

Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 8 June 2022
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Adrian Warwick (Chair)
Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor Piers Daniell
Councillor Sue Markham
Councillor Caroline Phillips
Councillor Will Roberts
Councillor Richard Spencer
Councillor Robert Tromans
Councillor Peter Gilbert

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Chair's Announcements

(4) Minutes of Previous Meetings

5 - 14

2. Public Question Time

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the public to ask questions on any matters relevant to the business of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Questioners may ask two questions and can speak for up to three minutes each. To be sure of receiving an answer to an appropriate question, please contact Andy Carswell (Democratic Services) at least two working days prior to the meeting.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holders relevant to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for the Committee to put questions to the Leader and Portfolio Holders on any matters relevant to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 4. Approach to Levelling Up | 15 - 28 |
| 5. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Improvements | Verbal Report |
| 6. Fire Reform White Paper | Verbal Report |
| 7. Work Programme | 29 - 30 |
| 8. Any Urgent Matters | |
- At the discretion of the Chair, items may be raised which are considered urgent (please notify Democratic Services in advance of the meeting).

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 within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

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.

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Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Adrian Warwick (Chair)
Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor Piers Daniell
Councillor Sue Markham
Councillor Caroline Phillips
Councillor Will Roberts
Councillor Richard Spencer
Councillor Robert Tromans
Councillor Martin Watson

Other County Councillors

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
Councillor Andy Jenns, Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation
Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Place

Officers

Ben Brook, Chief Fire Officer
John Cole, Democratic Services Officer
Jan Cumming, Senior Solicitor and Team Leader, Corporate and Commercial Team
Rebecca Murphy, Service Manager, Business & Customer Support – Resources & Communities
Rob Powell, Strategic Director for Resources
Sarah Stear, Assistant Director, Business and Customer Services
Kate Sullivan, Lead Commissioner – Culture, Leadership and Performance
Rich Thomas, Strategy and Commissioning Manager, HROD

1. General

(1) Apologies

There were none.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

(3) Chair's Announcements

There were none.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

2. Public Question Time

No public questions were received or presented at the meeting.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holders Relevant to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Boad noted that Ben Brook (Chief Fire Officer) had recently been appointed as Joint Climate Change Lead for the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). She stated that this reflected positively on Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS). She asked what the Chief Fire Officer hoped to achieve in this role.

Ben Brook stated that the NFCC provided a voice for fire services nationally. It had established an Environment, Sustainability, and Climate Change workstream which would seek to develop a national 'toolkit' resource for fire and rescue services, leading to an improved understanding of the impacts of climate change and measures to reduce emissions.

In response to Councillor Boad, Councillor Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) stated that it was positive that Warwickshire had a national profile in the response to climate change. WFRS was recognised as an exemplar to other fire and rescue services. He highlighted the progress made by WFRS, including utilisation of electric vehicles and replacement of diesel pumps. There were opportunities to learn from good practice elsewhere. The introduction of a national toolkit would support inspection processes, enabling fire and rescue services to be evaluated based upon a common approach to tackling climate change and lowering emissions.

4. Our People Strategy - Year 2 Plan

Rich Thomas (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, HROD) introduced the report, stating that the Our People Strategy had been refreshed in 2020 and endorsed by the Staff and Pensions Committee following input from the Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC. It would enable progress to be made towards the vision of making WCC a great place to work where diverse and talented people are enabled to be at their best. He stated that, to meet this vision, the organisation would

need to attract, recruit, motivate and develop the diversity of talent required to deliver the objectives of the Council Plan.

In response to Councillor Watson, Rich Thomas advised that, predominantly, apprentices' pay was set marginally higher than the minimum apprentice pay rate. In future, it was proposed to raise apprentices' pay to the national minimum wage. This would help to attract candidates. He advised that there was a good level of interest in higher-level apprenticeships; however, there was less interest in lower-level apprenticeships where the Council was competing with other employers. The measures proposed would make WCC more attractive as a prospective employer to school leavers.

In response to Councillor Watson, Rich Thomas advised that 'claw back' clauses were in place within contracts where there was significant investment in a trainee, such as sponsorship for a professional qualification. In these circumstances, if an individual chose to leave the organisation prematurely, they would need to reimburse the Authority.

