronger links and a better understanding of the culture and identity of Gypsies and

Travellers. We will look to do this through community based activity, story telling, social media and recording of the history of family that exist within and on our sites.

7. Actions – what do you need to do next?

Consider:

- Who else do you need to talk to? Do you need to engage or consult?
- How you will ensure your activity is clearly communicated
- Whether you could mitigate any negative impacts for protected groups
- Whether you could do more to fulfil the aims of PSED
- Anything else you can think of!

Action	Timescale	Name of person responsible
We have consulted with Regional representatives within the GRT community. We have also sought the views of Warwickshire Police leads and district and borough councils. Wider discussions with representatives of the Gypsy Roma Traveller community both locally and regionally. This will feed into our policy development	To commence Autumn 2020	Cheryl Bridges
Develop a more robust educational attainment offer with our educational support providers. There needs to be a focus on both increased attainment at GCSE and access to higher education. This will include as specific focus project	Jan 2021	Sarah McCabe EMTAS

for young Traveller women, to improve their educational attainment		
Develop a community faced communications strategy with the aim of promoting the culture and traditions of the GRT community. The strategy will require the engagement of the community and a range of different mediums to ensure it is both targeted within local areas and to a wider county and regional audience	Strategy to be developed by end of Nov 2020	Cheryl Bridges

8. Sign off.

Name of person/s completing EIA	Jonathon Toy
Name and signature of Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins
Date	30th June 2020
Date of next review and name of person/s responsible	February 2021 Jonathon Toy

Working for Warwickshire

Agenda Item 10

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Establishment of a Residents' Panels

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. approves the proposal to develop a standing Warwickshire Residents' Panel to inform the Council's policy making, in order to deliver the action set out in the Customer Experience Strategy;
2. authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to finalise the procurement strategy and any associated procurement and award the contract, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation;
3. notes that costs will be managed through the existing Change Fund where additional spend is required; and
4. agrees, having regard to the resolution of Full Council on 22nd September, to the establishment of a separate Residents' Panel for specific engagement on local government reform proposals for Warwickshire, and notes that the Leader has invited the District and Borough Councils to commission this jointly with the County Council.

1. Background and context

1.1. There is a recognised national drive to provide residents with better opportunities to share their views and participate in local democracy. *The Community Paradigm* is a highly impactful publication by the New Local Government Network, which sets out the opportunities and benefits of empowering and engaging with local communities.

1.2. During COVID-19, we have seen exceptional community engagement and participation from voluntary groups, mutual aid groups and local Town and Parish Councils. This has accelerated progress delivering the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, approved by Cabinet on 12th September 2019. This strategy set out a vision that communities and people in Warwickshire would be strong, self-supported, connected and resilient, with a particular focus on community engagement and social action.

1.3. The Council Plan and Recovery Plan both emphasise the importance of the Council becoming a more evidence, data-driven and innovative organisation.

Creating increased public engagement is a key enabler of these wider objectives and ambitions of this Council.

1.4. Building on recent, high levels of public engagement in developing the Council Plan 2025, we have seen recent examples of the effective use of Residents' Panels, such as the West Midlands Recovery Coordination Group Residents' Panel, where residents have been invited to share their views on specific strategic themes. This demonstrates an explicit emphasis on engagement rather than formal consultation.

1.5. Residents' Panels typically engage with a representative body of residents with participants recruited through random sampling of the electoral roll or postcode address file. Recruitment is through a range of channels, with additional provisions to ensure representation of socially excluded, hard to reach or special interest groups such as young people.

1.6. Warwickshire is also on a transformation journey and as part of that has developed a Customer Experience Strategy previously approved by Cabinet in December 2019, within which is a commitment to establish a Residents' Panel to enhance our customer focus and engagement. Aligned to this, work is currently in progress to refresh the Consultation and Engagement Framework and provide overall guidance on consultation and engagement activities across the Council, and an external, expert review of scrutiny is being finalised.

1.7. This paper proposes the establishment of an 'all purposes' Residents' Panel to inform the Council's policy making on an ongoing basis.

1.8. On 22nd September 2020 Full Council expressed its support for the establishment of a Residents Panel and for an invitation to be extended to the District and Borough Councils to do so jointly with the County Council, to seek the views of Warwickshire residents on the issue of local government reform (LGR).The Leader has made this invitation and our expectation is that a specific residents' panel on LGR will be commissioned and delivered by an independent body.

2. County Council Residents' Panel

2.1. A standing 'all purposes' County Council Residents' Panel will be developed to deliver key objectives and results over a period aligned to the Council Plan 2025 and Customer Experience Strategy timelines.

2.2. It will be set up to engage a representative sample of residents to assist the County Council in addressing key policy questions and other matters that would benefit from deep engagement.

2.3. Recruitment to the panel will be conducted by an independent organisation commissioned to recruit participants to provide assurance that invitation to join the panel is representative and fair.

2.4. This will utilise a 'blended and mixed methods' model based on existing internal expertise and current functionality. It is expected to combine a large panel able to answer specific 'polling' type questions, plus a smaller sub-panel able to meet and help shape complex, cross-cutting policy issues and questions.

2.5. The detailed design will be worked up and designed with the following principles in mind:

- to establish the mix of methods to be used to engage residents in addressing key policy questions though a Residents' Panel based on existing internal expertise and current functionality;
- to ensure the Residents' Panel is coherent with wider strategic partnership initiatives including with Public Health and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership;
- to inform the ongoing change portfolio and shape improved performance;
- to shape the council approach to big questions such as:
    - refreshing the Council Plan;
    - informing the Medium-Term Financial Strategy; and
    - progressing the Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
- to shape Council activities around residents' needs and aspirations;
- to encourage greater participation in the activities of the Council;
- to measure residents' satisfaction with the council and specific Council services, and inform the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- to access new perspectives, new information, ideas and suggestions; and
- to improve strategy, planning, policy and decision making.

2.6. The Residents' Panel would complement the Council's Customer Experience Strategy which commits to developing further the quality, depth and range of engagement undertaken by the Council. It would not replace other methods of engagement routinely used by the Council such as 'Ask Warwickshire', the online engagement and consultation hub, or routine use of focus groups and engagement sessions with stakeholders.

2.7. The Appendix provides additional detail on how this work will be progressed and associated timescales.

3. Key Considerations

3.1. The Residents' Panel will be designed to complement and be coherent with other long standing Council engagement and consultation initiatives, such as

the Youth Parliament, essentially ensuring we have a consistent family of best practice methods available. It will be one of many mechanisms to better engage residents and other key stakeholders to inform policy, track performance and progress and ensure decisions are backed-up with an additional source of reliable insight, evidence and data.

3.2. Initial priorities for the panel may include, but are not limited to, the refresh of the Council Plan, tackling inequalities, themes relating to Covid-19 recovery, and climate change.

4. Financial implications

4.1. The proposal for the standing Residents' Panel will be developed into a full business case and the resource implications will be addressed through existing internal resources alignment and budgeting.

4.2. The costs of development and ongoing delivery will be more fully scoped and developed with choices made on scale and frequency and aligned to a prioritised work programme. This work will also consider the delivery model, which we expect to combine internal resources supplemented by externally-commissioned expertise.

4.3. Costs of this initiative will be managed within existing resources and from one-off funding from the existing Change Fund. There may be some offsetting savings in time by a consequential reduction in commissions for external consultative support.

5. Environmental implications

5.1. No implications, other than the Residents' Panel is expected to play a key role in shaping the Council's Climate Change Programmes.

6. Equalities implications

6.1. The Residents' Panel will be designed as a representative sample and additional consideration in respect of protected characteristics will be included in assembling that sample representation.

6.2. A Residents' Panel will provide an additional mechanism for assessing equalities impacts of key strategic and policy issues and providing insights about the effect of inequalities on residents, helping the Council take the most effective actions against its Council Plan and Recovery Plan commitments around inequalities, and equality, diversity and inclusion.

Background papers
None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Authors	Jak Lynch Gereint Stoneman Spencer Payne Lucy Rumble	jaklynch@warwickshire.gov.uk gereintstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk spencerpayne@warwickshire.gv.uk lucyrumble@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director for Resources	Rob Powell	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur	kamkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:
Local Member(s): None
Other members: None

Appendix

Residents' Panels Mobilisation Summary Plan			
Deliverable	Milestones	Target Dates	Notes
Develop Warwickshire's ongoing Residents' Panel	Identify key policy questions to be explored over the next 24 months	Commence November 2020	This will potentially include strategic partnership-based enquiries e.g. health and wellbeing, Council Plan refresh, climate change, tackling inequalities etc.
	Identify size of panel and any subgroup considerations	November 2020	
	Scope resource requirements and identify in-house solutions and any necessary external solutions	November 2020	
	Appoint independent supplier to recruit to Panel	December 2020	Key that panel membership is recruited through an independent party
	Develop a schedule of panel activities to address key policy questions	January 2021	Likely to combine rapid 'polling' questions to inform policy and 'workshop/focus group' type activity for more complex questions
	Configure and deliver panel activities	Ongoing	

Agenda Item 11

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Addition of Capital Scheme at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School to the Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2020/21

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the addition of £572,666 to the education schools capital programme 2020/21 to create specialist resourced provision at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School funded from existing unallocated Education capital resource .

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Over the past five years, the growth in places at special schools in Warwickshire has significantly outstripped that in mainstream schools. There has been significant growth in both generic and specialist special schools. The main growth and investment has been in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.

1.2 Establishing resourced provision is a key project within the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme (part of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy and DSG Recovery Plan). It allows learners with SEND to attend local settings and provides a bridge between mainstream and specialist provision.

1.3 There are currently 8 resourced provisions attached to mainstream primary schools in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 2 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 2 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 1 in the Stratford on Avon area. As part of meeting forecast demand and building on the local offer of specialist provision the local authority is continuing the development of resourced provision across the county whereby pupils, who are able to access a mainstream curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located within a mainstream school environment.

1.4 Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish a specialist provision at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School for up to 14 primary age pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) where SEMH is the primary need. If approved the provision would be implemented during academic year 2020/21.

1.5 Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School is a 1 form entry primary school which offers up to 220 places for children aged 4-11 years, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good'. As an academy, Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School will seek permission from the Regional Schools Commissioner through a statutory process in order to be able to offer the additional provision for SEND learners.

1.6 Pupils in the specialist resourced provision will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.

1.7 Planning permission would be sought for a stand-alone, single storey unit in proximity to the mainstream setting so that the children can also access the facilities of the school. The unit will comprise of 2 teaching areas, 1 group room, three further rooms for therapeutic use, toilets, a social area and a staffroom. An external area will be adapted to the needs of the children, who will be provided with a protected area to play.

1.8 The new structure would replace a temporary classroom which is in poor condition and has exceeded its anticipated lifespan.

1.9 The children who will attend the setting will be on a different timetable from the main school, arriving at 9.15am and leaving at 3.00pm (pupils at the main school building start at 9.00 am and finish at 3.15pm). Therefore, owing to the differences in scheduling, the small number of additional vehicles generated by the proposal will have limited impact on traffic and parking on and around the site at the start or the end of the main school day.

1.10 The establishment of the specialist resourced provision will not impact on the school's current published admission number of 30. Admissions to the specialist resourced provision follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the specialist resourced provision will be through the Warwickshire County Council process for specialist admissions. The proposal is for the specialist resourced provision to cater for up to 14 pupils initially. This number may be reviewed in the future.

1.11 The provision is for pupils in the primary phase with the intention to help pupils to gradually increase their time in mainstream lessons until they can attend with lower levels of support. By the end of year 6, a decision will be made as to whether they can successfully transition into a mainstream secondary school. Alternatively, it may be decided that their needs can be best met in a different setting such as Venture Academy in Henley-in-Arden which is a special school catering for pupils with SEMH and autism.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 Pupil places in the resourced provisions are funded (from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block) at an appropriate rate so that a pupil's additional learning needs can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools.

This arrangement will free up places in Warwickshire special schools so they can accommodate pupils who would otherwise require places in high cost independent specialist provision. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

2.2 Education capital funding would be used to fund the required capital works. The Special Provision Fund is a grant provided to increase the number of pupil places in specialist provision. The total cost of the project is estimated to be £572,666 which gives an average cost per place of £40,905 compared with the national average of £65,739. (SEND EBDOG benchmark) Because the expenditure will be wholly met by external funding, it is within the powers delegated to Cabinet by Council to add the scheme to the Capital Programme.

