Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick



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- · Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
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Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair)

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne

Councillor Jackie D'Arcy

Councillor Jenny Fradgley

Councillor Dave Humphreys

Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher

Councillor Tim Sinclair

Councillor Mejar Singh

Councillor Andrew Wright

Portfolio Holders

Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture Councillor Martin Watson, Portfolio Holder for Economy

Officers

David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director - Communities Shail Chohan, Service Manager (County Highways) Sarah Duxbury, Assistant Director – Governance & Policy Judy Hallam, Delivery Lead ACL (Contractor)

Benjamin Hill, Contract & Policy Engineer

Isabelle Moorhouse, Democratic Service Officer

Alison Robinson, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills)

Jon Rollinson, Principal Strategy & Policy Officer

Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director for Environment Services

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor Wallace Redford (Portfolio Holder – Transport & Planning)

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests None.

(3) Chair's Announcements

None.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. Minutes of the 5th April 2022

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. Minutes of the 13th April 2022

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. Minutes of the 9th May 2022

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record subject to the following changes:

Councillor Tim Sinclair noted that the new fud was called the Highway Community Action Fud not Highway Action Fund and the word 'Community' needed to be added in on page eight before the 'vote' section.

Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne noted that on page seven of the minutes in the last but one paragraph on the last line it should state 'if' or 'no' not 'in'.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, it was stated that the agreed member session on 20mph would take place in July not November.

4. Minutes of the 17th May 2022

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holder

In response to Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill (Assistant Director – Communities) concurred that the Council was notified by Diamond that the bus service between Stratford and Solihull was being curtailed from the 16th August 2022. To ensure this service is not stopped, the public transport team sent a contract out to tender for another bus service to take this route over on the 16th. Several services had already responded saying they were interested in running the route, but this may mean a different service.

(1) Economic Development Update

David Ayton-Hill highlighted that macroeconomic factors were challenging because of energy inflation costs affecting small businesses but business resilience was holding up in Coventry and Warwickshire. A demand for business support and employment skills programmes remained because companies want to recruit employees. There were workshops covering the Local Communities Enterprise Fund which provided small loans to small businesses. Central government brought in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace the European Structural Funds but this will be delivered via the District and Borough Councils so they will be worked with to see how the fund will work and to offer experience/expertise and look at a strategic approach, especially to business support and employment/skills activity across Warwickshire.

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In response to Councillor Sinclair, Alison Robinson (Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Economy & Skills) concurred that the Borough & District Councils had a small window with this fund. Therefore, everyone was incentivised to collaborate, and it was recognised that some procurement and operational contracts would be delivered better countywide. Some things would be individualised to meet the needs of the different areas cross county. The Shared Prosperity Fund will be much smaller than the European Fund so things would need to be done differently. Some areas had more desire to do business support schemes and employability & skills schemes. All councils were meeting weekly to discuss this fund.

The Chair noted the different levels of disparity between North and South Warwickshire. In response to the Chair, Alison Robinson confirmed that they were supporting councils with more limited resources to apply for the fund.

4. Approach to Levelling Up

David Ayton-Hill presented the item and noted that this session was to get feedback on the Communities OSC specific areas:

- The White Paper (WP) was introduced in February 2022 as part of the Queen's speech and the first bill soon followed (Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill)
- The bill set out a programme of change set around 12 national missions to be achieved by 2030
- Devolution would likely be a part of the bill and this could be used to deliver the levelling up agenda
- The WP had four key objectives (Boost productivity, pay, jobs, and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging; Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest; Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and Empower local leaders and communities)
- Work was being done to apply this to Warwickshire and ensure that it complements WCC's work
- WCC plan to be cross organisational by working with partners/stakeholders, local communities, and residents to ensure a clear, focused and joined up approach cross county
- Communities needing most help should get it and Warwickshire's residents should receive all the benefits they can from WCC and central government
- Levelling up will take generations to have a long-term impact
- The relevant missions in the WP to the committee were: Local Leadership (England as a whole get the chance for a devolution deal with long-term funding and extra powers), Pride in Place (people satisfaction with Warwickshire's town centres and the engagement with their local areas has risen), Transport Infrastructure (everywhere has improved connectivity and is closer to the standards seen in urban areas), Skills (the number of people who had successfully completed high-quality skills training will increase cross-country), Digital Connectivity (ensuring that people are connected for gigabit capable broadband and more mobile phone coverage), Housing (ensuring more house ownership and the number of non-decent rented homes has fallen by 50%), Crime (ensuring that crime has decreased everywhere but especially in the worst affected neighbourhoods) and Living Standards (employment, pay, and economic productivity)
- These approaches need to be linked to existing and emerging strategies e.g. the Local Transport Plan will focus on levelling up around increased connectivity and improve all residents ability to travel actively or via public transport

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- The updated Economic Growth Strategy and Digital Infrastructure Plan will include the levelling up agenda as well as the existing strategies/plans
- Employability and skills are critical to levelling up because household income is a determinant on these outcomes. Therefore, work needed to be done to improve this through levelling up
- Feedback received from residents highlighted the importance of town centres in terms of Pride of Place as prosperous town centres made happier residents
- Funding streams would be used to invest in town centre businesses when available
- All partners were being collaborated with to achieve the levelling up principles and progress was good so far
- WCC want to focus on strength-based approaches to improve the lives of Warwickshire's communities/residents/businesses and data driven approached could be accelerated
- The 12 missions will be applied to the Council Plan so increased opportunity and social mobility were important to enhance by reducing disparities across all sectors including education and health
- The Community Powered Warwickshire platform and Voice of Warwickshire panel will help engagement with communities on the missions as well as the climate change agenda and adaptation as this is a key part of levelling up
- In a survey, residents in Nuneaton and Bedworth had lower levels of pride compared to other areas in Warwickshire, rural residents identified as being from a village whereas urban residents identified being from their area of a town and residents said that parks/open spaces, town centres, local facilities, good schools, easy access to health provisions and safety levels were needed to make an area great to live
- Evidence based areas would be targeted first i.e. areas of multiple deprivation (the 10-20% most deprived wards where nearly all the key indicators for levelling up are facing the most challenges)
- Types of residents who need extra support with employment will be helped first too e.g. people leaving care, people with special educational needs or disabilities, ex-offenders and older workers

Sarah Duxbury (Assistant Director – Governance & Policy) added that a councillor in another OSC requested that active sustainable and healthy travel relating to health and wellbeing, also be linked to the levelling up agenda.

In response to Councillor Jenny Fradgley, David Ayton-Hill stated that the new Local Transport Plan will focus on active and public transport being prioritised over private and they needed to be smarter around things WCC already controlled, better utilise developer contributions and better influence the planning system to try and align it with the transport network. Part of the levelling up journey will link in with the devolution deal from central government. A strong case would focus on funding and powers that would help support the public transport network. The bus service improvement plan would be discussed with central government in devolution discussions so funding for it could be negotiated.

Councillor Jonathon Chilvers suggested a wording amendment as the report mentioned delivering road priority schemes but a recent meeting, he attended showed that WCC were prioritising non private vehicle schemes instead.

In response to the Chair, David Ayton-Hill stated that performance measures showing what improvements will be delivered would be developed. Sarah Duxbury also added that the Levelling

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Up approach document going to July's Cabinet will contain reference to the development of impact measures for the Levelling Up priorities mentioned. Central government will also have their own performance framework for local authorities to measure successes against. The approach will include the outcome measures.

5. Draft Report for Highway Schemes

Shail Chohan (Service Manager (County Highways) stated how his area worked with the member's delegated budgets:

- They were trying to resolve the issue that members had with the lack of visibility on the progress of their schemes
- Members struggled to get up-to-date information and there was a lack of accurate information around delivery timescales
- To resolve this, a SharePoint page was drafted and ready to go live in Summer 2022
- The page will contain information and background on what the delegated budget scheme is, this will link to the relevant Cabinet papers or member session
- The page would be updated monthly and will have lists and maps of the locality officers who will also have the latest information on delegated budget schemes
- A monthly pdf will be produced for each district and borough, the division, the scheme status, which delivery phase it is in, the key contact for the scheme within WCC
- To do this, a single resource within County Highways the responsibility to collate the information and update it
- Members will receive an e-mail when the page is live and feedback would be sought
- Work was being done with Balfour Beatty to get updated accurate completion dates on the web page as well as a list of estimated costs for various types of works that are done on the network
- Financial costs would need to be estimated because there could be extra traffic management required but every scheme was given a 'ballpark' indication. This will enable members the ability to plan ahead

In response to Councillor Dave Humphreys, Shail Chohan said that the webpage would include schemes from September 2020.

Councillor Baxter-Payne noted that it was important to know the costs so they would know what budget members have left as well as the start and end date for projects. Shail Chohan said the dates should be automatically done after the relevant work has been done with the contractor.

Councillor Fradgley noted the previous gaps with delegated budgets. Shail said that the whole process being electronic should resolve this as it would be the one source.

Councillor Sinclair requested that Shail Chohan came back to the committee in six and 12 months' time to provide the successes/failings on the page and any feedback received. Councillor Humphreys suggested this happen at the end of the fiscal year.

Scott Tompkins (Assistant Director – Environmental Services) added they agreed to run a second member development session on this new web page in the first session.

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6. Vehicle Activated Signs Policy - Briefing Note

Jon Rollinson (Principal Strategy & Policy Officer) summarised that vehicle activated signs (VAS) policy will go to Cabinet in July 2022 and was designed to present a robust set of criteria which will allow WCC to control the installation of VAS in future. It would also help to identify and schedule the removal of those VAS which have had no road safety benefit and present a financial and maintenance burden. VAS are important for local communities so the new policy would provide a mechanism to allow these communities to fund the retention or replacement of existing VAS which would otherwise be removed.

In response to Councillor Fradgley, Jon Rollinson stated that communities could retain VAS through Parish/Town Councils, local community groups or delegated budgets.

Councillor Chilvers expressed concerns with the criteria to keep the VAS being restrictive, especially if trying to promote active travel. Jon Rollinson said that VAS would remain if there were five personal injury collisions over a three-year period. The injury collision criterion used a weighted scoring system rather than just individual collisions and would reflect the consideration of VAS for use at sites with a lower collision history than sites that could qualify for the casualty reduction scheme work. This criterion was there to address this middle ground in terms of road safety concerns.

Councillor Sinclair noted that the note stated that 40% of VAS in Warwickshire were non-operational and ones that did not meet the criteria would be removed too. In response to Councillor Sinclair, Jon Rollinson said the budget was £10,000 annually for 400 VAS cross-county but this had now increased to £80,000. The only signs that would be removed were ones that had not shown a road safety benefit in terms of reducing personal injury collisions but were a financial or maintenance burden on the Council. Signs that were beneficial but broken would be fixed and remain.

Scott Tompkins added that Warwickshire had a lot of signs for its area and the purpose of the maintenance fund is to deal with the maintenance of the ones that are coming at the end of their life and look at reducing the number of VAS not putting more out.

