

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 17 November 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: -

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 - (1) Apologies**
 - (2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
 - (3) Chair's Announcements**
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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
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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 22 September 2021

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor Dave Humphreys
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Tim Sinclair
Councillor Andrew Wright
Councillor Sarah Feeney
Councillor Jan Matecki

Portfolio Holders

Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Economy & Place
Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture

Officers

David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director - Communities
Charles Barlow (Delivery Lead - Localities)
Daniel Cresswell (Team Leader, Project and Programme Management)
Ruth Dixon (Lead Commissioner - Waste Strategy & Contracts)
Isabelle Moorhouse, Democratic Service Officer
Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Waste & Environment))
Alison Robinson (Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills))
Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities

Other Members Present

Councillor Jo Barker (for item 2 only)
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Mandy Tromans

Members of the Public

Dawn Fisher
Mr Robert Hutchings
Councillor Keith Kondakor (Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough) (speaking)
Mr Alan Swift (speaking)

1. General

The Chair informed the committee that the doors to the committee room would remain open during the meeting to circulate air.

(1) Apologies

Councillor Jeff Clarke who was substituted by Councillor Jan Matecki
Councillor Jackie D'Arcy who was substituted by Councillor Sarah Feeney
Councillor Wallace Redford (Portfolio Holder – Transport & Planning)
Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director – Environmental Services

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Chair's Announcements

None.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. Public Speaking

Public Speaker one

Mr Alan Swift (member of the public) was accompanied by Robert Hutchings - Chair Burmington Parish Meeting and Dawn Fisher - Treasurer of Burmington Parish Meeting. Mr Swift spoke about a complaint made by Burmington Parish Council against the county council regarding their village's green. Mr Swift made the following statement:

"We are here representing the Parish of Burmington, asking this committee to look into our complaint against Warwickshire County Council. We would like to ask this committee to appoint someone independent to review the details of our complaint and report back to this committee on their findings. Warwickshire County Council believes it can reclassify legally registered village greens in Warwickshire as being part of the Highway. They argue, that once reclassified a legally protected village green is no longer protected. It can then be driven on, parked on, dug up, tarmacked, even completely removed by widening the carriageway. In 2018 the County Council granted permission for a property developer to excavate a new 5m wide tarmacked driveway straight across the middle of our village green. There was no consultation and no notice. The Council state that they can return at any time to do further works on, what remains of our village green, and on any other village green that they decide is a part of the highway. When diggers turned up and started work excavating the village green, we notified the Council that this was a criminal offence. Rather than apologise, the County Council assigned their legal defence team to 'impartially' investigate the issue. It was impossible for this team to support our complaint without incriminating the Council. They did the only thing they could and attempted to bury the complaint and ignored it. It took two attempts by our MP, Nadhim Zahawi, to finally get the Council to respond. We eventually waited over a year to receive a biased response that frivolously dismissed all our evidence. For 3 years the Council's legal team has blocked all attempts by the Parish to speak to anyone impartially, and openly about this issue, refusing all our requests for a meeting. Even our County Councillor was spoken to, inferring she was 'warned off' from helping the Parish. After two years we received a visit from someone from the Communities Directorate. However, they had been instructed by the Council's solicitors to not discuss the issue and the legal

protection of the village green, making the visit a waste of time. We just want someone impartial to talk to us openly and frankly about this issue. The basic issue is that, if Burmington Village Green is a legally registered village green, and that it isn't a part of the Highway, then the Council has no power whatsoever to do anything on the land. In fact, to do any works on the land is a criminal offence. Some of our evidence supplied by the Parish to this committee includes a signed statement by the County Council's own County Surveyor, stating that no part of Burmington Village Green can be a part of the Highway. Also attached, is a declaration by the clerk of Shipston Rural Council which has been legally witnessed by a Justice of the Peace stating that no part of Burmington village green is Highway. This legal declaration has been stamped and approved by Warwickshire County Council. We would like this committee to look into the issue of carrying out works on legally registered village greens in Warwickshire".

The Chair thanked Mr Swift for attending the meeting and noted that there was not an immediate opportunity for the committee or council to respond to the statement. He stated that members were free to contact the parish council after the meeting.

Public Speaker two

Keith Kondakor (Councillor at Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council) spoke firstly on item 4 (O&S - Bermuda Connectivity) and made the following statement:

"The Bermuda bridge project has been a long running saga over about five years now. It has taken a vast amount of money, most of which is now effectively burned, and the project isn't effectively stoppable now, but it can be improved. We have a climate change emergency, and we have residents will be badly affected by the scheme; about £1.5 million noise compensation in the project as well. One good thing back in February the portfolio holder at the time agreed to extend the cycle route along part elect Bermuda Road and I hope the officers will agree that that is actually happening. Other things we need to do is sort out the bus service because obviously if we want a modal shift, we need to provide bus service along this new route, not actually have it as a big a rat run having negative impacts. We really really need this route have a 7 tonne or similar weight limit because you're going to pay one and a half million pound noise compensation for driving lorries past people's homes and if we can minimise that noise by actually saying this is actually a residential or lightly used route and is not a B road a seven and a half tonne weight limit will actually help that, or a 7.5 weight limit would mitigate some of the harm to lorries things going through the west of Nuneaton than lorries using this as a rat run. We need to be looking at an average speed camera along the route, it's quite a long route through a residential housing area and we really need to be a nice 30mph if not 20mph limit; the technologies here now that we can put cameras each end of the route and use it to trial some of our average speed routes limit stuff. I think that would reduce the cost in terms of noise compensation, it would actually make the route safer for all the people who currently have a nice safe quite route. I think it be a positive benefit to start reducing speeds, we aren't getting to a low traffic neighbourhood which would be great, but we are at least making sure that we haven't got cars going through 40mph through this residential area as result of the county council. This is a massive mistake, this project, but we should go ahead and try to mitigate the problems as much as possible, look at noise, look at speeding definitely get cycle connectivity as good as possible and then work with stagecoach to actually make sure it will get bus connectivity. We should never do this project again with the climate change emergency and we'll be more careful before starting such a project.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holder

None.

(1) Economic Development Update

In response to Councillor Tim Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill (Assistant Director- Communities) agreed that the update was longer than normal because the report format changed and there was more economic growth and business activity ongoing in Warwickshire. The report mentioned supply chain and labour shortage problems. North Warwickshire had a lot of distribution companies that faced a labour supply shortage and South Warwickshire had a lot of tourism and hospitality businesses who were struggling with this issue too.

In response to Councillor Sarah Feeney, David Ayton-Hill noted that there had been an uptake in acquisitions by overseas companies in Leamington's gaming industry because of the exchange rate. He stated that as Leamington had a well-known gaming development industry, international companies would want to invest in skills already there so it would be a positive investment. Alison Robinson (Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills)) concurred with David Ayton-Hill and added that the digital and creative sector had been successful with large companies buying each other up; therefore, this was being monitored.

In response to Councillor Jenny Fradgley, David Ayton-Hill stated that the council provided access to finance for businesses in several ways and used different financing tools to do it. Several grants from central government were provided through the council to help businesses adapt following Covid-19. Grants are non-repayable investments to businesses to keep the business going and growing. The WRIF (Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund) money was primarily borrowed money and businesses who use this money are expected to return the investment and will be scrutinised more if they wish to have this funding.

Mark Ryder (Strategic Director – Communities) added that the WRIF investment had its own risk element as it was unlikely that all businesses would succeed but this fund would allow businesses to grow.

In response to Councillor Feeney, Alison Robinson confirmed that 13 responses for the transition fund for colleges and sixth forms was a good amount.

Councillor Jan Matecki praised the report contents and the investment work done in Warwickshire.

In response to Councillor Dave Humphreys, David Ayton-Hill stated that the BMW plant in Coleshill was recently re-invested in, which implied that the site would be a base for electric vehicle development.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill stated that regular updates on the WRIF could come to committee and seven companies were being worked with regarding WRIF investment.

Following a supplementary from Councillor Sinclair, Mark Ryder stated that the Member Oversight Panel of the WRIF was regularly informed but an update could be provided to the committee at a later meeting.

In response to the Chair, David Ayton-Hill stated that the environment and climate change will be considered with all investments, and investments in business pursuing new low carbon

technologies were being encouraged.

4. O&S - Bermuda Connectivity

Daniel Cresswell (Team Leader, Project and Programme Management) informed the committee that site development was progressing on St George's Way as the gabion walls towards Network Rail's boundary work was completed. A specialist engineer was being sought regarding the gas barrier work and design; the barrier in place at the time of the meeting was working well. Development of the bridge was being discussed with Network Management in terms of road and lane closures. £10.359 million was funded towards the scheme and they were within budget at the time of the meeting, and they should finish at the end of 2022. In response to a question submitted by email from Councillor Clare Golby (division member for the project), Daniel Cresswell confirmed that the Bermuda Road and Heath Road junction was considered when remodelling the benefits. Japanese knotweed was being removed on site and the contractor was revising the work programme due to earlier project delays, but the bridleway will be completed in spring 2022.

In response to Councillor Matecki, Daniel Cresswell stated that they were confident that they will complete the project within budget as material prices are the contractor's risk.

In response to Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Daniel Cresswell agreed to obtain a breakdown of spending costs. Following a supplementary from Councillor Baxter-Payne, Daniel Cresswell stated that the business case was regularly reviewed so the latest model should be accurate.

In response to the Chair, Daniel Cresswell confirmed that the cycle lane was not in the work programme yet because it was still being designed and reviewed against the budget; the design should be complete in the next few months, and a decision taken by the project board whether the current budget will allow for these extra works.

Following a question from Councillor Sinclair, Daniel Cresswell stated that from the construction side, everything is assessed during construction and transport-planning remodel the scheme, and assess what was initially designed. Developments are reported back to the Major Schemes Board. In response to Mark Ryder, the Committee requested that a report of the scheme came back to the committee post-implementation so the expected and actual successes could be reviewed. David Ayton-Hill suggested reviewing old schemes first, Councillor Sinclair suggested there be an annual report for the OSC to scrutinise schemes already implemented.

In response to several questions from Councillor Baxter-Payne, Daniel Cresswell stated that traffic congestion was considered after the project was completed instead of during construction. Any environmental reviews during construction would more likely be done by the local planning authority. Daniel Cresswell agreed to investigate looking at air quality and environmental implications from traffic caused by the development.

Councillor Fradgley praised this idea and suggested that this could be part of the annual report. Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder -Economy & Place) suggested looking and how other local authorities dealt with this issue first due to the amount of officer time a report like this would take. Mark Ryder suggested a scoring suggestion could be used with this, but this idea would need to be explored.

A debate followed about environmental impacts during scheme developments and how useful this information would be.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment on this report and they will receive post-implementation evaluations of major schemes after every major development.

5. Social Fund

Charles Barlow (Delivery Lead-Localities) informed the committee that in February 2021 the council approved proposals for social/community endowment fund to act as a catalyst to build stronger communities. Several key questions around what outcomes are desired, what the voluntary community and social enterprise sectors need by way of additional investment and support ensuring that any proposals genuinely engage with grass roots and anything proposed engenders sustainability. To help inform proposals an analysis of the Council's existing funding streams to the voluntary community and social enterprise sector was carried out and it revealed a gap around certain types of financial, digital, cultural and health inclusion. Inequalities within communities were highlighted during the pandemic; therefore, a focus on promoting inclusion aligns with central government's contain outbreak management fund. The fund proposed will address several priorities of the Covid-19 recovery plan, support current and future Council Plan outcomes, and be clearly aligned to the council's community powered Warwickshire work stream. Different funding streams were investigated before as grants and loans but the Local Communities and Enterprise pillar of the WRIF was the best solution. For years the voluntary community sector flagged a need for additional capital investment for community buildings which needed investment. Applications from areas with higher Covid-19 infection rates and levels of deprivation will be prioritised for funding but no area would be excluded from applying. The report will go to Cabinet in October 2021 and propose £1 million split 60/40 revenue and capital. Money that will be awarded to each successful application will be between £25,000-£50,000 and £50,000-£100,000; most will be awarded the lower amount. The fund will focus on financial, digital, health, social, and cultural inclusion to be launched at the beginning of November 2021 and in compliance with the contain outbreak management fund. All awards will be made by March 2022 and there will be a recommendation to commission the operation to a third-party supplier.

In response to Councillor Feeney, Charles Barlow noted that the resolution was broad to cover the five types of inclusion and review the inequality in areas that will be given funding. The scoring system would affect how much money is provided. Following a supplementary from Councillor Feeney, Charles Barlow, stated that partners will be used to promote the fund and help people put in applications for the fund. Specialist agencies will be used to help too with grass route groups. Councillor Heather Timms clarified that this was a strand of work of the Social Value Policy which was approved in September's Cabinet meeting. All strand of work together would make more sense to help communities affected by Covid-19.

In response to Councillor Feeney, Charles Barlow clarified that one organisation will be commissioned to run the fund.

Following a question from the Chair, Charles Barlow confirmed that government funding for the scheme had already been received and this funding would be given to areas most affected by Covid-19. Following a supplementary from the Chair, Charles Barlow stated that unsuccessful applications may be eligible for other council funding streams and the organisation running the fund will work to find the harder to reach areas.

In response to Councillor Humphreys, Charles Barlow stated that the money needed to be spent by March 2022 and there will be a competitive process window. They were hoping to have £1 million worth of applications so all money provided could be distributed.

The Committee requested that a report be brought back to the committee on the success of the fund.

Resolved:

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 and request the successes of the fund be reported back to the Committee.

6. Waste Management Review

Due to the public speaker speaking on two separate topics, Councillor Keith Kondakor was eligible to speak for another 3 minutes as part of public speaking. The second part was held here as officers were not in the room at the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Keith Kondakor made the following statement on the Waste Management Review:

“I’ll be involved in waste and recycling campaign for 16 years and stop the waste incinerator being doubled in size in Coventry. We have seven waste authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire and their waste altogether produces 50 million pounds. We really need to have a massive change in waste, this new waste strategy is going the opportunity to have deposit schemes, to use resources better to recycle more plastic, to reduce the amount of waste created, and I really ask as part of this process we urgently get the 7 councils talking together talking about maybe forming a Joint Waste Authority at least at the levels of education because if we spending £50 million pounds on processing all this waste and recycling we need to tell the public how to use the facilities and by doing that education we end up actually saving money because our new shiny waste sorting plant in Coventry can then get plastics out to sell to the market. If we do all this hardware and we do or the collection of our education the service will not be well used and will not get the service, the transition we need. The English waste strategy could be a massive change, it could be a damp squid, it depends what happened in terms of deposit schemes, recycling food waste, food waste minimisation. I really ask we bang heads together across Coventry and Warwickshire. We are all going to use the same recycling plant, we should ideally all have a combined collection service hopefully run in the public domain. I believe that way, the collectors are incentivised to do the best job for recycling rather than trying to save money for Biffa or the Olia and I’m really optimistic that we can make a big change in Warwickshire like they did in Somerset about 15 years ago when they formed a waste partnership there that was actually a company; I do think we need to grasp this £50 million on waste. When we launch this new waste strategy in terms of on the ground, we can do the collections and the deposit schemes, we need some serious education to make this a massive success because we have a climate emergency, and we have a resources emergency. We all know what happened to the price of petrol/oil/gas, we need to get all our resources going round a circular economy. I see education and a joint waste authority of some kind as a win-win and we need to keep as much of it in the public domain as possible and base an education”.