In response to Councillor Roberts, Rich Thomas advised that attention had been given to expanding Our People values and cultures to those indirectly employed by the Council, principally within the social care environment. Liaison had been coordinated by the People Directorate during the past 12 months, providing advice on matters related to the impact of COVID-19 such as vaccination take-up.

In response to Councillor Roberts, Rich Thomas advised that specific differentials applied between the National Living Wage and Real Living Wage; changes to government policy meant that the gap between the two had decreased. He advised that, by adopting the Real Living Wage, an employer was obliged to devolve control of its pay policy to an alternative party. The Real Living Wage was reset annually each November, meaning that an employer had six months to implement the required pay award. However, he advised that the merits of the Real Living Wage were being considered within the People Directorate as part of the Poverty Strategy.

Councillor Roberts stated that apprentices between the ages of 18 and 23 were often paid substantially less than other employees. He highlighted the advantages of aligning pay for this cohort to a level closer to the Real Living Wage. This would attract capable individuals and offset financial pressures associated with increased costs of living.

Councillor Tromans praised the comprehensiveness of the report and presentation. However, he commented that some of the assertions within the presentation were not substantiated by metrics. He suggested that these be included in future. He drew attention to some of the technical language within the Strategy and suggested that information be presented in terms more readily understandable to a layperson. He asked what specific measures were in place to embed a highly effective workplace culture.

Rich Thomas noted these comments which would inform future presentations. He advised that input had been sought from employees as part of the Employer Value Proposition. Their stories and experience of working for the Authority were used extensively within recruitment literature and on social media.

Councillor Birdi praised the effectiveness of the Apprenticeship Scheme to bring talented individuals into the organisation. He stated that there was a need to compete with the private

sector where more appealing salaries were often on offer. To do so, it was necessary to present an attractive package to prospective employees which included a clear career path and high standard of personal development.

Councillor Boad highlighted the importance of training to enable staff to make a positive difference to communities and enact a culture of professionalism.

Councillor Daniell highlighted the advantages of personality assessments to support recruitment and make good appointments. He commented that high staff turnover was not necessarily a serious problem provided quality talent could be retained; maintaining high standards would support continued recruitment of capable individuals.

Rich Thomas advised that personality assessments were utilised when making senior level appointments; however, this approach was not used more widely within the organisation. He stated that, by taking the right approach to development of a capable workforce, value could be added to the wider community should staff chose to move on.

In response to Councillor Spencer, Rich Thomas advised that exit interviews were undertaken and the information gathered was utilised to assess organisational performance. He stated that this process was also supported by engagement with current employees, facilitating a better understanding of the workforce and approaches to retain talented personnel.

The Chair stated that staff was the organisation's greatest asset, as exemplified by the dedicated response of highways officers during the recent heavy storms.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the work in the review of Our People Strategy and the proposed delivery priorities to inform the development of the Our People Strategy Delivery Plan for 2022/23.

5. WFRS HMICFRS Inspection Report

Ben Brook (Chief Fire Officer) provided a verbal report, stating that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had undertaken an eight-week virtual inspection of Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) between March and April 2021. The inspection examined activities across the organisation with a focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and people.

Ben Brook advised that the inspection report had recently been published. He outlined the headline findings, stating that WFRS received three causes of concern within the areas of Prevention; Protection; and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The report also identified 41 areas for improvement. He stated that WFRS was committed to making the required improvements. An Action Plan had been developed to address the findings of the inspection; significant progress had already been made.

Ben Brook reported that delivery of the Action Plan would be enabled by means of a budgetary allocation of £775,000 for Year One of the Plan, and the same amount for Year Two.

Ben Brook advised that a re-inspection had occurred in February 2022. To date, verbal feedback had been received; a detailed assessment was expected in due course. However, HMICFRS indicated that WFRS had made good progress, particularly in Prevention. He emphasised that there was more work to do. Progress would be reported to the Integrated Risk Management Assurance Panel (IRMP). A further reinspection with a focus on Protection was scheduled in Autumn 2022. The next full inspection was likely to take place in early 2023.

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the efforts made in response to the inspection, stating that the Committee had confidence in the work of WFRS.

In response to Councillor Boad, Ben Brook advised that nationally, each fire and rescue service was inspected every two years. In cases where a cause of concern had been found, this was revised to an inspection every six months. Once causes of concern had been addressed, the inspection regime was likely to abate.

