

County Council

Date: Tuesday 15 December 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Membership

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair), Councillor Peter Gilbert (Vice-Chair), Councillor Helen Adkins, Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Mike Brain, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Les Caborn, Councillor Mark Cargill, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Corinne Davies, Councillor Nicola Davies, Councillor Neil Dirveiks, Councillor Judy Falp, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor Daniel Gissane, Councillor Clare Golby, Councillor Seb Gran, Councillor Colin Hayfield, Councillor John Holland, Councillor John Horner, Councillor Andy Jenns, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Keith Kondakor, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Maggie O'Rourke, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Anne Parry, Councillor Dave Parsons, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor David Reilly, Councillor Clive Rickhards, Councillor Howard Roberts, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Andy Sargeant, Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Councillor Dave Shilton, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Dominic Skinner, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Adrian Warwick, Councillor Alan Webb, Councillor Chris Williams, Councillor Pam Williams and Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 October 2020.

7 - 24

(4) Chair's announcements

(5) Public Speaking

To note any requests to speak on any item on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Scheme (see note at end of the agenda).

2. Warwickshire County Council Preparations for EU Transition 25 - 38

This report to Council sets out the ways in which Warwickshire County Council has been preparing for European Union Transition.

3. Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2020/21 39 - 50

This report recommends proposals for allocating resources in the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to specific projects set out in Section 3. Some of the proposals include funding from developer contributions. (The proposals and recommendations are due to be considered by Cabinet on 10 December 2020. Any updates from that Cabinet meeting will be presented to Council).

4. Emscote Road Corridor Improvements 51 - 68

Following consideration by Cabinet in November 2020 this report concerning improvements to the Emscote Road Corridor in Warwick is presented to Council.

5. Appointment of Chair of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board 69 - 72

The current Chair of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board has notified the County Council that he wishes to step down from his position. This report seeks the Council's approval to the appointment of his successor.

6. Notices of Motion

To consider the following motions submitted by members in accordance with Standing Order 5:

(1) Eco Schools

This Council is committed to tackling Climate Change and has declared it as a priority. Council also committed itself to work in line with the UN Sustainable Development goals of which Education is one part.

Council recognises that schools and education are a critical part of tackling climate change. It also recognises that the Eco Schools programme needs reinvigoration across Warwickshire with the ambition that all schools can achieve green flag status.

Council requests:

1. That a survey takes place of all schools across Warwickshire about their progress in achieving Eco School status, to include

a question about what support they need.

and

2. That the findings are reported to the Climate Change group and Portfolio Holder with recommendations on what actions need to be taken.

Proposer: Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

Seconder: Councillor Jenny Fradgley

(2) Student Finance

During the pandemic government financial support has been extended to businesses and workers. A number of Councillors have been contacted by Warwickshire students and their parents with concerns that students have received no financial help as such and have, in the vast majority of cases, received a service which is far from that which is normally provided by our university system. As a consequence, and taking into account the financial wellbeing of students living and/or being educated in Warwickshire this Council urges our national government, by means of a letter to the relevant Government Minister, to remove all interest payments on loans provided for the 2020 / 21 academic year and that no interest should be charged at any point in the future for loans covering the current academic year.

Proposer: Councillor Dave Parsons

Seconder: Councillor Corinne Davies

(3) Support for Care leavers

Warwickshire County Council has responded extremely well to the increased pressures thrown up by the pandemic, not least in the Children and Families Service area where we have seen how two of our care-experienced young people, now employed by the Council, have been awarded national prizes for their outstanding work with other young people.

As the principal corporate parent, this Council wishes to record its thanks to everyone involved with our young people in care and requests the Chief Executive to write a thank you letter to the Children in Care Council acknowledging their efforts at this difficult time.

Proposer: Councillor Jeff Morgan

Seconder: Councillor Pam Williams

(4) Universal Credit

This council notes:

The £20 increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent) announced by the Chancellor on 20th March as part of his pandemic response package reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit. They have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.

The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

Next April the Government plans to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending this time limited increase

This council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
2. Work with other local government organisations to collectively pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.

Proposer: Councillor Neil Dirveiks

Seconder: Councillor Helen Adkins

7. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

A period of up to 40 minutes is allocated for questions to the Leader, Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

8. Any Other items of Urgent Business

To consider any other items that the Chair considers are urgent.

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 or 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

County Council

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Alan Cockburn (Chair), Peter Gilbert (Vice Chair), Helen Adkins, Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Judy Falp, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Daniel Gissane, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Jeff Morgan, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe, Jill Simpson-Vince, Dominic Skinner, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Chris Williams, Pam Williams, Andrew Wright

1. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Dirveiks, Dave Reilly and Dave Shilton.

The thoughts of Council were with Councillor Neil Dirveiks following his recent bereavement.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 23 July 2020 and 22 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

(4) Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chair.

(5) Petitions

There were no petitions to be submitted to Council.

(6) Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

2. Statement of Accounts 2019/2020

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Adrian Warwick who reserved the right to speak. Councillor Butlin explained the process that the Statement of Accounts had followed before reaching Council. He emphasised that the published balance sheet presented a snapshot of the position at 31 March 2020.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) commended the report stating that it was evidence of good housekeeping albeit looking backwards. He highlighted the reported increase in violence stating that this was a cause for concern. Looking forward he observed that the impact of the Pandemic on business rates will be significant as will the outcome of decisions regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Councillor Roodhouse concluded by highlighting the scale of deficits in schools adding that the Pandemic has meant the expected school finance recovery plan has not been delivered as expected.

Referencing page 131 of the agenda pack Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed the view that a 9% variation on property values will have a material impact on the accounts. He suggested that in view of the Pandemic, Brexit and the possibility of negative interest rates it is necessary to closely examine property values.

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) thanked Finance staff for their hard work and added that the reserves set aside previously by the authority were of great use during the Pandemic.

Councillor Bill Gifford commended the accounts as clear and accessible.

Councillor Helen Adkins (Leader of the Labour Group) reminded members that a motion had been agreed at the May 2019 meeting of Council calling for a report on school deficits and the efforts being made by the authority to address them. That report had not been forthcoming and she asked members and officers to deliver it as soon as possible.

Vote

A vote was held. The motion was carried with one abstention.

Resolved:

That Council approves the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

3. Warwickshire Pension Fund Accounts 2019/20

Councillor Peter Butlin moved the recommendation. In introducing the report Councillor Peter Butlin emphasised the importance of the Pension Fund to present and former employees. He noted how the Fund's net assets had fluctuated as a result of the Pandemic but spoke of a general recovery.

Councillor John Horner seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Keith Kondakor noted references to "stock lending" and counselled that this is a risky approach to investment. He also expressed concerns over the future value of property holdings (used as an investment) in the light of the Pandemic and Brexit.

In reply to Councillor Kondakor, Councillor Horner informed Council that stock lending is a frequently used and standard procedure. It is well established, and the Pension Fund is well protected.

It was acknowledged that property values have been reduced during the Pandemic. However, the Investment Strategy will address this.

Councillor Butlin expressed his confidence in the Pension Fund Investment Sub Committee adding that the former Chair, Councillor Bob Stevens was missed.

Vote

A vote was held. The recommendations were agreed with two abstentions.

Resolved:

1. That the Council approves the 2019/20 Pension Fund Statement of Accounts.
2. That the Council authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make any amendments to the final version of the accounts to take account of any observations from the external auditors.

4. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) introduced the report and moved the recommendation, being seconded by Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi who reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse expressed the hope that as the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) progresses a review of Directorate savings targets will be undertaken. In addition, he requested that the Brexit Impact Plan for Warwickshire be circulated to all members.

Councillor Kondakor noted that although Warwickshire County Council is well governed there is a need to be more robust around environmental issues. Whilst the accounts are thoroughly audited, environment issues need to be cross checked also.

Councillor Bill Gifford noted that the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, John Bridgeman had expressed concerns over ensuring that the County Council is prepared for a “hard Brexit”.

On the subject of Brexit, Councillor Kaur asked that a briefing session be arranged for all members. Concerning the MTFs she agreed that a number of aspects including savings targets will require a re-set. On the issue of the environment Councillor Kaur considered that the terminology around it requires review.

Vote

A vote. The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That Council approves the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement.

5. Capital Investment Fund 2020/21 Quarter 2

Councillor Peter Butlin moved the recommendations and was seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe who reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Butlin listed the projects for support and expressed his enthusiasm for the Capital Investment Fund which brings investment through growth.

Referencing paragraph 2.3 onwards (page 238) of the report Councillor Mark Cargill highlighted the challenges presented by the Birmingham Road in Stratford upon Avon.

On the subject of the Birmingham Road Councillor Kondakor observed that the Technical Panel had rated “sustainability, climate change and environmental impact” as 3.2 out of a possible 10. This, he felt was low. More should be done to raise the scores. He also called for traffic and air quality monitoring data to be made live.

A number of members expressed their concerns over the challenges facing Stratford and the Birmingham Road. It was noted that a failure over time by utilities companies to keep records of pipes, cables etc had complicated matters along the road. It was also suggested that a move away from the car would benefit the town.

Councillor Pam Williams thanked Councillor Butlin for supporting schemes in her area.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group) questioned that the Birmingham Road scheme should be brought forward at all with its low scores. More should be done to improve the scores he added.

Regarding section 2.1 Kingsway Nursery and Children Centre Relocation Councillor Chilvers called for this to become an exemplar of high-quality sustainable building work. For example, it should not include a gas boiler.

Councillor Adrian Warwick reminded Council that there is much in the proposals that is commendable. Many of these have strong green credentials.

In summing up Councillor Butlin agreed that the Birmingham Road is a concern adding that on occasions when utilities are found to be not where they were expected to be it is of then the County Council that is impacted on financially.

Vote

A vote was held, and the recommendations agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That Council:

- 1) Approves £3.615 million from the Capital Investment Fund for relocation work at Kingsway Nursery & Children's Centre and add to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £5.165 million.
- 2) Approves £3.025 million from the Capital Investment Fund for improvements to the A3400 Birmingham Road Corridor (Stratford) and increase the existing scheme in the Capital Programme to a full cost of £6.525 million.
- 3) Approves £2.002 million from the Capital Investment Fund for improvements to the A446 Stonebridge Junction (Coleshill) and add to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £2.378 million.
- 4) Approves £4.682 million from the Capital Investment Fund for improvements to the A429 Coventry Road Corridor (Warwick) and add to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £5.921 million, on the condition that CIL funding is secured from Warwick District Council.
- 5) Approves £1.968 million from the Capital Investment Fund for procurement of measuring equipment to support evidence led decision making in tackling the climate emergency and air quality and add to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £2.058 million.
- 6) Authorises the Strategic Director for Communities to procure and enter into any agreements to give effect to the proposals on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

6. Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) CIF Bid

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) moved the recommendations and was seconded by Councillor Clare Golby who reserved the right to speak. Councillor Clarke summarised key elements of the published report.

Councillor Keith Kondakor tabled an amendment that stated,

That Council:

1. Approves the investment of £21,704,000 to deliver four highway mitigation schemes along £1,900,000 to deliver A444 / Queens Road (scheme B) and A444 / Wheat Street (scheme C) along the A444 Nuneaton ring road as detailed in section 1.57 as part of the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) Project to include appropriate enhanced bus and fully segregated cycle routes that may be required as part of future transport projects.

2. In the development of detailed designs for scheme A (Corporation Street/ A444) seek solutions which would allow the dandelion fountain to be retained and allow for greater improvements to air quality, bus and cycling opportunities around Midland Road/Corporation Street /Abbey Street.

3. In the development of detailed designs between Nuneaton railways stations and the town centre seek solutions which allow for improvements to the flow of pedestrians, buses, cyclists and other transport

4. That a bid be made to the Place Shaping & Capital Feasibility Fund to Progress the design of a new Nuneaton Transport hub connected to Nuneaton Railway station and new Northern station access in coordination with plans to change the road system to the south of the station so that a combined highway and transport hub project can be submitted to cabinet and full council within the next 6 months. Such a design should look at minimising impact on currently viable businesses.

5. Subject to the approval of recommendation 1 to 4 above, add the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £29.6M £23.13M as set out in Appendix 2.1 Capital Spending Profile, deferring £6M for Land Acquisition and £430K for temporary trees and temporary landscaping at site of possible transport hub.

(Struck through sections are deletions. Underlined sections are additions)

In support of the Green Group amendment Councillor Kondakor stated,

- Wheat Street is required as the venue of the proposed new library
- Corporation Street and the “dandelion fountain” roundabout require a review that will focus on cycling and walking.
- The Crown Pub should be bought and demolished to improve traffic flows by the railway station.

- It is important to identify the location of a new public transport hub before any other planning is undertaken.

Councillor Kondakor observed that the proposed project had scored 8.2 out of 10 for environmental considerations. This he suggested was unlikely to be achievable. Increasing traffic levels on the A444 will only increase air pollution. He closed by welcoming the funding but asked that the scheme be reviewed.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers seconded the amendment. He confirmed that, in his view, the investment in Nuneaton was welcomed but did not feel that the current proposals were fit for the future.

Adjournment

To consider the Green Group amendment the meeting went into recess at 11.08 and resumed at 11.20.

Councillor Caroline Phillips welcomed the investment in Nuneaton but agreed with the Green Group amendment stating that more consideration is required before the scheme can go ahead. She asked that local members be given the opportunity to contribute to planning work on the scheme.

Councillor Jeff Morgan thanked Councillor Phillips for her comments regarding investment in Nuneaton and emphasised that the funding being discussed was part of a larger package worth almost £50m.

Councillor Dave Parsons (Deputy Leader of the Labour Group) agreed that members should have an opportunity to contribute to discussions on the scheme. Any planning should integrate consideration of car usage, public transport, cycling and walking. He concluded that investment is required but so too is local consultation.

Councillor Andy Sargeant called for segregated cycle routes to be considered where possible.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe reminded Council that there already exists a member group looking at the various schemes in Nuneaton. She agreed that engagement with partners is important but stressed that if investment is not made now it will be difficult to secure further investment in the future,

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse recognised that the report and recommendations before Council were focusing on the principles. He stated, it is important to ensure that those principles are correct before progressing further.

Councillor Peter Butlin stated that he served on the Transforming Nuneaton Board and Town Deal Board. The Transforming Nuneaton Board was a cross party body which had input into the scheme already. He stressed that for Nuneaton to grow it will be necessary for people to be able to access the town centre easily.

Councillor Clare Golby, the seconder of the original motion, emphasised the need to address traffic issues in the town centre. She noted that the transport hub had been referenced in the January 2019 prospectus. The proposal was to place it at the railway station.

Councillor Keith Kondakor questioned the proposal to plant trees where the transport hub may be placed. He added that a new entrance is required to the railway station from the Weddington side, that new cycle and bus routes are needed, that under the proposals the existing businesses would need to be relocated and that the dandelion fountain sculpture would be placed in storage. He concluded that the Queens Road, Wheat Street schemes should proceed but that more consultation was required with the local community.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke did not consider that the Transforming Nuneaton Board is inclusive or representative. People should be able to get involved.

Councillor Jeff Clarke acknowledged that different people have different views on the proposals. He stressed that there will be an opportunity for people to express those views. The buying up of empty properties would not help the situation. Rather it would cost the Council money for little if any gain.

