

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 17 February 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Membership

Councillor Clare Golby (Chair)

Councillor Dave Shilton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Jenny Fradgley

Councillor Seb Gran

Councillor John Holland

Councillor Andy Jenns

Councillor Keith Kondakor

Councillor Andy Sargeant

Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher

Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

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

(3) Chair's Announcements

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting 5 - 10

2. Public Speaking

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Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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- 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.

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Clare Golby (Chair)
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor John Holland
Councillor Andy Jenns
Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Andy Sargeant
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Andrew Wright

Portfolio Holders

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property)
Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Community Safety)
Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer & Transformation)
Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Heritage & Culture)

Officers

Keiran Amos, Chief Fire Officer
David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director - Communities
Isabelle Moorhouse, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities
Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director for Environment Services

Others Present

Councillor Judy Falp
Councillor Pan Williams

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor Dave Shilton

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

None.

(3) Chair's Announcements

The Chair reminded the committee that there is a special Joint Communities and Adults Social Care & Health OSC on the 25th November following a passed motion at Full Council in September 2020.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holder

Councillor John Holland noted the delays with highway projects and queried the viability of a monitoring system to check the progress of schemes. Scott Tompkins (Assistant Director – Environmental Services) responded that updates on schemes are provided through the major schemes' boards, but due to the number of ongoing schemes it remained difficult to monitor schemes individually. Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council) suggested flow charts to monitor the progress for each scheme based in which area they were in.

In response to Councillor Keith Kondakor's concerns with delegated budgets, Mark Ryder (Strategic Director – Communities) agreed that tracking schemes could be improved, and Scott Tompkins had worked on improving the management of capital schemes. Tracking the flow and spend of the money and the flow of projects against what was promised will need improvement and to be made more accessible.

Scott Tompkins added that delegated budgets will change, and the new process was presented to Cabinet earlier in 2020. In order to provide more transparency, a website will be developed for members which will provide an individual report for each member showing what schemes will be delivered for them in that year, along with their status' and which locality officer will deal with the scheme; this is planned for summer 2021. Councillor Jenny Fradgley commended this idea.

In response to Councillor Kondakor's points regarding the West Midlands Railway Executive (WMRE) governance arrangements, Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder – Finance & Property) informed the committee that he will be Chair of the executive until May 2021 and it is a consultee to major projects, not a rail operator. The bay platform at Coventry train station will be done through the 'Knuckle' project and Network Rail; the WMRE is a consultee for the station, not the capital project itself. He continued that the bay platform was delayed because Coventry are focusing on upgrading and improving their station and existing routes for their tenure of the City of Culture in 2021; work with Network Rail and applying for extra government funds for this had been undertaken.

Following a supplementary from Councillor Kondakor, Councillor Butlin replied that the WMRE and Warwickshire County Council cannot control what Coventry City Council want to focus on.

(1) Economic Development Update

David Ayton-Hill (Assistant Director – Communities) provided the update stating that due to enhanced government restrictions, there were new national government schemes to support businesses like emergency grants for businesses which were forced to close. The grants

were optional to businesses operating a click and collect service. A more discretionary grant scheme called 'additional restrictions grant' was also set up, which awarded Warwickshire £11 million to support businesses ineligible for emergency grants. The county council is working with the district councils to coordinate a standard approach and help businesses on how to adapt for the future. The county council has a selection of economic recovery packages and projects which work with the council's partners and stakeholders. These include digital training for retailers which helped businesses get online, a growth program to help businesses adapt their business, as well as the loan and grant schemes. There was also a 'Tech Challenge' for technological and creative businesses to think innovatively about new solutions that they could put in place to help town centre businesses.

David Ayton-Hill continued that there was a difficulty responding to redundancies due to the high level of businesses laying off workers. Therefore, a redundancy support programme was set up with the council's external partners to support businesses who made/may have to make redundancies and see if any measures could be implemented to prevent this or support those affected. The support could be help with job searching, development, financial support or advice around financial management from the Citizens Advice Bureau and business start-up support. He concluded that a redundancy tracker was in place to track what was happening in local areas and adjust to this. However, new businesses have started up in Warwickshire or came to Warwickshire during the pandemic period and central government were consulted with to keep businesses in the area.

The committee praised the report and commended the support provided to businesses and redundant workers.

The Chair informed the committee that any workers made redundant during the furlough scheme can be re-employed and re-furloughed by the workplace that made them redundant for the remainder of furlough. She also praised that the grants were made available to supply chain contractors.

In response to Councillor Holland's comments regarding the 1980's economic crash and how Warwickshire County Council coped and provided skilling opportunities with it, Mark Ryder added that the council contacted Warwickshire College about opportunities and the recruiting firm for the new Covid-19 Mega Lab in Leamington Spa, in order to support local employment, businesses and the surrounding ecosystem.

In response to Councillor Kondakor, Mark Ryder responded that the council did not have a choice on where the Mega Lab would be, but they will utilise the opportunity.

Councillors Fradgley and Seccombe noted that jobs and opportunities need to be accessible to both North and South Warwickshire.

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder – Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) stated that areas of deprivation exist cross-county and the Mega Lab will provide spin-off benefits. It was noted that a green transport policy will be developed to link all of Warwickshire to the Mega-Lab.

Following Councillor Kondakor's query about the BMW plant and smaller theatre venues, David Ayton-Hill stated that the BMW plant in Hams Hall will be where the BMW electric engines are developed in the UK and the Arts Challenge Fund worked with the cultural based industries to persuade visitors into town centres; however due to current restrictions this was delayed.

Following Councillor Kondakor's concerns regarding the agriculture industry without EU funding, Councillor Seccombe replied that the council has a working relationship with the NFU (National Farmers' Union) and these concerns were raised by the NFU at a recent meeting. Therefore, she had written to MP's on behalf of the NFU. She added that they are important for green technology, Warwickshire's biodiversity, and there are tenant farmers on council land who are members of the NFU.

4. School Road Safety Education TFG Report

Councillor Fradgley thanked the officers involved in the TFG and informed the committee that the TFG were previously not aware of the current school road safety programmes being provided by the Road Safety team within the council. Briefings were set up for members in all five districts for the Road Safety Team to share their work and explain their broad safety remit. The current project will help deal with climate change and improve green travel by teaching children how to cycle, walk safely to school and provide information when needed. She proposed that the report recommendations be approved and sent to Cabinet for their consideration.

The Chair thanked Councillor Fradgley for presenting the report and commended the council for having the team in place pre-TFG.

Councillor Kondakor expressed his surprise with how aggressive residents can be outside school gates and the proposed additional officer roles would help make it a safe area. He noted that the council had reminded residents to turn their car engines off when waiting for their children in order to improve the poor air quality around schools. The Chair added that work with errant parking at schools had been undertaken by the council too.

Councillor Crump praised the SAFER project for tailoring to the schools they are implemented in. Councillors Crump and Holland noted that improvements would not happen immediately, and cultural change would be the main cause of improvement. Councillor Crump informed the committee that in 2019 33 people were killed and 300 injured on Warwickshire roads.

Members of the committee discussed 20mph zones around schools and accidents that happened outside schools in their divisions because of speeding cars.

Councillor Fradgley added that children need to feel confident cycling on roads.

Resolved:

The Road Safety Education Task & Finish Group recommends that Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

1. I) Support the internal bids for two School Travel Plan Officer roles for a two-year period.
AND
II) If the internal bids are not successful, Communities OSC asks Cabinet to consider adding funding for the roles to the budget proposals to be recommended to Council in February 2021.
2. All County Councillors actively aid the School Safety Team with their liaisons with schools in their respective divisions, including promoting the SAFER project and any school champion work.

3. All school champions receive support from the School Safety Team and County Councillors when needed.

5. Mid-Year Performance Progress Report

Mark Ryder introduced the report stating it covered April to September 2020 and contains financial and performance elements which were both affected by Covid-19. Recycling had increased but waste overall reduced along with KSI's (killed or seriously injured) and vehicles on the road. The economy was negatively affected too but crime reduced in this period. There was budgetary overspending in this period due to a reduced economic income and the need to spend more in other areas.

In response to Councillor Kondakor regarding biodiversity and tree loss, Mark Ryder stated that the ecology team had been reviewing this for years and an update can be provided. Scott Tompkins added that the only trees that are removed were deemed unsafe and any trees that are removed for highway schemes are replaced; all this work is carried out by the forestry team with the help of tree warden volunteers to plant additional trees. The Chair thanked the forestry team on behalf of residents in her division for dealing with an emergency situation with a tree.

Councillor Seccombe added that it is essential to maintain green corridors to retain Warwickshire's biodiversity; work with the NFU continues to be carried out to ensure this. Regarding community woods, Councillor Seccombe clarified that they should be considered with development plans and it would need to be brought up to planning authorities.

Councillor Fradgley informed the committee that Stratford Town Council received a tree mapping update for green corridors in urban areas as part of their neighbourhood plan. She continued that smaller communities around Stratford asked for trees on common land and praised Scott Tompkins, Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder – Transport & Planning) and David Lowe for their support with this.

Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder – Environment, Heritage & Culture) added that the consultation for the community scheme around climate change projects included tree planting. To ensure the consultation is used she suggested that members raise it with their town and parish councils so they could contribute to the consultation and more climate change schemes cross-county.

Following a query from Councillor Kondakor, Councillor Timms stated that they had publicised the free packs from the Woodland Trust to schools regarding tree planting. With the tree map, they were aware which areas needed more trees planting as well as information on trees for green corridors.

6. Communities OSC Work Programme

The Chair informed the committee that items on the work programme and future committee meetings may be subject to purdah which starts on the 19th March 2021.

In response to Councillor Kondakor's query regarding the national waste strategy, Dave Ayton-Hill stated that an update will be available after the government second consultation document is released early next year.

Scott Tompkins added that they are planning on publishing a list on highways schemes that cost £250,000 and over, what stage they are at and the expected completion date. He continued that the OSC could review the draft before it goes on the member intranet.

Councillor Kondakor asked for all transport projects to go onto the website, like train and cycling projects.

7. Urgent Items

None.

The meeting rose at 15:10

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Chair

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 February 2021

Questions to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders

Recommendation

That the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the forthcoming Cabinet and Portfolio Holder decisions relevant to its remit, asking questions and considering areas for further scrutiny, where appropriate.

1.0 Cabinet and Portfolio Holder Decisions

1.1 The decisions relevant to the remit of the Committee are listed below. Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and identify topics for pre-decision scrutiny. They are also encouraged to submit questions to Democratic Services two working days before the meeting, in order that an informed response may be given. The responsible Portfolio Holders have been invited to the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

1.2 The list was last updated from the Forward Plan on 8th February 2021.

Decision Title	Description	Date	Decision Maker
Homelessness Strategy	Update on homelessness strategy progress and suggested publication date	03 March 2021	Health and Wellbeing Board
Update on Heritage and Culture Strategy	Members requested an update on the above strategy.	09 March 2021	Resources, Fire & Rescue OSC
Developer -Funded S278 Highway Schemes Approvals	For the Deputy Leader to agree the following for developer funded S278 Highway Improvement schemes: 1. To increase the capital provision for the B4632 Campden Road, Freshfields Nursery, Clifford Chambers 2. To increase the capital provision for the C43 Gallows Hill (Strawberry Fields), Warwick 3. To add to the capital programme for B4428 Brinklow Road, Binley Heath.	12 March 2021	Portfolio Holder Decision
Country Park Fees & Charges	This paper will request formal approval of the Fees and Charges for the Country Parks in 2021/2022	12 March 2021	Portfolio Holder Decision
Revenue Investment Funds January 2021	Recommendations for approval of funding allocations to bids from the Revenue Investment Funds	18 March 2021	Cabinet

(Exempt) Warwickshire Property and Development Company	An exempt report regarding the WPDC Business Case, seeking approval to the transfer of the Estate Management (Landlord) Duties to WPDC.	18 March 2021	Cabinet
(Exempt) Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund - Business Plan	A report that seeks Cabinet approval for the WRIF Business Plan	18 March 2021	Cabinet
(Exempt) Estate Masterplanning	Update in relation to Estate Master planning programme	18 March 2021	Cabinet

2.0 Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact details
Report Author	Isabelle Moorhouse	isabellemoorhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury	

Communities O&S – February 2021

Economic Development Update

The following briefing note provides an update to the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on recent economic development activity in Warwickshire. It covers work undertaken by County Council officers and partners across a range of services and areas as well as other key pieces of relevant news and information.

