

County Council

Date: Tuesday 16 May 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. Election of Chair

To elect a Chair for the ensuing municipal year. The Chair to make a declaration of acceptance of office.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chair for the ensuing municipal year. The Vice-Chair to make a declaration of acceptance of office.

3. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

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

(3) Minutes of the previous meeting

5 - 22

To consider and agree the minutes of the 21 March 2023 meeting of Council.

(4) Chair's announcements

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| 4. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies | 23 - 36 |
| 5. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/20263 | 37 - 56 |
| 6. Annual Report of Call-in and Urgent Decisions 2022/2023 | 57 - 62 |
| 7. Education Capital Programme 2023/24 | 63 - 68 |
| 8. 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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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

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County Council

Tuesday 21 March 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Dave Humphreys (Chair), Councillor Christopher Kettle (Vice-Chair), Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, 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 Clare Golby, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Andy Jennis, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Sarah Millar, Councillor Chris Mills, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Will Roberts, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE, Councillor Ian Shenton, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Richard Spencer, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Robert Tromans, Councillor Martin Watson, Councillor Adrian Warwick and Councillor Andrew Wright

1. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jo Barker, Brett Beetham, Jackie D'Arcy, Jack Kennaugh, Howard Roberts, Mejar Singh and Bhagwant Singh-Pandher.

Councillor Caroline Phillips was also absent from the meeting.

(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 7 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair.

(4) Chair's announcements

Engagements

The Chair reflected on the events that he had attended since the last meeting, including hosting former apprentice and current Family Support Worker, Umar Teerab, a care leaver from Sudan, as 'Chair for the Day'.

King Charles III Coronation

The Chairman noted that the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort would take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023. Alongside the weekend of national celebrations, the Council was working closely with the Lord Lieutenant, alongside District and Borough colleagues, town and parish councils and Warwickshire CAVA, to name but a few, on plans for a variety of local events and activities to mark the special occasion. More details would be shared with members in due course, but in the meantime, a dedicated County Council Coronation website contained all the latest information. The Chairman himself was looking forward to representing the Council at various celebratory events happening across the County.

Former Councillor Melanie Pinches

The Chairman stated that it was his sad duty to inform Council of the passing of former County Councillor Melanie Pinches. Mrs Pinches, from the Liberal Democrat group, served as a Warwickshire County Councillor representing Bidford-on-Avon between 1985 and 1989. The Chair extended condolences to her family and friends.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley paid tribute to former Councillor Melanie Pinches, a hard working and principled county councillor, of whom she had many memories.

Council held a one minute silence in tribute.

(5) Petitions

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

The Chair welcomed Carol Davies to the meeting to present a petition calling for safety measures at Trinity Road.

Mrs Davies stated as follows:

"The petition is for 2 urgently required safety measures to Trinity Road. A 3-way set of traffic lights to Overwoods Road junction even if they are temporary traffic lights and most importantly the mph passing Piccadilly, the Kingsbury Oil Depot and EMR through to Kingsbury changing to 30mph.

Trinity Road is situated between Kingsbury and Jct.10 of the M42 motorway and it has had 4 deaths, many accidents and near-miss incidents over the years. One accident in particular is serious and has changed a young woman's life for ever.

The Kingsbury Oil Terminal that is situated on Trinity Road and was opened in the 1960s has grown to become the largest oil storage depot in the UK. Presently, there are 220 tanker loadings daily. These 220 tankers use Trinity Road every day with many of them returning to the Depot in the same day.

Trinity Road is an important multi-use road and is the only evacuation road for the community of Piccadilly which does add to its importance and needs to be as safe as it possibly can be.

Also on Trinity Road there is EMR Metal Recycling Plant which buys metal of all shapes and sizes, including scrap vehicles and trains.

The entrance to EMR is on Trinity Road near to the Oil Depot. HGVs regularly deliver to and collect from these premises. The number of HGVs including low-loaders and huge wagons has increased as the company itself has increased in the size of its site.

Accidents on Trinity Road have increased, and if traffic lights had been installed to Overwoods Road Junction 10 years ago; the tragic fatal accident to Maggie, her son Damian and her nephew Dion would not have happened and all three of them would be alive today; because Maggie would have taken notice of the traffic lights instead of being called on by another motorist.

Also, if the speed limit had been 30mph and the lights had been working Mason would have stood a chance of survival, but he was killed outright at 50mph. I understand that there is an ongoing investigation into this very tragic incident.

WHO – the World Health Organisation on the subject of road safety says that driving at speed- significantly increases both the likelihood of a crash occurring and the severity of its consequences. (For every 1% increase in mean speed, there is a 4% increase in fatal crash risk)

Between Kingsbury school and Piccadilly the speeds vary from 30mph at Kingsbury to 50mph passing EMR and the Kingsbury Oil Depot, then 40mph passing Piccadilly. We are seriously campaigning with the aid of our petition for this stretch of road on Trinity Road to be 30mph with all the rest of Trinity Road remaining 50mph.

If Trinity Road was an ordinary road with house frontages – the road would automatically be 30mph, but instead of house frontages it has hundreds of HGVs using this road at speeds not commensurate with the road's use by pedestrians, disabled people, motorists, cyclists and other road users.

During the day people from Piccadilly walk, sometimes with pushchairs, to the shops, hairdressers and doctors in Kingsbury and children from school walk back home to Piccadilly. The everyday usage of this road makes this particular road an exceptional road, requiring exceptional road safety because of its use by so many HGVs.

Safety assessments in the form of a "Road Safety Audit" (RSA) identifies opportunities for improvements in safety for all road users.

Trinity road is a unique road because there is no other road like it anywhere in the UK.

One accident on Trinity Road was very serious and she was lucky to get away with her life according to the doctors. She suffered a very badly fractured lower leg and much bruising to most of her body. She has to use walking aids to get about because of all the metal repair work to her leg.

I was told about all the accidents when knocking on doors with the petition and I was alarmed to hear of so many. One accident that could have been much worse was when a man was in a car being driven from Wood End along Trinity Road and when they got to Overwoods Road junction, a car rushed out of Overwoods Road and crashed into them. Luckily they only received minor injuries but the car was a complete write-off.

It has been pointed out to me that our MP Craig Tracey has been campaigning for traffic calming measures on Trinity Road for years and at one point a developer agreed to fund traffic lights at Overwoods Road junction. Unfortunately though HS2 then safeguarded the area so the developer could no longer build the houses so the money for the traffic lights disappeared.

Recently, I read about the road safety fund of £500,000 that Mr Philip Seccombe (Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner) has launched for initiatives tackling road safety, as part of his commitment to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads. I really do think that consideration should be given to some possible financial assistance from this fund to enable the implementation of two safety measures to Trinity Road without further delay.

Also, because the Oil Depot has managed to develop so much land with their own site roads, lights and extra oil tankers, they should be asked for a contribution to the cost of the road safety measures to Trinity Road which they need to use every day for all their deliveries.

Perhaps EMR will contribute also

Four deaths is four too many. We have provided WCC with a petition signed by 1,000 people including the vicar of Kingsbury Church who was very keen to sign.

Mason's mother Dani cannot move on, she cries every day and although she has been told to think only of the good times she has shared with him when she does, she cries even more. She has been given numbers for bereavement counselling but she says she is too upset for that now. She has thanked me though for doing the petition because she said that the safety measures it is for, will help school children walking in the future along Trinity Road and Mason will not have died in vain."

Councillor Wallace Redford (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) thanked Mrs Davies for bringing these matters to the attention of the Council and for clearly demonstrating the view of local residents. He provided reassurance that he would consider the issues that had been raised and provide a response as soon as possible.

(6) Public Speaking

None.

2. Application for Dispensation

Councillor Isobel Seccombe moved the recommendation that a dispensation be granted for Councillor Mejar Singh which was seconded by Councillor Marian Humphreys. There was no debate but Council joined to wish Councillor Singh well.

Resolved

That the Council approves the absence of Councillor Mejar Singh from meetings of the authority on the grounds of ill health.

3. Education Capital Programme 2022/23

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property) introduced this comprehensive report relating to three projects at Oak Wood Primary School, Evergreen School in Warwick, and Stratford Upon Avon School and moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Kam Kaur seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Amendment

Councillor Chilvers proposed the addition of the following paragraph to the Motion:

3. Requests that a costed net-zero option for all three projects is developed and reported to Cabinet for decision before tenders are requested for the projects.

In moving the amendment, Councillor Chilvers noted that although a costed net-zero option had not been included for these projects, he understood that there were plans to do so for future projects. He considered it unfortunate that this was not already taking place in view of the Climate Emergency that had been declared some time ago. He did not believe providing these costings would cause significant delay to the projects.

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

Debate

Councillor Barbara Brown commented on the absence of east Warwickshire, particularly the Rugby area, from the report. She also stated that it would be helpful to have an understanding of the funding support that would be in place for children in the context of the expanded schools.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley expressed surprise that climate change considerations had not been built into the projects. She trusted that this could be done quickly and effectively.

Councillor Robert Tromans welcomed the proposed investment in schools, particularly for Oak Wood. He noted that it had been implied that the ecological impact of the developments had not been considered but it was his understanding that full net-zero would be likely to cost significantly more and he expressed concern at the delay this would cause together with the associated escalation of costs.

In support of the amendment, Councillor Tracey Drew believed that obtaining the costings would provide clear evidence of the funding reality and avoid retrofitting, leading to lower energy consumption in the schools.

Councillor Kam Kaur responded that the impact of any delay to the project while further costings were taken, would be that the associated planning applications would be delayed and 350 children would not have a school place in September 2024. She considered this would set an unacceptable precedent for Warwickshire children and their parents. Whilst she appreciated the sentiments of the amendment, she urged the Chamber to support the original motion due to the impact the amendment would have on children.

In response, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers questioned why costed net-zero options had not yet been built into the process and, in doing so, referred to a recent social media post by Councillor Butlin.

Councillor Peter Butlin responded that his personal views were not holding up the implementation of policy. He advised that the proposed costings would cause delay to the delivery of school places. Substantially different alterations, including the use of different products, would cause delay to these particular projects but net-zero options would be considered for future projects. In response to Councillor Brown, he pointed out that the Council had little input on the support provided in academy schools but in any event the focus of this report was on the delivery of school places and a capital project.

Vote

A vote on the amendment took place. The amendment was defeated.

A vote on the original motion took place which was carried unanimously.

Resolved

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.

