

# County Council

Date: Tuesday 21 March 2023  
Time: 10.00 am  
Venue: Council Chamber, Shire Hall

## Membership

Councillor Dave Humphreys (Chair), Councillor Christopher Kettle (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Councillor Brett Beetham, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Piers Daniell, Councillor Jackie D'Arcy, Councillor Tracey Drew, Councillor Judy Falp, Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor Peter Gilbert, Councillor Clare Golby, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Andy Jenns, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Jack Kennaugh, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Sarah Millar, Councillor Chris Mills, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Howard Roberts, Councillor Will Roberts, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE, Councillor Ian Shenton, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Mejar Singh, Councillor Richard Spencer, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Robert Tromans, Councillor Adrian Warwick, Councillor Martin Watson and Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

## 1. General

**(1) Apologies for Absence**

**(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests**

**(3) Minutes of the previous meeting**

5 – 20

**(4) Chair's announcements**

## **(5) Petitions**

To receive the following petition submitted in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme.

- Road Safety at Trinity Road/Overwoods Road, Kingsbury and Baddesley & Dordon

## **(6) Public Speaking**

To note any requests to speak on any item on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Scheme (see note at end of the agenda).

<b>2. Application for Dispensation</b>	21 - 22
<b>3. Education Capital Programme 2022/23</b>	23 - 30
<b>4. Developer-Funded Highway Scheme Approval - Eastboro Way / Crowhill Road</b>	31 - 34
<b>5. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022</b>	35 - 82
<b>6. Members' Allowances Scheme</b>	83 - 102

## **7. Notices of Motion**

To consider the following motions submitted by members in accordance with Standing Order 5:

(1) Labour Motion 1 – Library Membership for Children and Young People

That this Council commits to a refreshed approach to the promotion of library membership to the children and young people of Warwickshire.

Proposer: Councillor Sarah Feeney

Seconder: Councillor Caroline Phillips

(2) Labour Motion 2 – Petitions Scheme

That this Council undertakes to review its Petitions Scheme and commits to develop a protocol surrounding how the Council responds to petitions.

Proposer: Councillor Barbara Brown

Seconder: Councillor Sarah Millar

**8. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)**

A period of up to 40 minutes is allocated for questions to the Leader, Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**9. Any Other items of Urgent Business**

To consider any other items that the Chair considers are urgent.

**Monica Fogarty**  
Chief Executive  
Warwickshire County Council  
Shire Hall, Warwick

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### Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

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

### Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter that features on the agenda for that meeting. 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.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

Any member or officer of the Council or any person attending this meeting must inform Democratic Services if within a week of the meeting they discover they have COVID-19 or have been in close proximity to anyone found to have COVID-19.

# County Council

Tuesday 7 February 2023

## Minutes

### Attendance

#### Committee Members

Councillor Dave Humphreys (Chair), Councillor Christopher Kettle (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Councillor Brett Beetham, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Piers Daniell, Councillor Tracey Drew, Councillor Judy Falp, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor Peter Gilbert, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Andy Jenns, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Jack Kennaugh, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Richard Spencer, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Martin Watson, Councillor Adrian Warwick and Councillor Andrew Wright

### 1. General

#### (1) Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jackie D'Arcy, Clare Golby, Sarah Millar, Chris Mills, Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Will Roberts, Ian Shenton, Mejar Singh, and Rob Tromans

#### (2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

None.

#### (3) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair.

#### (4) Chair's announcements

The Chairman highlighted some of the engagements that he had attended since the last meeting, included graduation ceremonies for students of law and medicine at Warwick University.

A one minute's silence was held in tribute to the victims of earthquakes in southern Turkey and northern Syria on Monday, 6 February 2023.

## **2. External Auditors' Annual Audit Report 2021/22**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved the motion and introduced this report, noting the improvement since the previous year's report. Councillor Christopher Kettle seconded the motion.

Mr Avtar Sohal and Mr Jim McLarnon were in attendance as representatives of Grant Thornton to present their report. Mr Sohal drew attention to the executive summary in the report, and noted that overall it was a good report with no significant weaknesses to be highlighted.

There were no questions or comments on the report.

### **Vote**

A vote was held. The recommendation was unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved:**

That Council:

1. Notes the Annual Audit Report of the External Auditors, attached to the report at Appendix A; and
2. Requests that Cabinet consider and approve an action plan in response to the recommendations in the Annual Audit Report, for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

## **3. Warwickshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2021/22**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Isobel Seccombe. Councillor Butlin observed that the report clearly demonstrated the Council's financial position and how it was intended to meet the Council's financial commitments. He noted that an unqualified audit opinion had been received.

### **Vote:**

A vote was held. The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

### **Resolved:**

That Council approves the Warwickshire County Council Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

## **4. Warwickshire Pension Fund Statement of Accounts 2021/22**

Councillor Andy Jenns moved the recommendation. In introducing the report Councillor Jenns emphasised that the fund was well-managed. Councillor Bill Gifford seconded the motion, in doing

so, he credited the Pension Team and Fund Advisors for the good health of the Fund, which was well managed with careful assessment of risks.

**Vote:**

A vote was held. The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:**

That Council approves the 2021/22 Pension Fund Statement of Accounts.

## **5. Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved the motion and introduced this report, which presented the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for consideration by the Council. The motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Jenns.

**Vote:**

A vote was held. The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:**

That Council approves the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

## **6. 2023/24 Budget and 2023-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property) introduced the item by thanking the finance team for their assistance and hard work in developing the budget. He then proceeded to set out the Conservative Group's budget proposals as contained in the appendix to the published report. In doing so he emphasised the following points:

- The proposed budget was based on the vision set out in the Council Plan and had been developed against the challenge of economic and political uncertainty and a turbulent policy environment. At the same time, demand for services was growing due to the aging population, more children and families needing support and communities under pressure from the cost of living and the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- The approach focussed on four key principles:
  - investing to support the most vulnerable in the community;
  - investing to support further economic growth across Warwickshire;
  - ensuring the services delivered by the Council provided value for money; and
  - using the Council's financial strength to ensure decisions made were sustainable over the medium-term.
- The proposals included:
  - Almost £25m invested to meet the growing numbers and cost of supporting elderly and vulnerable adults;

- Investment of over £5m in children's social care services to meet the costs arising from the increasing numbers of children and families needing support, including investment of over £3m in additional staffing
- Almost £5m to support children and young people with disabilities and those with Special Educational Needs
- Whilst there were uncertainties around Government policy, the Council would not put business and Warwickshire on hold while clarity was awaited and the medium-term strategy focussed resources on social value and maintaining the growth trajectory of the Warwickshire economy. The proposals, therefore, included provision in the capital programme for £187m to support the delivery of the 2023 business plans of the Warwickshire Property and Development Group and the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund, in addition to capital programme investment of over £140m to ensure Warwickshire had a thriving economy with the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure.
- The proposals also included £300K to support apprenticeships and reskilling across the county and brought forward proposals for a Social Fabric Fund.
- The proposals committed resources to complete the £5m programme to implement the Digital Road Map, starting with a new customer platform approved by Cabinet in January 2023 and investing in digital technology and automation to both drive future cost reductions and improve the effectiveness of services.
- A further £800K investment was proposed in the Fire and Rescue Service which would further develop the joined-up approaches to fire prevention, protection and response as well as the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The Chief Fire Officer would be asked to develop viable proposals to further improve the value for money of the service.
- Investment in the SEND and Inclusion Change Plan would continue.
- Over £8m was proposed to be invested to meet the additional inflationary and demand costs in home to school transport together with £5m to match the expected overspend in high needs spending.
- Over £35m per year was proposed to be invested in maintaining Warwickshire's infrastructure and to make sure services had the tools to do the job that were fit for purpose, with over half of this proposed funding being invested in Warwickshire's roads.
- It was essential that reserves were used wisely and the reserve strategy included in the budget provided a clear framework to ensure these funds were effectively managed to meet the financial risks and uncertainties faced whilst enabling investment in the delivery of the Council Plan.
- Over the past nine years, the Council had delivered 90% of its planned budget reductions – almost £115m in total. The budget proposals included the delivery of a further £68m of budget reductions over five years, to be achieved through better procurement, improvements in efficiency, increased income and delivering reductions in demand.
- The proposals sought to use as little of the extra council tax flexibility provided by the Government as possible to balance the budget in 2023/24. This meant a 3.94% council tax increase for 2023/24 which was 1.06% below the maximum increase permitted by Government, a rise that was below inflation and equivalent to an increase of £1.20p per week for a Band D dwelling.

In summary, in commending the budget to Council, Councillor Peter Butlin considered that the budget strategy he had set out would address the short-term challenges faced whilst delivering medium-term financial sustainability to support the longer-term goals and ambitions of the Council.



Councillor Izzi Seccombe seconded the motion and reserved her right to speak.

## **Amendments**

### **Labour Group Amendment**

Councillor Sarah Feeney highlighted the following points in the amendment:

- The challenging economic climate providing the backdrop to the budget setting.
- Recognition that the greater rise in Council Tax proposed by the amendment was a contentious point. However, she considered that the providing individuals with the right support came at a cost and with the amendments proposed there was no alternative than to seek an increase.
- Proposals to remove the community meals service could result in increased hospitalisation; the amendment therefore made provision for the investment of an additional £0.3m to ensure the service could be maintained as it was believed this would reduce cost pressures in social care moving forward.
- A focus on prioritising children and giving them the best start in life was supported by the proposed investment of £1.4m to support the first 1001 days of a child's life.
- In recognition of the difficulties families faced navigating the SEND system, it was proposed to undertake a project to co-produce options for providing a single point of referral for children needing SEND support and their carers.
- A one-off allocation was proposed to look at options for supplying short term care to older people so they were able to exit hospital or remain in their own homes. It was considered that this would ease the pressure on the NHS and avoid long term care.
- Proposals to increase the allocation to support the development and implementation of the Council's food strategy.
- Recognition of proposals to extend the children's homes programme to support children in care to remain in Warwickshire.
- The budget was balanced and had not failed to achieve the assurance of the S151 Officer.

Councillor John Holland seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

### **Liberal Democrat Group Amendment**

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse thanked Officers for their support in preparing the amendment and thanked the Cabinet for the work they had done throughout the year to implement the budget. He recognised the work that elected members did to achieve the best for communities in Warwickshire. He went on to highlight the following points put forward in the Liberal Democrat Group amendment:

- Despite economic challenges highlighted by fellow Members, thanks to the organisations that had been lobbying central government, there was a better than anticipated Local Government Finance Settlement.
- The amendment proposed the same Council Tax as the Conservative proposals.

- There were proposals to address forestry team pressures and the mainstreaming of funding going forward for outdoor education rather than a time limited allocation as this presented exciting opportunities which required sustainability.
- The main difference in the proposal was a focus on tackling generational issues, particularly around housing support for older people where it was proposed to make a reduced saving due to the growth of the older population. Reductions in the Better Care Fund would affect dementia care, etc, leading to increased pressure on the system at a time when demand would be increasing. It was essential that people were kept safe in their homes utilising appropriate technology.

Councillor Sarah Boad seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

### **Green Group Amendment**

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers also thanked officers for their support to develop the budget proposals and he welcomed comments in previous speeches regarding the importance of the first 1001 days of life and the demographic pressures in the county. He also highlighted the following points from the amendment:

- The amendment focussed on the twin challenges of investing in skills and reducing energy bills.
- In terms of skills, he considered that the additional funding in the Conservative budget for apprenticeships was welcomed but not enough. There were many new technologies being developed but the skills to use them was not being taught to enough people. He considered that there was a need for industry leads to teach their skills in order to support this aim and the amendment proposed procuring industry expertise as set out in the amendment to work in a wide range of educational settings.
- It was the ideal time to invest in energy conservation and generation which could save significant monies per year. The amendment proposed the investment of £0.3m to support the development of a gainshare energy conservation and generation programme for schools and community buildings.
- In conclusion, the amendment focussed on preparing for the future and long term investments, maximising on opportunities to work with partners to deliver new skills and high quality jobs in order to have a positive impact on the pressures being faced.

Councillor Tracey Drew seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

### **Debate**

Members of Council made the following points:

Councillor Jeff Morgan – Portfolio Holder for Children and Families:

- In response to the Labour Group's proposed amendments, he noted that the Conservative group had already prioritised areas of deprivation through the location of children's centres and the children's team had a focus on the first 1001 days. From the figures provided, it appeared that there was no allocation for an increase in foster care allowances which Councillor Morgan cautioned against due to the challenges of attracting people into the role.

- Over the last three years the Children & Families Service had undertaken a significant change in culture and practice and the Conservative budget would preserve and sustain the changes.
- He expressed pride in the good rating from Ofsted under the ILACS framework and noted the work taking place to become outstanding which would be supported by the Conservative budget proposals.
- The outcomes of the change programme had been impressive and there were two areas in particular which the proposed budget would support:
  - Improvement and expansion of early help support across communities including the recruitment of head teacher coaches to work with partners to review and strengthen processes and the creation of an Early Help and Support Hub in the Front Door (MASH) to triage cases presenting and action rapidly. Recruitment of Early Help Social Workers to support step up / down and to consult on and give direction on family situations that were at risk of escalation. Additionally, there were also Social Workers based in schools, funded by schools to provide advice and support where necessary. The numbers of children open to Early Help had risen by 52% over the last three years
  - Unfortunately, some children did need to be protected and cared for by the Council but the new ways of working had reduced the need for children to enter care by 7% in the last year, contrary to national trends where figures were rising. There were also national challenges regarding attracting individuals to the role of foster carer. The Conservative budget proposals supported an ambitious programme to develop children's homes and ensure children who needed to be cared for in a children's home were kept in the county.
- In conclusion, Councillor Morgan was proud of the Service and sought support for the Conservative budget to ensure that the work currently being undertaken could be continued and extended through the investment of £5.4m in Children and Families in 2023/24.

Councillor Justin Kerridge:

Councillor Kerridge expressed pride in the Council's achievements for children and young people and reflected on his recent visit to the House Project in Nuneaton which provided valuable support for young people from a care environment. He had been impressed with the facility which gave young people a chance to grasp the opportunities open to them. He sought protection for the service in the budget proposals.

Councillor Marian Humphreys:

Councillor Humphreys welcomed a focus on fathers through the change programme who had not historically been at the centre of children's services practices. She welcomed the implementation of the Caring Dads programme alongside the domestic abuse service which sought to work with fathers to change controlling, abusive and neglectful behaviours and improve their relationship with their children. She noted the impact that the programme had had to date in reducing the risk of harm and the level of intervention required from children's social care, improving the lives of children. She welcomed the continuation of the service.

Councillor Brett Beetham:

Councillor Beetham stated that he represented one of the most deprived areas in the county and he therefore welcomed the Conservative proposals which would see council tax kept as low as possible together with an investment in children through an increase in SEND assessment capacity. He was not supportive of the Labour amendment which would increase council tax and

the financial pressure on the residents in his division, and make cuts to foster care which would impact children. Similarly, he did not support the Green Group proposals to use higher levels of reserves, and proposals to reduce grass cutting and gritting.

Councillor Kam Kaur – Portfolio Holder for Education:

- Councillor Kaur noted that there was increasing demand for school places. The Council had worked hard with school settings to ensure children could attend the schools of parents' preferred choice. Additional school places had been created and the Education Sufficiency team had provided assurance that numbers met Department of Education requirements. The building of Oakley Grove School was on track and a new secondary school would be delivered at Top Farm.
- There was also cross-discipline working with investment in SEND showing results and performance with regard to NEETS being higher than the national average and those of statistical neighbours.
- There was a commitment to deliver the outdoor education strategy and 32% of education settings had engaged with the Council since the launch of the strategy.

Councillor Barbara Brown:

Councillor Brown extended congratulations for the exceptional work that had been done with regard to SEND in the county. Reflecting on her own personal experiences, she noted the need for investment in a single point of access to support parents navigate the SEND system and she supported a larger investment to meet the council's obligations in this service area.

Councillor Andy Jenns – Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation:

- Councillor Jenns highlighted some of the achievements that had taken place in his service area over the year to date, including the validation of the transformation programme through the LGA Peer Challenge which reflected on well managed change and the positive impact of the Council's transformation programme, a series of award wins for services in his portfolio including Chief Executive and Strategic Director of the Year in the MJ Awards 2022, Legal Team of the Year and Legal Project/Individual of the Year at the Lawyers in Local Government Awards 2022, West Midlands Regional Champions Award in the FSB Local Government Awards, and Excellence in Service Delivery: The Unsung Heroes Award at the PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards 2022. He also noted that the Library service had achieved National Portfolio Organisation status and customer service satisfaction levels remained high despite increasing demand.
- He also noted permanent allocations in the budget which benefited services in his portfolio including allocations for a data and analytics platform, ICT support costs, YourHR licence, additional costs of business support for SEND and Adult Social Care and an extension of the Local Government Association's National Graduate Development Programme
- There were also one-off allocations to cover growth in demand for recruitment support, increasing demand for business support to respond to demand pressures from Adults and Children's Social Care and Education, and to support change projects
- Councillor Jenns also highlighted savings in the budget including savings from reduced printing and stationery, increased use of drop-off boxes in library services, increased registration income, customer experience redesign and savings, efficiencies and service redesign in ICT, device refresh, migration and rationalisation of ICT applications, greater use of apprenticeships, and increased external income from Legal Services.
- Overall, Councillor Jenns considered that the Conservative budget proposals supported positive outcomes for the Council.

Councillor Margaret Bell – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health:

- Councillor Bell noted that over the last year Social Care & Support (Adult Social Care) had continued to support the county's most vulnerable residents and enabled them to live as independently as possible, using the Start with Strengths based approach. To this end they had supported in the region of 11,000 people over the last 12 months with the majority (76%) supported in their own homes.
- Additionally, support had been provided for around 4,500 supported discharges from hospital by working in collaboration with the Care & Support market, the voluntary and charitable sector and local NHS.
- The Fair Cost of Care exercise required by the Department of Health and Social Care had been completed through active engagement with the local care market.
- There had been a proactive and collaborative approach to the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund announcement and associated requirements.
- In recognition of the success in this area, Warwickshire had been announced as a frontrunner for intermediate care by NHS England and as one of 6 national pilots, work was taking place with local partners to enhance the pathway 1 discharge to assess therapeutic offer.
- Councillor Bell noted that the government had increased the amount of the allowable levy for adult social care. Whilst she recognised that taking the maximum would be a burden in light of the increasing cost of living, it was important to provide the necessary funding in this arena. The Conservative budget proposals recognised the additional demand and rising cost of placements and supported recommissioning services for younger working age adults.
- Focussing on the transformation of adult social care pathways would reduce demand together with partnership working, the use of digital technology and automation and additional investment in extra care housing.
- In conclusion she was supportive of the Conservative budget which gave her confidence it would provide an effective and efficient service to residents.

Councillor Pete Gilbert:

- Councillor Gilbert considered that Conservative budget offered resilience to overcome the challenges being faced by the Council.
- He welcomed the financial investment toward the Warwickshire Academy in his division.
- Whilst he did not like raising council tax he considered it was important for Councillors to engage with residents and spend their money efficiently and wisely through proper policy for the challenges that were being faced now and in the future.

Councillor Wallace Redford – Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

- Councillor Redford welcomed the Conservative proposals to continue investment in the highways network with investment in school transport (including SEND where investment had been increased), cycling, buses and street lighting.
- He considered that the Conservative budget proposals recognised the challenges being faced and placed Warwickshire as a Council caring for its residents.

Councillor Adrian Warwick:

- Councillor Warwick noted that the majority of the budget was set in stone.

- He considered that tax increases were required but that it was important to recognise the impact of the cost of living crisis, with the financial impact of the war in Ukraine being at the forefront.

Councillor Caroline Phillips:

- Councillor Phillips expressed concern regarding funding for housing related support and community meals and the rise of foodbanks.
- She noted that austerity had had a negative impact on communities.
- She considered that the areas where the Council excelled, benefited at the expense of other areas which needed support and she considered that the Labour Group amendment sought to redress this balance.

Councillor Heather Timms – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture:

- Councillor Timms celebrated the achievements of her portfolio of services and welcomed the careful management of reserves in the Conservative budget.
- In terms of the cost of living, she highlighted that the Council had continued to support the most vulnerable residents in the county and, following a Cost of Living Summit, numerous actions were taken to ensure support was immediately available for vulnerable communities to manage the cost of living challenges
- Councillor Timms welcomed the continuation of the Councillor Grant Fund.

Councillor Jack Kennaugh:

- Councillor Kennaugh considered that the Labour Group amendment was too tax heavy in a cost of living crisis.
- He was disappointed by Liberal Democrat and Labour Group proposals to reduce investment in apprenticeships.
- He considered the Green Group proposals were overly focussed on walking and cycling.
- However, he believed that the Conservative budget proposal provided much needed support on a broad range of services without risking financial security.

Councillor Martin Watson – Portfolio Holder for Economy:

- Councillor Watson noted that the current economy was tough on businesses but Warwickshire remained resilient with unemployment low (2.8% of the working age population, compared to 3.8% nationally) and with growth and investment being observed in key priority sectors, securing inward investment in the automotive, advanced manufacturing, digital creative and gaming businesses over the past year.
- The work of the Economy & Skills Team continued at pace, and the strong role played in supporting businesses across Warwickshire was recognised with award wins in two of four “best in region awards” at the FSB West Midlands Local Government Awards.
- Councillor Watson highlighted some notable successes/milestones from the work of the Economy & Skills Team over the previous 12 months including the 559 businesses supported to start and grow, secured £2.5 million from the Government's Multiply Fund and support for the District & Borough Councils with their £16 million investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, over £300,000 of funding from WCC Apprenticeship Levy had been shared with small businesses, over 600 businesses had been provided with dedicated skills support, helping them recruit, retain and upskill their workforce, a network of five Community Skills Hubs across the county had been created in partnership with the Library service, the "Warwickshire Supported Employment Service" had been launched to support

people with Learning Disabilities and Autism into employment, and a Green Recovery Grant programme had been launched to support businesses to reduce their energy costs

- Looking ahead to 2023/24, some key issues and opportunities would be facilitated by the Conservative budget proposals including, continuing to help businesses access the labour and skills they needed to grow and develop which would be facilitated by a £0.3m investment in apprenticeships, saving on inward investment and business centres to make them more efficient and effective, and ongoing delivery and expansion of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund including the launch of the PIF Property and Infrastructure Fund.

Councillor Andy Crump – Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety

- Councillor Crump noted the success of Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service in terms of collaboration and its response to major incidents, which had been recognised by HMICFRS.
- He took time to reflect on the impact of the heatwave in Summer 2022 and the response of firefighters to protect the community.
- Councillor Crump welcomed time limited allocations in the Conservative budget proposals for HMICFRS improvement activity and for third party training due to the BA Minerva unit currently not being in place.
- He noted that during the year 2023/24 the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service capital programme was circa £3.7m which would be used to replace vehicles, for equipment on fire engines and for training facilities.
- He also welcomed support in the budget for domestic abuse, the Safer Streets Project, 'Prevent', animal welfare and counterfeit goods, flooding and work with county highways
- In conclusion, he considered that the Conservative Group budget proposals were based on wise and effective expenditure to ensure that sufficient funding would be available to respond to emergencies.