Andrew Pau (Strategy & Commissioning Manager – Waste and Environment) and Ruth Dixon (Lead Commissioner - Waste Strategy & Contracts) presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee and raised the following points:

- A new national waste strategy was introduced by central government in December 2018, and it was undergoing consultation and refinement

- The waste collection authorities and county (disposal authority) council formed together to make the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (WWP)
- Responses to the consultations were responded to by officers and members of the WWP
- The strategy will be implemented with the Environment Bill, by the 30th October it will be known if it will be law or sent back to the House of Commons by the House of Lords
- Two consultations came out in March 2021 on the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and consistent collections came out a month later
- The DRS is just for drinks bottles and cans, it may include glass bottles but not plastic milk cartons, tetra pack or other drink containers. It could be limited to drinks containers under 500ml or apply to all.
- DRS will include paying a deposit for the container which is returned when the container is returned to a shop. The WWP supported this but were concerned of the impact on low-income families who bought bottles larger than 500ml. They wanted more information on how this would stop littering
- EPR means the brand owner or consumer has pre-paid money for the packaging to be recyclable. The money would go into local authorities as they will manage the material and get full net costs because of this. The brand would pay for any litter created by their product packaging and be charged based on how recyclable their packaging is. Coffee cups and plastic film would be included in this. The WWP strongly supported this but it should be clear who gets which funding and why.
- Consistent collections will be a drive to have the whole of England have a similar waste collection and make lesser collected materials be collected e.g. plastic film and tetra pack. This was proposed to start in 2023. There were consultations around green, food and residual waste and making fewer journeys to collect this waste. The WWP agreed to weekly food waste collection in principle but it would be difficult in rural and university student areas. The new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will be equipped to deal with plastic film. The WWP stated that co-mingled recycling collections should be allowed because of the new MRF being able to process this, green waste and residual waste collection frequency should be a local decision.
- The local waste partnership strategy will be worked on and discussed by the WWP along with household recycling centres

In response to Councillor Jan Matecki, Ruth Dixon confirmed that black plastic trays could not be collected for recycling in all areas, but these trays were being changed to dark blue so automated machines could pick them out to be recycled. The EPR scheme will penalise anyone using unrecyclable material and consumers would pay the price for this; therefore, they would not buy that producer's product due to the price increase.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, Ruth Dixon stated that as long as the barcode was scan-able then damaged and multiple items could be claimed back on.

Following a supplementary from Councillor Sinclair, Ruth Dixon stated that the definition of plastic film was still up in the air but the WWP wanted it to cover all packaging including chip and bread bags. Material like crisp packets may be included but they were not explicitly mentioned and if these packets cannot be recycled then they will be changed.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, Ruth Dixon stated that most local authorities were not collecting food waste separately yet so they were informing the public on the consultation to make them aware of what other changes will occur and this will promote more recycling.

Councillor Feeney agreed that the process should be as easy as possible, and all dry recyclables go in one bin. In response to Councillor Feeney, Ruth Dixon stated that the MRF would be able to take all recyclables and produce the best quality of recyclables. It was still unconfirmed whether recyclables could be together or needed to be separate, but plans would be put in place if separated. Following in supplementary from Councillor Feeney, Andrew Pau stated that the WWP would push for mixed recyclables to go to the new MRF even if central government stipulates restrictions on this as Warwickshire will have the facility to deal with mixed recyclables.

In response to Councillor Fradgley, Ruth Dixon noted that it was difficult to recycle thermosetting plastics but there will be a balance between the lightweight ones e.g. expanded polystyrene and something heavier but more readily recyclable. Local authorities would get EPR funding regardless of the material's recyclability. Following a supplementary from Councillor Fradgley, Andrew Pau stated that if food waste was collected separately then this resource would be utilised better with evolving technologies; this will continue until at least 2024. He added that the county already had aerobic digestion technology and these facilities will be secured for separate food collections; this waste will be used to produce energy to put onto the grid and become fertiliser.

Councillor Matecki noted that Germany already had a DRS in place. In response to Councillor Matecki's and the Chair's questions on the MRF, Andrew Pau stated that all of Warwickshire's districts/boroughs would use the MRF, but he could not confirm if it would pick up black plastic. However, Warwickshire's MRF would be more flexible than other MRFs so it could adapt to different waste types/volumes.

Following a supplementary from the Chair, Andrew Pau stated that legislation development could lead to a short-term lack of action, but Warwickshire were doing well at staying ahead of the curve because of its new MRF. Ruth Dixon added that home composting and recycling centres were being promoted in their monthly newsletter that members of the public have signed up for. Andrew Pau noted that recycling and reusing waste was part of a campaign Warwickshire had been promoting.

In response to the Chair, Andrew Pau stated that there was a link between reducing waste disposal and saving money for the public, but it was difficult to prove the exact impact and value of waste reduction campaigns work.

In response to Councillor Fradgley, Andrew Pau informed the committee that there was legislation in place restricting the amount of peat in compost for consumer consumption. Warwickshire County Council primarily used peat-free compost and any compost produced from our waste went to good use, sometimes on restoration sites.

Resolved

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

7. Quarter 1 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2021 to June 2021)

David Ayton-Hill presented a power point presentation and informed the committee on the following points:

- The Communities OSC had 11 KBM (key business measures), two could not be reported on as they were annual updates.
- Out of the nine reported 5 were on track

- KSIs (killed or seriously injured) were lower than predicted for the second year running
- Recorded crime reduced because of the pandemic, it was expected to rise when restrictions ease
- There were more new businesses than expected because of the economic work done
- Unemployment was higher than pre-pandemic (7.8% instead of 3.3%)
- There was a significant overspend on the forecast budget because of Covid-19. There would be an underspend otherwise
- All this information was accessible from Power-BI

In response to Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill stated that they were still seeing what post-pandemic looked like but with the new performance indicator framework they were starting to see new trends now.

Resolved

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.

8. Communities OSC Work Programme

Items to be added to the work programme:

- An update on the WRIF
- An annual report of major scheme developments providing an overview of the scheme's successes and failings (including environmental implications during construction)
- (post implementation) a report on the Bermuda Connectivity project on its successes and failings (including environmental implications during construction)
- A report on the successes of the Social Fund

9. Urgent Items

None.

The meeting rose at 16:07

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Chair

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 November 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
Net Zero by 2050 Climate Change Action Plan	A report seeking approval of funding from the Climate Change Investment Fund to take forward ambitions to work across the region with partners to deliver a Net Zero by 2050 Climate Change Action Plan	25 November 2021	Cabinet
Community Powered Warwickshire Ground Breakers, Partner Mobilisation and Mainstreaming	Report on the Community Powered Warwickshire Ground Breakers, Partner Mobilisation and Mainstreaming phases, seeking Cabinet approval for next steps around the programme.	25 November 2021	Cabinet
Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21	The Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement meets national legislation requiring publication of WCC's Developer Contributions, including Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy for the financial year 2020/21, to be published online prior to 31 st December 2021	7 December 2021	Cabinet
20pmh Speed Limits - Task & Finish Group Recommendations	The recommendations from the task and finish group set up by Full Council in July 2021.	7 December 2021	Cabinet
Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund - Addition to the Capital Programme	To add the £130m borrowing facility for WRIF to the Council's capital programme	14 December 2021	County Council

On-street Parking Management - Task & Finish Group Recommendations	The findings and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group commissioned by Cabinet in October 2020	25 January 2022	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.	25 January 2022	Cabinet

2.0 Background Papers

None

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

Communities O&S – November 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 as well as other key pieces of relevant news and information.

CONTENTS:

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

Appendix 1: Business news round-up

Appendix 2: Budget and Spending Review Summary

HEADLINES/ KEY SUMMARY POINTS:

- The macroeconomic issues of labour and materials shortages, supply chain delays and rising energy/fuel prices continue to impact economic recovery both in Warwickshire and nationwide.
- The Autumn Budget and Spending Review took place on 27 October. The UK economy is now forecast to return to pre-Covid levels by 2022 but inflation in September was 3.1% and is likely to rise further, to average 4% over next year, according to estimates.
- The Fair Chance Employer Programme will launch in November aiming to promote and celebrate inclusive employment, calling out to recruiting employers who would like to engage with talent pools of people with supportive needs who are keen to access work opportunities
- Project Warwickshire, WCC's dedicated new programme to help the county's small businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors bounce back from the Covid pandemic, has been launched
- Warwickshire has been awarded £2.7m from the Community Renewal Fund following a competitive bidding process and assessment by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

1. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The macroeconomic issues of labour and materials shortages, supply chain delays and rising energy/fuel prices continue to dominate the headlines and unsurprisingly, have started to negatively impact business confidence, with a particularly evident drop in positivity across the manufacturing sector.

The continued threat of inflationary pressures, forecast to average 4% next year, also continues to dampen optimism but nonetheless, the budget statement revealed that the UK economy is forecast to return to pre-Covid levels by 2022 and that unemployment is expected to peak at 5.2% next year, significantly lower than 11.9% previously predicted.

Working with our partners, the Economy & Skills team continues to deliver support to manage and mitigate these issues and demand for our programmes and services remains very high. This includes access-to-finance support such as engaging with larger local business around accessing funding from the WRIF alongside a strong focus on skills, with the launch of the Fair Chance Employer programme of particular note this month.

Last week we received the good news that Warwickshire has been awarded £2.7m from the Community Renewal Fund following a competitive bidding and assessment process by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. WCC will act as the lead authority monitoring the county's 3 successful projects as well as delivering one of these 3 projects - the Warwickshire Brighter Futures programme designed to reduce the barriers to employment for some of the most disadvantaged young people in Warwickshire.

2. ECONOMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES

Project Warwickshire, WCC's dedicated new programme to help the county's small businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors bounce back from the Covid pandemic has been launched. Project Warwickshire will provide a package of help across the sector, including one-to-one advice, networking and a range of masterclasses. It will support businesses to seek and access grants and funding, as well as co-ordinating a series of networking events and webinars to share good practice and links.

The programme is funded by £320,000 from WCC's Place Shaping and Economic Recovery Fund and the County Council has recently secured a further £230,000 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to expand the support available. The programme will be delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce working with partners including Shakespeare's England and Northern Warwickshire Tourism. For more information, see the launch article in Warwickshire Mean Business:

<https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/september-2021/news-in-brief/project-warwickshire-launches-to-help-tourism-leisure-and-hospitality-businesses>

Leamington based **Purple Monster** have made it onto the UK's CreaTech 100 Ones to Watch list for 2021. The list is an annual showcase of innovative UK-based companies which are creating new business opportunities in B2B and B2C at the interface between creativity and technology. Purple Monster provides virtual conferences, events and communications for corporate clients which utilise both creativity and technology to deliver a unique experience. The company pivoted through the pandemic from physical events and were a recipient of the council's **Adapt & Diversity recovery grant** to assist in this transition.

Government Additional Restriction Grants – Warwickshire's District and Borough Councils who administer the funding Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) are launching further rounds of grants. The billing rate authorities are able to set local policies for use of the ARG funding so there are five different schemes operating across Warwickshire with different priorities, processes and timescales. Rugby Borough and Stratford District have decided to work with CWLEP Growth Hub to target this latest round at businesses with post pandemic ambitions for growth whereas Warwick District are working with Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency to support charities and not-for-profit businesses that have been critically impacted by the pandemic. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough are expected to support business recovery & growth, shop front improvements, market traders and SMEs in hardship. North Warwickshire Borough are understood to be considering the best use of their additional ARG funding. All ARG funding has to be allocated by March 2022.

The Future Careers Digital Market Place has been extended and filming will now continue into 2022. A number of key sectors unable to previously commit due to operational demands are now able to work with us to build recruitment pieces to meet future skills needs. Health and Social Care, Retail, Manufacturing and Logistics will all feature in the new round of films.

The final phase of the project will bring together all films and create a digital marketplace to support Warwickshire residents to explore careers across a wide variety of sectors.

The digital marketplace platform will also link to the new **Fair Chance Employer** project, acting as an interactive jobs board. Launching in November, the Fair Chance Employer programme will create and shape inclusive job opportunities, posting vacancies in the digital Market Place, linking a film to each vacancy and providing a safe space for candidates to contact employers to discuss employment opportunities.

Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency (CWCoDA) supported a further 19 groups in Warwickshire during the second 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. Funding from WCC's Place Shaping & Economic Recovery Fund is bridging the gap between budgets ending in March 2021 and the commissioning of WCC's new third sector support contracts from March 2022. The support to a further 19 groups brings the total number of groups supported in Warwickshire in 2021/ 2022 to 39 against an agreed target for the first two quarters of 30. For more information, visit: <http://www.cwcda.co.uk/Social-enterprise>

Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust's **JumpStart** project has supported 65 Warwickshire residents looking to start a business during the first two quarters of 2021/22. Part funded by WCC's Place Shaping & Economic Recovery Fund, Jumpstart is one of two economic recovery projects focussed on meeting the increased demand for start-up support. The community-based project complements the county-wide start-up service delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce on behalf of WCC (see ERDF update below) by focusing on underrepresented groups and hard-to-reach individuals in certain parts of the county. JumpStart is expected to support 315 Warwickshire residents between April 2021 and March 2024. For more information: visit: <https://www.cwrt.uk.com/jumpstart>

The Economy and Skills service continues to engage with a number of Warwickshire businesses about accessing funding from the £90m Business Investment Growth (BIG) Fund, one of the three strands forming the £140m Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF) launched on 1 July 2021. Businesses engaged in the process including those involved in modern methods of construction, battery and zero carbon vehicle technology and social housing.

3. BUSINESS & ECONOMY SUPPORT

A further £0.5 million has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support an extension to the **“CW Business Start, Grow and Scale” programme**. The 18-month extension, recently approved by the Ministry for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will support an additional 279 businesses between January 2022 and June 2023 including the new Tourism support programme, Project Warwickshire (see above).

A further 28 businesses completed the intensive support provided by the programme in the second quarter of 2021/ 2022 and seven new jobs were created. This brings the total number of businesses supported since January 2016 to 802. 364 new jobs have also been created and 423 Warwickshire residents helped to start their own business.

The current £3 million phase (from January 2019 to June 2023) is funded by £1.5 million from the ERDF and a number of other funders. For more information on the programme and the 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 another business in Warwickshire. A £44,000 loan will allow Adventure Sports (Warwickshire) Limited, an outdoor sports and recreational business based in Warwick, to complete a refurbishment which will allow them to offer better and new experiences to clients. The business, which currently employs 16 FTE, is expected to be able to recruit an additional three staff after the investment.

Duplex has now provided loans worth £558,848 to businesses in Warwickshire across a range of sectors. Duplex – which is funded by a £2 million loan from WCC’s Capital Investment Fund as well as by funding from Coventry City Council, the Government’s Growth Deal and Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership – is expected to provide just under £10 million of investment to Warwickshire businesses over the next ten years and to create over 600 jobs by March 2033. For more information, visit: <https://www.cwrt.uk.com/duplex>,

4. EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS SUPPORT

The Fair Chance Employer Programme which will launch in November 2021 aims to promote and celebrate inclusive employment, calling out to recruiting employers who would like to become a “Fair Chance Employer” to engage with talent pools of people who are keen to access work opportunities.

The programme is designed to work collaboratively with education providers and employability groups, helping employers to level-up their opportunities by offering Warwickshire residents with supportive needs equal access to careers. By supporting emotional, learning and workplace barriers, making adjustments to recruitment methods or providing enhanced induction training to bridge any initial skills gaps, the programme will support employers to demonstrate inclusivity and attract more candidates to their roles.

The programme aims to shape more than 200 jobs, supporting a wide variety of people who experience mental health, disability and learning barriers, as well as women and Armed Forces veterans returning to work, young offenders, young care givers and care leavers.