In response to Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder – Fire & Rescue and Community Safety), Jon Rollinson stated that the current policy as proposed did not allow for parish/town councils or community groups to choose to install a VAS in their area, the new policy would state that they could decide whether to retain a VAS in their area which was otherwise scheduled for removal. Entirely new VAS installations would be where there was a demonstrable road safety risk as defined in the new policy.

Councillor Humphreys said that at a recent road safety event he attended, WCC said they planned to reduce KSIs (killed or seriously injured) by 50% but removing VAS would make them worse. He said he could not support the proposals because Council tax had already been spent on the existing signs, they were maintainable, and his parish councils were requesting more VAS. Councillor Baxter-Payne stated that keeping and maintaining the VAS would be better than a major engineering project in every area where a VAS has been removed.

Councillor Sinclair said that because the VAS were not going to meet the new threshold, this did not mean that they were not useful.

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Councillor Fradgley noted that she had requested a VAS for a straight piece of road and queried whether the town/parish councils had been consulted with for this policy as they would need to financially support the sign if they bought it.

Jon Rollinson said that DfT research showed that VAS reduced traffic collisions between 25-35%, but under the proposed policy signs would only be removed if they have not reduced any collisions.

David Ayton-Hill added that when VAS were first introduced there was a loose policy around what constituted the requirements for VAS which is why there were so many implemented and may not have had a positive impact. The popularity of VAS led to these policies.

Scott Tompkins stated that the whole kit for the VAS would need replacing when it broke.

The Chair concurred with the concerns raised by the committee and added that only some areas would be able to buy their own VAS which could cause a disparity. He agreed that there should be a policy for these signs, but the VAS made residents feel safer.

Councillor Sinclair raised that the paper said that 40% of 400 signs (160 signs overall) which were operational at the time of the meeting would be decommissioned which was more than Gloucestershire had altogether. He said he found this unacceptable, and the signs benefits should also be measured by prevention and not just collisions.

David Ayton-Hill suggested that this wording needed to be amended as 40% of these signs were coming to the end of their life span and would not necessarily be removed.¹

Councillor Sinclair formally proposed that:

That Communities OSC ask Cabinet to amend the vehicle activated sign policy to apply for new signs going forward and not apply retrospectively to existing signs. The budget allocated by Council to the maintenance of signs is used appropriately.

This was seconded by Councillor Andy Wright.

The committee voted unanimously for this.

Resolved

That Communities OSC ask Cabinet to amend the vehicle activated sign policy to apply for new signs going forward and not apply retrospectively to existing signs.

AND

The budget allocated by Council to the maintenance of signs is used appropriately.

7. Warwickshire Adult and Community Learning Progress and Performance Report

Judy Hallam (Delivery Lead ACL (Contractor) presented the report and highlighted that:

 The Adult Community Learning Services provided a variety of high-quality learning opportunities to adults across Warwickshire

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22.06.22

¹ Post meeting note – 40% of VAS are requiring maintenance or repair. The proposed policy states that, when a sign stops working, it is assessed to see if it has had a positive impact on reducing injury collisions. Those that have not had any benefit would be identified for removal, but only at sites where the collision record is low.

Under these proposals approximately one in 12 VAS would be identified for removal, (33-34 signs currently). These signs would be offered to local communities for retention if they wished by taking on the funding of maintenance and repair.

- It targeted those with the highest needs however there were challenges with funding as the grant funding from the SFA (Skills Funding Agency) was static for years so resources needed to be carefully utilised
- Another challenge was with delivering education post Covid-19 as people wanted to learn in different ways
- Classes were not done a mixture of in-person and online
- They wanted to attract new learners, particularly residents with high needs
- She was seeking feedback on the current performance and future plans statement of intent that was being drafted with future aspirations for the service

Councillor Jackie D'Arcy praised the report and the fact that the curriculum grades remained steady. In response to Councillor D'Arcy, Judy Hallam stated that they were trying to get more males into adult education as they were below the national average with males. They were also looking at how to target more unemployed residents because they were missing out. Work was being done with the Department for Work and Pensions on how to identify these people and meet their needs; historically the service had not done this. This should attract more males into adult education.

8. Verge Maintenance Policy

Benjamin Hill (Contract & Policy Engineer) presented the item and highlighted the following points:

- The note outlined the principal activities, procedures and benefits in the new policy in line with the best practice and guidance for plant life
- This started when 'Plantlife' conservation charities contacted local authorities to consider the wider issues around biodiversity and the environmental impact
- The new policy will raise awareness of the biodiversity value of roadside verges in Warwickshire in line with their road safety purpose
- The current policy separated mowing into two separate programmes (rural and non-rural) and the contractors engaged in this work cross county
- Rural mowing included verges outside towns and villages that typically have a speed limit more than 40mph. They were cut on a safety basis of 1 metre swathe plus additional areas at junction bends
- These were cut three times a year
- Non-rural verges were situated in towns and villages generally with a speed limit of 40mph or less. The District and Borough Councils managed these verges and mowed them 10-15 times annually
- The new policy will affect rural verge mowing as certain verges with good biodiversity value will only be cut once a year between August and September to allow for the growth/flowering of wildflowers while preventing verges from being dominated by a particular species
- Sites will be identified by the WCC ecology team
- Non-rural mowing will have a introduce a community engagement scheme which will give local interest groups, parish/town/district/borough councils the opportunity to explore the possibility of reducing the level of cuts for non-rural verges
- Local interest groups, parish/town/district/borough councils will in effect maintain a section of highway verge within these areas and an officer from county highways will assess the site to ensure it fits with the new policy
- County Highways will then request for its removal from the relevant District or Borough Councils normal mowing schedule

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The committee praised the report.

In response to Councillor Chilvers, Benjamin Hill stated that WCC pay money to the Borough and District Councils to maintain the non-rural verges to effectively cover the safety element of mowing (mowing three times a year). The councils then decide how many more times they wish to mow the verges which they pay for themselves.

Following a supplementary from Councillor Chilvers, Benjamin Hill said that the applicants must agree not to use weedkiller on the verges as part of the community engagement scheme.

Councillor Sinclair suggested making the community engagement element on the policy clear for residents and a visual map for them to make it clear on the biodiversity importance with the new policy.

Benjamin Hill concurred with this and said a map was being produced and this new policy would not incur any additional costs on the Council.

Councillor D'Arcy noted that some residents were split on these wildlife areas, but they were needed to protect the bees.

Councillor Fradgley queried if WCC make biodiversity assessments on larger areas in towns as these spaces needed to be managed appropriately.

Councillor Humphreys noted that long grass or overgrown trees on some verges and raised roundabouts had caused accidents.

Councillor Baxter-Payne noted that these areas needed to look like wildflower meadows and not like someone could not be bothered to mow the grass. The Chair concurred with this and added that these areas need to be maintained as wildflower meadows.

Councillor Chilvers suggested signs up outside the meadow area. Councillor Sinclair concurred with this.

Benjamin Hill said that only public highway land would be directly included in the policy, but roundabouts were not specifically precluded from the policy however would need to be reviewed on a safety basis. For the community aspect, individuals would need to apply through their parish/town/district/borough council. They would then need to do a consultation process with the residents to ensure that there is 'buy-in' from the project because it would be divisive. Any seeds planted on the public highway would be looked at in two ways, an amenity perspective and aesthetic perspective. Ecology would be worked with to maintain this balance and they would only use native flower seeds for the sites and ensure they are suitable.

Shail Chohan added that they were following the best guidance with planting wildflower seeds and were using what was native and naturally grew in the areas of Warwickshire. Contractors looked at alternatives to weedkiller but these were unsuccessful, but alternatives were still being sought.

9. Year End Performance Progress Report

David Ayton-Hill presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- Of the 11 key business measures for the committee, nine were available now but two would be received later in the year
- Three were on track and six were not. Covid-19 affected some of these
- The ones highlighted were the ones that improved from the previous year e.g. the number of businesses supported and growing through WCC programmes

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- Unemployment rate was falling but there were significant vacancy levels in Warwickshire and some businesses were struggling to recruit
- Household waste recycling and composting were below target but more waste was being collected. This was because of the amount of people working from home
- The recycling centre fire affected recycling numbers in the south of the county and every district/borough was now charging for green waste collection
- There were driver and labour shortages because of Covid-19 as well as some industrial action. These all caused the recycling rates to be lower
- Work was now being done to increase these rates back up

In response to Councillor Sinclair, David Ayton-Hill said that the Power BI system would say what was being done to improve the areas that were failing. Some areas could not be improved by WCC due to external factors e.g. unemployment.

Councillor Chilvers noted that the reason the biodiversity target was missed in this report was because there were three types of biodiversity habitats (low, moderate, and high) and some things were moved to high from moderate, but others went to low. The positive thing for the verges was that amenity grassland counts as 'low' biodiversity, but this would increase to moderate with wildflowers. Scott Tompkins concurred with this but noted that WCC does not own highway land they just took a bit of it to maintain the road network.

10. Communities OSC Work Programme

Two reports on the successes, failing and feedback received by members of the new delegated budget monitoring page. This will be received by the committee in six and 12 months' time.

The rest of the work programme was noted.

None.	
The meeting rose at 16:02	
	Chair

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 September 2022

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 22nd August 2022.

Decision Title	Description	Date	Decision Maker
The Impact of Inflation on the Capital Programme - A Funding Proposal	With the current high levels of inflation there are now a number of projects across the capital programme that are identifying the need for additional funding to allow the schemes to continue through to completion. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of an approach to the management of these requests that supports efficient and timely decision-making.	29 September 2022	County Council
Sustainable futures strategy	Approval for the Sustainable futures strategy, a core strategy supporting the delivery of the Council Plan 2022-27. Key elements are (a) a strategy mapping out our direction to achieving our net zero carbon and biodiversity commitments (b) a climate change adaptation response strategy, (c) a costed action plan (d) an associated risk register	13 October 2022	Cabinet
Ford Foundry Roundabout / Europa Way Improvements	To seek cabinet approval to start the procurement process and contract award for the highway works at and towards the Fords Foundry roundabout and associated infrastructure	13 October 2022	Cabinet
Development Site Delivery (EXEMPT)	Seek authority to progress the delivery of a development site as part of a regeneration programme, including principles of a collaboration agreement with the joint landowner.	13 October 2022	Cabinet

Proposed Puffin	That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and	14 October	Portfolio
Crossing - Coventry	Planning approves the installation of a Puffin	2022	Holder
Road, near Rectory	Crossing on Coventry Road, near Rectory Road,		Decision
Drive, Exhall Bedworth	Exhall, Bedworth in accordance with the Road		
	Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 23.		
Approval to tender for	Contract for the treatment or disposal of	14 October	Portfolio
waste management	municipal residual waste.	2022	Holder
contract			Decision

2.0 Background Papers None

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

Communities O&S - September 2022

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. Business & Economy Support
- 3. Employability & Skills Support
- 4. Sector Development and Inward Investment

Appendix 1: Business News – Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

HEADLINES/ KEY SUMMARY POINTS

- Macro-economic factors remain the key issue with inflation and energy costs
 continuing to rise and dominate the headlines and other challenges around
 labour shortages and supply chain disruption showing no sign of lessening.
 There has, however, been some short-term clarity for businesses after the
 Government announced that the freezing of energy bills would be extended to
 companies for six months.
- Warwickshire County Council continues to work with partners to support local businesses. This includes working with the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme to organise an event to be held in Stratford-upon-Avon on 14th September 2022 on local green projects and the support available to businesses in Warwickshire including grants. For more information, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3218/warwickshire-businesses-invited-toparticipate-in-green-business-event

LEP Review

 Government announced earlier this year that, following a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships, that the functions and activities of LEPs should be integrated into existing local democratic institutions, and linked to the Government's wider plans on devolution. Where Combined Authorities or County Deals exist, the functions would move into those arrangements. In other places, local arrangements would need to be put in place, particular (as is the case for Coventry & Warwickshire) the geography of the LEP does not fit neatly with the local democratic institutions.

