

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair)

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Sarah Feeney

Councillor Jenny Fradgley

Councillor Dave Humphreys

Councillor Peter Gilbert

Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher

Councillor Daren Pemberton

Councillor Mejar Singh

Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Chair's Announcements

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

5 - 14

To receive the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 September 2023.

2. Public Speaking

3. Questions to Portfolio Holder

15 - 16

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the Committee to put questions to the Portfolio Holders on any matters relevant to the remit of this Committee.

(1) Economic Development Update

17 - 34

(2) EDS Update	35 - 40
4. Delegated Budget Schemes An update on schemes paid for by member budgets.	41 - 54
5. Quarter 2 Integrated Performance Report The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon the Quarter 2 2023/24 organisational performance, progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan, and the management of finances and risk.	55 - 90
6. Communities OSC Work Programme	91 - 94
7. Urgent Items	

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

COVID-19 Pandemic

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 20 September 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sarah Feeney
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor Dave Humphreys
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Mejar Singh
Councillor Andrew Wright

Other Members

Councillor Jan Matecki, Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning
Councillor Martin Watson (Portfolio Holder for Economy)
Councillor Tim Sinclair

Officers

Amy Bridgewater-Carnall, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities
Steve Smith, Director of Commissioning Support Unit
Paul Spencer, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Scott Tompkins, Director of Environment, Planning & Transport

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Peter Gilbert and from the following portfolio holders: Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety, Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education and Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Chair's Announcements

The Chair advised that the proposed item on Members' delegated budgets had been deferred to the November Committee meeting.

(4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holders

Councillor Jenny Fradgley submitted two questions:

1. Reports in the Guardian suggest pothole repairs are at a 5 year low. Where is Warwickshire on its road maintenance programme? Does WCC have sufficient funds to properly maintain its rural and urban networks?
2. As the Bishopton 500 development progresses please can you update me, and residents, about the land here set aside for educational purposes?

On question 1, Scott Tompkins, Director of Environment, Planning & Transport would circulate a detailed written response from County Highways to the Committee. In summary there had been consistent revenue and capital investment by WCC in the road network. The news article reported data from an ALARM (Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance) survey which showed that several authorities had been struggling to finance repairs and by capitalising these costs it had reduced capacity for road resurfacing schemes. This in turn had reduced the number of pothole repairs, but was not the case in Warwickshire. Data was provided on the increasing number of pothole repairs to evidence this, together with the surveillance undertaken by safety inspectors. The public could report potholes through the Council's Website via an easy-to-use system.

On question 2, Councillor Martin Watson read from a reply prepared by Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education. The land which had been set aside would only be utilised where it was evidenced that the need for a new school came directly from this development. There was significant current and forecast spare capacity at the neighbouring Bishopton Primary School, which meant there was no requirement for a new school and the land could not be drawn down to the County Council. This position had been confirmed to the developers. Councillor Fradgley had a supplementary question, which she would submit directly to the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Kaur. This would be copied to the Chair.

(1) Economic Development Update

Mark Ryder presented the Economic Development Update, taking members through the following areas:

- Headlines/ Key Summary Points
- Economic Overview. The slight improvements in the overall economic outlook and a slowdown in the growth rate of inflation. It was anticipated that the Bank of England base rate may increase again to 5.5%. In terms of unemployment, the Coventry and Warwickshire (C&W) area was performing well with rates below the national average. Foreign direct investment was highlighted, with C&W seeing 56 new investment projects in 2023, a 24% increase.
- Business and Economy Support. Mark Ryder spoke of the small capital grant scheme, with Council investment securing private sector investment, the latest round totalling £80,000. Linked to this was the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF) with the report setting out the loans to business, and the Local Communities and Enterprise Fund had now reached £1.4m in investments.
- Business Support Programmes. A comparison was drawn between the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) which was smaller than the former European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This had seen a reduction in the amount of support programmes which could be commissioned. There was close work with the district and borough councils which held the SPF to work collectively in commissioning four new programmes.
- Employability and Skills Support. Reference to the good progress with Fair Chance Jobs, where 50 businesses were working with WCC and the launch of a new jobs portal. The new Warwickshire Careers Hub was referenced.
- Development of the Business Centre Portfolio, with renovation works and rent reviews to secure market value rents.
- Sector Development and Inward Investment with a number of case studies being detailed.

Members discussed the following areas:

- On the UK SPF, it was noted that this was delivering some of the ERDF but was questioned if it was a lower percentage than the former scheme. In reply, the challenge was that the funding under the UK SPF which could be applied to business support programmes was at a lower level. The approach was to be innovative and to work with district and borough councils (DBC's) to encourage them to think about business support as an important pillar. The funding rested with the DBC's. A lot of work was taking place within Economy and Skills and to deliver value across the programmes.
- Reference to the Careers Hub. This was based in Nuneaton, and questions were submitted about expansion to other parts of Warwickshire and providing a digital offer. Councillor Watson had met with the team. He outlined the proactive service which was delivered county-wide, including through visits to schools. It was not just focussed on Nuneaton.
- Referring to the section on universities as drivers of trade and investment in the Midlands, the links to colleges was questioned. They were a key link and a needed to provide training which led to jobs. Mark Ryder confirmed that WCC was engaged with further education colleges, giving examples. Whilst the colleges set their own curriculum based on demand from businesses, the Council had an influencing role, providing information about developing sectors. Councillor Watson spoke about apprenticeships as the college and university route was not for everyone. The Council had made budgetary allocations to assist employers during the first three months of

apprenticeships. There was a mixed offer of support.

- The Chair referred to the section on commercial rent reviews. He was mindful that some properties were let to aid organisations and asked about the engagement with this group so that they were able to continue operating. He used an example in his locality to demonstrate this. Mark Ryder was aware that the Council had been helpful in assisting charities to establish in certain areas. Any members having such information were encouraged to speak with officers as the intention was not to drive out community benefit. There were good reasons to ensure rents were appropriate to enable maintenance, reinvestment and have a good base for business. He also touched on the business support available and wanting businesses to grow, and where appropriate, to move to larger premises.
- The Chair welcomed the update on provision of the new premises for the Royal Mail in Nuneaton. It was hoped this would address current residential postal delivery issues being experienced in Nuneaton. This was attributed in part to additional residential development in the area and a staffing shortage.

The Economic Development Update was noted.

4. Draft Final Sustainable Futures Strategy

This item was introduced by Steve Smith, currently Director of the Commissioning Support Unit. From October he would join the Communities Directorate and his role would include both Climate Change and Strategic Infrastructure. The draft Sustainable Futures Strategy was being submitted to all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of a detailed engagement process, before its final consideration by Cabinet in November. Key information was provided in the covering report, which outlined the features of the strategy and the use of expert panels. A copy of the draft strategy, the action plan and an update on projects were provided as appendices.

Questions were submitted and discussion took place on the following areas:

- The opportunity for solar panel installation on large warehouse rooves. At planning authorities there were applications to site solar farms on agricultural land which caused tension. Steve Smith replied that this was led by planning authorities and the approach in each of the five areas varied. An example was the aim of Warwick District to formulate a net zero supplementary planning document. This would be planning and market led. There were significant capital costs, but lower running costs. For WCC this was an influencing role. The councillor reiterated the scale of warehouse development in Wellesbourne, the public feedback and it was questioned if stronger persuasion was possible. There was no easy answer as this concerned private investment decisions. Through planning and building regulation, authorities went as far as they could, but this really needed a push at the national level.
- Councillor Watson, the Portfolio Holder engaged with many businesses to raise this. There were a number of influencing factors for businesses. Installation of solar panels was more likely for new developments, but less so for retrospective fitting, with other measures being used instead to reduce energy consumption. A key aspect was the ability of the National Grid to receive the surplus energy generated.
- It was questioned if the Prime Minister's announcement on moving 'green' targets would impact negatively on the cultural shift required. Steve Smith said this had been raised at the Climate Change Group held earlier in the day. Transport emissions in Warwickshire were

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significant and around half of these were journeys through the County. They could only be affected by people changing their vehicles over time.

- A discussion about water pipe failures causing wastage. There were endeavours to reduce water wastage and it was questioned whether the Council engaged with Severn Trent Water (STW) to encourage an update of their pipework to reduce such leaks. This was an area where there was more to do. STW had attended the committee providing a useful presentation and it was suggested that a further update would be worthwhile on progress in replacing its pipework. This would be picked up under the work programme item.
- A member spoke about the substantial warehouse developments in North Warwickshire and immediately adjacent to it. Further significant developments were planned in Tamworth. The member noted the point about substation capacity to accept excess power generated and only five of the thirteen substations in and around North Warwickshire could do this presently. He spoke further about the developments either built or planned at locations in the green belt and in neighbouring Tamworth. This was a planning issue and there was a need to lobby. Plans for on-shore wind farms should be resisted, instead there being a mandatory requirement to install solar panels on new buildings. Steve Smith agreed this needed to be a planning issue, where the design standards were set. Solar panels made good economic sense. There was a collective approach across the districts and boroughs to agree consistent policy. WCC would do what it could to influence in terms of strategic planning.
- A question on the gap between projected measures WCC could take to reduce emissions and the remainder that would need to be offset. Currently, about 50% would need to be offset. The question was how to reduce the gap, to as small a level as possible. Steve Smith confirmed this equated to 8-9 thousand tonnes. Not everything in the action plan was determined, with more to come and a reliance on funding availability. There were two areas where more could be done around transport and decarbonisation of WCC's estate. This accounted for 40% of emissions, due largely to reliance on the use of natural gas. Work was taking place across the Council, and periodic progress reports would be provided. The Councillor sought more of a commitment within the strategy to make progress and reduce the need to offset emissions, and not to accept the broadly 50-50 position. An assurance was provided that this was not a static position, that there was a commitment to reduce the amount needed and to inset the emissions within Warwickshire, not to offset them out of County, as much as possible. There was however a need to be realistic in terms of funding availability.
- It was important to ensure that the data was accurate (e.g. tree planting) and was not being used to offset multiple times. WCC had a dedicated officer who monitored all the mitigation work, working alongside colleagues in relevant areas to ensure the data was accurate.
- A question about the time lag between planting trees and the time they needed to grow before contributing substantially to emission offsetting. In reply, several points were made about the long-term nature of this project, the Council had its own tree nursery, and it was a blended approach. Land availability was raised, and the Council was using its estate as much as possible. This was a long-term journey, which the County was leading on. It would be a last resort to offset by tree planting outside the County.
- With regard to the action plan, a request to add an impact column to show the significance of each initiative. This was acknowledged as a fair observation. Steve Smith spoke about the dashboard which was being built to provide measurement, with carbon accounting to show the return for each investment.
- In North Warwickshire, to offset the Hams Hall development, there had been substantial tree planting 30 years ago. As part of the HS2 developments, some ten thousand of these

mature trees had been felled. There was a commitment to replace the trees, but it was questioned who would audit this. Reference to other significant tree felling due to HS2, and the time required for trees to mature before they provided substantial carbon offsetting. In reply, Steve Smith spoke of the need for enforcement, reminding of the planning obligations and ensuring these were met.

- Councillor Watson gave a local context on the impact HS2 developments in his division, part of which had been identified as a special management zone. The development was 'net offset', not a 'positive gain' in environmental terms which had been sought for many years. He agreed that the replacement trees would not be as productive in offsetting for decades, as those removed. He sat on a number of boards, and spoke of the difficulty in holding HS2 to account, not least because HS2 was the overarching organisation with a number of delivery contractors. There were two Council officers which did hold HS2 and its contractors to account. Several of the Council's leading members were involved in regular meetings about the HS2 developments. Councillor Watson added that the pause in development of HS2 north of Birmingham would not have any positive impact, as building of the railway lines and infrastructure would continue.
- Poor maintenance resulted in many of the planted trees and 'whips' dying. Councillor Watson responded that HS2 was challenged on many such issues, but policing it was less easy. Data reports were provided on tree planting, but this point had been raised previously.
- It was questioned if financial incentives or grants were provided to encourage recycling and reducing carbon emissions. There was support for small and medium-sized enterprises through the UK Prosperity Fund to encourage them to be more energy efficient and to reduce waste and water consumption. Mark Ryder added that further funding was available via the Combined Authority for business advice and information in this area. It included an allocation to administer the new scheme, so officers would do everything possible to ensure that Warwickshire businesses benefitted from the scheme.
- Clarification was provided on the 2030 and 2050 targets to achieve 'net zero' in carbon terms for the Council's operations and then for Warwickshire as a whole.
- Scott Tompkins advised that the rules on biodiversity net gain included a maintenance requirement for trees for 30 years. He added that trees needed to mature for five years before they really contributed to capturing carbon, and collected most carbon between years five and ten, before then storing it. Therefore, tree planting now was essential to hit the national targets set for 2040.

It was agreed that the comments set out above be submitted as part of the Cabinet's final consideration of the Sustainable Futures Strategy in November.

5. Council Plan 2022-2027 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 1 2023/24

Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities presented this item, which gave a retrospective summary of the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 1 (April - June 2023) against the strategic priorities and areas of focus set out in the Council Plan 2022-2027. Key sections of the report focussed on:

- Performance against the Performance Management Framework
- Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan
- Management of Finance
- Management of Risk

In presenting the report, Mark Ryder referred members to the appendices which set out the 'RAG' rating of performance against target. He reminded that this was the first quarter report and highlighted the areas on track and those where performance was at risk or not predicted to achieve the target or measure. Additional information and narrative was provided on individual schemes.

Scott Tompkins referred to the finance aspects of the report and a £3.4million projected overspend. Most of this related to home to school transport and was due to additional service demand from students entitled to free school transport, an increase in services for SEND students and inflationary increases. There was a member working group and an improvement project looking at this area. Scott gave a performance summary focussing on those areas where performance was at risk or not predicted to achieve the target or measure. Additional information was provided for each area, specifically around home to school transport, flood risk mitigation and associated works. He highlighted the good performance on highway maintenance contracts with 100% of targets being achieved. He emphasised the supporting key performance indicators which were being achieved consistently by the contractor, Balfour Beatty, in a contract delivered across Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry. It was subject to close scrutiny by a Highways Maintenance Board which included the portfolio holders of each authority. This service was in the top ten nationally in terms of performance. Tree planting was also highlighted, particularly the need to accelerate tree planting to hit the required target of planting one tree for every resident in Warwickshire.

Discussion took place and questions were submitted as follows:

- The delays in Section 278 developer funded schemes was discussed. Scott Tompkins explained that as soon as the agreement was concluded it was added to the capital programme, but the developer may not complete the scheme for some time, so it showed as a delay. Scott outlined some of the factors which could contribute. In essence this provided a forecast of monies being received that would be spent on schemes. He provided context of the excellent performance for the previous year on the capital programme expenditure and forecast to outturn.
- There were concerns about cuts to the Trading Standards budgets which a member linked to increases in complaints. Members became aware of illegal activity within their divisions, but the service had limited responsive capacity. Comment was sought on the increase in complaint levels, which Scott Tompkins offered to research and a written briefing would be circulated to members. He drew comparison to the significant budget cuts which some local authorities had needed to make to their trading standards services. Warwickshire had managed to maintain its services for a variety of reasons, including the calibration service for fuel pumps, used by many airports. Mark Ryder confirmed that it was an intelligence-led service which focussed on priority areas. He reminded of the historic service areas of Trading Standards and gave examples of the priorities which were now a focus. He had visited the calibration service earlier in the day and this brought in revenue from around the world.
- For the Adult Community Learning Service, there was a decline in income, and this had been the case for the last three quarters. Mark Ryder confirmed this was reported to the Committee but rested within the Education Service. An action was taken to investigate this and provide a report back to members.
- Further discussion about Section 278 (highway) agreements, and Section 106 (planning gain) agreements. It was noted that there could be a lengthy period between when

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agreements were negotiated and the schemes provided, so was questioned if inflationary costs impacted on the authority or the developer. Scott Tompkins confirmed that there was no opportunity to revisit the sums negotiated through Section 106 agreements. However, for the Section 278 works, the developer paid some monies in advance and then paid a final bill based on the actual costs charged.

- The Chair raised the Transforming Nuneaton scheme and delays, referring to the Bermuda Bridge, its ongoing delivery problems and set out his concerns about delays to works that were scheduled or planned. The delays seemed to be impacting on other schemes which Nuneaton needed desperately. The plans to redevelop Vicarage Street had not been finalised and he quoted other examples about developing the library and business centre. There seemed to be a pattern that impacted on the delivery of many of the schemes.
- Mark Ryder responded, reminding members of the challenges to purchase commercial buildings and then clear the Vicarage Street site. This was progressing but was coupled with a period of massive inflation. This had an impact on delivery of the wellbeing business centre, which remained a commitment. There had been legitimate delays. On Bermuda Connectivity, the bridge scheme was coming to a conclusion, with weekly briefings being provided to members. Mark and Scott Tompkins touched on the significant challenges faced with this scheme, the delays experienced and impacts that it had caused for other projects.
- The Chair appreciated the update, also noting that other projects had been impacted, including the Hospital and College Street Island. There appeared a lack of movement to get these schemes back on track and he asked what options there were to align these schemes with the other delivery schedules. Mark Ryder responded that through the Transforming Nuneaton Programme Board members had the opportunity to see the updates and to provide a challenge.

The Committee noted the delays reported and was concerned to see those delays. The Chair was sure these concerns would be fed back to the Cabinet and Portfolio Holder, to ensure the Committee's comments were heard.

6. Communities OSC Work Programme

The Committee considered its work programme. It was agreed that Severn Trent Water be invited to a future committee meeting to provide an update.

Mark Ryder reminded members of the average speed camera pilot scheme. He suggested that the Chair and spokesperson meeting discuss the timing of this update to the Committee, to enable adequate data to be provided.

An update was sought about bus services and timetables. This could be discussed at the next Chair and spokesperson meeting. Mark Ryder referred to an allocation of funding which could be a part of such an update.

Linked to this, a member referred to computerised bus information at bus stops, asking if this was feasible for rural bus stops in Warwickshire. Councillor Sinclair was in attendance. He advised that the Bus Working Group had been looking at this issue, developing a bid from Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Officers had undertaken a County-wide audit of bus stops identifying priority bus stops on key routes. A bid was being finalised for such automated signage which was seen as a key priority. Whilst other digital means were available, having a physical sign at the bus stop was important for many commuters. The Chair agreed this would be discussed further at the

Chair and Spokesperson meeting. Councillor Feeney was also a member of this working group, which was undertaking good work, but was not known about by many members. A short update for the Committee may be useful. A further point was electric buses on the local bus routes and the need for charging points. The Chair suggested that a briefing note be provided in the first instance.