The Build Back Fund is a dedicated careers fund which offers secondary school career leads the opportunity to apply for a £2,000 grant to support the development of careers programmes. This includes making adaptations or running additional activity to tackle any negative impacts the pandemic has made to careers activity and previous well-established careers programmes.

The previous 2020 fund (Future Careers Fund) helped schools transfer to digital delivery, supporting many kinds of digital platforms and helping career leaders to make changes to the way they worked and delivered their programmes. This led to Warwickshire schools maintaining quality benchmarks and where other areas of the country paused such activity, Warwickshire continued to deliver high quality careers

activity, supporting high numbers of young people remain and progress into further education.

The Build Back Fund looks at delivery needs now that schools have returned to full classroom delivery. Whilst curriculum delivery remains the priority, careers leaders need to be creative, delivering after school careers sessions and camps which they hope will see students attend activities in school holidays. 26 of the 34 schools have made successful applications. The remaining schools are mostly special schools who, whilst having the same ambitions, are yet to establish which activities will support them in helping their students to achieve. Employability and Skills along with Education colleagues will work with these schools to develop activities and support where possible.

The Employability and Skills Team have created a series of **Sector Specific Skills Roundtable** events to support employers in tackling their skills and employment barriers specific to their sector. The online events provide a platform for employers to meet with skills and employment specialists to both voice their issues and explore solutions. The discussions also provide an opportunity for WCC to gather new or specialist needs and help shape local provision accordingly. The teams first event featured Early Years in October which saw 22 employers join the conversation. Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Logistics are some of the following roundtable events planned to take place.

The Warwickshire County Council Small Business Apprenticeship Levy Programme launched in 2019 and saw WCC become one of the first local authorities to share its Apprenticeship Levy funds with external businesses.

The programme was significantly hit during the pandemic in 2020 as new recruitment stopped and existing apprentices lost their placements. Thankfully, as the economy has reopened, businesses are turning to apprenticeships to rebuild their skilled workforces and wanting to explore all funding available to them.

Since January 2021, 32 employers have accessed the programme and WCC have funded 37 apprenticeships equating to over £220,000 of WCC Levy Funds and a record high year for the programme. The Apprenticeships supported have been a real mix from hairdressing, carpentry, manufacturing and customer service to accountancy and early years, a really positive sign that many sectors are relying on apprentices to develop new skills in their businesses.

At the beginning of October Screenskills held a video games sector skills event. The morning session was aimed at local school children whilst the afternoon was aimed at career-changers interested in breaking in to the video games industry. WCC supported the event by ensuring local industry engagement and support. Over 100 delegates attended the in-person event but the speakers and panels were also streamed online to engage a wider audience.

5. INWARD INVESTMENT

Property Enquiries for knowledge based key sectors remain strong, with automotive engineering R&D around propulsion systems particularly active, as well as video games as previously reported. With UKBIC coming online, and further publicity around the West Midlands Gigafactory at Coventry Airport, there is lots of interest in the location for new automotive technology. We continue to promote Coventry & Warwickshire as the go to location for automotive technology.

Light industrial space in all locations and office/hybrid space in some locations remains scarce. Prospero Ansty, the current extension of Ansty Technology Park is getting close to capacity. This is one of few local sites available for freehold purchase. New sites at Baytree Faultlands (Nuneaton), Symmetry Park (Rugby), MIRA Southern Manufacturing Site (North Warwickshire) and Coventry SEGRO Gateway (Warwick District) will provide new space over the coming years, but at the larger end of the market. There remains a very tight market for smaller light industrial units, with limited new sites coming on stream, at Tachbrook Park.

The **Invest in Coventry & Warwickshire website** revamp has been completed. The aim of the joint site is to ensure there is a clear front door for information and support for investors who are looking at the region. The site brings together WCC, Coventry City Council and the CWLEP Growth Hub.

WCC participated in a panel at the regional launch of the **Investor Tool Kit** developed as part of the National Creative Scale Up pilot programme funded by DCMS. Invest in Creative has been developed by [ScaleUp Institute](#) and [UK Business Angels Association](#) to create an investor journey to encourage more investment into the Creative Industries. Equipped with an extensive library of videos featuring leading investors, renowned experts and inspiring entrepreneurs, this unique toolkit offers the opportunity to engage in remote peer-to-peer learning. The launch event took place at 1 Mill Street in Leamington Spa and was also streamed online. <https://www.investincreative.co.uk/>

Warwickshire (and Coventry) received an excellent profile in the new [UK Government Investment Atlas](#), launched on the eve of COP26 to highlight dozens of nationwide strategic investment opportunities with a strong sustainability element. Our HPO on [CAM Simulation and Modelling](#) and a new [Net Zero Transport Technologies in Coventry & Warwickshire](#) profile developed for COP26 were both featured in the Atlas.

To coincide with the Global Investment Summit, [the Prime Minister also announced that at least 30,000 new jobs would be created around the UK](#) thanks to £9.7 billion of new foreign investment from 18 projects. Again, three of those were linked to Warwickshire, an excellent performance, and evidence both that this is a strong

location for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and that we continue to leverage the opportunities provided from working with the Department for International Trade.

Invest Warwickshire and Warwickshire Skills Hub together with CWLEP and CCC continue to make final preparations to host a joint **Automotive Electrification Skills Summit at** MIRA Technology Institute on November 18th 2021, 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** took place at the **Engineering Design Show** on October 19th at the Coventry Building Society Arena, in association with The Engineer/ Eureka magazines. The panel comprised Marion Plant OBE, CWLEP Board member for Skills and CEO of NWSLC, Mark Basten of auto tech company Futuremotiv RLE, Steve Doyle of EV recruitment company EVerA and Prof Carl Perrin of Coventry University.

Invest Coventry & Warwickshire exhibited at EDS, and again a week later at the **Battery Technology Show**, where Cllr Jim O'Boyle of Coventry City Council made a keynote speech on West Midlands Gigfactory and WMG Executive Chair Margot James spoke about the strengths of University of Warwick in battery technologies.

APPENDIX 1: BUSINESS NEWS

Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

Digital Creative sector

Listed video game business **Sumo Group** has almost doubled turnover in its interim results ahead of its £919m acquisition by Chinese technology giant Tencent, which is set to complete later this year. The company reported revenue of £50.4m in its results for the six months ended 30 June 2021, up 91.7 per cent from £26.3m in the same period of 2020. Like-for-like revenue grew by 484 per cent to £38.6m. Sumo Group currently have **2 studios based in Leamington Spa**, Sumo Leamington and Lab 42.

A new student-led professional standard video production company has been launched by Royal Leamington Spa College. **RLS Productions**, which will be run by college group WCG, will be working with SMEs and larger businesses to support their video production requirements, with students set to benefit from real-world experience and getting paid. Around 20 degree and post degree-level students will be involved in the company and Royal Leamington Spa College will also be opening up its production suite for clients and local filmmakers to hire out.

Automotive/ Future Mobility

Tata Motors' **Jaguar Land Rover** retail sales for the three-month period to 30 September 2021 continued to be constrained by the impact of the global semiconductor shortage on production. Retail sales were 92,710 vehicles, 18.4% lower than the 113,569 sold in the fiscal Q2 last year. Underlying demand remains strong though, with order books at record levels, with global retail orders at record levels in excess of 125,000 vehicles.

West Midlands Gigafactory, a public private joint venture between Coventry City Council and Coventry Airport, recently unveiled new imagery for the UK's largest battery Gigafactory. The Gigafactory could begin supplying high-tech batteries for electric vehicles from 2025 and will be the result of a £2.5bn investment, creating up to 6,000 new highly skilled jobs directly and thousands more in the wider supply chain.

A Warwick-based software supplier and developer has more than quadrupled its workforce in the last eight months following an increase in demand. **Eatron Technologies**, based at the University of Warwick Science Park's Warwick Innovation Centre, has grown its UK workforce from six before Christmas 2020 to 25. Eatron was able to expand its business after securing contracts worth **£5m** to supply software, such as battery management systems and active suspension, to major car manufacturers in China and other Asian countries.

Other business news

A new destination management organisation (**DMO**) has been launched for business and leisure tourism across **Coventry and Warwickshire** as it seeks to capitalise on the legacy of its 2021 UK City of Culture title.

Destination Coventry has been launched to manage the city's tourism offer and further develop its reputation as a compelling visitor destination. Conference Coventry and Warwickshire sits with the newly former DMO and is working to further establish the region as a major destination for business events and will be showcasing the region's strengths and its portfolio of venues.

The region has received a major boost in recent months with the ongoing programme of UK City of Culture events and is gearing up to play host to the Commonwealth Games in 2022. On any one day, the region can hold meetings, conferences and trade shows for up to 35,000 delegates across its range of diverse and unique venues, which include NAEC at Stoneleigh Park, Warwick Conferences, Coventry Building Society Arena and British Motor Museum.

Supermarket retailer **Aldi** (HQ'd in Atherstone) has pledged to invest £1.3bn in the UK over the next two years in a bid to grow its share of the grocery market. The plans are expected to create more than 2,000 jobs next year, adding to the 7,000 permanent roles already created over the past two years.

BDR Group an ICT business based in Stratford-upon-Avon has secured multimillion-pound funding to support its acquisition strategy. The eight-figure funding package is designed to support BDR Group's plan to acquire several more companies over the next two years, and follows the company's acquisitions of ACR, Boffins and Integratech earlier this year. BDR Group works with the private and public sectors, supporting digital transformation with the provision of infrastructure, connectivity, unified communications and IT managed services.

Delays and project cancellations combined to lower sales at the UK arm of an Italian manufacturer that provides robots to car makers for their assembly lines. **Comau UK**, which also works across other sectors such as heavy industrial and rail, has reported a revenue of £15.1m for the year to 31 December 2020, down from £51.8m in 2019. The business also fell to a pre-tax loss of £2.8m, falling from a profit of £2.1m in the prior year. Comau UK is **headquartered in Rugby** and also has a base in Gateshead while its parent company is located in Turin, Italy. The company recently downsized its Rugby facility.

The Competition and Markets Authority has cleared **National Grid's** multibillion-pound acquisition of PPL WPD Investments, the holding company of Western Power Distribution. The completed transaction was announced in March 2021 for an equity value of £7.8bn. Western Power Distribution is an electricity distribution business which serves approximately 7.9 million customers and employs more than 6,500 staff. It serves South West England, South Wales and the Midlands.

Stoli Catalysts, the University of Warwick spinout, has changed its name to **Stoli Chem** ahead of the launch of its ground-breaking SABRe system, a scalable continuous flow reactor providing high-efficiency, precision and control for a wide range of fine chemical production. Based in Wellsbourne, Stoli Chem – designs and manufactures continuous flow process equipment that aim to dramatically cut the manufacturing cost of fine and speciality chemicals such as fragrances, food supplements, cosmetics and intermediates for pharmaceuticals.

Urban Logistics REIT has committed to deploy £88m on 771,748 sqft of logistics units in six off-market transactions. This follows an equity raise of £109m in July.

Purchase of income producing assets financed through equity raised in July comprise three units in Farnham totalling 43,958 sq ft, a 25,990 sq ft unit near Ipswich, a 50,672 sq ft unit in Wellingborough, along with a **128,460 sq ft property in Rugby** and a 124,134 sq ft property in Huntingdon as part of a single transaction.

Drinks giant **Britvic** is creating **20 new jobs** with the expansion of its manufacturing plant in Rugby. The company has announced a **£26.9 million investment in Rugby** factory, which is its largest production site. The investment will see the installation of a fourth drinks canning line, growing the site's total capacity by a 18%.

APPENDIX 2: BUDGET & COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW SUMMARY

Summary

The Budget and the Spending Review are significant documents in understanding the broad direction of travel around Government policy. The Budget updated on the country's finances for the new financial year 2022 with the Spending Review providing the overall spending commitments of the government for the next three-years.

Central to understanding the details of the budget allocations and giveaways (most of which were released to the press in the run up to the budget) is how this relates to the updates provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility regarding the economy and its recovery, and how the government allocates the spending either as permanent increases in resources or time-limited allocations. The other element is how much of these resources have been previously announced for example the £6.9bn announced for city region transport contains £4.2bn previously announced by the Government.

The following provide a summary view of the key announcements:

General points

- Inflation in September was 3.1% and is likely to rise further - to average 4% over next year, according to estimates
- UK economy forecast to return to pre-Covid levels by 2022
- Annual growth set to rebound by 6.5% this year, followed by 6% in 2022
- Unemployment expected to peak at 5.2% next year, lower than 11.9% previously predicted
- Wages have grown in real terms by 3.4% since February 2020
- Borrowing as a percentage of GDP is forecast to fall from 7.9% this year to 3.3% next year
- Borrowing as a percentage of GDP will then fall in the following four years to 1.5%
- The government is scheduled to reinstate its commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on foreign aid by 2024-25
- The Chancellor announced a new set of 'Fiscal Rules' which will be used to guide the public finances. These will replace previous rules which had been utilised.
- All of the budget and spending review proposals have been linked to specific outcomes. This represents further development of the outcome based budgeting and public-value approaches which have been in development for a number of years.

Key proposals

- Universal Credit taper rate will be cut by 8% no later than 1 December, bringing it down from 63% to 55%
- Increase in National Living Wage to £9.50 per hour
- Business rates will be retained and reformed
- £24bn is being earmarked for housing: £11.5bn for up to 180,000 affordable homes, with brownfield sites targeted for development

- Every Whitehall department will receive a real-term rise in overall spending, totalling £150bn over the course of this Parliament
- Reform of Alcohol Duties
- Tax relief for museums and galleries will be extended for two years, to March 2024

Education & Skills

- Schools to get an extra £4.7bn by 2024-25
- There will be nearly £2bn of new funding to help schools and colleges to recover from the pandemic
- Schools funding to return to 2010 levels in real terms - an equivalent per pupil cash increase of more than £1,500
- £300m will be spent on a "Start for Life" parenting programmes, with an additional £170m by 2024-25 promised for childcare
- A UK-wide numeracy programme will be set-up to help improve basic maths skills among adults
- £200 million a year for the continuation of the holiday activities and food programme,

Total spending on skills will increase by £3.8 billion by 2024-25, equivalent to a cash increase of 42% (26% in real terms) compared to 2019-20. This includes:

- an additional £1.6 billion by 2024-25 for 16-19 year olds' education in England, maintaining funding rates in real terms per student. The Government hope that this will provide additional hours in the classroom for up to 100,000 T Levels students by 2024-25, this includes funding 40 additional hours learning per student per year for 16-19 year olds
- £2.8 billion capital investment across the spending review period for high-quality facilities, this includes previously announced Institutes of Technology across England.
- A new, whole of the UK, programme to develop Adult numeracy skills through £560 million spending review period for the 'Multiply' programme, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- a total investment of £554 million by 2024-25 to substantially increase retraining and upskilling opportunities for adults. This is a 29% real terms uplift in adult skills funding compared to 2019-20 and meets the government's commitment to a National Skills Fund. This includes giving more adults access to courses at Level 3 in in-demand areas such as engineering and digital skills, scales up Skills Bootcamps, supports reforms to the adult skills funding system.
- increasing apprenticeships funding to £2.7 billion by 2024-25. Building on the measures announced at SR20 and Budget 2021, SR21 will also make further improvements to the apprenticeship system for employers.

Local Government

- Core Spending Power of Local Authorities to increase by around 3% per year from £50.4 bn to £58.9bn by 2024-25. It is likely that most of that increase will come from Council increasing their council tax income.