Vote

A recorded vote was requested for the Green Group amendment. The voting was as follows:

Votes for the amendment

Councillors Adkins, Boad, Chilvers, C. Davies, N. Davies, Falp, Fradgley, Gifford, Holland, Kondakor, O'Rourke, Parsons, Phillips, Rickhards, Rolfe, Roodhouse, Sargeant, Webb. (18)

Votes against the amendment

Councillors Barker, Bell, Singh Birdi, Brain, Butlin, Caborn, Cargill, Clarke, Cockburn, Cooke, Crump, Dahmash, Gilbert, Gissane, Golby, Gran, Hayfield, Horner, Jenns, Kaur, Morgan, Pandher, Parry, Redford, Roberts, Seccombe, Simpson-Vince, Skinner, Timms, Warwick, P Williams, Wright (32)

There were no abstentions. The amendment was lost.

A recorded vote was requested for the substantive motion. The voting was as follows:

Votes for the substantive motion

Councillors Adkins, Barker, Bell, Singh Birdi, Brain, Butlin, Caborn, Cargill, Clarke, Cockburn, Cooke, Crump, Dahmash, C.Davies, Gilbert, Gissane, Golby, Gran, Hayfield, Holland, Horner, Jenns, Kaur, Morgan, O'Rourke, Pandher, Parry, Parsons,

Phillips, Redford, Roberts, Sargeant, Seccombe, Simpson-Vince, Timms, Warwick, Webb, C. Williams, P. Williams Wright (40)

Votes against the substantive motion

Councillors Boad, Chilvers, Gifford, Kondakor, Roodhouse (5)

Abstentions:

Councillors N. Davies, Falp, Fradgley, Rickhards, Rolfe, Skinner (6)

Resolved:

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. Approves the addition of the overall Transforming Nuneaton (Highway Improvements) scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £29.6M.

7. Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Proposed Revisions to Terms of Reference

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) moved the recommendations. He was seconded by Councillor Jo Barker who reserved her right to speak.

Council was informed of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had originally been established to review changes to consultant-led maternity services. At the time of the creation of the joint committee Councillor Wallace Redford had been appointed as the County Council's representative on it. The committee is to continue in operation but will review the development of a masterplan for the Horton Hospital and the pursuit of capital investment into the hospital.

Councillor Jo Barker stated that she had been involved in several campaigns over time to keep the Horton Hospital open. It now appeared that fresh investment was to be made in the hospital.

Councillor Les Caborn closed by assuring Council that local members will be kept informed of developments at the Horton Hospital.

Vote

A vote was held, and the recommendations agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That Council:

1. Agrees to amend the scope of the health scrutiny powers delegated to the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to allow scrutiny of a masterplan for the Horton General Hospital and pursuit of associated capital investment.
2. Agrees to nominate Councillor Wallace Redford as the Council's representative on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Local Pension Board: Terms of Reference

Councillor Kam Kaur moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi.

Council was reminded of the nature and purpose of the Local Pension Board and was informed that its work and frequency of meetings had increased over time.

Vote

A vote was held and the recommendation agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That the Council approves the revised Terms of Reference for the Local Pension Board as set out in the appendix.

9. Appointment of Scheme Member Representative to LGPS Local Pension Board

Councillor Kam Kaur moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor John Horner who reserved the right to speak.

The structure of the Local Pension Board was explained as was the process followed in making the latest appointment. Councillor Bill Gifford expressed his support for the proposed appointment whilst Councillor Horner explained that the Local Pension Board was required, in part, as a response to the large number of employers who are members of the Warwickshire Pension Fund.

Vote

A vote was held and the recommendation agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That Council approves the appointment of Mr Sean McGovern, Coroner for Warwickshire, as a Scheme member representative on the Local Pension Board.

10. Notices of Motion

Councillor Dave Parsons moved the following motion.

Affordable Housing

Recent research has clearly established that the increasing costs of private rental is a very significant factor in causing in work poverty and an affordable decent home is a fundamental requirement of good physical and mental health.

The LGA has recognised this and recommended that local authorities should be allowed to retain 100% of right to buy receipts and to set any discounts locally so that more homes to rent can be built or purchased.

In its role as a Public Health Authority and in support of its stated agenda to “level up” health inequalities and social inclusion across Warwickshire this Council urges the government to increase the supply of affordable housing and to urgently implement the LGA’s recommendations in the light of the developing recession associated with the covid pandemic and the expected health crises which will develop as a result of increasing levels of poverty and deprivation.

Councillor Caroline Phillips seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

In supporting the motion Councillor Dave Parsons stated that the government takes a lot of money from right to buy receipts. Up to 2018 £920m had been taken out of the housing market. This was money denied to local authorities to build new housing. Council was informed that in 2012 the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, had stated that every house sold under the right to buy scheme would be replaced within five years. This had not happened. Many houses that had been sold under right to buy had now been sold on and were being used as private rentals. Councillor Parsons requested that the Council ask the government to follow the advice of the LGA and allow local authorities to retain the revenue from the sale of houses to build new ones.

Amendment 1

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince seconded by Councillor John Cooke tabled the following amendment.

Recent research has clearly established that the increasing costs of private rental is a very significant factor in causing work poverty and an affordable decent home is a fundamental requirement of good physical and mental health. The LGA has recognised this and recommended that local authorities should be allowed to retain 100% of right to buy receipts and to set any discounts locally so that more affordable homes to rent or purchase can be built. This council supports that recommendation.

Warwickshire County Council, in its role as a Public Health Authority, and in support of its stated agenda to 'level up' health inequalities and social inclusion across Warwickshire this Council, urges the government to follow through on the recommendations in its White Paper "Planning for the Future" to look at development site viability and how those calculations are determined so that developers cannot choose to diminish or relinquish their affordable housing responsibilities, based upon individual site constraints increase the supply of affordable housing and to urgently implement the LGA's recommendations in the light of the developing recession associated with the covid pandemic and the expected health crises which will develop as a result of increasing levels of poverty and deprivation. Further this council asks that this support is included in its response to the White Paper consultation.

Strike throughs are deletions. Underlining is additions.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince reminded Council that it is the District and Borough Councils that manage housing. All planning offices feature staff who work on securing affordable housing. Developers frequently use the argument of viability to avoid providing affordable housing. However, these assertions need to be challenged. The amendment recognises that the Planning White Paper sets out recommendations to remove viability from consideration in terms of the provision of affordable housing.

Councillor John Cooke reiterated that housing is a matter for District and Borough Councils. He noted that Warwick District Council adopts a strong position with developers when it comes to the provision of affordable housing.

Amendment 2

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse tabled a second amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Sarah Boad who reserved her right to speak. The amendment stated,

Recent research has clearly established that the increasing costs of private rental is a very significant factor in causing in work poverty and an affordable decent home is a fundamental requirement of good physical and mental health. The LGA has recognised this and recommended that local authorities should be allowed to retain 100% of right to buy receipts and to set any discounts locally so that more homes to rent can be built or purchased.

In its role as a Public Health Authority and in support of its stated agenda to "level up" health inequalities and social inclusion across Warwickshire this Council urges the government by writing to the Secretary of State to allow local authorities to build a new generation of Council housing which are zero carbon and to increase the supply of affordable housing and to urgently implement the LGA's recommendations in the light of the developing recession associated with the Covid pandemic and the expected health crises which will develop as a result of increasing levels of poverty and deprivation.

(Underlined text is additional).

Councillor Dave Parsons accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Adjournment for Lunch

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.28 and resumed at 13.30

On resuming the meeting, the Chair asked Councillor parsons if he would accept the Conservative amendment (number 1) as friendly. This was declined.

Adjournment

In order for members to fully understand the amendments and their relation to the original motion the meeting was adjourned from 13.35 to 13.44.

Debate

During the debate members made a series of observations as set out below.

- The District and Borough Councils are best placed to manage council run accommodation. They are the housing authorities that have a clear understanding on homelessness.
- Developers do not like having to provide affordable housing. They get little return on it and it can be seen as reducing prestige. They need to develop more of a social conscience.
- Recession will see a slow down in building. Local authorities can build through recessions and provide rental properties.
- Councils will build the type of housing that is needed eg for the over 65s.
- Councils should take over derelict and un-developed sites and also press developers to complete work on sites they have started to build on.
- As jobs disappear so does their ability to pay rents or mortgages.
- It is wrong to assume that housing is only a matter for the District and Borough Councils. People's physical and mental health relies heavily on good housing. The matter would be simplified by having a unitary council.
- Affordable housing is not necessarily affordable. It is still expensive.
- Affordable housing and energy efficient housing are not exclusive of each other. Also, affordable housing can be attractive.
- Modular housing should be given more consideration by volume house builders.
- There are a number of concerns over the Planning White Paper. These include a presumption in favour of the grant of planning permission, forcing of design guides onto local authorities which can lead to pastiche design and the way in which CIL will be calculated.
- As the County Council is not the housing authority its influence in this matter is limited. It has responded to the government consultation on the Planning White Paper, but the planning system sustains a monopoly held by the nine principal house builders.
- The argument of viability was used at Camp Hill, Nuneaton.

- There is a need for good quality housing that results in lower fuel bills.
- A policy framework is required which will prevent developers from exploiting loopholes in planning law.
- Some developers are prepared to work with communities to secure satisfactory outcomes.
- People are concerned over the future of the green belt. There is an increase in demand for housing driven by population growth and at the same time restrictions on land availability are pushing up prices.
- Problems with housing impact directly on the health service. This was emphasised in the Black Report (1980) into health inequalities.
- It is important not to dilute the original motion tabled by the Labour Group. Consensus between Groups would have been preferable.

Councillor Sarah Boad (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) expressed her disappointment at some of the comments made. The County Council, she stated, has been prepared in the past to debate matters that were not directly within its mandate. It is important to look out for the wellbeing of all people. The Liberal Democrat amendment had looked to the Council's climate change agenda. There are developments around Leamington where there are no solar panels. If fitted at the time of construction these can be much cheaper than when retro fitted. Councillor Sarah Boad agreed that affordable housing is expensive adding that developers slowly release land to ensure that prices remain high.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse agreed that the Council should be prepared to debate issues beyond its remit. With 1.2 million people on social housing waiting lists action is required to improve the availability of local authority housing.

Councillor Caroline Phillips called on the County Council to commence building social housing. She called for support for the LGA recommendations to be able to move away from a social precipice.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince called for a change in policy to place the onus on developers to prove why a site is not viable.

Councillor Dave Parsons expressed his disappointment that it had not been possible to achieve a degree of consensus. He reminded members that there is no bigger factor in health than decent housing.

Vote

A recorded vote was requested for amendment 1. The voting was as follows.

Votes for the amendment

Councillors Barker, Singh Birdi, Brain, Butlin, Caborn, Cargill, Clarke, Cockburn, Cooke, Crump, Dahmash, Gilbert, Golby, Gran, Hayfield, Horner, Jenns, Kaur, Morgan, Pandher, Redford, Roberts, Sargeant, Seccombe, Simpson-Vince, Timms, Warwick, C. Williams, P. Williams, Wright (30)

Votes against the amendment

Councillors Adkins, Boad, Chilvers, C. Davies, N. Davies, Falp, Fradgley, Gifford, Gissane, Holland, Kondakor, O'Rourke, Parsons, Phillips, Rickhards, Rolfe, Roodhouse, Skinner, Webb

There were no abstentions.

Resolved:

Recent research has clearly established that the increasing costs of private rental is a very significant factor in causing work poverty and an affordable decent home is a fundamental requirement of good physical and mental health. The LGA has recognised this and recommended that local authorities should be allowed to retain 100% of right to buy receipts and to set any discounts locally so that more affordable homes to rent or purchase can be built. This council supports that recommendation.

Warwickshire County Council, in its role as a Public Health Authority, and in support of its stated agenda to 'level up' health inequalities and social inclusion, urges the government to follow through on the recommendations in its White Paper "Planning for the Future" to look at development site viability and how those calculations are determined so that developers cannot choose to diminish or relinquish their affordable housing responsibilities, based upon individual site constraints. Further this council asks that this support is included in its response to the White Paper consultation.

11. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

Question 1 Councillor Jerry Roodhouse to Councillor Les Caborn

Q "This Council adopted the "Dignity in Care 10 points" following a motion in 2007. Could the Portfolio Holder confirm what actions have been taken to ensure that these 10 points have been followed through?"

A. This has been ongoing for some time and has become fully embedded in our quality frameworks. All our commissioned providers work to ensure quality and dignity of care. Their work forces are fully trained, and whistle blowing is promoted. The service specification that a care provider must adhere to is person-centric and ensures ongoing engagement with the families of those in care. Care plans are highly inclusive, and we work constantly with the CQC and Healthwatch to adapt care guidance for providers.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Roodhouse Councillor Caborn agreed to write to care providers regarding the Dignity in Care network.

Question 2 Councillor Jerry Roodhouse to Councillor Kam Kaur

Q. "Covid and working from home has shown how crucial a good broadband provider is along with a good connection. Customer experiences are very varied from these

providers and in some cases no responses are received to complaints. Will the Portfolio Holder undertake to write to the Secretary of State Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE, at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport with a copy to the LGA highlighting these concerns and asking that stronger standards of customer care need to be introduced?"

A. I completely agree with you that secure and reliable access to fast Internet services has become critical to everyone, especially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increasing need to work from home. I can inform you that we already have plans in place to improve digital connectivity across Warwickshire, including fibre and 4G/5G mobile connectivity.

Internet Service Providers are an additional link in the connectivity system, and it is also essential that they maintain a good level of performance. Overall, we are not aware of problems with any particular service providers but will certainly raise your concerns with DCMS.

I would suggest, at this stage, we speak with our contact in DCMS, one of the Senior Policy Advisers working within the Barrier Busting Task Force in DCMS and get these concerns shared with both OFCOM and the Secretary of State. Hopefully, by taking this course of action we can escalate and work towards a resolution of the problem.'

As a supplementary question Councillor Roodhouse asked that any letter go to the Secretary of State and the LGA. This was agreed.

Question 3 Councillor Jerry Roodhouse to Councillor Heather Timms

Q. "Increasing pollinators, and tree planting all help towards increasing our natural environment. WCC is a major landowner and along with school playing fields make up a substantial amount of land. Would the Portfolio Holder agree to write to all Academy's and Schools under LA control asking them to identify areas that do not need grass cutting and could be used to support pollinators and asking them also to identify areas where extra trees can be planted also to bring forward quickly a policy for the increase of pollinators and trees on County Council owned land?"

A. The County Council works hard to encourage biodiversity and has its own biodiversity strategy. It has been recognised as being the first local authority in the country to display bio-diversity net gain. Biodiversity is encouraged through the Covid-19 recovery plan and the Council Plan 2025. The Council's Forestry Team operates a tree planting scheme and works with voluntary groups and schools. A meeting was held with representatives of the Woodland Trust who currently work with Parish Councils. There is scope for them to work with schools also. A letter will be sent to schools to encourage tree planting.

Councillor Sarah Boad noted that tree planting is very popular. However, the HS2 project is resulting in the removal of trees apparently when there is little case for doing so. She asked Councillor Timms to write to HS2 with a request that fewer trees be felled. This she agreed to do.

Question 4. Councillor Bill Gifford to Councillor Les Caborn

“As Covid 19 numbers rise especially in and around the University of Warwick Campus, I am sure we are all concerned for the welfare of the young people who have moved into our area. What actions such as providing food and other basic commodities to students who are having to self-isolate at home are the County Council taking with Coventry City Council to ensure their safety and that any increased Covid-19 infections amongst Warwick University students do not spread to the wider community in Coventry and Leamington Spa?”

A. The County Council and Warwick District Council are working closely with universities and have established a clear student code of conduct. A joint letter has been sent to students and landlords and we are working to ensure robust data collection. Only a small proportion of Coventry University Students reside in Warwickshire. However, a significant number of Warwick University Students do. We have been responding to any local outbreaks of Coronavirus although the majority have been associated with the Coventry campus. Regular operational meetings are held with Coventry City Council Public Health and the universities.

