

# Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2020

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

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## 7. Urgent Items

**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 & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 23 September 2020

## Minutes

### Attendance

#### Committee Members

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

#### Portfolio Holders

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

#### Officers

Matthew Epps, Projects Programmes and Funding Team Leader  
Monica Fogarty, Chief Executive  
Isabelle Moorhouse, Trainee Democratic Services Officer  
Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities  
Margaret Smith, Team Leader Transport Planning  
Andrew Stokes, Network Planning Manager  
Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director for Environment Services  
Nigel Whyte, Principal Transport Planner

#### Others Present

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair of the Council)

#### External Speakers

Paula Dees, Deputy CEO of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership  
Phil Peak, Operations Director of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub

## **1. General**

### **(1) Apologies**

David Ayton-Hill (Assistant Director-Communities)

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning)

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

None.

### **(3) Chair's Announcements**

The Chair noted that the recent member session on the upcoming changes for planning consultations was well attended and all issues raised should have been answered.

### **(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 17 June 2020 were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the 23 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

## **2. Public Speaking**

None.

## **3. Questions to Portfolio Holder**

In response to Councillor Keith Kondakor, Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities, stated that the CIF (condition improvement fund) bid for highway improvements due at October's Cabinet meeting is yet to be finished and confirmed the financial contribution from the council has not been confirmed yet.

Following a query from Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Mark Ryder clarified that Nuneaton, Rugby and Bedworth were known regeneration schemes in the regeneration project. Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council) clarified that the regeneration schemes in these areas were already approved as part of the 'Transforming Nuneaton' programme.

### **(1) Economic Development Update**

Following Councillor Kondakor's points regarding merging the Art Challenge and Canal Network together and noted the lack of climate change actions, Matthew Epps, Projects Programmes and Funding Team Leader, agreed to pass on the canal query to the relevant officers and the climate change agenda is part of the Covid-19 recovery plans but more will be progressed in the future including the environmental technology sector. Councillor Seccombe added that the art challenge was an initiative to incite the public to return to the high street and create safe spaces with social distancing. She continued that the county hopes to benefit from Coventry's City of Culture 2021.

## **4. Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**

Paula Deas (Deputy CEO of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership) and Phil Peak (Operations Director, CWLEP Growth Hub) presented a presentation to the committee.

Paula Deas introduced herself and stated that the CWLEP (Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership) started in 2012 and the CWLEP has succeeded due to its strong partnership between of the private and public sectors working collectively to insure economic growth. The board is representative of Coventry and Warwickshire's economic structure. The CWLEP secured an exemplar performance rating from central government for their governance, strategy and delivery. The CWLEP work is a national context and were formed to deliver the government's growth agenda, working with stakeholders, spatial levels in the Midlands and combined authorities. The CWLEP obtained £43.5 million in funding for growth projects across Coventry and Warwickshire. This funding has been used to enhance and transform town centres whether traffic-wise or environmentally. Work had progressed to ensure this continued during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Warwick District Council was awarded £1.79 million for the 2022 Commonwealth Games as part of a blended scheme. This was primarily to improve Leamington Spa's railway station and tourist facilities.

Pre-Covid-19, Coventry and Warwickshire had good economies and low unemployment. Therefore, an over-lapping phased approach was undertaken with central government's context. The phases are crisis (immediate work), foundation (initial recovery), consolidation (start-up growth) and acceleration (long-term economic growth); a delicate balance of interventions for health and wealth reasons will remain. Economic reset objectives were set up to be green and sustainable and be a staple in government funding bids. These objectives focus on influencing businesses, industries and communities to reinvent themselves including using energy, fibre, 5G, modes of transport, whether electrification or cycling funds, differently for the future.

Paula Deas emphasised that the CWLEP are using every method possible to reflect Coventry and Warwickshire's needs. The 'Getting Building Fund' was a short-term fiscal intervention announced by government. Warwickshire was awarded £8.1 million through the CWLEP. A blended package of projects by the private and public sectors will benefit from this; the projects will be environment, recovery, cycling, electrification and skills focused. The projects also include repurposing town centres including Nuneaton and its office facilities, e-cars clubs and cycling. All the schemes were well received in the county and by central government.

Paula Deas continued that the CWLEP are private sector entities spending public sector money and they use their Champions Network to learn what businesses want and secure their support packages and create the skills interventions that businesses want. The network was reinvented during the Covid-19 pandemic to become virtual and the CWLEP Growth Hub deals directly with businesses on every aspect of a business's needs.

Phil Peak stated that the CWLEP Growth Hub dealt with more businesses in 2019 than ever before, and since 1st March 2020 3000 businesses had been consulted with, including 700 new businesses, every inquiry was resolved, and 7000 businesses are communicated with on a weekly basis. The growth hub generates a 'sub-region' report with the county and councils which provides business information to central government's business department on a weekly basis. This was acknowledged as exemplar across the country and helped them shape policy in terms of the initial response around the survival of businesses and with shaping recovery policies for businesses.

Paula Deas continued that young people are put front and centre stage for the Career Enterprise Company and they have a work experience programme which 46 secondary schools in Warwickshire take part in. Paula Deas and Councillor Seccombe noted the difficulty of new office job starters not being able to work in an office.

The UKBIC (UK Battery Industrialisation Centre) is in Coventry and was a successful bid for the area with £126 million invested and 100 new jobs. The UKBIC emphasised the strength of the

areas research, development and capability sectors and that the Coventry and Warwickshire area is good for Gigafactory's. As the devolution of local government is yet to happen, the CWLEP must wait for ongoing national policies so secure a levelling up agenda. The CWLEP will focus on delivery during the last economic year of the local growth fund and maintain and preserve a strong economy.

The committee commended the presentation.

In response to the Chair's point on work being done for older people who are made redundant, Paula Deas stated the opportunity to reskill adults is 'up for grabs' as the projects which focused on reskilling adults before were European. She concluded that their schemes for this are under development and needs to be reviewed but added they will extend their job vacancy portal.

Following a query from Councillor Dave Shilton, Paula Deas responded that the CWLEP have an architecture and tourism group who lobbied hard for targeted schemes for furloughed staff in these areas and opportunities will be offered through the growth hub.

In response to Councillor John Holland, Paula Deas confirmed that any schemes that can deliver will be invested into and agreed to get information regarding the Lord Leycester business plan. Following Councillor Fradgley's concerns regarding Stratford upon Avon's economic losses during the pandemic, it was agreed that new industries for tourist focused town like Stratford need to diversify and create 'micro-industries'. Paula Deas clarified the CWLEP are looking at this now.

Councillor Kondakor's points about the skills agenda, the Midland Academy Trust being a weaker area and the need to prepare for domestic tourism and looking at 'spin-offs' for the UKBIC factory like electric motorbikes. Paula Deas said that the CWLEP make strong representations with skills and contracts are due to be given out regarding cycling in the West Midlands.

In response to Councillor Andy Sargeant's points regarding support for smaller and self-employed courier companies, Paula Deas stated that this depended on the growth of the courier sector, but she will obtain information to see if the CWLEP are funding these businesses. Councillor Sargeant noted that several large international companies have moved to Nuneaton.

Matthew Epps added that the council will roll out a new business support programme which will promote hospitality, leisure and tourism in the county. He concluded that a new tourism contract has been awarded called 'Visit Warwickshire' for next year's domestic tourism market.