Councillor Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) stated that substantial investment had been made to support delivery of the Action Plan. The IRMP Assurance Panel had expanded its remit in response to the findings of the Inspectorate; HMICFRS representatives had been invited to meetings to provide additional detail and commentary. He advised that the inspection had highlighted several areas where WFRS had performed well, such as partnership working (particularly with other blue light services) and the response to recent critical incidents. He commented that virtual inspections were different in character to physical inspections, this could account for some of the findings. He emphasised that the findings of the Inspectorate would be given full attention.

The Chair proposed that the Committee note the Inspection Report, as well as members' concerns relating to the frequency of inspections which placed a burden on WFRS. He proposed that a letter be produced from the Committee to HMICFRS registering these concerns.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the HMICFRS Inspection Report and writes to the Inspectorate to highlight the additional demands placed on WFRS by the regularity of inspections.

6. School Admissions Process Improvements

Sarah Stear (Assistant Director, Business & Customer Services) introduced the report, stating that liaison with Education colleagues had informed process improvements. The report provided details of progress made to date; there was still work to be done.

Sarah Stear advised that, in 2020, the Schools Admissions Service was under pressure with significant additional demands being placed on the Team. It was resolved that a review of processes, systems, resources, and capacity would support service delivery.

Rebecca Murphy (Service Manager, Business and Customer Support) provided an overview of measures to support improvement, stating that staff numbers had been temporarily increased to manage ongoing demand and deliver the required changes. A consultation was underway on a new operating model to address issues around roles, responsibilities, and capacity. Additional staff

training had been provided to ensure that knowledge was shared across teams. Measures to improve the customer experience for families had proved to be effective.

Rebecca Murphy reported that a strong working relationship was in place with Education colleagues to manage risks, leading to a reduction in the number of children not on the school roll. By working with parents to understand their priorities, it had been possible to make improvements leading to better communication and a reduction in the number of calls and emails being received. She advised that there was still work to be done, including improvements to the functionality of the Parent Portal which provides a digital interface between parents and WCC for school-related matters.

The Chair stated that the report outlined some areas of concern. It was encouraging that action was being taken to address shortcomings in the system. He suggested that an update be provided to the Committee in six months' time. It was agreed that this be added to the Work Programme.

Councillor Watson highlighted the wider environmental and financial implications of schools admissions processes, stating that home-to-school costs for the Council were significant, with some avoidable journeys being made.

Councillor Boad stated that schools admissions was a prominent point of interaction between residents and the Authority. It was important to ensure that it was a positive experience to instil confidence in the quality of Council services. She praised the initiative to provide advanced notification if it had not been possible to offer a school place, this would help to reassure parents during a stressful time.

Councillor Spencer stated that the initiative to contact parents who had not been successful in securing a school place for their child was positive. However, it was important to ensure that measures were in place to provide reassurance and a timescale for when a placement would be made available.

The initiative was widely praised as a positive intervention. Members would revisit the subject in six months' time.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- i. Notes the progress made on improvements to the Schools Admissions Service;
- ii. Endorses the direction of travel set out for further work; and
- iii. Requests that a progress update be provided in six months' time.

7. Quarter 3 Council Plan 2020-2025 Quarterly Progress Report

Sarah Stear (Assistant Director, Business & Customer Services) introduced the report, stating that 50% of the Key Business Measures (KBM) within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were judged to be 'on track'. She highlighted areas where performance had been good, including an increase in the number of social media followers, continued satisfaction with the Customer Service Centre, and a strong employee engagement score.

Sarah Stear highlighted the areas where improvements could be made, including an increased number of adverse decisions against the Council by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Work in this area has been impacted by the Pandemic; a plan of action was in place.

In response to Councillor Tromans, Rob Powell (Strategic Director for Resources) advised that Data Subject Access Requests (DSARs) often related to complex and sensitive cases that required detailed work to resolve. Additional resources had been allocated to address the backlog and a regular dialogue was in place with the ICO. The ICO has expressed satisfaction with the measures in place; however, detailed work was required which would take time to accomplish.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the progress on the delivery of the Council Plan 2020 - 2025 for the period as contained in the report.

8. Work Programme

Resolved:

That the Committee agrees the updated 2021/22 Work Programme, subject to inclusion of an update on School Admissions Process Improvements and notes the scheduled future meeting dates.