- We are committed to maintain a partnership approach across Coventry & Warwickshire on strategic economic development given the strong economic linkages across the two areas, and have therefore been working closely with Coventry City Council and the CWLEP to develop a localised approach. Given the strong relationship between the CWLEP and the City and County Council, and joint working practices, many of the key functions such as development of strategic economic plans can be picked up by the local authorities working in partnership. A key legacy of the CWLEP that we are keen to maintain is the CW Growth Hub, which provides a joined-up approach to engaging businesses, and a front door to business support provision across the area. We are therefore keen to maintain the Growth Hub, and indeed build on their role to work with local authorities to ensure a strong voice of business to help shape and inform our work.
- The CWLEP are now moving to start a process of closing down, which will happen over the next few months with full transition happening by March 2023.

1. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

National Overview

- The UK economy contracted by 0.1% in the three months to June 2022 as the effects of rising inflation and the subsequent cost-of-living and cost of doing business crisis began to take hold. GDP fell by 0.6% month-on-month in June.
- The Bank of England also raised interest rates in August by half a percentage point to 1.75%, which represents the highest increase in 27 years. It has also revised its inflation forecast and expects it to reach 13% before the end of the year. This is up from the 11% it had previously forecast in May, with inflation rates expected to remain at very elevated levels throughout much of 2023, before falling to the 2% target two years ahead.
- The Bank of England have forecasted that that the UK will enter into a recession from Q4 2022 (defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth) and that it will last until the end of 2023.

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpmonthlyest imateuk/june2022

https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-report/2022/august-2022

Local Overview

- Latest GVA per head value for Warwickshire shows a slight decline in 2020 to £31,824 from the previous year's value of £34,370. This is in line with the national trend, as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic began to set in in 2020.
- Latest unemployment figures for Warwickshire as of Q1 2022 show a slight reduction compared to the previous quarter, moving from 2.5% to 2.1%. This

continues to reflect low unemployment rates within the county in line with the national trend.

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/nominalregionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedperheadandincomecomponentshttps://www.nomisweb.co.uk

All latest economic updates can be found in the Economic Recovery Dashboard developed by WCC's Business Intelligence team for CWLEP partners: https://app.powerbi.com/links/p_YVarlbgn?ctid=88b0aa06-5927-4bbb-a893-89cc2713ac82&pbi_source=linkShare&bookmarkGuid=cc47ec5c-0048-41bc-b33e-cada495a0bfe

2. BUSINESS & ECONOMY SUPPORT

ERDF Business Support Programme

A further 56 businesses completed the intensive support provided by the "CW Business – Start, Grow and Scale" programme during the second quarter of 2022 and a further 14 individuals were supported to start their own business. This brings the total number of businesses supported since 2016 to 930. 408 new jobs have also been created and 460 Warwickshire residents helped to start their own business.

Further case studies have also been published in Warwickshire Means Business including a start-up business at Pool Road Business Centre and a Warwickshire-based former solicitor launching a new company which specialises in the coaching of lawyers.

https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/july-2022/news-in-brief/support-programme-helps-nuneaton-sisters-plan-for-growth https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/july-2022/news-in-brief/coach-gets-coaching-to-fledge-new-business

Meanwhile, Project Warwickshire – WCC's dedicated programme for the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector and the newest programme strand – has now been running for 12 months. Over 100 businesses have been engaged so far and 25 businesses have completed the support helping safeguard 30 jobs. Further case studies have also been published in Warwickshire Means Business including an alpaca farm, Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall and Leamington bar, Hart + Co. A case study about the Temperance in Leamington old town is also due to be published.

https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/may-2022/news-in-brief/tails-up-for-alpaca-farm-thanks-to-local-business-support
https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/june-2022/news-in-brief/a
https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/june-2022/news-in-brief/hart-co-beating-stronger-than-ever-thanks-to-project-warwickshire

https://www.cwlep.com/news/leamington-venue-launching-record-label-after-support

WCC recently commissioned an external evaluation of the whole ERDF Business Support programme. The key findings were:

- 92% of businesses would recommend the programme.
- 87% of businesses say the achieved their goals upon completing the support programme.
- 49% of businesses rated the programme as 5 stars
- 44% of businesses reported increase in profit as a result of attending the programme.
- Over 75% of businesses reported new products or services launched as a result of the support.

https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk/june-2022/news-in-brief/support-programme-recommended-by-92-of-businesses

A further phase of external evaluation is scheduled to take place in Spring 2023.

The current phase of the programme (to June 2023) is funded by £1.8 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as well as WCC, University of Warwick Science Park, and the District and Borough Councils.

For more information and/ or to refer a business or Warwickshire resident, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cwbsp or contact Gillian Dale in the Business & Economy team (gilliandale@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Coventry and Warwickshire Duplex Fund

The Coventry and Warwickshire Duplex Investment Fund – which provides a combined loan and grant to businesses towards the costs of capital investments – has supported a further five businesses in Warwickshire with loans worth nearly £300,000. These include Boutique Marquees, a Stratford-upon-Avon-based company specialising in wedding Sperry tents, LFC Developments who are alloy wheel refurbishment & customisation specialists, and Mears Retail trading as Bumbles Coffee Shop, a small coffee shop located on the high street in Studley.

Duplex has now provided loans worth £1,358,998 and a further £389,856 of grants to 18 Warwickshire businesses in a range of sectors since it was launched in 2019. This has safeguarded 59 jobs, created 33 new jobs and 72 jobs are forecasted to be created. The Duplex Fund – which is delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT) – is funded by a £2 million loan from WCC's Capital Investment Fund as well as funding from Coventry City Council, the Growth Deal and CWLEP. It 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: www.cwrt.uk.com/duplex or contact Jon Stead in the Business & Economy team (jonstead@warwickshire.gov.uk).

To refer a Warwickshire business, contact WCC's Business Growth Delivery team (<u>business@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>).

WCC Small Capital Grants

WCC's Small Capital Grant programme is seeing increasing interest with over 50 enquiries received in the last two months. Enquiries continue to come from several different sectors including engineering, manufacturing, food & retail, and education services. The most recent Grants Panel in July approved a further six investment projects worth over £250,000 with WCC agreeing to make total grant contributions of £102,870. The six projects, as well as unlocking over £150,000 of private sector investment, are expected to create 9.8 new jobs.

The grants are part of the latest round WCC's Small Capital programme. Since 2015, the programme has awarded over £2 million to Warwickshire businesses as part of a £14 million package of funding of finance, loans and grants with the grants alone already creating more than 200 jobs around the county. There is a pipeline of applications for the next Panel later in September.

For general information about the programme, contact Jon Stead in the Business & Economy team (jonstead@warwickshire.gov.uk).

To refer a Warwickshire business, contact WCC's Business Growth Delivery team (<u>business@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>).

Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund

The Business Investment Growth (BIG) pillar of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund continues to see enquiries and there are a number of active enquiries being progressed. For more information about the BIG, contact WCC's Business Growth Delivery team (<u>business@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>).

The Local Communities and Enterprise Fund (LCE) pillar of the WRIF – which was launched at the end of April – has now awarded its first three loans. Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT) who manage the scheme on behalf of WCC have agreed to provide £130,000 of loans to Mari Carmen Fitness, a personal trainer that specialises in antenatal and post-natal physical and mental wellbeing; Wellesbourne-based Turret Training who are a leading provider of First Aid at Work courses and who specialise in Pre-Hospital Trauma training; and a manufacturer of electrical and electronic equipment for motor vehicles.

The LCE Fund provides loans of between £1,000 and £100,000 to help small businesses including social enterprises start, survive, and grow. CWRT are a specialist finance provider who are managing the LCE fund on behalf of WCC. CWRT were also one of the first five lenders in the country to gain accreditation from the British Business Bank under its Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) guarantee

scheme. The RLS allows CWRT to support a wider range of businesses. It also provides CWRT as lender and WCC as funder with additional security.

For general information about the LCE Fund, contact Jon Stead in the Business & Economy team (jonstead@warwickshire.gov.uk).

For more detailed information, register an interest or to refer a business, visit www.cwrt.uk.com/wrif-lce-fund

3. EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS SUPPORT

Community Renewal Fund

All three Community Renewal Fund (CRF) projects in Warwickshire have now been extended following the decision by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to extend the CRF programme until the end of the year.

Business Futures, delivered by PET-Xi Limited, which is assisting people into employment by providing training and support focused on self-employment skills will now close in September. Both the Switch project, delivered by Wise Ability, which is supporting economically inactive and unemployed people into employment using cognitive and mindset training delivered through mentoring and WCC's own Warwickshire Brighter Futures project (see below) are now planning to deliver until December.

WCC is the Lead Authority for the CRF on behalf of DLUHC. The CRF is a £220 million fund to support pilot programmes and test new approaches to support local economic growth, prior to the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. WCC submitted a shortlist of seven CRF projects to Government in June 2021 and it was announced last November that Government had selected three projects in the county worth £2.7 million.

For more information about CRF in Warwickshire including how to access the support, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/crf.

Multiply Fund

WCC launched the first call for projects under the new Multiply Fund in early August, after submitting the investment plan for Warwickshire to the Department for Education (DfE) at the end of June.

Multiply, part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is a new Government programme aimed at helping adults to improve their numeracy skills. WCC is responsible for managing and administering the fund in Warwickshire including the development of an investment plan and selecting the activities to be funded from a national menu of interventions. Warwickshire has a provisional allocation of £2.5 million over three years, and WCC has opted to allocate the Multiply funding via a small number of competitive calls for grants funding. The first round closes on 19th September 2022. A webinar for prospective applicants was also held on 10th August. A decision from DfE on the investment plan is expected in September. For more information about

Multiply in Warwickshire including how to apply and to view a recording of the webinar, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/multiply

Warwickshire Skills Hub

The Employability and Skills team's external brand continues to grow and so too have the services it offers to different corners of Warwickshire's economy and its communities. The team's three focus areas are:

- 1. **Businesses** Impartial support and signposting, the team support businesses to recruit and build a well skilled workforce.
- Employment Supporting local employment providers to shape their support to meet economic need, commissioning programmes which meet local skills gaps which are not supported by national programmes (e.g. the Brighter Futures programme) and shaping employment opportunities locally which meet the needs of Warwickshire's labour market (Fair Chance Employer Programme).
- 3. Careers and Future Skills To work with Warwickshire's Secondary Schools to shape high quality careers programmes, meaningful employer engagement and careers activity which reflect the current economy which also showcases the vision of future roles, and the skills businesses will need.