## **5. Warwickshire Bus Services Motion Report**

Margaret Smith, Team Leader Transport Planning, introduced the report, stating that it was formulated following a passed motion at Full Council. A specialist transport consultancy was recruited for the report's findings and a presentation from leading consultants with expertise in public transport was received. The motion included five objectives, and which sought to review the council's activity in relation to bus operations. Section 106 funding was reviewed in terms of developer contributions used to fund bus routes over the last 10 years. It scoped out the use of new powers set out in the Bus Services Act 2017, specifically around the use of advanced quality or enhanced partnership schemes. Highlights of the bus improvement schedule will include improved information on bus services including roadside information, guaranteed bus friendly developments, using new powers from the 2017 Act, more cooperation with bus companies including a say on logistics and an annual Warwickshire bus conference. Warwickshire County and



Coventry City Councils submitted a joint bid to the Department for Transport for electric buses for all Warwickshire districts and boroughs and Coventry. Bus usage levels in Warwickshire were 20% of pre-Covid-19 levels and Margaret Smith concluded that the motion would help the council achieve carbon neutrality.

In response to Councillor Shilton, Margaret Smith confirmed that the number of university students travelling to university will be much lower than previous numbers and social distancing measures are implemented by the bus companies.

Following a query from Councillor Andy Jenns, it was noted that whoever owns a bus shelter must maintain it. Bus shelters are owned either by the County Council, Borough / District Council or Town / Parish Councils. Bus shelters provided within new development will be owned by the Developer until the highway is adopted by the County Council who would then assume responsibility for ownership. County Councillors may use their delegated budget to fund provision of a bus shelter in their Electoral Division. In these cases, WCC County Highways assume responsibility for the ownership of the bus shelter upon installation.

Councillor Kondakor praised the report and raised that S106 funding for bus services is weak and complicated and it must be clearer on where buses go and when, especially during the pandemic; Margaret Smith agreed with this. Margaret Smith stated that they created a schedule of desired improvements as part of the local transport plan review and they can now act on S106 issues immediately.

In response to Councillor Holland, Margaret Smith confirmed that if the electric bus bid is successful then they would be able to upgrade the electric power supplied needed.

In response to Councillor Fradgely, Margaret Smith stated that the bus corridor focuses on Coventry to Leamington Spa and this was a collaborative approach with operators. Work will be undertaken with bus operators regarding ticket types and branding, but the bus operators must be offered incentives from the highway authority for them to do this. Nigel Whyte, Principal Transport Planner, and Andrew Stokes, Network Planning Manager, added that a route is currently being planned for Stratford to Coventry via Warwick and Leamington and this should help with traffic congestion in these areas.

Following a query from Councillor Kondakor, it was clarified that it is easy to join bus companies' tickets together, but train tickets are more difficult to be added on and it cannot be forced legally.

**Resolved:**

That the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the key findings of the Bus Services Motion Report produced by The TAS Partnership Ltd investigating the items in the Bus Services Motion endorsed by full Council on 17 December 2020
2. Notes the proposed Bus Services Motion Enhancement Schedule consisting of measures aimed at delivering improvements to the bus services and supporting infrastructure, which The TAS Partnership Ltd has presented in the report following consultation with bus operators, County Council officers, Borough and District officers, Department for Transport and employers

## **6. One Organisational Plan Quarterly Progress Report**

Scott Thompkins, Assistant Director – Environmental Services, praised the Power BI system as a method for monitoring progress reports. 11 key business measures are monitored by Communities OSC. A lot of the business measures were affected by Covid-19. The rate of recording crime last year was 73% which was 2% above target. 76 properties were protected from flooding between November 2019-February 2020 and these floods were very time consuming for the flood management team.

Councillor Kondakor noted that the Bermuda project was behind schedule and no bus operator will run a service on it. Scott Thompkins replied that the tender return date had been extended by three weeks and five contractors were due to submit tenders in October 2020 for a contract to be awarded before Christmas 2020. Nigel Whyte added that £500,000 of funding was received from the Department for Transport to boost bus patronage across the UK. Part of the funding was used to extend bus features for the Bermuda area.

### **Resolved:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the progress of the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 for the period as contained in the report.

## **7. Quarter 1 Performance Progress Report**

Scott Thompkins presented the report, six of the 11 business measures were noted in the Q1 report; four were on track and two were not. KSI (killed or seriously injured) numbers had reduced from 103 to 66, reused, recycled and composted waste was at 52% which was on target. There was a reduction in burglary and violent crimes, but anti-social behaviour and fly tipping increased. The Home to School transport policy was not on track because of building provision within the county for the service to be local as children are currently transferred long distances. Scott Thompkins concluded that in March 2020, unemployment rates were on target with from 77% to 81% of people in Warwickshire being employed which was higher than the national average.

In response to Councillor Shilton's fly-tipping concerns, Scott Thompkins clarified that fly-tipping and littering increased before the recycling centres were reopened. Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Heritage & Culture) added that fly-tipping will be discussed at the Warwickshire Waste Partnership meeting in September as it is a district and borough responsibility. The booking system at recycling centres was not the reason for the fly-tipping increase as the booking system was commended when installed at recycling centres. Increasing fines for fly-tipping will be reviewed.

Following a query from the Chair, Councillor Timms stated that people are ticked off when they arrive in their booking slot so it is known when people booked in do not turn up but they will look at collating this in the Waste Partnership meeting. Councillor Timms confirmed that all partners must be worked with regarding fly-tipping including districts, boroughs and the police.

### **Resolved:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the progress of the delivery of the Council Plan 2020 - 2025 for the period as contained in the report.

## **8. Communities OSC Work Programme**

Councillor Shilton asked for the HS2 grants to be given a meeting date on the work programme.

## 9. Urgent Items

None.

The meeting rose at 16:17

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Chair

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## Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 November 2020

### 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 24 August 2020.

Decision Title	Description	Date	Decision Maker
(Exempt) Europa Way	An exempt report concerning land at Europa Way, Warwick.	10 December 2020	Cabinet
Estate Master planning	Proposals arising from Property Rationalisation linked to our How We will Work Programme	10 December 2020	Cabinet
West Midlands Rail Executive Proposed Change to Governance Arrangements	The report outlines the proposed changes to governance arrangements for the West Midlands Rail Executive Board of Directors	10 December 2020	Cabinet
(Exempt) Warwickshire Property and Development Company	An exempt report concerning the development of a new company	10 December 2020	Cabinet
Emscote Road Corridor Improvements	A summary of the proposed improvements to the Emscote Road Corridor recently part of a Capital Investment Fund application for £6.645	15 December 2020	County Council
(Exempt) Council Property	An exempt report seeking Cabinet and Council agreement on various options around property	15 December 2020	County Council

## 2.0 Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact details
<b>Report Author</b>	Isabelle Moorhouse	<a href="mailto:isabellemoorhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk">isabellemoorhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Sarah Duxbury	

## Communities O&S – November 2020

### Economic Development Update

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***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 Support

- The Government has announced a further **package of support for businesses to coincide with the new national lockdown measures** from 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will now run until the end of March 2021 with employees receiving 80% of their salary for hours not worked. Support for self-employed workers through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be increased, with the third grant covering the November to January period calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500. The Government also announced new cash grants of up to £3,000 per month for businesses which have been forced to close, plans to extend the existing loan schemes and an ability for businesses to top up Bounce Back loans, and a new one-off payment to local authorities to support businesses more broadly over the coming months. It is envisaged that the one-off Additional Restrictions Grant – which will be administered by the District and Borough Councils as the billing rate authorities in Warwickshire – will be used to fund further discretionary grants to businesses, but it can also be used for wider business support activities.