A separate answer will be provided regarding the provision of food and other commodities.

Question 5 Councillor Dominic Skinner to Councillor Les Caborn

Q. “Significant changes are being proposed for the minor injuries unit at Stratford Hospital and at the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston. Local members only learned of these proposals through the media.

Can the Portfolio Holder assure members that the business case for these changes will be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration?”

A. A briefing has been offered on the changes proposed in Shipston. Further discussions will be held with the provider and if any major changes are identified these will be brought before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Question 6 Councillor Helen Adkins to Councillor Colin Hayfield

Q. “A motion was passed previously by Council to instigate a report on schools in deficit and Warwickshire and what measures the County Council is putting in place to support those schools. That report is awaited. Can the Portfolio Holder please provide an update on it?”

A. There is a working group that monitors school deficits. It was thought that a briefing note on the situation had been provided to the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In response Councillor Helen Adkins stated that a briefing was inadequate. It is important that a report is provided outlining the actions being undertaken.

Council was reminded by Councillor Seccombe that the County Council is not permitted to financially support schools that are in deficit.

Question 7 Councillor Keith Kondakor to Councillor Heather Timms

Q. "What actions are proposed to move towards single waste management arrangements?"

A. If this were to be progressed it would be through the Warwickshire Waste Partnership. At present the members of the Partnership show no desire to have single waste management arrangements. Discussions on the issue will be pursued through the climate change agenda.

Councillor Keith Kondakor observed that a move to electric bin lorries and greater education around waste would be of use.

Question 8 Councillor Dan Gissane to Councillor Leas Caborn

Q. "Despite assurances, waiting times for children's and adult mental health services continue to be unreasonably long. What is the County Council doing to see these times reduced? What is the County Council doing to signpost people to other providers and support groups?"

A. This has been discussed at Overview and Scrutiny at length. It is important to be clear of all the facts. (Councillor Gissane agreed to email Councillor Caborn with his concerns for a more comprehensive answer).

Question 9 Councillor Keith Kondakor to Councillor Jeff Clarke

Q. "Under the Transforming Nuneaton Plan the planting of a number of trees is proposed on the potential site of the transport hub. How will the trees eventually be re-located?"

A. The plans are under development, so it is not possible to provide a definitive answer on this. As fresh information becomes available so this will be fed through. It will be important to ensure that whatever landscaping is done is sustainable.

12. Any Other items of Urgent Business

None

The meeting rose at 15.23

.....
Chair

Council

15 December 2020

Warwickshire County Council Preparations for EU Transition

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1) Note the approach and progress made by the County Council in preparing for the end of the EU Transition Period on 31st December 2020; and
- 2) Note the areas of work which will require ongoing review beyond the end of the Transition Period.

1.0 Context

- 1.1 Since the UK left the EU in January 2020 it has been proceeding through a year-long transition which will end on the 31st December.
- 1.2 Although the transition period is coming to an end, the preparations by the Council for the UK to leave the EU have been undertaken over an extended period of time. This has meant that in areas related to business continuity, the Council has maintained a ready state to prepare for any adverse effects from leaving.
- 1.3 However, there are limits on the extent to which the Council can pre-empt and prepare for the impacts of EU transition on the national and local economy. Any adverse impacts on the country's capacity to trade will likely affect our local communities but will also impact the authority in relation to both its income and the demands upon its services.
- 1.4 Part of the uncertainty is the lack of clarity about the impact of a trade deal. The exact impact will depend on the nature of any deal struck, and even in the absence of a trade deal the exact impacts on key sectors will vary. A summary of official estimates is included in the **Appendix**.
- 1.5 The ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has seen a considerable drop in the economic growth and an expansion in the support by the government. It

is increasingly likely that, as a vaccine is rolled out, growth levels will return, although the OBR suggest that growth may not return to 'pre-pandemic' levels until 2022.

- 1.6 Beyond the potential impacts of the end of transition on the UK economy, the wider uncertainty is the shifting context for UK public finances. The level of support provided by the government in response to the pandemic cannot continue indefinitely, and there is likely to be debate in 2021 about when the government should address the impact of the pandemic on the public finances. These wider issues, although beyond the scope of this report, are material in the wider challenges which the council will have to consider in future.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the Referendum result in 2016, the UK government has sought to negotiate the exit of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). The UK was originally scheduled to leave the EU on 31 March 2019 and a report was presented to Council in March 2019 setting out our preparations for our own business continuity, community and business in Warwickshire.
- 2.2 Following an act of parliament, the process of the UK's departure from the European Union started in January 2020 with a fixed transition period to 31st December 2020.
- 2.3 This report builds on the work of the report submitted to Council in 2019 and seeks to further assure Members that the County Council is responding and preparing for the end of the transition in line with national guidance and local need and is well placed to respond effectively to changes in circumstance.
- 2.4 Much of the previous analysis undertaken remains relevant today. Despite the areas of uncertainty which remain, specifically with reference to the UK's future trade relations with the EU, later sections look forward, providing an assessment of the medium to longer term factors which will extend beyond the end of the Transition Period.
- 2.5 There is also the clear need to ensure that the process of EU transition complements the needs of local communities and businesses in recovering from Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.6 The report gives the latest position as at the w/c 7th December 2020 (when the report is published). A report on EU transition was presented to the Audit & Standards Committee and a Member Development Session was held on the 25th November.

- 2.7 However, as this remains a fast-moving agenda, there is the potential for further change after the report is published and any significant changes will be reported verbally to the meeting. Key areas of interest include the conclusion of UK-EU discussions around trade, the passage of key legislation (such as the recent Internal Market Bill) and updated guidance to reflect these developments.

3.0 Approach to date

- 3.1 The County Council's approach to preparations to leave the EU has been both proactive and pragmatic. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that we can continue to provide local services and where possible, manage disruptions to residents, businesses and the county in response to any impact from the process of exiting the EU.
- 3.2 A core element of this work has been the creation of a clear set of communications. The council has set up a dedicated, prominent link on its website to signpost residents, businesses and organisations to enable access to information and advice on EU Transition, particularly on the EU Settlement Scheme.
- 3.3 Reflecting the Council's role as both a provider of key services and as a leader of place, our work has been focused on three main strands:
- Understanding the potential risks for business continuity for WCC;
 - Understanding the potential risks for businesses; and
 - Understanding the potential risks for our communities.
- 3.4 Preparation activity is coordinated and provided through a cross- organisational officer working group, with key service leads and representatives from legal, HR, finance and communications meeting weekly.
- 3.5 The group has coordinated the development and management of a number of key elements to our preparation for EU Transition, notably:
- 3.5.1 WCC Risk Assessment
- Risk identification and mitigation - strategic and operational;
 - Alignment to the work of the Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum and regional partners; and
 - Informing Business continuity plans for WCC Critical Services.

3.5.2 EU Transition Communication Plan

- Schedule of activity including regular Member and Officer updates from the EU Transition Lead Officer;
- Updated website and intranet pages offering a signposting service to local and national resources - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Brexit;
- Coordination of communications; and
- Information and intelligence sharing.

3.5.3 Reporting alignment

- Coordinating responses to Freedom of Information requests; and
- Undertaking all necessary reporting to Ministry of Housing & Local Government (MHCLG) and disseminating feedback within WCC and with partners.

3.5.4 Brexit Funding plan

- Identifying and assessing additional resource requirements; and
- Allocating EU Transition related funding.

3.6 The Council is working closely with partners across Warwickshire, the West Midlands and nationally, to improve our assessment of the potential risks at the sub-regional and regional levels and to coordinate effort and mitigating actions where appropriate. As previously communicated, Partnerships include:

- District and Borough Councils;
- The Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum;
- The Local Enterprise Partnership;
- The West Midlands Combined Authority; and
- Local Government Association and County Council Network.

3.7 Across the council various levels of activity have been undertaken in order to ensure that services, as well as our staff, are prepared for the end of the transition period. This has included assessing our staff in relation to the EU settlement scheme and reminding staff about the scheme.

3.8 It should be noted that the Coronavirus pandemic, through its impact on Warwickshire and the need to allocate the Council's resources in response, has affected EU Transition work. For example, the regular meetings of officers working on EU transition were paused during the lockdown and restarted in September 2020.

3.9 Officers remain confident that both the risk register and developed approach remain relevant and effective in ensuring that Warwickshire can respond to the end of the EU transition period.

3.10 In November, MHCLG wrote to Local Authority Chief Executives to outline key areas relating to the end of the transition:

- Export Health Certificates and Border ports;
- Data Adequacy;
- EU Settlement Scheme;
- The new immigration regime;
- Children's Services; and the
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

3.11 These areas within the letter reflect areas already covered within the Risk Register.

4.0 Short-term Issues to be addressed

4.1 When the transition period ends, the immediate challenge will be to sustain the continuity of services which will be needed by local businesses and communities.

4.2 The work undertaken so far through the Risk Assessment, including preparations made during 2018-2019 for previous moments when the exit from the EU appeared to be imminent, means that the Council has a series of preparations already in place and others are being brought on stream in relation to:

- Regulatory Services: ensuring the movement of goods (including agricultural) is maintained and reflects the needs of Warwickshire businesses involved in import and export;
- EU Settlement Scheme ensuring that staff and residents from within the EU are aware of and, can engage with, the scheme ahead of its closure in June 2021;
- Ensuring a clear set of communications and information are available; and
- Maintaining a clear link to our Recovery process from the Pandemic to the end of the Transition Period.

4.3 The Risk Assessment covers all major areas of council operations as well as identifying areas of short, medium and longer-term pressure which the cross-council Trade & EU Matters group co-ordinating as required.

4.4 An example of this is Regulatory Services. Regulatory services have developed their own extensive risk assessment and have taken the decision to increase their advisory function in response to the needs of local

businesses for information and guidance around an area which has limited certainty due to the lack of a trade deal at present.

- 4.5 There remain areas which require further communication and sharing of information. Specifically, informing our residents from the EU about their access to services such as the NHS, as well as the importance of making use of the EU settlement Scheme. These form the basis of our communications and we will endeavour to ensure that the information is up to date and reflects developments and decisions made by the Government.
- 4.6 In terms of an assessment of the potential impact of the end of the transition period on Warwickshire as a place, as an economy and as a set of communities, this is complicated and uncertain.
- 4.7 Overall, any assessment must take account of the impact of the pandemic and will reflect to an extent an assessment of the economic impact of the pandemic and a suggestion of a further impact from the end of the transition period.
- 4.8 The Office for Budgetary Responsibility has created three scenarios to reflect the level of uncertainty about the impact of the Coronavirus. In their first scenario they assume that the vaccine leads to reduction in lockdowns and a return to growth, in the second scenario in which despite a vaccine some form of lockdown is required and in the third, they assume the vaccine is ineffective and lockdowns similar to Summer 2020 are maintained over the longer term.
- 4.9 These three scenarios have different impacts on the growth of the economy. The first sees growth return reasonably quickly by 2022. The other scenarios suggest the economy is permanently affected and growth remains slow, although growth does return.
- 4.10 Within these scenarios, the OBR have assumed that a Free Trade Agreement is made with the EU. If one is not, then they estimate that the effect is another 2% drop in GDP on top of the impact of the Coronavirus.
- 4.11 Therefore, there is still a level of uncertainty about the local impacts. For example, unemployment in Warwickshire has grown from 7,190 (Sept 2019) to 17,835 (Sept 2020). In addition, there were 30,100 individuals on 'furlough' in August. It is not clear at this stage how quickly those numbers will decrease as the economy grows, or whether the transition adds to local unemployment.
- 4.12 The transition will represent yet another period of readjustment for local businesses and firms and will be an additional pressure for local firms already adjusting to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic to adjust to the impact of

transition. WCC's Recovery plan and approach will continue to provide support to local business to assist with this adjustment.

- 4.13 To a certain extent, the level of adjustment for local businesses will reflect how much of their business model relies upon imports, exports or supply chains which are impacted by the nature of the trade deal.
- 4.14 Appendix A provides a summary of the various official and other assessments which have been made in relation to the anticipated impact of the end of the transition period on growth. It also provides an overview of the main issues in relation to assessing the impact of the exit from the single market.

5.0 Medium- & Longer-term challenges and the County Council response

- 5.1 The end of the transition period represents a major shift for the UK. Across our economy, our places and our communities there will be a period of adjustment and change.
- 5.2 Initially this will mean businesses having to adjust to a new set of trading relationships but overtime they will also need to reflect the ongoing adjustments and changes in the global economy and its impact on trading relationships with the UK.
- 5.3 To give an example, the recent pandemic has had a profound effect on the global economy through its impact on trade and travel. The long-term effect of nations reappraising their trading relationships, such as the use of Global Value Chains, mean that current trading 'routes' could easily shift in response to both domestic and international factors of which the UK's exit from the single market is one.
- 5.4 After an initial period of short-term changes, as outlined in the previous section, there will be a longer term set of adjustments as Warwickshire responds to opportunities and challenges in response to both national legislative developments as well as any evidence of impact locally.
- 5.5 The main driver of this will be the start of a new period where UK and EU legislation could, and is likely to, diverge over time. Although the UK has largely adopted EU legislation into UK statute, beyond the initial transition period the UK will be able to adjust and adapt legislation.
- 5.6 It is possible that a trade agreement with the EU may limit some of the areas which could be affected, however in principle UK legislation is likely to change over time and divert from EU law.

- 5.7 An example of the direct effect of this for the county council will be within areas such as data and procurement. These are areas where current legislation and regulations are heavily orientated towards EU law. Adapting to these changes will remain an area of constant review.
- 5.8 For Warwickshire, the direct effects of a divergence in legislation will also be underlined by changes in economic conditions, trading conditions and adjustments in trading relationships. Whilst the single market within the EU has not remained static, the consistency of that market cannot be replicated through multiple trade deals, or WTO standards.
- 5.9 Accordingly, Warwickshire based firms may require ongoing support which reflects this situation. Over time, policy and strategy may need to reflect these needs in respect of economic development, climate change and place-based policies.
- 5.10 Beyond this direct support, the nature of trade deals and operating outside of the single market will present an ongoing strategic consideration for Warwickshire and its potential effects on our residents, local places and economy will need to be monitored within the operation of the Council's normal business.

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 In the short term, the main priority is ensuring that communications and information are up to date for residents and communities within Warwickshire. This information will be focused on areas such as the EU Settlement Scheme, and information for businesses who export or import goods.
- 6.2 Beyond the immediate end of the EU Transition Period, the main approach will be to ensure that the council's 'Business as Usual' has the appropriate insight around developments post-transition which may affect our strategic and operational approaches to recovery from Coronavirus.
- 6.3 Finally, post-transition the on-going monitoring of changes in regulation and legislation will be undertaken to ensure that future strategic and operational planning can adapt to reflect the potential divergence over time.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 WCC has previously received £262,500 of Government funding to support EU Transition preparations and the use of these funds is directed by our Brexit Lead Officer, based on the full Risk Assessment and input from officers on the Trade and EU Matters Group.
- 7.2 Funds have been used to deal with preparations to mitigate potential short-term disruptions to services, business support and support for vulnerable individuals and communities as well as addressing the medium-long term risks as outlined in the report.
- 7.3 Any wider, medium term financial implications for WCC will be picked up as part of the Council's organisational planning and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 7.4 However, as the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has shown, the impact of major events on local authority income as well as demands for its services can be extensive.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are limited direct implications from EU transition on the Environment. As stated earlier in the report, there is the potential for divergence between EU and British Law over time which may have implications for legislation, regulation and guidance related to the environment and climate change.