7. Urgent Items

None.

The meeting rose at 3.30pm

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Chair

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 November 2023

Questions to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders

Recommendation

That the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the forthcoming Cabinet and Portfolio Holder decisions relevant to its remit, asking questions and considering areas for further scrutiny, where appropriate.

1.0 Cabinet and Portfolio Holder Decisions

1.1 The decisions relevant to the remit of the Committee are listed below. Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and identify topics for pre-decision scrutiny. They are also encouraged to submit questions to Democratic Services two working days before the meeting, in order that an informed response may be given. The responsible Portfolio Holders have been invited to the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

1.2 The list was last updated from the Forward Plan on 6th November 2023.

Decision Title	Description	Date	Decision Maker
A47 The Longshoot - Active Travel Scheme	Construction of approximately 1.5km of cycling infrastructure on the A47 The Longshoot, between Eastboro Way and A5.	8 December 2023	Portfolio Holder Decision
WFRS Training Facility - Rugby	To progress the implementation of the WFRS training facility at Rugby, including the funding requirements	14 December 2023	Cabinet
Community Pantries - Sustainability Options	Report outlining the sustainable options for the future of the Community Pantries	14 December 2023	Cabinet
Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure	Report to recommend approval of the Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, following consultation on draft version in 2022	14 December 2023	Cabinet
WRIF Bids for Approval -December 2023	WRIF bids for approval – December 2023	14 December 2023	Cabinet
WRIF Bids for Approval – January 2024	WRIF bids for approval – January 2024	23 January 2024	Cabinet
WRIF Bids for Approval – February 2024	WRIF bids for approval – February 2024	15 February 2024	Cabinet
EV Parking Policy	Paper to approve an addition to parking policy which provides for on-street electric vehicle (EV) parking to be backed with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), making it EV-only while the vehicle is charging.	5 March 2024	Cabinet
WRIF Bids for Approval – March 2024	WRIF bids for approval – March 2024	5 March 2024	Cabinet

WRIF Bids for Approval – April 2024	WRIF bids for approval – April 2024	11 April 2024	Cabinet
Warwickshire Biological Record Centre and Historic Environment Record Charges	Report regarding charges with Warwickshire Biological Record Centre and Historic Environment Record	12 April 2024	Portfolio Holder Decision

2.0 Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact details
Report Author	Nicole Conway	<u>nicoleconway@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>
Director	Sarah Duxbury, Director of Governance and Policy	<u>sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>

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

Local Members: None

Other Members: Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair), Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Vice-Chair), Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Jenny Fradgley.

Communities O&S – November 2023

Economic Development Update

The following briefing note provides an update to the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on recent economic development activity in Warwickshire.

It covers work undertaken by County Council officers and partners across a range of services as well as other key pieces of relevant news and information.

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- 2. Business & Economy Support**
- 3. Employability & Skills Support**
- 4. Warwickshire Business Centres**
- 5. Sector Development and Inward Investment**
- 6. Warwickshire Place and Partnerships**

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

HEADLINES/ KEY SUMMARY POINTS

- The overall economic outlook is mixed with modest increases in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and output in the services sector, while production and construction sectors slowed. A slowdown in the growth rate of inflation has contributed to a rise in real wages. Unemployment in Warwickshire has increased slightly, but it remains low compared to the rates for the West Midlands and Great Britain.
- WCC's business support and employment support services and programmes continue to perform strongly and to adapt to meet demand. This includes the establishment of the new Warwickshire Careers Hub, the launch of the new Future Skills Fund and the appointment of a new Future Skills Advisor.
- Four new business support programmes funded by the Government's new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) via all five District and Borough Councils and the County Council are due to be launched in November after a procurement exercise led by WCC on behalf of Warwickshire's six local authorities. It has also been agreed that two existing programmes will be extended with UKSPF and WCC funding.

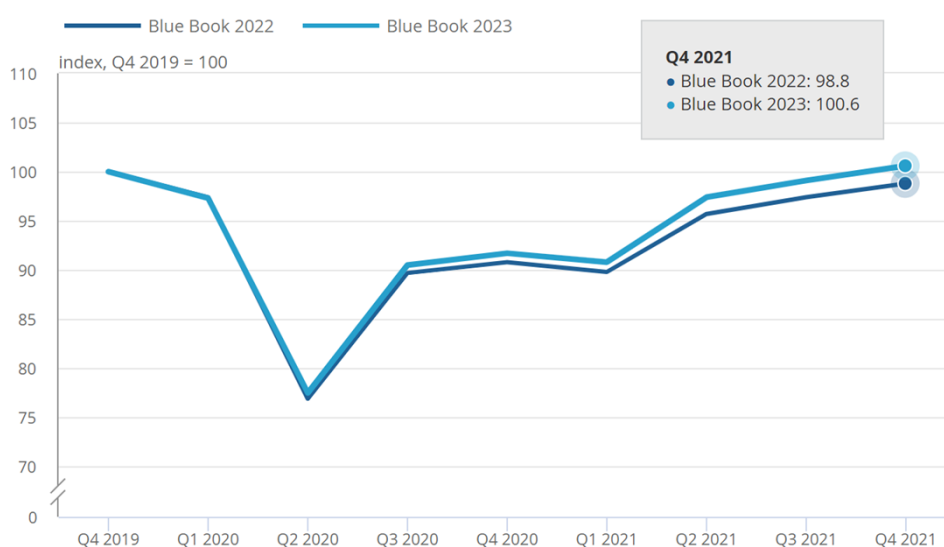
1. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

National Overview

Gross Domestic Product: monthly real GDP is estimated to have grown in August by 0.2% after a fall of 0.6% in July. Quarterly GDP as of August 2023 was estimated to have increased by 0.3%, and to be 2.5% above its pre-coronavirus levels (2019). This is primarily due to revised estimates from the Blue Book 2023 announced on 1 September 2023, with significant methodology changes. Similar methodology updates are expected for other G7 economies across 2024.

Comparison of Blue Book 2023 vs 2022, indexed to Q4 2019

UK, Quarter 4 2019 (Oct to Dec) to Quarter 4 2021



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/articles/impactofbluebook2023changesongrossdomesticproduct/2023-09-01>

Services output - the services sector rose by 0.4% in August 2023 and was the main contributor to growth. Professional, scientific and technical activities and education were the largest contribution to growth. Output in consumer-facing services fell by 0.6% in August 2023 after a fall of 0.2% in July 2023.

Production output fell by 0.7% in August 2023 after falling by 1.1% in July 2023. with manufacturing being the largest contributor, falling 0.8%. Overall production output rose by 1.2% in the 3 months to August 2023, with manufacturing again being the driver at 1.7%.

Construction output decreased by 0.5% in August 2023, after a fall of 0.4% in July 2023. On the three months to August 2023 growth was 0.9%. The decrease in August 2023 was driven by a decrease of 1.5% in new work, with repair and maintenance increasing by 1.0%.

CPI inflation rose by 6.7% in the 12 months to September 2023, the same rate as in August 2023. The largest downward contributions to the CPI rates came from food and non-achoholic beverages. The annual rate of inflation in food prices was 12.2%

in September 2023, however the monthly rate was -0.1% which was the first fall in 2 years since September 2021. Motor fuels dominated inflation growth trends with Petrol rising 3.4% between August and September 2023, and Diesel rising 4.2% - yet still remaining 9.7% below September 2022 prices on average.

- The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained **interest rates at 5.25%** on its last meeting on 2nd November 2023.
- **Average weekly earnings** excluding bonuses were £619 in August 2023 up from £575 in August 2022. In real terms (adjusted for CPIH inflation), regular pay rose 1.1% on an annual basis for June to August 2023.
- **Employment** – early estimates are that there were 30.1 million people were in PAYE employment in August 2023 (flash estimate), an annual rise of 449,000 people or 1.5%. The three-month employment rate (Jun-Aug 2023) was 75.7%, down 0.3 percentage points from the previous quarter and 0.9 percentage points lower than before the pandemic.
- **Unemployment** - the UK unemployment rate was estimated to be 4.2% in the 3-months June-August 2023, 0.2% higher than March-May 2023. These numbers are based on the ONS Labour Force Survey, which is diverging from PAYE and other direct sources of employment statistics.
- **The value of sterling** increased 5.6% from 1.1514 US\$ in October 2022 to 1.2156 US\$ in October 2023, after falling to its lowest value of 1.0745 in September 2022.

Local Overview

- The **Warwickshire unemployment rate (aged 16-64)** shows a slight increase from 2.9% in the year Jul 2021-Jun 2022 to 3.3% in the year Jul 2022-Jun 2023. The local unemployment rate remains low compared to the equivalent rate of 3.8% for Great Britain and 4.7% for the West Midlands.

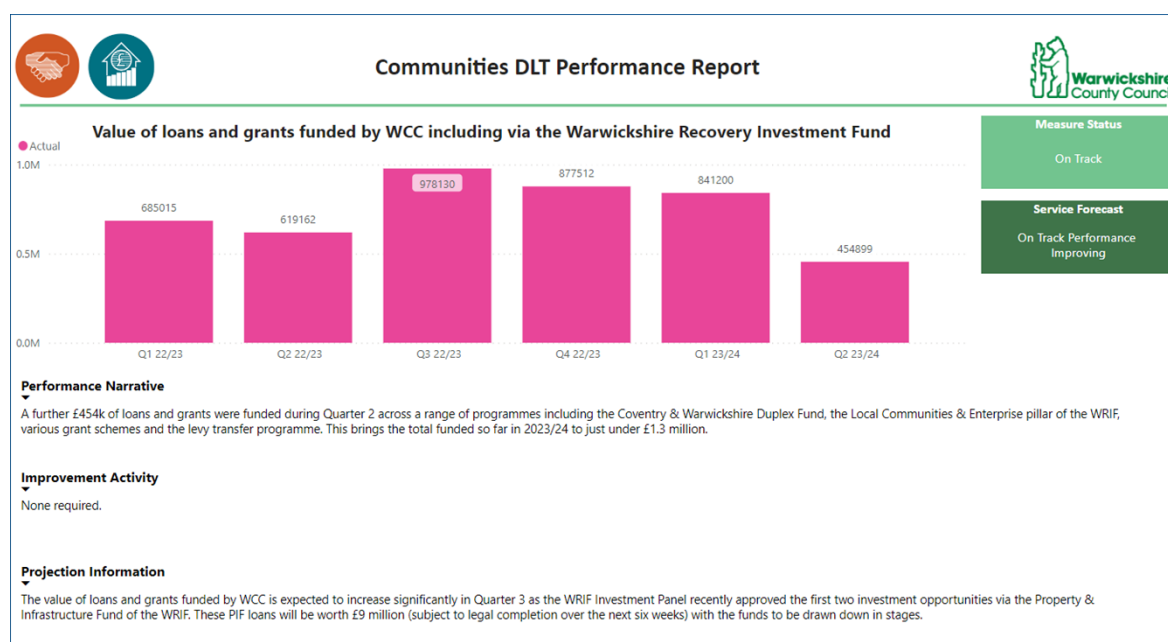
Many economic updates can be found in the [State of Warwickshire Dashboard](#) developed by WCC's Business Intelligence team.

2. BUSINESS & ECONOMY SUPPORT

Access to Finance

Overall Performance

WCC provided a further £454,899 of loans and grants during 2023/ 2024 Q2 across a range of programmes.



This brings the total funded by WCC in 2023/ 2024 to £1,296,099. This investment has so far levered over £1.9 million of private sector investment and safeguarded 54 jobs. It is also expected to create a further 85 new jobs and save 35 tonnes of CO2 annually.

WCC will be showcasing its wide-range access to finance offer for businesses during **Business Finance Week** from 6th to 10th November 2023. Business Finance Week is a national campaign organised by the British Business Bank and partners across the UK. WCC will be promoting its finance and grants for start-up and growth businesses as well as funds for specific sectors and the new Immersive and Creative Technologies Launchpad partnership with Innovate UK (see below).

For more information on Business Finance Week and WCC's access to finance support programmes, contact Jon Stead in the Business & Economy team (jonstead@warwickshire.gov.uk).

To refer a business (or for more information about the Business Investment Growth pillar of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund, contact WCC's Business Growth Delivery Team (business@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Digital Creative Co-Investment Fund Round 2

Round 2 of the Digital Creative Co-Investment Fund has now closed to applications. The round received 18 applications requesting just under £425,000 of grant that are being assessed, with offers expected in mid November. The £500,000 grant fund was open to micro and small businesses in the digital creative sector who have been in business for a minimum of three years. It is designed to support businesses with raising private sector investment, or those looking to accelerate activities that put them in a position to raise additional private finance.

Round 1: Total project value £300,000, (included £150,000 grant from WCC). These are expected to increase revenue by £2 million and create 10 new jobs.

For information about the Digital Creative Co-Investment Fund, contact Jon Stead in the Business & Economy team (jonstead@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund

Local Communities and Enterprise Fund

The LCE pillar of the WRIF, managed by Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust on behalf of WCC, continues to attract high levels of interest.

- A further four loans worth £297,616 have been provided since the last Communities O&S, bringing the total loans approved to-date to 31 worth £1,708,816.
- The LCE fund continues to lever significant private sector investment; £2,215,537 across all loans to-date.
- Looking forward, the current pipeline includes 45 small businesses with an estimated combined loan value of £1,383,600.

Among the businesses to have received LCE funding is Selbi Food Creations Ltd whose Director said the support had been invaluable. Selbi Food Creations was featured in a recent WCC news release:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4681/lce-fund-opens-door-for-selina-to-access-vital-small-business-funding>

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

To register an interest, for enquiries or to refer a business, visit www.wrif.co.uk or www.cwrt.uk.com/wrif-lce-fund

Business Investment Growth Fund

The BIG pillar of the WRIF continues to see a steady flow of enquiries from a range of different sectors.

- 1 Application for £10m approved at Cabinet, currently in final negotiations with potential for funding to be issued before the end of the year.
- 1 Application for £7m at Business Case stage to be further assessed for Due Diligence stage with anticipated funding to be issued early 2024.
- Business Cases currently being developed for 2 Applications that would total £2.5m.
- Total of 104 live engagements in the pipeline with a combined value of over £28 million.
- Over 60 business engagements in total carried out to date, totalling almost £80 million.

The BIG fund is starting to gain traction. Now in its second year we are seeing a growing pipeline of enquiries. Outreach and engagement activities are continuing to raise the profile of the WRIF and encourage more referrals. A target programme of engagement is being planned for 2024. Enquiries continue to be from a range of industries, the most frequent being: manufacturing, sports and leisure, and retail and hospitality.

For general information about the BIG fund, contact Hardeep Sandhu in the Business Investment Growth Delivery team (hardeepsandhu@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Property and Infrastructure Fund

The PIF pillar of the WRIF, launched in early 2023 following the appointment of CBRE as Fund Advisor, continues to be well received by developers, commercial agents and other stakeholders including the Districts and Boroughs. The first two development opportunities (worth £9.3 million) have now been approved by the WRIF Investment Panel. Legal completion is expected over the next six weeks, and funds will then be drawn down in various tranches. A third opportunity worth £5.3 million was recently considered by the WRIF Investment Panel, and this will be presented to Cabinet.

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

For more detailed information, to register an interest or to refer a business, visit www.wrif.co.uk.

Business Support Programmes

CW Business – Start, Grow and Scale

This programme, which has for a number of years been funded by European Structural Funds, has now come to an end. A presentation on the programme, the outputs and impacts that were achieved, and lessons learnt will be presented to the February meeting of the Communities OSC committee.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

WCC has been working with the five District and Borough Councils on the implementation of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which is designed to replace the European Structural Funds.

It has been agreed that the Warwickshire Business Start-Up Programme and Project Warwickshire Programme for businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors (both delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce on behalf of WCC) will be extended with funding from UKSPF and WCC. WCC has also been working with the District and Boroughs Councils to develop, design and commission four new programmes.

1 - Business Resilience and Growth

The Business Resilience and Growth programme will support businesses to tackle the effects of existing and emerging events such as the Covid19 pandemic, cost of living crisis, EU Exit and the global issues such as the war in Ukraine. The programme is targeted at assessing companies' business resilience, growth, and productivity improvement potential and to identify any barriers or risks that could prevent the realisation of the identified potential and to create and provide a tailored package of support to each client that provides access to the most appropriate advice & services to support the plans implementation.

Following a competitive tender process, this contract has been awarded to Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

2 – High Growth and Innovation.

This High Growth and Innovation Programme is looking at increasing the rate of high growth and innovation activity within key sectors. The delivery of these activities will result in creating and safeguarding more and better jobs, (including individuals that have experienced barriers to employment), higher levels of productivity and innovations that will contribute towards the achievement of county wide net zero and sustainability goals.

This contract has been awarded and is subject to contract.

3. Business Energy Advice.

The activities supported through this programme will contribute towards the creation of a green, growing, and sustainable economy across Warwickshire and its Districts' and Boroughs' through promoting business innovation and best practice measures that support businesses to identify ways to decarbonise their activities and identify greenhouse gas savings, increase energy efficiency in enterprises and reduce carbon emissions, promote the circular economy including an emphasis on 'whole place' approaches e.g., improving industrial processes, heating, lighting and energy networks.

This procurement is ongoing.

It is expected that the **Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Scheme** will be extended in both scale and scope with additional funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) via West Midlands Combined Authority following a WCC Portfolio Holder Decision on 27th October 2023. The DESNZ funding will fund an additional 100 energy audits in Warwickshire and allow WCC to establish a £1 million grant scheme to support businesses with the costs of low carbon adoption and implementing the recommendations from their energy audits.

4. Manufacturing Growth

The activities supported through this programme will contribute towards the sustained growth and success of Warwickshire and its Districts' and Boroughs' through directly supporting businesses in the manufacturing sector to create new and better jobs through improved productivity, competitiveness, and growth. This will be achieved through enabling a more resilient manufacturing ecosystem which will in turn attract inward investment, encourage business diversification and increased levels of start-up.