Government Coronavirus Business Support

Following the announcement of a further period of national lockdown from 5 January 2021, the Chancellor announced a further package of grants for businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors worth up to £9,000 per property. A £594m discretionary fund was also made available to support other businesses.

The newly announced grants are again awarded through the Districts & Boroughs either based on the rateable value framework or via a discretionary pot, eligibility for which continues to vary on a council by council basis.

Most recently, businesses which took advantage of 'bounce back' loans are to be given more time to pay, including the option of paying the total sum back over 10 years rather than six and allowing them to choose to pay only the 2.5% interest on the loans.

EU Exit

Whilst initially very quiet, feedback from partners is that enquires are now picking up as local exporters start to encounter issues (both between the UK and the EU and GB and NI). The most common query appears to be in respect of guidance/ clarification around VAT rules, which is expected to settle down as understanding improves.

Growth Hubs have taken on additional staff to support business (as part of a Government funded EU Transition project). CWLEP Growth Hub are leading for the West Midlands and have set-up a new web site where businesses can access information and advice about the post-EU landscape. <https://www.wmgrowthhubs-eusupport.co.uk/>

The Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce also deliver services in Coventry and Warwickshire on behalf of the Department for International Trade. The Chamber took on additional staff in the Autumn and have set-up a useful EU Transition Hub. <https://www.cw-chamber.co.uk/international-trade/department-for-international-trade/> <https://www.cw-chamber.co.uk/international-trade/coventry-warwickshire-eu-transition-hub/>

Megalab

In mid-November, government announced the opening of a new 'megalab' in Leamington Spa. Operational in early 2021 the lab will add 300,000 to daily testing capacity. Cutting-edge technology, including automation, robotics and consumables,

will enable faster turnaround times for tests at a lower cost. Diagnostic capabilities will also be used for critical illness including cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.

Fully staffed, the lab will employ up to 2,000 people with the current focus on a strong push to recruit 800 lab technicians. This entry level job is aimed at a wide demographic and whilst being led by DWP, we are supporting through promoting the opportunity through our network of schools, college and university contacts.

Interactive Futures

Warwickshire County Council is working with Warwick District Council and CWLEP to host the 3rd iteration of Interactive Futures, this year taking place online. Interactive Futures 2021 runs from Tuesday February 16th – Saturday February 20th with the Leamington Spa games hub opening its virtual doors to again showcase the talent and creativity of the video games studios within the region.

Interactive Futures 2021 will also provide exclusive insight into the many career options available within the games industry – along with practical advice and guidance to students, young people and children on how to navigate their own pathways. Importantly, the event will speak to parents too, highlighting that a career in games is a valid, valuable and well-rewarded one – and one that exists right on their doorsteps.

Economic Recovery

- On 1 February 2021, **the Adapt and Diversify business support grant** was launched with the release of eligibility and application documentation. The scheme, available to small Warwickshire businesses, is designed to complement the national coronavirus business support schemes administered by the D&Bs, providing funds to enable businesses to adapt and diversify their service offer, safeguarding their immediate future and the jobs of their workforce.

Grants ranging from £2,500 to £20,000 are available towards the costs of specialist advice, i.e. accountants or digital specialist and/or purchasing equipment or refurbishing property. The application window will open on Monday 15 February with a total of £1.5m available, Run in two rounds, £1m available in the first round on a first-come, first-served basis with a second round later in the year to allow applicants more than one opportunity to apply should they miss the first window.

These new grants follow WCC's successful retail and hospitality grant scheme last year which awarded £222,000 to 55 businesses for projects which should help safeguard 170 jobs

- **The Future Careers Schools Fund** now closes after supporting over 35 schools who required emergency funding to adapt their careers provision to be remotely accessible to students. The programme has made significant positive impacts and supported hundreds of young people to access and engage with careers activities around their online curriculum learning.

School feedback suggests that flexibility in the design of investment, allowed the fund to supported schools in shaping access and activities to meet new needs responsively, avoiding large gaps in the delivery of careers activity.

- **National Apprenticeship Week Activity** (February 8th – 14th) sees the launch of a number of activities pledging the council's commitment to invest in Apprenticeships and boost local engagement.

1. **The Warwickshire Apprenticeship Progression Programme** is designed to encourage small to medium size businesses in supporting employees to progress onto a second apprenticeship with a £1000 training incentive fund. The chosen apprenticeship must support the sustainability of the business with the qualification also delivered by a local apprenticeship provider.

The programme is designed to support busines to acquire new skills the pandemic may have presented, upskill existing staff and boost the uptake of apprenticeships locally.

2. **The launch of Inclusive Apprenticeships** significantly broadens the opportunities for young people with SEND. Inclusive apprenticeships support individuals by removing certain barriers and making reasonable adjustments in how they access training to gain a qualification and work opportunity.

The launch will see a call out to employers, followed by a series of supportive workshops providing an inclusive route to employment as autumn approaches.

- **WCC Small Business Apprenticeship Levy Programme** further to the ongoing success of this programme, 2021 will see a further £200,000 investment of WCC's apprenticeship levy fund, which will be distributed to small businesses wanting to invest in apprenticeships and in need of funding support
- WCC's **Digital Training Programme for Retailers** continued to see significant demand throughout the end of 2020, supporting 62 businesses and has been recommissioned for a further phase during Spring 2021. It is expected that many customers will continue to demand online services even once the pandemic has passed and these workshops help retailers embrace digital trends to grow their business. It is delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Stories Marketing. <https://www.cw-chamber.co.uk/business-support/towncentres/>
- A further £0.5 million loan to Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT) in support of the Government's **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme** (CBILS) is the subject of a Leader Decision on 10th February 2021. CBILS was scheduled to finish at the end of December (after two previous extensions), however the scheme has been extended again until 31st March 2021. A total of £2.724 million has now been lent by CWRT to 25 businesses in Warwickshire, safeguarding 248 jobs with over a further 151 new jobs expected to be created. CWRT are continuing to see significant demand from Warwickshire businesses for CBILS loans. There is currently a pipeline of enquiries and applications worth nearly £3.3 million from businesses based in the county.

Lending by smaller lenders such as CWRT complements the lending by the major high street banks and other mainstream providers.

- WCC's **Survive, Sustain and Grow** programme – designed to support those businesses most affected by Covid-19 – continues to see huge demand. The programme has received nearly 300 enquires/referrals since its launch in late August and 227 businesses have so far been supported by the programme. There is a good spread of businesses both across Warwickshire and by sector. Support is delivered by a network of specialist, industry-specific consultants appointed by WCC. Grants worth just under £100,000 have been awarded to businesses on the programme towards the costs of implementing recovery plans. A number of case studies have been produced and are available on WCC's web site: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/information-coronavirus/coronavirus-wcc-economic-recovery-programmes/1>
- The **Tech Challenge Fund** was set up after a business survey undertaken by CWLEP identified the need for digital products which help support and promote town centres, engage existing and new customers, and improve consumer confidence in returning following the end of national lockdowns. Applications closed in November and after an extensive appraisal process, three projects have been offered funding to progress their projects. More information about the individual projects will be available shortly once contracts are in place.

Inward Investment News

Despite the pandemic, we have seen several investments over recent months, with performance in the digital and logistics sectors being particularly strong. We continue to work with number of new and potential investors to identify suitable commercial property and help facilitate a 'soft landing'.

- **Mediatonic** opened their games development studio in Leamington Spa in November 2020, aiming to have a 60 strong team in place by 2022. Mediatonic have had huge success with their latest release, Fall Guys, which has sold over 7 million copies on PC and became the most-downloaded title on Sony's PlayStation Plus subscription service in history.
- The **Norton** brand has returned to the West Midlands. Invest in Warwickshire worked with parent company TVS to source a location in proximity to WMG at the University of Warwick. Unable to identify a suitable site in the Warwickshire area, the factory has been initially set up in Solihull and we continue to talk to about future opportunities in Warwickshire and Coventry.
- Polish mobility provider **Triggo** has set up a UK base at MIRA Technology Park on the outskirts of Nuneaton, and we continue to provide soft landing support.
- **Pizza chain Dodo Pizza** – which is in 657 locations across 13 countries – has signed a 15-year lease for 1,608 square feet of ground floor space at 52-54 Warwick Street, which used to form a part of the former Co-op store. We are supporting them to look at other locations and opportunities in the county.
- We have been supporting the **Transport Innovation Showcase** strand of **Coventry UK City of Culture**, introducing a range of Warwickshire businesses to the opportunity from the aero, auto, energy, rail and marine sectors

Business News – Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

Digital sector update

- Over the last 8 months the key highlight for the games sector is the level of recruitment seen even throughout periods of lockdown. Most major studios have been recruiting and several of our studios have been highlighted as some of the best places to work.
- **Electronic Arts (EA)** has agreed to buy UK video games developer Codemasters in a move that could see the US publishing giant wrest control of the racing video game genre. The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2021 for £6.04 (~\$7.98) a share, valuing Codemasters at around \$1.2 billion.
- Over £60,000 of funding has been awarded to **Enable iD** (a subsidiary of software developer Enable International based in Stratford-upon-Avon) to improve the day-to-day experience of commuters in Coventry and Warwickshire by tailoring its 'MyJrny' intelligent mobility system for regional deployment.
- A Warwick technology company **Telent**, which specialises in the design, build, operation and maintenance of critical UK digital infrastructure, has been awarded a £12 billion contract by Openreach to support ultrafast, ultrareliable 'Full Fibre' broadband building new infrastructure for Openreach on sites across the UK, including in Coventry, Worcester, Wednesbury, Walsall and Bristol.
- **Yotta**, the asset management software and services division of Oxford Metrics, has secured a string of new contracts in a range of service areas such as highways, street lighting and waste management across the South West, Midlands and Yorkshire regions. Yotta is based in Warwickshire (Leamington Spa) while Oxford Metrics is headquartered in Oxfordshire.
- **REPL Group**, a Queen's Award-winning retail IT consultancy and technology company headquartered in Warwickshire grew both its turnover and pre-tax profits during its latest financial year. Based in Henley-in-Arden, it reported a turnover of £34.5m for the 12 months to 31 March 2020, up from £26.6m. Its pre-tax profits also went from £2.6m to £4m over the same period.
- **Tournament Fields** has secured a deal with Gallagher at its site on the outskirts of Warwick. New Zealand company, Gallagher is a security product and service organisation operating across 160 countries. The new premises at Tournament Fields will become the company's UK and European headquarters.

Automotive and Future Mobility:

- **BMW UK** is celebrating 20 years and 5 million engines produced at the Hams Hall factory, with the announcement of its latest apprenticeship drive. The site employs nearly 1000, producing engines and components, including powertrain for hybrid vehicles, and will soon take on the V8 and V12 power units, which are transferring from Munich.
<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/industry-news-manufacturing/bmw-marks-20-years-uk-production-hams-hall-factory>

- **Jaguar Land Rover** posted pre-tax profit of £439 million as it continues to battle against the impact of the pandemic. The firm posted a quarter-on-quarter rise for the 3 months to December 31, 2020, up from £374 million during the summer, and a year-on-year rise of £121 million on the final quarter of 2019. https://www.business-live.co.uk/manufacturing/jaguar-land-rover-welcomes-profit-19727029?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=sharebar
- MTC Apprenticeships, part of the Ansty-based Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), has seen a surge in applications from prospective apprentices, with more than 700 young people looking to join the award-winning programme. <https://www.businessinnovationmag.co.uk/manufacturing-technology-apprenticeship-applications-hit-record-high/>
- Battery-maker **Britishvolt** plans to set-up a HQ and R&D centre at **MIRA Technology Park**. The new facility, in the heartland of UK automotive industry, will spearhead development of battery technologies for electrified vehicles. <https://www.ukspa.org.uk/member-news/britishvolt-plan-new-global-hq-at-mira-technology-park/>

e-Commerce and Logistics

- German logistics business **DB Schenker** has taken an additional unit at Centurion Park, Tamworth. Located on the Tamworth side of the M42, it lies (just) within North Warwickshire Borough. It will create up to 100 new jobs.
- Chinese e-Commerce fulfilment company **Winit** is investing in a 350,000sqft facility at St Modwen Park (J10 M42 on the Dordon/Tamworth border), creating up to 500 jobs. Birch Coppice next door has created 6000 jobs since 2013. Together with Centurion Park across the motorway, and TNT Express and Aldi a short drive away, this has been a major cluster of job growth since 2010.

