

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 22 September 2021
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne
Councillor Jackie D'Arcy
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor Dave Humphreys
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Daren Pemberton
Councillor Tim Sinclair
Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Chair's Announcements

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| 9. Urgent Items | |

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- 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 relevant to the agenda 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 23 June 2021

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne
Councillor Jackie D'Arcy
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor Dave Humphreys
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Tim Sinclair
Councillor Andrew Wright

Portfolio Holders

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Community Safety)
Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Economy & Place)
Councillor Wallace Redford (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning)
Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture)

Officers

David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director - Communities
Daniel Cresswell, Team Leader, Project and Programme Management
Isabelle Moorhouse, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Alison Robinson, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills)
Chris Simpson, Section Manager (Delivery Lead) Business & Capital Programme
Colin Smith, (Project Manager (Contractor)
Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director for Environment Services

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor Daren Pemberton
Mark Ryder – Strategic Director - Communities

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne declared that he had an interest in agenda item 7 as the topics covered fell within his remit of work.

(3) Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all new members to the committee and highlighted the importance that scrutiny has on Council's decision making.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

(i) 17th February 2021

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

(ii) 25th May 2021

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. Public Speaking

None

3. Questions to Portfolio Holder

In response to Councillor Jonathan Chilvers' concerns about the 'Nuckle' train line operating a reduced service due to a lack of train drivers and not getting the expected return investment, Councillor Wallace Redford (Portfolio Holder – Transport & Planning) agreed to obtain a member briefing note to address these issues.

Councillor Dave Humphreys queried the viability of an integrated transport ticket i.e. one ticket for buses and trains in Warwickshire, like the system available in combined authorities. Councillor Redford agreed to obtain a briefing note that would investigate this for members of the committee.

In response to Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder – Environment, Climate & Culture) noted that there had been an increase of recycling picked up kerbside as there had been more home deliveries during the Covid-19 lockdowns. Trips to household recycling centres had been reduced to enforce social distancing and there will be a strategic review of these centres to ensure that they were being utilised appropriately. Councillor Timms concluded that as long as materials were being recycled or composted then it did not matter whether this was done kerbside or at household recycling centres.

Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher queried if the council checked prices during the procurement process to ensure that they were not being overcharged. Councillor Redford agreed to investigate this issue and provide a briefing note.

(1) Economic Development Update

David Ayton-Hill (Assistant Director – Communities) noted that there were a range of economic recovery and business support projects and programmes underway in Warwickshire. The 'Adapt and Diversify' scheme was set up with some government funding to support Covid-19 outbreak management. It was designed to sit alongside the funding Borough & District Councils received from Government to provide support to those businesses forced to close due to Covid-19; and instead focuses on the future activities of these businesses, helping them adapt and diversify their business models. £1.5 million has been issued over two rounds; the first round was only open for one day due to the amount of applications received. There were several ineligible applications as they did not provide enough detail on what they needed the funding for; these applicants were signposted to other

funding sources.

The 'Survive, Sustain & Grow' programme was set up to help businesses in the pandemic and provided them with bespoke support and consultants. These consultants worked with businesses so they knew what they needed to do to restart their businesses and helped with future grant applications. 600 businesses took part in the programme which had received positive feedback and case studies were available online.

The 'Tech Challenge' was started as part of Warwickshire's Economic Recovery programme to reach out to Warwickshire's strong creative digital sector, to develop innovative approaches to aid Warwickshire's town centres. Three projects were funded through this as of June 2021 with two still in progress and one going live in May 2021. The live project was the Leamington 'Local Young Talent' Festival (LYT) where creators put their wares in Leamington Spa shop windows, empty shop fronts were 'done-up' to create a marketplace for what the creators were doing. It was a popular project and increased footfall in Leamington and a full evaluation piece on the project was put online. Alison Robinson (Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills)) clarified that these two other projects took place in other towns around the county. Things that worked well in the LYT project e.g. empty shop windows, were implemented cross-county. However, different needs of towns were considered, for example, if one town had more of a high street demand than another.

David Ayton-Hill continued that a redundancy support package was implemented and focused on re-skilling, but this was not as in demand as feared.

A digital service with Warwickshire's businesses sector was also set up to help school children that could not gain work experience and employability skills direct from businesses themselves. 30 videos were made with these businesses and provided to schools to increase student's career aspects and promote apprenticeships.

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder – Economy and Place) praised the work done by the economy team and noted how agile the team and businesses have had to be due to the pandemic lockdowns. She concluded that all business types were aided by Warwickshire County Council and not just one type of business.

In response to several questions from Councillor Sinclair, Alison Robinson stated that they were disappointed by the amount of applications they had to discard in round one of applications for Adapt & Diversify. To prevent this for round two they produced online webinars and offered advice to people who had questions on the application forms. Alison Robinson confirmed that the return and outputs were published online for the 'Survive, Sustain & Grow' programme but more worked needed to be done to promote it. The 'Tech Challenge' was being reviewed so it could be applied to other Warwickshire towns and the skill hub information would be advertised more.

In response to Councillor Jackie D'Arcy, Alison Robinson stated that the Education Transition Fund was open until the 28th June 2021 and there was a good take up.

Following a question from the Chair, Alison Robinson confirmed that the business videos for schools were on the school's website and their skills hub website.

4. Bermuda Project update (briefing note)

Scott Tompkins (Assistant Director – Environmental Services) informed the committee that CR Reynolds had been awarded the contract for the Bermuda Connectivity project in April 2021 who

had started work on St George's Way to remove kerbs. There had been some gas barrier monitoring as the barrier was caused by the landfill site that was there before. The monitoring work to protect the gas barrier and the cycle/walkway lanes will impact the final design of the project. These elements and the pedestrian crossing on Bermuda Road will be implemented within the existing budget. There were two phases to the scheme; phase one will be completed in late 2021-early 2022 and phase two will finish in late 2022.

In response to several queries from Councillor Chilvers, Scott Tompkins confirmed that the extension to the shared foot/cycleway was in phase two. It was noted that the £1.5 million in compensation for residents was a worst case scenario; surveys were done before the scheme started and when it finished to judge these claims.

In response to Councillor Sinclair's questions on contingency, Scott Tompkins stated that for major schemes there were typically different levels of contingency at different levels of the scheme; as the beginning it tends to be 40% contingency but as the scheme develops and more things become known, this gets reduced to 10%.

Following a supplementary from Councillor Baxter-Payne, Scott Tompkins clarified that there was not a contingency in place for issues caused by HS2, but general contingencies were monitored for all the council's development works. They had received concerns from contractors regarding supplies and the costs of them, but this would be picked up through project management.

In response to the Chair, Scott Tompkins confirmed that the division member, Councillor Clare Golby, had been involved with the project and carried out a site visit. The project was on track to finish in late 2022.

5. Developer Design Guide

Scott Tompkins informed the committee that pre-election, all members were sent a draft design guide for them to consult on. The consultation was done with members, planning officers, borough/district councils and developers cross-county. The design guide was best practice in the industry and sets out the standards that the council has for developers when designing infrastructure, they want the Council to adopt. The guide was done to make Warwickshire's standards and expectations clearer for developers.

Chris Simpson (Section Manager (Delivery Lead) Business & Capital Programme) stated that the new design guide superseded the 2001 'Warwickshire Guide'. The new guide has been developed over the last two years and includes the latest standards and best practice for street design, traffic calming, highway green infrastructure and historic environment. The guide will help save time and money for developers giving them a better opportunity to submit design plans that meet the standards with less need for iterative changes and elongated technical approval processes. This will also improve the relationships between the council and developers to add future development and make ensure Warwickshire is seen as a good place to do development and the Council is a good development partner. The guide encouraged pre-application meetings and highlighted which standards to use depending on the development's location. Unlike some authorities, Warwickshire County Council maintained an active interest in managing development works and required that S278 works are full technically approved and supervised by the Council. All required financial funding from developers to the local authority was also included to ensure that the authority did not take any financial risks. Stakeholders that were involved in the consultation stage praised the guide. Once the current draft is finalised it will go through an approvals process with Cabinet.

Further work was done on commuted sums (cash payment to the council from developers) to maintain the assets of the development for 10 years after it is built.

In response to Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Chris Simpson confirmed that the design guide ensured that cycling provision was required for developments.

Councillor Chilvers expressed concerns that cycling provisions were not mentioned earlier in the design guide and suggested having evidence-based schemes to introduce a modal shift. Chris Simpson agreed to alter the wording so cycling provisions were mentioned earlier in the guide. Following a supplementary from Councillor Chilvers, Chris Simpson confirmed that the new guide contained LTN120 cycling infrastructure design.

Following a question from Councillor Sinclair, Chris Simpson stated that the new design guide policy included appendices for the flexibility of schemes. Chris Simpson agreed that the guide should be reviewed every few years as it could save money in long term. Scott Tompkins added that the Department for Transport (DfT) was going to review the guidelines for roads and bridges so national changes will update the council's guidance.

In response to Councillor Humphreys, Chris Simpson said that design standards must be met to keep things safe and the design guide being a policy gave it more weight.

Scott Tompkins added that the enhanced material policy ensured that the council had enough money to deal with development material issues and encouraged conversation between the authority and developers to ensure materials could be replaced.

In response to the Chair, Scott Tompkins confirmed that the planning authorities were involved in the consultation and development of the guide as well as frequent developers in the county. The Chair praised the work done on the development guide.

6. Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund (feasibility update)

David Ayton-Hill informed the committee that the Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund (WRIF) had been reviewed by Fire & Resources OSC in May 2021 and the WRIF had a proposed £140 million investment into Warwickshire over five years. The WRIF originated from the Recovery Plan in September 2020, Cabinet approved the business plan in June 2021, and it was presented to Full Council in July 2021. The WRIF was developed to stimulate Warwickshire's economy during/after the pandemic. There was a gap in the market pre-pandemic with larger investment sources for debt funding/finance between £500,000 and £5 million. The aim was to stimulate economic growth/recovery, secure new private sector investments, create over 2000 more jobs and save 4000. Enquiries from investors were received before it was implemented, the council will receive a small net return and save business/council tax progressing forward.

The negative economic impact of Covid-19 was not as bad as previously projected, and recovery had started early partly due to central government investment. It was predicted that Warwickshire would be back to pre-pandemic economy levels by 2023 but employment levels would not recover until post-2025. Businesses were concerned with low cash flows/reserves and the government support schemes ending in 2021; banks were also concerned with investing in businesses. Historically, business start-ups increased post-recession so the WRIF supported this new growth. The £140 million from the WRIF was split into three sectors: £90 million for business growth (more secure investments), £10 million for local enterprises (riskier but smaller investments) and £40 million for property/infrastructure (for commercial business premises). Existing businesses that relocated to Warwickshire and employed over 50 people received loans between £500,000-£10

million to fund Warwickshire's economic growth. Businesses growth investments that were prioritised included the automotive technology, digital creative (inc. gaming), future of mobility (transport/logistics/electric vehicle deliveries) and low carbon technologies; followed by advanced manufacturing, tourism & hospitality, modern methods of construction, health & wellbeing, agri-tech and rural businesses. Prioritised local enterprises (businesses that already existed or new start-ups that employed between 2-50 people) were advanced manufacturing, digital creative and wider digital technologies, culture, tourism & hospitality, and low carbon technologies; followed by retail, community based businesses, creative industries, health & wellbeing, social care or other supply markets to Warwickshire County Council or the wider public sector. The Local Communities & Enterprise Fund would offer a higher volume of smaller loans (up to £100,000 generally). The WRIF Investment Strategy will be reviewed annually, based on monitoring and evaluation of impact and wider market conditions.