Following a competitive tender process this contract has been awarded to Oxford Innovation Advice.

Launch and Engagement with Businesses

The 6 programmes will be launched as part of single, co-ordinated and integrated package of partner and UKSPF funded support for businesses across Warwickshire. PR. Details will be shared with all Members, partners and business networks, once delivery partners are in place.

We have the full support of Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub for these 6 programmes which should be able to support most businesses in the area. They are committed to providing the majority of referrals to the programmes and are keen to take an active role in any marketing and PR activities.

The collective value of business support is worth almost £2.8m and will generate:

- Engagement with over 2,000 businesses
- Over 500 businesses receiving intensive, bespoke business support.
- Create over 150 new jobs
- Safeguard over 250 jobs
- Over 200 businesses will improve their productivity.
- Deliver bespoke energy audits to 83 businesses with an additional 100 possible with DESNZ funding (tbc)
- Save over 1200 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

For more information please contact Gillian Dale in the Business & Economy team (gilliandale@warwickshire.gov.uk).

In the interim period from July to October 2023, the Start-Up Programme, Business Ready (with University of Warwick Science Park) and Project Warwickshire which were all previously funded by ERDF were extended with funding from UKSPF (via Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council and Warwick

District Council), WCC and Stratford District Council. These programmes met or exceeded their delivery targets across the county. They also safeguarded 32 jobs and supported the creation of six new ones.

3. EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS SUPPORT

Fair Chance Employer Programme

The Fair Chance programme continues to build momentum and is being well received by Warwickshire businesses, supporting them to be inclusive and diverse as they recruit into vacant roles. The programme offers a series of employer workshops to provide practical support to businesses to assess and implement changes to make the interview and selection processes accessible to people from our priority groups. The workshops are being delivered in partnership with the Warwickshire Supported Employment Service.

The Warwickshire Skills Hub officially launched the Fair Chance Jobs Portal in September. The launch was accompanied by 2 webinars to showcase the unique features the site has to offer. At the launch

- Over 40 businesses and strategic partners attend.
- 27 live, inclusive employment vacancies were captured

Early feedback from businesses and portal users has been hugely positive. The launch week saw an increase in employer enquiries regarding becoming a fair chance employer which is an indication that promotion of the service is reaching a new audience as intended. The portal can be viewed here: [Fair Chance Jobs Portal](#)

Since going live in September, the programme has

- Supported 17 businesses in recruiting as a fair chance employer
- 57 businesses actively engaging to become a Fair Chance employer

The Warwickshire Careers Hub

September saw the official transfer of the Careers Hubs to the Warwickshire Skills Hub team with 3 enterprise advisors being moved across from the CWLEP. This Careers Hub will support strategic careers activity for our Warwickshire Schools, colleges and sixth forms. A key priority for the careers hubs is to create a network of 8 cornerstone employers to directly link industry to schools to promote career pathways for our young people and communities.

This piece of work will see the hub working collaboratively with the business skills support team to actively engage businesses with the programme. The team are currently engaged with 48 Warwickshire secondary schools and have scheduled their first careers leader meeting for November to support schools in improving their

Gatsby benchmark and align activity to local need.

Warwickshire Supported Employment Service

Since the service re-launch in February 2023, an integral part of the service is engaging with employers and working collaboratively with the Fair Chance Employment Programme, The service is now established within local communities and continues to gain momentum in placing people with supportive needs into paid employment. To date the programme has

- ✓ Received 260 referrals into the from various referral partners.
- ✓ The first cohort of 15 customers have now successfully completed their employability programme and the next cohort of 18 customers are due to start in November. The programme actively engages people with weekly job search activity, delivered from our libraries as a community skills hub space.
- ✓ Conducted 5 industry tours so far, showcasing careers in engineering, hospitality & tourism.
- ✓ 40 customers have attended the industry tours and 2 customers were created roles directly into paid work.
- ✓ There are 178 customers on our active caseload allocated to 5 journey guides throughout the county,
- ✓ 26 customers have gone into paid work. Those employers are now being supported by WCC employment support advisors, to assist in sustaining employment.

The Future Skills Fund

This is a new three-year programme of support to boost apprenticeships in industry with a future focus has now launched with the application process due to open in November.

The fund will create,

- 5 Future Apprenticeship fairs aimed to support our communities in accessing apprenticeship opportunities in growth areas of new and emerging technologies, as businesses move towards net zero carbon targets outlined in the Green Agenda.
- Business support to help businesses looking to create a skills pipeline into future jobs with the support of a dedicated Future Skills Advisor.
- Industry specific employer round tables to enable industry to communicate with the college and provider network to ensure local skills offer meets the needs of future skills requirements. To support this activity the team will shape and deliver a 'skills share pilot' to enable our colleges to access industry specialists as we know they face challenges in recruiting teaching staff with experience that industry requires.

For more information about WCC's Employability and Skills Support, visit the Skills Hub web site <https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk> or contact Fay Winterburn (faywinterburn@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Multiply Fund – Round 3

A third call for Multiply projects in Warwickshire is due to close on 6th November 2023. Multiply was launched by Government in response to research which showed that around 17 million adults in England – half of the working-age population – have the numeracy skills of primary school children. To address this in Warwickshire, WCC has received funding via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund over a three-year period to deliver programmes to adults who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or an equivalent qualification.

This latest call for projects was designed to ensure Multiply access across all areas of the county is achieved. Projects could be profiled to run in just one local area or across the whole county. WCC was particularly looking to support projects designed to upskill employees and support in-work progression in the Rugby, Warwick and Stratford District and Borough Council areas. Multiply has so far supported nearly 900 people in Warwickshire to improve their numeracy. Three projects have been supported and a fourth is about to be launched.

For more information about Multiply, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/multiply or contact Claire Williams in the Business & Economy team (clairewilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk).

4. WARWICKSHIRE BUSINESS CENTRES

Redevelopment of estate

The programme is progressing well and is already having an impact across the estate with a 10% increase in rental values over the last few weeks alone.

At the staffed sites, the new reception areas will improve the level of service and improve the efficiency levels This will allow WCC to significantly increase capacity in the teams and focus on delivering the changes relevant to each location.

Partnership working and stakeholder engagement.

This month we have worked closely with local authority stakeholders as well as private sector ones too. Work has continued with MIRA to help businesses in their supply chain to be located nearer to their site north of Nuneaton The team have worked with University Science Park on a similar requests and are preparing a joint piece of work on market values. The team have also supported Rugby DC and Stratford DC with strategic work around their own future plans for workspaces and business centres.

Improvement in tenant community engagement

The tenant events are going from strength to strength with increased attendance across all sites. Alongside the community building events the team held a MacMillian coffee morning at all sites. The events raised over £1000 for the charity and is showing how quickly the tenant businesses are turning into a community.

The combination of the improvements underway and relationships between the team and tenants is generating a range of benefits for all parties. As an example, a company that has just moved into Eliot Park, taking 3 offices had specifically expressed that they wanted to part of a wider community. Events such as the coffee morning, support their social value, that their staff are pleased to take part, something they knew they were not big enough to arrange themselves. A real success for the centre, staff, businesses and WCC.

For more information about Warwickshire Business Centres, contact Luke Pulford (lukepulford@warwickshire.gov.uk).

5. SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INWARD INVESTMENT

Coventry and Warwickshire chosen for Government funding to drive tech innovation

Following a competitive process which saw over 40 national applications, Warwickshire and Coventry have been chosen as one of 10 pilot programmes to create 10 innovation launchpads in the UK.

Coventry & Warwickshire region will receive up to £7.5m of new investment to drive local innovation and business growth, building on the region's existing strengths in video game development.

Under the Immersive and Creative Technologies Launchpad programme, businesses and researchers working to grow their impact in the region can apply for competitive grants, between £25,000 up to £1 million, with other support, for innovation projects that focus on developing and adapting new technologies across various industries including healthcare, education, future mobility, manufacturing, retail and tourism.

The Launchpad programme is funded by Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation. It is designed to build on innovation clusters around the UK that have significant growth potential and to deliver jobs, growth, and higher productivity, supporting the Government's levelling-up agenda.

[Business Desk coverage of the story](#)

More funding success for Silicon Spa

Research England through its Connecting Capabilities Fund will establish the Games and Innovation Nexus (GAIN) project, which aims to explore the strengths

and opportunities between two of the UK's largest games clusters, Warwickshire's Silicon Spa and Guildford in Surrey.

GAIN is a collaborative effort that will foster innovation within these clusters and, in turn, support the thriving video game clusters, create a dynamic ecosystem, foster economic growth, and drive innovation in the UK games industry.

The project, supported by the University of Surrey, the University of Warwick, and the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), in conjunction with key partners and investors including Surrey County Council, Warwickshire County Council, UK Interactive Entertainment, Warwickshire Games Collective and Guildford.Games Ltd. Together the partners are poised to redefine how universities collaborate and support the UK video games sector.

[University of Warwick Secures Collaborative Games and Innovation Funding - Warwick Innovation District](#)

CENEX LCV and CAM Event

Invest Coventry & Warwickshire exhibited at the CENEX Low Carbon Vehicle and Connected Automated Mobility show at Millbrook in Bedfordshire in September. The event has become the UK's leading event for automotive and future mobility technology. The show presents an opportunity to pitch the county and city to potential inward investors and intermediaries as the UK's centre for automotive R&D, development and manufacturing.

Invest Coventry & Warwickshire also exhibited at the Engineering Design Show in October at the Coventry Building Society Arena in the city.

The team will also be attending the Advanced Engineering Show as a delegate, which runs from 1 - 2 November .

Inward Investment : Visteon Corporation Opens new Warwick Office

Automotive infotainment and connectivity company Visteon of the US has opened a new centre at Warwick Innovation Centre to locate closer to key clients in the area. Invest Coventry & Warwickshire joined the opening event together with Cllr Tim Sinclair (standing in for Cllr Watson) and will be following up with the local team to offer sector support and signposting to our services.

Visit to Dennis Eagle

Invest Warwickshire organised a visit to the Dennis Eagle factory in Warwick for Warwickshire local authorities to hear about the work that Dennis Eagle has done around the decarbonisation of refuse vehicle fleets, and how they have prioritised battery electric over hydrogen propulsion for their eCollect 100% electric RCV vehicle.

Delegates included representatives from Warwick District, North Warwickshire Borough and Warwickshire county council. Dennis Eagle and its parent company Terberg, also based on the same site in Warwick, is the leading supplier of refuse vehicles in the UK, and also sells into other markets like the USA, Australia and Ireland. It had factories in Blackpool and Warwick.

6. WARWICKSHIRE PLACES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships

Work has started with Warwick Town Council and Warwick District Council in co-creating a working stakeholder group in supporting the town in its ambitions to ensure its town centre is fit for the future. 55 local stakeholders attended a 3-hour place making workshop hosted by the recently refurbished Lord Leycester Hopsital.

The group discussed barriers to change, as well as what was great about Warwick with final outputs from the session to be a co-owned document. This will inform the group of progress, identify short, medium and long-term solutions and capture achievements, aligned to the objective of strengthening the economic output of the town

Coventry and Warwickshire Foodie Awards 2023

The food and drink sector is a huge contributor to the strength of Warwickshire's economy. The latest Tourism Economic Impact study (2022) revealed that 35% of all visitor expenditure in Warwickshire is on Food and Drink, generating over £300m for the local economy.

That figure is powered by the high quality and diversity of the county's food and drink offer and that excellence was reflected by a great success at the Foodie Awards. The Best Artisan Food and Drink categories were sponsored by Warwickshire Food & Drink a brand supported by Warwickshire County Council.

An audience of foodies gathered at The Box, Fargo Village on the 18th October, to see Awards handed out in 15 categories with 3 winners coming from Warwickshire

- **Pub/bar of the Year:** Half Moon, Wolston.
- **Best farm shop of the year:** Farmer's Fayre, Stoneleigh.
- **Culinary Excellence Award:** Cafe Vin Cinq, Rugby.

APPENDIX 1: BUSINESS NEWS

Major business headlines from around Warwickshire

Digital Creative Sector

Film and TV production firm Codex renews lease at Royal Leamington Spa

Royal Leamington Spa's credentials as a digital production hotspot have been further burnished as TV, film and video production firm Codex has renewed its lease at Regent Square House in the centre of the town. Codex offers digital production workflow tools for independent films, Hollywood motion pictures, commercial and TV productions all around the world. It has now extended its original five-year lease at the building for a further six years.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/property/film-and-tv-production-firm-codex-renews-lease-at-royal-learmington-spa-building/>

Knight Frank Produce UK Gaming Report 2023

The UK's games development sector is experiencing rapid growth and, with over 2,200 active gaming companies, has solidified its position as the largest video games market in Europe. Knight Frank, the leading commercial property agents, have produced their Our (RE) Play Report as a crucial resource for understanding this dynamic sector. It includes extensive coverage of the 'Silicon Spa' cluster around Leamington Spa.

<https://www.knightfrank.com/research/report-library/uk-gaming-report-2023-10582.aspx>**Automotive/ Future Mobility Sector**

600 UK auto jobs at risk as Volta Trucks plans for bankruptcy

About 600 UK automotive jobs are at risk after electric lorry start-up Volta Trucks filed for bankruptcy, becoming the latest new electric vehicle entrant to falter. The private Swedish company built its first 20 prototypes in Coventry and employed staff in significant numbers in Nuneaton at MIRA and Gaydon at American Barns.

<https://www.ft.com/content/97b2d3d6-cac4-4f72-a9cd-ba8aaaf4b249>

West Midlands Gigafactory in advanced talks with leading Asian battery manufacturers

The West Midlands Gigafactory joint venture has confirmed that it is in advanced discussions with several leading Asian battery manufacturers about future investment at the Coventry site.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/manufacturing-engineering/west-midlands-gigafactory-in-advanced-talks-with-leading-asian-battery-manufacturers/>

New JLR facility dedicated to developing electric car drive units

The new Future Energy Lab at Whitley – one of JLR’s engineering centres – features test rigs for electrical systems, including cold-weather chambers, and capacity for drive-unit production. JLR says the battery-electric Range Rover is among the new cars currently undergoing testing at the facility, ahead of its launch next year. Some 200 engineers are already employed at the Future Energy Lab, and JLR said it will create a further 150 roles going forward.

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/business-manufacturing/jaguar-land-rover-opens-%C2%A3250-million-ev-development-hub?>

Major new initiative launches to help align electric skills and industry standards to drive £12bn opportunity

A landmark initiative that aims to unlock the universal language of electrification was launched recently at the Museum of London to take a first look at The Power Electronics, Machines and Drives Body of Knowledge (PEMDBoK). This valuable new resource which has been developed through a collaboration of industry and academic experts led by Coventry University, is set to redefine industry standards and align understanding of the essential skills and capabilities required by the sector.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/recruitment-careers-hr/major-new-initiative-launches-in-coventry-to-help-align-electric-skills-and-industry-standards-to-drive-12bn-opportunity/>

High Value Manufacturing Catapult appoints new chairman

The High Value Manufacturing Catapult – whose centres include the Manufacturing Technology Centre near Coventry and WMG at the University of Warwick – has appointed Steve Bagshaw CBE as its new chairman.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/manufacturing-engineering/high-value-manufacturing-catapult-appoints-new-chairman/>

Trial proves potential to deliver crucial medical supplies by drone

A major trial has proved the potential to deliver crucial medical supplies to hospitals via drone – saving time, money and carbon emissions. Coventry-based Skyfarer Ltd, its partner Medical Logistics UK and drone manufacturer Phoenix Wings conducted the feasibility pilot with University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust's hospitals in Coventry and Rugby.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/technology-innovation/trial-proves-potential-to-deliver-crucial-medical-supplies-by-drone/>

Other Business News

L&Q Estates green light for new commercial space in Bedworth

Warwick-based property developer L&Q Estates has been given the go-ahead to build 73 new homes and employment space on its Wilsons Lane development on the outskirts of Coventry. The scheme will comprise a mix of both market and affordable properties and up to 55,750 sq metres of employment space, together with the creation of a play area, footpaths, cycle routes and landscaping.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/property/lq-estates-greenlit-for-73-new-coventry-homes/>

Rugby businesswoman becomes chair of Build UK

One of UK construction's leading female voices has become the chair of a major organisation which represents and supports the industry.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/property/midlands-businesswoman-becomes-chair-of-build-uk/>

Frasers Group lodges plans for global headquarters

Retail giant Frasers Group, the company behind Sports Direct and House of Fraser, has submitted its plans for a global headquarters campus in the West Midlands in a move forecast to create 7,500 jobs. Designed by architect Grimshaw – the firm behind the Eden Project, London's Excel Phase II, and the Lloyds Banking Group Headquarters - the campus would include logistics, offices, R&D retail, a hotel, and leisure facilities.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/frasers-group-lodges-plans-for-global-headquarters>

Glimmer of Golden Triangle lures investors

Logistics Heartland Took a Record Share of Investment With Foreign Buyers Behind Over 70% of Volumes. Investment into warehouses in the so-called golden triangle hit £600 million in the third quarter of 2023 as international investors bet on the continuing strength of the UK's logistics heartland. Last quarter's figure, of which 72%

came from overseas, was on a par with the previous two quarters combined and represented a record 27% share of total industrial sales volumes between July and September.

<https://product.costar.com/home/news/697900991>

Economic outlook improving - Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

The economic outlook in Coventry and Warwickshire has improved dramatically, according to a survey of businesses in the region. The latest Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) by the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce shows a jump in confidence in both the manufacturing and services sector, leading to a stronger outlook for the economy.

