

**To: The Deputy Leader and Members of the Planning and Development Board  
(Councillors Simpson, Bowden, Davis, L Dirveiks, Jenkins, Lea, Morson, B Moss, Sherratt, M Stanley, Swann, Sweet, Winter and Wykes)**

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

This document can be made available in large print and electronic accessible formats if requested.

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For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the reports

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AGENDA**

**16 AUGUST 2010**

The Planning and Development Board will meet in the Council Chamber at The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire on Monday 16 August 2010 at 6.30 pm or upon conclusion of the Full Council meeting, which ever is the later.

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests.**  
(Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Lea, B Moss and Sweet and membership of the various Town/Parish Councils of Councillors Davis (Atherstone), B Moss (Kingsbury), Sherratt (Coleshill) and M Stanley

(Polesworth) are deemed to be declared at this meeting.

## **PART A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION (WHITE PAPERS)**

- 4 **Planning Applications** – Report of the Head of Development Control.

### **Summary**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – application presented for determination.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jeff Brown (719310).

- 5 **Annual Performance Report 2009/10** - Report of the Head of Development Control.

### **Summary**

The report sets out the annual performance over 2009/10 of the Development Control service comparing it with recent years.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jeff Brown (719310).

- 6 **Local Transport Plan 3 – Consultation** – Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

### **Summary**

This report considers “The Local Transport Plan (LTP)”, prepared by Warwickshire County Council, which sets out the transport strategy for Warwickshire and outlines a programme of transport schemes and initiatives to be delivered over the short to medium term.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

- 7 **Old Bank House Garden Wall and Trees** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) and the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development)

### **Summary**

This report addresses the proposed felling of a number of trees in Old Bank House Garden, Atherstone; both to protect the unstable wall that surrounds the Garden and also to open up the area to provide a more attractive amenity space for the local community.

The Contact Officers for this report is Chris Jones (719265) and Peter Wharton (719275).

**8 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April - June 2010**

**Summary**

This report informs Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Planning and Development Board for April to June 2010.

The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Beggs (719230).

**PART C - EXEMPT INFORMATION  
(GOLD PAPERS)**

**9 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Recommendation:**

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

**10 Breaches of Planning Control – Report of the Head of Development Control**

The Contact Officer for this report is Jeff Brown (719310).

JERRY HUTCHINSON  
Chief Executive

## **Agenda Item No 4**

### **Planning and Development Board**

**16 August 2010**

### **Planning Applications**

#### **Report of the Head of Development Control**

#### **1 Subject**

- 1.1 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – applications presented for determination.

#### **2 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 This report presents for the Board decision, a number of planning, listed building, advertisement, proposals, together with proposals for the works to, or the felling of trees covered by a Preservation Order and other miscellaneous items.
- 2.2 Minerals and Waste applications are determined by the County Council. Developments by Government Bodies and Statutory Undertakers are also determined by others. The recommendations in these cases are consultation responses to those bodies.
- 2.3 The proposals presented for decision are set out in the index at the front of the attached report.
- 2.4 Significant Applications are presented first, followed in succession by General Development Applications; the Council's own development proposals; and finally Minerals and Waste Disposal Applications. .

#### **3 Implications**

- 3.1 Should there be any implications in respect of:

Finance; Crime and Disorder; Sustainability; Human Rights Act; or other relevant legislation, associated with a particular application then that issue will be covered either in the body of the report, or if raised at the meeting, in discussion.

#### **4 Site Visits**

- 4.1 Members are encouraged to view sites in advance of the Board Meeting. Most can be seen from public land. They should however not enter private land. If they would like to see the plans whilst on site, then they should always contact the Case Officer who will accompany them. Formal site visits can only be agreed by the Board and reasons for the request for such a visit need to be given.

4.2 Members are reminded of the “Planning Protocol for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters”, in respect of Site Visits, whether they see a site alone, or as part of a Board visit.

## 5 **Availability**

5.1 The report is made available to press and public at least five working days before the meeting is held in accordance with statutory requirements. It is also possible to view the papers on the Council's web site [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)

5.2 The next meeting at which planning applications will be considered following this meeting, is due to be held on Monday, 13 September 2010 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Council House.

Planning Applications – Index

Item No	Application No	Page No	Description	General / Significant
1	PAP/2010/0374		<p><b>Atherstone Police Station Sheepy Road Atherstone</b>                      Outline application for the erection of a residential development comprising approximately 14 dwellings; associated internal access road, rear parking, and minor alterations to the existing access arrangement (all matters reserved)</p>	General
2	PAP/2010/0393		<p><b>Lower House Farm Lower House Lane Baddesley Ensor Atherstone</b>                      Relocation of public household waste recycling centre (HWRC) and waste transfer station (WTS) and ancillary development</p>	General

## **General Development Applications**

### **(1) Application No PAP/2010/0374**

#### **Atherstone Police Station and Magistrates Court, Sheepy Road, Atherstone**

**Outline application for the erection of a residential development comprising approximately 14 dwellings; associated internal access road, rear parking, and minor alterations to the existing access arrangement (all matters reserved), For Warwickshire Police Authority/Warwickshire County Council**

#### **Introduction**

This application has recently been received. It is not presented for determination at this time, but this report will outline the proposals; the relevant Development Plan policies, and identify the main issues that will be involved in its determination at a later date. It is also accompanied by the general heads of agreement that would be contained within a Section 106 Agreement.

#### **The Site**

This occupies an area of 0.48 hectares on the west side of Sheepy Road. It is bounded to the north and south by Croft Road which runs as a loop off Sheepy Road. It is set wholly in a residential area just to the north of the town centre (some 50 metres or so). It is presently occupied by the town's Police Station and former Magistrates Court complex and includes car parks and garages. There is a ten metre wide belt of grassland which contains a number of trees fronting Sheepy Road, together with a scattering of other trees around the site. This frontage belt is contained within the application site. It is more particularly shown on the plan at Appendix A.

#### **Background**

The Magistrates Court closed in December 2004 as a result of the re-organisation and consolidation of justice services within Warwickshire. Court services are now provided within the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Nuneaton. There is no longer public access to the former Court building in Atherstone.

The Police Station is currently operational. However there is a need to modernise and improve the facility. The building together with the Magistrates Court dates from the mid-1960's. The Police Authority intends to relocate police services elsewhere in its entirety to an alternative location in Atherstone. The Police Authority propose that the police station will form part of a combined multi-agency Public Service Centre, and that the same operational services and local policing will be provided as now, but at this new location.

#### **The Proposal**

This would involve the demolition of all of the existing buildings and their replacement with a residential scheme of up to 14 dwellings accessed off the existing access from Croft Road at the north end of the site. This would provide a gross density of 29.1 dwellings per hectare. Some improvements would be needed to this access – mainly widening.

The application is made in outline, with only the access to be included as part of the proposal. All of the accompanying plans illustrating layout and typical appearance are thus not to be considered, but they do suggest what a built development could look like if an approval is granted. This is replicated at Appendix B. This detail will be for the prospective purchaser to resolve as the current applicant is proposing to dispose of the site with the benefit of an outline planning permission.

The applicant has suggested two draft heads of agreement that would be suitable for a Section 106 Agreement. These are:

- i) to provide a financial contribution of £25,102 to the Council in order to improve/enhance open space provision within Atherstone, and
- ii) to “endeavour to provide a Police service as part of the proposed combined multi- agency Public Service Centre in Atherstone. If this can not be secured then the Police Authority will commit to providing a facility within an alternative location”.

The application is accompanied by a significant amount of supporting documentation. This includes:

- i) A Planning Statement – This provides the background to the proposal, as well as providing the applicant’s case for the grant of planning permission.
- ii) A Design and Access Statement – This describes the setting and context of the site, and describes how a residential redevelopment scheme might be designed so as to be in keeping with the local character and appearance of this part of the town.
- iii) A bat survey – This found little evidence of bats on the site. However it recommends that a further survey is undertaken in the year prior to demolition such that remedial measures can be taken in the final design of the proposals. Landscaping measures can also assist in providing foraging habitat and roosting structures.
- iv) A habitat survey – This finds that the existing site is of low ecological value, and thus the details of any final scheme should be designed so as to enhance the range and scope of habitats available.
- v) A Ground Conditions and Contamination Risk Survey – This concludes that there is very limited potential for contamination on the site, or as a result of migrating contamination from off site sources. It is still recommended however that an initial ground investigation is undertaken prior to redevelopment, such that risks, including ground conditions, can be identified and remediation measures agreed that are proportionate to the findings of that investigation.
- vi) An Archaeological Appraisal – This finds that there are no recorded heritage assets on site. However as the site is just north of the recorded medieval settlement of Atherstone, it is considered that a watching brief is agreed for the construction period.
- vii) A Drainage Statement – This concludes that in principle, the scheme would not adversely affect on site, neighbouring or downstream developments and their flood risk. Clearly, design of the final proposals including surface water attenuation measures, will need to ensure that this conclusion remains.

- viii) A Tree Survey – The site contains a number of trees, particularly along the Sheepy Road frontage. Four trees – two limes, an ash and a silver birch together with two conifers would be removed if the present illustrative layout were approved. Two other silver birches should also be removed on arboricultural grounds alone. The retained trees can be adequately protected by tree protection measures and new planting can enhance the development.
- ix) A Statement of Community Engagement – This outlines and describes the pre-application consultation work undertaken by the applicant with the community, culminating in a public consultation event during March 2010. The Statement concludes that there was, “reasonable general support from local residents”, and that the application “responds to the views expressed wherever possible”.
- x) A Local Services and Community Facilities Statement – This report was requested because of the potential loss of the town’s Police Station and the loss of buildings that did hold the former Magistrate’s Court but which could be potentially re-occupied for community use. In particular it is the applicant’s response to saved Policy COM2 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2006. This Statement is considered by the applicant to be critical to an understanding of perhaps the main issue involved with this proposal. As a consequence, and notwithstanding its length, it is copied in full at Appendix C. It concludes that, “the land and buildings are unsuitable for continued use by the existing services on site and that there is no realistic alternative community use from a need, requirements, site suitability and funding perspective for the land and buildings on site”.

## **Development Plan**

Saved Policies from the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2006 – Core Policy 1 (Social and Economic Regeneration), CP2 (Development Distribution), CP8 (Affordable Housing) and Policies ENV4 (Trees and Hedgerows), ENV6 (Land Resources), ENV10 (Energy Generation and Conservation), ENV11 (Neighbour Amenities), ENV12 (Urban Design), ENV13 (Building Design), ENV14 (Access Design), HSG2 (Affordable Housing), HSG4 (Densities), COM2 (Protection of Land and Buildings used for Existing Community Facilities in the Main Towns), TPT 6 (Vehicle Parking).

## **Other Material Planning Considerations**

Government Policy – PPS1 (Delivering Sustainable Development); PPS3 (Housing), PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment), PPS9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation), PPG 13 (Transport), PPS17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation), PPS23 (Planning and Pollution Control) and PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk)

Other North Warwickshire Documents – The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, and the draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.

## **Observations**

This site is within the development boundary of Atherstone as defined by the Local Plan, and as this is a residential redevelopment scheme, there is no objection in principle to the development. Members will clearly need to be satisfied on a number of technical issues before an application such as this can be supported, and the responses from the statutory consultations will assist them here – e.g. drainage and traffic considerations as well as ecology and archaeology interests. However there are three substantive issues surrounding this application that could be of sufficient weight individually or together, to override the general presumption here that planning permission should be granted. They are:

- a) The loss of land and buildings that are identified as a community facility within the Development Plan.
- b) No provision of affordable housing, and
- c) the proposed draft Section 106 Agreement.

These issues will be explored in more depth in the determination report.

## **Recommendation**

That at the present time, this report be noted.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

**Planning Application No: PAP/2010/0374**

<b>Background Paper No</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Nature of Background Paper</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	The Applicant or Applicants Agent	Planning Application Forms and Plans	16/7/10

*Note: This list of background papers excludes published documents which may be referred to in the report, such as The Development Plan and Planning Policy Guidance Notes.*

*A background paper will include any item which the Planning Officer has relied upon in preparing the report and formulating his recommendation. This may include correspondence, reports and documents such as Environmental Impact Assessments or Traffic Impact Assessments.*





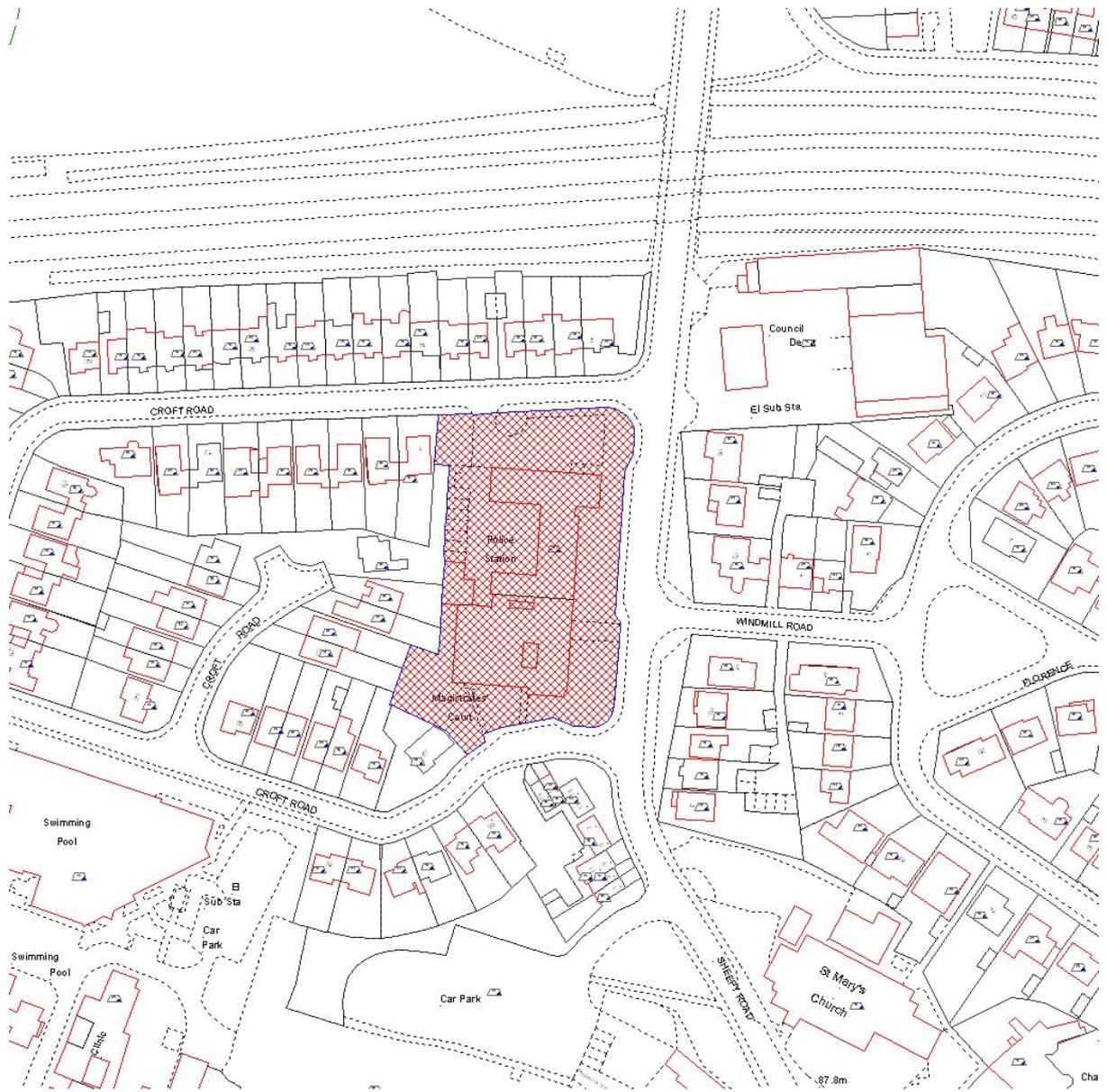
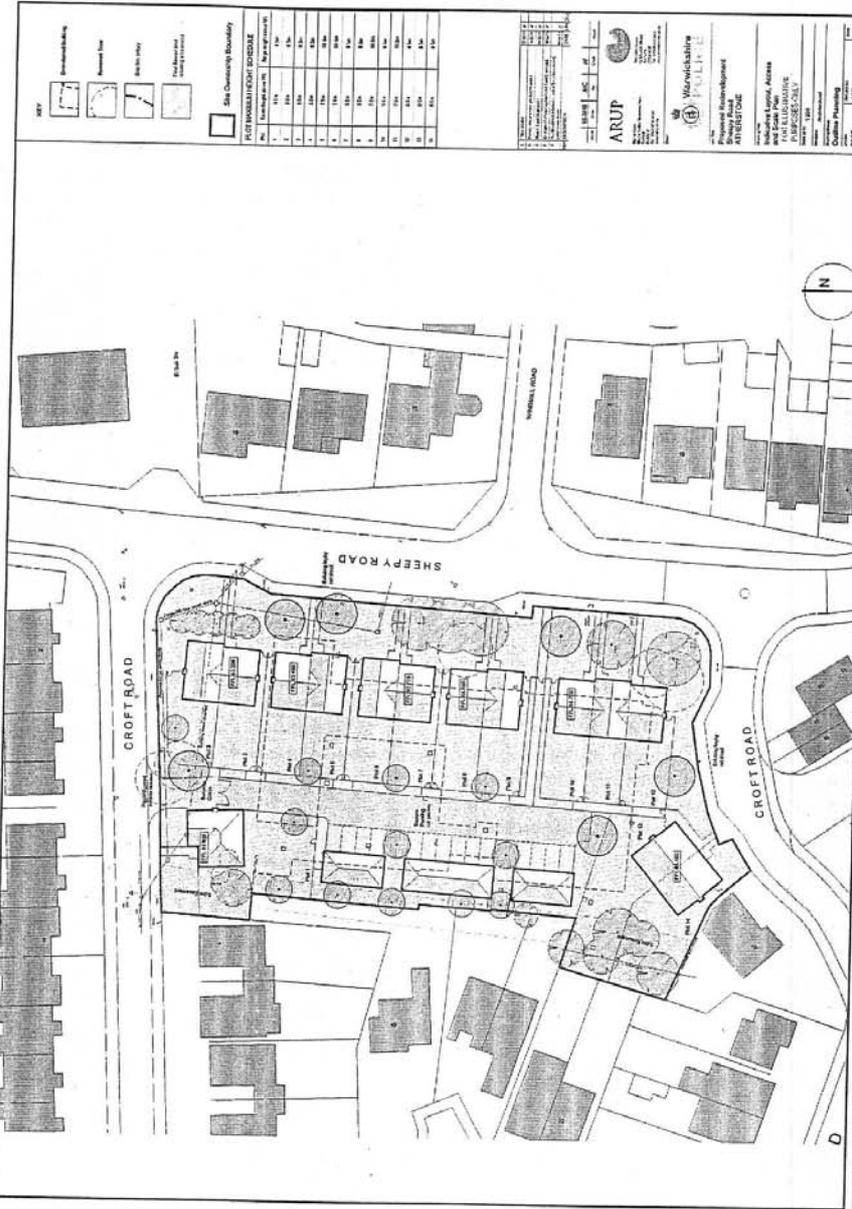




Figure 3: Indicative Layout, Access and Scale Plan (Drawing 103)



Warwickshire Police  
Authority & Warwickshire  
county Council

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**Redevelopment of the  
Police Station &  
Magistrates Courts,  
Sheepy Road,  
Atherstone**

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Local Services and  
Community Facilities  
Statement

<b>NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL</b>
<b>RECEIVED 16-Jul-10</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT DIVISION</b>

ISSUE



**ARUP**

Warwickshire Police  
Authority & Warwickshire  
county Council

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**Redevelopment of the  
Police Station &  
Magistrates Courts,  
Sheepy Road,  
Atherstone**

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Local Services and  
Community Facilities  
Statement

July 2010

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of our client.  
It is not intended for and should not be  
relied upon by any third party and no  
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Job number 210709-02

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## **Appendices**

### Appendix A

#### Community Buildings/Space Supporting Information

## Executive Summary

### Introduction – Proposed Development

Arup on behalf of Warwickshire Police Authority and Warwickshire County Council are submitting an outline planning application for the redevelopment of Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site to a residential development.

The site to which the application relates currently contains the closed magistrate's court and operational police station and is in the ownership of Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police Authority.

The magistrate's court closed in 2004 as a result of the re-organization of justice services within Warwickshire. This service is now provided within the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Nuneaton. Therefore, the court building in Atherstone is now unoccupied.

The Atherstone police station, constructed in the 1970's, is in need of general improvement and modernisation to meet the needs of a modern police force. WPA has been in discussions with NWBC in order to develop proposals for a new police station to be incorporated within a combined multi agency Public Service Centre in Atherstone Town Centre.

It is within this context that outline planning permission for high quality residential development is being sought. It is proposed to construct approximately 14 residential dwellings on site. The proposed development would take the form of three and four bed dwelling, which would be a maximum of two and a half storeys in height. The majority of dwellings would be located fronting Sheepy Road, with the remaining dwellings located along the northern and southern extents of the site. The primary vehicle access to the proposed development will be from the existing access point off Croft Road on the northern boundary of the site. Parking for the properties would be provided to the rear of the proposed dwellings.