Businesses

Business Skills Support Reviews

Business Skills reviews are one service in particular which has seen significant growth in the last 12 months. As a service and echoed by the current economic climate, businesses are finding it particularly useful to participate in a Business Skills Support Review and explore how they maintain a well skilled workforce, due to the anticipated financial strains this has become a priority for businesses, those in particular who had planned to recruit in the coming months are now needing to reconsider any financial commitments and explore how to balance sustainability against financial risk. Upskilling existing staff and working through the most suitable and cost-effective routes to do this.

Currently supporting over 30 businesses per month to shape resilient skills plans, we do anticipate some businesses will need to make challenging decisions in order to survive and this is likely to increase the support needs of the Coventry and Warwickshire Redundancy Support Service, which is a partnership service with WCC, CCC, DWP and others designed to support businesses in the management of jobs at risk and support those affected to explore new job opportunities.

Apprenticeship Support

The Warwickshire Small Business Apprenticeship Programme which is a programme which sees WCC share its own Apprenticeship Levy funds with Warwickshire businesses and the Warwickshire Apprenticeship Progression Programme which supports businesses to progress previous apprentices onto

further progressive apprenticeship training have already exceeded their historical annual funding allocations. The Small Business Apprenticeship Programme has provided £358,000 to-date which has supported 42 businesses to train over 50 apprentices, and the Progression Programme has provided £22,000 which has supported over ten businesses to progress apprentices. WCC can also support and advise other employers interested in sharing their Apprenticeship Levy funds in this way.

Fair Chance Employer Programme

The Fair Chance Employer Programme has seen such incredible success for both recruiting businesses and for those with supportive needs wanting to work. The programme is designed to support businesses to shape inclusive jobs, recruit in an inclusive way and over 30 businesses have joined the programme this year to work with those who may have supportive needs such as care leavers, young carers, Ukrainians, individuals with Learning disabilities and Autism, and exoffenders.

In the coming weeks the programme will be launching a jobs portal, specifically designed to host an accessible platform for Fair Chance Businesses to promote their vacancies whilst also offering job seekers with supportive needs a unique customer journey which meets their needs, offers additional support but ultimately helps individuals to connect with inclusive jobs and gain a "Fair Chance of employment.

For more information about WCC's business skills programmes, to get involved, or to refer a business looking for support, contact Vicki Haslam in the Warwickshire Skills Hub (vickihaslam@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Employment

Ukraine Employment and learning support

The Employability and Skills team were recently awarded £400,000 under WCC's Homes for Ukraine scheme to lead in supporting Ukrainians who arrive in Warwickshire to gain access to English classes and receive support in transferring their existing skills into Warwickshire Employment opportunities.

The "Working in Warwickshire Ukraine programme will host a series of employability sessions and job clubs around the county in partnership with DWP and commissioned employability partners.

It is estimated that the programme will work with over 500 people until August 2023 and will evolve to meet the employment needs of our new Ukraine Communities.

Warwickshire Supported Employment Service

The Warwickshire Supported Employment Service (known as the Warwickshire Employment Support Team (WEST)) moved over from People Group and joined the Employability and Skills team in October 2021. The purpose of the move was

primarily to bring the service into a team which could significantly increase the engagement with the business community and explore new service models to build a "first in class" service for young people and adults with learning disabilities and Autism.

In the last 12 months, the new service project team have engaged with multiple neighbouring authorities and the British Association of Supported Employment (BASE) to explore industry standards, best in practise service models, along with significant engagement with education settings. The new service is due to be launched in November 2022 following a service re-design. It will aim to support over 400 young people and adults into meaningful employment every year with an employment programme and specialist support assigned to all who access the service.

Job Brokerage MoU with HS2

The Warwickshire Skills Hub have been granted "Job Brokerage" Status with HS2. As a Job Brokerage Partner, the team will receive early notification of new HS2 jobs and work in a partnership way to share the employment opportunities locally. The Skills Hub Team have pledged to build a series of marketing campaigns to promote roles and link the Warwickshire labour market to the opportunities available. The team will also shape a HS2 jobs section on their website and create a recruitment page on their new Jobs portal as it launches. The team are extremely pleased to have been awarded this status and hope to support the HS2 team in attracting local people into local jobs.

For more information about WCC's employment programmes including how to access the support, contact Fay Winterburn in the Warwickshire Skills Hub (faywinterburn@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Careers and Future Skills

Future Careers Programmes

The 2022 Future Careers Programme is designed to incentivise Warwickshire's Secondary Schools to recognise the future skills needs of the economy and create careers activity to showcase the high level of evolving skills sets needed. The £3000 budget per setting invites schools to put forward innovative ideas of weaving the theme of Future Skills into existing programmes. The programme challenges schools to think differently and more broadly about their career's activity, how they could work with innovative businesses and how their budget allocation might help them to do so.

Through our engagement with schools, we understand that their careers budgets quite often reduce every year, whilst some have a lean engagement model with various industries, we acknowledge that change and increased activities can be costly, and we'd really like schools to embrace this budget and call out to Warwickshire businesses to help them in showcasing future skills. The programme will support 37–40 secondary and further education settings and is expected to provide positive engagement for up to 10,000 young people in Warwickshire.

For more information about WCC's careers and future skills programmes including how to access the support or to get involved, contact Chloe Millage in the Skills Hub (chloemillage@warwickshire.gov.uk).

4. SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INWARD INVESTMENT

The inward investment team was active in supporting the preparations and delivery of UK House, a business promotion and development strand of the Commonwealth Games 2022 in the West Midlands during July and August. It was organised by the Department of International Trade and West Midlands Growth Company, with support from local partners and took place at The Exchange in Centenary Square, Birmingham.

<u>UK House featured eight sector focused days</u>, with a second West Midlands Showcase days. It was an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Digital Creative and Future Mobility clusters in Warwickshire and Coventry. The Creative and Digital Technologies event took place on August 3rd, and the Future Mobility one took place on 4th/5th August. With our support, the events included a strong showing of local businesses including GE Power Conversion, Lotus, REE Auto, Switch Mobility and Ubisoft. Stacy O'Connor our sector specialist for Digital Creative also joined one of the industry discussion panels on behalf of the Coventry & Warwickshire area.

The West Midlands Showcase days took delegates to locations elsewhere in the West Midlands, including the Rosalind Franklin Institute in Learnington Spa (Medtech day), the MTC at Ansty Technology Park (Advanced Manufacturing) and MIRA Technology Park (Future Mobility). The event generated a lot of interest online, and Dept for International Trade will be following up on interest from delegates who took part.

The current competition to locate the offices of the new Great British Railways (GBR) has provided a good opportunity for us to showcase our local strengths in the rail sector. There were 42 EOI bids submitted from across Britain, including Birmingham, Coventry, Derby Tamworth and Worcester from the Midlands, as well as the bid submitted by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of Nuneaton and partners. Unfortunately, we were not successful in reaching the next stage, but hopefully the local bids from Birmingham or Derby will be selected. Newcastle, Doncaster, Crewe and York are also still in contention. A public vote was conducted between 5th July and 15th August, to help identify the final location.

Invest in Coventry & Warwickshire will be exhibiting at key transport technology shows in the coming months. LCV Cenex is an important UK showcase for CAM (Connected Automated Mobility) and low carbon vehicle technologies. Invest Coventry & Warwickshire will be exhibiting at stand C4-316, promoting the local supply chain around battery and future mobility and the West Midlands Gigafactory. The show is a good opportunity for us to generate inward investment enquiries.

Over at 1 Mill Street in Leamington Spa, there has been a successful roll-out of <u>The Mill Street Exchange</u>, which has been developed in collaboration with Warwickshire

County Council and the University of Warwick to provide focused business support for freelancers and the digital creative sector. Business advice is available every Thursday from 10am-2pm as part of the support, covering talent, finance and space.

We also supported the development, promotion and delivery of 'Race to the Finish', a family-friendly event where young people can design, play, compete or simply watch games and esports, as part of CultureFest 2022. Working with Interactive Futures, Ubisoft Reflections, Codemasters, Playground Games, Williams Racing and British Motor Museum, a broad range of activities from hands-on STEM workshops, competitions, Games 101 events and a diversity panel session led by SIC at 1 Mill Street were curated, and promoted to businesses and young people during the Summer.

We continue to work with a list of some of the leading brands in automotive and computer entertainment software looking to take new or additional space in the subregion to support their growth.

<u>Manufacturing</u>. Battery cells and motors would be done in Germany, and the high profile V8 and V12 production would move to Hams Hall in North Warwickshire, and 6 cylinders to Austria. These engines are used in BMW vehicles, as well as Rolls Royce based at Goodwood, in the UK. The decision to move the large engines was a vote of confidence in the skills and efficiency of the Hams

A local stakeholder group has been formed which includes WCC and NWBC and at a visit back in June we saw the preparations being made. The expansion will bring new jobs. The stakeholder group will also work with the local team to support efforts to help the plant retain its high level of efficiency and bid for future EV related work.

For more information, contact Ian Flynn, Technical Specialist (Automotive, Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing) (ianflynn@warwickshire.gov.uk) or Stacy O'Connor, Technical Specialist (Digital Creative) (stacyoconnor@warwickshire.gov.uk).

APPENDIX 1: BUSINESS NEWS

Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

Digital Creative Sector

<u>Leamington Spa recognised again as UK Hub for Games Development Industry</u>

Known as 'Silicon Spa' the town and surrounding area has become one of the largest gaming hubs within the UK games ecosystem, employing over 2,000 highly skilled people – over 10 per cent of the UK total in games development.

Recent reports Game Changers and Tech Cities by commercial real estate advisors CBRE say small locations beyond London and the larger regional cities are

punching above their weight as gaming locations. CBRE expects the sector could require an additional 1 million sq ft of workspace in the UK over the next five years.

Sonic Boom in Silicon Spa

Sega Publishing Europe Limited has doubled their game development floorspace at Victoria Court, in Leamington Spa. Sega Hardlight studio is behind the critically acclaimed adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog[™] on mobile platforms such as Sonic Dash, Sonic Boom and Sonic Forces. It now has 15,300 sq. ft. office space at Victoria Court.

Automotive/ Future Mobility Sector

<u>Jaguar Land Rover Losses £524m for Q1 on Continued Supply Chain and</u> COVID Related Issues

Jaguar Land Rover has reported first quarter revenues of £4.4 billion, racking up a loss of £524 million thanks to supply chain problems and the Covid lockdowns in China.

But it reports orders at record levels and continues to expect significant improvement during the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

Aston Martin seeks to raise £653m in "Game Changing" Event

Gaydon-based Luxury car maker Aston Martin has revealed plans for a £653m equity capital raise, with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) to become a new anchor investor and the second largest shareholder. The company's executive chairman described the move - designed to accelerate Aston Martin's long-term growth - as a "game changing" event.

£5m Low Carbon Innovation Hub Coming to MIRA Technology Park

Plans have been approved for a £5m green infrastructure project linked to a Low Carbon Innovation Hub that will support tech companies as they focus on developing low carbon technologies. Funding has been agreed which will transform an existing building at MIRA Technology Park into a low carbon research centre, bringing with it transformational charging and testing infrastructure for electric and hydrogen vehicles.