#### Local Redundancy Support

- Job losses in Warwickshire are tracking lower than the national upward climb, this is thought to be due to our strong pre-Covid economy, however, we are seeing Warwickshire unemployment figures running higher than recorded redundancies. This is thought to be caused by zero-hour contract job losses which do not translate as redundancies presenting a more positive picture than perhaps experienced on the ground. Our hard-hit sectors such as Leisure and Tourism who typically employ on such contracts would be representative of such rises in unemployment, however, we can be reasonably confident that this is a short-term to medium impact and the situation is expected to improve as we emerge from the pandemic and businesses re-boot.
- The **Coventry and Warwickshire Redundancy Support Service** has been launched by WCC and partners. The new service provides a co-ordinated sub-regional approach to responding to redundancies. A series of events to support businesses making difficult business decisions will launch this month with events to support those facing redundancy to be launched soon after. For more on the new service, see the Warwickshire Skills Hub web site:

<https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk/businesses/coventry-warwickshire-redundancy-support-service/1>

- The CWLEP Growth Hub, as part of this package of redundancy support, have launched a new digital platform to support engagement and provide a dedicated place for recruiting employers to post jobs, offering work opportunities to those who find themselves looking for new employment. For more information on the Coventry and Warwickshire Employment Solutions portal, see:  
[https://www.cwemploymentsolutions.co.uk/employers#tab\\_2](https://www.cwemploymentsolutions.co.uk/employers#tab_2)

## Economic Recovery

- WCC's Employability & Skills team has launched its new **Warwickshire Skills Hub web site** which brings together support for businesses, schools and local communities. The new site encompasses support for helping young people to enter the world of work, links for both young people and businesses to organise work experience placements and information about apprenticeships as well as practical guidance and help for businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. The site also includes information about WCC's Skills for Employment programme and there are links to the Careers and Enterprise Company and the Coventry and Warwickshire Careers Hub. To visit the new site, see:  
<https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk/>
- WCC's **Digital Training Programme for Retailers** is seeing significant demand since a further phase was launched over the summer. The programme – which is open to all “bricks and mortar” retail and hospitality businesses to help reach and connect customers through online and social media tools – has so far supported 62 businesses on both taster sessions and workshops. Covid-19 has shown that customers are online more than ever before and the workshops will 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/>
- WCC has approved a further £1 million loan to Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT) in support of the Government's **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme** (CBILS). A £1 million loan from WCC in May 2020 – along with further £750,000 from NBBC, RBC and WDC has so far supported 15 businesses and safeguarded 213 jobs in Warwickshire. The latest £1 million loan – which this time is funded by a Government grant via Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership – will allow CWRT to support a further ten businesses in the county, safeguarding a further 143 jobs. The major banks have provided the majority of finance under the CBILS scheme. However, smaller specialist local lenders such as CWRT have also helped meet demand from businesses. The Government recently extended the CBILS scheme until the end of January 2021.
- WCC has so far agreed grants worth £217,500 to 40 businesses as part of its new £250,000 **Retail and Hospitality Recovery and Investment Grant Fund** for the retail and hospitality sectors in the county. Small businesses in these



sectors could apply for grants of between £2,000 to £7,500 towards the costs of capital investments which help safeguard jobs, sustain the business and support its future growth. 192 applications worth £1,090,194 were submitted in Round 1 which closed on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. All unsuccessful grant applicants have been proactively referred to alternative support programmes. There will also be further opportunities to apply. The grant fund forms part of a £1 million allocation from WCC's Capital Investment Fund to support economic recovery.

#### Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund

- Cabinet have approved a further allocation of £50,000 from the Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund in support of the economic recovery in Warwickshire. The funding has been approved for the “**Digital Market Place**” project which will produce a range of films about work in local businesses for use in Career Market Place events. The resources will meet an immediate need and also provide a valuable long-term resource for schools, colleges and employment programmes to utilise as part of their digital delivery. Two edits are being produced, one for schools and one for young people aged 15-25 seeking employment around Warwickshire. For more information, see the Warwickshire Skills Hub web site: <https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk/businesses/vacanciesdigital-market-place/1>
- The **Tech Challenge Fund** has now been launched. The Challenge fund was set up after a business survey undertaken by Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership 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. Up to £80,000 is available for digital and creative businesses based in Warwickshire with proposals which encourage people to visit our town centres for leisure and business post-lockdown. Applications must be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. For more information and to access the guidance and application forms, visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/information-coronavirus/town-centres-tech-challenge/1>
- Place Curators, Creative Giants, have been appointed to deliver the **Art Challenge for Economic Recovery** project which will see a number of art installations across Warwickshire's towns through 2021. We are working with partners and stakeholders to identify potential locations, as well as ensuring that the project is linked with City of Culture 2021. The Northern Warwickshire Art Challenge is being funded by the Government's Getting Building Fund via the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, whilst installations elsewhere across the county will also be delivered with funding from WCC.
- WCC's new **Survive, Sustain and Grow** programme – which has been designed to support those businesses most affected by Covid-19 – has been seeing huge demand. The programme has already had 192 enquires/ referrals since its launch in late August and 146 businesses are now actively engaged on the support. There is a good spread of businesses both across Warwickshire and by sector (66 retail, 37 hospitality and 14 tourism with 69 businesses across a wide range of other sectors). The programme is delivered by a network of specialist, industry-specific consultants appointed by WCC. It is also complemented by existing and

new finance support including WCC's new Retail and Hospitality Grant scheme (see above).

### **Inward Investment News**

WCC's inward investment service has been working with a number of companies over recent months and can report the following significant activity:

- **Wincanton** and **Hello Fresh** have both made recent investments into Nuneaton, and we are providing local contact and support.
- **Cadent** announced its new HQ centre, at 90,000sqft larger than its existing base at Prologis Keresley, and the largest out of town office development in 2020.
- Despite the difficult trading conditions, we are working with a number of new and potential investors to identify suitable commercial property and help facilitate a 'soft landing' for them here.
- We recently held an inbound trade mission for the games development sector and have won a bid to develop an investment proposition around connected and autonomous vehicles (see below).

### Inbound Trade Mission – Pacific North West

Invest in Warwickshire worked together with West Midlands Scale Up and Screen Central to host an online delegation from the US on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, to hear about the opportunities here for games development businesses. The event helped raised the profile of 'silicon spa' and the wider area, and we hope this will lead to collaboration and further investment here from the US.

### HPO – High Potential Opportunity

Warwickshire has been recognised as a nationally significant location for future mobility technologies as part of a major initiative by the Department for International Trade (DIT) to boost Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK.

The West Midlands region has won two major project bids within the second round of the UK Government's High Potential Opportunities (HPO) programme – an initiative designed to promote high-level industry opportunities to foreign investors and drive overseas investment into the UK's regions and nations. Of the 19 HPOs announced, this was the only one covering automotive.