### Purpose of Report

The need for a Local Services and Community Facilities Statement is set out in the North Warwickshire Borough Council Planning Applications Document and is based on the application of Policy COM2 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

This policy states that "*development that would lead to the loss of land or buildings used, or last used, for the provision of community services and facilities will not be permitted in the Main Towns of Atherstone/Mancetter and Polesworth/Dordon, or in the Green Belt Market Town of Coleshill, unless:*

- *The land and buildings are unsuitable in terms of their siting, design, layout and/or construction for continued use for the provision of community facilities and services; and*
- *There is no realistic alternative community use to which they can be put<sup>8</sup>.*

As a result of the proposed residential use on site, this Local Service and Community Facilities Statement (which incorporates an independent assessment of community services and facilities) has been prepared in support of the outline planning application. The statement demonstrates that the land and buildings on site are unsuitable for continued use for the provision of the existing community services on site, and through undertaking an assessment of community services and facilities in Atherstone, that there is no realistic alternative community use for the land and buildings on site.

### Summary of Findings

The table below provides a summary of the findings of the community assessment.

Sector	Findings	User Input
<b>Education</b>		
Early Years	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Primary	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Secondary	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Further Education	Atherstone College has no plans for the relocation, redevelopment or extension of services in Atherstone.	Confirmed
<b>Health</b>		
Doctors / Clinics	Atherstone has an above standard supply of GP's per head of population. Existing surgeries have expressed the ability to accept new patients now and into the future. Therefore, existing provision and demand for further services is assessed to be adequate. Warwickshire PCT has validated the findings of this assessment.	Confirmed
Dentists	Atherstone has an above standard supply of dentists per head of population. Existing dental practices are also able to accept new NHS patients. Therefore, existing provision and demand for further services is assessed to be adequate. Warwickshire PCT has validated the findings of this assessment.	Confirmed
<b>Open Space, Sport and Recreation</b>		
Parks and Gardens	Development of an urban/destination park has been identified as a key priority. It is considered that the magistrate's court and police station site is unsuitable for accommodation of this priority.	Confirmed
Natural/ Informal/ Amenity Open Space	Provision of natural/informal/amenity open space is deemed adequate. No key priorities have been identified for the expansion of this type of facility	Confirmed
Allotments	There is an above standard provision of allotments in Atherstone. Therefore, no priorities have been identified for the expansion of this type of facility.	Confirmed
Outdoor Sport Facilities	The provision of a synthetic turf pitch is identified as a key priority for Atherstone. This key priority is now being delivered at the Queen Elizabeth School	Confirmed
Indoor Sports Facilities	Although there is no shortfall in provision of sports hall through application of the standard in the OSA, the Atherstone Parish Plan has identified the need for a Sports Hall in Atherstone. However it has been confirmed that there are no short or medium terms plans or related funding in place for the delivery of an indoor sports hall and the current strategy of NWBC is to work with local schools to increase provision of indoor sport facilities in Atherstone.	Confirmed
Play Space	Development of a major family play facility is identified as a key priority. This key priority has been delivered through the	Confirmed

Sector	Findings	User Input
	installation of facilities at the Royal Meadow Drive and Mancetter REC playing pitches.	
<b>Libraries and Arts</b>		
Libraries	WCC Library and Information Services Department has confirmed that there is no planned or committed investment in place or any aspirations which would require the movement of the facility to the police station and magistrate's court site. In addition, it was identified that the aspiration of the Atherstone Library is to remain within a central location in the town as can be seen currently with its location at Long Street.	Confirmed
Arts Facilities	Owen Street Community Art Centre partnership has purchased the Arts Centre in Atherstone, and is looking to expand and improve the facility. This allows for the deliver of the community based needs identified in the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit. The 2002 Audit findings for any additional facilities for professional performance events have not been delivered. However, there is still the ability to meet this need through the redevelopment or extension of the existing Memorial Hall, as recommended in Audit.	Confirmed
<b>Emergency Services</b>		
Fire	There is no requirement for additional fire service facilities in the town of Atherstone.	
Ambulance	There is no requirement for ambulance service facilities in the town of Atherstone.	
<b>Community Space/Buildings</b>	It is deemed that there is an adequate supply of existing community buildings/space in which community groups or services can operate. Furthermore, there is no evidence which suggests that there is committed or planned investment in place for the purchasing at market value of the magistrate's court and police station site, which would establish a realistic alternative community use on the site.	Confirmed [88% Response Rate]

The Local Services and Community Facilities statement establishes that the land and buildings at the magistrate's court and police station site are unsuitable for continued use for the existing services on site and that there is no realistic alternative community use from a need, requirements, site suitability and funding perspective for the land and buildings on site.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the Statement

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This Local Services and Community Facilities Statement has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police and is submitted in support of an outline planning application for the erection of a residential development at the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site, Sheepy Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

The need for a Local Services and Community Facilities Statement is set out in the North Warwickshire Borough Council 'Planning Application Requirements' Document (2207) and is based on the application of Policy COM2 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

Policy COM 2 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan seeks for the protection of land and buildings used for existing community facilities.

This policy states that "*development that would lead to the loss of land or buildings used, or last used, for the provision of community services and facilities will not be permitted in the Main Towns of Atherstone/Mancetter and Polesworth/Dordon, or in the Green Belt Market Town of Coleshill, unless:*

- *The land and buildings are unsuitable in terms of their siting, design, layout and/or construction for continued use for the provision of community facilities and services; and*
- *There is no realistic alternative community use to which they can be put.*

Therefore, in proposing a residential use on site, this statement seeks to demonstrate that the land and buildings at the site are unsuitable for continued use for the provision of the existing community services on site (section 3), and through undertaking an assessment of community services and facilities in Atherstone that there is no realistic alternative community use for the land and buildings on site (sections 4 – 9).

### 1.2 Structure of the Report

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This statement forms part of a suite of documentation that will be submitted in support of an outline planning application for the site, and includes the following sections:

**Section 2** – Approach;

**Section 3** – Existing Community Services and Facilities on site;

**Section 4 to 9** – Community Assessment, with each of the community infrastructure sectors contained in a separate chapter, which include:

- Section 4 – Education;
- Section 5 – Health;
- Section 6 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- Section 7 – Libraries and Arts;
- Section 8 – Emergency Services;
- Section 9 – Community Space/ Buildings.

**Section 10** – Findings and Conclusion.

## 2 Approach

### 2.1 Policy Context

The requirement for a Local Services and Community Facilities Statement is set out within the North Warwickshire Borough Council Planning Application Requirements document and is based on the application of Policy COM2 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

This policy states that “*development that would lead to the loss of land or buildings used, or last used, for the provision of community services and facilities will not be permitted in the Main Towns of Atherstone/Mancetter and Polesworth/Dordon, or in the Green Belt Market Town of Coleshill, unless:*

- *The land and buildings are unsuitable in terms of their siting, design, layout and/or construction for continued use for the provision of community facilities and services; and*
- *There is no realistic alternative community use to which they can be put*”.

The narrative supporting Policy COM2 states that “*current Parish Plans or equivalent widespread and inclusive community endorsed documents will be used to establish whether there is a local need for such assets. More weight will be given to documents that have undergone extensive consultation with the local community. This will include local community representatives from the Parish Council; residents associations; local businesses; community groups and religious organisations. In the absence of such material an independent audit will need to be funded by the developer to ascertain such information*”.

### 2.2 Methodology

Based on the narrative supporting Policy COM2 an independent assessment of community facility needs has been prepared in support of a planning application for the police station and magistrate’s court site. The preparation of this Local Services and Communities Facilities Statement will take the form of a community assessment to establish if there is a realistic alternative community use to which the land and buildings can be put. The assessment will be undertaken through the identification of, the existing provision in community service and facilities in Atherstone, gaps in provision, demand for additional facilities, and whether there is planned or committed investment in place to deliver the required community services or facilities in Atherstone.

This assessment will be prepared in line with the policy requirements of COM 2 with the Parish Plan and other inclusive community endorsed secondary sources of data forming the basis of the research and where no secondary source information is held discussions will take place with service providers to inform an independent audit. The assessment findings have been set out in this Local Services and Community Facilities Statement.

In producing a Local Services and Community Facilities Statement there are a number of tasks that are required to be undertaken.

#### 2.2.1 Task 1 – Existing Community Services/Facilities on Site

In preparing this statement it is important to firstly detail the existing local community facilities on site, establish the suitability of the land and buildings to continue their existing use for the provision of community services on site and to ascertain the impact on the local community if the service is lost.

#### 2.2.2 Task 2 – Community Assessment

The second stage in the preparation of the statement will be to undertake a community assessment to determine if there is a realistic alternative use to which the land and buildings can be put. This process will follow the requirements of Policy COM2 (as set out above) by reviewing the findings of the current Atherstone Parish Plan and other relevant and appropriate publicly accessible inclusive community endorsed documents in order to identify

the existing provision of community facilities and services in Atherstone, establish if there is a local need or requirement for community facilities or services and evidence any identified committed or planned investment.

If it is deemed that there is a limitation in the secondary source information held for a specific community sector, discussions will be held with service providers to identify the gaps in provision and if there is planned or committed investment in community services and facilities. This will establish if there is a potential demand for an alternative community use on the site.

The North Warwickshire Local Plan does not define the term community facility, listing only the most common types of community facilities that are found in our towns and villages (paragraph 6.3). Following a review of a number of completed (PPS12 compliant Infrastructure Delivery Plans, in which community assessments are undertaken) the most common elements of social infrastructure have been identified in order to define a list of community sectors to be investigated in this assessment. The sectors to be covered in the assessment cover all the elements highlighted in the Local Plan and have been agreed with North Warwickshire Borough Council. For the purpose of this assessment the following sectors will be considered:

- Education;
- Health (Primary Healthcare which is community based health services);
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- Libraries and Arts;
- Emergency Services (fire and ambulance service);
- Community Space and Buildings.

As previously detailed the output of this review will be to establish within each of the sectors above if there is a community need and committed or planned investment in a particular community facility or service, which would be deemed a realistic alternative community use on the site.

### **2.2.3 Stage 3 – Findings and Conclusion**

Where a community need is established an examination will take place to determine the suitability of the land/building concerned for provision of such a service or facility.

In order to determine the suitability of the land and/or buildings for the provision of the identified community need, the requirement will be examined against a set of social, site specific, viability, and use specific criteria (dependant on the requirements of the identified community need) to determine if it would constitute a realistic alternative community use on site.

The output of this process will be a set of findings and conclusions identifying the potential for a realistic alternative community use on site. If it is concluded that no alternative community use is identified as being required and suitable for development on the site, then in accordance with the requirements of Local Plan Policy COM 2 there should be no justification to refuse planning permission for the redevelopment/change of use of the site for the reason that it would lead to the loss of land or buildings used, or last used, for the provision of community services or facilities.

### 3 Existing Community Services/Facilities on Site

This section describes the existing community services on site, the suitability of the land and buildings to continue their existing use for the provision of community services, and the impact on the community if the service is lost.

The site to which this application relates currently contains the closed magistrate's court and the operational police station. The site is in the ownership of Warwickshire County Council (the magistrate's court) and Warwickshire Police Authority (the police station).

#### 3.1 Magistrate's Court

The magistrate's court closed in December 2004 as a result of the re-organisation and consolidation of justice services within the County. Therefore, court services for the Atherstone area are now provided within the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Nuneaton. The magistrate's court is now closed to public access.

The decision made for the movement of this service to Nuneaton, was predicated on the decision that the provision of justice services was no longer required in the town of Atherstone. Therefore, it has previously been established that the magistrate's court building and related Warwickshire County Council owned land is no longer suitable for the provision of this service.

The magistrate's court facility relocated to Nuneaton over five and a half years ago. Therefore, if the closure of the facility was to have had an impact on the local community of Atherstone it would have already occurred.

#### 3.2 Police Station

The police station is currently operational on site with the building being physically connected to the magistrate's court. There is an urgent need to modernise and improve the police station facility in Atherstone. Currently the service is making best use of the accommodation available but this does not support the efficient use of resources. The existing building has a lot of excess corridor and circulation space and is physically connected with the redundant magistrate's court, all of which result in the inefficient use of space. As a result it is considered that the current facility is unsuitable in terms of its siting, design and layout for the continued use as a police station.

Warwickshire Police Authority proposes to relocate police services in its entirety to an alternative location in Atherstone. It is proposed that the police station will form part of a combined multi-agency Public Service Centre in the heart of Atherstone. The proposed accommodation space will allow Warwickshire Police to deliver the same operational services and local policing as at present to Atherstone and the surrounding areas, to continue to protect communities from harm.

There will be no impact on the local community as a result of the movement of this service, as the same operational services and local policing will be provided at the Public Service Centre.

## 4 Education

### 4.1 Scope

For the purpose of this study, this section considers the following elements of the education system:

- Early Years;
- Primary;
- Secondary; and
- Further Education (Colleges).

The assessment does not look at Higher Education (Universities) as facilities of this nature would not be considered a community facility, and the construction of a university could not be accommodated on a site the size of the Atherstone, police station and magistrates court site (which is less than 0.5 hectares in size).

### 4.2 Available Sources of Information

#### 4.2.1 Warwickshire School Organisation Framework 2005-2010

The Warwickshire School Organisation Framework document covers the period from 2005 to 2010. The Framework covers a range of information on the supply of school places across the County and identifies issues that may have a bearing on future proposals to increase or reduce the number of places at individual schools.

The first enactment of the Children Act 2004 in March 2005, removed the statutory requirement for Local Educational Authorities to produce a School Organisation Plan with the main strategic plan now being the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). However, as highlighted in the School Organisation Framework, Warwickshire was already exempt as part of the Single Education Plan pilot. Although Warwickshire was technically exempt from the CYPP process as a result of being an "excellent" Authority, a CYPP has been produced for the County.

The CYPP is not able to deal in detail with school organisation and school place planning matters. Therefore, the Schools Organisation Framework is a key document in undertaking this assessment as it includes comprehensive information on school place planning, and identifies issues that may have a bearing on future proposals to increase or reduce the number of places at individual schools.

#### 4.2.2 Warwickshire Children's and Young Peoples Plan 2008-2011

The Children's and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) 2008-2011 is the single strategic overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people in Warwickshire. The CYPP sets out the following vision that *"every child and young person, including those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, has the greatest possible opportunity to be the best that they can be"*.

The plan describes how the partnership will achieve the shared vision to make a positive impact on the lives of children by:

- Working together as a partnership;
- Focusing on 25 shared priorities;
- Contributing to Warwickshire County Council priorities.

The plan sets out a series of six improvement priorities, five of which are based on the Children's Act five key Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people, which include:

- Outcome 1: Be healthy;
- Outcome 2: Stay safe;
- Outcome 3: Enjoy and achieve;
- Outcome 4: Make a positive contribution;
- Outcome 5: Achieve economic well-being;
- Outcome 6: Service improvements.

#### **4.2.3 North Warwickshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008/09 (Revised Dec 08)**

The Childcare Act 2006 formalises the process of gathering information on the planning and development of childcare, and requires Local Authorities to undertake a thorough 'sufficiency assessment' every three years, and to update this information regularly in the interim periods. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008/2009 covering North Warwickshire was published by the Family Information Service Children, Young People and Families and was revised in 2008. The assessment sets out the existing childcare provision on a ward basis, while establishing the demand, quality, and affordability of childcare in North Warwickshire.

### **4.3 Early Years**

#### **4.3.1 Existing Provision and Conclusions**

The Childcare Act 2006 requires every Local Authority to provide universal provision of nursery places for three to four year olds. All three and four year olds are entitled to 12.5 hours of free education for 38 weeks of the year. This applies until children reach compulsory school age. This early education can take place in nurseries, playgroups, preschools or at their childminders. From September 2010 Local Authorities will have to provide up to 15 hours a week of free early education a week.<sup>1</sup> However, there is not an obligation on parents to enrol their children in early year education.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008/09<sup>2</sup> for Warwickshire provides an audit of existing childcare provision. Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 below provide a summary of the number of childcare places provided within Atherstone and are grouped together by the wards of Atherstone, which are Atherstone Central, Atherstone North and Atherstone South and Mancetter.

**Table 3.1 Childcare Provision – Atherstone Central Ward**

	Childminder	Out of School Day Care	Sessional Day Care	Grand Total
Providers	5	1	1	7
Places	23	16	28	67
Vacancies	1	0	0	1

<sup>1</sup> Direct Government, 2010. Free early learning for three and four year olds. Accessed at [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Preschooldevelopmentandlearning/NurseriesPlaygroupsReceptionClasses/DG\\_10016103](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Preschooldevelopmentandlearning/NurseriesPlaygroupsReceptionClasses/DG_10016103)

<sup>2</sup> Family Information Service, Children, Young People and Families, 2008 (Revised), Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008/2009.

**Table 3.2 Childcare Provision – Atherstone North**

	Childminder	Creche Day Care	Full Day Care	Out of School Day Care	Grand Total
Providers	8	1	1	1	12
Places	47	10	49	30	136
Vacancies	11	0	8	0	19

**Table 3.3 Childcare Provision – Atherstone South and Mancetter**

	Childminder	Full Day Care	Out of School Day Care	Grand Total
Providers	8	1	1	10
Places	31	29		60
Vacancies	1	0	0	1

In addition, there is one maintained nursery in Atherstone Central, and one maintained nursery in Atherstone South and Mancetter.

The nursery school in Atherstone provides education to children between the ages of 3 and 5 and is located within the Atherstone Early Years Centre. The latest Ofsted report identifies a school total capacity of 83, with 65 pupils currently on roll.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008/2009 holds the most up to date information in regards to childcare provision in North Warwickshire and Atherstone. The assessment sets out that in terms of the demand for childcare provision in North Warwickshire that there *"were no instances of unmet demand logged by the Family Information Service between April 2007 and March 2008"*. Furthermore, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment highlights that the findings of the Gap Survey (March 2008) sets out that there was no reported instances of a lack of provision or the cost of childcare restricting the use of pre-school facilities, among children entering reception classes in Autumn 2007. In relation to the demand for childcare provision, the assessment identifies that housing growth in the district is likely to have a very limited effect on the childcare provision.

In terms of early year childcare provision, it can be concluded through the use of available secondary source data that there is a sufficient existing supply and no current demand which places a need for further services in Atherstone. In addition, the greatest unmet demand of childcare provision in Atherstone as set out in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is within the Atherstone North ward, within which the police station and magistrates court site is located.

#### **4.4 Primary Education**

This section considers the existing provision of primary schools including any deficit/surplus places and planned investment in primary schools in the town of Atherstone.

##### **4.4.1 Existing Provision and Headroom**

There are currently four primary schools in the town of Atherstone, two of which will be amalgamated in September 2010 to form a 3-11 year all-through primary school. Table 3.4

below highlights the most current known number of pupils on roll against the net capacity of the school. Data relating to the number of pupils on roll has been taken from the most up-to-date Ofsted report for the school (vary from 2008, 2009 or 2010) with data relating to the net capacity of the school been taken from the Warwickshire Schools Organisation Framework 2005-2010. By looking at these figures the number of surplus places in primary schools in Atherstone can be established.

It is important to note that from September 2010 Arden Hill Infant School and Oakfield Junior School will discontinue as two separate entities, with a 3-11 years Primary School being established in their place. The New Community Primary School will be located on the site that both schools currently share. All students currently on roll at both schools will be transferred to the new primary school. Therefore, as approval has been given for the new Community Primary School this assessment will look at the new community primary school rather than the two separate entities.

Name Address	Number on Roll	Net Capacity	Surplus Places
New Community Primary School, Southlands, CV9 1EH	329 (Current combined total of two amalgamating schools)	420	91
Racemeadow Primary School, Ratcliffe Road, CV9 1LT	278	420	142
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Church Walk, CV9 1PS	161	161	0

The primary school pupil forecasting as set out in the Schools Organisation Framework identifies that school pupil numbers are forecast to fall from 4096 (12.4% surplus places) to 3569 (23.7% surplus places) from 2005 to 2010. In particular the framework identifies that demographic forecasts suggest that surplus places in Atherstone could rise from 15.3% to 23.5%.

The Warwickshire County Council's Primary Strategy for Change (2008) sets out that the strategy for primary education in Warwickshire needs to be flexible and responsive to future local needs and circumstances. It recognises the current increase in surplus primary school places in Warwickshire but identifies that a number of factors, including increased birth rates in parts of the County and a targeted reduction in school places may reduce the number of surplus places.

#### **4.4.2 Conclusion**

The assessment set out above demonstrates that there is a surplus of primary school places in Atherstone.

It can be concluded that there would not be a community need for the development of primary school services/facilities on the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site, due to the current and future projected surplus places in primary schools.

## **4.5 Secondary Education**

This sub-section examines the existing secondary school provision, including any surplus or deficit places and whether there is planned investment in secondary schools in Atherstone.

### **4.5.1 Existing Provision and Headroom**

The Queen Elizabeth Secondary School and Sports College located at Witherley Road is the only secondary school in Atherstone. The school was designated as a specialist sports college in September 2007. The school is situated on a large site within two main buildings which are located approximately 800 metres apart.