Other News

- Tech start-ups and scale-ups in the West Midlands raised a record £390m in funding in 2020, almost three times more than 2019's previous record of £132m. Across the region, tech companies are showing positive signs of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Overall, there are 5,099 open tech roles in the West Midlands, including BT, Premier IT, Balfour Beatty and Aldi. <https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/westmidlands/news/2048137-investment-into-west-midlands-tech-sector-triples-in-2020>

Warwickshire Towns Update Feb 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly accelerated the trend that we were already seeing in terms of consumer behaviours and the shift to online shopping. The various closures and lockdowns have clearly increased the difficulties being faced on our high streets, and we have seen various business closures – particularly in some key national retail chains.

Warwickshire County Council have been pro-actively working with our partners and stakeholders to help support our town centres, both in the short-term with respect to responding to the pandemic and looking towards recovery; and in the longer-term through wider regeneration and development plans. The following seeks to provide an overview to this activity.

1. General Update

a. WTN (Warwickshire Towns Network)

Throughout the pandemic the WTN has continued to meet and provided a facilitation and enabling function to practitioners across the county. Discussions through the network have been mainly based around the reactionary work being undertaken at a local level. Including within these conversations have been the good take up of local markets and decisions relating to summer event cancellation.

Prior to Christmas the team worked with Advent communication to promote the local offer of Warwickshire towns and this #Warksmas campaign was well received and created case studies from businesses across the county.

b. Towns Commission

The purpose of the Future Town Centres Commission is over the next 8 months to bring together agencies responsible for the development of place in the county, to identify the key factors that will dictate the future of Warwickshire's towns and high streets and to assess what they need to focus on to survive and thrive over the next 15 years.

This is a high-level exercise that will take a holistic view of our towns, with support from industry experts across several key themes. It will identify the fundamental infrastructure required and the steps to ensuring each town in Warwickshire can evolve positively and provide a collective understanding of the research and data available to forecast trends, evidence need and identify local gaps.

Findings will be written up into a single report to be shared with all participants. The Commission will be led by the Sustainable Communities team at WCC.

c. Training and Support

Warwickshire businesses across the whole county are still benefiting from the WTN digital skills programme in improving their online presence after the WTN digital skills for businesses scheme was extended from Feb 2021 until March 2021 (WCC Sustainable base budget of £79k split between the 2 financial years) Through this extension the training is being offered to more sectors including culture and tourism businesses and is

being delivered by the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

The advice and training is being offered as part of a larger package to support economic recovery within the county which includes the 'Survive, Sustain and Grow programme' and 'Adapt and Diversify Grants' through the Economy and Skills Team.

d. **Arts Challenge**

The project aims to enliven and provide creative ways to support safe movement, social distancing and community confidence around our town centres and outdoor spaces, to encourage shoppers and visitors back to the high street and to support active travel. Creative place curators (Creative Giants) and delivery partners will be commissioned to deliver a combined pot of £344k (£194k LEP + £150k WCC Placemaking Fund) for 8 art and culture based public realm items across the County. WCC are working closely at the moment with partners to secure the right delivery model ensuring the project continues in a COVID secure and safe manner while still engaging with local stakeholders and artists.

2. **Transforming Nuneaton**

a. **Future High Street Fund:** A provisional funding offer of £13.3m has been received by NBBC, less than the full ask of circa £20m. The Business Case prioritised the various projects within the bid and will enable key/prioritised projects (i.e. Abbey Street Development, "Bridge to Living" and Flood Alleviation) to move forward. As part of the FHSF award process an update must be provided to, and approved, by Government. It is anticipated this will be concluded by the end of March 2021.

b. **Abbey Street Development Site:** Following NBBC's approval of the draft masterplan a public consultation on Masterplan proposals was undertaken and concluded in Nov/Dec 2020 – undertaken "virtually" due to COVID19 restrictions. Subsequently a hybrid Planning Application (i.e. outline main site, detailed hotel) was submitted on 23 December 2020 with supporting drawings, plans, reports, etc. Subject to planning it is anticipated that works on site will start Summer 2021.

Refurbishment/conversion works of 22 and 23 Queens Road have commenced, using external funding, to bring these disused units back to life and opening them up for local enterprises & businesses / creative industries etc.

c. **Transport Infrastructure:**

i. **Ring Road Highway Improvements:** Following WCC's approval of CIF monies the full project team for the TN Highway projects is now in place and a full review of all schemes has been undertaken; this includes a review of all proposed designs, review of land requirements, review of modelling and assumptions, commissioned and or completed survey work of the ring road. Land assembly negotiations have started

alongside planning discussions. First scheme to be delivered will be Wheat Street junction in 2023.

- ii. **Bus Improvements:** work has been commissioned to design the re-introduction of buses into the town centre including the new super bus stops, more central routes and links with shops, and the needs and requirements of a bus station for the future.
 - iii. **Northern Access to Nuneaton Train Station:** initial feasibility work has been concluded for the design of a new access into the station from the north. This is being reviewed and will inform next steps.
- d. **Vicarage Street Development Site:** With the approval of funding for a new Library and Business Centre as the key anchor for the Vicarage Street Development site work has been progressing on the most appropriate way to develop the wider site (masterplan, high level appraisal, soft market testing, Homes England re key worker housing). A proposal is now being considered within the context of WCC establishing a new property company.
- e. **Library and Business Centre:** Design and Major Projects (WCC) who are commissioned to deliver the building are now working with the professional team from Mace Ltd to complete detailed design and planning; a new programme delivery plan is being developed based on likely timescales for gaining vacant possession of the site.
- f. **Towns Investment Plan / Towns Fund:** The Town Investment Plan was submitted to Government on 11th Dec 2020 with an ask of £24.4m; it is expected that feedback on the submission will not be until late February 2021. The Plan includes projects from WCC including Weddington Cycle Scheme, EV Charging Infrastructure, and contributions towards the ring road upgrades.

3. Leamington Spa

Warwick District Council have been awarded an indicative allocation of £10m from the Future High Streets Fund, compared to the £14.9m requested in their original submission. Their Future High Streets Fund bid was based around two key elements of creating significant creative hubs north and south of the river Leam, and to connect these hubs and the wider town centre through active travel measures. The aim of the programme is to drive the diversification of the town centre to a more mixed-use economy, utilising Leamington's unique creative industries as a key driver.

Warwickshire County Council is working with WDC to explore how we could reduce the initial investment in active travel to a core scheme that could be covered by the reduced allocation of funding, and develop a longer-term phased approach that could take advantage of future funding and linked to planned schemes (such as the Bath Street Gyratory). The revised bid for the reduced pot of funding is due to be submitted to Government at the end of February.

In addition, the County Council continues its work on redeveloping our Holly Walk office in Leamington Town Centre to create new office space for the town, with a particular focus on supporting the growing digital creative sector. These works are benefitting from a grant of £0,5m from the Government's Getting Building Fund, and should be completed in 2022. The County Council has also been supporting the development of the new, private sector led co-working space, 1 Mill Street. In partnership with the University of Warwick, we are helping to sponsor space that can be used by new digital creative start-ups.

4. Transforming Bedworth

The Transforming Bedworth Programme (TBP) has been developed in recognition of the need to support the revitalisation of Bedworth Town Centre, increasing footfall and attracting new investment.

The TBP vision is to see the town centre develop into a vibrant location, attracting

local residents and visitors alike, to spend more time in the centre and in turn attract

new investment and a wider range of leisure and retail outlets.

Opportunities have been identified, through a visioning exercise, to make Bedworth a more vibrant destination, offering its residents new places to go, greater access to leisure facilities and a wider range of cultural events.

WCC are working with NBBC to now look at carrying out a market demand study for Bedworth town centre, relating to the commercial and residential property market and identify potential funding opportunities that may be available to help deliver some of the identified opportunities for improvement.

5. Warwick

Warwickshire County Council will be looking to commission some work to develop a new parking strategy for the town in the new financial year in partnership with Warwick District Council to effectively plan for future provision in light of the likely future closure of Linen Street Car Park, and to help inform discussions around the future use of the County Council's estate within the town.

Work is also progressing on Phase 2 of the transport works to Warwick Town Centre to address traffic flow issues and improve air quality. Cabinet approved £4.3m of funding from the Capital Investment Fund to enable these works to be undertaken.

6. Rugby

Rugby Borough Council has announced plans for a major regeneration of the town centre through the development of a new masterplan. The Rugby Town Centre Spatial Strategy aims to create a roadmap for the regeneration of the town over the next 15 years, focusing on retail, residential, leisure, transport and tourism. WCC will look to work in partnership with the Borough Council to help bring forward this strategy.

7. Stratford

The County Council and District Council are working in partnership to develop a new parking strategy for the town. The outcome of this work is expected by mid 2021. The County Council is also an active member of the newly formed Town Centre Strategic Partnership, which aims to bring all the various groups and tiers of government together to develop a jointly agreed vision and plan for the town centre.

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Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Workplace travel planning intervention

17 February 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. All council staff are encouraged to plan alternative walking, cycling and public transport options for their commute to work before returning to work in central office locations following the COVID-19 pandemic. This can be done via WCC's Active Travel resource (<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/activetravel>), which needs to be reviewed regularly. It should also be considered how key elements identified in this study, such as role of air pollution monitors in educating employees about the impacts of air pollution and role of travel planning sessions in changing travel behaviour, can be integrated into future workplace travel interventions.
2. Steps should be taken to continue to address the barriers identified in this study that participants reported as reasons for being unable / unwilling to cycle or walk to work. These include safety concerns and lack of cycle infrastructure, financial incentives (such as discounts at local cycle stores) and improved workplace facilities such as showers, changing facilities and a drying room.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The primary aim of this project was to determine whether people who commute to work via car change their primary mode of transport to walking or cycling following the delivery of a multifaceted workplace travel planning intervention called the 'Choose how you move' toolkit.
- 1.2 The secondary aim of this project was to identify factors that could encourage council employees to walk, cycle or take public transport to their place of work.
- 1.3 The Choose how you move toolkit consisted of the following three components: (1) completion of a baseline travel behaviour questionnaire; (2) deployment of personalised air pollution monitors and (3) attending a personalised travel planning session.
- 1.4 Following delivery of the intervention, there was an overall reduction in the number of participants using a car as their primary mode of transport to commute to work (from n=14 to n=9). There was also an increase in the number of participants only every walking or cycling, from zero at the start of the study to three participants at the end of the study. Due to the small sample size, it is not possible to determine whether this represents a statically

significant shift in behaviour, however it represents a potential change in behaviour at the population level.

- 1.5 Participants reported a number of factors that would encourage walking and cycling to work in the future, including improved workplace facilities (e.g., cycle storage) greater flexibility in working hours, safer cycle and walking routes, a park and ride system and financial incentives such as discounts at local cycle shops.
- 1.6 A modified version of this intervention could be effective in promoting active travel among a wider number of council staff. Active travel is defined as walking or cycling to work. There is also the possibility to use this toolkit to promote active travel in other locations such as local schools and businesses.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Air pollution is a leading environmental threat to human health in the UK.ⁱ The primary source of air pollution in urban areas is traffic emissions.ⁱⁱ In total, 63% of people commute to work by car in the UK, despite a majority of these journeys being under five miles.ⁱⁱⁱ A modal shift to more active forms of commuting (walking and cycling) provides an opportunity to reduce individual level contribution and exposure to air pollution while increasing levels of physical activity, therefore providing multiple public health benefits.^{iv}
- 2.2 This aim of this workplace travel planning intervention (called the choose how you move toolkit) was to promote a modal shift to more active forms of transport among people driving up to five miles to their place of work in Warwickshire. Specifically, individuals working for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Nuneaton & Bedworth District Council (NBDC).