- The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is seeing its core funding increase.
- £5.4bn has been announced for social care of which £3.6 billion will go directly to local government over the spending review to implement the cap on personal care costs and changes to the means test. This funding is expected to “help local authorities better sustain their local care markets by moving towards a fairer cost of care”.
- At least £500 million of this will be allocated to improve qualifications, skills and wellbeing across the adult social care workforce
- In total, Government Grants to Local Authorities will be £4.8bn which in addition to the £3.6bn for Social Care includes £200m for Supporting Families programme. There is also £37.8m for cyber security and £34m for transparency & accountability including the Audit Report and Governance Authority.
- Local Government will be compensated for the measures and changes made around Business Rates
- £24bn is being earmarked for housing: £11.5bn for up to 180,000 affordable homes, with brownfield sites targeted for development
- The Public Health Grant is to be maintained in real terms over the spending review, with the intention that this is “enabling local authorities to invest in prevention and frontline services like child health visits”

Ben Odams & Lou Richardson

Lead Commissioner Policy & Strategy

Corporate Policy Unit

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

EDS Project Dashboard

17 November 2021

1. Engineering Design Services Project Dashboard

- 1.1 Engineering Design Services is responsible for the development, design, procurement and delivery of hundreds of projects at any point in time. These projects vary considerably in scope, value and complexity.
- 1.2 The officers responsible for each project aim to share progress information with the Portfolio Holder and Ward Members during the development and construction of each scheme and, are always available to answer questions. However, it can be difficult to effectively share information on the overall portfolio of projects and, particularly, to communicate the risks and issues which affect progress and delivery.
- 1.3 In order to attempt to address this difficulty, a Project Dashboard has been developed which aims to capture the major projects and give a very high level of overview of stage, value, priority and risk.
- 1.4 The Project Dashboard is shared at this meeting in PDF and Excel format.

2. Project Management Approach

- 2.1 Major projects, which are high value, high complexity or high sensitivity are managed by dedicated Project Manager, for example A46 Stoneleigh Junction and Bermuda Connectivity. In addition, themed projects are linked together and managed by a Programme Manager, for example Cycle Schemes Programme, Transforming Nuneaton and Europa Way.
- 2.2 Smaller projects are managed by engineers within the delivery teams, following a largely identical but appropriately scaled process to the management of major projects.
- 2.3 The project or programme manager monitors and reports on the key project metrics: cost, time, risk, progress, stakeholders and governance, to a Project Board. The project boards oversee the project, providing challenge, support and decision as appropriate.
- 2.4 The progress and issues on the overall programme of major schemes is reported on a quarterly basis to Major Schemes Board; chaired by the Strategic Director and with a membership of senior officers and portfolio holders. The reporting is through individual project reports and oversight using the Project Dashboard.

3. Using the Project Dashboard

- 3.1 The purpose of the document is to provide a brief but clear visual demonstration of the top schemes that are currently in development. This

document can be used to provide a high-level forward plan and will be updated at least every quarter in order to assist the overall monitoring of schemes.

3.2 The following should be noted:

- The schemes are not listed in a particular order
- The schemes are divided into North and South to aid location
- **Status** is a rough indication, and it will not be unusual for this to be red or amber as the officers deal with issues in development or delivery
- **Expected Delivery** is a rough indication of when the scheme will be on site
- **Stage** shows the schemes from commissioning team handover to the beginning of construction
- **Priority** is an indication of perceived priority which may be as a result of political decisions, funding sources or urgency
- **Value** categorises the project by overall value to give an indication of scale
- **Risk** aims to demonstrate the key areas of risk for each project with darker shades indicating greater levels of risk
- **Comments** is a very brief explanation of current status or risk; it should not be taken as a full scheme briefing

3.3 If detail is required on any project, then the Project Manager will be able to provide this.

3.4 Each of the projects will be subject to direction by a project board and are brought to Major Schemes Board on a quarterly basis.

4. Next Steps

4.1 We are interested to know if the information presented is of use to the Members and if the format is understandable and accessible.

4.2 It is proposed in the short term to update the information on a quarterly basis, alongside reporting to Major Schemes Board, in order that EDS can monitor the progress of the major projects and can take an overview of risks and issues which affect multiple projects.

4.3 If the reporting proves useful to Members and Officers, then it is proposed to consider a private web-based version of the document be prepared.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nicola van der Hoven	nicolavanderhoven@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins	scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Cllr Wallace Redford	wallaceredford@warwickshire.gov.uk



TOP 10 NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



September 20, 2021

Scheme Name	Status	Expected Delivery	Stage of the Scheme				Commission Priority	Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief		
			Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement		Low	Medium	High	< 5 Million	5 Million < X < 10 Million	> 10 Million	Technical	Strategic			Environmental	Financial
1 Avon Mill and Hunters Lane	R	2025/26										22,000,000						OBC funding application commission delayed. OBC should be submitted to DfT by December - uncertainties if this will happen. Structures detail design is on-going.	Improved roundabout, new roundabout and bridge, new footway cycleway bridge over the river
2 A47 Hinckley Road Corridor	R	2021/22								3,605,000								Increased costs as a result of Utility diversion estimates, further funding is being sought. Development of off-road cycleway being completed and can be tendered separately.	Improved junctions and ped/ cycle facilities
3 A444 College Street, Nuneaton	R	2022								4,000,000								Construction delayed to 2022 likely but could deliver one junction in late 2021. Review of Bull Ring junction complete - requires change from prelim design. Traffic management embargo around the hospital currently in place until September 2021.	Improve 3No. junctions
4 Lawford/Addison Rd Casualty Reduction	G	Mid 2022								1,600,000								Completing detailed design + receiving utility detailed C4 estimates, requesting RSA2 and expected Tender period: late Autumn / Winter 2021.	Casualty reduction roundabout scheme.
5 A446 Stonebridge junction (Coleshill)		2023								2,378,000								Commission pending review and acceptance by Highways team. No design work has taken place.	Signalisation of roundabout
6 Transforming Nuneaton	G	From 2025										29,700,000						Design work on going, funding received	Series of junction improvements
7 Nuneaton To Coventry Cycle Route	A	TBC								1,012,000								Placed on hold pending the development of surrounding schemes (S106 & S278). Feasibility only to progress this financial year (21/22)	New segregated cycle track
8 Hinckley To Nuneaton Cycle Route (A47 Long Shoot)	A	2021/22								651,000								Consultation complete. Target start Jan/Feb 2022., subject to Road Space confirmation and acceptance of RSA exception report on Cycle priority crossings. EATF Tranche 2 and S106 funding replaces CIF allocation.	New segregated cycle track
9 Greenman Crossroad	A	2022								650,000								Detailed design nearing completion. Finalising changes to signage. Diversion issue highlighted by Clirs Humphreys and Clir Taylor due to proposed weight limit imposed on Coton Road Bridge.	Signalisation of an existing crossroad
10 Temple Hill Roundabout, Wolvey	A	2022								1,600,000								Completing detailed design, procurement expected August 2021. Contract drawings and POCOC being prepared. Waiting for some utility C4 estimates and street lighting design.	Casualty Reduction scheme to deliver a new roundabout at existing crossroads.



TOP 10 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



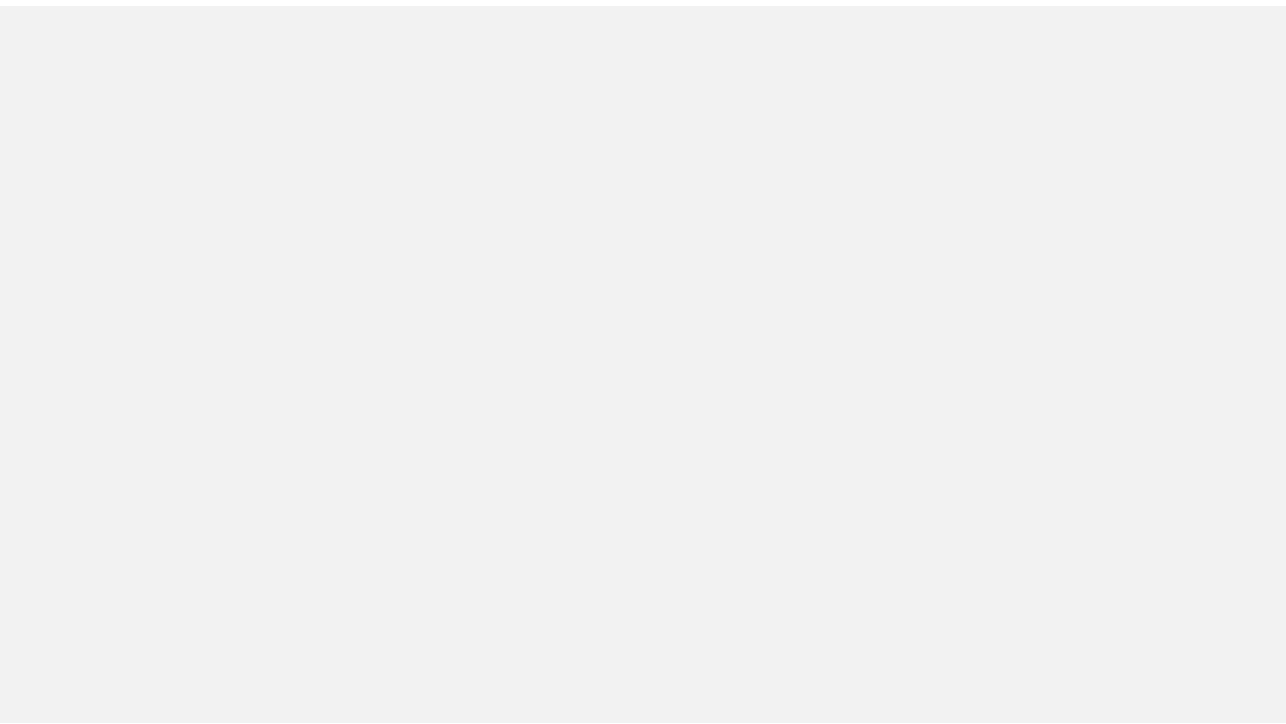
September 20, 2021

Scheme Name	Status	Expected Delivery	Stage of the Scheme				Priority	Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief		
			Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement		Low	Medium	High	< 5 Million	5 Million < X < 10 Million	> 10 Million	Technical	Strategic			Environmental	Financial
1 A3400 Bham Road Stratford Corridor	G	2023/24										6,550,000						Project will be developed in a number of phases and programmed to take into account other work due to take place in Stratford. Phase 1 has been delayed by 6 months due to traffic management restrictions imposed around vaccination centres	Ped/ cycle facilities and junction improvements
2 Emscote Road Cycle Corridor including Portobello Bridge widening		TBC										10,000,000						Completion of optioneering for the bridge is delayed. Project will be developed in a number of phases and will absorb the Portobello Deck Replacement scheme. Currently awaiting formal start for the project and hand over from the client (TPU)	Dedicated (segregated) cycleway. Widened bridge and improve ped/cycle facilities
3 Leamington Station	A	Spring 2022								1,200,000								Network Rail will be responsible for scheme delivery and a legal agreement is in the final stages of drafting to enable this to proceed. Initial cost estimates from Network Rail are higher than the approved budget. Alternative funding sources are being explored	Station forecourt scheme
4 A429 Coventry Road corridor	A	TBC								4,680,000								A429 Cycle Facilities only for delivery by March 2022. GBF funding constraint.	Provision of 1.2km shared use cycleway/footway
5 A46 Strategic Link Road	A	2026/27										70,000,000						Part of this work to be taken forward in the cycle schemes programme, improvements at Spinney Hill roundabout in programme for development in future years	New transport corridor to south of Coventry
6 Warwick Town Centre- St Johns Road	A	2022/23								1,326,000								Initial consultation complete, OBC in preparation. Funding application to DfT Autumn 2021. Report to Cabinet Autumn 2021 to set out next steps	Junction improvement, town gateway
7 A452 Europa Way - WCC-2	A	Q1 FY24/25										7,900,000						Brief received from TPU, Project board set up. Engineering are working on concept phase	Dualling of carriageway, inclusive of a toucan crossing & upgrading existing roundabout.
8 A452 Europa Way - WCC-3	A	Q3 FY23/24										8,300,000						Feasibility work	Upgrading existing roundabouts & additional lane capacity
9 A452 K2L Cycle Route	A	2023/24								4,749,000								Design work on going	A off-carriageway cycle route, including a new pedestrian / cycle bridge crossing the river
10																		Land valuations received and a full scheme cost estimate (draft) prepared. Scoping options to be considered by Project Board. Planning application and land acquisitions to be progress during 20/21. Initial designs are well established. Programme to be updated.	

Key - Colour Scheme R A G

O F D P L M H L M H

<p>User Guide The purpose of the document is to provide a brief but clear visual demonstration of the top schemes that we currently have in development. This document can be used to provide a high-level forward plan to show how the schemes fit into the overall business and will be updated every quarter which will assist us in monitoring our schemes.</p>
<p>Scheme Name Name of scheme. Note: there is no particular order for the ranking</p>
<p>Status Blank - Project Initiation Document not received Red - Programme overrun, Budget overrun, Major issues Amber - Scheme is progressing but there are issues which are being dealt with and/or there is a risk of project overrun or budget overrun Green - Project progressing as expected</p>
<p>Expected Delivery Completion of construction</p>
<p>Stage of the Scheme The schemes that are shown are start from commissioning team handover to the beginning of construction This includes optioneering, feasibility, detailed design and procurement</p>
<p>Commissioning Priority Priority is provided by the commissioning team, separated into low, medium or high</p>
<p>Scheme Value Estimated budget for the scheme, separated into low, medium or high</p>
<p>Top Risks Technical (including construction/contract risks) Strategic/Administrative Environmental Health & Safety Financial</p> <p>Low - No action required. Review annually to ensure risk level does not change. Medium - Consider risk action and review periodically High - Consider immediate risk action, review regularly and report to management</p>
<p>Comments Can provide further insight of the top risks and capture additional comments that needs to be highlighted</p>
<p>Scheme Brief A short description of the key elements of the scheme</p>





TOP 10 NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



September 20, 2021

Scheme Name	Status	Expected Delivery	Stage of the Scheme					Commission Priority	Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief		
			Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Constructio		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Technical	Strategic			Environmental	Financial
1 Bermuda Connect	A	July/Aug 22											10,400,000						April 21-Contractor (CRR) established Site Compound and starting works on St Georges way realignment of kerbs/haighway to create the cycleway. June 21 Works starting on gabion wall required adjacent to the rail alignment north of Bermuda Rail Station. TM being agreed to get access from the A444 for Bridge works.	Delivering additional highway capacity&improved connectivity in
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3																				
4																				
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9																				
10																				



TOP 10 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



September 20, 2021

Scheme Name	Status	Expected Delivery	Stage of the Scheme					Priority	Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief		
			Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Constructio		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Technical	Strategic			Environmental	Financial
1 Stoneleigh Junction	A	Summer 22											38,300,000						This scheme is being delivered with our strategic partners, CCC & WDC. Funding has been secured from WCC, DfT and WMCA to deliver the scheme.	New signalised gyratory system.
2 Europa Way corridor	A	2025/26											40,000,000						This is a programme, rather than a project, and made up of various S278 schemes and capital projects. S278 schemes are under construction. Capital schemes are in design.	Delivery of a series of highway and sustainable transport improvement schemes
3																				
4																				
5																				
6																				
7																				
8																				
9																				
10																				

Key - Colour Scheme R A G

L M H L M H L M H

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21
17th November 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. Comment on the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement attached as Appendix 2 and provide suggestions for improvement for future Statements.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Committee the opportunity to see information required to be published by the County Council under Regulation 121A of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and to provide feedback on how that information might be supplemented or enhanced. Regulation 121A requires any Local Authority in receipt of developer contributions to publish specified Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) data for the previous financial year. The Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (AIFS) must be published online by 31st December 2021. There has been no change to the legislation since last year's statement and no further guidance has been issued.
- 1.2 The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations were amended in September 2019 to increase local authorities' reporting obligations on their income from developers. The reporting requirements aim to 'help to further increase transparency and accountability and improve the quality of data available. Infrastructure funding statements can be a useful tool for wider engagement, for example with infrastructure providers.' Likely users include housing developers, community organisations and public sector bodies. Appendix 1 sets out what is Regulation 121A requires to be included in the AIFS.
- 1.3 WCC is not a CIL-collecting authority, so is therefore not required to produce a full CIL Report as laid out in the amended regulations; instead WCC will provide more limited information on any CIL passed on by District and Borough Councils. 2020/21 was the first year in which the County Council received CIL and this amounted only £50,000 received for the Bath Street scheme in Leamington.
- 1.4 WCC does collect developer contributions via Section 106 so is required to report detail on S106 funding. In short, the Council is required to report on S106 income received and spent as well as the amount of funding held at the 31st March each year. This is a much more substantial amount of income: in 2020/21 the County Council held a little over £52m in Section 106 receipts.