9. Any Urgent Matters

There were none.

The meeting rose at 15:25.

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Chair

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Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 17 May 2022

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Adrian Warwick
Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor Piers Daniell
Councillor Will Roberts
Councillor Richard Spencer
Councillor Robert Tromans
Councillor Martin Watson

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Phillips and Councillor Singh Birdi.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

2. Election of Chair

Resolved

That Councillor Adrian Warwick be Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Resolved

That Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi be Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

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Chair

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**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
8th June 2022**

Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire

1. Recommendation(s)

That the Committee considers and comments on the proposed approach to Levelling Up in Warwickshire ahead of its consideration by Cabinet.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 2 February 2022 the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper. The White Paper outlines the Government's strategy to "spread opportunity and prosperity to all parts of the country" by 2030, through twelve national missions. The twelve missions are attached at Appendix 1. This will also include stronger oversight of local government on performance against these missions.
- 2.2 On 10 May 2022 the Queen's Speech set out the Government's agenda for the 2022-23 Parliamentary session. The Government committed to empowering local leaders to implement levelling up initiatives in their area through an upcoming Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
- 2.3 The Council Plan approved by full Council in February 2022 includes a commitment to the Levelling Up agenda and to understanding what that means for Warwickshire. Specifically, the Council Plan recognised the Council's unique role to convene partners to shape and deliver the long-term levelling up mission for Warwickshire. It committed to develop, with partners, a countywide approach to levelling up, with the aim of publishing this by July 2022.
- 2.4 Reports to Cabinet in March and May 2022 set out the Council's overall direction on and proposed approach to Levelling Up and confirmed the intention of publishing a Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire subject to Cabinet approval in July.
- 2.5 The aim of the Levelling Up approach is to create a reference point for the Levelling Up agenda, complementing existing work and highlighting specific challenges and opportunities in the county. The approach will:
- **Translate** the national Levelling Up missions and policy for Warwickshire;
 - **Complement** the organisational plans and strategies of all partners
 - **Influence** current and future strategies;

- **Recognise and build on the power** of all our partnerships, networks, and forums;
- **Inform** our future collective work on other strategic issues linked to the missions (such as climate change and inequalities); and
- **Share** our commitment to Levelling Up with our communities.

2.6 The approach to Levelling Up for Warwickshire will be presented to Cabinet for approval in July 2022. This is an emerging area of national policy and the approach will therefore seek to be flexible and respond to refinement and changes as they arise.

2.7 This report therefore seeks to provide an outline of the emerging approach. This will be supplemented by tailored content presented to the meeting of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report seeks members' views on the Levelling Up approach as relevant to the remit of the Committee. Officers will present to the Committee and the accompanying slide deck will be made available to members and published alongside the other public papers for the Committee.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, there are likely to be longer-term financial impacts of our approach to Levelling Up as we prioritise cohorts and areas of need. These will need to be accommodated within existing budgets and/or factored into budget setting as part of future MTFs refresh processes.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 Environmental Sustainability and net zero is not one of the twelve Levelling Up missions but remains a key local and national priority. The Government's Net Zero strategy: Build Back Greener, published in October 2022, sets out policies to enable the UK to meet its net zero target by 2050. The Council's emerging Sustainable Futures strategy, currently in development and due for Cabinet consideration in October 2022, will need to take into account the Levelling Up agenda. There may also be future environmental implications as the County continues to make contributions to the national Net Zero strategy along with our own net zero ambitions both for the County as a place, and the County Council as an organisation.