To gain business' interest, an advertisement/communication campaign will be launched as well as communication with business bodies. Applications for funding will be reviewed by the Economy and Skills team and, if applicable, the business was appointed a business advisor to meet with them to review their business plan/management structure/finances and approve them for a WRIF loan (if applicable). The advisors and businesses cooperate to see what works for the businesses even if this was not a WRIF loan.

The business growth investments will be monitored by the council itself and the finance team who sent WRIF applications to the investment panel; the investment panel will then send them to Cabinet for approval. Local enterprise investments will be outsourced to ensure all applications met FCA (financial conduct authority) rules. The indicative interest rate matrix will be based on the business' creditworthiness and security level for the provided loan. The higher their credit score and loan security, then the lower their interest rate was.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill stated that the priority business sectors were pre-existing strong businesses in Warwickshire's economy and had strong economic growth potential. Electric vehicles were focused on as all automotive manufacturers were focusing on this and Warwickshire supplied components for electric vehicles already. Following a supplementary from Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill confirmed that they had consulted with businesses and funding providers for the WRIF, but they were not there to compete with providers. The WRIF's interest rates will be in line with the market, but they were able to take a bit more risks with investments than private sector investors.

In response to Councillor Chilvers, David Ayton-hill clarified that there was a lack of funding streams for new businesses who were working on their credit score outside of London and the South-East. Following the pandemic, private sector funding streams increased their interest rates for these types of businesses. Following a supplementary from Councillor Chilvers, David Ayton-Hill stated that the council's profile risk was lower and they did not need to make billion pound profits like the private sector; therefore they accepted a lower interest rate return to boost Warwickshire's economic growth.

Following a question from Councillor Baxter-Payne, David Ayton-Hill said that the WRIF's interest rates cannot undercut the private sectors with public money so businesses with higher risks had to be charged with higher interest rates. The WRIF invested into the Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust who operated a 10-12% interest rate level with new businesses. This model worked well and was largely self-financing. The interest rate changed as the business grew to ensure the business had a system that worked for them.

Following a question from the Chair, David Ayton-Hill confirmed that all WRIF business applications must have their business premises in Warwickshire or employ Warwickshire residents primarily.

7. Year End Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2020 to March 2021)

Scott Tompkins informed the committee that 55% of key business measures were on track, KSI (killed or seriously injured) numbers had reduced and recycling increased. The pandemic reduced the employment rates and increased transport needs for special education.

8. Communities OSC Work Programme

The work programme was approved as set out.

9. Urgent Items

None

The meeting rose at 15:31

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Chair

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 September 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 31st August 2021.

Decision Title	Description	Date	Decision Maker
Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund - Addition to the Capital Programme	To add the £130m borrowing facility for WRIF to the Council's capital programme	28 September 2021	County Council
Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (National Bus Strategy)	A report seeking Cabinet authorisation to undertake necessary actions arising from the National Bus Strategy for England and endorse the Warwickshire Bus Services Motion Enhancement Schedule	14 October 2021	Cabinet
Warwickshire Design Guide	A report seeking Cabinet authorisation to endorse the Warwickshire Design Guide which has been prepared to provide direction and guidance to Developers and designers when planning and delivering highway infrastructure improvements to WCC's highway network	14 October 2021	Cabinet
South Warwickshire Local Plan - WCC response	For Cabinet to consider and approve a response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan	14 October 2021	Cabinet
Social Endowment Fund	A report concerning the Council's Social Endowment Fund	14 October 2021	Cabinet
Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Street and High Street town centre scheme	Request for approval to consult on outline design plans for the Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Street and High Street town centre scheme	15 October 2021	Portfolio Holder Decision

2.0 Background Papers

None

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

Communities O&S – Sept 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.

CONTENTS

- 1. Economic overview**
- 2. Economic recovery initiatives**
- 3. Business Support**
- 4. Employability & Skills**
- 5. Inward Investment**

Appendix 1: Business news round-up

HEADLINES/ KEY SUMMARY POINTS

- Whilst the economy shows many positive signs of recovery, a number of nationwide issues, the so-called 'Perfect Storm' of staff shortages and supply chain issues, is also impacting in Warwickshire
- July saw the launch of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF), a £140m cash injection to boost the county's post-pandemic recovery
- Focus also continues on delivery of the wide range of recovery initiatives, including:
 - The highly successful Survive, Sustain, Grow (SSG) programme has now closed, meeting or exceeding all targets
 - Nearly £900k of further funding was allocated under Round 2 of the Adapt & Diversity grant programme bringing the total awarded across the two rounds to just under £1.5m
 - The Future Careers Digital Market Place project now has over 30 films available for schools and employment groups to access
- Coventry & Warwickshire continues to perform strongly in terms of annual FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) with the year to March 2021 showing a 10% jump in projects landing in her, compared to a 12% decline in overall UK figures
- We continue to see strong demand for our Business Skills Support Service with monthly requests for support consistently being more than double last year

1. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The longer-term impacts of the pandemic and EU Exit continue to unfold and whilst there has undoubtedly been several positive economic indicators, we continue to see businesses impacted by the so called 'Perfect Storm' of staff shortages and supply chain issues. Unsurprisingly, this uncertainty is being reflected in business confidence across the West Midlands which has shown a slight decline over the last few months.

The level of job vacancies has returned to pre-pandemic levels, but many businesses continue to report difficulties in recruiting, including significant shortages in staff affecting our hospitality and tourism businesses. The full impact of the end of the Furlough Scheme is also uncertain with recent surveys suggesting fewer redundancies than previously expected but nonetheless, further increases in unemployment towards the end of the year are expected.

Staff shortages and supply issues have both eased slightly since self-isolation rules changed bringing an end to the 'pingdemic', but the movement of goods continues to inhibit supply chains. Contributing factors include unfamiliarity with post-EU process and a lack of availability and/or major prices hikes in transportation and shipping.

2. ECONOMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES

The **Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF)** launched on 1 July 2021 providing a £140m cash injection to stimulate the local economy, create jobs, support local businesses and attract investment into the county over the next 5 years. The WRIF is specifically designed to address a gap in the market for access-to-finance and consists of 3 strands: The £90m **Business Investment Growth (BIG)** which launched on 7 July, along with the **Local Communities and Enterprise (LCE)** element and the **Property and Infrastructure Fund (PIF)** which are expected to go live later this year.

Further details will be presented to the cross-party Member Oversight Group on Friday 17 September. It is the responsibility of this group to report to both Overview and Scrutiny, and Cabinet including submission of an annual report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Adapt & Diversify Grants – £891,669 has now been awarded to 71 businesses as part of Round 2 of WCC's "Adapt & Diversify" grant scheme, bringing the total awarded across the two rounds to just under £1,500,000. The scheme – which was set up to complement the various Government grants available via the District & Borough Councils – provided grants of £5,000 towards the costs of accessing specialist external advice and up to £20,000 for projects which involve specialist advice and/or the purchase of equipment or the refurbishment of property. It was open to all retail, hospitality, tourism and leisure businesses and certain identified businesses in their supply chains. Applicants had to be able to demonstrate that they had been negatively affected by Covid-19 as well as have clear plans to adapt or diversify their business.

The scheme was overwhelmed with applications across the two rounds; 356 applications worth £4,500,000 million were submitted before being assessed by a

team of specialist WCC officers. £1,485,901 has now been awarded to 122 small businesses across Warwickshire, supporting 610 jobs and helping to safeguard 340 jobs considered to be at risk. The Adapt & Diversify grant scheme follows WCC's successful Retail & Hospitality scheme in Summer 2020 which awarded £222,378 to 40 businesses, helping safeguard a further 170 jobs.

Survive, Sustain and Grow – The SSG programme has now closed to new clients after engaging 615 businesses in ten months and meeting or exceeding all its targets. 222 small businesses across a range of priority sectors have now worked with one of WCC's specialist, industry-specific consultants to develop and implement a dedicated economic recovery plan, supporting 766 jobs and helping safeguard 460 jobs considered to be at risk.

Capital grants worth £414,000 have also been awarded to 57 businesses on the programme to support the costs of implementing their recovery plans. These investments are expected to create 140 new jobs as the economy recovers. Support to the final clients will end in September and WCC is commissioning an independent, external evaluation of the programme to be undertaken during the Autumn. Several case studies about businesses supported by the programme have been produced and are available on WCC's web site: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/SSG>

Social Enterprise Support – Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency (CWCDa) supported a further 20 groups in Warwickshire during the first quarter of 2021/22 as part of their social enterprise support programme which is part funded by WCC. The programme – which is also funded by the European Regional Development Fund – provides support to groups seeking to set up new social enterprises and those already trading. The funding from WCC's Place Shaping & Economic Recovery Fund is bridging the gap between budgets which ended in March 2021 and the commissioning of WCC's new third sector support contracts from March 2022. For more information, visit: <http://www.cwcd.co.uk/Social-enterprise>

Tourism and Leisure Support – WCC, after a competitive procurement exercise, has appointed Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce to deliver a new, dedicated business support programme to support the recovery and future growth of the visitor economy in Warwickshire. The programme – which is funded by £513,622 from WCC's Place Shaping and Economic Recovery Fund – will offer industry-specific support to tourism businesses and complement the "Visit Warwickshire" campaign.

The Chamber, who will be sub-contracting aspects of the delivery to Shakespeare's England and also working with North Warwickshire Tourism, are already seeing a good level of interest without any significant marketing and promotion. The programme will be formally launched once the Chamber's delivery team is in place. A marketing campaign and a series of events are planned for the Autumn after the busy summer season for tourism businesses. The tourism programme forms part of the wider "CW Business: Start, Grow and Scale" project (see below).

The Future Careers Digital Market Place project now has over 30 films available for schools and employment groups to access widely through the Warwickshire Skills Hub website or WCC YouTube channel. Since the relaunch in spring, there has been significant interest from small to medium size businesses to large organisations such as BMW and NHS England, all wanting to utilise different tools to share their jobs and reach different talent pools of people. The project is set to run through the Autumn with a call out to underrepresented sectors such as Retail and Hospitality.

3. ECONOMIC & BUSINESS SUPPORT

“CW Business Start, Grow and Scale”, which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), continues to see high demand from Warwickshire businesses. A further 45 businesses completed the intensive support provided by the programme in the first quarter of 2021/ 2022 and 20 new jobs were created. This brings the total number of businesses supported since January 2019 to 418. 129 new jobs have also been created and 107 Warwickshire residents helped to start their own business.

The project is funded by £1 million from the ERDF as well a number of other funders. WCC recently submitted a request to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to extend the project by a further 18 months from January 2022 to June 2023. It has also been requested that the project is extended to include the new tourism support with the additional ERDF funding allowing WCC to increase the scale and reach of the programme. A decision from MHCLG is expected imminently.

There remains a healthy pipeline of businesses and individuals looking to start a business. The project has also been given a low risk “green” status by MHCLG after a recent Government audit. For more information on the programme and support available, visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cwbsp>

The **Coventry and Warwickshire Duplex Investment Fund** which provides a combined loan and grant to businesses towards the costs of capital investments, has supported a further Warwickshire business. The newly-named “Lazy Pug” in Shipston-on-Stour opened in June 2021, with a completely new look both inside and outside following a £160,000 investment which included £75,000 from the Duplex Investment Fund. The business was featured in July’s Warwickshire Means Business newsletter: <https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/july-2021/news-in-brief/pug-pubs-expand-into-shipston-with-duplex-fund-support>

Duplex has now provided loans worth £514,848 to seven businesses in Warwickshire across a range of sectors. Duplex is funded by a £2 million loan from WCC’s Capital Investment Fund as well as funding from Coventry City Council, the Government’s Growth Deal and the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership. It is managed by Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT). There is now a strong pipeline of potential investments as the economy looks to recover. Duplex, over the next ten years, is expected to provide just under £10 million of investment to Warwickshire businesses and to create over 600 jobs. For more information, visit: <https://www.cwrt.uk.com/duplex>

WCC have contributed to the University of Warwick's **Creative Futures Incubator Programme**. The programme has just recruited its 3rd cohort of creative businesses which benefit from business support and workspace within 1 Mill Street in Leamington for a period of six months. Creatives Futures is also supported by BT and 1 Mill Street.

4. EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS SUPPORT

WCC in partnership with Create Central and funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority have developed a **Video Game Sector Bootcamp** for production and is due to launch in October. The skills bootcamp will be delivered by North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College and is one of a series of bootcamps being delivered for the screen sector. The other bootcamps focus on Film & TV. The bootcamp has been developed in partnership with the local games industry and is a pilot programme.

The **Business Skills Support service** continues to see the highest level of requests. In 2020 the team supported on average 7-10 business per month, in 2021 this has risen to over 20 per month with the annual figure so far sitting at 168 businesses supported.

As businesses start to build back their workforces and evaluate skills needed in a post pandemic world, they are keen to utilise the national offers such as Kickstart and Apprenticeships and connect with skilled workers to help with immediate skills gaps too.

The team work closely and impartially with businesses to build skills and recruitment plans, signposting the most relevant support to help each business reach their outlined skills objectives. Over 80% of the businesses the team support remain engaged and seek to request ongoing support along their growth journey.

The Employability and Skills Team are now active members of the **HS2 job brokerage** service. This commitment supports HS2 to showcase job opportunities to Warwickshire residents and supports forward planning of job needs which can be shaped into Warwickshire careers activity in partnership with HS2 and their supply chain.

The Employability and Skills Team currently share vacancies across our employability support network with a good response rate from those who are on a return-to-work programme. A second piece of work will address the diversity of roles and how by partnership working we support a number of roles to be more accessible to those with support needs.

Women into Construction (WIC) is an independent not-for-profit organisation that promotes gender equality in construction. Several programmes have run around the region, particularly working closely with care leavers in and around the Birmingham area.

WIC have agreed to partner with Warwickshire and create a bespoke fully funded programme for female care leavers with an interest in construction and other priority groups. The programme will support 15 young women (19-25) and each participant will attend a series of virtual and site sessions to experience the jobs and access routes to such work.

It is understood that there may be some barriers such as travel support and confidence building, however this can be supported by the partnership and will deliver real positive outcomes for the young people taking part in the programme.

The Employability and Skills team have recently committed to supporting the “**Commonwealth Games Skills and Employment Legacy**” strand of the Commonwealth Games work. During the games, there will be requirement for over 30,000 volunteers regionally. The legacy strand looks at how Warwickshire volunteers can then bring their newly acquired skills and support them in entering paid employment in Warwickshire whilst also address skills gaps in sectors such as Hospitality and Retail.

Warwickshire Transition Fund is a reactive project to support Year 11 students smoothly transition into Further Education. The project has created a competitive fund for colleges, training providers and 6th forms to shape transition events to offer career's guidance, peer support, campus tours and the promotion of supportive services such as Mental Health and Tackling Poverty.

With over 13 applications and sharing over £70,000, the fund has been hugely popular with a number of highly innovative events which have provided much needed Further Education interaction.

5. INWARD INVESTMENT

Coventry & Warwickshire continues to perform strongly in terms of **annual FDI (Foreign Direct Investment)**, recently issued annual data shows. For the year April 2020 to March 2021, 45 successful projects located here, and a further five shared with other areas. Nearly new 2,000 jobs were created and 42 safeguarded.

This represents a 10% jump in projects landing here, comparing well when set against the overall UK figures, which saw a decline of 12% in UK projects over the same period. Local key sectors were strongly represented, with eight projects from software/games development and 11 from automotive and advanced engineering.

The figures show that despite a difficult 18 months for many parts of the local and national economy, Coventry and Warwickshire continues to be a leading location for foreign investment.

This year investors have included Hello Fresh, which has created a new e-commerce fulfilment centre in Nuneaton, Lotus Engineering which has expanded their local presence with a new base at Wellesbourne Innovation Campus, BSA/Classic Legends which has established a design and development centre in Coventry, and games developer Electric Square which has set up a studio in Leamington Spa.

As part of Invest in Warwickshire work with the Department for International Trade (DIT), Warwickshire was selected as a **High Potential Opportunity (HPO)** area. The HPO programme is intended to develop bespoke propositions for areas of excellence to attract potential investors to this location first above any other region in the UK.

On the first round we successfully bid for a HPO for the promotion of the video games sector. On the second round our bid for a HPO on CAM (Connected Automated Mobility) Simulation and Modelling was successful. This was recently signed off and a couple webinars were held, attended by 60 delegates, to promote the opportunity to DIT staff at embassy and consulate posts around the world. A further Investor Webinar was held in July to US & European markets to further promote the video games HPO.

The HPO material will form a key part of the online collateral for delegates attending the **COP26 UK Global Trade summit**, hosted by the UK in October in advance of the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

We also successfully bid into the work the UK Government is doing to promote trade and investment around COP26. **An investment pitch around Coventry & Warwickshire and green transport technologies**, recognising the unique national and global strengths of the Warwickshire area in zero carbon aero, auto, rail mobility, will be co-curated with Department for International Trade, and will feature at the Global Trade Summit.

Invest Warwickshire and Warwickshire Skills Hub is supporting CWLEP and CCC to host a joint **Automotive Electrification Skills Summit** on October 6th at MIRA Technology Institute, to discuss the challenges and opportunities around skills supply as the industry moves away from petrol and diesel powertrain and over to lower carbon solutions from battery, EV and fuel cell.

A satellite automotive skills panel will take place at the Engineering Design Show in October at the Coventry Building Society Arena, on October 19th, in association with The Engineer/ Eureka magazines.

Invest Coventry & Warwickshire will have a stand at EDS, and the following week at The Battery Technology Show/ The Hydrogen Technology Show, again at the CBS Arena, to promote inward investment to the region to the national and international delegates at the conference and trade shows.

APPENDIX 1: BUSINESS NEWS

Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

Digital Creative sector

One of the UK's leading employee-owned creative agencies has moved into new offices at the Innovation Centre on Warwick Technology Park. **Emperor**, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, specialises in strategic communications, working with a wide range of clients including Greggs and Lloyds Banking Group. Following a restructure of the business, the firm closed its offices in Birmingham and Bicester to move into the Warwick offices which will be used as a creative hub, alongside its other bases in London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Dubai.

Enable, a start-up based in Stratford upon Avon which is developing cloud-based software for business-to-business rebate management, has secured **\$45 million in a Series B funding round**. The company was born out of the DCS Group, the largest distributor of health, beauty and household products in the UK which is now based in Banbury. DCS wanted a smart, efficient way to manage its many complex trading agreements with suppliers and customers but it couldn't find a single solution that met all its needs, so it formed its own software team, and spun it off into a new limited company to design and build a B2B deal management solution that met its needs.

The University of Warwick has announced that is investing **£275,000** of its own earned income into establishing a new esports centre to be located at the Warwick campus. It will operate alongside new facilities to stimulate innovation in the newly named 'Junction' facility and will be holding an official opening on the 14th September.

Hollywood Gaming is planning to open its own virtual reality venues after supplying international entertainment giants for more than 15 years. If plans come to fruition it would enable people to experience safaris, alien invasions and dinosaurs in virtual worlds - and more besides. Meriden-based Hollywood Gaming has become a market leader in providing effects using its hardware and software solutions working with the likes of Hasbro, Paramount Pictures, Sony and EA on games distributed by Sega Amusements to arcades and family entertainment centres around the world. The company, founded in 2005, is currently mapping out the expansion and will look to raise around **£800,000** in investment to get that side of the business off the ground, including scoping locations where it could open its own venue experiences.

The **£919m acquisition** of listed video game developer Sumo Digital Group by Chinese technology giant Tencent has moved forward with a date set for shareholders to vote on the deal. The boards of Tencent Holdings and Sumo Group plc reached an agreement in July 2021 on the terms of a recommended all-cash offer. Tencent, through its wholly owned subsidiary Sixjoy Hong Kong, will acquire the share capital of Sumo which members of the Tencent Group do not already own at a price of 513 pence per share. **Warwickshire is home to 2 studios** that are part of the Group, Lab 42 & Sumo Leamington who currently employ around 120 people locally.

‘Uxplore’ is a £3.8m project led by Coventry University, in partnership with the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Growth Hub and Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce. It has been **set up to increase the demand for new digital products and services enabled by broadband**, 4G, Wi-Fi and 5G, and it will also allow small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) to benefit from wireless communications and provide space to test and explore new applications of 5G.

Automotive/ Future Mobility

Meggitt, the Ansty-based manufacturer of components for the power and aerospace industries, is set to be sold to a US counterpart. **Parker-Hannafin Corporation** will **pay £6.3bn for Meggitt**, doubling the size of Parker’s aerospace division. Parker already has a number of UK facilities, and is a significant employer in Warwick.

BMW UK, whose engine plant is at Hams Hall, Coleshill and makes engines for both BMW and MINI vehicles, has been **awarded £26.2 million to develop an electric battery** that will rival the driving range of internal combustion engines.

REEcorner, Nuneaton has been **awarded £41.2 million to radically redesign light and medium-sized commercial electric vehicles** by moving the steering, breaking, suspension and powertrain into the wheel arch enabling increased autonomous capability, storage space and design flexibility.

A consortium of seven UK-based organisations has signed a memorandum of understanding to combine ambitions to develop world-leading prototype **solid-state battery technology**, targeting automotive applications. The consortium includes locally WMG at the University of Warwick, the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre, and Britishvolt, who will be basing their R&D and HQ at MIRA Technology Park.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in Warwickshire recently to **officially open the UK Battery industrialisation Centre**. The £130 million UK centre (UKBIC) is a pioneering 18,500 sq. m state-of-the-art national facility which has been developed to support UK industry with development of battery technologies for future electrification. Located in Baginton on the Warwickshire/ Coventry border, UKBIC can be accessed by organisations working on batteries for electric vehicles, rail, aerospace, industrial and domestic equipment and static energy storage who are looking to establish whether their advanced technologies can be scaled up successfully before committing to the huge investment required for mass production.

A planning application for a Gigafactory at Coventry Airport has been submitted by joint venture partners, Coventry City Council and Coventry Airport Ltd. The proposals are set to be determined by Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council later in 2021. The JV Partnership was formed earlier this year to ensure the site is ready for investment and can become operational quickly – making it significantly more attractive to potential investors. The proposals would deliver 5.7m sq. ft of space for both battery production and recycling, would add £434m in GVA to the regional economy each year, as well as create 6,000 new jobs and tens of thousands more in the supply chain.

A new partnership between **Eatron Technologies and WMG** has been formed for the COBRA ('Cloud/Onboard Battery Remaining useful life Algorithm) project, thanks to the funding from the Faraday Battery Challenge. The COBRA project will create new algorithms which will estimate the Remaining Useful Life (RUL) in an Electric Vehicle (EV) battery and could contribute to the UK becoming a supplier of the most advanced Battery Management Systems (BMS) in the world.