- 1.5 Last year's statement and the approach taken was endorsed by Cabinet and considered by Overview and Scrutiny and the same approach is being recommended this year. Taking on board the recommendations from last year our S106 monitoring processes have been updated however there remain some issues identifying older funds which are being resolved which will allow us to publish more detail in future Statements.
- 1.6 The draft AIFS was considered by Corporate Board on 20th October 2021 and is due to go to Cabinet on 7th December 2021.
- 1.7 The S106 master spreadsheet is the primary source of S106 data from signing of the agreement to the spend and meeting national reporting requirements. It reflects the ledger in terms of financial data whilst providing more detailed data to respond to queries and ensure pro-active monitoring of S106 income and spend. This provides an overview of S106 funding which informs strategic infrastructure decisions
- 1.8 We have used the learning from the publication of this year's report to inform changes to our S106 monitoring processes which have a particular focus on ensuring accurate and up to date information on S106 spend and to reduce the resource required to produce the report in future years.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The County Council's future funding and investment plans are best publicised within the medium-term financial strategy, annual budget and capital strategy, all of which are to be approved by full Council soon after the publication of the AIFS in the annual democratic cycle. The approach taken in the AIFS was therefore to signpost readers to these other documents.
- 4.2 The infrastructure categories (highways, community facilities etc) are those suggested by the national guidance, and there was a degree of interpretation required to fit our projects in to these categories and it is expected that these will be broken down into more detailed categories in the future.

- 4.3 Section 106 agreements are negotiated in such a way that allows WCC the flexibility to provide the infrastructure when it is required and that allows for the long timescales often associated with significant infrastructure projects. Payment schedules however are based on developer milestones or trigger points; this can mean that balances build up for large projects. Often it is within WCC's interests to hold S106 funding to ensure that infrastructure is delivered at the right time and to ensure capital spending is approved by Cabinet.
- 4.4 The level of spend of Section 106 contributions therefore varies year on year, depending on both the scale of our spend on infrastructure projects and fluctuations in the rate of actual developer build-out across the County; we have seen an increase in planning applications and house building in recent years and would expect to see this reflected in increased spend in future years but also potentially an increase in held balances at any given snapshot in time.
- 4.5 As referenced in last year's report, the team is working to provide the following in future years:
- Developer agreement listing – a list of extant developer agreements, cross-referenced to planning applications
 - Developer contributions – a list of obligations within the above agreements and their intended infrastructure type
 - In-year transactions – a complete list of transactions during the year in relation to s106 obligations and funds
 - Full-year reconciliation – a summary version of the above documents that will allow readers a simple view of the overall movements on s106 contributions
- 4.6 It has not been possible to provide greater detail in this year's report due to complexities in the S106 monitoring system, work is ongoing with finance to resolve these issues in order to provide such detail in future reports.
- 4.7 The committee is asked to comment on the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement attached as Appendix 2 and provide suggestions for improvement for future Statements.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The AIFS is due to be considered by Cabinet on 7th December 2021
- 5.2 The AIFS will be published on the WCC website prior to 31st December 2021.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement Requirements
2. Appendix 2 – Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21

Background Papers

1. None

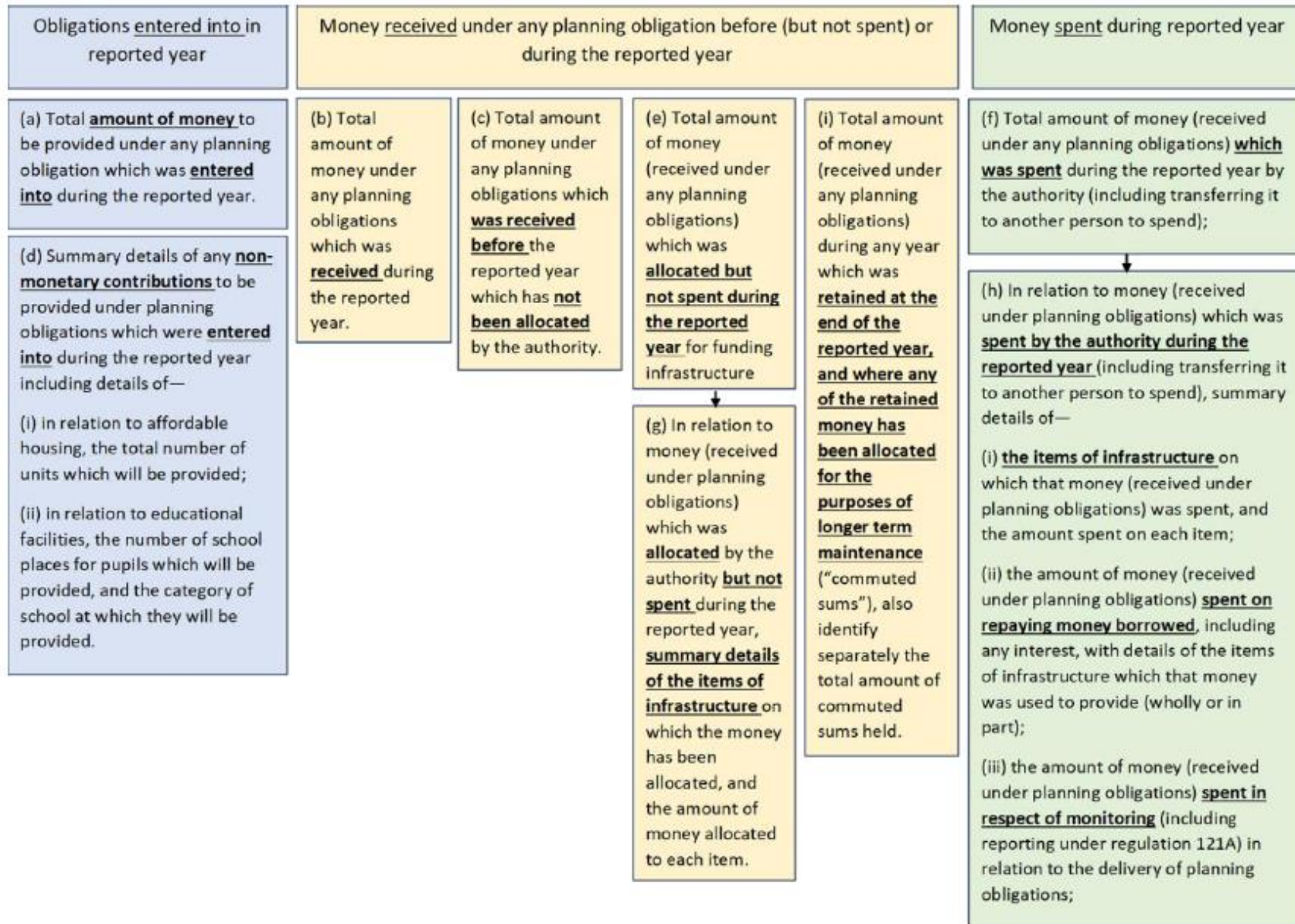
	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Graham Palmer	grahampalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 738802
Assistant Director	Dave Ayton-Hill	daveaytonhill@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Member	Peter Butlin	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: None

Appendix 1 – Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement Requirements



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Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21

Contents

P1	Introduction
P2	Table 1 - Total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligation which was entered into during 2020/21
	Table 2 - Summary details of non-monetary contributions secured during 2020/21
	Table 3 - Money received from any s106 during 2020/21
	Table 4 - Total amount of money received before 2020/21 which has not been allocated
	Table 5 - Total amount of money which was allocated but not spent during 2020/21
P3	Table 6 - Total amount of money retained at the end 2020/21
	Table 7 - Contributions spent in 2020/21 by infrastructure type and project
P4	Money Borrowed
	S106 Monitoring fees
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P5	Table 10 – CIL Received in 2020/21
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Introduction

Warwickshire County Council's ("WCC") Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (AIFS) sets out the developer contributions secured and applied by WCC in relation to 2020/21 as required by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019. WCC does not collect Community Infrastructure Levy directly but does collect S106 contributions for developments in Warwickshire secured as part of planning obligations; this statement provides further details on those contributions. The following definitions are used to reflect the various stages of developer contributions:

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

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

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

1. Total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligation which was entered into during 2020/21

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	96,862.45
Education	4,431,855.1
Green Infrastructure	293,756.60
Highways	5,671,948.26
Transport and Travel	947,661.47
Monitoring	14,550.00
Total	11,456,633.88

2. Summary details of non-monetary contributions secured during 2020/21

S106 Agreement	Land usage
Land secured via 035037	Footbridge Land

3. Money received from any s106 during 2020/21

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	34,295.90
Education	13,742,476.54
Green Infrastructure	1,485,613.81
Highways	3,937,645.17
Monitoring and Administration	2,800.00
Transport and Travel	1,451,822.77
Total	20,654,654.19

4. Total amount of money received before 2020/21 which has not been allocated

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	0
Education	36,499,042.79
Green Infrastructure	0
Highways	13,117,065.09
Monitoring and Administration	0
Transport and Travel	1,947.92
Total	49,618,055.80

5. Total amount of money which was allocated but not spent during 2020/21

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	34,295.90
Education	0
Green Infrastructure	1,485,613.81
Highways	163,312.46
Monitoring and Administration	0
Transport and Travel	942,452.27

Total	2,625,674.44
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6. Total amount of money retained at the end 2020/21

Infrastructure Type	Amount (£)
Community Facilities	506,539.00
Education	36,232,806.55
Green Infrastructure	3,286,470.95
Highways	6,317,930.67
Transport and Travel	6,293,162.63
Total	52,636,909.80

7. Contributions spent in 2020/21 by infrastructure type and project

Infrastructure Type	Project	Monies Spent (£)
Community Facilities	Leamington Library	8,300.00
	Rugby Library	20,944.00
	Nuneaton Library	10,021.00
	Stratford-on-Avon Library	5,355.00
	Shipston-On-Stour Library	174.00
	Alcester Library	192.00
	Community Facilities Total	44,986.00
Education	Evergreen School Reconfiguration of Classrooms	42,804.00
	Evergreen School Reconfiguration of Classrooms	21,587.00
	Campion Phase 1 (including Sports Hall refurb)	1,510,734
	Campion Phase 1 (including Sports Hall refurb)	408,103.94
	Campion Phase 2	406,863.67
	Contribution for Library lease	75,000.00
	Nature room and toilet	57,114.59
	Oakley Grove planning application	11,890.00
	Bidford Primary and Willow Tree Nursery	4,216.00
	Stratford-on-Avon School - Dining Room Expansion	61,162.00
	Southam Primary / Pre School - Pre School relocation	14,044.00
	Southam Primary / Pre School - Pre School relocation	40,644.79
	Southam Primary / Pre School - Pre School relocation	120,914.23
	Bidford Bright Stars – External Equipment	13,860.00
	Bidford Bright Stars – External Equipment	12,684.00
	transferred to DFE for delivery of new school at Meon Vale	1,200,000
	Southam Primary	26,264.78
	Rugby Gateway New School	1,256.67

	Long Lawford Primary School Studio Hall	88,952.54
	Education Total	4,118,096
Green Infrastructure	Biodiversity Offsetting	87,899.26
	Green Infrastructure Total	87,899.26
Highways	Hunters Lane, Rugby improvements	11,279.99
	Install MOVA operation on traffic signal junctions Emscote Road Warwick	134,640.40
	Weddington Road , Nuneaton Toucan Crossing	9,129.06
	A46 Stanks Island signalisation and improvement	86,750.58
	Warwick Town Centre improvement	9,684.50
	A444 Corridor improvements	158,894.70
	Southbound Bus Stop On A426 Leicester Rd	46.70
	Upgrade Existing Shared Ped / Cycle Path Bermuda	919.20
	Barford Junction Safety And Capacity Improvement Works	8,059.60
	Hinckley To Nuneaton Cycle Route	205,255.64
	Mancetter Road / Camp Hill Road, Nuneaton Bus Stop Improvements	3,748.22
	Bidford on Avon/ Waterloo Road/Provision of a Bus Stop and shelter	1,831.58
	Highways Total	630,240.17
Transport and Travel	Road Safety Education	54,441.00
	Public and School Transport Services	1,118,259.00
	Transport and Travel Total	1,172,700.00
Overall Total		6,053,921.43

Money Borrowed

In 2020/21 no S106 contributions were spent repaying money borrowed.

S106 Monitoring fees

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

8. S106 Monitoring Fees received in 2020/21

S106 Contribution	Amount Received (£)
Monitoring fees	2,800

9. CIL Received in 2020/21

CIL Contribution	Amount Received (£)
WDC	50,000 – Towards Bath Street, Leamington
SDC	0

10. CIL Spent in 2020/21 – TBC

CIL Contribution	Amount Spent (£)
WDC	50,000 – Towards Bath Street, Leamington
SDC	0

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Customer Feedback Overview report Financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

17 November 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. Comment on the content of the WCC Corporate Customer Feedback overview report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Summary of feedback received

Feedback is always welcomed from customers of the Council's services. The Council receives 4 types of feedback: comments, compliments, complaints and questions. There were 4,932 cases created during 2020/21 which is an increase of nearly 25% (3,953) on the previous year.

- 1.2 Customers have a choice of channels to provide their feedback: digitally via a self account they can set up through the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) website, telephone, face to face at an outlet or by post. Generally over recent years the use of a self account has been steadily increasing, during 2018/19 and 2019/20 it was around 70% for the authority. During 2020/21 this has risen to over 77%.

- 1.3 During the financial year 2020/21 the volume of cases processed and closed (4,903) increased by just over 20% (3,953) on the previous financial year and by almost 7% (4,587) on 2018/19.

- 1.4 Timeliness

WCC has specific Service Level Agreement (SLA) target times for timeliness of response to feedback classed as a question or a complaint. Most cases that are received by WCC are dealt with by the appropriate Directorate team. During 2020/21, there were 3,731 cases assigned to teams across WCC. Of the 2,915 complaint and question cases assigned and processed during the period, 81% (87.26% of questions and 73.15% of complaints) were closed within the appropriate SLA target time. There is no SLA performance target for the proportion of questions closed within the target time, however the target for complaints is 70%.