Councillor Christopher Kettle:

Councillor Kettle offered thanks to the Deputy Leader and Officers for the budget proposals, noting the levels of investment and efficiency savings. He was impressed by efficiency in Council Services despite the savings that had already been made. Councillor Kettle welcomed a judicious use of reserves in the budget proposals which limited the financial impact on Warwickshire residents.

Councillor John Holland (Seconder of the Labour Group Amendment):

- Noted the role of all parties in the delivery of services and engagement in Committees, working groups and Council debates.
- He noted that more tax was being paid than ever before but that taxation at a local level was the smallest slice.
- He reflected on recent CCN meetings and interviews he had observed which suggested there would be a change of political colour at the next general election and the importance of being able to work together collaboratively despite the political divide.

Councillor Sarah Boad (Seconder of the Liberal Democrat Amendment):

- Noted the national political landscape which had impacted the economy.
- She expressed the view that council tax was an outmoded taxation device.
- Support was required for the most vulnerable in society and she noted how services like the community pantry were over-subscribed.

- She considered that the community meals service would be successful if it was promoted to those who needed it and she lamented its potential loss as it also provided an opportunity for a welfare check.
- She noted that plans for investment in apprenticeships in the Conservative budget had not been formulated and this was why it had been removed from the Liberal Democrat amendment.
- She noted the headway being made by the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service against the demands of HMICFRS Inspections and the partnership working that was taking place led by the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Crump and welcomed investment in diversity and inclusion in the service.

Councillor Tracey Drew (Seconder of the Green Amendment):

In seconding the Green Group amendment, Councillor Tracey Drew brought attention to proposals for enhancing active travel and support for the Council's active cycling and walking group. She noted that only a small percentage of the planned cycle routes were active.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Seconder of Motion) thanked the chamber for the contributions that had been shared.

- In supporting the Conservative budget, Councillor Seccombe applauded the achievements of the last year that had been shared by colleagues. She noted that the Council had an excellent workforce and the Conservative budget proposals delivered on providing a sense of direction for them.
- She acknowledged that it was a difficult time to raise council tax. However, the budget focussed on the people who required support, looking after children and social care services, whilst also investing in the skills agenda, and ensuring a resilient Council.
- She concluded that successive Conservative budgets were delivering a business society to be proud of, building skills and the economy for the future, whilst supporting those who relied on council services.

Councillor Sarah Feeney (Mover of Labour Group Amendment) replied that:

- The Labour Group amendment proposed a substantial increase to council tax and, whilst the Group did not want to raise taxes, it had made this decision in order to deliver the services it had prioritised as being the right course of action to support vulnerable people.
- She commented on the levels of Local Government funding and noted comments made in the Chamber regarding the economy and recent fiscal events.
- She particularly noted that savings made in the Conservative budget proposals related to housing for the elderly, hot meals, children with disabilities and drug services.
- She reiterated that the amended budget was balanced and had not failed to achieve the assurance of the S151 Officer.
- She welcomed recognition for the work that officers had undertaken and thanked them for all their hard work.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Mover of Liberal Democrat Group Amendment) replied that:

- Consistent funding should be embedded in the budget for the organisation of outdoor education.
- The substantive budget did not provide a strategy for delivery on apprenticeships and skills and so the Liberal Democrat amendment tackled this issue from the perspective of NEETS.



- The main choice the Liberal Democrat Group had taken in formulating the amendment was reducing funding from the integrated better care fund and tackling adult social care pressures.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Mover of the Green Group Amendment) replied that:

- There was only small differences in spending of the reserves between the substantive motion and the amendment. The amendment suggested partial changes to gully cleaning.
- All the amended budgets balanced over the period of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and had not failed to achieve the assurance of the S151 Officer.
- The role of the Trading Standards service and the skills and productivity agenda were highlighted as important.

Councillor Peter Butlin (Mover of the Conservative Group Motion):

- Despite the shortcomings of central government which had been highlighted in the debate, the Conservative Group had been flexible enough to present a balanced budget despite the challenges of the last 12 months.
- He extolled the virtues of the apprenticeship scheme and explained the ambition to spread the Council's ethos of apprenticeships across the business sector in Warwickshire.
- He commented on the need for flexibility around the renewable energy sector and the green energy market.
- A member working group would be set up following the meeting to consider the demand for home to school transport demand.

## **Votes**

### Vote on Labour Group Amendment

A vote was held on the Labour Group amendment. The results were 4 for, 41 against and 1 abstention.

The amendment was defeated.

### Vote on Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

A vote was held on the Liberal Democrat Group amendment. The results were 5 for, 36 against and 5 abstentions

The amendment was defeated.

### Vote on Green Group Amendment

A vote was held on the Green Group amendment. The results were 3 for, and 34 against and 9 abstentions.

The amendment was defeated.

### Vote on the Conservative Budget

The Conservative budget became the substantive motion. A recorded vote was held. The results were:

**Votes For (34)**

Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Councillor Brett Beetham, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Piers Daniell, Councillor Peter Gilbert, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor Dave Humphreys, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Andy Jenns, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Jack Kennaugh, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Christopher Kettle, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Isobel Seccombe, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Adrian Warwick, Councillor Martin Watson, and Councillor Andrew Wright

**Votes Against (11)**

Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Tracey Drew, Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Kate Rolfe, and Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

**Abstentions (1)**

Councillor Judy Falp

Councillor Richard Spencer was absent from the room during the vote.

**Decision:**

Resolved:

That Council agrees the 2023/24 Budget and authorises work to continue on ensuring the 2023-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy is aligned with and supports the delivery of the Council's ambitions as set out in the Council Plan.

## **7. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader of the Council) introduced and moved this report, He noted that this was an annual report which had greater significance due to the implications of the Warwickshire Property and Development Group (WPDG) and the Warwickshire Rescue and Investment Fund (WRIF). A key aspect covered in the strategy was the intention to pre-pay the Council's next 3 years' pension fund contributions in April 2023, yielding a one-off gross benefit of £6.2m, through the pension fund being able to invest the pre-payment earlier to achieve a return equivalent to the discount provided. Councillor Martin Watson seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments on the report.

**Vote**

A vote was held. The motion was agreed unanimously

**Resolved:**

That:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 (Appendix 2 to the report) be approved with effect from 1st April 2023.
2. The Investment Strategy for 2023/24 (Appendix 3 to the report) be approved with effect from 1st April 2023.
3. The County Council requires the Strategic Director for Resources to ensure that gross borrowing does not exceed the prudential level specified (Appendix 2 to the report, Section 3.22, Table 12 “Authorised Borrowing Limit”).
4. The revised lending limits for the Warwickshire Property Development Group come into immediate effect (Appendix 3 to the report, Annex 7).
5. The revised lending limits for the WRIF come into immediate effect (Appendix 3 to the report, Annex 7).
6. The County Council requires the Strategic Director for Resources to ensure that gross investment in non-Treasury investments does not exceed the prudential levels specified (Appendix 3 to the report, Annex 7).
7. The Council Council delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Resources to undertake delegated responsibilities in respect of both strategies (Appendix 2 to the report, Annex 7, and Appendix 3 to the report, Section 2.5).
8. The County Council requires the Strategic Director for Resources to implement the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy (Appendix 2 to the report, Section 2.11).
9. The County Council requires the Strategic Director for Resources to enact an early payment of pension fund contributions subject to the conditions set out in Appendix 1 to the report, Section 5.14 being met.

**8. Any Other items of Urgent Business**

Application for Dispensation

Councillor John Holland moved the recommendation that a dispensation be granted for Councillor Jackie D’Arcy which was seconded by Councillor Sarah Feeney. There was no debate but Council joined to wish Councillor D’Arcy well.

**Resolved:**

That the Council approves the absence of Councillor Jackie D’Arcy from meetings of the authority on the grounds of ill health.

The meeting rose at 1.47pm

.....  
Chair

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## County Council

21 March 2023

### Application for a Dispensation

#### Recommendation

That the Council approves the absence of Councillor Mejar Singh from this meeting of the authority until further notice on medical reasons.

#### Proposed Dispensation

1. Councillor Mejar Singh has for medical reasons not been able to attend recent meetings.
2. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at any meeting of the authority, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.
3. Councillor Singh attended his last formal meeting on 29 September 2022 and the six month period will expire on 28 March 2023.
4. The Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillor Singh for the time being.

#### Background papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Andy Jenns Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation	andyjenns@warwickshire.gov.uk



## County Council

21 March 2023

### Education Capital Programme 2022/23

#### Recommendations

That Council:

1. Agrees the addition of £7.820 million to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Evergreen School subject to Cabinet's approval to increase the number of school places.
2. Agrees the addition of £6.026 million to the capital programme to deliver the schemes at Oak Wood Primary School and Stratford upon Avon School

All to be funded from Department for Education High Need and Basic Need grants and developer contributions.

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends proposals for allocating resources from within the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to the specific projects set out in Section 3 and requests that the projects be added to the capital programme.
- 1.2 The Council's constitution requires that Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme of projects with a value in excess of £2,000,000.

#### 2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The current balance of total Basic Need capital grant confirmed but unallocated is £32.905 million following March Cabinet. This includes (net of approvals) the remaining amounts that the DfE have confirmed the Council will receive in further Basic Need capital grant allocations of £40.850 million in 2023/24 and £21.366 million in 2024/25.
- 2.2 The Council holds resources for school investment which are currently not allocated to specific schemes in the approved Capital Programme, this is largely from the following:
  - confirmed yet unallocated Basic Need grant to be received up to 2024/25,
  - other grants/contributions held for specific purposes,
  - developer contributions currently held but unallocated; and
  - one historically earmarked capital receipt.

Available Resources (unallocated)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Basic Need Grant	0	11,749	21,366	0	32,905
High Needs Grant	7,671	6,008	0	0	13,679
Schools Condition Allocation	2,197	0	0	0	2,197
Special Provision Fund	62	0	0	0	62
s.106*	56,700	0	0	0	56,700
Earmarked Capital Receipts	2,113	0	0	0	2,113
	<b>68,743</b>	<b>17,757</b>	<b>21,366</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107,866</b>

\* The s.106 balance consists of funds the authority currently holds in cash as received from developers but is linked to over 200 separate s.106 agreements and, therefore, flexibility of funding is limited to the conditions of the individual agreements.

- 2.3 The project costs outlined within this report total £13.846 million of which £0.210 million is funded from Basic Need funding, £9.956 million is from High Needs Grant and £3.680 million is from developer funding. Therefore, £0.210 million will be drawn down from forthcoming Basic Need funding, reducing the total Basic Need unallocated resource to £31.568 million. These allocations will also result in a remaining High Needs grant balance of £3.723 million.
- 2.4 It should be appreciated that costing accuracy typically increases as a project proceeds through its development through to delivery. Projects that are at the stage of strategic business case development have about a 40% costing confidence evolving through the outline business case (60%); detailed business case (planning) 85% and to the point where a Contractor is under contract (97%).
- 2.5 Currently where cost confidence is lower appropriate contingency figures are included in the cost estimates to account for this. Inclusion of contingency figures are expected to mitigate the majority of cost increases experienced as the project progresses and costs become more certain. Any contingency allocation not required to deliver the scheme as specified will be returned to the remaining unallocated balance of basic need funding and available to be allocated to meet future demand.
- 2.6 On 7 February 2023 Council approved the creation of an Investigation Design Fund to provide the resources to carry out the early work necessary as part of large scale, high value and/or high-risk schemes to reduce the risk of approving projects without fully understanding the true costs of delivery. The intention is that this will lead to a reduction in the number of capital projects which request additional funding once in the delivery stage. The fund has been established to cover Council funded schemes. A similar approach is being developed to cover education schemes funded through national government funding streams such as Basic Need and High Needs Capital. Work is taking place to assess the required size of the fund, taking into account all the schemes currently planned to meet the Council's duty to provide sufficient high-quality places. Once this work is complete a further report seeking support for the approach and allocation will be brought forward to Members for approval.



### **3. Proposals for addition to the 2022/2023 Education Capital Programme**

#### **Oak Wood Primary School (Nuneaton)**

- 3.1 Expansion of generic special schools in line with population growth is a priority to ensure sufficiency requirements can be met. Nuneaton & Bedworth has been identified as an area with high SEND sufficiency demands across all year groups.
- 3.2 Oak Wood Primary School mainly serves Nuneaton & Bedworth. It has been identified that the school does not have sufficient capacity to meet current demand in the local area with a number of children attending specialist provision in neighbouring North Warwickshire. The provision of additional places at Oak Wood Primary School aims to meet the current under provision in the area, thus reducing travel time and cost to out of area provision, and meet the additional demand that is anticipated as a result of population growth in the Borough over the next five years.
- 3.3 It is proposed to build an extension to the school which will contain four additional classrooms for ambulant and non ambulant pupils, light and soft play sensory spaces, a hygiene suite, toilets and a staff room. The project will create an additional 20 primary places.
- 3.4 The total cost of the project has been estimated at £2.310 million and will be funded using £2.277 million from the DfE High Need Capital grant and £0.033 million from developer funding. The project is still evolving through to outline business case, with the outcome of a number of surveys continuing to be assessed, therefore contingency has been included to provide against possible cost increases that can be experienced as the project progresses and costs become more certain.
- 3.5 A capital scheme to increase the number of places at Oak Wood Secondary School is currently progressing through the business case stage and will be included in a future report to Cabinet.
- 3.6 Subject to recommendation by Cabinet, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £2.310 million funded as follows and to agree to its addition to the Capital Programme:

High Needs Capital Grant	£2.277 million
Developer Funding	£0.033 million

#### **Evergreen School (Warwick)**

- 3.7 Expansion of generic special schools in line with population growth is a priority to ensure sufficiency requirements can be met. Warwick District has been identified as an area with high SEND sufficiency demand due to

significant housebuilding in the South Leamington/Warwick area which will bring further increase in demand for local SEND provision in the next 10 years.

- 3.8 Evergreen School is a community special school for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (aged 4-19). It is the only maintained special school in Warwick District and is currently operating at capacity with 279 pupils on roll. It is proposed to extend Evergreen School utilising land located directly behind the main school building, to develop a building which will support up to 40 pupils with special educational needs. The expansion will provide the additional capacity needed to meet the demand for spaces across all year groups within the school.
- 3.9 The new two-storey build will include seven classrooms, staff offices, hygiene and medical rooms, a range of therapy rooms, additional sensory space, a kitchen, music and vocational rooms, changing rooms and toilets.
- 3.10 A new access road is planned from the land being developed to accommodate the new 2FE primary school (Myton Gardens) off Fusiliers Way. The new access road and parking will be beneficial in reducing the traffic flow along the current access route to the school along Brittain Lane.
- 3.11 The total cost of the project has been estimated at £8.005 million. It is proposed that remaining funding of £0.185 million from an existing approval for capital works at Evergreen School from February 2018 Cabinet is put towards the project. The remaining £7.820 million will be funded using £7.679 million from the DfE High Needs Capital Grant and £0.141 million from developer funding.
- 3.12 The project is still evolving through to outline business case, with the outcome of a number of surveys continuing to be assessed, therefore contingency has been included to provide against possible cost increases that can be experienced as the project progresses and cost become more certain.
- 3.13 Cabinet at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March considered a report recommending an increase to the number of school places at Evergreen School following a statutory consultation process. Details of this can be found in the Cabinet report.
- 3.14 Subject to Cabinet approving the statutory proposal to increase the number of places at Evergreen School, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £7.820 million funded as follows and to agree to its addition to the Capital Programme:

High Needs Capital Grant	£7.679 million
Developer Funding	£0.141 million

### **Stratford upon Avon School**

- 3.15. The existing project to deliver a 2FE expansion, an additional 350 pupils, was approved by Cabinet in December 2020 with a budget of £11.573 million. Prior to this in July 2020, £1.3 million was approved for an extension to the dining hall, kitchen and servery. These works were completed in July 2021. In July 2022, a further £2.2 million was approved by Council to meet the inflationary increase since the original approval in December 2020 bringing the total approved budget to complete the 2FE expansion to £13.773 million.
- 3.16. The planning application for the build was submitted in December 2022. Planning approval has been obtained for the additional land adjacent to the school purchased by WCC from Stratford College at the end of 2020. Phase 1 of the works to the area are due commence shortly with the cost of Phase 2 incorporated in the additional funding in this report.
- 3.17. The project's appointed contractor has produced revised costs, which increase the construction cost to the main extension by £1.95 million. The main reason for this increase in the construction cost is that the Stage 3 estimates have been based on a more detailed design using quantities and market rates for each item as opposed to the Stage 2 feasibility estimate which used more of a concept design and a general cost per m2.
- 3.18. A further £1.77 million is required to cover cost of phase 2 of the car park/social space works, identified design and development work, the inclusion of ICT and furnishing which had not been full accounted for in the original estimate, and subsequent increase in professional fees and contingency. Total additional funding required is £3.716 million.
- 3.19. Subject to recommendation by Cabinet, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £3.716 million funded as follows and to agree to its addition to the Capital Programme:

Education Capital Resources	£0.210 million
Developer Funding	£3.506 million

## **4. Environmental Implications**

- 4.1 The County Council will look to use modern methods of construction to achieve efficiencies and benefits particularly in terms of time, cost, and the environment.
- 4.2 Environmental risk assessments, together with mitigation statements to reduce any potential environmental impacts, are required for any capital project.

- 4.3 All future school capital projects will be developed in accordance with statutory regulations which include the revised Building Regulations 2021. These new building regulations include significant changes to the regulations around ventilation, energy efficiency and overheating, electric vehicle charging and a number of smaller supporting elements of the regulations. Schools will therefore be built to new standards that are expected to produce lower carbon dioxide omissions compared to previous standards and will also be assessed using primary energy metrics.
- 4.4 Proposed schemes aim to ensure the sufficiency of, and accessibility to, provision in local settings avoiding the need to travel further afield to access education or childcare provision.

## **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 The proposals within this report look to increase the number of pupils admitted to mainstream schools and special schools in Nuneaton & Bedworth, Warwick and Leamington and Stratford on Avon. Further information relating to how the Council plans for, and anticipates the growth in demand for school places, is laid out in the Education Sufficiency Strategy and Annual Sufficiency Update.
- 5.2 The Education Capital Programme is driven by the long-term strategic planning outlined in that Education Sufficiency Strategy and annual updates to ensure Warwickshire can meet its statutory duty to provide school places.
- 5.3 Forecasts of expected future pupil numbers are produced and published annually and consider current and expected future population growth. This includes growth from approved housing development. Where these forecasts predict a shortfall of school places, and local schools do not have enough physical space to admit the expected numbers of additional children, education capital projects are developed to provide those additional places.
- 5.4 As part of the SEND and Inclusion Programme there was a review of current specialist provision across the county, incorporating patterns of transport, current pressures and prevalence of need, pathway analysis, population growth and priorities. The project used both quantitative and qualitative data and included Council officers, headteachers and parent carer representative. Among the priorities identified, was the expansion of generic specialist provision in Nuneaton & Bedworth and the Central area.
- 5.5 Projects are prioritised and brought forward according to the date the additional places will be required, as evidenced in the pupil forecast data, combined with the expected time required to design and deliver each scheme.
- 5.6 The expected education capital requirements associated with proposed strategic housing development across the county are

identified as part of the District and Borough Local Plan process. As strategic housing developments progress across the county, and planning permission is granted, the pupil forecast data is updated and the prioritisation of education capital projects amended as needed to ensure sufficient school places exist to meet the expected demand. Availability of education capital resources limits the ability to deliver additional school places in advance of the requirement for those places being evidenced in the pupil forecast data.

- 5.7 All proposed education capital projects are considered against independently published third-party data to benchmark the cost to the Council of providing school places and ensuring effective allocation of resources.
- 5.8 The current available funding is set out in Section 2.

## 6. Background Papers

None.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education Cllr Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property	cllrkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk cllrbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): Cllr Singh Birdi, Cllr Matecki, Cllr Falp, Cllr Rolfe, Cllr Fradgley, Cllr Kettle, Cllr Baxter-Payne, Cllr Clare Golby  
Other members: Cllr Dahmash, Cllr Roodhouse and Cllr Brown

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## County Council

21 March 2023

### Developer-Funded Highway Scheme Approval - Eastboro Way / Crowhill Road

#### Recommendation

That Council approves the addition of £4,409,900 to the Capital Programme in relation to the Section 278 highways improvement scheme (signalised junction works) at the A4254 Eastboro Way/Crowhill Road intersection.

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A planning application was submitted to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council by Crest Nicholson Midlands in respect of Sketchley Gardens Nuneaton agricultural land to the East of Eastboro Way.
- 1.2 Planning consent was granted with conditions on 29 January 2019 (ref: 035918) for the development of 360 residential dwellings. The planning conditions require works to be carried out in the public highway and the Council will enter into an agreement under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 in order to facilitate these works. The s278 works required are the construction of a signalised T Intersection and improvements to junctions
- 1.3 The works are currently valued at approximately £4,409,900.
- 1.4 Pursuant to the Constitution, a Cabinet decision is required to commence a procurement of this value. A report is included on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 16th March 2023 seeking such authorisation subject to Council's decision to add the value of the scheme to the Capital Programme which is the subject of this report. As the scheme value is likely to exceed £2,000,000, a decision of Council is required to add the scheme to the Capital Programme.
- 1.5 The addition of this scheme to the capital programme and its ultimate completion will enable the provision of new dwellings in line with the report commissioned by the Borough Council "Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton & Bedworth" and support the Coventry & Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (available on the Council web site).

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 As the new highway assets which are being created through these schemes will come on to the Council's balance sheet once completed, the costs incurred by the Council need to be treated as capital expenditure.
- 2.2 Section 278 schemes are fully funded by developer contributions which are ring-fenced for the scheme described above. There are no alternative uses for the contributions and the addition of these schemes will not affect the overall level of capital resources available to the Council. Any increases or decreases in scheme costs above £4,409,900 will be met by the developer.
- 2.3 The respective Developers have already committed to funding the technical review work by accepting the Council's fee estimates. The Council's fees for technical review are always collected in advance of the Section 278 agreement being signed.
- 2.4 Procurement and subsequent award of construction contracts will only take place once the Section 278 agreement has been completed which will provide 100% of the funding. The Section 278 agreement will also require the Developer to provide a bond or cash security of at least 150% of the costs of the works. The commencement of the works is dependent on the completion of the technical review, procurement, and contractor mobilisation processes.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 The environmental impacts of developer-funded highway schemes are considered through the planning approval process.
- 3.2 The contractors on the Council's Framework Contract for the Provision of Engineering and Construction Works (WCC 6012) have all demonstrated that they hold a certificate of compliance with BS EN ISO 140001 (or equivalent) or have otherwise satisfactorily demonstrated their policies and arrangements for the management of construction-related environmental issues.

