

**To: The Deputy Leader and Members of the
Community and Environment Board
(Councillors Smith, Ingram, Bell, Clews,
Hanratty, Hayfield, Jones, Smitten, Chambers,
Farrell, Ferro, Lewis and Phillips).**

For the information of other Members of the Council

For general enquiries please contact Jenny Price,
Democratic Services Officer, on 01827 719450 or
via e-mail jennyprice@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.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD AGENDA

19 October 2015

The Community and Environment Board will meet in The
Committee Room, The Council House, South Street,
Atherstone on Monday 19 October 2015, at 6.30pm.

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 ask questions or to put their views to elected Members. Participants are restricted to five minutes each. If you wish to speak at the meeting please contact Jenny Price on 01827 719450 or email democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk

- 5 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 20 July 2015** – copy herewith, to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PART A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 6 **Budgetary Control Report 2015/2016 Period Ended 30 September 2015** – Report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources)

Summary

This report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period of 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. The 2015/2016 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, are given, together with an estimate of the our-turn position for services to this Board.

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

- 7 **Leisure and Community Development Division – Proposed Savings 2016 / 17** – Report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources)

Summary

The report sets out proposed areas for revenue budget savings within the Leisure and Community Development Division for inclusion in the 2016/17 revenue estimates.

The Contact Officer for this report is Simon Powell (719352).

- 8 **North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy Progress Report** – Report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development).

Summary

This report provides Members with an overview of progress in respect of delivery against the priorities set out in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008 to 2018.

The Contact Officer for this report is Alethea Wilson (719212).

- 9 **Health Improvement Activity Update – Leisure and Community Development** - Report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development).

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the progress being made in respect of the actions identified in the approved three-year Health Improvement Action Plan.

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346).

- 10 **Highway Cleansing Protocol** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Summary

This report updates Members on recent improvements in joint-working and partnership arrangements with Highways England and other local authorities in relation to highway cleaning and asks the Board to agree to the Council becoming signatories to a joint highway cleansing protocol.

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).

- 11 **Bin Policy** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Summary

This report sets out some of the issues which the kerbside recycling service is currently facing and the impact on frontline services of the Council's current approach to the provision of additional and replacement bins. It proposes a review of the Council's policy on additional recycling bins and a change to the current policy on replacement bins.

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).

- 12 **Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – June 2015** – Report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive.

Summary

This report informs Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Community and Environment Board for April to June 2015.

The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Beggs (719238).

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

20 July 2015

Present: Councillor Smith in the Chair.

Councillors Chambers, Clews, Davey, Farrell, Hanratty, Hayfield, Ingram, Jones, Lewis, Phillips and Smitten.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bell (Substitute Councillor Davey) and Ferro.

1 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 16 March 2015.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Overview of the Functions of the Community and Environment Board**

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) gave an overview of the functions of the Community and Environment Board.

4 **Budgetary Control Report 2015/2016 Period Ended 30 June 2015**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

5 **The Future of the Community Hub Task and Finish Group**

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) sought Members views on whether they wished to continue having a Task and Finish Group to oversee the delivery and development of the Community Hub infrastructure.

Resolved:

- a **That a Task and Finish Group to oversee the delivery of the Council's Community Hubs and Customer Access Strategy be continued; and**

- b That the Task and Finish Group comprise of six Members, four Conservatives to be nominated at the meeting of Full Council on 30 September 2015 and two Labour (Councillors Farrell and Lewis).**

6 Warwickshire County Council Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres 2015

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) updated Members on a recent review by Warwickshire County Council of its network of Household Waste Recycling Centres. Members were asked to make any comments or observations on the report to be passed on for consideration by the County Council's Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September.

Resolved:

- a That the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) and its attached appendices be noted; and**
- b That the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be authorised to respond to Warwickshire County Council's Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres in order to**
- encourage the reasonable increase of opening hours to accommodate housing growth;**
 - advise against charges for non-household waste to avoid a commensurate rise in fly tipping;**
 - acknowledge that different areas of the county may have different operational requirements;**
 - identify the need for greater cross-border cooperation and integration of local authority services; and**
 - encourage greater promotion of the HWRC service by both the County and District Councils.**

7 LEADER – Update on Programme

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) updated the Board on the progress made to date in respect of the North Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth LEADER programme (2015 to 2020) and provided details about the proposed activity taking place over the next twelve months.

Resolved:

- a That the progress made to date on the development of the North Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth LEADER programme (2015 to 2020), be noted; and**

b That the proposed activity scheduled to take place over the next twelve months, be noted.

8 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – March 2015

Members were informed of progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Community and Environment Board for April to March 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 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 items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

10 Atherstone Leisure Complex – Extension of the Swimming Lesson Programme

The Board's approval was sought for a proposal to extend the current swimming lesson programme at Atherstone Leisure Complex from 38 weeks to 50 weeks a year.

Resolved:

a That the swimming lesson programme at Atherstone Leisure Complex be extended from 38 weeks to 50 weeks per year with effect from January 2016 and that the programme be managed and administered in the manner identified in the main body of the report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development);

b That the proposal to provide additional swimming lessons and to delay opening to the public until 10:00 on a Saturday morning be approved; and

c That the proposal to appoint a part-time Swimming Administrator be endorsed and referred to the Special Sub-Group for further consideration.

11 **Staff Structure Review – Leisure and Community Development Division**

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) outlined proposals to change the staff structure within and across the Leisure and Community Development Division.

Resolved:

That the proposals to amend the staff structure within the Leisure and Community Development Division be referred to the Special Sub-Group for further consideration within the context to be provided by the new Corporate Plan.

12 **Markets for Recyclable Material**

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) updated the Board on the costs associated with the disposal for recycling of the various materials collected through the Council's kerbside recycling service and the likely impact that changes in reprocessing costs will have on the service budgets both now and in the future.

Resolved:

- a **That the report be noted; and**
- b **That a further report setting out the latest financial position and projected future spending on recycling be brought back to the next meeting of this Board.**

13 **Public Conveniences**

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) updated Members on the cost and usage levels of the Council's three automatic public toilets and set out the one-off costs and annual revenue savings for early termination.

Resolved:

- a **That the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be authorised to investigate the provision of a community toilet scheme and that a further report be brought back to this Board; and**

Recommendation to Board:

- b **That the Resources Board be requested to consider the termination of the lease of the three automatic public toilets at the earliest opportunity.**

L Smith
Chairman

Agenda Item No 6

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources)

Budgetary Control Report 2015/2016 Period Ended 30 September 2015

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. The 2015/2016 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 Executive Board

That the report be noted and that the Board requests any further information it feels would assist it in monitoring the budgets under the Board's control.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Councillors Smith, Ingram and Phillips, have been sent an advanced copy of this report for comment. Any comments received will be reported verbally to the Board.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 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.

4 Overall Position

- 4.1 The actual expenditure for budgets reporting to this Board as at 30 September 2015 is £2,567,458 compared with a profiled budgetary position of £2,503,023; an over spend of £64,435 over the period. 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.

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- 4.2 Where possible, the year-to-date budget figures have been calculated with some allowance for seasonal variations, in order to give a better comparison

with actual figures. Reasons for the variations are given, where appropriate, in detail below.

4.3 Leisure Facilities

4.3.1 There is an overall underspend of £8,250 against the profiled budget. This is due to an increase in Direct Debit income, which has more than covered some increased employee costs at Coleshill Leisure Complex and reduced income from the hire of the sports hall at Arley Sports Centre.

4.4 Refuse and Recycling

4.4.1 Costs have increased by £81,464 due to an increase in repairs and maintenance on refuse freighters, higher recycling haulage costs and additional employee costs. Although income from the sale of bins is less than was anticipated, other income from clinical and bulky waste collections and recycling has outweighed this, giving an improvement in income of £1,210. This reduces the increase to £80,254, against the profiled budget.

4.5 Amenity Cleaning

4.5.1 The current overspend is largely due to increased repairs and maintenance on the precinct sweeper.

4.6 Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

4.6.1 Additional costs relate to the return of pitch hire bonds, which were not budgeted for.

4.7 Cesspool Emptying

4.7.1 The current underspend is mainly due to lower employee and vehicle maintenance costs.

4.8 Streetscene Grounds Maintenance

4.8.1 The Grounds Maintenance team have been providing a higher level of grass cutting service around some housing properties, which has increased the recharge made to the Housing Revenue Account.

5 Performance Indicators

5.1 In addition to the financial information provided to this Board, when the budgets were set in February, performance indicators were included as a means of putting the financial position into context. These are shown at Appendix B.

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5.2 The majority of the Performance Indicators are comparable with the profiled position.

5.3 The main reason for the variance in the performance figures at Coleshill Leisure Centre relates to a 34% increase in the number of visits that have taken place. The income per visit has fallen, due to the take up of direct Debit packages instead of the pay and play options.

6 Risks to the Budget

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

- Deteriorating condition of assets, particularly the Leisure Centres, and further economic pressure affecting the generation of income.
- Further reduction or cessation of grants received and the possibility of redundancy costs for those staff affected by withdrawal of funding for given projects.
- A loss of trade waste customers
- Increasing bin replacement rates
- Additional costs relating to the Refuse and Recycling services.

7 Estimated Out-turn

7.1 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 2015/16 is £5,191,730, as detailed in the table below:-

	£
Approved budget 2015/16	5,043,380
Additional Recycling haulage costs and sale of paper and card	60,150
Additional transport maintenance and hire costs on Refuse and Recycling	45,000
Additional maintenance costs of the Precinct Sweeper	15,000
Additional Refuse employee costs	13,200
Lower than expected income from sale of bins to developers	15,000
Expected Out-turn 2015/16	5,191,730

7.2 The figures provided 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.

8 Report Implications

8.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

8.1.1 The Council's budgeted contribution from General Fund balances for the 2015/16 financial year is £594,090. As can be seen above, an increase in the net expenditure of £148,350 is expected to date from the services within this Board. Income and Expenditure will continue to be closely managed and any issues that arise will be reported to this Board for comment.

8.2 **Environment and Sustainability Implications**

- 8.2.1 The Council has to 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).

Community and Environment Board
Budgetary Control Report 2015/2016 as at 30 September 2015

Cost Centre	Description	Approved Budget 2015/2016	Promised Budget September 2015	Actual September 2015	Variance	Comments
3072	Polesworth Sports Centre	126,210	42,425	43,875	1,450	See 4.3
3074	Arley Sports Centre	198,410	103,429	106,665	3,236	See 4.3
3075	Coleshill Sports Centre	264,950	168,963	174,588	5,625	See 4.3
3077	Atherstone Leisure Complex	514,810	260,931	244,286	(16,645)	See 4.3
3082	Memorial Hall (Sports)	133,390	69,290	65,119	(4,171)	See 4.3
3083	Memorial Hall (Cultural)	(3,720)	(1,860)	396	2,256	See 4.3
4002	Public Health Services (Commercial)	287,080	139,867	139,306	(561)	
4003	Public Health Services (Domestic)	98,020	49,835	49,988	153	
5000	Refuse Domestic Collection	842,750	409,551	479,009	69,458	See 4.4
5001	Streetscene Grounds Maintenance	116,810	120,676	109,369	(11,307)	See 4.8
5002	Refuse Trade Collection	(30,070)	(123,288)	(122,519)	769	
5003	Cesspool Emptying	(20,990)	(13,765)	(20,323)	(6,558)	See 4.7
5004	Recycling	749,520	406,871	417,669	10,798	See 4.4
5010	Amenity Cleaning	607,400	310,630	322,390	11,760	See 4.5
5013	Unadopted Roads	10,810	5,935	4,481	(1,454)	
5014	Drain Unblocking and Land Drainage	19,300	9,650	9,650	-	
5015	Street Furniture	7,850	3,925	3,771	(154)	
5016	Atherstone Market	2,960	1,765	1,853	88	
5019	Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces	565,150	278,220	282,549	4,329	See 4.6
5021	Public Health Act 1984 Burials	2,620	1,310	3,020	1,710	
5023	Consultation	15,280	7,640	5,405	(2,235)	
5025	Corporate Policy	50,840	29,245	29,245	-	
5030	Rural Regeneration	36,200	18,126	17,502	(624)	
5034	Landscape	10,380	9,275	9,286	11	
5040	Marketing and Market Research	13,930	6,965	6,903	(62)	
5044	Support to Voluntary Organisations	97,650	36,136	36,136	-	
5051	Young People and Intergeneration	70,940	36,906	35,802	(1,104)	
5052	Community Development Environment	56,790	28,421	28,137	(284)	
5054	Social Inclusion and Sport	63,860	32,056	31,993	(63)	
5055	Health Improvement	52,190	26,294	24,418	(1,876)	
5056	Safer Communities	90,190	41,668	41,667	(1)	
5059	Allotments and Biodiversity	7,770	3,885	3,885	-	
5064	Queen Elizabeth School - Artificial Green Pitch	-	(2,294)	(2,402)	(108)	
7700	Stronger & Safer Communities	-	(15,660)	(15,660)	-	
	Total Expenditure	5,059,280	2,503,023	2,567,458	64,435	

Key performance Indicators for Budgets Reporting to the Community and Environment Board

Performance as at 30 September 2015

	Budget	Profiled budget	Actual
Polesworth Sports Centre			
Cost per Visit	£4.88	£4.27	£4.15
Income per Visit	£3.10	£3.05	£2.91
Subsidy per Visit	£1.78	£1.21	£1.24
Arley Sports Centre			
Cost per Visit	£5.39	£5.57	£8.84
Income per Visit	£1.82	£1.81	£2.75
Subsidy per Visit	£3.57	£3.76	£6.10
Coleshill Leisure Centre			
Cost per Visit	£5.83	£6.21	£5.10
Income per Visit	£3.35	£2.99	£2.61
Subsidy per Visit	£2.48	£3.22	£2.49
Atherstone Leisure Complex			
Cost per Visit	£6.03	£6.22	£5.92
Income per Visit	£3.03	£3.15	£3.16
Subsidy per Visit	£3.00	£3.07	£2.76
Memorial Hall			
Cost per Visit	£10.31	£10.59	£9.86
Income per Visit	£2.48	£2.45	£2.26
Subsidy per Visit	£7.83	£8.14	£7.60
Refuse Domestic Collection			
Number of Households	27,101	27,101	27,000
Costs per Household	£31.04	£15.11	£17.74
Maximum missed collections per 100,000 users	25	25	86
Refuse Trade Collection			
Number of Trade Bins	497	497	483
Gross cost per bin collected	£374.49	£297.33	£317.21
Net cost per bin collected	-£60.50	-£95.40	-£95.90
Cespool Emptying			
Number of emptyings	1,560	780	619
Gross cost per emptying	£99.49	£95.34	£98.74
Net surplus per emptying	-£13.52	-£17.65	-£32.83
Recycling			
Cost per household	£27.65	£15.01	£15.47
Tonnes of recycled material collected - green waste	6,125	3,063	4,002
Tonnes of recycled material collected - red box	5,185	2,593	1,828
% of waste recycled	50.0%	50.0%	48.9%
Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces			
Number of Pitches	24	24	24
Number of Teams	17	17	17
Number of Hirers	24	24	24
Income per Team	£581.76	£274.41	£235.00
Play Areas			
Cost of maintenance per play area	£3,529.35	£1,010.48	£824.49
Number of play areas (meeting the safety, DDA and Play Value standard)	31 (28)	31 (29)	31 (29)

Agenda Item No 7

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

**Report of the
Assistant Director
(Leisure and Community Development)**

**Leisure and Community
Development Division –
Proposed Savings 2016 / 17**

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out proposed areas for revenue budget savings within the Leisure and Community Development Division for inclusion in the 2016/17 revenue estimates.

Recommendation to the Executive Board

- a That the Board agrees to the inclusion of the proposed budget savings within the Leisure and Community Development Division in the 2016/17 revenue estimates; and**

Recommendation to the Board

- b That, subject to Executive Board approval of the proposal to reduce the size of the Local Community Projects Fund, the amendments to the related scheme criteria highlighted in this report be approved and implemented with effect from 2016/17.**

2 Consultation

- 2.1 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson for the Community and Environment and Resources Boards and the Safer Communities Sub-Committee, together with Members with responsibility for Health, Well-being and Leisure and Young People, have all had an opportunity to comment on the content of this report. Any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 requires the identification and approval of revenue budget savings ranging between £1.71 to £2.03 million over the next four years, dependant upon the level of any council tax increases approved by Members.

- 3.2 Each service within the Leisure and Community Development Division has been reviewed, as a consequence of which savings are proposed in two areas of activity. The proposals and the corresponding implications and risks are set out below.

4 Landscape Management

- 4.1 The Play Area Development Programme commenced in 2005/06, when the Community and Environment Board approved proposals to address the poor condition of its play areas at that time. There had been no investment in play equipment for many years and no financial provision had been made to fund the renewal or replacement of the facilities. By that time, the condition of most of the play areas was such that the best option was complete replacement and capital funding was made available to enable 12 out of 24 facilities to be renewed at an assumed cost of £50,000 per site over a three year period.
- 4.2 Whilst assuming a reasonable life span of 15 years for each facility, the Board recognised at the time that there was a need to make financial provision for future refurbishment, over and above routine maintenance costs. The Play Area Replacement Fund was consequently established in 2006/07, with a contribution from the revenue budget of £3,000 per renewed site per annum.
- 4.3 The Play Area Development Programme has continued beyond the initial three-year period and, in respect of the Authority's own sites, will be completed this year. Having worked in partnership with town and parish councils, secured substantial external funding from a variety of sources and rationalised provision, the Borough Council will then be in the position of owning and managing serviceable and valued play facilities at 17 sites. It will, however, be necessary to look towards the next round of refurbishments, currently projected to start in 2020/21. It is not expected that wholesale replacement of facilities at each site will be necessary, albeit that some of those renewed early in the programme are naturally starting to show signs of wear, but it will undoubtedly be necessary to again make some investment in equipment that is fit for purpose and of good play value.
- 4.4 Contributions into the Play Area Replacement Fund continued at the agreed rate, with some increase for inflation, until 2013/14, but were not subsequently increased to take account of two play areas installed in 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively. The current allocation in the revenue budget thus stands at £46,760 and the amount in the Replacement Fund to date is £314,540.
- 4.5 In recognising the need for corporate savings to be found, it is proposed to make a saving of £46,760 by ending the annual contribution to the Play Area Replacement Fund. Members need to be aware, however, that this may limit the ability of the Authority to maintain its play facilities to a standard that meets local expectations in the future and that it may, as a consequence, be necessary to review the extent of its provision overall. An alternative option would be to make a contribution from the capital programme to any future play area replacement programme, which may involve funding through external

borrowing, in respect of which there would be a consequent revenue implication.

Saving: £46,760 Risk: Medium

5 Partnership and Development

- 5.1 The Local Community Projects Fund provides support to individuals and local community and voluntary sector organisations that are proposing to deliver projects that will have a positive impact upon the local community. The current annual budget is £17,500, based on a formula of £500 per Ward Member.
- 5.2 The Fund has been operational since October 2013. In its first year, grants in the cumulative sum of £5,878 were allocated to local groups. Last year, this sum increased to £9,924, which resulted in an underspend of £7,576. It is highly likely that the Fund will be underspent in the current financial year, as a consequence of which it is proposed to reduce the Fund by 50%, thereby leaving a potential budget of £8,750 in 2016/17.
- 5.3 Feedback received from applicants to the Fund suggest that it would benefit from being more “responsive” and that decisions be made more quickly for what, in most cases, are relatively small projects. It is, therefore, proposed that any reduction in the size of the Fund be accompanied by a change in the scheme criteria, which would allow applications to be processed as soon as they are received. Whilst this may result in a situation in which no funding may be available for applications received later in the year, it is felt that this is outweighed by the advantage of being able to process applications in a timely and more responsive manner.
- 5.4 Further, the majority of grant awards under the scheme have been for £500 or less (only six of the 32 awards made to date have been for higher sums). If the Fund is to be reduced by 50% it is additionally recommended that a maximum award of £500 per application is established, in order to ensure a process within which financial assistance can be seen to be benefiting a significant number of projects each year.

Saving: £8,750 Risk: Low

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The revenue budget savings identified for inclusion within the Leisure and Community Development Division’s 2016/17 estimates can be summarised as follows:

Play Area Replacement Fund	£46,760
Local Community Projects Fund	£8,750
Total	£55,510

7 Report Implications

7.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

7.1.1 The Council will need to find significant revenue savings, ranging between £1.71 and £2.03 million over the next four years. The savings proposed in this report will contribute to this requirement and are considered to carry relatively low or medium level risks to service provision. If these proposals are not approved, savings will need to be found in other areas of activity, which may have a more significant impact on services.

7.2 Safer Communities Implications

7.2.1 Hitherto every effort has been made to avoid savings to those frontline services that have a positive impact on levels of anti-social and / or criminal behaviour. It is known, however, that the provision of good quality play facilities has a beneficial effect in this respect, by offering positive opportunities to children and young people. Similarly, poorly maintained facilities give an adverse impression of an area and can attract unacceptable behaviour. There is, therefore, a risk of increased anti-social behaviour and / or vandalism in the future if good provision cannot be sustained.

7.2.2 Some community and voluntary sector organisations deliver activities and projects that provide a positive diversion for people living within the local community. However, as other funds are available to such groups, it is not anticipated that the proposed Local Community Projects Fund saving will have a significant and adverse impact in this respect.

7.3 Legal and Human Rights Implications

7.3.1 The Authority's play areas are maintained in compliance with the requirements of all appropriate legislation, particularly in respect of Health and Safety and with recommended European safety standards. An inability to maintain facilities to this standard would necessitate the removal of equipment that is no longer compliant.

7.4 Environment and Sustainability Implications

7.4.1 The provision of opportunities for constructive activity within communities, such as through play, enhances local cohesion, social inclusion and collective quality of life. It has a positive impact on the creation of sustainable communities, within which people feel safe, healthy and valued. Opportunities to sustain such provision may be fewer where funding is reduced.

7.4.2 Grants may be allocated to projects that also make a positive contribution to the creation of sustainable communities, improve collective well-being and enhance the quality of life of local people.

7.5 Health, Well-being and Leisure

- 7.5.1 Appropriate provision and management of play facilities has a positive impact on the health and well-being of children and young people by providing opportunities for enjoyable, physical outdoor activity. There is an acknowledged need to address issues such as inactivity and obesity that will be harder to meet if good quality provision cannot be sustained.
- 7.5.2 The Local Community Projects Fund also supports a wide range of community-based endeavour that positively impacts upon the health and well-being of Borough residents.

7.6 Risk Management Implications

- 7.6.1 An assessment of the risks associated with the identified proposals was an inherent feature of the corporate process through which savings options were highlighted and subsequently considered by Management Team. As identified in sections 4 and 5 above, the proposed savings are considered to have a medium and low risk rating. The risk assessments are set out below.

7.7 Equalities Implications

- 7.7.1 No group will be more adversely affected than any other by the proposed reduction in the size of the Local Community Projects Fund, although children and young people could be more directly affected by any impact on local play areas, consequent upon a removal of the Play Area Replacement Fund.

7.8 Links to Council's Priorities

- 7.8.1 The proposals contained in this report have direct links to the corporate priorities in respect of:
- Responsible financial and resource management
 - Creating safer communities
 - Protecting our countryside and heritage
 - Improving leisure and well-being opportunities
 - Promoting sustainable and vibrant communities
- 7.8.2 The areas of activity affected by the proposed savings contribute directly to the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy to:
- Raise aspirations, educational attainment and skills
 - Develop healthier communities
 - Improve access to services
- 7.8.3 The proposed savings have a direct impact on the ability to deliver against the key priority of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy to:

- Develop a play area business plan to enable us to ensure that all of our built play facilities offer good play value, meet current safety standards, are accessible and are secured by design

The Contact Officer for this report is Simon Powell (719352).

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
None			

Equality Impact Assessment Summary Sheet

Please complete the following table summarised from the equality impact assessment form. This should be completed and attached to relevant Board reports.

Name of Policy Procedure / Service	Leisure and Community Development – Proposed Savings 2016 / 17
Officer Responsible for Assessment	Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development)

Does this policy /procedure /service have any differential impact on the following equality groups /people

- (a) Is there a positive impact on any of the equality target groups or contribute to promoting equal opportunities and improve relations or:
- (b) could there be a negative impact on any of the equality target groups i.e. disadvantage them in anyway?

Equality Group	Positive impact	Negative impact	Reasons / Comments
Racial			N/A
Gender			N/A
Disabled People			N/A
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People			N/A
Older / Younger People		X	Any impact on play areas consequent upon a removal of the Play Area Replacement Fund will disproportionately impact on children and young people
Religion and Beliefs			N/A
People Having Dependent Caring Responsibilities			N/A
People Having an Offending Past			N/A
Transgender People			N/A

If you have answered **No** to any of the above please give your reasons below

--

Please indicate if you believe that this document should proceed to further Impact Assessment = **Needs no further action**

Risk Management Form

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Leisure and Community Development Division

Community Development

Risk Ref	Risk: Title/Description	Consequence	Likelihood (5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Gross Risk Rating	Responsible Officer	Existing Control Procedures	Likelihood(5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Net Risk Rating	
	Reduction in grant support through the Borough Council's Local Community Projects Fund	Reduction in the number of community projects taking place in the Borough Bad Publicity Groups directed to more national funds, which, in many cases, are already over subscribed Reputational damage with partner agencies (e.g. WCAVA)	5	1	5	Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) Partnership and Development Manager	Discussion will take place with WCAVA, which is the main support organisation for the sector, to ensure that it is prepared to offer correct guidance and support to local groups Suggested amendments to the procedure should be welcomed by groups, as they will be more responsive to their needs	1	1	1	
Risk Ref	Options for additional / replacement control procedure						Cost Resources		Likelihood (5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Net Risk Rating

Completed By: Partnership and Development Manager

Date: September 2015

Risk Assessment

Risk Ref	Risk: Title/Description	Consequence	Likelihood (5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Gross Risk Rating	Responsible Officer	Existing Control Procedures	Likelihood (5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Net Risk Rating
	Failure to ensure provision and maintenance of sufficient appropriate play facilities and services to meet the identified needs of local communities in North Warwickshire	Loss of reputation and customer dissatisfaction Injury to public or staff Impairment of assets Insurance claims and / or court action Inability to deliver against Corporate and Sustainable Community Strategy priorities particularly in respect of Health and Well-being Increased incidents of anti-social behaviour Poor performance reports Avoidable costs	4	5	20	Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) Landscape Manager	Current provision is appropriate Play areas are maintained to an acceptable standard within the resources available Any unfit equipment would be removed and only replaced if funding was available for both provision and ongoing maintenance	3	3	9
Risk Ref	Options for additional / replacement control procedure						Cost Resources	Likelihood (5 = high, 1 = low)	Impact (5 = high, 1 = low)	Net Risk Rating

Completed By: Landscape Manager

Date: 17 September 2015

Agenda Item No 8

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

**Report of the
Assistant Director
(Leisure and Community Development)**

**North Warwickshire Green Space
Strategy Progress Report**

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of progress in respect of delivery against the priorities set out in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008 to 2018.

Recommendation to the Board

That Members note and comment upon progress in respect of the implementation of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson for the Community and Environment and Resources Boards and the Safer Communities Sub-Committee and Members with responsibility for Health, Well-being and Leisure and Young People have all had the opportunity to comment on the content of this report. Any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.
- 2.2 As the Green Space Strategy is of Borough-wide significance it has also been circulated to all other Ward Members for comment.

3 Background

- 3.1 The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy was formally adopted by the Borough Council in December 2008. Together with its supporting Action and Funding Plan, its purpose is to provide a ten-year framework for the provision and enhancement of green space for the benefit of communities across the Borough. It addresses green space provided primarily by the Borough and Parish and Town Councils, but also includes some areas in the management of other providers.
- 3.2 The Strategy is a tool to enable managers of green space to prioritise activity and resources and to secure funding. It is also material to the planning

process and informs both the Development Control and Forward Planning functions. Now in its eighth year of implementation, it focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on the improvement of existing green space, rather than the provision of new space, as this was the greater need identified at the time of the Strategy's preparation.

3.3 The Action and Funding Plan supporting the Strategy is considered within the context of the Council's overall capital and revenue requirements and is rolled forward annually. It directs the work of the Landscape Management Section within the Leisure and Community Development Division, but depends, for its successful delivery, on extensive partnership working both within and outwith the Authority. Progress in respect of the implementation of the Action and Funding Plan was last reported to the Board at its meeting held in March 2015.

3.4 To be effective the Strategy must remain current and relevant to the needs of local communities and must help the Borough to move forward in meeting those needs, both now and in the future. Capacity constraints have militated against reviewing the Strategy after its initial five year period of implementation, as originally recommended in the Action and Funding Plan, and so it is felt that a comprehensive review is now due. As a first step in this process it is timely to provide Members with an overview of progress to date.

4 Overview of Progress

4.1 A revised copy of the Strategy, including within it an overview of progress against each of the priorities to be addressed, is attached at Appendix A. Each has been scored on a "traffic light" scale – green for good progress, amber for some progress or work in hand, red for little or no progress to date.

4.2 A number of policy and service priorities, area-based priorities and policies in respect of resources, monitoring and development are set out, progress on which can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Progress Scores				
	Scoring			Total
	Green	Amber	Red	
Policy Priorities	1	1	1	3
Service Priorities	11	7	1	19
Area Priorities	18	10	27	55
Resources	2	1	0	3
Monitoring / Development	4	1	0	5
Total	36	20	29	85

This equates to good progress made on 42% of the priorities and to some progress on 24%, but progress still to be made on 34%. The key achievements that these scores reflect are set out in sections 5 and 6 below and the challenges to delivery are identified in section 7.

5 Achievements

- 5.1 Substantial progress has been made in improving the maintenance and cleanliness of green space. Grounds maintenance arrangements have been reviewed, resulting in the introduction of service level agreements, revised performance specifications and clearer budget processes. Where appropriate, partnership arrangements have been established within which better placed organisations undertake and lead related activity, such as in maintaining local nature reserves.
- 5.2 Through both service and area priorities the Strategy addresses the need to invest in basic site improvements in general and, more particularly, at specific sites in each of 11 local need areas. By providing evidence of need and a targeted approach to the use of resources, the Strategy has enabled the delivery of substantial improvements, funded primarily by developer contributions, as follows:

Table 2: Major Improvement Schemes	
Borough Council Sites	
Dordon Dordon Piccadilly Polesworth	Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground Long Street Recreation Ground Sports Field Abbey Green Park
Town / Parish Council and Community Sites	
Baddesley Ensor Baddesley Ensor	Church and Community Hall Grounds Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground

- 5.3 Smaller, but locally significant, improvements, funded mainly through the revenue budget and partnership working, have been carried out at the following locations:

Table 3: Minor Improvement Schemes	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common Baxterley Grendon Hartshill Hurley New Arley New Arley Wood End	Bretts Hall Allotments Recreation Ground Boot Hill Recreation Ground Grange Road Recreation Ground Recreation Ground Dafferns Wood Hill Top Open Space Recreation Ground
Town / Parish Council and Community Sites	
Water Orton	Village Green

Other Providers Sites	
Middleton	RSPB Middleton Lakes

- 5.4 Funding from the revenue budget and officer time have also supported local communities to bring about the regeneration of allotments in Warton and the establishment of a new allotment site in Hurley, both for ongoing management by those groups.
- 5.5 Between 2005 / 06 and 2007 / 08 the Borough Council implemented the first phase of its Play Area Development Programme, which brought about improvements to provision at 11 sites. The Green Space Strategy has enabled the Authority to build on this achievement with the installation of new play equipment at a further 13 sites. The Programme has thus brought about the replacement or improvement of facilities at each of the following locations:

Table 4: Play Area Improvement Schemes	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common	Bretts Hall Recreation Ground
Atherstone	Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground
Austrey	Hollybank Open Space
Coleshill	Cole End Park
Baxterley	Recreation Ground
Corley	Church Lane Open Space
Dordon	Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground
Hurley	Recreation Ground
Dordon	Long Street Recreation Ground
Grendon	Boot Hill Recreation Ground
Mancetter	Brook Walk Recreation Ground
Kingsbury	Sycamore Road Recreation Ground
Piccadilly	Sports Field
Old Arley	Recreation Ground
Polesworth	Abbey Green Park
Ridge Lane	Recreation Ground
Wood End	Recreation Ground
Town / Parish Council Sites	
Atherstone	St Mary's Road Open Space
Atherstone	Westwood Road Recreation Ground
Baddesley Ensor	Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground
Fillongley	Recreation Ground
Kingsbury	Church Lane Recreation Ground
Hartshill	Snowhill Recreation Ground
Whitacre Heath	Recreation Ground

- 5.6 Following recent confirmation of a funding award from Veolia Environmental Trust officers are now working with Polesworth Parish Council and Warton Community Association to install a new play area at the recreation ground in Warton. Funding has also been allocated by the Authority to support Coleshill Town Council in implementing improvements to play facilities in Coleshill Memorial Park.
- 5.7 In support of delivery of priorities in respect of both biodiversity and community engagement, substantial funding was secured from Natural England's Access to Nature Programme towards the Wild:LIFE project. This partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Groundwork West Midlands ran between 2010 / 11 and 2013 / 14 and made possible the establishment of the first designated Local Nature Reserves in the Borough at the following sites:

Table 5: Local Nature Reserves	
Borough Council Sites	
Coleshill Kingsbury New Arley Polesworth	Cole End Park Kingsbury Meadow Dafferns Wood Abbey Green Park

The project enabled investment in capital improvements at each site and supported the development of management plans to ensure that appropriate ongoing maintenance takes place.

- 5.8 Also in support of the priorities in respect of biodiversity and community engagement, the Borough Council is actively engaged in the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project, which has secured very significant Heritage Lottery Funding for its development and delivery.
- 5.9 Community engagement has increased noticeably with the improvements that have taken place, creating better quality facilities that people wish to use. More specifically, however, a number of groups have been established to champion particular spaces and to help with their development and ongoing maintenance. In some instances, the groups are now extending their remit to cover wider community issues. Groups include:

Table 6: Community Groups
Borough Council Sites
Ansley Common Residents Association (Bretts Hall Recreation Ground) Friends of Dafferns Wood (New Arley) Warton Allotment Association
Town / Parish Council Sites
Friends of Alvecote (Alvecote Play Area)

Warton Community Association (Warton Recreation Ground)
Other Providers Sites
Hurley Allotments Association
Borough-wide
North Warwickshire Allotment Federation

- 5.10 A priority in respect of outdoor sports provision was the preparation and adoption of a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough, which was completed in October 2010. Evidence from both the Green Space Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy has enabled the Authority, working in partnership with Hurley Kings Football Club, to secure considerable financial support from Sport England and the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund for the provision of changing facilities and the improvement of pitches at Hurley Daw Mill Sports Ground. The project, which is bringing about a major transformation from a previously near-derelict site to a valued community asset, is due to be completed this November.
- 5.11 A relatively modest financial contribution from the Authority enabled Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone to secure all the funding necessary to install an Artificial Grass Pitch, the first in North Warwickshire, which is now managed in partnership with the Borough Council, thus securing community access to the facility. The remit of the partnership between the School and the Authority has subsequently been extended to include community access to grass pitches and indoor sports provision.
- 5.12 Evidence from the Green Space Strategy has also enabled Hartshill Parish Council to secure funding for changing facilities and pitch improvements at Snowhill Recreation Ground.

6 Funding

- 6.1 To date, funding of over £2.74 million has been committed to projects either advanced through or directly supported by the Green Space Strategy. The summary of funding sources set out below demonstrates the benefit of the Strategy in helping to secure resources for the Borough. A more detailed breakdown is included within Appendix A.

...

	Parks, Recreation Grounds and Play Areas	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural Green Space	Total
NWBC Revenue / Reserves	372,991	20,185	47,800	440,976
NWBC Capital	142,107			142,107
Towns / Parishes / Communities	73,232	10,000		83,232
Developer Contributions	485,020		10,000	495,020
External Funding	563,076	778,700	238,265	1,580,041
	1,636,426	808,885	296,065	2,741,375

6.2 As can be seen, whilst the Authority has contributed over £583,000 to Green Space Strategy projects, from a combination of revenue budgets, reserves and the capital programme, this represents just 21% of the overall spend. Town and Parish Councils and local communities have contributed 3%, but the bulk of the funding has come from external sources, with 18% from developer contributions and 58% from other external funding bodies.

6.3 It should be noted in particular that evidence from the Strategy enabled the renegotiation of the provisions of a significant Section 106 Agreement to provide £474,290 of the contributions noted above and a further £20,730 has been provided directly through other Section 106 agreements. Additional to these sums, and not included in Table 7, a further £177,000 has been secured for enhancement of green space in the Atherstone area, proposals for which will be brought to an early future meeting of the Board.

6.4 In addition to the sums noted above, the Authority contributed £2,000 to the development phase of the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project, which has since been awarded £1.7 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a £2.5 million scheme of considerable significance to North Warwickshire.

7 Challenges

7.1 Scrutiny of those areas where progress is not yet well advanced shows that the greatest challenges to delivery are the limitations of staff capacity, the Authority's constrained revenue budgetary position, the limited availability of capital funding and increased competition for external grant aid.

- 7.2 Projects to deliver specific area priorities where some initial progress has been made but that have not yet been brought to fruition include:

Table 8: Projects Partially Progressed	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common Coleshill Old Arley	Bretts Hall Recreation Ground Improvements Cole End Park Improvements Recreation Ground improvements
Town / Parish Council Sites	
Alvecote	Recreation Area Improvements and Play Area Replacement

Of these, work is in hand in respect of Ansley Common and Alvecote and it is hoped that they will advance further if external funding can be secured. The projects at Coleshill and Old Arley are both on hold for the time being pending both capacity and the availability of funding.

- 7.3 As has been noted, partnership working is essential to delivery of the Green Space Strategy. As yet, whilst good progress has been made in working with several town and parish councils, there are nine that have not been engaged where the need for improvements to their facilities has been identified within the area priorities. Similarly, more needs to be done to engage with schools and other providers to secure enhanced community access to sports pitches. In these instances the most limiting factor has been staff time to advance initiatives, but it is undoubtedly the case that the availability of funding, even in relatively small sums, is also key to progress in these areas.
- 7.4 Additionally, and certainly in respect of the Borough Council's own provision, the preparation and implementation of more site management plans is needed to provide a framework to deliver basic site improvements that are still required at a significant number of sites. Through this mechanism more can also be done to deliver against the priorities in respect of biodiversity and climate change and to provide opportunities for wildplay.
- 7.5 Other service priorities where progress has been constrained by limited capacity and resources include increased site supervision to counter anti-social behaviour and vandalism, preparation and implementation of a tree management policy together with proactive tree management and more overt publicity of the availability of green space facilities across the Borough.
- 7.6 Eighteen of the priorities where little or no progress has been made are those that require closer liaison with the Development Control and Forward Planning functions, such as protecting areas against loss of green space or securing land or funding to improve provision or access to provision. It is felt that the Green Space Strategy is not as embedded in the planning process as

is desirable and, in this regard, it is necessary to further advance a process that has already begun to establish a closer relationship between relevant sections of the Authority. Through the development of this process it should be possible to establish a more coherent and co-ordinated approach to the acquisition of funding from developer contributions and, in the future, produce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), through which to advance related negotiations.

8 The Need for Review

- 8.1 Since the adoption of the Green Space Strategy there has been a significant shift in the challenges facing North Warwickshire. Whilst this overview confirms the benefits of having the Strategy in place it also highlights areas of concern and demonstrates the effects of increasing constraints on finance in the public sector and a corresponding increase in competition for grant aid from other funding bodies. Other challenges are arising from the tangible increase in development in the Borough, which, given known housing needs, is set to continue and will inevitably result in changes in population and on the landscape. The potential implications of HS2 will also be profound.
- 8.2 Given these development pressures, it is to be expected that a primary focus on improving existing green space will no longer be tenable. Although there will continue to be a need for improvements to existing provision there will also be an increasing need for new green space to contribute towards the development of growing, but sustainable and vibrant, communities. Development brings with it opportunities to secure funding towards infrastructure, including green space, through, for example, the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 Agreements and Biodiversity Offsetting. Robust evidence of need, which the Green Space Strategy provides, is essential in securing such funding, as it is in attracting other external grant aid and in prioritising corporate budgets.
- 8.3 There is, therefore, a need for a considered review of the Green Space Strategy, and of the evidence supporting it, in order to be able to meet the challenges facing the Borough and to benefit from the opportunities that those challenges bring. A report will be brought to an early future meeting of the Board detailing how such a review will be taken forward.

9 Report Implications

9.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 9.1.1 There are no new financial implications arising out of this report.

9.2 Safer Communities Implications

- 9.2.1 Projects advanced through the Green Space Strategy contribute to community safety by providing well-managed recreation areas that afford opportunities for positive activity.

9.3 Legal and Human Rights Implications

9.3.1 Projects advanced through the Green Space Strategy are compliant with all relevant legislation.

9.4 Environment and Sustainability Implications

9.4.1 Delivery of priorities identified in the Green Space Strategy contributes directly to environmental improvements, enhancement of biodiversity and mitigation of the effects of climate change. It also helps to build sustainable and vibrant communities.

9.5 Human Resources Implications

9.5.1 There are no human resources implications arising directly out of this report.

9.6 Health, Well-being and Leisure Implications

9.6.1 Provision and appropriate management of green space have a positive impact on the health and well-being of individuals and communities by providing opportunities for outdoor leisure and recreation activities and by contributing to an improved quality of life.

9.7 Risk Management Implications

9.7.1 The corporate risk management process identifies and scores risks associated with the provision and maintenance of green space. Services are obliged to manage operational risks to be as low as reasonably possible. Implementation of the Green Space Strategy is a control measure that helps to maintain low risk scores, as follows:

Ref	Risk	Score Without Control Measures	Score With Control Measures
LCD04	Failure to ensure provision of sufficient appropriate leisure, recreation and play facilities and services to meet the identified needs of local communities in North Warwickshire	20	6
LCD12	Failure to manage and maintain open space and recreation land effectively	20	6
LCD15	Failure to provide, manage and maintain allotment land effectively	8	2
LCD17	Absence of Controls for the Adoption or Disposal of Public Open Space by the Borough Council	20	6
LCD18	Protection of Public Open Space in Perpetuity through Charitable Dedication or Registration as Village Green or Common Land	9	6

9.7.2 A review of the Green Space Strategy is necessary to ensure that it remains an effective tool in managing the risks to the Authority associated with the provision and maintenance of green space.

9.8 Equalities Implications

9.8.1 The provisions of the Green Space Strategy are targeted at reducing inequalities in access to good quality green space provision. The equalities implications of all projects advanced through the Strategy are considered as

part of the project management process. A review of the Strategy will ensure that it continues to target inequalities in provision.

9.9 Links to Council's Priorities

9.9.1 The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy has direct and positive links to the corporate priorities in respect of:

- Responsible financial and resource management
- Creating safer communities
- Protecting our countryside and heritage
- Improving leisure and well-being opportunities
- Promoting sustainable and vibrant communities
- Supporting employment and business

9.9.2 The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy contributes directly to the following priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Raising aspirations, educational attainment and skill levels
- Developing healthier communities
- Improving access to services

The Contact Officer for this report is Alethea Wilson (719212).

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	Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development)	Report to Community and Environment Board (North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy Progress Report)	March 2015

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE
GREEN SPACE STRATEGY 2008-2018**

**Overview of Progress
September 2015**



**North Warwickshire
Borough Council**

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The Need for Review

The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy was formally adopted by the Borough Council in December 2008. Together with its supporting Action and Funding Plan its purpose is to provide a ten-year framework for the provision and enhancement of green space for the benefit of communities across the Borough. It addresses green space provided primarily by the Borough and Town and Parish Councils but also includes some areas in the management of other providers.

The Strategy is a tool to enable managers of green space to prioritise activity and resources and to secure funding. It is also material to the planning process and should guide both the Development Control and Forward Planning functions. Now in its eighth year of implementation it focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on the improvement of existing green space, rather than the provision of new space, as this was the need identified at the time of its preparation.

To be effective the Strategy must remain current and relevant to the needs of local communities and must help the Borough to move forward in meeting those needs both now and in the future. Since its inception there has been a significant shift in the challenges facing North Warwickshire. There have been increasing constraints on finance in the public sector and a corresponding increase in competition for grant aid from other funding bodies. There has recently been a tangible increase in development in the Borough, which, given known housing needs, is set to continue and will inevitably give rise to changes in population. Not least, the impact of the proposed HS2 rail lines on communities and on the landscape will be profound.

Given these development pressures it is to be expected that a primary focus on improving existing green space will no longer be tenable. Although there will continue to be a need for improvements to existing provision there will also be an increasing need for new green space to contribute towards the development of growing, but sustainable, communities. Development brings with it opportunities to secure funding towards infrastructure, including green space, through, for example, the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 Agreements and Biodiversity Offsetting. Robust evidence of need, which the Green Space Strategy can provide, is essential in securing such funding as it is, too, in attracting other external grant aid and in prioritising corporate budgets.

There is therefore a need for a considered review of the Green Space Strategy, and of the evidence supporting it, in order to be able to meet the challenges facing the Borough and to benefit from the opportunities that those challenges bring.

Overview of Progress

As a first step in the review process this version of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy includes, within Sections 2 and 3 below, a brief overview of progress against each of the priorities to be addressed. Each has been scored on a “traffic light” scale – green for good progress, amber for some progress or work in hand, red for no progress. Overall there are 85 priorities identified in the Strategy, progress on which can be summarised as follows:

	Scoring			Total
	Green	Amber	Red	
Policy Priorities	1	1	1	3
Service Priorities	11	7	1	19
Area Priorities	18	10	27	55
Resources	2	1	0	3
Monitoring / Development	4	1	0	5
Total	36	20	29	85

Preface Reviewing the Strategy

This equates to good progress made on 42% of the priorities and to some progress on 24%, but progress still to be made on 34%. Achievements to date are summarised in tables 2 -7 below:

Table 2: Major Improvement Schemes Completed	
Borough Council Sites	
Dordon Dordon Piccadilly Polesworth	Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground Long Street Recreation Ground Sports Field Abbey Green Park
Town / Parish Council and Community Sites	
Baddesley Ensor Baddesley Ensor	Church and Community Hall Grounds Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground

Table 3: Minor Improvement Schemes Completed	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common Baxterley Grendon Hartshill Hurley New Arley New Arley Wood End	Bretts Hall Allotments Recreation Ground Boot Hill Recreation Ground Grange Road Recreation Ground Recreation Ground Dafferns Wood Hill Top Open Space Recreation Ground
Town / Parish Council and Community Sites	
Water Orton	Village Green
Other Providers Sites	
Middleton	RSPB Middleton Lakes

Table 4: Play Area Improvement Schemes Completed	
Borough Council Sites	
Atherstone	Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground
Baxterley	Recreation Ground
Dordon	Long Street Recreation Ground
Grendon	Boot Hill Recreation Ground
Kingsbury	Sycamore Road Recreation Ground
Old Arley	Recreation Ground
Polesworth	Abbey Green Park
Ridge Lane	Recreation Ground
Wood End	Recreation Ground
Town / Parish Council Sites	
Atherstone	St Mary's Road Open Space
Atherstone	Westwood Road Recreation Ground
Baddesley Ensor	Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground
Fillongley	Recreation Ground
Kingsbury	Church Lane Recreation Ground
Whitacre Heath	Recreation Ground

Table 5: Local Nature Reserves Established	
Borough Council Sites	
Coleshill	Cole End Park
Kingsbury	Kingsbury Meadow
New Arley	Dafferns Wood
Polesworth	Abbey Green Park

Table 6: Community Groups Established	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common Residents Association (Bretts Hall Recreation Ground)	
Friends of Dafferns Wood (New Arley)	
Warton Allotment Association	
Town / Parish Council Sites	
Friends of Alvecote (Alvecote Play Area)	
Warton Community Association (Warton Recreation Ground)	
Other Providers Sites	
Hurley Allotments Association	
Borough-wide	
North Warwickshire Allotment Federation	

Table 7a: Summary of Funding Secured				
	Parks, Recreation Grounds and Play Areas	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural Green Space	Total
NWBC Revenue / Reserves	372,991	20,185	47,800	440,976
NWBC Capital	142,107			142,107
Towns / Parishes / Communities	73,232	10,000		83,232
Developer Contributions	485,020		10,000	495,020
External Funding	563,076	778,700	238,265	1,580,041
	1,636,426	808,885	296,065	2,741,375

Table 7b Breakdown of Funding Secured							
		NWBC Revenue / Reserves	NWBC Capital	Town/Parish Councils/ Community	Developer Contributions	External Funding	Total
Parks, Recreation Grounds and Play Areas							
Ansley Common	Bretts Hall Allotments	25,895					25,895
Atherstone	Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground	6,841	50,107	25,000		50,000	131,948
Atherstone	Westwood Road Recreation Ground		30,000	25,000			55,000
Baddesley Ensor	Church and Community Hall Grounds	15,000			27,880	1,500	44,380
Baddesley Ensor	Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground	1,146			37,614	50,780	89,540
Baxterley	Recreation Ground	17,955				36,345	54,300
Dordon	Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground	11,860			37,388	3,000	52,248
Dordon	Long Street Recreation Ground	78,266			170,390	30,024	278,680
Fillongley	Recreation Ground	10,000				50,000	60,000
Grendon	Recreation Ground	7,268	60,000				67,268
Hartshill	Grange Road Recreation Ground	4,383				1,900	6,283
Hurley	Recreation Ground	16,678			5,000		21,678
Kingsbury	Church Lane Recreation Ground	5,500				50,000	55,500
Kingsbury	Sycamore Road Recreation Ground	34,315		2,500		55,730	92,545
Middleton	Middleton Lakes	4,500					4,500
New Arley	Dafferns Wood	6,301					6,301
New Arley	Hill Top Open Space	4,840					4,840
Old Arley	Recreation Ground	39,683				45,865	85,548
Piccadilly	Sports Field				17,118		17,118
Polesworth	Abbey Green Park	58,990	2,000		183,900	79,782	324,671
Ridge Lane	Recreation Ground	18,114				50,750	68,864
Warton	Recreation Ground	5,000		12,500		47,400	64,900
Water Orton	Village Green			6,532	5,730		12,262
Whitacre Heath	Recreation Ground			1,700		10,000	11,700
Wood End	Recreation Ground	455					455
		372,991	142,107	73,232	485,020	563,076	1,636,425

		NWBC Revenue / Reserves	NWBC Capital	Town/Parish Councils/ Community	Developer Contributions	External Funding	Total
Outdoor Sports							
Atherstone	QE School Artificial Grass Pitch	10,000				333,000	343,000
Hurley Common	Daw Mill Sports Field	10,185		10,000		445,700	465,885
		20,185	0	10,000	0	778,700	808,885
Natural Green Space							
	Wild:LIFE Project - Local Natures Reserves	47,800			10,000	238,265	296,065
		47,800	0	0	10,000	238,265	296.065
Total							
		440,976	142,107	83,232	495,020	1,580,041	2,445,310
	Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project Phase 1	2,000				86,000	88,000
	Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project Phase 2					2,500,000	2,500,000
		2,000	0	0	0	2,586,000	2,588,000

Preface Reviewing the Strategy

Priorities where some progress has been made but where funding has yet to be secured to bring them to fruition include:

Table 8: Projects Partially Progressed	
Borough Council Sites	
Ansley Common Coleshill Old Arley	Bretts Hall Recreation Ground Improvements Cole End Park Improvements Recreation Ground improvements
Town / Parish Council Sites	
Alvecote	Recreation Area Improvements and Play Area Replacement

Scrutiny of priorities that have yet to be addressed shows that the greatest challenges to delivery are:

- capacity to engage with town and parish councils, schools and other providers and access to funding to take projects forward on green space within their management.
- the need to further embed the Green Space Strategy in the planning process in order to ensure a coherent and co-ordinated approach to green space provision and funding in the future.

Section 1 Introducing the Strategy

What is Green Space?

Green Space refers to the range of green areas, which are used by the public, and includes parks, landscaped spaces in and around housing estates, sports pitches, children's play areas, wildlife and countryside areas, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards.

Why is Green Space Important?

"Green space is a vital part of the public realm. Attractive, safe and accessible parks and green spaces contribute positive social, economic and environmental benefits, improving public health, well being and quality of life."

CABE Space (2003) Green Space Strategies – A Good Practice Guide.

Good quality green space can directly benefit:

- **Health** - green spaces can benefit mental and physical health. They provide opportunities to enjoy the natural world and to get involved in a range of leisure activities such as walking, running and cycling. The more accessible and attractive the green space, the more likely it is to be used by a wide range of people. Physical activity is now widely accepted as a major contributor to good health and can help to reduce rates of coronary heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers and mental health problems
- **Education** - green spaces can provide a valuable resource for education providing outdoor classrooms and space for training in areas such as nature conservation, horticulture, community work, environmental education and landscaping
- **Economy** - the economic benefits of green spaces are becoming more apparent. An urban area with lots of high quality green space and areas for wildlife creates a positive image and is attractive to business, bringing jobs, tourism and investment into an area. Green spaces also raise property values and support physical regeneration
- **Environment** - green space encourages wildlife to flourish. In an increasingly urbanised society, where the expansion of urban development means that true countryside becomes ever more distant from many, and what countryside remains has often lost much of its wildlife interest, green spaces increasingly symbolise pockets of countryside in urban areas. They can act as wildlife corridors allowing plant and animal life to migrate between them, thus acting as an important link or a series of stepping stones between urban and rural areas ensuring that wildlife in both are connected

Why have we developed a Green Space Strategy?

Nationally, the government is encouraging local authorities to develop green space strategies as part of the drive to create sustainable communities. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), which was set up by the government in 1999 to promote high standards in the quality of buildings and spaces, recognises the importance of green spaces in creating successful and attractive places. In fact CABE has established an offshoot agency (CABE Space) to further promote the role of green space.

At the local level, the Green Space Strategy will help the Borough Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities:

Section 1 Introducing the Strategy

- **Enhancing community involvement and access to services**
- **Protecting and improving our environment**
- **Defending and improving our countryside and rural heritage**
- **Tackling health inequalities through improving well-being and providing leisure opportunities to all our citizens**
- **Working with our partners to tackle crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Making best use of our resources**

There is a strong link between the Green Space Strategy and the current Local Plan and the future Local Development Framework. These give a land use policy based impetus to promoting green space through:

- **Protecting (through designation and or policy reference) existing valued spaces**
- **Ensuring as far as possible an appropriate distribution of spaces**
- **Ensuring that future development contributes towards the maintenance and improvement of green space opportunities as appropriate**
- **Securing contributions from developers of new (especially residential) property for new or improved existing spaces reflecting the needs of their residents.**

Adoption of the Green Space Strategy will ensure that its policies are supported through this planning process.

The Green Space Strategy will itself support the North Warwickshire Framework for Sustainable Rural Action to achieve:

- **Thriving, vibrant and sustainable rural communities**
- **A diverse and dynamic rural economy**
- **An attractive, varied and productive local environment**

The Green Space Strategy will contribute to meeting the targets of the seven key themes identified in the North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Plan:

- **Children, Young People and their Families**
- **Community Life**
- **Education and Lifelong Learning**
- **Environment**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Local Economy**
- **Safer Communities.**

Section 1 Introducing the Strategy

Our Vision

The Green Space Strategy is about land, and about people. Our vision is:

To deliver positive and lasting change to North Warwickshire's stock of green spaces, for the benefit of everyone

Our Objectives

The Green Space Strategy sets out a ten-year framework to fulfil the following objectives:

- **Improve the management and maximise the benefits of green spaces** - over recent decades, the quality and usage of green spaces has generally declined – not only in North Warwickshire, but also generally across the UK. A study by the Urban Parks Forum showed that standards mainly declined due to falling local authority budgets, which were reduced by £1.3 billion between 1980 and 2000. Poor quality spaces are symptomatic of decline and can perpetuate the cycle of deprivation.
- **Co-ordinate action and develop partnership working** - many local groups and other organisations and agencies are actively engaged in bringing forward a wide range of site improvement projects. There is a need to co-ordinate all of this activity to ensure that resources are effectively used and the benefits are maximised.
- **Access more funding opportunities** - there is a range of funding possibilities for green spaces. By providing a clear and co-ordinated set of policies and proposals, the Green Space Strategy will ensure that an effective case for investment is made when submitting bids for funding. Experience shows that in areas of the country where a strategy has been produced, access to different funding sources has increased significantly.
- **Promote green space investment as a policy priority** - having a Green Space Strategy will elevate the status of Green Space issues in the Borough in giving consideration to public policy priorities
- **Help create sustainable communities** - attractive green spaces can play a vital role in creating sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities where people will choose to live and work both now and in the future

How have we developed the Green Space Strategy?

We commissioned a study of the provision of and need for open spaces within North Warwickshire. The study also covered 'hard' open space such as town squares and other pedestrianised spaces. However, these are very few and far between in the Borough, and so the study was, in practice, very much about green space.

This section briefly summarises the work undertaken in preparing the Open Spaces Study. More detailed summaries of the research are contained in the background documents that are available to view on the Council's website.

Section 1 Introducing the Strategy

The main part of the research involved carrying out a '**Local Needs Assessment**' of green spaces within the Borough. This was done in accordance with national planning guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG17) and its companion guide, 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and involved carrying out a series of **audit** and **consultation** exercises.

The local needs assessment looked at the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces. Following on from this, research was undertaken to enable us to adopt **minimum local standards** for the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces that we need in North Warwickshire. These standards will be key to planning for and managing green space in the future.

The audits provided an understanding of the current condition, amount and location of the following types of green spaces throughout North Warwickshire:

- **Parks and public gardens** - accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- **Informal/amenity open space** - typically green spaces in and around housing estates and village greens.
- **Equipped children's play areas and places for young people** - areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- **Outdoor sports areas** - areas providing opportunities for participation in competitive outdoor sports.
- **Natural and semi-natural spaces** - woodland and other spaces that are managed in a way that promotes biodiversity and allows nature to develop.
- **Cemeteries and churchyards** - burial grounds providing opportunities for quiet recreation and contemplation, and biodiversity.
- **Allotments** - plot of land subdivided to provide opportunity for people to grow produce
- **Green routes** - Footpaths and cycle routes, which can link residential areas, green spaces and the countryside and attract wildlife into built-up areas

The study identified a rich heritage of green spaces within the Borough. Some of the most important green spaces are:

- **The country parks at Pooley, Kingsbury, and Hartshill**
- **Collectively the various recreation grounds in the towns and villages**
- **Accessible natural green space and green corridors (including Rights of Way linking towns to adjacent countryside, various off road cycle paths, canal towpath**
- **The Tame Valley River Corridor**
- **Informal open space (often found in residential areas)**
- **Allotments and community gardens**
- **Dedicated sports grounds**

Local people are the main users of green spaces and have the most knowledge and experience of them, so it was essential that their views were taken into account. Consultations were carried out to provide further information about spaces, what local residents think about them, whether there is enough space, and how they would like to see spaces improved. The consultations consisted of survey questionnaires, participation workshops, and 'drop in' surgeries. Questionnaires were circulated to:

Section 1 Introducing the Strategy

- **The Citizens' Panel**
- **Local groups and community organisations**
- **Sports clubs.**
- **Town and Parish Councils**
- **Other organisations involved in providing green space**

Workshops and surgeries were held with individuals who were prepared to come and discuss issues in more detail. Collectively, they represented a very broad cross section of those responsible for using and providing green space.

The consultation highlighted a general satisfaction amongst local people with many forms of green space provision, including the following:

- **The local appreciation of countryside and environmental recreation facilities.**
- **The local importance attached to provision of parks and gardens.**
- **The value attached to informal and natural green space for a variety of reasons.**
- **The relative popularity of various forms of informal open space in comparison with formal sports facilities. The latter tend to be used by a smaller percentage of the population on a regular basis.**
- **An appreciation of the value of good levels of maintenance**

Section 2 Key Priorities

Policy Priorities

The Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study confirmed the value of green space to the community. The Study and the Green Space Strategy together are a tool to protect and enhance green space, the application of which must be embedded in the culture of the Council. The following policy priorities will help us to do this:

Protection and Enhancement of Green Space

In order to protect against the loss or inappropriate development of green space we will use the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study and the Green Space Strategy to:

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
PP1 Inform the Planning process	The OSSR study and GSS are material to the planning process although there is not yet a supplementary planning document (SPD) in place	Amber
PP2 Inform any review of the Borough Council's land holdings and any proposals for disposal	There is no formal process in place to inform any review of land holdings	Red
PP3 Inform the development of a Green Space Strategy Action and Funding Plan which will be integral to the Borough Council's Landscape Management service plan	An Action and Funding plan is presented to C. & E. Board each March setting out priorities for the coming financial year for approval, which subsequently informs the work of the Landscape Management Section	Green

Section 2 Key Priorities

Service Priorities

The consultation for the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study brought out a number of common themes concerning green space provision. From these we have decided that in most areas there is no need for additional green space but we need to:

- **Improve existing green spaces, especially their maintenance, cleanliness and accessibility**
- **Tackle vandalism and graffiti**
- **Tackle anti-social behaviour**
- **Improve safety and security**
- **Provide site supervision and enhance partnership working with the police**
- **Address the uneven spread and quality of facilities across the Borough**
- **Ensure that facilities are accessible to people in rural areas**
- **Improve partnership working between the Borough Council and other providers of green space**
- **Target providers' combined resources more effectively**
- **Encourage access to school facilities for the local community**
- **Provide better quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities and develop at least one "sports hub"**
- **Secure the provision of at least one Synthetic Turf Pitch for community use**
- **Increase provision for children and young people**
- **Increase provision of, and access to, bridleways and cyclepaths**
- **Encourage greater community engagement with local green spaces**
- **Increase awareness of the availability of recreation facilities by improving publicity and promotion**

We will address these issues through the Service Priorities set out below:

Maintenance & Cleanliness

The Borough Council recognises that effective, efficient and adequately resourced grounds maintenance is key to improving the quality of its green spaces and will:

Key Priority

Progress

SP1	Review its current grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure coherent and appropriate work programming and adequate allocation of resources	A fundamental review of grounds maintenance arrangements has been undertaken, specifications and budget profiles have been revised and service level agreements (SLAs) are being put in place	Green
SP2	Explore opportunities for alternative maintenance arrangements for some sites such as partnership working with other providers or community management projects	A partnership agreement is in place for managing local nature reserves, one sports ground is to be let to a junior football club following refurbishment and other opportunities are being explored	Green

Section 2 Key Priorities

Safety & Security

Green spaces should be welcoming places where people can enjoy recreation and leisure activities in confidence and safety. We will:

Key Priority

Progress

SP3	Introduce a Park Ranger service to provide site supervision, ensuring a regular presence at each of the Borough Council's parks, play areas and recreation grounds and a timely response to issues such as vandalism and anti-social behaviour	Not progressed due to limited resources	Red
SP4	Invest in basic service improvements, such as improving footpaths and site furniture, installing signage and securing sites against inappropriate access	Substantial improvements have been made to several sites within the resources available but a significant number of issues remain to be addressed at other sites	Amber

Tree Management

A well-managed, sustainable and renewable tree stock provides long-term benefits for our environment and is an essential element of attractive, good quality green space. We will:

Key Priority

Progress

SP5	Prepare and adopt a Tree Management Policy to inform the management of the Borough Council's tree stock	Limited progress has been made through the adoption of a Tree Management Briefing note but a formal Policy has not yet been prepared due to limited staff capacity	Amber
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Section 2 Key Priorities

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Well-managed, multi-functional green space benefits both people and wildlife and can contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. We will:

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
SP6 Seek opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity through habitat creation and management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules	Four sites are now in active management as local nature reserves; other opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity will be sought as more site management plans are prepared	Green
SP7 Seek opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly increased flood risk, through appropriate planting and land management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules	Some progress has been made with the establishment of the local nature reserves; other opportunities will be sought as more site management plans are prepared	Amber
SP8 Support partners to enhance and conserve biodiversity on publicly accessible sites.	Some progress through engagement with the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project	Amber
SP9 Work with partners to increase opportunities for community engagement in habitat creation and management projects	Communities involved in the creation and management of four local nature reserves; Borough Council actively engaged with and supporting the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Project	Green

Partnership Working

The Borough Council recognises that other providers, particularly town and parish councils, have an important role in delivering green space provision across the Borough. We will:

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
SP10 Work in partnership with other providers and, where improvements to their green spaces have been identified as Area Priorities, support them to deliver these through the Area Forum Fund and by offering advice and guidance	Good progress in a few areas within the capacity and resources available (<i>n.b. Area Forum Fund no longer available</i>)	Amber
SP11 Work with schools and other providers to meet the demand for more community access to outdoor sports facilities	Some limited progress with a partnership agreement established with one school	Amber

Section 2 Key Priorities

Outdoor Sports

Many people enjoy taking part in formal sports and demand for facilities is high. The Borough Council recognises that the quality of its sports pitches needs to be improved but that resources for this are limited. We will:

Key Priority

Progress

SP12	Use the findings of the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study to inform the development of a Playing Pitches Strategy to deliver sustainable outdoor sports provision	Playing Pitch Strategy prepared and adopted in October 2010	Green
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Children & Young People

Green space plays a vital role in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction and to explore and learn in the wider environment. We will:

Key Priority

Progress

SP13	Develop a Play Area Business Plan to enable us to ensure that all of our built play facilities offer good play value, meet current safety standards, are accessible, are secured by design and support the objectives of the North Warwickshire Play Strategy	Through the Play Area Development Programme all except one of the Borough Council's equipped play areas now offer good play value and meet current standards; a project is in hand to complete the programme in the short-term	Green
SP14	Support the development of a strategic network of play facilities across the Borough and assist other providers to deliver improvements through partnership working	Through the Play Area Development Programme assistance has been provided to seven parish councils to enable the improvement of their play areas; work is in hand to progress a project with an eighth parish; training provided to parish councils	Green
SP15	Explore opportunities to include natural, wildplay areas when developing individual site management plans	Wildplay opportunities have been developed at four local nature reserves; further opportunities will be sought as more site management plans are prepared	Amber

Section 2 Key Priorities

Community Engagement

Green space is for people. It is somewhere to relax, to enjoy sport and recreation and to enjoy the natural environment. Local spaces can provide a focus for family outings and for community activities. The Borough Council is keen to encourage people to use their local spaces and to take pride in their development. We will:

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
SP16 Establish a network of Friends Groups to participate in the development and oversight of local green spaces	Two friends groups and two community associations set up to support the development and management of green spaces; further opportunities will be sought	Green
SP17 Support the establishment of a federation of allotments associations for North Warwickshire	North Warwickshire Allotment federation formally constituted in January 2009	Green
SP18 Support the establishment of allotment associations to bring about regeneration of underused sites or to establish new ones	Two new allotment associations established with one site regenerated and one new one created	Green
SP19 Publicise and promote our green spaces, play and sports facilities through the production of leaflets and other promotional material and through use of the Internet	Information available on the website and subject to revision to maintain currency	Green

Section 2 Key Priorities

Area Priorities

The Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study looked at the priorities for action to help us meet the standards for green space provision in 11 Local Need Areas across the Borough. These areas make use of ward boundaries and take into account where people live and any barriers to access to facilities such as major roads. The 11 areas are:

- **Coleshill**
- **Water Orton**
- **Curdworth, Hurley & Wood End**
- **Kingsbury**
- **Arley & Whitacre**
- **Atherstone & Mancetter**
- **Polesworth & Dordon**
- **Baddesley & Grendon**
- **Hartshill**
- **Fillongley**
- **Newton Regis & Warton**

The findings of the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study in each of these areas were summarised in Area Profiles and we have used the recommendations made in them, together with some of the key findings from the consultation, to determine the priorities for each Area. These are set out below.

Coleshill			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP1	Develop a management plan for Cole End Park in consultation with the local community	Outline proposals prepared and partially implemented within available resources	Amber
AP2	Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for Memorial Park with a view to achieving Green Flag standard	Funding has been allocated and liaison is continuing to support the Town Council in advancing this project	Green
AP3	Seek the provision of junior play facilities in the south of the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP4	Work with local schools to meet the demand for more community access to football pitches	Not yet advanced	Red
AP5	Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses, such as new play space or for management as natural green space	Local nature reserve established at Cole End Park; other opportunities will be sought	Amber

Section 2 Key Priorities

Water Orton			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP6	Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for the recreation ground	Not yet advanced	Red
AP7	Support the improvement of play facilities at the parish recreation ground	Minor improvement through transfer of equipment from another site	Amber
AP8	Support the provision of additional play facilities at the informal green space in Smiths Way	Not yet advanced	Red
AP9	Work with the Parish Council and other providers to meet the demand for more community access to outdoor sports facilities	Not yet advanced	Red
AP10	Seek the provision of additional open space for outdoor sport and children's play	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP11	Allow the release of some informal open space to secure funds to improve existing facilities in the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red

Curdworth, Hurley & Wood End including Curdworth, Wishaw, Middleton, Marston, Bodymoor Heath, Lea Marston, Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre, Hurley, Wood End and Piccadilly			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP12	Ensure there is no loss of publicly accessible open space within the area	Presumed ongoing but liaison with Development Control needs to be strengthened	Amber
AP13	Support the Parish Council to develop an improvement plan for the open space and play area at Middleton	Not yet advanced	Red
AP14	Support the Parish Council to develop an improvement plan for the open space and play area at Lea Marston	Not yet advanced	Red
AP15	Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for the King George V Playing Fields at Curdworth to ensure ongoing improvement of facilities	Not yet advanced	Red

Section 2 Key Priorities

Curdworth, Hurley & Wood End including **Curdworth, Wishaw, Middleton, Marston, Bodymoor Heath, Lea Marston, Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre, Hurley, Wood End** and **Piccadilly** *continued*

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
AP16 Support the promotion of access to rights of way across the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP17 Support the RSPB in the continuing development of recreation and community activity opportunities at Middleton Lakes	Funding awarded to support access improvements	Green

Kingsbury

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
AP18 Target resources to raise the quality of all types of open space across the area	Improvements effected at Kingsbury Meadow and Sycamore Road Recreation Ground	Green
AP19 Provide new play facilities at Sycamore Road Recreation Ground	New play equipment installed	Green
AP20 Support the provision of improved play facilities at Church Lane Recreation Ground	New play facilities installed	Green
AP21 Work with the local school to meet the demand for more community access to outdoor sports facilities	Not yet advanced	Red

Arley & Whitacre including **Old Arley, New Arley, Hill Top, Over Whitacre, Ansley, Ansley Common, Furnace End, Devitt's Green** and **Birchley Heath**

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
AP22 Develop a management plan for Old Arley Recreation Ground to enable its development as a recreation "hub"	Outline proposals prepared but not advanced yet due to limited capacity and resources	Amber
AP23 Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for Hill Top Recreation Ground	Not yet advanced	Red
AP24 Support improved access to the countryside through the promotion of footpaths and routeways through the area	Some improvements implemented at Dafferns Wood in New Arley; no other opportunities have yet been identified	Amber

Section 2 Key Priorities

Arley & Whitacre including Old Arley, New Arley, Hill Top, Over Whitacre, Ansley, Ansley Common, Furnace End, Devitt's Green and Birchley Heath <i>continued</i>			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP25	Support the improvement of play facilities at Hill Top	Not yet advanced	Red
AP26	Support the release of the former Miners' Welfare site at Ransome Road, New Arley for development and thereafter seek developer funding contributions to improve existing green spaces in the area	Land released and funding secured towards improvements at Dafferns Wood in New Arley	Green
AP27	Develop a management plan for Bretts Hall Recreation Ground in Ansley Common, in conjunction with an improvement plan for the adjacent Bretts Hall Allotments site	Proposals for the recreation ground developed, implementation dependant on funding being secured	Amber
AP28	Support Ansley Parish Council to develop a management plan for Ansley Recreation Ground	Not yet advanced	Red

Atherstone & Mancetter including Atherstone, Mancetter and Ridge Lane			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP29	Develop a formal "destination" park within the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP30	Work with partners at the neighbouring cricket ground to develop a sports "hub" at Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground to provide a focus for a range of good quality pitch sports provision with appropriate ancillary facilities	Options are being explored to work with Atherstone Rugby Club, which currently hires pitches at the ground	Amber
AP31	Invest in the improvement of play facilities across the area, including the development of a major family facility	New play equipment installed at Royal Meadow Drive, St Mary's Road and Westwood Road recreation grounds in Atherstone and at Mancetter and Ridge Lane recreation grounds, including two family facilities	Green
AP32	Improve access to and within the Borough Council's open spaces across the area and support similar improvements to other providers' open spaces	No opportunities have been identified	Red

Section 2 Key Priorities

Atherstone & Mancetter including Atherstone, Mancetter and Ridge Lane <i>continued</i>			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP33	Work with local schools and other providers to meet the demand for more community access to good quality sports pitches	Community access established at Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone	Green
AP34	Support the provision of a Synthetic Turf Pitch in the area as the preferred location for this type of facility in North Warwickshire	Funding provided towards the installation of an artificial grass pitch at Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone	Green
AP35	Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses, such as new play space, or for management as natural green space	No opportunities have been identified	Red

Polesworth & Dordon including Polesworth, Birchmoor and Dordon			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP36	Develop a management plan for Abbey Green Park in Polesworth with a view to achieving Green Flag standard	Management plan developed and implemented	Green
AP37	Support the County Council in its work to develop a management plan for Pooley Country Park	Not yet advanced <i>(n.b. the country park may be affected by the proposed HS2 route)</i>	Red
AP38	Develop an improvement plan for Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground in Dordon in consultation with the local community	Management plan developed and implemented	Green
AP39	Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses such as new play space or for management as natural green space	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP40	Permit the release of some informal open space only where this will secure funds to improve existing facilities and avoid the loss of all other types of publicly accessible open space across the area	Some land released in Polesworth and funding contribution secured for Abbey Green Park	Green

Section 2 Key Priorities

Baddesley & Grendon including Baddesley Ensor, Grendon, Baxterley, Bentley, and Merevale			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP41	Target resources, particularly developer contributions, to improve the quality of open spaces in the area	Improvements implemented at Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground and the Church & Community Hall Grounds in Baddesley Ensor, funded through developer contributions	Green
AP42	Work with partners to seek to ensure the sustainable long-term provision of publicly accessible open space in Baxterley	Not yet advanced	Red
AP43	Improve the play facilities at Boot Hill in Grendon and at the Recreation Ground in Baxterley	New play equipment installed at both Boot Hill and Baxterley Recreation Grounds	Green
AP44	Support the improvement of play facilities at Speedwell Lane in Baddesley Ensor	New play equipment installed at Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground	Green
AP45	Seek the provision of more play facilities, particularly youth facilities, in the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red

Fillongley including Fillongley, Corley, Maxstoke and Shustoke			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP46	Support the parish councils to develop management plans for the recreation grounds at Fillongley and Shustoke	Management plan developed and implemented at Fillongley	Amber
AP47	Support the improvement of play facilities at existing open spaces across the area	New play equipment installed in Fillongley and Corley	Green

Section 2 Key Priorities

Hartshill			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP48	Support the provision of new play facilities in the north of Hartshill	No opportunities have been identified	Red
AP49	Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for Snowhill Recreation Ground	Parish Council supported to implement improvements at Snowhill recreation Ground	Green
AP50	Ensure the future of the informal open space at Cherryfields as publicly accessible open space and improve the facilities it offers	Not yet advanced	Red

Newton Regis & Warton including Newton Regis, Seckington, No Man's Heath, Shuttington, Alvecote, Austrey and Warton			
<u>Key Priority</u>		<u>Progress</u>	
AP51	Support the Parish Council to develop a management plan for the recreation ground at Warton	Funding has been secured and work is in progress to support the implementation of improvements to Warton Recreation Ground	Green
AP52	Support the Parish Council to provide sustainable, good quality play provision in the Alvecote	Work is in progress to support the provision of new play equipment but funding has yet to be secured	Amber
AP53	Support the Parish Councils to develop management plans to ensure ongoing investment in the outdoor sports facilities at the recreation grounds in Newton Regis and Austrey	Not yet advanced	Red
AP54	Support the improvement of the facilities at the playing field in Shuttington	Not yet advanced	Red
AP55	Allow the release of some informal open space to secure funds to improve existing facilities in the area	No opportunities have been identified	Red

Section 3 Delivering the Strategy

Resources

There are clearly financial implications attached to the implementation of the Green Space Strategy. In providing and managing green space within the public realm the Borough Council does not, and cannot, work in isolation. In particular:

- It essential to secure the support and cooperation of local parish and town councils, associated trusts and committees responsible for the management and maintenance of much of the Borough's stock of accessible green space.
- Nature conservation trusts, agencies, and the County Council have responsibility for much of the accessible natural green space found in rural areas, in particular-wildlife sites, country parks, designated habitats with public access.
- Agencies such as British Waterways and the Environment Agency have the ability to control and influence the management and maintenance of green space associated with the Borough's considerable network of water corridors and bodies.
- Institutional landowners such as the Coal Authority, and the Church control substantial tracts of land with great potential for development and use as accessible green space for the public good.
- Developers will be responsible for providing directly or indirectly new green space in relation to planned growth.
- The County Council and local schools control large amounts of educational land with unexploited potential in terms of contributing to green space strategic goals.
- The County Council, with responsibility for highways and rights of way, can also help to influence and promote the creation of green corridors and routes.
- Other local and national agencies such as health authorities, the police, Natural England and Sustrans can help to achieve many projects that increase positive community interaction with, use and appreciation of, green space.

The following policies will help us to secure, co-ordinate and target resources effectively:

Resources

The study underpinning the Strategy clearly identified the value attached to green spaces by the community for many forms of recreation, both informal and organised. The evidence, both locally and nationally, points to the primacy of the outdoor environment in providing the majority of people's physical recreation needs. To ensure, as far as we can, that our investment priorities reflect this we will:

Key Priority

Progress

RP01	Prepare a four year rolling Action Plan and Funding Strategy that identify how and when we and other stakeholders will achieve our key priorities	An Action and Funding plan is presented to C. & E. Board each March setting out priorities for the coming financial year for approval, which subsequently informs the work of the Landscape Management Section	Green
RP02	Review the Borough Council's investment of time and resources into the management and maintenance of local green space	Grounds maintenance arrangements have been reviewed and a Divisional review has included consideration of Landscape Management functions	Green

Section 3 Delivering the Strategy

Resources *continued*

<u>Key Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>	
RP03 Adopt a Supplementary Planning Document to enable the Authority to seek targeted financial contributions from housing developments towards open space, sport and recreation facilities using the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study as evidence of need both locally and Borough-wide	The OSSR study and GSS are material to the planning process but there is not yet a supplementary planning document (SPD) in place; reference to the documents in place has helped to secure developer funding in some instances	Amber

Monitoring and Development

The Green Space Strategy must be kept up to date and must continue to meet its priorities whilst fulfilling the Borough Council's corporate objectives, local planning policies and the objectives of the Sustainable Community Plan. This means that monitoring and review are essential. The following policies will help to ensure the currency and legitimacy of the Strategy.

Monitoring

To be effective the Green Space Strategy must be a living document, under constant review and revision. We will:

MP01	Review and update the Action and Funding Plan annually	Action plan reviewed annually	Green
MP02	Set out in the Action Plan performance targets against which delivery of the Green Space Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored and, if necessary, revised	Targets set out and reviewed annually	Green
MP03	Report, as a minimum, annually to Members on progress in delivering the Green Space Strategy and Action and Funding Plan	Progress reported to Board twice per annum	Green
MP04	Ensure that the Green Space Strategy continues to relate to the Borough Council's corporate objectives and is embedded therein	Action plan amended to reflect corporate objectives as necessary; advancement of priorities in the Strategy included in Divisional and Corporate Plans	Green
MP05	Review the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study and the entire Green Space Strategy on a five-year cycle	Unable to review after five years due to capacity and resource constraints; mechanism for full review now under consideration	Amber

Section 4 Supporting Documents

This strategy has been prepared using the following supporting documents, which are available to view on the North Warwickshire Borough Council website www.northwarks.gov.uk or can be obtained from Customer Services at The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1DE, tel: 01827 71534, e-mail: customerservices@northwarks.gov.uk

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand, Local Standards and Action Plan

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Part 2: Area Profiles

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Appendix 1: Quality Assessment Form (electronic spreadsheet)

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Appendix 2: Sites Included in the Study

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Appendix 3: Household Survey Questionnaire

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Appendix 4: Location and Details of Pitches (electronic spreadsheet)

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report
Appendix 5: Catchment Area Maps

Agenda Item No 9

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development)

Health Improvement Activity Update – Leisure and Community Development

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the progress being made in respect of the actions identified in the approved three-year Health Improvement Action Plan.

Recommendation to the Board

That the Board notes and comments upon the progress being made in respect of delivery of the commitments identified in the Health Improvement Action Plan.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson for the Community and Environment and Resources Boards and the Safer Communities Sub-Committee, together with Members with responsibility for Health, Well-being and Leisure and Young People, have all had an opportunity to comment on the content of this report. Any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.

3 Background

- 3.1 In July 2015, the Director of Public Health published his latest annual report, which had a particular focus on children and young people (the full report can be found at www.publichealth.warwickshire.gov.uk/annual-report/). Within his report, the Director detailed the local profiles in respect of long-term chronic health conditions and the impact of lifestyle choices on general well-being. He also outlined the future health priorities for the community, based around the following themes:

- Early Years
- Healthy Weight
- Mental Health and Well-being

- Educational Attainment
- Risky Behaviours
- Vulnerable Children and Young People

3.2 In June 2015, local health profile information was released by Public Health England, which identified that North Warwickshire, in comparison with the rest of the county, has:

- A higher number of children living in poverty (13.9% compared to a county average of 13.2%)
- A lower life expectancy for women
- A higher number of Year 6 children classed as being obese (19.8% compared to a county average of 15.6%)
- More adults classified as being obese (27.5% compared to a county average of 21.8%)
- More smoking-related deaths (although this was still better than the England average)
- An increased rate of early deaths from cardiovascular disease

North Warwickshire, however, did fare better than the rest of the county in respect of the number of alcohol-related hospital stays in both adults and young people under 18 years of age and fewer “self-harm” hospital stays.

3.3 Improving health and well-being opportunities for the local population is a corporate priority, and it is one that is shared by the North Warwickshire Community Partnership. Additional and localised health priorities have also been identified by the Community Partnership, including the need to:

- Halt the rise in obesity amongst children and reduce the number of adults who are obese
- Reduce the number of pregnant women who are smoking at the time of delivery
- Improve the quality of life for people with a mental illness, with a particular focus on people suffering with dementia
- Reduce alcohol-related harm

3.4 In part, these priorities are addressed through the work of the Northern Warwickshire Delivery Group, which was established in conjunction with Public Health and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC). As Members will be aware, the Authority has been making a focused and sustained contribution to local health improvement for many years. This activity is undertaken throughout the Borough Council, including through a variety of interventions undertaken by the Leisure and Community Development Division in conjunction with partner agencies.

3.5 In recognition of the Authority’s health improvement work, the County Council’s Public Health Department provides funding to support intensive, targeted local interventions that are consistent with countywide priorities. In

this respect, the Borough Council has signed a two-year funding agreement, which supports the implementation of an approved Health Improvement Action Plan. The funding agreement, which has an annual value of £17,000, includes the option for a 12 months extension (for 2016/17).

4 Health Improvement Action Plan

4.1 The jointly agreed three-year Health Improvement Action Plan (2014 to 2017) has been developed to provide a coherent, effective and focused approach to future health improvement work. The Plan, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A, was approved by the Board in March 2014.

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4.2 The Action Plan includes a commitment, along with Public Health, NBBC, the Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group and the Clinical Support Unit, to engage with the public in respect of the #onething project; a social media campaign, aimed at raising awareness, and preventing episodes, of cardiovascular disease, particularly amongst women aged between 30 and 40 years. The Plan also commits the Authority to working with various partners to develop measured mile routes, to deliver key health promotion and education messages relating to healthy eating and increasing exercise levels, to support initiatives to target and reduce alcohol-related harm, and to reduce the number of people smoking, with a particular emphasis on pregnant women.

4.3 The Action Plan includes a commitment to train frontline staff in “Making Every Contact Count” (MECC). This training will provide staff with the information to engage the public in conversations about their health and to provide a signposting service that will enable people to make healthier choices in their lives. Due to other corporate training commitments, however, MECC training will be advanced towards the end of the Action Plan period.

4.4 Measurements of success in respect of the delivery of Action Plan commitments are undertaken on a project by project basis.

5 Divisional Health Activity – 2015 / 16

5.1 Through its Public Health Department, Warwickshire County Council has recently commissioned countywide weight management programmes (including the re-commissioning of “Exercise on Referral”). The tender was split into three lots; Exercise on Referral (offering targeted physical activity for people with specific health conditions), an adult weight management programme and a family weight management scheme (targeting overweight children aged from four to 13 years and their families).

5.2 Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust won the tender for Lot 1, the Exercise on Referral programme (which includes a co-ordinating role for all three Lots). In North Warwickshire, the programme continues to be delivered at three of the Borough Council’s leisure facilities, in Atherstone, Coleshill and

Polesworth. It is anticipated that Arley Sports Centre will be included in the programme from the New Year. Unfortunately, the new provider does not offer a subsidy to patients; as a consequence of which service users are required to pay the standard rates to use the facilities. Subsequent to the programme's recommencement in July, 27 people have been referred to North Warwickshire facilities by local doctors.

- 5.3 Rugby Borough Council was successful in its partnership bid for Lot 2 - the Family Weight Management Programme, and it has employed a Family Lifestyle Co-ordinator and five Family Lifestyle Advisors (one in each borough / district) through which to deliver the programme. The North Warwickshire Advisor sits within the Leisure and Community Development Division and is responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of "Change Makers" courses in the Borough. The programme consists of a nine weeks term-time course for children and their families, which includes information on nutrition and physical activity sessions delivered by qualified coaches. After the nine weeks programme there is an expectation that families will continue to be engaged with local sports clubs and other services, if appropriate, such as Health and Well-being Hubs, smoking cessation and community cooking. Locally, there is a target to deliver nine programmes a year to a total of 60 families.
- 5.4 The countywide Young People and Adult Weight Management programme (Lot 3) has been awarded to Slimming World. The service includes 12 weeks of free sessions for those people that have a BMI over 30 (or a BMI over 28 with complex needs). Those people in need of help can attend more than one service as long as they are eligible (e.g. a parent could attend Slimming World and Change Makers). Full details of all of the schemes are available via the website: <http://fitterfutureswarwickshire.co.uk>.
- 5.5 Eleven health walks continue to operate throughout the Borough, in Coleshill, Kingsbury, Old Arley, Atherstone, Austrey, Dordon, Grendon, Hartshill, Mancetter, Middleton and Ridge Lane. Each walk is led by trained volunteer leaders, who co-ordinate and manage their individual walk programmes. The walking initiative has engaged with 276 individuals to date (since the programme started), and continues to offer an effective entry level physical activity for people who have long-term chronic health issues, people who are isolated within their community, and older adults who need to achieve and maintain a positive level of physical and mental well-being. Evaluation of the walks is completed once a year. At the end of 2014 / 15, 96.77% of questionnaire respondents reported an improvement in their health.
- 5.6 As an alternative to walking, a running group has been developed at Atherstone Leisure Complex, which offers a "Couch to 5k" programme on Wednesday evenings and an intermediate running group on a Friday evening, both of which are attracting a small, but loyal group of participants.
- 5.7 The Borough Council has successfully supported Warwickshire County Council Public Health Department's "Big Day Out" initiative which is designed

to get more people outdoors and enjoying their local green space. Being active outdoors not only improves physical health, it is also shown have a significant and positive impact upon mental well-being. Two events have taken place this year. At the first event, held in May at Royal Meadow Drive in Atherstone, it is estimated that 600 people attended, with a further 1,500 enjoying the event in September, which was held at Snowhill Recreation Ground in Hartshill. A range of activities and stalls were provided at the events to encourage people to get outside and enjoy using their local green space.

- 5.8 Events such as 'Big Day Out' provide the opportunity to engage with people about their health. At both events individuals were encouraged to make a pledge as part of the '#onething' campaign. Through these two events and other promotional activity in the local community, a total of 99 individuals from North Warwickshire have made a pledge to make a small change that will improve their health. As detailed above, the campaign was developed because of the concerns about the rise in cardiovascular disease in women aged from 30 to 40. Although pledges have been made, the number made by people from within the target group still needs to improve and this will be the focus of activity over the next six months. As part of the campaign, certain people are offered health checks, a total of 129 of which have been provided in North Warwickshire (in comparison to 368 in Nuneaton and Bedworth). Of those people who received a local check, 56 were provided with additional health advice, 18 people were identified as having high blood pressure, four were identified as having a high risk of diabetes and an additional 20 people were referred to their doctor for further checks.
- 5.9 The Community Development Officer (HI) continues to support the work of the local Smoking Cessation Officer and the Smoking in Pregnancy Team, particularly in respect of related national campaigns; "Stoptober" and "National No Smoking Day". Members will also be aware of the introduction of the "Smoke Free Homes, Smoke Free Cars" campaign, which launched at the beginning of October and includes legislation that allows law enforcement officers to issue fines to people smoking in a vehicle occupied by anyone under the age of 18 years. Campaign leaflets and posters will be distributed at a number of places, including:
- The Food Bank
 - Children Centres
 - Community Hubs
 - Schools
 - Council House
 - Leisure Facilities
 - Libraries
- 5.10 Improving integration and access for people with dementia is a priority for the Warwickshire North Health and Well-being Partnership Group, which is chaired by the Borough Council's Chief Executive. In order to advance this commitment, a working group has been established, led by the County

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Council and including staff from the Borough Council, Public Health, the Alzheimer's Society and a local volunteer. The associated Action Plan (attached at Appendix B) has initially focussed on making Atherstone a "Dementia Friendly Community". Progress to date has included consultation with the Alzheimer's Café regarding local services, Dementia Friends training sessions being held in Atherstone Library, assisting the Mayor to co-ordinate a Memory Walk around Merevale Estate, and the completion of a physical environment checklist at Atherstone Leisure Complex. If the pilot project in Atherstone is successful, consideration will be given to expanding the initiative across the Borough.

- 5.11 The Authority also supported Dementia Awareness Week (18 to 24 May 2015), which included a singing "flash mob" that performed "I'll get by with a little help from my friends" in Atherstone Market Square, an event which received over 10,000 views on social media (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RfLSR7pgvM>).
- 5.12 Management Team has agreed to the principle of the Borough Council working towards becoming a "Dementia Friendly Organisation". Organisations that pledge and sign up to the Coventry and Warwickshire Dementia Action Alliance to become "dementia friendly" commit to working towards the following principles:
- Enhancing awareness and understanding of dementia through the provision of basic awareness training and information sharing for, and with, staff
 - Developing positive attitudes towards the delivery of services to those people who are most vulnerable in our society, including those people living with dementia
 - Providing a dementia friendly environment. This can be achieved by ensuring that all Borough Council buildings are sympathetic to the needs of people living with dementia, for example by ensuring that there are no shiny floors, no clutter, clear signage, etc.
- 5.13 Subsequent to the provision of Dementia Friends training for Extended Management Team and, in due course, Members, it is intended to provide the training to all staff. A comprehensive half-day awareness training session will be provided for frontline staff, including those people working in leisure centres, the One Stop Shop, Borough Care, Housing and other staff who come into regular contact with adults. Training will also be provided through an e-learning module.
- 5.14 Within the context of a review being undertaken into the way in which the Division's Community Development section operates, a matter that will be the subject of a more detailed report in due course, a variety of local data has been collated in respect of the key themes of health improvement, rural regeneration and safer communities.

5.15 Under the “Health Improvement” theme, the indicators that match local health priorities included those relating to obesity, alcohol consumption, healthy diets, deaths from cancers and illnesses related to the respiratory and circulatory systems. Additionally, data relating to life expectancy was also collated. Unfortunately, although a priority, no ward level data was available relating to mental health. Table 1 identifies the ranking of local communities, in which Hartshill is identified as the area with the most significant health-related needs.

Table 1 – Health Improvement

Community	Rank
Hartshill	1
Arley and Whitacre	2
Atherstone and Mancetter	3
Baddesley and Grendon	4
Hurley and Wood End	5
Dordon	6
Newton Regis and Warton	7
Fillongley	8
Kingsbury	9
Coleshill	10
Water Orton	11
Polesworth	12
Curdworth	13

5.16 In those communities (Atherstone / Mancetter and Hartshill) that were identified as being of concern across all three themes, projects are currently being identified that will help the section work towards its aim of reducing related inequalities. Indeed, the section is currently investigating the opportunity of developing a “community allotment” in Atherstone and is in the process of developing a project plan that will outline the scope of the initiative.

The proposed long-term aims of the allotment project will be:

- To provide the local community with an area of land that enables the enjoyment of an outdoor space and encourages people to grow and use their own produce
- To improve individual health and well-being through encouraging people to be active outdoors

Additional and localised priorities may include the need to:

- Halt the rise in the number of children who are classified as being overweight or obese and reduce the number of adults classed as obese

- Improve the quality of life for people living with a mental illness, with a particular focus on people suffering with dementia
- Work with individuals and communities to help raise levels of aspiration, attainment and skills
- Deliver positive interventions to address anti-social and nuisance behaviour

6 Wider Health Action Plan Activity

6.1 To raise knowledge and skill levels, assist those people living on a low budget and to tackle the frozen food and take away culture that contributes to problems of obesity, cooking courses continue to be delivered. The next “Cook It!” programme starts in October at the Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone. The eight week course teaches people basic cooking skills and provides them with the opportunity to complete a Level 2 Food Hygiene qualification. The programme targets people who would benefit from learning how to cook healthy wholesome meals on a budget. To date, referrals have been made by the following agencies:

- The Crossroads Trust
- Family Intervention Team
- The Food Bank
- Exercise on Referral Scheme
- Doorway
- Citizens Advice Bureau

6.2 The “Cook It!” course is free to attend and people are provided with all of the ingredients required to participate. They are taught by a retired chef and the Food Technology teacher from the Academy. Additionally, they are given ingredients at the end of each session, in order that they can replicate their dishes at home. The first session saw 15 people benefit from the advice and support on offer.

6.3 In addressing issues of obesity, financial inclusion and access to services, the CDO (HI) has also been involved in establishing a partnership with Aldi. The local supermarket now provides a substantial amount of fruit and vegetables to the Food Bank. This provides those people most in need of support with access to fresh produce, which would not ordinarily be provided within a food parcel, and additionally benefits other local community groups with the offer of healthy snacks.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Within the local 2015 Health Profile, 27.5% of North Warwickshire adults are classified as being obese, whilst 19.8% of Year 6 pupils are also considered to be obese. As detailed earlier in the report, both of these figures are significantly higher than the county average. Life expectancy for women living

in the Borough is lower than the England average (82.2 years compared to 83.1 years), whilst the number of early deaths (defined as deaths of people aged under the age of 75) from cardiovascular disease is on the increase in women.

- 7.2 Early intervention and prevention are key to improving the health and well-being of the local community. The Authority is committed working in partnership with appropriate stakeholders to improve health and well-being outcomes for local people. Reducing health inequalities, enabling people to make healthier choices and improving the mental and physical well-being of the communities in North Warwickshire through the targeted initiatives identified within the Health Improvement Action Plan are key to achieving this aim.

8 Report Implications

8.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 8.1.1 The health improvement services detailed within the main body of the report and those identified in the approved Health Improvement Action Plan are, and will continue to be, funded either through approved revenue budgets or secured external funding. Warwickshire County Council's Public Health department is providing a grant of £17,000 to the Council in 2015 / 16 to support related activity. Partnership led health promotion projects and interventions are a cost effective way of improving the health and well-being of the local community.

8.2 Safer Communities Implications

- 8.2.1 Tackling evident health-related problems in society, such as alcohol and drug misuse, seeks, amongst other things, to make communities safer places in which to live, work and visit.

8.3 Environment and Sustainability Implications

- 8.3.1 The immediate and wider environment in which people live has a direct impact on individual and collective health. Good quality housing, green space and focused health improvement interventions, therefore, positively impact upon people's environment and their well-being. If people are in good health they are more likely to live longer, happier, independent lives and to make a positive contribution to their community, thereby improving quality of life for everyone.

8.4 Health, Well-being and Leisure Implications

- 8.4.1 The current and proposed activity identified within the main body of this report is designed to positively impact upon individual and collective health and well-being, with the aims of helping people to live longer, healthier lives and to reduce health inequalities in society.

8.4.2 There is a clear and evident link between good quality leisure provision and the positive health and well-being of participants. Programmes of work, therefore, will include increasing the quality and extent of leisure provision, most especially in targeted locations within the Borough.

8.5 Risk Management Implications

8.5.1 There is no direct risk consequent upon the services identified within this report. The activity that is included within the Health Improvement Action Plan, however, will be risk assessed and appropriate controls put in place, where appropriate.

8.6 Equalities Implications

8.6.1 Hard to reach communities are often those that are most in need of health and well-being advice and support. Interventions are, and will continue to be, targeted at specific communities identified as being most in need of related services.

8.7 Links to Council's Priorities

8.7.1 Health and well-being activity positively impacts across all of the services provided by the Borough Council and, therefore, links to each of the Authority's corporate priorities:

- Responsible financial and resource management
- Creating safer communities
- Protecting our countryside and heritage
- Improving leisure and well-being opportunities
- Promoting sustainable and vibrant communities
- Supporting employment and business

8.7.2 Additionally, health improvement activity directly links to all three Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Raising aspirations, educational attainment and skill levels
- Developing healthier communities
- Improving access to services

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346).

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	Warwickshire County Council	Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	2015 / 16
2	Warwickshire County Council	Warwickshire Health and Well-being Strategy	2014 to 2018

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
DELIVERY AGAINST THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY					
<p>In accordance with the key priority of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership:</p> <p>1.) To aid a reduction in under 75 mortality rates from Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and Cancer by:</p> <p>Halt the rise in obesity in children and reduction in adults who are obese</p>	<p>Review and evaluate the Atherstone One Stop Health Shop and, if required, identify options that better meet the identified needs</p>	April 2014	Staff time	<p>Partnership & Development Manager (PDM)/ Community Development Officer (Health Improvement) (CDO[HI])</p>	<p>The Weight Management Programmes have been re-commissioned. With Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust winning Exercise of Referral, and Rugby winning Structured Family Weight Management. We will be working closely with both to deliver these service in North Warwickshire</p>
	<p>Consideration of amended OSHS delivery options (including possible extension request to embed and review new delivery model).</p>	May 2014	Staff time		
	<p>Implementation of agreed OSHS delivery options and monitoring.</p>	September 2014	Possible funding requirement for extension		
	<p>Along With Public Health, NBBC, CCG, and the Clinical Support Unit, to promote and engage with the public around the #onething campaign</p>	On-going	Staff time. Funding through PH	CDO (HI)	<p>Launched 13th (Nuneaton & Bedworth) & 17th February (Atherstone). Action Plan of events has been completed by PH. Work to commence with businesses</p>

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
1 – Halt the rise in obesity in children and reduction in adults who are obese	Along with School Nursing Teams, to identify services/ provision available to schools relating to health education (what is being delivered/ can be delivered)	July 2015	Staff time	Paula Mawson from PH completing a review of PH commissioned activities in schools	Expected completion by August 2015 (no update)
	Review health data to identify priority topics and target communities	January 2015	Staff time	CDO (HI)	Complete
	Target priority area schools with required services.	September 2015 - June 2016	Staff time and possible funding requirement	CDO (HI)	
	To undertake an evaluation of the school plan	March 2016	Staff time	CDO (HI)	
	To undertake activities that increase exercise participation levels including:				
	1 - To develop North Warwickshire as a walking borough by supporting the current walking groups and developing two new groups in priority communities per annum (then review locations)	March 2015	Staff time	Community Projects Officer	Complete for 2015
2 – To develop two new running groups per annum (then review locations)	March 2015	Staff time	CDO(SI&S)	Complete	

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
1 – Halt the rise in obesity in children and reduction in adults who are obese	3 – To develop two new measured miles	April 2015	Staff time, possible funding requirement	CDO(SI&S) (Atherstone) Landscape Manager (Polesworth)	Expected completion date Oct 2015 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust completed
	To deliver activities as part of Warwickshire County Council Public Health’s ‘Big Day Out’ and National ‘Love Parks’ week.	6 April 2014 25/07–03/08/14 16 th & 17 th May 2015 26 th & 27 th September 2015	Staff time Staff time	P&D Team	2014 complete Royal Meadow Drive, Atherstone 17 th May 2015 Snowhill Recreation Ground, Hartshill 27 th Sept 2015
	Deliver key health promotion and education messages relating to healthy eating and increasing exercise, including: 1 – Promotion of Five-A-Day 2 – Change for Life programmes	Ongoing	Staff time	CDO(HI)	
1 – Halt the rise in obesity in					

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
children and reduction in adults who are obese	To support and develop the borough's fresh Fruit and Vegetable Coop scheme	March 2015	Staff time	FIO	No further action required
	To develop community cooking sessions at Community Hub locations, prioritising Community Hub venues	March 2015	Possible funding requirement	FIO CDO(HI)	Course completed at QE July 2015 Next course starting October 2015 Food Hygiene course offered to all Hub volunteers 22 nd August
	To deliver a healthy eating message to schools at the 2014 and Beyond event at Coombe Abbey	18 – 20 June 2014	Staff time	CDO(HI)	Event was cancelled

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
<p>1 – Halt the rise in obesity in children and reduction in adults who are obese</p>	<p>Deliver the Exercise on Referral Scheme at the Borough Council’s Fitness Suites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff time, funding from Public Health via CSWSP</p>	<p>Leisure Facilities Manager</p>	<p>Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust were successful in the tender. New programme currently being rolled out</p>
	<p>Assist in the review of the Exercise on Referral Scheme and implement improvements as necessary and as resources permit</p>	<p>April 2014 – March 2015</p>	<p>Staff time, funding from Public Health via CSWSP</p>	<p>LFM</p>	<p>No review took place</p>
	<p>Subsequent to the outcome of the commissioned programme, engage with internal partners in a focused delivery of the exercise referral service</p>	<p>May 2015</p>	<p>Staff time, funding from Public Health via CSWSP</p>	<p>CDO (HI)</p>	<p>Programme has started</p>
	<p>Continue to develop the access for juniors (young people aged 12 and 13 years of age) by training Fitness Suite staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff time and within current budgets</p>	<p>LFM</p>	

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
<p>In accordance with the key priority of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership:</p> <p>2.) To aid a reduction in under 75 mortality rates from Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and Cancer by:</p> <p>Reduction in alcohol related harm</p>	<p>Support the Warwickshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to deliver identified partnership work as it relates to North Warwickshire, including:</p>				
	<p>Delivering key health promotion and education messages relating to Alcohol Awareness Week</p>	<p>November 2014/15/16</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>CDO(HI) CDO(SI&S)</p>	<p>Showing of A Royal Hangover to Members</p>
	<p>Develop an action plan of work to be completed to help reduce the health issues and nuisance behaviour associated with alcohol in Atherstone</p>	<p>April 2015</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>CDO(HI) CDO(SI&S)</p>	<p>Complete</p>

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
<p>In accordance with the key priority of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership:</p> <p>3.) To aid a reduction in under 75 mortality rates from Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and Cancer by:</p> <p>Reduction in smoking status at time of delivery</p>	<p>Deliver key health promotion and education messages relating to smoking including:</p>				
	<p>1 - Work with Smoking Cessation Officer on National No Smoking Day awareness</p>	<p>March 2014/15/16/17</p>	<p>Staff time (NHS provide resources)</p>	<p>Communities Project Officer (2015 only) CDO(HI)</p>	<p>2015 complete</p>
	<p>2 - Work with Smoking Cessation Officer on 'Stoptober' campaign</p>	<p>October 2014/15/16/17</p>	<p>Staff time (NHS provide resources)</p>	<p>CDO(HI)</p>	<p>2014 complete</p>
	<p>3 – Work with the Smoking in Pregnancy Coordinator to promote “Smoke Free Home and Cars” campaign through internal partners such as; Housing, Leisure Centres, OSHS</p>	<p>October 2015</p>	<p>Staff time (NHS provide resources)</p>	<p>CDO(HI)</p>	

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
Adoption and implementation of Making Every Contact Count (MECC)	To engage in the MECC Partnership Group, to:	Ongoing	Staff time	PDM	Due to other corporate training commitments, MECC training has been delayed to the end of the Action Plan period.
	1 - Develop a MECC Implementation Plan for the Borough (including looking at the single point of access referral pathway and consideration of dementia awareness)	March 2015	Staff time	PDM CDO (HI)	
	2 - Identify and train all appropriate 'front line' Borough Council staff	May 2014 - March 2016	Staff time (Public Health will provide free training)	PDM/ Human Resources	
	3 - Identify and train appropriate Hub volunteers	March 2017	Staff and volunteer time (Public Health will provide free training)	PDM/ FIO	

Lead Officer: Simon Powell

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
<p>Working in targeted communities to collate evidence to understand their priority needs, aspirations and makeup and work collaboratively with partners and the communities to respond to and deliver services to meet those needs</p>	<p>To identify priority communities (to be agreed at Community and Environment Board)</p>	<p>June 2015</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>PDM</p>	<p>New Way of Working report drafted for Board</p>
	<p>To work in and with priority communities to identify their makeup, aspirations and health needs.</p>	<p>March 2015 – Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>PDM/ CDO(HI)</p>	
	<p>Feed evidential information into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>CDO(HI)</p>	
	<p>Review the evidence and information and work with partners and the identified communities to, where possible, respond to and deliver services that meet the needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff time and possible requirement for additional funding for service deliver or improvements to access arrangements</p>	<p>PDM/ CDO(HI)</p>	

Lead Officers: Becky Evans (NWBC) and Alistair Rigby (WCC)

Objective	Action	Timescale	Resource	Responsible Officer	Progress
DELIVERY AGAINST THE AREAS OF FOCUS OUTLINED IN THE ALZHIEMER'S SOCIETY REPORT: "BUILDING DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: A PRIORITY FOR EVERYONE"					
1) Involvement of people with dementia	Consultation to be completed at each group known in North Warwickshire regarding their opinions and perception around accessing leisure centres in the borough	Pheonix Group – Alzheimer's Café – 16 th July 2015	Participatory consultation tools Staff time	BE	COMPLETE
2) Challenge stigma and build understanding	Make use of national events by planning and publicising events locally in Atherstone: World Alzhiemer's Month (September) World Alzhiemer's Day (21 st September) Dementia Awareness Week (May)	September 2015 May 2016	Staff time Communication Team Banners/leaflets/posters Promotional merchandise	ALL	On going
	Roll out Dementia Friends sessions through local group networks: VAN Forum, Area Forums, Tenants Forums, Older People Forums, Community Hubs, Walking Groups, and Leisure Centres	December 2015	Dementia Friends Champion (Claire & Ewa) Venue	Dementia Friends coordinator	On going

Lead Officers: Becky Evans (NWBC) and Alistair Rigby (WCC)

	<p>Increase the number of Dementia Friends. Target of 10,000 for Warwickshire by June Claire to confirm current figures for Atherstone with the Alzheimer's Society, then the Group to set a target</p> <p>Deliver Dementia Friends sessions to Extended Management Team</p> <p>Deliver Dementia Friends sessions to Borough Councillors and Parish and Town Councillors</p>	<p>December 2015</p> <p>8 September 2015</p> <p>Oct 2015</p>	<p>Dementia Friends Champion Dementia Friends coordinator Publicity & marketing</p> <p>Dementia Friends Champion Dementia Friends Champion</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>BE</p> <p>BE</p>	
<p>3) Accessible community activities</p>	<p>Establish a list of appropriate of dementia friendly local activities in Warwickshire North for distribution and promotion</p> <p>Organise a Memory Walk during September to raise awarenss and money for the Alzheimer's Society</p> <p>Pilot swimming lessons/sessions for people living with Dementia at Atherstone Leisure Complex</p>	<p>September 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p> <p>July 2015</p>	<p>Leaflets/posters Staff time</p> <p>Staff time Appropriate venue (Merevale) Communication Team</p> <p>Instructor time Leafletes/posters Communication Team</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>BE</p> <p>BE</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE More opportunities to be offered</p>

Lead Officers: Becky Evans (NWBC) and Alistair Rigby (WCC)

4) Acknowledge potential	<p>Link to the Dementia Friendly Awards where you can nominate in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Best Dementia Friendly Community Initiative •Best Dementia Friendly Organisational Initiative •Best Dementia Friendly Involvement Initiative •Best Dementia Friendly Project •Best Dementia Friendly Partnership Working •Best Dementia Friendly Educational Initiative •Outstanding Contribution to Dementia Friendly Communities <p>http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementiafriendlyawards</p>	<p>Deadline June 2016</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>ALL</p>	
	<p>Scope out the possibility of community project which people with dementia could lead on i.e. gardening</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Staff time Volunteer support Gardening tools Appropriate venue</p>	<p>BE</p>	<p>The community development team is currently in the process of acquiring an allotment in Atherstone which dementia groups could utilise</p>
	<p>Feedback the results from the consultations around the Leisure Centres, and what is being actioned as a result, to evidence that their views made a difference</p>	<p>January 2016</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>BE</p>	

Lead Officers: Becky Evans (NWBC) and Alistair Rigby (WCC)

<p>6) Practical support to enable engagement in community life</p>	<p>List and support local befriender scheme</p> <p>Support newly appointed Dementia Navigator to raise profile locally and link in to existing support provision and specialist care</p> <p>Receive feedback on referrals from GP etc</p>	<p>May 2015 onwards</p>	<p>Volunteer Centre schemes: gardening buddies, shopping helper</p> <p>Sue Acton</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<p>COMPLETE to be Invited to future meetings</p>
<p>7) Community based solutions</p>	<p>Reach out to specialist care providers to find community solutions to ease demand on local care services</p>		<p>HomeInstead – Karen Wilkinson Borough Care, NWBC; Care homes</p>	<p>AR / MB</p>	<p>Invite to next meeting</p>
<p>8) Consistent and reliable travel option</p>	<p>Support local taxi firms; Stagecoach, Arriva, and London Midlands to sign up to Action Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer incentives such as a reduction in their licence fee if they sign up to a DAA <p>Ensure appropriate transport options are listed on the Dementia Portal</p>	<p>December 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p>	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p>	<p>Kat Horner – Action Alliance Coordinator, Alzheimer’s Society</p> <p>AR</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>

Lead Officers: Becky Evans (NWBC) and Alistair Rigby (WCC)

<p>9) Easy to navigate environments</p>	<p>Pilot: Mancetter Extra Care development</p> <p>Physical environment check completed with Janice Le Tellier at Atherstone Leisure Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions to be completed <p>Pilot: One Stop Shop</p> <p>Complete a physical environment check and complete any actions required</p>	<p>January 2016</p> <p>September 2015</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>Tim Willis, WCC</p> <p>Budget for improvements required</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Contractors to complete work</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Budget for improvements</p> <p>Contractors to complete work</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>BE and Peter Wheaton – Leisure Facilities Manager</p> <p>BE and Chris Jones – Facilities Manager</p>	<p>Quotes have been obtained. Work will be completed in December</p>
<p>10) Respectful and responsive businesses and services</p>	<p>Develop “dementia friendly store” checklist and approach Co-Op and Aldi in Atherstone to pilot</p> <p>Get business to “pledge” their support and commitment to being Dementia Friendly</p> <p>Support NWBC to become a Dementia Friendly Organisation</p> <p>Offer Dementia Awareness Training and/or Dementia Friends Information Sessions to local businesses</p>	<p>January 2016</p> <p>January 2016</p> <p>Commence October 2015?</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Communication Team</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Dementia Friends Champion</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>AR</p> <p>BE</p> <p>BE/AR</p>	

Agenda Item No 10

Community and Environment Board

19 October, 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Highway Cleansing Protocol

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates Members on recent improvements in joint-working and partnership arrangements with Highways England and other local authorities in relation to highway cleaning and asks the Board to agree to the Council becoming signatories to a joint highway cleansing protocol.

Recommendation to the Board

- a That Members note the contents of the report; and**
- b That the Board agrees to the Council signing up to the attached Highways Cleansing Protocol.**

2 Background

- 2.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep the public highway within its area clean and litter free. That duty extends to all roads except motorways and includes dual-carriageways and other main roads where fast moving traffic often makes cleansing operations difficult and dangerous.
- 2.2 In order to safely litter pick and sweep those sections of the highways network which are dual-carriageways or other high-speed trunk roads, it is usually necessary to close lanes to traffic while the cleaning works are being undertaken, especially where work is required on the central reservation. Lane closures are essential to both protect the workforce and reduce the risk to passing traffic. Such closures are expensive, however (usually costing as much as £1,500 per day), can be difficult to organise and are disruptive to traffic.
- 2.3 In recent years, local authorities, including NWBC, have significantly reduced the number of lane closures they have commissioned due to the costs involved. Instead, work has been concentrated on near side verges or other areas where operations can be carried out safely without the need for closures. Where possible, local authorities have tried to share lane closures

commissioned by highways maintenance contractors, but due to a number of factors this has been a largely hit-and-miss arrangement, often failing due to a lack of communication between parties and regular changes to contract operators and staff.

2.4 To try to overcome those difficulties and to develop a joint working and partnership approach to highways cleansing and maintenance operations, officers from across the sub-region have been working with Highways England to draw up a protocol for local authorities and highways contractors to follow which would encourage joint-working, information sharing and to foster a common sense and practical approach to working on the highway in order to minimise disruption and increase efficiency.

... 2.5 A copy of the protocol is attached at Appendix A. In brief, its aims are to:

- Share lane closures and safe working areas wherever possible
- Ensure that information about planned and reactive works are shared across the sub-region in a timely and pro-active manner
- Minimise disruption to road users
- Standardise training, induction of staff, H&S and safe systems of working as far as possible
- Increase efficiency, reduce waste and lower costs
- Share best practice
- Promote cross border working and share resources where possible

2.6 Since the discussions around the implementation of a joint protocol began, the Council has already begun to work more closely with Highways England and its contractors as well as Warwickshire Highways and local authority neighbours. On several occasions over the last twelve months the Council has been able to share lane closures (sometimes at short notice) and has worked alongside other contractors at various locations on the highways network. Staff have undertaken induction training and joint risk assessments and safe systems of working have been developed.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Environment and Sustainability Implications

3.1.1 The application of the highways cleansing protocol will allow the Council to significantly reduce litter levels across the Borough while reducing costs. It will also support the Council's priority of Protecting our Countryside.

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).

Protocol for joint working on Highway Cleansing issues between Sub Regional Local Authority Districts, Highways England and their Contractors

Introduction

The cleansing of any public highway that is not a motorway and where responsibility for its cleaning has not been transferred to a highways authority (Highways England or County Highways) under EPA s86(11) is the responsibility of the local authority.

Section 89(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Secretary of State in respect of motorways, and on local authorities in respect of all other publicly maintainable highways in their area, to ensure that the highway or road is, so far as is practicable, kept clean. This is in addition to the section 89(1) requirement which relates to litter and refuse and therefore means removal of detritus.

In such cases the EPA requires the duty bodies to ensure that their roads are kept clear of litter and refuse as far as is “practicable”.

“Practicable” however simply means “physically possible” without the need to take account of cost, time and trouble. This is in contrast to “reasonably practicable” where these considerations would come into play. Local authorities cannot therefore use traffic management as an excuse for not carrying out cleansing work on trunk roads; however such works are labour intensive, costly and hazardous.

In order to fulfil these obligations representatives from local authorities within the sub-region, Highways England and the Highways Contractor have joined together to produce this protocol, a shared approach for public highway cleansing.

The aim being by improving communication and co-operation safer working practices can be implemented across the sub-region and efficiency savings can be made.

Members signed up to the protocol:

Highways England
Contractors of Highways England
Warwickshire County Council Highways
Rugby Borough Council
Warwick District Council
Stratford District Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Coventry City Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council

PROTOCOL

Co-operation & Co-ordination

1. We commit to working together wherever practicable, sharing resources in terms of crews and equipment in order to improve the general appearance of the road network
2. We will promote the work that we carry out sub regionally to illustrate the benefits of joint working
3. Highways England and/or their contractor will produce quarterly and annual programmes of work and circulate them to the relevant local authority at the earliest opportunity
4. A weekly list of road closures will be produced and circulated by the Press Office, Highways England. There will be a presumption that local authorities will be able to share those road closures and undertake works alongside the contractor unless specifically told otherwise. Local Authority Officers will access this list weekly and wherever possible act on the information provided in order to carry out cleansing works within road closure areas, liaising with the Contract Officer on site responsible for the traffic management arrangement.
5. All Local Authorities will send a relevant person for induction with the relevant Highways England contractor. This induction training will be cascaded through the team. Local authorities will not send anyone who has not been inducted or certified by Highways England. Trained personnel will be added to the central register.
6. Operational staff will attend site inductions as and when required prior to carrying out works
7. Highways England or their contractor 'site supervisor' will be the lead officer on site and shall direct crews accordingly. Any issue with works should be reported to the site supervisor immediately. Where possible a Local Authority Supervisor will attend the start/completion of works and conduct a debrief.
8. It is the responsibility of each Local Authority to ensure appropriate PPE is provided and worn at all times within the designated working area. All to conform to the minimum standard colour of yellow (or orange) and reflective strips must be to EN471 class 3 (reflectivity classification): must have two reflective strips on the leg of the trousers; must have belt and braces on the long sleeved top.
9. Where practicable, Local Authorities will endeavour to take a common sense approach to cross border working and will cease works at a convenient and

predetermined point, i.e. a road junction, which may involve encroachment into a neighbouring authority's area.

10. Local Authorities will communicate regarding cross border working, providing extra resources, physical and mechanical, as necessary. All are to make available an Asset List of available plant
11. Highways England and their Contractors will provide timely information via the generic email inbox of each local authority cleansing department regarding road closures, in order that the local authorities can access the closure (whenever practicable) to carry out cleansing works
12. Should road closures be cancelled or deferred Highways England contractors will notify respective Local Authorities immediately and have a 'back up plan' to direct crews elsewhere if practicable
13. Should local authorities be unable to commit to resources and works agreed, they shall notify Highways England or their contractor as soon as possible before the works are due to commence.
14. Local Authorities will commit to a working arrangement which allows for staff to undertake a flexible working approach, mirroring night time road closures, whilst complying with working time directives and drivers' hour's responsibilities.
15. Local Authority operational staff will be the responsibility of the Local Authorities, not the Highways England contractor. Any 'on site' incidents should be reported to the named contact in this agreement ASAP. A debriefing session will be held on completion of each closure
16. Appropriate risk assessments and safe systems of work will be the responsibility of each local authority to provide, though information will be shared.
17. All generic requirements and amendments will be shared as required with group members for Risk Assessment inclusion and reviewed every six months
18. Half yearly reviews of practices and appendices will be undertaken as necessary

Grievances

In such instances where there may be a grievance between one or more of the parties a grievance procedure will be invoked and a team of Officers not involved in the grievance will be allocated to arbitrate. The senior officers of the Contractor and Local Authority will investigate and try to resolve in the first instance. If necessary Highways England will be the final arbitrator.

Agenda Item No 11

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Bin Policy

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out some of the issues which the kerbside recycling service is currently facing and the impact on frontline services of the Council's current approach to the provision of additional and replacement bins. It proposes a review of the Council's policy on additional recycling bins and a change to the current policy on replacement bins.

Recommendations to the Board

- a That Members note the contents of this report;**
- b That a review of the Council's policy on additional bins is undertaken by officers and a further report is brought back to the Board setting out the available options; and,**
- c That charges for replacement bins are brought in with immediate effect.**

2 Background

- 2.1 In preparation for the start of the new kerbside recycling service, a revised bin policy was agreed by the Community & Environment Board in September, 2013. A copy of the policy is included at Appendix A. In addition to setting out the arrangements for collecting and returning bins and dealing with issues around contaminated, missed or overloaded bins, the policy also allowed for additional recycling bins to be purchased by householders. In addition, a charge was introduced for the replacement of missing and damaged bins. The policy also set out the criteria for the provision of additional bins for larger families and the assisted collection service.
- 2.2 Shortly after the new kerbside refuse & recycling service commenced in October 2013, it became clear that the level of participation by householders was much higher than had been anticipated. This created significant pressures on the refuse service, especially the collection of recycling and green waste. The much higher take up for recycling has meant that the Council continues to dedicate far greater resources on that service than had been estimated. The addition of food waste in the green bin has had a similar

impact on green waste collections, particularly in the summer months. The overall result is that the recycling services, in particular, have ongoing capacity issues which will only worsen over time as the number of households within the Borough continues to grow.

3 Interim Arrangements

- 3.1 Due to the considerable pressures on the refuse & recycling services, the provision of additional bins for recycling was temporarily suspended, as was the charge for replacement bins. Although those service pressures have since eased, the recycling service still encounters significant capacity issues, as does the green waste service, particularly in the summer months.
- 3.2 It is believed that several hundred households have additional bins for either ordinary domestic waste or green waste while there are a number of residents who have contacted the Council requesting additional bins, especially for garden waste. These requests have, for the time being, been turned down as the service is struggling to cope with the existing level of bin provision. This, however, clearly creates an imbalance between those households which have managed to procure additional bins in the past free of charge, and those who would like one now, and in many cases would be willing to pay, but have been refused.
- 3.3 Last year the Council delivered 2,695 new wheeled bins to households across the Borough, the vast majority of which were as replacements for lost or damaged bins. The cost of replacement bins and inserts is in excess of £50,000 per annum not counting administration or delivery costs. At present, the bins are delivered by the street cleaning crews as they are deployed to all parts of the Borough on a regular basis. However, with the number of deliveries averaging over 80 per week (including container inserts) this has started to have a noticeable impact on the street cleaning service and the quality of street cleanliness across the Borough has suffered as a result.

4 Future Options

- 4.1 The most pressing issue affecting the Streetscape division is the cost of purchasing and delivering replacement bins. The current bin policy allows for replacement bins to be charged at the rate of £52.50(+VAT) per bin. If agreed, it is recommended that residents be charged a reduced rate of £35(+VAT) per bin. Where it can be clearly demonstrated that a bin has been damaged or lost due to the actions of the collection crew, it is proposed that any replacement would be free of charge. In all cases, the bins would remain the property of the Borough Council.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that the introduction of a reasonable charge for replacement bins would have two impacts: the first would be to reduce the number of requests for replacement bins and the second would be to help to cover the cost of their purchase and delivery. These changes would allow the street cleaning crews to refocus their activity on amenity cleaning and away from bin deliveries which would have a positive impact on the local environment. The additional income would also allow the refuse service to absorb the bin

delivery service without adding additional costs to already overstretched budgets.

- 4.3 The issue around additional bins is more complex and is likely to require a different solution. It is proposed that officers undertake a review of the number of existing second bins and outstanding additional bin requests and evaluate the impact of those extra bins on the existing collection rounds. Officers could then consider the options available for providing and emptying additional bins fairly and cost effectively. A further report outlining the available options will be brought back to a future meeting of this Board. The report will look at the available options within the context of a wider review of the waste collection services, the changes arising from the introduction of new vehicles in early 2016 and the impact of future housing growth on service provision.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 5.1.1 The introduction of a charge for replacement bins would potentially save the Council in excess of £30,000 per annum through a combination of income reductions in demand .

5.2 Environment and Sustainability Implications

- 5.2.1 The resources required to carry out bin deliveries has had a significant detrimental impact on the overall level of street cleanliness within the Borough. Reducing the number and/or cost of bin deliveries will allow resources to be refocussed on amenity cleaning and support service delivery across the division.

5.3 Risk Management Implications

- 4.3.1 There are risks involved with the introduction of charges, but the impact on budgets, resources and service capacity carries additional risks for the Council's reputation and its ability to continue to deliver key frontline services in line with residents' expectations.

4.4 Links to Council's Priorities

- 4.4.1 This links directly to the Council's priorities of responsible financial and resources management as well as contributing to the aim of protecting our countryside.

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).



Wheeled Bin and Container Policy

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Wheeled Bin and Container Policy

Introduction

North Warwickshire Borough Council is committed to providing a pleasant environment for those living, working and visiting the Borough and to reducing the impact that our waste has upon the environment.

We aim to achieve these goals by providing high quality services that are designed to reduce the amount of waste that is generated and sent for disposal from each household, whilst increasing the proportion of waste that is reused, recycled or composted.

Our Services

The council provides:

- An alternate week collection of recyclable materials and non recyclable/compostable household waste
- A fortnightly collection of compostable garden and food waste

The Council's strategy and improvement plan for recycling and waste collection services aims to:

Standard bins provided:

Recyclable materials:

240 litre black wheeled bin with a **red** lid for:-

- Glass bottles and jars
- Food tins and drink cans
- Aluminium foil
- Aerosols
- Mixed plastics
- Food and drink cartons

55 Litre container insert (stored within the **red** lidded bin) for:-

- Waste paper
- Newspapers / magazines
- Junk mail
- Directories / catalogues
- Cardboard
- Cereal packets
- Birthday and Christmas cards

- Corrugated card

Compostable garden and food waste:

240 litre **green** wheeled bin for:-

- Twigs and branches
- Plants and cut flowers
- Weeds
- Leaves
- Prunings
- Grass cuttings
- All types of raw and cooked food including:
 - Dairy
 - Fish
 - Fruit & vegetables
 - Meat & bones
 - Bread & pastries
 - Tea & coffee grounds

Non Recyclable or Compostable Waste

240 litre **black** wheeled bin for:-

- Household waste that cannot be recycled or composted

The 240 litre **black** wheeled bin is recognised as sufficient for an average family - it is the equivalent of 3 'normal' dustbins/black bags. Recycling more waste is always an option for families producing large amounts of rubbish.

Collection Points and Missed Collections

Bins and containers must be placed at the edge of your property where they are clearly visible and in such a manner as not to cause an obstruction to vehicles and pedestrians. Bins and containers that are left inside the garden, up the drive or similar will not be collected unless the household is eligible for an assisted collection service and the provision of such a service has been agreed and arranged with the Council (see p.4).

The collection team will not go back to collect excess rubbish, bins that were presented late or placed in the wrong place for collection.

They should be put out for collection by **6.30am** and should be removed from the highway within 24 hours of collection.

If your wheeled bin has not been collected, please check to see whether you have received a notice explaining the reason.

If bins and containers are not presented when the vehicle arrives, we cannot guarantee that they will be emptied until the next scheduled collection.

You should either keep the waste until the next scheduled collection, or take it to Lower House Farm household recycling centre.

Assisted Collections

In special cases where **ALL** residents in the household are physically incapable of placing bins and/or containers at the collection point due to infirmity or disability, applications can be made for an assisted collection. Operatives will collect and return bins and containers directly from an agreed location on or adjacent to your property.

For more details about this service please call 01827 715341.

Additional Waste

Recyclable Waste – Black bin (red lid)

Additional recyclable items placed by the side of the bin will be collected. They should be presented securely to prevent them from blowing away. Additional bins are available for a one off charge as detailed in the Councils Fees and Charges Schedule (see additional bins).

Compostable Garden and Food Waste – Green Bin

Only waste contained within the bin will be collected. Additional bins are available for a one off charge as detailed in the Councils Fees and Charges Schedule (see additional bins).

Household waste that cannot be Recycled or Composted - Black Bin

The standard black bin (**black** lid) provided should be large enough to hold all of the waste that you produce between collections. Only waste contained within the bin will be collected. The lid must be fully closed and flat.

Bags of waste placed beside bins **will not** be collected unless:

- collections have been delayed by more than the scheduled number of days (i.e. bank holidays or suspension of service)
- prior arrangements have been agreed with the Streetscape Team.

On these occasions a maximum of three additional bags will be taken.

Additional waste that is not collected should be placed into the bin after it has been emptied and will not be collected until the next scheduled collection.

Overfilled and Overweight Bins / Unauthorised Waste

Care should be taken not to overfill the bins or make them too heavy to be safely collected.

The lid of the bin must be shut flat prior to collection. Overfilled bins where the lid cannot be closed completely may not be emptied as this can cause problems when emptying into the collection vehicle.

If your bin is not emptied because it is too heavy, overloaded or contains compacted or unauthorised items, it is your responsibility to remove them. A notice will be left explaining why the waste has not been taken and the bin will not be emptied until the items have been removed.

Additional bins

Recyclable Waste – Black bin (red lid)

One red-lidded bin and insert is provided free of charge to every participating household within the Borough. Households that produce large amounts of recyclable waste can purchase an additional red lidded bin for a one off charge as detailed in the Councils Fees and Charges Schedule.

Biodegradable Garden and Food Waste – Green Bin

One green bin is provided free of charge to every participating household within the Borough. Households that produce large amounts of garden waste can purchase an additional green bin for a one off charge as detailed in the Councils Fees and Charges Schedule.

Non Recyclable/Compostable Household Waste – Black bin

Households containing six or more residents in full time occupation (or where there are other genuine issues affecting bin capacity) may apply for an additional 140 litre wheeled bin to store their waste. Applications will be considered individually and applicants may receive a waste audit by a member of the Streetscape Team. Additional bins will only be issued where the Council is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to separate recyclable and compostable garden and food waste.

Any additional bin provided is done so on a conditional basis which will be reviewed periodically to ensure continual compliance.

Any additional bins which need to be replaced for any reason other than loss or damage attributable directly to the Council will attract a one-off charge as detailed in the Council's Fees and Charges Schedule.

Requests for additional bins and containers can be made by calling 01827 715341 or enquire online at www.northwarks.gov.uk/recycling

Stolen / Missing / Damaged Bins

All bins remain the property of North Warwickshire Borough Council at all times. Residents are responsible for keeping and maintaining them in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

With the exception of additional bins, the Council will repair or replace any bins that are damaged or lost where that damage or loss is directly attributable to the Council carrying out their normal duties or that become faulty through fair wear and tear.

Where a bin has been lost or damaged through misuse by residents a charge for repair or replacement will be made as detailed in the Councils Fees and Charges.

Please Note - All decisions and actions taken under this policy relating to the charging, provision and emptying of bins and other containers will be at the discretion of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Limited Storage Space

Where properties have limited storage space for wheeled bins a visit will be made by a member of the Streetscape Team. Alternative options will be discussed on an individual basis.

Isolated/Hard to Reach Properties

Some properties where access to either the property itself or the bin storage area is difficult may require alternative methods of collection. The Council will seek to provide a wheeled bin service from the edge of the property wherever possible, but on occasions, alternative arrangements may need to be made. These may include different containers, alternative collection points some distance from the property itself and/or changes to either the day or frequency of collection. Any individual arrangements will be made following discussions with the Householder and will seek to cause as little disruption or inconvenience as possible.

New Developments

Developers will be responsible for the purchase from the Council of all wheeled bins required to service new houses and housing developments built within the Borough. The bins will be charged as per the New Development rate set out in the Fees and Charges Schedule.

Agenda Item No 12

Community and Environment Board

19 October 2015

Report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive

Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – June 2015

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Community and Environment Board for April to June 2015.

Recommendation to the Board

That Members consider the performance achieved and highlight any areas for further investigation.

2 Consultation

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

3 Background

- 3.1 This report shows the first quarter position with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets for 2015/16. This is the first report showing the progress achieved so far during 2015/16. Changes arising from the review of the Corporate Plan reported to Executive Board on the 21 September 15 have not as yet been incorporated within the progress reporting. This will be amended for the quarter 2 reporting cycle.

4 Progress achieved during 2015/16

- 4.1 Attached at Appendices A and B are reports outlining the progress achieved for all the Corporate Plan targets and the performance with the local performance indicators during April to June 2015/16 for the Community and Environment Board.

- 4.2 Members will recall the use of a traffic light indicator for the monitoring of the performance achieved.

Red – target currently not being achieved (shown as a red triangle)

Amber – target currently behind schedule and requires remedial action to be achieved (shown as an amber circle)

Green – target currently on schedule to be achieved (shown as a green star)

5 Performance Indicators

- 5.1 Members will be aware that national indicators are no longer in place and have been replaced by national data returns specified by the government. A number of previous national and best value indicators have been kept as local indicators as they are considered to be useful in terms of managing the performance of our service delivery corporately.
- 5.2 The current national and local performance indicators have been reviewed by each division and Management Team for monitoring for the 2015/16.

6 Overall Performance

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan performance report shows that 80% of the Corporate Plan targets and 80% of the performance indicator targets are currently on schedule to be achieved. The report shows that individual targets that have been classified as red, amber or green. Individual comments from the relevant division have been included where appropriate. The table below shows the following status in terms of the traffic light indicator status:

Corporate Plan

Status	Number	Percentage
Green	12	80%
Amber	2	13%
Red	1	7%
Total	15	100%

Performance Indicators

Status	Number	Percentage
Green	8	80%
Amber	0	0%
Red	2	20%
Total	10	100%

7 Summary

- 7.1 Members may wish to identify any areas that require further consideration where targets are not currently being achieved.

8 Report Implications

8.1 Safer Communities Implications

8.1.1 There are a number of Safer Communities related actions highlighted in the report including the provision of leisure provision, play area development plan and green space strategy.

8.2 Legal and Human Rights Implications

8.2.1 The national indicators were specified by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. They have now been ended and replaced by a single list of data returns to Central Government from April 2011.

8.3 Environment and Sustainability Implications

8.3.1 Improvements in the performance and quality of services will contribute to improving the quality of life within the community. There are a number of specific actions and indicators included within the report which contribute towards improving the environment and sustainability including the carbon management plan, green space strategy and refuse and recycling.

8.4 Risk Management Implications

8.4.1 Effective performance monitoring will enable the Council to minimise associated risks with the failure to achieve targets and deliver services at the required performance level.

8.5 Equality Implications

8.5.1 There are a number of equality related actions and indicators highlighted in the report including developing access to community services, tackling health inequalities and raising aspirations work.

8.6 Links to Council's Priorities

8.6.1 There are a number of targets and performance indicators contributing towards the priorities of improving leisure and well being opportunities, promoting sustainable and vibrant communities and supporting employment and businesses.

The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Beggs (719238).

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
National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships	Department for Communities and Local Government	Statutory Guidance	February 2008

NWCP Community & Environment Board 15/16

	Action	Priority	Reporting Officer	Update	Status	Direction
NWCP 016	In conjunction with partner agencies, continue to work with individuals and communities to help raise levels of aspiration, attainment and skills and report on progress by March 2016	Local Employment	Simon Powell	A ten week cooking programme took place at the Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone, engaging with 14 individuals, teaching people how to cook fresh wholesome meals on a budget. Seven participants also achieved their food hygiene certificate.	 Green	
NWCP 017	To continue to take action to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and carbon emission in the Borough, in accordance with the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and to report annually in March on progress. This will include acting on any Government led initiatives for domestic properties.	Environment	Steve Maxey	A number of actions have taken place as part of the renovation or replacement of Council buildings. A lack of staff resource will hamper the full implementation of the Action Plan but a feasibility study in District Heat networks has been completed.	 Amber	
NWCP 018	To maintain a very high standard of street cleanliness (95%) throughout the Borough and target those areas of highest community value to deliver as efficient and cost-effective a service as possible	Environment	Richard Dobbs	Street cleanliness standards have dropped during the first quarter of 2015/16 due to mechanical problems and stretched resources within the division. Options to address both those key issues are being explored	 Red	
NWCP 019	The Council will continue to promote waste minimisation and increased recycling, as well as raising awareness of the problems of litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling using suitable enforcement measures, where appropriate	Environment	Richard Dobbs	The Council continues to promote issues such as recycling in partnership with WCC most recently through a doorstepping and canvassing campaign carried out in July 2015	 Green	
NWCP 022	To implement phase 8 of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy in accordance with its revised Action and Funding Plan and corresponding Management Plans for Parks and Recreation Grounds, where appropriate.	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	Progress in respect of phase 8 of the Green Space Strategy is proceeding satisfactorily, having due regard to the capacity available for implementation work	 Green	
NWCP 028	To continue to co-ordinate the sustainable implementation of the approved Health Improvement Action Plan, including its focus on priorities that are compatible with those of the Community Partnership and the Northern Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Partnership, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and raising levels of physical activity, in particular for children and young people	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	Public Health tenders for Structured Family Weight Management, Exercise on Referral and Adult Weight Management programmes have been awarded and local activity will commence imminently. A #onething bus tour of North Warwickshire saw 60 people making pledges to change their lifestyle and 96 mini health checks undertaken. Big Day Out took place at Royal Meadow Drive in May, with around 600 members of the community attending. A singing "flash mob" in Atherstone Market Square launched Dementia Awareness Week, the video of which has had over 10,000 views on social media	 Green	

NWCP 029	Ensure compliance with the Council's statutory responsibilities as a partner and Compact signatory within the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board, including the need to implement the provisions of the Child Protection Policy and the Council's renewed Section 11 Audit Action Plan and, where appropriate, to co-ordinate all related activity alongside the need to safeguard adults and other vulnerable people in the community	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	The Child Protection Policy 2015 to 2019 was adopted by Executive Board in June 2015. Universal Awareness Training is currently being delivered by internal trainers. Relevant staff have also undertaken a full day Child Sexual Exploitation training course. In future, the Borough Council will be delivering an accredited combined Universal and Child Sexual Exploitation course. Actions arising from the Section 11 Audit are being delivered	★ Green	➡
NWCP 055	To report annually on progress on the Customer Access Strategy, including the development of existing Community Hubs, the BOB bus, increased take-up of online services, the success of driving channel shift and the ongoing provision of welfare support together with partners	Access to Services	Bob Trahern	Activities continue as part of the Divisional Service Plan and we continue to deliver with our Financial Inclusion partners and other divisions to deliver this agenda. A report is being taken to the Community & Environment board in July as to how to ensure Members continue to be engaged in this cross cutting commitment	★ Green	➡
NWCP 069(1)	To continue to improve the manner in which the Council consults and engages with and secures the involvement of children, young people and their families within the development, management and delivery of services throughout 2015/16	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	Community consultation took place at the Mancetter Community Event in July 2015 to ascertain local needs and aspirations for the Memorial Hall. This consultation included children and young people.	★ Green	➡
NWCP 081	To further review and enhance the new refuse and recycling service introduced in October 2013, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service and maintain the Council's recycling rate to above 50% at least and report to Board on the operational impact by March 2016	Recycling	Richard Dobbs	New vehicles are on order to improve the refuse and recycling service's resilience and flexibility and to increase collection capacity. A review of all aspects of the refuse & recycling operation is currently being undertaken	★ Green	➡
NWCP 086	In accordance with approved Management Plans, and in conjunction with the local community, implement improvement at Bretts Hall Recreation Ground in Ansley Common	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	Work is being undertaken with the local community, prior to the preparation of external funding applications, which are essential to the realisation of the Management Plan	● Amber	➡
NWCP 090	In partnership with the Local Action Group and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, ensure the successful delivery of the first year of engagement with the new LEADER programme (2015 to 2020) in accordance with the priorities identified in the approved Local Development Strategy and Business Plan and report on progress by March 2016	Access to Services	Simon Powell	A number of activities have been undertaken in preparation for the launch of the new programme in October 2015. Officers from both authorities have attended a series of training days delivered by DEFRA. Four sector specific sub-groups have been established, and inaugural meetings have taken place. Content of the Delivery Plan (due to be submitted to DEFRA by 31 July) has been developed and agreed by the LAG. Recruitment to the Project Manager post is underway	★ Green	➡

NWCP 091	To build a model with Job Centre Plus to implement the requirements of Universal Credit and in particular our input into the Universal Support/Delivery local agenda. This will also be extended to supporting outcomes impacted by new disability rules	Access to Services	Bob Trahern	This is being progressd well. The co location of Jobcentre Plus has been in place for a year and we have a number of joint regional events planned to help ESA customers impacted by Government changes over the next 9 months. The implementation of Universal Credit will be starting in the borough in late October albeit this will only have an inityial limited impact as it will only affect single people and couples with no children	★ Green	★
NWCP 093	Complete delivery of the Play Area Development Programme with the replacement/refurbishment of equipment at Memorial Park in Coleshill, in conjunction with the Town Council's wider development of the site	Health & Well-being	Simon Powell	The Town Council led development of the Memorial Park is being progressed through to the implementation stage. The Borough Council is engaged in this process, further to a formal offer of support having being made to the project	★ Green	★
NWCP 097	To work in partnership with the Highways Authority and Highways Agency to improve the appearance of the Borough's main roads	Environment	Richard Dobbs	NWBC is working with Highways England, WCC and the other local authorities across the sub-region to develop and agree a highways cleansing protocol	★ Green	★

NWPI Community & Environment Board 15/16

Ref	Description	Section	Priority	Year End Target	Performance	Traffic Light	Direction of Travel	Comments
NWLPI 007	The percentage of food premises inspections that should have been carried out that were carried out for high risk premises.	Env Health (C, L & HP)	Health and Well-being	100	92	 Green		This only represents 3 premises not inspected
NWLPI 157	The percentage of food premises interventions that should have been carried out that were carried out for low risk premises	Env Health (C, L & HP)	Health and Well-being	100	93	 Green		This only represents 2 premises not inspected
NWLPI 085	Swimming pools and sports centres: The net cost per swim/visit	Leisure Facilities	Health and Well-being	1.90	-	-	-	Currently experiencing difficulties in securing the required data through Gladstone - Under investigation
NWLPI 086	Leisure Centres - Total income per visit	Leisure Facilities	Health and Well-being	2.47	2.64	 Green	-	Currently experiencing difficulties in securing the required data through Gladstone - Under investigation
NWLPI 119	Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of household waste (former BV88)	Refuse & Recycling	Recycling	125	82	 Green		
@NW:NI192	The percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Authority for reuse, recycling, composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion.	Refuse & Recycling	Recycling	45	50.83%	 Green		
@NW:NI195a	The percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level.	Streetscape	Environment	5	15%	 Red		Cleanliness levels have fallen due to mechanical breakdowns and stretched resources - both problems are currently being addressed
NWLPI 163	Number of projects/programmes being delivered	Partnership & Development	Health & Well-being	50	42	 Green		
NWLPI 165	Number of people engaged on projects/programmes	Partnership & Development	Health & Well-being	1600	894	 Green		
NWLPI 166	Percentage of people who are 'better off'	Partnership & Development	Health & Well-being	75	100.00%	 Green		
NWLPI 167	Satisfaction with service delivered	Partnership & Development	Health & Well-being	90	75.00%	 Red		This performance is reflective of a range of feedback received further to the Big Day Out event held at Royal Meadow Drive in Atherstone