Other business news

PTC, an American software company, which employs more than 200 people in the UK and is a world leader in digital transformation, has signed a new partnership with the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) that will help industry embrace the latest technologies. PTC has become a Tier 2 member at the MTC and, as part of the agreement, will commit to providing the latest Augmented Reality, Industrial Internet of Things platforms, Product Lifecycle Management and CAD solutions to projects designed to equip OEMs and SMEs with more digital capability.

Kite Packaging is constructing a new headquarters at Prospero Ansty and the plans recently received the go-ahead. The 305,000sqft facility will include office, research and development, as well as light industrial, space, with the three-storey building employing over 200 staff.

Manx Healthcare Ltd, a family-owned pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor, have exchanged contracts for a design and build facility at Tournament Fields in Warwick. The purpose-built 26,000 sq. ft industrial warehouse facility will be located on a 1.25 acre plot. The company are relocating from existing premises on Wedgnock Lane, Warwick.

Quanta Dialysis Technologies, specialists in dialysis care, raised over £176m in a private funding round – the largest of its kind for a dialysis device company in history, to scale up its global operations – particularly in the US. The firm makes the SC+ device, which delivers the performance and dose equivalence of larger, traditional dialysis systems and can be used in a home setting. Based in Alcester.

Aldi Stores has outlined plans to create more than 2,000 jobs across the UK between now and Christmas, including 175 at its Atherstone UK HQ and distribution hub. The supermarket, which currently has more than 920 stores and employs about 38,000 people, is pushing ahead with plans to open more than one new store a week this year. Additionally, Aldi is also on the lookout for more than 80 graduates to join its next graduate scheme intake, starting from September.

Home boiler manufacturer **Baxi Heating**'s development of a boiler fuelled by hydrogen has won the innovation category at the Gas Industry Awards. Karen Boswell OBE, Managing Director of the Warwick based company, said: "As a leading player in the British heating and hot water industry we are determined to play our part in achieving the goal of being a net-zero economy."

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**O&S - Bermuda Connectivity**

22 September 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

1. Background and Progress

- 1.1 Bermuda Connectivity is a highway scheme, focused on opening up the existing bridge to two-way traffic, delivering additional highway capacity, and improved connectivity between West Nuneaton and Griff roundabout. The scheme will deliver the following range of benefits for the local community in the wider West Nuneaton area.
- 1.2 Contribute towards reducing journey times for local residents on a number of routes in the West Nuneaton area
- 1.3 Contribute towards reducing congestion in parts of the town centre, thus, improving links onto the A444 in Nuneaton for residents in other parts of the town
- 1.4 Enhance accessibility to local businesses, amenities and residential areas, particularly in Bermuda and adjoining areas
- 1.5 Support economic growth in Nuneaton by enhancing accessibility to existing and future local jobs
- 1.6 Improve connectivity to Bermuda Park Rail Station.
- 1.7 Provide an improved environment for cyclists and pedestrians to increase mode choice and accessibility
- 1.8 Drive forward further economic growth in Nuneaton, including potential employment and housing development along the new highway link route
- 1.9 Complement the wider economic aspirations of the Coventry and Warwickshire subregion, such as Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Strategic Economic Plan
- 1.10 CR Reynolds are the principal contractor carrying out the construction works.

- 1.11 Management of roadworks applications required to start various elements of works, based on the updated programme, are ongoing.
- 1.12 Works are continuing along St George's Way, to establish off-road cycleways and footways.
- 1.13 The works programme has been updated, Revision F. A revised programme was required due to on site findings, meaning the previous programme was unachievable. There has been an implication in cost, in that Compensation Events totalling £60K have been submitted, but the revised programme has reworked other elements, meaning the proposed finish is still attainable.
- 1.14 A review of the remediation design required to update the Gas Barrier located on the west approach to the Bermuda Bridge deck is in progress. This will ensure that there is an effective system in place controlling environmental conditions.
- 1.15 The next step is to start the works on/under the Bermuda Bridge. This will require access from the A444 to complete the works under the bridge.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The scheme has a funding of £10.359M, which can be broken down as:

WCC Growth Fund	£3.202M
WCC CIF	£5.657M
CWLEP Growth Deal	£0.5M
CWLEP Growing Places Infrastructure Fund	£1.00M
Total	£10.359M

2.2 Current spend against the scheme stands at £3.44M, which includes for the design and development of the scheme including some of the land acquisition

2.3 The scheme estimates are broken down as follows:

Scheme Development – WCC	£1.793M
Scheme Development – External	£1.456M
Land Acquisition	£0.664M
Works	£4.834M
Part 1 Compensation Claims	£1.5M
Contingency	£0.112M
Total	£10.359M

- 2.4 The key financial risk is the services of a Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Engineer, in relation to the gas barrier remediation. This is to ensure that the maintenance works carried out on the gas barrier are to standard, along with various accounted, and as yet unaccounted Compensation Events throughout the construction. To date, CE's totalling £60K have been received. It is expected that further CE's will be submitted, putting pressure on the contingency. We are monitoring site works and budget closely to ensure that the scheme will be delivered on time and on budget.

3 Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The Scheme was tested in the 2017 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Wide Area Traffic Model, which projected a number of benefits should arise from delivery including a reduction in journeys times on a number of routes in West Nuneaton and reduced congestion in parts of the town centre, hence, improving links onto the A444 in other parts of the town.
- 3.2 The environmental impact review of the Scheme found that it would not have a significant adverse effect on air quality even on the roads experiencing an increase in traffic, but it is projected that residential properties at certain locations will be adversely impacted by increased noise levels.
- 3.3 **Gas Barrier** - A gas barrier implemented by developers in 2006 to provide protection to new build properties providing gas venting protection for a land fill site, which sits to the west of Bermuda Bridge has been subject to monitoring over the last 5 months. This monitoring was required to determine whether the gas barrier was functioning correctly and to confirm a suitable design where it will be extended to allow for the new road levels. The design of the gas barrier is ongoing, but a monetary allowance has been included in the scheme budget to complete the remedial works.
- 3.4 **Japanese Knotweed** – was found during exploratory works for the project located on the Bermuda Bridge and an area on the Bridleway. Further to this in 2018 WCC procured remediation through a specialist contract to remove the contaminated soils from site and manage ongoing treatments to destroy and contain this invasive plant.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The contractor is currently working to revision F of the Programme which allows for early delays with works on St Georges Way.
- 4.2 The current project milestones are:

Works Description	Completion
Complete Footpath/Cycleway works on St Georges Way	Winter 21
Bermuda Bridge Works – preparation works to create	Winter 21/22

required ground levels for the new road, prepare remediation works for Gas Barrier alignment.	
Highway works on the Bridleway	Winter/Spring 22
Completion	Winter 22/23

Background Papers

None

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

Local Member(s): Cllr Clare Golby

Other members: n/a

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Warwickshire Social Impact Fund

22 September 2021

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee notes and comments on the proposals for the Warwickshire Social Impact Fund to help inform final proposals being submitted to Cabinet on 14 October 2021.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council resolved in February 2021 to bring forward proposals for a Social/Community Endowment Fund to act as a catalyst for building stronger communities.
- 1.2 In developing proposals for the fund several key questions were posed:
 - What are the required outcomes, e.g., demand management, reducing the spread of COVID, early intervention and/or prevention, cost reduction etc.?
 - What does the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector need by way of additional investment?
 - How do we ensure the fund engages with smaller grass-roots organisations?
 - How do we ensure sustainability around additional funding?
 - How do we measure the impact of additional funding?
- 1.3 To help address these questions, an analysis of the Council's existing VCSE sector funding streams has been undertaken. An extract of the analysis is included as Appendix 1 to this report. The analysis indicates an area of activity we do not currently support around funding to tackle exclusion, or more positively to promote inclusion, specifically around financial, digital, health, social, and cultural inclusion. A high-level review of strategic partners' funding streams indicates a similar gap.
- 1.4 A focus on promoting inclusion aligns strongly with the purposes of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), i.e., Government funding to Local Authorities in England to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health. Referring to COMF guidance the proposal is for the social impact fund to:

- Apply targeted interventions for specific sections of the community.
- Harness capacity within local sectors.
- Extend and introduce specialist support.
- Enable community-based support for those disproportionately impacted by COVID.

In the Warwickshire context the fund will also provide:

- Extra support/community engagement in 'vaccine shy' areas
- Community-based support for people with long-COVID.

- 1.5 The fund will address several priorities of the COVID Recovery Plan, especially Priority 4, harnessing the power of communities to tackle inequality and social exclusion.
- 1.6 The fund will support current and future Council Plan outcomes, i.e., for communities and individuals to be safe, healthy, and independent, and for the economy to be vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills, and infrastructure.
- 1.7 It will be important for the fund to be clearly aligned to the Council's Community Powered Warwickshire workstream, reflecting much learning from the pandemic where the role of Warwickshire's VCSE sector has been instrumental and impactful.
- 1.8 The suggestion to create an endowment has been explored in detail. The key advantage of an endowment is intrinsic sustainability through the investment of a principal sum and the ability to make awards through any dividend or interest generated. However, our exploration has concluded that, because of current low interest rates, only a small amount of funding would be made available to award and this amount, balanced against administration costs, would represent poor value for money. The creation of an endowment would also conflict with COMF criteria which would prevent the COMF funding being applied for this purpose.
- 1.9 The alternative to an endowment fund, often referred to as a "direct impact" fund, has less intrinsic sustainability, in the sense that once it's spent, it's spent. However, based on direct impact fund being able to make immediate and substantial investment, this approach is more likely to deliver the outcomes the Council is seeking, and is therefore the proposed approach that officers are recommending.
- 1.10 Options to lever-in other funding, for example through match-funding, crowdfunding, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) have also been explored. To a large extent the first two of these are dependent on the specific nature of projects and VCSE sector organisations' ability and appetite to pursue these. The Council has a role in attracting CSR contributions, using our influence through economic development activities, and bodies such as the Local Enterprise Partnership.

- 1.11 The possibility of funding being provided either as grants or loans has been considered. The Local Communities and Enterprise Pillar of the Recovery and Investment Fund appears to satisfy much of the need and appetite for loan finance, likely to originate more from social enterprises, which can repay loans, rather than charities. There would seem little advantage in having a near identical element to this fund. The award of loans would also conflict with COMF criteria. The proposal therefore is to award grants rather than loans to grass roots organisations which can demonstrate that they meet our 'impact criteria' which will be focused on inclusion in the context of reducing the spread of COVID and supporting local public health. An application process will be drafted to ensure applications comply with the COMF criteria and the Council's impact criteria.
- 1.12 For several years the VCSE sector has flagged a need for additional capital investment, especially for community buildings. This fund provides an opportunity to make this investment, although proposals in this paper maintain a bias towards revenue funding, reflecting intelligence from VCSE State of the Sector reports and similar. It has been confirmed that the COMF can be utilised to fund capital expenditure. Any capital expenditure will need to be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Council resolved in February 2021 to bring forward proposals for a Social/Community Endowment Fund to act as a catalyst for building stronger communities.
- 2.2 The COMF has been identified as the funding source for this fund. The COMF is a revenue funding stream which can be used to fund revenue or capital expenditure. The recommendation to Cabinet will be to create a fund of £1,000,000 value.
- 2.3 The capital element of the fund will need to be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 As part of the application process, organisations will be asked how their projects respond to and help to reduce climate change.
- 3.2 As part of the determination process, projects will be subject to scoring around their environmental implications.
- 3.3 The Council will reserve the right not to award funding to any organisation or project deemed to conflict with the Council's climate change commitments.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Analysis of existing funding streams indicates that higher value revenue awards and capital awards, focused on promoting inclusion, will meet a hitherto unmet need.
- 4.2 Based on the analysis of existing funding streams, the fund value split 60% revenue and 40% capital is appropriate. Based on the same analysis, revenue awards of between £25,000 and £50,000, and capital awards of between £50,000 and £100,000, are appropriate.