9.0 Background papers

- 9.1 None.

Supporting papers

Appendix: Summary of Assessments of Economic Impact from EU Transition

	Name	Contact Information
Report Authors	Ben Odams Nichola Vine	benodams@warwickshire.gov.uk nicholavine@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director for Communities	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Isobel Seccombe	isobelseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was not circulated to members prior to publication.

Appendix A: Summary of Assessments of Economic Impact from EU Transition

The following section sets out the latest assessment of the key areas of policy risk and evidence in terms of both the immediate period after the UK exits the EU and the medium to longer-term.

Short term risks have primarily been addressed through Business Continuity Plans and the work of the Local Resilience Forum, whilst medium to longer term risks will be actively monitored together with our partners and the Forum, and any wider impact on the Council will be addressed in our future organisational planning including our Medium Term Financial Strategy and Commissioning.

State of the economy – December 2020

Overall, it will be difficult to isolate the effect of the end of the transition period from the ongoing effects of the pandemic. We know that the Coronavirus pandemic has shocked the economy in a way which has suppressed GDP and could lead to increased unemployment in future.

The most recent official estimates by the Office for Budget Responsibility, released at the same time as the Spending Review in November, outlined three broad scenarios:

- Upside – the vaccine is effective and growth rebounds strongly to pre-pandemic levels by Q4 2021, and unemployment peaks at 5.5%
- Central – the vaccine is effective, but some ongoing limited lockdown is required. The economy returns to pre-pandemic growth in late 2022 and unemployment will peak at 7.5%
- Downside – the vaccine is ineffective at controlling the virus, Public Health measures continue. The economy recovers by 2024 and unemployment reaches 11%.

Both the central and downside scenarios have long-term 'scarring' of 3-6% of GDP reflecting the permanent damage to the economy. The OBR have assumed that in all three scenarios a Free Trade Agreement is reached with the EU. Should one not be reached, the OBR have suggested the initial impact would be about 2% reduction of GDP initially, and then 1.5% in future.

The impact of leaving the Single Market

Due to the sheer enormity of the economic impact from Coronavirus, it is not a simple task to identify a specific 'impact' from the end of the transition period. Since the referendum an array of suggestions about the scale of the impact have been made and these are summarised at the end of the appendix.

Part of the challenge is that leaving the single market is different from the impact of the pandemic. Although the pandemic has affected all sectors of the economy. It has done so to varying degrees, with the main impacts felt on high streets in accommodation and food sectors, construction and transportation. The severity of impact in accommodation and food reflects the reality of the lockdowns which have prevented people going out. Accordingly, as restrictions are lifted, there is a chance of these sectors having some growth, and should this continue these sectors are unlikely to be effected by the UK leaving the single market.

With the end of the transition period, those sectors which rely upon access to the EU are likely to experience the main impact. The overall effect will be contingent on nature of the trade deal agreed and the effects would not be felt evenly across different sectors.

For example, analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, highlights that Manufacturing is around 9% of the UK's GVA yet around 50% of its trade is with the EU (£138bn). Comparatively, non-financial services are 60% of GVA (2017 figures), and about 51% is traded with the EU (£265bn).

What we can suggest is that the 'cost' of leaving the Single Market is based around a mixture of non-tariff barriers (a cost of doing business) and direct tariffs. The IFS suggests that these are equivalent to between 9% (FTA) and 13% (No Deal) of the value of trade.

This would mean for example new trade related costs of between £23-34bn for non-financial services. However, the exact timing of those costs, the impact of government policy and shifts in exchange rates could all contribute to mitigating those costs.

The essential point is that a shift to a different trade relationship, even with a deal, would create costs for UK based businesses.

Within Warwickshire to a certain extent the impact of our Recovery approach in response to Coronavirus will have crossover impacts around transition. The difference in effects from a new trading context for different industries will likely mean a specific set of impacts for certain key groups will become clearer over the medium term.

Essentially, although the effects of leaving the single market is highly dependent on the type of deal struck with the EU; the effect of any change in trade terms with a large market such as the EU could have a variety of effects on employment and business conditions.

Official Assessments

- HM Govt's (November 2018) modelled scenarios suggested that:
 - A 'no deal' could cause between -7.7% & -9.3% reduction in GDP depending on migration impacts
 - A free-trade agreement between -4.9% & -6.7%
 - The proposed Govt. white paper -0.6% to -2.5%

- The Office for Budget Responsibility has produced two sets of reports this year:
 - In July, the Fiscal Sustainability Report had a model which indicated that GDP would fall by 12% before growing by 9% in 2021 and 4% in 2022. This projection reflected the best-known array of impacts from the Coronavirus pandemic plus the impact from a Free Trade Agreement.
 - In November, the OBR 'central' forecast was updated, they suggested that the economy shrank by -11.3% in 2020, and would grow by 5.5% in 2021, and 6.6% in 2022. These higher numbers reflect the recovery from unwinding of public measures in response to the pandemic.

Other Assessments

- The Bank of England: The November Monetary Policy Report contains a chapter 'The transition to a new UK-EU trading relationship':
 - Based on the routine survey which the BoE undertakes, it has found that around 19% of its surveyed firms have no EU trade, 40% of firms are 'as ready as they can be' and overall around 1/3 of firms surveyed are 'partially prepared'.
 - The expected reduction in exports, and the impact on domestic supply chains, reduces projected GDP directly by around 1% in 2021 Q1. These effects are expected to dissipate by the end of 2021 Q2 as more businesses adjust to the new arrangements.

- The Institute for Fiscal Studies in its recent 'Green Budget 2020' has outlined its analysis of the overall impacts of adjustment within the economy.
- Their analysis has attempted to draw together the like adjustment for firms from both the pandemic and the end of the transition period.
 - They believe that by 2024/25 economic output will be 4.5% smaller than projected by OBR March projection. 1.5% of this will be due to 'Brexit' and the remainder (3.2%) due to Covid-19.
 - The IFS projection is a lot higher than most official estimates and reflect the potentially larger cost of economic reconfiguration.

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

15 December 2020

Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2020/21

Recommendations

That Council, subject to recommendation by Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the addition of £16.594 million to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in Section 3.
- 2) Authorises, subject to the approval of recommendation 1, the Strategic Director for Communities to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, or (where the scheme is school-led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends proposals for allocating resources in the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to specific projects set out in Section 3. Some of the proposals include funding from developer contributions. (The proposals and recommendations are due to be considered by Cabinet on 10 December 2020. Any updates from that Cabinet meeting will be presented to Council).
- 1.2 Where possible, and where economies of scale allow, expansions and building works will also address other factors such as: encouraging infant and junior to become primary, pre-school requirements in an area, providing specialist SEN provision, and any outstanding DDA requirements.
- 1.3 Proposals to increase the number of pupils admitted at schools across a wide area of Warwickshire are explained within this report. Further information relating to how the Council plans for and anticipates the growth in demand for school places is laid out in the [Education Sufficiency Strategy](#) and [Annual Sufficiency Update](#).
- 1.4 Whilst the issue of sufficiency of provision has to take priority, it is important to ensure that schools that are not expanding are able to continue to operate within their existing accommodation. Details of proposed schemes to make improvements to existing schools and settings are set out below. It is also important to recognise that whilst we are committed to offering good or outstanding places and investing in these schools, we are also committed to investing in schools struggling with improvements where the investment addresses capacity, education delivery, half forms to whole forms of entry and defects.

- 1.5 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. The cost per additional mainstream place utilises the Department for Education Local Authority School Places Scorecard, while SEND places utilise the National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking for SEND places report as published by the Local Government Association.
- 1.6 The current available funding is set out in Section 2.
- 1.7 The economic outfall from the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential impact that this might have on school place requirements will continue to be monitored and kept under review.
- 1.8 WCC major construction projects will follow HM Government guidance document titled 'Working safely during Covid-19 in construction and other outdoor work', dated 11 May 2020, and contractors carry-out site-specific risk assessments for site operating procedures including social distancing and cleaning hygiene. Schools will also consider any construction works as part of their health and safety risk assessments.

2. Available Funding

- 2.1 Allocations of grant funding from the Department for Education for the 2020/21 financial year were notified to the authority in May 2018. Allocations are paid annually and are not available for expenditure until the start of the financial year within which they are received.
- 2.2 To ensure school places are available when needed it is sometimes necessary to temporarily fund capital spend from the DfE Capital Grant in advance of the relevant developer contributions for a project being received. Once the developer contributions are received the DfE Grant funding can be released back into the capital programme.
- 2.3 Where the use of developer contributions is outlined in section 3 it has been confirmed those funds have been received and the outlined use is in line with the obligation as stated in the relevant S106 agreement

2.4 Breakdown of Available Funds

Balance of unallocated education capital funds	£31.509 million
Special Provision Fund	£0.145 million
Relevant developer funding received	£2.653 million

3. Proposals for addition to the 2020/2021 Capital Programme

Council is asked to allocate the following additional education capital resources to the capital programme:

3.1 Stratford upon Avon School, Stratford upon Avon

Stratford-upon-Avon School is the only non-selective secondary school in Stratford upon Avon with a priority area that extends into the surrounding villages. The school has an age range of 11-18 and has a Published Admission Number (PAN) for Years 7 to 11 of 290 with capacity for approximately 1750 pupils to be on roll at the school.

In order to meet the short, medium, and longer-term demand for school places in Stratford upon Avon and the surrounding area it is proposed to expand Stratford upon Avon School by up to 2 forms of entry. This would increase the school from an existing capacity of 1750 pupils to approximately 2050 pupils.

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. Table 1 below outlines the current forecast need for places in this area. Table 2 outlines the impact of this capital proposal towards meeting the need outlined in table 1.

Current expected shortfall in secondary school places (11-16) in the Stratford 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)
2020/21	497	510	-3%	2485	2403	3%
2021/22	497	494	1%	2485	2454	1%
2022/23	497	532	-7%	2485	2546	-2%
2023/24	497	542	-9%	2485	2629	-6%
2024/25	497	543	-9%	2485	2674	-8%
2025/26	497	544	-9%	2485	2723	-10%
2026/27	497	565	-14%	2485	2806	-13%

Table 1: Pupil number forecasts – Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2020

Impact of proposed capital scheme at Stratford School (additional places available from September 2022)						
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)
2020/21	497	510	-3%	2485	2403	3%
2021/22	497	494	1%	2485	2454	1%
2022/23	557	532	5%	2545	2546	0%
2023/24	557	542	3%	2605	2629	-1%
2024/25	557	543	3%	2665	2674	0%
2025/26	557	544	2%	2725	2723	0%
2026/27	557	565	-2%	2785	2806	-1%

Table 2: Impact of additional school places available from 2022 on pupil number forecasts shown in table 1.

WCC are working toward completing on a parcel of land adjacent to the school site to facilitate the expansion of the school. An analysis of the land indicated that due to several main sewers and services running across the site development on the land was not feasible. Therefore, the land will be used for much needed social & recreational space and additional parking, with the required additional accommodation being provided on the existing school site.

A feasibility study has been undertaken to assess the impact of an increase in numbers to a PAN of 350 for Years 7-11 and a Post 16 increase of 50 students. The feasibility study included the assessment of current net capacity, the identification of the accommodation shortfall for the proposed increase in PAN, an analysis of the school site and additional land and an estimate and budget costing for the proposed capital project.

The proposed scheme will provide the additional teaching spaces for the proposed increased pupil numbers whilst rationalising the existing accommodation to group specialist teaching spaces together. The total cost of the project is estimated at £12.882 million and includes the £1.310 million approved by Cabinet in July 2020 to bring forward the required dining extension.

This project increases capacity of the school by 350 additional pupils (whilst also incorporating some under provision of accommodation equating to circa 100 places) with the total cost (including the dining extension) as outlined equating to £28,628 per place compared to a national average per place cost of £26,304 for equivalent 250-450 place Secondary school expansion projects reported by the Department for Education Local Authority School Places Scorecard 2019.

Council are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £11.573 million as follows:

Developer Funding £0.299 million

Education capital resources £11.274 million

3.2. Etone College, Nuneaton

It is expected the demand for secondary school places in Nuneaton and the surrounding area will increase year on year as larger primary cohorts transfer to secondary school and housing development continues to build out.

In order to meet the shortfall in school places over the next five years, it is proposed to expand Etone College by up to 1 form of entry increasing the schools 11-16 capacity from 750 pupils to 900 pupils. The school already operates a 300 place sixth form in a standalone sixth form centre on the school site.

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. Table 3 below outlines the current forecast need for places in this area. Table 4 outlines the impact of this capital proposal towards meeting the need outlined in table 3.

Current expected shortfall in secondary school places (11-16) in the Nuneaton 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)
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%

Table 3: Pupil number forecasts – Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2020

Impact of proposed capital scheme at Etone College (additional places available from September 2022)						
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)
2020/21	956	958	0%	4780	4519	5%
2021/22	956	1015	-6%	4780	4737	1%
2022/23	986	1069	-8%	4810	4947	-3%
2023/24	986	1014	-3%	4840	5018	-4%
2024/25	986	1040	-5%	4870	5093	-5%
2025/26	986	1020	-3%	4900	5136	-5%
2026/27	986	1027	-4%	4930	5130	-4%

Table 4: Impact of additional school places available from 2022 on pupil number forecasts shown in table 3.

As table 4 suggests, additional capacity will still be required in the Nuneaton area after delivery of the proposed scheme at Etone Collage. At the time of submission of this report in December 2020 the outcome of the Central Government Free School Wave 14 is still unknown. Supporting information and evidence of the need for school places was provided to the DfE and a number of multi academy trusts 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 and would be undertaken by WCC if no trust is successful in their free school bid with the DfE. All future capital projects, either to deliver a new school to provide additional capacity or at existing secondary schools in Nuneaton, will be subject to separate reports to Cabinet.

Feasibility and master planning have been undertaken looking at options to increase accommodation on the Etone College site. This feasibility work to date has explored various options for delivery of the required accommodation, initially working purely from the DfE building bulletin guidelines and then adapting that guidance to deliver the key accommodation needed for the school to operate effectively.

The proposed option includes the re-provision of a classroom block, refurbishment of existing general teaching classroom to provide additional Science Laboratory, dining hall and staff room reconfiguration and refurbishment with associated outdoor areas and landscaping.

The total cost of the project has been estimated at £4.753 million. This project increases capacity of the school by 150 additional pupils with the total cost as outlined equating to £31,686 per place compared to a national average per place cost of £27,537 for equivalent 150 place Secondary school expansion projects reported by the Department for Education Local Authority School Places Scorecard 2019.

Council are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £4.753 million as follows:

Developer Funding	£2.177 million
Education capital resources	£2.576 million

3.3. Bridgetown Primary School, Stratford upon Avon

Bridgetown Primary school currently supports the needs of a significant number of children with complex special educational needs many of who have associated social, emotional and mental health needs. The nurture team

support the children through structured nurture group sessions and also via 1:1 nurture support. There are three members of staff trained to deliver nurture sessions but to run this nurture provision effectively, the school lack the appropriate space and facilities.

Therefore, Bridgetown Primary School have proposed capital works to improve the existing school facilities and develop new facilities for vulnerable children and children with special educational needs, with a particular focus on those learners with social, emotional and mental health needs. The proposal includes:

- Reconfiguring provision, inside and outside, to make available space for additional pupils to benefit from nurture provision and facilities.
- Re-purposing the existing library which is used less frequently than the current nurture space so that it can better meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Create the space for pupils using the nurture provision to make food, eat and safely access facilities to teach pupils the skills they need increase independence.
- Creation of a new library in a central part of the school for all to access.