- 1.5 Complaints

- During 2020/21 there were 1,322 complaints closed by teams across WCC which is an increase of 16% on 2019/20 and over 25% more than during 2018/19. Of those closed, 967 cases achieved the service level

agreement (i.e., timeliness requirement), which means that 73.1% of complaints were managed within required timescales. This is an increase of almost 9% from the previous financial year and achieving the authority's performance target of 70%.

- Most of the complaints raised focused on perceived issues with: WCC service standards, physical environment issues, and communication. However, Contact Us currently only allows the selection of one complaint reason for each complaint raised therefore this may not provide a holistic view of all issues.
- 13% of the complaints closed were not upheld
- 19% of complaints have been upheld either fully or partially
- 35% of questions have been answered as part of a complaint.

1.6 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

The LGSCO received 21 complaints and enquiries in respect of Warwickshire County Council during financial year 2020/21 which is over 55% (47) less than during 2019/20 and 40% (35) less than 2018/19.

1.7 Learning from feedback

Putting things right where they have gone wrong and learning from issues raised is the most important part of our customer feedback process. Where there are opportunities for learning and change beyond the individual complaint raised, we look carefully at how best to do this.

From the information captured on the system the main categories of learning have been recorded as follows:

- Poor communication by officers both internally and with the customer
- Better planning required
- Staff training needed
- Improve the time for completing cases – Work has been initiated on this point with recommendations from stage 2 reports being shared and monitored with the appropriate services to ensure these are actioned and lessons learnt.

2. Financial Implications

None

3. Environmental Implications

None

4. Supporting Information

Performance highlights:

- 4.1 Number of cases created during 2020/21 was 24.8% up on 2019/20 and 4% up on 2018/19.
- 4.2 During 2018/19 and 2019/20 approximately 70% of all cases were created digitally however during 2020/21 this has increased to over 77%. It should be noted that this is a corporate figure and there are differences across directorates. For example, during 2020/21, the Communities Directorate received 89% of its feedback digitally whereas People Directorate received 40% of feedback digitally.
- 4.3 Of the 2,915 cases assigned to teams 81% (2,357) of cases were closed within the appropriate SLA time target (73.15% of complaints and 87.26% of questions) which is an increase of over 6% on 2019/20.
- 4.4 Over 86% of the complaint cases were in relation to:
 - o Communication over 69%
 - o Physical environment issues almost 10%
 - o WCC service standards almost 8%

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

Not applicable

Appendices

- 1. Appendix 1 – WCC Corporate Customer Feedback Overview report.

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Maureen Oakes	maureenoakes@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Sarah Stear	sarahstear@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Strategic Director for Resources	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Customer & Transformation	AndyJenns@Warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Councillors Clarke, Chilvers, D'Arcy and Fradgley

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Corporate Customer Feedback Overview Report

Financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to detail the four types of customer feedback which have been received by Warwickshire County Council during financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 including volume, efficiency of processing and outcome for the customer.

Background

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has a well-established and comprehensive customer feedback handling process which is detailed in the Corporate Complaints Policy <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/complaints>. There are two statutory procedures used in People Directorate – Adult Social Care complaints procedures, and Children’s Social Care complaints procedures, as well as the use of the corporate General complaints procedures for issues which do not fall within these statutory procedures. The systems in place confirm that we want to hear from people when we get things right, and when we could do things better. This helps us to:

- Understand what services people value and why
- Share best practice
- Make sure we learn and continually improve how we provide services to our customers
- Recognise and reward when our staff “go the extra mile”.

Our customer feedback is handled and kept within a specialist ICT customer feedback management system called ‘Contact Us’. Most of our feedback is received digitally, through the WCC website, where customers can choose to register, or submit their feedback anonymously. Contact Us is not a dedicated case management system and has some flaws in relation to allowing the Council to get the best value from customers’ feedback, however this is being addressed.

We encourage all staff to respond quickly and clearly to any concerns that are raised by individuals or groups. We want all our customers to feel confident that their views will be taken seriously, and that there will be no repercussions if they need to raise genuine concerns.

The Council aims to resolve customer’s complaints at the earliest opportunity and with the minimum of formality wherever possible. However, we follow the statutory requirements for complaints about Children and Family services, which gives customers the potential to have their issues considered at three internal stages if required, before referring to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) if they remain dissatisfied.

This report will detail and analyse the following:

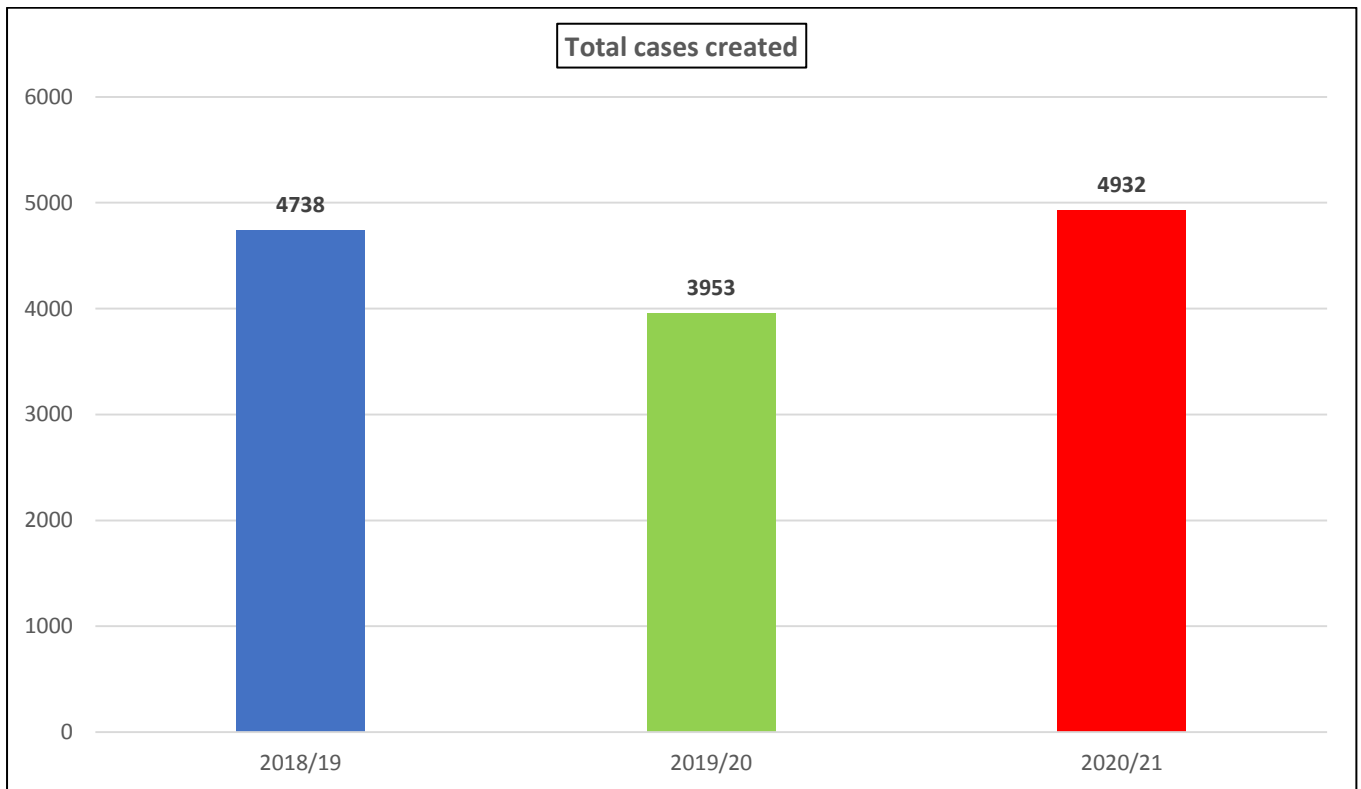
- Volume -

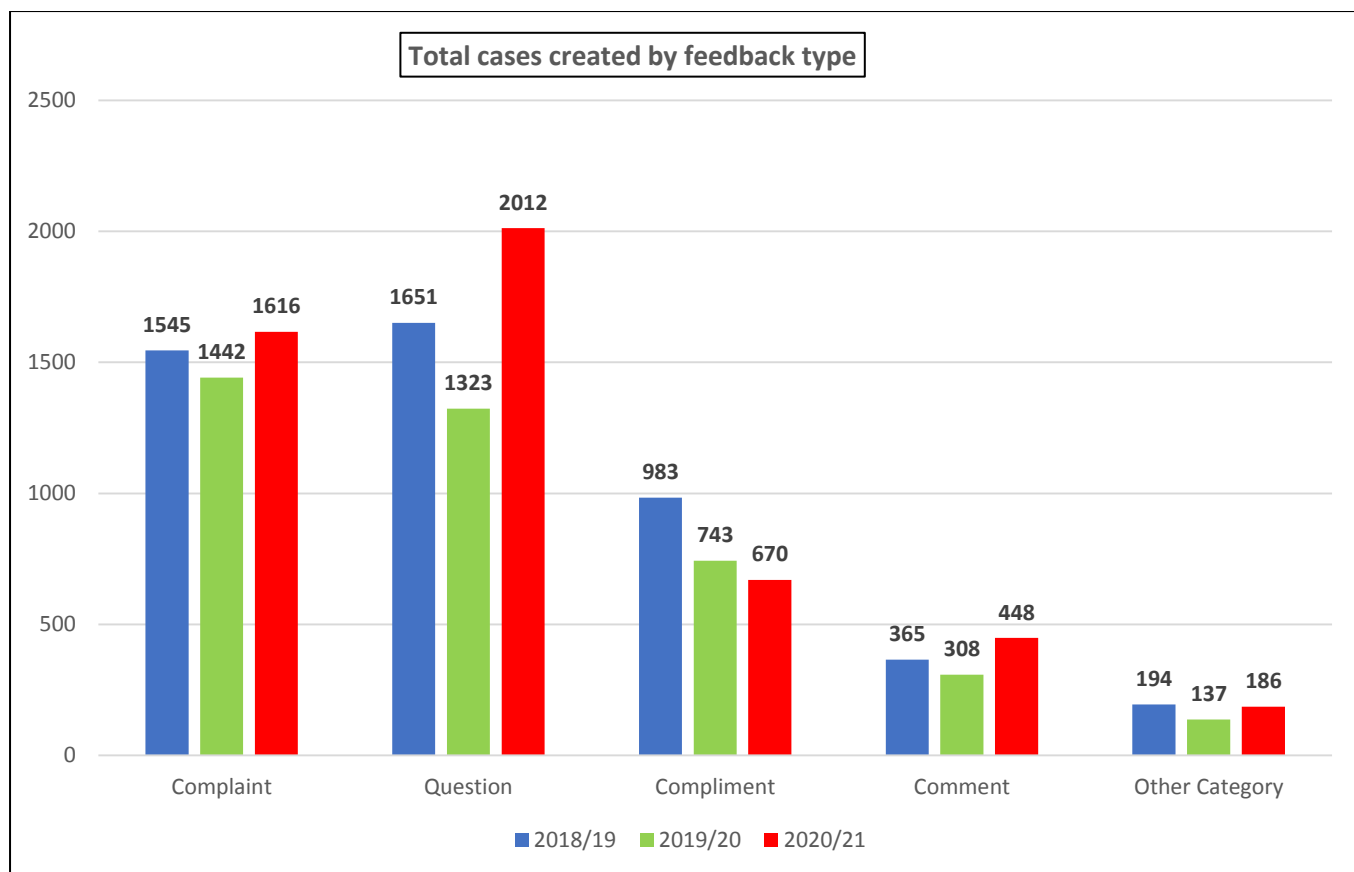
- All feedback cases created during the period: compliments, complaints, questions and comments that have been received by all services across the organisation
- Cases processed and closed within the period

- Timeliness – Feedback closed within the appropriate SLA
- Complaint issues
- Outcomes and remedies for customers
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)
- Learning from feedback

Feedback received

Feedback is always welcomed from customers of the Council's services. The tables below detail the number of cases received during the periods of this report and the breakdown by volume of the 4 types of feedback.





Cases created are all feedback cases that have been received within the period. This does not include cases that were created in the previous year which had not been closed in the same financial year. The total number of cases created during 2020/21 (4,932) is an increase of 24.8% on 2019/20 (3,953). 2019/20 saw a decrease of nearly 17% on the previous year (4,738).

Each feedback type saw a reduction in cases created during 2019/20 compared to 2018/19:

- Complaints reduced by 6.6% although Resources directorate saw an increase of 15.6%.
- Compliments reduced by over 24% with People directorate receiving almost 75% of all compliments assigned to teams during 2019/20.
- Questions reduced by almost 20% although questions to People directorate increased by just over 8%
- Comments reduced by almost 16%, however Communities directorate received almost 65% of all comments assigned to teams during 2019/20.

However during 2020/21 the trend, apart from compliments, has seen an increase in feedback compared to 2019/20:

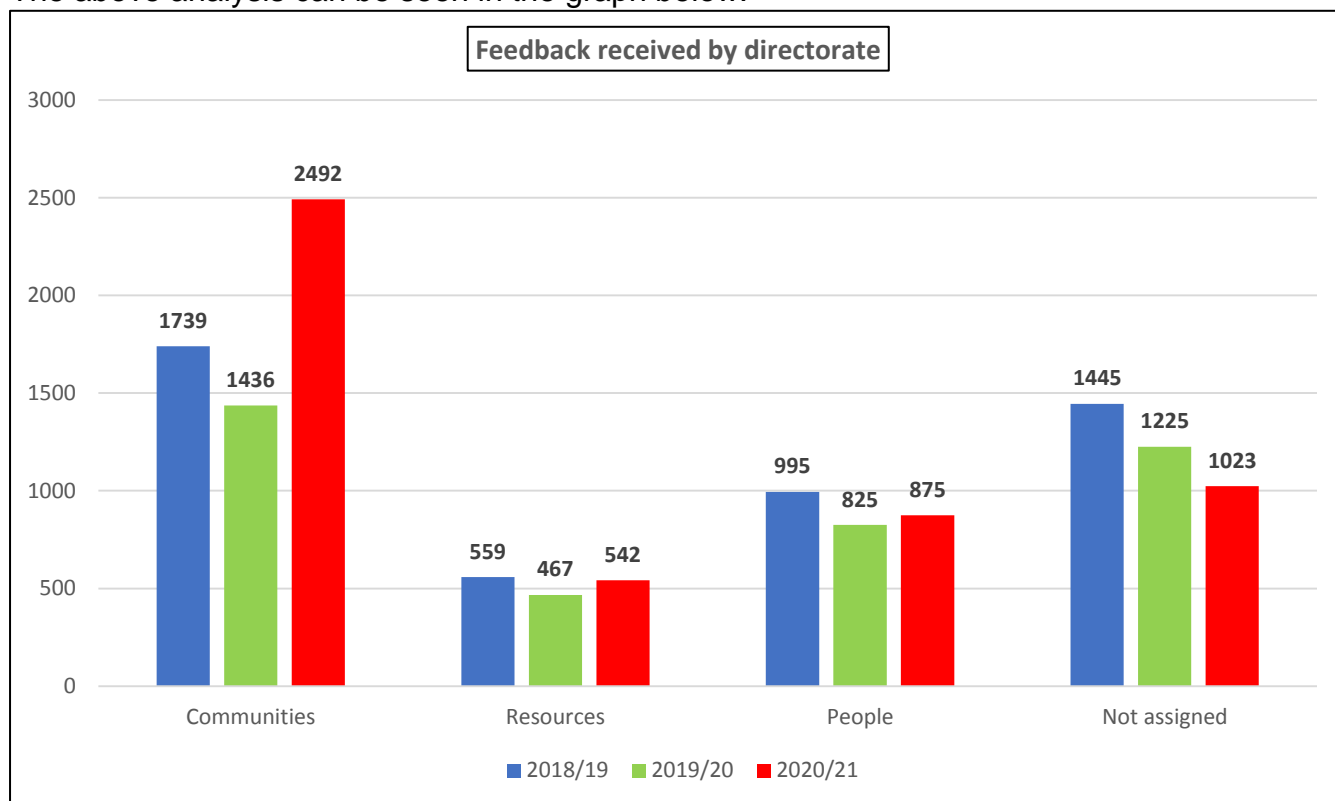
- Complaints have increased by over 12% across the authority, with 2020/21 being the highest volume in the past 3 years:
 - Communities complaints are up by almost 51%
 - Resources complaints have decreased by almost 3%
 - Peoples complaints have reduced by almost 2%
 - Complaint cases received that were not assigned to teams decreased by almost 27%.