2.3 The establishment of resourced provision is part of the DSG Recovery & Sustainability Plan (Intervention 1) allowing learners to be placed in more cost effective provision, reducing the pressure on in county specialist provision and reducing the need to place learners in more expensive independent specialist provision. The establishment of resourced provision across the county increases the range of SEND provision available to meet the needs of children, particularly those children with significant additional needs but able to access a mainstream curriculum.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 Increasing development of resourced provision aims to provide more ‘local’ education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.

3.2 The additional accommodation requirements of a small modular building of a modern method of construction are anticipated to have minimal environmental implications.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 None

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 Approval by Cabinet will enable the provision to be implemented during academic year 2020/21

6. Background Paper

Equality Impact Assessment

7. Supporting Paper

The July 9th Cabinet paper – DSG Recovery & Sustainability Plan

Report Author	Steve Pendleton	, stevependleton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Ian Budd	ianbudd@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning	colinhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Councillor Horner

Agenda Item 12

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) CIF Bid

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommend that Council;

1. Approves the investment of £21,704,000 to deliver four highway mitigation schemes along the A444 Nuneaton Ring Road, as detailed in section 1.5, as part of the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) Project.

2. Subject to the approval of recommendation 1 above, add the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £29.6M.

That (subject to Council agreeing the above recommendations), Cabinet;

3. Authorise the Strategic Director for Communities to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts and grant agreements on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources for the implementation and construction of the highway mitigation schemes.

4. Authorise the Strategic Director for Communities to submit funding applications to support the delivery of the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) Project subject to acceptable terms and conditions as confirmed by the Strategic Director for Resources.

1. Executive Summary

1.1. In November 2018 Corporate Board supported the further development of capital investment proposals in Nuneaton in order to drive regeneration, deliver the vision held by WCC and NBBC, and drive the change needed to support growth of the local economy.

1.2. Corporate Board agreed to a notional allocation of capital investment funds to the Transforming Nuneaton to deliver key interventions, including the delivery of transport infrastructure. This would be subject to the development of business cases submitted through the CIF process for the individual interventions. The request for funds, from the CIF, detailed within this report has been developed as part of this process.

1.3. The Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) Programme is a suite of projects that, together, will unlock development to support the wider Transforming Nuneaton (TN) Programme, help reduce existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's), enhance existing cycling infrastructure, along with creating new

infrastructure therefore encouraging more sustainable travel, and relieve existing localised pinch points and congestion. This can be seen within section 5 (Supporting Information).

1.4. The programme includes the following schemes:

- Junction reconfiguration and key improvements at 3 major junctions on the ring road to accommodate growth (housing and employment) outlined in the Borough Plan (as identified within the Strategic Transport Assessment carried out as part of the Borough Plan) and minor upgrades to existing junctions to support these (overview figure 1).

- Creation of a new gateway entrance point at Nuneaton train station, a key economic asset of the town providing services on the west coast mainline and cross country, will lay the foundations for further work at the Station to create an integrated transport hub (bus, cycling, pedestrian and rail). Work is also taking place to look at creating a northern access point for rail / bus users thereby removing the need for them to travel over the Leicester Road bridge on to the ring road. Funding strategies are yet to be developed for these elements of works and will be focused on during a phase 2 of transport related Transforming Nuneaton.

- Improved walking and cycling facilities in and around the town centre – supporting active travel and the aspiration to reduce emissions in the town all junction upgrades will include upgrades for pedestrians and cyclists.

- Unlocking Vicarage Street development site through the opening up of a (closed) junction onto the ring road – a key development opportunity for the town centre this site will be actively marketed for development by WCC and NBBC in the next few months. The site forms a key part of the regeneration of the town centre and will be the location for WCC's new Library and Business Centre.

- New public realm works, uplifting the local landscape and improving people's perceptions of the area, which will be incorporated into scheme D.

1.5. The schemes to be delivered by the requested CIF funds are:

- (A) A444 / Corporation Street / Powell Way
  The existing 'dandelion' roundabout will be taken up and replaced with a four arm signalised crossroads (Appendix 1.1 Fig 1). This provides a significant reduction in queues on Corporation Street and reduces queues in the Midland Road/Corporation Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and improves facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Also included within this scheme is a new four arm signalised junction at the A444 / Abbey St junction, to provide improved bus access into the town centre.

- (B) A444 / Queens Road
  The road will be widened to provide significant improvement for cyclists/pedestrians and allow the implementation of a bus lane that will provide improved public transport accessibility at the junction.

- (C) A444 / Wheat Street
  Provision of a fourth arm to an existing three arm signalised junction to unlock development along Wheat Street west (Vicarage Street Development Site). This will also provide improvements to cyclist/pedestrian facilities. It is possible that a minor land acquisition will be required but any land required is owned by N&BBC.

- (D) A444 / Leicester Road / Back Street / Bond Street / Regent Street
  This scheme will remove the existing one-way gyratory system and replace it with a four-arm roundabout. Approximately 420 metres of one way system will be removed. Proposed toucan crossings on Leicester Rd (E) arm, Vicarage St (S) and A444 (W) approach, along with the existing alignment of Regent St will provide vastly improved cyclist and pedestrian facilities. Details can be found in Appendix 1.1 (Fig 2.) whereby it can be seen that various land titles will need to be purchased (see para 1.9) and various buildings demolished.

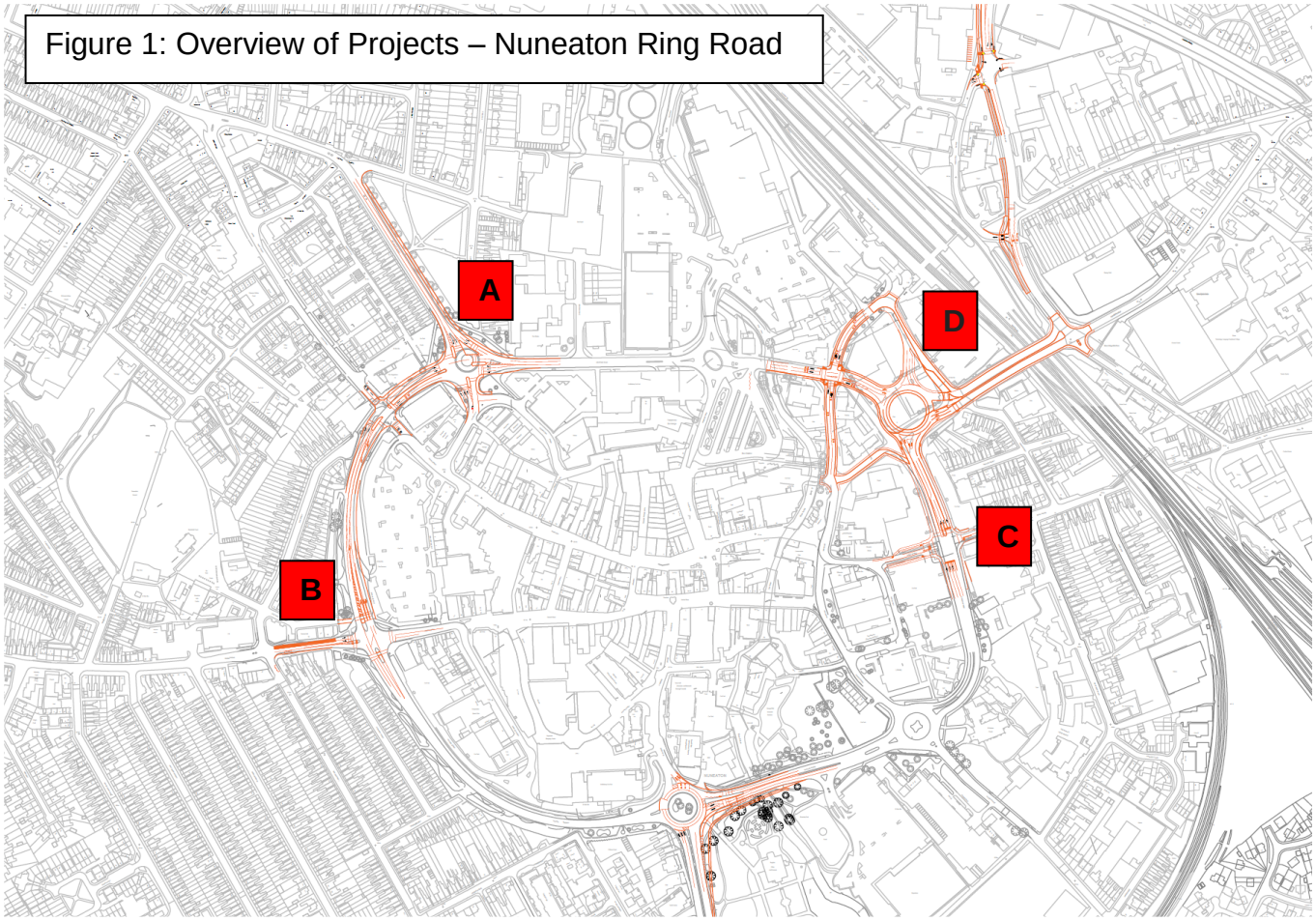
1.6 The following schemes are the remaining schemes within the overall programme of highway improvement works that transport modelling has shown to be required to mitigate the anticipated level of development through the wider Transforming Nuneaton overall programme, and should be added to the Capital Programme, however, funding bids for these schemes are being undertaken by N&BBC (paras 2.4.1 & 2.4.3) Should these funding bids be declined, the schemes being submitted for CIF funding will still create a good Value For Money, though further transport modelling work will be required.

- A444 / Coton Road roundabout
  This scheme is to create a dedicated left slip turn from Vicarage Street onto Coton Road southbound. This involves the closing of the existing access to the Museum and Register office, meaning s new access will need to be created, likely to be from Clinic Drive. To facilitate this new access, a number of private land title holders will need to be negotiated with.

- A444 / Weddington Terrace
  This scheme involves both the northern and southern junctions of Weddington Terrace. The southern junction will become a one way access, with the northern access becoming a signalised junction. Along with the junction works a cycle super highway will be constructed along Weddington Road to enhance cycle highway works that are already being planned under a different project.

1.7 Full details can be found in Appendix 1: TN Junctions Preferred Options. A 3D presentational video may be shared at Cabinet if required.

Figure 1: Overview of Projects – Nuneaton Ring Road



1.8 An economic appraisal of the overall TN (Highway Improvements) package was undertaken, of which the Transport Users Benefit Appraisal (TUBA) assessment shows the scheme will result in a total of £51.06M in user benefits over a 60 year appraisal period, assuming a conservative 2.5% modal shift from private car to sustainable transport results in a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 2.34 representing high value for money, as described by Department for Transport.

1.9 In order to complete the scheme at A444 / Leicester Rd / Back St / Bond St / Regent St, there is a need for land acquisition. An assessment has been undertaken of the land required and an initial valuation exercise has been completed for this land. Following lessons learned from previous highway schemes, the CPO process will be followed in tandem with negotiation and any additional permissions required to do this will be subject to separate Cabinet reports once the full details are known.

1.10 Whilst the full implications of Covid-19 on transport will not be fully understood for some time the A444 through Nuneaton is part of the Major Route Network (MRN) and expected to experience significant growth in the next few years linked to the identified growth in the Local Plan. The schemes within the CIF proposal will incorporate measures which support all modes of travel, allowing for a growth in sustainable travel, helping to address the climate change agenda, as recognised in the Nuneaton Town Centre Transport Strategy.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The capital costs for the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) programme is £29.6M, and it is this to which approval is being sought to be added to the Capital Programme.

2.2 The costs for those schemes to be delivered using CIF funding total £21.704M, and it is this funding which is being sought in this report.