The total estimated project costs are £0.038 million

Council are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.038 million as follows:

Developer Funding	£0.031 million
Other Funding (School Contribution)	£0.007 million

3.4. Coughton C of E Primary School, Alcester

In 2015, Coughton C of E Primary School admitted an additional 10 pupils into Reception as a one-off bulge class at the request of the Local Authority. This bulge class together with a subsequent increase in the school's pupil admission number from 20 to 25 in 2016, has resulted in the need for additional teaching accommodation and toilets to enable the school to safely accommodate the additional pupils whilst the bulge class is at the top of the school.

The school are proposing to provide an additional classroom and toilets for two years to accommodate the existing bulge year group at an estimated cost of £0.085 million

Council are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.085 million as follows:

Education capital resources	£0.085 million
------------------------------------	-----------------------

3.5. Lighthorne Heath Primary School, Lighthorne

As part of the permitted 3000 home development on land at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath (GLH) education land has been secured on the development site for the provision of primary school places.

Instead of opening new provision, it is proposed to relocate and subsequently expand Lighthorne Heath Primary School. The proposal to relocate Lighthorne Heath Primary onto the GLH development was approved by Cabinet in July 2018.

Although the house building is in its initial stages, there is a cut-off point and various requirements, including the securing of reserved matters permission, associated with the call down of the primary school site. Therefore, it is proposed to allocate £0.146 million of developer contributions that has been initially received to facilitate the required design and development work in order for WCC to be in a timely position to meet the stipulated requirements for the land to be released to the local authority.

Council are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.146 million as follows:

Developer Funding	£0.146 million
--------------------------	-----------------------

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Details of currently available capital funding are listed in Section 2 of the report. This available funding is a total of **£34.307 million**
- 4.2 The project costs financed from WCC resources outlined within this report total **£16.594 million** of which **£2.653 million** is from developer funding, **£13.934 million** is from unallocated Education capital resources. A further £0.007 million will be received as a contribution from Bridgetown Primary School.
- 4.3 This leaves a balance of **£17.720 million** for future education capital projects, of which **£17.575 million** is held within unallocated education capital resources and **£0.145 million** is held within the Specialist Provision Fund. All future capital projects would be subject to a separate report to Cabinet. The service has plans for the use of this funding to meet the need for additional places in local development plans.
- 4.4 See **Appendix** for breakdown of income and expenditure.

4.5 The current approved Education Services Capital Programme is £40.098 million, the proposals in this report totalling £16.594 million will increase the service’s capital programme to £56.692 million.

5. Environmental Implications

5.1 Where feasible WCC will look to use modern methods of construction to achieve efficiencies and benefits particularly in terms of time, cost, and the environment

5.2 Environmental risk assessments together with mitigation statements to reduce any potential environmental impacts are required for each capital project.

5.3 Larger scale expansion projects, such as the two-form entry expansion of Stratford upon Avon School, will follow a number of design objectives to ensure revenue costs are reduced and sustainable schemes are delivered within the economic envelope. This will be done by looking at the design features that minimise heating and cooling demands, the careful selection of building materials, air tightness, and the incorporation of renewable energy features if economically feasible.

5.4 Proposed schemes aim to ensure the sufficiency of, and accessibility to, provision in local settings avoiding the need to travel further afield to access education or childcare provision

Appendix

1. Finance Breakdown

Background Papers

1. Equality Impact Assessment
2. Map - Primary School shortfalls by 2024-25 (2020 forecasts)
3. Map - Secondary School shortfalls by 2026-27 (2020 forecasts)

	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 circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Dahmash, P Williams, C Davies, Chilvers, Skinner

This page is intentionally left blank

SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - FINANCE BREAKDOWN

APPENDIX

		Available Basic Need Resources £m				
Balance following July 2020 Cabinet report		25.817				
Changes to existing projects and funding received		5.693				
Total Available Resources		31.509				
Projects Recommended for Support in December 2020 Cabinet Report	Total Cost £m	Proposed Use of Basic Need Resources £m	Proposed Use of Special Provision Fund £m	Proposed Use of Developer funding Resources £m	Other Funding £m	
3.2 Stratford upon Avon School	11.573	11.274	-	0.299	-	
3.1 Etone College	4.753	2.576	-	2.177	-	
3.3. Bridgetown Primary School	0.038	-	-	0.031	0.007	
3.4. Coughton CofE Primary School	0.085	0.085	-	-	-	
3.5. Lighthorne Heath Primary School	0.146	-	-	0.146	-	
Total	£16.594	£13.934	£0.000	£2.653	£0.007	
Revised Unallocated/ (Shortfall) in Basic Need Resources		£17.575				

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

15 December 2020

Emscote Road Corridor Improvements

Recommendations

That Council

- 1)
 - Approves the allocation of £6.645m from the Capital Investment Fund to the Emscote Road Corridor Improvements Scheme;
 - Adds the scheme to the capital programme at a total cost of £10.239m; and
 - Agrees that the allocation from the Capital Investment Fund is reduced by the amount of any alternative external funding secured in the future.
- 2) authorises the Strategic Director for Communities to invite tenders and award all necessary contracts, on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, and secure all necessary consents and take all such other steps as the Strategic Director for Communities considers necessary to deliver the scheme.

1. Description of the Scheme

- 1.1 An application was made for £6.645m Capital Investment to fund the delivery of Emscote Road Corridor improvements. On 12th November 2020 Cabinet considered a report on this scheme and recommended that Council approve the allocation of £6.645m capital investment funding and add the scheme to the capital programme at a total cost of £10.239m. Schemes of a value greater than £2m require the approval of Council.
- 1.2 The Emscote Road (A445) corridor is a key route between Warwick and Leamington which currently suffers significant congestion during peak hours due to capacity constraints at key junctions. Delays caused to bus services and the inadequacy of current cycling and pedestrian provision make sustainable transport alternatives unattractive.
- 1.3 A further issue on this corridor is Portobello bridge; a listed structure that suffers with a number of long-standing issues. The bridge is structurally weak, and one footway has been closed, narrowing the existing carriageway, and this encumbers both pedestrians and cyclists. Maintenance work to the bridge is essential and can be delivered as part of this scheme.

- 1.4 The Warwick District Local Plan (2011-2029) sets out allocations for over 17,000 new houses and demand for 66 hectares of new employment land. This includes nearly 7,000 new houses and 11.7 hectares of employment land within the Warwick and Leamington urban area. The level of allocated development will increase pressure on the key routes in that area, including the Emscote Road Corridor, which will increase congestion and journey times if not mitigated.
- 1.5 The Strategic Transport Assessment (STA4, April 2014), produced to support the Local Plan, identified mitigation at several junctions along this corridor, namely Emscote Road/Greville Road and Princes Drive/Warwick New Road junctions, as strategically essential to enable Local Plan growth to come forward. The modelling work underpinning the STA demonstrates that these junctions are under pressure.
- 1.6 The 2015 Warwick and Leamington Transport Strategy, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and produced by Atkins highlighted how the quality of sustainable transport infrastructure currently acts as a barrier to the use of alternative modes. The Study concluded that comprehensive area-wide improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure to prioritise the movement of pedestrians and cyclists as part of a sustainable transport package would generate a 7% modal shift away from cars during the morning peak hour and deliver 13-20% journey time savings along the Emscote Road Corridor specifically.
- 1.7 The proposed scheme will deliver a segregated cycle superhighway along the Emscote Road Corridor, providing high-quality, safe, direct and continuous cycle and pedestrian provision connecting the town centres of Warwick and Leamington.
- 1.8 The scheme will also deliver improvements to key junctions along this corridor, namely Greville Road, Rugby Road, Princes Drive/Warwick New Road, Warwick Place and Regent Street/A452, along with the essential upgrade to Portobello bridge.
- 1.9 The scheme builds on WCC investment in cycling routes and active travel, for example the recently funded K2L scheme, by improving the quality and connectivity of Warwickshire's cycle network. It also aligns with central government's bold vision for cycling and walking as set out in their 'Gear Change' document published earlier this year.
- 1.10 Preliminary concept designs for the scheme have been drawn up by Sustrans, who have significant experience in delivering similar infrastructure across the UK, and the viability of the scheme designs have been assessed in a bespoke microsimulation traffic model by WCC framework modelling consultants Vectos Microsim.
- 1.11 In July this year central government published Local Transport Note 1/20 setting out standards for Cycle Infrastructure Design. Sustrans were cognisant

of the development of this document pre-publication and so the scheme has been designed with the current standards in mind.

- 1.12 Delivery of the scheme will enable a greater modal shift towards active travel modes, capitalising on the increased interest in walking and cycling brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This will lead to a reduction in traffic congestion and increased network efficiency that will reduce journey times for all modes. This, in turn, will reduce transport costs for businesses and improve access to town centres.
- 1.13 The scheme will facilitate the strategic objectives of the Warwick District Local Plan by enabling the allocated housing and employment growth to come forward. Without the scheme, capacity constraints will act as a barrier to economic growth in Warwick District.
- 1.14 The uptake in active travel modes will promote healthier communities and improve sustainable access to leisure facilities such as Warwick Leisure Centre.
- 1.15 The improvements to Portobello bridge will bring the structure to current safety and design standards, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and improve network resilience.

2. Capital Investment Fund (CIF) Overview and Evaluation

- 2.1 Prior to the report being submitted to Cabinet, a bid was submitted to the CIF for evaluation by the Fund's Technical Panel. 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 Council's Strategic Objectives;
 - Alignment with the investment criteria of the capital strategy;
 - Achievability, quality of evidence base, rational evaluation and challenge of options, financial viability and risk; and
 - Sustainability, climate change and environmental impact.

2.2 Technical Panel Findings

The Panel scored the bid as follows:

Delivery of the Strategic Objective (out of 10)	8.4
Alignment with the investment criteria of the capital strategy (out of 40)	32.8
Achievability, quality of evidence base, rational evaluation and challenge of options, financial viability and risk (out of 40)	27.2
Sustainability, climate change and environmental impact (out of 10)	9.0
Total Score	<u>77.4</u>

The following key points were raised by the Panel:

- Overall the business case offers a good solution to an identified problem in the area but there are risks associated with the complexity of the project. It is for this reason and in order for Members to fully understand the risks and implications of the scheme, given its size, complexity and visibility to the public, that it is being brought forward to Cabinet/Council as a stand-alone report.
- Contingencies were estimated on a section-by-section basis by Sustrans, who have significant experience in delivering infrastructure of this kind on transport corridors. The cost estimates were checked by the Council's Engineering Design Services (EDS) Team and revised downwards to what is considered to be realistic costs based on their local knowledge. The construction and utility contingencies calculated by EDS were 40% of the scheme cost. The original Sustrans costs and contingencies were considerably higher, over 60%. In light of these differences the Panel carefully scrutinised the robustness of the bid and were satisfied with the information provided. However, the overall financial envelope remains a risk and it is recommended this risk is reflected in the oversight and scrutiny of progress through the Major Schemes Board in Communities Directorate.
- Portobello bridge is a listed bridge. A consequence of this is that the design of proposals and restoration works to the existing listed structure will need to be sensitive to its status and are subject to Listed Building Consent. Archaeological concerns around the listed bridge are a risk, however, significant groundworks are not expected to be undertaken so there will be minimal disruption in the area. The expectation is that there will be a few small piles at specific locations near the existing bridge footings.
- £1.429m of funding for the scheme is expected to be from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This funding is unsecured. However, Emscote Rd is a top priority scheme for Warwick District Council (who approve the allocation of CIL funding) and is part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Warwick District Council has given a letter of support to the scheme and agreed to £1.660m of CIL funding, but the CIL process requires the Council to apply for this funding every year.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be £10.239m. The Council has previously approved £1.5m capital funding towards the upgrading of

Portobello bridge and £1.660m of CIL funding has been notionally allocated to the scheme by Warwick District Council. A further £0.434m of developer funding has previously been secured for improvements to Emscote Road and the Rugby Road junction. This leaves a gap of £6.645m in the funding required to deliver the scheme.

- 3.2 The £6.645m allocation from the CIF is requested to meet the shortfall.
- 3.3 An Expression of Interest (EoI) has been put forward to the Department for Transport (DfT) to their Local Pinch Point Fund. This is the first stage in a two step process: if we are successful with this EoI then a formal bid will be submitted for Pinch Point Funding. Appraisal of this submission by DfT has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any funding received from DfT will be used to reduce the £6.645m of CIF funding required to deliver the scheme.
- 3.4 A contingency, at the level proposed by the EDS Team, has been built into the cost estimates to reflect the current stage of design. As recognised by the CIF Technical Panel, given the complexity of the scheme, the overall financial envelope remains a risk and that this risk should be reflected in the oversight and scrutiny of progress through the Council's Major Schemes Board.
- 3.5 Although allocated in principle, Community Infrastructure Levy funding must be applied for each financial year. £53,000 has already been spent by the Council on preliminary design work and traffic modelling with a further £115,000 secured for financial year 2020/21. The remaining £1.492m CIL from within the overall allocation notionally set aside by Warwick District Council will be applied for in 2021/22. If this funding is not received then the scheme is not fully funded.
- 3.6 The scheme has been designed such that the new infrastructure falls within the bounds of the existing public highway and so there is no requirement for acquisition of third-party land in order to deliver the scheme. The scheme will be delivered using the County Council's powers as Highway Authority under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.
- 3.7 Prior to the construction works, searches will be need to be undertaken to determine the positions of utilities along the corridor and the relevant utility companies engaged with as necessary during the construction process.
- 3.8 As noted above, Portobello Bridge is a Grade II listed structure. A Listed Building Consent will be required from Warwick District Council in order to undertake any demolition or alteration works. A consent was previous given for one of the proposed widening and improvement options. Direct engagement will be undertaken with Warwick District Council's Conservation Team in order to ensure the success of the consent application. Warwick District Council has given written support for the scheme overall.

- 3.9 Works on Portobello Bridge will require working within the River Avon. This will require environmental permits to be applied for from the Environment Agency.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 The scheme will enable a shift towards greener travel modes and a reduction of traffic congestion. Both Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council have declared a climate change emergency and are developing strategic action plans to achieve carbon neutrality and promote sustainable transport solutions. The scheme will assist this strategic objective by reducing carbon emissions along the Emscote Road Corridor.
- 4.2 The shift towards more sustainable travel modes and reduced carbon emissions along the corridor will have a positive impact on air quality. Benefit-cost ratio analysis undertaken as part of the scheme modelling assessment showed reductions in three air quality metrics; NO_x, PM₁₀ and Total Carbon emissions. This has positive implications for Warwick town centre, which is a designated Air Quality Management Area.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Approval of the CIF funding allocation and the addition of the scheme to the Capital Programme will enable progression of detailed design work and statutory processes necessary to deliver the scheme.