MTC and Adelan with ATF Funding to Drive Forawrd UK Fuel Cell Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) at Ansty Technology Park has joined forces with hydrogen technology pioneer Adelan in a project aimed at significantly ramping up fuel cell manufacturing capacity in the UK. With funding from the Government's Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF), Birmingham-based Adelan and the MTC will study ways of building UK capacity for manufacturing fuel cells for the automotive sector, helping the UK drive to net zero.

<u>Plug and Play UK Adds University of Warwick, APC, Zenzic as Partners for UK Mobility Innovation Programme</u>

Recently created by global innovation platform and prolific early-stage investor Plug and Play, alongside founding partner Jaguar Land Rover, Plug and Play UK will create an innovation hub that is the first of its kind in the UK. The programme will build an ecosystem of start-ups and scale-ups, corporates, investors, and academia

to explore the challenges and solutions that will define the future of the mobility sector, create jobs, and help shape the digital economy.

Warwickshire EV Lease Company Secures Funding for European Growth

All-inclusive electric car subscription service Onto has raised \$60 million in equity in a Series C funding round led by Legal & General. The round will enable the business to consolidate leadership in the UK and expand into Europe, starting with Germany.

Other Business News

Pro-Logis Hams Hall and Pro-logis Ryton Now at Full Occupancy

Prologis, one of the UK's leading developers of logistics property, has successfully pre-leased all of speculatively built Prologis Park Hams Hall with final unit, DC4, being let to West Midlands-based AMG Logistics on a 15 year lease. The full occupancy of the Park, ahead of practical completion later this summer, demonstrates the site's strength and broad appeal particularly to both automotive and logistics sectors. This transaction follows on from Britishvolt recently preleasing Hams Hall DC2, a customer leading the way in sustainable, low carbon battery innovation.

West Midlands Manufacturing Output Outpaces National Average

The West Midlands manufacturing sector saw strong output growth in the quarter to July, after a decline in the previous quarter with this rate of growth far surpassing the UK as a whole (+6%). That's according to the CBI/Accenture Quarterly Industrial Trends Survey.

Med-tech Firm Quanta wins major technology award

Alcester-based Quanta Dialysis Technologies has won the 2022 MacRobert Award, the UK's top engineering innovation prize. Quanta has been awarded the accolade for the SC+ compact dialysis machine, a compact kidney dialysis machine. Its portability allows it to be used to treat kidney failure patients at home, relieving the burden on hospitals.

Delivery giant DHL to occupy 300,000 sq ft at Segro Park and create 600 jobs

DHL Parcel UK has become the first occupier at Segro Park Coventry after choosing the development as the location for a major new UK logistics hub. It will initially a 300,000-square-foot unit on a 25-year lease at the 200-acre industrial and logistics park in Warwick District, creating up to 600 jobs, including warehouse, driver, administration and management positions.

New £5.5m scheme could bring hundreds of new jobs to Warwick and Leamington

The final development in a major business and industrial park in Warwickshire is set to create hundreds of jobs and scores of new companies in Warwick and Leamington. The Space Business Centre Warwick will feature 61 200-500sqft units being created by developer AC Lloyd Commercial and is designed to attract start-up and expanding enterprises and will be a mix of office, industrial and storage units and will provide short-term flexible accommodation to help the businesses grow.

Construction Starts on £20m Coventry Boutique Hotel

Leamington Spa-based property developer Castlebridge has broken ground on a £20 million hotel project in Coventry city centre. Once complete, the Hotel Indigo will feature 100 rooms designed with Coventry's history in mind. It will also have a gym, restaurant and bar which will be available to both hotel guests and the public.

New Appointment To Drive Innovation Agenda At University Of Warwick Science Park

Mark Tock has been appointed Chief Operations Officer at the University of Warwick Science Park as part of a strategy to drive innovation across the West Midlands. The Science Park will continue to work with the University of Warwick to foster collaboration between business and academic research. This includes access for major initiatives such as global innovation platform Plug & Play's Mobility Platform, based at the National Automotive Innovation Centre (NAIC).

HS2 Reveals Outdoor Factory and Training Academy at Lea Marston

The first pictures have emerged from HS2's giant construction compound in Lea Marston, Warwickshire. The 550,000m2 site is run by HS2's civil partner, Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV), and will soon become the workplace for around 1,000 people tasked with building the high-speed rail line on a network of viaducts crossing motorways, roads and footpaths.

Business Economic Sentiment Presents Mixed Outlook for Economy

Coventry and Warwickshire's economic outlook has dropped to its lowest point since the second quarter of 2021, according to new research, but is still in "positive territory". The Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce's latest Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) said that, despite the drop, the region remains on par with the rest of the UK economy. The service sector experienced a drop in domestic orders, down from 62.1 to 52.4, while in manufacturing, the score jumped from 47.6 to 53.9.

New Leader at Chamber of Commerce

A new chief executive is taking the helm at Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce. Corin Crane has joined the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce after leading the Black Country Chamber for almost six years. He succeeds Louise Bennett, who has run the organisation for 20 years and will remain with the organisation for a brief period to handover.

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

EDS Project Dashboard Update

21 September 2022

1. Engineering Design Services Project Dashboard Update

- 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 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.
- 1.3 The Project Dashboard which is shared at this meeting in PDF format has now also been published on an internal WCC intranet page, the address of which has been shared with all Members.
- 1.4 Going forward, the Project Dashboard will be updated and published on a quarterly basis following submission to Major Schemes Board. Members will be emailed when an update has been published.

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TOP 10 NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



		Scheme Name	Statu	Expected Delivery	Sta	ge of th	ne Scher	me		nission ority		Scheme Value				Top Ris	sks		Comments	Scheme Brief
			R/A/G/Blank	Completion of construction	Preliminary /	Optioneering Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Low	Medium	Low < 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety		
1	Capital	Avon Mill and Hunters Lane	R	2025/26									22.000.000						Structural optioneering in progress, validated historic highway design and starting detail design, planning statept defined with pre-page to follow, land requirements being cet estimated, DT's OBC (£17m) funding case to be submitted end 2022, carrying out surveys e.g. topo, ecological, flooding. High risk - initial flood modelling (required for EA approvals and defining bridge levels) has shown reduction from 2016 design. This need to be validated by modelling the proposed options and new surveys. Uncertainty is causing delays in progressing the detail design.	Improved roundabout, new roundabout and bridge, new flottway cycleway bridge over the river
2	Capital	A47 Hinckley Road Corridor	R	2023							3,605,000								Increased costs as a result of Utility diversion estimates, further funding is being sought, Development of of-foraid cycleavy being completed and can be tendered spararely. Currently carrying out redesign of some cycle elements to align with LTN1/20 and other schemes.	Improved junctions and ped/ cycle facilities
3	Capital	A444 College Street, Nuneaton	R	2022							4.000.000								Project poll into two. Phase 1: Greenmoon/Health find fload Signalised Junction, Phase 2: Bull Ring Junction, College Street, A444 Roundabout, Elsot Way set-back signals. Phase 1: "TRO orgaine, RSA2 complete: Land dedication on gains with NBBC. Phase 2: Booking road space is an issue. Bull Ring design being RSA2'G. 3rd party land acquisition ongoing.	Improve 3No. junctions
4	Capital	Lawford/Addison Rd Casualty Reduction	G	2023							1,600,000								C4 estimates and utility consultations ongoing. Land acquisition in progress. RSA2 Response being prepared. Tender document preparation ongoing. Possible Tender Winter 2022.	Casualty reduction roundabout scheme.
5	Capital	A446/ Birmingham Road Junction (Coleshill)		2024							2,378,000								Feasibility design to commence when issues with land access reolved. WCC Estates and Legal Services involved to move forward with licenses for non-intrusive surveys. Preliminary Ecological Assessment and Topographical Survey to be undertaken in near future. Clearance of overgrown vegetation being coordinated with ecological seasons.	Signalisation of roundabout
6	Capital	Transforming Nuneaton	G	From 2024									29,700,000						Design work on going funding received and preparing to apply for complementary funding planning permission for Corporation Street projects has been applied for; india acquisition ongoing and preparing for CPD process for Gyratory scheme. Work to deliver the new cycleway through Abbey Green (off Corporation Street) to be delivered in late Autumn 2022 as enabling work for Corporation Street Phase of main project.	Series of junction improvements (Wheat Street / Leicester Road Roundabout(gyratory) / Corporation Street-Queens Road/Coton Road
7	Capital	Hinckley To Nuneaton Cycle Route (A47 Long Shoot)	А	2022/23							851,238								Construction pushed back to Jan 2023 due to the delayed Callander Farm S278. Formal consultation ongoing.	New segregated cycle track
8	Capital	Greenman Crossroad	А	2023							650,000								Updated and recalibrated traffic model based on consultation feedback and modifications to the detailed design. Programme and costs has been revised to reflect design changes. Designs to be finalised for RSA2.	Signalisation of an existing crossroad
9	Capital	Temple Hill Roundabout, Wolvey	А	2022							1,600,000								Completing detailed design, procurement expected Summer/Autumn 2022. Contract documents being prepared and drainage design completed. Some utility diversions being procured in advance to minimise disruption to contract. Street Lighting design has now been received.	Casualty Reduction scheme to deliver a new roundabout at existing crossroads.
10	S278	Gipsy Lane - Yew Tree Farm	G	2022/23							2,000,000								TM complexities with the Quarry and required road widening	Roundabout , two junctions and road straightening in Gipsy Lane