<https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/companies/economic-outlook-improving-coventry-and-warwickshire-chamber-of-commerce/>

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HIGH PROFILE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



ID	Scheme Name	Status R / A / G / Blank	Expected Delivery Completion of construction	Stage of the Scheme				Commission Priority			Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief	Project Manager / Lead Engineer	Date Last Updated	Updated By	
				Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Low	Medium	High	< 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety						
1	Capital (PPM) Avon Mill and Hunters Lane	A	2025/26																	Preliminary Ecological Assessment and Baseline Biodiversity Report completed. Further ecological surveys have been undertaken to renew data for planning. Structures and highway designs have progressed ready for feeding into the Outline Business Case (OBC) submission to DfT. OBC is planned to be submitted Autumn 2023. Flood modelling works are ongoing on the preferred option and mitigation developed to achieve the least impact on ecology. Planning pre-application advice has been received and Atkins as planning agents supported by WCC are preparing planning application. Carter Jonas as land agents are negotiating with landowners under the shadow of CPO where land needs to be acquired. Biggest risk to the project is the flood modelling uncertainty, modelling conclusions required for EA approval, planning permission, and defining bridge levels.	Improved roundabout, new roundabout and bridge, new footway cycleway bridge over the river	BK	03/11/2023	BK/TH
2	Capital (PPM) A47 Hinckley Road Corridor	R	2023/2024																	Detailed Design work has been completed and is currently being considered in connection with Stage 2 Road Safety Audit comments. We have estimated the scheme cost and this has returned a forecast outturn in excess of the available budget. In response we have sought to evaluate this cost with Balfour Beatty and have engaged them on other Early Contract Investigations to see if savings can be made. One such saving is with regards to utility/diversion costs, where we believe the SU's affected have returned a scope of works which can be considerably reduced.	Improved junctions and ped/ cycle facilities	SP	03/11/2023	SP / TH
3	Capital (PPM) A444 College Street, Nuneaton	A	2023/2024																	Phase 1: Greenmoor/Heath End Road Signalised Junction - The scheme has had approval from the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning to proceed following review of TRO objections. Now orders will be placed for signals equipment and delivery of the scheme via the HMC. Anticipated start date for works is Spring 2024. Phase 2: Bull Ring junction, College Street, A444 Roundabout - RSA 2 for Bull Ring junction has been completed but the design team have concerns with the solution; issue report to be submitted to Project Board. 3rd party land acquisition ongoing. TRO speed limit reduction to 40mph (section of A444 Griff Way) complete and will be implemented before Phase 2 starts.	Improve 3No. junctions	FK / NC & DC	11/03/2023	FK/TH
4	Capital Lawford/Addison Rd Casualty Reduction	A	2024																	C4 estimates and utility consultations ongoing. Land acquisition and compound provision in progress. Design finalisation and Tender documents preparation ongoing. Planning requirements being investigated. Roadspace clash issues with S278 job until Winter (no road space available until no clash). Tender potentially early spring 2024.	Casualty reduction roundabout scheme.	AC / SS	25/10/23	AC
5	Capital (PPM) A446/ Birmingham Road Junction (Coleshill)	A	2024/2025																	Concept/feasibility design in progress. Currently exploring options for reducing the proposed speed limit with the outcome influencing the layout of the proposed shared footway/cycleway and potential extent of land acquisition. Following on from this concept design option could be finalised and then progress to feasibility with approval from Project Board.	Signalisation of roundabout	FK / RB & SS	11/03/2023	FK
6	Capital (PPM) Transforming Nuneaton	A	From 23/24																	Design work on going; funding from Towns Fund approved, mechanism to drawdown funding yet to be agreed with NBBC. High inflation has caused cost estimates to rise necessitating a cost review of the full programme. Abbey Green cycleway granted planning permission and TRO/Cycle Track Order process has now concluded, although this has taken longer than anticipated. Discussions with the delivery contractor are now ongoing to agree as early as possible a start date in 2024 for Abbey Green. The Wheat St design is now mostly set and an RSA has been completed. Leicester Road new roundabout is now the smaller version to retain Dunelm, a planning application is being prepared.	Series of junction improvements (Wheat Street / Leicester Road Roundabout(gyratory) / Corporation Street-Queens Road/Coton Road	DC&DM / NC / SD	09/11/2023	DM/TH
7	Capital (PPM) Hinckley To Nuneaton Cycle Route (A47 Long Shoot)	A	2023/24																	Local Members have expressed reservations with proposed speed limit reduction (40 to 30mph) and the narrowing of the vehicle carriage, both key design elements. Objections will be viewed by Transport Portfolio Holder in early December 2023. If the scheme is endorsed target construction start is January 2024.	New segregated cycle track	AF / CM	03/11/2023	AF
8	S278 A4254 Eastboro Way (Heart of England Way)	G	2024																	A developer led scheme which needs careful monitoring of delivery programme to " fit in" with other up and coming works including further S278 Schemes. Technical review being carried out under new PSC Contract and is ongoing.	Signalised Junction as part of development planning conditions	KBBK	02/11/2023	CH



SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE HIGH PROFILE SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT



Scheme ID	Scheme Name	Status R / A / G / Blank	Expected Delivery Completion of construction	Stage of the Scheme					Priority Low Medium High	Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief	Project Manager / Lead Engineer	Date Last Updated	Updated By
				Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Low < 5 Million		Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety						
1	Capital (PPM) A3400 Bham Road Stratford Corridor Phase 2	A	2024/25								£6,550,000							Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 scope amended to reflect changing traffic flow forecasts. Delivery date needs to be coordinated with a proposed Warwick Road casualty reduction scheme - targeting construction for as early as possible in 2024. Phase-3 Detailed Design work ongoing.	Ped/ cycle facilities and junction improvements	SP/ Atkins	03/11/2023	SP/TH
2	Capital (PPM) A429 Coventry Road Corridor (Cycleway Element)	A	Winter 2023/Spring 2024								£4,680,000							Phase 1: Coventry Road - Canal towpath access to St John's crossroads. Construction ready drawings being finalised. Target works start date January 2024, subject to receiving a road space works permit. A final decision will be reached via an internal escalation process. Phase 2: Coventry Road to Primrose Hill, via Woodloes CTO required to provide a new link between Coventry Road and Primrose Hill will now be subject to a public inquiry at Shirehall in January 2024. If rejected, designs will be subject to revisions incurring additional cost and time delay. Improvements at Spinney Hill roundabout in programme for development in future years.	Provision of 1.2km new high quality off-carriageway shared use cycleway/footway with additional signalised crossings	AF	03/11/2023	AF
3	Capital Warwick Town Centre St Johns Road (PPM)	A	2024								£1,026,000							Engineering feasibility design has been updated following public and local business engagement. Work is ongoing to confirm when construction can take place due to road space demand. Plan is to include part of Emscote Road Scheme within this project, this will enable more complete scheme and avoid some abortive works.	Signalised Junction improvement, town gateway	DM	13/09/2023	DM
4	Capital A452 Europa Way Programme (PPM)	A	WCC-3 Q4 FY23/24								£21,750,000							<u>WCC-3: Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts</u> Scheme back from tender and preferred tender is within forecast estimate. Start date on site proposed in Spring 2024, subject to road space availability. <u>WCC-2: Gallows Hill to Fusilliers Way</u> The optioneering stage of design, which has had to take into account the unexpected retention of a pylon and basal support, is largely complete. A review is currently underway to establish whether this scheme should take precedence over WCC1 with regards order of delivery (see below). <u>WCC -1: M40 Spur to Greys Mallory Roundabout</u> High level design work has been completed and has highlighted several constraints and opportunities with each. These are currently being worked through and fully understood. Discussions with National Highways are ongoing to work collaboratively on a scheme that reduces blocking back onto the M40 and beyond. This has been supported with anecdotal evidence and surveys of the issues currently being experienced by the travelling public and possible resolutions that will address or mitigate current experiences.	WCC-3: Upgrading existing roundabouts & additional lane capacity WCC-2: improvements along A452 from Fusilliers Way to Gallows Hill Rdbt. WCC-1: improvements from the M40/J14 to Greys Mallory Rdbt	SL & SP / NC & EA	26/10/23	SL/TH
5	Capital A452 K2L Cycle Route (PPM)	A	2025/26								£11,154,885							Section 1a: Phase 2: On site 03/09/23 - end of November 2024 Section 1b: Retaining wall design with specialists. Land assembly ongoing. Consultation date TBC. Target start date Summer 2024 Section 1C: On hold Section 2: Jacobs to undertake flood modelling and liaise with the EA on the suitability of the preferred bridge solution. It's hoped this will conclude by early 2024, allowing the team to proceed to the next design/delivery stage. Section 3b: Concept design produced. Awaiting ecology and forestry survey reports. Collaborating with projects nearby on designs and programme.	Approx 5km, high quality off-carriageway cycle route, including a new pedestrian / cycle bridge crossing the River Avon	AF /AC	03/11/2023	AF
6	S278 Shipston Road Rbts SoA	A	Summer 2025								£4,200,000							Pivotal scheme to the SoA corridor schemes, Delivery is currently being reviewed to accommodate other schemes and minimise congestion and disruption. Complex traffic Management and design. Revised estimated programme start Winter 2024	Improvements to the Waitrose and Seven Meadows Rd roundabouts	DM	02/11/2023	CH

7	S278	The Asps Banbury Road	G	2024						£1,500,000						Potential heavy congestion, traffic management proposals by the contractor will be scrutinised to ensure compatibility with schemes on Gallows hill. Potential reordering of schemes delivering for the Asps development. Scheme is in Technical Review	Construction of a permanent access to new development (Construction of the temporary access for construction traffic has been completed)	KBBK	02/11/2023	CH
8	S278	A452 Leamington Road, Kenilworth - Thickthorn Signalised Junction	G	2024						£1,500,000						A developer led scheme which needs careful monitoring of delivery programme to "fit in" with other up and coming works including further S278 and WCC Schemes. Currently in Technical Review	Signalised junction entrance to new residential development	KBBK	02/11/2023	CH
9	Capital	A452/A46 Thickthorn Roundabout Improvements	G	2024/25						£6,700,000						Jacobs appointed as professional services consultant under the PSC 2023 framework contract to deliver a scheme design. The preliminary design currently ongoing and is expected to be delivered end of 2023/early 2024. This also includes production of construction cost estimate.	Improvements to the existing A452/A46 Thickthorn Roundabout to increase capacity, by way of signalisation, increase in lane provision and reassignment of lane destinations.	FK/Jacobs	03/11/2023	FK

Key - Colour Scheme: R A E O F D P L M H L M H L M H

User Guide
 The purpose of the document is to provide a brief but clear visual demonstration of the top schemes that we currently have in development. This document can be used to provide a high-level forward plan to show how the schemes fit into the overall business and will be updated every quarter which will assist us in monitoring our schemes.

Scheme Name Name of scheme. Note: there is no particular order for the ranking
Status Blank - Project Initiation Document not received Red - Programme overrun, Budget overrun, Major issues Amber - Scheme is progressing but there are issues which are being dealt with and/or there is a risk of project overrun or budget overrun Green - Project progressing as expected
Expected Delivery Completion of construction
Stage of the Scheme These run from commissioning team handover to construction
Commissioning Priority Priority is provided by the commissioning team, separated into low, medium or high
Scheme Value Estimated budget for the scheme, separated into low, medium or high
Top Risks Technical (including construction/contract risks) Strategic/Administrative Environmental Health & Safety Financial Low - No action required. Review periodically to ensure risk level does not change. Medium - Consider risk carefully, identify mitigation and track regularly High - Consider immediate risk action and mitigation, regularly review risk severity and mitigation impact - ensure Project Board is kept informed
Comments Project Managers additional comments
Scheme Brief A short description of the key elements of the scheme



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HIGH PROFILE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



Scheme ID	Scheme Name	Status R / A / G / Blank	Expected Delivery Completion of construction	Stage of the Scheme					Commission Priority			Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief	Project Manager / Lead Engineer	Date Last Updated	Updated By	
				Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Construction	Low	Medium	High	Low < 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety						
1	Capital (PPM) Bermuda Connectivity	R	Q4 23/24											£14.941m							Works are progressing, Bermuda Bridge opened to pedestrians and cyclists end of October 2023 and motorised vehicles will have access in November 2023 subject to the contractor completing the pavement works on the bridge and remedying minor defects on St George's Way. Gabion walls in St George's Way will need to be refurbished due to contractor error (not a structural issue currently) and these works may require TM. CADENT have taken longer than expected on the gas governor and are also to commence work on diverting an unchartered shallow medium pressure main in Bermuda Road. Once the bridge is open to residents and CADENT have completed their works on the gas governor the contractor can then commence works on Bermuda Road by Phoenix Centre. Completion of the scheme expected early 2024.	Delivering additional highway capacity & improved connectivity in Nuneaton	BK/GH (Atkins)	03/11/2023	BK/TH
2	S278 Gipsy Lane - Yew Tree Farm	G	Nov 23											£3,162,000							TM complexities with the Quarry and other works on the network. Decision for a full road closure taken - Commenced Feb 2023. On going issue regarding proposed amendments to existing weight limits for the canal bridge and Wem brook (Sterling Metals) bridge.	Roundabout , two junctions and road straightening in Gipsy Lane	DM	02/11/2023	DM
3	Capital (PPM) Greenman Crossroads	G	Autumn 2023											£899,000							Main constructions works were completed at the end of September 2023 and the traffic signals were commissioned in the first week of October 2023. The junction is operational and functioning as intended. Street lighting works and signage works is outstanding, with the former expected to be completed by the end of 2023. Final completion date of all the works to be confirmed.	Casualty Reduction Scheme	FK / CM & AS	11/03/2023	FK
4	Capital Temple Hill Roundabout, Wolvey	G	Winter 2023											£1,600,000							Works started on 26/06/23 and is still progressing well. Some costs have been saved with a bit of value engineering and by collaboration with utilities to reduce diversion costs. No issues.	Casualty Reduction Scheme	NC	25/10/2023	NC



SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE HIGH PROFILE SCHEMES IN CONSTRUCTION



Scheme ID	Scheme Name	Status	Expected Delivery	Stage of the Scheme					Priority			Scheme Value			Top Risks					Comments	Scheme Brief	Project Manager / Lead Engineer	Date Last Updated	Updated By	
		R / A / G / Blank	Completion of construction	Preliminary / Optioneering	Feasibility	Detailed Design	Procurement	Construction	Low	Medium	High	Low < 5 Million	Medium 5 Million < X < 10 Million	High > 10 Million	Technical	Strategic	Environmental	Financial	Health and Safety						
1	Capital (PPM) Stoneleigh Junction	A	Winter 23/24								High			£38,300,000							Good progress has been made on the local road network elements of the scheme with these now on their new alignment, along with the opening of the new bridge over Finham Brook. Work on and around the A46 has been slower due to various issues, most of which have now been resolved. We are still working with our contractor regarding a supply issue for the completion of the new A46 bridge and unfortunately this is impacting on the overall programme; we are working to resolve this as quickly as possible.	New signalised gyratory system.	PB / NS	27/10/2023	PB
2	S278 Evesham Rbt - Shottery Link Rd	A	Nov-23								High			£5,200,000							Potential traffic management complications. Local interests are being kept informed. Completion pivotal to commencement of other major SoA schemes	Construction of a new roundabout on Evesham Rd for connection to link rd.	DM	15/9/2023	DM
3	S278 Gallows Hill (Lower Heathcote Farm) Major scheme	A	Winter 23/24								High			£2,000,000							Current planned completion date is now end of February 2024. Delays have been a result of works clashing with utilities requiring the contractor to undertake additional works. Stats delays have also impacted upon planned traffic management, resulting in further delays. The scheme delays have an impact upon the wider programme in Warwick/Leamington	Construction of a signalised junction as entrance to the new development.	KBBK	18/09/2023	CH
4	S278 B4100 GLH ancillary/B4455 Fosse Way/C43 Harbury/Chesterton Road	A	24-Mar								High			£3,400,000							There will be considerable disruption and local interests are being kept informed through construction including vibration issues from the need for piling. Piling works delayed due to environmental issues	Traffic Signals junction	TN	03/11/2023	CH
5	S278 Glasshouse Lane - Kenilworth School	A	23-Nov								High			£1,800,000							Scheme prioritised for delivery due to school opening, Highway works due to complete this month.	Final two access to school; speed humps and toucan crossings	GH	03/11/2023	CH/TH
8	BrM Clopton Bridge renovations	G	Winter 2023							Low	High			£1,000,000							Works are progressing on site with ten of the 14 arches now repaired by accessing from a pontoon in the River Avon. Working with Avon Navigation Trust to ensure safety of interface with river users. Night time traffic management is planned to carry out repairs to the bridge parapet.	Maintenance to Grade 1 listed scheduled ancient monument 14 span bridge	SPI	03/11/2023	SPI

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Key - Colour Scheme: A (Yellow), G (Green), O (Light Green), F (Light Green), D (Light Green), P (Light Green), C (Light Green), L (Light Blue), M (Light Blue), H (Light Blue), L (Yellow), M (Yellow), H (Yellow), L (Orange), M (Orange), H (Orange)

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 November 2023

Delegated Budget Schemes – Progress Review

Recommendations

That the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes:

1. The progress made against agreed proposals set out in the June 2020 Cabinet paper on the new Delegated Budget Scheme Process.
2. The current process for delivery of Delegated Budget Schemes.
3. The proposed new guidelines for Delegated Budget Schemes and next steps.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Communities Overview and Scrutiny conducted a review of the Highways Delegated Budget scheme in 2019 which included a member workshop which focused on potential solutions to support improvements to the delivery and communications with Members on Delegated Budget scheme delivery. As an outcome of the review a Report entitled Delegated Budget Scheme – Covid response and Long-Term Scheme Proposals was presented to Cabinet on 11th June 2020. The report set out a number of suggested improvements to to the Delegated Budget scheme.
- 1.2 The overall aim of the proposed improvements was to reduce the continued annual underspend and deliver a high percentage of agreed works within the financial year. Pre-2020 an average of £500k of delegated budget schemes were being delivered each year. The teams are now delivering over £2m per year of delegated budget works and are targeting to achieve over 50% of current delegated budget funding delivered in this financial year. **Appendix 1** provides data and charts demonstrating the increased delivery.
- 1.3 The table on the following page lists the improvement actions agreed at the 2020 Cabinet meeting as well as setting out the progress and next steps for further improvement.