Warwickshire, with Coventry, is among the leading regional locations chosen as a centre of excellence in Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Modelling and Simulation. Birmingham and Solihull have been selected as the UK's top destination for opportunities in Data Driven Healthcare & Technologies.

WCC will work with Department of International Trade, CCAV and colleagues from Oxfordshire and local universities and businesses to bring together an information pack on the sector and its opportunities, which will then be used by DIT and others to promote the area and future mobility opportunities to potential investors around the world.

<https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/october-2020/news-in-brief/region-leading-location-for-future-mobility-technologies>

#### Built Environment Networking – Coventry & Warwickshire Future Development

The Built Environment Networking organisation will be hosting an event on the morning of November 18<sup>th</sup> titled Coventry & Warwickshire Future Growth.

Monica Fogarty will be presenting on the panel to talk about how Warwickshire County Council and partners have been adapting to the pandemic and how Warwickshire remains a strong destination for investment and development.

On the panel she will be joined by Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Coventry City Council, and Ian Harrabin, director of CDP (Complex Development Projects), a developer with interests in Coventry, including the new Telegraph Hotel, and Leamington Spa and the Creative Quarter.

<https://www.built-environment-networking.com/event/coventry-future-development-plans/>

#### Midlands Forum for Growth

WCC, partner local authorities and Coventry & Warwickshire LEP will be taking part in the new Midlands UK Forum for Growth next month.

The three-day online event will convene global leaders and investors to showcase the Midlands region and the wealth of opportunities for sustainable growth, investment and collaboration. More than 250 public and private sector organisations are anticipated to attend virtually, including leaders and investors from around the world from 24 to 26 November. It will provide a comprehensive insight into the Midlands' strategy, policy and plans for growth and investment.

There will be a presentation on Warwickshire development opportunities by Mark Ryder, and panelists from local Warwickshire and Coventry business and education, including Marion Plant OBE from North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Martin Yardley from University of Warwick Wellesbourne Campus and Sarah Windrum, CWLEP Board member and lead for the Creative and Digital sector.

<https://www.midlandsukforumforgrowth.co.uk/>

#### **Business News – Major business headlines from around Warwickshire**

##### UK begins mainline testing of hydrogen-powered trains in Warwickshire

Warwickshire enjoyed a UK first with the trials of the HydroFLEX hydrogen train, the first time a hydrogen powered train has run on the UK network.

It follows two years of development by the University of Birmingham BCRRE (Birmingham Centre for Rail Research and Education) and rolling stock leasing company Porterbrook with a £750,000 grant from the Department for Transport (DfT). The testing took place between their base at the Quinton Rail Technology Centre near Stratford-upon-Avon, and Honeybourne in Worcestershire.

<https://www.railway-technology.com/news/uk-mainline-testing-hydrogen-powered-trains/>

### New director for UK BMW engine manufacturing plant

BMW Group has appointed Dr. Dirk Dreher as the new plant director at the company's UK engine production plant in Hams Hall, North Warwickshire.

Dirk's career with BMW Group spans almost 20 years with a variety of management roles and key positions under his belt. He succeeds Bernd Gress, who after more than three successful years leading the plant, moves to a new role within BMW Group, based in Germany.

<http://britishdealernews.co.uk/general-news/bmw-biker-boss-hams-hall>

### WMG Announces new Catapult Chief Exec

Professor David Greenwood will replace Archie MacPherson who has led the WMG Catapult team since 2016.

Prof Greenwood currently leads WMG's Energy Research and also holds advisory and board positions for the Advanced Propulsion Centre, Innovate UK (Faraday Challenge and IDP and the Faraday Institution, and is head of the Advanced Propulsion Centre's Electrical Energy Storage Spoke.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/top-appointment-for-wmg-arm>

### Gigafactory Key Place in Coventry & Warwickshire Reset Strategy

Two leading business organisations in Coventry and Warwickshire have put extra charge in the call to Government to build a factory in the region that could create thousands of jobs.

A recent Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce PolicyHour video call with businesses in the region included representatives from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) who joined to discuss its reset strategy for the economy. Nick Abell of CWLEP said: "The Government is going to back a Gigafactory and, wherever it goes, it is going to create thousands of jobs, potentially tens of thousands. There is no doubt, we want it here.

<https://www.cwlep.com/news/coventry-and-warwickshire-business-leaders-charge-calls-regional-gigafactory>

### Codemasters

One of the UK's oldest games developers, and the original 'Silicon Spa' business has been valued at £739m as a deal to takeover the company has been announced. If the sale goes ahead, it will bring another of the UK's triple AAA games developers studios to the area.

Warwickshire-headquartered Codemasters has received the approach from Take-Two, an American NASDAQ-listed video game holding company based in New York. The company owns two major publishing labels, Rockstar Games and 2K, which operate internal game development studios.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/takeover-offer-values-video-game-maker-at->

[739m?utm\\_source=westmidlands\\_newsletter&utm\\_campaign=westmidlands\\_news\\_tracker&utm\\_medium=top\\_story\\_article](https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/takeover-offer-values-video-game-maker-at-739m?utm_source=westmidlands_newsletter&utm_campaign=westmidlands_news_tracker&utm_medium=top_story_article)

### Jobs at Risk at RSC

Almost 160 jobs have been put at risk at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The RSC has said it does not know the final number of redundancies until the end of the consultation but 158 positions are currently at risk. This would be up to a 17% reduction in the workforce. The RSC added that it will focus its efforts on the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, with Swan Theatre and The Other Place remaining closed until 2022.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/royal-shakespeare-company-puts-jobs-at-risk>

### West Midlands 5G Investing in Digital Transport Solutions

The company creating a 5G network in the West Midlands is set to invest £2.4m in seven consortiums to support the development of new products and services to transform transport across the region.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/multimillion-pound-investments-for-transport-projects>

### New Chief Exec Appointed at Nuneaton Based Holland & Barrett

A new chief executive has been confirmed at Holland & Barrett after his predecessor stepped down after less than 18 months in the role.

The former digital director at B&Q owner Kingfisher, Steve Willett, has been appointed to succeed Tony Buffin.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/new-ceo-confirmed-for-holland-barrett>

### Cadent Letting at Ansty Largest in UK

Cadent, the gas supply company, is moving its UK HQ to Prospero Ansty, to a new 90,000sqft purpose built development, the largest out of town office let in the UK in 2020. The company is expected to complete the move in early 2022.

<https://www.prospero-ansty.com/cadent-agrees-to-take-a-purpose-built-90000-sq-ft-office-building-at-prospero-ansty-from-manse-opus/>

### Spec Build Units Completed in Leamington Spa

Stoford Developments has finished units three and four at Spa Park in Leamington Spa which comprise 61,075 sq ft and 30,715 sq ft of space respectively, rounding off the first phase of the project.

The units, which are now available to let, sit alongside a 50,000 sq ft unit, which is occupied by Liberty 920E, part of the Liberty Vehicle Technologies, and US-based Martin Sprocket & Gear, which occupies unit five, a 41,173 sq ft warehouse and offices.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/multimillion-pound-business-park-buildings-completed>

### Government Funding Unlocks New Flexible Workspace in Nuneaton

A grant of £1m from the Government's Towns Fund team will be used to repurpose the two floors above 22 Queens Road - known to many as the former Woolworths

store - and create flexible working spaces that include both shared and dedicated office space with a new dedicated public entrance, creating up to 75 jobs.