2.3 The capital spend profile can be shown in Appendix 2.1, with CIF schemes being shown in green.

2.4 As shown the overall Programme of works totals £29.6M. Those schemes being requested to be funded by CIF total £21.704M. The remaining schemes are to be funded from external funding to support the delivery of the whole transport programme, as shown in the table below. Should the external funding not be provided, then it is possible that two highway schemes (outlined in para 1.6) will not be able to be constructed. However, the larger schemes, which provide the better return in terms of benefit to cost, will still be able to be completed, should the CIF bid be approved. The following funding bids are in development and or have been submitted and the outcome is pending:

- 2.4.1 Future High Street Fund – NBBC submitted an application to the FHSF in July 2020 and includes a request to support land assembly required for the delivery of infrastructure improvements. Funding request £5.5m, timescale for outcome unknown.
- 2.4.2 Department for Transport Pinch Point Funding – expression of interest (EoI) was submitted in January 2020; the funding programme has been paused during the Covid-19 pandemic and no details have been released as to when it will resume. Funding request circa £5m. Should the EoI prove successful, and a further successful bid made, this funding could be released back to CIF, to mitigate against scheme A.
- 2.4.3 Towns Fund – the Nuneaton Town Investment Plan is currently in development and is likely to include a request for funds to support the delivery of the Town Centre Transport schemes. Submission 31st October 2020 by the lead organisation Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Funding Source	**Amount £M**	**Confirmed/Unconfirmed**
External Grant (LEP Growth Deal)	1	Confirmed
WCC Capital Investment Fund	21.7	Unconfirmed
S106	0.465	Confirmed
S106	1.5	Unconfirmed
Town Fund	5.2	TBC/unconfirmed
Future High St Fund	5.5	Submitted/unconfirmed
Total	35.37	

2.5 Should the external funding, as being led by N&BBC (Towns Fund & FHSF) prove unsuccessful, the S106 monies, when fully received will be sufficient to complete the two Weddington Terrace junction mitigation schemes (para 1.6)

2.6 The LEP Growth Deal Funding is an element of wider CWLEP funding for the overall Transforming Nuneaton programme, and might only be claimed against highway design and enabling works. Thus far, that funding has been claimed against internal staff costs, external optioneering works and transport modelling.

2.7 As can be seen, the scheme(s) estimate for the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) Programme is £29.6M. With various external funding avenues being explored and submitted, should all funding avenues prove successful, then the project budget will be £35.37M. If the funding obtained raises the total to more than £29.6m, further consideration would have to be given to the use of the extra funds obtained; however, this is considered to be a very unlikely scenario

3. Capital Investment Fund (CIF) Panel Assessment

3.1 Introduction (Scoring and Feedback from Technical Panel 20/08/20)

The Capital Investment Fund's Technical Panel evaluated and scored this bid prior to release of this report. The Panel, consisting of experts from Finance, Legal, Property, Project Management Office and Directorate Service Teams evaluate and score each individual bid out of 100 based on the bid's strengths in each of the following key areas:

- Delivery of the Strategic Objective (Out of 10) 5.6
- Alignment with the investment criteria of the capital strategy (Out of 40) 30.4
- Achievability, quality of evidence base, rational evaluation and challenge of options, financial viability and risk (Out of 40) 26.0
- Sustainability, climate change and environmental impact (Out of 10) 8.2

Total Score 70.2

3.2 General Feedback

Generally any bid evaluated by the panel which receives a score above 65% is considered a strong bid, this is true for the Transforming Nuneaton – Highways project. However, in percentage terms the third key area falls exactly on 65% (26/40) when considered separately, this is a result of two key themes the panel kept returning to throughout their evaluation:

1) The risk of external funding not being secured meaning the full project cost being funded from WCC resources and whether this amount of capital resource should be dedicated to one specific area.

2) The need for supporting evidence of whether an investment of this scale is still required given the numerous unknown impacts of the pandemic.

This two themes are covered in the Panel's detailed feedback below.

3.3 Funding

The panel noted that further Department for Transport funding is potentially available with an expression of interest submitted for the scheme, however it was not confirmed how much this funding could be. The bid could have benefitted from quantifying this potential funding to understand the absolute minimum requirement on the Capital Investment Fund.

The bid stated that the MHCLG's FHSF and Towns funds are currently unsecured. Before approving this project there needs to be more certainty over the external funding from these sources. If WCC was to invest the full £21 million from its own resources this would be a significant opportunity cost of other potential projects across the county which would then not have financing available.

Investing £21 million funded from external borrowing into Nuneaton when WCC's financial position could potentially worsen as a result of the economic downturn is a large risk. It locks the council into a long term liability which could be challenged if some or all of the expected benefits do not arise as a result of the numerous unknowns surrounding the project.

3.4 Timing

Given the numerous unknowns around delivery and benefits of the scheme as a result of the pandemic and probable changes to people's travel behaviours in future, the panel felt the bid could have been clearer on why there was an urgency to approve this funding now. Given the significant investment requested the panel noted that it may be prudent to delay making investment decisions on some elements of the scheme and revisit these elements in 12 months' time once the world returns to some semblance of normality.

To support this point, the panel noted that there is potential to delay approval and utilise the investment in equipment from the evidence based decision making' CIF bid submitted by the Communities service which is being considered elsewhere on this agenda, prior to approving the budget for this project. This other project is intended to inform decision making in light of a changing world. The panel therefore felt it may be wasteful to approve this Transforming Nuneaton bid at the same time as the evidence based decision making scheme and so not use its findings to support investment in one of the largest schemes in the capital programme.

The panel noted the interdependencies and benefits of delivering these schemes as a joined up project. However the panel raised the point of whether, given the uncertainties raised above, some of this work could be undertaken without the external funding as a reduced allocation from the CIF, or at least before this funding has been confirmed as secured. This approach could help WCC control strategic risks arising from the changing world which could impact on the project.

3.5 Delivery

The panel noted that potential impacts of COVID-19 have been considered within the contingency costs of the project but these are as yet unknown. More could have been included in the project's risk register to address the risks of COVID-19 impacting on the previously anticipated benefits around the wider Transforming Nuneaton project.

The panel queried if the datasets the scheme is based on have been updated to reflect traffic forecasts post COVID-19 and if changing habits mean some elements of the scheme can change. The panel felt more could have been included in the bid to demonstrate this is still a good project in light of the potential changing behaviours around road use as it is expected that more people will continue to work from home on a more regular basis in future.

The panel's view was that taken individually the highways improvements elements of the bid are sensible schemes and make a strong case for developing sustainable transport capabilities within Nuneaton, especially if this infrastructure is required to

accommodate the increase in housing development taking place in the local area. If just a highways scheme then we could be more confident of the benefits – but the lack of data on the other benefits of improving highways to boost economic regeneration adversely impacted the scoring.

On this basis the panel suggest it would be useful to consider at this stage whether the project can concentrate solely on delivering some of the 'green impact' elements of the scheme for delivery now at a lower cost, with investment in the increased road usage infrastructure once refreshed data becomes available or is collected.

The bid notes the desire to provide suitable active travel infrastructure which has been emphasised further given social distancing guidelines from the government and the reduction in public transport capacity that has resulted. However the panel stress that social distancing is a temporary measure - any investment in making permanent adjustments to highways (such as widening pavements) should be carefully thought through as social distancing will not last forever.

3.6 Risk

There is significant risk in approving funding of £21 million when a number of future unknowns from the pandemic exist. However this project does stand up as a purely highways scheme, especially if it is not anticipated that both COVID-19 and any economic hit on Nuneaton as a result of the recession will significantly change the frequency of road use.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 A key driver behind the scheme is the environmental improvements anticipated around Nuneaton Town Centre as a result, whilst simultaneously supporting the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency and the two Air Quality Management Areas.

4.2 The proposed scheme promotes the use of more sustainable modes of transport by new and improved pedestrian and cycling facilities both between the train station and town centre, and to the wider town area.

4.3 Objective 1 in the (draft) Nuneaton town Transport Strategy which identifies the proposed mitigation schemes is:

Objective 1: To build a sustainable transport system that supports WCC's Carbon Neutral Action Plan

- To reduce the environmental impact of transport in and around Nuneaton Town Centre and improve local air quality.
- To ensure that new developments are located where access by sustainable modes can be promoted and access by private vehicles can be limited.
- To create a network of high quality, well connected walking and cycling routes that provide access to and within Nuneaton Town Centre.

4.4 An assessment of tail pipe impact from the scheme proposed in the two AQMAs within Nuneaton has been undertaken, which shows an improvement in both of these areas. This is to be expected on the basis that travel time savings and reduced congestion are achieved with the proposed scheme, particularly at the A444 / Corporation St junction which is located within AQMA2. This quantifiably demonstrates the schemes substantial support in achieving WCC's climate change, environmental and sustainability objectives.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 The objectives of the Transforming Nuneaton Highways Improvement Project have been formed on the basis of those established in the wider Transforming Nuneaton masterplan study, aligned with the draft Nuneaton Town Centre Transport Strategy and linked to the council core outcome of ensuring that ***Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure***, as well as noting the importance of the council's Climate Change Emergency Declaration. These objectives are detailed below.

- Provide a scheme to regenerate and repurpose the town centre environment to meet today's need
- Attract economic investment into Nuneaton Town Centre, thus maximising the rate of employment, business growth and skill levels in Warwickshire.
- To improve access and connectivity to, and within the town centre by all modes, focusing on delivering sustainable transport infrastructure
- Accommodate for increased transport demand through Local Plan growth and the implementation of the Transforming Nuneaton masterplan
- To support WCC's Climate Change Emergency declaration
- To deliver improvements which encourage low-carbon, sustainable modes

5.2 The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan includes an additional 14,000 residential dwellings and over 100 ha of employment land in the local plan area. Furthermore, the adjacent borough, North Warwickshire, includes over 1,200 dwellings and 42 ha in its Borough Plan, some of which is located close to the Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary. These sites will increase the number of trips into Nuneaton Town Centre, adding to the already congested ring road, and provide challenges in terms of meeting the climate change agenda.

5.3 The Transforming Nuneaton programme is a strategic package of projects aimed at delivering the overarching vision of the programme over the next 10 - 15 years and aims to address the following key challenges faced by Nuneaton Town Centre:

- Low business density;
- Lack of town centre living;
- Reliance on traditional retail;
- Lack of leisure facilities;
- No national restaurant chains in the town centre;
- Limited local services for local needs;
- Poor skills and qualifications of the local population;
- Limited quality business space; and
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough will experience significant growth over the next 15 years.

5.4 The Transforming Nuneaton Highways Programme provides the infrastructure necessary to facilitate the regeneration of Nuneaton town centre and growth across the wider borough area. Nuneaton does not attract the same level of investment from the private sector as other areas of the County. Land values and market conditions mean that private investors are not choosing the town as a location for development. Public sector intervention is required to stimulate the market and attract wider investment; by investing in the infrastructure it removes a barrier to investment and lays the foundation for the private sector to build upon.

5.5 The junction designs, of those identified for the CIF investment, have been progressed to an outline feasibility level in order for the funding applications to be

submitted. On allocation of funding for these projects the designs will undergo further development in order to identify and resolve any issues in regard to alignment, land ownership, utilities and subject to review and approval through progress to detailed design in preparation for procurement. This process may result in minor amendments to the designs shown in this report.

5.6 A full options appraisal has been carried out and is summarised in Appendix 1; the options were all assessed within the new Nuneaton transport model and assessed against future growth and development scenarios.

5.7 The schemes will contribute a significant part of the wider mitigation package for the town and to the wider suite of changes proposed within the Nuneaton Transport Strategy, which is currently being progressed, and will be available to view in due course . Ultimately, the mitigation package aims to accommodate increased transport demand of all types and therefore transform Nuneaton into a prosperous town centre where people choose to live, do business, shop and visit.

5.8 The **expected benefits** of the Proposed Scheme are

Benefits	**Measurement and Metric of Benefits**
Reduction in congestion	Improvement in journey times Enhancement of journey time reliability
Attract economic investment and regeneration	Increase in employment in Nuneaton Town Centre Increase in trip generators to Nuneaton Town Centre
Increase the use of active travel	Increase in walking and cycling in town centre Reduction in car usage
Enhanced public realm	Increase in trip generators to Nuneaton Town Centre Reduction in car usage
Cater for increased transport demand anticipated through the Borough Plan and Transforming Nuneaton masterplan	Improvement of journey times Enhancement of journey time reliability Reduction in car usage
Maximise opportunities from wider network improvements at Nuneaton rail station	Increased footfall at Nuneaton rail station Ticket revenue uplift at station
Improved air quality	Monitoring of air quality in AQMAs

5.9 **Assessed Economic Benefits of Proposed Scheme:** An economic appraisal of the overall Transforming Nuneaton mitigation package was undertaken to assess the present value of benefits of the scheme using latest DfT Transport User Benefit Appraisal (TUBA) software. The TUBA assessment shows the scheme will result in a total of £51.06M in user benefits over a 60-year appraisal period, assuming a 2.5% modal shift from private car to public transport results from the wider masterplan mitigation package. The scheme therefore results in a BCR of 2.34, which represents **high value for money**.