4. Developer-Funded Highway Scheme Approval - Eastboro Way / Crowhill Road

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property) moved the recommendation as set out in the report. In doing so, he noted that the scheme was a necessity to support house building in the area.

Councillor Wallace Redford seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Debate

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers considered that the proposal was unacceptable in its current form and considered it to be a hostile environment for pedestrians and cyclists. He considered there were improvements that could be made and the dominance of cars in the area was due to the limited options for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillor Jeff Clarke welcomed the proposals which he considered to be much needed in the division and welcomed the provision of a pedestrian crossing. He was pleased to see that the funds for the upgrade had been secured from developers. He concluded by requesting the works commence at an early opportunity to support the progression of the housing development.

Councillor Sarah Feeney noted the considerable housing development in the wider area and supported the proposals which she considered would assist with traffic flow. She did, however, consider that an upgrade to the provision for pedestrians was needed.

Councillor Robert Tromans echoed comments regarding the level of housing development in the wider area and the subsequent pressure on the highway. He considered that the focus of the proposals should be on improvement to traffic flows and pedestrian safety. As one of the local members for the area, he noted that he had not heard calls from residents for cycle routes in this area.

Councillor Adrian Warwick noted that the crematorium was sited in this area and that the improvement to traffic flow would provide for a more dignified funeral procession to the site.

Councillor Tracey Drew stated that she had heard calls for cycle routes in the north of the county and expressed the view that following the declaration of a climate emergency and the housing development in the area, residents should be supported towards a modal shift from cars to cycles and walking.

Councillor Clare Golby, who represented Arbury division in Nuneaton, shared her experience of discussions with residents, noting that an interest in cycling provision or carbon footprint were not issues that had been raised with her. There were cycle routes in the area which were not used and she considered that it was important for local councillors to represent the views of local residents.

Councillor Marian Humphreys stated that she was a member of the Council's Cycling Liaison Group and this experience had led her to the understanding that the roads in Nuneaton were too hazardous for cycling as they were too narrow, and this is what had led to the local views that were being expressed by colleagues. However, she noted that there were areas outside the town centre where cycling would be suitable for leisure or travel to school and, in her view, this was where the provision of cycling routes should be supported.

Councillor Sarah Boad expressed her disappointment that residents were not being encouraged to cycle or use buses as this would reduce traffic congestion and play a part in alleviating the cost of living crisis. She considered that cycle schemes such as K2L were a necessity for those who would like to cycle in a safer environment.

Councillor Justin Kerridge who was an enthusiastic cyclist, encouraged people to give thought to it as a travel option and believed that the Council should be providing opportunities for cycling. However, he also considered that the view of local residents had to be taken into account.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley noted that the government had issued guidance regarding active travel and that a climate emergency had been declared by this Council. However, the modal shift had to be encouraged and the support of the highways authority was needed to enable that to happen.

Councillor Will Roberts noted that the residents in Willes division that he represented had raised the need for more cycle routes with him. He noted the comments of Councillor Golby during this and previous debates and indicated that he would be pleased to accompany her to speak to residents so that he could hear their views and better understand local opinion.

Councillor Heather Timms expressed her commitment to active travel in all its forms and noted that there were many cycle routes in the county. She highlighted campaigns like Cycle Buddies which provided experienced support to less experienced riders and considered that the focus of efforts should be in this arena together with cycling to school.

Councillor Andy Crump noted that safe and active travel needed to be encouraged but funding needed to be spent wisely where it would make the most difference.

Councillor Wallace Redford noted that the scheme had been proposed due to heavy traffic in the area and that developer funding had been secured to address the issues. It was important to understand that the money was provided to improve the circumstances of local residents and that many of the views expressed during the debate were outside the scope of the report.

Councillor Peter Butlin noted that the local planning authority had permitted the development with S278 funding and the County Council was required to implement it. The developers had agreed to go beyond their obligations and were supporting improvements in the area and if it was possible to include a pedestrian crossing as part of the proposals then that would be done.

Vote

A vote was held. The recommendations were agreed by a majority.

Resolved

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.

5. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

Councillor Margaret Bell (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) moved the recommendation as set out in the report. In doing so, she noted that this year's report focussed on the connection between health and the rising cost of living. It was an informative and thought provoking report with evidence-based, specific and practical recommendations. Since publication,

the Director of Public Health had amended recommendation 2 (Housing) to advocate for a commitment to preventing new homes from being built with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of less than A. Partners were being engaged to implement the recommendations.

Councillor Marian Humphries seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Debate

Councillor Sarah Boad welcomed the report, particularly highlighting the user-friendly infographic presentation. She commended support for exploring the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children and drew attention to cancer screening statistics, noting that these units needed to be close to home and easily accessible.

Councillor Bill Gifford commended the report for its readability and focus on the connection between the cost of living, poverty and health inequalities.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers thanked the Public Health Team for the report and welcomed conversations which had taken place with Councillor Bell to increase the EPC rating target for new builds to an A rating. He expressed the view that an EPC rating of C was still a good target for existing properties. Councillor Chilvers considered that there was an awareness of the investment needed for retrofitting which would have an impact across a range of areas including a reduction of energy bills and carbon emissions together with health impacts. He hoped that the evidence base could be utilised to obtain funding for retrofitting.

Councillor Isobel Seccombe also commended the report. She was pleased to see the reduction in the life expectancy gap but was concerned about the levels of obesity reported. She noted national figures around unemployment included in the report and stated that she would have liked to see the Warwickshire figures included as she believed that these were below the national trend. In terms of fuel poverty she noted that the government had been contributing to energy bills since summer 2022 and considered that this had made a positive impact. Councillor Seccombe thanked the Public Health team for providing the data to drive evidence-based policy and applauded Mike Jackson for his artistic presentation of the information.

Councillor Judy Falp also praised the report and welcomed the visible partnership work that was taking place. She particularly supported the recommendation for all primary school children to receive free school meals but recognised that this was not only a funding issue. She concluded by acknowledging the hard work of the Public Health team and associated partners.

Councillor John Holland also thanked the Director of Public Health for the report, noting the recommendations around transport which linked to the previous debate. He considered that affordable housing was a key issue for residents and linked this to the rising cost of living and the association with stress and mental health. He noted that the 2019 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2019) had highlighted diversity across Warwickshire and mused over how many of the identified projects had come to fruition. He congratulated the Director of Public Health on her report and urged colleagues to support implementation of the recommendations to meet local needs.

Councillor Marian Humphreys welcomed the report and looked forward to receiving progress reports at Health and Wellbeing Board on the implementation of the recommendations.

In response, Councillor Margaret Bell thanked the Chamber for its support. In terms of cancer screening, she confirmed that Health and Wellbeing Board would be looking at access to services, including the use of the mobile screening unit. She recognised the challenges in housing but noted that work with district and borough councils would seek to address this. She noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board included a wide range of partners who recognised that variations in need across the county and health inequality was at the top of the health agenda. The report needed to be a living document with progress being monitored and including partnership support.

Vote

A vote was held. The recommendations were agreed by a majority.

Resolved

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

6. Members' Allowances Scheme

Councillor Isobel Seccombe moved the recommendations as set out in the report. In doing so, she explained that Members allowances were indexed to increase in-line with the percentage pay award to employees but that this year, employees had received a flat rate increase which was not compatible with the Members' scheme. She pointed out that Members' allowances should be provided at a reasonable rate to attract a broad spectrum of people to stand for election. After considering the options, Group Leaders had considered that the average pay increase for a Warwickshire County Council employee (6%) was reasonable. It was also important to future proof the Members' Allowance scheme against a similar situation in subsequent years. Councillor Seccombe recognised that it was not an easy time to vote for an increase in pay but she was conscious that she did not want councillors to find difficulty in fulfilling their democratic roles.

Councillor Peter Butlin seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Amendment

Councillor Chilvers proposed that an additional paragraph be added to the Motion at point 2 as follows:

“Requires all Groups to submit details of which councillors receive spokespersons allowances, for what role and what sum and that this information is published by the Council annually.”

In moving the above amendment, Councillor Chilvers stated that he supported the principle of the report which provided for allowances that would allow candidates to consider how they would manage financially if they were elected, perhaps by negotiating a reduction in hours with their employer knowing that the allowance would bridge any gap. The amendment focussed on the spokesperson pot and sought greater transparency of its use and publishing this in line with other allowances.

Councillor Will Roberts seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Seccombe accepted the amendment as friendly.

Debate

Councillor John Holland supported the proposal and welcomed the transparency that was being offered. He supported the ethos of a fair day's wage for a fair day's work and recognised the need for diversity in elected representation. He considered it would be dangerous to democracy if only retired people with a private pension could afford to stand for election because whilst employers were required to give time off for democratic duties, they were not obliged to do so with pay. He noted that Councillors did not have to claim all their allowance.

Councillors Bill Gifford considered this was a sensible approach and Councillor Clare Golby welcomed the amendment.

Vote

A vote was held and the motion (as amended) was agreed by a majority.

Resolved

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

1. approves the recommendations as set out in Section 1.7 of the report;
2. requires all Groups to submit details of which councillors receive spokespersons allowances, for what role and what sum and that this information is published by the Council annually; and
3. 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

7. Notices of Motion

(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.

Councillor Sarah Feeney proposed the above Motion and in doing so, she recognised that it was not an easy task to manage. She acknowledged the work that the library service conducted in terms of rhyme time, offering music and genealogy but stated that an important part of a child's journey was understanding that a library could provide information. She noted that an amendment had been tabled which she felt diluted the motion and as she sought the refreshed approach to be conducted rather than only be considered, she would not therefore be accepting it as a friendly amendment.

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

Amendment

Councillor Andy Jenns proposed the following amendment:

That this Council **recognises and celebrates the achievements of our library service, its staff and volunteers, and** commits **through scrutiny** to **consider further ways to promote its services** ~~a refreshed approach to the promotion of library membership to the children and young people of Warwickshire.~~

[Deletions shown as strikethrough. Additions shown in bold and underlined.]

Councillor Jenns was disappointed this was not accepted as a friendly amendment as he considered that it was in the spirit of the original motion. Whilst visiting some of the county's libraries the previous day, he had raised the motion with staff and whilst it had been agreed more promotional activity was needed, it was believed this should be targeted at secondary school children. Councillor Jenns advised that in 2020 the under 18 population of the county was 120,000 (circa 20% of the total population). In this age group, there were 44,546 registered borrowers (37% of the under 18 population) and of those 28,272 regularly borrowed books, and the total number of children's books issued between April 2022 to March 2023 was 650,947. These were impressive numbers but he considered that a review by scrutiny to see if alternative approaches would be beneficial would be welcomed.