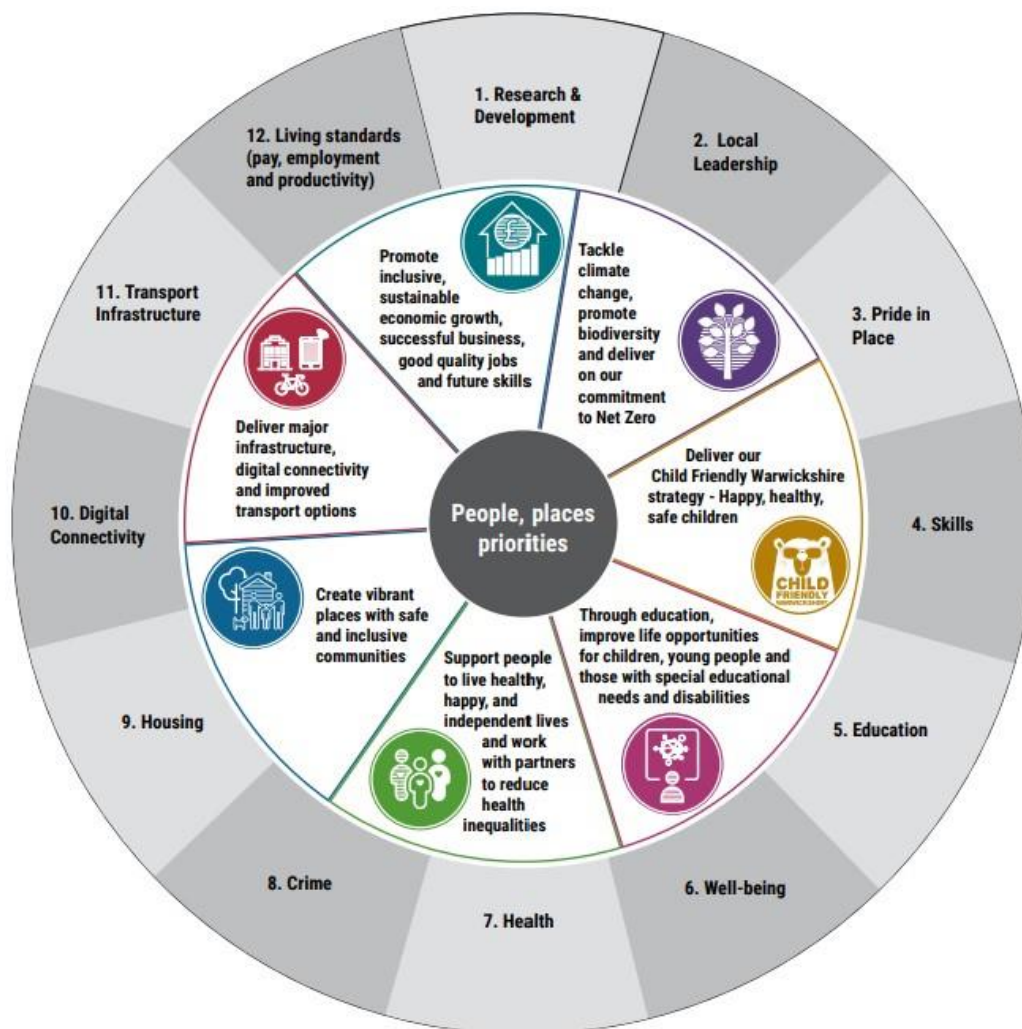
5. Supporting Information

5.1 The Levelling Up White Paper set out twelve missions, with accompanying metrics and outcomes to be achieved by 2030 covering:

- Living Standards
- Health

- Research & Development
- Transport Infrastructure
- Digital Connectivity
- Education
- Skills
- Well-being
- Pride in Place
- Housing
- Crime
- Local Leadership

The diagram below maps the 12 missions to our Council Plan Areas of Focus. There is a considerable degree of overlap between the 12 missions and the Areas of Focus in our Council Plan and equally there is overlap between the remits of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the missions, and our Areas of Focus. Appendix 2 sets this out in more detail and highlights those areas (missions, Areas of Focus, and emerging themes) of most relevance to the remit of this Committee.



5.2 Our Levelling Up approach will seek to deliver against these national missions and will influence a number of connected Council strategies. Those most relevant to the remit of this Committee are also contained in Appendix 2.

5.3 In developing our approach to Levelling Up, there has been significant engagement with a range of stakeholders to date and further engagement will continue over coming weeks. During May 2022 we engaged with residents through the Voice of Warwickshire residents' panel to better understand what Levelling Up means for our residents and have used this feedback to inform our overall approach. In addition, we have or will:

- used the Voice of Warwickshire to gain residents' views, with over 450 responses;
- met with all districts and borough councils, both individually and together;
- hold an engagement session with wider stakeholders covering Higher Education, Health, the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise Sectors and Local Government;
- meet with the chairs of the Warwickshire Youth Council;
- engage key WCC officers and leads;
- engage with the Town and Parish Councils through our forthcoming reference group and with Clerks at the invitation of Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils.