## **4. Appendices**

None

## **5. Background Papers**

None



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Cllr Jeff Clarke

Other members: Councillors – Warwick, Singh Birdi, Boad, Phillips, and W Roberts

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## County Council

21 March 2023

### Warwickshire's Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

#### Recommendation

That Council receives and supports the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under section 73B of the National Health Service Act 2006 Directors of Public Health are required to write an annual report on the health of their population, and the local authority is required to publish it.
- 1.2 The Director of Public Health Annual Report (the Annual Report) is a vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community, as well as providing necessary information for decision makers in local health services and authorities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed.
- 1.3 The theme of this year's Annual Report is health and the high cost of living. The Annual Report includes an overview of the health and wellbeing of the Warwickshire population and information on progress with the 2020/21 recommendations. The Annual Report includes a series of recommendations which require a concerted joint effort from health and social care partners across the Integrated Care System (ICS) if they are to be achieved.
- 1.4 There is evidence that the rising cost of living is already starting to impact on the health and wellbeing of residents across Warwickshire. The rising cost of living is something that is affecting everyone; however, there is a risk that it will exacerbate some of the health inequalities which already exist in Warwickshire. Those who are already disadvantaged are more likely to experience difficulties with the increasing costs, which may impact on their ability to keep their home warm, eat nutritious meals and travel effectively.
- 1.5 This year's Annual Report is vital to raise awareness of the impact that wider determinants of health such as food, rent or mortgage payments can have on the health and wellbeing of our residents, highlighting where provisions should be put in place to support Warwickshire residents, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities.
- 1.6 The aim of this year's Annual Report is to highlight how the increasing cost of living impacts on the health of residents across Warwickshire. Case studies have been used to illustrate the support that different partners across the ICS have already been providing to residents and these demonstrate both the barriers that people have faced, as well as the benefits from accessing services. Volunteers and users of food banks and community pantries have also shared

their experiences in a short film developed to complement the information within the Annual Report.

1.7 The recommendations in the Annual Report aim to mitigate the impact of the rising cost of living on health and improve the overall health and wellbeing of the Warwickshire population. They are framed around the themes of housing, food, and transport. Implementation of the recommendations will rely upon the concerted efforts of key partners across health and care and the wider determinants of health.

1.8 Recommendations of the Annual Report:

1.8.1 Overarching: that key anchor organisations, including local authorities, NHS partners and universities focus expertise and capacity on building an inclusive, healthy and sustainable Warwickshire. To do this, all partners should focus on:

- Policy: adopting, and sharing learning from, a Health in All Policies approach ([link to webpage](#)) and using Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) to reduce inequalities in health
- Surveillance: agreeing a single view of data and identifying emerging trends in order to support a coordinated approach, targeted to those who need it most
- Workforce development: through wellbeing support programmes that support staff during the rising cost of living and training and development opportunities
- Making Every Contact Count: utilising every point of contact as an opportunity to support people through the cost of living challenges
- Access to services: consider opportunities to increase accessibility to healthcare services for those who will experience the impact of the rising cost of living most acutely

1.8.2 Housing: that housing, planning and health leads work together to prevent ill health caused by poor housing and living conditions. This should include a commitment to preventing new homes from being built with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of less than C and working with private and public landlords to ensure existing homes have an EPC of C or above, and are mould free.

1.8.3 Food: that to support children to have the best start in life, Health and Wellbeing Board explores the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children in Warwickshire as research shows that children are able to learn better in school if they have a full stomach.

1.8.4 Transport: that transport planners and health partners work together to improve transport links for those living in areas with more rural isolation, deprivation and where rates of long-term conditions and access to transport links are poor.

## 2. Financial Implications

2.1 None.

## 3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None.

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

- 4.1 The Annual Report was published in digital format on Warwickshire County Council's website following Health and Wellbeing Board's consideration of this report on 11 January 2023. This is to provide a picture of how the cost of living is impacting people locally. References for evidence detailed in the Annual Report will also be made available online.
- 4.2 A detailed marketing and communications plan has been prepared to ensure the Annual Report is communicated widely with partners across the ICS as well as to the residents of Warwickshire.

## Appendices

1. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

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The report was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to publication.  
Other members: Councillors Golby, Holland, Drew, Rolfe.

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# HEALTH AND THE HIGH COST OF LIVING IN WARWICKSHIRE



## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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# Acknowledgements

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**With thanks to:** WCC Public Health, WCC Business Intelligence, WCC Strategy and Commissioning, WCC Communities and Partnerships, Warwickshire food banks and community pantry volunteers and everyone who took the time to share their stories.

**Design:** Michael Jackson.

#### **Data sources**

This report utilises the most recently available published information from a variety of data sources as of 30/11/2022.

**If you would like this information in a different format, please contact Marketing and Communications on 01926 413727.**

References are available online: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/health-policies-1/health-policies](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/health-policies-1/health-policies)



# Recommendations

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## Overarching

**R.1** I recommend that key anchor organisations, including local authorities, NHS partners and universities focus expertise and capacity on building an inclusive, healthy and sustainable Warwickshire. To do this, all partners should focus on:

- **Policy:** adopting, and sharing learning from, a Health in All Policies approach (link to webpage) and using Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) to reduce inequalities in health
  - **Surveillance:** agreeing a single view of data and identifying emerging trends in order to support a coordinated approach, targeted to those who need it most
  - **Workforce development:** through wellbeing support programmes that support staff during the rising cost of living and training and development opportunities
  - **Making Every Contact Count:** utilising every point of contact as an opportunity to support people through the cost of living challenges
  - **Access to services:** consider opportunities to increase accessibility to healthcare services for those who will experience the impact of the rising cost of living most acutely
- 

## Housing

**R.2** I recommend that housing, planning and health leads work together to prevent ill health caused by poor housing and living conditions. This should include a commitment to preventing new homes from being built with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of less than C and working with private and public landlords to ensure existing homes have an EPC of C or above, and are mould free.

---

## Food

**R.3** I recommend that to support children to have the best start in life, Health and Wellbeing Board explores the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children in Warwickshire, as research shows that children are able to learn better in school if they have a full stomach.

---

## Transport

**R.4** I recommend that transport planners and health partners work together to improve transport links for those living in areas with more rural isolation, deprivation and where rates of long-term conditions and access to transport links are poor.

---

# Foreword

I am pleased to welcome our Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report for 2022. This year the report focuses on the rising cost of living and looks at how this can impact on people's health.

There are a number of global factors that have contributed to the rising cost of living and many of these are out of the control of local authorities. Despite this, the impact of the rising cost of living will likely affect all of us in Warwickshire in some way. As with the COVID-19 pandemic, certain people are likely to experience greater challenges than others, meaning this has the potential to exacerbate health inequalities.

I am grateful to see the response to the rising cost of living that is taking place across Warwickshire, from County, and District and Borough colleagues as well as NHS and community and voluntary sector partners.

Dr Shade Agboola has highlighted some of this important work within Chapter 2 of this report under the themes of housing, food and transport. It is important to hear the voices of those who may be more acutely affected by the rising cost of living, and Shade and her team have captured some of these stories in a short accompanying film included as part of Chapter 2.3. For this, and for the overall content of this report, I would like to express my thanks to Shade and her Public Health team.



**Councillor Margaret Bell**

*Portfolio Holder for Adult  
Social Care and Health,  
Warwickshire County Council*

# Introduction

I have chosen to theme this years report on the rising cost of living as I am sure that this is the most pressing issue facing the residents of Warwickshire. The rising cost of living is something that is affecting everyone in Warwickshire and many of us are already making choices to help lessen the impact it will have on our lives. There are certain groups of people that are likely to experience the rising cost of living more acutely than others, and these are likely to be those who are already facing disadvantage.

When I started writing this report in June, inflation in the UK was at 9.4%, by August this had risen to 9.9%, and at the time of printing in December 2022, inflation is at 10.7%.

Within this report, Chapter 1 outlines the current health and wellbeing of Warwickshire residents, Chapter 2 then explores the topic of health and the high cost of living and is split into three themes housing and heating, food and eating, and transport and travel. I do hope that by looking at the wider determinants

of health model through the lens of the rising cost of living I have been able to articulate how this economic issue is also a public health issue, as the increases to the cost of living have the potential to impact more people, for a longer period of time, than the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rising cost of living is yet another reminder that our health is shaped and influenced by our environment. Not being able to afford essentials – food, rent or mortgage payments, hot water and heating, has significant negative consequences for physical and mental health and wellbeing. Just like our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have another opportunity to work collaboratively with local and system partners to mitigate against the negative health impacts of the rise in cost of living. Collective action is needed to address mental health and wellbeing impacts, the physical health consequences of fuel poverty, the potential impact of food poverty on children’s nutrition and oral health and continued access to timely and high-quality healthcare.



**Dr Shade Agboola**

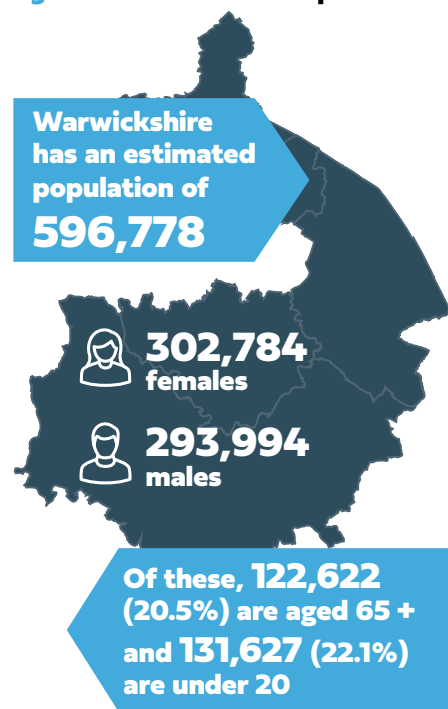
*Director of Public Health,  
Warwickshire County Council*

# 1: The picture of health and wellbeing in Warwickshire

This chapter provides an update on the health and wellbeing of our local population at district / borough and county level.

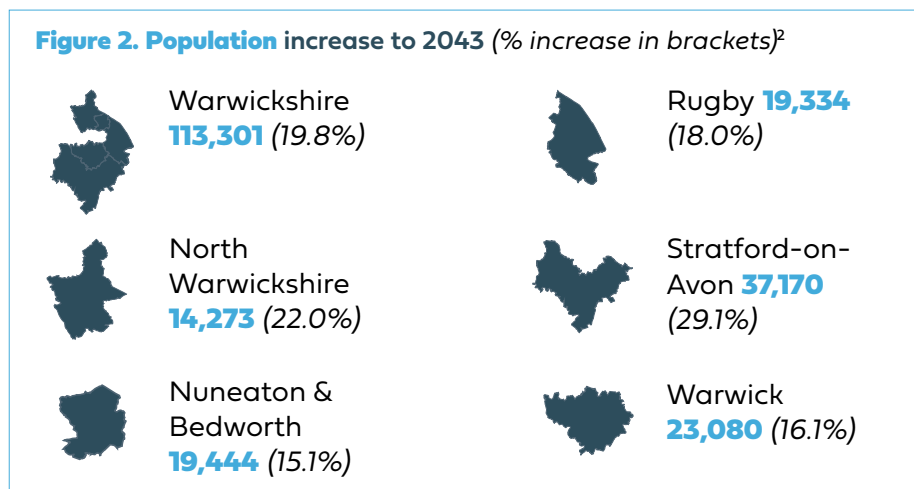
## Population

Figure 1. Warwickshire Population<sup>1</sup>



The population of Warwickshire is projected to increase by **19.8%** between 2018 and 2043. The increase will be highest in **Stratford-upon-Avon District (29.1%)** and lowest in **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough (15.1%)**. In the West Midlands region this is projected to be 13.7% and in England, 10.3%.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 2. Population increase to 2043 (% increase in brackets)<sup>2</sup>

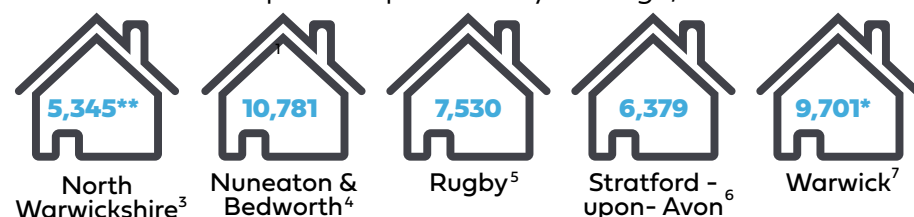


The Local Plan period runs between 2011-2031 and figures below therefore reflect a proportion of the total number of homes being built within that timeframe.

**Older people:** The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 118,244 in 2018 to **167,410** in 2043, a percentage increase from 20.7% to 24.5% of the population.<sup>2</sup>

## New Homes

Number of homes planned per district / borough, 2021 -2031



\*up to 2029 \*\*based on trajectory figures

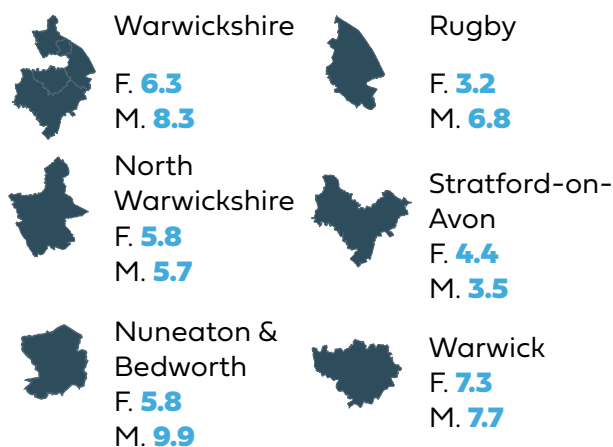
## Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy

In Warwickshire, life expectancy at birth is statistically significantly better for both **females** (**83.4 years**) compared to England (**83.1 years**) and **males** (Warwickshire **79.7 years**, England **79.4 years**) for 2018-20. These figures have remained relatively stable over the last five years. This is reflected nationally as improvements in life expectancy have slowed during the second decade of the 21st century.<sup>8</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp decline in period life expectancy in the year 2020 nationally and although this may not lead to reduced life spans in the future, at best, life expectancy will return to the pre-pandemic stalled levels.<sup>9</sup>

On average **females** in the least deprived areas are likely to live **6.3 years** longer than those in the most deprived areas (2018-20). This goes up to **8.3 years** for **males**.<sup>10</sup>

(England 7.9 years for females and 9.7 years for males).

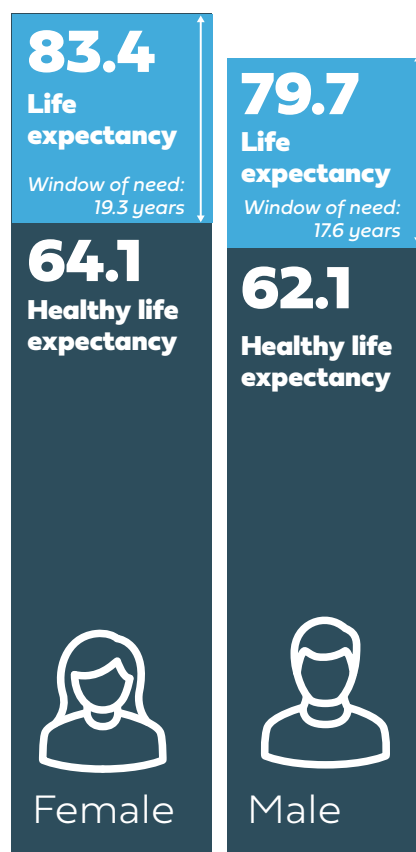
**Figure 3. Inequality in Life Expectancy at Birth across Warwickshire<sup>11</sup>**



Earlier this year the government launched a levelling up plan for the UK with the aim of reducing health inequalities by 2030. This plan includes 12 missions to 'level up' the most deprived areas within the UK by focusing on:<sup>12</sup>

- **Education**
- **Skills**
- **Health**
- **Crime**
- **Housing**

The gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy is known as the "window of need". With life expectancy remaining stable and healthy life expectancy declining in recent years, the window of need (amount of time spent in poor health) is increasing. In 2018-20, the window of need in Warwickshire is **19.3 years** for **females** and **17.6 years** for **males**.<sup>13</sup> This is 0.1 years wider than the England average for females and 0.9 years wider than the England average for males (19.2 year gap for females nationally and 16.7 year gap for males nationally). These increasing years in poor health impact on families and workplaces, and increase pressures on health and social care services.<sup>14</sup>



**Figure 4. Window of need for Warwickshire**

Healthy life expectancy at birth continues to decline for **males** in Warwickshire (**62.1 years**) and is similar to the national average (63.1 years). Healthy life expectancy at birth for **females** has remained stable for the last 3 years (**64.1 years**), and is similar to the national average (63.9 years).<sup>15</sup>

**There have been some improvements in areas of health and in some of the wider determinants that affect health, however there remain challenges**

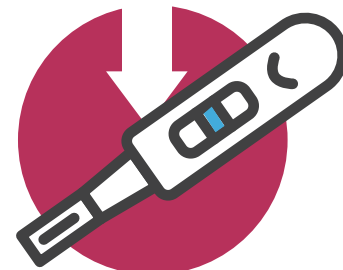
*(Data sourced from Fingertips)<sup>6</sup>*

**Hospital admission rate for under 18s for alcohol-specific conditions has fallen**



**from 47.4 per 100,000**  
in 2017/18-2019/20  
**to 41.1 per 100,000**  
in 2018/19-2020/21  
*(England 29.3)*

**The under 18 conception rate has fallen**



**from 15.3 per 1,000**  
in 2019  
**to 13.2 per 1,000**  
in 2020  
*(England 13.0)*

**Smoking during pregnancy has remained stable**



**at 8.9%** in 2020/21 and  
**9.3%** 2021/22  
*(England 9.1%)*

**The percentage of pupils achieving 9-5 in English and Maths has fallen...**



**from 57.4%**  
in 2020/21  
**to 52.4%**  
in 2021/22  
*(England 49.8%)*

**New STI diagnoses\* have remained low...**

**246 per 100,000**  
in 2020 to  
**241 per 100,000**  
in 2021

*(England 394)*

**Hospital admissions in 2020/21 as a result of self harm in people aged 10-24 have reduced**

**from 577.2 per 100,000**  
in 2019/20  
**to 494.3 per 100,000**  
in 2020/21



*(England 421.9)*

**The estimated dementia diagnosis rate is 54.4% in 2021 up from 53.6% in 2020**

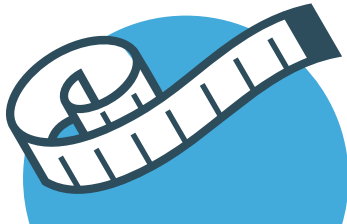
*(England 62%)*



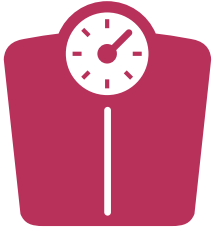
\*exc Chlamydia under 25

**Adults classified as overweight or obese has increased**

**from 63.3%**  
2019/20  
**to 65.6%** in 2020/21  
*(England 63.5%)*



**Year 6 children classified as obese and severely obese has increased**




**from 19.8%** in 2019/20  
**to 21.6%** in 2021/22  
*(England 23.4%)*

**Reception age children classified as obese and severely obese has increased**

**from 8.7%** in 2019/20  
**to 8.9%** in 2021/22  
*(England 10.1%)*

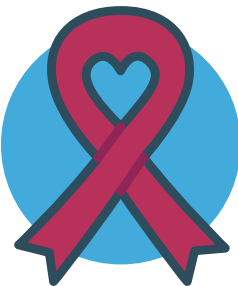
**Proportion of children under 16 living in relative low-income families is**

**13.2%** in 2020/21



*(14.1% in 2019/20)*  
*(England 18.5%)*

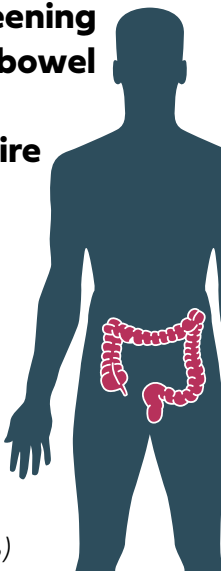
**Cancer screening uptake for breast cancer in Warwickshire fell**



**from 74.1%** in 2020  
**to 58.7%** in 2021  
*(England 64.1%)*


**Cancer screening uptake for bowel cancer in Warwickshire**

is **62.2%**  
in 2021  
down from  
**66.1%** in 2020



*(England 65.2%)*


**% of people in employment in Warwickshire is 81% in 2021/22**



*(78.6% in 2020/21)*  
*(England 75.4%)*

**Fuel poverty in Warwickshire fell**

**from 14.5%**  
in 2019  
**to 14.3%**  
in 2020



*(England 13.2%)*

# Warwickshire Health Profile 2022

**Table 1.** Shows the current health performance of the Warwickshire county and allows comparisons of performance between the districts and boroughs. The values are coloured to indicate statistical significance compared to England. This is the most recent compiled and published data as of 30/11/2022. Due to a lag between data recording and publishing, indicators are unlikely to reflect the impact of the rising cost of living.

