**To: Leader and Members of the Executive Board**
**(Councillors D Wright, Bell, Chambers, Gosling, Hayfield, D Humphreys, Jenns, Morson, H Phillips, Reilly, Simpson and Symonds)**

**For the information of other Members of the Council**

> **For general enquiries please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01827 719237 or via e-mail – democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk**
>
> **For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the reports.**
>
> **The agenda and reports are available in large print and electronic accessible formats if requested.**

# EXECUTIVE BOARD AGENDA

## 20 JULY 2022

The Executive Board will meet in The Chamber, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 6.30pm.

The meeting can also be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel at NorthWarks - YouTube.

## AGENDA

1    **Evacuation Procedure**.

2    **Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**

3    **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

4       **Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to put questions to elected Members.

Members of the public wishing to address the Board must register their intention to do so by 9:30am two working days prior to the meeting. Participants are restricted to five minutes each.

If you wish to put a question to the meeting, please register by email to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk or telephone 01827 719221 / 01827 719237.

Once registered to speak, the person asking the question has the option to either:

a)      attend the meeting in person at the Council Chamber;
b)      attend remotely via Teams; or
c)      request that the Chair reads out their written question.

If attending in person, precautions will be in place in the Council Chamber to protect those who are present however this will limit the number of people who can be accommodated so it may be more convenient to attend remotely.

If attending remotely an invitation will be sent to join the Teams video conferencing for this meeting.  Those registered to speak should dial the telephone number and ID number (provided on their invitation) when joining the meeting to ask their question.  However, whilst waiting they will be able to hear what is being said at the meeting.  They will also be able to view the meeting using the YouTube link provided (if so, they made need to mute the sound on YouTube when they speak on the phone to prevent feedback).

5       **Minutes of the Executive Board held on 13 June 2022** – copies herewith, to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

# ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION
# (WHITE PAPERS)

6       **Annual Governance Statement** – Report of the Corporate Director - Resources

**Summary**

The Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 sets out the arrangements the Council has put in place for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.  These ensure that its

business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and accounted for and is used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Contact Officer for this report is Sue Garner (719374).

7   **Levelling Up and Devolution** – Report of the Chief Executive

   **Summary**

   The purpose of this report is to formally update Members on recent developments with regard to the Levelling Up and Devolution agendas.

   The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).

8   **Budgetary Control Report 2022/23 Period Ended 30 June 2022** - Report of the Corporate Director – Resources

   **Summary**

   The report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.  The 2022/23 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, are given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to this Board.

   The Contact Officer for this report is Nigel Lane (719371).

9   **Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan Review: Preferred Options Consultation** - Report of the Chief Executive

   **Summary**

   Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (N&BBC) has published a consultation on Preferred Options 2024 – 2039 for a review of their Local Plan.  Comments are to be submitted by 22 July 2022.

   The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719451).

10  **North Warwickshire Area - Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** - Report of the Chief Executive

   **Summary**

   The report is brought to bring Members attention to the consultation on the Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (Part 1) and more specifically the Part 2 – Network plan for North Warwickshire.

   The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719451).

11      **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**To consider whether, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

12      **Senior Management Recruitment Process** – Report of the Chief Executive

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).

13      **Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 13 June 2022** - copy herewith, to be approved and signed by the Chairman.


STEVE MAXEY
Chief Executive

# NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE**                                                **13 June 2022**
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Present:       Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Bell, D Clews, Gosling, Hayfield, D Humphreys, Jenns, Morson, H Phillips, Reilly, and Symonds.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chambers and Simpson (Substitute Councillor D Clews).

Suyash Maharaj from EY (External Auditors) was also in attendance.

## 1    Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

None were declared at the meeting.

## 2    Minutes of the Executive Board held on 14 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14 February 2022, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 3    External Auditors' Report

The Corporate Director – Resources presented the 2019/20 Annua Audit Letter received from the Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young LLP

**Recommended:**

**That the contents of the External Auditor's report, attached at Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be noted.**

## 4    Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

The Corporate Director – Resources reported on the requirement under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2021 (the 2011 Act) for Councils to have and to publish a Pay Policy Statement, agreed by full Council, which would be subject to review at least annually.  Details of the purpose for and the areas to be covered in the Pay Policy Statement were given.

**Recommended:**

**That the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23, attached at Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be adopted.**

5 **Adoption of Water Orton Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chief Executive informed Members of the progress of the Water Orton Neighbourhood Plan and sought approval to adopt in accordance with section 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

**Recommended:**

**That the Water Orton Neighbourhood Plan be adopted and form part of the Development Plan for North Warwickshire.**

6 **Transformation Team Updates**

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update to the work that the Transformation team was undertaking.

**Resolved:**

**a That the report be acknowledged; and**

**b That the report be noted.**

7 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

8 **IT System Replacement**

The Head of Development Control sought additional financial provision for the replacement of two IT systems.

**Resolved:**

**That the recommendation, as set out in the report of the Head of Development Control, be approved.**

David Wright
CHAIRMAN

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Report of the**<br>**Corporate Director - Resources** | **Annual Governance Statement**<br>**2021/22** |

1 **Summary**

1.1 The Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 sets out the arrangements the Council has put in place for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. These ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and accounted for and is used economically, efficiently and effectively.

> **Recommendation to the Council**
>
> **That the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22, attached as Appendix A, is approved.**

. . .

2 **Background**

2.1 The Council has an approved Code of Corporate Governance, consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. The 2021/22 code has been reviewed and is applicable for 2022/23. This is attached as Appendix B.

. . .

2.2 The Annual Governance statement explains how the Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

2.3 The Council has also reviewed the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Association (CIPFA) Financial Management Code, to ensure its financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Standard.

3 **Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit**

3.1 The Council has a system of Internal Control, to which the internal audit system contributes significantly. The internal audit section is responsible for the provision of much of the system, although some responsibilities are carried out by others. Fraud work is carried out within the Internal Audit section. However, a specialist contractor is used for IT audits where necessary. All of these also contribute to internal audit within the authority.

3.2     Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require an external assessment of the internal audit service at least every five years. An external assessment was undertaken in November 2017, so a further assessment will be carried out later this year.

3.3     The ongoing pandemic impacted on all Council services and as a result some work had to be reprioritised. The continued increase in home working also meant that accessibility to information was restricted. In addition, there were changes in the Internal Audit Team during the year, which reduced the staff available to work on the audit programme. Whilst fewer audit reviews were completed than originally planned, the Corporate Director Resources was still able to conclude that the Council has a suitable range of strategies, policies and procedures to address the corporate governance agenda.

4     **2021/22 Annual Governance Statement**

4.1     The Statement (Appendix A) presented to Members this evening for approval provides some narrative around the governance arrangements in place during 2021/22.

4.2     Members are kept informed throughout the year about the various areas that make up the system of internal control. Much of this information comes through Board reports. All Boards receive progress reports on the service areas that come within their remit. Higher level reports include progress against the Corporate Plan and budgetary control reports. However, other more detailed reports are used to deal with specific areas, such as Leisure Services and Refuse and Recycling.

4.3     Responsibility of monitoring against corporate activity has also been assigned to individual Boards, for example, the Resources Board considers Risk Management and Treasury Management activity and the work of Internal Audit, whilst the Executive Board considers the outcomes of the work of the external auditors.

4.4     Where appropriate, all Members are involved in major reviews. Other means are also used to monitor the activity of the Council, such as the use of Task and Finish Groups. A Housing Task and Finish Group was set up during the year, so that housing activity could be reviewed in greater detail.

4.5     In reviewing the corporate governance arrangements, a number of areas have been highlighted for further action. These are included within the Annual Governance Statement.

4.6     Once approved by this Board, the Statement will need to be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

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## 5 Report Implications

### 5.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

5.1.1 The governance arrangements put in place by the Council ensure that its financial position is safeguarded and that only approved expenditure is incurred on behalf of the Council and income is only generated for goods and services it actually provides.

### 5.2 Legal Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

5.2.1 The governance arrangements put in place by the Council ensure that its legal position is safeguarded, that it complies with relevant laws and regulations and expenditure is lawful. These arrangements allow specific legal advice to be given in relation to functions which are discharged by officers and members.

5.2.2 There are revised requirements in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 for the processing of personal information. One of these is to appoint a Data Protection Officer whose responsibilities include advising the Council, monitoring compliance with its data protection obligations, and co-operating with the Information Commissioner under the relevant legislation. This role is being carried out by the Head of Legal Services.

5.2.3 The continued implementation of the steps set out in the Annual Governance Statement will assist the Council in complying with these requirements.

### 5.3 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

5.3.1 As part of the Council's governance arrangements, there is a requirement for officers and Members to consider the environmental impacts and sustainability of decisions taken.

### 5.4 Human Resources Implications

5.4.1 There are systems in place which ensure that health and safety considerations are taken into account, along with legal requirements. The Council also has a number of policies which set out expected standards of behaviour for both officers and Members.

### 5.5 Risk Management Implications

5.5.1 The Council manages its risks by having good internal control mechanisms in place. The improvements identified in the statement for the future will strengthen these mechanisms.

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5.6     **Equalities Implications**

5.6.1   As part of the Council's governance arrangements, there is a requirement for officers and Members to consider the equalities implications of decisions taken.

5.7     **Links to Council's Priorities**

5.7.1   The governance arrangements ensure that the achievement of the Council's priorities is monitored on a regular basis, and action taken where this is appropriate.

The Contact Officer for this report is Sue Garner (719374).

## Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

| Background Paper No | Author | Nature of Background Paper | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |

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**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**2021/22 Annual Governance Statement**

**Executive Summary**

**Responsibility for Governance**

The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. To do this, it puts arrangements in place for the governance of its affairs, which include arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

**Commitment to Review Governance Arrangements**

The Council has a responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. The review of its effectiveness is informed by:
- the work of the Senior Management Team and other managers within the Authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment;
- work carried out by Internal Audit;
- comments made by the external auditors, Ernst & Young plc, in their annual audit letter and other reports. The external auditors also comment on the value for money achieved by the Council, as part of their opinion on the financial statements;
- feedback from other review agencies and inspectorates;
- the results of user surveys and feedback from residents; and
- feedback from Service Boards and Member Groups.

To ensure that the governance framework remains effective, senior officers and Members have reviewed individual elements of the framework. As part of that review, work has been undertaken by the Council's statutory officers.

Service Boards use Task and Finish Groups or Working Groups to review and scrutinise individual areas, such as Housing.

**Overall Opinion on the Level of Assurance Provided by Governance Arrangements**

The Annual Governance Statement has confirmed that the controls in place have largely continued to operate as intended. The Council continued to operate alternative controls introduced on a temporary basis as part of management arrangements during the pandemic for much of 2021/22. Where these have resulted in process improvements, they are now being incorporated into normal procedures. Otherwise, we are returning to previous controls and processes as we return to more normal conditions.

Our overall assessment is that the Annual Governance Statement is a balanced reflection of the governance environment and that an adequate framework exists within the Council to ensure an effective internal control environment is maintained.

**Significant Governance Issues Identified**

We propose over the coming year to address a number of matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

These include:
- A review of the Financial Regulations;
- Further work on compliance with the Financial Management Code;
- Continuing to progress workforce planning;
- The continued use of virtual meetings where appropriate and efficient;
- Increased reporting to Resources Board on risk management;
- A review of the revised corporate plan and performance indicators;
- Replacement of four key computer systems to improve functionality and also maintain security compliance.

**Signed:**………………………………………………………………………………………….
<div align="right">Leader of the Council</div>

**Signed:**………………………………………………………………………………………….
<div align="right">Chief Executive</div>

**Introduction**

The Council has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.* A copy of the code is available on our website.

**Purpose of the Governance Framework**

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risks at a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The governance statement has been in place at North Warwickshire Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

**Council Structure and Corporate Governance**

The Council operates using a Committee system. This involves a number of Service Boards/Committees, responsible for specific areas of activity, which report back to the full Council. This meeting cycle of Board and Council meetings normally runs five times throughout the year. The remit and responsibilities of the Boards and Committee are set out in the Constitution of the Council, and include:

- Executive Board
- Resources Board
- Community and Environment Board
- Planning and Development Board
- Licensing Committee.

We have a number of ways that concerns of any kind can be raised, by employees, Members of the Council or the public. These include Confidential Reporting arrangements and complaint procedures. Any concerns will be followed up by trained investigators and action will be taken in proven cases.

The Council has approved Anti-Fraud and Anti-Money Laundering Policies. We take fraud of any kind seriously, and our first aim is to prevent opportunities for fraud to occur, by building sufficient controls into systems and procedures. The Council also contributes to National and Regional Fraud Initiatives using data matching techniques.

**Statutory Officers**

All local authorities are required by law to have officers who fulfil three specific roles. At North Warwickshire Borough Council, these roles are carried out by the following post-holders within the Council:

- The Head of Paid Service – Chief Executive
- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – Corporate Director Resources
- The Monitoring Officer – Head of Legal Services

The Head of Paid Service leads and takes responsibility for the running of the local authority on a day to day basis. The role requires the Chief Executive to work closely with elected Members to ensure strong and visible leadership and direction, ensure staff adhere to the strategic aims of the Authority and follow the direction set by elected Members. The Chief Executive acts as the principal policy advisor to elected Members, delivers the political objectives set by elected Members, leads and develops strong partnerships across the local community to achieve improved outcomes and better public services for local people, and oversees service development and all aspects of management within the Council.

The Chief Financial Officer must be a member of a specified accountancy body. The CFO is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs and has specific legislative responsibilities, as he/she has a fiduciary responsibility to the local taxpayer. The CFO's duties include a requirement to report to all the local authority's members, in consultation with the monitoring officer and head of paid service, if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.

The Monitoring Officer effectively acts as the guardian of the Council's constitution and the decision making process. He/she is responsible for advising the Council on the legality of its decisions and providing guidance to elected Members on the Council constitution and its powers. He/she has the specific duty to ensure that the Council, its Officers and its elected Members maintain the highest standards of conduct in all that they do.  This includes: reporting to the Council if a decision is unlawful or amounts to maladministration, maintaining Registers of Interests, and arranging for investigations into any matters or complaints referred to the Standards Committee.

**Management Team**

Two of the statutory officers, the Head of Paid Service and CFO, are members of the Senior Management Team of the Council and the third statutory officer attends as required. The Corporate Director Streetscape is also a member of the Senior Management Team which meets on a weekly basis.

The Council also had two Service Directors during the year covering: Housing Services and Leisure and Community Development. These Directors, together with the Senior Management Team and the Head of Development Control, make up the Extended Management Team, who meet on a monthly basis. The Head of Legal Services attends meetings of the Extended Management Team.

**Standards**

The Council expects its Members and officers to maintain appropriate standards of conduct and behaviour. These are set down in codes of conduct, standing orders, financial regulations, policies and processes, which are regularly reviewed. Compliance is monitored on an ongoing basis, and is supplemented by information through the complaints and compliments procedure and confidential reporting policy.

Both Members and officers are required to declare gifts and hospitality received, for inclusion on the register of interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer throughout the year.

**Performance Management**

The Corporate Plan is approved before the start of each year and identifies the headline targets for the coming year, which are supported by greater detail within individual service plans. Services are monitored and discussed on a monthly basis at Extended Management Team meetings.

All members of the senior management team contribute actively to cross organisational issues and to corporate decision making to match resources to the authority's objectives. The CFO and Monitoring Officer provide financial and legal advice and support to elected representatives to inform their decision making.

Normally progress against Corporate Plan targets is reported regularly to senior managers, Management Team and to service boards, along with performance indicator information. A final position is collated at the end of the year, which is again reported to Members and is also published on the Council's website. Reduced reporting took place in some areas during 2021/22, partly due to the ongoing pandemic situation and partly due to the ongoing review of the format of the Corporate Plan which was introduced for 2021/22.

As well as monitoring achievement of identified outcomes, the Council wants to ensure that an excellent quality of service is provided. It ensures this in a number of ways: obtaining user feedback, through independent inspection and audit and through system reviews. The Council takes part in Peer Challenge reviews periodically. Peer challenges are improvement-focussed and tailored to meet individual councils' needs, to complement and add value to a council's own performance and improvement focus. As the Council had taken part in a virtual LGA facilitated Recovery Panel review in March 2021, further review was not undertaken in year.

Targeted feedback on Council activity was obtained in specific areas and general feedback on the Council was obtained on council services during calls to residents. Feedback through the complaints and compliments process was reviewed as normal.


**Information Management**

Information management is a key concern for the Council, with all Members and officers having responsibilities for its governance. To ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations, the Council has a Data Protection Officer and a Senior Information Risk Owner.

The Council's Data Protection Officer provides policies, training and guidance to ensure compliance with legislation, and investigates any breaches or suspected breaches that may arise. It is mandatory for all employees to complete an e learning module on data protection issues. Employees are required and encouraged to report suspected breaches, so that processes can be improved.