5.10 **Additionality -** Additionality is the extent to which something happens as a result of an intervention that would not have occurred in the absence of the intervention. Following the guidance in the Homes and Communities Agency Additionality Guide (2014), these scheme form part of an overall package that will facilitate and stimulate new developments within Nuneaton Town Centre. The significant improvement to the

pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as part of the scheme will enable a transformation of travel within the area, resulting in displacement, with a reduction in vehicle trips and a 'step change' to active modes created as a result. In the absence of intervention, the masterplan cannot be delivered with the current highway capacity constraints and therefore the transformation in travel as detailed above unable to be realised.

5.11 The delivery of the proposed schemes will have a positive impact for the community and provide better designed access to the town. An equality impact assessment has been completed for the programme to ensure that no one group is adversely impacted. As each project moves into detailed design further work will take place to ensure opportunities are maximised.

5.12 A full risk assessment has been carried out, including a risk workshop, and this has been developed into a risk register for the project. It has identified a number of high level risks which the programme manager will oversee and monitor in conjunction with the established project board. Key risks include

5.12.1 Tender prices will come in higher than expected: This will be mitigated by regular of estimates to ensure that the most up-to-date prices are used to ensure a full understanding of the prices as the project develops. A significant contingency has been incorporated into the cost estimates.

5.12.2 Significant disruption during construction: This will be mitigated by the communication plan that details the process for informing users of the upcoming works. This will be constantly monitored and updated to ensure that the information is fully disseminated to the public.

5.12.3 Restrictions will be required due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, if social distancing is still in place when construction commences, this will have an effect on both tender prices and timescales, meaning higher costs and potential reputational damage. This is to be mitigated by the robust contingency and risk costs within the budget.

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

The timeline is as robust as can be expected at this stage of the programme. Realistic timescales have been included for items outside of WCC control, such as planning permission which will involve public consultation.

Schemes A & B Newtown Rd / Corporation St / Abbey St & Queens Rd (Major)

Activity	Start	Completion
Land Acquisition	N/A	N/A
Planning Permission	N/A	N/A
Design	Autumn '20	Autumn '21
Tender	Autumn '21	Winter '21
Construction	Winter '22	Spring '23

Scheme C Wheat St (Major)

Activity	Start	Completion
Land Acquisition	Spring '20	Spring '21
Planning Permission	N/A	N/A
Design	Spring '21	Spring '22
Tender	Spring '22	Summer '22
Construction	Autumn '22	Summer '23

Scheme D Railway Station Gyratory (Major)

Activity	Start	Completion
Land Acquisition	Spring ‘20	Spring ‘22
Planning Permission	Spring ‘22	Autumn ‘22
Demolition	Autumn ‘22	end of Winter ‘23
Design	Autumn ‘22	Autumn ‘24
Tender	Autumn ‘24	Jan ‘25
Construction	Spring ‘26	Winter ‘27

Appendices

1. TN Junction Upgrades Preferred Options – Summary
2. TN Programme Spend ProfileOverview

Background Papers

None

	Name	**Contact Information**
Report Author	Daniel Cresswell, Catherine Marks	danielcresswell@warwickshire.gov.uk, catherinemarks@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	David and Scott??	
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning Sometimes do these as joint with Peter Butlin because of the value	

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Cllr Sargeant, Cllr Clarke,
Other members: Cllr Golby & Cllr Shilton

APPENDIX 1.1

Highway Improvement – Preferred Options

The following preferred options are subject to change throughout the detailed design process. Thus far, they have not been approved by the Engineering Design Services design team.

Fig 1. A444 / Corporation St / Powell Way

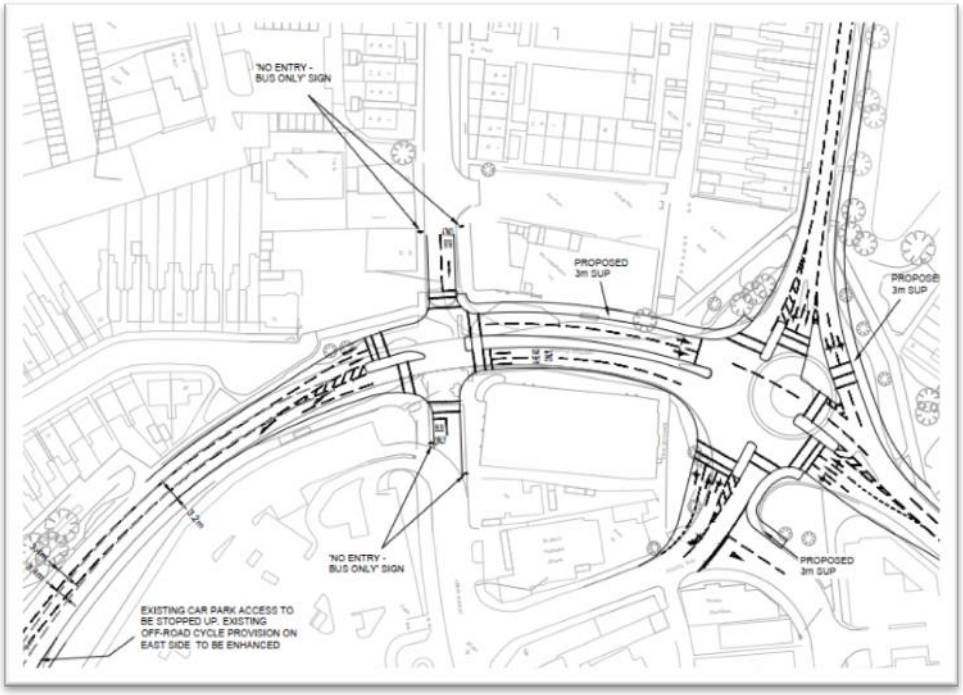


Fig 2. A444 / Leicester Rd / Back St / Bond St / Regent St

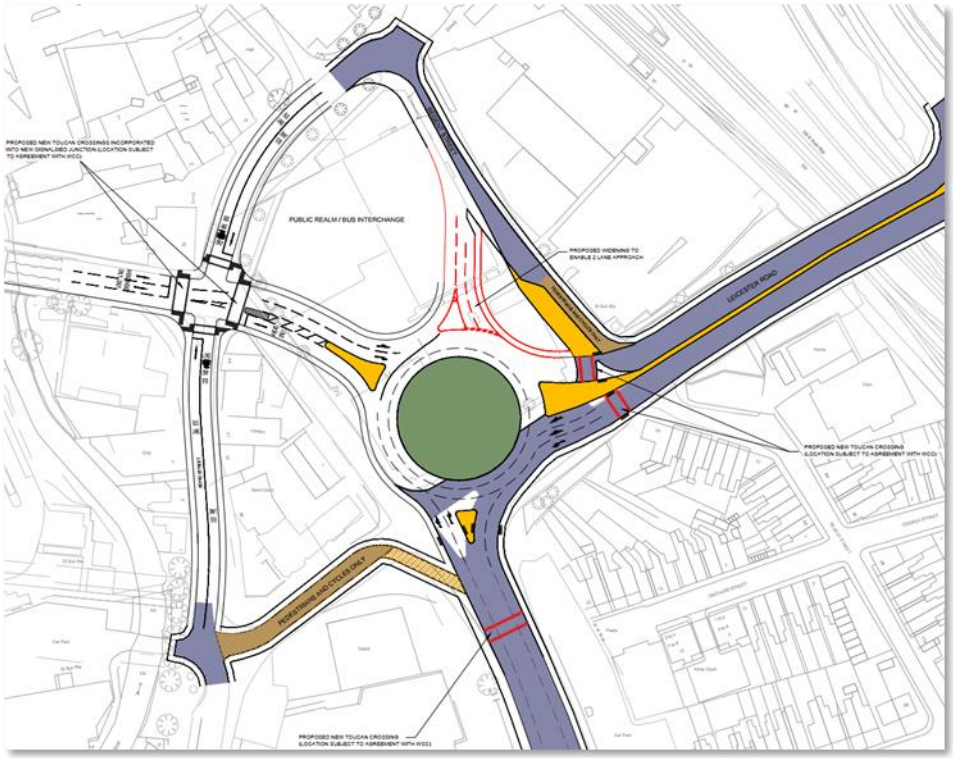


Fig 3. A444 / Wheat St

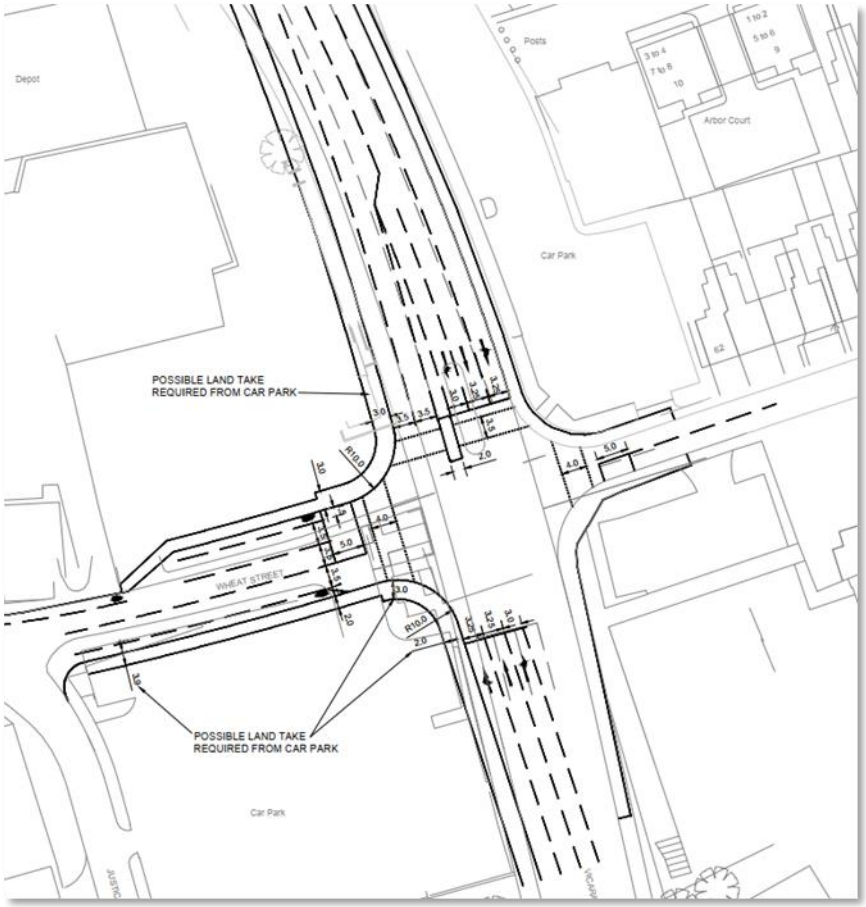
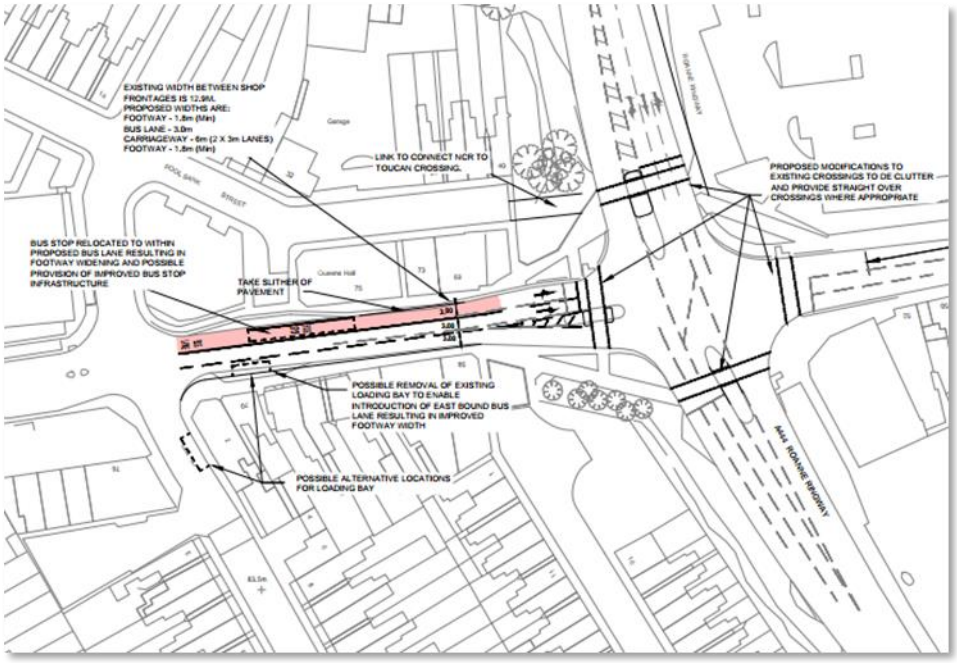