Councillor Adrian Warwick seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

Debate

Councillor Sarah Boad welcome the motion and supported the amendment which would see a report presented for scrutiny. She considered this would help to enhance levelling up work in deprived areas and she encouraged members to promote library services among residents.

Councillor Isobel Seccombe supported the amendment and review of the topic by scrutiny. It was desirable to promote the library service, but this had to be achieved without taking funding away from other projects. The amendment was in the spirit of encouraging more take up of library services, but not at the cost of something else.

Councillor Tim Sinclair was supportive of the spirit of the motion, noting that his own children had been reading from an early age and the library had played a large role in their lives. In his view, the original motion was not clear on the action to be taken beyond a 'refreshed approach' whilst the amendment made provision for a specific action and measurable improvement.

Councillor Bill Gifford expressed surprise that the original motion did not acknowledge the work of the libraries and was further surprised the amendment was not accepted as friendly. He stated that Warwickshire had one of the best library services in the country but it could be better promoted and it seemed a natural course of action for this to be investigated by scrutiny.

Councillor Judy Falp welcomed the motion. She reflected on her personal experiences and supported the view that gaps in membership were among secondary school children but that the digital offer could be attractive to them. She considered that scrutiny would be best placed to investigate the issue.

Councillor Kam Kaur noted that Warwickshire Library Service was a national exemplar and that a lot of the work that it undertook was not properly recognised. She welcomed the opportunity to promote the service and echoed the comments from Councillor Boad to link libraries and communities.

Councillor Andy Crump applauded the work of Library Services.

Councillor Adrian Warwick noted the outstanding work done by libraries and welcomed the opportunity to celebrate those achievements in the Council Chamber. He considered that the amendment strengthened the motion and had hoped it would be well received.

Councillor Andy Jenns considered that the Chamber was supportive of the spirit of the amendment and wanted to support a thriving library service.

Councillor John Holland expressed the view that the amendment would slow down the implementation of any promotional activity and urged Council not to support it.

Councillor Sarah Feeney stated that the use of the word “consider” in the motion was reducing and that the outcome of scrutiny work might be not to take the issue further if it was not affordable. She wanted children to have access to libraries and asked the Chamber not to ‘consider’ doing this, but to actually do it.

Vote

A vote was held on the Conservative amendment which was carried by a majority and became the substantive motion. A vote was held on the substantive motion which was unanimously supported.

Resolved

That this Council recognises and celebrates the achievements of our library service, its staff and volunteers, and commits through scrutiny to consider further ways to promote its services to the children and young people of Warwickshire.

(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.

Councillor Barbara Brown proposed the above motion, expressing the opinion that the scheme required review with consideration being given to opportunities to debate the issues that were brought before the Council. She advocated for the formation of a Petitions Committee to look at petitions received, investigate the issues raised and recommend actions for debate.

Councillor Sarah Millar seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Debate

Councillor Isobel Seccombe supported the motion in principle and concurred that the Chamber heard eloquent speeches from petitioners which seemed to have no tangible outcome. She considered that any change to the Scheme would require a change to standing orders and suggested that scrutiny consider putting a review of the Petitions Scheme on the work programme to investigate what would be appropriate for the future and the impact on standing orders.

Councillor Tim Sinclair was concerned that the motion was too vague and would have preferred to see specific actions and outcomes.

Councillor Andy Jenns referred to the petition received earlier in the meeting and his understanding of how hard the petitioner had worked to obtain the signatures required and made the effort to attend to speak, for what appeared to be an anticlimactic outcome.

Councillor Sarah Millar expressed admiration for the courage shown by the petitioner who had given a speech earlier in the meeting and agreed it must have been a disappointing experience. She reminded Council that there was new petition system in parliament and that in terms of proportionality every petition did not need to be responded to and debated, but she felt it was important to have a scheme that was pertinent and proportionate.

In closing, Councillor Barbara Brown stated that the motion could not be specific as it was related to something developmental and she welcomed Councillor Seccombe's sensible approach.

Vote

A vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously.

Resolved

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

8. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

(1) Question to Councillor Wallace Redford from Councillor John Holland

The road and adjacent footpath for Priory Mews, Cape Road, Warwick were closed on 17 February 2022 due to subsidence and remain closed. Since then, no work has been carried out to repair the road and footpath. The highway and footpath are both blocked, causing considerable difficulty for residents in the street. Would the Portfolio Holder apologise to the residents for the loss of their right-of-way and vehicle access to their homes? When will repairs be completed?

Councillor Redford responded that there was a serious situation with subsidence in the area. It was not just affecting the road and the path, several houses had suffered subsidence to the extent that Severn Trent had purchased them. This was an ongoing situation. Severn Trent had taken control of the site and remained so. There was no likelihood of the road being opened until such

time that it could be done in a manner that was safe for residents and the workforce in attendance. This would be done as quickly as it was safe to do so.

In response, Councillor Holland noted that there were a number of residents whose homes were not affected by subsidence but they had still lost access, could not get their cars to their garages and the pedestrian route was difficult. It was an adopted highway which was the Council's responsibility. He considered the response to be unsatisfactory.

Councillor Redford advised that negotiations with Severn Trent to open part of the road as soon as possible were taking place but this remained in the control of Severn Trent. He would circulate more information as soon as he had further news.

(2) Question to Councillor Heather Timms from Councillor Sarah Millar

Please could you provide an update on the solar panel roll out scheme in Warwickshire "Solar Together" and the relationship between the scheme and the service/contract providers (GET UK). Residents in my division, and elsewhere in the county have paid deposits, had scaffolding put up, had scaffolding taken down, and other difficulties including basic contact with the scheme. What support is there for residents who have been disappointed, let down, and frustrated trying to do the right thing for the environment?

Councillor Timms responded that Solar Together was a scheme operated by iChoosr who registered customers, ran the option to find a supplier and passed the customers to the supplier, with customers then signing up to contracts directly with suppliers. A series of global events had had a significant impact on the supply chain over the past 12-18 months, not just in Warwickshire but more widely across the country and this, unfortunately, had impacted on a number of Warwickshire customers. The Council recognised how frustrated and let down they felt, particularly when they were trying to do the right thing

The Council was in regular dialogue with iChoosr and were assessing ways in which affected customers could be supported both directly and through iChoosr. A dedicated team of officers had been set up to liaise with affected customers (where the details were available), and the Council was reviewing the Scheme as a whole.

iChoosr were in constant contact with the supplier, GET, and also in regular dialogue with the Home Insulation and Energy Systems Quality Assured Contractors Scheme (HIES). However, as supplier, the responsibility to resolve the issues lay with GET. iChoosr were planning to liaise with all customers early in the week of the meeting to make them aware of the situation and provide support, whichever part of the process they were at.

Councillor Millar asked what pressure the Council could bring to bear on iChoosr to make sure customers were not experiencing these difficulties, potentially losing deposits and not receiving the solar panels or services they were expecting?

Councillor Timms repeated that a dedicated team had been set up to put that pressure on but the Council wanted to ensure that the supplier, GET, fulfilled their obligations.

(3) Question to Councillor Peter Butlin from Councillor John Holland

Will the Deputy Leader make a statement about the funding of a foot/cycle bridge across Europa Way to replace traffic lights?

Councillor Butlin responded that the Council had been working closely with Warwick District Council to develop feasibility plans for the bridge for more than a year including the Council investing £50,000 in early feasibility studies. While the Community Infrastructure Fund was in place, it was not sufficient to fund the cost of a project of this size. The District Council had welcomed this Council's release of funding to complete the feasibility work and involve architects which would move the project a step closer to a fully costed and workable design. This would allow the Council, working in partnership, to seek further external funding to deliver the project.

Councillor Holland responded that this sounded like it may be a positive scheme but his main concern was that the project was only required because of development in the area and, therefore, should be developer funded.

(4) Question to Councillor Peter Butlin from Councillor Will Roberts

On 2 March 2023, you posted on social media that you believe all net-zero targets should be scrapped. Considering meeting net-zero commitments falls within one of Warwickshire County Council's three strategy priorities in the 2022-2027 Plan, please can you clarify your position on this – do you believe all net-zero targets should be dropped?

In response, Councillor Butlin referred to his earlier statement and further stated that he was continually looking at the data to support the premise.

(5) Question to Councillor Wallace Redford from Councillor Sarah Boad

At a previous meeting, my colleague asked about the state of on-street parking meters in the centre of Leamington and it was reported that they would all be working within a few weeks. This was not the case. It is acknowledged that the units are old and parts are not available, however, residents needed the option to pay in cash not via Ringo. Can you provide an update that considers the needs of residents without smartphones.

Councillor Wallace Redford responded that he had been in correspondence with several residents who had raised this issue with him and he therefore had the information but not to hand. He would circulate the detail to Members.

Councillor Peter Butlin added his acknowledgement that the machines were out of date and breaking down on a regular basis, and stated a report was being drafted regarding the procurement of new machines with provision for cash, card and Ringo payments. Once permission had been granted, the procurement would commence.

9. Any Other items of Urgent Business

None.

The meeting rose at 1.15 pm

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Chair

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County Council

16 May 2023

Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Recommendations

That Council

1. confirms the Committee structure and delegations of non-executive functions to member bodies as set out in the Constitution (subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting)
2. agrees the appointment of members to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1 (subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting)
3. confirms the delegations of non-executive functions to officers as set out in the Constitution subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting, and authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of this and any other changes agreed at this meeting
4. authorises the Chief Executive to agree the final appointments to the Police and Crime Panel in consultation with Group Leaders as she considers to be necessary to meet the requirements of geographical and political proportionality required and to work with District and Borough representatives to achieve that end

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Article 5 of the County Council's Constitution requires, as a minimum, the establishment of the following bodies:
 - a. Cabinet
 - b. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (at least one)
 - c. Audit and Standards Committee
 - d. Regulatory Committee
 - e. Staff and Pensions Committee
- 1.2 The Cabinet is appointed by the Leader of the Council (who was appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2021 for a 4-year period and is automatically a member and Chair of Cabinet). A maximum of nine other members may be appointed to the Cabinet and their appointment and portfolios are matters for the Leader. The Leader must also appoint a Deputy Leader from

the Cabinet members. The Leader will confirm the appointment of the Cabinet at a Leader Decision Making Session and any changes in the delegations to portfolio holders and support (non-decision making) roles for additional members. The agenda for the Leader Decision Making session will be circulated to all members for information.