The Senior Information Risk Owner is responsible for implementing a risk assessment programme and advising the Executive Board of the effectiveness of the Council's information risk management procedures. Requirements for information management are set out in the Council's Information Security Policy. The maintenance and updating of systems is key, and some preparatory work for updating key systems commenced during the year, which will both improve functionality and also maintain security compliance. Following these changes arrangements will be made to carry out testing to confirm compliance. The Council also continues to actively work with the Warwickshire LRF Cyber Resilience Working Group.

**Financial Management**

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. In England, the CFO has a statutory duty to report to the authority at the time the budget is considered and the council tax set, on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of financial reserves. With regard to capital spending, there is a statutory requirement to set and arrange the Council's affairs to remain within limits for borrowing and capital investment.

The CFO must also be proactive in the management of change and risk, be focussed on outcomes and help to resource the authority's plans for change and development in the public services it provides.

The Council has comprehensive forecasting and budgeting procedures. A medium term business and financial planning process is used to deliver the authority's strategic objectives, including:
- A 30 year Business Plan for the Council's housing stock to ensure ongoing viability, which is reviewed annually;
- A Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure sustainable finances for all other Council services, which is updated twice a year, in February and September;
- A Capital Strategy which is updated annually;
- A 3 year capital programme and a 10 year capital projection, which are updated annually;
- A Treasury Management and Investment strategy, which is updated annually; and
- A monitoring process that enables this to be delivered.

Financial information is generally provided on a monthly basis to the Management Team, and three times during the year to each Service Board. Periodic and annual reviews of financial reports indicate financial performance against forecasts for all of the Council's spending. Summary information is also published. Whilst the revised format for reporting to Management continued during 2021/22, financial updates continued to be discussed regularly. Service Boards received financial monitoring reports, and the MTFS was updated in September in line with usual practice.

Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders are in place, for use by all Members and Officers. These ensure there is effective use and control of resources, and robust and transparent decision making. The Financial Regulations were not reviewed during the year, so this will be carried out during 2022/23.

The CFO ensures that the Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Standard. This includes ensuring that all members of the Senior Management Team have the financial capabilities necessary to perform their respective roles. The CFO also accesses expert advice on specific areas such as Treasury Management and VAT, as required.

**Risk Management**

There are risks involved with the provision of any services, so the Council uses a system of risk management to minimise and manage the risks it faces. It does this by identifying both strategic and operational risks, looking at existing controls in place to reduce these, and amending these or bringing in new controls were this is beneficial.

The system involves an annual review of strategic risks by the Senior Management Team and an annual review by senior managers of operational risks in their service areas. This

enables all Senior Managers to complete Annual Statements of Assurance, and to identify actions that are needed to manage risk in the coming year, including the identification of any new risks.

The annual report for 2020/21 was provided during the year, and included information on the strategic risks for 2021/22, as well as the more significant operational risks. Risks are reviewed corporately part way through the year, and specific checking is carried out during the year by the Internal Audit section, as part of their audit work. The Resources Board normally receive a mid year update on risk management activity, but this did not happen in 2021/22 due to the ongoing pressures of the pandemic. The requirement for increased oversight of risk management activity has been raised by the Resources Board.

As part of our risk management, the Council has insurance in place to cover the risk of loss. The levels of cover and the excess amounts are kept under continual review.

**Internal Audit**

A key feature of regulations the Council needs to comply with is the requirement for internal audit. A local authority must maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and its system of internal control.  The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Council's Internal Audit team has demonstrated compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit standards. The team use a risk based approach to formulate audit plans and determine the scope of audit reviews.

The Council has a zero tolerance to all forms of fraud and corruption and employs a counter fraud officer who works closely with the Revenues, Benefits and Housing teams to identify, deter and prevent all forms of fraud. We also have a joint working agreement with the Department for Works and Pensions.

**Responsibilities of Officers and Members**

The Council ensures that it is operating efficiently by specifying the different roles and responsibilities of both Councillors and Officers. The remit of each decision making Board is set down in the constitution, along with the roles of individual Councillors. The Council does not have an Audit Committee, but instead divides the core functions between the Executive Board and the Resources Board. The constitution also outlines the responsibilities of senior officers, and areas where they have been given delegated powers. Employee contracts include job descriptions, and these give the detail of individual roles, for all employees.

The Council uses workforce planning to identify future staffing requirements. This projects future service needs and the workforce that would be needed for their delivery. Recruitment difficulties in some service areas have highlighted the need to review and update workforce plans. Work was undertaken in a number of areas, but this was not progressed fully across the Council due to capacity issues.

The Council uses an appraisal system to set specific targets for individual staff on an annual basis.  These targets reflect their Division's targets in the Corporate Plan and the Divisional Service Plan and are subject to a six monthly review. The appraisal system is also used to assess the training and development needs of individual employees and ensure that they

have the skills and abilities to carry out the tasks required. Appraisals were temporarily suspended during the pandemic but reinstated in 2021/22. In addition, team meetings continued to be used to monitor performance. The annual staff survey was used to assess the working arrangements and barriers to performance. Greater use of electronic mediums continued with regard to communication with employees, were this was appropriate.

Induction training is carried out whenever a new Member is elected. After that, Member training is generally identified by individuals, or in response to issues that arise. An exception to this is the area of planning, as increasing changes in planning laws and regulations have resulted in fairly regular sessions being arranged.

**Impact of Covid on the Council and its Governance Arrangements**

The Council continued with the revised working arrangements introduced in response to Covid. Office based staff continued to work from home where possible, and those staff who needed to attend the offices, worked in line with adapted office processes in order to comply with Covid guidance. Revised procedures were also maintained for front line services, to enable social distancing wherever possible and to ensure appropriate PPE was available and used. Arrangements were revised during the year for some front line services, in response to changes in Government guidance.

Alternative control measures continued to be used in many areas, for example, the electronic procedure for authorisation of documents and meetings of the Emergency Management Team in place of Health and Safety Group meetings. Whilst the majority of meetings continued to take place virtually, the ability to hold virtual Board and Council meetings did not extend beyond May 2021, and physical meetings resumed. All possible precautions were taken to ensure those attending could do so safely.

The Council continued to administer a variety of business grant schemes throughout the year, advised businesses on required Covid measures and assisted with the enforcement of business closures. The Council also supported the roll out of the vaccination programme by making part of its building available as a vaccination clinic when other premises were not available.

The Council's finances continued to be affected as a result of the pandemic. The increases in some service costs due to new working arrangements continued, together with a continued loss of income, particularly in leisure services. Compensation for lost income was received from the Government but only for the April to June 2021 period.

CIPFA brought out a Financial Management Code in October 2019. Local Authorities were required to comply with the Code from April 2021, with 2020/21 used to supplement any shortfalls against the Code. The difficulties posed by the pandemic were recognised and whilst CIPFA still required compliance with the Code, it was accepted that full compliance from 1 April may not be achievable. Instead, the requirement was for full compliance to be achieved during the year. An assessment against the Financial Management Code was considered by the Executive Board in July 2021, and identified a few areas where work was needed. These included:
- A review of consultation arrangements
- The consolidation of asset management planning information
- Use of the CIPFA resilience index in financial planning and a review to ensure that all key balance sheet items are included in budget monitoring

**Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Governance Arrangements**

Progress has been made with the implementation of the Corporate Governance Action Plan approved last year:

- The revised of the 2021/22 Corporate Plan has been reviewed by the Executive Board, who have also received progress reports against current priorities;
- Although Board and Council meetings went back to physical meetings, they continued to be broadcast virtually, so that the public benefits of broadcasting could be evaluated;
- The use of virtual meetings continued in most areas, to enable compliance with Government guidance and in the interests of efficiency;
- The staff appraisal process recommenced towards the end of the year;
- Workforce planning continued. Current economic conditions impacted on some areas of the workforce, and these were taken into account when looking at service requirements;
- Some internal working groups have been resumed where this is appropriate;
- Whilst an assessment was made of the work required under the Financial Management Code, only limited progress against the action plan was achieved. This will need to be completed in 2022/23.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic during the year, the governance arrangements of the Council largely returned to pre pandemic levels over the course of the year. Management Team continued to provide corporate monitoring across the organisation as an alternative to some officer working groups, but internal groups restarted covering areas such as transport.

Internal audit work continued to be affected due to both the restrictions of the pandemic and a reduction in staff resources. However, the Corporate Director considers that sufficient work was undertaken to provide an opinion on the Council's control environment. The work undertaken by Internal Audit has enabled the Corporate Director Resources to conclude that the Council has a range of appropriate strategies, policies, procedures and protocols to address the corporate governance agenda.

**North Warwickshire Borough Council**

**CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2022/23**

North Warwickshire Borough Council is committed to the principles of good governance. This local Code of Corporate Governance has been developed in accordance with and is consistent with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (CIPFA/Solace).

**What is Corporate Governance?**

Governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, and for the right people, in a timely, open, inclusive, honest and accountable manner.

Corporate governance is made up of the systems, processes and values by which councils are directed and controlled and through which they are accountable to and engage with their communities. Good governance is crucial as it leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and ultimately good outcomes for citizens and service users. It also enables an authority to pursue its aims effectively whilst controlling and managing risk. This code sets out that commitment and how we evidence it.

**Principles of Good Governance**

This code is based on guidance provided to all UK local authorities which are centred on seven core principles designed to underpin the governance arrangements of all public sector bodies.

The diagram below illustrates how the various principles for good governance in the public sector relate to each other. It also shows how principles A and B permeate the implementation of principles C to G, demonstrating that good governance is dynamic and that an entity as a whole should be committed to improving through a process of evaluation and review.
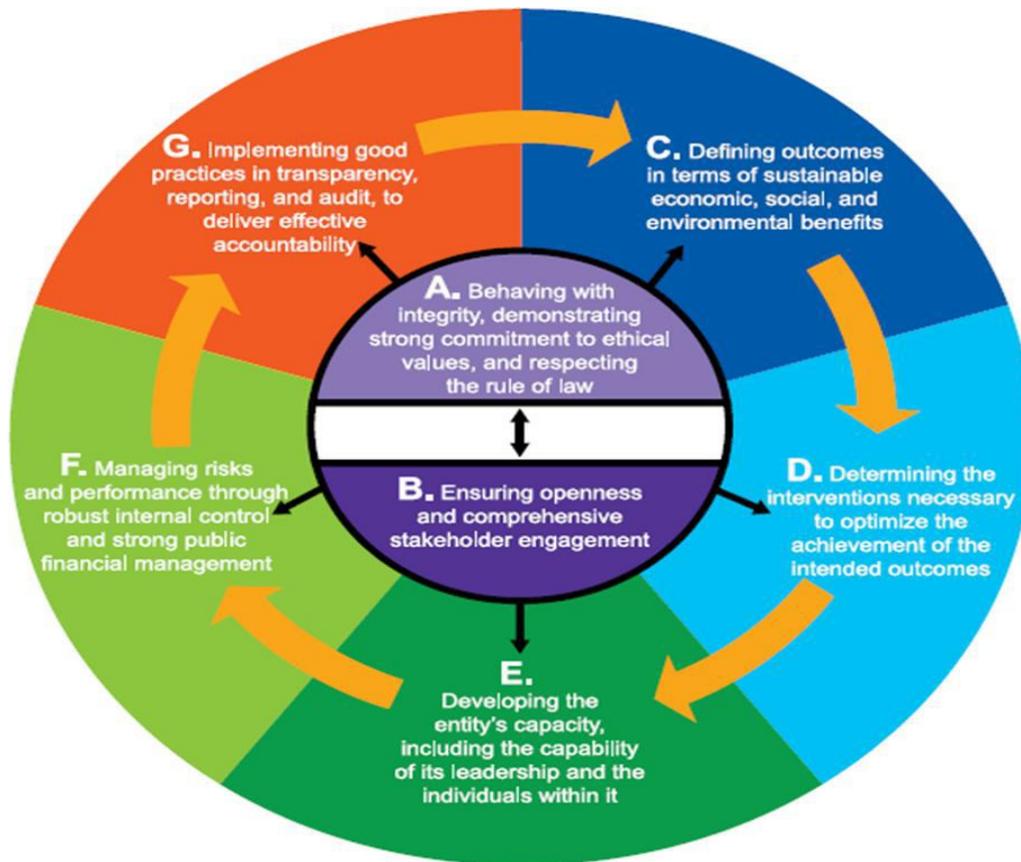
*The diagram and principles are taken from the International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CIPFA/International Federation of Accountants, 2014).*

**Responsibilities**

Elected members are collectively responsible for the governance of North Warwickshire Borough Council. The responsibilities include:

- Agreeing the Council's constitution, comprising the key governance documents including the democratic arrangements and making major changes to reflect best practice;

- Agreeing the policy framework including key strategies and agreeing the budget;
- Agreeing service arrangements and work plans, and reviewing audit matters;
- Appointing the Chief Officers; and
- Appointing committees responsible for regulatory matters and also appointing members to them.

The Council's Management Team and other Senior Managers are responsible for:

- Advising Boards and Committees on legislative, financial and other policy considerations to achieve the aims and objectives of North Warwickshire Borough Council;
- Implementing Councillors' decisions; and
- Service Performance.

**Monitoring and Review**

North Warwickshire Borough Council is required to prepare an annual governance statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which it complies with its code of governance.  This includes how it has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period.  The process of preparing the governance statement should in itself add value to the effectiveness of the governance and internal control framework.

The annual governance statement includes:

- An acknowledgment of responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance, incorporating the system of internal control, and reference to the Council's code of governance;
- Reference to and assessment of the effectiveness of the key elements of the governance framework and the role of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, such as the Management team, Internal Audit and others as appropriate;
- An opinion on the level of assurance that the governance arrangements can provide and that the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework;
- An action plan showing actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance issues; reference to how issues raised in the previous year's annual governance statement have been resolved; and
- A conclusion.

North Warwickshire Borough Council's annual governance statement shall be approved by the Council's Executive Board and shall be published with the statement of accounts.  The approved statement shall be signed by the Leader and the Chef Executive.

**PRINCIPLE A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law**

**The council is accountable not only for how much we spend, but also how we use the resources under our stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes we have achieved. In addition, the Council has an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, we can demonstrate the appropriateness of all our actions across all activities and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.**

| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Behaving with integrity**<br><br>• Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation<br><br>• Ensuring members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood.  These should build on the Seven Principles of public Life (the Nolan Principles)<br><br>• Leading by example and using the above standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions<br><br>• Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively | • Council Constitution – rules of procedure<br>• Minutes of Meetings<br>• Member and Employee Codes of Conduct<br>• Planning Protocol for Members and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters<br>• Members and Employees Registration of Gifts & Hospitality<br>• Members and Employees Declaration of Interests<br>• Whistleblowing Policy<br>• Financial Regulations<br>• Contract Standing Orders<br>• Complaints and Complaints Procedure<br>• Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy<br>• Anti Money Laundering Policy<br>• Data Protection Policy<br>• Guide on the Internal Audit Function |

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| **Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values:**<br><br>• Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the organisation's ethical standards and performance<br><br>• Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the organisation's culture and operation<br><br>• Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values<br><br>• Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the organisations are required to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards expected by the organisation | • Members and Employees Codes of Conduct<br>• Financial Regulations<br>• Contract Standing Orders<br>• Procurement & Commissioning Strategy<br>• Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure<br>• Annual Staff Appraisals<br>• Information Security Policy |
| **Respecting the rule of law**<br><br>• Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations<br><br>• Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders, and members, are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements<br><br>• Striving to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholders<br><br>• Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively<br><br>• Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively | • Council Constitution<br>• Guidelines and training for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor<br>• Members and Employees Codes of conduct<br>• Statutory Officers responsibilities set out in the Constitution<br>• Job descriptions for Officers and Members<br>• Protocol on Member / Officer Relations<br>• Anti Fraud & Corruption Policy<br>• Whistleblowing Policy<br>• Complaints Procedure<br>• Data Protection Policy<br>• Corporate Plan<br>• Scrutiny included as a function of Resources Board<br>• Disciplinary Policy |

| PRINCIPLE B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement |
|---|

| Local government is run for the public good, organisations therefore should ensure openness in their activities.  Clear trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders |
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| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Openness**<br><br>• Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness<br><br>• Making decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes.  The presumption is for openness.  If that is not the case, a justification for the reasoning for keeping a decision confidential should be provided<br><br>• Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used.  In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear<br><br>• Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/courses of action | • Data transparency web site page<br>• Responses to Freedom of Information Act requests<br>• Service and financial information published online<br>• Board / council meetings open to the public, with an opportunity for public questions<br>• Published agendas and minutes for Council meetings<br>• Corporate Plan<br>• Reason for exclusion of public from Council meetings required, and record kept<br>• Public consultation on major projects and some small local projects<br>• Local Plan inspection process open to the public, with the Inspectors notes published on the website<br>• Staff appraisals and surveys<br>• Recruitment & Selection procedures<br>• Procurement Procedures |