The number of awards would be scalable depending on the fund value:

Fund value	Revenue	Capital	Number of revenue awards	Number of capital awards
£250,000	£150,000	£100,000	3 to 6	1 to 2
£500,000	£300,000	£200,000	6 to 12	2 to 4
£1,000,000	£600,000	£400,000	12 to 24	4 to 8

The recommendation to Cabinet will be to create a fund of £1,000,000 value.

- 4.3 With a requirement for COMF funding to be allocated by 31 March 2022 (to reflect known timescales associated with the use of COMF) a single funding round will take place, starting in November 2021, with an 8-week application window and a 6-week determination window.
- 4.4 Revenue project funding will be spent within 15 months of award, acknowledging that most projects will be 12 months' duration and allowing for 3 months' set-up. Capital project funding will be spent within 18 months, although some flexibility might need to be applied to allow for potential contractor delays and/or delays in mobilisation.
- 4.5 The application process will comprise an online application form and submission of all due diligence checks and documents (see Appendix 2).
- 4.6 The determination process will comprise 4 key stages:
- Initial eligibility check and removal of any non-eligible applications.
 - Scoring, including weighting:
 - Towards applications/projects relating to areas with higher COVID infection rates (exact criteria around this to be determined in conjunction with Public Health).
 - Towards applications/projects all or partly relating to Lower Super Output Areas in the top 10% to 30% deprivation deciles as per the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
 - Rejection of applications not meeting the scoring threshold.

- A streamlined selection process involving elected members and senior managers, possibly along the lines of a “dragons’ den”.
- 4.7 All successful applications will be subject to final sign-off by the Strategic Director for Resources.
- 4.8 The following monitoring and reporting will apply:
- Interim reports at 6 months.
 - End of project reports for revenue projects at 15 months.
 - End of project reports for capital projects at 18 months.
- 4.9 Consideration has been given as to whether the fund should be run and operated internally by the Council or whether to commission a third party to undertake this activity on behalf of the Council. Subject to compliance with Contract Standing Orders (and securing an appropriate exemption) a recommendation is made for the operation of the fund to be commissioned for the following reasons.
- There are suppliers with a strong record of accomplishment in this field.
 - There are suppliers potentially able to lever in complementary funding, e.g., corporate social responsibility funding.
 - There are suppliers that specialise in end-to-end funding streams: designing, promoting, running, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting.
- 4.10 The cost of commissioning will vary depending on the total fund value. Indicative costs from one supplier are:

Total fund value	Cost	Percentage
£250,000	£32,115	12.8
£500,000	£46,750	9.4
£1,000,000	£67,740	6.8

These costs will be in addition to the fund value.

- 4.11 As a comparison to the cost of operating the fund internally, the Council’s Green Shoots Fund is estimated to have cost between 5% and 10% of the value of the fund when all known costs including officer time are factored in. Therefore, commissioning a third party for a fund value of £500,000 or above would appear to represent comparable value for money.
- 4.12 The risks involved with commissioning will need to be managed carefully, especially considering this is a high value fund and this is the first time the Council has commissioned the operation of a funding stream. However, officers are satisfied that suppliers are present with robust risk management arrangements in place and strong track records of working with organisations from across the sectors.

- 4.13 An appropriate marketing and communications plan will be in place for the fund, including extensive social media promotion. The name of the fund for launch and marketing purposes will also be developed over coming months.
- 4.14 An online seminar for potential applicants will be organised, to outline the fund and provide advice and guidance to organisations. This would be co-organised by our VCSE sector support provider Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action.

5 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 The indicative timetable for the roll-out of the fund is as follows:

- Cabinet approval 14 October 2021.
- Appointment of third-party supplier by 21 October 2021 subject to approvals.
- Application window opens 4 November 2021 to coincide with the Community Powered Warwickshire Conference around the same time.
- Application window closes 30 December 2021.
- Determination window opens 3 January 2022 and closes no later than 14 February 2022.
- All successful and unsuccessful notifications, and payments made no later than 7 March 2022.
- Commencement of monitoring in September 2022.

Appendices

1. Extract from the analysis of existing funding streams.
2. Due diligence documents/checks, criteria, definitions.

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 Clarke, Chilvers, D'Arcy and Fradgley

Appendix 1

Extract from the analysis of existing funding streams

Name of Fund	Description of Fund	Amount	One off funding/rolling programme
County Councillors Grant Fund 2020/21 (Round 1)	Aimed at VCSE sector organisations. The fund provides each of the 57 Councillors with a pot of £6,000 to support small-scale projects within their divisions	£342,000	One off funding
Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2020/21, Round 1	Grant funding to community projects to mitigate against, and adapt to, the impact of climate change. Aimed at VCSE sector organisations.	£1,000,000	Rolling programme for the total pot of funding
Targeted Youth Support Fund 2020/21 and 2021/22	Aimed at VCSE sector organisations that provide youth work services for 11- to 18-year-olds in Warwickshire. Its main purpose is to increase youth work capacity and capability in Warwickshire. The fund aims to support projects which tackle local and county issues and can provide long-term, sustainable, and demonstrable improvements in outcomes for young people in Warwickshire.	£800,000	Rolling programme
Mental Health and Wellbeing Resilience Fund	One-off funding aimed at VCSE sector organisations, including small to medium size businesses, that do not have access to an employee assistance programme, to respond to the mental wellbeing needs of Warwickshire residents. This includes the opportunity to bid for capital funding to make physical improvements to buildings and outdoor spaces to make environments more mental health friendly.	£750,000	One off funding
Mental Health and Wellbeing Resilience Fund	Supporting the Mental Health Curriculum in schools. Details to be confirmed.	£250,000	One off funding
Community Ownership Fund	From summer 2021 community organisations will be able to bid for up to £250,000 matched-funding to help them buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses. In exceptional cases, up to £1 million matched-funding will be available to help establish a community-owned sports club or help buy a sports ground at risk of being lost without community intervention.	£150M nationally	One off funding

Community Renewal Fund (precursor to the Shared Prosperity Fund 2022)	With express intention of enabling and supporting innovative ideas and to pilot programmes and approaches to support local economic development which can inform the longer-term UK Shared Prosperity Fund (the Government's replacement funding for the European Structural & Investment Funds). In particular, the Government wishes to test and explore greater integration of types of interventions and greater flexibility between investment themes than under the European Union Structural Funds programme.	£220M nationally	Short term funding. Applications to be made via Lead Authorities including WCC
European Social Fund	The ESF is Europe's main tool for promoting employment and social inclusion – helping people get a job (or a better job), integrating disadvantaged people into society and ensuring fairer life opportunities for all. It does this by investing in Europe's people and their skills – employed and jobless, young, and old. programme offering funding pots of between £5,000 to £20,000 to small and voluntary organisations to help unemployed people advance towards employment, education, and training.	£80B Europe-wide	Ongoing
Levelling up Fund	Investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. The fund brings together the Department for Transport, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Treasury to invest £4.8billion in high-value local infrastructure. It also embodies the approach of the Green Book Review, focusing on the needs of individual places and the strategic case for investment. Bids can be up to £20m. While the Fund is open to every local area, it is especially intended to support investment in places where it can make the biggest difference to everyday life, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns, and coastal communities. It is also designed to help local areas select genuine local priorities for investment by putting local stakeholder support, including the local MP where they want to be involved, at the heart of its mission. Within the competition, funding will be targeted towards places in England, Scotland, and Wales with the most significant need.	Up to £20M per District & Borough & County Council	One off funding - 3 years, projects fully delivered in third year of funding

<p>Building Resilience in Ethnically Diverse Communities (Formerly known as Mitigating the impact of COVID 19 on Ethnically Diverse Communities)</p>	<p>Aimed at ethnically diverse communities across Warwickshire. Funding will be available for community organisations to develop projects relating to the following four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing social isolation - Mental health and wellbeing - Unemployment - Physical health <p>One grants process will run in Aug/Sept 2021 with a second round held in March/April 2022.</p>	<p>Circa £250,000</p>	<p>One off funding (Two funding rounds within one year)</p>
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Appendix 2

Due diligence documents/checks, criteria, definitions

Appropriate due diligence will be carried out on all project applications, including, but not exclusive to the following checks and/or document requests:

	Revenue applications	Capital applications
Business plan	No	Yes
Project proposal	Yes	No
Risk assessment describing any identified risks in delivery of the project	Yes	No (expected to be covered in full business plan)
Cost breakdown, including evidence of where any other funding is coming from, and any in-kind contributions	Yes	Yes
Timelines	Yes	Yes
Details of building ownership	Not applicable	Yes
Details of building rental terms	Not applicable	Yes
Details of current building usage	Not applicable	Yes
Evidence of relevant permissions, e.g., planning permission, permission from building owner to make changes.	Not applicable	Yes
Details of any partners, contractors, and sub-contractors	Yes	Yes
Governing document, e.g., articles of association or constitution	Yes	Yes
Latest financial statements or other accounts	Yes	Yes
Subsidy control declaration	Yes	Yes
Safeguarding policy for projects involving children, vulnerable adults, or regulated activity of any type	Yes	Yes
Confirmation of a bank account in the organisation's name	Yes	Yes

In addition to the above the following will also be required:

- A description of how projects will be sustainable beyond the term covered by the initial funding. In the case of capital projects, how any ongoing service costs and overheads will be met.
- A description of any non-financial resources required and/or secured to deliver the project, e.g., volunteer time.

The following criteria will apply:

- Applications will be welcome from all VCSE sector organisations, including town and parish councils.
- The following will be ineligible to apply:
 - Statutory organisations, except town and parish councils.
 - Individuals.
 - Organisations that have failed to meet the criteria of previous funding awards.
- Schools will be ineligible to apply directly, although "Friends Of" organisations and PTAs etc. will be eligible.
- The following project types will be ineligible:

- Projects promoting religious or party-political beliefs.
- Any activity deemed to be lobbying.
- Projects for personal profit or the benefit of an individual.
- Projects where costs relate to items or work already carried out or purchased before an award is made, and loan or debt repayments.
- Applications from religious organisations will be eligible if wider inclusive community benefit is demonstrated.
- Projects will focus on at least one of the following: financial, digital, health, social, and cultural inclusion.
- Projects will align with:
 - At least one of the COMF/local criteria specified in 1.4
 - At least one of the Council Plan outcomes.
 - At least one of the 6 core themes of the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2020-25.
- Applications will describe how the project relates to the Community Powered Warwickshire vision and offer.
- Applications will describe how the project responds to and help to reduce climate change.

The following definitions will be applied:

Financial exclusion

“Whereby people encounter difficulties accessing and/or using financial services and products in the mainstream market that are appropriate to their needs and enable them to lead a normal social life in the society in which they belong.” European Commission, 2008. *Financial inclusion* is defined as services and activities to tackle and/or address financial exclusion.

Digital exclusion

“Where a section of the population has continuing unequal access and capacity to use Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) that are essential to fully participate in society.” Schejter, 2015. Warren, 2007. *Digital inclusion* is defined as services and activities to tackle and/or address digital exclusion.

Health exclusion

“An overarching term relating to provision of health and care services for all, recognising that some groups can experience barriers to take up of traditional services, particularly marginalised groups and those who experience a number of overlapping risk factors for worse health outcomes, such as discrimination, poverty, trauma.” Public Health Warwickshire. *Health inclusion* is defined as services and activities to tackle and/or address health exclusion.