- 1.3 Committees are appointed by the County Council. These are currently the Audit and Standards Committee, Regulatory Committee, Staff and Pensions Committee and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees; Adult Social Care and Health, Children and Young People, Communities, and Resources and Fire & Rescue. This report seeks the Council's confirmation (or amendment) to the current structure, taking account of the rules set out in the following section, and appointments of members to those seats. (The remit of each Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution and available on the Council's website).
- 1.4 Section 3 of this report also seeks confirmation of membership on a number of other member bodies which fall within the responsibility of Council to appoint, including appointments to some strategic external organisations.
- 1.5 Sub-Committees are appointed by their parent Committee. The Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee is appointed by the Staff and Pensions Committee (meeting on the rising of this meeting). The Dispensations Sub-Committee is appointed as required from time to time by the Strategic Director for Resources and taken from membership of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.6 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees will also be appointed at a meeting of each Committee immediately following this Council meeting, other than the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee which has an independent chair (John Bridgeman) and the Council is invited to confirm his appointment.

2. Allocation of seats between political groups

- 2.1 The composition of the Council is 42 Conservative Group; 6 Labour Group; 5 Liberal Democrat Group; 3 Green Group and 1 Independent. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that appointments to committees and sub-committees must achieve political balance in their membership. (There are exceptions to this notably for geographically based committees on which all local members sit).
- 2.2 The other rules are:

Committees: the aggregate allocation of all committee seats must be proportional to the party groups' overall membership on the Council. Within those allocations each individual committee must be split as close to the overall proportions as possible.

Sub-committees: the sub-committee is split proportionally – there is no aggregation.

Panels, Working groups: the national rules do not apply but the Council has applied the proportionality rule as a matter of good practice.

- 2.3 The overall rules can be set aside in favour of local arrangements provided this is agreed by the Council with no-one voting against it.
- 2.4 The allocation to committees agreed at the Annual Meeting in May 2022 is set out below and the Council is invited to confirm the allocation of seats for 2023 and to make/confirm membership (completing the tables in the appendix to this report).
- 2.5 Group Leaders are also invited to identify their Group Spokespersons and allocation of Special Responsibility Allowances to their spokespersons. The table below shows the current distribution of seats and the political balance entitlement.

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	GR	WRA	Total
Audit & Standards Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Regulatory Committee (12)	10	1			1	12
Staff & Pensions Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Adult Social Care & Health (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Children and Young People (10)	8	1	1			10
Communities (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Resources and Fire & Rescue (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Political Balance Entitlement 2022	47	7	6	3	1	64

3. Appointments required to be made/confirmed by Council

The Council is invited to confirm appointments to the committees and bodies set out in the Appendix.

3.1 Audit and Standards Committee

The membership of the Audit and Standards Committee is comprised of 6 elected members and two co-opted (independent) members. The Committee is chaired by John Bridgeman, one of the independent members. The Council is invited to confirm the appointment of John Bridgeman as the Chair of the Committee.

3.2 Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care System

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Council but the rules regarding proportionality do not apply to the Board which has a mixed membership of councillor and non-councillor (including statutory officer) appointments. The membership is four county councillors which to date has included the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Health and

Children & Families plus the Leader of the Council. The Council also appoints the Chair of the Board.

The current County Councillor membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Margaret Bell, Jeff Morgan and Isobel Seccombe
Liberal Democrat: Jerry Roodhouse

The current chair of the Board is Councillor Margaret Bell, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health.

Appointments to the various boards and groups comprising the Integrated Care System have been dealt with in previous reports. The County Council representatives currently appointed to the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership are set out below and Council is invited to confirm the appointments in the Appendix:

Integrated Care Board: Nigel Minns – Strategic Director for People

Integrated Care Partnership: Councillor Margaret Bell – Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, Nigel Minns – Strategic Director for People, and Shade Agboola – Director of Public Health

3.3 Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council on 18 July 2017 agreed to the establishment of the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council each has five seats and appointments by each authority reflects the political balance of that authority.

The current County Councillor membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Clare Golby, John Cooke, Chris Mills, Penny-Anne O'Donnell
Labour: Councillor John Holland

3.4 Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The 'Horton JHOSC' was formed in 2018 following a recommendation from the Secretary of State. This is a joint committee of nine non-executive voting members and one co-opted non-voting member. Having due regard to the patient flow for the Horton General Hospital (HGH), the committee has eight members from Oxfordshire, one from Northamptonshire and one from Warwickshire. Members are appointed to the committee from the relevant overview and scrutiny committee of the respective local authorities and are reflective of the political balance accordingly.

Since the establishment of the Horton Joint Health OSC, the Council has appointed a member of its Adult Social Care and Health OSC as the most appropriate committee from which to draw representation to this joint

committee. This approach remains appropriate given the overlap between the nature and remit of the respective committees. Historically, the Council's practice has been to appoint the sitting Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to represent the Council on the Horton Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The current County Councillor representative is Councillor Clare Golby

3.5 Corporate Parenting Panel

The membership of the Panel includes the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Families as Chair, plus five other members.

The current membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Jeff Morgan, Marian Humphreys, Penny-Anne O'Donnell and Sue Markham

Labour: Councillor Caroline Phillips

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

The Council is invited to confirm the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services as the Chair.

3.6 Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

This is a statutory body that advises the Cabinet on religious worship and religious education within schools. The membership includes representatives of religious denominations and teacher representatives. The County Council membership is five councillors. There is no statutory requirement for political proportionality.

The current membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Parminder Singh Birdi, John Cooke, and Justin Kerridge

Labour: Councillor Barbara Brown

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Sarah Boad

3.7 Warwickshire Waste Partnership

The Waste Partnership comprises five County Councillors and a councillor from each of the five district and borough councils. It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding and the Chair is appointed by the Partnership.

The current County Councillor membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Tim Sinclair, Heather Timms, and Andrew Wright

Labour: Councillor Sarah Millar

3.8 Local Pension Board and Fire & Rescue Pension Board

The terms of reference for these two statutory boards specify that the tenure of membership (up to a maximum of nine years) is three years. Each has an independent Chair also appointed for a three-year term. If a member resigns during their term of office the replacement is appointed for three years. Confirmation of re-appointments is for the Scheme Manager (the County Council as the administering authority).

Alan Kidner is standing down as a scheme member representative on the LGPS Local Pension Board. A recruitment process is underway for his replacement. A report will be brought to Council to confirm the appointment of the replacement in due course.

There are two vacancies on the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board following the retirements of Barnaby Briggs (employer's representative and Tony Morgan (employee's representative). It is proposed that Sally Waldron be appointed to the Fire & Rescue Local Pension Board as an employer's representative. A process is ongoing to secure nominations for appointment to the Fire & Rescue Local Pension Board as an employee's representative. Once nominations are received and evaluated a report will be brought to Council to confirm the appointment.

Appointments to the Boards are made for a period of three years.

Council is invited to confirm membership for the time being of the Local Pension Board and the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board in the Appendix.

3.9 The Police and Crime Panel

Police and Crime Panels are joint committees of the principal authorities in a police area, which in Warwickshire means the County Council and the five District and Borough councils. The current membership of the Panel is:

County Council Members

Conservative: Councillors Dave Humphreys and Bhagwant Singh Pandher

Labour: Councillors Barbara Brown and John Holland

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Jenny Fradgley

District/Borough Members

North Warwickshire Borough Council; Councillor Ray Jarvis (Conservative)

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: Councillor Claire Golby (Conservative)

Stratford on Avon District Council: Councillor Christopher Kettle (Conservative)

Rugby Borough Council: Councillor Derek Poole (Conservative)

Warwick District Council: Councillor Ian Davison (Green)

Co-opted Members: Andy Davis and Andrew Davies

The chair is appointed by the Panel and the current chair is Councillor Christopher Kettle.

The composition of the panel has to meet the principle of 'fair representation'. This means that each Council within the police area must have at least one member. The composition should also take account, as far as practical, of both political and geographical proportionality. This means the Councillor members, when taken together, should represent all parts of the police area and also represent the political make-up of the relevant authorities when taken together. The composition of the Panel will be reviewed in light of the results of the local elections and this report seeks authority for the Chief Executive to finalise appointments in liaison with Group Leaders and with the District and Borough Councils.

3.10 Joint Negotiating Bodies

The Council has two Joint Negotiating Bodies one for staff and one for teachers. Each has four elected members appointed, (two appointments are made by the Leader and two appointments are made by the Council). The current Council appointments on the joint negotiating bodies are -

Joint Staff Negotiating Body – Councillors Barbara Brown and Bill Gifford

Joint Teachers Negotiating Body – Councillors Barbara Brown and Bill Gifford

3.11 Appointment to strategic external bodies

There is also a need for Council to confirm its appointments to key strategic bodies, namely the Local Government Association, the LGA Fire Commission and the County Councils Network. The Council is invited to appoint to these (see recommendation 10 in the Appendix to this report).

3.12 Appointment to Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a business-led and managed, not-for-profit partnership in a given area such as a town centre, which delivers an agreed business plan, consisting of projects and services that are in addition to those provided by local or national government. This plan is developed through consultation with the businesses and formally voted for, usually every five years by all eligible businesses within the geographic boundary of the Business Improvement District. BIDs have been established in the UK for around 20 years and are governed by legislation contained in the Local Government Act 2003 and the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004.

There are three BIDs in Warwickshire, with current membership as follows:

BID Leamington – Councillor Sarah Boad
Rugby First Ltd – Councillor Peter Butlin
Stratforward BID (Stratford-upon-Avon) – Councillor Kate Rolfe

Pursuant to Part 2(10) of the Constitution, responses to BID consultations that relate to the ongoing activities of the BIDs are covered by officer delegations.

3.13 Appointment to Community Safety Partnerships and the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are made up of representatives from the police, Local Authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health and probation services (the 'responsible authorities'). The responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. There are three CSPs in Warwickshire, with current County Council membership as follows:

North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership – Councillor Dave Humphreys

Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership – Councillor Sue Markham

South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership – Councillor Judy Falp and Councillor Christopher Kettle

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board is a collection of partner agencies working collaboratively to address crime and safety priorities, and to provide support for victims and survivors of crime and disorder across Warwickshire.

The current representative is Councillor Andy Crump.

4. **Members Allowances Scheme**

An Independent Remuneration Panel undertook a review of the Council's Member Allowances Scheme in 2022. The Panel's report on its findings was considered at the Council meeting on 17 May 2022 and a number of changes were agreed to the Scheme. The Panel reported to Council again on 21 March 2023 regarding the issue of indexation and application of the pay award to the Scheme and further changes were made to the Scheme as a result.