Improvement	Action taken	Next Steps
Development of a dedicated internal website for members to have easy access to details of the schemes agreed for delivery	A website was set up on April 2022 via SharePoint to provide Members with information about delegated budgets, the process and financial updates. It includes information on the budget allocation, types of schemes and examples of completed schemes, Area Surveyor contact details, and a monthly update which includes each member's budget, agreed list of schemes and progress towards delivery.	<p>Feedback from members is that more information about delivery timescales, delivery dates and costs need to be included in the regular reports. These are being added as available.</p> <p>Members have also asked for the monthly reports to be personalised to each member and not part of the large spreadsheet covering other Member schemes.</p>
Regular updates to members on progress of their schemes	The minor works team now sends out regular email updates to all members which includes a copy of the report showing where in the process their scheme is. Currently this shows as 'Inception', 'Design', 'Estimation' or 'Delivery'.	As above, Members have asked for more detail on the report, especially estimated delivery dates and a financial update on spend/ committed funding and balance.
Elimination of the £6k de-minimus enabling members to agree smaller scale works providing greater flexibility and more schemes that could be delivered in-year.	The limit was lifted and members have a list of minor works and small maintenance schemes that can be delivered with their Delegated Budget. This has led to a higher number of small schemes being developed many of which have been delivered 'in-year'.	Develop a "shopping list" of works that members can choose, with indicative costs has been produced (goes live November 2023). This will help inform members of likely costs associated with schemes and assist them in working with area surveyors to agree works.
Inclusion of a deadline for agreeing delegated budget works early in the financial year with highways teams	A deadline for agreeing a list of schemes with the Area Surveyor has not yet been set as it was felt that the team needed to focus on the backlog of works.	Now that the backlog has been substantially cleared the recommendation is to set a spring deadline for every member to reach agreement with their Area Surveyor on the schemes for the current financial year.

Improvement	Action taken	Next Steps
Development of a match funding scheme enabling delivery of larger or more complex schemes and directly involving local communities	Details of the Highways Community Action Grant have been confirmed with the portfolio holder and the first pilot scheme was delivered in Henley-in-Arden.	The team are developing a website page so that the information about the scheme and the application forms can be shared with members, parishes, town council's and other community groups.
Developing the highways locality officer role (now Area Surveyors) to include responsibility for managing the Delegated Budget schemes with their local members.	A consultation was held with staff on a revised job description resulting in changes to the role being implemented in 2020. Area Surveyors now take on responsibility for agreeing Delegated Budget works with their members and are the point of contact for members on Delegated Budget works.	Further work is being done to improve relationships between members and their respective Area Surveyors so that there is a clear understanding of their roles in supporting members to get Delegated Budget works delivered.
Establish a dedicated minor works team to improve delivery and ownership of the delivery phase of schemes	A minor works team was established in September 2020 with Paul Taylor as the team leader. The team's role is to oversee delegated budget works to ensure timely completion and assist in the design and planning of delegated budget schemes where required. Additional technician resources have been added to the team to improve the pace of delivery and the communications with members. This includes one member of the team that pulls together the updates for members and the SharePoint site.	Further work is being done to strengthen the team and the processes used to communicate works with our contractor Balfour Beatty. The aim is to speed up scheme delivery timescales and provide better information on delivery dates to members.

Improvement	Action taken	Next Steps
Resolving the backlog of schemes and the reducing the amount of unspent delegated budget capital funding.	The backlog of schemes has significantly reduced with very few if any pre-2020 scheme remaining undelivered. Unspent capital in the scheme pre-2018 has been used to develop the Highways Community Action Grant and to support the School Zone Repainting scheme.	Delivery now stands at over £2m per year and the backlog of works to be completed has been significantly reduced. Members will be required to agree projects within a given timeframe, further work is taking place to improve the pace of delivery with highways contractors to ensure more works are delivered in-year, where the projects are committed to, by the member, on time.

Delegated Budget Process

- 1.4 Feedback from members has also indicated that it would be helpful for the process around delegated budgets to be clarified. This will help members to understand their role in the development and commitment of delegated budget spend but also on what should be expected of officers in planning for and communicating delegated budget delivery. The team has worked with the communications team following instruction from the Portfolio Holder to develop a simple diagram that demonstrates the process for the delivery of Delegated Budget schemes showing the roles and responsibilities of both local members and officers. The Portfolio Holder is intending to share this with members in a future communication following on from the proposed improvements in this report being taken to Cabinet for adoption.

2.0 Proposed further improvements

Shopping List

- 2.1 A brochure of estimated works costs has been developed and is included as Appendix 2. This is intended to give local members a basic understanding of approximate works costs when first considering schemes. This will assist members when working with their Area Surveyor to identify and agree schemes for delegated budget spend as well as help to set expectations on costs and delivery timescales. There is a caveat that all schemes need to be investigated further to provide accurate estimates, which will proceed to design and delivery if it is no more than 10% greater than the quote obtained from the shopping list.

Deadline for Engagement

- 2.2 In practice, the development of Delegated Budget schemes should be a continuous process where the Area Surveyor and the Member have regular

conversations about current year schemes but also about potential schemes for future years. In this way each spring the Member and the Area Surveyor should be in a position where they have an agreed list of potential schemes making it easy for the member to then commit their Delegated Budget funding spend for that financial year.

- 2.3 The June 2020 Cabinet report indicated that there should be a deadline near the start of the financial year, before which councillors must commit to works to ensure there is sufficient time for the development, planning and delivery of works in that financial year. The recommendation is members work with their Area Surveyor to develop their delegated schemes during the fourth quarter of each financial year, so they are ready to commit to a list of schemes by the end of May each year. At times this might mean members committing to scheme delivery even if the scheme details are not fully developed and only estimated costs are available.
- 2.4 This will enable an advanced programme of works to be created that the Minor Works Team can then work closely with Balfour Beatty so the contractor can ensure sufficient resources are available and outline delivery timescales can be set against each scheme. This should enable the delivery teams to provide better estimates of delivery timescales against every scheme by June so that member reports can include delivery dates or estimated delivery quarters.
- 2.5 Any works not committed to by the end of May cannot be guaranteed to be delivered in year and may need to roll forward into the following financial year for delivery. It is recommended that the May deadline is reiterated to members each spring with an email from the portfolio holder to all members.

Member Engagement

- 2.6 Critical to setting a deadline for committing to works is good engagement between members and their Area Surveyor. Area Surveyors will be in contact with Members to agree regular diarised meetings throughout the year.
- 2.7 In the June 2020 report to Cabinet, it was recommended there should be a "move away from carrying any delegated budget into future years". It is proposed that members will no longer be allowed to hold more than the equivalent of one year's budget of unallocated funding beyond 31st May each year. This allows new schemes to be funded after this date, but which may not be delivered until the next financial year.

Communications

- 2.8 One of the key complaints from local members about Delegated Budget scheme is the lack of information provided on delivery timescales. In some cases, members have not been made aware of when works will take place before Balfour's is on site delivering the work. It is important that members have the opportunity to communicate with residents well ahead of advance work warning signs going up on site so that there is an opportunity for the

work to be highlighted in parish, town council, ward or other community newsletters.

2.9 At a minimum, officers will:

- Ensure estimated start dates are input into the monthly Delegated Budget reports to give members an idea of when works are likely to take place.
- Email members at least two weeks in advance of works starting on site to confirm the start date and extent of the works may impact on residents such as road closures or traffic restrictions.
- Ensure advanced warning signs are put out on the works site two weeks in advance of works starting. These signs will also clearly identify the works as being 'Delegated Budget' works being delivered by Warwickshire County Council.
- Provide photographs and updates during the works so that members can use these to keep residents informed or share positive news stories with their communities.

2.10 Communications between Area Surveyors and Members is key and County Highways will ensure that all members are offered at least four face-to-face meetings every year with their Area Surveyor as well as regular MS Teams meetings as required to ensure that members are update on Delegated Budget projects. This regular contact with member is critical the Delegate Budget process.

Changes in Delivery Teams

2.11 In order to deliver on some of the commitments above, the team have been exploring ways to improve the process and workflow of delegated works being designed to hand over to Balfour's for delivery. At present, Balfour Beatty (BB) is contracted to deliver works within 12 months of receiving the order but has a local arrangement to deliver within 6 months. This allows them to batch multiple small works in similar locations together, to provide WCC the economies of scale and efficiency of costs. To enable better more accurate provision of delivery dates for schemes the processes set out in the highways contract with Balfour's will need to be changed.

2.12 BB has expressed a desire to work in partnership with us to improve the pace of delivery on delegated budget and to provide delivery dates based on early receipt of a draft programme of Delegated Budget schemes each spring. This will require an additional dedicated planning/programme manager, but it is likely an agreement can be reached on how to resolve this over the remaining two years of the BB's contract.

2.13 County Highways will start the retendering process for the highways maintenance contract in 2024 which will result in a new contract being in place in May 2026. The intention is to define Delegated Budget works in the new contract as a specific type of work with contracted timescales for delivery.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The key financial implication of these proposed changes is to reduce the amount of unspent delegated budget capital funding.
- 3.2 The adoption of the changes set out in the June 2020 Cabinet paper have also had the impact of reducing the unspent funding as delivery of delegated budgets schemes in-year has more than doubled. The further proposals being recommended in this paper will further strengthen the ability to deliver schemes in-year.

4.0 Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct environmental impacts identified from these proposals; however, members have the option to choose works such as tree maintenance, tree planting or highway verge maintenance that could support or enhance our natural environment as well as enhancement to active travel provision. Well managed and well maintained highway verges can add to ecological diversity.

5.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- Communities Overview and Scrutiny Report November 2023
- Report to Cabinet with recommendations for change December 2023
- Implementation Spring 2024

Background papers

WCC Cabinet Report - Delegated Budget Scheme – Covid response and Long Term Scheme Proposals - 11th June 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Progress report on Delegated Budget Delivery

Appendix 2 – Brochure of works costs

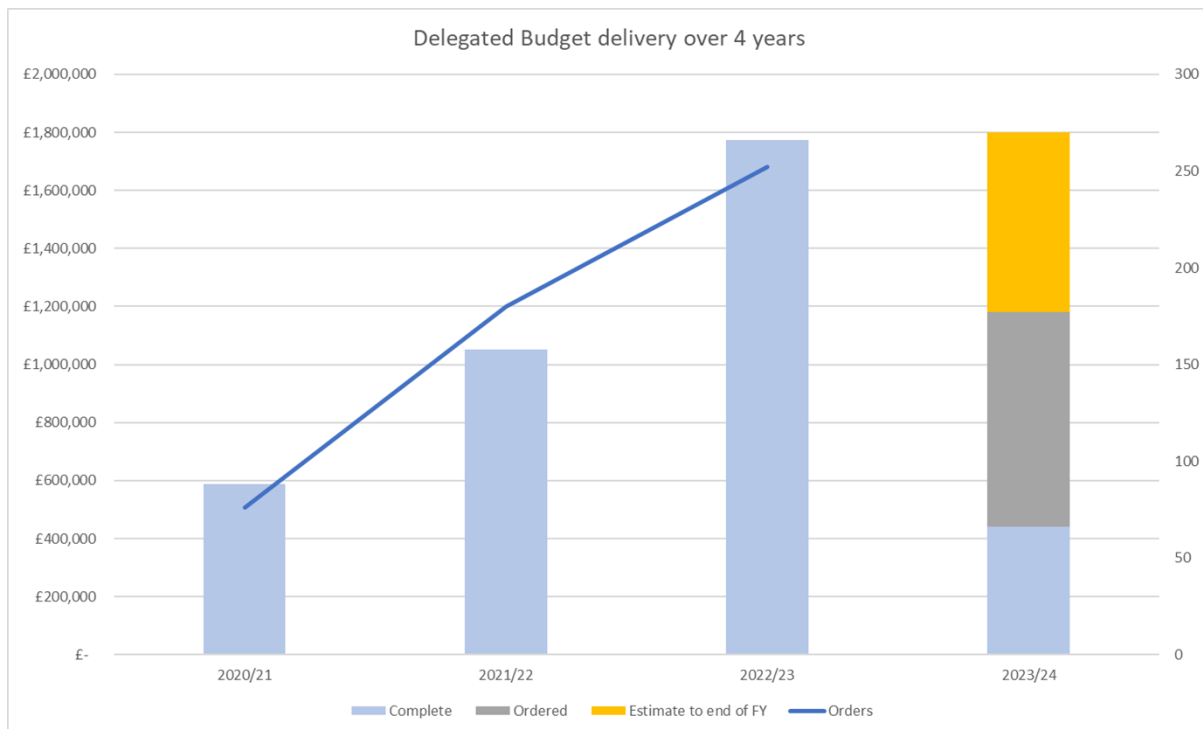
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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): not applicable

Other members: Councillors Clarke, Chilvers, Feeney, Fradgley, and Matecki

Appendix 1 – Progress Statistics on Delegated Budget Delivery.



A1 – Number and Value of Jobs completed – Note 2023/24 FY not yet complete

Value (£)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Current Financial Year (to date)	Total Number of jobs
0-5000	45	127	156	100	428
5000-10000	11	22	38	23	94
10000-15000	6	10	17	11	44
15000-20000	4	6	11	10	31
20000-25000	2	6	10	3	21
25000-30000	2	2	8	1	13
30000-35000	3	1	3	3	10
35000-40000		1	3	1	5
40000-45000	1	2	1	4	8
45000-50000	1	1	1		3
50000-55000		1	2		3
60000-65000	1				1
75000-80000			1		1
80000-85000			1		1
160000-165000		1			1
Grand Total	76	180	252	156	664

A2 – Distribution of job value

Appendix 2 - Delegated Budgets – A Guide to the Cost of Highway Works

This guide provides cost information about highways works that Warwickshire County Council commonly receive requests for and is intended to act as a guide for Members when considering works in their area.

Costs are approximate and based on construction cost only and do not include fees involved with the design and implementation of a scheme, the cost of any legal procedures involved unless stated, or the traffic management to support the installation of such measures.

These costs are produced as a guide, but as each site is unique, costs can vary therefore scheme costs are confirmed during the design stage, prior to the order for delivery being placed.

Pedestrian Facilities

Works	Cost
Tactile Crossing	£3000 - £5000
Pedestrian Refuge	£6,000 - £18,000
Zebra Crossing	£15,000 - £25,000
Signalised Crossing (Pelican / Puffin / Toucan)	£45,000 - £65,000 £80,000 - £110,000

Footways

Works	Cost
Footway Patching	£45 - £90 per m ² (Bitumous material when <100m ²) £70 - £90 per m ² (Paved when <100m ²)
Footway Reconstruction	£45 - £75 per m ² (Bitumous material)
New Footway	£150 - £160 per m ² (Bitumous material) £80 - £100 per m ² (Paved)
Shared Footways / Cycleways	£150 - £160 per m ² (Bitumous material)
Kerbing	£30 - 40 per metre

Carriageways

Works	Cost
Carriageway Patching	£40 - £85 per m ²
Carriageway Resurfacing	£40 - £50 per m ²

Verges

Works	Cost
Verge Hardening	£60 - £70 per m ²
Grass Grids	£80 - £90 per m ²

Signage

Works	Cost
Warning / Regulatory Signs (without post)	£20 - £230 per sign
Directional Signs (without post)	£20 - £1100 per sign
Ornamental Finger Post	Determined on case-by-case basis as priced off contract
Sign Cleaning	£15 - £170 per sign

Lining

Works	Cost
Lining	Up to £15 per metre Up to £400 per symbol Up to £25 per letter
Removal of Lining	Up to £40 per metre, symbol or letter (blacking out) £4000 per day (hydroblaster)
Road Studs	Up to £40 per stud

Traffic Calming

Works	Cost
Cushions	£1,000 - £1,100 per cushion
Hump	£3,000 - £6,000 per hump
Tables	£6,000 - £10,000 per table
Gateway	£2,000 - £5,000 per gateway
Build out (one-way priority traffic)	£15,000 – £25,000
Chicanes (pair)	£5,000 - £10,000
Mini Roundabout	£15,000 - £20,000

Bollards, Barriers and Fencing

Works	Cost
Bollards	£100 - £1000 per bollard
Pedestrian Guard Rail	£100 - £200 per m
Birdsmouth Fencing	£30 - £40 per m (1000mm high) £50 - £60 per m (1800mm high)

Street Lighting

Works	Cost
Standard Column	£2,000 - £3,000 each
Ornamental Column	£3,000 - £10,000 each
VAS (Vehicle Activate Sign)	£5,000 - £10,000 each
Temporary Flashing Sign for Schools (pair)	£3,000 - £5,000 each
Road crossings, trenching and connection	£100 - £200 per linear metre

Forestry

Works	Cost
Tree Sapling	Up to £5 per sapling
New Street Tree	£250 - £450 per tree
Pollarding	From £400 per tree
Crown Reductions	From £400 per tree
Tree Grilles	£500 - £2000 per grille
Tree Pit	£400 - £500 per pit

Traffic Management

Works	Cost
Closure	£500 - £600 per day
Temporary Traffic Lights	£500 - £600 per day
Lane Closures	£1,000 – £2,000 per day
Convoy Working	£1,000 – £2,000 per day

Other Highway Works

Works	Cost
Bus Shelters	£6000
Lining Survey	£100
Speed Surveys	£150
Topographical survey	From £500
Road Safety Assessments / Audits	From £500
Parish Council Feasibility Study	£500
Traffic Regulation Orders	£6,000 + £3,000 per additional notice order

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Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

15th November 2023

Council Plan 2022-2027 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 2 2023/24

Period under review: April 2023 to September 2023

Recommendations

That the Committee considers and comments on Quarter 2 2023/24 organisational performance, progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan, management of finances and risk.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is a retrospective summary of the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 2 (April 2023 - September 2023) against the strategic priorities and Areas of Focus set out in the Council Plan 2022-2027. All information contained within this report has been taken from the Quarter 2 Integrated Performance and Finance reports presented to Cabinet on 9th November. The paper sets out a combined picture of the Council's delivery, performance, HR, and risk.
- Performance is assessed against the Key Business Measures (KBM)s contained within the agreed Performance Management Framework (PMF) in Section 2 and [Appendix 1](#).
 - Progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan is summarised in Section 3 and more fully presented within [Appendix 2](#).
 - Management of Financial resources is summarised in Section 4 and the summary dashboard is presented in [Appendix 3](#).
 - Management of Risk is summarised in Section 5 and more detailed information is presented in [Appendix 4](#).
- 1.1 This summary report and the detailed performance appendices provide the complete picture of the Council's performance enabling scrutiny and transparency for the organisation, partners and the public. It enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider performance within their own remits. All Members also have continual access to the Performance Management Framework using the [Performance Portal](#) in Power BI to further monitor performance on an ongoing basis.
- 1.2 The approach to strategic performance reporting continues to evolve. Members will be aware that there is a wealth of information and data, and that is used in analysis most relevant to the strategic priorities. At a service level, there is also additional performance data which allows managers to manage

the performance of the service day to day. In addition, Government is developing the 'Office for Local Government' (Oflog) and Council Officers are seeking to collaborate with Oflog to ensure that a meaningful and useful data set is developed to support improvement in a proportionate manner. As such, it is our aim that we streamline our performance data over the next year or so, to ensure that Members have the right and most useful performance data possible, considering any national metrics emerging from Oflog.