<https://www.cwlep.com/news/%C2%A31million-funding-give-nuneaton-town-centre-retail-space-new-lease-life>

#### New Leamington Co-Working Complex Announces New Tenants

Marketing agency Gibsonhaus and creative engagement agency Purple Monster have both signed up to move in to 1 Mill Street, an exciting new office space in Leamington Spa.

The Victorian building on the corner of Mill Street and Leam Terrace has undergone a transformation and will now feature flexible offices, dedicated desks and hot-desking, a video and sound studio, The Muse Coffeehouse, meeting areas and world-class events space.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/new-tenants-for-co-working-complex>

#### Chamber Annual Conference Moves Online

The Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce's Annual Economic Conference, in its 20th year in 2020 as a key event in the business calendar, will take place online on Wednesday, November 11.

Speakers include West Midlands Mayor Andy Street; Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Business & Industry; Angela Joyce, CEO of WCG; Andrew Carter, Chief Executive of the Centre for Cities; Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive of the Coventry City of Culture Trust; Leigh Hunt, CityFibre's City Manager Coventry; and Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Coventry City Council.

<https://www.cwlep.com/news/major-regional-business-event-moved-online-it-will-still-pack-punch>

#### FirstPro 2020 Awards Go Online

Coventry & Warwickshire First Pro 2020 Awards will be going online for the first time this year. Each of the FirstPro categories showcases the talent and capability of the business services, professional and financial services sector in our region. The event takes place from 4pm on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

<https://www.coventryfirst.co.uk/firstpro/>

## Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### School Road Safety Education TFG Report

18 November 2020

#### Recommendation(s)

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.

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following Communities OSC approval for this TFG, it was clear to members of the group that county council members were unaware of the Road Safety Teams existence. Therefore, the TFG requested briefing sessions for each borough and district to inform members on their work and the upcoming SAFER project (Sustainable and Active Focussing on Environment and Road safety) which aims to promote and support road safety and active travel activities within three strands. Within each strand, the recruitment of local 'Champions' and the introduction of a reward scheme, are fundamental elements of the SAfER programme.
- 1.2 The primary objectives of SAfER are to:
  - Encourage residents to take up more physical activity for travel (walking and cycling)
  - Promote safe walking, cycling and general road safety in Warwickshire
  - Change public attitudes and habits around safe and active travel
  - Encourage schools to sign-up to become SAfER schools and to work through the 4 levels of the awards scheme
  - Encourage Warwickshire businesses and employers to sign-up to become SAfER accredited

The successful implementation of the above primary objectives will hopefully impact on the following objectives.

- A reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on Warwickshire's roads
- Reduction in air pollution and increase overall air-quality

- 1.3 The SAfER programme provides support and resources that schools, and local organisations need to develop safe and active travel plans, and encourages local 'Champions' to successfully run individual activities within organisations.
- 1.4 The programme is fully supported by Warwickshire County Council elected Members and a small group of Members from TFG has been set up to review and monitor the progress of the initiative. SAfER is also supported by the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership - a multi-agency group comprising Warwickshire Police, Fire & Rescue, Public Health, Highways England and Warwickshire County Council. The initiative will be incorporated into the 2021 Local Transport Plan.
- 1.5 SAfER is managed and delivered by staff from the Road Safety Education Team, comprising a Senior Road Safety Officer, Road Safety Support Officer (already in post) and two additional School Travel Plan Officers (to be appointed).
- 1.6 Warwickshire County Council will lead by example and will use the Thrive at Work initiative to focus, encourage and support their own employees in the workplace.
- 1.7 After the briefing sessions, all county council members who attended the briefings praised the work of the Road Safety Team and agreed to provide help to the team if desired.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The funding for the two School Travel Plan Officer posts are being pursued from other sources one internal (which has received initial Gateway Group approval) and one external for which a response is still awaited. Should either of these funding sources be approved then there will be no financial implications.
- 2.2 If funding is not obtained from the internal sources currently being pursued, the TFG supports the bids for the two School Travel Plan Officer posts to be part of next financial year's bidding process. These two positions would be £36,800 each per year which would total £147,200 for 2 two-year contracts.
- 2.3 In the current difficult financial climate, the MTFS is only considering 'invest to save' rather than 'growth' bids unless the budget pressure is unavoidable. Consequently, there is a high chance this bid would not be supported within the MTFS process.



### 3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 As stated above the SAfER project will encourage cycling and walking and aim to change public attitudes to this which will reduce the use of cars on school runs and benefit the air quality in Warwickshire. As part of the task to educate safe cycling to school, bicycle training will be carried out with the 'Bikeability' scheme which will promote safe travel to school which will promote safer green travel.

### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The School Road Safety Education TFG was approved by Communities OSC in June 2020 which was established to explore education-based options for encouraging pupils to travel to school by means other than private cars (e.g. walking, cycling and scooters). In order for any cost implications to be submitted before February 2021, so that its findings can inform the refreshing of the MTFP in 2021/22, it was agreed the TFG should be a rapid one and be presented to Communities OSC in November 2020 and Cabinet (if required) in December 2020.
- 4.2 Work was carried on by members of the School Safety Zones with Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince returning as the Chair and Councillor Jenny Fradgley continuing as the Vice-Chair. Councillor Jonathon Chilvers stayed on as the Green Party representative and Councillor Corrinne Davies joined on behalf of the Labour Party.

### 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 If the funding is pre-approved before Cabinet in December, then no steps are needed to follow this financially. If it has not been approved, then the TFG requests that Communities OSC asks Cabinet to approve the funding and be part of the Budget Council report.
- 5.2 Cooperation with Members should continue indefinitely or until their help is no longer required.

### Appendices

None

### Background Papers

None

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Jenny Fradgley, Jonathon Chilvers, Jill Simpson-Vince, Corrinne Davies, Clare Golby, Dave Shilton, John Holland, Keith Kondakor, Jerry Roodhouse and Helen Adkins

## Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Quarterly Progress Report

Period under review: April 2020 to September 2020

#### Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Considers and comments on the progress of the delivery of the Council Plan 2020 - 2025 for the period as contained in the report.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council Plan Quarter 2 Performance Report for the period April 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2020 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The report provides an overview of progress of the key elements of the Council Plan, specifically in relation to performance against Key Business Measures (KBM)s, strategic risks and workforce management. A separate Financial Monitoring report for the period covering both the revenue and capital budgets, reserves and delivery of the savings plan was presented and considered at the same November Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2. This report draws on information extracted from both Cabinet reports to provide this Committee with information relevant to its remit.
- 1.3. Comprehensive performance reporting is now enabled through the following link to Power BI [full OSC Quarter 2 2020/21 Performance Report](#).

The Communities OSC Quarter 2 2020/21 Exception Dashboard contains details of those measures that are of significant note where good performance or areas of improvement activity need to be highlighted

[Warwickshire's Communities Exception Dashboard](#)

[Warwickshire's Economy Exception Dashboard](#)

#### 2. Council Plan 2020 - 2025: Strategic Context and Performance Commentary

- 2.1 The Council Plan 2020 – 2025 aims to achieve two high level Outcomes:

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

Progress to achieve these outcomes is assessed against 58 KBMs.