If there are any proposed changes in the political management structure and responsibilities this may impact on the allowances payable under the member allowances scheme and members may then need to consider whether any changes should be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5. **Schemes of Delegation**

The Council's Constitution sets out the delegation of powers to member bodies and to officers. The Council is invited to confirm these delegations of non-executive functions - except in so far as they may be inconsistent with any changes to the arrangements made for the member bodies set out above.

The Head of Paid Service has decided to update senior managers' job titles to assist with clarity of roles as follows:

- a. Strategic Directors will be known as "Executive Directors";
- b. Assistant Directors will be known as "Directors"; and
- c. Tier 3 Managers will be known as "Heads of".

It is intended that the changes will aid easier understanding of roles and responsibilities for Councillors, colleagues and partners. These changes will also ensure that the Council keeps pace with the local government sector language and that titles are in keeping with modern workforce terminology. The changes do not affect salaries or status. The changes will be implemented with effect from 1 July 2023 and will be reflected throughout the Council's delegations, which will be updated accordingly.

6. Financial Implications

All of the proposals set out in the report can be accommodated within the 2023/24 approved budget.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Recommendations

Background Papers

2023/24 Budget and 2023-2028 Medium Term Financial Strategy
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=275&MId=3428&Ver=4>

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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Izzi Seccombe - Leader of the Council	isobelseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): N/A Countywide matter

Other members:

Appendix 1

Recommendations

1. That the Council confirms the Committee structure and delegations of non-executive functions to member bodies as set out in the Constitution
2. That the number of places on Council Committees be as follows

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	GR	WRA	Total
Audit & Standards Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Regulatory Committee (12)	10	1			1	12
Staff & Pensions Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Adult Social Care & Health (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Children and Young People (10)	8	1	1			10
Communities (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Resources and Fire & Rescue (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Political Balance Entitlement 2022	47	7	6	3	1	64

That the Council agrees the appointment of members to the Committees and other bodies as set below:

Opposition Group Spokespersons are indicated for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Sp)

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	WRA/Ind Vacancy	Total
Audit & Standards Committee (6 +2 co-optees, being J Bridgeman + R Edwards Zara)						6
Regulatory Committee						12
Staff and Pensions Committee						6

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	WRA/Ind Vacancy	
Adult Social Care & Health OSC						10
Children & Young People OSC						10
Communities OSC						10
Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC						10
Joint Staff Negotiating Body (2) [*+ Leader Appointment x2]						
Joint Teachers Negotiating Body (2) [*+ Leader Appointment x2]						
Pension Fund Sub-Committee *appointments are made by Staff and Pensions Committee						
Pool of Members to sit on the Appointments Sub-Committees and Staff Appeals Sub-Committees.						

3. That John Bridgeman be confirmed as the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

4. That the Council confirms/amends membership to the following bodies:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Health and Wellbeing Board (4)			
Joint Coventry & Warwickshire Health OSC (5)			
Corporate Parenting Panel (6)			
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) (5)			
Warwickshire Waste Partnership (5)			
Horton Joint OSC (1)			

5. That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health is appointed as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

6. That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Director of Public Health and the Strategic Director for People continue as the Council's appointed nominees on the Integrated Care Partnership and the Strategic Director for People as the Council's appointed nominee on the Integrated Care Board
7. That the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children's Services is appointed as the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
8. That the Council confirms/appoints to the Local Pension Board and to the Fire & Rescue Pension Board:

Local Pension Board	Fire & Rescue Pension Board
Keith Bray (Chair) - Independent Member	Martin Reohorn (Chair) - Independent Member
Jeff Carruthers – Scheme Employer Representative	Sally Waldron, Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Employers' Representative
Keith Francis – Scheme Employer Representative	Caroline Jones, Finance Portfolio Lead for Communities & Resources - Employers' Representative
Councillor Ian Shenton – Scheme Employer Representative	Councillor Brian Hammersley - Employers' Representative
Sean McGovern – Scheme Member Representative	Sian Marsh, Fire Brigades Union (Fire and Rescue) - Employees' Representative
Mike Snow – Scheme Member Representative	Paul Morley, Fire Officers Association - Employees' Representative
Vacant – Scheme Member Representative	Vacant - Employees' Representative

9. That the Council authorises the Chief Executive to agree the final appointments to the Police and Crime Panel in consultation with Group Leaders as she considers to be necessary to meet the requirements of geographical and political proportionality required and to work with District and Borough representatives to achieve that end.

10. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following external bodies:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
LGA (4)			
CCN (4)			
LGA Fire Commission (1)			

11. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following Business Improvement Districts:

BID Leamington (1)	Councillor Sarah Boad
Rugby First Ltd (1)	Councillor Peter Butlin
Stratforward BID (Stratford-upon-Avon) (1)	Councillor Kate Rolfe

12. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following Community Safety Partnerships

North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (1)	
Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership (1)	
South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (two seats – one from the Warwick area and one from the Stratford-upon-Avon area)	
Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (1)	

13. That Council confirms the delegations of non-executive functions to officers as set out in the Constitution subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting and authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of this and any other changes agreed at this meeting.

County Council

16 May 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

Recommendation

That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

1. Summary

At the end of each municipal year, an Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report is produced to highlight the activity of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout the year. The report includes the achievements of the Committees and demonstrates where the scrutiny function has added value to the organisation, in terms of improved service delivery and helping the Council to achieve its corporate ambitions.

2. Appendices

Appendix A - The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

3. Financial Implications

None arising directly from this report.

4. Environmental Implications

None arising directly from this report.

5. Background Papers

None

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Report Author	Helen Barnsley Senior Democratic Services Officer	helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk
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Portfolio Holder	Councillor Isobel Seccombe Leader of the Council	isobelseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Parminder Singh Birdi, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Yousef Dahmash, Clare Golby, John Holland, Jerry Roodhouse, Isobel Seccombe and Adrian Warwick

Warwickshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the 2022/2023 Warwickshire County Council annual review of Overview and Scrutiny. The report highlights the main topics covered by each of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees at Warwickshire County Council over the last twelve months.

Each Committee produces a work programme that shapes each meeting and prioritises topics that Elected Members would like to focus on. The work programme is shaped by working with officers who notify the Chair and Vice-Chair for the relevant Committee of key changes in their service area such as new legislation. Officers will also notify Overview and Scrutiny Committees of new policies or procedures being introduced at Warwickshire County Council and seek comments and feedback from members. There are regular Chair and Spokes meetings ahead of each full Committee meeting, where elected members work with senior officers to review the work programme and put forward new suggestions.

Additional information is shared with Committees via briefing notes and additional work is done through Task and Finish Groups that focus on areas of concern or development.

Following the review in February 2020 of how Warwickshire County Council operated its scrutiny function, recommendations were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees ahead of meetings of the Cabinet and Council in September 2021 where the recommendations were considered and endorsed. In March 2023, the Council's Audit and Standards Committee reviewed the progress made against the recommendations as well as receiving assurance that the Council continues to develop and embed its approach to scrutiny. Democratic Services continue to work closely with members of each Committee to ensure that they are confident in the role and that they have the skills required to fulfil it.

The next twelve months of Overview and Scrutiny will bring new topics to the top of work programmes while ensuring that previous topics are reviewed to ensure that progress is being made and that feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been considered. Each Committee will continue to focus on the areas that are most important to their remit, and make sure that they are each given the focus they deserve.

I continue to be confident that officers and elected members will work together to provide the best outcomes for residents and businesses across Warwickshire and am grateful to the role that overview and scrutiny, carried out by members, plays in that regard.

Councillor Isobel Secombe
Leader of Warwickshire County Council
May 2023

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Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee reviews and scrutinises the provision of public services in Warwickshire relating to adult social care services including social care to older people and people with disabilities, policies and services for safeguarding adults and any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services for adults and children in Warwickshire.

“There has been ongoing change to the Health and Care landscape for several years now. In 2022, the new Integrated Care System commenced, which you will see reflected in several areas reported below. Legislation was introduced which will impact how the Committee responds to health service reconfigurations.

The Committee engages regularly with its health partners and Healthwatch, the body which provides the patient voice. There is a wide breadth of services, including those provided for social care, which all makes this Committee’s work vitally important to Warwickshire people. Reflecting on the areas scrutinised over the last year, I would like to place on record my thanks to the elected members, officers and partners who have all contributed.”

Councillor Clare Golby
Chair of Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
May 2023

Officer Support and Changes to the Scrutiny Landscape

The Committee is supported by the Strategic Director for People and Assistant Directors, including the Director of Public Health. They attend every meeting, providing important updates to members on both Public Health and Social Care services.

In recent years, there have been a number of drivers for significant change in the way Council and NHS services are delivered and this change will only continue as we move forwards. The implementation of the Integrated Care System (ICS) and new Health and Care legislation are key changes during this period.

Health

The Committee’s remit is to scrutinise the performance of local health commissioners and service providers. A key change concerns the statutory scrutiny role in relation to health service reconfigurations. For many years, proposals to reconfigure health services could trigger formal consultation requirements with this Scrutiny Committee (and sometimes jointly with Coventry). The new health legislation will remove these powers. That said, there are positive working arrangements with the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) and a commitment from the ICB to engage with the Committee on any such changes. This will need to be monitored however early indications are positive, with a regular dialogue taking place.

Health services have featured extensively in the work programme during this year. The integration of services often means that such presentations and updates are delivered jointly by health colleagues and the Council's officers. An example is the joint presentation on hospital discharge. There has been national coverage of concerns around delayed hospital discharge. The Committee heard from representatives of George Eliot Hospital, the Coventry and Warwickshire ICB and County Council officers, involving a comprehensive presentation on 'Ambulance Turnaround, Winter Plan & Discharge Pathways' which showed the coordination of services, to avoid delays throughout the care pathway.

A review of community hospital provision by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) continued from the previous year and is ongoing. This concerns step-down bedded care provision following a patient's discharge from an acute hospital. The Committee has raised with the ICB the lack of such services in other parts of the county.

The Committee received a comprehensive update on the new Integrated Care System (ICS), the organisations and partnerships it comprises, their respective roles and responsibilities. There is a requirement to develop an Integrated Care Strategy to meet the assessed needs, from the previously developed Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs). This is an ongoing piece of engagement to ensure the Committee can input to the new strategy and associated plan.