- 1.4 There are some key themes that emerged last year that continue to be highlighted by this report, and are impacted by WCC's current operating environment, including: increasing demand and costs being reported in Children & Families Services, Adult Social Care, SEND provision, Home to School Transport and in the number of applications made through the Local Welfare Scheme:
- demand increasing much more quickly than resources is resulting in the capacity and workload issues, which has a further impact on delivery across the organisation, evidenced through staff feedback and addressing this is acknowledged as a high priority for the organisation;
 - difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in a highly constrained national and local labour market were highlighted throughout 2022/23 and although overall there has been some improvement, issues remain within specific service teams for example Children & Families, Social Care and Support, Waste & Environment, Schools, Commercial and Contracts, On-Call firefighters and Planning Officers; and
 - other services have specific challenges such as staff absence levels in Business & Customer Services, Children & Families and Social Care and Support.

Planned improvement activity to address these issues is described in section 4 of the 9th November Cabinet report.

- 1.5 The 2023/24 PMF was agreed at the Cabinet meeting in June 2023 and, of the 105 KBMs detailed in that PMF, 91 are available for reporting in Quarter 2. The remaining 14 that are not being reported are all new measures to the PMF and not due for reporting until Quarter 3 or Year End. There are 28 KBMs within the remit of this Committee, and 25 KBMs are available for reporting this Quarter. One measure No. of learners enrolled onto WCC Adult and Community Learning courses is new for this year and will be reported at year end. There are 2 other measures that are part of the Framework agreed last year that are not in a position to be reported at this stage as there are either no mechanism for recording or are being baselined:
- Annual change in soil and vegetation carbon storage by habitat (tonnes of Carbon per hectare) in WCC rural settings
 - % habitat biodiversity net gain in WCC rural estate

Table 1 below indicates the current assessment of performance:

Quarter	On Track	Not on Track
1	80% (20)	20% (5)
2	84% (21)	16% (4)

Table 1

Table 2 below indicates the Direction of Travel (retrospective comparison), however, please note not all measures have a status e.g. where they are new and there is insufficient trend data:

Direction of Travel	On Track			Not on Track		
	Improving	Static	Declining	Improving	Static	Declining
Quarter 1	27% (3)	64% (7)	9% (1)	0	0	100% (3)
Quarter 2	18% (2)	73% (8)	9% (1)	0	0	100% (1)

Table 2

Table 3 below indicates the future projection forecast for the next reporting period:

Projection	On Track			Not on Track		
	Improving	Static	Declining	Improving	Static	Declining
Quarter 1	36% (8)	55%(12)	9% (2)	67% (2)	33%(1)	0
Quarter 2	55%(12)	41% (9)	5% (1)	33%(1)	67%(2)	0

Table 3

- 1.6 At Quarter 2, with a refreshed PMF, the overall position is marginally improved to that reported at Quarter 1 where 80% KBMs were reported as On Track and 20% Not on Track, continuing a consistent, strong performance delivered against the PMF. This is an encouraging position given the challenges of the current operating environment, which include inflation and interest rates, the impact of global instability, market failures, extremely high demand for social care and education services and resourcing challenges including workforce. [Appendix 1](#) details information for all measures within the PMF. Detailed measure-by-measure performance reporting is accessible through the [Performance Portal](#).
- 1.7 Implementation of the Integrated Delivery Plan (IDP) continues with Quarter 2 seeing a further 9 projects (5%) completed. In the context of the current

operating environment the overall delivery position is strong, with 74% (145) of the actions On Track, 19% (36) are At Risk/Compromised and 2% (4) are Not Started, and it is these actions which are reported on an exception basis in [Appendix 2](#).

- 1.8 At the end of the second quarter the services reporting to Communities OSC forecast an overspend of £5.838m, equivalent to 6.8% of their combined revenue budget. Once planned transfers to earmarked reserves are completed the position alters to a 6.9% overspend. A £0.837m shortfall is forecast against the current year saving target of £2.413m. Communities combined is forecasting a £19.627m delay, representing 21% their planned capital spend for the financial year.
- 1.9 During Quarter 2, a risk working group was convened to review and refresh the strategic risks that face the Council in the pursuit of its priorities. Currently, 5 of the 7 refreshed strategic risks have a red status, and these risks generally arise because of:
 - demand for services continuing to increase and the cost of providing those services is also increasing creating a potential mismatch between demand and resources;
 - national economic conditions giving rise to a slowdown of the economy in Warwickshire, contributing factors include inflation, interest rates and cost of living rises;
 - supply challenges in the labour market, and cost of living pressures arising from inflation, creating recruitment and retention challenges; and
 - changing types and volumes of cyber-attack experienced nationally.
- 1.10 At a more detailed service level, 84 risks are currently being monitored. Risks are being reviewed and refreshed across the Council to ensure that they are reflective of the current environment, priorities, the Integrated Delivery Plan and to ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place. Over time this will influence the content, volume and value of risks presented.
- 1.11 The wider national context remains a critical frame within which to view the Council's performance. The UK continues to experience the consequences of both significant political, global and macro-economic factors, including industrial action across many sectors, the legacy impact of the Pandemic, global conflict, high inflation and interest rates and the resulting fiscal challenges are impacting the communities of Warwickshire.
- 1.3 Such an unprecedented combination of events at a global and national level creates a period of significant uncertainty and a very challenging financial outlook in the short- to medium-term. This volatility is impacting on the Council's resources, both financial and in terms of recruitment and retention, levels of demand, and the approach to developing national policy, particularly Adult Social Care reform, levelling up, support for cost-of-living pressures and climate change.
- 1.12 Performance reporting will continue to track and highlight the impacts of this operating environment on delivery and performance. Ongoing analysis

continues to inform the prioritisation of activity and resource allocation of the Integrated Delivery Plan and the Performance Management Framework.

1. Performance against the Performance Management Framework

- 2.1 The three strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 - 2027 are delivered through seven Areas of Focus. In addition, there are three further themes that will help the Council to be known as 'a Great Council and Partner'. The full performance summary is contained in Appendix 1.
- 2.1 Comprehensive performance reporting is enabled through the Power BI Performance Portal as part of the Performance Management Framework. Where applicable, some performance figures may now have been updated on the Power BI reporting system. The number of reportable measures will change each quarter as the framework considers the availability of new data.
- 2.2 Of the 25 KBMs which are being reported at Quarter 2, 21 (84%) are On Track and 4 (16%) are Not on Track. The remaining 3 measures are all new measures to the PMF and not due for reporting until Quarter 3 or Year End.
- 2.4 Notable aspects of positive performance for specific measures include:
- 5G urban coverage which has expanded within Warwickshire this Quarter;
 - No. of Successful Foreign Direct Investment Projects which has exceeded the target for the year;
 - No. of people with SEND supported by the Warwickshire Supported Employment Service as numbers are encouraging and on track to be above target at year end; and
 - both waste management measures, No. of tonnes of carbon emitted by the Council as a waste disposal authority and % of household waste re-used, recycled and composted, are forecast to achieve the Year End target.
- 2.1 There are some emerging performance challenges that are apparent through the PMF this Quarter:
- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has not achieved the agreed performance targets for appliance arrival time at incidents; the Service is looking at evidence-based options to review standards going forward to continue to keep communities across the County safe from harm; and
 - Linked to rapidly increasing demand for SEND provision, home to school transport costs for SEND and mainstream pupils have further increased from the Quarter 1 position Cost per SEND student journey (£) has increased from £27.04 to £27.44 and Cost per mainstream student journey (£) from £4.93 to £5.06. The increase is due to increasing costs from providers and increasing numbers of children travelling to non-local schools.
- 2.2 For 12 of the reported measures there is enough trend data available to ascertain a Direction of Travel. 92% (11) of measures have a Direction of

Travel that is On Track, the majority of which (10) are either improving or static, only 1 is declining. Conversely, 8% (1) are Not on Track declining (see table 2).

- 2.1 All 25 reportable KBMs have a forecast projection from the responsible service for the forthcoming period (see table 3). Of the 22 measures that are forecast to be On Track at next reporting period, 55% (12) are forecast to improve, 41% (9) to remain static and 5% (1) is forecast to decline over the next quarter. Of those that are forecast to be Not on Track, performance is set to improve for 1, however the following are forecast to Remain Static at the next reporting period, full details can be found in [Appendix 1](#) and the [Performance Portal](#):
- % complaint satisfaction with Trading Standards action
 - Cost per SEND student journey (£)

The projection provided at Quarter 1 for Quarter 2 was broadly accurate for those measures that remain in the new PMF.

- 2.8 A set of high-level, cross-cutting, long-term Warwickshire Outcome Measures, which the Council can influence but are not solely responsible for, are also contained in the Performance Management Framework. These are reported within a [dashboard](#) informing the ongoing State of Warwickshire reporting and includes [Levelling Up](#) and the [Cost of Living](#) metrics. A summary of position will be included in the Year End Integrated Performance Report.

3. Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan

- 3.1 The [Integrated Delivery Plan](#) aligns priority activity from across all service areas against all Areas of Focus within the Council Plan 2022-27. The plan shows how activity across services collectively contributes to delivering these priorities.
- 3.2 Detailed information on the performance summary of the Integrated Delivery Plan is included at [Appendix 2](#). A new [Power BI reporting dashboard](#) is now available and will enable Members to track progress by Service, status, Council Plan Area of Focus, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Holder.
- 3.3 There are 197 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 71 of which are assigned to Communities. Detailed information on the performance summary of the Integrated Delivery Plan in relation to Communities is included at [Appendix 2](#). The majority of deliverables are On Track (68%), a further 6% are Completed, 25% are At Risk or Compromised and 1% Not Started, with any exceptions covered in [Appendix 2](#).
- 3.4 A number of actions that are at risk relate to capital programmes and projects, where current inflation levels and supply chain challenges are creating very significant levels of risk and uncertainty about our capacity to deliver as planned within available resources, a challenge common to all Councils.

4. Management of Finance

- 2.1 The key metrics of financial management are summarised below with further information available in Appendix 3 and in the Quarter 2 Finance monitoring Report presented to Cabinet on 9th November 2023.
- 4.2 In response to the forecast overspend that emerged at Quarter 1 Corporate Board developed an action plan aiming to contain and minimise the 2023/24 overspend, ensure the nature and impact of pressures is understood and key staff members as well as elected members are engaged in identifying solutions and developing long term transformation plans.
- 4.3 As part of the Financial Recovery Strategy all Directors with a forecast overspend have been asked to develop a Financial Recovery Plan with primary focus on the areas of Social Care and Support, Children and Families, SEND (linked to the Delivering Best Value plan), Home to School Transport and Enabling Services (utilities).
- 4.4 As part of the strategy a review of short-term budget balancing options is taking place as well as a review of all transformation activity.
- 4.5 The impact of the Financial Recovery Strategy on both one-off and permanent cost will be reflected in the MTFs when it is presented to Cabinet in December 2023.

Metric	Target	Service	Performance at Q2 2023/24
Performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast under/overspend	On budget or no more than 2% underspent	Environment & Planning	8.5% overspend
		Economy & Place	2.7% overspend

The headline revenue overspend reported is £5.838m (6.8%).

Performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast under/overachievement	100%	Environment & Planning	79%
		Economy & Place	54%
Performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery	No more than 5% delay	Environment, Planning & Transport	-24.8%
		Economy & Place	-15.6%
		S278 funded schemes	-10.1%

5. Management of Risk

- 5.1 Risks are monitored at a strategic/corporate level and at a service level within risk registers. At a strategic level the following risks are more directly related to Communities OSC and currently rated as red, high risk:
- Slow economic growth & increase in inequalities across communities, high level; and
 - Lack of movement towards Sustainable Futures
- 5.2 Mitigating controls are in place in respect of these risks and include the development of a new Economic Strategy, which links health, economy and wellbeing and the Education Strategy is being refreshed. The Council's Plan setting out the direction and priorities and the Integrated Delivery Plan includes the activities to be delivered, the allocation of investment funds, working with regional and local partners to access available funding streams, a Medium-Term Financial Strategy planning process that is incorporating measures to mitigate the risk of inflation.
- 5.3 Specifically relating to Sustainable Futures, a dedicated climate change team has been established and recruitment is taking place with most of the posts now filled. Enabling and promoting climate change action in the community takes place for example through a dedicated website and specific initiatives including the green shoots community climate change fund.
- 5.4 There are two additional strategic risks which are red, relating to *insufficient skilled and experienced workforce and Mismatch between demand and resources*, which are impacting multiple areas of the Council. A People Strategy exists and is being reconsidered, a new Director of Workforce and Local Services post has recently been established and recruitment processes have taken place to appoint from within the Council, which demonstrating an acknowledgement of the risk and commitment to mitigate it. Whilst pandemic risk drivers of risk may be reducing, the economic situation including inflation, interest rates and cost of living rises being experienced have the potential to drive up the cost of services and potential inequalities in communities.
- 5.3 At a service level there are 14 risks recorded which are aligned to Communities and Environmental Services. Two of the 14 are red, high level, risks, which are above target for three quarters or more and currently greater than three points above target as follows:
- Loss of income for Adult and Community Learning (ACL).
 - Transport and highways scheme delays leading to loss of time limited funding.

A further risk at this service level, which is red relates to inability to meet statutory requirements to transport eligible children to school. To highlight the key risks, a table of both red risks and risks significantly above target is provided at [Appendix 4](#).

- 5.4 Mitigating controls are in place and actions in development in respect of these services level risks, which include identifying new ACL opportunities and contributing to national campaigning regarding the approach to ACL and its funding. Programmes and project management exists within transport and highways schemes and associated control arrangements are in place. For transport to school, a SEND change programme has been established and a specific working group to deliver transformation in the use of transport and deliver savings. Longer term plans are being developed to build new schools in the areas of greatest need, which will reduce the burden on transportation.
- 5.5 Over the summer, strategic risks have been reviewed and updated to ensure that the most significant risks are captured. Over the course of the autumn and winter periods, aspects of the Strategic Risk Management Framework will be refreshed along with any implications for the practical application of the Framework to ensure all aspects are fit for purpose.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 There are none specific to this report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Quarterly Performance Report
 Appendix 2 – Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan
 Appendix 3 – Management of Financial Risk
 Appendix 4 – Management of Risk

Background Papers

Cabinet Report 9th November 2023

Role	Name	
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Director	Communities	
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1. Communities OSC Quarterly Performance Report Quarter 2

- 1.1 Detailed measure by measure performance reporting is accessible through the [Performance Portal](#).
- 1.2 The three strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 - 2027 are delivered through seven Areas of Focus. In addition to these, there are three further areas to support the Council to be known for as 'a Great Council and Partner'. These are detailed in the table below alongside the number of KBMs that will be used to assess delivery, and the number being reported at this Quarter.

Area of Focus	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting this Quarter
Create vibrant places with safe and inclusive communities	8	8
Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity and major transport options	17	14
Promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, successful business, good quality jobs and future skills	9	8
Tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and deliver on our commitment to Net Zero	7	4
Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children	7	6
Through education, improve life opportunities for children, young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities	21	17
Support people to live healthy, happy, and independent lives and work with partners to reduce health inequalities	21	19
A Great Council and Partner	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting this Quarter
Harnessing community power	3	3
Our people and the way we work	8	8
Using our data and digital solutions to improve service delivery	4	4

1.3 Key Insights for Quarter 2 2023/24

There are 28 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee. Chart 1 details the reported status of 25 KBMs which are being reported this Quarter. One measure No. of learners enrolled onto WCC adult and community learning courses is new for this year and will be reported at year end. There are a 2 Climate Change related measures that are scheduled for reporting at Year End, however that did not prove to be possible:

- Annual change in soil and vegetation carbon storage by habitat (tonnes of Carbon per hectare) in WCC rural settings which is being baselined across 2023/24; and,
- % habitat biodiversity net gain in WCC rural estate where a mechanism to measure is being established.

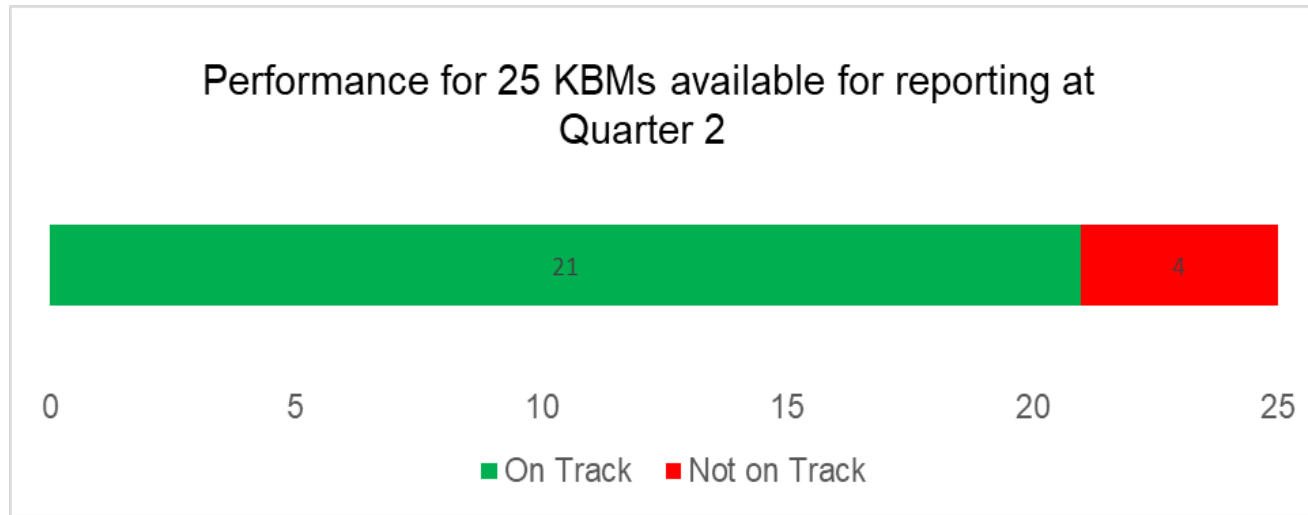


Chart 1

Chart 2 details the overall Direction of Travel, where trend data is available, assessing whether the performance has been improving or declining.