Outcome	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting at Quarter 3
Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent	28	23
Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure	12	11
WCC making the best use of its resources	18	14

As the Organisation continues to transform, the [Commissioning Intentions Framework](#) continues to evolve and provides a sharpened focus on performance and supports delivery of the Organisation's priorities. Detailed Quarter 2 performance has been visualised utilising the functionality of the Microsoft Power BI system.

- 2.2 At Quarter 2 there has been a decrease in overall performance against the full framework compared to the Quarter 1 position. Several measures, however, have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequently there is little or no sign of improvement in these areas. These are fully detailed in 2.5.
- 2.3 Of the 58 KBMs, 11 are in the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At Quarter 2, 10 of the 11 KBM's are being reported. 50% (5) of reportable KBMs are On Track and 50% (5) KBMs are Not on Track. In comparison at Quarter 1 position where 6 KBM's were being reported with 67% (4) KBM's being On Track while 33% (2) KBMs were Not on Track.

Chart 1 below summarises KBM status by quarter since the introduction of the Commissioning Intentions Framework.

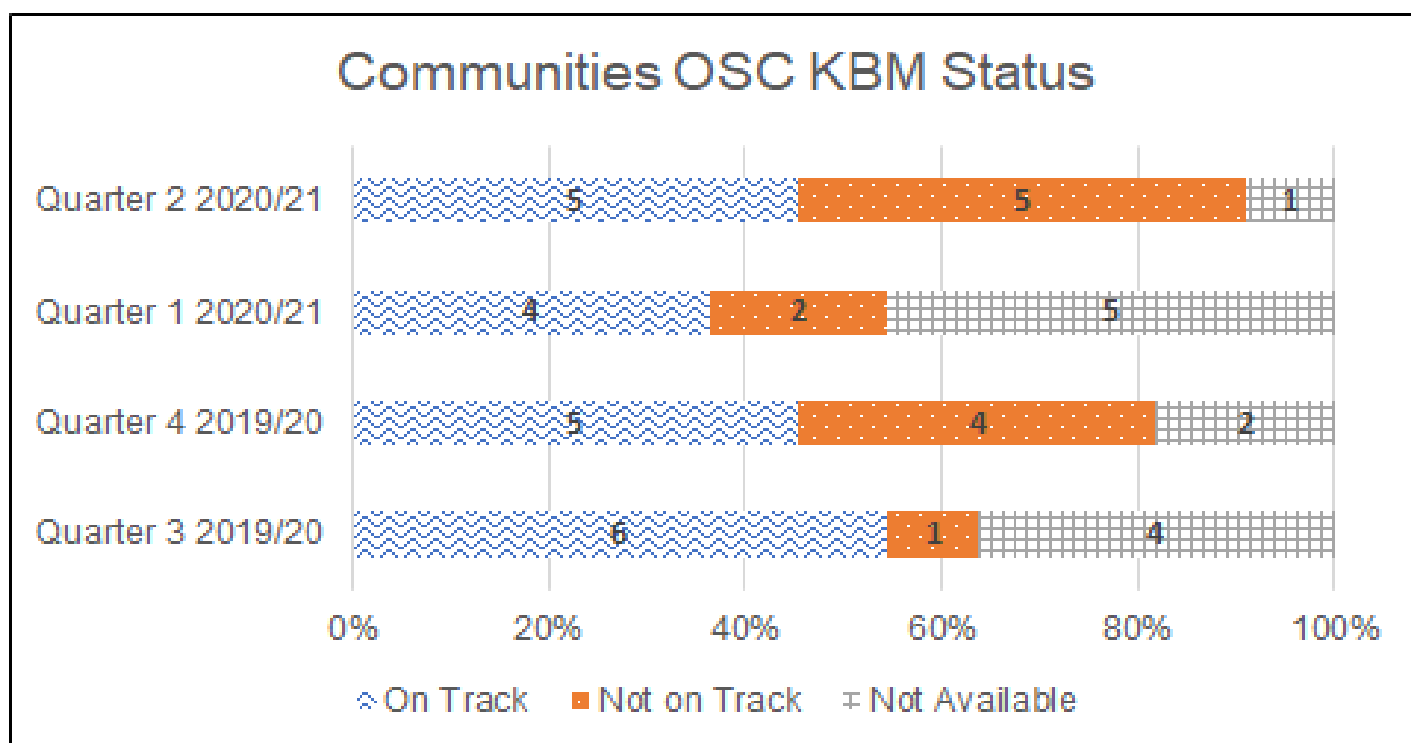


Chart 1

1 KBM is unavailable for reporting at this quarter because the analysis takes place at the end of the year, which is:

- % of Warwickshire road network meeting specified condition.

3 KBMs are annual measures and reported in arrears but their latest figures have been included in this report as they are still relevant:

- No. of journeys on public transport services supported by WCC;
- % biodiversity net gain in Warwickshire; and,
- Gross Value Added (GVA) per employee as a % of the England average

2.4 Of the 50% (5) KBM's which are On Track there are 4 measures where performance is of note:

- % of household waste reused, recycled and composted. Residual waste overall is down by 7% across the county which has helped the overall recycling % increase – mainly due to reduction of residual at the Housing Waste Recycling Centre's (HWRC residual waste is down by 60% compared to the year before). Recycling has also helped boost this figure – recycling across Warwickshire is up 5% compared to the year before (recycling is up at the HWRCs and kerbside every month since June);
- Number of killed and seriously injured on our roads. There has been a significant decrease in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Warwickshire roads in the first half of 2020 compared to 2019 (122 compared to 179). The significant reduction occurred in the first two months of the quarter, which can be attributed to the reduction of traffic on the roads during the first couple of lockdown months (Covid-19). The largest group that saw the reduction was car drivers, this dropped from 48 in 2019 to 33 in 2020. Looking at the age of the casualties there was a significant reduction of KSI casualties in the 45-59-year-old category, this dropped from 39 in 2019 to 18 in 2020. Over the last quarter the numbers have equalled out to more expected levels;
- Gross Value Added (GVA) per employee as a % of the England average. The Warwickshire productivity figure is, as of 2018, 2.4% higher than the England average. Warwickshire has seen the 7th highest growth (2009-2018) of all Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics - Level 3 (NUTS3) regions, excluding London. The Coventry & Warwickshire all Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) has the highest growth of all Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas; and,
- Rate of total recorded crime per 1000 population. In regards to property related crime, burglary dwelling is down 40%, vehicle crime theft is down 19%, theft from vehicles is down 33%, robbery is down 25%, and business crime is down 30%. Warwickshire is significantly down in comparison to the previous year. Crimes related to the night-time economy are down but there has been increases in relation to violence within the home, Hate crimes and incidents and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) personal. Although environmental ASB is showing an increase of over 280% compared to last year, this is a significant reduction compared to the initial lockdown period. Environmental ASB includes fly tipping, graffiti, vandalism, dog fouling etc.

2.5 There are 5 KBMs that are Not on Track at Quarter 2 of which 3 of particular note are included in Table 1 below and details the current performance narrative, improvement activity and explanation of projected trajectory:

## Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure

### Cost (£) of SEND Home to School transport provision

#### Current performance narrative

There is a forecast overspend of £143,522 against a budget of £11,371,918 (1.25%). This is an improvement on the forecast position from Quarter 1. There has been a focus on forecasting and basing it on the actual cost of transport for the Summer term and the most up to date from the Autumn Term. Previous assumptions regarding higher demand for taxis during Covid-19 did not materialise.