3. Travel Planning Intervention

- 3.1 Thirty WCC and NBDC employees commuting to work by car were recruited to participate in the study in May 2019. The choose how you move toolkit, delivered to each of the participants, consisted of the following three components:
 1. *Completion of a Baseline Questionnaire:* All participants completed an online questionnaire immediately following recruitment in May 2019, designed to capture data on current travel behaviour, barriers to active travel and concerns about the impacts of air pollution on their health.
 2. *Deployment of Air Pollution Monitors:* All participants were provided with FLOW© personal air pollution monitors to use on their commute to and from work over the same two-week period (17th – 28th June 2019). The FLOW© monitors provided participants with real-time Global Positioning System data and air pollution data on their personal mobile phone via an associated phone app.

3. *Travel Planning Session*: Each participant was invited to a face to face one-hour travel planning session, which took place two weeks after deployment of the air pollution monitors (August 2019). Data on the participants' current travel behaviour and air pollution exposure was used to inform the development of the personal travel plans.
- 3.2 Following delivery of the travel plans, participants were advised that there would be a follow-up questionnaire and redeployment of air pollution monitors after four months. The expectation being that delivery of the intervention may result in changes in commuting behaviour over this time.
- 3.3 After four months, participants completed a follow-up online questionnaire to determine any self-reported changes in travel behaviour. Participants also used the FLOW© personal air pollution for a two-week follow-up period (11th – 22nd November 2019) to examine how levels of air pollution exposure had changed following delivery of the travel planning session.
- 3.4 Participants were also asked to report barriers they experience in walking and cycling to work, as well as factors that would encourage them to change their travel behaviour in the future.

4. Findings

- 4.1 In total, 11 of the participants withdrew from the study, meaning 19 individuals completed the entire study.
- 4.2 Following delivery of the intervention, there was an overall reduction in the number of participants using a car as their primary mode of transport to commute to work (from n=14 to n=9). There was an increase in the number of participants occasionally walking or cycling (from n= 5 to n = 7). There was also an increase in the number of participants only every walking or cycling, from zero at the start of the study to three participants at the end of the study (see figure 1). Due to the small sample size, it is not possible to determine whether this represents a statically significant shift in behaviour, however it represents a potential change in behaviour at the population level.

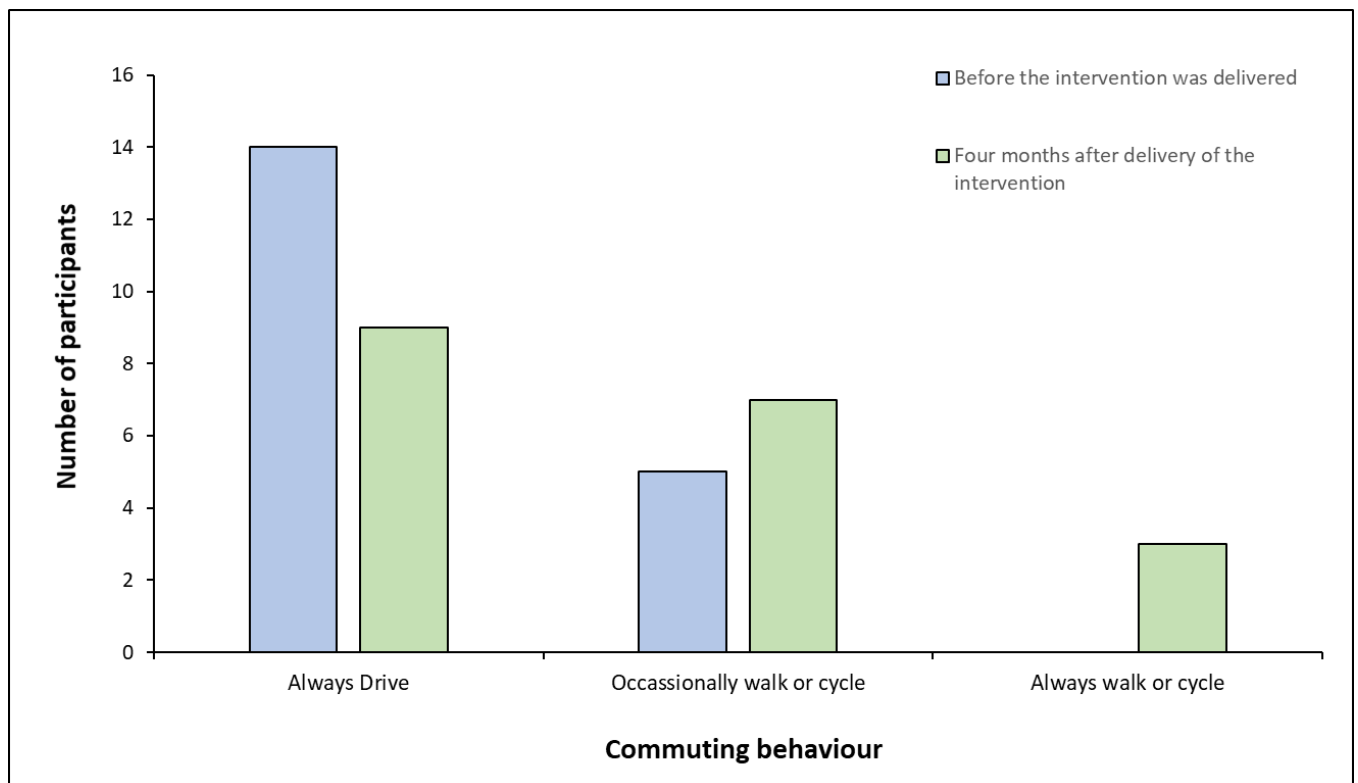


Figure 1: Primary travel behaviour immediately before and four months after delivery of the Choose How you Move Toolkit

- 4.3 The three participants exposed to the highest level of PM2.5 at the time of recruitment all displayed significant reductions in air pollution exposure at four-month follow-up. This suggests that individuals exposed to the highest levels of pollution changed their travel behaviour in some way. This could have been due to a change in route choice or travel behaviour (e.g., a modal shift from driving to cycling / walking), however exact reasons for the decline in exposure cannot be ascertained.
- 4.4 Participants provided detailed feedback on barriers they face in using active forms of transport. Barriers included:
- Childcare responsibilities and working fixed hours, with participants reporting: *'I wish I could change my behaviour but I am restricted to a tight schedule due to childcare commitments.'*
 - Transporting bulky items, such as laptops, with one participant reporting *'I have too much to carry.'*
 - Safety concerns about walking and cycling to work, with numerous participants feeling unsafe when cycling and one participant reporting that *'it's too dangerous to cycle'*
 - A lack of workplace cycling facilities

- 4.5 In describing factors that would encourage active travel in the future participants reported:
- A park and ride system as *'to walk the full distance to work would take too long but if there was somewhere to park a mile or so outside of Warwick it would make walking at least part of the journey possible'*.
 - Being able to leave laptops and chargers at work and more flexible working hours.
 - Improved cycle safety, particularly *'safer cycle routes* and *'safer cycling within Warwick town centre'*. Similarly, to encourage walking to work it was suggested that there could be *'improvements to the quality of footpaths [and] suitable crossing points.'*
 - Financial incentives to walking and cycling were also suggested, such as *'council employees getting discounts at local cycling shops.'*
 - Improved work place facilities such as more showers, changing facilities, a drying room (for use in the winter) and safe storage facilities for cycling equipment and clothes.
 - Wanting more information on *'how to avoid areas that are highly polluted'* when walking and cycling
- 4.6 Participants also demonstrated a greater understanding of ambient levels of air pollution and sources of air pollution by the end of the study.
- 4.7 There are two main limitations associated with this intervention. The delivery of the travel plans was resource intensive, which means that if this intervention is to replicate in the future it requires adequate funding. Secondly, the intervention was associated with around a 30% drop out rate. It is possible that individuals most likely to change their behaviour are most likely to remain in the study. This means future interventions may be most effective if they target individuals that already display a willingness to walk / cycle to work.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The 'Choose how you move toolkit' influenced both travel behaviour and awareness of ambient levels of air pollution. In line with previous research, participants displayed a step-wise change in behaviour.^{v,vi,vii} Specifically, all of the participants that reported walking or cycling at four-month follow-up (n = 3) already reported occasionally walking or cycling at the time of recruitment. No participant that only ever commuted to work by car at the time of recruitment changed to only ever using active travel.
- 5.2 The barriers identified to walking or cycling to work were consistent with previous research and included active travel being more inconvenient than

driving, a lack of flexibility due to childcare responsibilities and concerns about safety when walking and cycling.^{viii,ix}

- 5.3 A modified version of this intervention could be effective in promoting active travel among a wider number of council staff. There is also the possibility to use this toolkit to promote active travel in other locations such as local schools and businesses. However, this must be done alongside measures that address current barriers to active travel, such as improved workplace facilities and improvements to local cycling and walking infrastructure.

6. Financial Implications

None

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 A system-wide change in travel behaviour, resulting in increased rates of active travel, would have profound impacts on the environment and human health through reduced contribution and exposure to air pollution and increased levels of physical activity.
- 7.2 Air pollution is associated with the onset and exacerbation of morbidities including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancer, pregnancy complications and impeded cognitive development.
- 7.3 Groups at increased risk of morbidity and mortality due to air pollution include children, the elderly and people with pre-existing health conditions. For these groups there are no safe levels of air pollution exposure.^x

8. Supporting Information

N/A

9. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

N/A

10. Appendices

None

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Developer Contributions Reporting – Annual Infrastructure Statement 2019/20

17 February 2021

Recommendations

1. The committee note the production and publication of the Annual Infrastructure Statement 2019/20.
2. The committee note the approach to be taken to publish developer contribution data in future years.
3. The committee is asked to provide feedback on the statement and suggestions to improve future Annual Infrastructure Statements.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Annual Infrastructure Statement 2020/21.
- 1.2 The legislation governing Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) developer contributions has been amended as expected to introduce a requirement for local authorities to publish an 'Annual Infrastructure Statement' ("AIS") which sets out their developer contributions for the previous financial year.
- 1.3 The amended CIL Regulations require any developer contribution collecting authority to publish details of the S106 and CIL contributions which were agreed, received, allocated to a project or spent within the previous financial year (2019/20). The full requirements are set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.4 The 2019/20 AIS was approved by Cabinet on December 10th 2020 and published on 31st December 2020 and is attached as Appendix 1. Whilst WCC is not a CIL collecting authority, there is a requirement to report on any CIL passed to WCC. WCC did not receive any CIL contributions in 2019/20. Currently only Stratford and Warwick District Councils collect CIL in Warwickshire. WCC projects are included in both District's list of infrastructure projects to be considered for receipt of CIL funding in future years.
- 1.5 The approach to producing the statement, along with a draft version was approved by Corporate Board in November and the final AIS was subsequently approved by Cabinet in December ahead of publication by 31st December 2020.