Social exclusion

“The lack, or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas.” Levitas et al, 2007. *Social inclusion* is defined as services and activities to tackle and/or address social exclusion.

Cultural exclusion

“A specific form of social exclusion, namely that which takes place every time people are discriminated against because of their perceived cultural differences with the culturally dominant group.” Lapeyronnie, 2008. *Cultural inclusion* is defined as services and activities to tackle and/or address cultural exclusion.

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 September 2021

National Waste Strategy Report

Recommendation(s)

The Committee notes and comments upon the update on the Recycling and Waste Strategy and the consultation activity set out in this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government published the national Resources and Waste Strategy in December 2018, outlining changes to the way that all waste is managed. The strategy aims to change the way resources are used from a linear model of buy, use, discard to a circular economy model, where resources are kept in economic use through comprehensive changes to the whole resource value chain. The government describes the strategy as setting out “how we plan to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050”. The changes will have a significant impact on reducing the climate impact of the resources and waste sector and apply to household waste, municipal waste and business waste.
- 1.2 The Government has introduced the Environment Bill, which is progressing through the House of Lords. It is currently at Report Stage which gives all members of the Lords a further opportunity to examine and make amendments (changes) to a Bill. It is due its 3rd reading following that. The Bill’s long title is “A Bill to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.”
- 1.3 If passed, the resulting Act will be the primary legislation which will underpin many new environmental regulations, including a suite of new waste regulations. DEFRA consulted upon three areas of new regulation in the Spring of 2019: Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and Consistent Collections of Waste. Warwickshire Waste Partnership contributed a joint response to each of these consultations at the time. Since then, the Government have been holding regular discussions with stakeholders to develop the regulations and issued a new round of consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and Consistent Collections in Spring 2021.

- 1.4 The Extended Producer Responsibility proposal for packaging is an overhaul of the current producer responsibility for packaging legislation. It will ensure that the total cost of collecting, transporting, sorting and recycling / reprocessing / disposing of the packaging is covered. The regulation should provide local authorities with 'Full Net Costs' recovery for the management of packaging waste including recycling, disposal and litter collections. This means that local authorities should receive funds from the scheme which will cover the costs of dealing with packaging waste. The proposal is for the 'Brand Owner' to pay this cost. The less packaging a product has, the lower the fee will be. The more recyclable the packaging is, the lower the fee will be. Local Authorities will be given the costs of managing packaging waste via the extended producer responsibility scheme but will have to demonstrate 'efficient and effective' waste collection and disposal. It is possible that if a local authority cannot demonstrate that its waste service is efficient and effective, and how this will be defined is not yet known, then they will not receive full costs.
- 1.5 The Deposit Return System proposal is for beverage containers only. At the point of purchase, a deposit will be paid on the drinks bottle. At the point of return for recycling, the deposit is redeemed. Country-wide return infrastructure will be created by way of a network of Reverse Vending Machines in shops and other municipal locations. The bar code of the product will be read and the item 'posted' into the container for onward recycling. Smaller shops will be able to offer manual returns. Online retailers will also collect returned containers. Plastic bottles and metal cans will be covered, possibly also glass bottles. Local Authorities may be able to access the deposits on items where the purchaser has foregone the deposit and decided to recycle at the kerbside, put in general waste, litter bin or litter. This has yet to be decided. The main drivers for this scheme are reduced litter, improved capture for recycling and improved quality of material for recycling.
- 1.6 The Consistent Collections proposal applies to collections of waste from households and businesses in England. There is confirmation that there will be 'New Burdens' payments for councils that have to make changes to their waste management practices and processes in order to comply with the consistent collections requirements. These payments are intended to offset costs to local authorities of the required changes. A list of material that must be collected from the kerbside for recycling from all properties is proposed. The aim is that all authorities collect the same things. In Warwickshire, the majority of these are already collected from houses. Authorities not collecting beverage cartons (Tetrapak) would have to include those from 2023. The inclusion of plastic films and flexibles is proposed for inclusion from 2026/27. It is proposed that all households will receive a weekly separate collection of food waste. There are questions about charging for green garden waste collections and a minimum proposed service level for this. There are proposals about the separate collection of elements of recycling from households. Service levels for the frequency of collection of general waste is also included. The proposals extend to consistent collections from businesses and are likely to affect collection authorities offering trade waste collections and the commercial service offer at HWRCs.

2.0 Completed responses to the second round of consultations

2.1 There has been significant work already undertaken in relation to these changes.

- i. Senior waste officers within Warwickshire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority and within the Waste Collection Authorities of North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council have spent time reviewing the consultation documents and the impact assessments:

[Defra second consultation paper EPR](#)

[Defra second consultation paper DRS](#)

[Defra second consultation paper Consistent Collections](#)

- ii. Officers have read and attended briefings, including from the LGA, Chartered Institute of Waste Management and LARAC (Local Authority Recycling Advisors Council).
- iii. Draft responses from LARAC and ADEPT have been considered.
- iv. Senior officers from each Warwickshire authority have attended online group discussions on our joint response, on 4 May 2021, 21 May 2021, 14 June 2021 and 21 June 2021.

2.2 As a result of this collaborative discussion and correspondence, the responses linked below were put forward for approval by the Portfolio Holder and chair of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership. This sign off process was agreed at the meeting of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership on 17 March 2021.

[WWP response to second consultation paper EPR](#)

[WWP response to second consultation paper DRS](#)

[WWP response to second consultation paper Consistent Collections](#)

2.3 The proposed changes in national waste management arrangements potentially have very favourable outcomes for local waste management, the environment and climate change. Of particular note,

- i. The Extended Producer Responsibility response strongly supports the principals in the consultation and how the proposals incentivise resource efficiency.
- ii. Moving to the producer pays principle for waste management and ensuring that local authorities get full net costs for dealing with packaging waste is fair and will contribute to both reducing waste and increasing recycling.
- iii. The response states a preference for recycling labelling on packaging to be of one mandatory, unambiguous, clear style, to help householders and to increase correct recycling.

- iv. The partnership officers welcome the ambition to collect plastic films but are unsure if a comprehensive collection service can be enacted by 2026/27, due to end market uncertainty.
 - v. We have highlighted issues with new compostable products that are appearing on the market and agree with mandatory take-away cup take-back.
 - vi. The consultation response gives detailed feedback on how the return of full net costs to Local Authorities can be transparent, fair and equitable.
- 2.4 The Deposit Return Scheme response is supportive of the scheme and the potential for it to reduce litter, improve capture for recycling and improve quality of material for recycling. It is clear how a system to capture small drinks containers consumer 'on the go' could work well. However, officers have reservations over an 'all in' system, where any size drinks container can be returned. There is potential for this to significantly change the kerbside recycling collection service and have impacts on smaller retailers and the street scene. Moreover, there is a concern for how this might impact low-income families. We have offered feedback on a proposed digital return system, asking for assurances of how fraud would be prevented in such a system. The response offers knowledge on how Local Authorities will be able to collect data in order to retrieve funds from the handling of containers where the deposit is unclaimed and the item has passed through the kerbside or litter system.
- 2.5 The Consistent Collections response welcomes the proposal to define the types of waste that should be collected for recycling. This will give the reprocessing industry the confidence to invest in much-needed UK recycling capacity. Also welcomed is the 'New Burdens' payments as all Warwickshire councils will likely have to make changes to waste management models in order to comply with the consistent collections requirements. Weekly separate collection of food waste should reduce food waste in the general household waste and could shine a light on the quantities of food wasted in households. Reducing food waste and maximising recycling of food waste will have beneficial carbon impacts. Altering a collection authority's ability to charge for green garden waste collections has been questioned, as has the proposals around the separate collection of elements of recycling and service levels for the frequency of collection of general waste.
- 2.6 The consultation responses for EPR and DRS were submitted to DEFRA on 3 June 2021 in time for the consultation response deadline of 4 June 2021.
- 2.7 The later deadline for response to the Consistency consultation on 4 July 2021, meant that the Waste Partnership could contribute opinions on the potential joint response and compare thoughts on the elements of the Government's proposals. Information from these discussions was fed into the consultation response process.
- 2.8 The Consistent Collections response was submitted on 2 July 2021.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 It can be predicted that there will be financial implications (both positive and negative) as we move towards the target dates set out in the consultations, as already highlighted in other parts of the report. The operational and financial implications will not be fully understood until the draft regulations are published by Government. We expect to have a summary of consultation responses by the end of the calendar year, which will give us an indication on the direction of travel. The draft regulations will not be published until the end of the financial year. There will be a requirement to carry out careful planning to implement the new strategy across all authorities.

4.0 Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There will be positive environmental and climate impact implications when some or all of the proposed actions in the consultations are rolled out. More will be known when the Government release draft regulations this financial year.

5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 The Government is expected to publish a summary of the consultation responses this year. This could inform the councils of what to expect from the draft legislation, which has been timetabled for the end of the financial year. Meanwhile, the Environment Bill is currently being debated in the House of Lords and some resultant amendments may impact on local resource and waste management.
- 5.2 The Warwickshire Waste Partnership will be kept informed as the enactment of the strategy develops and draft regulations are published. There will be an update on progress provided at the meeting on 29 September 2021. Also at this meeting, the initiation of a refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will be discussed. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to schedule a further update on the national waste strategy in the new year.

Background papers

WWP EPR consultation response 2019

WWP DRS consultation response 2019

WWP Consistent Collections response 2019

[Defra second consultation paper EPR](#)

[Defra second consultation paper DRS](#)

[Defra second consultation paper Consistent Collections](#)

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This paper was not circulated to members prior to publication due to time constraints.

Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

22 September 2021

Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Quarterly Progress Report

Period under review: 1st April 2021 to 30th June 2021

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 1 Performance Progress Report for the period April 1st 2021 to June 30th 2021 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 9th September. The report provides an overview of progress of the key elements of the Council Plan, specifically in relation to performance against Key Business Measures (KBMs), 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 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 1 2021/22 Performance Report](#).

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.**

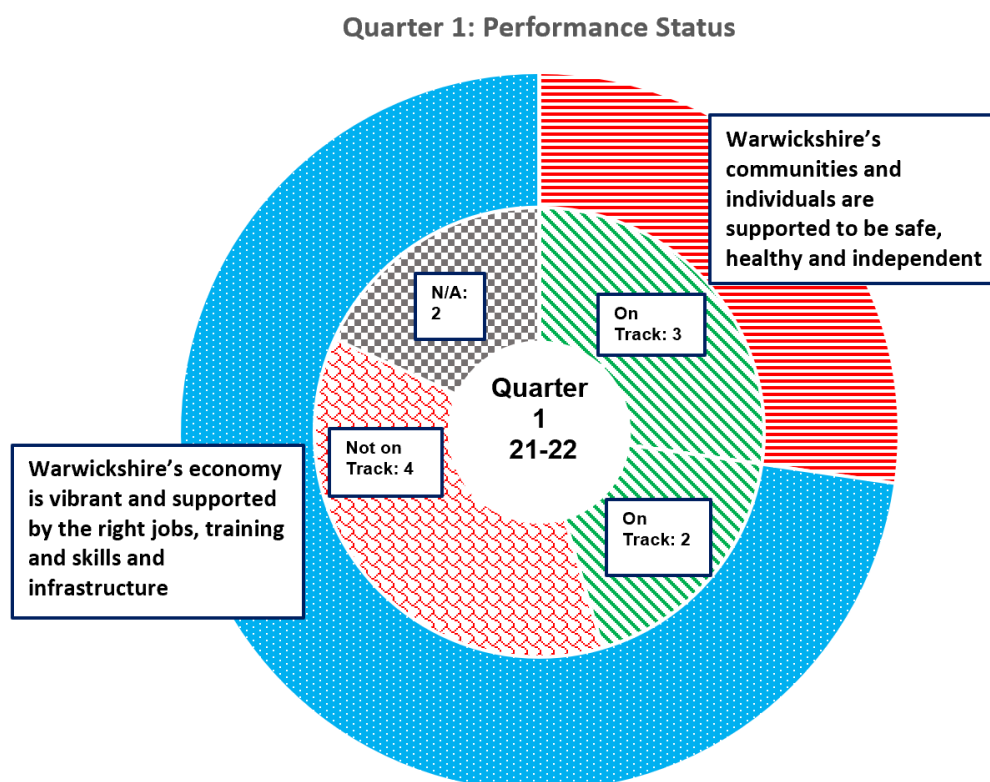
Progress to achieve these outcomes is assessed against 54 KBMs.