**Key:**



Indicator	Unit	England	Warwickshire	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford-on-Avon	Warwick	Period
Infant mortality (under 1 year)	per 1,000 live births	3.9	4.1	4.4	5.7	4.8	1.8	3.5	2018-20
Under 18 conception rate	per 1,000	13.0	13.2	15.4	16.5	9.4	15.3	10.3	2020
Low birth weight of term babies	%	2.9	2.0	1.7	3.7	3.1	1.3	1.0	2020
Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) - current smokers (APS, 2020 definition)	%	12.1	12.1	14.5	15.5	7	11.6	12.1	2020
Hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions (under 18 years)	per 100,000	29.3	41.1	No data	59	271	34.1	54.4	2018/19 - 20/21
New sexually transmitted infections (excluding chlamydia aged <25)	per 100,000	394	241	222	346	224	184	221	2021
Adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese	%	63.5	65.6	69.4	69.1	68.5	64.2	62.3	2020/21
Hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-14 years)	per 10,000	75.7	90.8	65.5	78.1	97.2	98.7	102.6	2020/21
Children in relative low income families (under 16s)	%	18.5	13.2	17.0	18.0	11.3	11.0	10.2	2020/21
Suicide rate (aged 10+)	per 100,000	10.4	11.2	11.9	12.0	11.2	10.5	11.0	2019-21
Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (all ages)	per 100,000	181.2	163.5	122.4	226.1	141.8	173.8	146.1	2020/21
People aged 16-64 in employment	%	75.4	81.0	81.3	82.0	81.8	80.3	80.1	2021/22
Homelessness - households in temporary accommodation	per 1,000	4	1.6	No data	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.1	2020/21
Homelessness - households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act	per 1,000	11.3	9	4.9	16.2	6.8	9.4	5.7	2020/21



Sickness absence - % of working days lost due to sickness absence	%	1	1.4	1.6	3	0.9	1.1	0.4	2018-20
Under 75 mortality rate from causes considered preventable	per 100,000	142.2	126.3	135.4	162.8	138	105.8	101.6	2017/19 average
Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular	per 100,000	70.4	67.7	78.5	86.5	64.9	53.7	61.9	2017/19 of 4
Under 75 mortality rate: cancer	per 100,000	129.2	125.6	124.2	148.7	126.9	111.8	118.9	2017/19
Hip fractures in people aged 65 and over	DSR per 100,000	529	511	493	514	524	468	561	2020/21
Estimated dementia diagnosis rate (aged 65 and over)	%	62.0	54.4	51.8	52.5	62.7	51.5	51.8	2022
Incidence of TB	per 100,000	8	4.8	1	9.3	5.9	1.3	4.9	2018-20
Cancer screening coverage - breast cancer	%	64.1	58.7	48.1	64	64.9	63	49.8	2021
Cancer screening coverage - bowel cancer	%	65.2	62.2	62	59.3	61.6	64.7	62.6	2021
Cancer screening coverage - cervical cancer (aged 25 to 49 years old)	%	68	72	72.9	70.4	69	75.4	72.6	2021
Cancer screening coverage - cervical cancer (aged 50 to 64 years old)	%	74.7	75.7	72.4	73.2	74.4	78.2	77.9	2021
Deprivation score (IMD)	Score	21.7	15.6	17.9	23.5	14.1	11.7	12	2019
Proportion of households that are fuel poor	%	13.2	14.3	15.4	16.0	14.4	13.3	13.2	2020
Percentage of physically active adults	%	65.9	67.4	65.7	57.9	67.1	70.3	74	2020/21
Percentage of physically inactive adults	%	23.4	21.1	21.5	26.8	22.2	20.2	16	2020/21
Average attainment 8 score (state funded schools)	Mean average	48.8	50.1	41.1	45.0	52.1	56.7	50.8	2021/22
Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths (state funded schools)	%	49.8	52.4	35.9	46.3	55.2	62.2	54.5	2021/22

Note: Attainment 8 is the total score in a pupils 8 best GCSEs, taken from Maths and best English (both double weighted), 3 Ebacc subjects (Sciences/Geog/History/languages) and 3 any subject (which can include the second English or other Ebacc subjects). Reflects pupils score across all their GCSEs. Divide the value by 10 to find the average GCSE.

Note: Have given the average attainment 8 score for 2021 (most recent data, but teacher assessed grades) and 2019 (last grades from actual exams)

\*\*Collection methods changed for 2020 data, so cannot be compared to previous years

# 2. The rising cost of living in Warwickshire

## 2.1 Factors influencing the rising cost of living and the impact of the rising cost of living on health and wellbeing.

### What is the cost of living and why is it rising?

The 'cost of living' is a measure of how much it costs to live an average quality of life. To calculate the cost of living, economists look at the prices of key goods including food, energy, housing, healthcare and transport.

The cost of living has been rising since early 2021.<sup>17</sup> This means that the amount of money needed to pay for key goods has been rising faster than household incomes.

There are a number of major world events and national decisions that are contributing to the rising cost of living in the UK including the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**This has led to the rate of inflation reaching its highest level in 30 years in the UK and:<sup>18</sup>**



**Household energy tariffs going up:** From August 2021 to August 2022, domestic gas prices increased by 96% and domestic electricity prices by 54%.



**Rising petrol and travel costs:** Petrol prices have risen from a pandemic low of 104.87 p/litre for petrol and 111.70 p/litre for diesel to a current high of 167.72 p/litre for petrol and 182.30 p/litre for diesel.



**Increases in the cost of goods:** Food and non-alcoholic drink prices are continuing to rise, with annual inflation rate in 2022 at 16.5%.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) has seen an increase in the **number of adults in England reporting their cost of living as increasing** from 6 in 10 in November 2021 to **9 in 10 in August 2022.**<sup>19</sup>



## How will people experience the rising cost of living?

Everyone will be impacted in some way by the rising cost of living, but by how much will depend on personal circumstances including age, employment status, household income, and number of dependants.

In the UK in 2019/20, the number of people in

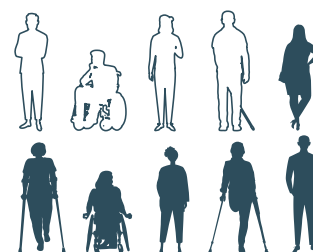
deep poverty (below 40% of median income after housing costs) was 6.5 million.<sup>20</sup> As the cost of living continues to rise there is concern from national charities and think tanks that this number will grow, with those on low and middle incomes being some of the hardest hit.<sup>21</sup>

### Nationally:

**1 in 3** disabled people who have seen rising living costs have spent less on visiting family and **1 in 5** feel lonely.<sup>22</sup>



**42%** of disabled people are more likely to have reduced their spending on food and essential items, compared with **31%** of people who aren't disabled.<sup>23</sup>



**58%** of people living in the most deprived areas are likely to have reduced spending on food and essentials compared with **33%** of those living in the least deprived areas. **24%** of people living in the most deprived areas are likely to make energy improvements to their homes, compared to **35%** of people living in the least deprived areas.<sup>24</sup>



**1 in 10** people reported using credit more due to the rising cost of living, this rose to almost **1 in 5** amongst those living in the most deprived areas.<sup>25</sup>



People have started to make changes to their lifestyles as a result of the rising cost of living. Of those who responded to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (November 2022), people reported their changes as:<sup>26</sup>

**68%**  
Spending less on non-essentials



**63%**  
Using less gas and electricity in the home



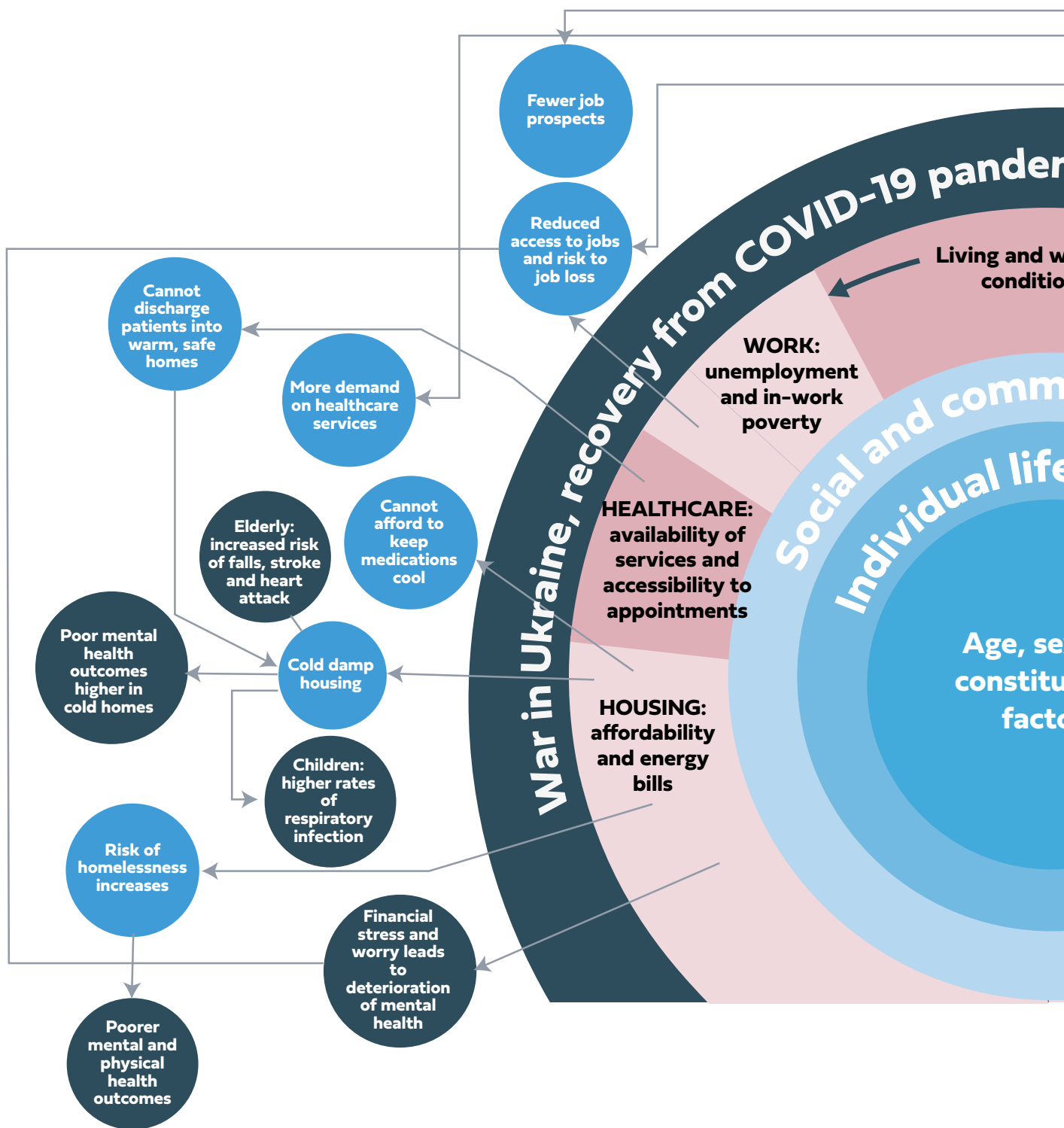
**41%**  
Reducing non-essential journeys in vehicles



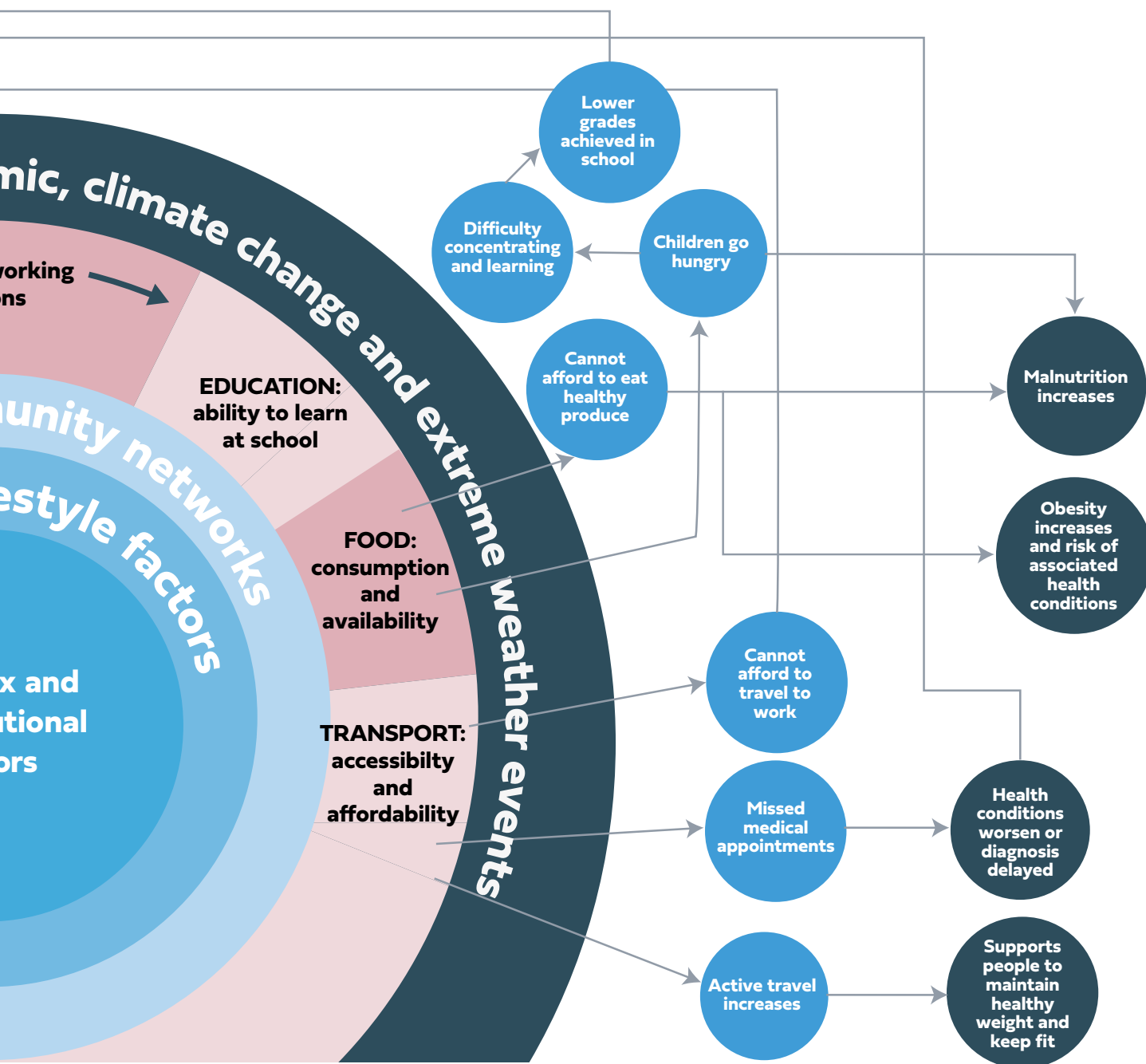
The increased cost of living has led to a reduction in the accessibility of affordable credit as more loan applications are being declined by credit unions. Consequently, this increases the risk of people turning to illegal lenders such as loan sharks. Between 2010 and 2022 the number of people in England estimated to be in debt to an illegal money lender has risen three-fold to 1.08 million people.<sup>26</sup>

## What will this mean for people's health?

**Figure 5. Wider determinants of health and the cost of living<sup>27</sup>**

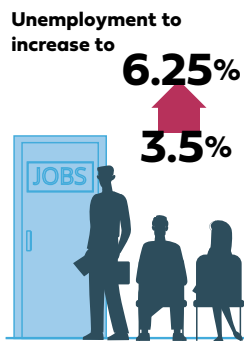


Adapted from Dahlgren and Whitehead model



**A healthy and productive workforce supports economic growth and stability and good work can support positive health and wellbeing outcomes.**<sup>29, 30</sup>

Employment levels in England are amongst the highest since 1971, but some sectors, including health and care, are experiencing challenges with the recruitment and retention of staff.<sup>31</sup>



Cost of living pressures are having a negative impact on the economy and may potentially lead to job losses, with unemployment forecast to increase by 2025.<sup>31</sup>

Despite potential job losses, vacancies currently remain quite high and many businesses continue to struggle to recruit. A key reason for this has been the rise in people becoming economically inactive. There are a number of reasons for this, but a significant proportion are those who have a long-term health condition that makes it hard for them to work, or who have carer responsibilities. Those who are economically inactive do not benefit from Universal Credit as they are not actively looking for work, which could impact on their income levels.

Within the **health sector** the rising cost of living is reported to be linked to a **61%** rise in staff sicknesses. Some staff reported difficulties affording travel into work.<sup>28</sup>

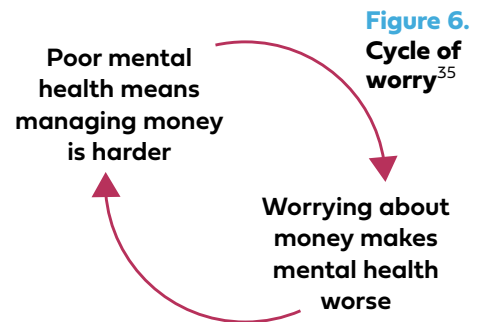
A report by national NHS Providers found **2 in 3** trusts reported significant or severe impacts from staff leaving for other sectors, which may impact on the quality of services being delivered.<sup>28</sup>

## What will this mean for people’s health?



### Mental health

- Poor mental health is a leading cause of disability linked with worsened social and physical health outcomes.<sup>33</sup>
- There is a correlation between poor mental health and low income and job insecurity.<sup>34</sup>



### Physical health

- Lower incomes are often associated with poorer quality diets, which have been linked to higher risks of developing more serious health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, types of cancers, and other conditions linked to obesity.<sup>36</sup>
- Macmillan Cancer Support recently warned that approximately one in four patients with cancer in the UK—accounting for almost three quarters of a million people—are already struggling with the current cost of living.<sup>37</sup>



### Children's health

- There is strong evidence of an association between poor socioeconomic conditions and health and wellbeing indicators.<sup>38</sup>
- Reducing welfare benefits during a recession has been associated with a significant increase in the risks of asthma.<sup>39</sup>
- A 1% increase in child poverty rates has been associated with an additional five children entering care per 100,000 children in the same year.<sup>40</sup>
- Economic shocks are associated with low birth weight of babies.<sup>41</sup>

## What is the picture in Warwickshire?

To help predict the impact of economic challenges on local communities and target support, Experian has created a financial resilience model. Financial resilience is a modelled score incorporating multiple Experian socioeconomic and wider UK economic variables to present a score of resilience against financial stress. After scoring, households are split into ten bands and this is presented as decile bands. (1 = Least Resilient; 10 = Most Resilient).<sup>42</sup>

**Figure 7. Financial Resilience Warwickshire Households Sept 2022 in Deciles 1-3 (30% least resilient households) and 4-10 (70% most resilient households)**

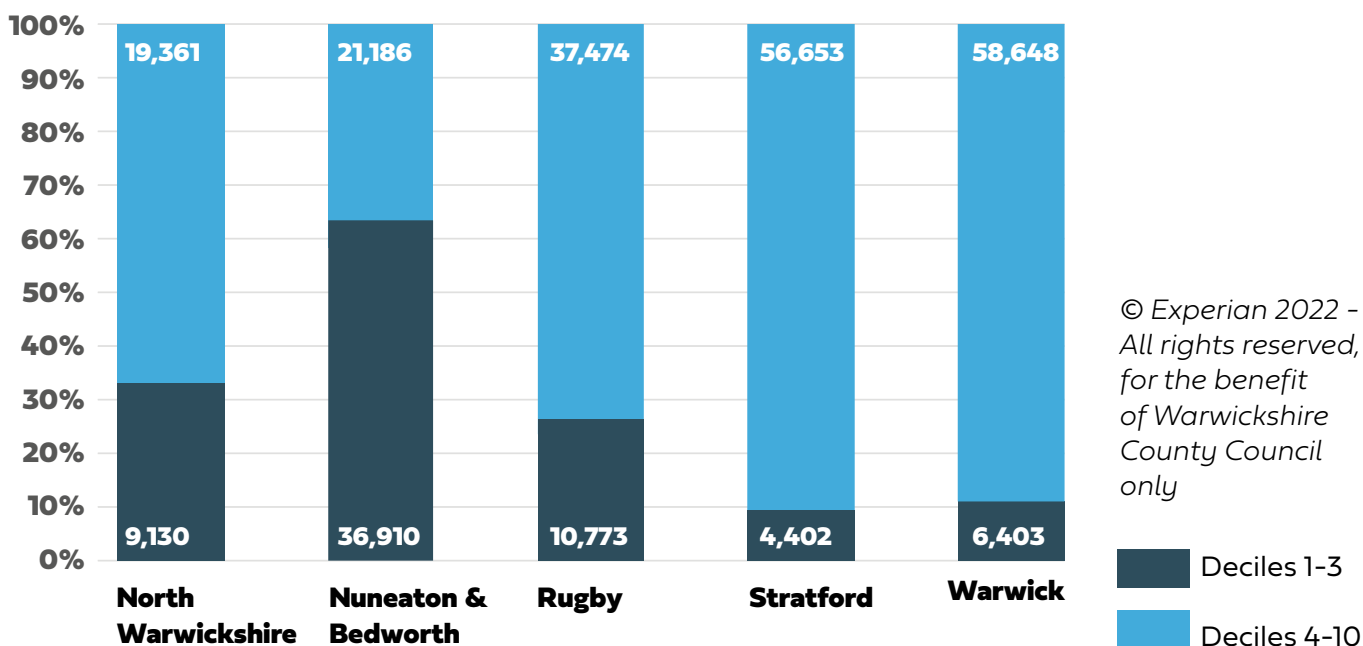


Figure 7 highlights that there is variation in the financial resilience of households across Warwickshire's districts and boroughs. Nuneaton and Bedworth has the greatest proportion of households categorised as the least resilient (64.0% of households sit within deciles 1-3, compared to 32.0% of households in North Warwickshire, 22.3% in Rugby, 7.2% in Stratford-on-Avon and 11.0% in Warwick). This means that more households within this borough are likely to be vulnerable to the rising cost of living, when compared to the rest of the county.

# Centre for Progressive Policy Cost of Living Vulnerability Index

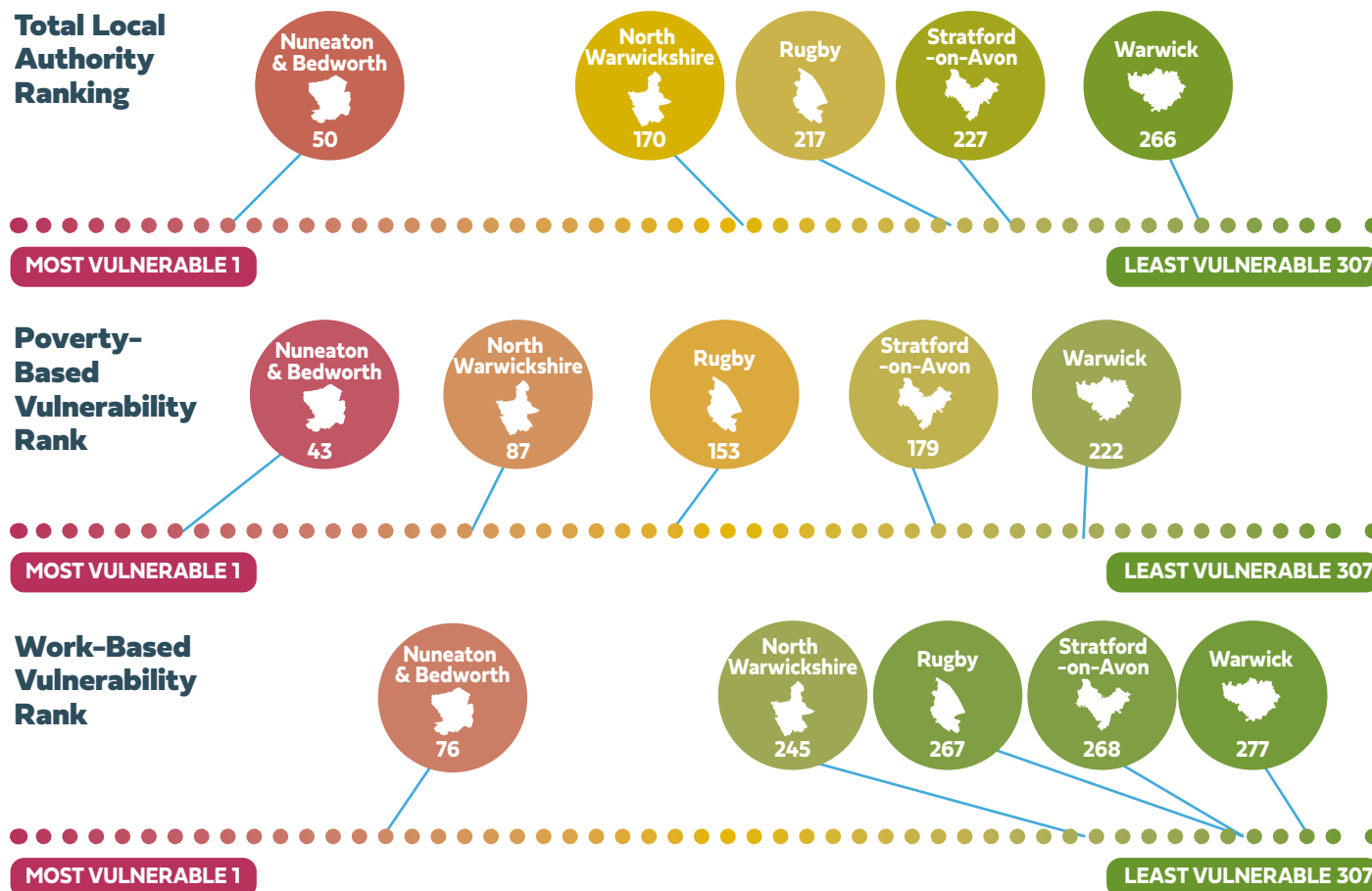
This index has been developed by the Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) to highlight lower tier local authorities with greater vulnerability to the rising cost of living. It uses a total of 6 indicators, which determine 1) a place's relative risk of more people being pulled into poverty (**work-based vulnerability rank**) and 2) the relative risk of those who were already hard up being pushed into destitution (**poverty-based vulnerability rank**).