Fig 4. A444 / Queens Rd



APPENDIX 2.1

Capital Spend Profile

	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	Total £'000
Site Investigation								
Detailed Scheme Design (Station Gyratory Scheme)			721	721	722			2164
Land Acquisition	6000							6000
Detailed Scheme Design (Corporation St)	294	293						587
Detailed Scheme Design (Wheat St)		180	11					191
Detailed Scheme Design (Queens Rd)	17	30						47
Detailed Scheme Design (Coton Rd)		14	430					444
Detailed Scheme Design (Weddington Terrace)	100	27						127
Construction & Supervision (Station Gyratory scheme)						123	4200	4323
Construction & Supervision (Corporation St scheme)		320	3200	100				3620
Construction & Supervision (Wheat St scheme)			636	600				1236
Construction & Supervision (Queens Rd scheme)		16	280	10				306
Construction & Supervision (Coton Rd scheme)		370	2140	360				2870
Construction Supervision (Weddington Terrace N&S)		747						747
Station Area temp public realm							430	430
Improved Cycling Facilities			434	2805				3239
Bus infrastructure				430				
Risk		466	466	466	466	466	470	2800
TOTAL CIF BID								**21704**
Total Capital Cost	**6417**	**2562**	**8318**	**5492**	**1188**	**589**	**5100**	**29561**

Agenda Item 13

Cabinet

8 October 2020

WCC Response to Government "Planning for the Future" Consultation

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet agree the proposed response wording in the Appendix.

2. That the Strategic Director for Communities in consultation with the Leader be authorised to finalise the report to government.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 On August 6th, the government released its consultation "Planning for the Future", which has an end date of October 29th. This report asks Cabinet to approve the Warwickshire County Council response to this consultation.

1.2 The proposed reforms have far-reaching consequences for the Council, in terms of:

- Warwickshire's ability to remain attractive to residents, developers and commercial investors while retaining its local character and ensuring sustainability,
- the ability of stakeholders to participate at appropriate stages in planning decisions,
- the way infrastructure required as a result of development is funded and delivered,
- the way the Council's teams work to deliver our planning responsibilities, and
- the way the Council is funded to deliver its planning responsibilities.

1.3 However, the current consultation is high-level and idea-based, and does not yet provide much of the detail required to fully assess the impacts of the proposals on either our communities or the Council. The consultation envisages new primary and secondary legislation but does not clarify whether this will replace or be an addition to existing legislation; furthermore, it focuses almost entirely on housing development and does not explain how the proposals would interact with other planning matters such as Mineral and Waste planning or employment land planning. It also does not acknowledge what would need to be different to work in two-tier areas compared to unitary areas (which is the overall perspective used). The precise timescale is not set out but the document suggests that new Local Plans required by the new

legislation should be in place by the end of the current Parliament, implying a rapid path to create and adopt the new legislation.

1.4 Following a process briefing and gathering feedback from both officers and Members, the Council's proposed response has been developed and is included at the Appendix.

1.5 A further related consultation is completing on October 1st. This earlier consultation focuses more on incremental technical changes to the existing planning system that are proposed to take place before the wider scope changes in the main reform consultation. The County Council is therefore not formally responding to the earlier consultation but is picking up relevant points within its response in the Appendix.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The proposals, if implemented, could have serious financial consequences for the Council's operational revenue and capital funding but there is insufficient detail to estimate these fully yet.

2.2 In recent years, the Council has spent on average ~£20m of developer capital funding each year. If the Council had to borrow in advance of receiving this amount (because of the proposed change in payment date from start of development or other activity trigger to date of occupation), it would create a £1.6m annual cost to the revenue budget for each year that the Council had to forward fund the infrastructure. This would need careful forecasting and could affect the affordability of our capital programme.

2.3 There is also a proposal in the consultation that a substantially greater proportion of total developer funding goes towards town and parish councils in the Neighbourhood Share; there is also a lack of clarity over how the allocation of the remainder between lower and upper tiers of government would work in two tier areas with different infrastructure responsibilities. Both these issues create a risk to the Council's current capital programme funding position.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None at this point, though the consultation refers to a future relevant consultation to be launched in the summer.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The proposals within the consultation with the highest potential impact include:

- A renewed emphasis on Local Plans as deterministic documents, including the development of site-specific design codes and guides
- A shift of consultation/engagement and local democratic/regulatory activity to the Plan-making stage, rather than at planning application
- The adoption of national development management policies to remove duplication in Local Plans, making them much more streamlined
- A reduction in the time allowed to approve Local Plans, from an average 7 years currently to 30 months, and a requirement for more pace in delivery of other planning decisions, with penalties for authorities not meeting the requirements
- The introduction of three types of planning “zone”, to be designated to individual areas in the Local Plan, which would see developments in some sites automatically granted outline planning permission, and accelerate other developments meeting certain advance criteria such as “beauty”; local planning committees would consequently have a much reduced role for decision-making on a case by case basis, with more focus on assessment of whether design codes and standards are being met
- The digitisation of much of the planning process to enhance transparency and enable increased pace
- The introduction of a nationally set infrastructure levy based on land value increases, levied at point of occupation, rather than site-specific s106 agreements where payments are usually due at initiation of phases of development work; the consultation includes options for either a single national rate or area-based rates (still set nationally)
- The ability for Councils to borrow against anticipated infrastructure levy payments to fund infrastructure needed before levy payments are due, and a reduction in restrictions on how this could be spent
- The introduction of nationally determined housing targets, based on assessments of affordability, land constraints and densification opportunities
- Revision of the funding model and skills strategy for Planning activity; this would see the cost of operating the planning system borne mainly by those benefiting from the financial gains rather than the taxpayer (as is currently the case in relation to the costs of Plan-making and enforcement)
- Some strengthening of enforcement powers

4.2 The proposed response in the Appendix from Warwickshire County Council includes the following key points:

- Welcoming general intentions to speed up decision-making and reduce ambiguity for all stakeholders
- Welcoming strengthening of the status of Local Plans as meaningful documents which already absorb substantial Member and officer resource
- Supporting the development of design codes which favour “beauty” in terms of local character and preference,
- Expressing caution about automated accelerated permission for schemes which meet design codes, on the basis that it will not be feasible to pre-determine sufficient detail for inclusion in the Local Plan, Design Codes and Masterplans to ensure that the best interests of the community are served by future development

- Supporting increased digitisation, if government funds its development and creates consistency of use and process between councils
- Highlighting the many missing elements and questions, especially around practical application in two-tier areas and all non-housing planning activity
- Welcoming the proposal for new burdens funding to cover transition but challenging the affordability and deliverability of the very quick transition timescales
- Challenging suggested new Local Plan timescales as undeliverable, especially given the requirements for stronger consultation and binding status
- Protesting against “incentives” for quick decision-making around applications that are only punishments and do not allow for the impact of local factors
- Registering serious concerns about the proposal for all land to fit into one of the three zone types within a Local Plan in a binding way
- Raising concerns about national setting of binding housing targets without local adjustment and rebalancing
- Opposing a national infrastructure levy but supporting streamlining of s106 processes; arguing that s106 agreements recognise the specific circumstances and consequences of individual developments in a way that a national levy cannot, and also pointing out that many other mitigations (e.g. biodiversity, land provision, s278 payments) are currently secured via s106 agreements, which is not acknowledged in the proposals
- Opposing any regime for funding infrastructure where Councils carry either significant risk that funds will not be provided, or meet the borrowing costs of having to provide infrastructure at an earlier stage than a levy is paid by a developer due to the proposed change in trigger dates

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 Following Cabinet approval, the consultation response will be sent on behalf of the Council in time for the consultation deadline on October 29th. Given the speed and scope of this consultation, it is plausible that relevant further information and insights will emerge before October 29th (from government, council networks or relevant industry groups etc) that the Council will want to take into account in its response. Hence Cabinet are also asked to agree that the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make small changes to finalise the response at the Appendix as appropriate.

5.2 We will then await indications of next steps from government.

Appendices

1. Appendix

Background Papers

The government consultation can be accessed at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Victoria Barnard	vickibarnard@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	David Ayton-Hill	davidayton-hill@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning	jeffclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None
Other members: Councillors Golby, Shilton, Kondakor, Fradgley and Holland

This page is intentionally left blank

White Paper: Planning for the Future

Warwickshire County Council response

Appendix WCC draft response to Planning for the Future

General Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Warwickshire County Council ("WCC" or "the Council") recognises that these proposals are far-reaching and envisage substantial change in the current planning system, and the Council supports much of the government's ambition and direction in this regard. However in the following answers we identify several substantial concerns with the proposals made in this consultation, which the Council hopes will be considered fully.

The Council also notes that there is much missing from this consultation document which limits our ability to understand and consider the proposals. In particular the Council notes the following:

- The consultation makes no reference to two-tier local government. Several of the proposals need explaining in this specific context,and have particular consequences in this context. For example, it is not clear whether the proposed powers associated with the new consolidated infrastructure levy (e.g. ability to borrow against anticipated revenue, removal on restrictions on use) would apply to all tiers or just to the Local Planning Authority. There is also no mention of statutory and other consultees situated within the upper tier authority, who play an important role in the planning process, both in the determination of planning applications, but also the preparation of local plans. This includes specialist inputs from Transport Planning, Flood, and Education amongst others. The Council requests that as proposals for planning reform are developed and further consultations or similar processes are launched, full consideration is given to how proposals would operate within the two-tier framework.
- The consultation does not discuss the planning process for mineral and waste sites, for which WCC is the local planning authority. It is not clear whether the proposals here include mineral and waste planning – i.e. that they would be fully integrated within a single, comprehensive Local Plan covering all uses of land – or whether, as in the current system, they would continue to be dealt with in a separate but linked process. The Council's consultation responses assume the latter, but much more clarity still needs to be provided on this issue and how the different processes would interlink. If however it was the intention that this consultation includes the future for mineral and waste planning as well, the Council requests that a further consultation be carried out which fully explains this context and allows further responses from stakeholders.
- Equally, there is no consideration of the planning decisions made under "Regulation 3" processes, whereby a planning authority assesses its own planning applications. The Council requests that future consultations make explicit reference to changes implied by its proposals to these processes.
- The narrow focus of the consultation is house-building and planning for housing. There is inadequate consideration of other land uses such as commercial, retail, public sector, community and industrial (including the previously mentioned minerals and waste locations). As the planning reform process continues, the Council urges government to present proposals for all kinds of land use together, since this is how communities actually experience and think about their locality.
- The Council would in particular like to see a consultation that gives equal weighting to economic regeneration as a key outcome of local planning and finds it difficult to

fully assess the proposals in this consultation without this broader context. Whilst the long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our economy are not yet clear, it is already inevitable that the current operating models for town centres and other employment sites need substantial review; the government must recognise the role of planning in enabling proactive responses to such changes and design planning reform to give planning authorities the appropriate powers to make a difference.

- Beyond some general discussion of cross-boundary issues, the consultation makes little reference to the important role of strategic planning. Every planning authority must consider its neighbours' demography, forecasts and plans, and understand how these dovetail with their own, to ensure the best outcomes for all communities and individuals (none of whom live out their lives entirely within one planning authority area). Strategic planning helps to ensure that the big picture is being considered within Local Plans, and prevents market failure in the form of incorrect supply or inadequate infrastructure provision. The Council requests that the role of, and framework for, strategic planning must be fully explained within future consultation stages.