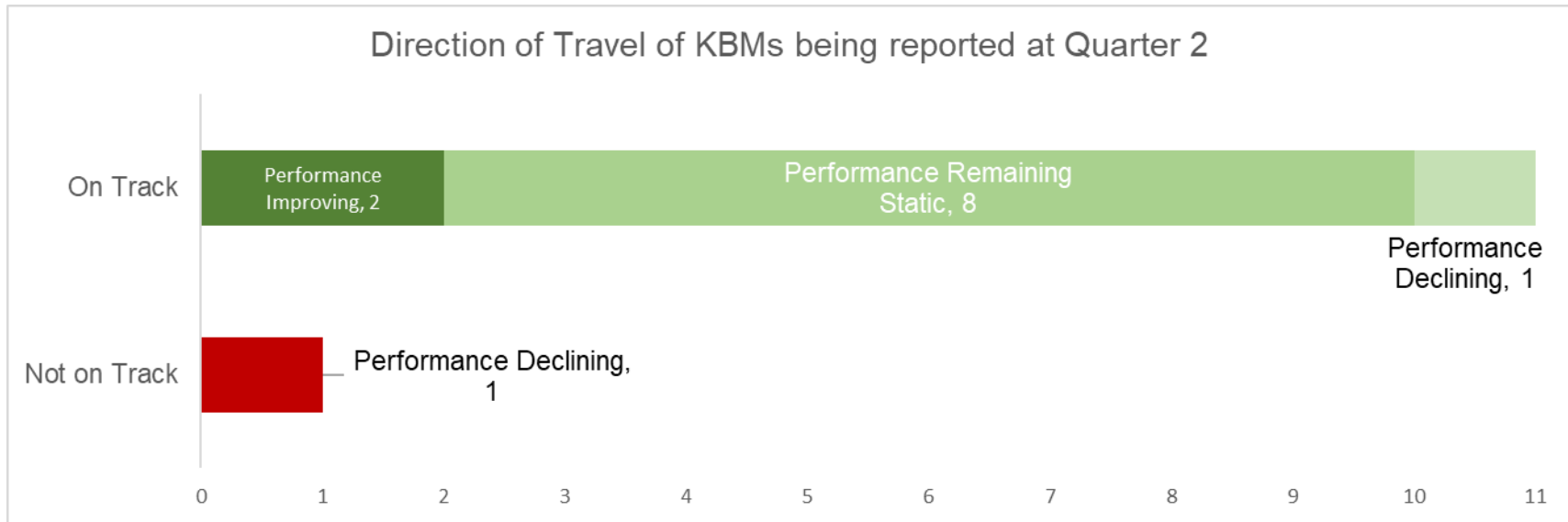


Chart 2

Chart 3 details the projected performance based on a Service forecast of the 25 reportable KBMs at the next Quarter, broadly projecting the current position will remain on track moving forward.

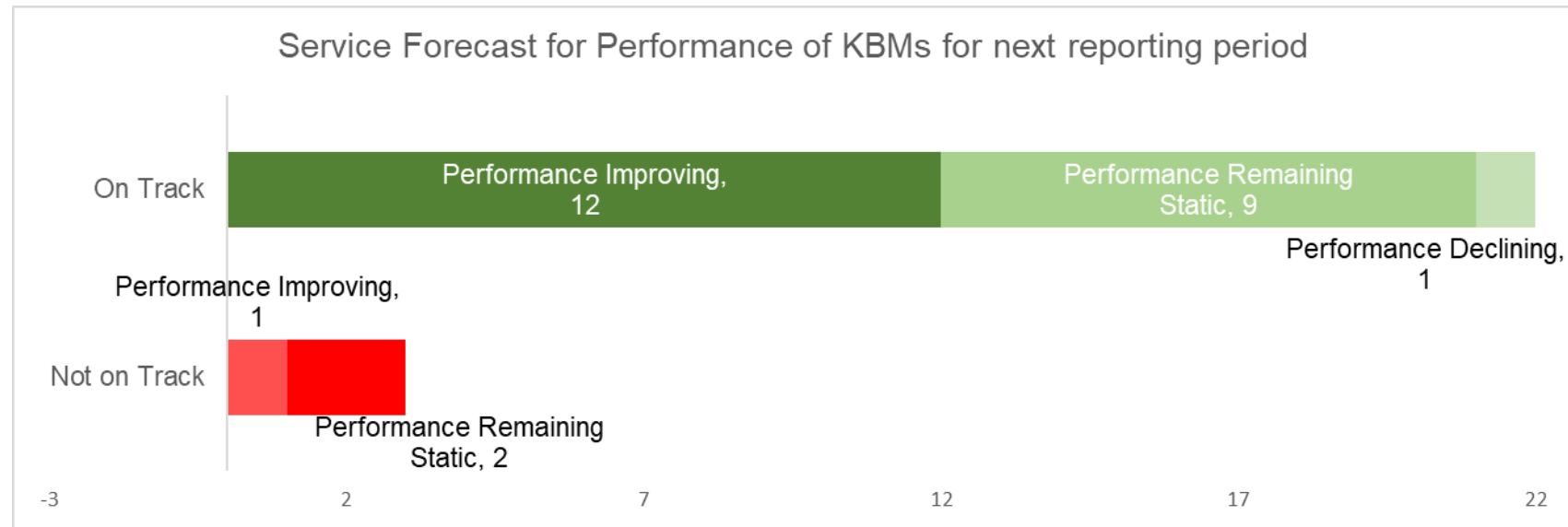


Chart 3

Explanatory Notes on Summary Tables

The following sections provide an overview of current performance by Area of Focus. The measure summary tables are a representation of the tables in the full Committee report on Power BI and are interactive. Please note:

- data is being added into the system as it becomes available so new information may be in the reports since the writing of this Quarterly position report;
- measure names in the summary tables and where highlighted are all links to take the reader directly to the measure report page in Power BI which provides full detail on the measure including charted data, performance narrative, improvement activity, trends and targets if applicable;
- a measure status is included based on performance either against the target and polarity of measure or where there is no target on improving/ declining performance;
- Services provide a forecast of where performance is heading over the next reporting period, this is informed by local knowledge, improvement activity and trend information;
- where the measure status or projection is Not Applicable, this is due to exceptional circumstances regarding the measure such as it is setting a baseline this year, the Power BI report will provide the reason by measure;
- the Latest Figure column represents the most current data available including last quarter, previous year or longer if data is lagged, full details are on Power Bi report;
- not all measures have targets and the approach now is to have improving performance and targets where appropriate;

- Direction of Travel is an indication of whether performance is improving based on trend data where available; and,
- as the framework is more responsive there are annual or termly measures included on the tables with no reported data, this will be added as the relevant data becomes available e.g. attainment data from November.

1.4 Create vibrant places with safe and inclusive communities

Measure Name	Latest Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
% of adult victim-survivors leaving the WCC commissioned Domestic Abuse support service who say that they feel safer compared to when they accessed the service	98.7	95	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of attendees on Serious Violence Prevention training and awareness programmes across all specified partners	44*	500*	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
% complaint satisfaction with Trading Standards action	60	75	Not on Track	Declining	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static
% KSI collision reduction at sites where casualty reduction schemes have been implemented	46	65	Not on Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Remaining Static

*Cumulative actual or year end target

At Quarter 2 for this Area of Focus there are 4 measures being reported and performance on these measures is a 50:50 split of On Track and Not on Track. Both Community Safety measures are On Track to achieve target, and projection is to maintain or improve this position. The other measures are both Not on Track at this stage, with one being an annual measure due for reporting at Year End.

1.5 Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity and improved transport options

Measure Name	Latest Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
Total spend on completed Member delegated budget Highways scheme	1,083,313*	1.8m*	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of Core Highways Maintenance Contract performance measures achieving target	100	100	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% 5G urban coverage	43.48	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
% 4G coverage (including rural)	96.59	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices (at all speeds), rate per 100,000 population	64	N/A	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of schools signed up to our Safe and Active Programme	51	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
% of HS2 consents determined within statutory timescale	89.9	90	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
Cost per SEND student journey (£)	27.44	N/A	Not on Track	N/A insufficient trend data	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static
Cost per mainstream student journey (£)	5.06	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track performance Remaining Static
No. of Flood Risk Management schemes or interventions delivered	2	6	On Track	Static	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static

*Cumulative actual or year end target

Performance within this Area of Focus is strong with 9 of the 10 measures being reported as On Track, with the projection to either remain in a similar position or improve further over the next period. There are no measures that are considered notable enough to be mentioned as Areas of Good Progress.

Improvement activity due to a rapidly increasing demand for SEND provision a larger number of students are requiring transport from home to school:

- Cost per SEND student journey (£)

Improvement activity due to increasing costs from providers and increasing numbers of children travelling to non-local schools:

- Cost per mainstream student journey (£)

1.6 Promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, successful business, good quality jobs and future skills

Measure Name	Latest Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
% of employees in our key priority sectors	31	N/A	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of successful Foreign Direct Investment projects	56	45	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% Business Centre Occupancy Rate	88	90	On Track	Declining	On Track Performance Improving
Value (£) of investment secured by Warwickshire businesses as result of WCC funded business support activities	4.65m	N/A	OnTrack	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track performance Declining
No. of new jobs created as a result of Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund investment	27*	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
No. of people with SEND supported by the Warwickshire Supported Employment Service	202*	400	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
No. of learners enrolled onto WCC adult and community learning courses	2038	N/A	New annual measure due for reporting in December		
No. of apprenticeships created through WCC support	13	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Improving
Total visitor related spend (£)	1274.9m	N/A	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Improving

*Cumulative actual or year end target

At Quarter 2 performance within this Area of Focus is strong with all 8 reportable measures being On Track, this continues the recent trend in this area as reported from Year End. Forecast for the next reporting period is for the strong performance to continue and for 5 measures performance to improve further.

Area of Good Progress as the Quarter 2 numbers are encouraging for this new area of work:

- No. of people with SEND supported by the Warwickshire Supported Employment Service

Area of Good Progress as performance is improving year on year:

- Total visitor related spend (£)

1.7 Tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and deliver on our commitment to Net Zero

Measure Name	Latest Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
No. of tonnes of carbon emitted by the Council as a waste disposal authority	-8113**	0	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Improving
% of household waste re-used, recycled and composted	50.8**	50	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Improving
Annual change in soil and vegetation carbon storage by habitat (tonnes of Carbon per hectare) in WCC rural settings	N/A	N/A	Mechanism for measuring being investigated		
% habitat biodiversity net gain in WCC rural estate	N/A	N/A	Baselining across 2023/24		
No. of trees planted against our commitment to plant one tree for each resident of Warwickshire	1,310	34,400*	Not on Track	N/A insufficient trend data	Not on Track Performance Improving

* Cumulative actual or year end target

**Year End Forecast

At Quarter 2 for this Area of Focus there are 3 measures being reported and performance on these measures is mixed with two being On Track and one Not on Track. Both Waste measures are Year End Estimates and they are both On Track to achieve target, this continues their ongoing position and projection is to improve this position.

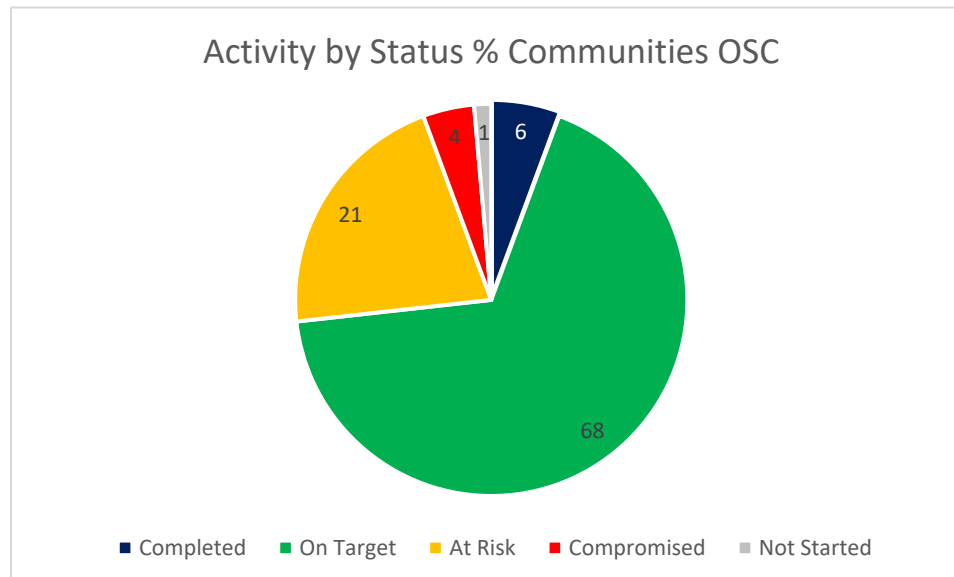
There are 2 other measures that are part of the Framework agreed last year that are not in a position to be reported at this stage as there are either no mechanism for recording or are being baselined:

- Annual change in soil and vegetation carbon storage by habitat (tonnes of Carbon per hectare) in WCC rural settings
- % habitat biodiversity net gain in WCC rural estate

1. Communities OSC Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan Quarter 2

1.1 Key Insights for Quarter 2 2023/24

Of the 179 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 71 are attributable to the Communities OSC. The number of activities reporting Compromised or At Risk this Quarter is 25%. 68% of activities remain on track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes, a further 6% are complete, with 1% yet to start.



The following activities are now complete.

- Adopt the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) for Warwickshire in June 2023, setting out our strategic approach to transport across the county with a clear emphasis on promoting active travel and public transport. LTP4 will include an Annual Action Plan for deliverables. Immediate priorities are to develop Area Transport Strategies for each Borough/District Area with a view to having these adopted late 2024/early 2025.**

LTP4 has now been adopted. Work has now commenced on Area Transport Strategies and the delivery/monitoring plans.
- Work with our partners and businesses to transition towards a goal of decarbonising the Warwickshire economy including supporting Coventry City Council and Coventry University with the delivery of the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme to maximise take-up of the support by Warwickshire businesses.**

The programme closed at the end of June 2023.

- **Work with our world class universities on research and development (R&D) to power growth and innovation including working with Coventry City Council and Coventry University to deliver the Coventry and Warwickshire Innovation Programme.**
The programme closed at the end of June 2023.
- **Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include engaging with the Government’s strategy for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging and seek funding through government schemes for EV developments.**
WCC has secured £3.295m Tranche 1 monies from the LEVI fund. We have also joined a consortium of local authorities, led by Midlands Connect, to maximise leverage of LEVI funding throughout the region, explore common local authority requirements, work collaboratively and develop understanding and co-operation.

1.2 Create vibrant places with safe and inclusive communities

Activity	Status	Narrative
Continue to deliver the Transforming Nuneaton regeneration programme - Finalising plans to redevelop Vicarage Street with planning permission secured and contractor appointed.	At Risk	Progress continues as follows: Outline Planning Permission - delayed due to the viability assessment being assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), plus a recent ask from the planning officers for a Biodiversity Metric Assessment. Until this has been completed the planning officers cannot finalise their report. Bat surveys and Highways are complete. Vacant Possession - Powell House and 1-2 Church Street are now empty and short term security measures are being put in place until demolition has been commissioned. (expected Spring 2024 when Royal Mail vacate).
Continue to deliver the Transforming Nuneaton regeneration programme - Implementing highway improvement schemes with the first scheme on site during 2023.	Compromised	First highway scheme, Abbey Green Cycleway planned for implementation in 2024, following completion of the traffic regulation order process which has taken longer than originally forecast to conclude.
Continue to deliver the Transforming Nuneaton regeneration programme - Developing plans for a new library, culture and community hub in Nuneaton with planning permission secured and contractor appointed.	At Risk	Work to re-appoint the professional team and progress design is on track, call of contract is in draft form.

1.3 Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity and improved transport options

Activity	Status	Narrative
Deliver priority Road schemes that will make it easier to travel around the County including a new signalised gyratory at the Stoneleigh junction on the A46.	At Risk	On track for completion winter 2023. Risks around budget are being dealt with by the project team and escalated appropriately.
Deliver priority Road schemes that will make it easier to travel around the County including opening up the existing Bermuda Bridge over the A444 to two-way traffic delivering additional highway capacity and improved connectivity between West Nuneaton and Griff Roundabout.	At Risk	On track for completion winter 2023. Risks remain around budget and these are being dealt with by the project team and escalated appropriately.
SEND & Home to School Transport Review: Business case for long term purchase of vehicles	At Risk	Development of business case not yet started.

1.4 Promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, successful business, good quality jobs and future skills

Activity	Status	Narrative
Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to growth, including: Start-Up – A programme of support for local residents looking to start a business and new businesses in their first two years of trading.	At Risk	The service met its main targets in 2023/24 Q2 including the local area targets agreed with the Districts and Boroughs. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs to use UKSPF funding (and WCC investment) to extend the service from October 2023 to March 2024 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF).
Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to	At Risk	The procurement to appoint a specialist delivery organisation to deliver the programme commenced in August, and the contract is expected to be awarded in

growth, including: **Business Resilience and Growth – A programme of support to help established businesses in all sectors become more resilient and address a wide range of barriers to growth including export.**

Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to growth, including: **High Growth and Innovation – A programme of support for early stage and high growth potential businesses that would also address barriers to innovation and improve access to knowledge.**

Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to growth, including: **Net Zero – A programme of support to help established businesses in all sectors respond to climate change.**

At Risk

At Risk

October as planned. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs about the use of UKSPF funding in 2023/24 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF).

Business Ready met its main targets in 2023/24 Q2 including the local area targets agreed with the Districts and Boroughs. The procurement to appoint a specialist delivery organisation to deliver the new programme commenced in August, and the contract is expected to be awarded in October as planned. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs about the use of UKSPF funding (and WCC investment) in 2023/24 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF).