The latest Ofsted inspection report was published in May 2008 and holds the most up to date secondary source data on the number of pupils on roll in the school. The Ofsted report identifies that there is currently 586 pupils on the school roll. The School Organisation Framework (SOF) identifies that the school has a capacity of 876 pupil places, which results in a surplus of approximately 290 places in the school based on available secondary source data.

The Schools Organisation Framework 2005-2010 highlights that the demographic forecast for secondary school pupil numbers in Warwickshire will decline slightly from 3623 in January 2005 to 3360 pupils in September 2009, which equates to a fall of 7.3%. This does not factor in planned housing growth, with the School Organisation Framework identifying that this could result in an additional 100 pupils up to 2009.

The Queen Elizabeth School and Sports College is also a community facility. The Atherstone Parish Plan 2009 sets out the responses of the public to a community survey and an Action Plan to implement the communities' aspirations. The plan identifies that when the community was asked about the level of use of community facilities, the result was that 62% of respondents had never used the Queen Elizabeth facilities out of school hours. The Parish Plan Action Plan therefore seeks to explore the potential to use the sports facilities in the evenings, weekends and holiday periods. In addition, the Action Plan sets out that the Extended Services will work with the school to produce marketing material to publicise the school as a community facility.

### **4.5.2 Planned/Committed Investment**

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is the largest ever school buildings investment programme with the aim of rebuilding or renewing nearly every secondary school in England. Warwickshire has been informed that it is expected to enter the BSF programme in 2013 and have its top priority schools addressed in 2013.

Warwickshire County Council submitted the Building Schools for the Future Readiness to Deliver to the Partnership for Schools Report on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

The document sets out the Council's commitment to the Building Schools for the Future Programme and states that key to the Council's strategy is ensuring a pattern of strong, viable and successful schools across the County. Readiness to Deliver identifies the area of Nuneaton as having the highest priority for the BSF programme; within Nuneaton this covers 7 secondary schools.

Readiness to Deliver sets out that the timing of the anticipated entry to the BSF programme will coincide with the planning for significant growth in secondary school numbers in Nuneaton and Bedworth. This will take place as a result of the implementation of the housing growth targets set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The report acknowledges that the North Warwickshire area in which Atherstone is located is forecasted to have the smallest growth in secondary school places. Furthermore, the

precise impact of housing growth is currently uncertain, with pupil numbers not expecting to grow in Nuneaton until 2026.

Overall the Readiness to Deliver strategy states that only two school closures are planned in Nuneaton, with no further school closures planned as part of the BSF project across the County. The strategy for Warwickshire also clarifies that if replacement schools are to be provided they should be accommodated on existing school sites.

#### **4.5.3 Conclusion**

There is currently a surplus of pupil places in the Queen Elizabeth School and Sports College in Atherstone and the need for additional secondary school places in Warwickshire is forecasted to fall. Although there is the potential for growth as a result of future housing development, evidence suggests that North Warwickshire is forecasted to have the smallest growth.

There are no plans to close the secondary school in Atherstone and that if a refurbishment/replacement of the school was required in the future that this would take place on the school site, as set out in the Readiness to Deliver strategy.

Therefore it can be concluded that there is not a need for secondary school services/facilities on the Atherstone police station and magistrates court site.

#### **4.6 Further Education**

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The North Warwickshire and Hinckley College is a large general further education college and one of the largest providers of education and training in the Midlands. The college has two main campuses located in Nuneaton and Hinckley but also has five smaller learning venues, one of which is located on Radcliffe Road in Atherstone.

The North Warwickshire and Hinckley College provides academic and vocational education and offers courses in all sectors, with the following classes available in Atherstone during the day and two evenings per week:

- Basic Skills (Maths and English Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2);
- Choices/Pathways provision for physically and mentally disabled students, in a range of subjects;
- Full time counselling;
- Full and part-time teacher training provision;
- Part-time teacher assistant programmes;
- Assessors and Verifiers award.

In addition, the college provides advice to those newly unemployed to enable the unemployed into training.

The college has eight classrooms, a number of which have IT facilities which are available to the community for hire. In addition, the College has a refectory with coffee shop and book shop all of which are open to the public.

Atherstone College offers a range of further education classes, opportunities and services, whilst also offering a venue by which rooms can be hired by the community. In undertaking this assessment a discussion was held with the North Warwickshire and Hinckley College Area Co-ordinator for the North in regards to the aspirations of the College in Atherstone. This discussion highlighted that the College has no current or future plans for the relocation, redevelopment or extension of services in Atherstone.

#### **4.7 Conclusion of findings for Education**

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The evidence provided above demonstrates that there is currently a sufficient existing supply of early years, primary and secondary school places in Atherstone to meet the current demand in the town, with pupil numbers forecasted to fall in the immediate future. Although there is the potential for growth of the town as a result of housing development, evidence suggests that North Warwickshire is forecasted to have the smallest growth.

It can be concluded that there is not a community need for the development of early year/primary or secondary school services/facilities on the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site. Furthermore, it has been confirmed that Atherstone College have no current or near future plans for the relocation, redevelopment or extension of further education services in Atherstone.

## 5 Health

### 5.1 Scope

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This section examines health care infrastructure requirements in Atherstone and looks specifically at primary health care which includes community based GP surgeries, clinics, and dentists. The sectors identified above ensure coverage of the common types of community facilities found in towns and villages as highlighted in the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

Primary care is defined as 'community' based health services that are usually the first, and often the only, point of contact that patients make with the health service, while secondary health care includes more specialised health care, including hospitals and acute care.

An assessment of secondary health care provision which includes more specialised health care has not been undertaken as there would be limited ability to fit a facility of this nature onto a site which is less than 0.5 hectares in size.

### 5.2 Available Sources of Information

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Warwickshire NHS Primary Care Trust assesses the health needs of local communities within Warwickshire and then commission's necessary services from local providers. In addition Warwickshire NHS PCT provides community services. Providers include, local hospital trusts, ambulance service, mental health trusts, and a range of private and voluntary sector organisations.

The Warwickshire PCT vision for the development of local health care to 2012 is set out within 'A Healthy Future for Warwickshire' published in March 2008. More recently the PCT published its strategy to 2014 'Warwickshire: Best Health for Everyone'.

The PCT Strategy sets out four strategic goals by which to deliver their vision and purpose, with clear objectives and supporting programmes, as follows:

- Best Quality – Reducing unacceptable variations in care;
- Engagement – Supporting citizens, staff and partners and communities in shaping health and being healthy;
- Sustainability – Leading a health system which delivers best value year on year;
- Transformation – Change that delivers best results for our people.

Best Health for Everyone sets out that key to the overall strategy is the need to change the way in which the health system operates so that it no longer defaults to providing care in hospital and instead faces the community. This would allow for greater independence and would minimise the number of times patients would have to travel to hospital.

### 5.3 Existing Provision

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This sub-section examines the existing provision of GP surgeries, clinics and dental services in Atherstone. This information has been obtained from the Warwickshire Community Database and validated with checking the NHS Choices website and through discussions with service providers.

#### 5.3.1 Doctors/Clinics

At present there are two GP surgeries located centrally within the town of Atherstone, one of which offers a number of other services. Table 4.1 provides details relating to the provision of services at these surgeries.

**Table 4.1 GP Surgeries**

Name	Address	No. of GP's	Other Services Offered	Ability to Accept New Patients
Atherstone Surgery	1, Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone, CV9 1EU	7	Family Planning Advice Child Health Immunisation Minor Surgery/Minor Injuries	Accepting New Patients
Station Street Surgery	45 Station Street, Atherstone, CV9 1DB	2	No Further Services	Accepting New Patients

In addition, to those two local GP Surgeries there are a further three GP Surgeries within a 3 mile radius of Atherstone and 13 surgeries located between 3 and 5 miles of Atherstone. In addition, Atherstone Clinic is located on Long Street in the centre of Atherstone.

In order to measure the adequacy of Primary Health Care provision in Atherstone it is necessary to apply a recognised national standard to determine the average ratio of patients to GP's. Reliance is placed upon National Standards as there are no local standards available. Warwickshire NHS Primary Care Trust confirmed that they consider the application of national standards to be an acceptable way in which to measure the need for further services/facilities in Atherstone.

A national standard used to measure the adequacy of GP services is:

- 1 GP per 1,700 residents<sup>3</sup>

**Table 4.2 No of GP's per head of Population in Atherstone**

No. of GP Practices	No of GP's	Population <sup>4</sup>	Patients per GP	Above or Below Standard Applied
2	9	10,787	1,199	Above Standard

Based on the national standard it can be seen that the town of Atherstone has an above standard supply of GP's per head of population. Furthermore, both surgeries have sufficient capacity to accept new patients. In conclusion the existing provision of services in Atherstone is currently adequate to meet demand.

<sup>3</sup> The ODPM (now CLG) standard is based on the average levels of provision assumed by NHS and Department for Health Planners.

<sup>4</sup> The Population Figure for Atherstone is taken from the 2001 census data available from Neighbourhood Statistics. The population of the town is based on figures from the three wards (all of which belong to the 2008 administrative hierarchy list of areas) that cover Atherstone. The three wards are Atherstone North, Atherstone Central and Atherstone South and Mancetter. The ward of Atherstone South and Mancetter extends slightly outside the town to cover the village of Mancetter, therefore the population data is slightly more than that of the Town.

### 5.3.2 Dentists

In April 2006 fundamental changes were made to the delivery of NHS dentistry. Primary Care Trusts now have a statutory duty to provide dental services to meet all reasonable requirements. Currently there are two dental practices located centrally in the town of Atherstone which offer care to NHS and Private Patients.

**Table 4.3 Dental Surgeries in Atherstone**

Name	Address	No. of Dental Practitioners	Services Offered	Ability to Accept New Patients
Atherstone Dental Practice	60 Long Street, Atherstone, CV9 1AU	5	General Dental Treatment NHS and Private Practice Anxiety Management Emergency out of hours advice and patients seen the same day Cosmetic Dentistry	Yes
Mrs C A Connor	165 Long Street, Atherstone, CV9 1AD	1	General Dental Treatment NHS and Private Practice	Yes

In addition, to the dental practices located within the town, there are a further eight practices (one of which is an Orthodontists) located within a five mile radius of Atherstone, all of which provide services for Warwickshire PCT.

In order to measure the adequacy of provision in dental care in Atherstone a recognised national standard has been used of:

- 1 dentist per 2,000 residents<sup>5</sup>

**Table 4.2 No of GP's per head of Population in Atherstone**

No. of Dental Practices	No of Dentists	Population <sup>6</sup>	Patients per Dentist	Above or Below Standard Applied
2	6	10,787	1,798	Above Standard

<sup>5</sup> Citizens Advice Bureau, Gaps to Fill, CAB Evidence on first year of the NHS dentistry reform, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> The Population Figure for Atherstone is taken from the 2001 census data available from Neighbourhood Statistics. The population of the town is based on figures from the three wards (all of which belong to the 2008 administrative hierarchy list of areas) that cover Atherstone. The three wards are Atherstone North, Atherstone Central and Atherstone South and Mancetter. The ward of Atherstone South and Mancetter extends slightly outside the town to cover the village of Mancetter. Therefore the population data is slightly more than that of the Town.

Based on the national standard applied it can be seen that the town of Atherstone has an above standard supply of Dentists per head of population. Furthermore both practices have capacity to accept new NHS patients.

#### **5.4 Planned and Committed Investment and Conclusion**

The majority of people that responded to the community survey undertaken in support of the Parish Plan confirmed that they have no problems in accessing a chemist, doctor, dentist or optician. The survey identified that 87% of respondents to question 48 (How do you rate the medical services used in the last year?) rate their doctors as good or reasonable. Although the majority of respondents believe that existing services are reasonable/good and accessible, there was an aspiration by 52% of respondents for the introduction of a Medical one stop shop, with a further third of respondents suggesting that no improvements in medical services is required in Atherstone.

The assessment demonstrates that there is an above standard supply of primary health care services and facilities in Atherstone. In addition, all surgeries have identified the ability to accept new patients now and into the future. In order to validate the findings of this assessment, a discussion was held with the PCT which highlighted that at present they are not seeking to commission additional dental or general practice services, as they consider there to be no identified problems in regards to the current supply and demand for services in Atherstone.

In conclusion, the existing provision of community health services in Atherstone is adequate to meet existing and future demand and there is no community need for the development of primary health care services/facilities on the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site. Therefore, from a community healthcare perspective there is no realistic alternative community use to which the land or buildings can be put.

## 6 Open Space, Sport and Recreation

### 6.1 Scope

This section relates to open space, sport and recreational facilities. Sports and recreation facilities can be broken down as outdoor recreational grounds including playing fields, pitches and equipped play spaces and indoor community sports facilities. Open space includes, parks and gardens, natural/informal open space, allotments and cemeteries.

This assessment is based on the findings of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough (January 2008), the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018 and the North Warwickshire Play Strategy 2007/2012.

The provision of open space in North Warwickshire has recently been analysed in an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. The study consisted of an assessment of local open space, sport and recreation (indoor and outdoor) need and supply for North Warwickshire in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. The findings of this assessment formed the basis of the development of the Green Space Strategy adopted by the Borough Council in December 2008.

The sub-sectors that will be evaluated in this section of the report are largely based on those categories of green space assessed in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study which were largely determined by guidance contained in PPG 17.

This section of the report does not look at natural green space of a type that are managed primarily for wildlife value, as a community space for this type of facility would not be achievable at the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court site.

### 6.2 Available Sources of Information

This section of the report is based upon the findings of the following community endorsed and up-to-date secondary sources of data:

#### 6.2.1 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough (Jan 2008)

This includes the Final Report Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand, Local Standards and Action Plan and the Area Profile for Atherstone and Mancetter.

This study sought to undertake an assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities in North Warwickshire Borough, the outputs of which had to be compliant with the requirements of PPG 17. The study provides a comprehensive and robust evidence base for planning policies in North Warwickshire, including supporting Supplementary Planning Documents.

The types of open space and recreation facilities assessed in the study was restricted to those areas and facilities that are physically accessible by the community, either informally or on some sort of managed basis, for a genuine activity.

In carrying out the assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities the study involved carrying out a series of audits and consultation exercises, which looked at the quality, quantity and accessibility of spaces and facilities. This work allowed for the development of minimum local standards (adopted by Council) for the quality, quantity and accessibility to open spaces and sport and recreational facilities. The study established a set of priorities and actions to help meet these standards of provision in 11 local needs areas, one of which includes the sub-area of Atherstone and Mancetter which will be the focus of this study.

### **6.2.2 North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018**

The Green Space Strategy 2008-2018 was adopted by the Borough Council in December 2008. The strategy sets out a ten year framework to enable NWBC and its partners to work towards meeting the recommended standards of provision set out in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

The policies of the Green Strategy include Borough Wide service improvement policies and area-specific priorities. The strategy sets out a number of key priorities for the Atherstone, Mancetter and Ridge Lane area, some of which seek the provision of new facilities, with other seeking the improvement of existing facilities or services. All priorities have been identified below under each of the sub-sector specific sections.

The Green Space Strategy sets out a number of policies to help secure, co-ordinate and target resources effectively. In terms of resourcing, policy RP01 of the Green Space Strategy sets out the need to prepare a four year rolling Action Plan and funding strategy which sets out how and when key priorities will be achieved.

### **6.2.3 North Warwickshire Play Strategy 2007-2012 (Jan 2007)**

The North Warwickshire Play Strategy seeks to inform the shape and direction of the Play Partnership policy prioritises and proposed service development over the next five to ten years.

## **6.3 Existing Provision and Gaps in Provision**

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### **6.3.1 Open Space**

The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (OSA) establishes that country parks, parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities dominate the local supply of open space in the borough of North Warwickshire.

#### **6.3.1.1 Parks and Gardens and Country Parks**

The open space assessment suggests that public parks and gardens comprise of a number of features that can serve a number of functions that together can offer greater value to the community.

On the other hand Country Parks are considered different in character and function from other parks, with their historic function being to offer high capacity and robust 'natural environments'.

The OSA identifies that there are three strategic Country Parks in North Warwickshire that offer a range of recreational facilities, all of which are managed by Warwickshire County Council. Two of the Country Parks (Kingsbury Water Park and Hartshill) are located in the centre of the borough to the south of the A5 and Atherstone, with Pooley Country Park located to the north of Atherstone.

The OSA establishes that there are very few conventional parks and gardens in the borough, with the exception of one in Coleshill and a 'pocket park' in Atherstone outside the Borough Council Offices.

In Atherstone there is no large formal Park and Garden. The sub-area specific assessments undertaken as part of the OSA recognises that the provision and investment in developing a more formal park in Atherstone should be a priority. However, the assessment suggests the potential ability to improve existing sites to allow for provision of such a facility. Two of the sites in question are located, one in the north of the town and one in the south of the town.

In conclusion, the development of an urban/destination park within Atherstone has been identified as a key priority. However, evidence suggests that in providing this facility there is the potential for the utilisation of an existing site providing sport and play facilities.

#### **6.3.1.2 Natural/Informal/Amenity Open Space**

Natural Green Space has been scoped out of this assessment on the basis these areas are generally managed for their wildlife value but at the same time are open or able to be appreciated by the public. Therefore, this is not considered an appropriate alternative community use to which the land at the Atherstone police station and magistrate's court could be put.

The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study identifies that in the Atherstone and Mancetter local need sub-area there is provision above the standard for informal and amenity open space. In light of the fact that there is a large amount of informal open space within the area, the Open Space study and Green Space strategy sets out the priority that some informal open space could be considered for alternative green space uses.

In conclusion it can be seen that there is sufficient supply of Informal/Natural/Amenity Open Space in Atherstone.

#### **6.3.1.3 Allotments**

The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment sets out that there is a total of 30.14 hectares of allotment space in the Borough, which equates to 0.49 hectares per 1000 people. The assessment acknowledges that in comparison to other Local Authorities this level of allotment provision is high.

In the Atherstone and Mancetter local need sub-area the study identifies that there is currently six allotment sites with an existing provision of 9.59 hectares which equates to a provision of 0.89 hectares per 1000 population. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study suggest an allotments provision standard of 0.50 hectares per 1000 population as a minimum target in the Borough. It can therefore be seen that there is an above standard provision of allotments in Atherstone. In addition, there are no strategic priorities relating to the provision of allotments in Atherstone.

#### **6.3.1.4 Cemeteries**

There is one cemetery in Atherstone located on Sheeepy Road. This cemetery is managed by the Town Council.

The Town Council has confirmed that there is approximately eight to ten years of capacity remaining at the site. The Town Council have recently purchased land surrounding the cemetery on Sheeepy Road and at present no plans have been confirmed as to whether this land would be utilised for the expansion of the cemetery or as parkland.

In conclusion, the Atherstone cemetery has sufficient capacity at present and in the short term to meet the needs of the community.

### 6.3.2 Sport and Recreation Facilities

#### 6.3.2.1 Outdoor Sports Facilities (Playing Fields and Pitches)

Within the three Atherstone wards there are six outdoor sports facilities sites which provide playing fields or pitch provision, which include:

Name/Location	No. of Pitches	Ownership	Access	Improvements Identified
Queen Elizabeth School (Atherstone Central)	2	Community School	School/Community	-----
Royal Meadow Drive (Atherstone North)	2	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Accessibility Issues on Foot. Potential for Additional Facilities.
Sheepy Road (Atherstone Football Club) (Atherstone North)	1	Sports Club	Private Use	-----
Mancetter REC (Atherstone South and Mancetter)	3	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Site in need of major improvements.
Ridge Lane (Atherstone South and Mancetter)	1	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Equipment in need of updating.
Atherstone Town Cricket Club (Atherstone North)	1	Sports Club	Accessible	-----

The OSA concludes that in terms of outdoor sports facilities there is an above standard provision in Atherstone. However, the OSA highlights the need for potential improvements to be made to the quality of outdoor sports facilities sites as identified in Table 5.1 above. In addition, the assessment identifies the potential for school and private facilities to develop joint use community facilities.

No strategic priorities are set for the future provision of additional outdoor sports facilities, other than the need to improve the quality of facilities. On the other hand the assessment highlights the ability of the large site at Royal Meadow Drive site in North Atherstone to offer the opportunity for additional facilities at the site providing a major facility in the area.

The assessment identified that at present there is no synthetic turf pitches in the North Warwickshire Borough, highlighting the fact that there is a desire from the local community for a full sized synthetic turf pitch. A key priority of the Green Space Strategy is for the provision of a Synthetic Turf Pitch in North Warwickshire, with the Atherstone and Mancetter sub-area identified as the preferred location for this type of facility.

#### **6.3.2.2 Indoor Sport Facilities**

Indoor sports facilities can include Sports Halls and Swimming Pools. Sports Halls provide a variety of formal sport and active recreational activities. The OSA explains that national research has shown that Sports Halls tend to attract use by quite a limited section of the population, with swimming pools being one of the most popular leisure pursuits.

There are nine sports halls located within North Warwickshire, none of which are located within the town of Atherstone. In terms of swimming pool provision, there are two swimming pools located within the Borough, one of which is located within the Atherstone Leisure Complex. Atherstone Leisure Complex is owned by the Local Authority and accessible to all in the community.

Provision of a sports hall is not identified within the Atherstone and Mancetter local need sub-area assessment as a strategic requirement for the area. The OSA establishes a minimum standard for the provision of sports halls (4-court) as 1 hall per 14,000 people, with no more than a 15 minute journey time. The population size of Atherstone is below the threshold of this standard and furthermore there are facilities within a 15 minute journey time of Atherstone. Therefore, the requirement for sports halls are being met through application of the minimum standard as set out in the OSA.

Despite sufficient provision being demonstrated through application of the standard North Warwickshire Borough Council believe there is a deficiency in indoor sports hall provision in the town. In addition, the Parish Plan identifies the need for a sports hall facility in Atherstone. Nevertheless, NWBC have confirmed that at present there are no short or medium term plans or funding for the delivery of a new build or redeveloped existing building for provision of a sports hall in Atherstone. Therefore, there is no committed investment in place for the delivery of this facility. At present, NWBC are working with local schools in the aim to increase the provision of indoor sports facilities for use by the community in Atherstone.

#### **6.3.2.3 Children and Young Peoples Play Space**

In Atherstone there are currently seven children's and young peoples play spaces located across the town. The OSA identifies that at present there is an under supply of play facilities in Atherstone.

The Play Strategy 2007 indicates that across Atherstone there is a lack of access within a five minute walk time to play space dedicated to toddlers. However, the strategy suggests that parents would be happy to walk up to 15 minutes to access high quality play areas. Therefore, the strategy identifies that to ensure access to a high quality provision of facilities, junior and toddler play areas could actually be placed together on one site.

In terms of junior play space the Play Strategy identifies that the general distribution of facilities is reasonable, but that there is a lack of provision in the east of Atherstone. Furthermore, the strategy indicates that there is generally access within a 20 minute walking distance to youth play space in Atherstone.

The strategy suggests that with the exception of the east of the town there are sites available that, if improved and developed could provide accessible play space and youth facilities. The conclusion of the Play Strategy aligns with the priorities set out in the OSA and Green Space Strategy that improvements in existing play facilities are required in the town, and that there is a need to develop a formal destination park/major family play facility.

The Open Space assessment highlights the potential for development of a destination/urban

park including a major family play facility using one of the existing sites in the town (e.g. Mancetter REC or Royal Meadow Drive) which could provide a single focus for the quality provision of sport, play and recreation in the town.

#### **6.4 Planned and Committed Investment and Conclusion**

Through a review of secondary source data the following gaps in provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities are seen in Atherstone, along with a number of key priorities to be taken forward were identified:

- The need for a Synthetic Turf Pitch.
- Provision of an urban/destination park and a major family play facility. It has been suggested that both facilities could be combined to provide a single focus of high quality play facilities. There is also the potential to utilise an existing outdoor sport facility which could provide joint sport, play and recreational facilities.

Following the production of the Green Space Strategy it was announced that £10,000 would be made available by North Warwickshire Borough Council to each Area Forum to help fund the delivery of the key priorities set out in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and the Green Space Strategy. In January 2010 it was recommended and agreed that the £10,000 is offered to the Queen Elizabeth School to fund the installation of a Synthetic Turf Pitch which would be accessible to the community.

Therefore, one of the key priorities identified for outdoor sports facilities is now being delivered at the Queen Elizabeth School. A discussion was held with North Warwickshire Borough Council Leisure Services Officers to validate the findings of the assessment. This discussion confirmed that the priority for a major family play facility in the town has now been delivered with play facilities (MUGA and Junior and Toddler Play Facilities) being provided at both the Mancetter REC and Royal Meadow Drive outdoor open space facilities.

It is considered that the priority for establishing an urban/destination park in the town would be an unsuitable realistic alternative for development on the magistrate's court and police station site. An urban/destination park is a formal area of green space which has the ability to offer a range of functions (recreational play space, outdoor play space, general open space, wildlife attraction etc...). It is believed that the magistrate's court and police station site is too small (less than 0.5 hectares) to function as an urban park/destination park. NWBC Leisure Services Officer agreed that the site would not be suitable for the redevelopment to an urban/destination park and that it would not be considered for this use by the Council in the future.

## 7 Libraries/Arts

### 7.1 Libraries

#### 7.1.1 Scope

This section deals with the provision of library services in Atherstone. Local Authorities have a duty under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to all who live, work or study in the area.<sup>7</sup> Library services in Atherstone and North Warwickshire are managed by Warwickshire County Council. The Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Library and Information Services mission statement is "creating opportunities for all through information, advice, guidance, learning and inspiration".

#### 7.1.2 Existing Provision and Gaps in Provision

The WCC Library and Information Services is an important community resource providing a range of services including lending and reference facilities, access to computers and information facilities from 34 static libraries and 5 mobile libraries across the County. Of the 34 static libraries, one is located within Atherstone located on Long Street in the heart of the town centre.

The main source of information on which this section has been based is the Warwickshire Library and Information Service, Strategic Service Plan 2007/2010 and discussions held with the WCC Library and Information Service Department.

The vision of the Warwickshire Strategic Service Plan is, "working in partnership to put customers first, improve services and lead communities".

The plan sets out the following 10 strategic objectives to deliver the Warwickshire Library and Information Service, Strategic Service Plan:

- Build confidence and promote reading and language development in early years;
- Widen participation and demonstrate the impact and value of libraries in supporting learning and information provision;
- Provide access to the services people need through effective use of IT;
- Contribute to the achievement of e-government (uk online) targets for service take-up and audience engagement;
- Deliver an inclusive service that reflects and helps build cohesive communities and address social exclusion;
- Improve the quality of library buildings to meet community needs;
- Develop and promote the role and contribution of public libraries through a clear vision;
- Build library capacity to improve through better quality of leadership and workforce;
- Implement solutions to achieve maximum impact from available resources;
- Achieve excellent planning and quality assurance systems to ensure sustained improvement.

Of importance to this study is strategic objective six which seeks to 'improve the quality of library buildings to meet community needs', as this assessment strictly looks at alternative facilities and services that have the potential for use of the Atherstone police station and magistrates court site.

<sup>7</sup> Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Council, 2008. Public Libraries, Archives and New Development: A standard Approach.

In terms of improving the quality of library buildings, the plan recognises the need to identify and prioritise opportunities for new library buildings or significant refurbishments. In looking at the need for new library buildings, the strategic service plan seeks to establish the feasibility for new library buildings at Brownsover and Nuneaton. Furthermore, the plan identifies the need to seek funding through the Big Lottery Fund for a new library at Studley.

### **7.1.3 Planned and Committed Investment and Conclusion**

The Warwickshire County Council's Library and Information Service, Strategic Service Plan does not indicate the need for a new library facility/building in Atherstone. In addition, the Framework for the Future: Library Service Transformation report which sets out the current thinking for the future of library services in Warwickshire, identifies that where possible options will be identified which will enable provision through a co-located building, while setting out the importance that services are offered in the correct location.

To validate the statements above, a discussion was held with the WCC Library and Information Services Department, which has identified that there is no planned or committed investment in place to significantly enhance the Library services in Atherstone which would require use of the police station and magistrate's court site. In addition, this discussion identified the Library Services aspirations that the Atherstone Library would remain within a central location in the town as can be seen currently with its location at Long Street and would not foresee operating the facility police station and magistrate's court site.

## 7.2 Arts

This section of the assessment deals with venues for use for arts activities in Atherstone. This sector may cross-reference with the section on community buildings, however, it is felt that this sector should be dealt with separately as an independent arts facilities audit was carried out in 2002 covering the town of Atherstone.

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) seeks to encourage and foster creativity in individuals and communities throughout the Borough. NWBC sets out that the emphasis of the Council's facility-based activity is on the programme of performing and visual arts and entertainment, including both professional and amateur productions, support to touring music and drama, and support for local voluntary sector initiatives.

### 7.2.1 Existing Provision and Gaps in Provision

The main source of secondary sourced information, on which this section of the report is based, is the Atherstone Arts Facilities Audit undertaken by Creative Options Consultancy in 2002.

The study sought to "assess the appropriateness of current arts facilities, and to make recommendations on future appropriate and sustainable arts facilities in Atherstone"<sup>8</sup>. The report sets out the results of a survey of existing venues in Atherstone used for arts activities or which have the potential for this use, highlighting the quality of the existing facilities and the main development needs.

The following are considered to be the main existing venues in Atherstone currently used for arts activities (as identified in the 2002 Audit) or are at present capable of holding events at that location:

**Table 7.1: Existing Arts Activities**

Name	Main Use	Capacity	Management	Development Potential
Arts Centre, Owen Street	Studio Theatre with smaller hall.	Theatre Licence for 60 people. Seeking licence to expand capacity.	Owen Street Partnership	Currently seeking to expand facility.
Atherstone Memorial Hall	Multi-purpose community hall. Includes leisure service activities and use by small-scale touring theatre companies and for dance shows, concerts and literacy events.	155 Cabaret Format 316 on tired seating.	North Warwickshire Borough Council as part of Atherstone Leisure Complex.	There is the potential for further expansion and for new facilities to be added.
Library, Long Street	Library Divisional Headquarters. Readers Group Meet at this venue.	_____	Warwickshire County Council	Pressure for space. Better access to upper storey might offer better

<sup>8</sup> Creative Options Consultancy Ltd. Atherstone Arts Facilities Audit, a report for North Warwickshire Arts and North Warwickshire Borough Council, 2002.

Name	Main Use	Capacity	Management	Development Potential
				exhibition space.
White Hart Heritage Centre	Heritage Building converted to Community Use. Main Arts Use – Dedicated Exhibition Space.	Small Rooms limit the number of visitors at any one time.	Privately Owned.	No scope for further development because of the private ownership of the building.
St Mary's Church, Market Square	Other than worship, concerts and productions have taken place at the Church.	Nave seats 400 in pews and 200 more can be accommodated.	Parochial Church Council	Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of a section of the Church to community use.
Atherstone Cricket Club, Ratcliffe Road	Hall for Hire	Sitting Capacity 80 Function 120	Atherstone Town Cricket Club	
Queen Elizabeth School	Use by Choral Society and Public Performances by Drama Society and Theatre Workshop.	Upper School Hall has public entertainment license and capacity of 120. Lower School does not have a public entertainment licence but has a capacity of 600.	School Governing Body and Warwickshire County Council.	Long term aspiration to rationalise the school onto one site.
Community House and Trinity Church, Coleshill Road, Atherstone	Part converted to community use.	The Church holds approximately 90.		Aspiration for further provision of community facilities from the building.
Atherstone College	Further Education classes and rooms for hire.	Meeting space ranges from a room capacity of 12 to a room capacity of 35.	North Warwickshire & Hinckley College	No plans for relocation, redevelopment or extension of the facility.

### **7.2.2 Future Aspirations**

Currently there are a number of buildings in which arts related activities can take place in Atherstone. The Atherstone Arts Facilities Audit 2002 highlights the need for a greater range of facilities for use for arts activities, as currently facilities in Atherstone are technically limited for performers and practitioners and offer a relatively poor performance for audiences. In addition, the study notes the aspirations for a venue that can bring together all arts groups in one place. The audit considers that without improvement in arts facilities, there is the potential for a net outflow of cultural and leisure activities in Atherstone and lower levels of participation in the arts.

It is within this context that the 2002 Audit sought to examine a number of potential options to deal with the strengths, weaknesses and needs identified during the audit. The five potential options investigated included, do nothing, creation of a new purpose built arts facility, joint venture with another organisation, refurbishing the Arts Centre, or refurbishing the Memorial Hall.

The audit ruled out the option of doing nothing. In addition the audit ruled out the option of building a purpose built arts facility, on the grounds that there would not be sufficient public funding for a project of this scale. In addition, it was considered that redundant buildings already located in Atherstone may not be suitable for conversion and would be too expensive to demolish and rebuild.

The option of entering into a joint venture with another partner was not ruled out. However, the report concluded that as the Memorial Hall is currently the leading public building in Atherstone, the redevelopment of this building would be the preferred option and the most affordable way of improving arts facilities in Atherstone. The study sets out that redeveloping the Memorial Hall would be more achievable and affordable than the construction of a purpose-built arts venue, although the latter may provide a better venue.

### **7.2.3 Planned or Committed Investment and Conclusions**

The Atherstone Arts Facilities Audit 2002 is the most up to date secondary source of data relating to the need for arts facility in Atherstone. The study draws out a number of conclusions relating to the need to enhance services in the town.

Since the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit was published the preferred option to redevelop the Memorial Hall has not been taken forward. However, the Owen Street Partnership (now a charitable organisation) has purchased the Arts Centre in Atherstone and currently manages this venue, allowing for all Atherstone arts groups to come together in one venue. To date work has been undertaken to refurbish the Arts Centre internally. The Arts Centre has recently submitted an application to increase the premises licence from a capacity of 60 people to a capacity of 110. In addition, funding is being sought for expansion of the space at the Arts Centre. The Arts Centre also provides a setting in which Care Services provide facilities for children with disabilities.

Following discussion with the Owen Street Community Art Centre ownership team, it is considered that the facility at the Arts Centre now delivers the community based requirements that were identified within the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit.

The Audit findings for any additional facilities for professional performance events have not necessarily been delivered to date. However, there is still the ability to meet this need through the redevelopment or extension of the existing Memorial Hall site as suggested by the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit. In addition, there is planned or committed investment in place to deliver this facility. Therefore this would not constitute a realistic alternative community use for the land and buildings at the magistrate's court and police station site.

## 8 Emergency Services

### 8.1 Scope

This section deals with Fire Services and Ambulance Services in Warwickshire.

Police Services are not covered within this assessment due to the fact that the community assessment is being undertaken on behalf of the Warwickshire Police Authority, and is based on the need to modernise police services in Atherstone, and the intention to relocate police services in the town within a proposed combined multi-agency Public Service Centre in the heart of Atherstone.

### 8.2 Fire

This section examines the requirement for fire fighting services and stations.

Warwickshire County Council is the Fire and Rescue Authority for Warwickshire.

#### 8.2.1 Existing Provision

Warwickshire has a total of 19 stations, four of which are wholetime stations, three are day crewing stations, and 12 are retaining stations. In addition, the Fire and Rescue Station has service support at the Service Headquarters in Leamington Spa, Fire Safety Headquarters in Budbrook and a Training and Development Centre in Bedworth.

There is a day crewing station in Atherstone located on Kings Avenue, CV9 1JZ.

#### 8.2.2 Planned and Committed Investment

In 2009 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service published an Improvement Plan which was consulted upon until the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The improvement plan has eight key elements. Of particular importance to this assessment is 'Improvement Plan Step 1a' which looks at station provision across Warwickshire. Following a review of current stations, the plan proposes a 12 station response model which is linked to a flexible system of duty. The Improvement Plan sets out that the proposed changes to the way Fire and Rescue Services are provided "*will release resources into the fifth watch system, provide changes to the day crewed system and allow for the establishment of small fire/Community Fire Safety Unit(s) as well as ensuring operational cover overall*".

The 12 station model set out in the Plan includes for the upgrade of Alcester Fire Station to a wholetime/retained station. There are a number of stations that the Improvement Plan highlights as not being required under the 12 station model for operational responses, but which could be transferred for community use by the Council and its public service partners. The stations that would not be required under the improvement plan include:

- Bidford;
- Brinklow;
- Fenny Compton;
- Kenilworth;
- Studley;
- Warwick; and
- Bedworth (the Bedworth station is proposed to be combined with the Nuneaton Station).

Therefore, operational response services are proposed to be removed from the six stations identified above.

### **8.2.3 Conclusion**

A considerable volume of responses were received during the consultation process on the Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Plan. As a result reporting of the responses and finalisation of the Improvement Plan has yet to take place.

However, the draft Improvement Plan allows for a conclusion to be made that no physical station changes are anticipated to occur to the way in which fire and rescue services are operated from Atherstone. Given the Improvement Plan proposal for a 12 station response model and the removal of operational response services from six stations in the County, it can be concluded that there would be no requirement for the use of the police station and magistrate's court for the operation of fire services.

### **8.3 Ambulance Services**

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This section examines the requirements for Ambulance Services in Warwickshire with specific reference to the town of Atherstone.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 when Hereford and Worcester, Coventry and Warwickshire, WMAS and Worcestershire and Shropshire merged to form a Regional Ambulance Service. Staffordshire merged with the new Trust on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

A number of services operated by the Trust include, Community First Responders, the Air Ambulance, Patient Transport System, and Logistical Medical Services.

#### **8.3.1 Existing Provision**

The West Midlands Ambulance Service has prepared an estates strategy which was consulted on and implemented in December 2007. The strategy covers a five year period from 2007-2012.

The Trust estate is required for the following purposes:

- Call Handling and Dispatch (EOC);
- Management and administration (Headquarters, office accommodation);
- Vehicle Storage (Ambulance Stations);
- Staff facilities, including rest and recuperation (Headquarters, Ambulance Stations);
- Training; and
- Fleet Maintenance.

The strategy sets out that the existing West Midlands Ambulance Service estates portfolio comprises of 94 sites, consisting of 80 ambulance stations, 11 workshops, one regional headquarter, four locality headquarters, five call handling and dispatch units and 3 training departments<sup>9</sup>.

The locations of the existing Ambulance Service estate located within Warwickshire or in a close proximity to Atherstone are identified below in Table 7.1.

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<sup>9</sup> West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Estates Strategy 2007-2012, 2007.

**Table 7.1 Existing Ambulance Service Estate Warwickshire**

Name and Location	Postcode	Status	Function
Dale Street Control/Ambulance Station, Leamington Spa	CV23 5HH	Leasehold	EOC Control and Ambulance Station
St Albans House – Coventry and Warwickshire Headquarters, Portland Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire	CV32 5EZ	Leasehold	Headquarters
Nuneaton Station 9 Eliot Way, Eliot Park, Nuneaton	CV10 7RF	Freehold	Ambulance Station
Rugby Station, Brownsover Lane, Rugby	CV21 1HL	Freehold	Ambulance Station
Stratford Station, Masons Road, Stratford upon Avon	CV37 9NA	Freehold	Ambulance Station
Warwick Station Montague Road, Warwick	CV34 5LW	Freehold	Ambulance Station
Atherstone Fire Station, Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone	CV9 1LZ	Licence	Ambulance sited on Fire Station
Bedworth Fire Station, Park Road Bedworth	CV12 8LB	Licence	Ambulance sited on Fire Station
Dordon Station Waitling Street, Dordon, Staffordshire	B78 1TE	Freehold	Ambulance Station

Ambulance Services operate from the Fire Station in Atherstone, with ambulances sited at this facility. In addition, it is important to note that there is an Ambulance Station at Dordon. Although Dordon lies within Staffordshire the site is only four miles from the town of Atherstone off the A5.

### **8.3.2 Planned and Committed Investment**

The Estates Strategy identifies that the age profile of the existing estate indicates that 73% of the estates was built post 1965, with 27% pre 1965. Therefore, the estate can be seen to be ageing with some elements requiring investment to replace various elements of structures. The Ambulance Station at Dordon is one of the stations identified as requiring investment to bring it up to an acceptable condition. Overall in terms of Ambulance Stations the strategy sets out that the fundamental principle will be to not acquire any more real estate, unless it forms part of a consolidation and cost saving exercise, whilst also identifying that a number of ambulance stations have the potential for development.

The Strategy identifies that in terms of the need for despatch centres, this service will be centralised at three locations where previously five locations existed. The Strategy highlights that the need for storage and warehousing facilities is currently satisfied at five locations, and that the intention is to centralise the stores in three of the existing locations. Furthermore, it is envisaged that garage and workshop facilities will be centralised in nine of the existing 11 locations.

### **8.3.3 Conclusion**

In addressing the existing and future provision of Ambulance Services in the West Midlands, the evidence suggests that the general strategy being taken is to centralise activities at existing sites. Only a small number of sites were identified as requiring investment to improve the condition of the facility.

The Strategy identifies that generally the principle will be to not acquire additional real estate, while recognising the potential ability of a number of stations to be further developed. Therefore, it can be concluded that there would be no requirement for the use of the police station and magistrate's court for the operation of Ambulance Services.

## 9 Community Buildings/Space

This section of the statement deals with the provision of community buildings or space in Atherstone for utilisation by Community Groups or Services. The term community buildings/space may be subject to some ambiguity, thus it is important to establish the exact frames of reference for this assessment. In defining the scope of the assessment in this sector it has been agreed with North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) to utilise the Warwickshire Community Information Database in order to identify the community services or groups that utilise community buildings or space in Atherstone.

The community services/groups that will be investigated in this section of the report are those sectors that have not previously been covered within other sections of the assessment, and all appropriate community services or groups (excluding private interest groups) that work from or require the use of community buildings/space. For example, voluntary groups; adult or youth community services and wider community based social groups that operate in Atherstone.

It was agreed with NWBC that the scope of the assessment would be limited to the groups and services listed in the Warwickshire Community Database.

As there is no current available secondary source of data which sets out the need for community space/buildings in Atherstone, each identified group/service (that falls within the scope of this assessment and identified in the community database) was contacted in order to establish the existing location in which they operate and to identify if there is a requirement for further community space/buildings in the town.

### 9.1 Existing Provision

Approximately 50 groups or services were identified (a full list is set out in Appendix A), which generally fall under the three themes of:

- Community Service, Advice or Career Services and Societies;
- Leisure, Youth and Community Interest Groups;
- Voluntary Groups or Sectors.

Each service/group was contacted in order to establish the location in which they operated from, whether the building/space met the needs of the group/service and whether they had a requirement for additional community buildings/space in the town.

A considerable proportion of service providers or community groups were able to be contacted with only 12% (6) not being able to be reached while undertaking this assessment.

The assessment identified that there are currently a range of buildings in Atherstone both publicly or privately owned from which community groups/services generally operate, with a number of groups/services operating from the same building. The main buildings from which community groups/services operate and the number of different groups/services which were identified as operating in each building are as follows:

**Table 9.1 Summary of Main Community Buildings/Spaces in Atherstone**

<b>Building</b>	<b>Ownership/Management Structure</b>	<b>Number of Groups/Service identified through discussions as operating at the building</b>
Community House, Trinity Church, Coleshill Road, Atherstone	Church Owned	5
Ratcliffe Youth Community Centre	Publicly Owned	5 (includes three youth community groups)
Warwick House, Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone	Publicly Owned	4
The Partnership Centre	Managed by Age UK	4
St Mary's Church (includes youth centre)	Church Owned	3
Memorial Hall	Publicly Owned	3 or more groups
Arts Centre	Owen Street Partnership purchased the building	3 or more groups
Voluntary Centre, White Hart House	Rented from Private Owner	2
Queen Elizabeth School	School	2
North Street (old school)	Publicly Owned	2
St Peter's Church Mancetter	Church	2

Appendix A of this report sets out a full list of the services and groups identified and contacted and the response given by each group/service in terms of their need for additional community space/buildings. In addition, to the buildings identified above a number of local public houses were identified as meeting places for local groups/societies, which include the, Old Skool, Red Lion, Wheatsheaf Inn, Blue Boar Inn, and the Bear and Ragged Staff. All the groups that meet within public houses highlighted that at present the facilities in which they operate fulfil the requirements of the group in terms of the size and cost of space provided, indicating that alternative locations in the town are too expensive to hire.

Further to the main community buildings/space identified above, there are a number of individual buildings in which community groups/services operate, for example, Guides and Scouts Headquarters, Connexions Atherstone, and Grove Sports and Social Club (full details of all buildings can be seen in Appendix A).

The Town Council do not fall under the Warwickshire Community Database in which the scope of this assessment is based, however, it was considered relevant for contact to be made on this matter. The Town Council have identified that they currently operate from the Old Mortuary in Atherstone. The building provides meeting space for use by the Town Council and community, with two part-time staff operating from the building. However, it was identified that currently no community groups/services utilise this facility.

## 9.2 Need for Additional Community Buildings/Space

In undertaking this assessment, 50 groups and services operating in Atherstone were identified and discussions were held with 88% (44). Of the community groups/services that a discussion has been held with, 74% (37) stated that they currently operate from a fixed building or space and that the space/building utilised, meets their needs and requirements. However, a small number of groups or services highlighted that although they currently have no requirements to move to an alternative location, they may seek to do so in the future if there was a more reasonable cost to hiring a venue.

A small proportion of those groups/services contacted (16% which equates to 7 groups or services) identified the potential need to operate from an alternative location, the reasons for this include:

- There is a difficulty in finding an appropriate venue for events held on an ad-hoc basis due to locations already having fixed regular groups utilising venues;
- No existing fixed location for meetings/events;
- There is a difficulty in finding a medium sized venue, with catering capabilities at a reasonable hire cost;
- Existing building is too small to meet the needs of the service;
- Currently operating from a location which meets their general needs, but the building has not got disabled access.

Generally the assessment has shown that there are a range of existing locations across Atherstone that are utilised by and meet the needs of community groups/services. The majority of which have responded that the existing buildings/spaces in which they utilise meet their needs and requirements, and therefore have no requirements for additional facilities in the town or plans for moving to an alternative location in the future.

It can be seen that there are a small number of groups that potentially seek the use of alternative facilities, with groups expressing the view that hire costs in Atherstone are too expensive and that it is difficult to find a venue on an ad-hoc basis. However, this does not infer that there is an insufficient supply in community buildings/space and does not lead to a conclusion that further community buildings or space are required at alternative locations.

In undertaking this assessment, it was seen that the new refurbished Partnership Centre (managed by Concern UK) now have the ability for greater use of the building by community group and the North Street building has a policy in place in which any other disability group can seek to make use of the building. Furthermore, it was identified that no community groups/services utilise the meeting facilities at the Town Council premises.

The Citizens Advice Bureau who operate from a premises owned by St Mary's Church highlighted the fact that the building in which they operate is currently too small to meet the needs of the organisation, and identified the potential need for use of an alternative facility. St Mary's Church has gained planning permission for the redevelopment of part of the church to community use, and it is considered that if this project is brought forward there is the potential for the Citizens Advice Bureau to operate from this location.

The Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action Group who operate from Trinity Church have stated that at present the current location is suitable for their needs but that in the future there may be the potential need to operate from an alternative location. It was noted that the group would not seek to purchase solely a building but may aspire in the future to operate from a combined public services building. In addition, the North Warwickshire Volunteer Centre, who operate from White Hart House have identified problems in regards

to the accessibility of the building, and the potential need to operate from an alternative facility. The organisation has expressed an interest to operate from a shared public building.

It is considered that at present there are a range of community buildings and space that meet the needs of the Atherstone community groups and services. Although a number of groups/services have expressed the potential need to move to an alternative location in the future, this does not imply that there is an insufficient existing supply to meet the needs of the community. Furthermore, it can be seen that there is currently, and will be in the future, a number of buildings which have the capacity or ability for use by additional groups/services (e.g. Memorial Hall, North Street building, the Partnership Centre, and St Mary's Church).

It is therefore concluded that there is an adequate supply of existing community buildings/space in which community groups or services can operate. Furthermore, there is no evidence which suggests that there is committed or planned investment in place for the purchasing at market value of the magistrate's court and police station site, which would establish a realistic alternative community use on the site.

## 10 Findings and Conclusion

In preparing this Local Services and Community Facility Statement it has been shown that the existing land and buildings on site are no longer suitable for continued use for the provision of the existing community services on site. This can be seen as a result of the fact that the provision of justice services is no longer required in the town of Atherstone, as the decision was previously made for the movement of this service to Nuneaton. In terms of the operational police station on site, it is considered that there is an urgent need for the modernisation and improvement of police facilities, with the current accommodation available not supporting the efficient use of resources. Therefore, Warwickshire Police Authority proposes to relocate to an alternative location in Atherstone, forming part of a combined multi-agency Public Service Centre. The proposed relocation of police services will deliver the same operational services and local policing as at present to Atherstone and the surrounding area, and therefore the movement of the service will not impact the local community.

A community assessment was undertaken in preparation of this statement to determine if there is a need for additional community services or facilities in Atherstone which would constitute a realistic alternative community use for the land and buildings at the magistrate's court and police station site. Based on the requirements of Local Plan Policy COM2 this assessment sought to review current secondary source community endorsed publications and the Parish Plan and where necessary validate findings or hold discussions with service providers. The assessment was broken down into the following categories of health, education, open space, sport and recreation, libraries and arts, emergency services and community buildings and space. These sectors cover all the elements listed as the most common facilities found in the towns and villages in the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

Table 10.1 below provides a summary of the findings of this assessment.

Sector	Findings	User Input
<b>Education</b>		
Early Years	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Primary	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Secondary	Sufficient existing supply. No demand for further services.	Not Required
Further Education	Atherstone College has no plans for the relocation, redevelopment or extension of services in Atherstone.	Confirmed
<b>Health</b>		
Doctors / Clinics	Atherstone has an above standard supply of GP's per head of population. Existing surgeries have expressed the ability to accept new patients now and into the future. Therefore, existing provision and demand for further services is assessed to be adequate. Warwickshire PCT has validated the findings of this assessment.	Confirmed
Dentists	Atherstone has an above standard supply of dentists per head of population. Existing dental practices are also able to accept new NHS patients. Therefore, existing provision and demand for further services is assessed to be adequate. Warwickshire PCT has validated the findings of this assessment.	Confirmed
<b>Open Space, Sport and Recreation</b>		
Parks and	Development of an urban/destination park has been identified	Confirmed

Sector	Findings	User Input
Gardens	as a key priority. It is considered that the magistrate's court and police station site is unsuitable for accommodation of this priority.	
Natural/ Informal/ Amenity Open Space	Provision of natural/informal/amenity open space is deemed adequate. No key priorities have been identified for the expansion of this type of facility	Confirmed
Allotments	There is an above standard provision of allotments in Atherstone. Therefore, no priorities have been identified for the expansion of this type of facility.	Confirmed
Outdoor Sport Facilities	The provision of a synthetic turf pitch is identified as a key priority for Atherstone. This key priority is now being delivered at the Queen Elizabeth School	Confirmed
Indoor Sports Facilities	Although there is no shortfall in provision of sports hall through application of the standard in the OSA, the Atherstone Parish Plan has identified the need for a Sports Hall in Atherstone. However it has been confirmed that there are no short or medium terms plans or related funding in place for the delivery of an indoor sports hall and the current strategy of NWBC is to work with local schools to increase provision of indoor sport facilities in Atherstone.	Confirmed
Play Space	Development of a major family play facility is identified as a key priority. This key priority has been delivered through the installation of facilities at the Royal Meadow Drive and Mancetter REC playing pitches.	Confirmed
<b>Libraries and Arts</b>		
Libraries	WCC Library and Information Services Department has confirmed that there is no planned or committed investment in place or any aspirations which would require the movement of the facility to the police station and magistrate's court site. In addition, it was identified that the aspiration of the Atherstone Library is to remain within a central location in the town as can be seen currently with its location at Long Street.	Confirmed
Arts Facilities	Owen Street Community Art Centre partnership has purchased the Arts Centre in Atherstone, and is looking to expand and improve the facility. This allows for the deliver of the community based needs identified in the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit. The 2002 Audit findings for any additional facilities for professional performance events have not been delivered. However, there is still the ability to meet this need through the redevelopment or extension of the existing Memorial Hall, as recommended in Audit.	Confirmed
<b>Emergency Services</b>		
Fire	There is no requirement for additional fire service facilities in the town of Atherstone.	
Ambulance	There is no requirement for ambulance service facilities in the town of Atherstone.	

Sector	Findings	User Input
<b>Community Space/Buildings</b>	It is deemed that there is an adequate supply of existing community buildings/space in which community groups or services can operate. Furthermore, there is no evidence which suggests that there is committed or planned investment in place for the purchasing at market value of the magistrate's court and police station site, which would establish a realistic alternative community use on the site.	Confirmed [88% Response Rate]

The findings of the community assessment show that in terms of education, health, libraries, and emergency services sectors, there are an adequate supply of existing facilities, and no demand for further services. Therefore, it can be concluded that within these sectors there is no requirement for use of the police station and magistrate's court site and as a result no realistic alternative community use would be brought forward for the site.

In terms of Open Space, Sport and Recreation a number of priorities have been identified for Atherstone, which include the need for a synthetic turf pitch, a destination/urban park, a major family play facility and an indoor sports hall. It can already be seen that the need for a synthetic turf pitch is being met through the offering of funding to the Queen Elizabeth School for the installation of this facility. For a major family play facility, it has been confirmed that this facility has now been provided through the installation of new play facilities at the existing Royal Meadow Drive and Mancetter REC outdoor sports facilities. It is considered that the magistrate's court and police station site is not suitable in terms of size and the topography of the site for accommodation of an urban/destination park. Leisure Service officers at North Warwickshire Borough Council agree that the site would not be a suitable location or large enough to accommodate this priority. In relation to the need for an indoor sports hall in Atherstone, it has been confirmed by North Warwickshire Borough Council that there is no short or medium term plans or related funding in place for delivery of a new build or redeveloped existing building for provision of a sports hall in Atherstone and the existing strategy is to work with local schools to increase provision.

For Arts facilities in Atherstone, the newly purchased Arts Centre allows for the delivery of community based needs in a central location. Furthermore, the Arts Centre is currently seeking to increase the licensed capacity of the facility. The 2002 Arts Facilities Audit identifies the need for a more technical performance venue in the town. Whilst this aspiration has not been delivered, there is still the ability to meet this need through the redevelopment or extension of the existing Memorial Hall, as recommended in the 2002 Arts Facilities Audit. There is no planned or committed investment in place to deliver this facility. Therefore this would not constitute a realistic alternative community use for the land and buildings at the magistrate's court and police station site.

For community buildings/spaces it has been demonstrated that at present there is a range of existing facilities in the town which can be utilised by community groups/services and overall provide a sufficient supply to meet demand. The majority of service users of community buildings/spaces identified that the existing provision meets their requirements and needs, with only a small proportion identifying problems with the quality of provision in the town. Although, a small number of issues were identified in terms of the quality and cost of provision, this does not imply the need for additional facilities, but rather the need for the improvement of existing facilities. Furthermore, it is evident that there are existing community space/buildings which are currently underutilised.

There is no evidence which suggests that there is committed or planned investment in place for the purchasing at market value of the magistrate's court and police station site which would allow for a realistic alternative community use for the land/buildings at the site. It is noted that the Town Council made a previous offer to purchase this site. However, this offer

was significantly less than the market value of the site and therefore WCC and WPA were unable to accept the offer.

This statement has established that the land and buildings at the magistrate's court and police station site is unsuitable for continued use for the existing services on site and that there is no realistic alternative community use from a need, requirements, site suitability and funding perspective for the land and buildings on site. In accordance with the requirements of Local Plan Policy COM2 this report demonstrates that there should be no justification to refuse planning permission for a residential development at the site.



Appendix A  

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**Community  
Buildings/Space  
Supporting Information**

**A1 Community Buildings/Space – Summary of Discussions Held****A1.1 Community services, advice or careers services and societies**

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need for Space /Building
Circles Network at Atherstone	Community Service (Disability)	North Street (Old School) Atherstone CV9 1JN	Circles Network has a lease in place with the Council for utilisation of the building for its activities. The services have been based at this location for 25 years. The service is currently changing leading to a more community based service. Therefore, whether the service will continue running from this premises will be dependant on the way the service is ran in the future. Irrespective of this the network has no requirement or need for an alternative location.  The North Street building has a policy in place in which any other disability group can make an application for use of the building.	Confirmed	No
North Warwickshire Gateway Club	Community Group	Circles Network North Street (Old School) Atherstone CV9 1JN	Social and leisure club for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.  Currently meet every other Thursday at the Circles Building on North Street and have done for the past 10 years.  There is the potential requirement for an alternative meeting space in the future.	Confirmed	Potential
Atherstone Pensioners Convention	Community Group (Older People)	The Old Skool, Market Place Atherstone	Meet every other month at the Old Skool, Market Place.  From a cost perspective the meeting space is adequate to meet the needs of the group, and therefore the group have no intentions to move elsewhere unless there was a more reasonable cost to hiring an alternative venue.	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need for Space /Building
North Warwickshire Older Peoples Forum	Community Group/ Service	Community House, Trinity Church, Coleshill Road CV9 1BN	Meet every other month at the Trinity Church. The venue meets the requirements of the group and there are no plans to move to an alternative location, unless an alternative venue has a lower hiring cost.  However, the group hold events during the year in which they are required to move to larger premises. Currently the annual Luncheon is held at the Memorial Hall which is given free of charge to the group. The group highlighted the fact that the cost of hiring Memorial Hall for events or meeting space is expensive in Atherstone. The potential for use of the Partnership Centre which has full disabled access was noted as an alternative meeting and event space for the group if it was deemed an alternative space was required.	Confirmed	No
Tea Dance	Community Group (Older People)	Memorial Hall	Meet Wednesday 2.00-4.30	Confirmed	No
Luncheon Clubs/Meals on Wheels	Community Group/Service	Warwick House Ratcliffe Road Atherstone	This service does not fall within the Older People Team service anymore and is contracted out to a service provider.	Confirmed	No
North Warwickshire Home Care	Community Service	Warwick House Ratcliffe Road.	The Home Care Service Team is currently undergoing a change in the way in which the service is provided with an element of the department transferring to Bedworth. However, a number of staff will remain in Atherstone at the Ratcliffe Street premises. As a result additional space has become available at Warwick House with the building providing space in which the following WCC services are operated, mental health, home care, youth and community services, older people and physical	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need for Space /Building
			disability. No requirement or need for alternative community space/building in Atherstone.		
North Warwickshire Older People Physical Disability Team	Community Service/Group	Warwick House Ratcliffe Road Atherstone	Service operates from Warwick House in Atherstone which is a Council owned building.	Confirmed	No
North Warwickshire Older people Community Care Services (Atherstone)	Community Group/Service	Warwick House Ratcliffe Road Atherstone	Service operates from Warwick House in Atherstone which is a Council owned building.	Confirmed	No
Ladies Club	Community Group	The Red Lion Atherstone	Meet Fortnightly in the Private Function Room at the Red Lion. The current meeting space fulfils the requirements in terms of cost and size. The group has no aspiration or requirement to move to an alternative location.	Confirmed	No
Women's Institute – Mancetter	Community Group	St Peter's Church Mancetter	Meet 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the Month 7.30pm in the Sunday Schoolroom, St Peter's Church, Mancetter.	Confirmed	No
Parkinsons Disease Society	Health Society	St Peters Church, Mancetter	Meet third Thursday of each month at St Peter's Church Mancetter, School Room. The meeting space is adequate to meet the needs of the	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need for Space /Building
Support Group			society.		
Weight Watchers	Health Group	Memorial Hall, Long Street Queen Elizabeth School	Meet at the Memorial Hall – Tuesday 10am QE School - Wednesday 6.30pm	Confirmed	No
St Johns Ambulance Atherstone	Society	St John's Ambulance Polesworth Headquarters	The Atherstone Branch of St John's Ambulance has now joined with the Polesworth branch and all meetings or events take place at their own headquarters in Polesworth.	Confirmed	No
Adult and Community Learning Service	Education	Rear of 45-47 Long Street CV9 1AZ	The Adult and Community Learning team operate from a Council owned building and have a computer suite at Ratcliffe Road.	Confirmed	No
Warwickshire Helpline	Health Advice	76 Station Street Atherstone CV9 1BU	North Warwickshire Mental health helpline provides a confidential out of hour's telephone helpline for people suffering from mental health problems their families and carers. Lines are open every day of year from 5pm – midnight.	No Contact.	
New Way Credit Union	Advice	158 Long Street CV9 1AE	Main Collection point on Long Street open Thursday and Friday 09.30 – 12.30 - Any other time go to One Stop Shop at NWBC. Operate from own building on Long Street.	Confirmed	No
Connexions Coventry and	Careers	Connexions Atherstone	Advice and guidance for all Young People aged 13 -19.	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need for Space /Building
Atherstone		58 Long Street CV9 1AU			
Jobcentre Plus	Advice			No Contact	
North Warwickshire Borough Council Sheltered Housing		Operate from the North Warwickshire Borough Council Office at Council House.	Sheltered Housing Scheme managed by NWBC	Not Required	No

**A1.2 Leisure, interest or youth groups**

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (Nuneaton Province)	Community Group	Meet Tuesdays at Wheatsheaf Inn, Long Street		No Contact	
St Mary's church Lads and Church Girls brigade	Youth Group (Leisure)	Youth Headquarters St Mary's Church Youth Centre St Mary's Church Atherstone	The group is affiliated with St Mary's Church and therefore have no plans to move to an alternative location or facility in the future.	Confirmed	No
Atherstone Theatre Workshop	Youth Group	Owen Street Community Arts Centre	Operate from Owen Street Arts Centre which has recently been purchased and refurbished by the Owen Street Partnership (includes Theatre Workshop Group).	Confirmed	No
Atherstone Youth Marching Band	Youth Group	Community Hall, Spon Lane Grendon Racemeadow School St Mary's Church	<a href="http://www.aymb.org.uk">www.aymb.org.uk</a> Rehearsals are 7-9pm Wednesday - Community Hall 10am-1pm Sunday Racemeadow School Cadet Unit – rehearse at St Mary's Church Mon 7-8.30	No Answer	
Girls Friendly Society	Youth Group	St Mary's Youth HQ next to St Mary's Church Market Place, Atherstone, CV9	Operate from the established St Mary's Youth Headquarters to the rear of the Church. Potential move into redeveloped Church Building but has specific established links with the Church. No requirement or aspiration to move to alternative	Confirmed	No

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
		1EX	premises in the future.		
Guides (including Rainbows, Brownies and Rangers)	Youth Group	Operate from Guides Headquarters at 162 Long Street, Atherstone	Operates own Guides Headquarters (capacity 30 people) from a location in Atherstone. Lease has recently been renewed for a further 14 years. No requirement or aspiration to move from the owned facility to an alternative premises now or in the future.	Confirmed	No
Beavers (Also Cub Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Sea Scouts)	Youth Group	Operate from Scouts Headquarters at: Long Street Atherstone	Operates own headquarters in Atherstone.	No Contact But told by an alternative organisation that the group operate from own headquarters in Atherstone.	No
Grove Social Bowling Club	Sport	Play at Bowling Green off Grove Road and The Grove Sports and Social Club, Cook Close CV9 1ES	Grove Bowling Club plays at the Bowling Green off Grove Road and utilise the Grove Sports and Social Club facilities, which is owned by Grove Miners Welfare Trust. The Grove Sports and Social Club offer excellent high quality facilities, with a number of other activities being capable of utilising the facilities. No requirement or aspiration to move to an alternative site as the facilities required are located adjacent to the Bowling Green.	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
Ratcliffe Youth Community Centre	Youth Group	Ratcliffe Community Centre	Atherstone Youth Community Groups (Three Groups) all meet at the Ratcliffe Centre (Old Grammar School) in addition to a number of other groups who utilise the facility including the Informal Painting Group (Thursdays 2.45 – 4.45) and the WCC Adult and Learning Team who have an IT suite. The building is publicly owned, however the Atherstone youth community group is the main occupant and also manage the facility. No aspiration to move to an alternative facility. However, the ability of the existing building to be expanded is a problem due to the fact that it is a Listed Building.	Confirmed	No
Atherstone Art Circle	Leisure Society	Community Room Trinity Church	Meet every Thursday (2.45-4.45) at the Community Room, Trinity Church. The society has a grant in place for the forthcoming year to aid the payment of hire costs for meeting space. The group have no plans to move to an alternative community space in Atherstone, as the cost of hiring other meeting spaces is too high.	Confirmed	No
Rotary Club	Voluntary Group	Blue Boar Inn Watling Street Mancetter CV9 1NE	Meet Tuesdays at 12.30	No Answer	
Over 30's Dancing Club	Leisure Society	Memorial Hall Atherstone	Privately Hire Memorial Hall to hold event once a month.	Confirmed with Memorial Hall	No
Atherstone	Leisure	Bear and Ragged	Meet every Wednesday.	Confirmed	No

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
Bridge Club	Society	Staff Ratcliffe Street Atherstone	The facility in which the group operate from currently meets the needs of the group.		
Civic Society	Leisure Society	Meet on an ad hoc basis. Primarily events take place at Trinity Church.	The Civic Society does not meet on a regular basis, but hold ad hoc meetings/luncheons/events. At present when ad hoc events are being held by the Civic Society these would take place at Trinity Church. The Society identify the issue that sometimes they find it difficult to secure the use of a building at an acceptable charge as a number of locations have regular user groups which means that dates may not be available. The society also identifies the difficulty in securing a medium size venue for holding luncheon events as the cost of hiring some venues can be too expensive.	Confirmed	Potential
Friends of Atherstone Heritage	Leisure Society	Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire White Hart House Long Street Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 1AX	Currently the group have no central meeting space location but have storage space. As a group the society does not meet on a regular occurrence. An element of the society, meet weekly at the Volunteer Centre which they hire as part of a project which has gained funding through the Lottery Heritage Fund. When undertaking Arts Exhibitions or Annual General Meetings the group would generally utilise the Volunteer Centre.	Confirmed	Yes
North Warwickshire Arts	Leisure Society	Arts Centre	North Warwickshire Arts is an umbrella body representing all Arts groups/services in Atherstone. The society does not meet on a regular occurrence but would hold Annual General Meetings at existing buildings.	Confirmed	No Do not meet on a regular

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Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
					occurrence.
Atherstone Choral Society	Leisure	Queen Elizabeth Upper School	The group meet and practice at the Queen Elizabeth School on Mondays 7.30 – 10pm. The group do not anticipate and would not like to move to an alternative facility. If the group was to move to an alternative location it would be to another school to utilise the equipment (i.e. Piano) which would be available. Identify the issue in holding performances at the school due to issues relating to opening hours and catering facilities. In terms of performances by the group these would mainly take place at Churches, the Memorial Hall or other Village Halls if events were to take place outside Atherstone. Identify the lack of a medium size venue in Atherstone but potential was identified in the expanding Arts Centre or the ability to utilise the QE New School venue which has a large capacity than Upper School but no licence to hold events.	Confirmed	No
Atherstone Chorale	Leisure	Trinity Church	Practice and Meetings take place at Trinity Church A lottery grant for staging and equipment has been received, which is available for other organisations to hire.	Confirmed	No

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**A1.3 Voluntary Groups or Sectors**

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
Atherstone Friends of St. Giles Hospice	Voluntary Group	The group has no committee and does not meet on a regular occasion. Annual coffee mornings are held at the Chapel House.	Mainly a fundraising group. The group has no committee and does not meet on a regular occasion. Annual coffee mornings are held at the Chapel House.	Confirmed	No
Revolve (Youth Volunteering)	Community Group (Voluntary Sector)	V Volunteers, First Floor Community House, Coleshill Road, Atherstone CV9 1BN	Revolve is funded by Support young 'V' National Youth Volunteering Charity. They are a V involved project called Revolve and run volunteering projects for young people from 16 – 25 years in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton. Revolve operate from Community House which is a connected to Trinity Church. This is a permanent location for the group running to the end of the project programme. There is no requirement for the relocation to alternative premises.	Confirmed	No
Merevale View neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association	Community Group (Voluntary Groups)		Currently meet on a regular basis at Community House/Mancetter New Hall. Previously the group had received a grant which aided the hire payments for meeting venues. Subsequently this funding has run out. Therefore, in the future the group requirement for meeting space would be for relatively cheaper/no cost meeting space.	Confirmed	Potential

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
North Warwickshire Area Office	Community Service (Voluntary Group)	The North Warwickshire Area Office is based at the North Warwickshire Borough Council Offices in Atherstone.	The office in Atherstone is a satellite office and accommodates staff only and is not publicly facing. The public facing branch of the Area Office is CAVA. No requirement or aspiration to operate from an alternative location as the office is best placed within the Council House.	Confirmed	No
Citizens Advice Bureau	Charity (Voluntary Group)	The Parish Rooms Welcome Street Atherstone	The group operate from a premises owned by St Mary's Church. The building in which they operate from is currently too small to meet the needs of the organisation. Therefore, the group would consider moving to an alternative location in the future.	Confirmed	Potential
Age Concern/UK	Voluntary Sector	The Partnership Centre Coleshill Road CV9 1BN	The Age Concern (now Age UK) Partnership Centre on Coleshill Road has recently been redeveloped and various community groups have moved back to utilise the community space (includes Over 55's Group, Beeline Transport, Alzheimer's Society). The centre has a number of rooms which can be hired and includes a large floor space which can be utilised by sport/leisure activity based groups/classes and smaller rooms are also available, including internet café, drop in centre and office space.	Confirmed	No
Atherstone Over 55's Club	Community Group	The Partnership Centre		Confirmed	No

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
		Coleshill Road CV9 1BN			
Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire	Voluntary Groups	White Hart House Long Street CV9 1AX	The Volunteer Centre operates from a privately owned building and has done so for ten years. The group have no plans to move to an alternative location, but do identify the need for a more accessible building as White Hart House does not have disabled access.  Require a more accessible building in which to operate. The Centre has an aspiration to operate from a publicly shared building.	Confirmed	Potential
Warwickshire CAVA Community and Voluntary Action, North Warwickshire	Voluntary Group	Trinity Church Coleshill Road Atherstone	CAVA operates from the Community House at Trinity Church with office space based in this location for its staff.  Opening times are 9am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday.  The group has identified that the community space in which they utilise is suitable for their current needs but identify that if there was a need in the future to move to an alternative location that there is limited space to do this in Atherstone. The group would not seek to purchase a building but would seek to work from a public building.	Confirmed	Potential
Beeline Community Transport	Voluntary Sector	Age Concern Warwickshire The Partnership Centre Coleshill Road CV9 1BN	Based at the newly refurbished Age Concern (UK), Partnership Centre	Confirmed	No

Organisation	Sector	Operating Building	Further Information	User Contact	Need Space/ Building
Royal British Region	Voluntary Group	Atherstone Conservative Club, Long Street, CV9 1AD	Meet Once a Month at the Conservatives Club.  Sufficient facilities at the venue including storage space for the group.  No requirements/needs for alternative space/building.	Confirmed	No
Waterloo Housing Association			Open Mon-Thurs 8.30-5 and Friday 8.30 – 4.30	Awaiting Response	

**(2) Application No PAP/2010/0393**

**Lower House Farm, Lower House Lane, Baddesley Ensor**

**Relocation of public household waste recycling centre and waste transfer station and ancillary development, for**

**Warwickshire County Council**

**Introduction**

This application will be determined by the Warwickshire County Council. This Council has been invited to make representations to the County such that they can be taken into account when it takes that decision.

**The Site**

This is an area of 3.1 hectares of land on the north and west side of Lower House Lane about 800 metres south of its junction with the A5 Trunk road, where it curves round towards Wood End. It is more clearly illustrated at Appendix A. It is effectively the agricultural land to the south of Lower House Farm.

Apart from the residence at Lower House Farm, the closest other dwellings are at Stone Cottage and Baddesley Farm, about 5 to 600 metres to the west, and Hill Top at Baddesley, some 500 metres to the east.

**Background**

Members will recall that the County Council granted a planning permission for a similar development at Lower House Farm, in July 2009. This Council objected to that proposal. The grounds of that objection related to the increase in traffic movement, particularly of HGV's along Lower House Lane, and to the visual impact of having a substantial building on a prominent site, isolated from other similar buildings. This planning permission has not yet been commenced, and it remains as a material planning consideration for this current proposal.

In March this year, IM Properties Ltd, submitted an outline planning application covering just under 50 hectares of land adjoining their existing Business Park, for warehousing and distribution uses. This was seen by IM as "Phase Two" of the Birch Coppice estate. The Council's Planning and Development Board has recommended to Council that this application be granted planning permission subject to conditions and to a Section 106 Agreement. The site of this current application is within the proposed IM Phase Two extension of Birch Coppice. This is a material consideration.

The IM application makes provision for the re-location of the County Council's Waste Transfer site – it is included in the application description; the existing site of Lower House Farm would be demolished and the ground levels substantially reduced so as to include that site within the proposed development plateaux for Phase Two, and HGV access is to be obtained to the site through the proposed Phase Two road infrastructure thus leading directly to the A5. The latter is reflected in the draft Section 106 Agreement, which enables HGV traffic to access what would be "private" estate

roads. The IM application therefore accommodates the relocation of the County Council's Lower House Farm waste transfer development, into its own development proposals. This is a material consideration.

As Members are aware when dealing with the original application for the Waste Transfer Station (WTS), the proposals have been designed so as to replace the existing Grendon Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Spon Lane; to provide a WTS in the northern part of the County so as to accommodate household refuse collections for transfer to an new Incinerator in Staffordshire, to provide facilities that can be used jointly by a number of Local Authorities, and in order to rationalise household refuse collections.

The WTS will be a facility where waste is deposited and stored before being collected for treatment, recovery and disposal elsewhere. Refuse collection from Warwickshire and Staffordshire will deliver waste to the building. Any residual waste will then be removed from the site. It is anticipated that there will be 80 HGV movements a day operating this function.

The HWRC will have recycling skips at a low level within a yard together with a number of specific areas set aside for particular goods. It is anticipated that 500 cars a day might visit the site, with up to 800 at peak times.

## **The Proposal**

The proposals show an application site some 7 metres lower than existing ground levels at Lower House Farm, in order to accommodate the IM Phase Two proposed ground levels. This site would therefore be set down below the levels of the surrounding Lower House Lane that bounds the site on two sides. There are two main buildings proposed. The WTS would be 2,400 square metres, and 13 metres tall to its ridge. It would be located on the west side of the site. The second would be the office and shop (to purchase recycled goods) that would measure 250 square metres, and be 6 metres tall. The former would be wholly metal clad and the latter would have a metal clad roof with coloured block work walls. The HWRC area would comprise a number of skips towards the east of the site.

All HGV access to the site would be through the proposed Birch Coppice Phase Two development and then onto the existing road infrastructure leading to the present A5 traffic light junction. This is why the main building is located towards the west of the site so as to gain immediate access to the main road infrastructure in the proposed Phase Two development.

Public access to the site for the household waste recycling centre is from Lower House Lane. The planning permission for the actual Lower House Farm scheme included a new access about 120 metres south of the existing farm access. This is replicated in the current proposals. However rather than turn right into the existing Lower House Farm site, traffic would now turn left and complete a circuit through the new site; unloading waste into the skips and then returning to the same point on Lower House Lane in order to egress the site. There is a long queuing lane provided on site within this circuit. Entry into this access would be available by traffic travelling both north and south along Lower House Lane, but all traffic leaving this access would have to turn left to travel north. This would require a ghost island within the carriageway and widening works at the access. A 40 mph speed limit is to be introduced.

IM's proposed Phase Two application included emergency access provision onto Lower House Lane. This is shown on the application plans. It is not directly connected to the site, and would be gated except in time of emergency.

The working hours of the site would remain as in the original proposal – the WTS from 0700 to 2200 during the week and from 0700 to 1800 at weekends; with the HWRC operating from 0900 to 1800 daily.

A plan illustrating the proposed layout is attached at Appendix B

The application is accompanied by a number of supporting documents. These are available to view on the website, and cover the following matters:

A Planning Statement – This sets out the applicant's case for the grant of planning permission.

A Design and Access Statement – This describes the setting of the site and how the development proposals have been designed to fit in with this. This is based on the assumption that the proposed IM Phase Two proposals go ahead.

A report on the Civil Engineering Considerations – This largely replicates the information submitted by IM Properties for its Phase Two proposals

A report for Surface Water Disposal and Flood Risk Assessment – Similarly this replicates analysis already undertaken

A Transport Statement – This adds to the conclusion reached on the main Phase Two proposals by evidencing the traffic benefits of removing HGV movements from Lower House Lane, whilst not leading to a capacity issue at the existing Birch Coppice A5 junction.

An Environmental Report – This replicates the conclusions reached on the proposed Phase Two proposals, and describes the advantages in visual terms of the current proposal over the original Lower House Farm permission. The ecological implications remain as with the Phase Two proposals.

An Archaeology Report – This was submitted with the Phase Two proposals. Whilst there were no significant finds arising from survey work undertaken, the archaeologists still wish to look at the actual Lower House Farm site itself.

A Noise Report – This concludes that the activities on site, if controlled, should not exceed background noise levels. The alternative HGV routing now proposed is considered to be an improvement over the extant permission.

## **Development Plan**

Saved Policies of the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2006 – Core Policy 2 (Development Distribution); CP3 (Natural and Historic Environment), CP6 (Local Services and Facilities), CP11 (Quality of Development), CP12 (Implementation) and Policies ENV4 (Trees and Hedgerows), ENV6 (Land Resources), ENV10 (Energy Generation and Conservation), ENV11 (Neighbour Amenities), ENV12 (Urban Design) ENV13 (Building Design), ENV14 (Access Design), ECON1 (Industrial Sites), COM1 (New Community Facilities), TPT1 (Transport Considerations), TPT2 (Traffic Management), TPT3 (Access and Sustainable Travel), TPT6 (Vehicle Parking)

Saved Policies of the Warwickshire Waste Local Plan 1995 – Policy 1 (General Land Use), Policy 6 (Material Recycling Facilities), Policy 13 (Proposed Facilities)

### **Other Material Planning Considerations**

Government Policy – PPS 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development), PPS4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth), PPS5 (Planning for the Historic Environment), PPS7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas), PPS10 (Planning for Sustainable Waste Management), PPS 22 (Renewable Energy), PPS23 (Planning and Pollution Control), PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk)

Government Guidance – PPG 13 (Transport), PPG24 (Planning and Noise)

Waste Strategy for England (2007)

Warwickshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2005)

The Secretary of State's letter of 6 July 2010 - This announced the revocation of Regional Strategies, but it also contained the following advice, " Planning authorities should continue to press ahead with their waste plans, and provide enough land for waste management facilities to support the sustainable management of waste (including the move away from the disposal by landfill). Data and information prepared by partners will continue to assist this process. For the transitional period this will continue to be the data and information which has been collated by the Local Authority, industry and other public bodies who currently form the Regional Waste Technical Advisory Bodies".

### **Observations**

It is considered that there should be no objection in principle to this proposal, provided that the current outstanding Phase Two Birch Coppice proposals are granted planning permission. On that assumption, the proposal offers a better resolution of the main two concerns of this Council at the time of its consideration of the original application at Lower House Farm. The visual impact would be less because of the far lower ground levels, and significantly, HGV movements would be directed to a far more appropriate road infrastructure. Indeed, the Planning Board has already recognised the benefits to a proposed re-location of these waste transfer facilities, as a material consideration in its assessment of the Birch Coppice Phase Two proposals. Moreover the need for improving waste management facilities remains as a planning policy and as an operational requirement, and the evidence base remains even in the absence of Regional Strategies. It is thus considered that no objection should now be raised.

There are also no detailed issues, on the assumption that the site is treated as part of the Birch Coppice Phase Two proposals. The general layout, building design, and landscaping would be in keeping with the remainder of that Phase Two development. There remains the concern outlined in the reports concerning those proposals in respect of the need to undertake very early archaeological investigation of the existing Lower House Farm site, and the County Council needs to be reminded of this requirement.

## **Recommendation**

- A)** That this Council has no objection to the proposals provided that planning permission is first granted for the proposed Phase Two Birch Coppice proposals, and that the draft Section 106 Agreement accompanying that permission is also signed.
  
- B)** That the County Council be strongly recommended to undertake an archaeological survey of the existing Lower House Farm site in liaison with the Warwickshire Museum, and that no planning permission for this current proposal be granted until such time as it is satisfied that appropriate measures commensurate with the conclusions of that survey are agreed and implemented in full.
  
- C)** That the County Council condition any planning permission such that the colour of the materials to be used matches that on the proposed Phase Two Birch Coppice proposals and that the operating hours are as set out above.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

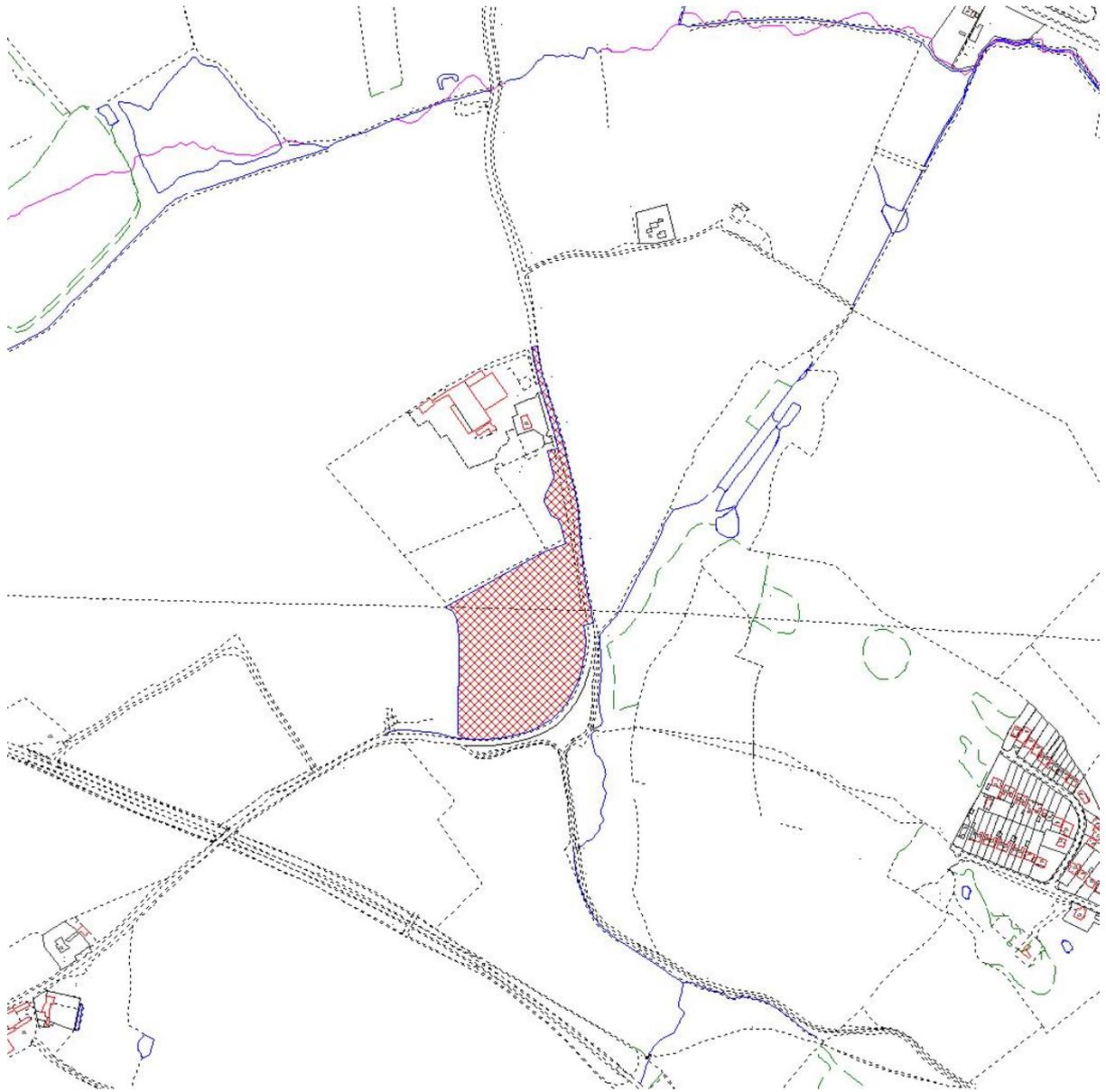
Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

**Planning Application No: PAP/2010/0393**

<b>Background Paper No</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Nature of Background Paper</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	The Applicant or Applicants Agent	Planning Application Forms and Plans	28/7/10

*Note: This list of background papers excludes published documents which may be referred to in the report, such as The Development Plan and Planning Policy Guidance Notes.*

*A background paper will include any item which the Planning Officer has relied upon in preparing the report and formulating his recommendation. This may include correspondence, reports and documents such as Environmental Impact Assessments or Traffic Impact Assessments.*



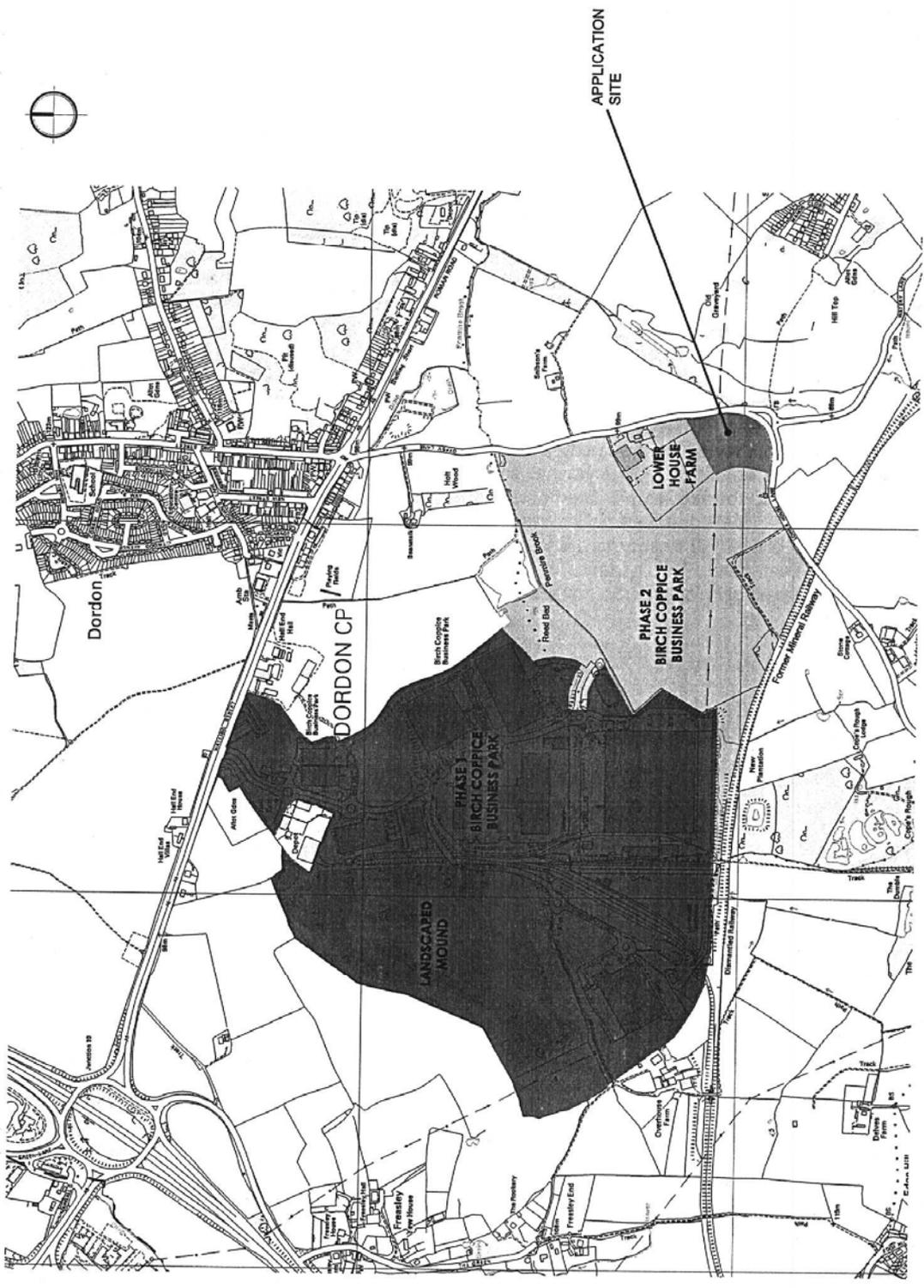


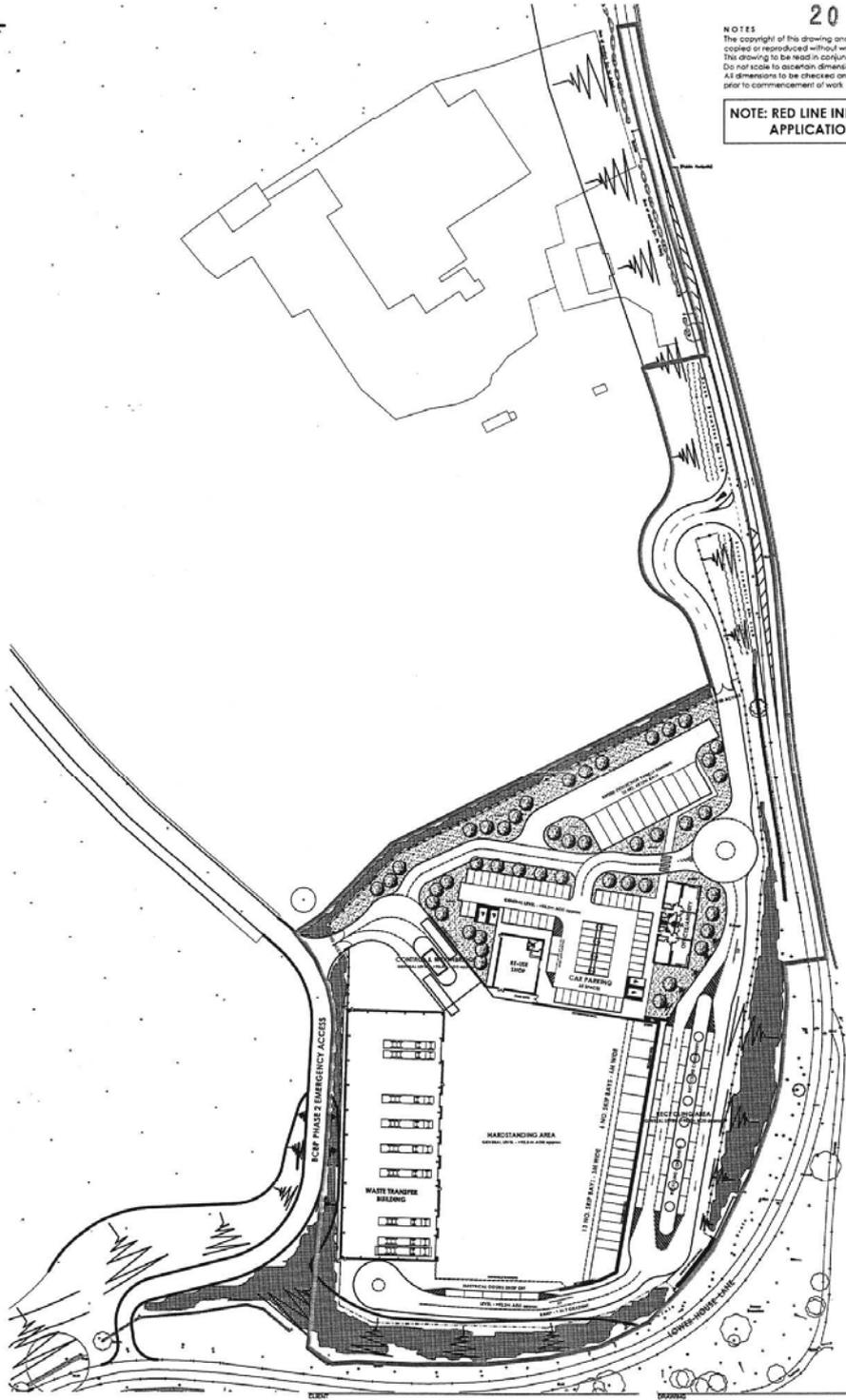
Figure 1: Site Plan

2010 / 0393

NOTES  
The copyright of this drawing and design is vested in the Architect and must not be copied or reproduced without written consent.  
This drawing to be read in conjunction with the specification and other drawings.  
Do not scale to ascertain dimensions.  
All dimensions to be checked and verified on site by the responsible contractor prior to commencement of work.

NOTE: RED LINE INDICATES SITE APPLICATION BOUNDARY

APPENDIX B



WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
WASTE TRANSFER STATION  
BCBP PHASE 2  
DORDON

PROPOSED SITE APPLICATION BOUNDARY  
DRAWING NUMBER: 880-007  
REVISION: 11/250 @A3  
DATE: JUN '10  
CHECKED BY: J.W.

**Tweedale**  
265 Tetterhall Road  
Wolverhampton  
WV6 0DE  
Tel: 01902 774660  
Fax: 01902 774666  
E-Mail: enquiries@tweedale.co.uk  
Web: www.tweedale.co.uk

## **Agenda Item No 5**

### **Planning and Development Board**

**16 August 2010**

**Report of the  
Head of Development Control**

**Annual Performance Report  
2009/10**

#### **1. Summary**

The report sets out the annual performance over 2009/10 of the Development Control service comparing it with recent years.

#### **Recommendation to the Board**

- a That the report be noted; and**
- b That a further report be brought to the Board making recommendations concerning a review of the Council's Enforcement Policy**

#### **2. Planning Applications**

- 2.1 Table One sets out the annual performance for 2009/10 for this part of the service. This clearly shows that the total number of applications received did not decline further over last year, but it should be pointed out that during 2009/10, new forms of application could be made – applications for the discharge of conditions and applications for amendments. If these are discounted from Table One, then the trend for general applications of all types is down. This reflects the economic situation in that year, and the changes that were introduced in the regulations, to reduce the number of developments requiring the submission of applications.
- 2.2 All of the National Indicators (NI's) were exceeded, however there were reductions in performance compared to last year. This "fall" was fore-warned in last year's report, and was due to officers undertaking work in the Forward Planning team to compensate for the fall in planning applications, and to the fact that the service was, and still is, carrying a vacancy.
- 2.3 As reported in financial reports during that year, the income from planning fees was down, reflecting the reduction in applications received.

### **3 Breaches of Planning Control**

- 3.1 Table Two sets out the performance over the year for the investigation of breaches of planning control. Investigative work continues at much the same level as in previous years. It is noticeable last year however that performance in terms of undertaking visits and assessments did fall significantly. This was due to the reduction in staff numbers for a three month period during that year, between the retirement of one of the Investigation Officers, and her replacement commencing work. It is important to record the work done by the remainder of the team during that gap.
- 3.2 The main methods of resolution remained voluntary remedies, and it can be seen last year that this led to a smaller number of retrospective planning applications. There were two consequences. Firstly, a fall in planning income, and secondly, because the team normally allows longer for resolution if matters are undertaken voluntarily, there was a reduction in performance for final resolution within the twelve week target.
- 3.3 Dealing with enforcement appeals, and pursuing Court action remains significant in terms of time needed and resources deployed. This action is also heavily dependant on resources being available in the legal services team.

### **4 The Council's Enforcement Policy**

- 4.1 The Policy adopted by the Council for the investigation of alleged breaches of planning control was amended in 2008. There were two reasons for this. Firstly, it was so that it could explicitly include breaches of planning control that could potentially have an adverse impact on the Council's Objectives of retaining the openness of the countryside and protecting the rural character of the Borough, as high priority cases. Secondly, it was to introduce more explicit procedures for officers when visiting sites. The former change is now well embedded and matters that are brought to Board for enforcement action often now allude to these objectives as reasons for undertaking such action. The second change was introduced and officers are now alert to the issue. However it is considered that this area needs review once again in order to make procedures explicit, particularly concerning visits to residential premises. A report will therefore be brought to an early meeting which will recommend further additions.

### **5 Report Implications**

#### **5.1 Legal and Human Rights Implications**

- 5.1.1 Decision making is undertaken in accord with legislative requirements, and these include the need to ensure reasonableness and proportionality in that process.

## 5.2 Environment and Sustainability Implications

- 5.2.1 The service outcomes are very much driven by the Development Plan; the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's own priorities which have strong environmental and sustainability themes running through them.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jeff Brown (719310).

### 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

**PLANNING CONTROL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – MONITORING REPORT**

**TABLE ONE: HANDLING APPLICATIONS**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Year 2005/2006</b>	<b>Year 2006/2007</b>	<b>Year 2007/2008</b>	<b>Year 2008/2009</b>	<b>Year 2009/2010</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
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<b>Processing Applications</b>						
A) Total number of applications received divided as follows:	860	783	761	666	674	See report about the introduction of new type of application
• Change of use	6.5%	5.49%	5.51%	7.51%	6.23%	
• Householder	42.5%	44.83%	44.54%	38.14%	34.12%	
• Major developments	3.6%	3.96%	2.89%	3.61%	3.26%	
• Minor developments	29.3%	30.14%	27.59%	28.98%	30.42%	
• Others	18%	15.58%	19.45%	21.77%	14.84%	
• Docs					10.29%	
• MIAS					0.74%	
B) Total number of Decisions	880	795	760	674	644	
C) % of all applications granted permission	72%	76.60%	76.97%	76.70%	82.14%	
D) % of all applications determined in eight weeks (BVPI)	83%	87.92%	73.68%	85%	88%	National Indicators for these categories are 60%, 65%, 80% respectively – see report for comments
• majors in 13 weeks	57%	74%	84.21%	86%	64%	
• minors in 8 weeks	83%	87%	88.77%	83%	85%	
• others in 8 weeks	94%	94%	93.99%	91%	88%	
E) % of all householder applications determined in eight weeks	97%	97%	97.04%	91.63%	95.02%	
F) % of all applications determined in under delegated powers (BVPI)	96%	94%	94%	95%	93%	

## PLANNING CONTROL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – MONITORING REPORT

**TABLE ONE: HANDLING APPLICATIONS (Cont'd)**

Measure	Year 2005/2006	Year 2006/2007	Year 2007/2008	Year 2008/2009	Year 2009/2010	Commentary
<b>Appeals</b>						
G) Number of Appeals lodged	25	37	25	16	15	.
H) % of Appeals allowed	43% <sup>2</sup>	26.47%	15.38	22.73%	42.80%	
<b>Fees and Costs</b>						
I) Fee income from all applications	£327,005	£337,211	£384,024	£304,388	£247,200	Reflects the economic downturn
J) % of all applications that are non-fee earning.	11.5%	9.45%	10.91%	10.81%	7.8%	
K) % of fees that come from householder applications.	14.5%	12.75%	5.87%	9.50%	14.23%	

## PLANNING CONTROL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – MONITORING REPORT

### TABLE TWO: BREACHES OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT

Measure	Year 2003/2004	Year 2004/2005	Year 2005/2006	Year 2006/2007	Year 2007/2008	Year 2008/2009	Year 2009/2010	Commentary
<b>Reports of Alleged Breaches</b>								
A) Number of notifications	242	215	256	231	209	249	236	
B) %Where a breach identified	43	48	50%	62%	45%	71%	66%	
C) Average working days from notification to site visit	10	9	9	6	5	5	11	See main Report
D) Average working days from notification to assessment	12	9	10	8	7	7	13	See main Report
E) % of assessments in 21 days	93	93	93	84%	85	86	62	See main Report
F) Once a breach is established – mode of resolution (%)								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrospective planning application or certificate application</li> <li>• Voluntarily removed</li> <li>• Not expedient to take action</li> <li>• Enforcement action authorised</li> <li>• Other action, eg injunctions</li> <li>• outstanding</li> </ul>	62	53	44	47	50	48	25	See Main Report
	16	40	42	38	33	34	52	
	10	5	3	2	3	4	4	
	10	1	9	11	12	14	14	
	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	
							0	

## PLANNING CONTROL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – MONITORING REPORT

### TABLE TWO: BREACHES OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT (Cont'd)

Measure	Year 2003/2004	Year 2004/2005	Year 2005/2006	Year 2006/2007	Year 2007/2008	Year 2008/2009	Year 2009/2010	Commentary
<b>Reports of Alleged Breaches</b>								
G) %of notifications resolved, or where no breach identified in twelve weeks	93	92	84	97%	74%	91%	69%	See main Report
H) Fee income from retrospective applications	£ 4810	£ 8725	£ 9265	£ 8445	£ 9040	£ 7555	£ 6050	
I) Number of Enforcement Notice Appeals lodged (not necessarily relating to Notices served this year).	4	4	10	7	3	9	10	
J) Number of cases where Court Action authorised (not necessarily relating to cases reported this year).	0	3	3	5	4	2	1	



## **Agenda Item No 6**

### **Planning and Development Board**

**16 August 2010**

#### **Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council**

#### **Local Transport Plan 3 - Consultation**

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report considers "The Local Transport Plan (LTP)", prepared by Warwickshire County Council, which sets out the transport strategy for Warwickshire and outlines a programme of transport schemes and initiatives to be delivered over the short to medium term.

### **Recommendation to the Board**

- a That Members are invited to comment on the consultation document; and**
- b That the comments on the feedback form, with any additional comments, be sent to Warwickshire County Council.**

## **2 Consultation**

### **2.1 Portfolio Holder, Shadow Portfolio Holder and Ward Members**

- 2.1.1 No consultation has been carried out

## **3 Report**

- 3.1 The Local Transport Plan (LTP), prepared by Warwickshire County Council, sets out the transport strategy for Warwickshire and outlines a programme of transport schemes and initiatives to be delivered over the short to medium term. The Plan covers all modes of transport - including walking, cycling, public transport, car based travel and freight and the effect of transport on the economy, environment and social inclusion. Warwickshire's current LTP covers a five year period from 2006 and is due to expire on 31 March 2011. Therefore the County Council is currently in the process of updating and reviewing the LTP so that a new version can be published in April 2011. The current consultation, relating to the Draft Plan 3, closes on 28th August 2010.
- 3.2 Work on the review of the LTP started in the Summer 2009. This included consulting with stakeholders and the public to help prioritise goals and issues. Using the results from the previous consultations (phases 1 and 2) the third LTP has now been drafted. Further information is available on [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk).

## 4 LTP3 – Consultation Draft

4.1 The Core LTP 3 Strategy starts with the Background and Policy context, moving on to Objective, Key Issues and Challenges and then finally Developing and Delivering the Strategy. Within the final section the LTP3 has divided the County into sub areas, with the Borough covered mainly by the sub area of Northern Warwickshire with an area to the south east covered by the North / South Corridor. Attached as Appendix A and B are the sections dealing with Northern Warwickshire (7.2 of the report) and the North South Corridor (7.7 of the report) respectively.

4.2 In addition there are 24 individual strategies by mode of type of transport to show how the strategy will be delivered relating to the following subjects areas:

- Signposting Strategies
  - [Draft Accessibility Strategy](#) (PDF - 591 KB)
  - [Draft Congestion Strategy](#) (PDF - 191 KB)
- Mode and Topic Strategies
  - [Draft Air Quality Strategy](#) (PDF - 163 KB)
  - [Draft Land Use and Transportation Strategy](#) (PDF - 191 KB)
  - [Draft Road Safety Strategy](#) (PDF - 333 KB)
  - [Draft Airport Accessibility Strategy](#) (PDF - 130 KB)
  - [Draft Bridge Maintenance Strategy](#) (PDF - 103 KB)
  - [Draft Highway Maintenance Strategy](#) (PDF - 164 KB)
  - [The Network Management Duty](#) (PDF - 145 KB)
  - [Draft Sustainable Freight Strategy](#) (PDF - 120 KB)
  - [Draft Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy](#) (PDF - 309 KB)
  - [Draft Parking Strategy](#) (PDF - 221 KB)
  - [Draft Powered Two Wheeler Strategy](#) (PDF - 162 KB)
  - [Draft Public Transport Strategy](#) (PDF - 157 KB)
  - [Draft Bus Strategy](#) (PDF - 283 KB)
  - [Draft Passenger Rail Strategy](#) (PDF - 407 KB)
  - [Draft Community Transport Strategy](#) (PDF - 199 KB)
  - [Draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Strategy](#) (PDF - 125 KB)
  - [Draft Public Transport Interchange Strategy](#) (PDF - 157 KB)
  - [Draft Bus Information Strategy](#) (PDF - 129 KB)
  - [Draft Changing Travel Behaviour/Smarter Choices Strategy](#) (PDF - 135 KB)
  - [Draft Walking Strategy](#) (PDF - 227 KB)
  - [Draft Cycling Strategy](#) (PDF - 230 KB)
  - [Draft Rights of Way and Recreational Highway Strategy 2011-2026](#) (link to new page)

4.3 The LTP3 has six overall objectives which are:

1. To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens in order to promote a fairer, more inclusive society;
2. To seek reliable and efficient transport networks which will help promote full employment and a strong, sustainable local and sub-regional economy;

3. To reduce the impact of transport on people and the [built and natural] environment and improve the journey experience of transport users;
4. To improve the safety, security and health of people by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;
5. To encourage integration of transport, both in terms of policy planning and the physical interchange of modes;
6. To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.