- 1.6 We will learn from production of this year's statement to reduce the burden of producing the statement in future years through improved monitoring processes. There is also a commitment to provide more data than the minimum requirements in future years in order to increase transparency of developer contributions for members and residents as discussed below, with the longer-term potential for a self-service system to reduce the burden of solicitor and developer queries on the team.
- 1.7 The data used to compile the AIS have been drawn from the ledger and a number of supporting spreadsheets. As this is the first year for preparation of the AIS, some issues have arisen where the granularity of historic data does not meet the new requirements for reporting. This is discussed further below.
- 1.8 As noted by the last audit of developer contributions, more work was needed to report up-to-date information on the S106 spend which was brought in to focus by the AIS requirements. The Strategic Growth and Infrastructure team will work with colleagues elsewhere within the County Council to ensure that systems are in place to clearly identify when Developer Contributions income is spent. The monitoring processes of the team have been reviewed and updated in order to reduce the work required to produce future statements and with an aim to providing more granular detail to support readers of the AIS.
- 1.9 It is felt that publishing the AIS in a form compliant with the regulations (as shown in Appendix 2) does not necessarily achieve central government's aim of providing readers with a full picture of the Council's receipt and usage of s106 funding. Cabinet therefore supported the preparation and publication of the following further documents in future years, which will provide more detail and improve readers' understanding:
- Developer agreement listing – a list of extant developer agreements, cross-referenced to planning applications
 - Developer contributions – a list of obligations within the above agreements and their intended infrastructure type
 - In-year transactions – a complete list of transactions during the year in relation to s106 obligations and funds
 - Full-year reconciliation – a summary version of the above documents that will allow readers a simple view of the overall movements on s106 contributions
- 1.10 The main area where judgement was necessary in producing the 2020/21 AIS related to the identification of which specific funds are deemed to be spent in projects and cost centres which have received multiple developer contributions. The regulations require a disclosure of where funds have been allocated but not spent in a given year; where there is no clear way to determine this, a systematic "first in first out" approach was taken. A further judgement was made to position specific projects under the specified infrastructure type.

- 1.11 This is the first year that local authorities have been required to publish an AIS and there is likely to be much variation between the documents produced by different councils, particularly where they are at different tiers of local government. A desktop review of neighbouring County Councils' published AISs has identified a wide range of approaches, with some providing a statement that meets minimum requirements (i.e. the same as Warwickshire County Council), a small number providing detailed spreadsheets to support their statement and some that appear not to have published a statement at all yet despite the statutory requirement.
- 1.12 In District and Borough councils, as well as unitaries, a further key factor is the degree to which developer contributions are collected through CIL mechanisms in addition to S106. The usage of CIL contributions is much less restricted at the point of planning permission and the authority may only make meaningful decisions about its usage after collection. As a result, CIL authorities may be more likely include more forward-looking information in their AISs to support that future decision-making. Rugby Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Stratford District and Warwick District Councils have all published their AIS for 2019/20. All have published a similar level of detail to WCC. Stratford District (a CIL collecting authority) have provided additional detail which includes images of schemes completed utilising developer contributions. The links to the District and Borough AISs will be published alongside our AIS on the WCC website in order to give an easily accessible picture of developer contributions across Warwickshire.
- 1.13 The government guidance suggests the optional inclusion of narrative information on "future spending priorities on infrastructure and affordable housing in line with up-to-date or emerging plan policies... that demonstrates how developer contributions will be used to deliver relevant strategic policies in the plan, including any infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure that will be delivered, when, and where". This recommendation is not a part of the formal regulations and would involve a substantial number of assumptions, while every other element of the AIS is a statement of historic fact. As described above, this may be a more relevant recommendation for CIL collecting authorities. For Warwickshire however, it was felt that the Council's future funding and investment plans are best publicised within the medium-term financial strategy, annual budget and capital strategy, all of which are to be approved by full Council soon after the publication of the AIS in the annual democratic cycle. The approach taken in the AIS in Appendix 1 was therefore to signpost readers to these other documents.
- 1.14 Given the learning from producing the first AIS and the resultant improved monitoring processes, the team will aim to produce future year's statements ready for approval in Autumn. The committee is asked to provide feedback on the statement and suggestions to improve future AISs.
- 1.15 The committee is asked to note the publication of the AIS 2019/20 on the WCC website, to note the approach to be taken to produce and publish the statement in the future, particularly its earlier production and aspiration for the

inclusion of greater factual detail and to provide feedback on the statement and suggestions to improve future AISs.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The AIS reports on historic financial activities (e.g. receipt of monies and its subsequent expenditure).

3. Environmental Implications.

- 3.1 None

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 None

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The next AIS is due to be produced by Autumn 2021 and published by 31st December 2021.

Appendices

1. Annual Infrastructure Statement 2019/20
2. Annual Infrastructure Statement Requirements v1

Background Papers

1. February O&S report February 2020

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

Local Member(s): None



**Annual Infrastructure Statement
2019/20**



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Introduction

Warwickshire County Council's ("WCC") Annual Infrastructure Statement sets out the developer contributions secured and applied by WCC in relation to 2019/20 as required by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019. WCC does not collect Community Infrastructure Levy, but does collect S106 contributions for developments in Warwickshire secured as part of planning obligations; this statement provides further details on those contributions. The following definitions are used to reflect the various stages of developer contributions:

- Agreed – Contributions that have been agreed within a signed legal document which have not yet been collected; in the majority of cases this is due to the trigger point within the agreement not being met yet
- Received – Contributions received by WCC, either non-monetary or monetary
- Allocated – Contributions that have been received by WCC and allocated internally to specific projects
- Spent – Monetary or non-monetary contributions that have been applied to finance expenditure

WCC's future funding and investment plans for infrastructure are publicised within the medium-term financial strategy, annual budget and capital strategy. These documents are approved by full Council in February of each year and more information may be found at

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/budget> and <https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-708-483>.

1. Contributions received before 2019/20 which were not allocated at the start of the year

Infrastructure Type	Amount Held (£)
Community Facilities	348,313.54
Education	37,961,771.50
Green Infrastructure	0.00
Highways	11,923,005.28
Transport and Travel	5,366,309.31
Total	55,599,399.63

2. Contributions received before 2019/20 due to be transferred to external bodies

Infrastructure Type	Monies Received (£)
Health	44,514.00
Total	44,514.00

3. Contributions agreed in S106 Agreements signed in 2019/20

Infrastructure Type	Monies Agreed (£)
Community Facilities	11,051.00
Education	14,758,362.32
Green Infrastructure	2,126,169.27
Highways	8,350,596.50
Monitoring and Administration	30,450.00
Transport and Travel	4,585,034.00
Total	29,861,663.09

4. Contributions received in 2019/20 through S106 Agreements

Recipient	Monies Received (£)
Warwickshire County Council	19,880,519.18
Other bodies	0.00
Total	19,880,519.18

4a. Breakdown of contributions received in 2019/20 to be spent by Warwickshire County Council

Infrastructure Type	Monies Received (including indexation) (£)
Community Facilities	176,968.24
Education	14,856,337.75
Green Infrastructure	742,650.61
Highways	2,702,836.90
Monitoring and Administration	16,822.22
Transport and Travel	1,384,903.46
Total	19,880,519.18

5. Contributions allocated in 2019/20 which were not spent during the year

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	185,163.42
Education	16,827,598.54
Green Infrastructure	709,102.52
Highways	2,106,664.42
Transport and Travel	1,421,226.90
Total	21,249,755.80

6. Contributions spent in 2019/20 by infrastructure type and project

Infrastructure Type	Project	Monies Spent (£)
Community Facilities	Improvements at Leamington Library	21,582.00
	Improvements at Warwick Library	4,916.96
	Improvements at Shipston Library	321.00
	Improvements at Southam Library	698.00
	Improvements at Stratford Library	25,307.00
	Improvements at Wellesbourne Library	343.98
	Improvements at Rugby Library	15,311.00
	Improvements at Nuneaton Library	19,094.36
	Improvements at Mobile Libraries	5,073.74
	Improvements at Alcester Library	322.50
	Improvements at Community Libraries	12,347.26
	Community Facilities Total	105,317.80
Education	New School, The Gateway Rugby	220,021.10
	Campion Phase 1 (including Sports Hall Refurbishment)	4,552,048.77
	New School South Leamington	100,000.00
	Southam Primary/Pre School Bulge Class	32,547.60
	Harbury Primary, internal redevelopment and reconfiguration	59,097.00
	Harbury Pre School reconfiguration	23,320.00
	Campion School Expansion	854.00
	Heathcote Primary Expansion	89,068.19
	Seedlings Nursery, Wellesbourne, Modular Building	118,534.44
	Weddington Primary School Bulge Class	4,021.00
		Education Total
Green Infrastructure	Biodiversity Offsetting at Ryton Pools Country Park	18,876.98
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Lower Heathcote Farm	40.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Hell Hole	48,827.10
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Saltisford Meadow	476.93
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Back Lane, Long Lawford	112.98
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Oversley Hill Farm	3,500.00

	Biodiversity Offsetting at Wolford Wood	1,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Middletown Hall	1,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Sherbourne Farm	3,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Yarningale Common	38,732.16
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Streetly Meadows	8,500.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Wyken	3,500.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Abbey Farm	15,885.06
	Biodiversity Offsetting at The Nook	3,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Brandon Wood	7,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Hartshill Hayes	7,000.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Cherry Orchard	3,927.55
	Biodiversity Offsetting at The Armoury	19,250.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Castle Parkland	59.42
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Potash Farm	145.68
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Little Compton	607.00
	Biodiversity Offsetting at Rowley Field	72.00
	Green Infrastructure Total	184,512.86
Highways	Lawford Road Cycle Route	1,957.24
	Install MOVA operation on traffic signal junctions Emscote Road Warwick	858.40
	Install Bollards & associated traffic management - Historic Spine Stratford	38,632.40
	M40 Junction 12	12,132.89
	B4114 Blythe Road - Bridges 2014/15	547.59
	New Roundabout Southam Road Kineton	12,406.24
	Ansty Business Park Phase 3 Junction Improvements	204,252.76
	A426 /A4071 Avon Mill Roundabout Rugby Improvement Scheme	67,066.72
	A426 Gateway Rugby to Rugby Town Centre Cycle Scheme	5,550.15
	Weddington Road, Nuneaton Implement Toucan Crossing	60,148.95
	Enhance Existing Bus Stops Land adjacent to The Gaydon Inn Banbury Rd Gaydon	12,607.11
	Highways Improvements to Bus Stops at Land off the Longshoot	3,846.04
	Clifton On Dunsmore Traffic Calming S106	1,500.00
	Urban Mile Markers	4,336.46
	A428 Lawford Road Rugby right turn lane and access to development site	119,452.00
	B4429 Ashlawn Rd Rugby new puffin crossing	17.50
	A429 Ettington Rd Wellesbourne new roundabout and puffin crossing	12,421.08

A47 The Long Shoot Nuneaton relocation of a refuge island and creation of right turn lane	194.40
Warwick Town Centre	2,831.47
Warwick Town Centre Northgate Junction Changes	122,809.43
Warwick St Johns Junction Improvements	267,214.19
Shottery Link Road Stratford Puffin Crossing 7 & New Roundabout	23,938.63
A422 Banbury Road Ettington Ghost Island Right Turn Lane	45.23
A444 Corridor Improvements - Phase 2 Transforming Nuneaton	101,195.38
Signing & road markings Long Itchington Primary School	51,670.44
A452 Myton Road and Shire Park Roundabouts	20,682.04
A452 Europa Way South of Olympus Avenue To Heathcote Lane Roundabout	43,520.42
A452 M40 Spur West of Banbury Road	5,050.52
Whitacre Heath Flood Alleviation Scheme	2,880.00
Provision of Bus Stops Ettington Road Wellesbourne	2,000.00
Provision of Bus Stops & Upgrade Existing Infrastructure Salford Rd Bidford	10,396.60
Upgrade Existing Shared Pedestrian / Cycle Path Bermuda	18,389.24
A47 Hinckley Road Corridor Scheme	395.39
Barford Junction Safety and Capacity Improvement Works S106	169,925.95
Surface Dressing	42,323.83
Extension of 30mph limit at Stratford Road, Hampton Lucy	50,000.00
Introducing a 40mph buffer zone at Southam Road, Radford Semele	6,163.00
Traffic Regulation Order to stop on-street parking on the Bull Ring and provide on-street parking on southbound carriageway	7,325.00
Provision of a 30mph speed limit change on the B5000	2,048.00
Implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders on Eclipse Road, Alcester to control parking	6,198.00
Provision of new speed management at Shipston Road, Alderminster	5,647.00
Provision of signage at Trinity Road, Kingsbury	10,000.00
Towards an order to extend the 30mph zone at Marston Road Long Itchington	10,167.00
	3,827.00

	Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on Spernal Lane to 30mph	3,364.00
	Traffic Regulation Order for new gateway features provided along the Long Marston Road, Welford on Avon	6,647.00
	New footpath link at Meon Vale, Long Marston	2,173.00
	Traffic Regulation to create a no right turn at Stockton Road, Long Itchington	1,791.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 30mph restriction at Salford Road Bidford on Avon	5,411.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to secure a reduction in the speed limit on the Milcote Road, Welford on Avon	6,157.00
	Towards the reduction in the speed limit on Campden Road, Shipston	6,171.00
	Traffic Regulation Order at Mansell's Farm, Newbold on Stour	3,612.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 30mph zone on Ettington Road, Wellesbourne	6,177.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to reduce speed limit on Well Lane either side of entrance to site	2,889.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on Salford Road, Bidford on Avon	4,620.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on Campden Road, Shipston	8,600.00
	Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on the Milcote Road, Welford on Avon	6,000.00
	Speed reduction measures including improvements to existing village gateway features at Long Marston	10,280.00
	Traffic Regulation Order at Moors Lane, Rugby	2,513.00
	Traffic Regulation Order at Lower Hillmorton Road	9,000.00
	Public Rights of Way Improvements	26,681.87
	Highways Total	1,656,658.56
Monitoring and Administration	Monitoring and administration of S106 obligations	16,822.22
	Monitoring and Administration Total	16,822.22
Transport and Travel	Southam Road, Kineton – No 77/ No 78 Bus Services	13,112.97
	Stockton Road – Long Itchington No 664/ No 665 Bus Services	24,514.73
	Weddington Road, Nuneaton – No 1 / No 2 Bus Services	40,131.90

Hill Farm, Nuneaton – No 18 Bus Service	15,511.64
Weddington Road, Nuneaton – No 1 / No 2 Bus Services	40,131.90
Grendon Road, Polesworth – No 65 Bus Service	73,395.00
Coton Park, Rugby - No D1 / No D2 Bus Services	55,252.35
Leicester Road, Rugby – No D1 / No D2 Bus Services	171,944.19
Newton Lane, Newton – No X84 Bus Service	15,606.00
Northfield Road Tesco, Southam – No 664 / No 665 Bus Services	236,739.80
Banbury Road, Southam – No 664 / No 665 Bus Services	24,514.73
Coventry Road, Southam – No 664 / No 665 Bus Services	24,514.73
Harbury Lane, Warwick – No 15 Bus Service	49,349.85
Lower Heathcote Farm – No 15 Bus Service	145,452.81
Ettington Road, Wellesbourne – No 15 Bus Service	108,652.40
Sustainable Welcome Packs	15,047.68
Transport and Travel Total	1,053,872.68
Overall Total	8,216,696.22

7. Non-monetary contributions agreed in 2019/20 through S106 Agreements

Planning Application No.	Site	Non-monetary Contribution
035503	School Lane, Exhall, Bedworth	Land for the purpose of Highway Improvement Scheme
034615	Callendar Farm, Watling Street, Nuneaton	Land to provide an estimated 185 new Primary School places as a result of the development

8. Contributions retained at the end of 2019/20 (allocated and unallocated)

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	419,963.98
Education	50,442,699.99
Green Infrastructure	1,772,764.00
Highways	19,485,229.63
Transport and Travel	6,012,382.30
Total	78,133,039.90

Money Borrowed

In 2019/20, no S106 contributions were spent repaying money borrowed.

S106 Monitoring fees

WCC collects monitoring fees for each S106 agreement with contributions due to WCC. The fee is based on size of the development and the estimated officer time to monitor the agreed contributions.

9. S106 Monitoring Fees received in 2019/20

S106 Contribution	Amount Received (£)
Monitoring fees	16,822.22

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Appendix 2 - Annual Infrastructure Statement S106 Report Requirements

Extract from the CIL Regs (Schedule 2, paragraphs 3-5) -

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187449/schedule/2>

3. The matters to be included in the section 106 report for each reported year are—

(a) the total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year;

(b) the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received during the reported year;

(c) the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received before the reported year which has not been allocated by the authority;

(d) summary details of any non-monetary contributions to be provided under planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year, including details of—

(i) in relation to affordable housing, the total number of units which will be provided;

(ii) in relation to educational facilities, the number of school places for pupils which will be provided, and the category of school at which they will be provided;

(e) the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was allocated but not spent during the reported year for funding infrastructure;

(f) the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was spent by the authority (including transferring it to another person to spend);

(g) in relation to money (received under planning obligations) which was allocated by the authority but not spent during the reported year, summary details of the items of infrastructure on which the money has been allocated, and the amount of money allocated to each item;

(h) in relation to money (received under planning obligations) which was spent by the authority during the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend), summary details of—

(i) the items of infrastructure on which that money (received under planning obligations) was spent, and the amount spent on each item;

(ii) the amount of money (received under planning obligations) spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure which that money was used to provide (wholly or in part);

(iii) the amount of money (received under planning obligations) spent in respect of monitoring (including reporting under regulation 121A) in relation to the delivery of planning obligations;

(i) the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) during any year which was retained at the end of the reported year, and where any of the retained money has been allocated for the purposes of longer term maintenance (“commuted sums”), also identify separately the total amount of commuted sums held.

Appendix 2 - Annual Infrastructure Statement S106 Report Requirements

4. The matters which may be included in the section 106 report for each reported year are—

(a)summary details of any funding or provision of infrastructure which is to be provided through a highway agreement under section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 which was entered into during the reported year,

(b)summary details of any funding or provision of infrastructure under a highway agreement which was provided during the reported year.

5. For the purposes of paragraph 3—

(a)where the amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations is not known, an authority must provide an estimate;

(b)a non-monetary contribution includes any land or item of infrastructure provided pursuant to a planning obligation;

(c)where the amount of money spent in respect of monitoring in relation to delivery of planning obligations is not known, an authority must provide an estimate.”

COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

NUCKLE 1.2 Update on Bay platform at Coventry station

1. The Scheme

- 1.1 NUCKLE 1.2 will enable an increased frequency of train service between Coventry and Nuneaton, made possible by a new bay platform at Coventry station and associated track and signalling works.
- 1.2 Coventry City Council (CCC) is the lead authority for the delivery of the NUCKLE 1.2 scheme.

2.0 Progress update

- 2.1 A report to O&S in February 2020 outlined that the bay platform project at Coventry station has been delayed due to the tenders received for the design and build contract coming in significantly over budget, over-programme and being non-compliant. The report also stated that the Department for Transport has requested an update of the NUCKLE 1.2 full Business Case in order to establish whether the scheme still provides a value for money case.
- 2.2 The February 2020 O&S report outlined that CCC is leading a piece of work to assess whether any of the scheme elements can be removed or scaled back to reduce costs whilst delivering the key aim of the project (half hourly rail services between Coventry and Nuneaton). It has been agreed that this work will be led by Network Rail and the specification for this work has been agreed. The specification will include:
 - An option to remove the Arena turnback capability. This would mean any additional trains put on for major events at the Arena stadium would continue through to Nuneaton rather than shuttle between Coventry station and Arena station;
 - Reviewing whether a reduced platform length at Coventry would be acceptable and the savings this would give in terms of infrastructure works and costs;
 - Track and signal upgrades required to facilitate operation into the new bay platform. These interventions will be kept to a minimum to reduce the cost of the delivery of the scheme;
 - Consideration of how the bay platform is integrated with the rest of the station, in particular the relationship with adjacent transport interchange and Warwick Road pedestrian access tunnel;
 - Ensure any proposals do not impact on the paths for the oil train. The freight paths are approved within the rail timetabling and need to be protected.

- 2.3 A delay to this work commencing has occurred due to NR having to seek formal agreement from the DfT to repurpose the funding from the original scheme to fund the revised design development process. The DfT has accepted this in principle but have stated that there is now a governance process this will need to be taken through for formal approval. NR are awaiting the outcome on the funding position.
- 2.4 In order to keep momentum on the project, it has been agreed to use the residual funding from the NUCKLE 1.1 project to fund the Network Rail work ahead of the DfT formal approval.
- 2.5 A Development Service Agreement between NR and Coventry has been drafted and signed by CCC and is with NR for signing. A wider inception meeting will take place between CCC, WCC and NR to review the programme and agree the governance arrangements, with proposed 4 weekly progress meetings to be scheduled going forwards.
- 2.6 Discussion between CCC and West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) and stakeholders has taken place in relation to the introduction of an additional rail service earlier than the implementation of the bay platform. This would be on a temporary basis, utilising the additional capacity created at Coventry through some services ceasing to run due to the COVID-19 timetable. The feasibility of the half hourly Coventry to Nuneaton service being fitted into the timetable will be looked at by NR.
- 2.7 The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) recently approved a project change request for reallocation of grant funding relating to NUCKLE 1.2 and the wider station masterplan project. WMCA have approved the funding switch on the basis the bay platform is still delivered by the funding agreement backstop date of March 2023, which remains a key deliverable.

Transport Planning, February 2021

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Update on Scrutiny Review

17 February 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers and comments upon the findings of the independent review into Overview and Scrutiny

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. In February 2020, Dr Jane Martin CBE was appointed to provide advice upon appropriate principles for scrutiny in light of the statutory guidance, key opportunities to improve upon our current ways of operating scrutiny, and how WCC might move forward to develop its scrutiny approach to deliver on the Council Plan and objectives.
- 1.2. The review was conducted via a series of remote interviews with members, officers and Corporate Board, and included a desk top analysis of past agendas, minutes and Task and Finish Group outputs and covered the following themes:
 - Culture and behaviours;
 - Reinforcing the value and importance of challenge;
 - Ownership of recommendations and actions;
 - Support for scrutiny members;
 - Aligning scrutiny more effectively to our Council Plan objectives; and
 - How to involve the public in scrutiny more effectively.
- 1.3. The feedback was positive and highlighted examples of good practice including the commitment of all involved to improvement and the support for the review at member level. However, despite some good examples (particularly in recent times with member working groups on Covid recovery) there is a conclusion that the scrutiny function needs to be reinvigorated and a principles-based approach was recommended to reset and drive the refreshed approach, reflecting the principles of good scrutiny embedded in statutory guidance:
 - independent ownership;
 - driving improvement;
 - critical friend challenge; and
 - public voice.
- 1.4. There was positive feedback of the role of Democratic Services officers to date and an acknowledgement of resource constraints.

2. Opportunities to Improve

2.1 The review outlined a number of opportunities for improvement. These were:

- **Parity of esteem:** Scrutiny must have an authoritative voice and support to enhance executive policy development and decision-making.
- **Scrutinising performance:** Scrutiny discussions should be clearly led so that presentations add value, there is a clear line of sight to corporate success indicators and interpretation of the data is usefully aligned to risk.
- **Build a corporate partnership:** Scrutiny should hold the executive to account where necessary. Scrutiny members own the process recognising the wider public interest for Warwickshire. The agenda should be focused on corporate business with purposeful evidence-based discussion.
- **Work smarter:** Meetings should be more flexible, proactive and responsive to corporate priorities. Meetings should be collegiate, constructive and challenging.
- **Member support and training:** Members and officers involved in training should be supported and provided with appropriate training to maximise the benefit from their roles in the scrutiny process.
- **Develop external focus:** Imaginative thinking to reach local people is needed. Scrutiny should be aligned with public consultation exercises to inform executive strategy.