The Committee received a joint presentation on system pressures in Warwickshire from the ICB and the County Council. Every year NHS and Social Care services are stretched through 'winter pressures.' A comprehensive presentation gave data about system pressures, accident and emergency attendances and activity to support the system, including with hospital discharges. Further areas covered home based therapy, reablement, domiciliary care and additional hospital discharge funding. Again, this showed the integrated approach to health and social care services. As with all scrutiny areas, member questioning takes place, with some answers requiring further detail via briefing notes after the meeting.

Social Care

This year saw a focus on health, but social care also featured with a workforce update for the care market. It is widely recognised that staffing remains a challenge across this sector and this item explained how the Council is supporting the care market. It covered the whole spectrum of commissioned care services. The update included comparative data showing recruitment and retention figures, staff learning and development and how the Council is working collaboratively with health. It detailed Warwickshire specific training with a range of training offers, a qualification programme, support for managers and sharing good practice. There is a range of initiatives to encourage people to take up a career in care, working with schools, colleges and universities. Promoting job vacancies, recruitment support and staff retention also featured in this comprehensive update.

Performance Reports and Briefings

The Committee receives quarterly performance monitoring reports and reviews the annual customer services feedback relevant to the services within its remit. There has been more of a focus on the performance management aspects this year through use of a Power BI digital platform providing frequently updated information. Officers and partners provide periodic briefing documents to add capacity and keep members informed of service changes or to provide detailed feedback following requests at Committee.

Levelling Up

The Council has made a commitment to the Government's Levelling Up agenda to "spread opportunity and prosperity to all parts of the country" through twelve national missions. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) was consulted as part of wider stakeholder engagement before this matter was considered for approval by Cabinet in July 2022. The report set out the twelve missions in the White Paper, showing overlaps with Council Plan areas of focus and between the remits of the four OSCs. It provided an outline of the emerging approach along with content tailored to this Committee's remit and sought member input. The Committee submitted questions and points for Cabinet to take into consideration as part of this process.

Work with Healthwatch Warwickshire and the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Committee works closely with Healthwatch Warwickshire, the voluntary organisation that provides the 'patient voice.' Healthwatch has an active role in shaping the Committee's work programme; it contributes to debate in meetings and updates the Committee on its own work areas.

The Committee receives periodic updates on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and its Chair, Councillor Margaret Bell, who is also the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health attends every meeting with a regular 'question time' included on the agenda. It is evident that a number of items have been referred between the bodies during this year, an example being the workforce update referred to above.

Engagement with the Public and Elected Members

The public can address the Committee or submit questions. During this year, concerns about primary care services for new housing developments were raised, with a response provided via the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health. Every agenda includes items to enable Councillors to submit questions to the Portfolio Holder or to NHS colleagues, both of which have been used during this year with questions linked to the JSNA priorities, the shortage of care staff, pursuing provision of new GP services and on system pressures.

Task and Finish Group (TFG) Reviews

During this year, the GP Services TFG completed its review. The Committee approved the report, together with the four recommendations it made for the Coventry and Warwickshire ICS and those within the remit of individual agencies. These recommendations concerned coordinated communications activity, involvement of Primary Care and Public Health in the ICS, monitoring patient involvement in decision making and monitoring of future estates provision, to ensure sufficiency. The recommendations are being considered both by the Cabinet and The Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Committee has recently commissioned a TFG of menopause services. This TFG is in its formative stage and more detail for this review will feature in next year's annual report.

Key Organisations overseen by the Committee

The following organisations fall within the remit of the Committee's oversight role;

Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership Provider Trusts: Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, George Eliot NHS Hospital Trust, South Warwickshire Foundation Trust, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust.

Key partners that the Committee engages with as part of its remit

Coventry City Council (joint health scrutiny)
Oxfordshire County Council (joint health scrutiny)
District and Borough Councils (co-opted representation)
Healthwatch Coventry
Healthwatch Warwickshire
NHS England and NHS Improvement

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee reviews and scrutinises the provision of public services in Warwickshire relating to education and skills, services for children, families and young people including schools, 16-19 years education, pre-school children, child protection, family support and social care, children with specific needs and the Youth Service.

Over the past year, the Committee has continued to work with officers to focus on key areas of the services covered by the Committee's remit. In particular, there has been a spotlight on SEND services, and engagement with the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Youth Forum meetings. The importance of the work done by the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel was also recognised by the Committee and an update now features at every meeting from the Chair of the Panel.

In June 2022, the Committee received a report in relation to the impact of Covid-19 on Children and Young People and were able to comment on the work that had been done by officers in relation to school attendance, attainment and mental health. Committee members heard from officers who had been involved in the response to the pandemic and were able to ask questions. The report was considered to be comprehensive and showed what had worked well and what had not. The Committee requested that they were kept updated regularly in relation to areas where the need for improvement had been identified.

In June 2022, a report was presented outlining the proposed approach to Levelling Up by services relevant to the Committee. National missions, and how they would shape the policies for Warwickshire were shared with members who were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Other highlights from the work done by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be found below but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers who continue to support members in their scrutiny roles. As things slowly return to normal following the pandemic, I remain confident that as a Committee, and as a Council, the work we do will always have the interests of our residents at the forefront of our minds.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash,
Chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
May 2023

SEND Services

In June 2022, the Committee reviewed the outcomes from the Ofsted and CQC local area SEND inspections and considered the progress made towards the delivery of the Written Statement of Action which was required after areas for improvement had been identified in a number of areas. Members of the Committee were able to question officers in relation to the improvement plan, and if it went far enough.

The Committee learnt that several areas had seen improvements but that there was still work to be done. Issues such as recruitment, engagement and funding were highlighted and agreement was made that the Committee would receive regular updates from officers.

In November 2022, the Committee received a verbal update from officers in relation to the Written Statement of Action and were pleased to hear that the service received positive feedback from a meeting with the Department of Education and NHS England. The Team was commended for the pace of movement of work, the visible progress against key areas of concern and the shared aspirational vision displayed.

In February 2023, the Committee received a further update in the form of a briefing note which included confirmation of the steps taken by Warwickshire County Council in response to the outcomes from the SEND inspection in 2021. Members were pleased to note that work will continue with partners to address the areas for development identified by the inspectors before the reinspection by Ofsted and CQC in 2023, noting that the SEND and Inclusion Steering Group will hold the accountability for delivering the improvements.

The Committee took the opportunity to acknowledge the work done by SEND officers and their teams; especially during the pandemic and thanked them for all their hard work.

Child Protection

In March 2022, an update was provided in relation to the performance of the Council's Child Protection team following an inspection by Ofsted. The Committee was pleased to note the endorsement of the Council's approach as confirmed by the Ofsted findings which acknowledged the positive improvements that had been made to children in need and child protection services. Following confirmation that the service uses regular themed audits to reflect on areas where performance is below statistical neighbours, the Committee requested that they were kept informed at every step.

Family Support Service and Children and Family Centres

Following a motion at the full Council meeting in March 2021, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee regularly reviews the Family Support Workers' service as part of the on-going performance monitoring arrangements. As part of this work, the Committee members requested broader information in relation to feedback, especially if it had not been positive. Additional information in relation to demographics on who uses the centres, and in addition how far a family may have to travel was requested, as the Committee felt it would provide a clearer idea of how much impact the centres have for "in person" use, as well as those who could only use online or telephone support. It was acknowledged that the pandemic had a major impact on the level of service that could be provided during that period.

Committee members were able to enquire about the amount of multi-agency engagement in providing a high level of support; with particular reference to the cost-of-living crisis and the level of anxiety for many families. Recognising that this was an area that was likely to remain a key focus for officers, the Committee agreed that regular reviews of performance would continue.

Post 16 participation in Education, Employment and Training performance report 2022

In February 2023, the Committee received a report in relation to young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET), and the Council's performance in comparison with national figures and statistical neighbours. It was confirmed once a young person has been identified as NEET, officers will work to re-engage with them and help them to progress.

Members of the Committee noted that Warwickshire performs well, with its proportion of young people participating in education and training higher than those of England, the West Midlands and statistical neighbour average.

Following a discussion on the impact of Covid, sufficiency placements and the increase in mental health support now available to young people, the Committee requested a further breakdown of the performance data by district and borough, noting that each area in the County will have different needs and different opportunities.

The Committee felt the report highlighted the excellent work being done by officers at Warwickshire County Council and thanked officers for all that they are doing.

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee reviews and scrutinises the provision of public services in Warwickshire relating to community safety, trading standards, transport and highways, economic development and environment, adult learning, heritage, tourism, flood risk management and emergency planning.

My second year as Chair has seen the Committee continue to work alongside officers at the Council in closely scrutinising new projects and decisions made by the Council. There remains a strong focus on economic developments, and each meeting includes an update in this area. The Committee has focused on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and will continue to review how, and support improvements to the way in which, Council decisions affect residents and businesses across Warwickshire.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the success of this Committee, from the elected members to each officer who provides reports and presentations. The highlights of the last twelve months can be found below.

Councillor Jeff Clarke
Chair of Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
May 2023

Economic Development Updates

At every meeting, the committee receives an economic development update that reports on any economic development activities in Warwickshire. It covers work undertaken by Council officers and partners across a range of services as well as relevant news/information. The updates showed the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and Warwickshire's successful digital sector businesses.

In November 2022, Communities OSC received an update on the Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund (WRIF) which provides loans to different sized businesses in Warwickshire following Covid-19. The WRIF is monitored by a Member Oversight Group.

Highway Developments

An update on the Bermuda Connectivity Scheme was received by the committee in September 2022. This included an update on the construction programme and the issues that needed to be resolved to complete the Scheme.

In June 2022, the committee received an update on the planned website for elected members regarding their delegated budgets and highway schemes. The new system would enable members to receive email updates and to break down schemes by borough/district. The purpose of the new system is to keep members better informed of progress on their schemes and accurate completion dates. The Committee has requested an update on this in June 2023.

In February 2023, the Committee received a report on scheme evaluations undertaken by the Council so they could learn lessons to improve future schemes. The Committee was pleased to hear that a consistent approach for scheme evaluation was to be adopted. This will now be received by the Committee as a quarterly update.

Environmental Policies

In November 2022, the Committee received an update on the Council's flood drainage policy following a motion passed by full Council in December 2021. The Committee expressed their concerns with flood drainage across the county, and this led to the Environmental Agency and Severn Trent Water attending a Committee meeting in April 2023.