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| **Engaging comprehensively with institutional Stakeholders**<br><br>NB institutional stakeholders are the other organisations that local government needs to work with to improve services and outcomes (such as commercial suppliers and partners as well as other public or third sector organisations) or organisations to which they are accountable.<br><br>• Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably<br><br>• Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively<br><br>• Ensuring that partnerships are based on:<br>  ➢ Trust;<br>  ➢ A shared commitment to change;<br>  ➢ A culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners; and<br>  ➢ the added value of partnership working is explicit. | • Borough Plan consultations<br>• Regular meetings with other organisations, such as WCC and Warwickshire Police<br>• Data sharing Protocols<br>• Work with Housing Associations<br>• Membership of the Central Building Control Partnership<br>• Community Partnership work<br>• Membership of the Heart Project<br>• Membership of the Waste Management Boar<br>• Member of the Material Recycling Facility Partnership |

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|---|---|
| **Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively** | • Local Plan Consultation<br>• User Surveys<br>• Complaints & Compliments Procedure<br>• Housing Tenants Forum<br>• Public participation in Board / Council meetings<br>• Use of web site / social media<br>• Elected Member surgeries / feedback<br>• Staff surveys<br>• Asset sales where appropriate |

Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively

• Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve communities, individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes

• Ensuring that communication methods are effective and that Members and Officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagement

• Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs

• Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how views have been taken into account

• Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity

• Taking account of the impact of decisions on future generations of tax payers and service users

• Local Plan Consultation
• User Surveys
• Complaints & Compliments Procedure
• Housing Tenants Forum
• Public participation in Board / Council meetings
• Use of web site / social media
• Elected Member surgeries / feedback
• Staff surveys
• Asset sales where appropriate

| PRINCIPLE C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits |
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| The long term nature and impact of many of local government's responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the organisation's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens, service users, and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available |
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| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Defining outcomes**<br><br>• Having a clear vision, which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provide the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions<br><br>• Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer<br><br>• Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available<br><br>• Identifying and managing risks to achievement of outcomes<br><br>• Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available; | • Council Vision and Priorities<br>• The Corporate Plan<br>• The North Warwickshire Local Plan<br>• North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (vision)<br>• Affordable Housing Viability assessment<br>• Medium Term Financial Strategy<br>• Capital Strategy<br>• HRA 30 Year Business Plan<br>• Green Space Strategy<br>• Risk Management Strategy<br>• Treasury Management and Investment Strategy<br>• Annual Strategic and Operational Risk Assessments |

| Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits | |
|---|---|
| • Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision<br><br>• Taking a longer term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the organisation's intended outcomes and short term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints<br><br>• Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs<br><br>• Ensuring fair access to services | • Board report template used for reporting, covering all implications<br>• Record of decisions taken and reports considered<br>• Deferrals/consultation utilised where more information is required<br>• Corporate Vision and Plan<br>• Use of Service Strategies<br>• Risk Management Policy<br>• Medium Term Financial Strategy<br>• Capital Strategy and HRA Business Plan<br>• Equal Opportunities and Equality Policy<br>• Equality impact Assessments |

**PRINCIPLE D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of intended outcomes.**

**Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory, and practical interventions (courses of action). Determining the right mix of these courses of action is a critically important strategic choice that local government has to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. They need robust decision making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the various types of resource inputs while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made need to be reviewed frequently to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.**

| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Determining interventions** <br><br> • Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and associated risks. Therefore ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided <br><br> • Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts | • Board report template used for reporting, with appropriate professional staff covering specific implications <br> • Corporate Management Team / Extended Management team <br> • Policies considered by both Service Boards and Executive Board <br> • Medium Term financial Strategy <br> • Risk Management Framework <br> • Use of Tenants Forum, User Groups, feedback from partners <br> • Internal / External Audit reviews <br> • Complaint & Compliment procedure <br> • Health & Safety Group <br> • Annual staff surveys |

**Planning interventions**

- Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets

- Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered

- Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risk

- Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering goods and services can be adapted to changing circumstances

- Establishing appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of the planning process in order to identify how the performance of services and projects is to be measured;

- Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly

- Preparing budgets in accordance with objectives, strategies and the medium term financial plan

- Informing medium and long term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy

- Corporate Planning aligned with budget setting
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- HRA Business Plan
- Capital strategy
- Treasury Management and Investment Strategy
- Performance and financial update reports throughout the year
- Strategies backed up by action plans
- Health & Safety Working Group
- User surveys
- Regular review of operational and strategic risks
- Business Continuity plans for all Service Areas
- Use of procurement frameworks

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| **Optimising achievement of intended outcomes**<br><br>• Ensuring the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints<br><br>• Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term<br><br>• Ensuring the medium term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage<br><br>• Ensuring the achievement of 'social value' through service planning and commissioning | • Budgets reviewed by Corporate Management Team<br>• Medium Term Financial Strategy assessed by Service Boards, but need Council approval<br>• Use of HRA Business Plan<br>• Capital / Treasury Management Strategies<br>• Corporate Planning aligned with budget setting<br>• Divisional Service Plans<br>• Regular divisional budget monitoring / review meetings with finance staff |

**PRINCIPLE E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.**

Local government needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications and mind set, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve intended outcomes within the specified periods.  A local government organisation must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation as a whole.  Because both individuals and the environment in which an organisation operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of individual staff members.  Leadership in local government is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities.

| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Developing the entity's capacity**<br><br>• Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness<br><br>• Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how resources are allocated so that defined outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently<br><br>• Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved<br><br>• Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources | • Regular finance and performance reports<br>• Benchmarking undertaken by services eg. HouseMark used by Housing<br>• Use of a Procurement and Commissioning strategy<br>• Involvement in Heart Shared Service, Central Building Control Partnership and Material Recycling Partnership<br>• Workforce planning in service areas<br>• Transformation projects to improve use of resources |

| **Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals** | |
|---|---|
| • Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained | • Protocols included within the Constitution eg. Monitoring Officer Protocol |
| | • Job descriptions for Senior Officers are agreed by the Executive Board |
| • Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body | • Member appointment of Senior officers |
| | • Annual Member appraisal of the Chief Executive |
| | • Decision making set out in the Constitution |
| | • Schemes of Delegation |
| • Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other's authority | • Regular meetings with Leaders Group and the Opposition Leadership |
| | • Board briefings for Leaders/ Deputy Leaders / Shadow Leaders |
| | • Democratic Services support |
| • Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective leadership and to enable the organisation to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risks by:- | • Workforce policies |
| | • Induction training for both Members and employees |
| | • Training and development for employees, some mandatory |
| | • Training and development for Members |
| | • Annual appraisals for employees |
| | • HR policies and procedures |
| ➢ Ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that on-going training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged | |
| ➢ Ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis | |
| ➢ Ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons | |

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| learned from governance weaknesses both internal and external<br><br>• Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation<br><br>• Taking steps to consider the leadership's own effectiveness and ensuring leaders are open to constructive feedback from peer review and inspections;<br><br>• Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs<br><br>• Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing | • Public participation in Board / Council meetings<br>• Housing Tenant Forum<br>• User surveys<br>• Half yearly Internal Audit reports to Resources Board<br>• External audit reports to Executive Board<br>• Involvement with peers / peer groups / local interest groups<br>• Health and Safety Policies and Procedures<br>• Health and Safety Group |

**PRINCIPLE F: : Managing risks and performance  through robust internal control and strong public financial management.**

Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees are implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services.  Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and are crucial to the achievement of outcomes.  Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision making activities.

A strong system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will enforce financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery and accountability.

It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny are in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful service delivery.  Importantly, this culture does not happen automatically, it requires repeated public commitment from those in authority.

| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Managing risk**<br><br>• Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making<br><br>• Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that they are working effectively<br><br>• Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated | • Risk Management Framework<br>• Strategic and Operational Risk Registers<br>• Half yearly review of control measures carried out with Corporate Directors / Divisions by Financial Services<br>• Risk management reports to Resources Board<br>• Risk implications included on all reports |
| **Managing performance**<br><br>• Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review | • Corporate and Service Plans<br>• Corporate Plan and financial updates<br>• Risk Management Framework |

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| • Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook<br><br>• Encouraging effective and constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives to support balanced and effective decision making<br><br>• Providing members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement<br><br>• Ensuring there is consistency between specification stages (such as budgets) and post implementation reporting (e.g. financial statements) | • Risk implications included on all reports<br>• Annual Statement of Accounts<br>• Annual summary of work accomplished / progress against targets<br>• Progress reports to Service Boards<br>• Financial Regulations and Standing Orders<br>• Minority Report Procedure |
| **Robust internal control**<br><br>• Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives<br><br>• Evaluating and monitoring risk management and internal control on a regular basis<br><br>• Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place<br><br>• Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor<br><br>• Ensuring an audit committee or equivalent group/function, which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing | • Corporate management structure to allow officer challenge<br>• Risk Management Framework<br>• Strategic and Operational Risk Registers<br>• Internal Audit Plans decided following a risk assessment of Council service areas<br>• Internal Audit findings reported to Senior Management and Resources Board<br>• Anti-fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy<br>• Anti-Money Laundering Policy<br>• Annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit, who work to Public Sector Internal Audit standards<br>• Corporate Governance reviewed by Internal Audit<br>• Use of a Counter Fraud Officer<br>• Use of RIPA and social media investigation guidelines<br>• Resources Board receive and review the Council's risk |

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| body:<br>➢ Provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment<br>➢ That its recommendations are listened to and acted upon | management arrangements |
| **Managing data**<br><br>• Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data<br><br>• Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies<br><br>• Reviewing and auditing regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring | • Designated Data Protection Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner<br>• GDPR guidance and staff training<br>• Data Protection Policy<br>• Privacy Notices on the Council's website<br>• Information Security Policy (some updating needed)<br>• Adoption of the Warwickshire Information Sharing Protocol<br>• Adherence to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements<br>• Corporate administration of Freedom of Information requests, including reporting to Board |
| **Strong public financial management**<br><br>• Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-tern financial and operational performance<br><br>• Ensuring well developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls | • Medium Term Financial strategy<br>• 30 Year HRA Business Plan<br>• Capital Strategy<br>• Treasury Management and Investment Strategy<br>• Monthly budgetary monitoring reports, including 'hotspot' reports to Management Team |

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**PRINCIPLE G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability**

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Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them.  Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the organisation plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner.  Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.

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| Supporting Principles: | Examples of evidence demonstrating compliance |
|---|---|
| **Implementing good practice in transparency**<br><br>• Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate<br><br>• Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand | • Report template used, and adapted when appropriate<br>• Agendas, reports and minutes available on the council's website<br>• Transparency Information published<br>• Information published on an 'A-Z' service basis<br>• Links provided where greater detail is available |
| **Implementing good practices in reporting**<br><br>• Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable way<br><br>• Ensuring members and senior management own the results reported<br><br>• Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this Framework have been applied and | • Annual financial statements, including narrative report<br>• Annual Governance Statement<br>• Annual Governance Action Plan<br>• Code of Corporate Governance available on the website<br>• External Auditor reports and Annual Audit letters available on the website<br>• VFM Conclusion of the External Auditor |

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| publishing the results on this assessment, including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (the annual governance statement)<br><br>• Ensuring that this Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate<br><br>• Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other, similar organisations | |
| **Assurance and effective accountability**<br><br>• Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon<br><br>• Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon<br><br>• Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations<br><br>• Gaining assurance on risk associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement<br><br>• Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met. | • Executive Board Terms of Reference (Constitution)<br>• Compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit standards<br>• Annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit<br>• Internal Audit work reported to Resources Board<br>• Achievement of recognised standards eg. DSS PSI<br>• Annual Governance Statement<br>• Partnership agreements eg. North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership, Warwickshire Information Sharing Protocol |

**Executive Board**


**Report of the Chief Executive**          **Levelling Up and Devolution**


1  **Summary**

1.1  The purpose of this report is to formally update Members on recent developments with regard to the Levelling Up and Devolution agendas.

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**Recommendation to the Board**

a  **That the report be noted;**

b  **That the approach to Levelling Up and Devolution be approved;**

c  **That the proposed Levelling Up Fund application be noted and delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive to finalise and submit the bid; and**

d  **That the approach to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund be agreed and delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive to finalise and submit the bid.**

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2  **Consultation**

2.1  The topics covered in the report relate to the whole Borough and no specific consultation has taken place. The issues raised have been discussed via informal briefings with the Group Leaders.

3  **Report**

3.1  This report will cover the Levelling Up policy, give an update on matters relating to the devolution of powers from central Government, the Levelling Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**Levelling Up And Devolution**

3.2  Members will be aware that the current Government have 'Levelling Up' as a major element of their policy aspiration, culminating in the White Paper published earlier this year.

3.3    The phrase 'levelling up' has a number of connotations and in the White Paper it is defined as

> *"giving everyone the opportunity to flourish. It means people everywhere living longer and more fulfilling lives, and benefiting from sustained rises in living standards and well-being"*

3.4    The steps towards this aim are variously stated within the White Paper and include:

> *a. boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;*
>
> *b. spreading opportunities and improving public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;*
>
> *c. restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and*
>
> *d. empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.*

3.5    In addition, there are 12 supporting 'missions' to be achieved in order to ensure the Levelling Up aspirations are secured. These are set out in Appendix 1.

3.6    Allied to this is the idea of devolving powers from central Government in areas where local control will produce better outcomes. Members will be aware that a number of 'devolution deals' have been done with Mayoral Combined Authorities, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority (which is being offered a 'Trailblazer' extension to its devolution deal), and the Government is now keen to increase the number of areas with such a deal.

3.7    These will be offered to County Councils but the Government has recommended that they work closely with District/Borough Councils and other stakeholders. As a result, work has started with partners to develop a countywide Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire. This will provide an overarching framework for Warwickshire to deliver against the twelve national missions, as well as informing and framing ongoing work to develop proposals for a devolution deal for Warwickshire to enable delivery against countywide and national levelling up priorities.

3.8    In terms of the discussion so far in Warwickshire, Appendix 2 sets out a suggested approach to Levelling Up, setting out the principles, a local definition, and identifying geographical priorities and priority topics (interests) to address.

3.9    This approach is very welcome as it acknowledges the fundamental difference between the South of the County and the North. An attempt to use

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the 'Warwickshire average', and attempt to align or level that up to the rest of the country, would miss the point of levelling up and make things worse. The risk with that approach would be that the more affluent areas could improve, bringing the 'Warwickshire average' up, but miss the very areas where levelling up is needed the most.

3.10  It is disappointing that Arley and Dordon are not included in this list given the needs of these areas. We will continue to work with the County Council on this.

3.11  In terms of emerging Devolution themes, these should be linked to the Levelling Up work and the following devolution topics have been identified:

- Inclusive, green economic growth, good jobs and skills for the future
- Improving infrastructure, transport and connectivity
- Delivering net zero
- Educational attainment
- Improving health and well-being
- Regenerating priority communities, planning & meeting future housing need

3.12  It is fair to say that this work is in its infancy at the moment and with the national political changes ongoing, the Council will need to review the extent to which these national policy priorities continue with a new Government. In the expectation that much of it will, further work will take place within Warwickshire to firm up these ideas. At the moment the priorities are high level and focused on what the main levelling up challenges are. Work now needs to shift into developing policy interventions for what are in many cases historic and deep seated issues, which has resisted significant change from previous policy interventions. Therein however lies the prize in terms of ensuring fairness and providing everyone with the opportunity to flourish.

**Levelling Up Fund**

3.13  Members will recall that last year the Government launched the Levelling Up Fund, which is designed to invest in infrastructure 'that improves everyday life across the UK, supporting town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets'. Each District and Borough in England was placed into one of three priority categories for investment based on a range of criteria. North Warwickshire was placed in the middle category.

. . .  3.14  A bid was prepared last year based on a new leisure centre in Atherstone, incorporating a new library and NHS clinic facility. The bid was not successful however following feedback from Government, a revised bid has been prepared for round 2 of the Fund. A summary of the proposed bid is attached as Appendix 3. The original deadline for submission of bids in round 2 was the 6th July, however this has now been extended pending the opening of the

7/3

Government's portal for bids to be submitted. This report seeks delegated powers to the Chief Executive to finalise and submit the application.

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

3.15 Members will also be aware that the Government has announced the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is intended to be the successor to the various strands of European Union funding.

3.16 District and Borough Councils will now receive and be responsible for allocating these funds to promote a number of locally determined actions. A note on the Fund is attached at Appendix 4 and further work is needed ahead of the deadline of 1st August for submission of the investment plan. Given this timescale, this report seeks delegated powers to the Chief Executive to finalise and submit the application.

4 **Report Implications**

4.1 The wide ranging nature of the Levelling Up and Devolution agenda means that all of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities are engaged as the overall aim of this work is to improve life experiences and opportunities for those who live and work in the Borough.

4.2 There are a number of financial implications of the work detailed above, given that additional expertise and capacity has been engaged to work up the Levelling Up Fund application and investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. With regard to the Levelling Up Fund this will cost £62,346, and for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund £15,100, with the New Initiatives Reserve used to cover both amounts. In addition, if successful the Council will allocate £3 million of its own funding towards the joint Leisure Centre, Library and Clinic.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).

**Background Papers**

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

| Background Paper No | Author | Nature of Background Paper | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | HM Government | Levelling Up White Paper – link in the report | February 2022 |
| 2 | HM Government | UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus | April 2022 |

**The 12 Missions to Level Up the UK**

**1.** By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

**2.** By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

**3.** By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

**4.** By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

**5.** By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.

**6.** By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.

**7.** By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.

**8.** By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

**9.** By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

**10.** By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

**11.** By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

**12.** By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

# Levelling up – The Warwickshire Approach

- A Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire which:
- Makes sense of the national Levelling Up missions and policy for Warwickshire
- Shares our commitment to Levelling up with our communities
- Complements the organisational plans and strategies of all
- Influences current and future strategies
- Recognises and builds on the power of all our communities, partnerships, networks, and forums
- Informs our future collective work on devolution

Our approach will be:

- Cross-organisational

- Joined up

- Focus on different spatial levels - countywide, places and hyper-local
- Identification and alignment of targeted priorities

- Added value

- Maximising benefits for Warwickshire communities

# Our principles for Levelling Up

•A joint mission and holistic approach - we will bring together our partners from across Warwickshire's public, private, voluntary and community sectors to work together on levelling up. We will work closely with Government and regional bodies so that Warwickshire benefits from opportunities to do more locally and deliver on wider national and regional agendas.

• A long-term approach - addressing disparities and increasing social mobility will take decades. Our approach will commit to making sustainable progress on long-term issues while delivering quick wins where we can.

• Addressing root causes - we will use data, insight and partnerships to tackle the root causes of complex issues, rather than the symptoms.

• Strengths-based: we will build on the strengths of individuals, communities, places and interest groups to improve quality of life for them. Our approach will not hold back other places or groups where things are better.

• Data-driven: we will use data to track our long-term trajectory and progress, using national benchmarks wherever possible. We will learn and evolve our approach.

• Targeted and tailored to communities of place and interest - Based on data and insight, we will prioritise the communties of place and communities of interest that need most support. Building on their strengths, we will help them build the capacity to improve things in the long-term, tailoring our approaches to local circumstances and avoiding 'one size fits all' approaches.

# A Working Definition for Warwickshire

Increasing opportunity and social mobility: ensuring the success you enjoy in life is less dependent on where you live, your background and who your parents are by:

- spreading opportunity and embedding aspiration;
-  fulfilling people's potential in life; and
- building inclusive economic growth to ensure valued, well-paid and high quality jobs.

Reducing disparities: addressing and preventing gaps and inequalities in:
- standards of living;
- health, happiness and well-being;
- educational attainment;
- access to good, affordable housing; and
- connectivity (transport and digital).

# A Working Definition for Warwickshire (2)

Building community power: Increasing pride in the place you live in, and unleashing the potential of communities by increasing your voice and influence over your places.

Creating sustainable futures: ensuring climate change and adaptation are a central part of Levelling Up so future generations can live in a sustainable county with good opportunities and quality of life, including standards of living

# Levelling Up Themes

Communities of place

• General support for communities of place and sense of correlation with police and health analysis/areas - with need to do further 'overlaying'

 • Need to aware of the hidden deprivation and rural isolation/need which should feature more

# Communities of Place

Based on an analysis of data on need and inequalities, our initial key places (LSOA) of interest are the 22 in the bottom 2 deciles of deprivation nationally:

Bar Pool North & Crescents

Camp Hill Village & West

Abbey Town Centre

Lillington East

Hill Top

Kingswood Stockingford Schools

Bede East

Poplar Coalpit Field

Riversley

Brownsover South Lake District

Poplar Nicholas Chamberlain

Kingswood Grove Farm & Rural

Mancetter South & Ridge Lane

Middlemarch & Swimming Pool

Abbey Priory

Camp Hill East & Quarry

Abbey North

Bede Cannons

Camp Hill North West & Allotments

Atherstone Central

Bede North

Rugby Town Centre

Communities of interest

• General support and recognition of the groups proposed

• Additional groups to include older people, mental health & isolation, cost of living/just coping, education and work readiness

• More specificity may be required

# Communities of Interest

- Households with gross disposable income below the England average
- Communities with poor connectivity to large employment centres
- Early years
- Pupils in primary school not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths
- Pupils in secondary education not achieving GCSEs in English and maths by age 19
- School aged children who are missing 10%+ of possible school sessions
- Children living in workless households
- Adults in unskilled employment
- Adults with no qualifications above a level 3
- Overweight and obese children
- Adults at risk of cardiovascular diseases
- People who have SEND
- Care experienced people

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENT

# ATHERSTONE ACTIVITY HUB.

SHORT DESIGN DOCUMENT
**NWBC**

23.06.2022

placemaking for life.

# ATHERSTONE ACTIVITY HUB | INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by IDP Architects on behalf of North Warwickshire Borough Council to support the levelling up fund BID for the new Physical Activity Hub in Atherstone. This RIBA Stage 2 document covers the architectural design proposals alongside client and key stake holder engagement, that have informed the development of the brief to this stage.

This document is complimented by a suite of further documents/ reports produced by our fellow consultant team covering design proposals, procurement strategies, project programme, project risks, cost planning and project spend profile.

IDP have worked alongside the client, key stake holders and the team below, in the development of the proposals for the project.

This project will invest £17.5m (including £15m of LUF investment) to create a new 'activity hub' on a strategic site in Atherstone town centre. This will include a new wet and dry leisure facility, new library and relocated NHS clinic. The project will also facilitate future phases of development, which would relocate the Council offices onto the site. The project would generate health and utility benefits to residents in this deprived area of North Warwickshire, as well as driving footfall and vibrancy to the town centre.

Project Management: Exi Group
Mechanical Engineering: Greenways BSC
Civil & Structural Engineering: JMS
Principal Designer: Dobson Grey
BREEAM: QuinnRoss

Partnering Contractor: Willmott Dixon

| Revision | - |
| Date | JUNE 2022 |
| Prepared by | SB |
| Checked by | JJH |

Cover Photo: View from Long Street looking towards existing access of Atherstone Leisure Centre, Library and Memorial Hall - IDP

# CONTENTS.

Long Street



Long Street – Junction Access



Long Street & Library



Long Street outside the Library



Junction Access to Memorial Hall, Library and ALC



Atherstone Leisure Centre

**KEY:**

- Site Boundary
- Conservation Area
- Primary Vehicular & Pedestrian Access Point
- Pedestrian Links/ Access Points
- Routes within Site Boundary
- Railway Line
- 'One Way' Route
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Public Transport Links
- Existing Buildings (to be demolished - phased approach)
- Key Frontage/s
- Adjacent Residential Properties & Associated Land
- Topographical Level Change
- Existing Trees (TPO & RPA's unknown - subject to Arboricultural Survey)
- 2 Minute Walk Radius
- Flood Zones (2 & 3)
- Sunpath
- Proposed Cycle Network Links

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS:**


1 | Site Access off Long Street


2 | Library & Site Access


3 | Memorial Hall & NHS (Right)


4 | Atherstone Leisure Centre

Map labels: A5, Residential Estate, Grendon Lodge, CROFT ROAD, ATHERSTONE LEISURE CENTRE, SHEEPY ROAD, NWBC Owned Car Park, St Mary's Church, MEMORIAL HALL, NHS CLINIC, LIBRARY, Arragon Land, LONG STREET, STATION STREET

Notes:

| Rev: | Date: | Comment(s): | Name: | Check: |
|------|-------|-------------|-------|--------|

| | |
|---|---|
| Project: | Atherstone Activity Hub |
| Title: | Opportunities & Constraints Plan |
| Drawn: | SB |
| Date: | 27.05.22 |
| Checked: | SB |
| Scale @ A3: | NTS |

status: **FEASIBILITY ONLY** RIBA Stage: 2

client: North Warwickshire Borough Council

Pro. No: / Drg No: **C5535/SK 04_00 Rev -**

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# Opportunities & Constraints Plan

CROFT

CROFT ROAD

SHEEPY ROAD

Stone

CHURCH STREET

Line of Posts

INDICATIVE / PROPOSED CAR PARKING

INDICATIVE / PROPOSED CAR PARKING

ATHERSTONE ACTIVITY HUB

PROPOSED ACCESS

LONG STREET

LB

ESS

Posts

AVINS COURTYARD

© This drawing and the building works depicted are the copyright of IDP and may not be reproduced or amended except by written permission. No liability will be accepted for amendments made by other persons.

All dimensions to be checked on site and architect notified of any discrepancies prior to commencement.
**Do not scale.**

Any and all elements relating to the fire safety of the building will require separate confirmation and approval by fully accredited fire engineering consultant who has to be appointed by the client.

Notes:

**Drawing based on:**
- OS Map & Topographical Survey: 1013.dwg & 1013_Bldg.dwg
- Scaled Google Earth Image (indicative and not accurate)
- New Leisure Facilities V1 - NWBC
- Sport England Guidance Documents

**KEY:**
- Site Boundary
- Flood Zone (Zone 3)
- Flood Zone (Zone 2)

**Approx. Building GIFA: 4550sqm**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev: | Date: | Comment(s): | Name: | Check: |

Status: **FEASIBILITY ONLY** RIBA Stage: 2

Client: North Warwickshire Borough Council

Project: Atherstone Activity Hub

Title: Proposed Site Layout

Drawn: SB — Date: 31.05.22

Checked: SB — Scale @ A1: 1:200

Pro. No: / Drg No: C5535/SK 03_00 Rev -

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Proposed Site Layout

1:500

0 10 20 30 40 50 m

PROPOSED CAR
PARKING TO REAR

HV CHARGE
POINTS

ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS

CYCLE RACKS

COACH PARKING

CROFT ROAD

SERVICE
COMPOUND

Learner Pool
234.3 m²

25m, 6 Lane Pool
591.0 m²

VIEW OUT

CLIMBING WALL

Adventure Play/
Clip & Climb
142.7 m²

SPECTATOR SEATING

Resident Right of Way
Access Point

5789

Store
21.1 m²

First Aid
18.7 m²

Store
30.0 m²

Multi-Purpose
Room
100.8 m²

CIRCULATION

INFORMAL SEATING

DROP-OFF

Pool Plant
164.4 m²

Wet Changing
Village
372.8 m²

Centre
Manager
Office
12.0 m²

Office
12.0 m²

Staff Room
17.1 m²

WC's
10.0 m²

ACCESS

ENTRANCE

Stair
15.7 m²

Stair & Lifts
35.0 m²

RECEPTION DESK

CAFE

6652

6000

1500

CIRCULATION

NHS Clinic &
NWBC NHS Rooms
354.0 m²

Library
263.7 m²

PROPOSED ACCESS

VIEW OUT

VIEW OUT

VIEW OUT

overhang above

Proposed Junction
(New Access Location)

LONG STREET

LONG STREET

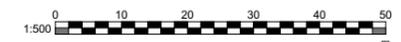Ground Floor / Adjacency Proposal

1:200

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20
m

Notes:

Drawing based on:
- OS Map & Topographical Survey: 1013.dwg & 1013_Bldg.dwg
- Scaled Google Earth Image (indicative and not accurate)
- North Warwickshire Update 220720, page 22
- New Leisure Facilities V1 - NWBC
- Sport England Guidance Documents

KEY:
— Site Boundary (Subject to Client Confirmation)
Flood Zone (Zone 3)
Flood Zone (Zone 2)

Approx. Building GIFA: 4550sqm
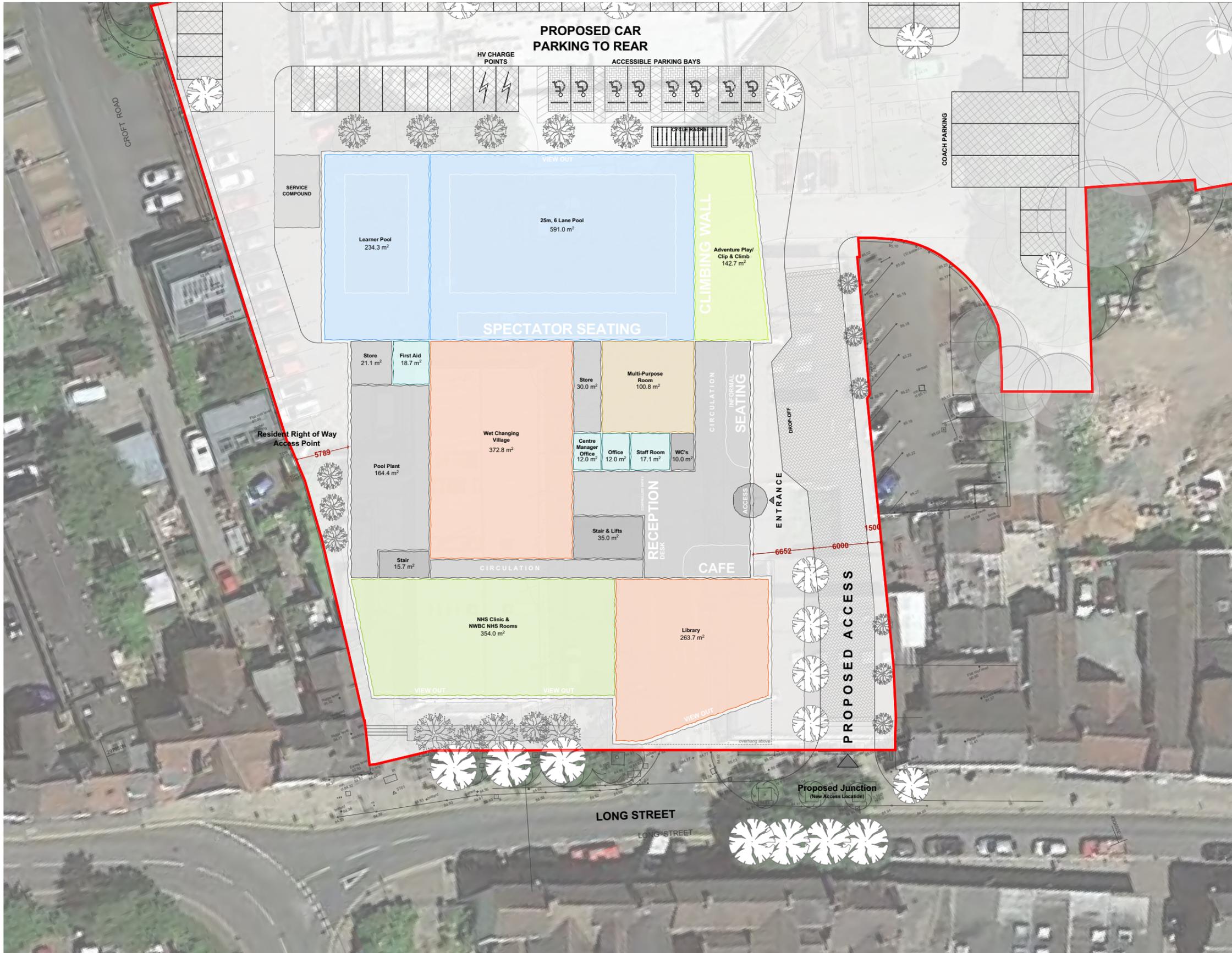
| Rev: | Date: | Comment(s): | | Name: | Check: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Status: FEASIBILITY ONLY   RIBA Stage: 2

Client: North Warwickshire Borough Council

Project: Atherstone Activity Hub

Title: Ground Floor / Adjacency Proposal

Drawn: SB   Date: 31.05.22

Checked: SB   Scale @ A1: 1:200
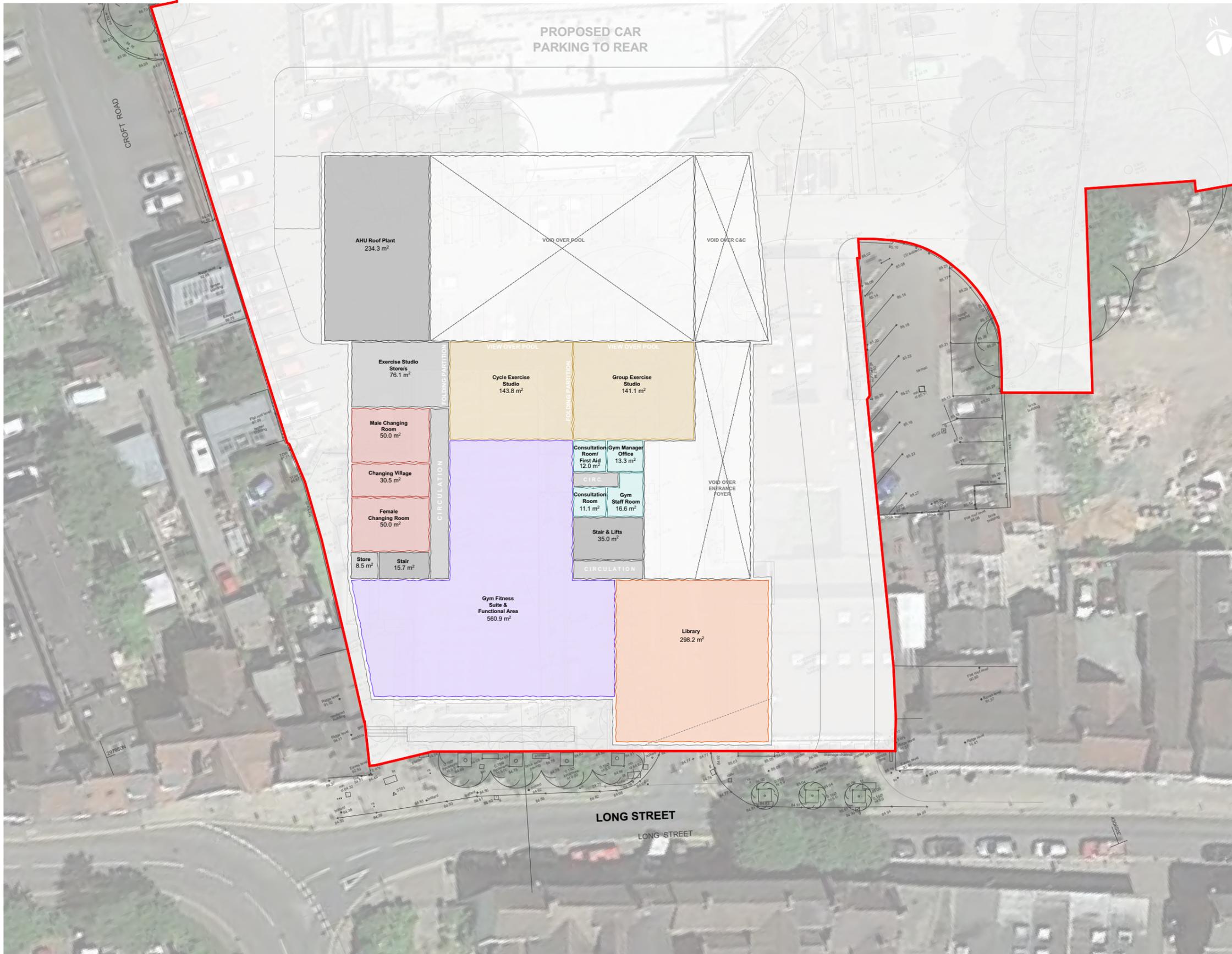
Pro. No:
Drg No: C5535/SK 20_00 Rev -

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PROPOSED CAR
PARKING TO REAR

Notes:

Drawing based on:
- OS Map & Topographical Survey: 1013.dwg & 1013_Bldg.dwg
- Scaled Google Earth Image (indicative and not accurate)
- North Warwickshire Update 220720, page 22
- New Leisure Facilities V1 - NWBC
- Sport England Guidance Documents

KEY:
- Site Boundary (Subject to Client Confirmation)
- Flood Zone (Zone 3)
- Flood Zone (Zone 2)

Approx. Building GIFA: **4550sqm**

CROFT ROAD

AHU Roof Plant
234.3 m²

VOID OVER POOL

VOID OVER C&C

Exercise Studio
Store/s
76.1 m²

VIEW OVER POOL

Cycle Exercise
Studio
143.8 m²

VIEW OVER POOL

Group Exercise
Studio
141.1 m²

Male Changing
Room
50.0 m²

Changing Village
30.5 m²

Consultation
Room/
First Aid
12.0 m²

Gym Manager
Office
13.3 m²

CIRC.

Female
Changing Room
50.0 m²

Consultation
Room
11.1 m²

Gym
Staff Room
16.6 m²

VOID OVER
ENTRANCE
FOYER

Store
8.5 m²

Stair
15.7 m²

Stair & Lifts
35.0 m²

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION

Gym Fitness
Suite &
Functional Area
560.9 m²

Library
298.2 m²

LONG STREET

LONG STREET

First Floor / Adjacency Proposal

1:200

# PRECEDENTS









# SITE

Image View from Station Road looking towards the site - Google Street View

Image: Aerial View of Atherstone - Google Earth Image obtained by IDP

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# ATHERSTONE ACTIVITY HUB | OVERVIEW

Atherstone is a town of c.11,000 people in North Warwickshire. It is characterised by higher than average levels of deprivation, which is specifically concentrated in its town centre. The town's residents also have poorer health relative to the general population. Atherstone has a modest town centre, which is facing economic challenges in keeping with many towns of a similar size, its high-street is facing higher than historic levels of vacancies driven by competition from out of town and on-line retail.

This project will invest £17.5m (including £15m of LUF investment) to create a new 'activity hub' on a strategic site in Atherstone town centre. This will include a:

- A new leisure facility with: Swimming pools - 6 lane x 25metre, Teaching pool; Adventure Play / Clip Climb; Gym ( health-related activity space for special populations within gym or separate room); Studios 1 x group exercise, 1 x spin; Multi-purpose room;
- A new library of 562sqm, including general lending facilities, meeting room space, study space, children's library, local history archive and a small events space. The library will continue to host a series of community events and activities.
- NHS clinic of circa 354sqm, which would continue the provision of integrated sexual health advice, physiotherapy for out-patients and emergency dentistry provision. The flexibility of the new space would allow further provision to be made on site in the future, subject to NHS operational plans.
- All three uses will share a joint atrium and reception area providing triage to each public service, alongside a café and seating area

The site is currently home to a leisure centre which is dated, costly to run, uses mechanical plant that is passed its lifespan and does not have the modern facilities demanded by many users. A library and NHS clinic are also on site and would be replaced by new facilities as part of the project.

The preparation of the site will facilitate the future relocation of Council offices onto the site, which sits outside of this LUF bid.

The project has already completed much of the required feasibility work. It has a contractor (Willmott Dixon) ready to go, supported by a professional team, including IDP architects and EXI project management. This team has prepared site appraisal, designs, costs and programme, which are all detailed in this bid All land required is owned by public sector stakeholders.

The scheme would be expected to achieve planning by Spring 2023, and be on-site from Summer 2023 and with the new facilities open to the public by December 2024.

The objectives of the LUF investment is to directly:

- Improve access to and overall participation in exercise via the delivery of a new leisure centre. In turn improving health and utility in the local population.
- Improve access to and increase the user levels of Atherstone library. In turn increasing cultural utility of the local population, as well as education outcomes.
- Safeguard provision of critical NHS health outreach facilities in the town centre, improving long-term access to health services and safeguarding services for the residents of Atherstone.

Impacts of the bid are expected to be:

- Improved health of the local population, which in turn will lead to higher levels of economic activity.
- Through the consolidation of public services into a critical town centre location the project is expected to drive footfall to the town centre and expand the town centre's offer.
- Through the increased attractiveness of the town and its town centre, the ambitions are to raise civic pride, increase the retention of its younger working-age population and encourage investment into the town.

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**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

## 1 Summary

1.1 This note sets out the background to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), suggests some indicative topics for the investment plan and recommends a meeting of Members to consider the matter further.

## 2 Report

2.1 As Members will be aware, since the UK exited the European Union, the Government has announced the UKSPF to replace the various EU funding streams.

2.2 The Government have made conditional allocations to District/Borough and Unitary Councils based upon a defined methodology: 70% per head of population and 30% which is a needs-based index (similar to other 'Levelling Up' priorities). The table below summarises the total amounts provisionally allocated in Warwickshire:

| Lead Local Authority | Conditional Allocation | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| North Warwickshire | £1,965,601 | Core UKSPF delivery |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | £4,028,173 | Core UKSPF delivery |
| Rugby | £3,052,921 | Core UKSPF delivery |
| Stratford-on-Avon | £3,596,031 | Core UKSPF delivery |
| Warwick | £3,484,412 | Core UKSPF delivery |
| Warwickshire County Council | £2,543,360 | Multiply only (The Multiply topic focuses on adult literacy. Submission of this investment plan must occur by 30th June 2022 and will be handled by the Department for Education) |
| **Total** | **£18,661,498** | |

2.3 Lead local partners are invited to submit investment plans which deliver across the three priorities of:

    1) Community and Place,

1

2) Supporting Local Business,
3) People and Skills.

2.4   Investment plans for the items above are due for submission by 1st August 2022. Local MPs will play an important role across the UKSPF process – advising, reviewing, and supporting the investment plan prior to UK Government sign-off.

2.5   Lead local authorities will be required to set out how they will deliver a successful investment programme and provide profiles for expenditure and deliverables, including measurable outcomes to reflect local needs and opportunities. A 'theory of change, logic framework or logic chain' will be required.

2.6   The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities will lead an assessment of the investment plans, focussing on:

- Local context – including challenges and opportunities
- Selection of outputs, outcomes and proposed interventions
- Delivery

2.7   Each lead local authority will be able to use 4% of the allocation for fund administration, which is around £78,000 for North Warwickshire. This includes items such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring, evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement. This programme is predominantly aimed at revenue-based expenditure as shown in the table below. Some capital is available, but this will need to be clearly evidenced in the overall funding request as part of the investment plan. The annual profiles also increase from 2023-24 to reflect the end of European Union Structural funding.

| Year | Core UKSPF: revenue | Core UKSPF: capital | Local multiply: revenue |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2022-23 | 90% | 10% | 100% |
| 2023-24 | 87% | 13% | 100% |
| 2024-25 | 80% | 20% | 100% |

2.8   The main features within the UKSPF Prospectus for each investment plan area are as follows (a number of the stated objectives are common across the areas):

- Community and Place

2

Satisfaction with town centres, engagement with local culture and community, reducing gaps in healthy life expectancy, increased wellbeing, and reducing homicide, serious violence and crime.

The Government is looking in this topic to improve the social fabric of an area, increase local pride, improve physical, cultural and social assets, and amenities such as green space and community led projects. The aim is to build resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, with targeted improvements to the built and natural environments. Examples given include community transport, CCTV and brownfield redevelopment.

- Supporting Local Business

Satisfaction with town centres, engagement with local culture and community, improving pay and productivity, and increasing Research and Development investment.

The Government is looking in this topic to create jobs and boost community cohesion. Particular emphasis is given to supporting start up businesses, improving local retail, hospitality and leisure facilities. The overall aim is to increase private sector investment in growth, target support for the SME sector and improve energy/carbon use. Examples given include business challenge funds and business advice schemes.

- People and Skills

Boosting core skills, supporting adults into work, and targeting adults with no or low qualifications and skills. The overall aim is to reduce economic inactivity including providing intensive life and employment support for those facing barriers to work.

There are two primary elements to this topic – employment support for the economically inactive and providing skills to progress in life and work. Examples given include community renewal funds providing training opportunities and support, 50+ employment support, and placements for those with common mental/physical conditions.

2.9 Based on this, an initial set of project or funding areas can be suggested:

- Town centres fund
- Community fund – to enhance facilities and amenities, built and natural
- Health programmes
- Community safety interventions
- Cost of living measures
- Skills and employability schemes
- Access/transport to jobs and services

3

- Business support
- Tourism

2.10 Members will note that the first year of the potential funding is the current financial year and decisions on the investment plans are not expected from Government until October, around half way through the first year. It may be therefore that the continuation of some of the schemes current paid for by existing EU funds (tourism, skills, business support) but with a more local focus would be necessary for the current year, not least as some of those schemes will continue to run until 2023 as the existing arrangements taper off and UKSPF funding tapers in. The phasing of funding for our indicative allocation of funding is as follows:

- 2022 / 23      £238,544
- 2023 / 24      £477,088
- 2024 / 25      £1,249,970

2.11 Officers will continue to meet to work up the detail required and an external consultant (who will also be assisting elsewhere in the County) is in the process of being engaged. There is also work going on across the County to assist and coordinate work, where appropriate, and the County Council have also offered to assist with certain tasks.

2.12 In addition, it is suggested that a small group of Members in the coming weeks to input into this work.

4

| Report of the Corporate Director - Resources | Budgetary Control Report 2022/23 Period Ended 30 June 2022 |

## 1    Summary

1.1    The report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.  The 2022/23 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, are given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to this Board.

---

**Recommendation to Council**

**To consider if any further information is required.**

---

## 2    Introduction

2.1    Under the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP), services should be charged with the total cost of providing the service, which not only includes costs and income directly incurred, but also support costs relating to such areas as finance, office accommodation, telephone costs and IT services.  The figures contained within this report are calculated on this basis.

## 3    Overall Position

3.1    Net expenditure for those services that report to the Executive Board as at 30 June 2022 is £162,262 compared with a profiled budgetary position of £164,144; an underspend of £1,882.  Appendix A to this report provides details of the profiled and actual position for each service reporting to this Board, together with the variance for the period.

3.2    Where possible, the budget to date figure has been calculated with some allowance for seasonal variations, in order to enable a better comparison with actual figures.

## 4    Risks to the Budget

4.1    The key risks to the budgetary position of the Council from services under the control of this Board are:-

| | Likelihood | Potential impact on Budget |
|---|---|---|
| The Local Plan process is becoming more costly due to the Duty to Cooperate and also needs to be repeated more often as national guidance requires. | High | High |
| The Emergency Planning budget may be insufficient to cover the costs of any major local emergency. | Low | High |

## 5 Estimated Out-turn

5.1 Members have requested that Budgetary Control Reports provide details on the likely out-turn position for each of the services reporting to this Board. The anticipated out-turn for this Board for 2022/23 is £772,480, the same as the Original Budget.

5.2 The figures provided above are based on information available at this time of the year and are the best available estimates for this Board and may change as the financial year progresses. Members will be updated in future reports of any changes to the forecast out turn.

## 6 Report Implications

### 6.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

6.1.1 Income and Expenditure will continue to be closely managed and any issues that arise will be reported to this Board for comment at future meetings.

### 6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 The Council is legally obliged to comply with the duty to cooperate when forming and adopting its Local Plan, and in responding to consultations by neighbouring authorities regarding formation and adoption of their plans. This means that such expenditure can not be avoided when it arises.

6.2.2 Similarly, the Council has various statutory duties in relation to emergency planning, including assessing the risk or an emergency or the likely need to respond to an emergency, maintaining plans to ensure that it can respond to an emergency and, should an emergency occur, performing its functions to reduce or mitigate its effects. Those duties specifically apply to emergencies which would impact on the performance of the Council's functions, or where it would be necessary or desirable to take action to prevent the emergency, reduce or mitigate its effects, and the Council would not be able to do so without changing the deployment of its resources or acquiring additional resources. Again, although less predictable than the type of expenditure likely to be incurred in relation to the local plan, the Council could be faced with a situation requiring implementation of its emergency plan.

## 6.3    **Environment, Climate Control and Health Implications**

6.3.1    The Council must ensure that it adopts and implements robust and comprehensive budgetary monitoring and control, to ensure not only the availability of services within the current financial year, but in future years.


The Contact Officer for this report is Nigel Lane (719371).

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# Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

| Background Paper No | Author | Nature of Background Paper | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Executive Board – Agenda item 9 | Corporate Director - Resources | General Fund Revenue Estimates and Setting the Council 2022-23 | 14th Feb 2022 |

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**North Warwickshire Borough Council**

**Executive Board**

**Budgetary Control Report 2022/23 as at 30 June 2022**

| Cost Centre | Description | Approved Budget 2022/23 | Profiled Budget June 2022 | Actual June 2022 | Variance | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| 2000 | Housing Strategic Service Review | 34,670 | 8,668 | 8,668 | (0) | |
| 2001 | Outreach and Access to Services | 121,710 | 32,142 | 32,402 | 260 | |
| 2002 | Corporate Communications | 72,120 | 14,338 | 13,686 | (652) | |
| 2003 | Community Strategy | 133,620 | 34,655 | 33,023 | (1,633) | |
| 2007 | Emergency Planning | 40,090 | 10,023 | 8,483 | (1,541) | |
| 2009 | N.Warks Local Development Framework | 367,220 | 63,555 | 62,794 | (761) | |
| 5050 | Support to Parishes | 3,050 | 763 | 3,208 | 2,445 | |
| | **Total Expenditure** | **772,480** | **164,144** | **162,262** | **(1,882)** | |

**Report of the Chief Executive**        **Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan Review: Preferred Options consultation**

## 1    Summary

1.1    Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (N&BBC) has published a consultation on Preferred Options 2024 – 2039 for a review of their Local Plan.  Comments are to be submitted by 22 July 2022.

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**Recommendation to Executive Board**

**The responses in this Board report and in Appendix A be supported and any further comments raised by members be sent on to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as the Councils response to this consultation.**

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## 2    Consultation

2.1    Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

## 3    Introduction

3.1    N&BBC are consulting on their Borough Plan Review: Preferred Options, along with an accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.  The consultation runs from 13 June to 22 July. A weblink to the online Preferred Options consultation, including links to the online Response Forms is as follows:
https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/info/21014/planning_policy/146/borough_plan_information

3.2    As members' will recall NBBC adopted their Local Plan in 2019.  NBBC took the decision to review the Local Plan following the publication of the updated National Planning Policy Framework 2021. It was also considered an opportunity to update the plan to reflect the Environment Act 2021 and emerging policies; the ongoing 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) and climate change crisis .

3.3    This emerging Plan extends the timeframe covered by the adopted Borough Plan until 2039. The Plan outlines a spatial vision and strategic objectives for

the area, along with a strategy and policies to enable its delivery and measures to monitor progress in achieving the aspirations of the Plan. Once adopted the Borough Plan will replace the Borough Plan adopted in 2019, covering the plan period from 2024 to 2039.

## 4    Observations

*Duty to Co-operate*

4.1    The Consultation Statement that accompanies the Preferred Options of the Borough Plan Review (2019) as required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) is fairly limited in its reference to the wider consultation with stakeholders, including the adjoining Local Authorities. There are therefore some concerns that the statutory 'Duty to Co-operate' has not been adequately addressed and the wider sub-regional and regional development issues and implications for N&BBC have not been fully considered or taken into account. The Duty to Co-operate is a statutory duty which lies at the soundness of a Local Plan. Although N&BBC has been involved with officer meetings, with the wider Warwickshire Local Authorities and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, it is not considered the duty to cooperate has been fully dealt with.   Although as members are aware there is a proposal within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to have this duty changed it is still in place and must be complied with.

4.2    This can be rectified by fully engaging and being part of the discussion in terms of needs from Coventry.  Clearly setting out how NBBC  is "positively engaging with all the relevant bodies during the plan making process" (see paragraph 1.9). It is noted that the brief, limited section on the Duty to Cooperate does not address how this engagement will occur, or how the legal requirement for the Duty to Cooperate will be appropriately, fully addressed.

4.3    Previously, N&BBC were, and still are, signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding with Coventry and all other Warwickshire Local Authorities to jointly agree measures to help address cross border issues and sub-regional needs or potential shortfalls . However, arising from the Consultation on the earlier Issues and Options stage, the Preferred Option in Chapter 5 (*Outcome to the Issues and Options stage*) makes a specific commitment to revoke the Memorandum of Understanding with Coventry City Council (paragraph 5.6 point 2), once the emerging ONS/CENSUS figures are checked and the Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) is finalised and published. A new Memorandum of Understanding is required to assist in complying with the legal Duty to Cooperate which will give confidence and re-assurance to other adjoining local authorities that measures to address cross border issues and sub-regional needs will be agreed.

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4.4    The scope of the Preferred Options is considered to be too inward looking dealing primarily only with local needs, with insufficient account taken, or reference made, to wider development pressures and cross border issues. This concern was specifically raised by North Warwickshire at the Issues and Options Stage, (highlighted in N&BBC's Consultation statement appendix - summary of responses to the Issues and options) where the Borough Council noted;

*"There are some significant concerns regarding the approach to the provision of housing and the strategic approach that is necessary to address wider housing needs and pressures. North Warwickshire Borough notes the concerns raised by the issues and options document but would urge Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough to acknowledge the need to potentially address wider than local housing need and reflect that in the assessment of housing requirement in the Plan and the relationships with and cross-boundary cooperation with adjoining Local Authorities and the wider sub-region, there may be the necessity and need to address cross border issues such as housing need through joint working partnerships".*

4.5    It is considered that these concerns have not been sufficiently addressed in the preferred options consultation, although it is noted that Strategic Policy DS4 states that strategic needs are 'to be reviewed when the HEDNA 2022 is published'.

*Employment*

4.6    The Borough Council notes and supports the N&BBC objectives to widen and diversify their employment base. But again, little reference is made to wider cross border issues and sub-regional pressures that are already impacting on N&BBC at sites such as Padgett Farm in adjoining Rugby Borough, alongside Nuneaton and the A5 Hinckley Island.

*Housing*

4.7    It is noted that the Preferred Options Housing Section makes reference to the emerging findings of the HEDNA and is supported in so far as it seeks to provide "appropriate local housing options".  However, the wider sub-regional needs implications are not noted or referred to in any significant way. In terms of the documents reference in the N&BBC Settlement hierarchy the preferred options do note the wider context in which the borough is located, with particular reference to the close proximity of other settlements outside the borough boundary such as Coventry, but provides no clear options to address this issue, which as the closest neighbour to Coventry and having a close functional relationship with the Borough is unsatisfactory.

4.8    There are also significant concerns over the timing of the Preferred Option being published prior to the completion of the joint Warwickshire Authorities HEDNA, which is currently still in progress, addressing growth pressures/needs across the sub-region and intends to address the latest

CENSUS Population data that is also currently being released over summer this year. The potential implications of both the emerging HEDNA and the CENSUS data may well result in further changes or work being necessary to the Plan and Preferred Options, as highlighted above in Strategic policy DS4 and Chapter 5, paragraph 5.6 dealing with the "Outcome to the Issues and Options stage".

*Transport*

4.9 One of the main cross border issues impacting on all development proposed is the highway infrastructure, network capacity and traffic levels. This is noted in Chapter 5 again, dealing with the Issues and Options responses (see Point 4 in Paragraph 5.6), and in paragraphs 7.7 and 8.13 to 8.16 of the document. Given the current transport issues impacting the A5, it is considered that the Preferred Options should note that any development along the A5 or to the north of Nuneaton should seek S106 monies for highways improvements. This would assist in addressing issues at Plough Hill Road and Plough Hill Road Junction improvements or consideration of a relief road linking to Coleshill Road and adjoining developments allocated in North Warwickshire Borough as well as to the A5.

4.10 Further consideration for a north-western relief road to address traffic and road infrastructure constraints in the wider Galley Common/Tuttle Hill and Stockingford areas and linking to the development along the A5, such as Strategic housing site SHA-1, should also be considered/included. The reference to a new distributor link road through the allocation, to include primary access points from Higham Lane through to Weddington Road is not considered sufficient to address and accommodate the wider network constraints and traffic growth as well as impacts on and flows through Nuneaton Town Centre.

4.11 Where other transport infrastructure network capacity constraints are impacted by development within Nuneaton, such as noted in criterion 9 of Strategic housing allocation SHA-2, and criterion 10 of Strategic housing allocation SHA-4, these should also be highlighted as needing to address the infrastructure needs of the Borough and adjoining authorities through CIL and S106 funding. These transport infrastructure points/allocation criteria are noted and supported, but would benefit from greater stress and identification, where known, of the network constraints and issues that will be directly impacted by the strategic development allocations, or specific inclusion in a supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

5 **Conclusion**

5.1 As noted in the comments and responses made to the Preferred Options consultation document above, there are some major concerns and shortfalls identified in the document that risk both the potential 'soundness' of the subsequent Plan and a potential failure to adequately address the Duty to Cooperate legal requirements. This Report, the attached Appendix 1 Response Form and any additional comments made by members at the

. . .

Executive Board, along with the minutes to the Board, will be forwarded to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as the formal response and concerns of North Warwickshire Borough Council. .

6       **Report Implications**

6.1     **Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications**

6.2     This report sets out the requirement to comply with the statutory Duty to Cooperate, and the potential implications this may have on the future Plan's "soundness" are noted in the Report.

6.3     **Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications**

6.4     The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Review, Issues and Options consultation 2021 has a separate sustainability appraisals and Habitats Regulation assessments (HRA) included as part of the consultation process.

6.5     **Links to Council's Priorities**

6.6     No direct links to Council priorities are considered relevant from the Preferred Options consultation. However, failure to fully address both N&BBC's local housing/employment needs and any wider sub-regional needs risks impacting on our Borough in the future when the current adopted Local Plan needs reviewing and if the legal requirements of the Duty to Cooperate are still in force at that time.


The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719451).


**Background Papers**

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

| Background Paper No | Author | Nature of Background Paper | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |

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| | **Borough Plan Review** **Preferred Options consultation draft** Response Form | **Ref:** **(For official use only)** |
|---|---|---|

**Please return to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council by 22nd July 2022 via:**

**Email: planning.policy@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk or**

**Post: Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA.**

**Data Protection**
We will treat your data in accordance with our Privacy Notice:
www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/info/21004/access_to_information/410/privacy_notice/7.
Information will be used by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council solely in relation to the Borough Plan review. Please note that all responses will be available for public inspection, and cannot be treated as confidential. Representations, including names, may be published on our website. By submitting this response form you are agreeing to these conditions. The Council is not allowed to automatically notify you of future consultations unless you 'opt-in'.
Do you wish to join the Planning Policy consultation database?
Yes ☐

This form has two parts –

Part A – Personal details

Part B – Your response.

**Part A**

| | **1. Personal details*** * If an agent is appointed, please complete only the title, name and organisation boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2. | **2. Agent's details (if applicable)** |
|---|---|---|
| Title | | **Mrs** |
| First name | | **Dorothy** |
| Last name | | **Barratt** |
| Job title (where relevant) | | **Forward Planning & Economic Development Manager** |
| Organisation (where relevant) | **North Warwickshire Borough Council** | **North Warwickshire Borough Council** |
| House no. and street | **The Council House, South Street** | |
| Town | **Atherstone** | |
| Post code | **CV9 1DE** | |

| Telephone number | | **01827 719250** |
|---|---|---|
| Email address | | **planningpolicy@nrothwarks.gov.uk** |

**3. How did you find out about this consultation? (please mark each box with an 'X' next to all answers that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Community Forum notification | |
| Notification directly from the Council's Planning Policy team | **x** |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council website | |
| Nuneaton News (paper) | |
| Nuneaton News (website) | |
| Twitter/Facebook | |
| Other – please specify:<br>Discussion at Officer meeting | |

## Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation: **North Warwickshire Borough Council**

4. To which part of the Borough Plan Review Preferred Options document does this response relate?

| Paragraph | |
|---|---|
| Policy | |
| Evidence base documentation (if applicable) | |

5. Please outline your response in the box below.  It would be particularly helpful if you can say whether you consider the Borough Plan Review Preferred Options document to be 'sound' (as set out in the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework, which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2) i.e. whether the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Similarly, if you believe that the plan does not meet legal requirements, please set out the reasoning below.

The Borough Review is not sound as it has not been positively prepared to deal with the needs of Coventry or sub-region in terms of housing or employment land.  The Local Plan as drafted only deals with its own local need going forward which as the closest neighbour to Convery and having a close functional relationship with the Borough is unsatisfactory.

Cross border issues:
Any development along the A5 or to the north of Nuneaton should seek S106 monies for highways improvements especially to the A5, addressing issues at Plough Hill Road and Plough Hill Road Junction improvements or a relief road linking to Coleshill Road and adjoining developments allocated in North Warwickshire Borough. Further consideration for a north western relief road to address traffic and road infrastructure constraints in the Galley Common/Tuttle Hill and Stockingford areas and linking to the development along the A5.

(Continue on a separate sheet / expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet / expand box if necessary

| Signature | *Dorothy Barratt* |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Date | |

Report of the Chief Executive                    North Warwickshire Area -
                                                 Warwickshire Local Cycling and
                                                 Walking Infrastructure Plan

1       **Summary**

1.1     The report is brought to bring Members' attention to the consultation on the
        **Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** (Part 1) and
        more specifically the **Part 2 – Network plan for North Warwickshire**.

        ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
        │ **Recommendation to the Board**                                   │
        │                                                                   │
        │ **a      That the Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking          │
        │          Infrastructure Plan, including Part 2 – Network Plan for  │
        │          North Warwickshire be supported; and**                   │
        │                                                                   │
        │ **b      That the report, minutes and member comments received    │
        │          are forwarded as the Borough Council's response to the   │
        │          consultation.**                                          │
        └─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘

1.2     The consultation will run from Friday 17 June until Sunday 14 August 2022
        and included a number of drop-in information sessions. Unfortunately the
        nearest sessions have already been held but there is also an online
        presentation and question and answer session to be held on Thursday 21st
        July at 7pm. The on-line link to the session is included in the background
        papers table below. This online presentation and 'question and answer
        session' link is open to all members of the public and an online survey and
        interactive map is also available for feedback on the consultation.

2       **Consultation**

2.1     Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments
        received will be reported at the meeting.

3       **Issues and Setting the Scene**

3.1     The Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan highlights a
        number of health and well-being issues of concerns in relation to North
        Warwickshire residents, that may benefit from greater encouragement through
        walking and cycling opportunities and proposals. Residents in North
        Warwickshire are more likely to live further from their place of work and to
        commute by car, although there are many that could potentially walk or cycle

to work. There is greatest scope in Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill which are more self-contained in terms of local services.

3.2     These key settlements provide opportunities for improved walking and cycling connections between residential areas, education facilities and the large employment sites located on the outskirts (including Hams Hall and Station Road near Coleshill, Birch Coppice Business Park near Dordon and Holly Lane Industrial Estate and Carlyon Road Industrial Estate in Atherstone).

3.3     The rural character of North Warwickshire, together with its compact historic market towns and proximity to the West Midlands, also makes it an attractive area for leisure walking and cycling trips. In combination with public transport, there is potential to expand and upgrade existing recreational facilities and to promote activities and events more widely

3.4     In terms of issues, North Warwickshire residents' ages are slightly above national averages, also for weight/obesity and a larger proportion are limited by health and/or disability compared to County average. In terms of physical activity, a slightly higher level of adults (aged 19+) in North Warwickshire also are classed as physically inactive.

3.5     Car ownership levels are generally higher in North Warwickshire than the county as a whole with nearly 45% of households in North Warwickshire having access to two or more cars. Travel Surveys also indicate that lower levels of North Warwickshire adults also regularly walk or cycle compared to the county and national averages albeit this is starting from a low average).

3.6     To help address many of these health, traffic and transport issues the Government is seeking a step change in cycling and walking in the coming years. Increasing cycling and walking can help tackle some of the most challenging issues we face as a society – improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on our roads.
.
3.7     The Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Network plan for North Warwickshire responds to and builds on the Governments recent new vision and plan for cycling and walking published in "Gear Change" (the cycling and walking plan for how new funding announced in May 2020 is to be spent). This followed the growing demand for walking and cycling during the COVID-19 pandemic and building on the earlier Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) in 2017, setting an expectation for increased investment in active travel and higher design standards, overseen by a new national body, Active Travel England.

4     **Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Summary**

4.1     Following an initial consultation with stakeholders last year (2021) the draft Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan highlights the main issues noted from that consultation in relation to cycling and walking facilities and opportunities and suggests improvements that will encourage walking and cycling, help

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address health and wellbeing issues, support measures to tackle climate change and deliver on Net Zero, and which can be summarised in the following table:

| Problems and issues (Top 5) | Suggested improvements (Top 5) |
|---|---|
| 1. No dedicated cycling route | 1. Provide a shared footway/ cycleway |
| 2. Cycle route needs improving | 2. Create more space for cycling |
| 3. Traffic volume or behaviour | 3. Create more space for pedestrians |
| 4. Insufficient space for all users | 4. Provide a safe crossing point |
| 5. Poor surface | 5. Improve on-road facilities for cycling |

4.2    The LCWIP notes that while investment in high profile dedicated cycling infrastructure on key corridors is likely to have the biggest impact in terms of increasing cycling levels, there are also opportunities for other infrastructure improvements to make cycling easier, safer and more convenient, such as permitting contra-flow cycling on one-way streets and introducing 20mph limits in town centres and residential areas. Targeted investment in new crossings and footway connections to access local services (particularly schools and community hubs) is highlighted.

4.3    In rural areas, the plan also highlights measures to reduce speed and manage traffic can benefit pedestrians and cyclists as well as horse-riders. The spatial coverage of Warwickshire's LCWIP is countywide, particularly in terms of the wider recreational opportunities, but focussed on specific sub-areas for active travel networks (these areas having the greatest potential for short journeys on foot or by bike). Comments from the online LCWIP engagement in 2021 were concentrated in urban areas.

4.4    However, the Plan further notes that although "Active travel is therefore most viable in and around the most compact, urban areas of the county suitable for developing the concept of '15-minute neighbourhoods', North Warwickshire may be an exception. The Plan notes that "Although its towns are small in population and the district is predominantly rural, the close proximity of Birmingham, Solihull and Tamworth, existing rail connections and planned residential and employment growth, creates potential to increase walking and cycling trips in a number of towns and villages".

4.5    Therefore Part 2 of the LCWIP sets out  5 Network plans as main areas of focus, of which one is "North Warwickshire, including the A5 corridor and key settlements of Coleshill, Polesworth and Atherstone".

5    **Network Plan North Warwickshire**

5.1    The Network Plan for North Warwickshire highlights the main barriers to walking and cycling movements within North Warwickshire, being; main roads and motorways; rivers and canals; and railways, including HS2. These barriers can cause community severance and 'funnel' pedestrians and cyclists (and motor traffic) into a limited number of crossing points.

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5.2    Specific engagement on walking and cycling for this LCWIP took place between May and July 2021. Local people were invited to have their say on infrastructure improvements, and there were over 2,000 responses and more than 7,000 'contributions' on the interactive countywide map. Additional stakeholder meetings were held with Borough council Officers, parishes including Dordon and their Neighbourhood Planning committee and members of the Coleshill Cycle Forum. The subsequent Draft Plan notes the specific problems in North Warwickshire are:
• Coleshill and Hams Hall – separated from north Solihull, Water Orton and Curdworth by A446, M42, M6 and A452, and in future, HS2 Phases 1 and 2.
• A5 Watling Street corridor – this Strategic Route cuts east-west across North Warwickshire and severely limits active travel between Tamworth, Polesworth, Dordon, Grendon, Atherstone and Mancetter.
• M42 – and in future HS2 Phase 2 – restricts travel between Polesworth, Dordon and Tamworth    and funnel pedestrians and cyclists from Birch Coppice across the busy roundabout with the A5 (M42 Junction 10).

5.3    The proximity of schools and residential areas to the main roads and motorways and exposure to vehicle emissions is also noted as a concern. Although there are currently no designated Air Quality Management Areas in the Borough, we adjoin designated AQMAs for the cities of Birmingham and Coventry. Monitoring of the current situation is ongoing by the Borough Environmental health service/team.

5.4    The LCWIP notes that the County Council is working in partnership with Highways England and HS2 to try and reduce the impact of road and rail barriers in North Warwickshire, to identify safe interfaces with walking, cycling and horse-riding routes and seek appropriate investment through Highways England Designated Funds and HS2 Road Safety Fund. In terms of walking provision, the public rights of way network, towpaths and signed trails provide good leisure opportunities, however, many smaller villages and rural properties do not have connected footways.

5.5    The absence of any National Cycle Network Routes through North Warwickshire is highlighted with only the quiet road cycle route - North Warwickshire Cycle Route, as well as traffic-free paths within Kingsbury and Pooley Country Parks and towpaths along the Coventry Canal and Birmingham and Fazeley Canal providing leisure opportunities. In terms of provision for commuters, this is mostly limited to sections of shared use footways and cycle tracks around the employment sites at Hams Hall near Coleshill, and Birch Coppice Business Park near Tamworth, with limited provision of public cycle parking/stands in North Warwickshire towns.

5.6    Bus and rail services tend to be infrequent in North Warwickshire but do provide connections from Atherstone and Coleshill stations with larger urban centres including Birmingham, Tamworth and Nuneaton.

5.7    The draft North Warwickshire Network plan has identified a number of 'walking zones'; areas within 2km walking distance of the centres of the largest settlements in North Warwickshire (Atherstone, Coleshill and Water

Orton, Polesworth and Kingsbury - 2km equates to just over 1mile and about 25 minutes at a moderate walking speed), showing key destinations or 'walking trip generators', including sites identified for new housing and employment, and existing journey attractors such as schools, health centres and railway stations and large employment sites. Particularly highlighting the growth along the A5 between Atherstone and Polesworth, the network plan proposes high-quality walking routes and new community facilities within walking distance of homes to reduce dependence on the private car.

5.8 Although the focus is on the most self-contained/ 'walkable' towns 'walking zones' and areas, this does not preclude other walking improvements from being progressed in association with new developments, wider safety measures, highway works or leisure and tourism projects. Some combined walking and cycling improvements (such as traffic-free paths and new bridges) are also listed in the cycling infrastructure plans.

5.9 Figure NW14 and Table NW6 in the Network Plan provide a high level overview of proposals for walking infrastructure comprising:
- Core Walking Zones (see areas referenced with a **Z**) - specific walking focus areas in town centres;
- Walking (and cycling) routes in urban areas (Coleshill, Polesworth and Atherstone) to enable walking for everyday trips. These may include new and upgraded footways and paths within, or linking to, new developments that are likely to generate a significant number of new walking trips.
- Walking (and cycling) routes in rural areas and/or within open spaces across the county (see routes referenced with a **X**). These are primarily leisure routes and include a mix of canal towpaths, country park paths, greenways, footpaths and bridleways. Improvements to accommodate horse-riding will be considered where possible.

Members should note that all of the schemes are potential rather than currently programmed. Figure NW14 and Table NW6 are included as Appendix 1 for members information.

5.10 The Network Plan notes that the greatest potential for cycling development lies in three areas:

- Atherstone
- Coleshill, Water Orton and Hams Hall, with connections to Birmingham, North Solihull and HS2 Interchange/ Arden Cross.
- Polesworth, Dordon and Birch Coppice, with connections to Tamworth.

Identified cycling potential and proposals in the Network Plan revolve around these three "Cycling Zones", or 'areas within 5km and 10km cycling distance of the centres of Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill/ Water Orton'. Consultants were also commissioned to investigate potential for cycling by looking at corridors in the larger settlements and assessing the demand for short trips. Figures NW18 and NW19 identify the potential for short trip cycling in Coleshill/Water Orton and Polesworth and Dordon. Again the Plan notes

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that "although the focus is on selected routes within these specific areas, this does not preclude other cycling improvements from being progressed, particularly in association with new developments, wider safety measures, highway works or leisure and tourism projects".

5.11 In addition to the areas noted above, the Network Plan includes proposals for a number of cross-county leisure routes and these are listed below;

| Ref | Cross-county leisure routes | Type |
|---|---|---|
| **Potential schemes** | | |
| X01 | Coventry Canal (Polesworth - Pooley Country Park) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| X02 | Birmingham and Fazeley Canal (Wiggins Hill to Fazeley) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| X03 | River Tame Greenway (Water Orton – Hams Hall) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| X04 | River Cole Greenway (Coleshill - North Solihull) | Cycle track/ path on open space |

5.12 The Network Plans Indicative Cycle Network and associated proposed cycle schemes for Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth and Dordon (Figures NW23 & NW8, NW24 & NW9, NW25 & NW10 for each towns network and schemes respectively) are attached as Appendix 2 for members attention and information.

... 

## 6 Borough comments and next steps

6.1 Officers welcome and support the publication of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Network plan for North Warwickshire and look forward to an increased investment focus from the County Council on delivering the appropriate walking and cycling infrastructure for the Borough.

6.2 Members are asked to note the proposals put forward in the Network plan. Comments received will help to inform a long-term strategy for transport improvements throughout the Borough and will inform the forthcoming review of the County Council's Local Transport Plan. The Draft Strategy at this stage will be widely circulated and discussed.

6.3 Some additional officer comments on the Plan and proposals that reflect on the rural nature of much of the Borough Area and possible additional route or scheme considerations include;
- Where canal towpaths are identified as part of the relevant settlement areas cycle network and/or scheme, the width of the towpath routes and their appropriate surfacing needs noting and addressing as part of any proposals. Existing towpath routes are narrow at many places and there is a need to avoid conflict between walkers, cyclists and other users of the canal, leisure and residential boaters and fishermen.

- With reference to the Coleshill Network and cycle scheme proposals, the Borough Council would seek and encourage potential routes to be included (or at least proposed) to link the new proposed XO4 route to proposed future facilities south of Water Orton, principally the approved Surf Centre and Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, both of which are likely to attract significant visitor numbers.
- In addition, there is lack of opportunities identified for links and routes south from the train stations at Water Orton and south west from Coleshill Parkway to these future facilities, to both maximise and encourage visitor potential by options other than by private vehicles. Opportunities of linking such routes to existing well established routes and/or future routes in adjoining local authority areas should also be highlighted and considered, an opportunity and situation the LCWIP Part 1 itself (pg22) notes in relation to North Warwickshire's location and relationship with adjoining authorities, but does not fully maximise (notwithstanding HS2 implications on some routes).
- A lack of connections and network opportunities identified eastward of Coleshill, including to Shustoke, areas near the Local Plan Policy LP25, potential cycle route on the former Whitacre to Hampton in Arden line, the rural lanes around Maxstoke, Little Packington, Forest of Arden and south to woodland areas around Kinwalsey is considered a missed opportunity to maximise encouragement for informal leisure access to the countryside and support for existing leisure/recreation services/facilities and economic opportunities this may create and support.
- In addition, consideration for new dedicated walking/cycling canal bridge crossings at Pooley Abbey/Pooley Park area could be considered to enhance links to/from new development at Robey's Lane. This would help both encourage public access to, and use of, the Abbey open space and Pooley Park whilst addressing potential highway safety issues around increased walking and cycling traffic using the current very narrow canal bridge at Robey's lane to access the Park and Towpath.
- There is a lack of opportunities identified to maximise links and routes to The HS2 Interchange Station to the south.
- Some of the existing informal links and routes through Atherstone, south west from identified routes AO6, AO7 and AO8, particularly utilising the new footbridge across the A5 (just completed by National Highways), existing pedestrian links and residential roads through to the  Borough Council's Mancetter recreation ground should be considered for inclusion, as this would maximise potential access to the Coventry Canal towpath, and the possibility of creating a circular route around Atherstone.
- To encourage and maximise use and safety, proposed routes need to be physically separate from road traffic, through either barriers where route is part of the highway, or by physically separate routes off the main highway (adjoining routes separated by grass verges/tree and street lighting) or located on opposite side of hedge  bounding the highways in more rural road network, but wherever proposed, good separation of users must be sought to encourage safe use.
- In terms of some current "quiet rural road" routes and concerns over safety of green road and quiet rural road use, additional measures such as passing places and hedge management need to be in place to both encourage use

and improve safety or the appearance and assumption of greater safety, otherwise increase walking/cycling use will not occur or be discouraged.

6.4 These points will be added to any further member comments and forwarded as the Borough Council's formal response to the County Council's consultation on the Draft Warwickshire Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan and Network Plan for North Warwickshire.

7 **Report Implications**

7.1 **Finance and Value for Money Implications**

7.1.1 There are no specific cost implications highlighted in the Plan, but potential improved health and wellbeing outcomes for residents through new and improved cycling and walking infrastructure and reduced traffic impacts are expected to have longer term economic benefits through reduced accidents, healthier living and environments reducing costs for long term health and social care.

7.2 **Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications**

7.2.1 Transport can impact on the environment and make places more or less sustainable. By encouraging walking and cycling this can have long lasting health benefits.

7.2.2 Increasing cycling and walking, in place of other forms of transport, has a positive impact on air quality and helps to combat climate change.

7.3 **Human Resources Implications**

7.3.1 No implications expected on staff resources beyond responding to consultations and proposals brought forward through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

7.4 **Risk Management Implications**

7.4.1 A risk assessment is not considered necessary or included with the Plan documents.

7.5 **Equalities Implications**

7.5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not yet been completed but will be completed once the Draft Strategy has been prepared as part of the wider LTP review.

7.6 **Safer Communities Implications**

7.6.1 Potential benefits of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan towards safer communities, improving road safety and any reduction in accident statistic may result. Issues around crime and anti-social behaviour

arising as a result of improved cycling and walking network infrastructure may require further consideration and/or management.

### 7.6 **Links to Council's Priorities**

7.6.1 Although a County function transport is an important issue for the Borough and links to all the Council's priorities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719451).

**Background Papers**

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

| Background Paper No | Author | Nature of Background Paper | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTQzNzE3ZDUtMmVINS00OTMzLWFIYzYtN2Y3NTZhNWE2Y2Uz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2288b0aa06-5927-4bbb-a893-89cc2713ac82%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f16bbb64-ac06-4cde-ab26-39670791e315%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a | WCC | Online presentation and question and answer session - meeting weblink Join the online session | 21st July 2022 |
| https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cycling/developing-warwickshires-cycle-network/3 | WCC | Online survey and interactive map | 17 June 2022 |

*Figure NW22: Indicative Cycle Network for the District of North Warwickshire*

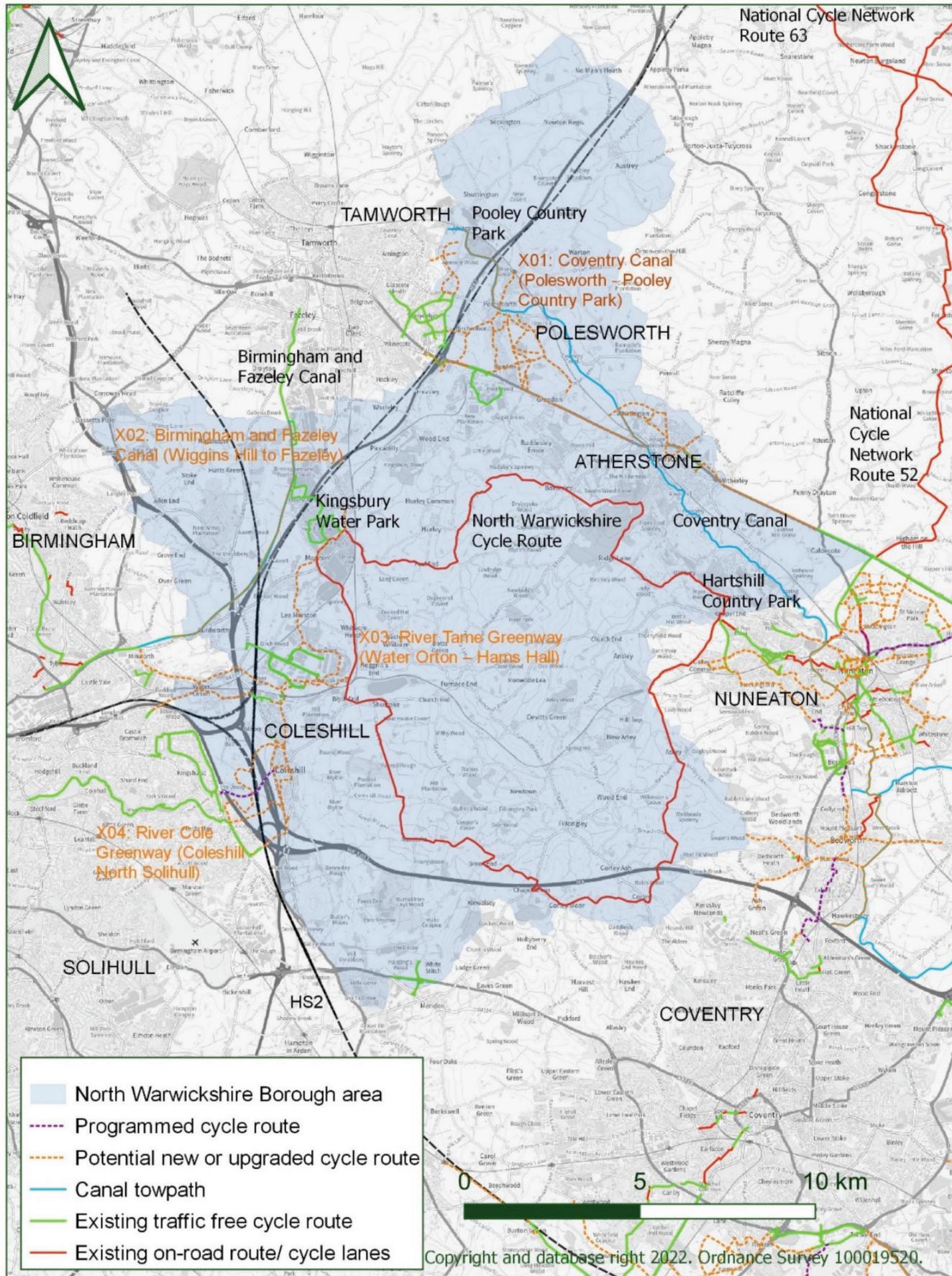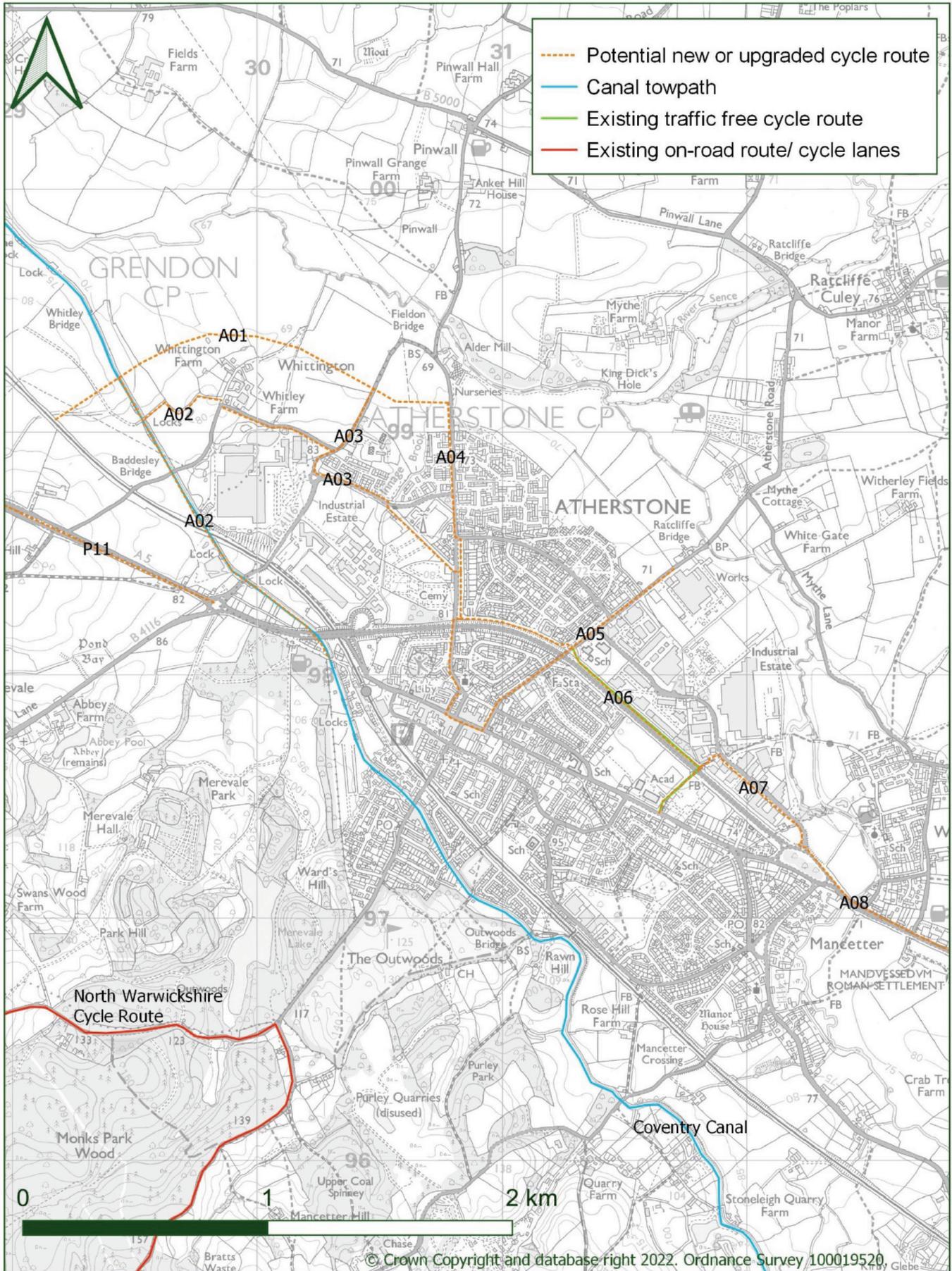*Figure NW23: Indicative Cycle Network for Atherstone*

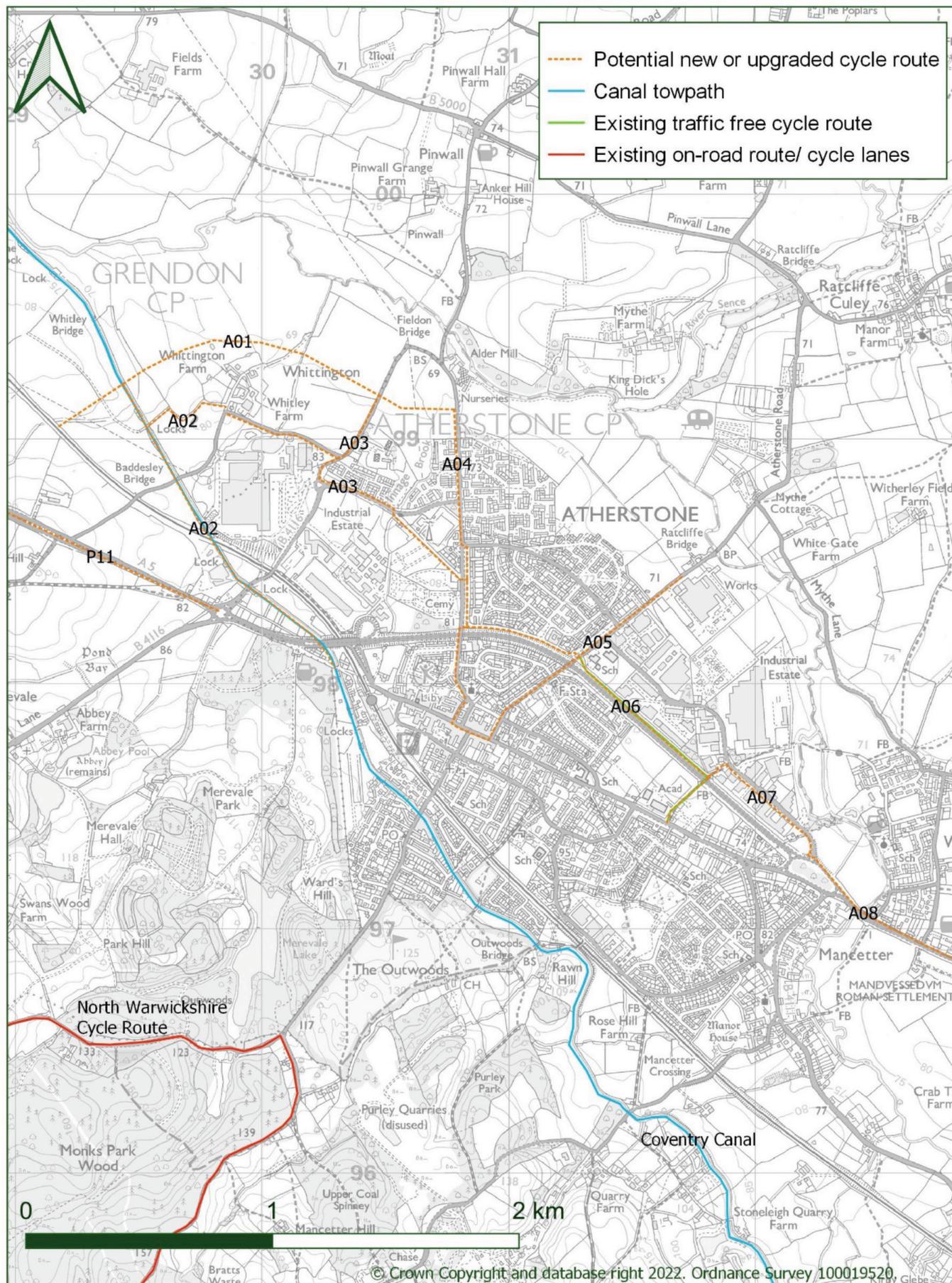*Figure NW23: Indicative Cycle Network for Atherstone*



Legend:
- - - - Potential new or upgraded cycle route
—— Canal towpath
—— Existing traffic free cycle route
—— Existing on-road route/ cycle lanes

*Table NW8: Proposed cycle schemes in Atherstone*

| Ref | Atherstone | Type |
|---|---|---|
| | **Potential schemes** | |
| A01 | Atherstone developments | New footway/ cycle track adjacent to road, cycle track/path and crossing |
| A02 | Coventry Canal (Atherstone to Whittington) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| A03 | Atherstone town links (Gypsy Lane, Rowlands Way, Whittington Lane, Holly Lane) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and on-carriageway cycle route |
| A04 | Atherstone town links (Sheepy Road) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and on-carriageway cycle route |
| A05 | Atherstone town links (Ratcliffe Road) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and on-carriageway cycle route |
| A06 | Path and Friary Road (A5 footbridge link to Ratcliffe Road and Sheepy Road) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| A07 | Path (A5 footbridge link: TQEA to Carlyon Road Industrial Estate) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| A08 | A5 Watling Street (Atherstone/ Mancetter - A444 Weddington Lane, Caldecote ) | New footway/ cycle track adjacent to road |

*Figure NW24: Indicative Cycle Network for Coleshill and Water Orton*



Legend:
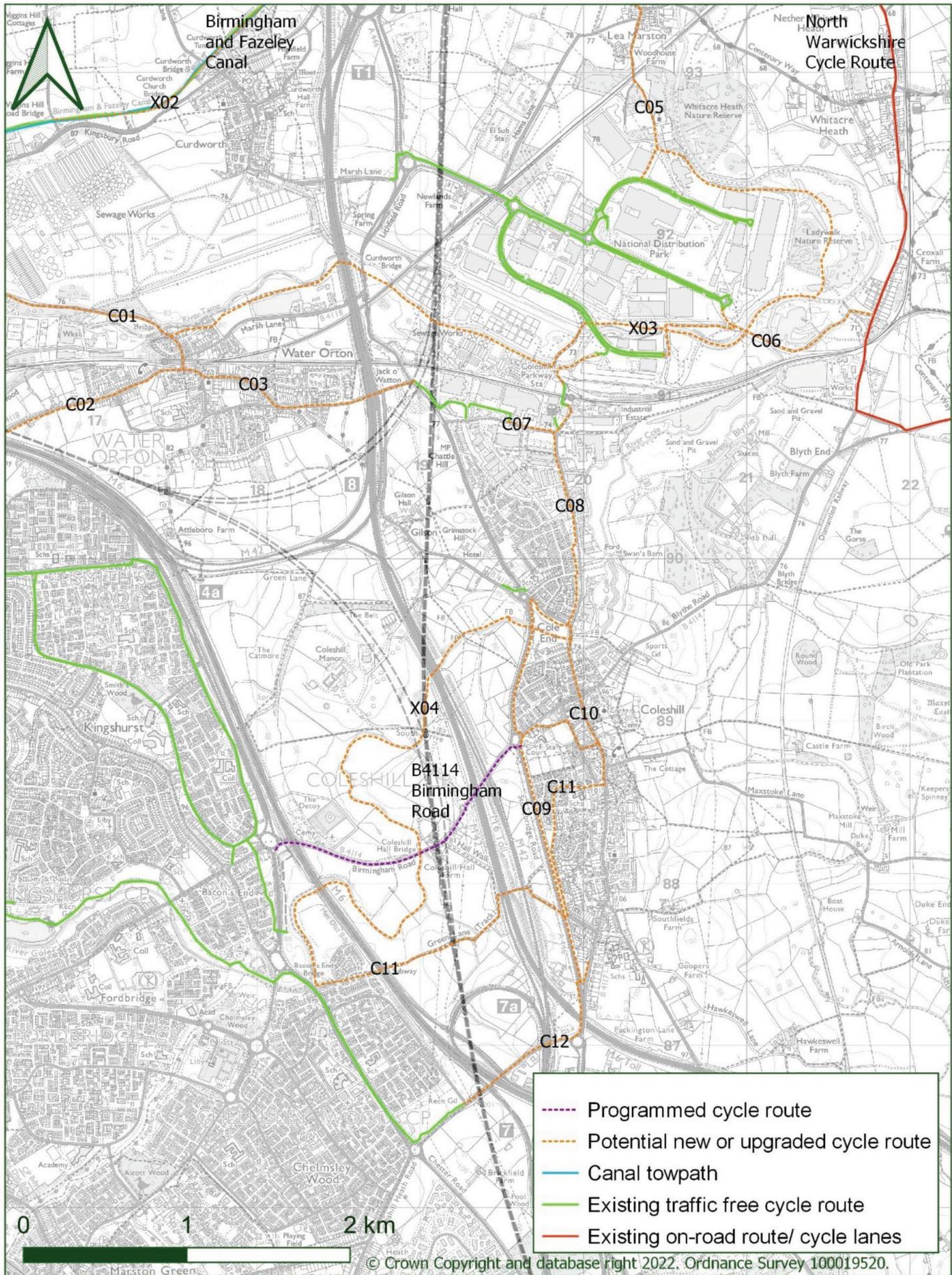- ----- Programmed cycle route
- ----- Potential new or upgraded cycle route
- —— Canal towpath
- —— Existing traffic free cycle route
- —— Existing on-road route/ cycle lanes

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*Table NW9: Proposed cycle schemes in Coleshill and Water Orton*

| Ref | Coleshill, Water Orton and Kingsbury | Type |
|---|---|---|
| | **Programmed schemes** | |
| | B4114 Birmingham Road (Coleshill – Kingshurst) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and crossing |
| | **Potential schemes** | |
| C01 | Water Orton Lane (Water Orton – Minworth) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road |
| C02 | B4118 Water Orton Rd/ Birmingham Road (Water Orton - Birmingham/ Castle Bromwich) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road |
| C03 | B4117 Watton Lane (Water Orton - Coleshill) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and crossing |
| C04 | A51 Coventry Road, Kingsbury | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road, cycle track/ path and on-carriageway cycle route |
| C05 | Church Lane/ Haunch Lane (Hams Hall - Kingsbury via Lea Marston) | Cycle track/ path on open space, on-carriageway route and crossing |
| C06 | Fishery Lane (Coleshill - Whitacre Heath) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| C07 | Gorsey Lane, Coleshill | New and upgraded footway and crossing |
| C08 | Station Road, Coleshill (River Cole bridge - Coleshill Parkway) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and crossings |
| C09 | A446 Stonebridge Road (Gilson Road to Coleshill Heath Road) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road |
| C10 | Coleshill town north-south spine (Stonebridge Road, Wingfield Road, High Street) | On-carriageway cycle route |
| C11 | Green Lane (Coleshill to Birmingham / UK Central) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| C12 | Coleshill Heath Road (Coleshill - Birmingham / UK Central/ HS2 Interchange) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and bridge |

*Figure NW25: Indicative Cycle Network for Polesworth and Dordon*



Legend:
- **Potential new or upgraded cycle route** (orange dashed)
- **Canal towpath** (blue)
- **Existing traffic free cycle route** (green)

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0   1   2 km

*Table NW10: Proposed cycle schemes in Polesworth and Dordon*

| Ref | Polesworth and Dordon | Type |
|-----|----------------------|------|
| | **Potential schemes** | |
| P01 | Alvecote development | New footway/ cycle track adjacent to road |
| P02 | Polesworth and Dordon north-south links | On-carriageway cycle route |
| P03 | Bridleway and Green Lane (A5 Birch Coppice - Birchmoor - Stonydelph) | Cycle track/ path on open space and on-carriageway route |
| P04 | Polesworth developments | New footway/ cycle track adjacent to road and cycle track/path |
| P05 | St Helena Road/ Dordon Hall Lane (Polesworth - Grendon) | On-carriageway cycle route |
| P06 | Church Road/ Dunns Lane, Dordon | On-carriageway cycle route |
| P07 | Path (A5 Birch Coppice junction - Browns Lane) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| P08 | A5 Watling Street (M42 Junction 10) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and crossing |
| P09 | Path (A5 Watling Street - Tamworth Logistics Park) | Cycle track/ path on open space |
| P10 | A5 Watling Street (Birch Coppice - Dordon - Grendon) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road and on-carriageway cycle route |
| P11 | A5 Watling Street (Grendon to Holly Lane) | Widened/ upgraded footway adjacent to road |

Executive Board

20 July 2022

**Report of the**
**Chief Executive**

Exclusion of the Public and Press

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**Recommendation to the Board**

**To consider whether, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

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**Agenda Item No 12**

**Senior Management Recruitment Process** – Report of the Chief Executive

Paragraph 1 – by reason of information relating to any individual.

**Agenda Item No 13**

**Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 13 June 2022**

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

In relation to the item listed above members should only exclude the public if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, giving their reasons as to why that is the case.

The Contact Officer for this report is Julie Holland (719237).

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