TOP 10 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



2 Capital A49 Coventry Road corridor A Cycleway 2022/23 3 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St. Johns Road A 2023 4 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St. Johns Road A 2023 5 Capital A452 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Rbt A 2025/26 A		Scheme Name Statu Expected Delivery Stage of the Scheme Priority								ty		Scheme Valu	•		1	Top Risk	cs		Comments	Scheme Brief	
1 Capital A400 Bham Road Stratford Corridor Stage 2 Capital A429 Coventry Road corridor Cycleway 2022/23 Capital A429 Coventry Road corridor Cycleway 2022/23 Capital A429 Coventry Road corridor Cycleway 2022/23 Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Road Capital A432 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shire				4/6/		Preliminary /	Optionee ring Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Medium	High		5 Million < X <		Technical	Strategic		Financial	Health and Safety		
2 Capital A29 Coventry Road corridor A Cycleway 2022/23 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St Johns Road A 2023 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St Johns Road A 2024 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St Johns Road A 2025 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St Johns Road Road Road Road Road Road Road Road	1 Capi	ital	A3400 Bham Road Stratford Corridor Stage 2	G	2023/24								6,550,000							commencement of construction is Autumn. Currently being priced by the contractors under	
3 Capital Warwick Town Centre-St Johns Road A 2023 1,026,000 feasibility, design, Preparation for Public engagement is being understaken. 5 Capital AS2 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Ribt A Q3 FY23/24 1	2 Capi	ital	A429 Coventry Road corridor	A								4,680,000								Autumn/Winter2022. Consultation 30th June 22 - 31st July 22. Cycle cost estimate £714,714.	Provision of 1.2km shared use cycleway/footway
4 Capital AS2 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Rob A Q3 FY23/24	3 Capi	ital	Warwick Town Centre- St Johns Road	А	2023							1.026.000									Signalised Junction improvement, town gateway
Solution Road Rbts SoA Soluti	4 Capi	ital	A452 Europa Way - WCC-3 Ford Foundry and Shires Rb	t: A	Q3 FY23/24								6 463 000							design updates which better utilise existing infrastructure and therefore reduce construction costs. Design layout is largely complete. Street Lighting design received from consultants and checked by WCC Lighting Team.	Upgrading existing roundabouts & additional lane capacity
6 S278 Clopton Bridge SoA 2022 2000,000 2000 2000,000 2000 2000,000 2000 2000,000 20	5 Capi	ital	A452 K2L Cycle Route	A	2025/26							4,749,000	- 5,105,000							within 22/23 financial year, Section 1b (to Blackdown) in 23/24. Awaiting a fresh report from Atkins to confirm deliverable options for the new bridge.	An off-carriageway cycle route, includi a new pedestrian / cycle bridge crossin the river.
7 S278 Shipston Road Rbts SoA A 2023 A 200,000 A 2002/3 A 2002/3 A 200,000 A 2002/3 A 2002/	6 S27	78	Clopton Bridge SoA	А	2022							2,000,000								disruption in the centre of SoA is unavoidable but traffic management proposals by the	Traffic signalisation of Clopton Bridge is Stratford Upon Avon
8 S278 The Asps Bambury Road G 2022/3 Potential nearly conglession, traffic management proposals by the contractor will be scrutinised to ensure comparciability with schemes on Gallows hill.	7 527	78	Shipston Road Rbts SoA	Α	2023							4,200,000								accommodate other schemes and minimise congestion and disruption. Complex traffic	Improvements to the Waitrose and Seven Meadows Rd roundabouts
	8 S27	78	The Asps Banbury Road	G	2022/3							1,500,000									Both construction of a temporary and then permanent access to new development
	9 S27	78	Glasshouse Lane - Kenilworth School	А	2023							1,000,000								School opening Sept 2023. Potential issue with budget for highway works	Final two access to school; speed humps and toucan crossings
Necessary and acting of patients will have imposted the programme but this alongest of the	10 527	78	GLH Harbury / Chesterton TS	G	2022							3,400									

Warwickshire

TOP NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



		Scheme Name	Statu	Expected Delivery	St	tage of	the Sche	eme		imission riority		Scheme Value				Top Ri	sks		Comments	Scheme Brief
			R/A/G/Blank	Completion of construction	Preliminary / Optione ering	Feasibility	Detailed Design Procurement	Construction	Low	Medium High	Low < 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety		
1	Capital	Bermuda Connectivity	A	Q4 22/23									10,400,000						St Georges Way complete, works on the A444 due for completion in October 22. Works on the Bridge Approaches and the Deck are progressing but there are delays due to Gas Barrier and Utilities works. Programme activity schedule is being reviewed to progress other work requirements.	improved connectivity in Nuneaton
2	S277	The Long Shoot (Callendar Farm- Jelson Homes)	A	2022							1,600,000								High local resident interest and concern; some difficulties with off road parking. Construction works expected to commence in 2021	New Traffic Signal Junction
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Warwickshire County Council

TOP SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



August 8, 20

	Scheme Name Statu Statu Statu Stage of the Scheme								Priori	ity		Scheme Value		1	Top Risi	ks		Comments	Scheme Brief		
			R/A/G/Blank	Completion of construction	Preliminary /	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	wol	Medium	High	Low < 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety		
1	Capital	Stoneleigh Junction	A	Spring 22/23										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	5278	Long Marston Airfield, Campden Rd. SoA	G	Summer22								4,500,000								Increase in scope of works leading to extended construction time leading to knock on effects with the Freshfields Nursery S278 scheme	Construction of a new development Rbt and footway & cycleway
3	Capital	Leamington Station	А	Summer 2022								1,931,000								The legal agreement with Network Rail has been signed and NR's main contractor, Story Contracting Ltd, is on site. Works have been delayed slightly due to long lead in times for	Station forecourt scheme
4	5278	Evesham Rbt - Shottery Link Rd	A	Spring 2023									5,200,000.00							Potential traffic management complications. Completion pivotal to commencement of other major SoA schemes	Construction of a new roundabout on Evesham Rd for connection to link rd.
5	S278	Gallows Hill (Lower Heathcote Farm) Minor & Major schemes	A	Winter 22/23								2,000,000								Part of the Europa Way package of development schemes. Coordination of all schemes needed to minimise disruption and congestion. Major scheme commences after Commonwealth games embargo	Construction of temporary access after the Commonwealth Games by the installation of a signalised junction.
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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 plant to show how the schemes fill into the overall business and will be updated every quarter which will assist us in monitoring our schemes.

Scheme Name
Name of scheme. Note: there is no particular order for the ranking
Status
Blank - Project instalation Document not received
Red - Programme overant, Budget context. Major issues
Anabre - Scheme is progressing but there are issues which are being dealt with and/or there is a risk of project overrun or budget overrun
General-Project more promising as expected
Despected Delevery
Completion of construction
Stage of the Scheme
These run from commissioning team handover to construction
Commissioning Felicity
Thorse to produce by the commissioning team handover to construction
Commissioning felicity
Thorse to the scheme superated into low, medium or high
Top Risk
Technical (including construction/constact risks)
Statusgic/Administrative
User Indiant Scheme
Technical (including construction/constact risks)
Statusgic/Administrative
User Indiant Scheme Scheme Scheme Scheme Scheme Scheme
Hollow Counter of the scheme superated into low, medium or high
Top Risk
Technical (including construction/constact risks)
Statusgic/Administrative
User Indiant Scheme
Technical (including construction/constact risks)
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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Bermuda Connectivity - Update

21 September 2022

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers the report, which provides an update on the Bermuda Connectivity scheme.

1. Executive Summary

Overview

- 1.1 Bermuda Connectivity is a highway scheme, focused on opening the existing bridge to two-way traffic, delivering additional highway capacity and improved connectivity between West Nuneaton and Griff roundabout. The scheme will deliver a range of benefits, including improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, for the local community in the wider West Nuneaton area.
- 1.2 The scheme design was led by Atkins on behalf of WCC. Commercial consultants Faithful and Gould (F&G) were appointed at the start of the construction works to act as Project Manager and lead on commercial matters for the construction contract. WCC have retained a client-side Project Manager to oversee the project.
- 1.3 Funding of £10.759 million has been allocated to the project and construction work commenced in April 2021.
- 1.4 Progress has been made in delivering significant improvements on St Georges Way with new shared use cycleway/footways, junction works and carriageway resurfacing now in place. This part of the scheme is now largely complete and challenges have been overcome around the impact of shift worker traffic to the new Hello Fresh depot, and an unexpected hard dig adjacent to the railway line.
- 1.5 The next part of the work, to open Bermuda Bridge has also seen significant progress. The bridge deck has been jacked up (the whole deck raised by a small amount) allowing the original bridge bearings, which had been in place since the 1960's, to be replaced. This replacement required demolition of part of the bearing shelf, reconstruction and replacement of the bearing. This is a key element of ensuring that the bridge can be opened to traffic. Significant earthworks have also been undertaken on the approaches to the bridge with existing unsuitable material being removed and replaced with material that will provide appropriate support for the new road. The contractor is now planning

to carry out surfacing on the eastern approach to the bridge in September 2022.

- 1.6 Significant investigation work on site has been carried out to determine the location and construction type of a gas barrier that was installed by a developer in 2006 to protect a new housing development. Monitoring over a period of time has determined that the barrier is functioning correctly and now the design of how this can be extended to accommodate the new road alignment can be concluded and work on the barrier started on site in late September/early October 2022.
- 1.7 Some elements of the work have taken longer than originally planned as a number of issues have had to be overcome during the construction phase. Those delay matters agreed with the contractor to date include:
 - Contractor delays and reprogramming after the initial review of sequencing and durations allowed in programme - circa 2.5 months
 - The deployment of the traffic management on the A444 to allow access under the bridge was postponed by WCC to avoid disruption over the Christmas period – circa 1 month
 - Securing road space and permits to work on network rail land to construct gabion baskets on St Georges Way and more broadly to commence works on site - circa 1 month
 - Encountering unanticipated hard rock in areas of excavation whilst installing the gabion baskets extra time taken to complete the works circa 2 months
 - Approval/agreement of method to replace bridge bearings circa 1 month
- 1.8 Those matters still under discussion with the contactor to agree on delay implications include, amongst others :
 - Unexpected utility diversions required, not identified in the design
 - Resolving issues with the existing gas barrier
 - Land ownership issues requiring land swaps to be agreed pushing back when a utility company could have access to carry their required diversion
 - Delays in providing approved designs for, amongst other matters, the replacement of Vehicle Restraint Systems.
 - These issues mean a likely works end date of summer 2023. However, negotiations are ongoing between WCC and the contractor to find ways the programme can be shortened.
- 1.9 Whilst the elements of work that have taken longer than planned and exceptionally high levels of inflation are putting pressure on the project

budget, it is expected the indicative BCR will continue to show that the scheme remains very high value for money.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Bermuda Connectivity scheme has a budget allocation of £10.759 million.
- 2.2 A number of factors, including exceptionally high levels of inflation, are putting pressure on the scheme budget. The impact of these factors is being reviewed with the contractor and WCC's commercial consultant.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The Scheme was tested in the 2017 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Wide Area Traffic Model, which projected a number of benefits should arise from delivery including a reduction in journeys times on a number of routes in West Nuneaton and reduced congestion in parts of the town centre, hence, improving links onto the A444 in other parts of the town.
- 3.2 The environmental impact review of the Scheme found that it would not have a significant adverse effect on air quality even on the roads experiencing an increase in traffic, but it is projected that residential properties at certain locations will be adversely impacted by increased noise levels.

Project Environmental Concerns

- 3.3 Gas Barrier A gas barrier implemented by developers in 2006 to provide protection to new build properties providing gas venting protection for a land fill site, which sits to the west of Bermuda Bridge has been subject to monitoring over a number of months. This monitoring was required to determine whether the gas barrier was functioning correctly and to confirm a suitable design where it will be extended to allow for the new road levels. The design of the gas barrier is nearing completion and a monetary allowance has been included in the scheme budget to complete the remedial works. This includes a Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Engineer to assist with the design and implementation of the gas barrier.
- 3.4 **Japanese Knotweed** was found during exploratory works for the project located on the Bermuda Bridge and an area on the Bridleway. Further to this in 2018 WCC procured remediation through a specialist contract to remove the contaminated soils from site and manage ongoing treatments to destroy and contain this invasive plant.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Continuing work to reduce costs and to manage the budget to within the allocated funds.
- 4.1 The Project Team are working with the contractor to explore ways the programme duration can be reduced.
- 4.2 The Project Team continue to work with the Lead Designer (Atkins) to resolve issues that occur as quickly as possible.
- 4.3 The current project milestones are:

Works Description	Completion
Works on Gas Barrier improvements	Winter 2022/23
Bermuda Bridge Works – preparation works to create required ground levels for the new road currently ongoing.	Winter 22/23
Highway works on the Bridleway	Spring/Summer 23

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 September 2022

Briefing Note on School Keep Clear Enforcement Zone

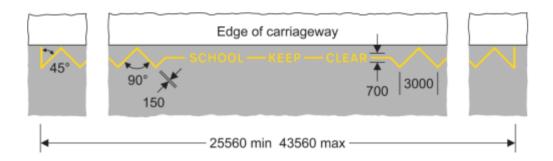
Summary

The objective is to increase parking compliance, to enable safer entry and exit from school sites and to promote and encourage Safe and Active Travel School commutes throughout the County. This will be achieved by taking the following actions.