A new verge maintenance policy was introduced in 2022 and it was received for comment by the Committee in June 2022. The purpose of this policy was to improve and promote biodiversity value. This policy was developed in collaboration with the Borough/District Councils with a view to them also adopting the approach on land owned by them.

Road Safety

The Committee was informed in June 2022 that several vehicle activated signs in Warwickshire were scheduled for removal because the evidence suggested that the signs were having no tangible impact in relation to road safety and the costs of maintaining them needed to be considered. There had also been a change in the criterion for these signs to be installed, however there remained an option for Parish/Town Councils to fund retention of the cameras locally.

In November 2022, the Committee was informed that there was an ongoing pilot with speed cameras in four areas of Warwickshire. The scheme would run for a year and the results of the pilot will be reported back to the Committee in 2024. If successful, more speed cameras will be rolled out.

Following the 20mph Limits report received by the Committee and Cabinet in 2022, the Committee received an update on the progress of the 20mph limit rollout cross-county in February 2023. The Committee requested this be an annual update and the next update will be received in February 2024.

In 2023 there will be a School Keep Clear Zone policy implemented. The Committee received a briefing on this in September 2022. The policy's objective is to make areas outside schools safer while promoting active travel to school.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points Task and Finish Group

In February 2022, the Committee commissioned a task and finish group (TFG) to consider the various aspects of electric vehicle (EV) charging and the role of the local authority in terms of installing EV charging points. This TFG was set up as it is envisaged that more private vehicles on the road will be electric vehicles in future years. The TFG met up over the summer of 2022 and recommended elements to

prioritise EVs, including a review of Traffic Regulation Orders in relation to parking spaces next to EV charging points and a trial of gully solutions. The recommendations were considered and endorsed by Cabinet in December 2022. The Committee requested that it was kept regularly updated in relation to the roll out of EV points across the county.

Public Transport

Warwickshire County Council operates a low-cost on-demand bus public transport service, 'IndieGo.' The Committee requested a briefing note on how this was working alongside existing bus services and operators. This was received in February 2023 where the Committee was informed that the Council's future Bus Service Improvement Plan will set out how bus services in Warwickshire will improve.

Levelling Up

In June 2022, the Committee considered a report on Levelling Up before it went on to Cabinet. The Committee suggested that as part of the Levelling Up agenda the Council should focus on sustainable active transport and how performance measures more generally will be monitored.

Call-In

A decision of Cabinet in April 2022 relating to the implementation of 20mph speed limits was called in and considered by the Committee in May 2022. The Committee resolved that no further action was required and the decision made by Cabinet was progressed to implementation. It was agreed that a member seminar be held to clarify the 20mph limit process for members, which was subsequently arranged.

Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee reviews and scrutinises the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, budget, medium term financial plan, corporate business plan, planning and performance arrangements, finance, property, information technology, facilities management, workforce strategy and development, law and governance, libraries, customer service and communications.

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC. It has been another busy and interesting year, with a wide variety of topics for the Committee to consider.

I thank Andrew Carswell, Democratic Services Officer and the rest of the Democratic Services team for their work supporting the Committee over the year, and I would also place on record my gratitude to the Vice Chair, Spokespersons, Officers and Chief Fire Officer, Ben Brooks for their time and efforts over the past 12 months.

As we recover from the pandemic, and tackle inflation caused by conflict in Ukraine I know this Committee will work tirelessly in monitoring the work of the Council and effectively challenge the administration to continue to deliver best value.

Councillor Adrian Warwick
Chair of Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee
May 2023

Approach to Levelling Up

This topic was discussed at the June 2022 meeting, in addition to being addressed by all the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Four of the national missions were identified as being particularly relevant to the scope of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee: reducing crime; securing a devolution deal through a long-term financial settlement; improving residents' pride in place and narrowing the gap between the top and bottom performing areas; and increasing investment and stimulating growth in research and development. Disparities in the amount of good affordable housing, educational attainment, gross disposable household income and healthy life expectancy, as well as stimulating economic growth, were highlighted to members as areas the Levelling Up approach hoped to address.

Of relevance to this Committee, it was noted that the Council's wholly owned company, the Warwickshire Property and Development Group, had a key role in the regeneration of town centres and the provision of housing and commercial premises. Additionally, up to £140million was available through the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund and a further £1m had been distributed through the Social Impact Fund, which was to address post-Covid inequalities. Input had been sought from the Voice of Warwickshire residents' panel, which had been discussed previously by the Committee. Its feedback indicated strong support for the four aspects relating to

Levelling Up that were of relevance to this Committee. The Voice of Warwickshire group had also identified what made their areas good places to live and what made them proud to live in their local area. This had been useful in enabling officers to focus on prioritising places where action was needed, while also avoiding a one size fits all approach to addressing inequalities.

Members recognised that Levelling Up would be a strategy of great importance over the long term and would require support from all political groups. However members also felt the issue needed to be addressed with a degree of urgency. Members supported the use of data in the decision-making process, provided it was used purposefully.

Members asked Cabinet to consider the following when they came to debate the item:

- Ensure the most up-to-date data ranges are used when prioritising work
- Divide targets into short, medium and long term
- Make use of quick wins where appropriate
- Highlight the importance of investment

HMICFRS Inspections and Service Improvements

In the previous municipal year, an inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) identified three causes of concern and 41 areas for improvement within Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS). Numerous updates have been given at the meetings throughout 2022/23 to inform members of the progress being made to address the issues that had been raised during this inspection. One of the causes for concern, relating to Prevention, has now been formally discharged after significant progress was made and relevant strategies were implemented. This included a formal Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, which had been approved by Cabinet and gone through a consultation process, and an automated system for Safe and Well visits being implemented.

The 2021/22 inspection had also highlighted the requirement for a digital risk management system for the storage of protection risk information to be implemented. Good progress is being made following a procurement process, and it was anticipated that the new system would be in place later in 2023. In relation to equality, diversity and inclusion, the staff engagement network has been relaunched to understand from staff how engagement could be improved.

Since the initial inspection, and during subsequent re-inspections, members have consistently stated they have full faith in WFRS to protect Warwickshire's residents and praised the Service for the work it does.

School Admissions Review

This was discussed at the meetings in December 2022 and February 2023. Changes to the in-year admissions process had not been planned or executed effectively, which led to significant issues in the allocation of school places ahead of the 2022/23 school year. Relevant data from schools had not been received in time and there had been limited success in retrieving the information needed. This led to a backlog of children who had not been allocated a school place at the start of the new term. Although the backlog had been cleared by September 2022, it was noted poor communication had caused undue stress to parents and carers.

The issues led to an independent review being commissioned and this report was discussed at the February 2023 meeting. The review made seven recommendations as part of an improvement plan, which was scheduled to be completed by March 2024. Additional changes were being made, such as the admissions team working to create and build relationships with schools and clear explanations being given as to why certain information was being requested. Other, longer-term, changes had already started to be implemented prior to the publication of the independent review.

At both meetings, apologies by officers were made and these were noted by the Committee. Members were pleased at the way the issues were being addressed and how the process would be managed going forward.

All Other Topics

The Committee received quarterly updates on the progress of the Council Plan 2022-27 and an overall year-end performance report, which noted the progress of 17 key business measures that were of relevance to the Committee. Members also considered the Capital Financial Management Strategy, Customer Feedback Report, Energy Strategy, Fire Reform White Paper, Our People Strategy Annual Review, Procurement and Management Strategy 2021-26, Treasury Management Strategy, Voice of Warwickshire Residents' Panel Project Update, and WFRS Performance Benchmarking.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Membership

Adult Social Care and Health OSC 2022/23

Councillors Clare Golby (Chair), John Holland (Vice-Chair), John Cooke, Tracey Drew, Marian Humphreys, Jan Matecki, Chris Mills, Kate Rolfe, Ian Shenton and Mandy Tromans

Co-opted District and Borough Council Members

Councillor Sandra Smith (North Warwickshire)
Councillor Peter Eccleson (Rugby)
Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell (Stratford-on-Avon)
Councillor Pamela Redford (Warwick)
Councillor Colin Cape (Nuneaton and Bedworth)

Children and Young People OSC 2022/23

Councillors Yousef Dahmash (Chair), Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair), Jo Barker, Brett Beetham, Barbara Brown, Peter Gilbert, Brian Hammersley, Marian Humphreys, Justin Kerridge and Jill Simpson-Vince.

Co-opted Members

Joseph Cannon
Rev. Elaine Scrivens

Communities OSC 2022/23

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

Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC 2022/23

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

Getting Involved with Overview and Scrutiny

Listening to the views of Warwickshire's residents is a crucial part of the work conducted by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

If you have any queries or questions about scrutiny, or want to suggest a topic for the Committee to look at, please contact the Democratic Services Team

⇒ Email us: democraticservices@warwickshire.gov.uk

⇒ Tweet us: [@WarksDemocracy](https://twitter.com/WarksDemocracy)

⇒ Watch us: warwickshire.public-i.tv

⇒ Call us: 01926 412113

You can keep up to date with the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Task & Finish groups and any other reviews or panels by visiting our website:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scrutiny

The Committees look at key developments and Council priorities, service performance and strategic issues. Queries on individual matters or cases can be raised with the appropriate service team directly.

Scrutiny Committee	Officer Contact
Adult Social Care and Health	Paul Spencer Senior Democratic Services Officer paulspencer@warwickshire.gov.uk
Children and Young People	Helen Barnsley Senior Democratic Services Officer helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk
Communities	Isabelle Moorhouse Democratic Services Officer isabellemoorhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk
Resources and Fire & Rescue	Andy Carswell Democratic Services Officer andrewcarswell@warwickshire.gov.uk

County Council**16 May 2023****Annual Monitor of use of the Urgency and Call-in Procedures
May 2022 to April 2023****Recommendation**

That Members note the content of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The use of the Council's call-in and urgency procedures is monitored annually in accordance with Standing Order 19.1 of the Council's Constitution. This report summarises the decisions taken under the urgency procedure and the use of call-in from May 2022 to the end of April 2023.

2. Procedure for decisions to be treated as urgent.

- 2.1 Standing Order 18 sets out the procedure for consideration of issues requiring an urgent decision and where any delay likely to be caused by call-in would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest.
- 2.2 This procedure requires the consent of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or in his/her absence the Chair of Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair of Council).
- 2.3 The consent is given on the basis that:
- the decision cannot reasonably be deferred; and
 - the decision should be treated as a matter of urgency; and
 - where the proposed decision is contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Policy Framework or Budget it is not practicable to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council.
- 2.4 Group Leaders are advised whenever an urgent decision is proposed, and the decision (and any supporting report) is published on the Council's website and all members notified. In addition, the Leader is required to report to Council each year on the details of each decision taken under the procedure and the reasons for their urgency.