5.4 Using this information alongside the ongoing engagement with our partners and stakeholders, our working definition for Levelling Up in Warwickshire is anchored around four key elements:

- **Increasing opportunity and social mobility** - ensuring the success you enjoy in life is less dependent on where you live, your background and who your parents are by:
 - spreading opportunity and embedding aspiration;
 - fulfilling people's potential in life; and
 - building inclusive economic growth to ensure valued, well-paid and high-quality jobs.
- **Reducing disparities** - addressing gaps and inequalities in:
 - standards of living;
 - health, happiness and well-being;
 - educational attainment;
 - access to good, affordable housing; and
 - connectivity (transport and digital)
- **Building community power** - Increasing pride in the place you live in, and unleashing the potential of communities by increasing your voice and influence over your places.
- **Creating sustainable futures** - ensuring climate change and adaptation a central part of levelling up so future generations can live in a sustainable county with good opportunities and quality of life, including standards of living.

5.5 The key features of our overall approach to Levelling Up are reflected in the following principles which underpin our approach to Levelling Up and which complement the Council Plan:

- **A joint mission:** we will bring together our partners from across Warwickshire’s public, private, voluntary and community sectors to work together on levelling up. We will work closely with Government and regional bodies so that Warwickshire benefits from opportunities to do more locally and deliver on wider national and regional agendas.
- **A long-term approach:** addressing disparities and increasing social mobility will take decades. As there are no quick fixes, our approach will commit to making sustainable progress on long-term issues
- **Addressing root causes:** we will use data, insight and partnerships to tackle the root causes of complex issues, rather than the symptoms.
- **Data-driven;** we will use data to track our long-term trajectory and progress, using national benchmarks wherever possible. We will learn and evolve our approach.
- **Strengths-based as well as tackling need (not levelling down):** we will build on the strengths of individuals, communities, places and interest groups to improve quality of life for them. Our approach will not hold back other places or groups where things are better
- **Targeted and tailored to communities of place and of interest:** based on data and insight, we will target the communities of place and communities of interest that need most support. Building on their strengths, we will help them build the capacity to improve things in the long-term, tailoring our approaches to local circumstances.

5.6 Core to the Levelling Up agenda is the need to prioritise effort and activity to where it is most needed. In Warwickshire this will mean focusing particular attention on specific places and groups of people as determined by robust evidence, while enabling other places and communities to address local levelling up imperatives through community powered approaches.

5.7 We are also using robust, credible data at a variety of geographical levels to determine where our interventions can have the biggest impact. Specifically, we will use the following frameworks:

- the Indices of Deprivation – this is the recognised, nationally-published dataset that enables us to analyse inequalities and need at a local level across a range of domains; and
- the 12 Levelling Up Missions as set out in the Government’s Levelling Up White Paper.

These frameworks will be supplemented by additional national and local intelligence, including:

- Office of National Statistics Health Index
- Warwickshire place-based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- Experian Financial Resilience dataset
- WCC Performance Framework
- State of Warwickshire 2022 Report
- Voice of Warwickshire residents' panel survey results
- Warwickshire Poverty Dashboard

5.8 The Community Powered Warwickshire (CPW) programme is also a key lever for the Levelling Up approach and will be central to delivering our vision; supporting communities experiencing the most inequality to develop and capitalise on their latent community power whilst building upon existing communities with greater social capital and community engagement. Using CPW will ensure that communities and the wider voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors are an integrated part of our approach to Levelling Up for Warwickshire.

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

6.1 The Committee is asked to inform both the shape and content of the approach as part of the engagement with all Overview & Scrutiny Committees:

Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC	8 June 2022
Children & Young People OSC	14 June 2022
Adult Social Care and Health OSC	22 June 2022
Communities OSC	22 June 2022
Cabinet Approval	14 July 2022

6.2 Following approval of the Levelling Up approach the Committee will be able to consider how it wishes to track progress on Levelling Up through the consideration of the related strategies, elements of the Integrated Delivery Plan, and the new Performance Management Framework as relevant to its remit.