Fuel Poverty	Poverty-Based Vulnerability rank
Food Insecurity	
Child Poverty	
Claimant Count	Work-Based Vulnerability rank
Economic Inactivity	
Low Pay	

*Fuel poverty* = the percentage of households within a local authority that are in fuel poverty (Low income low energy efficiency measure)  
*Food insecurity* = the percentage of adults within a local authority experiencing food insecurity  
*Child Poverty* = the percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income before housing costs

*Claimant Count* = The percentage of the population aged 18 to state pension age claiming Universal Credit  
*Economic Inactivity* = The percentage of the population aged 16-64 not in employment and not actively seeking employment  
*Low Pay* = The percentage of jobs that pay two thirds or below the UK median gross hourly pay by local authority

Figure 8. Cost of living index for Warwickshire (September 2022)<sup>45</sup>







### North Warwickshire

scored **second lowest on the poverty-based vulnerability** ranking (meaning that it is more vulnerable in this area), largely due to the percentage of people in fuel poverty.



### Nuneaton and Bedworth

was ranked the **lowest of the districts and boroughs** in Warwickshire for overall vulnerability. It was lower on the poverty-based vulnerability rank than work-based vulnerability rank, meaning that there is a higher relative risk of those who are already struggling being pushed into destitution.



### Rugby

had the **middle score of the five districts and boroughs** for both the poverty and work-based vulnerability ranks. It had the lowest percentage of people in low paid jobs compared to the other districts and boroughs but also has the second highest claimant count.



### Stratford-on-Avon

was ranked **second highest of the districts and boroughs** overall, with the lowest claimant count.



### Warwick

was ranked **highest of the districts and boroughs** in Warwickshire overall, scoring particularly well on Work-Based vulnerability.

Some employment sectors are more likely to be impacted by rising energy costs than others. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough ranks in the top half of places in the country for both vulnerability and the energy intensity of employment.<sup>44</sup> This means that businesses are at greater risk of experiencing cost pressures which could result in business closures in the area, further compounding local disadvantage.

People within Warwickshire are likely to experience challenges related to the rising cost of living depending on their circumstances. These examples below highlight particularly vulnerable groups across the life-course, how they might experience the rising cost of living and an example of what national support they should be entitled to.<sup>45</sup>



#### Example 1:

Single mother of two school aged children, living in North Warwickshire Borough, earning National Living Wage for 3 days a week (£9.50 per hour).

- She has no access to a car and struggles to afford public transport
- Her children have Free School Meals
- She is eligible to receive £2,500 this year in additional support



#### Example 2:

Working-age man who does not work, with disability, living alone in Rugby Borough.

- Struggling with electricity bill due to needing electricity due to his disability
- He is eligible to receive £1,350 this year in additional support



#### Example 3:

Elderly couple aged 65+ living in Stratford District in a large detached house and are struggling to afford to heat their home.

- They suffer from loneliness and social isolation, as they can no longer afford to travel and take part in social activities
- They are eligible to receive £1,500 this year in additional support

## 2.2 Housing, bills and the rising cost of living on health

Poor housing conditions can impact negatively on people’s health and wellbeing and can be costly to the NHS. With fuel poverty and housing unaffordability set to increase with the rising cost of living, there is a risk to people’s health.

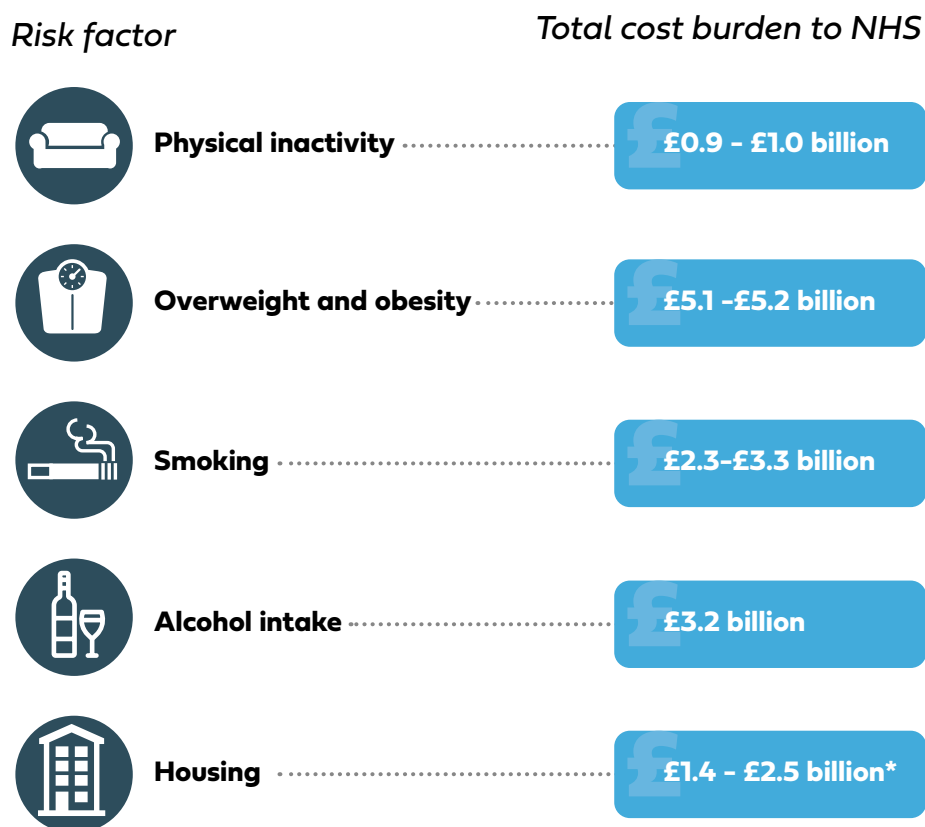
It is estimated that the total cost to society of poor housing in England is some **£18.5 billion** per annum.<sup>46</sup>



### Housing, COVID-19, and inequalities

During the pandemic conditions such as overcrowding contributed to an increased virus transmission amongst already disadvantaged groups.<sup>47</sup>

**Figure 9. Comparison with other common health hazards<sup>48</sup>**



*£1.4bn = poor housing, England. £2.5bn = all homes with significant Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) hazards, UK*

## Who is likely to be impacted?

Everyone across Warwickshire is being impacted by the rising cost of energy bills and household goods and services in some way. For high income earners, an increase in household energy bills or rise in rent may lead to a reduction in disposable income.<sup>49</sup> For middle - and low -income earners the same increase can push people into debt and rent arrears which, if not managed, can lead to eviction or repossession of a home.

Low-income individuals struggling to keep-up with rising cost of bills face an increased risk of homelessness. Within a year, the UK has seen a **21%** rise in the number of working households seeking homelessness support.<sup>50</sup> Homelessness can result in negative consequences for both the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals as well as exasperate pre-existing health conditions.

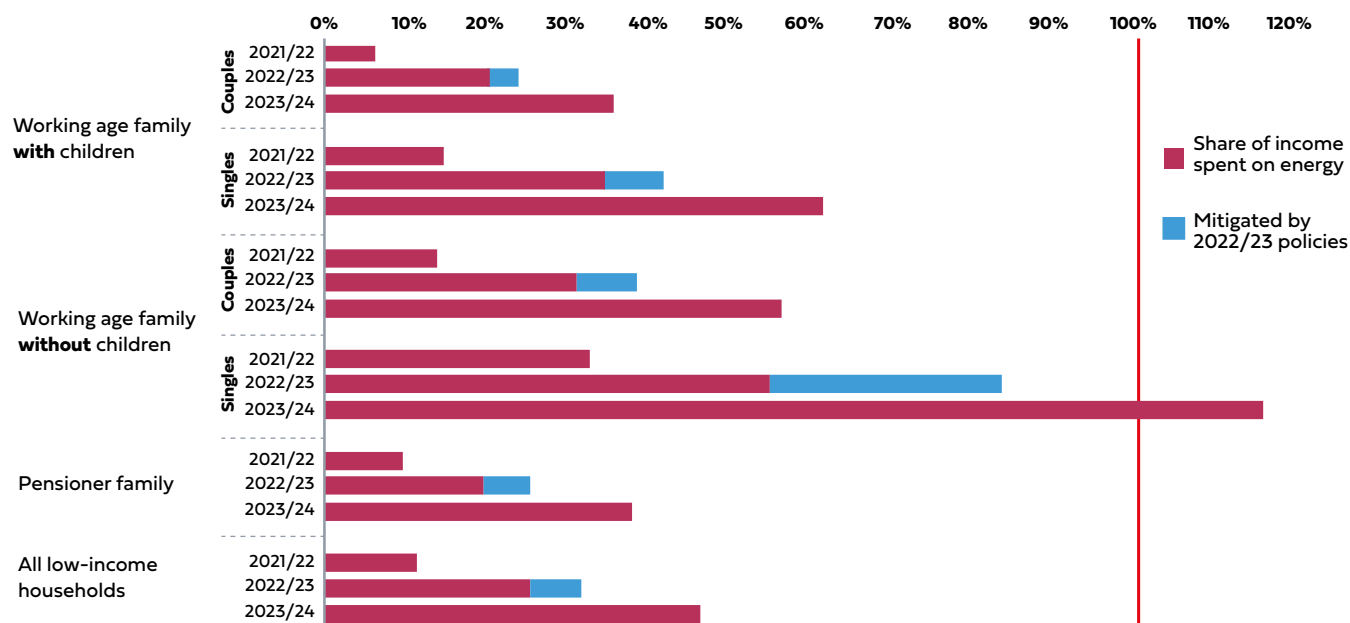
Those on the lowest incomes are likely to be impacted most by the rising cost of living and analysis completed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that this differs depending on age and circumstance, for example:<sup>51</sup>



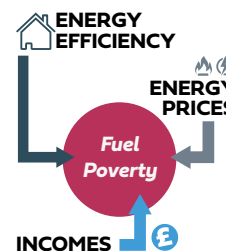
Average low-income family to pay **four and a half times more** for energy in 2023/24 compared to 2021/22;

The likely impact of these increases in bills will be a rise in the numbers of people reported to be in fuel poverty.

**Figure 10. Energy bills as a proportion of income after housing costs for low income households (poorest 20% in UK)<sup>52</sup>**



**Fuel poverty is defined as:** households having below 60% of median income left each month after paying gas and electricity bills; and living in a home with a energy performance certificate (EPC) rating below C. This definition excludes those people living in homes with an EPC certificate of A-C who may be unable to afford to heat their homes adequately.<sup>53</sup>



It is not just households defined as fuel poor who may experience challenges with keeping their homes warm. For many, the rising cost of living will lead to decisions about how to spend income, including whether to heat their homes or spend money on food or other household essentials.

**Figure 11. Cumulative number of people who have been unable to top up their prepayment meters each month<sup>54</sup>**

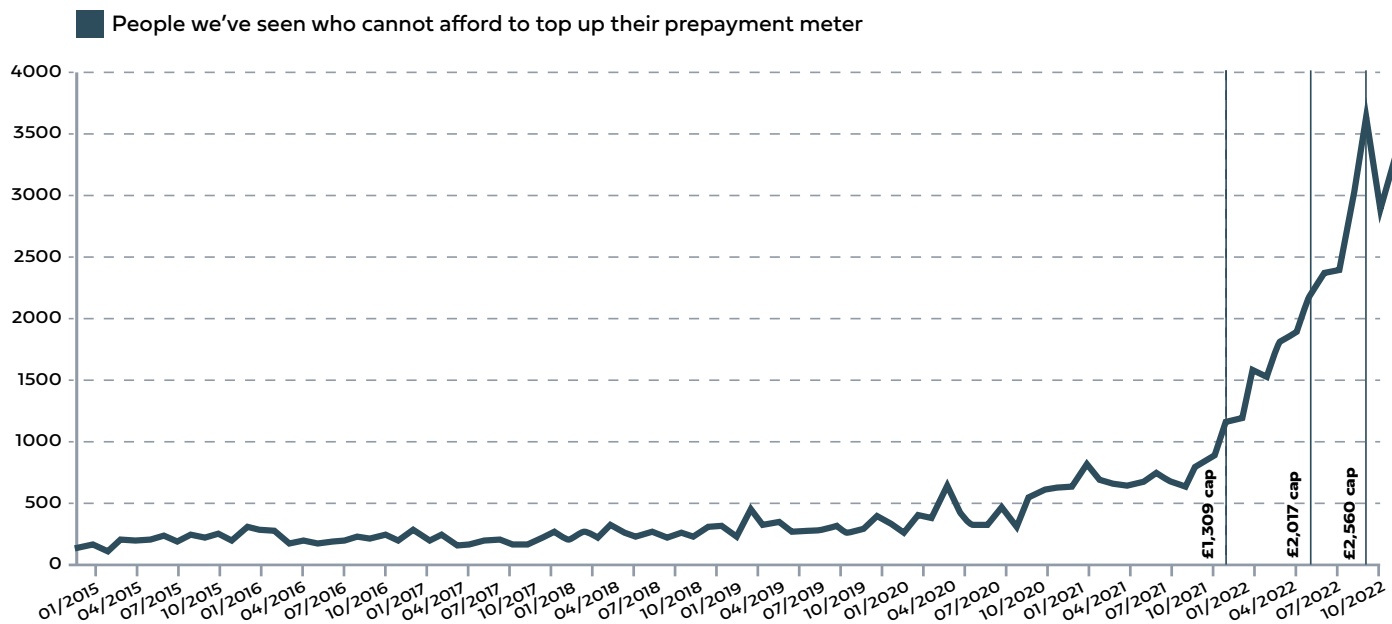
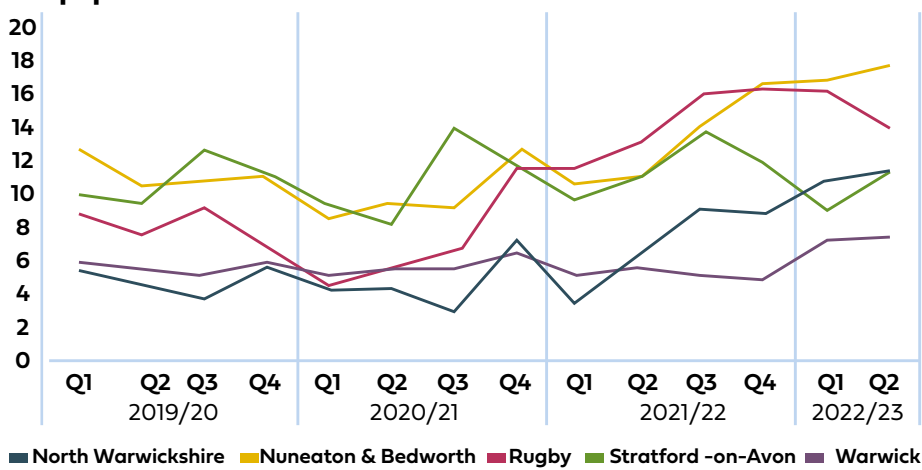


Figure 11 highlights the number of people across England and Wales who have sought help and advice from Citizen’s Advice due to being unable to afford to top up their prepayment meter each month. Between October 2021-2022, this number saw a **four-fold increase** (from **827** people to **2882** people) and suggests people may be living without power, which can have adverse consequences for health and wellbeing.

**Figure 12: Number of people helped with crisis support per 10,000 of the population in Warwickshire<sup>54</sup>**



Across England and Wales, Citizen’s Advice have helped more people with crisis support in 2022 than any other year on record.

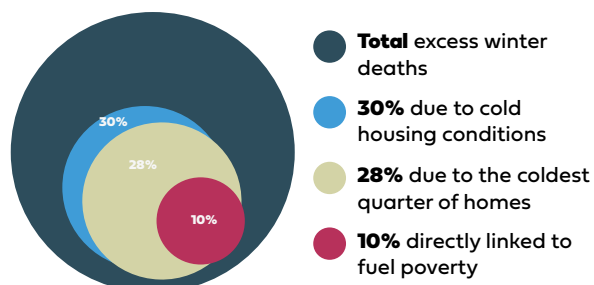
Figure 12 shows the proportion of people in each district and borough who have been referred by Citizen’s Advice for crisis support.

Within Warwickshire, the number of people seeking crisis support from Citizen’s Advice has also increased over the last year.

## What will the impact on health and wellbeing be if people cannot afford to heat their homes?

Marmot (2011) found that there is a relationship between Excess Winter Deaths (EWDs), low thermal efficiency of housing and low indoor temperature.<sup>55</sup>

**Figure 13. The proportion of excess winter deaths in UK caused by fuel poverty and cold homes<sup>56</sup>**



### Physical health



- Studies show that heating and insulation interventions led to significant improvements in self-reported respiratory outcomes and general wellbeing in children.<sup>57</sup>
- There is a strong association between housing warmth and school attendance.<sup>57</sup>
- Children growing up in cold, damp, and mouldy homes with inadequate ventilation have higher than average rates of respiratory infections and asthma, chronic ill health, and disability.<sup>58</sup>
- For older people, living in cold temperatures increases the risk of strokes and heart attacks. Respiratory diseases, including flu, are more common, as are falls, injuries, and hypothermia.<sup>59</sup>
- Social deprivation and poor housing quality, in particular, are strongly associated with asthma morbidity, linked to cold temperatures and exposure to mould and dust triggers.<sup>60</sup>
- Cold housing negatively affects dexterity and increases the risk of accidents and injuries in the home.<sup>61</sup>

### Mental health and wellbeing



- As housing unaffordability increased the odds of reporting poorer self-rated health increased.<sup>62</sup>
- Children are expected to experience anxiety, slower physical growth and cognitive development.<sup>58</sup>
- Cold homes are also associated with mental health problems in adolescents and adults.<sup>63</sup>
- More than 1 in 4 adolescents living in cold housing are at risk of multiple mental health problems compared to 1 in 20 adolescents who have lived in warm housing.<sup>55</sup>

**Fuel poverty negatively affects dietary opportunities and choices. In particular, households facing fuel poverty can be priced out of having sufficient and healthy foods and may experience challenges with resources available to prepare and cook nutritious meals.<sup>64</sup>**

## What is being done nationally?

In May 2022, the government advised that they are providing £37 billion of support, targeted at those who are most in need. The package will see millions of the most vulnerable households receive at least £1,200 of support in total in 2022/23 to help with the cost of living, with all domestic electricity customers receiving at least £400 to help with their bills.<sup>65</sup>

### This will be through the:

- Energy bill support scheme
- Winter fuel payments and pensioner cost of living payment
- Cold weather payment
- Disability cost of living payment
- Household support fund
- The warm homes discount

### Housing in the Levelling Up Plan:

By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas.

The government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.<sup>66</sup>

## What are we doing in Warwickshire?

Strong, established partnerships exist across all sectors in the county, and there is a collaborative approach to providing information and support to people experiencing difficulties. There is a maturity to the strategic partnership approach across the county, resulting in long-term plans to address inequality and increase opportunities.

This is reflected in the '**Team Warwickshire**' collaborative approach to Levelling Up, the '**Cost of Living**' support hub, and our '**Community Powered Warwickshire**' model that harnesses the enthusiasm, resources and capabilities being offered by communities themselves.

Many practical offers have been established over the last year, and a handful of examples are outlined here.

The **Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme** has responsibility for distributing the **Household Support Fund (HSF)** locally. The HSF aims to support families and individuals most in need through both proactive targeted support and by application. This includes an extended welfare offer, countywide utility voucher campaigns, cost of living support for families/carers of children eligible for benefits related free school meals, and welfare grants for community-led groups and initiatives, including schemes led by district and borough councils, to support the most vulnerable in our community and respond to a specific immediate need. Further information can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme).

**Act on Energy/Warm and Well** are commissioned by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and provide the countywide Warm & Well in Warwickshire service, with the aim of reducing fuel poverty for residents and protecting those who are most vulnerable to the health effects of living in cold homes. The service has two overarching functions:

1. Provision of information, advice, and guidance with the aim of supporting vulnerable individuals and families to keep their homes warm in an affordable manner. In addition to this, assist residents with income maximisation advice to ensure they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.
2. Co-ordination and management of the provision of physical interventions, such as boiler/heating system repairs and replacements and loft and cavity wall insulation.

**Warwickshire Housing Board** is a partnership across local authorities, public health and NHS. Promotional material on the impact of poor housing conditions such as damp and condensation on health, as well as information on where to find further advice and information has been sent to housing teams in Warwickshire to support them when speaking with tenants.



**Act On Energy - Case Study A:**

A client who had three cases with Act on Energy. These being Pre-Payment Meter, General Advice, and Income Maximisation.

This woman lives in a family unit of four in her privately rented home. Unfortunately, she was made redundant in October 2020 due to the economic effects of Covid and now works part time. She needed help with debt relief, which was clearly causing her a lot of worry, due to high rent, being a single mother of three children and being in receipt of Universal Credit: and all this with holding down a part time job.