Appendices

1. Preliminary Scheme Drawings
2. Extract from DfT Publication 'Gear Change' illustrating active travel benefits

Background Paper

Completed CIF Application

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Paul Kinsella	paulkinsella@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):

Cllr Birdi
Cllr P Williams
Cllr Gifford
Cllr Davies

Other members: Considered by Cabinet on 12 November 2020

This page is intentionally left blank



Key:

[Yellow]	Walking/Cycling Space
[Grey]	Footway
[Brown]	Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
[Light Green]	Raised Table
[Green]	Green Surfacing
[Red]	Red Surfacing
[Light Blue]	Planting
[Blue]	SuDS
[Orange]	Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Blue]	Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Blue]	Parking Bay Modification
[Orange]	Sinusoidal Road Hump
[Dashed Line]	Quietway Route Alignment
[Solid Line]	Proposed Kerb
[Dashed Line]	Proposed Dropped Kerb
[Dotted Line]	Existing Kerb
[Yellow Line]	Yellow Line Marking
[Green Circle]	Existing / Proposed Tree
[Black Triangle]	Sign & Post
[Black Square]	Lamp Column

Guy Street and Cherry Street junctions amended to be continuous footway.			
Wharf Street junction amended to allow for vehicle U turns.			
Rev	Description	Drawn	Date
A		MP	20/09/19

sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

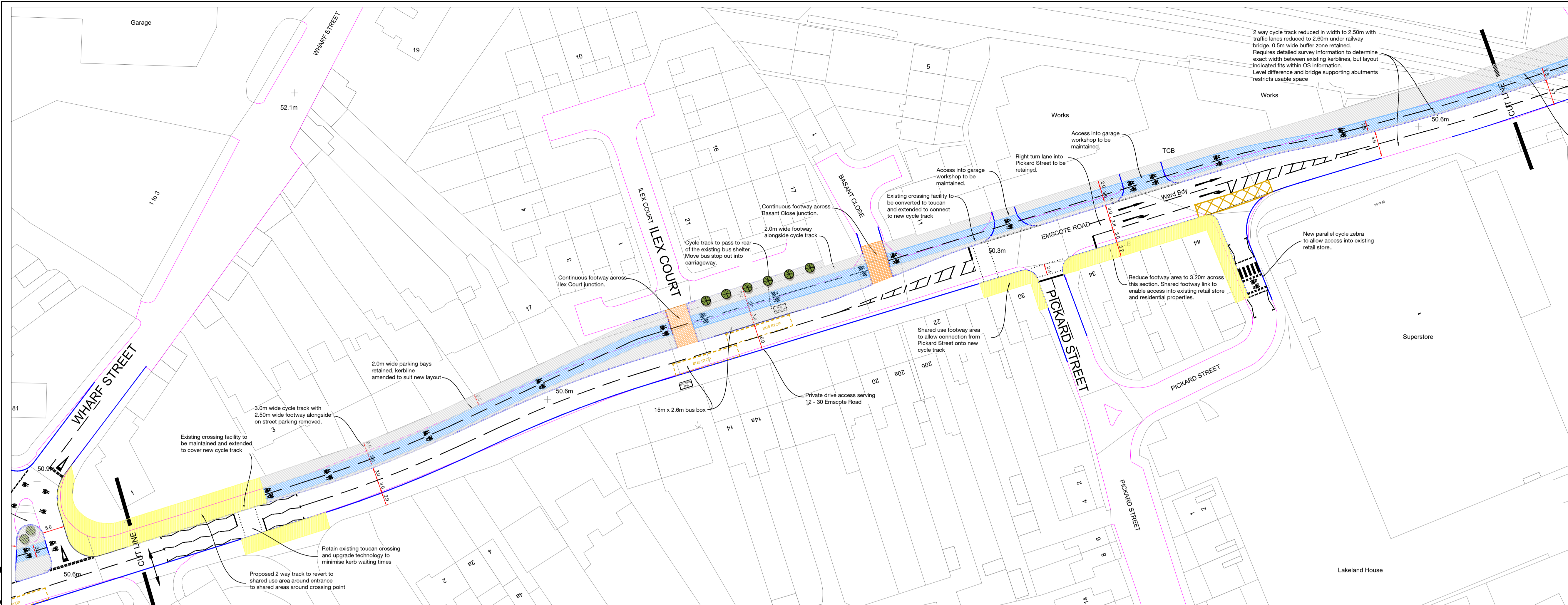
Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY

EMSCOTE ROAD (COVENTRY ROAD - WHARF STREET JUNCS)

Drawn:	Checked:	Date:	Scale at A1:
MP		AUG 19	1:500

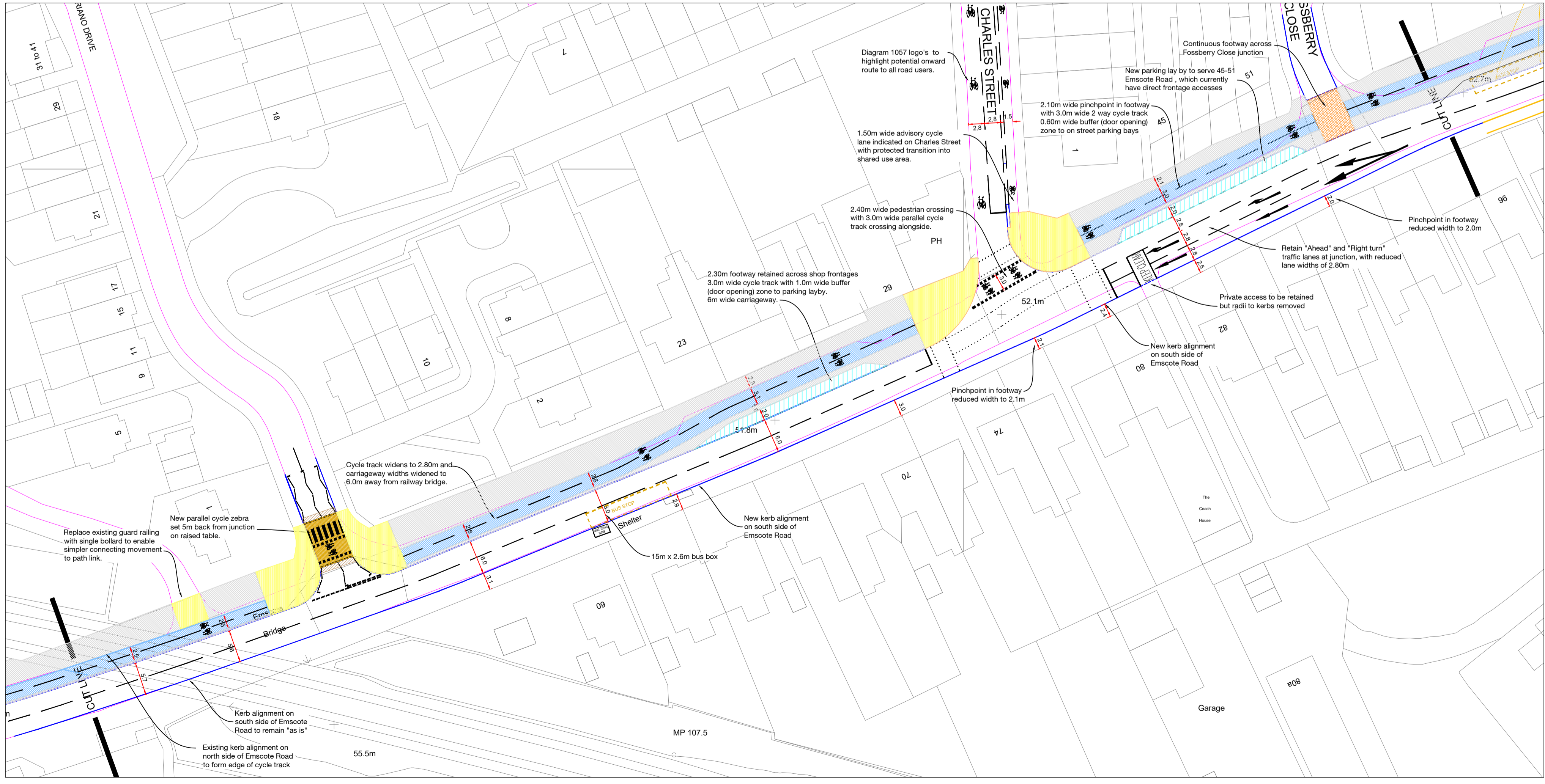
Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No:	Revision:
12445 / P / WM / 01	A



Key:

[Yellow]	Walking/Cycling Space
[Grey]	Footway
[Light Grey]	Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
[Green]	Raised Table
[Light Green]	Green Surfacing
[Red]	Red Surfacing
[Blue]	Planting
[Light Blue]	SuDS
[Orange]	Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Orange]	Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Blue]	Parking Bay Modification
[Orange]	Sinusoidal Road Hump
[Pink]	Quietway Route Alignment
[Blue]	Proposed Kerb
[Dashed Blue]	Proposed Dropped Kerb
[Dashed Pink]	Existing Kerb
[Yellow]	Yellow Line Marking
[Green]	Existing / Proposed Tree
[Black]	Sign & Post
[Black]	Lamp Column



Rev	Description	Drawn	Date
A	Bus stops moved into carriageway where practical. Cycle track at Illex Court realigned, Shared footway link and new parallel crossing on Pickard St.	MP	20/09/19

sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

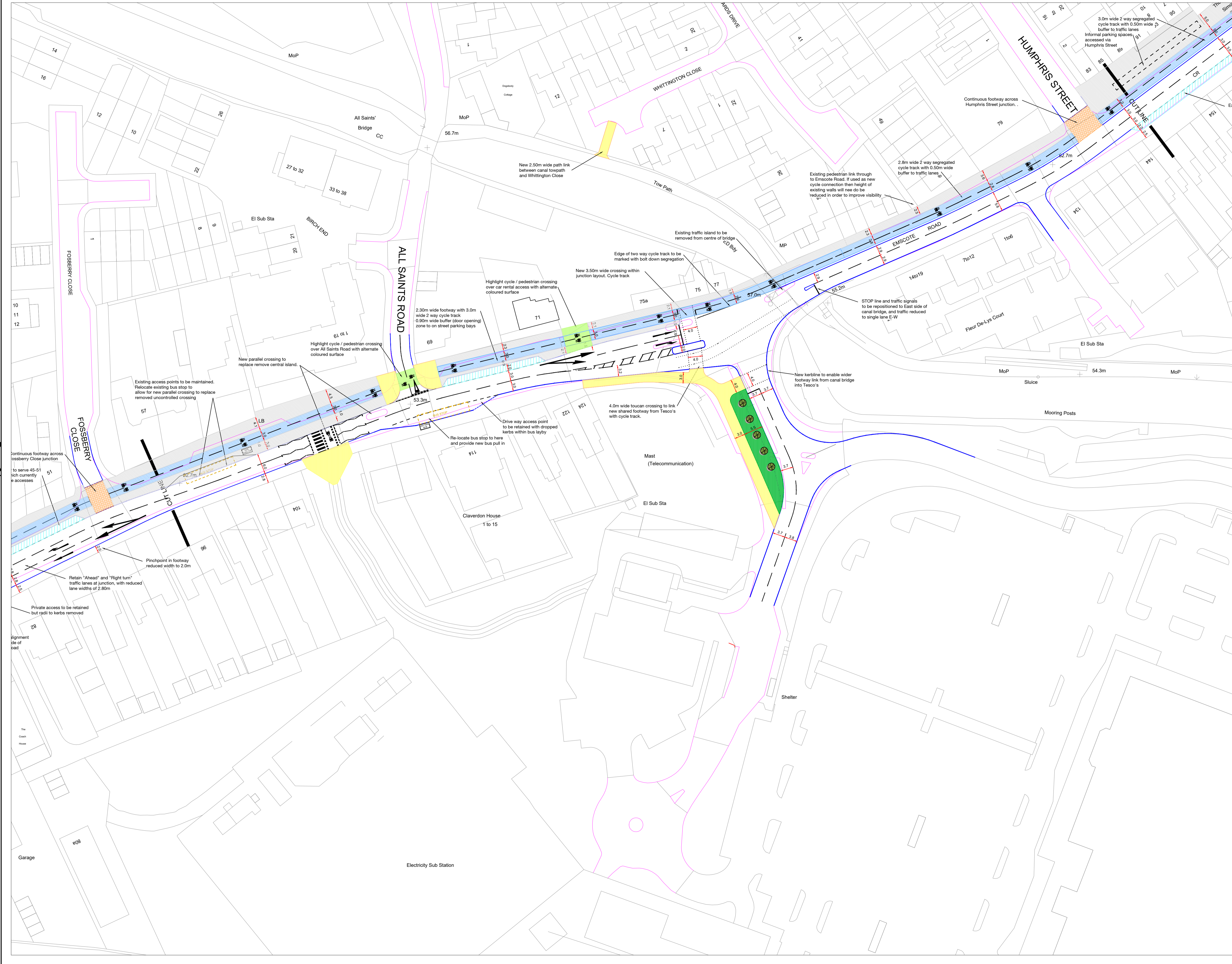
Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY
EMSCOTE ROAD
(WHARF STREET - FOSSBERRY CLOSE JUNCS)

Drawn:	Checked:	Date:	Scale at A1:
MP		AUG 19	1:500

Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: 12445 / P / WM / 02	Revision: A
------------------------------------	----------------



Key:

- Walking/Cycling Space
- Footway
- Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
- Raised Table
- Green Surfacing
- Red Surfacing
- Planting
- SuDS
- Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
- Crossing Tactile Paving
- Parking Bay Modification
- Sinusoidal Road Hump
- Quietway Route Alignment
- Proposed Kerb
- Proposed Dropped Kerb
- Existing Kerb
- Yellow Line Marking
- Existing / Proposed Tree
- Sign & Post
- Lamp Column

Rev	Description	Drawn	Date
B	Tesco link amended	MP	01/08/20
A	Canal link to Whittington Close added, notes added.	MP	20/09/19

sustrans

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

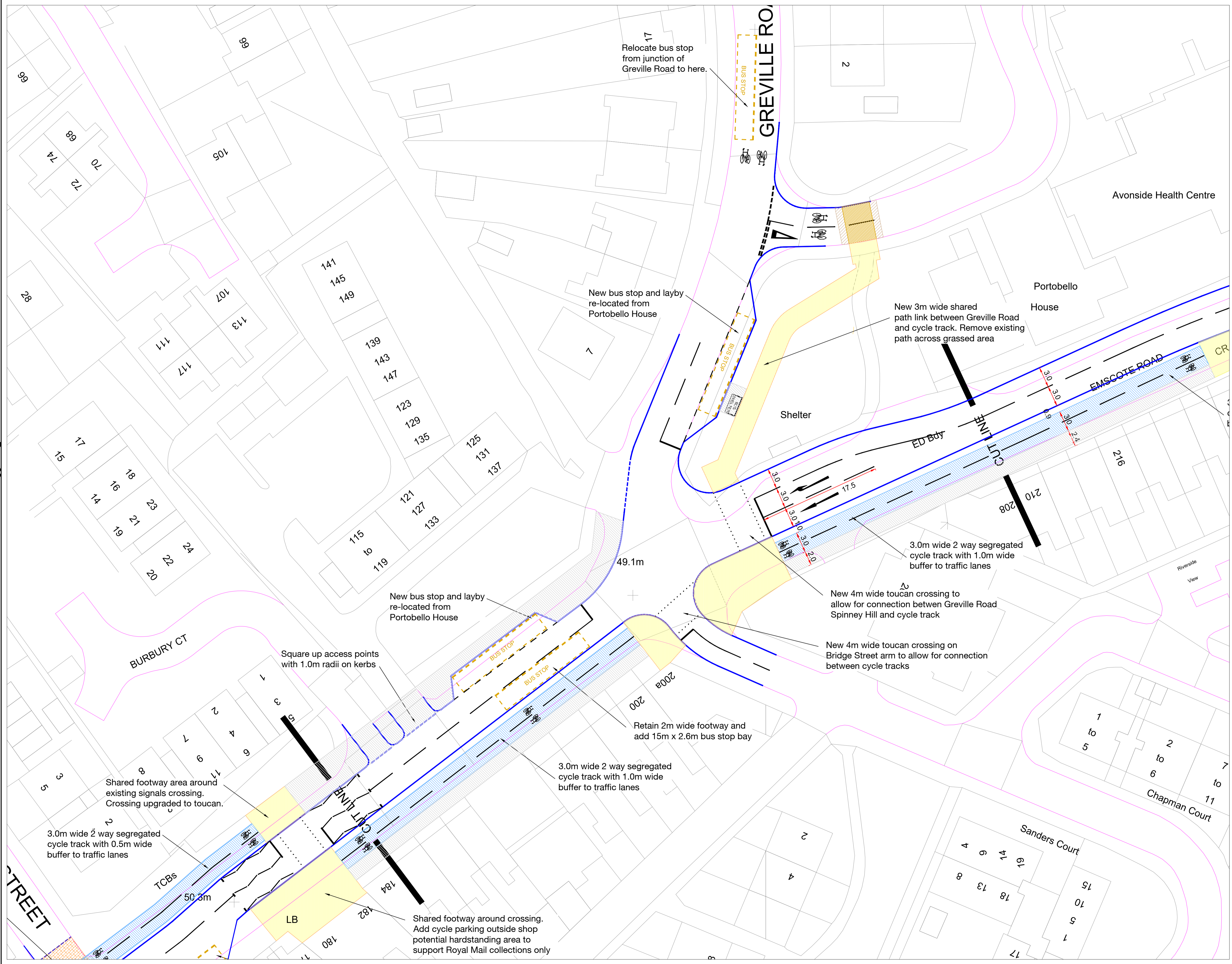
Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY

EMSCOTE ROAD (FOSSBERRY CLOSE TO HUMPHRIS STREET JNCS)

Drawn: Checked: Date: Scale at A1:
MP SEPT 19 1:500

Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: Revision:
12445 / P / WM / 03 **B**



Key:

- Walking/Cycling Space
- Footway
- Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
- Raised Table
- Green Surfacing
- Red Surfacing
- Planting
- SuDS
- Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
- Crossing Tactile Paving
- Parking Bay Modification
- Sinusoidal Road Hump
- Quietway Route Alignment
- Proposed Kerb
- Proposed Dropped Kerb
- Existing Kerb
- Yellow Line Marking
- Existing / Proposed Tree
- Sign & Post
- Lamp Column

Rev	Description	Drawn	Date
A	Bus stop on Greville Road relocated.	MP	20/09/19

sustrans

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

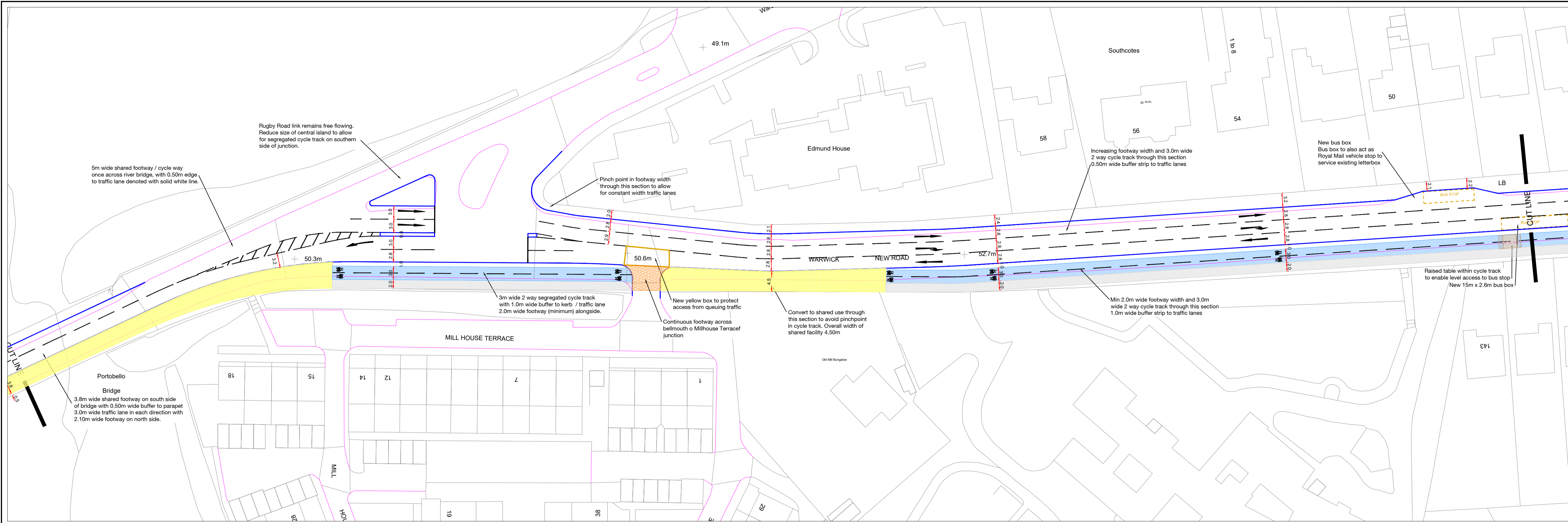
Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY
EMSCOTE ROAD / GREVILLE ROAD JUNCTION
TRAFFIC SIGNALS OPTION

Drawn: Checked: Date: Scale at A1:
MP SEPT 19 1:250

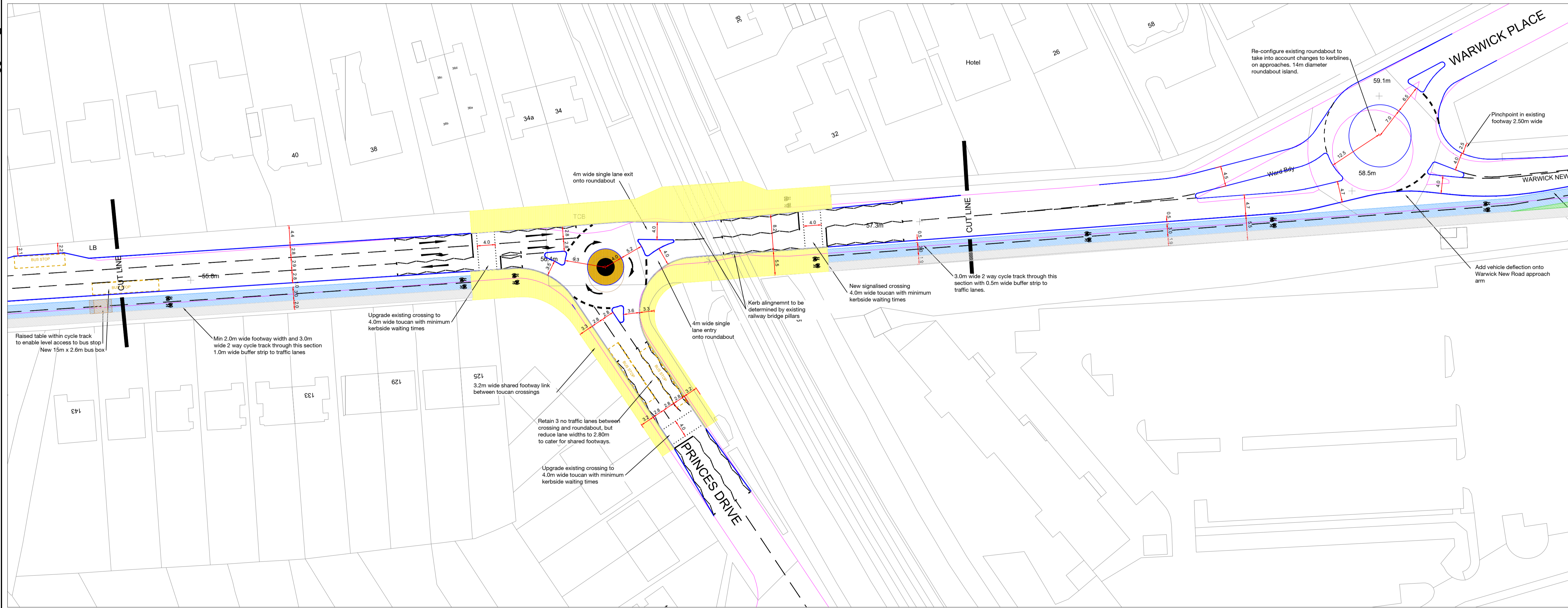
Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: Revision:
12445 / P / WM / 07 A



Key:

- Walking/Cycling Space
- Footway
- Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
- Raised Table
- Green Surfacing
- Red Surfacing
- Planting
- SuDS
- Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
- Crossing Tactile Paving
- Parking Bay Modification
- Sinusoidal Road Hump
- Quietway Route Alignment
- Proposed Kerb
- Proposed Dropped Kerb
- Existing Kerb
- Yellow Line Marking
- Existing / Proposed Tree
- Sign & Post
- Lamp Column



Rev	Description	Drawn	Date
A	Continuous footway added to Millhouse Drive access	MP	26/09/19

sustrans

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

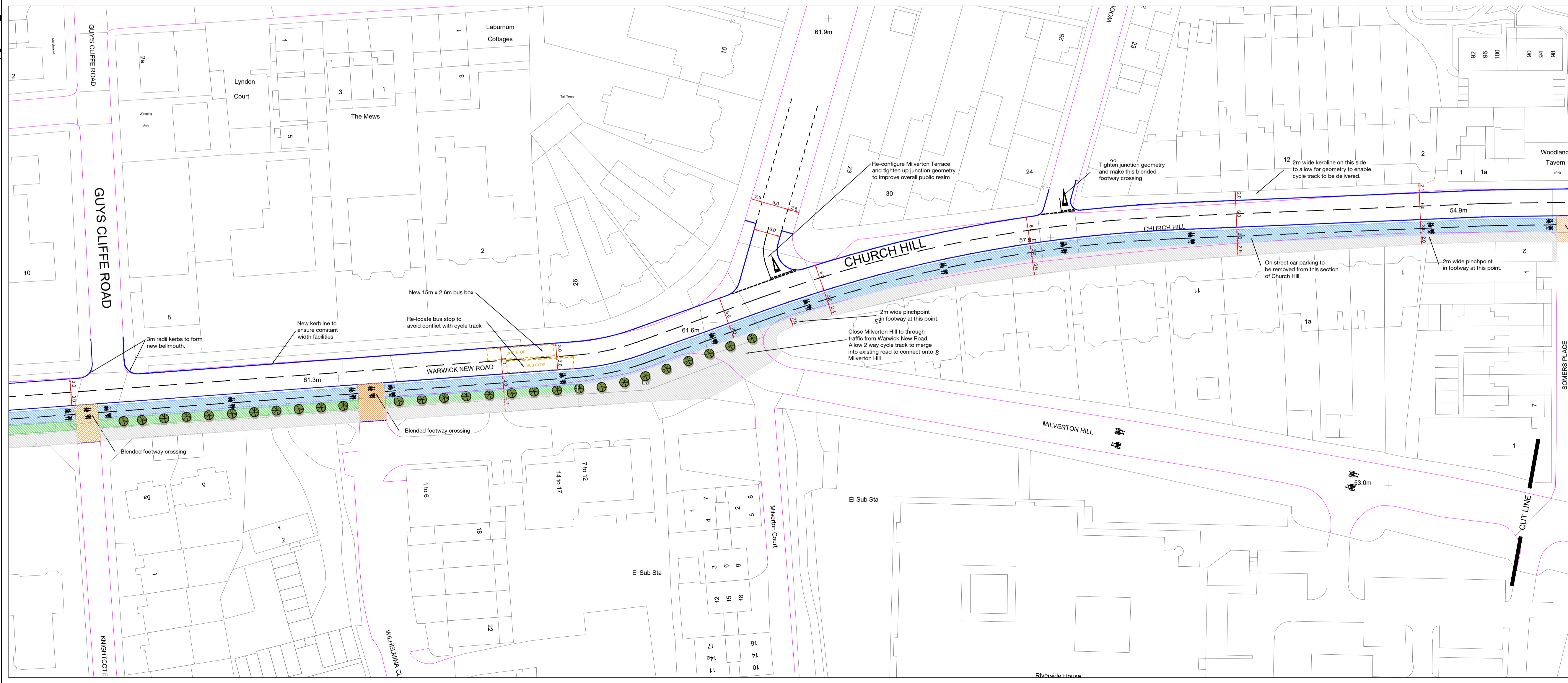
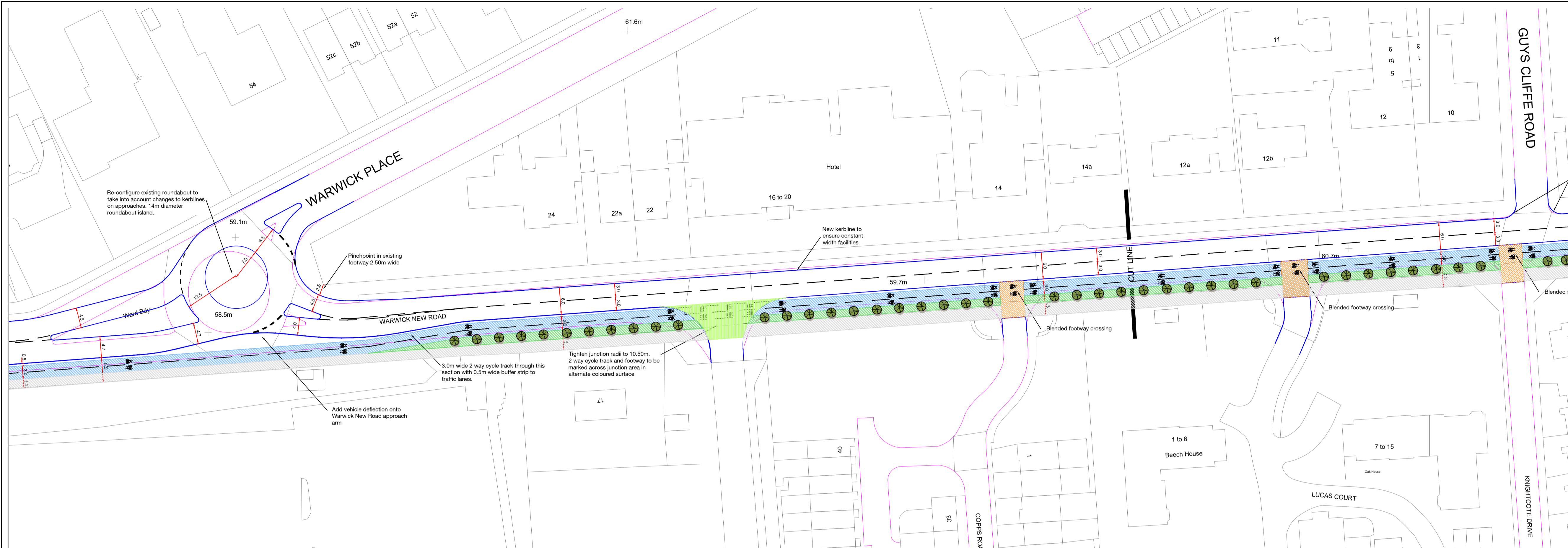
Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY

**WARWICK NEW ROAD
(PORTOBELLO BRIDGE - WARWICK PLACE)**

Drawn: Checked: Date: Scale at A1:
MP SEPT 19 1:500

Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: Revision:
12445 / P / WM / 08 **A**



Key:

[Yellow]	Walking/Cycling Space
[Grey]	Footway
[Dark Grey]	Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
[Light Grey]	Raised Table
[Green]	Green Surfacing
[Red]	Red Surfacing
[Blue]	Planting
[Light Blue]	SuDS
[Orange]	Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Green]	Crossing Tactile Paving
[Light Blue]	Parking Bay Modification
[Orange]	Sinusoidal Road Hump
[Dashed Line]	Quietway Route Alignment
[Solid Line]	Proposed Kerb
[Dashed Line]	Proposed Dropped Kerb
[Dotted Line]	Existing Kerb
[Yellow Line]	Yellow Line Marking
[Green Circle]	Existing / Proposed Tree
[Black Triangle]	Sign & Post
[Black Square]	Lamp Column

A	Segregated cycle track aligned to use Church Hill / Regent St.	MP	26/09/19
Rev	Description	Drawn	Date

sustrans
 JOIN THE MOVEMENT
 The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
 0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

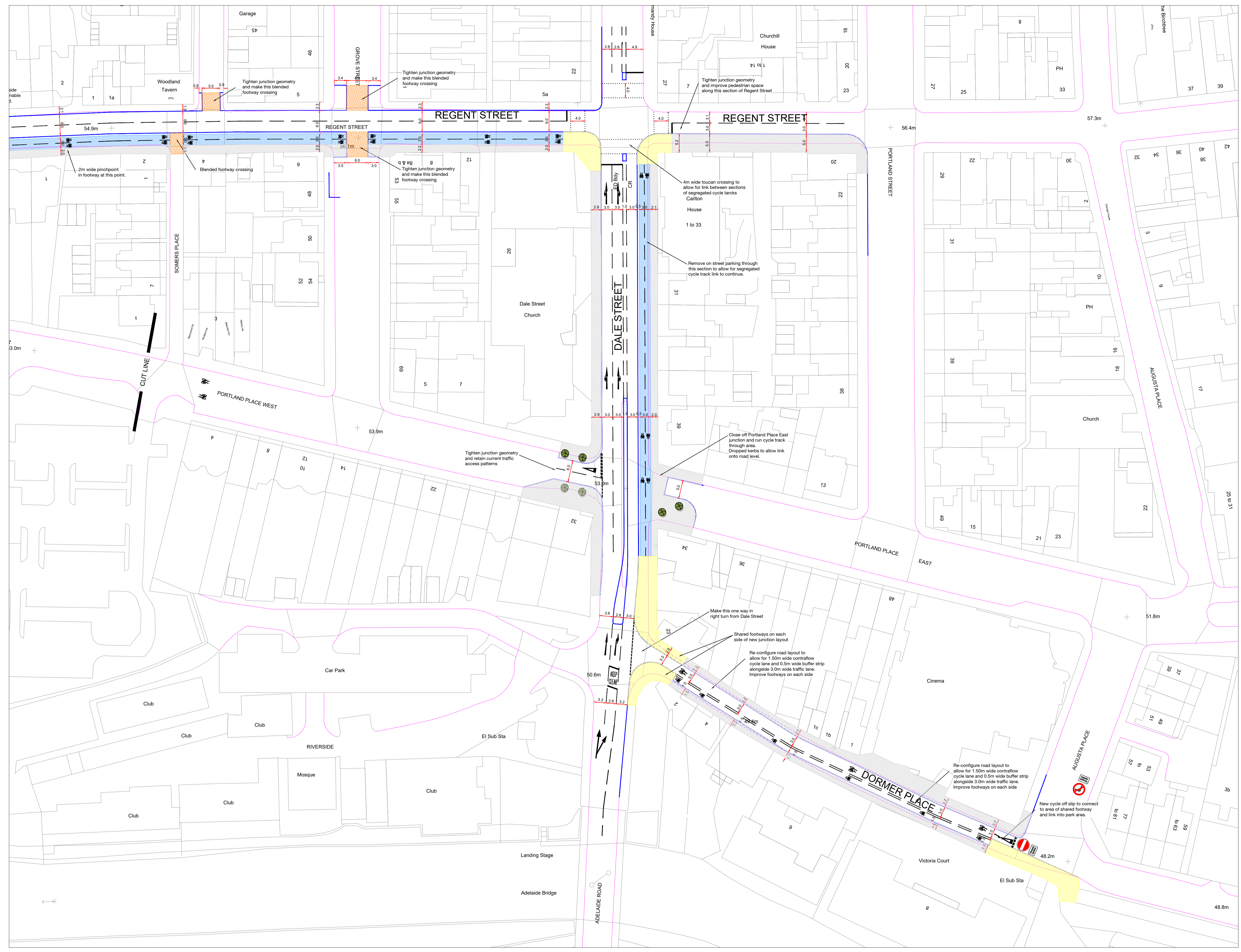
Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY
WARWICK PLACE - CHURCH HILL / MILVERTON HILL

Drawn: Checked: Date: Scale at A1:
 MP SEPT 19 1:500

Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: Revision:
 12445 / P / WM / 10 A



Key:

- Walking/Cycling Space
- Footway
- Carriageway/Path Resurfacing
- Raised Table
- Green Surfacing
- Red Surfacing
- Planting
- SuDS
- Uncontrolled Crossing Tactile Paving
- Crossing Tactile Paving
- Parking Bay Modification
- Sinusoidal Road Hump
- Quietway Route Alignment
- Proposed Kerb
- Proposed Dropped Kerb
- Existing Kerb
- Yellow Line Marking
- Existing / Proposed Tree
- Sign & Post
- Lamp Column

A	Dale Street cycle track and link into Dormer Place.	MP	26/09/19
Rev	Description	Drawn	Date

sustrans

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Walker Building, 58 Oxford Street, Birmingham, B5 5NR
0121 633 5510 www.sustrans.org.uk

Project:
WARWICK - LEAMINGTON CYCLE CORRIDOR

Title:
SEGREGATED CYCLE SUPER HIGHWAY
REGENT STREET - DORMER PLACE

Drawn: Checked: Date: Scale at A1:
MP SEPT 19 1:500

Status:
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

Drawing No: 12445 / P / WM / 11 Revision: **A**

This page is intentionally left blank

Health

Physical inactivity costs the NHS up to **£1bn per annum**, with further indirect costs calculated at **£8.2bn**

£8.2bn



Wellbeing

20 minutes of exercise per day cuts risk of **developing depression by 31%** and increases productivity of workers



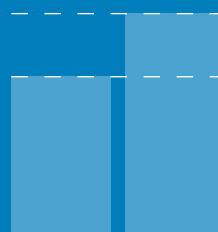
Congestion

The new east-west and north-south cycle routes in London are moving **46% of the people** in only **30% of the road space**



Local businesses

Up to **40% increase** in shopping footfall by well-planned improvements in the walking environment



+40%



Environmental and air quality

Meeting the targets to double cycling and increase walking would lead to savings of **£567 million** annually from air quality alone and prevent **8,300 premature deaths** each year and provide opportunities to improve green spaces and biodiversity⁵.



£567m

Climate change

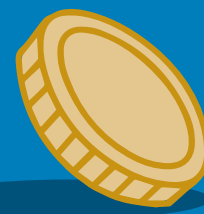
Mode shift to active transport is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing transport emissions



Economy

Cycling contributes **£5.4bn to the economy** per year and supports **64,000 jobs**

£5.4bn



What are the health benefits of physical activity?

Regular physical activity reduces your risk of...

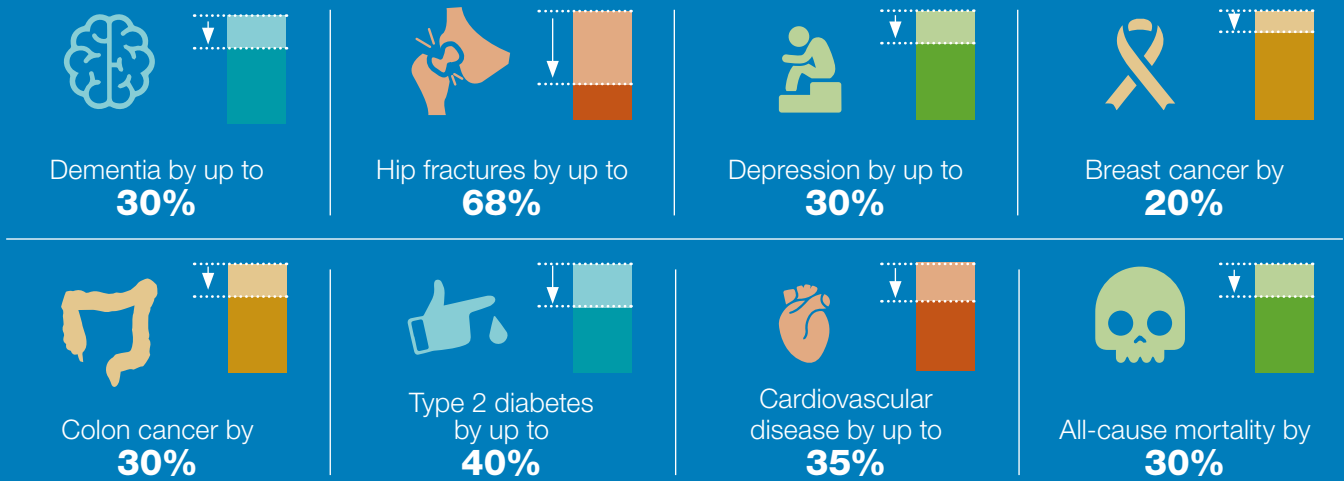
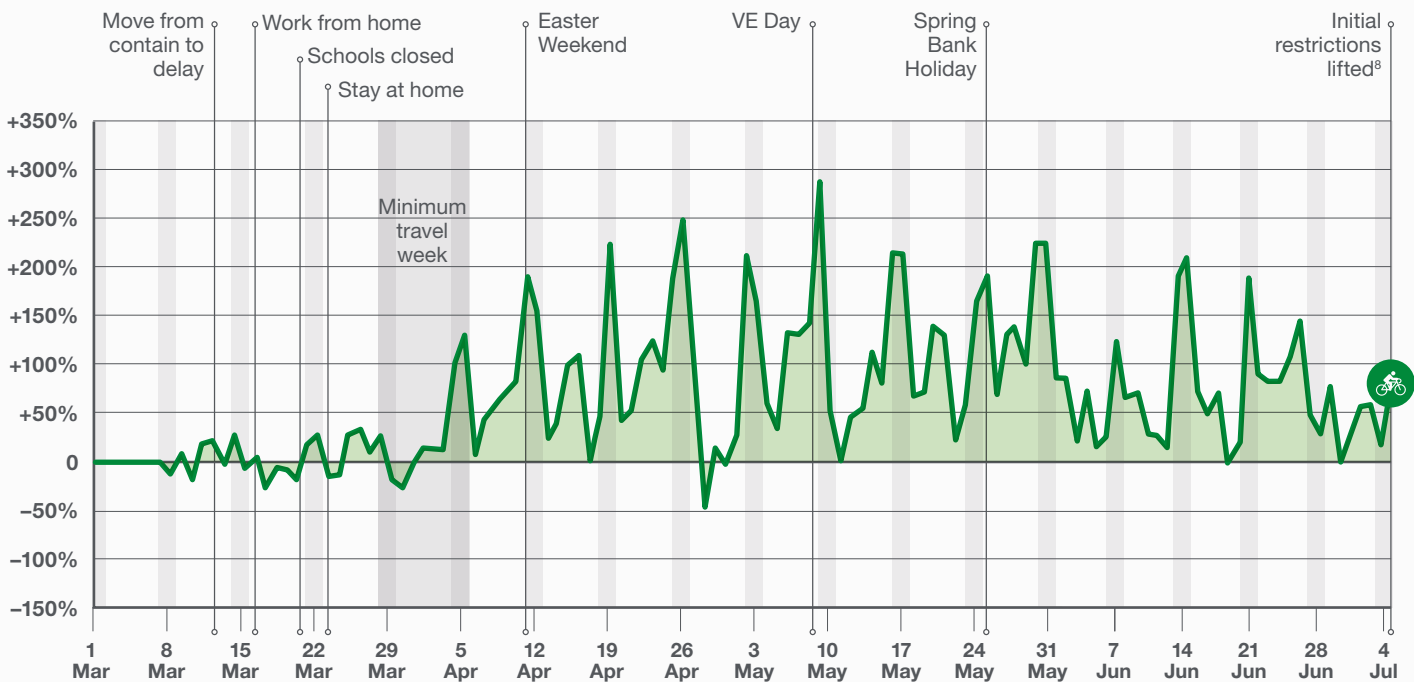


Figure 2
The health benefits of physical activity⁶

Figure 3
Percentage change in estimated cycling trips from 1 March 2020 to 4 July 2020 when initial restrictions lifted⁷



Despite fewer people travelling overall during this pandemic, we've seen around a 100% increase in weekday cycling. And on some weekends that increase has been around 200%⁹. Cycling activity is influenced by many factors including the weather.

The opportunity is huge, but it is also time limited – without intervention, people will likely slip back to old behaviours. We need to act now.

Council

15 December 2020

Appointment of Chair of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board

Recommendation

That Council approve the appointment of Mr Martin Rehorn, Director of Finance and Treasurer for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, as the Chair of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board for a period of 3 years.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current Chair of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board has notified the County Council that he wishes to step down from his position. In response, a process has been undertaken to identify a suitable candidate to take on this role. Following a robust process involving officers and representatives from the Staff and Pensions Committee and Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Mr Martin Rehorn, Director of Finance and Treasurer for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, has been identified as the new appointee.
- 1.2 The appointment requires ratification by Council in accordance with the terms of reference of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board.

2. Basis and Makeup of the Board

- 2.1 The requirements of the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 were implemented by the Firefighter Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 and require the establishment of a Local Pension Board for Fire Authorities.
- 2.2 The Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board has responsibility for assisting the Scheme Manager in securing compliance with all relevant pensions laws, regulations and directions and the Pension Regulator's codes of practice. The operations of the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board are guided by a Terms of Reference which are approved by Council.
- 2.3 Pursuant to those Terms of Reference, the membership of the Local Pension Board is to consist of seven members to include:
 - i) Scheme Member Representatives x 3
 - ii) Employer Representatives x 3

iii) Independent Representative x 1

- 2.4 In the case of the Fire and Rescue Local Pensions Board, the role of Independent Representative is held by the Chair of the Board.
- 2.5 The recommendation to appoint Mr Rehorn as Chair of the Board arises from a robust process of assessment that considered suitability for the role followed by an interview conducted by officers representing Finance and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, and a meeting with Councillors representing the Staff and Pensions Committee and Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Councillor Kam Kaur (Chair of Staff and Pensions Committee)
 - Councillor Adrian Warwick (Chair of Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
 - Councillor Bill Gifford (Member of Staff and Pensions Committee)
 - Councillor Neil Dirveiks (Member of Staff and Pensions Committee)
- 2.6 As background, Mr Rehorn is the Finance Director and Treasurer of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, a position he has held for 17 years, and where he is the Scheme Manager for the Firefighters' Pension Schemes (FFPS). Prior to this, he held senior positions at both Surrey Police Authority and West Midlands Police Authority. Martin has a wealth of experience in the field of Fire Pensions, having been involved in the implementation of the 2006 and 2015 Fire Pension Schemes at Hereford and Worcester, and various other legislative changes over the years. At a national level, he is a member of the FFPS Scheme Advisory Board's Administration and Benchmarking Sub-Group; the LGA's FFPS Technical Group; the HMI of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Technical Advisory Group, and the National Fire Chiefs Council's Finance Co-ordination Committee.

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Environmental Implications

None

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 If agreed the decision would have immediate effect.

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Liz Firmstone	lizfirmstone@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Andrew Felton	andrewfelton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Resources	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation	Councillor Kam Kaur

The report was not circulated to members prior to publication.

This page is intentionally left blank