- Commissioning the remarking of Warwickshire's Primary School keep clear zones and installation of the required accompanying time plates to comply with regulations.
- Implement a Countywide Traffic Regulation Order to enable effective enforcement.
- Lease of a mobile enforcement vehicle to patrol scheduled school clusters to issue Regulation 10 Penalty Charge Notices to vehicles in contravention using specialist secure software.
- Instigating the relaunch of Cars and Kids don't mix school safety campaign to promote road safety as part of the Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme.

1. School Keep Clear Enforcement

- 1.1 School keep clear zones prevent any vehicle from parking outside school entrance points and obstructing the visibility for pedestrians during the prescribed restricted hours. Child safety and vehicle obstruction around schools are the topic of hundreds of enforcement requests for the Parking Management Team annually from head teachers, parents, residents, the police and elected members. These requests for better enforcement are unachievable at present in Warwickshire due to signs and markings not fully complying with regulations, a lack of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in place to enable enforcement, and lack of available resource to undertake enforcement.
- 1.2 The Traffic Management 2004 defines the parameters by which enforcement of vehicles waiting on a school keep clear can be undertaken. To enable this, the lines and signs must comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016.



Less than ten zones currently comply with these regulations

1.3 94% of Warwickshire's Primary Schools have no time plates supporting their school Keep Clear Zones. The TSRGD requires that a sign detailing restricted hours are placed within each zone informing drivers of the details and hours of the restriction. It is proposed to implement a standard restriction of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, to be applied to all primary schools in Warwickshire. The focus of the school keep clear zones is to facilitate visibility for pedestrians to-and-from the school premises at the times of the day when school entrances are at their busiest. The proposed restricted hours are already in place in 10 Of the 13 schools with existing signage. This will incorporate most daily school activities, while maintaining the balance with other road users' needs outside that restricted time.



- 1.4 All schools have been identified and their existing school keep clear zones have been photographed, surveyed and mapped. The schools identified for year one of the scheme amount to just under 200 individual school keep clear zones, as many schools have more than one entrance. A third of these existing zigzag lines simply require refreshing and are the correct length. The remaining zones will require either reducing, dividing or extending to be compliant with TSRGD requirements. Where possible, and appropriate, the accompanying time plates will be affixed to existing street furniture.
- 1.5 The project will focus on approximately 70 priority schools in year one using the following criteria.
 - Liaison with the Safer Routes to School Team regarding headteacher concerns and incidents recorded by schools and school patrols
 - 5 years of collision data within 300 metres of the school entrance
 - Repeated expressions of concern to the civil enforcement email inbox raised by Councillors, schools, and members of the public.
 - The Parking Survey 2021 data
- 1.6 After this, the approach will be rolled out to the remaining schools over the following two years.
- 1.7 Enforcement of the zone will be undertaken via an enforcement vehicle. The benefit of an enforcement vehicle is in its ability to patrol several schools in an area during their busiest hours before and after school, covering more area and adding a visible presence. Area clusters will be created enabling enforcement of all schools in an area on a rotational schedule. All areas will receive balanced levels of enforcement after the required 2 weeks of warning notices being issued.
- 1.8 Experience from other Councils operating mobile camera enforcement has demonstrated that visibility of enforcement to the public can lead to an improvement in compliance with the regulations and a reduction in congestion around schools. The Police are in support of tackling non-compliance using this mode of enforcement.
- 1.9 The costs of undertaking the remedial works to enable enforcement is c. £60,000 per year for three years, and will be covered through internal budgets.

2. Active Travel and Schools

- 2.1 A County-wide Primary School parking survey was conducted in summer 2021, and over 4000 local parents, head teachers and residents responded. Key findings were:
 - 86% of parents always drive to school. Parents are aware of the safety concerns from dangerous or illegal parking, but parents stated they had no other option if they park inconsiderately.
 - 69% of Head Teachers who responded reported incidents or near misses outside their schools. Increased enforcement was the preferred measure to tackle this, along with the park and stride initiative and better education for parents.
 - Residents reported high levels of driveway obstruction by drivers to the school and inconsiderate parking in the area. The most popular response in terms of how to deal with inconsiderate or illegal parking was to increase enforcement, alongside encouraging more children to use greener modes of transport.
- 2.2 Once schools are enforceable, the Road Safety Education Team will relaunch the 'Cars and Kids Don't Mix' campaign, providing information and targeted engagement with schools. Schools will be invited to display the cars and kids don't mix banner at their school entrance.
- 2.3 The Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme combines a mix of in-person and digital educational interventions for every year group, priority booking for Bikeability cycle training through our provider Outspoken, a free and bespoke school travel plan, and our Active Travel Award. Schools nominate a member of their teaching and learning team to become a Safe and Active Travel Champion to progress the scheme forward. Every year we have around 80 places available which are spread across the county. We are currently working at full capacity for staffing and resource levels. As well as promoting road safety to children across Warwickshire, the Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme aims to inspire a love of active travel in young people.
- 2.4 2021/22 academic year achievements include
 - 23560 children received digital or in person road safety educational sessions.
 - 81 School signed up to the Safe and Active Award
 - 31 schools received an award
 - 106 bikes were security marked at events across Warwickshire
 - 18376 children accessed Road Safety Week in November 2021
 - 909 children in nurseries
 - 67 children in Libraries
 - 24 completed Travel plans
 - 27 school took park in the cars idling campaign

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	Transport and Planning	



Nearest School	District	Ward	Restriction	Priority
				Rating
Arley Primary School,	North	Arley and	Advisory School	
New Arley,	Warwickshire	Whitacre	Keep Clear	
Coventry	N. (1			1
Nursery Hill Primary School,	North Warwickshire	Arley and Whitacre	Advisory School	
Ansley Common, Nuneaton	warwicksnire	vvnitacre	Keep Clear	1
Racemeadow Primary Academy,	North	Atherstone North	Advisory School	1
Ratcliffe Road,	Warwickshire	Auterstone North	Keep Clear	
Atherstone	Warwicksiiic		recep Olean	1
Outwoods Primary School,	North	Atherstone	Advisory School	
Southlands,	Warwickshire	South and	Keep Clear	
Atherstone		Mancetter	'	1
Coleshill Church of England Primary	North	Coleshill South	Advisory School	
School,	Warwickshire		Keep Clear	
Wingfield Road,				
Coleshill,				
Birmingham,				
West Midlands	NI (I		A 1 : O 1 1	1
Dordon Primary School,	North	Dordon	Advisory School	
Roman Way, Dordon,	Warwickshire		Keep Clear	
Tamworth				1
Bournebrook C.Of E. Primary School,	North	Fillongley	Advisory School	
Coventry Road,	Warwickshire	limongicy	Keep Clear	
Fillongley,				
Coventry				1
Nathaniel Newton Infant School,	North	Hartshill	Advisory School	
Victoria Road,	Warwickshire		Keep Clear	
Chapel End,				
Nuneaton				1
,	North	Hartshill	Advisory School	
Woodlands, Hartshill, Nuneaton	Warwickshire		Keep Clear	
INdifeatori				1
Kingsbury Primary School,	North	Kingsbury	Advisory School	
Bromage Avenue,	Warwickshire	i an igologicy	Keep Clear	
Kingsbury,			'	
Tamworth				1
The Nethersole C.Of E. Academy,	North	Polesworth East		
High Street,	Warwickshire		Keep Clear	
Polesworth,				
Tamworth				1
Queen's Church of England Academy,	Nuneaton and	Abbey	Advisory School	
Bentley Road, Nuneaton	Bedworth		Keep Clear	1
Abbey C.Of E. Infant School,	Nuneaton and	Abbey	Advisory School	+
Aston Road,	Bedworth	Tuney	Keep Clear	
Nuneaton	Dogword		Titoop Ologi	
				1
Chetwynd Junior School,	Nuneaton and	Attleborough	Advisory School	
Caroline Close, Gipsy Lane,	Bedworth		Keep Clear	
Nuneaton				1

	T		1	
Croft Junior School,	Nuneaton and	Bar Pool	Advisory School	
Northumberland Avenue,	Bedworth		Keep Clear	
Stockingford,				
Nuneaton				1
The Canons C of E Primary School,	Nuneaton and	Bede	Advisory School	
Derwent Road,	Bedworth		Keep Clear	
Bedworth	Deaworth		recep olear	
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Nursery Unit, Coalpit Fields Road	Bedworth		Keep Clear	1
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Barton Road,	Bedworth		Keep Clear	
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Avenue Road,	Bedworth		Keep Clear	
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Coventry				1
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St. Mary's Catholic Primary School,	Stratford-on-Avon	Southam	Advisory School	
Daventry Road,			Keep Clear	
Southam				1
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Clopton Road,		and New Town	Keep Clear	
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Warwick				1
Burton Green Church of England	Warwick	Abbey	Advisory School	
Academy,			Keep Clear	
Hob Lane,				
Burton Green,				
Kenilworth				1
Priors Field Primary School,	Warwick	Abbey	Advisory School	
Clinton Lane,		'	Keep Clear	
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St. Nicholas C.Of E. Primary School,	Warwick	Abbey	Advisory School	
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Cubbington Road,			Keep Clear	
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Our Lady & St. Teresa's Catholic	Warwick	Cubbington	Advisory School	
Primary School,			Keep Clear	
Windmill Hill,				
Cubbington,				
Leamington Spa				1
Telford Infant School,	Warwick	Manor	Advisory School	
Kelvin Road,			Keep Clear	
Lillington,				
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Telford Junior School,	Warwick	Manor	Advisory School	
Telford Avenue,			Keep Clear	
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Clinton Primary School,	Warwick	St. John's	Advisory School	
Caesar Road,			Keep Clear	
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St. John's Primary School,	Warwick	St. John's	Advisory School	
Mortimer Road,			Keep Clear	
Kenilworth				1
Thorns Community Infant School,	Warwick	St. John's	Advisory School	
Blackthorn Road,			Keep Clear	
Kenilworth				1
Emscote Infant School,	Warwick	Warwick North	Advisory School	
All Saints' Road,			Keep Clear	
Warwick			·	1
Heathcote Primary School,	Warwick	Warwick South	Advisory School	
Heathcote Primary School,			Keep Clear	
Vickers Way,				
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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School,	Warwick	Whitnash	Advisory School	
Rowley Road,			Keep Clear	
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St. Margaret's C.Of E. Junior School,	Warwick	Whitnash	Advisory School	
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### **Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

### 21 September 2022

## Council Plan 2022-2027 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 1 2022/23

Period under review: April 2022 to June 2022

#### Recommendation

That the Committee considers and comments on Quarter 1 organisational performance and progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the Council's performance at the end of the first quarter (April-June 2022) against the strategic priorities and Areas of Focus set out in the Council Plan 2022-2027. All information contained within this report has been taken from the Quarter 1 Integrated Performance and Finance reports Cabinet considered on the 8th September. Performance is assessed against the Key Business Measures (KBMs) contained within the agreed Performance Management Framework. This is summarised in Section 2 and more fully presented within Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan is summarised in Section 3 and more fully presented within Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Management of Finance is summarised in Section 4 and the summary dashboard is presented in Appendix 3.
- 1.4 Management of Risk is summarised in Section 5 and more detailed information is presented in Appendix 4.
- 1.5 The paper sets out, for the first time, a combined picture of the Council's delivery, performance, and risk. Officers are still embedding this new approach and performance framework, and a number of new measures will not be available until Year End. The format and content of these integrated performance reports will continue to evolve over the course of the current financial year.
- 1.6 The Council's overall performance remains strong, despite a volatile, uncertain, and high-risk external environment. This performance is evident for this Committee with 89% (8) of KBMs within its remit being assessed as being On Track with performance being at an expected level, and 11% (1) being Not

on Track. Appendix 1 details performance for all measures within the Performance Management Framework. Detailed measure-by-measure performance reporting is accessible through the 2022/23 Performance Report available at this <u>link</u>.