#### Improvement activity

Recruitment to a post that will have Strategic oversight of the SEND Transport is in place. There is also now greater rigour in ensuring adherence to transport policy and eligibility, coupled with Local First options for children and young people i.e. school placements that will both see a dampening effect on expenditure. The route optimisation system now in use ensures that a cost-effective method for scheduling route plans is in place.

Transport is a key component of the SEND and Inclusion Change programme and it is now planned to move this project into the earliest phase of the programme given the financial imperative.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on track - remaining static

It is expected that with clearer forecasting and tighter monitoring the budget will start to move to a balanced position.

### % of residents in Warwickshire aged 16 - 64 who are in employment, compared to the England average

#### Current Performance narrative

The Warwickshire employment rate stood at 81.3% for residents aged 16-64 in employment during Quarter 1, this has risen by 0.1% in Quarter 2 to 81.4%. At Quarter 1 it was 5.1% ahead of the England average which is below the 6% target, however in Quarter 2 Warwickshire is now 4.9% ahead of the England average. This is likely due to the implementation of the furlough scheme, keeping individuals in jobs, but also multiple people re-joining or continuing to join the workforce to help fight the impacts of the Covid-19. Quarter 2 saw retired health care staff return to work, businesses realigning their efforts to provide and produce equipment and care against the pandemic.

There are currently (Jul 2019 - Jun 2020, Quarter 2) 278,600 people in employment in Warwickshire, which is 81.4% of those aged 16-64. This is 4.9% higher than the England average (76.5%), though the England average grew more over the last quarter than Warwickshire (0.3% and 0.1% respectively).

Warwickshire statistical neighbours (Quarter 2 2020): Leicestershire 80.8%, Worcestershire 78.9%, West Berkshire 83.0%, Oxfordshire 82.6%, Gloucestershire 81.6% and Northamptonshire 82.6%.

#### Improvement Activity

WCC already works with the Department for Work and Pensions, Education and Skills Funding Agency, Big Lottery and other funders as well as their contracted providers to co-ordinate and promote employment and skills support programmes in Warwickshire.

WCC is working with DWP to look at how these programmes can be scaled up to meet the expected increase in demand. WCC IS also working with DWP, the CWLEP Growth Hub, Coventry City Council, Chamber and other partners to develop a co-ordinated sub-regional approach to responding to redundancies.

Explanation of the projected trajectory Not on track - remaining static

Whilst Warwickshire has reached its target employment rate (81%), the gap between Warwickshire and England has reduced meaning that WCC is currently not achieving the target of being 6% above the England average. These targets are to be reviewed given the current situation with Covid-19 which will inevitably mean higher unemployment across the country, particularly as the furlough and job support schemes end. More data is needed to determine the expected impact.

### No. of properties better protected from flooding

#### Current performance narrative

This measure is the total of the number of properties better protected through capital schemes, clearance of blockages, or through enforcement actions. The capital schemes are predominantly funded either through the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) six-year programme Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA), or from Corporate Investment Fund (CIF).

The delivery of these schemes was initially hampered by a very wet winter (5th wettest on record) that led to multiple flood events across the county that have taken resources elsewhere whilst the team aided the recovery and commenced investigating the flooding. Further flooding in the summer months have added to this.

Additionally, Covid-19 and the restrictions in place to try to minimise its affects has also hampered scheme delivery. The decision has been made nationally by DEFRA that Property Flood Resilience (PFR) schemes should be halted due to the close contact to residents when at their properties.

The narrative from Quarter 1 highlighted that the framework contractors had been furloughed during past months. Although many have returned, supply-chain problems and a lack of confidence in the market is expected to push the start of delivery into Quarter 4.

#### Improvement Activity

In light of the above, the schemes within the DEFRA six-year programme have been reprofiled and in some cases deferred for delivery in later years. Four of the most advanced projects have been retained for this financial year, however uptake from residents in affected areas has been lower than expected, further reducing the number of properties likely to be protected. Additionally, given the current economic environment, the practice of requesting private contributions for properties where the cost to protect is in excess of funding limits may need to be re-assessed. Current best estimate of the end of year figure is 34.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on target - remaining static

The updated forecast for the end of year delivery is 34 properties better protected. The original 126 target was calculated before the Covid-19 situation, the target has now been changed to 34.

Table 1

- 2.6 Of the remaining 2 KBMs that are Not on Track, forecast performance is projected to remain Not on Track but static:

- No. of journeys on public transport services supported by WCC; and,
- % biodiversity net gain in Warwickshire.

2.7 Chart 2 below illustrates the considered forecast performance projection over the forthcoming reporting period compared to projection at previous quarters.

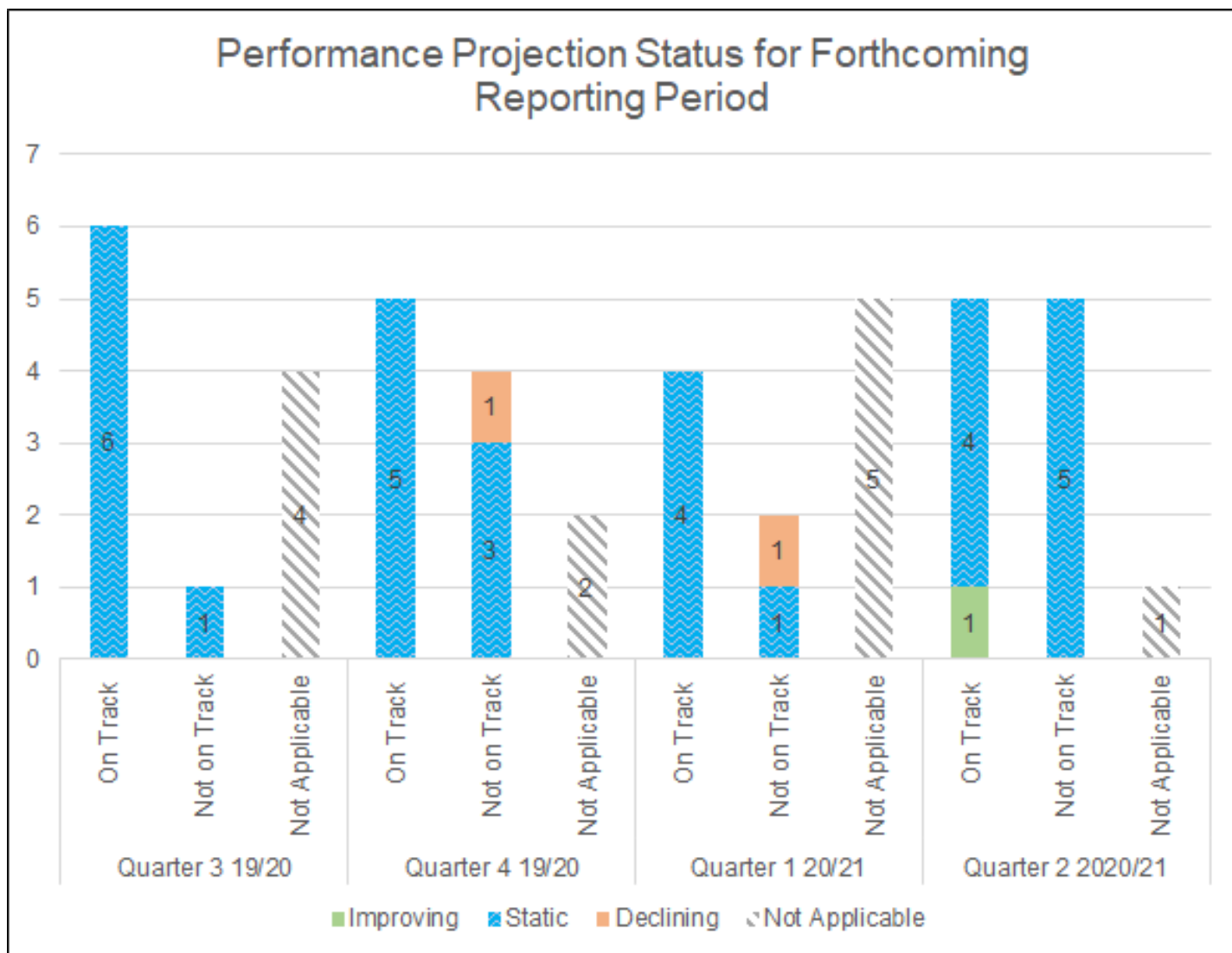


Chart 2

Of the 11 KBM's, 10 KBM's have a forecast performance projection for the forthcoming reporting period, this includes annual measures where data is not available until the end of the year, the remaining KBM % of Warwickshire road network meeting specified condition is also an annual measure but the way it is calculated means it is not appropriate to project performance at this time. 40% of the measures that have forecast performance projection have a status of being On Track and remaining static, whilst 10% of the measures are reported to improve. There are 5 KBMs which have a forecast of being Not on Track and are expected to remain Not on Track during the next Quarter and 3 of these have been fully detailed in 2.5.



### 3. Financial Commentary – relevant finance information taken from Cabinet report

#### 3.1 Revenue Budget

3.1.1 The Council has set the following performance threshold in relation to revenue spend: a tolerance has been set of zero overspend and no more than a 2% underspend. The following table shows the forecast position for the Services concerned.

	<b>2020/21 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2020/21 Outturn '000</b>	<b>Revenue Variance £'000 %</b>	<b>Retained Reserves £'000</b>	<b>Financial Standing £'000</b>
Communities	22,523	26,629	4,106 18.23%		4,106

The most significant part of the forecast overspend is related to Covid pressures consisting of:

- Losses of income totalling £3.914m split between Parking Services (£2.490m), County Parks (£0.488m), rental income through Business Centres (£0.368m), Waste Services (£0.346m) and Speed Awareness courses (£0.222m).

Additionally, there is expenditure of £0.190m as a result of Covid for social distance modelling and active travel monitoring.

Environment Services	26,500	28,166	1,666 6.29%		1,666
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The vast majority of this overspend is related to Covid pressures consisting of:

- Additional spending relating to payments to Bus Operators which is offset by grant funding from the DfT totalling £1.118m.
- Additional costs relating to emergency Highways maintenance and compensation payments for Highways contracts (£0.190m).
- The requirement to reallocate road space and carry out works in town centres and to enable social distancing (£0.782m).
- Income losses within Forestry, Planning Delivery and Trading Standards and Community Safety (£0.305m).
- There is a Covid related pressure as a result of additional payments being made within Transport Delivery to voluntary organisations so that operations could continue during Covid. This overspend is partially offset by an underspend in planning delivery due to staff vacancies.

The underspend of £0.776m after removal of Covid pressures is mostly due to in year staff savings across the service arising from delays in the implementation of the service redesign.

The reduction in forecast compared to Q1 of £0.792m is due to thorough reviews of Covid related pressures being undertaken and the reduction in forecasts where Covid related costs, such as compensation claims, have not materialised.

### 3.2. Delivery of the Savings Plan

3.2.1. The savings targets and forecast outturn for the Services concerned are shown in the table below.

	<b>2020/21 Target £'000</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual to Date £'000</b>	<b>2020/21 Forecast £'000</b>
Communities	0	0	0
Environment Services	200	0	200

### 3.3 Capital Programme

3.3.1. The table below shows the approved capital budget for the Services and any slippage into future years.

	<b>Approved budget for all current and future years (£'000)</b>	<b>Slippage from 2020/21 into Future Years £'000</b>	<b>Slippage from 2020/21 into Future Years (%)</b>	<b>Current quarter - new approved funding / schemes (£'000)</b>	<b>Newly resourced spend included in slippage figures (£'000)</b>	<b>All Current and Future Years Forecast (£'000)</b>
Communities	53,571	20,581	-9%	11,108	(35)	64,644

Delays on Transforming Nuneaton (£0.902m) caused by difficulties in obtaining vacant possession. Delays on integrated transport cycling schemes in Leamington to Kenilworth (£0.5m) due to uncertainty around land acquisitions and Nuneaton to Coventry (£0.262m) as a result of delays to the finalisation of the design detail.

Environment Services	179,386	90,397	-7%	3,937	128	183,451
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£2.262m of area delegated schemes have been brought forward as a result of changes to the use of these funds (see Cabinet report dated 11th June 2020) £3.649m of delays relate to S278 schemes where the local authority has little control over the timing of projects. £1.973m delay on the A47 Hinckley, where the scheme has now been split into phases with the cycle provision being pushed back into 2021/22. Additional funding may be necessary. £1.135m delay on the A46 Stoneleigh due to the approval process with Highways England being protracted. These delays were built into the financial modelling so should not impact on the overall cost of the project. £0.895m of delays on historic bridge

maintenance resulting from a re-prioritisation of schemes and the discovery of a protected species at Baginton. £0.400m delay relating to A46 Stanks Island where claims are expected to fall in 2021-22.

#### 4. Supporting Papers

- 4.1 A copy of the full report and supporting documents that went to Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> November is available via the committee system.

#### 5. Environmental Implications

None

#### 6. Background Papers

None

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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).
18 November 2020	School Safety Education TFG	A report on the education-based ways of encouraging more children to walk / scooter / cycle in safety to their schools and report on costed options to inform the refreshed MTFS (Medium Term Finance Strategy), for the MTFP in 2021/22.
18 November 2020	Mid-Term Organisational Plan Progress Report	Mid-Year Performance Progress Report
17 February 2021	S106 Report OSC feedback	Communities OSC to feedback on report presented at Cabinet in December
17 February 2021	Covid-19 People Counters	Information from the town centre people counters set up to monitor numbers during the Covid-19 period
17 February 2021	'Nuckle' Line update	Update on the Nuckle line which is run by Coventry City Council
17 February 2021	Air Quality Monitor Report	To provide the findings of the air quality monitors worn around Warwickshire

23 June 2021-SUBJECT TO PURDAH	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-SUBJECT TO PURDAH	HS2 grants	To monitor the level of income from HS2 to seek reassurance that WCC is being fully reimbursed.
23 June 2021-SUBJECT TO PURDAH	Air Quality Monitoring	To provide and update on air quality monitoring since the TFG recommendations in 2018

### Items for future work programming and review

Item	Description
<b>Planning</b>	
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).
<b>Economy</b>	
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
<b>Community Cohesion</b>	
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 to population growth in Warwickshire in relation to housing developments (briefing note)
<b>Sustainable Transport</b>	
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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