The Council would also comment that the way the current planning framework approaches the two-tier system of local government (in operation across much of the country) creates substantial conflict of interest which does not always deliver the best outcomes for our communities but which are not addressed clearly in the consultation. For example, upper tier authorities are not the final decision-makers in s106 agreements and must rely on the lower tier local planning authority to represent them, despite the fact that typically the upper tier's financial ask will be substantially greater than, and of a broader strategic impact than, that of the lower-tier authority. With developers keen to limit their liability for infrastructure funding, and pressures on the local planning authority from government, local activists and the developer, this can lead to situations where an upper tier authority's requirements are given less priority and weight in final agreements. This rewards developers for "gaming" the system and damages relationships between all parties, particularly between Councils aiming to serve the same communities. The Council would therefore urge government to consider how it can prevent such situations, regardless of the progress of the changes included in this consultation.

Finally, the Council notes that change on the scale proposed in this consultation will create substantial resource demands, particularly during the transition phases where councils will be "dual running" the old and new systems. The Council wishes to emphasise that the timescales in the consultation do not seem realistic, given the limited resources of all planning authorities and indeed of the planning sector (and associated specialist teams supporting planning processes) itself – though new burden funding is welcomed, it must be recognised that the ambitious timescales proposed here are simply not deliverable. A pragmatic approach to the speed with which local planning authorities must recreate their Local Plans would make the transition much more manageable and deliver the outcomes that the government is seeking. As an upper tier authority, WCC would have to support the recreation of five Local Plans within 42 months, which would require an unprecedented level of resource input across multiple teams (e.g. flood, ecology, archaeology, highways, education etc). It is also essential that, to fully embed any new approach, shift the skills portfolio within the relevant professions and move to a leaner, more transparent and deterministic system, the government must commit to fully resourcing the impacts.

Please note: in some responses below, the Council has simply noted that it does not wish to respond to the specific question, where the question is not directed to organisations in

the Council's position.

For brevity, this response document has been created by extracting the questions from the main consultation document.

Appendix WCC draft response to Planning for the Future

Consultation questions and WCC answers (in bold)

1. What three words do you associate most with the planning system in England?

The Council does not wish to respond to this question.

2. Do you get involved with planning decisions in your local area?

   [Yes / No]

Yes, as per WCC's statutory role.

3. Our proposals will make it much easier to access plans and contribute your views to planning decisions. How would you like to find out about plans and planning proposals in the future?

   [Social media / Online news / Newspaper / By post / Other – please specify]

The Council supports a move towards a more digitised engagement system so long as it remains simple for our communities to access and operate. It should also be completely integrated with planning software used by planning officials and committees to ensure efficient operation; as much as possible should be automated to keep costs low and to keep information up to date.

However, the Council would note that creating, implementing and moving all interested parties to an online system for the whole planning process will be very costly and take substantial time, and would like to see the government come forward with realistic proposals for delivering and resourcing this centrally.

4. What are your top three priorities for planning in your local area?

   [Building homes for young people / building homes for the homeless / Protection of green spaces / The environment, biodiversity and action on climate change / Increasing the affordability of housing / The design of new homes and places / Supporting the high street / Supporting the local economy / More or better local infrastructure / Protection of existing heritage buildings or areas / Other – please specify]

As a statutory body with broad strategic powers and scope, the Council has a wide range of priorities including all of those listed above - and more. For example, in addition to those listed above, the Council would require that:

- **The system should put the cost of the necessary processes onto those who benefit most; similarly risk should be carried primarily by the private sector, who can benefit from the upside outcome**
- **Tensions between different parts of the public sector (upper tier/lower tier,**

NHS, education, third sector etc) should be designed out of the system

- **New infrastructure (such as highways) must conform to standard specifications (whether or not it is proposed to be private) and not place unsupportable maintenance burdens onto the public sector**
- **Infrastructure need created by a development must be considered within a methodology which takes into account current provision in the locality**

5. Do you agree that Local Plans should be simplified in line with our proposals?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

The Council supports proposals which simplify Local Plans while strengthening their standing, as these are documents into which a substantial amount of officer, Councillor, community and other stakeholder time and resource is put, but which can provide less clarity and certainty than intended. WCC therefore supports proposals for increased transparency and in particular which make it easier for those without a substantial development or planning background to understand both how decisions will be made and to contribute to that process.

However, the Council does not agree that the proposal to separate all land into the three types of *Growth, Renewal* and *Protected* recognises the practical complexity of existing and future land use across the country, and the decision-making that must be carried out at a local democratic level to ensure best outcomes for our communities. The Council has identified several potential pitfalls from this proposal which indicate it would not achieve the government's stated aims.

Without the definition of "substantial development" which the consultation proposes would be enshrined in future policy and other further detail, it is difficult to clearly understand the delineation between the *Growth* and *Renewal* land types, particularly in the instances where land in *Renewal* areas may qualify for automated planning permission by meeting pre-determined conditions. The Council has real concerns that this aspect will not be easily understood by communities and that this may lead to imperfect behaviours on the part of many participants in the process.

For example, it could be foreseen that, in steering the future development of a mature town with a need for regeneration, a planning authority would want to create a high number of zones across the town, varying between *Growth* and *Renewal* on an almost street-by-street basis, each with its own Design Code and mini-masterplan. This would not necessarily be the wrong thing to do where a local authority has a clear vision for the change needed in that town centre; but the "patchwork" of zones could be extremely confusing to local communities and highly offputting to commercial developers who would see their options as too limited. This may prevent engagement or cause substantial pressure and delays at Plan-making stage, which in turn may motivate planning authorities to instead just create broad-brush zones covering whole towns; this would deliver simplicity and options for stakeholders and perhaps speed Plan-making, but lose all nuance or control for the planning authority.

Part of the issue here is that the difference between *Growth* and *Renewal* as

designations is not very clear. Given that, with adherence to Design Codes and other stipulations, developments in *Renewal* areas could have as quick a route to full planning permission as those in *Growth* areas, it would appear that the intended distinction is more to do with volume of development per developer or investor than any other factor. The phrase *"gentle densification"* needs definition.

The consultation does not provide sufficient information to assess what tests must be met for land to be designated as *Protected* i.e. will the land need to meet a government definition (which could include a pre-existing designation such as AONB) or will the planning authority have freedom to designate any land into this type where it does not support future development?

There is also insufficient information in the consultation as to how decisions would be made regarding the compliance of a development with the land type and Design Code for the location. Presumably the intention is a checklist-style approach, whereby officers and/or Members would be provided with assurance by developers that their proposals comply with the Local Plan's designation and conditions for the site. This may in practice not create much more efficiency than the current system, though perhaps more decisions would be made by officers acting under delegated authority than by planning committees.

Separating all land into the three types at the start of the Local Plan period would also not consider the knock-on impacts of multiple developments or other changes over the life of the Plan, so proposals coming forward in the latter years would have to be considered in exactly the same way as those in the earliest years without any recognition of the impact of what has happened in the intervening period. An obvious example is ecology; a survey from three years ago cannot be relied upon as a meaningful assessment of the species present on a site now. Concern over the impact of this factor would be likely to lead to a shortening of Local Plan durations, as the only mechanism giving planning authorities the opportunity to take account of change. This will hamper the government's ambitions for a more efficient, transparent and predictable planning system for all stakeholders.

Furthermore it is not clear how the infrastructure and other public sector service consequences of a development would be determined, and how this would be taken into account in a system where so much is determined in advance. There is little detail on what the government expects to see in the detailed Design Codes associated with areas and sites, and so it is difficult to understand what case-by-case decision-making would still take place – whether, for example, the proposals would allow the highway authority to consider the impact of specific applications on nearby major transport routes. A Local Plan may designate an area for *Growth*, and specify that its Design Code would allow a range of mid-scale commercial development types, but these could still have materially different effects on the road network. The Council would need to understand substantially more about what would be included in Design Codes – the scope, level of detail, opportunity for intervention and representation, etc – before it can be satisfied that it will be able to carry out its statutory and democratic responsibilities.

As a wider point, a key benefit of the current case-by-case decision making approach is that planning authorities, communities and statutory consultees only need to consider specific proposals in depth; the proposals in the consultation would imply all those individuals and organisations would need to consider

everything that could be proposed, and make a pre-emptive decision on whether it would be supported. This cannot be an efficient approach.

Despite the desire for shorter, simpler Local Plans, the need for site-by-site specific conditions – which will be felt all the more important given the more binding nature of Local Plans – may well mean that in practice these documents only become lengthier than their current formats. Whilst much of this content be included in Design Codes or Masterplans instead of the main Plan, to most stakeholders this will be an irrelevant distinction; it will still be necessary for them to read it all. The benefit of an approach which focuses on the principles of future decision-making is that far less content needs to be captured (and evidenced, consulted on, tested etc) at the outset.

The Council would be more supportive of the alternative proposal within the consultation that some land be designated as *Growth* while other areas remain within the scope of current planning and development management processes. However several of the points made above and in following answers about the work needed to even create the capacity for near-automated decision-making would remain even in this proposal.

6. Do you agree with our proposals for streamlining the development management content of Local Plans, and setting out general development management policies nationally?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The Council understands the benefits of consistent national development management policies and their removal from duplication in Local Plans wherever possible. However, these will need to be comprehensive to ensure that local conditions can be adequately addressed. Otherwise, the government should consider potential scenarios where local policies would be appropriate and clarify how this would fit into the emerging framework.

The Council is concerned by the suggestion that a reduction in site survey/site specific information would be needed. For example, the flood risk and drainage constraints are different on every site to requirements such as material/building design. This also impacts on the Ordinary Watercourse Land Drainage Consenting process as bespoke advisories are added based on the watercourses on site and if these are not picked up this will lead to an increased risk of flooding due to unconsented/badly designed structures. It will not be practicable to provide all of this oversight in advance.

The Council also notes that there are a number of examples within the existing policy framework that need strengthening (for example, in the definition of surface water flood risk). The high quality and completeness of the national framework will be essential in making it possible for local planning authorities to rely on these policies.

Finally the Council notes that a number of other documents underpin existing Local Plans e.g. Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, Local Transport Plan etc. The relationship of these documents to the new format Local Plan and

associated Design Codes etc need to be clarified, and where digitised access is to be provided, the system should help stakeholders locate these too.

7(a). Do you agree with our proposals to replace existing legal and policy tests for Local Plans with a consolidated test of "sustainable development", which would include consideration of environmental impact?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The consultation does not contain sufficient information about what would be included in the new consolidated test.

However the Council recognises that abolishing the Sustainability Appraisal system and developing a simplified process for assessing the environmental impact of plans could make it easier for Local Planning Authorities to deliver Plans, as would a slimmed down assessment of deliverability.

Furthermore, the Council supports the requirement that "Plans should be informed by appropriate infrastructure planning, and sites should not be included in the plan where there is no reasonable prospect of any infrastructure that may be needed coming forward within the plan period" as part of this test.

7(b). How could strategic, cross-boundary issues be best planned for in the absence of a formal Duty to Cooperate?

Within a two-tier system, clear dialogue between authorities needs to be preserved through working groups or other means. The suggestion in the White Paper that the "*new-style digital Local Plan would also help local planning authorities to engage with strategic cross-boundary issues and use data-driven insights to assess local infrastructure needs*" is only part of the solution. Interactions between people – though fully supported by digital systems – must remain at the core of strategic planning for it to be effective.

Furthermore, lower tier planning authorities must have a responsibility to fully recognise the strategic implications of development and growth in their area within the decisions they make. Upper tier authorities need to be able to deliver infrastructure that works (consistently and efficiently) for the whole of their democratic region, and wider in many cases. The tests for Local Plan soundness must include evidence that upper tier authorities – both those sharing land and those which neighbour onto land within the planning authority's scope – have been engaged and are in agreement with the infrastructure provision within the Plan. Part of the "sustainable development" test should include asking those upper tier authorities to confirm their satisfaction with the provisions within the Local Plan.

8(a). Do you agree that a standard method for establishing housing requirements (that takes into account constraints) should be introduced?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

The current system creates an indicative target which local planning authorities consider within their planning methodology; however they may adjust this figure for a wide variety of reasons.

In Warwickshire, for example, the housing needs met by some current Local Plans exceed the current standard method figures in recognition that bordering local areas which are materially important to Warwickshire's economy (e.g. Coventry) may find it more challenging to supply their "share" of the housing need. It is better for Warwickshire's economy therefore that the figures are inflated above the very local "share" for each District or Borough, and are instead set according to a more strategic view of overall housing need and potential across the region.