Appendices

1. The 12 Levelling Up missions – extract from the Government White Paper (Feb 22)
2. Levelling Up approach – relevant missions, strategies, and areas of work

Background Papers

1. Levelling Up and Devolution for Warwickshire – Cabinet 12th May 2022
2. The State of Warwickshire 2022 Report

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	George McVerry Gereint Stoneman	georgemcverry@warwickshire.gov.uk gereintstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk

Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury, Assistant Director Governance & Policy	sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Rob Powell, Strategic Director for Resources	Robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Izzi Seccombe Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture	Isobelseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

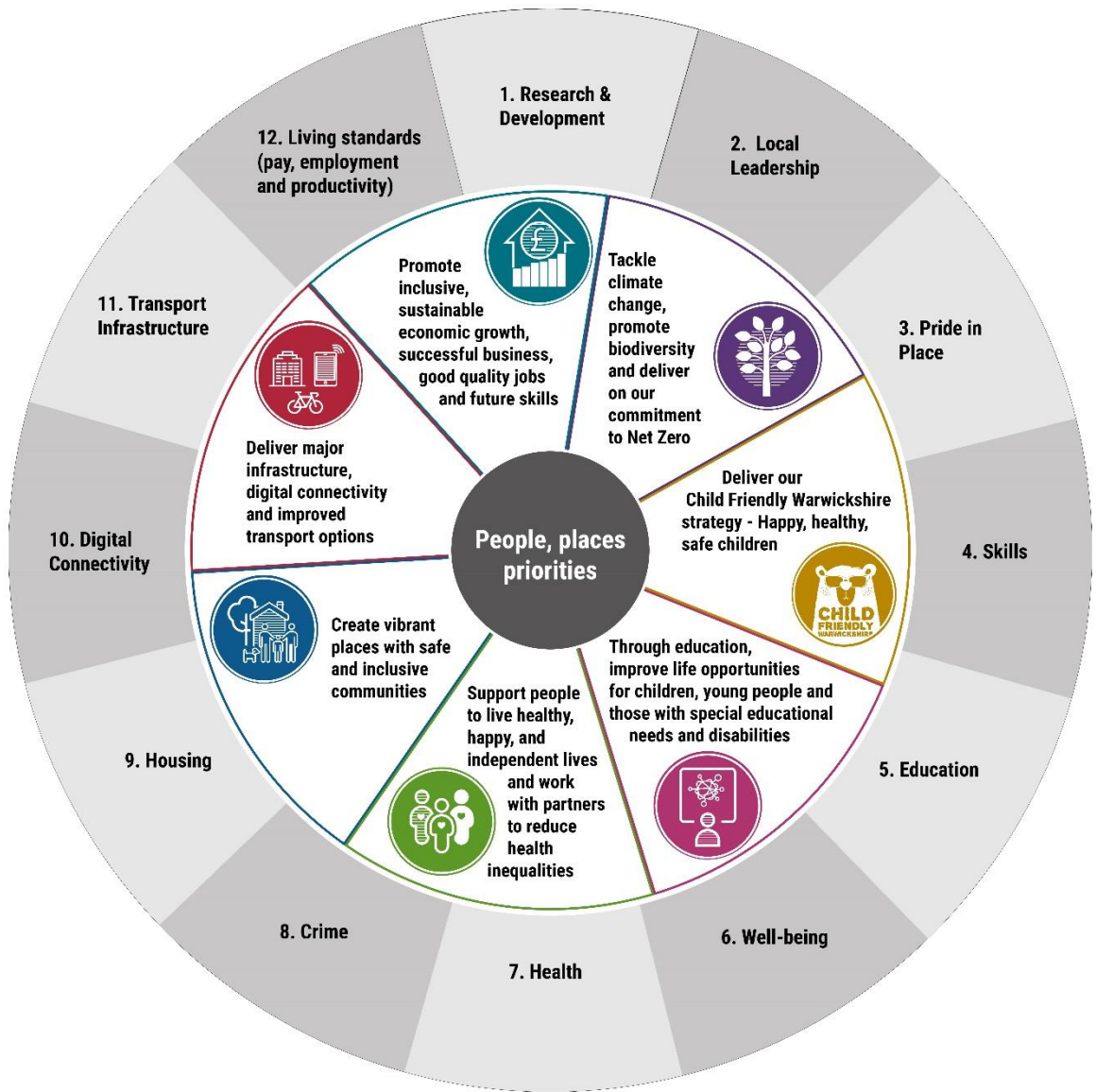
Local Member(s): N/a - of county wide relevance

Other members: None

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Appendix 1 – Mapping National Levelling Up missions to WCC Areas of Focus

Research & Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and 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
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.