3. Principles proposed

3.1 The report focussed on a series of principles that would drive the refreshed approach. These were:

- **Partnership:** The scrutiny function is an integral, authoritative corporate partner with the executive in policy development and decision-making. This partnership is focused and aligned with the council's strategic objectives, corporate performance indicators, and the corporate business and planning cycle. Whilst the function is independent of Cabinet and owned by scrutiny members it will be flexible, dynamic and pro-active in support of the executive decision-making process.
- **Purposeful:** The scrutiny function is focused on making an impact and exerting influence on corporate policy and practice to develop learning and improvement. Its main aim is to ensure WCC can be the best it can be by building corporate experience and expertise based on a sense of

place, especially in a fast-paced transformational change environment.

- **Challenging:** The scrutiny function will provide constructive cross-party challenge to hold the executive to account based on evidence and reflecting the views of local people. This includes both internal and external scrutiny. As 'critical friends', scrutiny members should respectfully ask the tough questions of the executive and professional officers of the Council, as well as external partners and providers, from an informed perspective and expect considered and informative answers.
- **Transparent:** The scrutiny function should shine a light internally and externally. It is an important vehicle for public consultation which should engage external partners, local people, and service users, and represent their views. Overview and Scrutiny should provide open and transparent scrutiny in the public interest to enhance the legitimacy of the local authority and build public trust and confidence.

4. Recommendations from the review

4.1 The recommendations reached in the review were as follows:

- The Council should relaunch the scrutiny function, championed by the Leader and Cabinet, with a corporate 'common purpose' WCC scrutiny guide setting out the ambition and expectations for the function based on a partnership of mutual respect, transparency and constructive challenge. This should highlight a behaviour code based on the 3 C's: *collegiate, constructive and challenging*.
- Create greater alignment with corporate objectives by restructuring scrutiny committees in parallel to foster greater scrutiny of corporate themes and objectives and corporate performance. In the current circumstances, restructuring to follow the change portfolio themes could be an effective way forward. Any restructure would have to take into account statutory requirements.
- Provide recognised authoritative leadership and direction for the scrutiny function by creating a new role of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to chair a new Overview and Scrutiny Panel comprised of all scrutiny Chairs. This post could be an elected position by all council members.
- Greater use of virtual meetings technology and, where appropriate, social media to engage the public, service providers and external partners and encourage elected member active participation. A move to allow remote meetings beyond May 2021 will require legislative change
- Consider creating a dedicated team of Overview and Scrutiny officers resourced adequately, to provide data (particularly performance data)

and information, advice and support to O&S Chairs and members, including liaison with strategic directors and senior staff.

- Review the timetable for scrutiny committees to ensure meetings are held at the optimum time alongside the corporate business cycle and Cabinet meetings. Allow for greater meeting and agenda flexibility and greater use of Task and Finish Groups for scrutiny work, from single issue to corporate strategic themes, conducted to a strict brief and timescale with a project planning methodology. Dynamic Task and Finish Groups should be able to conduct a review in as little as one day where appropriate. But also conduct in-depth longer pieces of work.
- Making use of virtual technology, in-house training and briefings should be provided for scrutiny Chairs and members on appointment and on-going, including subject updates as required and skills development. The Adult Health and Social Care Committee model of in-committee member briefings should be rolled out further. Committees should conduct an annual self-evaluation. A suite of scrutiny questions may be a good prompt to build confidence.

5. Points to Consider

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to consider the recommendations and suggestions summarised above and set out in more detail in the Independent Review Report at Annex 1, and to provide its views on the way forward for the refresh of scrutiny activity in Warwickshire.
- 5.2 The following points and questions are intended to help that consideration:
- 5.2.1 Does the Council wish to consider reconfiguring the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to align with the Council Plan or change portfolio themes or in some other way? If so, the practicalities of this approach would need to be considered to ensure that we meet statutory obligations, that scrutiny covers all Council functions, that there is balance across committees and that routeing is clear for cross over items.
- 5.2.2 How should agendas be reinvigorated?
- 5.2.3 What are members views on the opportunities identified to improve (Section 2 of this report) and are there any others which members would wish to highlight?
- 5.2.4 Do members support the principles that the review recommends? (Section 3 of this report)
- 5.2.5 Do members support the recommendations from the review (Section 4 of this report), and if so,

- How could we make greater use of technology to support Overview and Scrutiny? What type of meetings would be better delivered remotely or would members prefer to see continue remotely (if the law allows)?
- How would training be best delivered and should we consider a bespoke training plan for all Scrutiny members?
- From an officer perspective, creating a dedicated team of Democratic Services Officers (DSO) to support Overview and Scrutiny could create unintended recruitment and retention issues within the Service. A preferable option would be to consider how we enhance the Overview and Scrutiny support whilst retaining roles which cover both aspects of the DSO role (committee support and scrutiny support).

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The revenue implications of any change cannot be quantified at this time as it will depend upon the recommendations received and the working up the implementation plan. Full consideration will be given to the cost of any proposals which will be included within the report to council noted at para 8.2

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 An increase in digital meetings could reduce journeys to Shire Hall and thus have a positive impact. Whether that is possible will depend in large part upon whether legislation is permanently altered to enable such meetings to go ahead. Other environmental implications may present themselves as the proposals are developed and will be dealt with more fully in the report to council noted at para 8.2

8. Timetable for the decision and next steps

- 8.1 The Report was presented to Leaders and Deputies meeting in February 2021. It will be taken with a duplicate of this report to the other Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings in February and March in order to obtain views and suggestions for developing proposals for future scrutiny.
- 8.2 Officers will then prepare and implementation plan for discussion prior to a report to Council post elections with recommendations for implementation.

Appendices

1. Report of Jane Martin OBE

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nichola Vine	nicholavine@warwickshire.gov.uk

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Lead Member		

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:
None

**Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function
Warwickshire County Council**

FINAL REPORT

**Dr Jane Martin CBE
October 2020**

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The Brief

WCC (consistent with revised statutory guidance May 2019) believe effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge;
 - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
 - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
 - Drive improvement in public services.
-
- Scrutiny will not be effective unless an organisation’s culture, behaviours and attitudes support it
 - Resourcing of scrutiny is critical to its long-term success and to embedding the culture within any authority
 - Effective scrutiny requires good planning. The recommendations of scrutiny should make a tangible difference to the work of the authority and, in order to do so, require a long-term agenda and forward plan that is flexible enough to accommodate any matters of urgency that may crop up.
 - Warwickshire’s model of specialist OSCs supported by Democratic Services Officers and with expert input from specialist officers is a valid model, provided it is adequately resourced but there are other models and approaches which may provide a greater level of benefit in the new landscape we are operating in

Corporate Board agreed that now is an appropriate time to review the approach to scrutiny. The Leader of the Council is fully supportive of this review.

A final report will present recommendations to Corporate Board and subsequently members on:

- (a) appropriate principles for scrutiny (considering the challenges above and in light of the statutory guidance),
- (b) feedback on key opportunities to improve upon our current ways of operating scrutiny, and
- (c) a recommendation as to how WCC might move forward to develop its scrutiny approach to deliver on the Council Plan and objectives.

Methodology

In order to gain a broad insight into the current arrangements, challenges and opportunities of the overview and scrutiny function, telephone interviews were conducted with 27 participants during June, July and August. These included:

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Portfolio Holders
Chair of Scrutiny Committees
Representatives from each of the political parties
The Chief Executive
Strategic Directors
Democratic Services Officers

The interviews were confidential and no interviewee will be quoted. The interviewer took written notes of the discussions for the sole purpose of this report which will be destroyed when the report is received and signed off.

Interviews were based on questions organised around the following themes:

1. How do we embed scrutiny in the DNA of the organisation and drive the necessary culture and behaviours required to ensure scrutiny adds value to delivery of our organisational priority outcomes?
2. How do we give voice to and drive a change in the approach/attitude to scrutiny by members and officers; i.e. Reinforce the value and importance of challenge, remove the perception that it is “fault finding”, and drive an effective and collaborative approach to scrutiny which is impactful?
3. How do we manage disagreements in approach - i.e. executive-scrutiny protocols etc.?
4. How do we embed ownership with members and officers of recommendations from scrutiny, and ensure that the actions that arise are followed through and monitored?
5. How do we ensure scrutiny members are supported in having an independent and open mind-set and have the right skills set to fulfil their role?
6. How do we align scrutiny more effectively to our Council Plan objectives – including commitments to climate change and commercial approach to problem solving?

7. How do involve the public in scrutiny more effectively?

Desk-based background review of relevant corporate documents including minutes of scrutiny meetings was also undertaken.

Throughout this report the overview and scrutiny function will be referred to as the scrutiny function or scrutiny.

Overview

Warwickshire County Council currently operates with four Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Resources and Fire & Rescue; Communities; Children & Young People; Adult Social Care and Health with an additional joint Health Committee. The Council has a Conservative majority group of 33 elected members with small opposition groups formed by 7 Labour, 8 Liberal Democrat and 2 Green Party representatives. In addition, there are 4 Independents. There are 3 vacant seats at the current time. The Council has in the past often had no political party in overall control. The ways of working from this tradition seem to have coloured a consensus approach and some deference to officers which persists. Reflecting the current political environment, members of the majority group have been nominated for the Chairs of all Scrutiny committees. The Leader of the Council and her Deputy both value the importance of an effective scrutiny function and want to encourage a more impactful role.

Across all interviewees there was clear support for developing an effective scrutiny function. In most cases, from a range of perspectives, interviewees were positive about the work carried out and felt that the Cabinet were open to different views, ideas and challenge. But there is inconsistency between committees and the contribution of committee members, sometimes coloured by party politics, and often a general lack of constructive challenge. Reasons for this are not entirely clear, but it is certainly felt that scrutiny members need to be fully supported, with clearly presented information; that they need to keep their knowledge base up to date; and fully understand the role they can play and the influence that can be brought to bear on corporate policy development and decision. Frustration expressed around some of these issues demonstrates the need for change, and the willingness to change. The potential of the scrutiny function is not currently being developed or harnessed to support the strategic ambition of the Council.

There is, however, much good practice. Some Chairs are particularly mentioned for their skilled chairing and effective approach to reviews which have been greatly valued. For example, the cross-party work of the Climate Change Working Group; external scrutiny of GP provision; and the scrutiny review of Home/School Transport.

The Council clearly fosters good relationships. There is good cross-party working and a good working relationship between executive and scrutiny. Although scrutiny appears to make few recommendations back to the executive, when they do these are fairly considered. It is notable that although not formally scrutiny groups, the cross-party Cabinet Working Groups for post-Covid strategy development have been universally welcomed, not least for the clear focus and deadlines. The regular agenda setting meetings between scrutiny committee Chairs and their portfolio holder counterparts (spokes and chairs meetings) supported by officers are clearly very effective. It must be said, however, that although Council officers

are supportive of scrutiny, scrutiny committee members expressed a sense that they felt the needs of executive members were usually prioritised.

All concerned were positive about the support from Democratic Services Officers and valued the role they played. But it was acknowledged that resources had been pared back over recent years and the department was mainly focused on administration. The lack of resources was most acute in limiting the number of task and finish scrutiny groups. These groups were regarded as the most effective way of working but required proper resourcing which was now lacking. Resourcing may also have a knock-on effect on public engagement arrangements and there could be opportunities to build on the corporate 'Let's Talk' public consultation exercise. In any event, there is potential for more imaginative thinking on public involvement in scrutiny, which is often best tapped into in a task and finish group environment. Whilst there are some very good examples of external scrutiny which involve external partners and user groups, there is more that could be done. It was acknowledged that the geography of the County could mitigate against participation and that the use of technology for more remote engagement could be an opportunity

In the main, however, the scrutiny function seems to be 'stuck in a rut' and needs to be reinvigorated. Routine scrutiny committee meetings are in danger of losing their way based on a formulaic cycle with the addition of members' topics of interest. Indeed the balance currently being struck is between review of individual scrutiny members' special interests which motivate engagement, and effective scrutiny of corporate business (especially performance) and good overview of policy development which is not yet seen as meaningful by some members. There is also frustration on the part of many members at the length of some agendas, and the way business is conducted which can stifle robust discussion. Scrutiny business needs to be much more purposeful and prioritised in relation to the Council corporate cycle and forward plan. Across the piece scrutiny members need to be better engaged in this regard and scrutiny Chairs need to be both supported and more open to achieving this. The routinised approach to committee meetings with a set timetable is frustrating for many, including the executive, and means that scrutiny is not timely and too slow. Indeed, many interviewees were critical of the lack of flexibility and pro-activity. This devalues the role of scrutiny. The Council's ambitious plans for transformational change only highlights the lack of dynamism.