The procurement to appoint a specialist delivery organisation to deliver the programme commenced in August, and the contract is expected to be awarded in October as planned. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs about the use of UKSPF funding in 2023/24 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF). WCC officers are also in discussions with WMCA and Government about further funding for Warwickshire as part of the new West Midlands Business Energy Advice service. It is proposed that the additional Government funding is aligned with UKSPF and that the BEAS is delivered in Warwickshire via this

Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to growth, including: **Manufacturing – A programme of specialist support for the manufacturing sector.**

At Risk

programme (subject to a Portfolio Holder Decision at the end of October).

The procurement to appoint a specialist delivery organisation to deliver the programme commenced in August, and the contract is expected to be awarded in October as planned. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs about the use of UKSPF funding in 2023/24 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF).

Work with the District and Borough councils and other partners to develop and commission joint business programmes, which address specific barriers to growth, including: **Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality – A dedicated programme for small businesses in the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector.**

At Risk

Project Warwickshire met or exceeded its main targets in 2023/24 Q2 including the local area targets agreed with three of the four District and Boroughs. The target in the NBBC area was slightly behind schedule. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs to use UKSPF funding (and WCC investment) to extend the programme from October 2023 to March 2024 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF).

Work with partners to secure funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other Government programmes for Warwickshire for business support and employment & skills programmes.

At Risk

The commissioning of Year 2 activities has now commenced. The procurement of specialist delivery organisations to deliver four of the six business support programmes recommended in an external review of business support commenced in August, and contracts are expected to be awarded in October (see 3.2.2 to 3.2.5 above). Agreements have also been reached to extend two current programmes (see 3.2.1 and 3.2.6 above). Work with the Districts & Boroughs around commissioning employment & skills support activities in 2024/25 have now started.

<p>Work with our partners and businesses to transition towards a goal of decarbonising the Warwickshire economy including Working with partners to develop and commission a future programme to support Warwickshire businesses with the transition towards a net zero economy and the growth of the low carbon sector in Warwickshire.</p>	<p>At Risk</p>	<p>The procurement to appoint a specialist delivery organisation to deliver a new net zero programme commenced in August, and the contract is expected to be awarded in October as planned. Agreement has been reached with four of the five Districts and Boroughs about the use of UKSPF funding in 2023/24 with RBC's Cabinet and Council due to consider a report at the end of the October. Discussions are still ongoing with all five Districts and Boroughs about the funding in 2024/25 (Year 3 of UKSPF). WCC is also in discussions with West Midlands Combined Authority and Government about further funding for Warwickshire as part of the new West Midlands Business Energy Advice service. It is proposed that the additional Government funding is aligned with UKSPF and that the BEAS is delivered in Warwickshire via this programme (subject to a Portfolio Holder report at the end of October).</p>
<p>Work with our world class universities on research and development (R&D) to power growth and innovation including working with partners to develop and commission a future programme to support R&D and innovation with a focus on commercialising research and encouraging collaboration between Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and research institutions.</p>	<p>Compromised</p>	<p>Alternative funding opportunities are being explored.</p>
<p>Explore place-based opportunities to deliver regeneration and improve social mobility as part of the Levelling-Up strategy to include delivery of the Transforming Nuneaton programme, specifically Abbey Green Cycle Route and a new public realm and wayfinding project.</p>	<p>Compromised</p>	<p>Abbey Green Cycle Scheme: See 1.2.2 Public Realm & Wayfinding Project: as per July 23 update</p>

1.5 Tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and deliver on our commitment to Net Zero

Activity	Status	Narrative
Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include implementing a pilot to assess the suitability of delivering on street, residential EV charge points using existing street lighting connections with up to 9 points to be delivered as part of a trial in 2023/24	At Risk	WCC continues to work with potential chargepoint suppliers who are keen to explore a co-operative approach to installation in Warwickshire. There are procurement and subsidy legislation requirements that need addressing and site selection needs re-visiting in Stratford. There is the opportunity to deliver additional chargepoints as part of a trial in Rugby and Nuneaton/Bedworth but this is subject to the same considerations.
Continue to take action to promote recycling: Review and refresh the joint waste strategy and action plan for Warwickshire with our partners in line with the proposed new Government Waste & Resources strategy.	Not Started	The County, District and Borough Councils continue to collaborate via the Warwickshire Waste Partnership. Performance is monitored and service improvements continue to be made wherever possible. The new kerbside collection introduced in the districts has been running for a year and has achieved the combined success of collecting good levels of food waste, increasing recycling rates and reducing general waste. This autumn all waste collection authorities will have started to use the Sherbourne MRF in Coventry for sorting kerbside collected recycling and the Partnership will work together to realise the new recycling promotion opportunities. The local Municipal Waste Management Strategy is due for review - clarity on Government's new Resources and Waste Strategy is awaited to allow this work to start in earnest.
Develop a Tree and Woodland Planting plan including: Deliver the County Council's tree planting commitments of 566,000 + trees by 2030. Target of 88,800 to be planted in 2023/24	At Risk	Only 2.2 hectares have been allocated from WCC's own estates in the last 2 years and none this year. However, working on a strategic approach to land identification/acquisition within the Tree and Woodland Strategy.

1.6 The following Activities are On Track

Activity

Create a pipeline of projects and initiatives across the county to develop neighbourhoods and generate pride in our localities to include: **Identify and invest in revitalising those town centres which are a priority based on our approach to Levelling-Up with priority actions determined through place audits, commissioned studies on development opportunities (residential and commercial)**

Create a pipeline of projects and initiatives across the county to develop neighbourhoods and generate pride in our localities to include: **Proactively engage and participate in regeneration/Strategic Place Partnerships across Warwickshire to help shape and inform the development of key projects**

Improve sites and facilities for Gypsy and Traveller communities through a programme of capital works to Council owned sites - **Commence the Capital Programme on the Griff Site Nuneaton. Including the replacement of deteriorating chalets with the replacement of day room facilities.**

Improve sites and facilities for Gypsy and Traveller communities through a programme of capital works to Council owned sites - **Renewal of fencing at Alvecote.**

Improve sites and facilities for Gypsy and Traveller communities through a programme of capital works to Council owned sites - **Erection of boundary fencing at Pathlow site.**

Implement a rolling programme of road safety improvements to address the top accident cluster sites in the County. This will include pedestrian schemes, speed camera pilots, casualty reduction roundabout schemes and road safety education initiatives. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roadsafety>

Work with partners to prevent violence, serious & organized crime, modern slavery & human trafficking, reducing reoffending, exploitation and rural crime to meet the outcomes set by the relevant strategies and delivery plans as approved by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board. <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/>

Implementation of the Serious Violence Duty on behalf of WCC, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Warwickshire Youth Justice Service and Public Health as Specified Authorities, through the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board

Complete a Value For Money review of the Fire Service, develop and implement improvements including an evidence-based approach to resourcing to risk ensuring WFRS has its people and equipment at the right place at the right time to provide the best possible services to the communities of Warwickshire.

Implement 5 new planned Cycle schemes (subject to planning and land consents) across Warwickshire, with construction either completed or underway, to support an improved network of cycle and pedestrian facilities and promote sustainable travel choices. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cycling/developing-warwickshires-cycle-network>

Deliver priority Road schemes that will make it easier to travel around the County including **improvements to the Europa Way corridor in Leamington Spa / Warwick to improve connectivity to the M40, reduce congestion and support local development.**

Work with our partners to encourage the expansion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) gigabit connectivity, 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025: 85% of premises are gigabit connected

Work with our partners to encourage the expansion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) gigabit connectivity, 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025: 100% of areas have 4G coverage (including rural locations)

Work with our partners to encourage the expansion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) gigabit connectivity, 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025: 60% of urban areas have 5G coverage

Work with our partners to encourage the expansion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) gigabit connectivity, 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025: 99% of areas have access to Broadband superfast

SEND & Home to School Transport Review: **Delivery of key work streams and financial control mechanisms**

SEND & Home to School Transport Review: **Development of data dashboard to enable financial controls**

SEND & Home to School Transport Review: **Implementation of new software and driver app as well as smart cards**

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including: **Development and improvements to the Warwickshire Design Guide**

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including: **Development of standing advice for district and boroughs**

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including: **Holding monthly surgeries with district and borough planning colleagues**

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including:

Engagement with key developers

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including:

Procurement and implementation of a new software system to track and hold data on all planning applications

Develop and deliver improvements to processes and systems within Highways Development Management in order to improve service delivery and consultation response turnaround times for developers and district and borough planning, including: **Delivery**

of the key process changes

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the number of businesses supported**

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the £4m of private sector investment levered**

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the 493 jobs safeguarded**

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the 280 new jobs created**

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the GVA increase**

Engage and work with businesses to access loan funding via the Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund to support business and employment growth in the county and **review the impact of the loans on the 5 ha of land and development enabled**

Develop and start to implement a new Economic Growth Plan for Warwickshire, setting out the key priorities and ambitions for strong economic growth which is inclusive and helps support our commitment to net zero, along with an accompanying action plan setting out the steps that WCC will take to help deliver this Growth Plan.

Work with our world class universities on research and development (R&D) to power growth and innovation including **working with the University of Warwick Science Park to deliver the “Business Ready” programme.**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **working with employers to create inclusive jobs, allowing those who may have been excluded from the job market historically access opportunities**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **sharing our apprenticeship funds through our apprenticeship support programme, to increase apprenticeship take up**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **working with businesses and training providers to understand future skills needs, and develop plans to ensure the future skills needs are met**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **develop a new skills strategy for the county, collaborating with a wide range of our partners to ensure buy in and adoption**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **build awareness of careers and future jobs through a series of careers fairs across the county**

Develop, commission, manage and (where appropriate) deliver a range of skills programmes and initiatives which help ensure an appropriately skilled population can access well-paid jobs to include **work with our schools to ensure that careers provision meets future skills needs and provides information on a wide level of future career opportunities**

Explore place-based opportunities to deliver regeneration and improve social mobility as part of the Levelling-Up strategy to include **developing the Leamington Transformation Framework, alongside Warwick District Council and Leamington Town Council, specifically looking at place making and accessibility in the town centre.**

Support 400 people who have a learning disability and/or autism to find sustainable and fulfilling employment through the new Warwickshire Supported Employment Service.

Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include **developing a strategy and action plan to move our Council fleet to sustainable energy.**

Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include **exploring opportunities with partner organisations to introduce more sustainable public transport options.**

Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include investigating the development and implementation of rural charging hubs in Warwickshire.
Progress with plans on sustainable transport to include: Work closely with District and Borough Councils to aid further delivery of charge points in off-street carparks.
Continue to take action to promote recycling: Deliver an annual campaign of communications and activities to encourage further waste recycling across the county.
Develop a Tree and Woodland Planting plan including: Review best practice and develop a strategy for meeting the tree planting climate change commitments
Develop a Tree and Woodland Planting plan including: Establishment of the Tree Nursery

Management of Financial Risk

1. The table below details performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by the forecast outturn position at the end of the second quarter.

Service Area	Approved Budget	Actual Spend	(Under) /Overspend	% Change from Budget	Represented by:			
					Investment Funds	Impact on Earmarked Reserves	Remaining Service Variance	Remaining Service Variance % change from Budget
					£m	£m	£m	%
Environment & Planning	60.584	65.730	5.146	8.5%	0.000	0.063	5.083	8.4%
Economy & Place	25.731	26.423	0.692	2.7%	(0.127)	(0.027)	0.846	3.3%
Subtotal Communities	86.315	92.153	5.838	6.8%	(0.127)	0.036	5.929	6.9%

2. Performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast under/overachievement. Environment and Planning is forecasting to achieved 79% delivery against the 5 saving targets (£1.119m) for the 2023/24 financial year. Economy and Place reporting 54% delivery against 9 saving targets (£1.294m).

3. The table below details performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery.

Service Area	Approved 2023-24 capital programme	New projects in year	Net over / underspend	Total capital programme	Budget Reprofile	Delays	Forecast In year capital spend	% of Delays
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Environment. Planning & Transport	63.182	0.024	0.395	63.601	1.473	(15.758)	49.316	-24.8%
Economy & Place	13.095		(0.069)	13.026	0.301	(2.037)	11.290	-15.6%
S278 Developer Funded Schemes	24.334	(7.178)	1.027	18.183	1.152	(1.832)	17.503	-10.1%
Total	100.611	(7.154)	1.353	94.810	2.926	(19.627)	78.109	

Environment Services – £15.758m:

- A444 Corridor Improvements - Phase 2 (£1.840m) - Delays with completing traffic regulation orders will now delay construction. The aim is to commence works in Autumn 2023. Contractor availability and other on-going local highway works may result in further construction start delays.
- A3400 Birmingham Road Stratford Corridor Improvements (£4.863m) - The project is split into 2 more phases (total 3 phases with Phase 1 completed) in order to deliver works while Phase 3 is being designed. Phase 2 main works have been delayed due to design issues, but they are due to start in 2023/24 Q3, while enabling and utility works are currently in progress. Phase 2 expected completion is 2024/25 Q2. Phase 3 expected to start late 2024/25 or early 2025/26.
- A452 Myton Road and Shire Park Roundabouts S106 WCC3 (£2.764m) - This scheme has been reprofiled due to the start date moving back to winter 2023.
- A47 Hinckley Road Corridor Scheme (£0.762m) - The current year anticipated spend has been reprofiled as a result of other works planned in the immediate vicinity of the scheme which is dictating construction and completion of the scheme and it's spend profile.
- A452 Kenilworth to Leamington (K2L) Cycle Route – CIF (£1.457m). The K2L scheme is being delivered in several phases starting with Section 1a at the Leamington Spa end of the route, through to Section 3 concluding in Kenilworth. Due to the engineering, strategic and financial complexities the exact delivery timescales/programme for each phase remains uncertain. For Section 1b it is hoped that the necessary land acquisition will be completed within 2023/24 and construction within 2024/25. The remaining phases will follow on in subsequent financial years.
- Improvements to the A446 Stonebridge junction Coleshill (£0.552m) - Reprofiled spend for design this year and proposed construction next year due to logistical delivery issues.
- A452/A46 Developer Improvement scheme (£2.121m) - The project has been reprofiled for design this year and proposed construction next year. Construction going ahead is dependent on road space availability due to HS2.
- There are a number of other schemes with delays which are detailed in the annexes A to M of the finance quarterly monitoring report.

Economy and Place - £2.037m:

- Warwick Town Centre (£1.175m) - delays for Warwick TC are due to delays in getting roadspace for construction due to pressure from other schemes in the area.

Appendix 3 Communities OSC Management of Financial Risk

- All electric bus initiative (£0.583m) - uncertainty over the future bus service provision caused a delay in determining the electric bus requirements of the service. The requirements have now been defined.
- There are a number of other schemes with delays of less than £0.200m each which are detailed in the Annexes A to M of the finance quarterly monitoring report.

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Appendix 4 Communities OSC Management of Risk

Key Service Risks Summary

At a service level there are 14 risks recorded against services relating to Communities. Key risks are highlighted where they are red risks (high risk) and where a risk level has been higher than the risk target for 3 quarters or more and currently 3 points or more over target. This is a performance measure that has been agreed within the Council.

Key Service Risks	Net risk is currently green or amber	Net risk is currently red
<p>Risk level has not exceeded the target for 3 quarters in a row</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 other risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Environmental Services) Inability to meet statutory requirements to transport eligible children to school.
<p>Risk level has exceeded target for 3 quarters in a row and is currently more than 3 points above target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Communities) Insufficient resources to deliver the Council Plan; • Environmental Services) Unable to deliver Flood Risk Management duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Education) Loss of income for Adult & Community Learning • (Communities) Transport and highways scheme delays leading to loss of time limited funding.

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Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Date of next report	Item	Report detail
Page 91	Standing items Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders	The Committee may put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holders on issues within their remit. The report will set out the forthcoming items listed in the Council's published Forward Plan relevant to the Committee.
	Economic Development Update	To receive an update on economic development in Warwickshire. This has expanded from the previous Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) update at the request of the Chair and Spokespersons. To be a briefing note to be sent to the Committee Members rather than an agenda item (allowing members to raise any issue/ ask questions at the Committee should they wish).
	EDS Dashboard (To be received every other meeting- Nov23, Apr24, Sept24)	A table on all cycling, walking, train and road developments in Warwickshire and their progress
	Transport Scheme Evaluation (to be received every other meeting or quarterly – update dependent)	A mini report showing completed schemes and lessons learnt from them. This will start from 2024
15 November 2023	Delegated Budgets Schemes	An update on schemes paid for by member budgets
15 November 2023	Quarter 2 Integrated Performance Report	Quarter 2 Integrated Performance Report (period covering April - July 2023)
7 February 2024	Vehicle Activated Sign Update	An update on the approved policy on the management of future deployment of Vehicle Activated Signs and potential removal of non-operational, non-beneficial VAS

7 February 2024	EV Rollout Progress	An update on the progress of EV charging points rollout
7 February 2024	Quarter 3 Integrated Performance Report	Quarter 3 Integrated Performance Report (period covering April - December 2023)
April/June 2024	20mph Limits Update	An update on 20mph limits in Warwickshire and their progress
TBC Summer 2024	Results of the Average Speed Camera pilot	The results of the average speed camera rollout following the report received in November 2022

Page 92	Items for future work programming and review	
	Item	Description
	Planning	
	Capital programme	How managed/ overall picture of schemes (Note Resources & Fire and Rescue are also getting regular update on capital slippage).
	Bermuda Connectivity	(post-implementation) A report on the Bermuda project
	Economy	
	Strategic Investment	To monitor WCCs investment in priority road safety schemes across Warwickshire targeted at reducing the numbers killed or seriously injured on our roads. This includes monitoring investment in local highways priorities, spending on LED streetlights and investment in safer routes to schools.
	Community Cohesion	
	KSIs and Speed Limits	To review the Council's speed limit and speed camera policies.
	Population statistics	To review to population growth in Warwickshire in relation to housing developments (briefing note)
A46 Strategic Link Road Outline Business Case	This report presents the Outline Business Case for the proposed new A46 travel corridor. For submission to the Department for Transport.	
Sustainable Transport		

Cycling Liaison Group Report	A report from the CLG regarding cycling updates in Warwickshire and the benefits to the environment and tourism
NUCKLE Update	An update on the NUCKLE line when progress has been made

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