	WCC Examples of Planned Activity <i>(taken from Integrated Delivery Plan 2022-2027)</i>
Research & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Warwickshire and secure inward investment by developing and delivering Sector Growth Plans for our key priority sectors; automotive, advanced engineering & manufacturing, digital creative and tourism Work with Coventry City Council and Coventry University to deliver the Coventry and Warwickshire Innovation Programme
Local Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire as a proposal for entering into negotiation with Government Engage in discussions about the (WMCA) West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal and how it might benefit Warwickshire
Pride in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring together and embed our work on Volunteering with our approach to harnessing Community Power to support our voluntary and community organisations to increase local and social activities Create a pipeline of projects and initiatives across the county to develop neighbourhoods and generate pride in our localities
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with our local universities, colleges, schools and partners to improve young people's aspiration for further and higher education opportunities
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners and early years providers to tailor support to improve outcomes for children at the end of Reception to secure school readiness for all Warwickshire children and increase the take up of funded 2-year-old places Deliver the strategy and action plan with partners to support young people in Nuneaton to achieve higher educational attainment and outcomes
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work Open our first Family Hub at the Wheelwright Lane Centre which will specialise in support for children, young people and their families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) issues
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively with partners to implement the requirements of the new integrated care system so that there is greater join up between NHS and Council care records Promote the benefits of healthier lifestyle choices and provide effective services and support to enable people to make sustained improvements

Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to prevent violence, serious & organized crime, modern slavery & human trafficking, reducing reoffending, exploitation and rural crime to meet the outcomes set by the relevant strategies and delivery plans as approved by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a review of service provision, housing support and embed a revised referral approach for Short Term Vulnerable Adults • Establish the strategic role of Extra Care Housing and Specialised Supported Housing in the Council's wider strategies for housing with support and its Adult Social Care Act duties
Digital Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with our partners to encourage the expansion of 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025 • Develop a county-wide Digital Inclusion programme.
Transport Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an infrastructure strategy and create a supporting action plan that sets out our priority infrastructure opportunities and schemes across Warwickshire • Deliver priority Road schemes that will make it easier to travel around the County
Living Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and review the impact of the loans • Building on our pandemic recovery work, continue to implement a business support programme to address specific barriers to business growth

<p>Relevant National Levelling Up missions & examples of national metrics (2022-2030)</p> <p>Local Leadership - By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of the population living in an area covered by the highest level of devolution <p>Research & Development - By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business expenditure on R&D • Government funding for R&D • Percentage of businesses that are innovation active <p>Pride in Place – By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of adults who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live • Percentage of individuals who have engaged in civic participation in the last 12 months

<p>WCC Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan (2022-2027) • Digital & Data (2022-2025) • Heritage & Culture (2020-2025) • MTFS • WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy (2022-2027) 	<p>WCC Areas of Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Powered Warwickshire programme • Equality and Diversity • Fire and Rescue • Libraries and community hubs • Place-shaping • Property/One Public Estate 	<p>Relevant Funding</p> <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Prosperity Fund • Levelling Up Fund • Towns Fund • One Public Estate <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Impact Fund • Green Shoots • WRIF • WPDG
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Note – WCC is also developing local metrics aligned to the national to monitor progress alongside our Operating Model and Performance Management Framework

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**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2022/2023 – June 2022**

Item / Lead Officer	Report detail	Date of next report
Public Question Time/Questions to the Portfolio Holders / Work Programme	Standing items for every meeting.	* Standing item
Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Performance Report	Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Performance Report	* Standing item
Updated Procurement Strategy	A report to the OSC ahead of Cabinet consideration of an updated Procurement Strategy placing an emphasis on social value and climate change (Steve Smith).	TBC (Steve Smith to advise)
Schools Admissions Service	An update on the progress of improvements made to school admissions processes following initial consideration by the OSC in February 2022 (Sarah Stear / Rebecca Murphy)	14 September 2022
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service	Performance Summary Report	14 September 2022
Member Oversight Group (WPDG / WRIF)	Annual Report of the Member Oversight Group to be presented to the Committee each year to enable attention to be given to the performance, progress, and priorities of WDPG and WRIF.	TBC (recurring annually)

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