She was doing all she could to reduce a substantial debt which was evidenced by our adviser. She received the help she needed in the form of a sum from Act on Energy of £850.03 in July 2021. Additionally, she was referred to the Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service who helped further with financial issues.

The payment of the woman's debt will ease her mind and allow her to move forward with more confidence with her children and her life.

**Act On Energy - Case Study B:**

Our client has stage four cancer and is having palliative care. She is a single mum of three children and lives in a semi-detached former council house.

Despite her optimistic and pragmatic viewpoint, it is clear that she needs as much help as she can have at this challenging time. She had to finish work due to her illness and her benefits have not come through, so life is very challenging.


The Act on Energy adviser went through several measures such as "The Big Difference" with Severn Trent and the Warm Home Discount through her supplier, also the Priority Services Register with Western Power Distribution so she will receive notice of power disruption. A referral was also made to the Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service. In addition, an application to the Fuel Bank Foundation (FBF) was made and she is currently on the waiting list for help from the Household Support Fund.

The adviser said that she would call her when the energy efficiency grants become live to see how Act on Energy can help her make her home warmer and more efficient.

**Warwickshire Family Information Service (FIS)** provide information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

- family relationships
- financial advice
- housing
- parenting support
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- childcare
- health and wellbeing.

Warwickshire's **Family Information Service (FIS)** has seen increases in the numbers of people referred to the service and the level of complexity of cases. In 2022, compared to other years FIS reported:

- 
- Increase** in complex cases
  - Increase** in self-referring
  - Increase** in housing related queries post pandemic
  - Increase** in queries related to debt and finance post pandemic
  - Increase** in new people accessing the service for advice post pandemic

**Despite these increases, FIS report that areas experiencing the greatest need are not always accessing the service.**

**Warwickshire Rural Community Council** offer a community oil buying syndicate to save money on the purchase of heating oil. Members can place monthly orders via the website with a minimum order amount of 500 litres.

**Warm Hubs** - Warm Welcome locations have been established in various facilities across the county for those who are struggling with energy costs or who are feeling vulnerable or isolated. Residents are invited to attend on their own or with their family or friends, to have a safe and warm place to spend some time.



The locations, including libraries, museums and other community venues across Warwickshire will be putting on additional events and extended opening hours to support people.

Further information can be found at [www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/warm-welcome-locations](http://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/warm-welcome-locations).

**Preventing Homelessness Improving Lives (PHIL)** helps Warwickshire residents who need advice about their housing situation. PHIL offers help and support to prevent homelessness at an earlier stage and at least two to three months before crisis point. Contact: **01788 533644** or 01788 533643 Monday to Friday or email [phil@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:phil@rugby.gov.uk)

**Cost of living online hub** - WCC has worked to develop an online hub, launched November 2022, to focus on the "core support" provided by the six Warwickshire councils, other public sector agencies, and key voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector (VCSE) organisations such as Citizens Advice. [www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk)



## Recommendations: What more can be done in Warwickshire?

### Housing

**R.2** I recommend that housing, planning and health leads work together to prevent ill health caused by poor housing and living conditions. This should include a commitment to preventing new homes from being built with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of less than C and working with private and public landlords to ensure existing homes have an EPC of C or above; and are mould free.



## 2.3 Food access, availability and the rising cost of living on health

***“Food is basic, but so is security. Both are vital to good health. If 1 household in 7 is food insecure, society is failing in a fundamental way. These figures on food insecurity are all the more chilling because the problem is solvable, but far from being solved it is getting worse.”***

Sir Michael Marmot, 2022<sup>67</sup>

### Background

Food and non-alcoholic drink prices increased by **16.5%** in the year to November 2022. This was the highest rate of increase since April 2009.<sup>68,69</sup> As well as the increased cost of food itself, households have less available to spend on food due to increased expenditure on bills as a result of higher energy costs.

**The Food Foundation estimates that this has led to:**



*Mounting food insecurity resulting in increasing numbers of households having uncertain or limited access to nutritionally adequate foods.<sup>67</sup>*



*In just three months from January to April 2022, there was a **57%** increase in the proportion of households restricting their food intake or missing meals altogether.<sup>67</sup>*

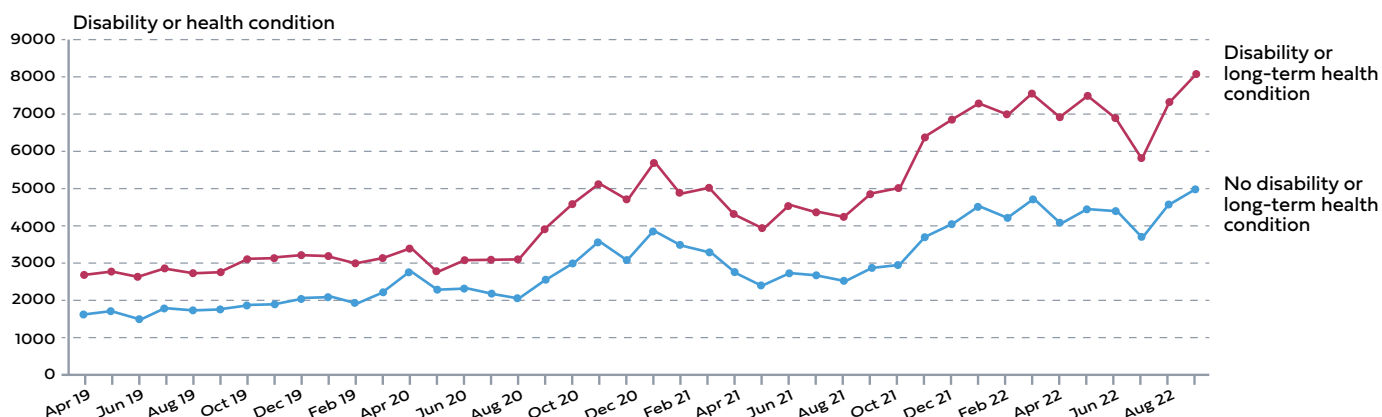


***12.8%** of households have reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals as they couldn't afford or get access to food, and **2.4 million adults** have not eaten for a whole day.<sup>67</sup>*

### Who is likely to be impacted?

Food bank use has increased nationally. Certain disadvantaged groups are more likely to use a food bank and people with disabilities or long-term health conditions are more likely to use a food bank than those without.

**Figure 14. The number of people being referred by Citizen’s Advice to food banks by demographic group (England and Wales)<sup>54</sup>**



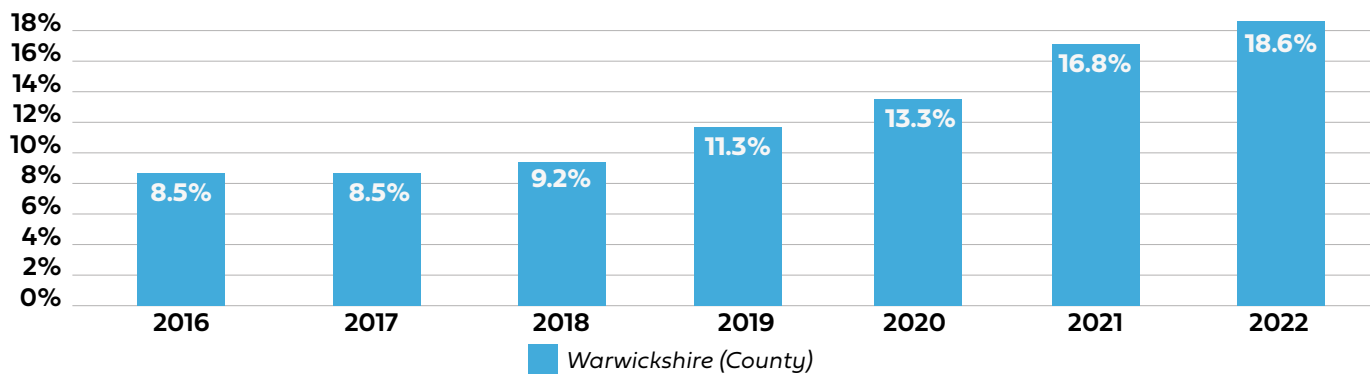
There has been a large increase in the number of households with children that are facing food insecurity, increasing from 12.1% in January to 17.2% in April.<sup>67</sup>

There has also been a rise of children claiming for free school meals in Warwickshire (Figure 14).



Data from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows **1 in 3 children**, nationally, are in poverty, with families of 3 or more children and single parent families being worst affected.<sup>72</sup>

**Figure 15. Proportion of children claiming free school meals in Warwickshire<sup>73</sup>**



The poorest fifth of UK households would need to spend 47% of their disposable income on food to meet the cost of the Government recommended healthy diet. This compares to just 11% for the richest fifth.<sup>74</sup>

**Table 2. Estimated proportion of adults experiencing hunger, struggle or worry in Warwickshire (Jan 21)<sup>75</sup>**

Questions	NBBC	RBC	SDC	WDC	NWBC
% Adults experiencing hunger as they did not have enough food to eat	8.2	7.0	2.9	3.1	3.2
% Adults struggled to have food	15.4	11.2	10.7	8.3	10.2
% Adults worried about having enough food to eat	11.3	10.2	8.3	8.6	8.5

## What will the impact of food availability and access be on people's health and wellbeing?

### Physical health



- A survey commissioned by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) revealed 55% of British people feel their health has been negatively affected by the rising cost of living. Among these, 78% believed this to be a result of the rising cost of food.<sup>76</sup>
- Food insecurity and hunger, particularly in children, have been associated with an increased risk of chronic conditions such as asthma, as well as nutrient deficiencies, such as an iron deficiency. This has been known to impair learning and productivity at school.<sup>77</sup>
- Food insecurity has been associated with increased consumption of high-fat dairy products, salty snacks, and sugary drinks, as well as fewer vegetables. This can escalate the risk of diet-sensitive diseases such as obesity.<sup>78</sup>
- Children in the most deprived tenth of the population are on average over 1cm shorter than children in the least deprived tenth by year 6 (age 10 – 11).<sup>77</sup>
- If current trends continue then, amongst children born this year, 1 in 4 will suffer overweight or obesity by the time they start school, rising to 3 in 4 by age 65 years.<sup>79</sup>
- Lack of food has been directly linked to several different health conditions. Poor diet and obesity have been consistently shown to increase with increased poverty rates and food insecurity. Currently, more healthy foods are nearly three times as expensive as less healthy foods.<sup>80</sup>

### Quotes taken from interviews with food bank users across Warwickshire

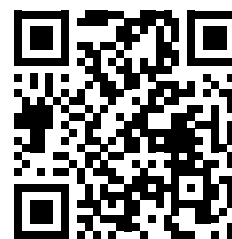
***"She has to choose between using electric and food for herself."***

***"With gas and electric prices rising, I don't feel as though I can financially feed [my child]."***

***"Without food banks people in my situation would starve and... there have been days that I have gone without food just to ensure my child was well fed."***

***"She does not know what is happening with all the price rises and she can see a time when she has to choose food over fuel."***

#### Food bank video:



## Mental health and wellbeing



- Constantly worrying about having enough money to pay bills or buy food can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression. This can put a strain on people's bodies, resulting in high blood pressure and weakened immune systems.<sup>81</sup>
- With the current difficulties of rising food prices and worsening food insecurity due to the cost of living, mental health services have been struggling to meet demand over the past year.
- Research during the pandemic showed that food insecurity was linked to a 257% higher risk of anxiety and a 253% increased risk of depression.<sup>82</sup>

## What is being done nationally?

**The Healthy Start** scheme offers funds worth £4.25 per week to pregnant women and children (0-4 years) who are in low-income families, as well as to all pregnant women under the age of 18. Funds can be used to purchase fruit, vegetables, milk and infant formula. However, uptake of the scheme has been historically low with an estimate of £63.5 million going unclaimed in 2021.<sup>83</sup>

**Holiday activities and food (HAF)** programme provides grant funding to local authorities to co-ordinate free holiday provisions for children who are eligible for and receive benefits related school meals. Eligible children will also continue to be enrolled in initiatives such as free school meals and breakfast clubs.<sup>84</sup>

*In Warwickshire, during the school summer holiday 2022, HAF codes were sent out to **17,044** young people in receipt of benefits tested free school meals. HAF activities were delivered in **92 sites** across Warwickshire and were attended by **3,172** young people.<sup>84</sup>*

## What are we doing in Warwickshire?

Once again, the Warwickshire partnership landscape offers a plethora of examples of 'immediately practical' as well as longer-term strategic approaches to access to food, which is just one strand of a much wider and more ambitious approach to healthy and affordable food provision. Food provision is a particularly rich ground for community-powered solutions, with community groups leading the way in many places in relieving hunger. Many new support offers grew out of community action established during the pandemic and funded by grants made available by Warwickshire County Council and its partners.

**Warwickshire Food Forum** was established in 2020, bringing together agencies from across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors who all have experience and knowledge, and with several providing direct support to people in food insecurity. Food Forum members collectively identified three priority areas:

- Help residents access affordable, local, and healthy food, especially the most vulnerable and those in crisis.
- Provide and enable education and signposting, to support communities in making healthy and nutritious food choices.
- Work with and influence local supply chains to encourage locally sourced, sustainable food choices, reducing food miles and the need to travel to access nutritious food.

**Warwickshire food support information**

has been collated on the Cost of Living Warwickshire webpages ([www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/food-support/food-support-1](http://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/food-support/food-support-1)). Here there is advice and guidance on national and countywide support, including on foodbanks and community pantries.

**Community food pantries** have been piloted across Warwickshire in the areas of Camp Hill in Nuneaton, New Arley in North Warwickshire and Lillington in Leamington Spa. The services provided by community pantries include support with affordability and access to food for those experiencing financial difficulties.

- In addition to food, the Community Pantries offer a safe space for those at a point of crisis to engage with Citizens Advice support workers.
- Access to use a Community Pantry can be made by a self-referral from an individual in need, or a referral made through doctors and medical clinics, social services, advice services, welfare teams in schools, or other referral agencies.
- Use of a Community Pantry is available for a small membership fee of £5 per visit, and members will have the opportunity to select from a choice of food each week for 6 months, whilst being encouraged to engage with the support provided by the wrap around services available.

More information on community pantries can be found at

[www.thecommunitypantry.org.uk](http://www.thecommunitypantry.org.uk).

**Over a three month period, Lillington community pantry helped 28 clients, resulting in:**<sup>85</sup>



**Debt addressed: £8,281**  
**Debt written off: £6,920**



**Income maximisation (benefit) gains: £37,065**



**Top issues: Benefits, Charity (goods), Health, Housing**

## Recommendations: What more can be done in Warwickshire?

**R.3** I recommend that to support children to have the best start in life, Health and Wellbeing Board explores the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children in Warwickshire as **Food** shows that children are able to learn better in school if they have a full stomach.

**Food**

# 2.4 Transport, travel and the rising cost of living on health

## Background

Throughout 2022, road fuel prices rose to unprecedented levels, with the latest figures at the time of writing showing 167.72 pence for petrol and 182.30 pence for diesel (12/09/2022).<sup>86</sup> These increases, combined with rising costs in food, electricity and gas, mean that people have less income to spend on transport, whether private or public.

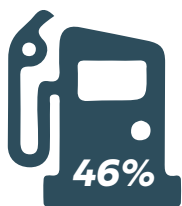
### Car use

This rise in fuel prices has drastically increased the cost of running a car, impacting people from all demographics in society.

- When asked, **72%** of survey respondents (in June 2022) reported decreasing their car trips.<sup>87</sup>



- **80%** of **18-34 year olds** say that they would now choose to walk instead of using their cars.<sup>88</sup>



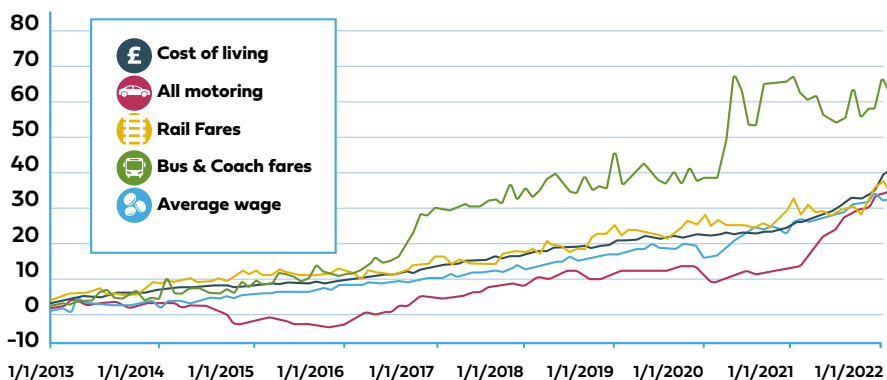
- **46%** of **18-34 year old drivers** report having to ask friends and family for fuel money compared to **21%** of **35-54 year olds**.<sup>88</sup>

### Public transport

Public Transport plays a key role, particularly for vulnerable groups, in providing access to a range of services and opportunities, including health care, employment, shops and recreational activities. When combined with walking and cycling use of public transport can also bring health, wellbeing and environmental benefits.

Over the last decade costs have risen across all forms of transport, but the highest increase has been to the cost of bus and coach fares, which have risen over 60%.<sup>89</sup> The cost of bus fares has been reported as a barrier to use by some groups.<sup>90</sup>

Figure 16. Change in cost of travel over time in the UK<sup>91</sup>



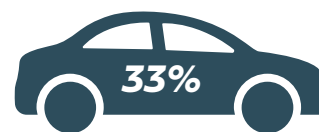
Certain groups are impacted by this more than others. Nationally, those living in the most deprived areas are 3 times more likely to rely on public transport for essential travel and less likely to be able to work from home, compared to those in the least deprived areas.<sup>92</sup>

In 2017/18, 33% of the lowest income households nationally did

not have access to a car (thereby making them more reliant on public transport), compared to just 5% of the highest income households.<sup>93</sup>

Women may also be disproportionately affected. In 2018, women across England made over a third more journeys by bus than men.<sup>94</sup>

**33%** of the lowest income households did not have access to a car<sup>95</sup>



## What will the impact of increased travel costs be on people's health and wellbeing?

Increased transport costs could restrict access to employment, education, shops, recreation, and countryside/green spaces. Research shows that people who rate public transport as 'good' are close to three times more likely than those who rate it as 'poor' to be able to access public services such as health care, food shops, or education.<sup>95</sup> They are also slightly less likely to report feeling under strain, being dissatisfied with life, or experiencing mental health problems.<sup>96</sup>

### Physical health



Accessible transport is crucial for access to health services, particularly for older individuals and those with mobility issues. A lack of transport accessibility could lead to:

- Individuals not receiving the care they need, further widening in health inequalities and further impacting the health outcomes for vulnerable groups.<sup>97</sup>
- Individuals being less able to access green spaces and sports centres, reducing the amount of time spent exercising.<sup>98</sup>
- Limited access to food shops could mean nutritious food choices become more expensive, resulting in a less balanced diet.<sup>99</sup>

### Mental health and wellbeing



Transport availability facilitates social connectedness. According to Scope charity, 1 in 3 who have seen rising living costs have spent less on visiting family and 1 in 5 feel lonely.<sup>22</sup>

For those unable to drive, public transport can be the difference

between social participation and exclusion, with higher rates of loneliness and depression amongst those who cannot:

- Make trips to see family, friends.
- Access green spaces or other leisure and hobby facilities.

## How can people continue to have good access to services and stay socially connected?

Whilst costs continue to be high, people should be encouraged to explore alternative modes of transport, particularly active travel options for shorter journeys, and a combination of active travel with public transport for longer journeys.

In a 2019 survey over 70% responders reported

favouring reduced motor vehicle use in urban areas for the sake of public health. However, this view does not reflect the reality of people in the UK, with cars, vans, motorcycles, and taxis accounting for 86% of the total distance travelled in Great Britain.<sup>95</sup> It is important therefore to consider the barriers to reducing motor vehicle use.

### Active Travel:



Active Travel, particularly cycling and walking, has long been promoted as a positive way to travel, with benefits including:

- **Cheap** – active travel options are cheaper than driving and public transport. A larger emphasis on active travel could help combat the negative financial impact caused by the cost of living.
- **Boosts to physical health** – there are massive health benefits to active travel, including a 20-35% reduction in risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke, and a 30-40% lower risk of type 2 diabetes.<sup>100</sup>
- **Boosts to mental health** – adults who participate in daily physical activity are at approximately 20-30% lower risk of depression and dementia.<sup>101</sup>
- **Good for the environment** – if a person chose to walk or cycle 1 mile a week instead of driving, they would save 26kg of carbon dioxide a year.<sup>101</sup>

To encourage people to participate in Active Travel there are barriers that need to be addressed. The “Determinants of and Barriers to Active Travel in Coventry and Warwickshire” report published in June 2021 identified that:<sup>102</sup>

- For commuting, concern about lack of cycle routes and road safety were the biggest barriers
- For educational trips, distance was the biggest barrier
- For shopping trips, carrying a heavy load was the biggest barrier
- Health is identified both as a driver and barrier (due to specific conditions) for Active Travel
- Those living in buildings where some safety features are present are more likely to use their bike, evidencing that safe storage is a contributory factor
- Individuals were worried about their safety in separate bike lanes as they were worried cars can pass into them
- Individuals said they would respond to positive incentives (such as safe lanes or group active travel) as opposed to negative incentives (removing or charging for work parking).



## What is being done nationally?

**Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking** published in 2020 sets out the governments vision for a travel revolution in England.<sup>103</sup> Some of the key policies are:

- £2 billion of ringfenced funding for walking and cycling
- The creation of a national e-Bike programme
- A pilot to encourage GPs to prescribe cycling in selected places with poor health rates, with patients able to access bikes through their local surgery
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network
- Making streets safer by consulting to strengthen the Highway Code.

**Financial Support for Local Transport Sector** via a funding package of over £150 million was announced on 1st March 2022 to support bus and light rail operators across England, to ensure services continue to run following the pandemic. This represents the final tranche of pandemic-related support to operators and ran until October 2022.<sup>104</sup>

**Fuel Duty** for petrol and diesel has been cut by 5p per litre until March 2023. This is predicted to save £100 for the average car driver, £200 for the average van driver, and £1,500 for the average haulier.<sup>105</sup>

**Levelling Up Plan** from the government outlines that “by 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved service, simpler fares, and integrated ticketing”.<sup>12</sup>

## What are we doing in Warwickshire?

The strategic and operational approach to travel and transport in Warwickshire is robust and forward-thinking, with a community-powered angle that includes an established ‘lengthsman’ programme working with town and parish councils, helping to maintain the transport network. The future development of Warwickshire’s transport infrastructure is incorporated into Levelling Up thinking, recognising the place of Warwickshire within the West Midlands region, and logical links into programmes of work at Combined Authority level. A few examples of county programmes of work are described below.