- Compliments have fallen during the past 3 years, 2018/19 (983) to 2020/21 (670) by over 31%, the lowest volume in the past 3 years:
 - Although complaints to Communities have increased they have seen an almost 9 fold increase in compliments
 - Resources compliments have reduced by over 84%
 - People have seen a reduction in compliments of over 8%
 - Compliments not assigned to a team have also reduced by almost 34%.

- Questions to the authority have increased dramatically over the past year up 52% on 2019/20, the highest volume in the past 3 years:
 - Communities had the greatest increase and also the largest volume during 2020/21 (1,163). This is an increase of 69% on the previous year
 - Resources received 246 questions which is an increase of over 90%
 - People received 191 questions an increase of almost 58%
 - Questions not assigned also increased by 7% from 385 in 2019/20 to 412 in 2020/21.

- Comments to the authority rose by over 45% in 2020/21 and are at the highest volume in 3 years:
 - Most comments were received by Communities Directorate, 239 which is an increase of over 143% on the previous year.
 - Resources received an increase of 64%
 - People received an increase of almost 43%
 - Comments not assigned reduced by 20%.

The above analysis can be seen in the graph below:



Customers have a choice of channels to provide their feedback: digitally via a self account they can set up through the WCC website, telephone, face to face at an outlet or by post.

The table below details the growth in digital channel use for feedback over the past 3 years.

Percentage of cases created* via customer self-account by feedback type			
Type of feedback	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Complaint	69%	66%	63%
Question	99%	99%	99%
Compliment	19%	15%	23%
Comment	93%	85%	82%
Other category	83%	83%	79%
Total	77.14%	69.08%	68.93%

* Note that cases created is different from cases closed.

Customer use of the digital channel to provide feedback differs across each directorate. 'Other category' are cases that provide additional information on closed or open cases.

The Communities directorate during 2020/21 received 89% of its feedback digitally whereas People Directorate received 40% of feedback digitally.

The table below details the percentage use of the digital channel by directorate over the past 3 years.

Percentage of cases created* via customer self-account by directorate			
Directorate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Communities	86.03%	86.63%	88.76%
People	21.11%	29.82%	40.00%
Resources	53.31%	51.18%	70.48%
Not assigned a team/closed at triage	89.13%	83.35%	85.14%
Total	69.48%	69.57%	77.35%

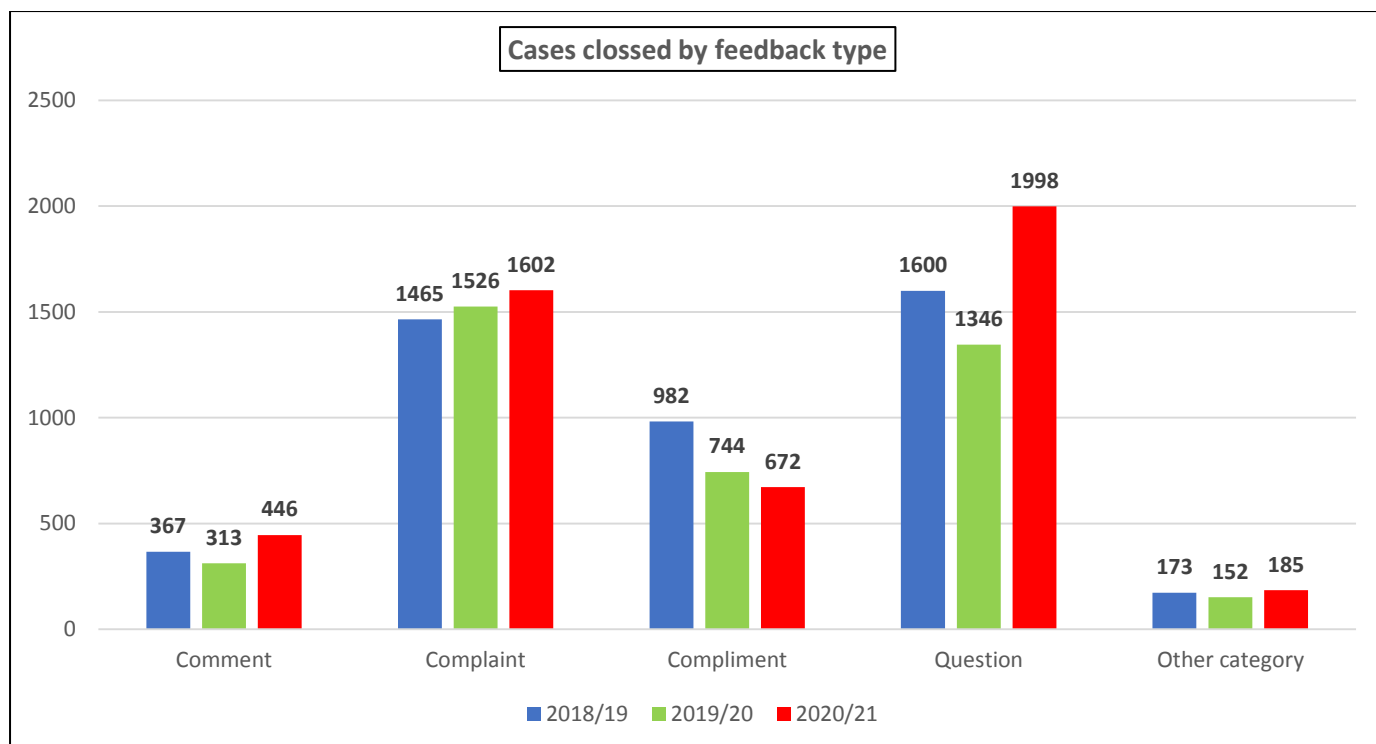
* Note that cases created is different from cases closed.

Cases closed

All cases received into Contact Us have to be processed prior to closing in the system. There are 2 different types of processing required:

1. A complaint or question relating to WCC and/or its services requires processing and a response provided to the customer within an agreed timescale (Service Level Agreement) As set out in our complaint policy link [here](#) , Customer Care Charter and Standards link [Customer care](#) or in legislation.
2. Feedback received within the system which is not with regard to WCC or the services it delivers or not appropriate for the system requires a specific response (generally signposting) to the customer.

The chart below details the number of cases that have been processed and closed over the past 3 years. During 2020/21 there was just over a 20% increase in cases closed on the previous period and an increase of almost 7% on 2018/19.



It should be noted that cases closed during a period represent those that have been processed, however there were existing cases which were carried over from the previous financial year, just as there were cases received but not processed by the end of the period.

Timescales

Cases Closed at Initial Triage

WCC has specific SLA's for timeliness of response to feedback classed as a question or a complaint, customers do not receive a response to comments or compliments made. Where a response is required, most of these cases are dealt with by the appropriate Directorate team. However, there are cases which are submitted digitally by customers via their self-account that are either not for WCC or not appropriate for the Contact Us process. These cases are:

1. Services delivered by another authority, a district or borough or another organisation
2. The reporting of an initial service request, generally highways related
3. Anonymous submission of question or complaint whereby it is not possible to fully process and respond to the customer.
4. Or can be answered by the Customer Relations Team immediately

Cases which fall into the above categories are closed at initial triage and the customer responded to accordingly. These cases are referred to as 'not assigned a team/closed at triage'. **All these cases are closed within the SLA.** In addition, comments and compliments do not require a response to the customer and are generally processed and closed at triage.

Cases closed

Complaints	2018/19			2019/20			2020/21		
	Number of Cases	Within SLA	%	Number of Cases	Within SLA	%	Number of Cases	Within SLA	%
Communities	636	535	84.12	577	510	88.39	843	738	87.54
People	281	99	35.23	378	114	30.16	308	130	42.30
Resources	136	81	59.56	185	111	60	171	99	57.90
Total assigned	1,053	715	67.90	1,140	735	64.47	1,322	967	73.15
Not assigned to a team	412	411	99.76	386	386	100	280	279	100
Total	1,465	1,126	76.86	1,526	1,121	73.46	1,602	1,246	77.77
Questions									
Communities	819	702	85.71	713	645	90.46	1,146	1,050	91.62
People	102	77	75.49	119	89	74.79	200	152	76
Resources	177	129	72.88	132	100	75.76	247	188	76.11
Total assigned	1,098	908	82.69	964	834	86.51	1,593	1,390	87.26
Not assigned to a team	502	502	100	382	382	100	405	405	100
Total	1,600	1,410	88.13	1,346	1,216	90.34	1,998	1,795	89.83
Comments									
Communities	116	100	86	102	94	92	239	221	92
People	14	11	79	14	9	64	21	16	76
Resources	74	68	92	40	37	93	62	52	84
Total assigned	204	179	88	156	140	90	322	289	90
Not assigned to a team	163	163	100	157	157	100	124	124	100
Total	367	342	93	313	297	95	446	413	93
Compliments									
Communities	35	33	94	18	17	94	151	148	98
People	515	512	99	357	354	99	327	322	98
Resources	107	106	99	102	102	100	16	14	88
Total assigned	657	651	99	477	473	99	494	484	98
Not assigned to a team	325	325	100	267	267	100	178	178	100
Total	982	976	99	744	740	99	672	662	99

The table above details the responsiveness of each directorate to customer feedback during 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. It is important to note that questions and complaints for People Directorate are not all processed within the directorate; the Customer Service Centre - Supporting People Team, the Financial Assessment Team and the Commissioning Support Unit are service areas within the Resources Directorate that are responsible for investigating and responding to certain People Directorate complaints.

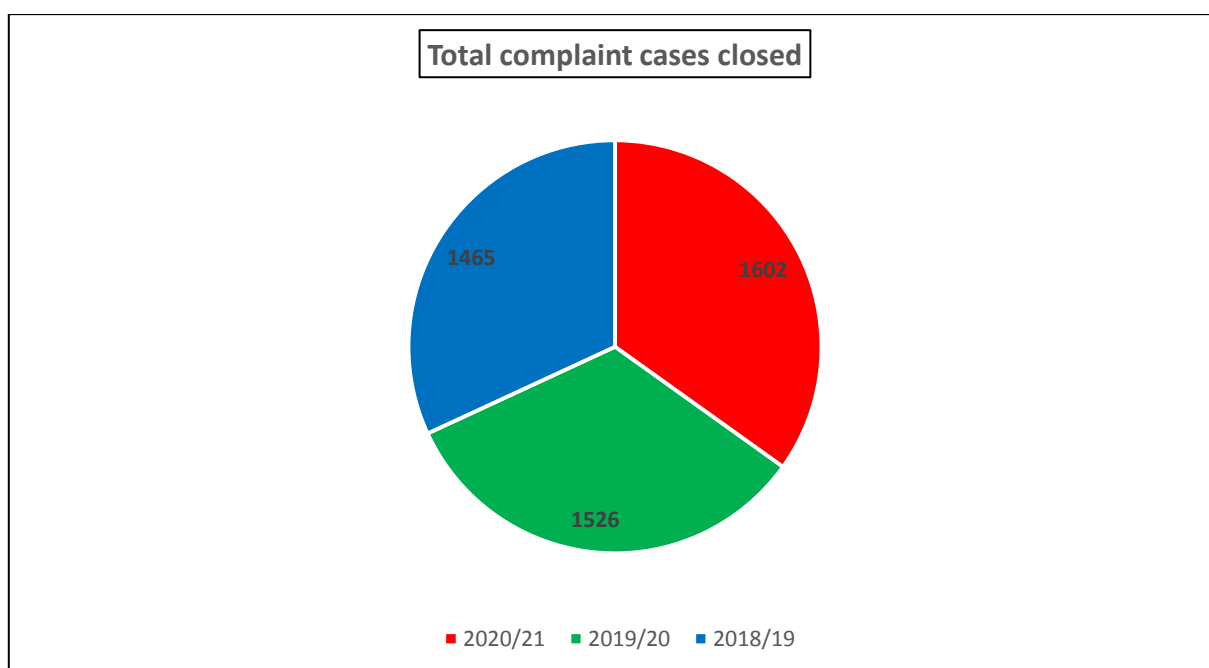
Cases closed after assignment to teams

- During 2020/21 there was an increase of over 36% of cases assigned to teams on the previous financial year and 24% higher than during 2018/19.
- Of the 2,915 cases (complaints and questions) assigned 81% (2,357) of cases were closed within the appropriate SLA (73.15% of complaints and 87.26% of questions) which is an increase of over 6% on 2019/20. There is no SLA performance target for questions however the target for complaints is 70%.

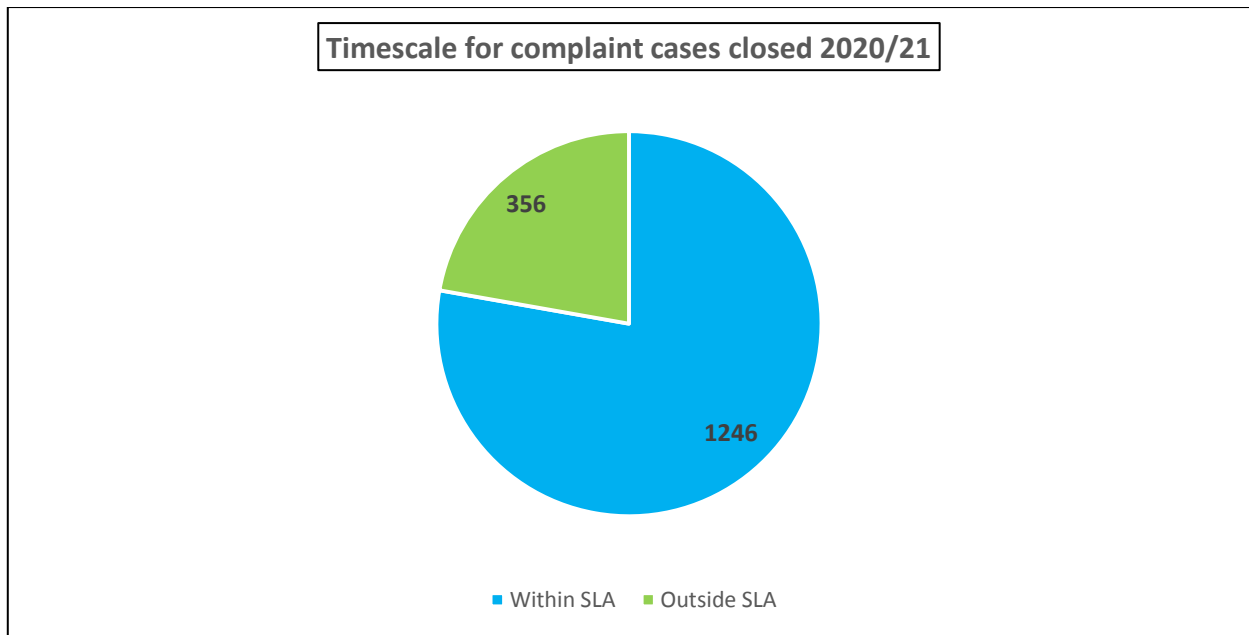
Complaints

Closed cases

During 2020/21 there were almost 5% more complaint cases closed than during the previous year and over 9% more than during 2018/19.