Appropriate principles for scrutiny

The following principles should be adopted to reset and drive a refreshed approach to the overview and scrutiny function. They reflect the principles of good scrutiny embedded in statutory guidance: independent ownership; driving improvement; critical friend challenge and public voice.

- 1. Partnership: The scrutiny function is an integral, authoritative corporate partner with the executive in policy development and decision-making.** This partnership is focused and aligned with the council's strategic objectives, corporate performance indicators, and the corporate business and planning cycle. Whilst the function is independent of Cabinet and owned by scrutiny members it will be flexible, dynamic and pro-active in support of the executive decision-making process.
- 2. Purposeful: The scrutiny function is focused on making an impact and exerting influence on corporate policy and practice to develop learning and improvement.** Its main aim is to ensure WCC can be the best it can be by building corporate experience and expertise based on a sense of place, especially in a fast-paced transformational change environment.
- 3. Challenging: The scrutiny function will provide constructive cross-party challenge to hold the executive to account based on evidence and reflecting the views of local people.** This includes both internal and external scrutiny. As 'critical friends', scrutiny members should respectfully ask the tough questions of the executive and professional officers of the Council, as well as external partners and provider, from an informed perspective and expect considered and informative answers.
- 4. Transparent: The scrutiny function should shine a light internally and externally.** It is an important vehicle for public consultation which should engage external partners, local people and service users, and represent their views. O&S should provide open and transparent scrutiny in the public interest to enhance the legitimacy of the local authority and build public trust and confidence.

Key opportunities to improve

There are a number of key areas where there are significant opportunities to improve.

Parity of esteem: Scrutiny should not be seen as a second-class function. It must have an authoritative voice. This means that all members and officers should demonstrate in their day to day practice how best to realise the potential for an effective scrutiny function to enhance executive policy development and decision-making.

Scrutinising performance: The way in which corporate performance is scrutinised is not yet satisfactory. The way in which performance data is presented to scrutiny has been carefully considered and reviewed recently, and the general view is that this is now better, but there is still room for improvement so that scrutiny members make the best use of the data. Scrutiny discussions should be clearly led so that presentations add value, there is a clear line of sight to corporate success indicators and interpretation of the data is usefully aligned to risk. Effort put into this by both officers and members will pay dividends

Build a corporate partnership: From a strong base of good working relationship and mutual member and officer respect there must be more rigorous challenge from scrutiny and acknowledgement that the scrutiny function should hold the executive to account where necessary: a 'one Council' model. The executive and senior management are open and welcome the challenge from scrutiny. It is notable that scrutiny is rarely the theatre for oppositional politics but scrutiny members must collectively own the process and not depend on officers. This means more rigour but best behaviour. It is also importance that members get the balance right between representing the views of their constituents and recognising the wider public interest for Warwickshire. They should set the agenda but be focused on corporate business with purposeful evidence -based discussion. All scrutiny members from all parties have a role to play in this endeavour.

It is also notable that the recent opportunity to work together to develop common aims in Cabinet cross-party working groups post-Covid has been universally welcomed. To build this partnership in practice, scrutiny needs to work cross-boundaries and not be silo focused. Scrutiny chairs and members should be thinking of how they can impact constructively on policy development and decisions. This does not mean routinely 'clearing' executive decisions but prioritising and acknowledging where challenge and accountability is most needed. It also means working with senior management and portfolio-holders but also holding them to account. Scrutiny needs to understand the evidence-base for policy and decisions and the impact on local people but recognise corporate objectives and understand that the executive has to work effectively and often quickly to respond to local issues and/or government initiatives. The overview function of policy is equally important in driving

transformation, improvement and learning by shaping policy throughout the annual corporate planning cycle.

Work smarter: Scrutiny meetings vary in their practice and impact but there is much potential for improvement. The 'chairs and spokes' meetings work well but still agendas can be too long and packed with pet topics. Meetings must be more flexible, pro-active and responsive to corporate priorities. The respectful environment must not be cosy but nor should it be confrontational. Behaviour in meetings should follow 3 C's: collegiate, constructive and challenging. The development of virtual meetings using remote technology has shown that more efficient use of time can be made. Many interviewees said this should be continued not least to avoid travel time and costs.

Member support and training: Scrutiny members need adequate support from officers across the Council so they are properly informed and advised. This is especially the case for scrutiny Chairs. This review presents an opportunity to redefine 'what good looks like' for scrutiny and agree how best to achieve this. It seems that resources for training and support is lacking but virtual technology provides a cost-effective opportunity for in-house briefings and scrutiny skills development. The in-committee member training initiated in the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee was acknowledged as effective and helpful

Develop external focus: There are some very good examples of external scrutiny reviews including transport providers and Academy Trusts, but this requires sufficient resources. Scrutiny is the Council function designed to gather the views and experiences of service users and providers to feed into the corporate cycle. Imaginative thinking to reach local people and not just known activists is needed. A one Council approach means that scrutiny should be aligned with and can often lead public consultation exercises to inform executive strategy.

Recommendations to develop WCC approach to scrutiny

1. The Council should relaunch the scrutiny function, championed by the Leader and Cabinet, with a corporate 'common purpose' WCC scrutiny guide setting out the ambition and expectations for the function based on a partnership of mutual respect, transparency and constructive challenge. This should highlight a behaviour code based on the 3 C's: collegiate, constructive and challenging.
2. Provide recognised authoritative leadership and direction for the scrutiny function by creating a new role of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to chair a new Overview and Scrutiny Panel comprised all scrutiny Chairs. This post could be an elected position by all council members.
3. Create greater alignment with corporate objectives by restructuring scrutiny committees in parallel to foster greater scrutiny of corporate themes and objectives and corporate performance. In the current circumstances, restructuring to follow the four change portfolio themes; Place, Economy and Climate; Community; Health and Wellbeing and Social Care; and Organisation could be an effective way forward. Any restructure would have to take into account statutory requirements.
4. Review the timetable for scrutiny committees to ensure meetings are held at the optimum time alongside the corporate business cycle and Cabinet meetings. Allow for greater meeting and agenda flexibility and greater use of Task and Finish Groups for scrutiny work, from single issue to corporate strategic themes, conducted to a strict brief and timescale with a project planning methodology. Dynamic Task and Finish Groups should be able to conduct a review in as little as one day where appropriate. But also conduct in-depth longer pieces of work.
5. Create a dedicated team of O&S officers resourced adequately to provide data (particularly performance data) and information, advice and support to O&S Chairs and members, including liaison with strategic directors and senior staff.
6. Greater use of virtual meetings technology and, where appropriate, social media to engage the public, service providers and external partners and encourage elected member active participation.
7. Making use of virtual technology, in-house training and briefings should be provided for scrutiny Chairs and members on appointment and on-going, including subject updates as required and skills development. The Adult Health and Social Care Committee model of in-committee member briefings should be rolled out further.

Committees should conduct an annual self-evaluation. A suite of scrutiny questions may be a good prompt to build confidence.

Dr Jane Martin CBE 2 October 2020

Appendix 1

List of interviewees

1. Councillor Adrian Warwick
(Chair of Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC)
2. Councillor Alan Cockburn
(Chair of Communities OSC)
3. Councillor Andy Crump
(Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety)
4. Councillor Colin Hayfield
(Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning)
5. Councillor Heather Timms
(Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture)
6. Councillor Izzi Seccombe
(Leader of the Council and Conservative Group and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development)
7. Councillor Jeff Clarke
(Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning)
8. Councillor Jeff Morgan
(Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)
9. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
(Leader of the Liberal Democrats)
10. Councillor John Holland
(Labour member)
11. Councillor Jonathan Chilvers
(Leader of the Green Party)
12. Councillor Kam Kaur
(Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation)
13. Councillor Keith Kondakor

(Green Party Member)

14. Councillor Les Caborn
(Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health)

 15. Councillor Peter Butlin
(Deputy Leader of the Council and Conservative Group and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property)

 16. Councillor Wallace Redford
(Chair of Adult Social Care & Health OSC)

 17. Councillor Yousef Dahmash
(Chair of Children and Young People's OSC)
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18. Helen Barnsley – Democratic Services Officer

19. Mark Ryder – Strategic Director (Communities)

20. Monica Fogarty – Chief Executive

21. Nic Vine - Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Legal and Democratic)

22. Nigel Minns – Strategic Director (People)

23. Paul Spencer – Senior Democratic Services Officer

24. Paul Williams – Democratic Services Team Leader

25. Rob Powell– Strategic Director (Resources)

26. Sarah Duxbury - Assistant Director (Governance & Policy)

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Date of next report	Item	Report detail
Standing items	Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders	The Committee may put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holders on issues within their remit. The report will set out the forthcoming items listed in the Council's published Forward Plan relevant to the Committee.
	Economic Development Update	To receive an update on economic development in Warwickshire. This has expanded from the previous Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) update at the request of the Chair and Spokespersons. To be a briefing note to be sent to the Committee Members rather than an agenda item (allowing members to raise any issue/ ask questions at the Committee should they wish).
17 February 2021	S106 Report OSC feedback	Communities OSC to feedback on report presented at Cabinet in December
17 February 2021	'Nuckle' Line update	Update on the Nuckle project which is run by Coventry City Council (briefing note)
17 February 2021	Air Quality Monitors Report	To provide the findings of the air quality monitors worn around Warwickshire
17 February 2021	Update on Scrutiny Review	An update on the scrutiny review being undertaken by the council
21 April 2021	HS2 grants	To monitor the level of income from HS2 to seek reassurance that WCC is being fully reimbursed.
April/June 2021- SUBJECT TO PURDAH	Covid-19 People Counters	Information from the town centre people counters set up to monitor numbers during the Covid-19 period

23 June 2021	Road Space Allocation review	A review of the 'Road Space Allocation' including what has been done and lessons learnt/improvements that could be made. This will include the discussions regarding the 20mph zones in Warwickshire.
23 June 2021	Draft Report for Highway Schemes	Draft Report on highway schemes and ahead of the planned website for Summer 2021
23 June 2021	Year End Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2020 to March 2021)	Report on Year End Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2020 to March 2021)
22 September 2021	Air Quality Monitoring	To provide and update on air quality monitoring since the TFG recommendations in 2018
22 September 2021	Waste Management Review	Update on the review following the second government consultation

Items for future work programming and review

Item	Description
Planning	
HS2 grants	To monitor the level of income from HS2 to seek reassurance that WCC is being fully reimbursed.
Capital programme	How managed/ overall picture of schemes (Note Resources & Fire and Rescue are also getting regular update on capital slippage).
Economy	
Local Enterprise Partnerships	How effective are LEPs in delivering a geographically balanced level of investment across Warwickshire? Members suggested that there was scope for improved monitoring of the CWLEP and a request was made for projected completion dates and project targets to be included in future Economic Development Updates.
Strategic Investment	To monitor WCCs investment in priority road safety schemes across Warwickshire targeted at reducing the numbers killed or seriously injured on our roads. This includes monitoring investment in local highways priorities, spending on LED streetlights and investment in safer routes to schools.

Sub National Transport Body	Update when appropriate
Community Cohesion	
KSIs and Speed Limits	To review the Council's speed limit and speed camera policies.
Waste Management Review	For when the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England is published in 2021
Population statistics	To review population growth in Warwickshire in relation to housing developments (briefing note)
Sustainable Transport	
The Clean Air Act	To consider the policy and implications of the new Government proposals.
Air Quality Progress on Recommendations	To consider progress on those recommendations agreed by Cabinet that require further action/outcomes (including information from personal monitors and progress on Supplementary Planning)
Off-Street Parking Charges TFG Report	A report to be received from the TFG providing their recommendations before Cabinet

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