### **Warwickshire Safe and Active Programmes:**

Warwickshire Safe and Active deliver three programmes:

1. Safe and Active Schools
2. Safe and Active Workplaces
3. Safe and Active Communities

These programmes have been developed to promote and support the delivery of road safety education and active travel interventions to schools, workplaces, and communities, and are delivered by the Road Safety Education Team. More information on these programmes can be found here: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshire-safe-active-travel](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshire-safe-active-travel)

**Choose How You Move** in Warwick District have saved over 34,000kg in CO2 emissions by participating in the Choose How You Move in Warwick District challenge. The challenge is delivered by Warwick District Council in partnership with BetterPoints, more information can be found here: [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news/article/775/active\\_travel\\_scheme\\_saves\\_thousands\\_in\\_co2\\_emissions\\_in\\_warwick\\_district](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news/article/775/active_travel_scheme_saves_thousands_in_co2_emissions_in_warwick_district)

**Direct Travel Payments (DTP)** scheme run by Warwickshire County Council helps those in need pay for their child's transport to and from school. This can be transport via bus, train, or private transport. More information can be found here: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directtravelpayments](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directtravelpayments)

**Voluntary Car Schemes** around the county are available to people of all ages who have a need to get to a healthcare appointment and for various reasons may struggle to do so independently. More information can be found here: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/healthtransport](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/healthtransport)

**Volunteer and community transport services** around Warwickshire that allow for residents to pay to arrange transport, including the IndieGo demand responsive service ([www.warwickshire.gov.uk/indiego](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/indiego)), UBUS service ([www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/ubus--community-transport.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/ubus--community-transport.cfm)), WRCC Back & 4th service ([www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/back-4th/](http://www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/back-4th/)), and VASA charity community transport service ([www.vasa.org.uk](http://www.vasa.org.uk)).

**Warwickshire County Council (WCC)** has committed funding to support the voluntary and community transport schemes across the county (VASA covering Stratford, Warwick and Rugby; Mediacar covering Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Beeline covering North Warwickshire). The schemes support the most vulnerable residents to get to their essential medical appointments with a network of 300+ volunteer drivers.

**Voluntary Action Stratford-on-Avon (VASA)** which connects people through community activities and volunteer transport across South Warwickshire and Rugby, has seen an increase in people cancelling journeys due to financial pressures. VASA report that this is largely affecting those who are not eligible to claim back their mileage to attend hospital appointments. The knock-on effects of cancelling transport could lead to missing of vital medical appointments or worsening of health conditions.

As part of its Council Plan for 2022-2027, WCC has identified becoming a County with a sustainable future as one of its main priorities. This means adapting to and mitigating climate change and meeting the agreed net zero commitments so that future generations can live well and reap the benefits of a sustainable and thriving Warwickshire. Integral to this, key strategies in development at WCC include the **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** which sets out policies to shape future transport schemes and developments in the county and the **Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**, which will set out a programme of prioritised improvements to enable walking and cycling for everyday journeys.

### Transport recommendation

**R.4** I recommend that transport planners and health partners work together to improve transport links for those living in areas with more rural isolation, deprivation and where rates of long-term conditions and access to transport links are poor.

# 3. Progress on 2020-21 recommendations

## 3.1 Recommendations from 2020-21 Annual Report

### Progress

#### 1. Health in all policies (HiAP)

*I recommend all Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) members adopt a 'health in all policies' approach, embedding it in all aspects of the member organisations core functions to reduce health inequalities.*

Significant progress has been made to develop and implement a systematic approach to 'Health in All Policies' in Warwickshire including:

- WCC approved an implementation and action plans in July 2021 to adopt the approach within the county council.
- Local Government Association (LGA) agreed to facilitate four workshops for WCC and three place-based workshops to introduce the approach.
- HiAP steering group including Public Health, WCC corporate policy and HiAP champions was established to lead on the delivery of the plans.
- HiAP webpage and toolkit have been developed and shared with HWBB partners to support embedding the approach across Warwickshire - [warwickshire.gov.uk/health-policies-1/health-policies](https://warwickshire.gov.uk/health-policies-1/health-policies)

Phase 2 action plan including further roll out of mini HiAP workshops to service areas across WCC and monitoring impact and evaluation will continue throughout 2023.

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## **2. Health Inequalities**

*I recommend that all partners adopt the Public Health England (PHE) Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) which aims to empower professionals across the health and care system to do this - gov.uk/government/publications/health-equity-assessment-tool-heat*

- Aligned to the HiAP work programme outlined above, Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) has been promoted across HWBB partner organisations as a tool to address inequalities.
- HEAT has featured in key documents including the Coventry & Warwickshire Intergated Care System (ICS) Health Inequalities Strategic Plan as one of the eight core principles to embedding health inequalities across all ICS work.
- WCC HiAP steering group outlined above have led on the roll out of HEAT within WCC. Progress includes:
  - roll out of training for staff,
  - advice and support from public health to complete HEATs, e.g. supported commissioners to complete HEATs to identify opportunities to reduce inequalities and shape future commissioning intentions and service specifications,
  - embedding HEAT within WCC Equality Impact Assessment, ensuring a systematic consideration of inequalities,
  - updated Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) training to include HEAT.

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## **3. Community Engagement**

*I recommend all members continue to understand the needs of all communities and co-design services and initiatives to enable residents to recover and improve their health and wellbeing. Prioritising our more vulnerable residents who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and using tailored communication methods.*

*All members continue to build on the strong partnership work through our COVID-19 community engagement activity to continue to work with our key partners across the voluntary and community sector to understand the needs of our residents.*

- Progress continues to be made to approaches to engaging and empowering communities in aspects of health and wellbeing.
- Connecting Communities roles within the Public Health team have led on engagement with residents on COVID-19 recovery and vaccination programmes.
- Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on ethnically diverse communities (MICEDC) was established to support ethnically diverse communities across Warwickshire. The project involved the distribution of grant funding to successful community organisations who developed bids related to addressing: social isolation, mental health and wellbeing, unemployment, and physical health.
- Creation of a pilot 'Health Equity Group' in Warwickshire. HEG aims to train and inform community members and to receive input from residents into system approaches to reaching people and communities of interest that may not be engaging with services.
- WCC led on a communications group throughout the pandemic and created a network of community leaders and partners. They received weekly tailored messages and visuals that could be promoted through various community channels. This included translated video messages and targeted arts interventions to talk to specific groups.

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#### 4. Prevention

*I recommend all partners ensure that data and intelligence about the impact of COVID-19 continues to inform services and initiatives to ensure they are meeting the needs of local communities using a place-based approach.*

*Investing in services and initiatives which improve physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents are key to supporting the recovery from the pandemic and the future health of the population.*

- **COVID-19 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** informed the recommissioning of a number of mental and physical health services. For example, the provision of the community stop smoking service has been extended in Warwickshire North and Rugby due to the higher smoking prevalence rates in these areas and the link between smoking and severity of COVID-19.

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#### 5. Communication

*I recommend all partners ensure all staff have the knowledge and necessary training to be able to promote services and initiatives to all e.g. Making Every Contact Count, Wellbeing for Life.*

- **Wellbeing for Life (W4L)** - website has been launched and engagement with local communities, schools and workplaces has taken place to support the delivery of W4L initiatives (<https://www.wellbeing4life.co.uk/>)
- **Suicide Prevention Training** - as part of the ongoing suicide prevention (SP) work programme SP Gatekeeper Training has been rolled out (free of charge) across Coventry & Warwickshire aimed at frontline public facing workers.
- **WCC Mental Health Resilience Fund** - as part of this scheme, a series of free community based suicide prevention awareness raising sessions were delivered. This included an intensive suicide prevention course aimed at frontline workers.
- **Dear Life** - ongoing content review and updates of Dear Life website including the continued promotion of the website as the platform for local suicide prevention information and resources. Materials produced aim to provide clear guidance on where people can access support at the right time.
- **WCC Winter Wellness** - campaign launched to raise awareness of key services and initiatives to support the health and wellbeing of Warwickshire residents during winter. This campaign included a winter wellness booklet, delivered to every household in Warwickshire (available here: <https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1980322935-2230>)

## 3.2 Warwickshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

### Thematic Needs Assessments

In 2020 Warwickshire County Council, having completed the programme of place-based needs assessments, adopted a thematic approach to its JSNAs. Following a prioritisation process, a workplan was identified which will be completed with the publication of the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Infants, Children, and Young People JSNA in May 2023. JSNAs on the following have been produced:

- Domestic Violence and Abuse JSNA (2021)
- Mental Health Needs Assessment (2021)
- Children's 0-5 JSNA (2022)
- Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022)

- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2022)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing of Infants, Children, and Young People JSNA (expected to be published May 2023). These needs assessments are being used to inform the development of health and social care services across Warwickshire through the Warwickshire North, Rugby, and South Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Partnerships. The full JSNAs can be found here once published: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessments-1>

### Health Inequalities Dashboard:

The Monitoring Health Inequalities Dashboard provides up to date, high level data and indicators around the picture of health in Warwickshire, mirroring the King's Fund Population Health framework and focuses on Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategies three priorities:

- Help our children and young people have the best start in life.
- Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities.
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health.

The dashboard can be found here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/7175/monitoring-health-inequalities-dashboard>

### Children's 0-5 JSNA:

Published in May 2022, this JSNA aims to provide an understanding of the needs of children aged 0-5 across Warwickshire. The assessment incorporates national and local evidence to support local priority setting and action. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, published in January 2021, identified a priority to help our children and young people have the best start in life. We know that positive early experiences are vital to make sure children are ready to learn, ready for school, and have good life chances. This Needs Assessment highlights several key themes in helping our children and young people have the best start to life.

### What's Next?

A new prioritisation process ran at the end of 2022 to identify a new work programme for the next two to three years. This will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2023, with the programme expected to commence in early 2023.

For more information about the JSNA please visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessments-1>

# 4: Glossary

**Active Travel** - making journeys by physically active means, like walking or cycling.

**Anxiety** - Anxiety is a feeling of unease, such as worry or fear, that can be mild or severe. Generalised anxiety disorder is a long-term condition that causes you to feel anxious about a wide range of situations and issues, rather than one specific event.

**Asthma** - a respiratory condition marked by attacks of spasm in the bronchi of the lungs, causing difficulty in breathing.

**Calorie** - a measured unit of energy.

**Cancer** - a disease caused by an uncontrolled division of abnormal cells in a part of the body.

**Centre for Progressive Policy** - a think tank committed to driving productivity and shared prosperity in the UK.

**Child Poverty** - the percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income before housing costs.

**Citizens Advice** - an independent organisation specialising in confidential information and advice to assist people with legal, debt, consumer, housing and other problems in the United Kingdom.

**Claimant Count** - a measure of the number of people aged between 18 years and state pension age claiming unemployment related benefits.

**Commissioning (Public Health)** - planning, setting up and contracting of a service.

**Confounding** - often referred to as a "mixing of effects", wherein the effects of the exposure under study on a given outcome are mixed in with the effects of an additional factor (or set of factors), resulting in a distortion of the true relationship.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

**Cost of living** - the level of prices relating to a range of everyday items.

**COVID-19** - an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

**Dementia** - a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities.

**Depression** - a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest.

**Deprivation** - covers a broad range of issues and refers to unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds, not just financial. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 use separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation which can be combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019).<sup>106</sup> This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area.

**Diabetes** - Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar).

**Economic inactivity** - The percentage of the population aged 16-64 not in employment and not actively seeking employment.

**Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) Rating** - An EPC gives a property an energy efficiency rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) and is valid for 10 years.

**Energy Tariffs** - Energy tariffs are the set rates that you pay to your energy provider for gas, electricity or both.

**Equality** - ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents, and believing that no one should have poorer life chances.

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)** - a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against those with protected characteristics.

**Excess Winter Deaths (EWDs)** - the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding August to November and the following April to July.

**Family Information Services (FIS)** – a service that provides free, impartial information and advice on a variety of services for children and young people (from birth to 25 years old), parents and families.

**Food Bank** – a charitable organisation which distributes food aid to people in financial difficulty.

**Food insecurity** – the percentage of adults within a local authority experiencing food insecurity.

**Food Pantry** – a locally run scheme that aims to provide a medium to long-term solution to help individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Often provides both food and wrap around support for a small membership fee, payable for each shopping visit. People are assisted to access services that can help resolve the underlying causes of their individual situation. Sometimes referred to as a community pantry.

**Fuel Poverty** – households are considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below AND when they spend the amount required to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** – a legal framework for keeping everyone’s personal data safe by requiring companies to have robust processes in place for handling and storing personal information.

**Health inequalities** - differences between people or groups due to social, geographical, biological or other factors.

**Health intervention** - the action or process of intervening, which could relate to commissioning a service for disadvantaged populations, in an attempt to address a particular issue.

**Health outcome** - a change in the health status of an individual, group or population.

**Household income** – the combined gross income of all members of a household above a specified age. Household income includes every member of a family who lives under the same roof, including spouses and their dependents.

**Hypothermia** - the condition of having an abnormally (typically dangerously) low body temperature.

**Incidence** - the number of new events e.g. new cases of disease in a defined population within a specified time period.

**Inflation** - the general increase in the prices of goods and services in an economy. The rate of inflation measures the annual percentage change in the general price level.

**Joseph Rowntree Foundation** - an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty, through research, policy, collaboration and practical solutions.

**Life Expectancy** - the average period that a person may expect to live.

**Local Authority** - an organisation that is responsible for public services and facilities in a particular area.

**Long term unemployment** - those residents claiming job seekers allowance for over 12 months.

**Low-income families** - families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of the national median income.

**Low Pay** - The percentage of jobs that pay two thirds or below the UK median gross hourly pay by local authority.

**Morbidity** - the incidence of disease: the rate of illness (as in a specified population or group).

**National Health Service (NHS)**- the Government-funded medical and health care services that everyone living in the UK can use without being asked to pay the full cost of the service.



**National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** - a public body that develops guidance, standards and information on high quality health and social care.

**Obese** - Adults are defined as obese if their body mass index (BMI) is greater than or equal to 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>. In children, obesity is defined as BMI greater than or equal to the 95th centile for population monitoring, 98th centile for clinical assessment (UK90 BMI reference).

**Office for National Statistics (ONS)** - the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics. It is responsible for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics about the UK's economy, society and population.

**Overweight** - Adults are defined as overweight if their BMI is greater than or equal to 25kg/m<sup>2</sup>. In children, overweight is defined as BMI greater than or equal to the 85th centile for population monitoring, 91st centile for clinical assessment (UK90 BMI reference).

**Pandemic** - an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries.

**Period life expectancy** - the average number of additional years a person would live if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates of the given area and time period for the rest of their life.

**Poverty** - those whose lack of resources forces them to live below a publicly agreed minimum standard. Households are considered to be below the UK poverty line if their income is below 60% of the median household income after housing costs for that year.

**Prevalence** - measures existing cases of disease and is expressed as a proportion e.g. 1% of the population or as a rate per 1,000 or per 100,000.

**Protected groups** - Protected groups are identified in the Equality Act 2010 as sharing a particular characteristic against which it is illegal to discriminate. The groups are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

**Public Transport** - buses, trains, and other forms of transport that are available to the public, charge set fares, and run on fixed routes.

**Real income** - the income of an individual after adjusting for inflation.

**Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)** - infections that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact.

**Social Connectedness** - the experience of belonging to a social relationship or network.

**Socio-economic** - relating to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors.

**Stakeholder** - in terms of business, an organisation interested in your area of work, or a 'partner'.

**The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN)** - a survey, requested by government departments universities and charities, which provides rapid answers to questions of immediate policy interest, helping to measure public awareness of new policies.

**Universal Credit** - a monthly benefit payment to help with living costs for working age individuals on a low income or out of work.

**Warm Home Discount Scheme** - a government-led scheme that provides a one-off discount on an electricity bill to help with the energy bills of those who need it most during the Winter.

**Warm Hubs** - warm, safe places where residents can expect a friendly and inclusive welcome. People can come along on their own, or with a friend, and talk to others over a hot drink or maybe a hot meal. They can get practical tips and advice on saving energy costs and keeping safe and warm at home as well.

**Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)** - the board is a statutory committee of the county council. Its primary purpose is to provide strategic direction and develop shared outcomes for improving health and wellbeing in Warwickshire.

**Wider Determinants** - a diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health. Such factors are influenced by the local, national and international distribution of power and resources which shape the conditions of daily life.



**Warwickshire County Council, Public Health**

People Directorate, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL

**[warwickshire.gov.uk/publichealth](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/publichealth)**

ISBN number: 978-1-9161532-4-0

*References are available online: [warwickshire.gov.uk/publichealthannualreport](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/publichealthannualreport)*

## County Council

21 March 2023

### Members' Allowances Scheme

#### Recommendation

That Council considers the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel set out at Appendix 1 and

1. approves the recommendations set out in Section 1.7 of this report
2. authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make such amendments to the current Scheme as are required as a result of the decision of Council

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Local Government Act 2000 (the 2000 Act) and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations), require local authorities to review their allowances schemes and to appoint independent remuneration panels to consider and make recommendations on changes to member allowances schemes. The Government's "Guidance on Consolidated Regulations on Local Authority Allowances" outlines the main statutory provisions and gives non-statutory guidance.
- 1.2. Following the elections in 2021, the Council appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel (the Independent Panel) to consider the Member Allowances Scheme and to provide their recommendations for any changes to that Scheme.
- 1.3. In April 2022 the Independent Remuneration Panel recommended a rise of 6.9% to the basic members allowance then paid within Warwickshire, leading to a proposed basic allowance of £10,590. The Panel also made recommendations regarding those activities which are eligible for Special Responsibility Allowances, co-optee allowances, travel and subsistence, dependent carer allowances and indexation.
- 1.4. These recommendations were considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 17 May 2022. Taking into account the financial challenges facing the Council and the impact of national and global events on the residents of Warwickshire, rather than adopting the uplifts for the basic, special responsibility and co-optee allowances as recommended by the

Independent Remuneration Panel, Members preferred an initial uplift to the basic allowance to £10,075 (circa 1.65%) and further resolved that the basic, special responsibility and co-optee allowances be increased in line with any National Joint Council Pay Agreement for 2022/23 and subsequent years, in accordance with existing policy.

- 1.5. Applying the 2022/23 National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Agreement to members' allowances is not possible in the way envisaged by the Members' Allowances Scheme, as the confirmed award for 2022/23 was a 'flat rate' of £1925 on each scale point rather than a percentage increase pay award. Consideration therefore needed to be given as to how the 2022/23 NJC pay award for staff could be implemented for members, recognising that an alternative approach for 2022/23 (and any future years where the NJC pay award is not based on a percentage increase) would constitute a change to the Members' Allowance Scheme. Regulations require Council to seek, and have regard to, the views of an Independent Remuneration Panel, before changes are made.
- 1.6. The Independent Remuneration Panel was therefore recalled to make recommendations on the issue of indexation for 2022/23 and the level of indexation that should apply if future pay awards are also made on a flat rate basis rather than a percentage increase. The Panel's report is set out at Appendix 1.
- 1.7. Having considered the findings and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the following recommendations are proposed to apply for 2022/23 (resulting in the uplifts set out in Appendix 3). In all other respects the provisions of the current Scheme (approved by Council in May 2022) will continue to apply:
  - 1.7.1 Basic Allowance – That the basic allowance is uplifted by 6% which equates to the average increase of the 2022/23 NJC pay award for employees at Warwickshire County Council. This recommendation closely aligns to the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration which is to increase the basic allowance by 5.95%.
  - 1.7.2 Special Responsibility Allowances (including co-optee allowances) – That indexation be applied at the rate of 6% across all special responsibility allowances (including co-optee allowances). This recommendation varies to that of the Independent Remuneration Panel which is to increase allowances by varying percentages according to the 'responsibility' held as set out in its report at Appendix 1
  - 1.7.3 Spokesperson's Allowances – That the Group spokesperson's allowances are not increased and remain at the current levels of £14,000 for the Conservative Group and £1,000 per number in the Group for all other Groups, with no indexation applying for 2022/23 in this or future years. This recommendation is consistent with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel

- 1.7.4 Backdating - That the increases in members' allowances are backdated to the commencement of the 2022/23 municipal year. This recommendation is consistent with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel
- 1.7.5 Future proofing - That the Members' Allowances Scheme be amended such that if in future years, the National Joint Council Pay Agreement awards a flat rate increase, there is scope, in consultation with Group Leaders, to adjust Members' allowances (basic, special and co-optee but excluding the Group Spokesperson's Allowances and such other allowances as are included in the Scheme) by the average increase for employees at Warwickshire County Council. This proposal, which will require an amendment to the current Scheme, is considered prudent to ensure that the Scheme remains flexible enough to accommodate the future possibility of a 'flat award' at least until the next review of the Scheme. Authority is requested for the Strategic Director for Resources to amend the Scheme to accommodate this change. It will be necessary to keep allowances under review annually in reference to NJC pay awards. In addition, the Members' Allowances Scheme is reviewed every four years (or sooner if required) with the next review scheduled for 2025/26 and so there will be the opportunity to review the approach formally at that time.

## **2. Financial Implications**

The changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme proposed can be accommodated within the approved budget for 2023/24. Provision will be made across the following years for the approved proposals as part of the annual budget cycle and MTFS work which are not anticipated to result in any additional budget pressures.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

None.

## **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 On 17 May 2022, the Council approved the current Members' Allowances Scheme (Appendix 2) which makes provision for an annual adjustment to allowances in line with the percentage increase in employee's pay under the National Joint Council Pay Agreement.
- 4.2 Applying the 2022/23 National Joint Council Pay Agreement to members' allowances is not possible in the way envisaged by the Members Allowances Scheme, as the award for 2022/23 was a 'flat rate' of £1925 for all staff rather than a percentage increase pay award.

- 4.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel was, therefore, recalled to make recommendations regarding indexation. The Panel’s report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The current Members Allowance Scheme, as detailed in the Council’s Constitution, is set out at Appendix 2.
- 4.5 The Council has a duty to consider the report of the Panel before any changes can be made to the Members’ Allowances Scheme, but the Council is not bound to adopt the recommendations of the Panel.

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

Any changes will be backdated to the Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2022 and will be processed via the Council’s Payroll service as soon as is reasonably practicable following the decision of Council.

### Appendices

- 1. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (2023)
- 2. Members Allowance Scheme 2022-26
- 3. Members’ Allowances Amounts with proposed uplifts for 2022/23

### Background Papers

- 1. Council Report – 17 May 2022 which can be viewed at <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=6188>

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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Isobel Seccombe Leader of the Council	cllrseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): N/A – This is a countywide matter.