Outcome	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting at Quarter 1
Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent	27	21
Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure	13	8
WCC making the best use of its resources	14	11

2.2 Overall, the Council continues to maintain its robust performance across the board in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic, including increasing and changing demand, new service delivery to meet the challenges of the pandemic and significant changes in how services are delivered. The Council continues its journey towards a more business as usual situation as restrictions are removed, Services are focusing on their core work and this is reflected in KBM performance.

2.3 Of the 54 KBMs, 11 are in the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 45% (5) of reportable KBMs are On Track and 36% (4) KBMs are Not on Track. The remaining 2 KBMs will be reportable at the end of the year which are % of Warwickshire road network meeting specified condition and No. of journeys on public transport services supported by WCC.

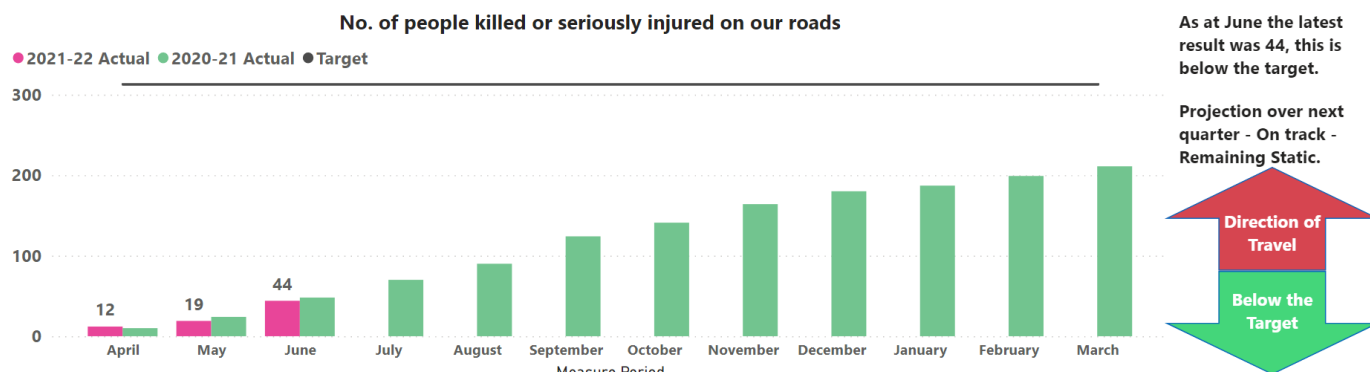
Chart 1 below summarises KBM status at Quarter 1 by agreed Outcomes.



2.4 Of the 45% (5) KBM's which are On Track there are 3 measures where performance is of note and these are detailed in Table 1 below:

Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent

No. of people killed or seriously injured on our roads



Current performance narrative:

There has been a significant decrease in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Warwickshire roads in Quarter 1 of 2021 compared to 2019 (44 compared to 77). Comparing to 2020 which was a Covid-19 affected year the numbers are similar, 48 in 2020. The lower figures can be attributed to the reduction of traffic on the roads during the Covid-19 lockdown periods.

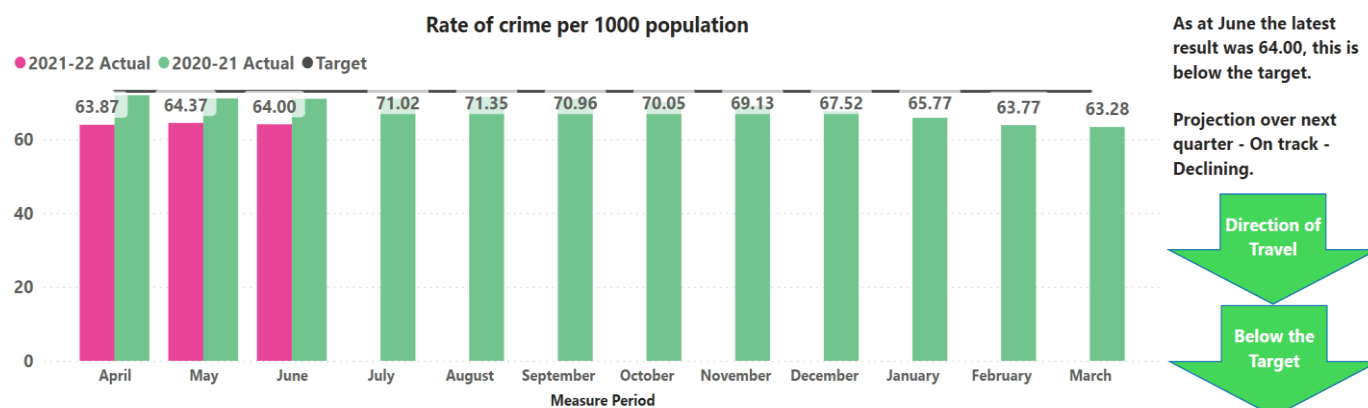
Improvement activity:

Despite the lockdown WCC have continued to deliver education within the Council's schools remotely and Bikeability ran successful courses. Bikeability is now up and running in schools and the education team are still providing sessions remotely to schools, this has meant they have been able to deliver to more children.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: On Track – remaining static

Traffic levels were lower than pre Covid-19, but as Warwickshire comes out of lockdown it can be expected that levels will rise again.

Rate of total recorded crime per 1000 population



Current performance:

Quarter 1 has seen an increase in demand for policing across the county. Calls to the police are increasing, there were 900 dropped 999 calls (calls with the caller hang up on the operator) whilst mental health related reports have risen by 52%. The demand is linked to the releasing of Covid-19 restrictions and the occurrence of events including the Euro 2020 football competition. Warwickshire police have planned resources accordingly. Total recorded crime is starting to rise as lockdown restrictions lift, this was anticipated however is still below pre Covid-19 levels. Violence without injury remains higher than in 2019/2020. This is assessed to be the new normal driven by changes to police recording practices. Following the pattern seen throughout 2020/2021, burglary, vehicle crime and robbery offences continue to be low within Warwickshire. During May the week long County lines intensification/enforcement operation known as Operation Bandurria took place. As part of a regional operation Warwickshire Police targeted its identified County lines with outcomes including multiple arrests, the seizure of significant quantities of cash, weapons and drugs. Eleven vulnerable persons were identified and safeguarded with the support of partner organisations.

Improvement activity:

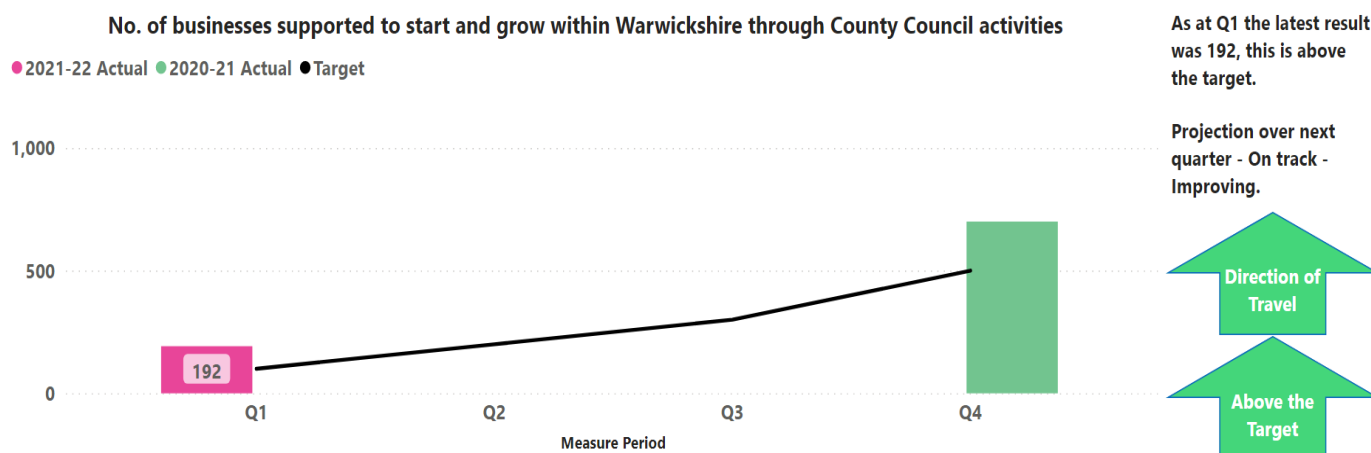
Comparing this years data with last years will result in a current inaccurate picture of reported crime, as during Covid-19 Warwickshire experienced unprecedented low levels of reported of crimes for multiple Covid-19 related reasons. Work of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board is currently focusing on strategic review of the partnership and its groups to enable an effective community safety agreement to be developed, addressing the partnerships medium term priorities. In addition, work in relation to the development of the preventing violence strategy continues, the establishment of a Modern Day Slavery group to identify the risks, gaps, raise awareness and ensure effective partnership processes is underway, applications to the Home Office Safer streets funding in ongoing and if successful will become a significant focus for the remainder of the year, and work in relation to the domestic abuse agenda continues with the recommissioning of the support services, development of the domestic abuse accommodation strategy and securing funding for victims and perpetrator services.

Explanation of the projection trajectory: On Track - declining

During Quarter 2, it is anticipated the final stage of lockdown restrictions will be lifted and the final stages of the European football championships will be held. These events are likely to result in increases in violence, public order offences and antisocial behaviour as residents return to life pre Covid-19, celebrate the end of lockdown and react to the football results. As a result, Warwickshire Police have developed operational plans to ensure the right resources are on duty to respond to reports.

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

No. of businesses supported to start and grow within Warwickshire through County Council activities



Current performance narrative:

Quarter 1 performance (192) is substantially ahead of the Quarter 1 target (100) due to additional, time-limited economic recovery programmes being delivered. There has been a focus on retail, hospitality, tourism & leisure as the Council's economic recovery programmes have focused on these hard-hit sectors. However, the Council continues to support a wide range of sectors and our Business As Usual programmes continue to work with "growth" and tech-based sectors.

The businesses supported to start & grow data so far has come from WCC's Service Level Agreement with Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Growth Hub, The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme the Council's start-up service, the Business Ready programme with University of Warwick Science Park and WCC's access to finance support), the Adapt & Diversify grants, the Survive, Sustain & Grow programme and the social enterprise support.

There has been no new activity in Quarter 1 on the Innovation programme and WCC's Small Capital Grants programme.

Improvement activity:

The following projects, programmes and services are still to report: Coventry & Warwickshire Duplex Fund, digital training via the Chamber and the Council's Skills service (due to annual leave).