- 1.7 There is 1 KBM which is notable for positive performance:
  - % of household waste re-used, recycled and composted
- 1.8 The position is also positive in terms of delivery of the 62 Communities actions set out in the Integrated Delivery Plan, with 85% being On Track and 15% At Risk, Compromised or not Started and it is these actions which are reported on in Appendix 2 on an exception basis.
- 1.9 A number of actions that are at risk relate to capital programmes and projects, where current inflation levels and supply chain challenges are creating very significant levels of risk and uncertainty about our capacity to deliver as planned within available resources, a challenge common to all Councils.
- 1.10 Three of the Councils 18 strategic risks relate to the remit of this committee and currently have a red status (that economic growth slows or stalls, inflation / the cost of living, and meeting 2050 climate change targets for the county). At service level the key risks being highlighted are those that are currently rated red (high) risk and which at the same time have had a risk rating higher than the target risk rating for 3 quarters. There are currently no service risks meeting both these criteria in these service areas however Section 5.3 details the more significant risks that exist below this level.

### 2. Performance against the Performance Management Framework

- 2.1 The three strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 2027 are delivered through seven Areas of Focus and three areas we want the Council to be known for as 'a Great Council and Partner'. The full performance summary against these Areas of Focus is contained in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 A set of high-level Warwickshire Outcome Measures, where we can influence improvement in performance but do not solely own, are also contained in the Performance Management Framework. Reporting against these is under development and will inform our ongoing State of Warwickshire reporting.
- 2.3 Comprehensive performance reporting is enabled through the Power BI link 2022/23 Performance Report as part of the revised and adopted Performance Management Framework.
- 2.4 The new approach to performance reporting is evolving, building on the recommendations of the Member Working Group. The number of reportable measures will change each quarter as the framework takes into account the availability of new data.

- 2.5 This is the first quarter to benefit from a new automated process, delivered through PowerApps, to collect performance against the KBMs and KBIs. As the integrated reporting develops automation will be applied more widely to collect other performance data such as the Integrated Delivery Plan.
- 2.6 There are 21 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee, of the 9 which are being reported at Quarter 1, 8 (89%) are On Track and 1 (11%) is Not on Track, full performance summary is contained in Appendix 1. The balance of measures are Annual and will be reported at the appropriate time across the forthcoming year.
- 2.7 All 9 measures have a forecast projection from the responsible Service for the forthcoming period. Of the 8 measures that are forecast to be On Track at Quarter 2, 5 are forecast to improve and 3 to remain static over the next quarter. For the 1 that is forecast to be Not on Track, performance is set to improve and be On Track.

### 3. Progress on Delivery Plan

- 3.1 The Integrated Delivery Plan aligns priority activity from across all service areas to the seven Areas of Focus within the Council Plan 2022-27. The plan shows how activity across services collectively contributes to delivering these priorities.
- 3.2 Detailed information on the performance summary of the Integrated Delivery Plan in relation to Communities is included at Appendix 2. The majority of deliverables are On Track (85%) and 15% are At Risk, Compromised or Not Started, with any exceptions covered in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 There are 224 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 62 of which are assigned to Communities.
- 3.4 Reporting on the Integrated Delivery Plan is not yet automated; Quarter 1 progress has been collated manually and therefore there is no Power Bl dashboard for reporting. As outlined in the report to Cabinet in May, where the Integrated Delivery Plan was approved, this is a work in progress with colleagues in the Commissioning Support Unit and ICT enabling this. Discovery underway with ICT to explore high level solutions, however we are now gathering detailed requirements before progressing further. Learning from the manual exercise is being factored into these requirements.

### 4. Management of Finance

4.1 The key metrics of financial management are summarised below with further information available in Appendix 3 and in the Finance Monitoring Report presented to Cabinet on 8th September 2022.

Metric	Target	Service	Performance at Quarter 1 2022/23
Performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast under/overspend	On budget or no	Environment Services	0.5% overspent
	more than 2% underspent	Strategic Commissioning Communities	2.48% overspent
Performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast	4000/	Environment Services	100%
under/overachievement	100%	Strategic Commissioning Communities	100%
		Environment Services	18.0%
Performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery	No more than 5% delay	Strategic Commissioning Communities	10.3%
		S278 funded schemes	5.4%

### 5. Management of Risk

- 5.1 Risks are monitored in risk registers at a strategic/corporate level and at service level. At a corporate level the following strategic risks more directly related Communities are currently rated as red (high risk):
  - Economic growth slows or stalls;
  - Inflation and the Cost of Living
  - 2050 county climate targets not met; and
- 5.2 Mitigating actions are in place in respect of these risks, for example the Council Plan prioritising the support of Warwickshire's economy, working with regional and local partners to access available funding streams, a Medium Term Financial Strategy planning process that is incorporating the risks of inflation, enabling and promoting climate change action in the community for example through a dedicated website and specific initiatives such as the green shoots community climate change fund.
- 5.3 At a service level there are 13 risks recorded against services relating to Communities and Environmental Services. The norm for exception reporting in 2022/23 is that key risks are highlighted where they are red risks (high risk) and where a risk level has been higher than the risk target for 3 quarters or more and is currently still 3 points or more over target (risk targets have been

recently introduced and this is the first quarter reporting on this risk target metric). However, at service level at this reporting period there are no red risks or risks above target relating to communities or environmental services therefore the remaining high scoring risks are summarised instead. Of the 13 risks 6 risks have a risk score of 12 (Amber):

- Economic downturn due to Covid and Brexit;
- Being unable to deliver the highways planned Winter Maintenance programme in the event of extreme weather;
- Insufficient resources to deliver the Council Plan:
- Insufficient income from Section 106 and Communities Infrastructure Levy to deliver infrastructure;
- Pressure to manage increasing levels of waste; and,
- Unable to deliver Flood Risk Management duties.
- 5.4 Mitigating actions are in place in respect of these risks and are managed at Service level. Appendix 4 illustrates the standard risk reporting format

### 6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are none specific to this report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Quarterly Performance Report Quarter 1

Appendix 2 – Progress on the Delivery Plan

Appendix 3 – Management of Financial Risk

Appendix 4 – Management of Risk

### **Background Papers**

Cabinet Report 8th September 2022

Role	Name	Contact Information
Report	Vanessa Belton, Delivery Lead	vanessabelton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Author	Business Intelligence	
	Performance, Planning and	
	Quality	
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Director	Director Communities	
	Scott Tompkins, Assistant Director	scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
	Environment Services	
Strategic	Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Director	Communities	
Portfolio	Cllr W Redford, Cabinet Portfolio	cllrredford@warwickshire.gov.uk
Holder	Holder for Transport & Planning	



### **Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme**

Date of next report	Item	Report detail
Standing items	Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders	The Committee may put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holders on issues within their remit. The report will set out the forthcoming items listed in the Council's published Forward Plan relevant to the Committee.
	Economic Development Update	To receive an update on economic development in Warwickshire. This has expanded from the previous Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) update at the request of the Chair and Spokespersons.
		To be a briefing note to be sent to the Committee Members rather than an agenda item (allowing members to raise any issue/ ask questions at the Committee should they wish).
Page 5	EDS Dashboard (to be received every other meeting)	A table on all cycling, walking, train and road developments in Warwickshire and their progress
TBD	A46 Strategic Link Road Outline Business Case	This report presents the Outline Business Case for the proposed new A46 travel corridor. For submission to the Department for Transport.
21 September 2022	Bermuda Connectivity Update	An update on the Bermuda Connectivity project in Nuneaton
21 September 2022	School Enforcement	A note on the enforcement work regarding parking outside schools being done ahead of the Portfolio Holder decision report
9 November 2022	EV Charging Points TFG Findings Report	The report from the electric vehicle charging point TFG before it goes onto December's Cabinet
9 November 2022	Transport Scheme Evaluation	A full evaluation following April's note on the successes of transport development schemes implemented.
9 November 2022	WRIF Update	An update on the Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund and it's progress

9 November 2022	Flood Drainage Policies	Following the motion at full council: a review of this Council's flood alleviation and drainage policies and invites Seven Trent Water, the Environment Agency and other partners to provide evidence for this review, in order to develop relationships between partners and councillors in their individual divisions. This will include flood management.
9 November 2022	Speed Cameras (briefing note)	A note on average speeds picked up by speed cameras across Warwickshire
8 February 2023	20mph Limits Update	An update on 20mph limits in Warwickshire and their progress
8 February 2023	Joining up 'trunk' bus routes with demand response bus services	A note on how the council is linking up operating bus routes and the new demand response service cross-county
8 February 2023	Differing response times with pedestrian crossings in relation to traffic congestion	A note on why some pedestrian crossings change immediately and others do not and how this is affected by traffic congestion
February 2023	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. This was pushed back as new projects were starting in September 2022
April 2023	NUCKLE Line update	An update on the Nuneaton Coventry Kenilworth Leamington line being done with Coventry City Council
April 2023	Major Scheme Developments	A report providing an update on any major schemes ongoing in Warwickshire and any environmental implications they had

Items for future work programming and review		
Item	Description	
Planning		
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.
	Community Cohesion
KSIs and Speed Limits	To review the Council's speed limit and speed camera policies.
Population statistics	To review to population growth in Warwickshire in relation to housing developments (briefing note)
	Sustainable Transport
Air Quality Monitoring	To provide and update on air quality monitoring since the TFG recommendations in 2018
<del>ပြ</del> ycling Liaison Group Report စ	A report from the CLG regarding cycling updates in Warwickshire and the benefits to the environment and tourism
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