In other areas adjustments may be made (to increase or decrease the figure) in response to a range of equally legitimate factors.

Simply setting a standard method for each planning authority that does not provide the opportunity for intra-regional redistribution, or to otherwise take account of relevant and justifiable local factors risks the creation of meaningless, undeliverable Plans.

An alternative approach in the consultation suggests redistribution of the requirement where joint planning arrangements exist. The Council would broadly support this, assuming the vision here is an analogy of the pooling approach within the current Business Rates retention system. Several principles of this system, such as the need for planning for on larger scales than the boundaries of a single authority, transfer directly from the Business Rates scenario to the Planning System and so it may well serve as a useful concept to apply here as well; furthermore the system has been designed to incentivise the outcomes desired by government. If such a system were to be developed, its methodology, fairness and consistency would need to be considered as part of the "sustainable development" test for each individual Local Plan. Clarity is also needed to define what kinds of "joint planning arrangements" would be able to access this flexibility; the Council would suggest that all areas, not only those with mayors within combined authorities, should be able to propose a pooling approach where it can be evidenced that there is a strategic planning argument for it.

8(b). Do you agree that affordability and the extent of existing urban areas are appropriate indicators of the quantity of development to be accommodated?

No.

The consultation does not provide sufficient information to assess the intentions of this approach – it is impossible to interpret whether, for example, areas with pre-existing substantial urban development would be expected to provide *more* or *less* housing in a future calculation. Assuming that the latter approach is the intention, this would presumably have the effect of urbanising far more of the English countryside – shire counties such as Warwickshire would lose their existing identity and characteristics that currently provide a key difference for residents (and which make such areas attractive to investors, including housing developers). This cannot be the right way to distribute new housing as it ignores the existing diverse characteristics of areas.

In any case the proposals seem likely to be too simplistic; regardless of how the

existing urban areas in a planning area are interpreted, it will always be necessary to understand the urban areas across the strategic area to accurately interpret the ability of that whole area to provide more housing. Residents do not necessarily (or even typically) live within the planning authority where they work; they will contribute to the economy in multiple areas within a radius of their home location and further afield. It is too much of a simplification to look within a single District or Borough's area to understand the current housing provision available to residents, or to understand what would attract future residents (and developers).

Furthermore, without the wider context of other land use – and potential use – in an area, simply measuring the current housing provision does not provide a full picture of either land availability or demand. Other existing uses, particularly commercial and industrial, must be taken into account as well.

Affordability is certainly not an indicator of historic under-supply; quite apart from the points made above about residents' economic activity across a wide area, house prices move in response to a large number of external stimuli which can be nothing to do with supply. The consultation provides no detail as to how "affordability" will be assessed but any kind of snapshot view at a particular point in time would be very misleading. The government would need to consider how it would recognise relevant local circumstances in its assessment of this factor, such as the closure of a major local employer – this may cause house prices to drop without any change to housing need or supply.

9(a). Do you agree that there should be automatic outline permission for areas for substantial development (*Growth* areas) with faster routes for detailed consent?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

Please see answer to question 5 for relevant content.

The Council does not feel that it would be feasible to pre-determine sufficient detail (for inclusion in the Local Plan, Design Codes and Masterplans) to ensure that the best interests of the community are served by future development in *Growth* areas if there is no further opportunity for case-by-case scrutiny. To even attempt to provide the necessary level of definition would require an extraordinary degree of advance work from a huge number of stakeholders – from within the County Council alone, this would involve the infrastructure, regeneration, ecology, archaeology, landscape, highways and flood management teams, all of whom would need to imagine all potential developments within an area and consider the implications. For some teams – highways and regeneration for example – the details of each potential development could make a materially important difference to whether the scheme would be supported, to the infrastructure impacts on local government and other public services etc. It is simply not possible to capture all of this within pre-written Local Plans, Design Codes and Masterplans.

The Council also believes it is likely that this approach would reduce community engagement rather than heighten it. The new approach suggests a meaningful role for community and democratic input only once every ten years – given the proposed minimum Plan duration – which is insufficient for communities and their

elected representatives to be truly involved in the management of development.

9(b). Do you agree with our proposals above for the consent arrangements for *Renewal* and *Protected* areas?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

Please see answers to questions 5 and 9a for relevant content.

The definition and assessment of *"Beauty"* is hugely important to understanding the proposals in relation to *Renewal* areas and permitted development. The consultation talks about *"maintaining visual harmony"* which implies a presumption that areas in the *Renewal* category will be restricted to those where more housing of very much the same as existing would be welcomed and prioritised. However the Council would anticipate that local planning authorities in Warwickshire and elsewhere would want to specify areas as *Renewal* to indicate a strategic preference for *"gentle densification"* rather than "*substantial development"*, but also to change the nature of the housing in that area to move away from the existing common forms.

The Council can see advantages in an approach based around form-based development types that would be locally created and owned, to provide clarity for all stakeholders as to what future development in *Renewal* areas would most typically look like and to reflect local character and preference. However the Council would not support the use of such types in a way that made innovation and change fundamentally more difficult for developers or homeowners to achieve.

Furthermore the Council notes that buildings are not the only aspect of an area's visual harmony or beauty. Other infrastructure, landscape, commercial provision, public realm etc all need to be specified in a sympathetic way in Plans and Design Codes for the government's ambition in this respect to be delivered.

The Council does agree that *Protected* areas should continue to follow more stringent planning application processes.

9(c). Do you think there is a case for allowing new settlements to be brought forward under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

Substantially more information needs to be provided as to the scope and mechanism for this route. The Council assumes this would be a rare situation. However the Council would generally prefer that decision-making remain as local as possible, and with the full democratic accountability that local authorities provide through their constituencies and elected Members.

10. Do you agree with our proposals to make decision-making faster and more

certain?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes and No.

The Council supports the ambition to speed up decision-making as there are clear advantages for all participants. It particularly supports the creation and implementation of nationally consistent digital systems to support every stage of the process, and agrees that this increases opportunity for engagement by all stakeholders. However the Council notes the resource implications of developing and implementing such a system and emphasises that this must be delivered and funded centrally. It will also be necessary for new burden funding to take account of any long-term increased costs on councils as providers of key datasets, such as Historic Environment Records, that may need both creating as complete sets for the first time and then being kept up to date.

The Council does not support an overly simplistic approach to "incentivising" local planning authorities to make decisions within statutory timescales (especially since in fact, the proposals offer only punishments). In the majority of cases, decisions that take longer to make do so for good reasons outside of the planning authority's control, and it would be nonsensical to presume by a simple fining mechanism that the planning authority could always have reached a high-quality decision any faster than it has done. Equally, decisions taking longer time to consider are typically the more complex examples, which means that automatically granting planning permission to such cases would be directly counter-productive to the aims of the planning application process. This should particularly be considered in the context of the general proposals which imply that it is only the more unusual or challenging applications which would still come through a full permission process. The "incentives" suggested in the consultation would in fact reward planning authorities who chose to do a less complete job in the case of more complex applications. This does not create the best outcomes for communities.

11. Do you agree with our proposals for accessible, web-based Local Plans?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

The Council recognises the need for increased digitisation within the planning process, and particularly to simplify and increase engagement. To maximise these benefits for all participants a single national system needs to be developed and made mandatory for planning authorities and developers to use.

However the Council notes that there will be substantial resource implications of creating and then transitioning to the new system, and it would look for this to be delivered and funded by central government.

12. Do you agree with our proposals for a 30 month statutory timescale for the production of Local Plans?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

The Council supports the ambition to speed up the Plan-making process but does not see the proposals as realistic for any participants (including developers, planning authorities, and inspectors).

Compared to the current average Plan-making time (seven or eight years), 30 months would represent an extreme change – and only to do the same work as currently done. However, the proposals elsewhere in the consultation would substantially increase the work needed within the Plan-making process, to front-load much of the decision-making that is currently left to case-by-case decisions through the planning application process. The 30-month proposal is undeliverable in this context.

Instead the Council suggests that government avoid setting a legislative timetable, but leave the performance of individual authorities to be assessed through the existing democratic framework. A light-touch reporting regime which helped voters and communities assess pace in their local planning authority could be considered as a way to support this.

The consultation also doesn't outline how often the new Local Plans would need updating. The government's intention to make Local Plans more meaningful must there be accompanied by a requirement for each planning authority to review its Local Plan at least every five years. Reviews should be undertaken sooner than five years where there has been a significant change in circumstances, for instance where issues with land supply have been identified through regular monitoring.

13(a). Do you agree that Neighbourhood Plans should be retained in the reformed planning system?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

However the Council notes concerns regarding the capacity within communities to build Neighbourhood Plans; this has led to a somewhat patchy distribution of Plan progress, scope and quality across England as the creation of Neighbourhood Plans often relies on the efforts of a small number of dedicated volunteers. Community capacity for involvement – and particularly during any transition phase between planning systems – is not likely to increase in the future.

13(b). How can the neighbourhood planning process be developed to meet our objectives, such as in the use of digital tools and reflecting community preferences about design?

The Council supports ambitions to provide Neighbourhood Planning groups with integrated systems to help them connect into work being done by Local Planning Authorities to build wider Local Plans. However the government must recognise that few neighbourhood groups have the resources to make an investment in this area; the government must provide substantial funding and support for this transition.

Neighbourhood Planning must sit cohesively with Local Plans for both to be

effective; the new framework must make clear what responsibilities and opportunities fall to whom. The process should be seen as a logical flow from one level to another; it must be clear that Neighbourhood Plans provide further detail and guidance to supplement but not replace that in the Local Plans. Setting a realistic timescale for the development of Neighbourhood Plans after the completion of a Local Plan would help, as would clear guidelines for how decisions are made where there is no Neighbourhood Plan.

14. Do you agree there should be a stronger emphasis on the build out of developments? And if so, what further measures would you support?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

The Council agrees that the failure of developers to deliver the investments they have promised creates substantial frustration for communities, businesses, and planning authorities. In general, the consultation makes a presumption that it is the speed of decision-making within the planning system that is preventing the delivery of housing. This may be one relevant factor, but developers have in the past and continue to land bank (for their future development pipeline, to increase share price or to keep prices stable where several developers would otherwise be in competition in an area), and any new planning system needs to ensure that developers deliver on a housing trajectory or face financial penalties. There are many sites within Warwickshire where, following outline consent, developers have sold on parcels to different housing developers, and the delays this causes are nothing to do with the planning process.

The Council would therefore support a wide range of measures in this space, both incentivising and punitive. For example, a developer's build-out history could be taken into account in the achievement of planning permission; where developers have not achieved a locally set minimum rate over a given number of years, the presumption of outline planning permission in *Growth* areas could be withdrawn, forcing the developer to make an application specifically detailing how they will do better in the new development. Planning authorities could also adjust fee rates for high-performing developers, on the basis that the risk to the planning authority's decision-making is lower where build-out is faster.

15. What do you think about the design of new development that has happened recentlyin your area?

[Not sure or indifferent / Beautiful and/or well-designed / Ugly and/or poorly-designed / There hasn't been any / Other – please specify]

The Council does not wish to respond to this question.

16. Sustainability is at the heart of our proposals. What is your priority for sustainability in your area?

[Less reliance on cars / More green and open spaces / Energy efficiency of new

buildings / More trees / Other – please specify]

As an upper tier authority the Council has a wide reaching ambition and perspective on climate change, and our work is in line with the UN Sustainable Development goals. In a survey to develop the Council Plan 2025, residents prioritised increasing re-use, recycling and compost rates and reducing waste. All Council decisions take into account environmental consequences, and these consider the emissions the Council's activities generate, the emissions the Council has indirect control over (e.g. in the supply chain) and the emissions generated by residents and businesses in the county.

The Council supports the ambition that development should deliver "net gain" in sustainability terms, and would expect this principle to be duplicated across a range of themes e.g. flood risk.

17. Do you agree with our proposals for improving the production and use of design guides and codes?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The Council supports the principle of accelerated and/or simpler consenting pathways and recognises the role Design Codes, Guidance and Masterplans could play in supporting that ambition. The Council also supports the intention to ensure community involvement in their preparation, although it is noted that this places further substantial burdens on both planning authorities and community groups to engage with these processes fully, in limited timescales.