3. Procedure for call-in

- 3.1 Executive decisions (i.e. those taken by Cabinet, Cabinet Portfolio Holder or Officer Key Decisions) can be called-in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of the Committee or four members can call in a decision within 5 days of the publication of the decision unless the decision has been subject to the urgency procedure described at section 2 above. (The procedure for call-in is set out at Standing Order 13.) Call-in delays the implementation of a decision and can have an impact on the speed of decision making in an authority if it is used extensively.

4. Annual Monitor of the Use of the Urgency Procedure

There have been eleven instances of use of the consent to urgency procedure over the last year. This is a reduction on the figures for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
6	8	6	5	11	8	7	17	15	12	11

5. Decisions Taken under the Urgency Procedure from May 2022 to April 2023

5.1 [12 May 2022 – Approval for Household Support Fund](#)

The Leader of the Council was asked to approve the Household Support Fund Offer in the event that the Secretary of State makes additional funding available to be expended before 30 September 2022.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to the DWP requirement that the first lot of money be spent before half term starting on the 30th May 2022. Schools needed to be contacted at least two weeks before so this funding could be allocated to families in need.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved

5.2 [8 June 2022 \(exempt\) – Children’s Home Property Purchase A](#)

The Leader of the Council was asked to approve a decision in relation to the purchase of a property for a Children’s Home.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to Warwickshire County Council’s conditional offer being accepted and the need for the sale to be completed to enable the project to proceed.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved

5.3 [29 June 2022 - Multiply investment plan and funding application to the Department of Education](#)

The Leader of the Council was asked to approve the submission of the Multiply investment plan and funding application on behalf of the Warwickshire area to the Department of Education.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to the Government’s deadline for submitting the investment plan/ funding application and the timescales for expenditure in 2022/ 2023.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.4 [1 September 2022 \(exempt\) - Warwickshire County Council Response to the Teachers Pay and Conditions Consultation 2022](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation was asked to approve Warwickshire County Council's response to the Local Government Association (LGA) survey.

The decision was considered to be urgent owing to the time available to seek views on the consultation and in order to meet the LGA deadline for response of 5 September 2022.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.5 [21 September 2022 – Air Quality Grant bid to DEFRA](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health was asked to approve a submission for a funding bid to the Air Quality Grant Scheme 2022/2023 from The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which was open to all Local Authorities in England.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to the deadline for submissions to DEFRA.

The Chair of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave her consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.6 [3 October 2022 \(exempt\) – AI Radar Monitoring Procurement](#)

The Leader of the Council was asked to give her authorisation for the undertaking of a procurement exercise for the purchase of Artificial Intelligence sensors. The Council needed to secure Artificial Intelligence Radar Monitoring Equipment to record, collect and analyse data accurately for developing schemes and strategies for all modes of transport and updating traffic modelling tools. These developments and schemes can include but are not limited to new housing developments, new or improved cycling and walking facilities and improvements to road layouts

The decision was considered to be urgent due to the need to commence monitoring urgently, the limited windows of opportunity for undertaking survey work and the need to ensure work is back to pre-pandemic baselines.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee and The Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave their consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.7 [2 December 2022 \(exempt\) – Lease of Saltisford Building 1](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property was asked to approve the granting of a lease for the first floor of Saltisford Building 1 to a third party.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to requirement of the tenant being able to take possession in December 2022 or having to go elsewhere, meaning that the Council could lose the rental opportunity.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.8 [9 December 2022 \(exempt\) – Developer Funded Scheme Approval](#)

The Leader of the Council was asked to authorise the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport to appoint contractors to undertake developer funded Section 278 highways schemes.

The decision was considered to be urgent to prevent further delays to the highway scheme and ensure that the offered tendered price was held.

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.9 [16 December 2022 \(exempt\) - Warwickshire County Council Response to the School Teachers Pay 2023/2023 Consultation](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation was asked to approve Warwickshire County Council's response to the Local Government Association survey to help inform the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers response in respect of the government consultation on the School Teachers Pay 2023/24.

The decision was considered to be urgent due to the time available to seek views on the consultation and in order to meet the LGA deadline for response

The Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.10 [17 February 2023 \(exempt\) - Approval to submit bid to the Active Travel Fund 4](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning was asked to approve the submission of a bid to round 4 of the Active Travel Fund and delegated the final scope of the bid and specific projects to the Assistant Director for Communities and the Strategic Director for Resources.

The decision was considered to be urgent owing to the deadlines from Active Travel England and a Government embargo which was not lifted until the 6 February 2023.

The Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved.

5.11 [28 February 2023 – Fast Followers Competition](#)

The Portfolio Holder Environment, Climate & Culture was asked to approve the submission of a bid for grant funding under the UK research institute Fast Followers competition in the sum of £300,000.

The decision was considered to be urgent owing to the deadlines for entry to the competition.

The Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore gave his consent for this to be an urgent decision and the decision was approved

6. Annual Monitor of the use of Call-in

The number of call-ins has remained low over the last ten years, with no call-ins between 2017 and 2021. There were three call-ins during 2021/2022 but this has reduced to one over the last twelve months.

12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
1	2	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	1

7. Executive decisions called-in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee from May 2022 to April 2023.

7.1 [9th May 2022 - The implementation of 20mph speed limits](#)

On the 12th April 2022, Cabinet considered recommendations made by the 20mph Task and Finish Group which had been convened following a motion at full council to consider the evidence, cost, impact and/or benefit of 20mph speed limits in residential areas including schools and other sites of wider interest across Warwickshire.

The decision was called in for further scrutiny by four Councillors.

A meeting of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held to consider the call-in request.

The decision was made that no further action would be taken in relation to the call-in and the original decision made by Cabinet was progressed to implementation.

In addition, it was agreed that a member seminar be held to clarify the 20mph limit process for members which was subsequently arranged..

8. Conclusion

Following a sharp rise in the number of urgent decisions made by Warwickshire County Council in 2019/202 as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the number has fallen for the third year running.

This can, in part, be attributed to the reduction in the need for urgent decisions made in response to the Pandemic, with only one decision being made which in part had a Covid bearing.

As with all urgent decisions made over the last four years, none were given consent because of officer oversight; the main factor in the majority of cases was external deadlines/requirements that were outside of the Council's control.

Following three call-ins in 2021/22, the last twelve months saw just one call-in. That the number of call ins has reduced after a small increase is an indication that the call-in process is not being used to cause unnecessary delay or frustration of the decision-making process.

9. Financial Implications

There have been no direct financial implications for the Council directly as a result of these urgent decisions

10. Environmental Implications

Any environmental implications arising from these urgent decisions were covered in the relevant reports submitted.

11. Background papers

None

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: None

County Council

16 May 2023

Education Capital Programme 2023/24

Recommendation

That Council agrees the addition of £2.714 million to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Oak Wood Secondary School to be funded from the Department for Education (DfE) High Needs Grant and developer contributions.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends proposals for allocating resources in the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to the specific project set out in Section 3.
- 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 Basic Need capital grant balance for 2022/23 has been fully allocated to projects within the Capital Programme. The Basic Need capital grant allocation for 2023/24 is **£40.850 million**, of which **£10.202 million** remains unallocated. The Department for Education has confirmed the Council will receive **£21.366 million** in 2024/25.
- 2.2 The Service holds resources for school investment which are not currently included in the approved Capital Programme, this is largely from the following:
 - confirmed yet unallocated Basic Need grant to be received up to 2025/26,
 - other grants/contributions held for specific purposes,
 - developer contributions currently held but unallocated; and
 - one historically earmarked capital receipt.

Available Resources (unallocated)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Basic Need Grant	10,202	21,366	0	31,568
High Needs Grant	3,723	0	0	3,723
Schools Condition Allocation	2,197	0	0	2,197
Special Provision Fund	62	0	0	62
s.106*	56,700	0	0	56,700
Earmarked Capital Receipts	2,113	0	0	2,113
	74,997	21,366	0	96,363

** 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 £2.714 million of which £2.252 million is from the High Needs Grant, £0.092 million is from developer contributions and £0.370 million is from other funding. These allocations will result in a remaining High Needs grant balance of £1.471 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.

3. Proposal for addition to the 2023/2024 Education Capital Programme

Oak Wood Secondary 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 Secondary 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 Secondary 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 There has been no extension to the main secondary school since it was built in early 2000's, however, the physical and emotional needs of the pupils have changed significantly in recent years. The building struggles to meet the needs in its current configuration.
- 3.4 It is proposed to create additional teaching capacity within the existing secondary school building by relocating the post 16 provision to a new satellite facility, unit 1 and 9 at the Bermuda Innovation Centre, St David's Way, Nuneaton. The Council will refurbish the units to provide additional capacity for up to 50 SEND vocational places for children and young adults based in the north of the county. The refurbished facility will create five teaching spaces, sixth form social and dining area, hair and beauty provision, food technology space, science laboratory, a kitchen and servery, sensory garden and outdoor dining area, meeting rooms, staff offices and welfare facilities.
- 3.5 A key attraction of basing post 16 provision at Unit 1 and 9 Bermuda Park is the ability to facilitate local work placements and independent travel opportunities for pupils transitioning from secondary education
- 3.6 Unit 1, Bermuda Park is currently vacant and leased to the DfE. The DfE is keen to see a continued educational use and have agreed a negotiated surrender payment of £0.370 million which will go towards this capital scheme.
- 3.7 Upon completion of the refurbishment works at Units 1 and 9, the Council will lease the premises to the Central England Academy Trust upon terms acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

- 3.8 The total cost of the project has been estimated at £2.714 million and will be funded using £2.252 million from the DfE High Needs Capital grant, £0.092 million from developer funding and £0.370 million from the lease surrender payment. 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.
- 3.9 Subject to recommendation by Cabinet, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £2.714 million funded as follows:

High Needs Capital Grant	£2.252 million
Developer Funding	£0.092 million
Other Funding	£0.370 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 As part of the feasibility work on future capital projects, where feasible net zero options and associated costs will be explored and considered before recommendation to Cabinet. The scheme within this report has not re visited the feasibility stage to provide a net zero option to prevent disruption to the critical path for delivery and the nature of the capital works and stage of development.
- 4.5 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 proposal within this report looks to increase the number of pupils admitted to mainstream special school provision in Nuneaton & Bedworth. 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.
- 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.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

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