Explanation of the projected trajectory: On Track – improving

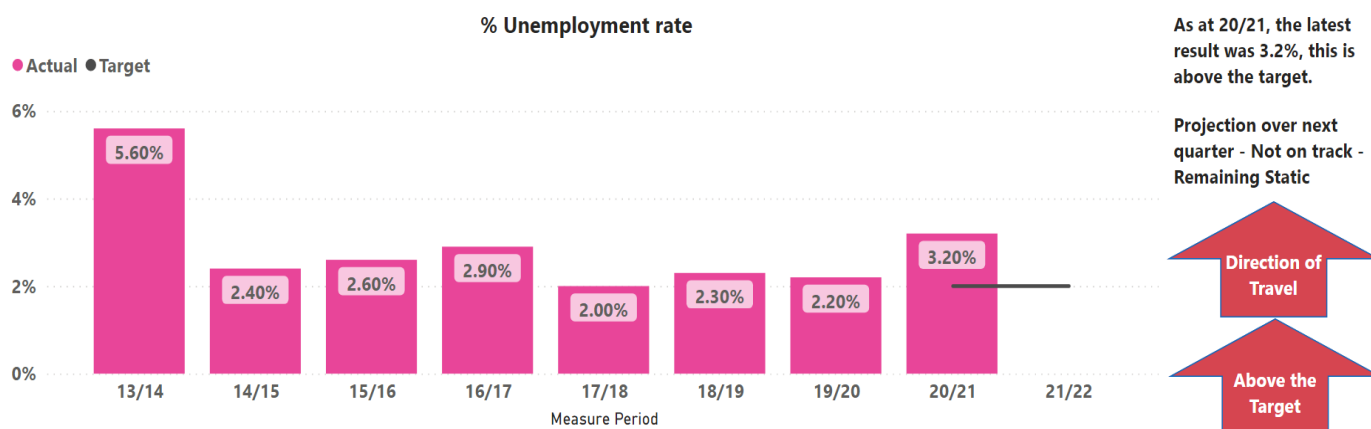
Quarter 2 target (200) almost already achieved due to progress of additional, time-limited economic recovery programmes.

Table 1

2.5 Of the 4 KBMs that are Not on Track at Quarter 1, 1 KBM requires highlighting in Table 2 below which 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

% unemployment rate



Current performance narrative:

There is no update for Quarter 1 to this measure, an update can be expected by September. The unemployment rate rose to 3.2% in Quarter 4 2021 from 2.1% in Quarter 3 2021, the England unemployment rate also rose as the impacts of Covid-19 start to set in to the labour market.

Improvement activity:

The unemployment rate has risen to 3.2% as of Quarter 4 2020/21. From Quarter 2 - Quarter 4 2020/21 the unemployment rate has started to rise, in line with what is happening nationally. This is in line with expectations surrounding the impacts of Covid-19, but the full extent to which the labour market has been impacted will not be shown until government support is fully withdrawn.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on Track – remaining static

This can be expected to be reviewed as the Council gets data to assess the Covid-19 but the latest figures from Quarter 4 are above the target currently set for 2021/22.

Table 2

2.6 Of the remaining 3 KBMs that are Not on Track, forecast performance is projected to remain Not on Track but static:

- % of residents in Warwickshire aged 16-64 who are in employment compared to the England average;
- % of household waste re-used, recycled and composted; 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.

Quarter 1: Projection Status

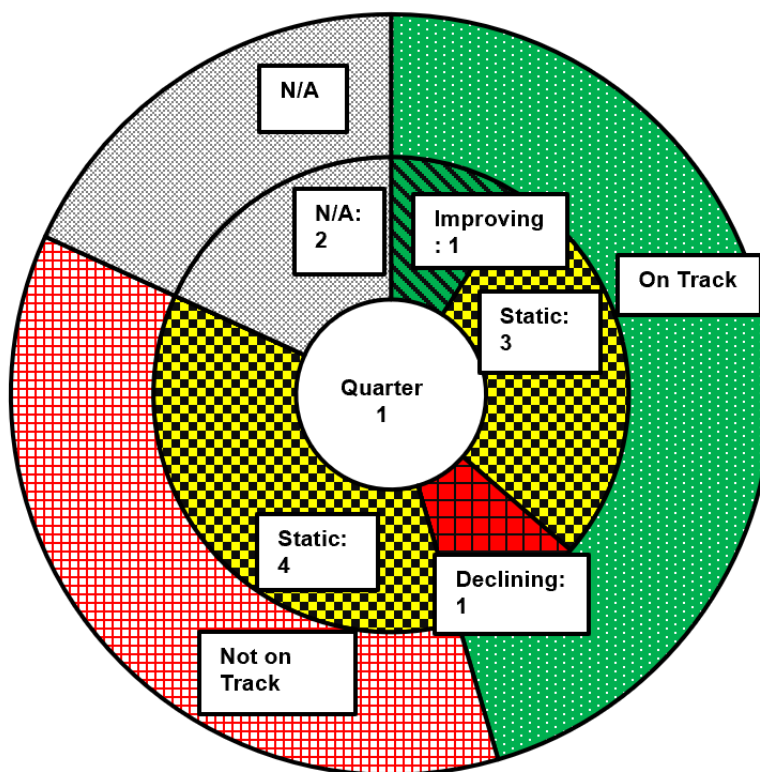


Chart 2

9 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. 44% of the measures that have forecast performance projection have a status of being On Track and remaining static.

Rate of crime per 1000 population projects that performance will decline with lockdown restrictions being lifted, however it will still remain on target for the next Quarter.

No. of businesses supported to start and grow within Warwickshire through County Council activities has already achieved the Quarter 1 target and is projected to improve over the next Quarter as recovery programmes, projects and services report their data.

There are 4 KBMs which have a forecast of being Not on Track and are expected to remain Not on Track during the next Quarter and 1 of these have been fully detailed in 2.5.

- 2.8 The pandemic has impacted the majority of these measures leading to delays in programmes of activity and changing service demands. Positively, only one is projected to decline further but still achieve target and improvement activity is in place to improve performance across all measures and this is under constant review to ensure it is robust. Full context on all measures is provided in the Power BI reports.
- 2.9 As the Organisation continues to transform the Performance Framework evolves providing, a sharpened focus on performance and supports delivery of the Organisation's priorities. Following the light touch review of the Performance Framework for the 2021/22 period with Strategic and Assistant Directors a comprehensive review of the entire Framework is already

in progress ready for implementation in 2022/23 and a Cross Party Members Working Group is supporting the review.

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.

	2021/22 Budget £'000	2021/22 Outturn '000	Revenue Variance £'000 %	Retained Reserves £'000	Financial Standing £'000
Communities	24,578	27,917	3,339 13.59%	0	3,339
After taking account of Covid related pressures of £3.061m; and the impact of earmarked reserves and Investment/Transformation funds the remaining service variance is an underspend of £0.085m. Included in Covid pressures are: £1.461m Business Economy (the balance of Adapt and Diversify grants to businesses initiated in 2020/21) £1.400 loss of income on Parking £0.200m increased spend in Country parks and Road Safety					
Environment Services	26,392	26,893	501 1.90%	0	501
Covid related expenditure mainly relates the requirement of barriers to make town centres safe and the removal of traffic management ramps. After taking this into account the remaining service variance is a minor overspend of £0.025m due mainly to staff vacancies offsetting an increase in partnership contributions.					

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.

	2020/21 Target £'000	2020/21 Forecast £'000
Communities	95	76

£19k shortfall relating to household waste recycling storage, due to delay in delivery of containers needed to realise the saving.		
Environment Services	352	352

3.3 Capital Programme

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

	Approved budget for all current and future years (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast £'000	Slippage from 2021/22 into Future Years (%)	Current quarter - new approved funding / schemes (£'000)	Newly resourced spend included in slippage figures (£'000)	All Current and Future Years Forecast (£'000)
Communities	92,724	22,055	-26%	0	(81)	92,643

£7.613 million delay caused by:

£5,844m Emscote Road Corridor Improvements Scheme – In light of resource availability and priorities during Covid the construction phase of this project has been delayed until 2022/23.
£1,447m A446 Stonebridge junction improvements – The project has been reprofiled to ensure alignment with the Greenman Crossing works which will need to precede.

Environment Services	116,065	61,444	-12%	204	401	116,670
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£7.799 slippage caused by:

- £2.268m Bermuda Connectivity Project – The re-profiled expenditure is reflecting the contractor's current planned delivery.
- £1.482m Historic Bridge Maintenance Programme – 2 accidents caused major delays to the programme.
- £1.317m A444 Corridor improvements Phase 2 – Design issues and embargo to work around the Hospital due to Covid caused the delay.
- £1.000m A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvement – Poor weather in May 2021 has slowed progress on weather critical earthworks.
- £0.900m A47 Hinckley Road Corridor Scheme – The scope of this project changed to include an off-road cycleway.

4. Supporting Papers

- 4.1 A copy of the full report and supporting documents that went to Cabinet on the 9th September is available via the committee system.

5. Environmental Implications

None

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Date of next report	Item	Report detail
Page 59	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).
	Transport update	A table on all cycling, walking, train and road developments in Warwickshire and their progress
22 September 2021	Bermuda Project update (full report)	An update on the Bermuda project that was approved by Cabinet in January 2021
22 September 2021	Waste Management Review	Update on the review following the second government consultation
22 September 2021	Social Fund Policy	To go to Cabinet via the OSC
22 September 2021	Quarter 1 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2021 to June 2021)	Directorate progress between April-June 2021

17 November 2021	Road Space Allocation review incl. Covid-19 People Counters	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.
17 November 2021	Draft Report for Highway Schemes	Draft Report on highway schemes and ahead of the planned website for Autumn 2021. This will include delegated budgets
17 November 2021	20mph Limits Motion report	Following the 20mph Limits motion passed at Full Council in July 2021, Communities OSC will view the final draft report on the working group's proposals before Cabinet in December
17 November 2021	Customer Feedback Overview report 2019/21	Customer service responses for the directorate areas between 2019-21
17 November 2021	HS2 grants	To monitor the level of income from HS2 to seek reassurance that WCC is being fully reimbursed
17 November 2021	Climate adaption (briefing note adapted from previous report)	An update on the Climate Impacts Assessment for Warwickshire County Council report from March 2021
17 November 2021	Quarter 2 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2021 to September 2021)	This report summarises the performance of the organisation at the Quarter 2 position, 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.
9 February 2022	Air Quality Monitoring	To provide and update on air quality monitoring since the TFG recommendations in 2018
9 February 2022	Cycling Liaison Group Report	A report from the CLG regarding cycling updates in Warwickshire and the benefits to the environment and tourism
9 February 2022	Update on Warwickshire's Bus Schemes	An update on bus services in Warwickshire following the report received in September 2021
9 February 2022	Electric Vehicle Chargers (briefing note)	A briefing note on the rollout/implementation of electric charging points in Warwickshire

13 April 2022	Climate TFGs Report	A report stating what has been achieved by the cross-party working groups since the Climate Emergency was declared in July 2019
13 April 2022	Waste Management Review	Update on the review following the third (and final) government consultation
13 April 2022	Flood Management	Following recent grants provided to Warwickshire, this report will cover flood prevention and management methods in Warwickshire
13 April 2022	Pedestrian Crossings criteria (briefing note)	A note providing a review on the current guidance for the implementation of pedestrian crossings and area where new pedestrian crossings would be beneficial
13 April 2022	Quarter 3 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2021 to December 2021)	This report summarises the performance of the organisation at the Quarter 3 position, 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.
22 June 2022	Active Travel outside schools (briefing note)	A note on work being done to promote active travel e.g. cycling and walking outside schools
22 June 2022	Vehicle Activated street signs (briefing note)	A note on the review being undertaken for the usefulness of vehicle activated street signs in comparison to the amount of resources they take up

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 to 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