However, the consultation does not provide sufficient information about the intended scope and coverage of these documents. In particular it is unclear to what extent the local infrastructure and other public realm/landscape needs would be specified. As a county council, WCC needs a clear mechanism through which it can specify what would be required as a result of development. This specification would need to include land required (which could reduce the available land if certain other triggers were reached e.g. if a new school were to be required when and if new housing figures reached a certain value, either the Plan, local masterplan or design code would need to specify which plot(s) of land would be reserved for the school rather than commercial development and how developers could anticipate the requirement as they design their site) and, where the infrastructure or public realm would be created/built by the developer, the standards for its provision e.g. new roads within a housing development. This is complex to consider for each site and again the need to anticipate all possible development in advance would present a huge demand on limited council resources.

The Council therefore needs to understand more about how the government envisages this process taking place without the Design Codes becoming massively unwieldy documents and with a proportionate investment of resource by councils.

Tied in with the proposals is a new Manual for Streets. The Council would welcome consultation on this document when a draft is available.

18. Do you agree that we should establish a new body to support design coding

and building better places, and that each authority should have a chief officer for design and place-making?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The Council broadly welcomes proposals to support councils in implementing the requirements of the new planning system, but needs to understand more about the actual roles and responsibilities of the proposed new body to assess its added value. Similarly, inadequate information is provided about the potential statutory responsibilities of the chief officer for design and place-making.

In particular, the consultation does not make clear whether the proposal for a chief officer for design and place-making would only reflect each council's planning authority responsibilities (i.e. so that upper tier authorities such as WCC would have a chief officer for design and place-making in relation to mineral and waste planning only) or whether every authority would have a chief officer for design and place-making with full scope over every aspect of the planning system in the relevant geographical area. If the former is the government's intention, the Council needs further clarification as to that individual's responsibility to reflect the needs of the other tier of government, and how that other tier can contribute to their leadership on design matters; if the latter is the intention, it would be necessary to understand how these officers from different tiers would be expected to work together without unnecessary duplication and potential conflict.

19. Do you agree with our proposal to consider how design might be given greater emphasis in the strategic objectives for Homes England?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

The Council believes it is important that all stakeholders in the planning system, particularly those with wide scope and material impact such as Homes England, work towards the same ambitions.

20. Do you agree with our proposals for implementing a fast-track for beauty?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

Please see answer to question 9(b).

The Council would like to see further information provided on the information to be captured in Design Codes and Masterplans, and to understand the timescales for their development in relation to the Plan-making process.

The Council also notes that this appears to be directed at housebuilding. Further information is needed on how this would be applied to other built development including infrastructure and minerals and waste development. This would also enable the Council to understand any financial implications on associated with

'beautification' that will need to be factored into its future construction programme.

21. When new development happens in your area, what is your priority for what comes with it?

[More affordable housing / More or better infrastructure (such as transport, schools, health provision) / Design of new buildings / More shops and/or employment space / Green space/ Don't know / Other – please specify]

As a county council, WCC has a responsibility to ensure the provision of much of the supporting infrastructure and so it prioritises securing the funding, land and other statutory support for this.

However the Council also has wider objectives towards economic development, community support, climate change, public health etc. It therefore does not have a single priority to answer this question with.

22(a). Should the Government replace the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 planning obligations with a new consolidated Infrastructure Levy, which is charged as a fixed proportion of development value above a set threshold?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

The Council supports streamlining the processes by which infrastructure funding is negotiated and secured, as all parties can benefit from increased transparency and certainty. However several aspects of the proposed new levy mechanism cause serious concern.

The consultation does not acknowledge the wide range of legal obligations and mitigations secured within a s106 agreement; for example biodiversity commitments, flood prevention responsibilities, land transfer and s38/s278 arrangements. The mechanisms by which such obligations would continue to be secured need full description as part of a future consultation.

The proposal to connect the value of the new levy to a fixed proportion of development value above a set threshold completely divorces the payments due by the developer from the actual cost of provision of infrastructure as a result of their activity and from the local need. This is potentially unfair to developers, and may disincentivise small-scale developers in particular as they will be unable to spread the cost across a wide profit base of different schemes. It also provides councils, and therefore communities, with no guarantee that the required infrastructure can be funded. Areas with higher deprivation levels (and lower house prices) would receive less infrastructure funding, but the infrastructure would not fundamentally cost less. Equally possible is the scenario where some areas of the country, probably those with more buoyant housing markets in the first place, substantially "over collect" contributions, which would potentially work directly against government's ambitions to rebalance and strengthen regional economies. Government may need to consider the introduction of a redistribution system to ensure fairness and equity and to allow all councils with similar responsibilities to meet them from broadly the same funding sources.

This risk is heightened by the proposal to connect the levy payable to final value at the point of occupation; this would be subject to a number of micro and macro market pressures over the lifetime of the development which could well mean that a development which starts out with the expectation of high value increase ends up with a much lower figure in reality. However, the associated infrastructure costs would not have changed; this puts the risk entirely onto the public sector which cannot be fair to communities and taxpayers. Developers are effectively incentivised to "game" their developments by declaring or engineering a point of occupation which minimises their levy payments.

The mechanism by which the value of the levy would be determined is not clear; the consultation indicates the setting of a value-based minimum threshold but what this would be set at or how it would be determined is not detailed. The scaling of the threshold with the scale of development needs to be carefully considered; the costs of increased infrastructure do not scale linearly with number of new houses. Instead, certain sizes will trigger completely different infrastructure needs – larger developments are likely to need whole new schools, for example, whereas smaller developments may simply mean the addition of a classroom to an existing site.

Furthermore, developments of any scale will have multiple actual occupation points as individual dwellings are sold and occupied; is the intention that a levy payment be made as each individual sale reaches contract completion? This would lead to substantial administrative costs for all parties.

For these reasons, the Council believes it is essential that any new mechanism to speed up s106 arrangements retains a direct connection between the pre-existing infrastructure provision in an area, the specific impacts of an individual development and the funding due from the developer. It is also essential that the authority with responsibility for provision of the relevant infrastructure has direct access to the funding related to that infrastructure; the CIL regime has caused conflict in instances across the country where upper tier and lower tier authorities do not agree on its distribution and prioritisation. Giving the decision-making rights on the CIL, and potentially the new Levy, to lower-tier authorities only as local planning authorities (apart from the Neighbourhood Share), risks too narrow a geographical focus and a bias towards the services within the lower tier's responsibilities.

The Council also fundamentally does not support a mechanism that delays payments from developers to any later point than in the current system.

As an additional point, the Council notes that all parts of the country are increasingly relying on Highways England or government funding for major infrastructure schemes. The consultation does not acknowledge this or indicate how it would be taken into account in the new levy's mechanism. Agreement for the delivery of this large infrastructure is key to allow major developments to take place and so this is an essential element of the framework which must be clearly considered and integrated.

22(b). Should the Infrastructure Levy rates be set nationally at a single rate, set nationally at an area-specific rate, or set locally?

[Nationally at a single rate / Nationally at an area-specific rate / Locally]

If such a system is used, the Council would prefer very local rate setting, as this

would allow local planning authorities to make some adjustment for the actual likely costs in their area, taking into account both local market factors and the existing level of infrastructure provision.

22(c). Should the Infrastructure Levy aim to capture the same amount of value overall, or more value, to support greater investment in infrastructure, affordable housing and local communities?

[Same amount overall / More value / Less value / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The Council would welcome more funding to provide better infrastructure for its communities. However it recognises the necessary balance to be struck between giving public funding and giving developers a commercially workable system. Any increase in developer contributions could ultimately work against the ambition to provide ensure the supply of housing at an affordable price. Further detail is therefore required to understand the government's proposal here.

22(d). Should we allow local authorities to borrow against the Infrastructure Levy, to support infrastructure delivery in their area?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

No.

Councils already have the power to borrow for affordable and prudent capital financing within the Prudential Framework so it is difficult to understand what new power is intended here. Most importantly, borrowing is not free; if a council had to forward fund all its infrastructure costs it would have to cut other services or increase council tax to meet the revenue costs of borrowing. For WCC, spending on average £20m of developer contribution per annum, the annual cost of forward funding this amount through borrowing would create a £1.6m hit to our revenue budget, for 25 years. The council would therefore not only carry the risk of non-payment of the levy in the future but also have to absorb the immediate cost of borrowing for the privilege.

The Council supports continued freedom in its borrowing powers therefore, but does not support the suggestion to pass cashflow risks, and the cost of financing those, to local authorities. A council will have no real choice about when to build infrastructure – its statutory responsibilities would not allow it – but it may still feel the borrowing is unaffordable within its medium term financial planning.

The consultation also does not make clear which authority would have this new power in two tier authorities; would it apply to upper tier authorities if they are not collecting the levy?

23. Do you agree that the scope of the reformed Infrastructure Levy should capture changes of use through permitted development rights?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

With the expansion to permitted development scope, it will be important within any system to prevent a loophole opening up which would allow developers to argue that their development does not create an increased infrastructure need.

24(a). Do you agree that we should aim to secure at least the same amount of affordable housing under the Infrastructure Levy, and as much on-site affordable provision, as at present?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

This would be a welcome improvement to the current CIL approach which does not include any provision for affordable housing.

24(b). Should affordable housing be secured as in-kind payment towards the Infrastructure Levy, or as a 'right to purchase' at discounted rates for local authorities?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The two key priorities in this regard need to be that affordable housing is delivered, and that all participants have certainty about the funding requirement for other infrastructure provision through the levy or other mechanism. Any proposal to include affordable housing provision must not be at the expense of the other obligations placed upon developers.

Further detail needs to be provided on how the proposed mechanism will not interfere with the provision of other obligations, especially in two tier areas where different councils have different responsibilities.

24(c). If an in-kind delivery approach is taken, should we mitigate against local authority overpayment risk?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

Whilst more details need to be provided, the Council supports the intention of this suggestion.

24(d). If an in-kind delivery approach is taken, are there additional steps that would need to be taken to support affordable housing quality?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Yes.

The Council agrees with the implied concern that in-kind provision standards may be lower and would in principle support mechanisms to prevent this. An option would be to include a clear specification for such provision with the Design Code and related guidance, but this would need to be backed up by other mechanisms to be enacted on delivery, such as the proposed right to revert back to cash contributions if no buyers can be found – though in such circumstances it may be difficult to prove that the market disinterest is purely (or sufficiently) a quality issue.

25. Should local authorities have fewer restrictions over how they spend the Infrastructure Levy?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

The Council always supports the opportunity to retain more flexibility in its funding.

However the Council notes some concern with the proposals. Infrastructure funding is typically treated as capital financing, and accounted for (with specific exceptions outlined in advance in s106 agreements) as capital grant. The suggestion that the levy could be used to improve services or reduce council tax would, within the current public finance regime, imply that it would be treated as revenue funding. This would be a substantial change to the current local government finance framework.

Whilst the Council does not necessarily oppose this – revenue funding can inherently be used more flexibly – this would be one-off funding, and hence councils would need to think very carefully before using time-limited funding to reduce recurring income streams, such as council tax. The Council would expect government to discourage short-term financial planning with built-in risks like this.

Furthermore the suggestion that councils could borrow against future levy income would not then make sense as councils are, quite rightly, statutorily prevented from borrowing for revenue funding. The proposals therefore seem confused.

The Council also does not agree with the proposal that the Neighbourhood Share of up to 25% of the new levy be transferred to authorities of the scale of parish councils. This would lead to allocations of tens of millions of pounds going to parish councils with substantial developments in their boundaries; too often the parish council does not have the capacity to provide real oversight and control over this level of funding and expenditure. This could lead to wasteful expenditure at best, and abuse at worst. Only larger councils have the staff and Member capacity to handle the amounts of money involved effectively and legally.

25(a). If yes, should an affordable housing 'ring-fence' be developed?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Not sure.

Shire-based councils are typically keen to ensure the provision of suitable amounts of affordable housing and would not need the "incentive" of a ringfence to deliver it. However the Council recognises this is not the case country-wide.

Further detail would need to be provided on how such a ring-fence would be defined and monitored. Any proposal which did not allow for recognition of local situations and solutions would not be supported.

26. Do you have any views on the potential impact of the proposals raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010?

No.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 15

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 16

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 17

By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank