

Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Friday 16 February 2024

Time: 12.00 pm

Membership

Councillor Peter Butlin

Councillor Kam Kaur

Councillor Heather Timms

Items on the agenda: -

- | | |
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Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

Portfolio Holder Decision School Term and Holiday Dates 2025/26

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education
Date of decision	16 February 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education:

- 1.1 approves the school term and holiday dates for the 2025/26 academic year as set out in the published report; and
- 1.2 endorses future engagement with Warwickshire schools and other stakeholders regarding the 'guiding principles' used to set term dates.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The Local Authority (LA) is currently responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Academies, Foundation and Aided Schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. There is collaboration between the LA and Academies, Foundation and Aided schools which have been invited to comment on the proposed term dates and have generally followed the Local Authority's pattern of terms and holiday dates.
- 2.2 The approval of school term and holiday dates is delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Education under the WCC Constitution.
- 2.3 The West Midlands Term Dates Regional Group (WMTTRG) of LAs (of which Warwickshire is a member) is considering collectively revising the format of term dates in the future, to include a two-week half term break in the Autumn term and a shortened Summer holiday. These changes would not be proposed for any earlier than the 2027/28 academic year and would require prior engagement with all stakeholders.

3. Background information

3.1 A number of 'guiding principles' has traditionally been used to set the pattern of terms and holidays and effort is made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

- 195 days from which five teacher training days are taken
- Two of the five teacher training days are defined by the local authority, one of these days is at the start of the autumn and spring terms, the other three to be set by schools
- Complete weeks when setting holiday dates wherever possible
- A three-weekend break at Christmas and Easter
- A summer break as close to six weeks as possible
- A pattern which is as consistent as possible with neighbouring authorities.

3.2 A non-statutory engagement exercise ran between the 2nd October and 27th October 2023; this engagement was carried out with all state-funded schools and academies as well as academy trusts.

3.3 The term dates of neighbouring authorities can influence the preferences of some schools, mainly those close to local authority borders. Where neighbouring authorities had published their term dates for 2025/26, these were included in the engagement information.

3.4 The proposed dates for the 2025/26 academic year comprised the calendar as proposed by the WMTTRG as an option for all regional local authorities:

Term 1 (Autumn)	Half Term 1	01/09/25-24/10/25
	Holiday	27/10/25-31/10/25
	Half Term 2	03/11/25-19/12/25
	Christmas Holiday	22/12/25-02/01/26
Term 2 (Spring)	Half Term 1	05/01/26-13/02/26
	Holiday	16/02/26-20/02/26
	Half Term 2	23/02/26-27/03/26
	Easter Holiday	30/03/26-10/04/26
Term 3 (Summer)	Half Term 1	13/04/26-22/05/26
	Holiday	25/05/26-29/05/26
	Half Term 2	01/06/26-20/07/26
	Summer Holiday	21/07/26-tbd (early Sept 2026)

3.5 Schools were made aware that these dates have already been adopted by Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham authorities and that Coventry and Solihull were likely to have the same dates (as members of the WMTTRG). The two Teacher Training days set by the Authority were proposed as the first days of each of the first two terms, 1st September 2025 and 5th January 2026. A universal Secondary School Induction Day was also proposed for 8th July 2026.

- 3.6 In total, 81 responses were received to this informal engagement. 68 (84%) agreed and 13 (16%) did not agree with the proposed term dates. All feedback has been carefully considered.
- 3.7 Of the 13 respondents that did not agree with the proposed term dates, 11 made a comment that having the last day of term as a Monday will lead to pupil absence. A number suggested moving that school day to the start of the year on Friday 29th August 2025, such that schools could use it as one of their set teacher training days. Unfortunately, this is not possible, as it would result in only 189 teaching days being provided to pupils.
- 3.8 To avoid low attendance on the last day of the academic year, in response to the feedback it has been allocated as one of the two LA-defined teacher training days, instead of 5th January 2026.
- 3.9 98% of respondents agreed with the proposed Secondary School Induction Day Date.
- 3.10 A calendar of these dates is provided in the Background papers.
- 3.11 It is recommended to adopt the school term dates as shown above and in the calendar provided as a Background Paper.
- 3.12 Stakeholders were asked an additional question as part of the engagement exercise:
- *In principle, would you support a reduction in the Summer holiday (to 5 weeks) to allow a 2 week half-term break in the Autumn term (if this were considered for future years, following further consultation)?*
- 3.13 75% of respondents replied 'yes' (54%) or 'maybe' (21%) .
- 3.14 As this initial feedback is broadly supportive of the WMTTRG proposal to consider these changes in the setting of term dates, the LA will consider amending its 'guiding principles' in the future to (amendments underlined):
- 195 days from which five teacher training days are taken
 - Two of the five teacher training days are defined by the local authority, one of these days is at the start of the autumn and spring terms, the other three to be set by schools
 - Complete weeks when setting holiday dates wherever possible
 - A three-weekend break in December (Christmas), April (Easter) and October (Autumn Half-Term)
 - A summer break of five full weeks
 - A pattern which is as consistent as possible with neighbouring authorities.
- 3.15 Engagement with schools, academy trusts, governing bodies and unions will be undertaken prior to the 'guiding principles' amendments being proposed to the Portfolio Holder for Education.
- 3.16 The Authority will continue to work closely with neighbouring LAs, including but not

limited to the WMTTRG, to ensure term dates are aligned where possible.

4. Financial implications

4.1 None

5. Environmental implications

5.1 None

Report Author	Rosalind Currie rosalindcurrie@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Director	Johnny Kyriacou Director of Education
Executive Director	Executive Director for Children and Young People nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education Kamkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

Calendar recommended for approval.

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Corporate Board – Monica Fogarty, Mark Ryder, Nigel Minns, Becky Hale, Rob Powell, Sarah Duxbury, Virginia Rennie

Legal –

Finance –

Equality –

Democratic Services – Amy Bridgewater-Carnall

Councillors –

Local Member(s): None – this is a County wide report

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Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2025/26

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Aug-25						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Sep-25						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Oct-25						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Nov-25						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dec-25						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jan-26						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Feb-26						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Mar-26						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Apr-26						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May-26						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jun-26						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Jul-26						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug-26						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep-26						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Half Term	Days
1	40
2	35
3	30
4	25
5	29
6	36
Total	195

	Total days
Autumn Term	75
Spring Term	55
Summer Term	65

- School Holiday
- Public Holiday
- Teacher Training Day (+3 to be set by school)

- Secondary School Induction Day



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Portfolio Holder Decision

Expansion of Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education
Date of decision	16 February 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Education approves the commencement of a consultation in line with the statutory process required for the relocation and expansion of Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School to 420 places and the establishment of specialist resourced provision (SRP) to cater for up to 8 pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 An 800 homes development has been approved to the West of Shottery in Stratford upon Avon, with construction and occupation of the houses underway.
- 2.2 It is anticipated the development will generate over a form of entry (245 places) over the long term build out of the development.
- 2.3 Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School currently has a PAN of 15 which equates to 105 places across the school. It is proposed to increase permanently the capacity of the school to 420 pupils. The PAN of the school will increase to 30 in line with demand from the housing development. This increase is anticipated to be in September 2026. A further increase in PAN will be reviewed in line with demand for places from the housing development.
- 2.4 The Local Authority are also proposing to establish a specialist resourced provision for up to 8 primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Communication and Interaction needs. The specific type of need that the provision will be focusing on is still to be determined. The introduction of this specialist resourced provision aims to increase the offer of local specialist provision in the area to reduce travel times and out of area placements.
- 2.5 In line with the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education, 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools', any proposals to establish, remove or

alter SEND provision (including specialist resourced provision) and any proposed enlargement of the capacity of the school premises requires the local authority to undertake a statutory process including a consultation period of at least four weeks. In order to commence a consultation, the approval of the Portfolio Holder is required in line with the Council's constitution.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Shottery View housing development has a 1.65 hectare site safeguarded for primary education.
- 3.2 Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School's existing site is located circa 0.6 mile from the new school site on Shottery View. The existing school site is not big enough to accommodate demand from the new housing development. To ensure sustainability of existing provision, it is proposed to relocate and expand the existing Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School (rather than open a new primary school).
- 3.3 It is proposed to build the school as two form entry (420 places) to ensure capacity exists to meet demand as the development builds out.
- 3.4 Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School currently does not have a nursery. The new school would make provision for nursery places operated via Community Facility Powers under the direction of the School Governing Body.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the PAN from the school will be set at 30 for September 2026. The PAN for the school will be set through the Authority's consultation process for the determination of Admission Arrangements for Maintained Schools.
- 3.6 Admissions to the specialist resourced provision would follow a different process from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the specialist resourced provision will be through the Council's process for specialist admissions.
- 3.7 If the proposal and funding is agreed by Cabinet and Council, it is proposed to complete the new school building during Autumn 2025.
- 3.8 In line with the timing of provision, it is anticipated that, if approved, the consultation would need to take place over a four-week period between February and March 2024. Parents at the school will be consulted using the school's established form of communication, other schools and stakeholders will be notified of the proposal and further information will be placed on the Council's consultation platform 'Ask Warwickshire'.
- 3.9 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in respect of final proposals following the consultation. The final recommendations will be taken through the appropriate Council governance and approval processes.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from a decision to undertake this consultation.
- 4.2 However, if after the consultation there is a decision to go ahead with the expansion and specialist resourced provision there will be capital costs to the Authority to provide the new school building.
- 4.3 The capital project would be funded via relevant developer contributions received and education capital funding as required.
- 4.4 Pupil places in specialist resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that additional learning needs can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools. A service level agreement between the Council and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

5. Environmental implications

- 5.1. The proposed new primary school will be designed with a strong commitment to sustainability to ensure high standards of environmental performance and occupant comfort. The project will be promoting a holistic approach that reduces carbon emissions, optimises energy efficiency, and enhances the overall well-being of students and staff.
- 5.2. There is also the positive impact of the expansion of mainstream places and continuing development of specialist resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision, reduce journey times for the learner, and limit the need to access places in neighbouring areas which increases the requirement for transport.

Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Director	Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education johnnykyriacou@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education kamkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Guy Darvill

Finance – Brian Smith

Equality – Delroy Madden

Democratic Services – Nicole Conway

Councillors – Councillors Marian Humphreys, Jerry Roodhouse and Barbara Brown

Local Member(s): Cllr Jenny Fradgley

Portfolio Holder Decision

Waste Management Fees and Charges 2024/25

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture
Date of decision	16 February 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture approves the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25, as set out in this report and Appendix 1.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Waste management fees and charges for non-household waste need to be adjusted to ensure they remain current and provide a level of income that covers the County Council's costs and allows a sufficient margin to cover price fluctuations across the year, as well as being acceptable in the marketplace.
- 2.2 The appendix sets out the background and more detail including the exact charges recommended for 2024/25.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Warwickshire County Council, as a Waste Disposal Authority, has the duty to provide free to access Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for the deposit of household waste by householders. The deposit of commercial waste and certain types of waste which are not classed as household (for example where a householder has a large quantity of rubble or wants to bring waste in a commercial vehicle such as a van) is chargeable.
- 3.2 Two HWRCs - Princes Drive and Hunters Lane - have weighbridges and can charge for non-household and commercial wastes by weight. The Council has recently taken over the management of the waste transfer station at Lower House Farm which also has a weighbridge. The other HWRCs, which do not have weighbridges available, allow commercial waste to be delivered and paid for on a "by-volume" basis. The Appendix sets out the proposed fees and charges for both measurement approaches to take effect from 1 April 2024.

Method of calculation

- 3.3 In order to set the charges, the cost to the Council is calculated taking into account the treatment gate fee for each material and the costs for haulage of each material to the treatment facility. These costs will increase in the next financial year as a result of a number of factors; some costs are linked to RPIx (Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments), landfill disposal costs have been calculated to include landfill tax rises, some contracts are subject to new rates and are fixed until contract end.
- 3.4 After gate fees and haulage costs, the next biggest cost is staff time. Although staff are predominantly working at a recycling centre to accept household waste, staff time is taken by weighbridge operation and staff advice and assistance per trader visit. Waste Management use a DEFRA model to calculate staff time is used for each transaction. Using that model the pricing mechanism charges more for lower weight bands. Charges by weight are banded in 10 bands from 0 – 100kg to 900 – 1000kg. At the lower band, an administration multiplier of 2 is used and at the upper band, an administration multiplier of 1.5 is used, with the administration multiplier evenly escalated with each band in between.
- 3.5 The gate fees, haulage, staff time and other associated costs and overheads (e.g. container provision, site operation costs) are covered by the administration multiplier outlined above.
- 3.6 The gross figures are rounded up to the nearest 50p for use at Princes Drive and Hunters Lane weighbridge sites. For the non-weighbridge sites, the gross figures are used, along with 70% fill levels for each of the 5 types of vehicle and average densities for the materials. The relevant administration multiplier is applied, and the gross values are rounded up to the nearest £1.
- 3.7 During 2023/24, approval was gained for commercial charges for upholstered domestic seating items (sofas etc) following the Environment Agency's changes to how we can dispose of these items. Previously these items were disposed of at general waste rates, but the changes have made disposal and transport to facilities able to treat them more costly. These charges are included within this report for 2024-25 and remain static given how recently they were calculated.
- 3.8 In recent years, the price of plasterboard disposal has been aligned with that of general waste and it is intended to continue this. We believe this alleviates the operational issue of traders occasionally incorrectly declaring plasterboard as general waste to access the cheaper price, leading to potential contamination of the general waste.
- 3.9 We have also aligned the prices for hardcore, soil and garden waste.
- 3.10 For the pay by item prices, the £12 per item of large furniture for the non-weighbridge sites will continue. That assumes that the large item i.e., a mattress or bed base would not weigh more than 50kg. On site monitoring supports this assumption.

- 3.11 The £12 charge for a load of paper or cardboard is capped at a maximum load size of 1 tonne, as the market rate for this waste stream has fluctuated significantly. The minimum charge for disposal of a gas bottle, fire extinguisher or tyre was reduced to £5 in 2021, making the proper disposal of these items even more accessible, and it is still affordable to continue this. Nitrous oxide containers from a household source can now be accepted free of charge from the public to facilitate safe disposal of these troublesome items. Other pay-by-item charges remain the same. Public weigh charges will remain at £10 plus VAT in line with other local weighbridges.
- 3.12 The cost of the commercial recycling permit increased from £40 to £50 in 2021. This was the first price rise since inception 5 years ago and will be kept at £50 this year.
- 3.13 Last year a per-bag charge was introduced for hardcore, bricks, rubble and soil. We will retain the £3 per bag charge for additional sacks of hardcore, bricks, rubble and soil material (up to 25kg per bag).
- 3.14 The orange sack scheme for businesses that generate small amounts of residual waste will remain at £4 per sack and are usually sold in rolls of 20 for £80.

Notable changes

- 3.15 Some material prices have increased significantly, notably the cost of plasterboard has increased as a result of higher contract prices incurred by the Council. The average weighbridge price has increased 23.6% and the average vehicle size charge by 87%.
- 3.16 We have matched the prices of hardcore to the prices of garden waste because customers often have mixed hardcore/ soil/ garden waste material. Operational colleagues requested this change to make it easier for both customers and staff to understand and apply charges. The weighbridge price of rubble/ soil has therefore increased by 29.7% while the price of garden waste is being kept at the same level. Consideration was given to increasing the weighbridge garden waste prices in line with inflation, but this is not considered necessary to cover staff, weighbridge and other ancillary costs.
- 3.17 A similar situation exists with the current wood contract which ends in June 2024. We have held this price and whilst increasing it in line with inflation was considered, running costs are covered at the current rates. Further, as it will be necessary to retender this contract during the 2024/25 financial year, and thus we do not yet have certainty over the new price it was decided to hold the current pricing at existing levels.
- 3.18 The service aims to offer the broadest possible range of recycling opportunities to the public and also, where appropriate, to the non-household and commercial sector. To continue to act commercially, we will seek to develop new trade services and will seek approvals to launch these at the appropriate time.

Benchmarking

3.19 To ensure that prices are competitive with the marketplace, the proposed charges have been compared to the charges of other local authorities. Bearing in mind the varying cost of waste treatment and haulage depending on availability and proximity, the proposed charges are broadly in line with our peers.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Prices are calculated based on a DEFRA model. The price is calculated using the disposal/ reprocessing and haulage costs to the Council and the model adds the additional costs of site running costs, administration and on-costs using an administration multiplier. Income gained supports the operation of the sites and the delivery of services. The facility to recycle and dispose of a wide range of waste types are of benefit to the local economy. The public have a facility to dispose of non-household waste and local businesses can easily access competitively priced recycling and disposal services that ensure their compliance with waste legislation and the reduction of fly-tipping.

4.2 Table 1 shows the level of income gained from providing the opportunity for local small businesses to be able to deposit waste at our network of HWRCs. The income gained in 2020/21 was lower due to lockdowns, but sales then recovered. The figures in the table for 2023/24 are actual income figures up to and including 28 November 2023. The projected income for the financial year 2023/24 is approximately £240,000. This is below the level achieved for previous years and could be due to cost-of-living issues and people and businesses seeking to spend less and we are carrying out further investigation which we hope will give us a clearer picture. Our budgeted total income figure for 2023/24 is £164,258 and it is projected that this figure will be met.

Table 1: HWRC Trade Waste Sales, Fees & Charges Income

	Income 2019/20	Income 2020/21	Income 2021/22	Income 2022/23	Income 1/4/23 to 28/11/23
HWRCs	£9,460	£2,697	£7,970	£12,173	£12,572
Transfer Stations	£261,461	£207,866	£294,268	£282,728	£130,969
Totals	£270,921	£210,563	£302,238	£294,901	£143,541

4.3 The new rates in 2024/25 will ensure that our costs continue to be covered and an appropriate surplus is made to cover fluctuations in costs across the year. Income

from members of the public from item or charging by vehicle size is small and changes have been kept to a minimum to avoid confusion and discourage fly tipping. Most of the income received is at the waste transfer stations and the changes to these rates are considered in detail in Appendix A. Changes have been made to better reflect the Council true costs, to remain competitive in the marketplace and to encourage responsible waste management including cheaper recycling options.

5. Environmental Implications

5.1 The Council's commercial waste service offers the facility for local people and businesses to recycle and dispose of their non-household waste in compliance with their waste duty of care and other environmental legislation. The Council offers local businesses the opportunity to recycle a wide range of materials that may not be accessible to them through standard collection services. Providing local services that allow for the correct disposal of waste and the increased recycling of valuable materials benefits the environment by reducing pollution, reducing the use of raw materials and reducing carbon emissions. In addition, the pricing structure has been designed to encourage the correct disposal of materials, which has an overall benefit for the environment.

Report Author	Andrew Pau – Head of Waste Management and Country Parks Laura Vesty - Lead Commissioner - Waste Operations
Director	David Ayton-Hill - Director Of Economy And Place
Executive Director	Mark Ryder - Executive Director For Communities
Portfolio Holder	CLlr Heather Timms - Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

Appendix A - Detailed Fees and Charges for 2024-25 including changes.

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms

Corporate Board – 31 Jan 2024

Legal – Sioned Harper, Team Leader & Senior Solicitor, Legal Services

Finance – Rosemary Gowers, Accountant, Communities and Resources

Commercial – Janice Ogden, Commercial Team

Equality – Delroy Madden

Democratic Services – Nicole Conway

Councillors –

Local Member(s):

Calculations based on 13.9% increase unless otherwise indicated

4.80 % RPIx Oct

Landfill Increase Calculations

The current and future announced rates are as follows:

Material sent to landfill	Rate from 1 April 2021	Rate from 1 April 2022	Rate from 1 April 2023
Standard rated (per tonne)	£96.70	£98.60	£102.10
Lower rated (per tonne)	£3.10	£3.15	£3.25

1st April 2023
£103.70

Calculations based on Bubbenhall as 89% of pay-by-weight general waste delivered there ;
Contracted increase is based on RICS set of indices but we have used RPIx as more easily

Treatment	Cost to WCC/tonne in 2023/24	Cost to WCC/tonne with RPIx inflation added	Landfill tax rate 2023-24	Total
Mixed/ General Waste	£29.90	£31.34	£103.70	£135.04

Haulage	Cost to WCC/tonne /mile in 2023/24	Rate to WCC with inflation added	PD to Bubbenhall miles	PD to Bubbenhall haulage cost
Mixed/ General Waste	£1.30	£1.36	12.4	£16.89

Treatment and Haulage	Total cost to	Total cost to WCC/100kg
Mixed/ General Waste	£151.93	£15.19

Pre rounding

Admin fee weighting	2	1.95	1.9	1.85	1.8
Bands	0 to 100 kgs	101 to 200 kgs	201 to 300 kgs	301 to 400 kgs	401 to 500 kgs
	100	200	300	400	500
100kg multiplier	1	2	3	4	5
General Waste	£30.39	£59.25	£86.60	£112.43	£136.74

New prices for 2024/25 (rounded up to nearest 50p manually)

Bands	0 to 100 kgs	101 to 200 kgs	201 to 300 kgs	301 to 400 kgs	401 to 500 kgs
General Waste	£30.50	£59.50	£87.00	£112.50	£137.00
Difference between bands		£29.00	£27.50	£25.50	£24.50

Other Materials Calculations

Prices for 2023/24 (rounded up to nearest 50p manually)

Weight Bands	0 to 100 kgs	101 to 200 kgs	201 to 300 kgs	301 to 400 kgs	401 to 500 kgs
Green Waste	£7.50	£14.50	£21.00	£27.50	£33.00

Soil/ Rubble	£5.00	£9.00	£13.00	£17.00	£21.00
Gypsum/ Plasterboard	£29.50	£57.50	£83.50	£108.50	£132.00
Chipboard/ Wood	£17.50	£29.50	£41.50	£53.50	£65.50
General Waste	£29.50	£57.50	£83.50	£108.50	£132.00

2024/25 pre rounding figures

Bands	0 to 100 kgs	101 to 200 kgs	201 to 300 kgs	301 to 400 kgs	401 to 500 kgs
Admin fee weighting	2	1.95	1.9	1.85	1.8
100kg multiplier	1	2	3	4	5
Garden Waste	£7.89	£15.38	£22.48	£29.18	£35.49
Soil/ Rubble	£6.17	£12.03	£17.59	£22.83	£27.77
Wood/ Chip	£9.16	£17.86	£26.10	£33.89	£41.22
Plasterboard	£35.92	£70.04	£102.37	£132.89	£161.63

New prices for 2024/25 (rounded up to nearest 50p manually)

Weight Bands	0 to 100 kgs	101 to 200 kgs	201 to 300 kgs	301 to 400 kgs	401 to 500 kgs
Green Waste	£8.50	£16.50	£24.00	£31.00	£38.00
Soil/ Rubble	£8.50	£16.50	£24.00	£31.00	£38.00
Gypsum/ Plasterboard	£36.00	£70.50	£103.00	£133.00	£162.00
Chipboard/ Wood	£17.50	£29.50	£41.50	£53.50	£65.50
General/ Mixed Waste	£36.00	£70.50	£103.00	£133.00	£162.00
		£8.00	£7.50	£7.00	£7.00

Operationally, having the plasterboard price a pound or so more per 100kg than general waste. They then put the plasterboard in the general waste skip, contaminating the general waste. As the price is so similar and the price for plasterboard didn't go up by 3.5 as calculated for

By volume calculations

		Car	Estate car/car derived	Small van or pick up	Twin cab pick-up or large 4 x 4
	Approx load volume m ³ (have assumed)	0.70	1.05	2.80	3.85
	Bulk density	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
Green Waste	0.24	0.17	0.25	0.67	0.92
Soil/ Rubble	0.86	0.55	0.75	1.00	1.30
Gypsum/ Plasterboard	0.31	0.22	0.33	0.87	1.19
Chipboard/ Wood	0.33	0.23	0.35	0.92	1.27
General/ Mixed Waste	0.175	0.12	0.18	0.49	0.67
General/ Mixed Waste	0.175				

Pre rounding

	Charges up to 300kg (admin x2)	Charges 301kg - 500kg (admin x 1.75)	Charges 501kg or more (admin x 1.50)	Car	Estate car/ car derived van
Green Waste	£78.87	£70.99	£61.13	£13.25	£19.88
Soil/ Rubble actual	£61.71	£55.54	£47.83	£26.30	£35.87
Gypsum/ Plasterboard	£303.86	£273.47	£235.49	£65.94	£89.02
Chipboard/ Wood	£91.60	£82.44	£70.99	£21.16	£28.56
General/ Mixed Waste	£303.86	£273.47	£235.49	£37.22	£55.83

New by volume prices for 2024/25 (rounded manually up to nearest £1)

Vehicle	Car	Estate car/car derived van	Small van or pick up	Twin cab pick-up or large 4 x 4	Trailers up to 6' length
Green Waste	£16	£22	£41	£57	£26
Soil/ Rubble	£26	£36	£47	£62	£35
Gypsum/ Plasterboard	£66	£89	£205	£280	£127
Chipboard/ Wood	£29	£40	£91	£124	£56
General/ Mixed Waste	£37	£56	£134	£159	£80

ober 2023

24

and 94% of PD general waste goes to Bubbenhall
y available

1.75	1.7	1.65	1.6	1.55	
501 to 600	601 to 700 k	701 to 800 k	801 to 900 k	901 to 1000	Over
600	700	800	900	1000	1000kg per
6	7	8	9	10	kg
£159.53	£180.80	£200.55	£218.78	£235.49	£250.00

					Over
501 to 600	601 to 700 k	701 to 800 k	801 to 900 k	901 to 1000	1000kg per
£160.00	£181.00	£201.00	£219.00	£236.00	kg
£23.00	£21.00	£20.00	£18.00	£17.00	£0.25

501 to 600 kgs	601 to 700 kgs	701 to 800 kgs	801 to 900 kgs	901 to 1000 kgs	1000kg per kg
£38.50	£44.00	£48.50	£53.00	£57.00	£0.06

£24.50	£27.50	£30.50	£33.50	£36.00	£0.05
£154.00	£174.50	£193.50	£211.00	£227.00	£0.21
£77.50	£89.50	£101.50	£113.50	£126.00	£0.13
£154.00	£174.50	£193.50	£211.00	£227.00	£0.21

					Over 1000kg per kg
501 to 600	601 to 700 k	701 to 800 k	801 to 900 k	901 to 1000	
1.75	1.7	1.65	1.6	1.55	
6	7	8	9	10	
£41.41	£46.93	£52.06	£56.79	£61.13	£0.61
£32.40	£36.72	£40.73	£44.43	£47.83	£0.48
£48.09	£54.50	£60.45	£65.95	£70.99	£0.71
£188.57	£213.71	£237.06	£258.61	£278.36	£2.78

501 to 600 kgs	601 to 700 kgs	701 to 800 kgs	801 to 900 kgs	901 to 1000 kgs	Over 1000kg per kg
£44.00	£50.00	£56.00	£60.50	£65.00	£0.066
£44.00	£50.00	£56.00	£60.50	£65.00	£0.066
£189.00	£214.00	£238.00	£259.00	£290.00	£0.30
£77.50	£89.50	£101.50	£113.50	£126.00	£0.13
£189.00	£214.00	£238.00	£259.00	£290.00	£0.30
£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£4.50	£4.50	

waste caused some dishonest traders to declare plasterboard as general waste at with a potentially hazardous substance.
 the previous year, the price for both will be set at the same.

Trailers up to 6' length	Bag	Assumptions
1.50	0.08	70% fill level
tonnes		
0.36	na	
0.75	na	weight lowered to carrying capacity
0.47	na	x2 b
0.50	na	x1.75 c
0.26	na	x1.50 d
	0.014	

Small van or pick up	Twin cab pick-up or large 4 x 4	Trailers up to 6' length
£41.08	£56.48	£25.55
£47.83	£62.17	£35.87
£204.41	£281.06	£127.16
£65.59	£90.19	£40.81
£134.00	£158.66	£79.76

Last year

Car	Estate car/car derived	Small van or pick up	Twin cab pick-up or large 4 x 4	Trailers up to 6' length
£14	£19	£38	£52	£24
£20	£27	£36	£47	£27
£33	£49	£118	£140	£70
£29	£40	£91	£124	£56
£33	£49	£118	£140	£70

Actual costs

Price we pay for recycling	Price for haulage	and haulage	Miles	Cost per tonne	Cost per 100g	tonne with RPIx
£22.63		£37.63		£37.63	£3.76	£39.44

£5.60	£1.36		17.5	£29.44	£2.94	£30.86
£170.00	£1.36	£171.36		£171.36	£17.14	£179.59
£28.32		£43.70		£43.70	£4.37	£45.80

the weighbridge.

100g with RPIx	Weight Bands
£3.94	Green Waste

£3.09	Soil/ Rubble
£17.96	Gypsum/ Plasterboard
£4.58	Chipboard/ Wood

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Portfolio Holder Decision Country Parks Fees and Charges 2024/25

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture
Date of decision	16 February 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment Climate and Culture approves the changes to Country Parks fees and charges from 1 April 2024, as set out in the Appendix.

2. Reasons for decisions

The County Council's constitution requires approval of fees and charges by the relevant portfolio holder prior to their application.

3. Background information

Country Parks fees and charges relate to parking, which is the main source of income for the service, as well as a range of other services that can be charged for. Country Parks are valuable green space assets that support people's health and wellbeing, and it is important that they remain accessible and value for money. All the income made from Country Parks fees and charges is utilised in our country parks and greenways.

The Country Parks service has generally increased fees and charges on a staggered basis, with increases to some charges one year, then different charges the next and so on. Prior to the introduction of cashless parking machines in 2020, parking charges were also paid in cash, which made it difficult to increase charges in line with inflation as this would result in visitors having to pay odd amounts in change, which is unrealistic and cumbersome.

This has meant that more substantial increases have taken place less regularly, sometimes to account for a number of years' worth of inflationary increases. Following the

introduction of cashless parking, and to reduce the need to make significant increases, the service has started to make more regular increases to fees and charges, either annually or biennially. The service continues to benchmark against similar amenities locally in order to remain competitive yet accessible, and it is important that fees and charges are increased sufficiently to reflect rising costs generally and sustain income to help pay for service delivery.

Some fees and charges are still being brought up to be in line with local competition and so do require increases above inflation. It is also worth noting that it is still not desirable to increase charges on set percentages alone as these can create 'unfriendly' odd amounts (e.g. £3.27 vs £3.30). Therefore, in some instances figures have been rounded up or down accordingly.

As a result of the above factors, this report sets out an average increase of 13% across all the charges that are being increased, most of which were not increased in 2022/23. It is envisaged that next financial year we will start to see smaller increases, more in line with inflation.

Visitors coming to our sites do so out of choice in order to enjoy the amenities they provide. Some visitors are regular and some less so. If we increase fees and charges across the board too frequently this may serve to deter visitors who could choose to go to other amenities such as Coombe Park, Draycote Water, Daventry Country Park, and so on. Achieving a balance between regular inflationary increases and not increasing prices too often is carefully considered each time we review our charges, taking into account the perspective of our service users. Visitors need to feel that they are getting value for money from the service we provide. We need to be competitive within the marketplace that we are operating, yet reasonable to remain attractive to our customers.

Income derived from rents, tenancies, catering concessions, shop sales, caravan site profits share, special events and grants etc, account for approximately 25% of the country parks' total income in a normal year; these elements are adjusted through rent reviews and lease arrangements and are not included in this review.

The Appendix sets out the new fees and charges to take effect from 1 April 2024.

Detail on proposed changes

Fishing Permits at Kingsbury Water Park

Annual fishing permit prices and day fishing tickets were all increased by 10% in 2023/24

and so will not be increased in 2024/25, with the exception of the concessionary rate which was not increased last year. This will be increased by 10%. It is important that we remain competitive and don't price ourselves out of the market. Whilst improvements are still being made to the fishery, raising prices this year is not considered appropriate.

Car Parking

2023/24 saw a 10% increase to car parking fees at both Kingsbury and Ryton. It is proposed not to increase at these sites in 2024/25. Furthermore, it is anticipated that Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) will be introduced at Kingsbury in 2024, which is likely to require a new charging structure, that may see the end of the flat rate fee (currently £4.95). The introduction of ANPR will help to eliminate parking charge evasion and ticket swapping, as well as being more attractive to visitors who only plan to stay for a short time on site.

The service is also preparing to change the way in which car parking is managed, with the aim of reducing parking fee evasion through better enforcement of parking charge notices. The move to utilising the powers set out within the Road Traffic Regulation Act will enable more effective enforcement and also mean that the Council is not liable to pay the VAT on parking income.

It is proposed to increase charges at all other sites in 2024/25. Burton Dassett, Hartshill Hayes and Pooley Country Parks daily flat rate fees will be increased by 10% from £3 to £3.30. Annual permits will be increased from £36 to £40 (11%) and disabled permits from £29 to £32 (9%). Generally, disabled permits are kept at around 20% cheaper than standard permits.

Stratford Greenway fees were not increased in 2023/24 and have only been increased once since car parking charges were first introduced there in 2017. Therefore, it is proposed to increase parking up to one hour from £1 to £1.20 (20%), up to 2 hours from £1.50 to £1.80 (20%), up to 3 hours from £2 to £2.50 (20%), up to 4 hours from £3 to £3.60 (20%) and over 4 hours/ All Day from £4 to £5 (25%). Whilst the all-day charge is to be increased by 25%, visitors who park for this length of time are less likely to be Greenway users and include people that choose to park at the Greenway to visit or work in Stratford itself. Car parks within Stratford generally charge £8.80 for between 4 and 9 hours, which still makes Stratford Greenway comparatively cheap for longer stay parking. Regular users of the Greenway are recommended to buy an annual permit, which is extremely good value for money.

Annual parking permits for Stratford Greenway are proposed to be increased by 20% for

standard permits, from £48 to £58 (which works out at £1.11 a week) and by 10% for disabled permits, from £38 to £42. Stratford Greenway is the third most visited site in the Country Parks portfolio, and we believe that the proposed rates offer excellent value and will not have a negative impact on visitor numbers.

Annual Parking Permits – All Parks/ South Parks & North Parks

These were not increased in 2023/24, so it is proposed to increase these as follows:

- All Parks Permit – from £120 to £132 (10%)
- All Parks Disabled Permit – from £96 to £105 (9%)
- North Parks Permit – from £90 to £99 (10%)
- North Parks Disabled Permit – from £72 to £80 (11%)
- South Parks Permit – from £60 to £72 (20%)
- South Parks Disabled Permit – from £48 to £53 (10%)

It is worth noting that the North Parks Permit includes access to Kingsbury, Pooley and Harthill Hayes, whilst the South Parks permit also now includes access to Stratford Greenway, as well as Ryton Pools and Burton Dassett. The larger percentage increase in price for the latter reflects this addition. However, all annual parking permits remain significant value for money.

Other price increases/changes

School Visits

These fees were not increased in 2023/24, and it is proposed that the 2-hour session (usually morning only) will increase to £5 per child from £4.50, and the 4-hour session (all day) from £7.50 to £9. This is a 20% increase but is competitive compared with similar offers locally. Most school bookings are for all day sessions.

Income derived from rents, tenancies, catering concessions, shop sales, caravan site profits share, special events and grants etc, account for approximately 25% of the country parks' total income in a normal year; these elements are adjusted through rent reviews and lease arrangements and are not included in this review.

4. Financial Implications

The fees and charges increases detailed above should provide for additional income of

approximately £31,350 based on current visitor numbers/sales. This is a total increase of approximately 13%, based on average income over the last financial year for car parking and permit income at Stratford Greenway, Burton Dassett Hills, Hartshill Hayes and Pooley Country Parks as well as on the school’s education income achieved.

In reviewing our fees and charges for 2024-25 we have not applied the same percentage increase to all charges, but instead have considered each charge on its own merits. This is in line with the approach to fees and charges across WCC services where there is a range of planned price increases for 2024-25, as well as some price freezes, depending on the circumstances of each service.

Where there has been a larger percentage increase in our fees and charges the rationale is outlined above and includes where prices are yet to come in line with competitors, to better reflect the cost of providing the service or where market value needs to be achieved. In all cases the increased charges are pitched to continue to make our country parks accessible and good value for money, and we continually benchmark our prices against our competitors, to ensure we are not under or over charging.

See Appendix for detailed information on Fees & Charges for 2024/25.

5. Environmental Implications

Whilst the Country Parks service is heavily dependent on income from car parking charges, we are confident that our regular users will continue to pay to visit their local country park or greenway. Most of our visitors do not need to travel for long distances in their vehicles to be able to get to their nearest/ favourite country park. Therefore, we do not believe that these fee increases will have an impact on length of vehicle journey for most of our users, which in turn will not have a detrimental effect on air pollution. Access to country parks and greenways remains free of charge to those arriving on foot or by bicycle.

Report Author	Andrew Pau – Head of Waste Management and Country Parks Rachel Baconnet – Lead Commissioner Green Spaces and Events
Director	David Ayton-Hill - Director of Economy and Place
Executive Director	Mark Ryder - Executive Director For Communities
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Timms - Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers
Appendix A

Members and officers consulted and informed
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms
Corporate Board – 31 January 2024
Legal –
Finance –
Equality – Delroy Madden
Democratic Services – Nicole Conway
Councillors –
Local Member(s):

Appendix A

Country Parks Fees and Charges 2024/25

PARK & ITEM	2023/24	2024/25	% change
All Parks Permit	£120.00	£132.00	10%
All Parks Disabled Permit	£96.00	£105.00	9%
North Parks Permit	£90.00	£99.00	10%
North Parks Disabled Permit	£72.00	£80.00	11%
South Parks Permit	£60.00	£72.00	20%
South Parks Disabled Permit	£48.00	£53.00	10%
 <u>KINGSBURY WATER PARK</u>			
Car Parking (Main Entrance) – From 1st April:			
Daily Peak (1 st Mar - 31 st Oct)	£4.95	£4.95	0%
Daily Off Peak (1 st Nov - 29 th Feb)	£3.30	£3.30	0%
Twilight (all year after 4pm)	£3.30	£3.30	0%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
 Car Parking (Broomey Croft):			
Daily	£3.30	£3.30	0%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
Car Parking Permits:			
Permit (12 months from date of purchase)	£52.80	£52.80	0%
Disabled permit	£41.80	£41.80	0%
 Fishing:			
Coarse Permit: Adults	£99.00	£99.00	0%
Coarse Permit: Concessions	£70.00	£77.00	10%
Specimen Carp Permit: Adults	£165.00	£165.00	0%
Night Fishing (Broomey Croft & Canal Pool) by application only	£522.00	£522.00	0%
Late Season Specimen Carp (November - March)	£110.00	£110.00	0%
 Fishing Day Tickets:			
Pine Pool			
(1 st Mar - 31 st Oct)	£10.45	£10.45	0%
(1 st Nov - 29 th Feb)	£8.80	£8.80	0%
Swann & Causeway, Mill, Willows, Bodymoor Heath, Heron, Kingfisher, Gibsons, & Cliff Pool South			
(1 st Mar - 31 st Oct)	£8.25	£8.25	0%
(1 st Nov - 29 th Feb)	£6.60	£6.60	0%
Concessions			
(1 st Mar - 31 st Oct)	£7.15	£7.15	0%
(1 st Nov - 29 th Feb)	£5.50	£5.50	0%

Horse-riding:

Annual Permit Adult	£33.00	£35.00	6%
Annual Permit Junior	£16.50	£18.00	9%
Annual Permit Family	£60.50	£65.00	7%

Schools – All-inclusive package (min.15 children)

2-hour session per child	£4.50	£5.00	10%
4-hour session per child	£7.50	£9.00	20%

Birthday Parties:

	£150.00	£150.00	0%
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Talks/Walks/Slide Shows:

	£60.50	£60.50	0%
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Education Centre Hire (non-schools):

Morning or afternoon session	£80.00	£80.00	0%
All day	£120.00	£120.00	0%

Mobility Scooter:

Annual permit	£35.00	£35.00	0%
Daily, per session	£4.00	£4.00	0%
Tramper, per session	£5.50	£5.50	0%

BURTON DASSETT HILLS COUNTRY PARK**Car Parking:**

Daily	£3.00	£3.30	10%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
Permit (12 months from date of purchase)	£36.00	£40.00	11%
Disabled permit	£29.00	£32.00	9%

HARTSHILL HAYES COUNTRY PARK**Car Parking:**

Daily	£3.00	£3.30	10%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
Permit (12 months from date of purchase)	£36.00	£40.00	11%
Disabled permit	£29.00	£32.00	9%

Schools – All inclusive package (min.15 children)

2 hour session per child	£4.50	£5.00	10%
4 hour session per child	£7.50	£9.00	20%

Talks/Walks/Slide Shows:

	£60.50	£60.50	0%
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RYTON POOLS COUNTRY PARK**Car Parking:**

15 mins			
Car Parking:			
2 to 4 hours	£3.30	£3.30	0%
Over 4 hours	£4.40	£4.40	0%
	£6.60	£6.60	0%
Winter Off Peak (1 st Nov - 29 th Feb)	£3.30	£3.30	0%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
Permit (12 months from date of purchase)	£48.40	£48.40	0%
Disabled permit	£38.50	£38.50	0%

Schools – All inclusive package (min.15 children)			
2 hour session per child	£4.50	£5.00	10%
4 hour session per child	£7.50	£9.00	20%
Birthday Parties:	£150.00	£150.00	0%
Talks/Walks/Slide Shows:	£60.50	£60.50	0%
Education Centre Hire (non-schools):			
Morning or afternoon session	£80.00	£80.00	0%
All day	£120.00	£120.00	0%

POOLEY COUNTRY PARK**Car Parking:**

Daly - up to one hour			
Daily	£3.00	£3.30	10%
Minibus/Coach	£22.00	£22.00	0%
Annual Permit	£36.00	£40.00	11%
Disabled permit	£29.00	£32.00	9%

Events: By arrangement

Schools – All inclusive package (min.15 children)			
2 hour session per child	£4.50	£5.00	10%
4 hour session per child	£7.50	£9.00	20%
Talks/Walks/Slide Shows:	£60.50	£60.50	0%
Education Centre Hire (non-schools):			
Morning or afternoon session	£80.00	£80.00	0%
All day	£120.00	£120.00	0%

STRATFORD GREENWAY**Car Parking:**

Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.20	20%
Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.80	20%
Up to to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.50	20%
Up to 4 hours	£3.00	£3.60	20%
Over 4 hours (all day)	£4.00	£5.00	25%
Permit (12 months from day of purchase)	£48.00	£58.00	20%
Disabled permit	£38.00	£42.00	10%

EVENTS PROGRAMME (all sites)

Guided walks and events	£4.50	£4.50	0%
Holiday Activities/Drop In/Youth Groups	£4.50	£4.50	0%
Corporate Away Days (Per Person) *min 12 people	£15.00	£15.00	0%

Other (including large) Events: By arrangement

Local/Charitable Community Event	£130.00
Small/Local Commercial Event	£260.00
Large/National Commercial Event	By Negotiation

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Portfolio Holder Decision Capital Project at Shipston Primary School

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Date of decision	16 February 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 That the Portfolio holder for Finance and Property approves the addition to the capital programme of the scheme to create an 8-place specialist resourced provision at Shipston Primary School at an estimated cost of £0.127 million to be funded from S106 receipts and the High Needs Blockheader.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The Portfolio holder has delegated authority to add schemes to the Capital Programme where the value is less than £2,000,000 and the scheme is fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or from revenue. Funding from developer contributions can only be used for a limited range of purposes specified in the relevant agreement. The Infrastructure Team has confirmed the availability and use of the funding.
- 2.2 Warwickshire County Council remains committed to the strategy of developing Specialist Resourced Provision as a bridge between specialist and mainstream. The opening of this type of provision is a feature of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

3. Background information

- 3.1 There is significant pressure on places at Warwickshire's 11 state funded special schools, forcing the use of expensive independent specialist provision. Earlier intervention at primary for learners with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) will minimise the need for these pupils to be excluded or to be educated in independent specialist provision.
- 3.2 Shipston on Stour Primary specialist resourced provision will provide quality education, serving the local population centre of Shipston on Stour and other villages and towns which are within reasonable reach of its location.

3.3 The proposed work would convert the existing large classroom and storage space, which currently have good access to suitable outdoor areas, into a self-contained provision. This will be achieved by redesigning the current layout to include a small kitchenette / nurture area, calm room, a small staff office and two sets of toilets.

3.4 The intention is to deliver this project over Easter and May 2024 school holidays.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The capital works outlined in section 3 are estimated to cost £0.127 million and will be funded from £0.116 million developer contributions and £0.011 million from the high needs block header (this blockheader to fund small scale SEND projects received member approval in 2017).

4.2 Pupil places in the specialist resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that the additional learning needs of those pupils can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

4.3 Increasing the number of SEND resourced provision places available in the County has been longstanding ambition of the County Council and is a key element of the Dedicated Schools Grant recovery plan.

5. Environmental implications

5.1 The changes to Building Regulations in June 2022 have significantly strengthened sustainable construction methods and whilst not solely changed for environmental purpose, they ensure that future construction recognises environmental challenges.

5.2 The associated capital works are anticipated to be minimal with the additional accommodation requirements involving small scale internal alterations and refurbishment.

5.3 It is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on air quality and carbon emissions with the increasing development of specialist resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision reducing travel distance and journey times for the learner.

Report Author

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Director	Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education
Executive Director	Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People
Portfolio Holder	Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?	<i>No</i>
Confidential or exempt?	<i>No</i>
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	<i>No</i>

List of background papers
None

Members and officers consulted and informed
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
Corporate Board – Nigel Minns
Legal – Guy Darvill
Finance – Brian Smith
Equality – Delroy Madden
Democratic Services – Nicole Conway
Councillors – Marian Humphreys, Jerry Roodhouse and Barbara Brown
Local Member(s) - Cllr Jo Barker

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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