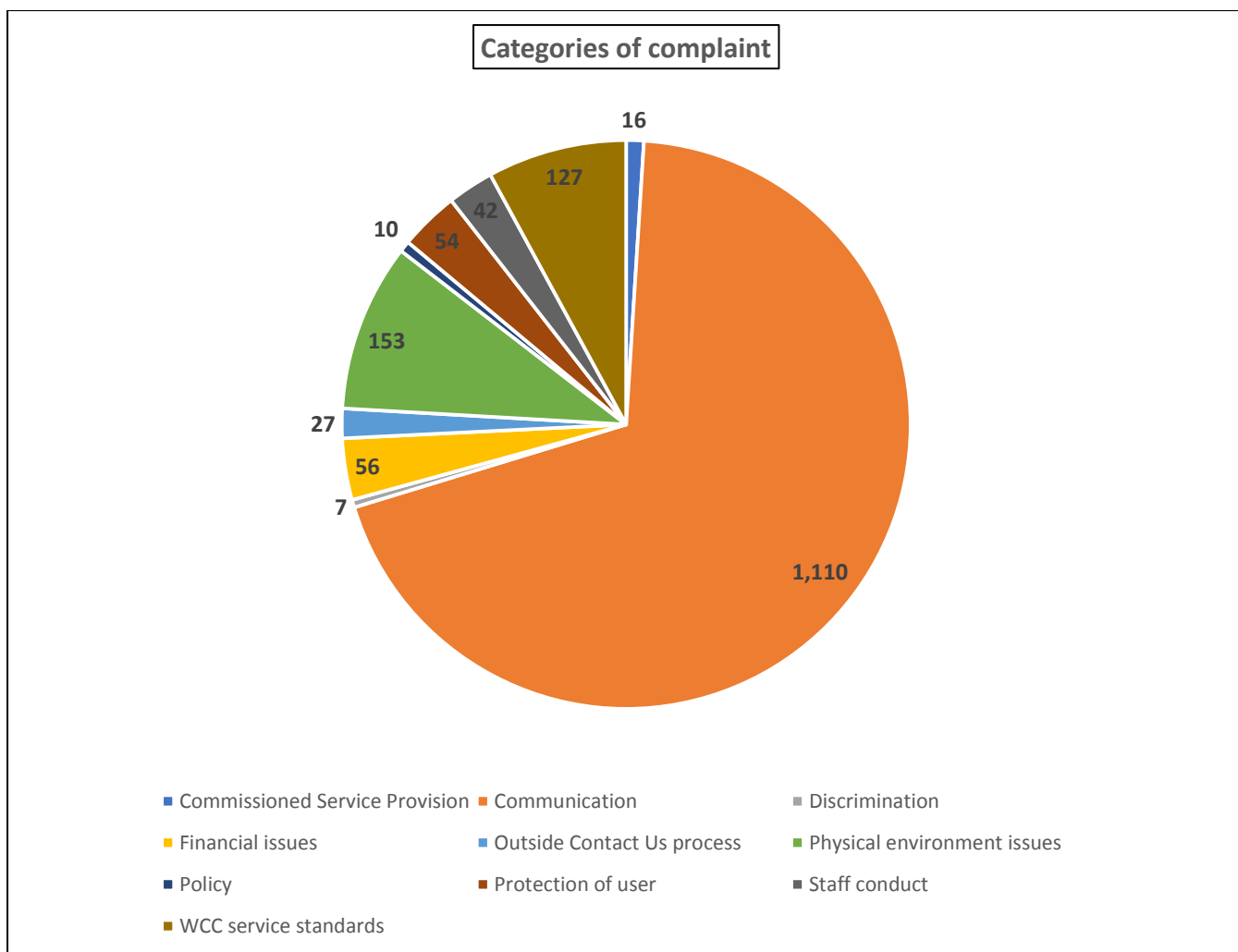
Of the 1,602 complaint cases processed during 2020/21, 1,246 cases achieved the service level agreement (i.e. timeliness requirement), which means that 77.77% of complaints were managed within required timescales. This is an increase of over 4% from the previous financial year and achieves the authority's target of 70%.



Categories of complaint

Most of the complaints raised focused on perceived issues with: WCC service standards, physical environment issues, communication and staff conduct. However, Contact Us currently only allows the selection of one complaint reason for each complaint raised therefore this may not provide a holistic view of all issues.

The diagram below shows the closure categories of all complaints processed during 2020/21.



Closure categories of complaint by Directorate 2020/21

When a complaint is processed and closed the investigating officer or triage officer must assign a reason to the complaint. Of the 1,602 complaints processed the table below details the categories assigned at closure either by Directorate or when closed at triage. During 2020/21 69% of complaints closed were categorised as communication issues. However, during the previous financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 ‘WCC service standards’ was the highest reason for complaints with 30% and 33% respectively. During all 3 financial years the second highest closure reason was ‘Physical Environment Issues’ ranging from 26% during 2018/19, 23% 2019/20, falling to 9.5% in 2020/21.

Closure category	Communities	Fire & Rescue	People	Resources	Not assigned a team/closed at triage	Total by category
Commissioned Service Provision	2	-	12	2	-	16
Communication	663	4	189	93	165	1,110
Discrimination	3	-	-	3	1	7
Financial issues	16	-	19	10	11	56
Outside Contact Us process	8	-	2	1	16	27
Physical environment issues	71	-	3	11	68	153
Policy	5	-	-	2	3	10
Protection of user	5	-	36	8	5	54
Staff conduct	14	-	12	13	3	42
WCC service standards	56	-	35	28	8	127

Outcome and remedy for customers

Complaints closed by outcome			
Closure Outcome	Total 2018/19	Total 2019/20	Total 2020/21
No outcome provided	12	18	133
All: Transferred	34	24	61
Complaint: Deemed to be Withdrawn	23	43	35
Complaint: Inconclusive	38	54	58
Complaint: Not upheld	202	203	169
Complaint: Partially Upheld	112	158	121
Complaint: Upheld	79	98	130
Complaint: Withdrawn by Customer	17	21	20
Question: Answered	499	447	463
Question: Partially Answered	14	19	31
Question: Unable to Answer	23	55	101

The above data shows:

- The percentage of complaints not upheld has reduced over the past 3 years: 19.2% in 2018/19, 17.8% 2019/20 and 12.8% in 2020/21.
- Complaints that have been upheld either fully or partially have fallen from 22.5% in 2019/20 to 19% in 2020/21.
- The percentage of questions answered as part of a complaint has fallen from over 47% during 2018/19, down to 39.2% in 2019/20 and 35% in 2020/21.

Complaints closed by Remedy			
Remedy	Total 2018/19	Total 2019/20	Total 2020/21
Apology	217	241	218
Change in Policy	4	2	3
Change in Process	36	19	26
Explanation Provided	776	829	773
Financial Remedy	13	10	11
Service Provided	247	282	372

There can be more than one remedy to a complaint, but most of customers' issues have been resolved - at least partially - with an explanation. During 2020/21 an explanation was provided as a remedy in 48% of cases closed, 55% during 2019/20 and 53% in 2018/19. A further significant proportion have been resolved by providing an apology or delivery of a service.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

There were 21 complaints and enquiries received by the LGSCO in respect of Warwickshire County Council during the financial year 2020/21. Full details of the areas these related to and the outcome is as follows:

Area	Upheld	Not upheld	Closed after initial enquires
Adult Social Care	3	1	3
Education	2	1	2
Children Social Care	1		1

Right of way			1
Transport		1	2
Planning			1
COVID19			1
Other			1

Further information is available on the LGSCO website [here](#)

The table below details the areas of complaints and enquiries which were received by the LGSCO in respect of Warwickshire County Council in the period relating to this report.

More details relating to the 47 received during 2019/20 can be found in the report to Cabinet 10 September 2020 [here](#)

Regarding the 35 complaints and enquiries made to the LGSCO during 2018/19 further information is available on the LGSCO website [here](#)

Area	2018/19	2019/20
Adult Social Care	9	17
Corporate & other services	2	5
Education & Children's Services	13	17
Environmental Services & Public Protection & Regulation	-	1
Highways & Transport	7	5
Planning & Development	2	1
Other	2	1
Total	35	47

Learning from complaints

Putting things right where they have gone wrong and learning from issues raised is the most important part of our customer feedback process. Where there are opportunities for learning and change beyond the individual complaint raised, we look carefully at how best to do this and consider:

- improving training and support for staff
- reviewing guidance and communication
- reviewing and improving policies, procedures and processes

As mentioned, the current complaints case management system, Contact Us, is under review due to failings around the level of information it captures, as well as its ability to manage information in a user-friendly, customer-centric way. Much of the detail in relation to learning from our customers' feedback therefore has been captured outside the system. There is a field 'Lessons learned' within Contact Us which should be completed by the investigating officer once the complaint has been closed however on most occasions this field is used for case notes, is marked N/A or is left blank.

However, from the responses captured on the system the main categories of learning have been recorded as follows:

- Poor communication by officers both internally and with the customer
- Better planning required
- Staff training needed
- Improve the timescale for processing and closing complaints – Work has been initiated on this point with recommendations from stage 2 reports being shared and monitored with the appropriate services to ensure these are actioned and lessons learnt.

Summary

Understanding our customers and their views is key to delivering the best possible service, which is something Warwickshire County Council is committed to striving to achieve.

Managing the timeliness of our responses is a high priority and this will be helped by a new case management system as it will give us greater visibility.

Customers have a right to take their complaints to the LGSCO if they remain unhappy. Therefore, while we aim to resolve issues as early as possible, it is an objective to ensure that our suggested/offered outcomes are appropriate so that the Ombudsman does not disagree with our decision, rather than to aspire to have less complaints taken to that stage.

Maureen Oakes

June 2021.

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COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

17 November 2021

Briefing Note – Update on 20mph Limit Task and Finish Group Progress

1. The Motion

- 1.1 In July 2021, Council members approved the following motion, “This Council will establish a cross party working group to consider the evidence, cost, impact and/or benefit of 20mph speed limits in residential areas including schools and other sites of wider interest across Warwickshire as part of the Speed Management Strategy refresh and to report the outcome of this work to Cabinet”.
- 1.2 As of the time of this committee meeting, the TFG (task and finish group) have met three times. The group is Chaired by the Portfolio Holder of Transport & Planning (Councillor Wallace Redford) and consists of six members from the Conservative group (including the Chair), one from the Labour group, one from the Liberal Democrat group and one from the Green group.
- 1.3 The group have been supported by the Communities Directorate – Safety Engineering, Strategy & Policy and Minorworks & Forestry. They have also been supported by Warwickshire Police.
- 1.4 The TFG will run no later than early December 2021 in order to be able to present their findings and recommendations to Cabinet in December 2021

2.0 Progress update

- 2.1 The group discussed how effective a 20mph limit would be with drivers, 20mph limits already implemented in Warwickshire, advisory 20mph limit signs outside schools and specific roads that would benefit most from 20mph limits.
- 2.2 The group requested a ‘blanket approach’ assessment for two locations in Warwickshire, New Arley – a small village and Kenilworth – a town. Following the outcome of this assessment, it was agreed that blanket approaches were not worthwhile and more focused targets should be reviewed instead e.g. specific roads.
- 2.3 The group were made aware that they could use their delegated budgets for alternative traffic calming measures (other than 20mph limits) which could resolve issues that their residents had with speeding drivers.
- 2.4 The group were informed, and with supporting guidance from the Department for Transport, that a 20mph limit would only be effective in an area if drivers were already abiding by the speed limit.
- 2.5 The proposed **draft** recommendations from the TFG so far are:
That Cabinet:
1. *Informs all elected members that they can legitimately use their delegated budgets for road safety schemes in their division, including the implementation of 20mph limits where appropriate. This includes the ability for*

members to put their delegated budgets together for larger schemes that would cross divisions.

- 2. Recommend that all member-proposed road safety schemes, including a reduction in speed limits, are reviewed by the safety engineering team first, to assess the effectiveness of the proposed scheme.*
- 3. Allow the road safety team to notify elected members on how they could spend their delegated budgets on road safety measures when appropriate.*
- 4. Recommend that the Safety Engineering Team monitor the success or otherwise of the use of Members Delegated Budget for road safety issues and report back to the working group in February 2023 for a one off meeting.*

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Date of next report	Item	Report detail
Page 71	Standing items	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
17 November 2021	Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21	The Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement meets national legislation requiring publication of WCC's Developer Contributions, including Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy for the financial year 2020/21, to be published online prior to 31st December 2021
17 November 2021	20mph Limits Motion briefing note	Following the 20pmh 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
9 February 2022	Quarter 2 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report (April 2021 to September	This report summarises the performance of the organisation at the Quarter 2 position, 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

	2021)	
9 February 2022	HS2 grants	To monitor the level of income from HS2 to seek reassurance that WCC is being fully reimbursed
9 February 2022	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.
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	Air Quality Monitoring	To provide and update on air quality monitoring since the TFG recommendations in 2018
13 April 2022	Waste Management Update	Update on the government waste changes
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	Cycling Liaison Group Report	A report from the CLG regarding cycling updates in Warwickshire and the benefits to the environment and tourism
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

22 June 2022	Draft Report for Highway Schemes	Draft Report on highway schemes and ahead of the planned website for Autumn 2021. This will include delegated budgets
22 June 2022	Climate adaption (briefing note adapted from previous report)	An update on the Climate Impacts Assessment for Warwickshire County Council report from March 2021
21 September 2022	Active Travel outside schools (briefing note)	A note on work being done to promote active travel e.g. cycling and walking outside schools
21 September 2022	WRIF Update	An update on the Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund and it's progress
21 September 2022	Major Scheme Developments	An annual report providing an update on any major schemes ongoing in Warwickshire and any environmental implications they had
21 September 2022	Social Fund Policy Update	An update on the Social Policy Fund and it's successes following the comments made by the committee in September 2021

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).
Bermuda Connectivity	(post-implementation) A report on the Bermuda project
Economy	
Local Enterprise Partnerships	How effective are LEPs in delivering a geographically balanced level of investment across Warwickshire? Members suggested that there was scope for improved monitoring of the CWLEP and a request was made for projected completion dates and project targets to be included in future Economic Development Updates.

Strategic Investment	To monitor WCCs investment in priority road safety schemes across Warwickshire targeted at reducing the numbers killed or seriously injured on our roads. This includes monitoring investment in local highways priorities, spending on LED streetlights and investment in safer routes to schools.
Sub National Transport Body	Update when appropriate
Community Cohesion	
KSIs and Speed Limits	To review the Council's speed limit and speed camera policies.
Waste Management Review	For when the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England is published in 2021
Population statistics	To review population growth in Warwickshire in relation to housing developments (briefing note)
Sustainable Transport	
The Clean Air Act	To consider the policy and implications of the new Government proposals.
Air Quality Progress on Recommendations	To consider progress on those recommendations agreed by Cabinet that require further action/outcomes (including information from personal monitors and progress on Supplementary Planning
Off-Street Parking Charges TFG Report	A report to be received from the TFG providing their recommendations before Cabinet