Other members: Councillors Isobel Seccombe, John Holland, Jerry Roodhouse and Jonathan Chilvers

# WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVIEW OF INDEXATION FOR THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended), requires all local authorities to review their allowances schemes and to appoint independent remuneration panels to consider and make recommendations on changes to member allowances schemes.
- 1.2 In May 2021, Warwickshire County Council requested that an Independent Review Panel (IRP) be appointed to carry out a review of members allowances. Dr Peter Bebbington, Ms Margo Key and James Morgan were appointed to the Panel and the Panel appointed Mr James Morgan as Chair.
- 1.3 The Panel's report and recommendations was considered at Full Council on 17 May 2022. The Independent Remuneration Panel recommended a rise of circa 6% to the basic members allowance then paid within Warwickshire, leading to a proposed basic allowance of £10,590. Members chose not to take the full recommended amount, instead opting for an uplift to the basic allowance to £10,075 (circa 1.65%).
- 1.4 The Panel had also recommended that allowances be indexed annually at a rate equivalent to the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay award. The approved scheme adopted this proposed model of indexation.
- 1.5 Applying the 2022/23 NJC pay award to members' allowances is not possible in the way envisaged by the Members Allowances Scheme, as the award for 2022/23 was a 'flat rate' of £1,925 for all staff rather than a percentage increase pay award. Therefore, the Panel was tasked with considering what approach should be taken to indexation in 2022/23 and in subsequent years in the event that future pay awards were made as a 'flat rate'.

## 2. CONTEXT AND ANALYSIS

- 2.1 In carrying out this review, the Panel made the following observations and considerations:-
- 2.1.1 The Panel noted that the 'flat rate' award of £1,925 averages out to around 7% across the NJC pay spine for employees with the 'flat rate' seeing those at the bottom of the spine (the lowest paid) receive a 10.5% increase with those at the top, 4.04%. It was also noted that in Warwickshire County Council, the flat rate £1,925 award equated to an average 6% increase (including 'Hay' grades). The Panel welcomed the ethos behind the structuring of the NJC pay award which gives those on lower incomes a higher percentage increase than those paid at the top of the scale.
- 2.1.2 The Panel reflected on their previous recommendations which had been based on a formula related to the national median wage. The Panel noted that as at 14 February 2023, national median weekly pay had increased to £640, up from £601 in May 2022. The Panel considers that this is somewhat reflective of the rate of inflation and validates the comments that were made in the previous report that allowances need to increase if they are to provide reasonable recompense and keep pace with statistical neighbours. If the formula the Panel used to make its calculations in 2021 was applied to the current national median weekly wage, this would result in a basic allowance of £11,094 which is an increase of 10.11% on the current basic allowance of £10,075. When compared to the structuring of the NJC pay award for 2022/23, this percentage increase does not fall far short of the equivalent percentage increase for the lowest paid (10.5%).
- 2.1.3 The Panel had listened to the debate at Full Council on 17 May 2022 and noted that the economic challenges identified at that time were ongoing. The Panel also noted the comments that were made during the debate that the level of allowances proposed was considered too high. The Panel considered, therefore, that an increase as set out in paragraph 2.1.2 would be considered unpalatable and considered alternatives.
- 2.1.4 During their deliberations, the Panel were conscious that there is not a spinal point pay scale for Members Allowances as is the case for employees and calculations for the basic and special responsibility allowances are formulated based on a variety of factors including the public service principle, level of responsibility and the time it is envisaged individuals are required to spend on fulfilling the roles.
- 2.1.5 The Panel continued to be mindful of the Fair Remuneration Principle, noting that remuneration should not be an incentive for service as a councillor, nor should the lack of remuneration be a barrier. However, the Panel also support the notion that it is important that the basic allowance should



encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills to serve as local councillors and remain of the view that remuneration should be comparable to those of near neighbours.

- 2.1.6 The Panel noted that the Council’s near neighbours had not yet published the recommendations of their Panels in terms of indexation for 2022/23 and there were relatively few examples from other Councils to enable comparisons to be drawn.
- 2.1.7 The Panel understand the definition of Indexation to be “adjusting a price, wage or other value based upon the change in another price or composite indicator of prices/values”<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.1.8 Taking these points into account, the Panel recommend that the ethos behind the 2022/23 NJC Award is generally applied to Members Allowances.
- 2.1.9 In drafting this final report and recommendations, the Panel have taken into consideration the feedback and queries of officers.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BASIC ALLOWANCE

- 3.1 When the Panel met in 2021/22 their recommendation for the basic allowance was based on a formula that took account of the time spent on council activities together with a reduction for the public service principle (ie the notion that councillors should volunteer a proportion of their time without remuneration).
- 3.2 Applying a similar formula to the NJC flat rate award for 2022/23 would result in an increase on basic allowance of £641.70 (6.3%). This is slightly higher than the average percentage increase in pay for employees of Warwickshire County Council (6%) and the Panel considered that a smaller increase was more appropriate. **An increase of £600 (5.96%) is therefore recommended for the basic allowance.**

NJC Flat rate award for staff	x	Percentage reduction for part-time hours	x	Percentage reduction for public service principle	=	Increase to basic allowance
1925		0.5		0.6667		641.70 (6.3%)  600.00 (5.96%)

	Current - Approved	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of	Proposed allowance for
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<sup>1</sup> Investopedia (2021) Indexation Explained: Meaning and Examples. Available at: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/indexation.asp>

	May 22- for 21/22		£	2022/23 £
Basic Allowance	10075	<b>5.96</b>	600	10675

3.3 The Panel considered that this should be the primary focus for indexation and influenced their subsequent discussions relating to special responsibility allowances. The basic allowance is paid to all councillors and represents the largest proportion of the budget (circa 72%). The Panel therefore concluded that that no other allowances should receive an increase that equated to more than the flat rate of £600.

### SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

3.4 In recommending Special Responsibility Allowances, the Panel particularly considered comments made during the debate at Full Council on 17 May 2022 relating to the economic challenges facing the nation and the views expressed on the Panel's proposed level of allowances, together with the ethos of the NJC pay award. The Panel were conscious that there is not a spinal pointed pay scale for Members, as is the case for employees, and that some Members receive only one allowance (the basic allowance), whilst others receive an additional special responsibility allowance.

3.5 The Panel also considered that in many instances, Members were unlikely to spend more time on their special responsibilities than they do on the role of Councillor for their division and the factor of 'time spent' influenced the rationale behind the recommendations for special responsibility allowances.

3.6 The Panel concluded that increases to special responsibility allowances should be proportional to the increase to the basic allowance. The recommendations are set out below.

### The Executive

3.6.1 Since the Executive accounts for the highest proportion of the allowances budget after the basic allowance, and considering the responsibility and expenditure of time that is required by individuals fulfilling these roles, the Panel **recommend** that these allowances are increased by a percentage equivalent to the maximum allowable under the calculation at paragraph 3.2:

Allowance	Current - Approved May 22- for 21/22	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of £	Proposed allowance for 2022/23 £	Overall percentage increase when added to basic allowance %
Leader of the Council	25235	<b>2.38</b>	600	<b>25835</b>	<b>3.40</b>
Cabinet Member	11252	<b>5.33</b>	600	<b>11852</b>	<b>5.66</b>
Deputy Leader of the Council	15140	<b>3.96</b>	600	<b>15740</b>	<b>4.76</b>

3.6.2 This recommendation ensures that those receiving the highest allowances overall receive a smaller overall percentage increase than those receiving only the basic allowance, which aligns with the ethos of the NJC pay award.

### Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

3.6.3 The Panel **recommend** that a sliding scale of proportionate increase based on the time the Panel considers is reasonably spent on the role, should apply to these allowances as set out below:

Allowance	Current - Approved May 22- for 21/22	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of £	Proposed allowance for 2022/23 £	Overall percentage increase when added to basic allowance %
Chair of the Council	6046	<b>6.62</b>	400	<b>6446</b>	<b>6.20</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	6046	<b>6.62</b>	400	<b>6446</b>	<b>6.20</b>
Regulatory Committee Chair	6046	<b>6.62</b>	400	<b>6446</b>	<b>6.20</b>
Audit and Standards Committee Chair	4699	<b>6.38</b>	300	<b>4999</b>	<b>6.09</b>
Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee Chair	4699	<b>6.38</b>	300	<b>4999</b>	<b>6.09</b>
Chair of Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel (when the Chair is a nominated County Councillor representative on the Panel)	3199	<b>6.25</b>	200	<b>3399</b>	<b>6.03</b>
Vice-Chair of the Council	3025	<b>6.61</b>	200	<b>3225</b>	<b>6.11</b>
Regulatory Committee Vice-chair	3053	<b>6.55</b>	200	<b>3253</b>	<b>6.09</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair	3053	<b>6.55</b>	200	<b>3253</b>	<b>6.09</b>

### Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Opposition Groups

3.6.4 The Panel **recommend** the following increases to allowances, again reflecting views regarding the time spent:

Allowance	Current - Approved May 22- for 21/22	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of £	Proposed allowance for 2022/23 £	Overall percentage increase when added to basic allowance %
Leader of an Opposition Group	8757	<b>6.00</b>	525	<b>9282</b>	<b>5.97</b>
Deputy Leader of an Opposition Group	5238	<b>6.20%</b>	325	<b>5563</b>	<b>6.04</b>

### Adoption and Fostering Panel Members

3.6.5 The Panel considered the importance of these roles in terms of corporate parenting and the pressures on safeguarding from the national context. The Panel also note that these roles are the lowest paid in the allowances scheme

and **recommend**, in the spirit of the NJC pay award, that these allowances receive a relatively high percentage increase (9.38%).

Allowance	Current - Approved May 22- for 21/22	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of £	Proposed allowance for 2022/23 £	Overall percentage increase when added to basic allowance %
Adoption Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066	<b>9.38</b>	100	<b>1166</b>	<b>6.28</b>
Fostering Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066	<b>9.38</b>	100	<b>1166</b>	<b>6.28</b>

### Co-Optee

3.6.6 The Panel recognises the valuable contribution that co-optees make but also that the allowance payable is among the lowest in the scheme and **recommend** that the increase should be similar to that received by Adoption and Fostering Panel Members, albeit that this results in a lower percentage increase (7.92%).

Allowance	Current - Approved May 22- for 21/22	Proposed % increase	Equivalent to an increase of £	Proposed allowance for 2022/23 £
Co-Optee	1263	7.92	100	<b>1363</b>

### **SPOKESPERSONS POTS**

3.7 The Panel notes that the adopted scheme continues to apportion a pot of funding to the Conservative Group Leader (£14,000) and to each Opposition Group Leader (£1,000 per member for the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green Groups).

3.8 The Panel continue to hold the views previously reported to Council. The Panel views as set out in its previous report are repeated below for clarity:

- a) **The Panel considered the provision in the scheme for the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups to allocate SRAs to members of their group from a pot based on the size of the group (£14,000 for the Conservative Group and £1,000 per member for the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups).**
- b) **It is noted that the groups have used these ‘pots’ to provide SRAs to their spokespersons on overview and scrutiny committees and also for additional roles identified by the group leaders (eg Cabinet support roles). The Panel also note the value that the group leaders place on this allocation.**
- c) **The Panel consider that the application of these pots has led to there**

being an arbitrary division of the funds. The Panel do not consider that there is clarity, transparency or consistency to the role of group spokesperson, or to the remuneration the role receives. The Panel, therefore, echo the views of its predecessor Panel in 2018 that these pots should be removed from the scheme. Specifically defined roles should be assessed by the Panel as to whether the roles should attract a special responsibility allowance and at what level.

- d) Additionally, the Panel note that the allocation of allowances from the group spokesperson pots increases the number of special responsibility allowances payable under the scheme. This results in Warwickshire having a comparatively higher number of allowances than neighbouring comparator authorities. Legislation does not limit the number of special responsibility allowances, but the Panel do not consider that the position reflects the spirit of the government's guidance on member allowances (paragraphs 56 and 57):

*“56. The 1991 Regulations do not limit the number of special responsibility allowances which may be paid, nor do the regulations prohibit the payment of more than one special responsibility allowance to any one member.*

*57. However, these are important considerations for local authorities. If the majority of members of a council receive a special responsibility allowance the local electorate may rightly question whether this was justified. Local authorities will wish to consider very carefully the additional roles of members and the significance of these roles, both in terms of responsibility and real time commitment before deciding which will warrant the payment of a special responsibility allowance”.*

#### Level of SRAs in neighbouring authorities as percentage of their total council membership

Number of SRAs expressed as a % of Total Councillors			
Authority	Number of Councillors	SRAs	% of Councillors with an SRA
Derbyshire	64	31	48
Gloucestershire	53	26	26
Leicestershire	55	39	39
Oxfordshire	63	34	34
Staffordshire	62	44	44
Worcestershire	57	28	28
Warwickshire	57	43	75

*This table details the total number of SRAs available and not necessarily the number of SRAs claimed.*

- e) The Panel, therefore, recommend that all group spokesperson pots cease from 17 May 2022.
- f) The Panel believe that removal of the group spokesperson pots will

**also partially mitigate against the overall budgetary impact of the increases proposed elsewhere in this report, especially the increase to the Basic Allowance.**

- 3.9 However, as the pots have been retained in the scheme, the Panel **recommend** that the pots should remain a fixed allocation to which indexation does not apply.

### **BACKDATING**

- 3.10 The Panel **recommend** that the uplift is backdated to the commencement of the 2022/23 municipal year.

### **FUTURE INDEXATION**

- 3.11 The Panel **recommend** that in the event that future NJC pay awards are made as a flat rate increase (rather than a percentage increase applicable to all salaries), the formula set out at paragraph 3.2 is applied and the proportional allocation as set out in paragraphs 3.4-3.6 above should apply, with no increase applied to Spokesperson Pots.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Panel continue to recognise the commitment that all councillors make to public service upon their election and note that whilst it can be a tremendously rewarding role, those who step up to serve should not be out of pocket for the expenses they incur in conducting council business and that they should also be reasonably remunerated for their time.
- 4.2 The Panel also recognise that the allowance scheme is a matter for the Council to decide upon, having regard to this report. This underlines the democratic and transparent nature of the process. The Panel's report provides an independent perspective on the issue of indexation which the councillors themselves must debate, accept, amend or reject.

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**James Morgan (Panel Chair)**  
**Peter Bebbington**  
**Margo Key**

**PART 5 – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES SCHEME****Approved by Council on 17 May 2022**

This scheme shall be updated annually as provided for within the provisions below, and/or where the Council considers it appropriate to review within the life of the Scheme

*Any enquiries about the operation of this scheme should be addressed to The Assistant Director of Governance & Policy, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL*

*Any enquiries about the duties of councillors should be addressed to Monitoring Officer, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL*

1. This scheme is made under the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.

**Basic Allowance**

2. Each elected member of the County Council is entitled to receive a **basic allowance** of £10,075.
3. As a matter of principle, the basic allowance recognises that there is a voluntary element to the work undertaken by elected members and therefore does not set out to fully recompense all work undertaken.
4. The basic allowance is a contribution to the time spent by elected members in performing their duties and to cover any other incidental costs.
5. Elected members who hold one of the appointments listed in the following table are entitled to receive a **special responsibility allowance** at the rate shown per annum. Members holding more than one post attracting a special responsibility allowance may only claim one special responsibility allowance. (The Monitoring Officer will apply the higher special responsibility allowance, unless advised otherwise).
6. On appointment elected members are required to confirm in writing to the Monitoring Officer whether they wish to receive the basic allowance and any special responsibility allowance. A member (including a co-opted member) may elect at any time by notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer to forgo any part of their entitlement to an allowance under the scheme.
7. Entitlements to basic, special responsibility and co-optee allowances will be calculated pro-rata taking into account the day on which a member takes office and/or is appointed to a post attracting a special responsibility or co-optee allowance and the day such office or appointment ends. Such allowances are normally paid monthly in arrears.
8. The basic, special responsibility and co-optee allowances will be increased in line with the basic annual NJC pay award increase (excluding the National

Living Wage) for each year of this Scheme.

### Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

9. SRAs are payable from the date of appointment to office.
10. SRAs are payable for the following positions

Office	Allowance from May 2022
Leader of the Council	25235
Deputy Leader of the Council	15140
Cabinet Member	11252
Chair of the Council	6046
Vice-Chair of the Council	3025
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	6046
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair	3053
Regulatory Committee Chair	6046
Regulatory Committee Vice-chair	3053
Audit and Standards Committee Chair	4699
Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee Chair	4699
Adoption Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066
Fostering Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066
Chair of Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel when the Chair is a nominated County Councillor representative on the Panel	3199
Leader of an Opposition Group*	8757
Deputy Leader of an Opposition Group*	5238

\* An Opposition Group is defined as a Group not represented on the cabinet comprising of at least three councillors.

### Spokespersons Allowances

11. Conservative group spokespersons to be determined by the Group Leader and notified to the Council from a total allocation of £14,000.
12. Opposition Groups\* (as defined at paragraph 10 above) have an allocation of £1,000 x number in their Group for group spokespersons to be allocated as determined by the Group Leader and notified to the Council.



### **Co-optee Allowance**

13. A co-optee is a non-elected member of the Council who is a member of a committee or sub-committee of the Council.
14. An allowance of £1,263 is payable to any co-optee who is not paid by or in receipt of allowances from their nominating body.

### **Travelling allowances**

15. These may be claimed by members for the duties listed in the appendix in accordance with the provisions set out below. Claims should be made within two months from the date of the event for which the allowance is claimed.

#### **Public Transport**

16. Reimbursement for travel by public transport will not exceed the amount of the standard fare. In the case of rail travel, this will include the cost of a seat reservation.
17. Members may also claim for the cost of disability railcards or senior railcards where these are used to the Council's advantage to reduce fares incurred on Council business.
18. For the avoidance of doubt, the cost of first-class rail travel will not be reimbursed.
19. Receipts for all travel must be provided.
20. Members should, wherever feasible, take advantage of the countywide travel pass scheme for residents over 60 which allows free travel on local bus services within the county.

#### **Taxi Cab**

21. Taxi cab fares (including a reasonable gratuity) may be reimbursed in cases of urgency or when no public service is reasonably available. Receipts must be provided.

#### **Air or Sea**

22. Air or sea fare may be reimbursed if the rate compares reasonably with the cost of alternative means of travel and/or having regard to the likely savings in time. In respect of travel by air or sea, this must be agreed in advance with the democratic services manager. Receipts must be provided.

#### **Insurance**

23. It is essential that a member's own motor vehicle insurance policy covers them when using their own vehicle on County Council approved duties.

### **Member's Private Vehicle**

24. The rates for travel by motor vehicle (excluding motorcycle) are to be consistent with the rates set from time to time by HMRC. Claims should be based on travel from the member's home address or from the actual starting point, whichever is the shorter. The Monitoring Officer will agree a standard mileage from the member's home to Shire Hall for each member. If a passenger is carried on any journey, an additional 10p per mile may be paid in respect of each passenger, provided it is economical to so do. The name of any passenger(s) must be entered on the claim form for that journey.

### **VAT Receipts**

25. Claims for mileage should be accompanied by a VAT receipt issued in the month of the claim.

### **Motorcycle or Bicycle**

26. The rate for motorcycle or bicycle is 20p per mile.

### **Hired vehicle**

27. The rate for travel by a hired motor vehicle other than a taxi cab shall not exceed the rate which would have been applicable had the vehicle belonged to the member who hired it.

### **Subsistence allowances**

28. These may be claimed by members for the duties listed in the appendix subject to the following provisions:

#### **Food**

29. The council will reimburse actual costs up to the following maximum subsistence rates.
- i. Lunchtime - £6.50 per Member
  - ii. Evening Meal - £10.00 per Member
30. Receipts must be provided with all claims and the claim for subsistence -should be made within two months from the date of the event for which the allowance is claimed.
31. Subsistence will not be paid for alcoholic beverages.

### **Accommodation**

32. In the case of an absence overnight from the usual place of residence the cost of accommodation (including breakfast) should not exceed £85 outside of London, or £110 in London. These rates shall be deemed to cover a continuous period of absence of 24 hours.

33. The rates can only be exceeded if there are exceptional circumstances and members should consult the Delivery Lead Governance Services for approval or may be required to pay any excess above the rates.

**Dependant carer’s allowance**

34. Such allowance may be claimed by members who incur expenditure on the care of children or other dependants for the duties listed in the Appendix in accordance with the following provisions.
- i. The event requires the member to provide care for a person who normally lives with the member as part of the member’s family
  - ii. Receipts must be provided with all claims for the allowance and the claim must be made within 2 months from the date of the event for which the allowance is claimed.
  - iii. The sum claimed is the lower of the actual paid or the applicable maximum hourly rate below, and will be increased in line with the basic annual NJC pay award increase (excluding the National Living Wage) for each year of this Scheme.
35. A carer is any responsible mature person who does not normally live with the member as part of the member’s household.

Dependant	Rate per hour
A child below school age or a child under 14 years of age outside school hours	£6.00*
An elderly, sick or disabled dependant requiring constant care	£19.60*

\*This rate can only be exceeded if there are exceptional circumstances and members have prior approval of the Delivery Lead Governance Services.

**Member Allowances Scheme Appendix: Duties of councillors for which expenses may be claimed**

1. All formal meetings arranged by the County Council for the conduct of County Council business.
2. All consultation meetings arranged by the County Council for which the member's attendance is required or where the business directly affects the member's electoral division.
3. All meetings of bodies to which the member has been appointed as the County Council's representative by the Council, Cabinet, Regulatory Committee, including meetings of companies in which the County Council has an interest as the nominated director. (Note: this does not include acting as a representative of the Council on a school governing body.)
4. Participation in delegations or attendance at conferences approved by the Council.
5. Seminars and training sessions arranged by the County Council which are open to all members or open to all members of a particular committee and any individual training or development sessions approved by the democratic services manager.
6. Pre-agenda briefing meetings with officers, taking place before committees, etc. and to which all parties are invited.
7. Consultation and briefing meetings with officers by members of the Cabinet or others with special responsibility holding appointed or elected positions.
8. Group meetings.
9. Surgeries.
10. Meetings of a parish or town council in the member's own division.
11. The carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with the discharge of the functions of the Council, its committees or sub-committees.

## Appendix 3

Members Allowances Amounts with proposed uplifts to be backdated to 17 May 2022

Allowance	Current £	Proposed Allowance with 6% uplift £
Basic	10075	10679.50
Co-Optee	1263	1338.78
Leader of the Council	25235	26749.10
Deputy Leader of the Council	15140	16048.40
Cabinet Member	11252	11927.12
Chair of the Council	6046	6408.76
Vice-Chair of the Council	3025	3206.50
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	6046	6408.76
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair	3053	3236.18
Regulatory Committee Chair	6046	6408.76
Regulatory Committee Vice-chair	3053	3236.18
Audit and Standards Committee Chair	4699	4980.94
Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee Chair	4699	4980.94
Adoption Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066	1129.96
Fostering Panel Member (County Councillor)	1066	1129.96
Chair of Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel (when the Chair is a nominated County Councillor representative on the Panel)	3199	3390.94
Leader of an Opposition Group	8757	9282.42
Deputy Leader of an Opposition Group	5238	5552.28

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