The sixth one is an additional objective from LTP2 reflecting the Government's objectives on Climate Change.

4.4 Evidence relating to the Key Issues and Challenges are then considered and set out against the national transport goals. Each is given below in summary form:

### **Goal 1 Economy**

- Improve the reliability of journey times through maintaining and managing the existing transport system to minimise congestion and delays, and provision of transport improvements that support the economy through improving accessibility, journey times and reducing congestion;
- Improve connectivity through managing the transport system and provision of new routes and services to enable business journeys to take place and to maximise accessibility of labour markets to jobs;
- Support the delivery of housing and growth through the provision of new transport infrastructure and services;
- Enhance resilience of local transport networks through good management and maintenance of the transport system; and
- Provide wider support to the economy through the efficient movement of freight.

### **Goal 2 Climate Change**

- Reducing transport related carbon emissions by:
  - promoting and enabling a shift to more sustainable forms of transport
  - reducing vehicle miles by reducing the need to travel and influencing the pattern of journeys
  - promoting more efficient fuel usage through changes in speed and driver behaviour
  - adopting more sustainable options for street lighting and signs
  - use of recycled materials in maintenance activities
- Adapting to climate change by ensuring that the transport system can cope with the unavoidable effects of climate change

### **Goal 3 Safety, Security And Health In Warwickshire**

- Reducing the risk of death or injury by improving the safety of all road users

- Promoting physical activity and healthier lifestyles by making active travel more easy and attractive
- Improving air quality by improving congestion / reducing traffic and encouraging people to use more sustainable modes
- Reducing crime through improving the security of road and public transport users, pedestrians and cyclists

#### **Goal 4 Equality of Opportunity**

- Improving accessibility to basic services such as education, healthcare, employment, leisure and shopping for certain groups in society to ensure they are not disadvantaged
- Improving affordability of transport to ensure certain groups are not disadvantaged; and
- Helping to narrow the gaps between economic growth rates for different areas by ensuring that transport does not act as a barrier to opportunity

#### **Goal 5 Influence of transport in improving quality of life**

- Reducing the noise effects of the transport system (consistent with the implementation of Action Plans prepared under the Environmental Noise Directive)
- Minimising the impacts of transport on the built and natural environment by improving the quality of transport integration into streetscapes and the urban environment
- Improving the journey experience of transport users
- Enhancing well-being and sense of community by creating more opportunities for social contact and better access to leisure activities and the natural environment

4.5 The Key Challenges are expressed against each of the National Transport Goals as can be seen in the following table:

*Table 1.8 Summary of challenges*

<b>Transport and the Warwickshire Economy</b>	1.1	Improve the connectivity by public transport to enable business journeys to take place and to maximise accessibility of labour markets to jobs
	1.2	Reduce lost productive time including by maintaining or improving the reliability and predictability of journey times on key local routes for business, commuting and freight
	1.3	Support the delivery of planned housing and employment growth in ways whilst minimising congestion levels
	1.4	Ensure the maintenance and work on the highway network and structures supports the efficient movement of traffic

<b>Transport and Carbon Emissions</b>	2.1	Accommodate new development in locations which reduce the need to travel
	2.2	Encourage a shift to lower carbon forms of travel, including walking, cycling and public transport, for residents and businesses
	2.3	Where motorised transport is necessary, encourage the efficient use of vehicles (e.g. car sharing) and improve driving techniques
<b>Safety, Security and Health</b>	3.1	Continue to reduce the risk of death or injury due to accidents on the transport network
	3.2	Reduce / minimise the number of areas declared as having poor air quality as a result of road transport emissions
	3.3	Encourage a shift towards more active forms of travel, including promoting a more positive public perception of walking and cycling
	3.4	Reduce crime and fear of crime on public transport
<b>Equality of Opportunity</b>	4.1	Support the County's priority of 'narrowing the gaps' by enabling disadvantaged people to more easily connect with a wide range of services and facilities
	4.2	Support the ageing population and associated service needs, particularly in south of County
	4.3	Working with partner agencies to support the delivery of services in ways which improve access to services
<b>Quality of Life in Warwickshire</b>	5.1	Minimise the impacts of transport on the built and natural environment
	5.2	Managing transport related noise
	5.3	Improve the quality of transport integration into streetscapes and the urban environment
	5.4	Improve the journey experience of transport users
	5.5	Enhance well-being and sense of community by creating more opportunities for social contact and better access to leisure activities and the natural environment

*Source: Page 23, Core LTP3 Strategy*

- 4.6 Following consultation with elected Members, stakeholders and the public in summer 2009 there was a steer towards the prioritisation of two of the five transport goals within Warwickshire. The top priority was identified as 'Supporting economic growth', closely followed by 'Tackling climate change'. These goals have therefore been prioritised when assessing which measures to bring forward as part of the development of the plan.
- 4.7 There is an Implementation Plan that accompanies the Strategy but this does not give the detail of projects, programmes, etc but rather the overall level of resources and the different types of resources that will be used.

## 5 Observations

- 5.1 The LTP3 is generally welcomed particularly in relation to issues of freight and the importance of the A5 corridor is recognised as well as the specific improvements to be carried out in a range of settlements. The Centro proposals for the link from Birmingham via Water Orton and Coleshill Parkway are supported. Kingsbury Station is still being pursued in the medium term.
- 5.2 In some parts of the plan it is clear that maintenance of services is the objective – for example, there is reference that buses will be maintained at the minimum standard and that limited modal shift from the car will be seen through the plan period. It is understandable, with the resources available that the focus has to be on maintenance of services, but some clear longer term ideas of promoting other forms of transport for the rural borough of North Warwickshire, or at least getting linkages into the North South Corridor, should be seen as part of the vision for this area.
- 5.3 Improvements to walking and cycling are referred to but only in connection with Hams Hall but there are much wider opportunities that would fit with the healthier lifestyles objective. Linkages into the North / South Corridor should also be explored as these could be expanded upon at a later date.
- 5.4 Although priorities are given elsewhere it would be helpful for each of the sub areas to show clearly what priority each of the outcomes have in the overall programme. It would appear that although there are things seen to be needed in North Warwickshire the majority of these would appear to fall in the medium range of priorities in the overall programme, but this is unclear.
- 5.5 Car ownership in North Warwickshire is seen as a necessity in order to access jobs, services and facilities. Therefore, what has been found previously was that the ages of cars in North Warwickshire were much older than elsewhere. The importance therefore of providing other modes of transport in North Warwickshire are extremely important.
- 5.6 Item 4.2, Table 1.8 - *Summary of Challenges* above, does not seem to reflect the increase of those over 65 by 56% by 2031 in the Northern sub area. Issues of ageing population are to be seen in many places, but it is considered that the rural north as well as the south will need support.

5.7 A feedback form is attached as Appendix C with initial comments on the Core LTP3 Strategy consultation document. Most of the items relate to either corrections or inconsistencies, which is understandable when dealing with such a large document and the corresponding data. Members are invited to make any additional comments.

## 6 Report Implications

### 6.1 Environment and Sustainability Implications

6.1.1 The LTP3 is looking to improve the sustainability of places and improving the environment by reducing the impacts of adverse traffic numbers on the roads.

### 6.2 Safer Communities Implications

6.2.1 There is consideration of reducing crime and the fear of crime on public transport and reducing road deaths and injuries as part of the preparation of the Local Transport Plan. There haven't been significant concerns identified regarding crime and disorder incidents on public transport in North Warwickshire in the strategic assessments prepared by the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership. Road deaths and injuries are a more significant issue however they mainly concern private road users particularly young people.

### 6.3 Equality Implications

6.3.1 As part of the development of the LTP 3 there is a requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment. This will form an integral part of the development of the plan, and will help to ensure that LTP 3 takes account of the impact that the plan may have on the local community.

6.3.2 The recently established North Warwickshire Disability Group has been consulted on LTP3 and their findings will form part of the review

### 6.4 Links to Council's Priorities

6.4.1 Changes / improvements to all modes of transport will impact on all of the Council's priorities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

## 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	WCC	LTP3 (Local Transport Plan 3) - Consultation document – <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk">www.warwickshire.gov.uk</a>	June 2010



## 7.7 The North-South Corridor

### 7.7.1 Introduction

This section of the Local Transport Plan covers the North-South Corridor. The North-South Corridor is the principal transport corridor within the County, and links the urban areas of Nuneaton, Bedworth, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Whitnash and Warwick. The city of Coventry, although falling within the West Midlands, is located in the centre of the corridor. The travel patterns and demands that exist between Warwickshire and Coventry emphasise the importance of the corridor in the socio-economic life of the sub-region.

The corridor is both densely populated and highly developed, and includes a number of key travel destinations including Coventry city centre, Warwick University, Coventry Airport and three large hospitals at Walsgrave, Warwick and George Eliot (Nuneaton). The corridor also includes the Coventry to Nuneaton Regeneration Zone and a number of significant development sites.

The North-South Corridor performs an important role within the national and sub-regional road and rail network, providing a number of links between places within and outside the County. The corridor is truly 'multi-modal' in its nature, as it includes a comprehensive network of local and strategic bus, rail and road links.

The Coventry to Nuneaton Regeneration Zone covers north Coventry, Nuneaton and Bedworth. This is an area that has traditionally been associated with a number of industries such as engineering, manufacturing and mining. Over the last 25 years these sectors have experienced significant economic decline, which in turn has had a profound effect on a number of local communities. Conversely, over the same timescale the areas to the south of Coventry have successfully attracted modern industries such as IT and medical research. Such is the prosperity of the south of the County that the number of jobs within the area exceeds the total working population.

The contrast in economic activity and prosperity between the northern and southern sections of the corridor have resulted in a number of inequalities including social exclusion, and pressure on the transport system as commuters travel through the area.

It is predicted that travel patterns and demands in the corridor will continue to increase over the coming years, particularly with the pressures which will result from the growth proposals within Warwickshire and Coventry. There are also strong links between the corridor and other towns and cities in the West Midlands including Birmingham and Solihull, and from the northern part of the corridor towards Hinckley and Leicester.

In developing the proposals for the North-South Corridor, the County Council has worked in partnership with Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Centro/Integrated Transport Authority and Leicestershire County Council in order to be consistent with their LTP proposals.

### 7.7.2 The Overall Context

A detailed discussion regarding the overall context of the North-South Corridor in terms of population, socio-economic, environment issues can be found in the Area Chapters covering Nuneaton/Bedworth and Warwick/Leamington Spa/Kenilworth/Whitnash respectively. These sections of the LTP also provide information regarding travel patterns and future development proposals.

### 7.7.3 Transport Problems and Opportunities

A review of problems and opportunities for the area is set out below. The evidence considers the wider economic, environmental and social context that transport must operate within and the role of transport in addressing these wider issues. The evidence is considered in turn under each of the national transport goals.

#### 7.7.4 Goal 1: Supporting economic growth

Transport has a key role to play in supporting the local, sub-regional, regional and national economy. In areas where needs are greatest, transport can help open up areas for redevelopment and regeneration, and provide the accessibility requirements for those who wish to access training and employment opportunities.

As set out above, there is a need to provide a better socio-economic balance between the north and south of the corridor. The main aim of doing this is to reduce unemployment levels by providing access to areas where more opportunities exist. By making the North-South Corridor more permeable, it will allow a greater range of travel choices to be made, particularly in terms of through journeys by public transport.

Future travel demand within the North-South Corridor will be heavily influenced by major development pressures within the corridor, including new residential, employment and leisure facilities in all the main centres and to key trip generators, along with the major regeneration initiatives in the Coventry – Nuneaton Regeneration Zone.

One of the key issues within the North-South Corridor is congestion that is primarily confined to the main morning and evening travel periods, but which is also starting to be experienced in the shoulder peaks. Specific problems occur at a number of key junctions in the corridor including:

- A45/A46 interchange at Tollbar End on the Coventry/Warwickshire boundary;
- A46/M40/A429 (M40 Junction 15) at Longbridge, south of Warwick (currently in the process of being improved);
- A46/C32 Stoneleigh Road/B4115 Stoneleigh interchange;
- A46/A452 interchange at Thickthorn near Kenilworth
- A46/A4177/A425 Stanks Island, west of Warwick;
- A46/A428 interchange at Binley on the Coventry/Warwickshire boundary;
- M6/M69/A46 (M6 Junction 2) near Ansty (currently in the process of being improved); and
- A444/M6 (M6 Junction 3) south west of Bedworth.

Measures to improve the efficiency and reliability for a number of these junctions have been identified in conjunction with the Highways Agency. These are described later in this section of the LTP. A high quality national, regional and local highway network is vital to supporting the economy of the sub-region and the County.

#### 7.7.5 Goal 2: Tackling climate change

The main transport related impacts on the environment of the North-South Corridor are the effects of congestion on the key inter urban routes and on the roads in the main urban centres of Nuneaton, Bedworth, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. The effect of through traffic in these areas also has an adverse impact in terms of congestion, noise and air quality.

The density of the population and the level of activity in the North-South Corridor are set to grow over the next 15 years and will create an increasing demand for transport. These demands will ultimately increase car use and congestion to unacceptable levels unless a good quality public transport network is available. A key shortcoming of the current network is the lack of a through public transport service between the north and the south without the requirement to change in Coventry. Provision of such a service would enable a free-flow between where people live and the opportunities for work and leisure, without a resultant detrimental impact on congestion.

### 7.7.6 Goal 3: Contributing to better safety, security and health

Continued safety improvements form an important part of the strategy for the North-South Corridor. This includes addressing incidences of road casualties that are anticipated as a consequence of the increased levels of activity and travel demand in the North-South Corridor. Details of road casualty trends within the corridor are set out within the Nuneaton/Bedworth and Warwick/Leamington Spa/Kenilworth/Whitnash Area Chapters respectively.

Fear of crime can often deter people using public transport, walking or cycling particularly during the evening and at night. The LTP aims to address issues of crime and safety on the transport system by initiatives including:

- Improving safety at public transport waiting and interchange facilities;
- Improving cycling facilities including lit routes and safer cycle parking at public transport interchanges; and
- Providing safer walking routes to public transport waiting facilities.

The North-South Corridor includes a number of existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within Nuneaton, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. The proposals for this area of the County aim to improve air quality by managing the impact of new development, and promoting sustainable travel options for short, medium and longer distance trips. Specific details regarding existing and emerging AQMAs in the corridor can be found in the Nuneaton/Bedworth and Warwick/Leamington Spa/Kenilworth/Whitnash Area Chapters.

### 7.7.7 Goals 4 and 5: Promoting equality of opportunity and improving quality of life

The North-South Corridor exhibits many of the same problems in terms of achieving an accessible, inclusive transport system as the rest of the County. The forecast of a substantial increase in congestion, particularly during peak travel periods and in the main urban areas is a problem that needs to be addressed throughout the corridor. There is also a lack of convenient, direct through routes for public transport services, particularly for inter-urban journeys along the corridor. This is of particular concern for the northern part of the corridor, where there is relatively poor access to certain forms of transport because of lower car ownership. Parts of the surrounding areas of the corridor experience a lack of convenient public transport that constrains peoples' access to jobs, training, health and leisure facilities.

An important role of the North-South Corridor is to link places of need to areas of opportunity. This is particularly important in this corridor, as generally the less well off areas are in the northern part of the County and the more prosperous areas are in the south. This means there are strong social and economic reasons for strengthening the links within, and permeability through the corridor. As the corridor carries most of the flows of goods and people in and around the County, it is important that future development pressures do not significantly reduce the capacity and consequently the ability of the corridor to fulfill its role.

Developments that generate significant transport demands in the corridor will be expected to contribute to transport improvements as appropriate. One approach to improving transport in the corridor and managing the implications of key developments is the commitment towards delivering a step-change in the quality and quantity of public transport. This will assist in addressing the shortfalls in the existing transport network, and in particular the lack of a quality public transport offer between the north and south of the corridor.

Opportunities for the physical integration of transport within and between modes are most prevalent within the urban areas at the following locations:

- Nuneaton Bus Station;
- Bedworth (Mill Street);
- Kenilworth Clock;
- Leamington Spa Parade and Parish Church;
- Warwick Bus Station; and
- Nuneaton, Bedworth, Leamington Spa, Warwick and Warwick Parkway rail stations.

Key interchange points within Coventry include Pool Meadow Bus Station, the railway station, Walsgrave Hospital, the Arena, and the two bus-based Park and Ride sites to the north and south of the city centre. The Friargate redevelopment proposals aim to build on the importance of the railway station as a key entrance to the city and in public transport terms, a key bus-rail and bus-bus interchange.

The County Council works closely with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council to integrate with their policies and plans, particularly in terms of land use and transportation planning. Examples include the preparation of Local Development Framework Core Strategies, the master plans for Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres, and individual development sites.

### 7.7.8 Conclusions

In conclusion, the main transport issues in the North-South Corridor are:

- The need to improve the availability and quality of public transport within the corridor, particularly in terms of allowing through journeys to be made;
- The effect of congestion on the highway network during peak periods at a number of key junctions on the motorway and trunk road network;
- The anticipation of more general congestion in the future due to development pressure and associated traffic growth;
- Changes in work and travel patterns including lengthening of the peak travel periods;
- The need to maximise opportunities afforded by the key interchange points within the corridor; and
- The number of casualties resulting from road traffic accidents within the corridor.

### 7.7.9 DaSTS Regional Studies: Improving Connectivity in the North-South Corridor

#### 7.7.10 Background

In terms of delivering its goals for transport, the Government is promoting a new approach to strategic transport planning beyond 2014. The approach was set out in *'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System'* (DaSTS) published in April 2009.

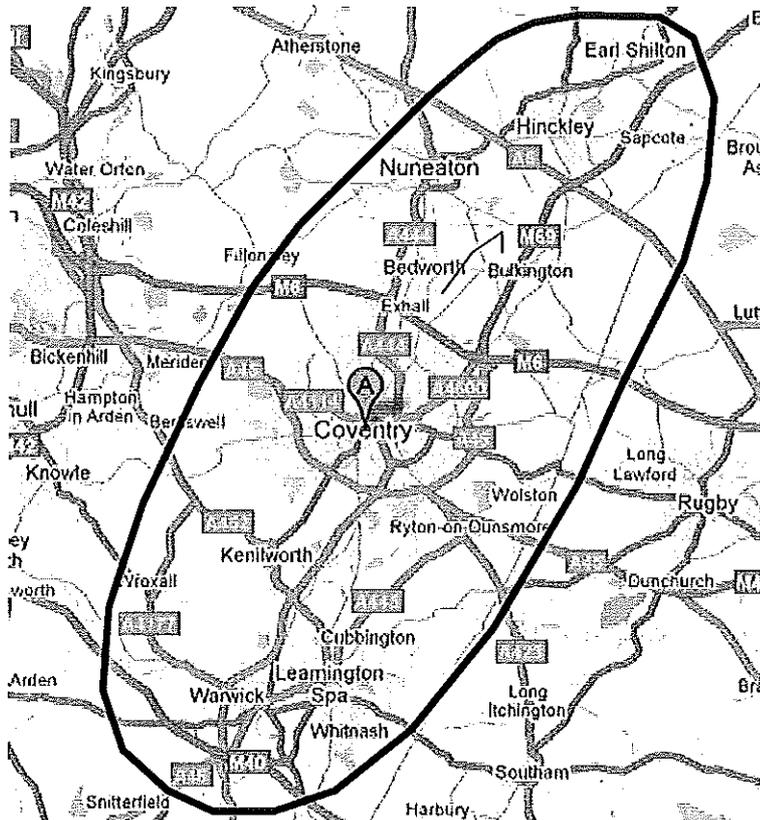
As part of the approach, the Regions (including the West Midlands) will individually take the lead in generating options for interventions on the 'City & Regions' transport network in their area up to 2019 and beyond.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has agreed to fund the study work to develop a programme with priorities for funding in each year from 2014-19, along with less detailed proposals for 2019-24, within the context of a 30 year strategic plan and an analysis of the impact of the proposals on each goal.

As part of this process, the DfT has approved funding for a study into improving multi-modal transport connectivity in a corridor running through Coventry from Warwick/Leamington Spa in the south to Hinckley in the north - *Improving Connectivity in the Coventry North-South Corridor Study*.

The study has been commissioned by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of a partnership between the County Council and Coventry City Council and managed by a steering group comprising representatives from Centro, A5 Transport Liaison Group, Highways Agency, Network Rail, DfT, GOWM and AWM.

Figure 1.5 Area of the Study



### 7.7.11 Issues

Supporting the region's economy and reducing the gap in Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key priority for the region in general. As set out above, congestion in the Warwick-Leamington Spa-Kenilworth-Coventry-Nuneaton corridor is a concern, imposing high costs on business. Transport interventions can however support the economy by improving the ability of all the networks (both public transport and road) to cater for business and commuting trips, providing additional capacity where necessary, and by meeting the needs of the freight industry.

The study will also take into account plans for significant new housing and employment land as a result of the Regional Spatial Strategy revision process, where the provision of effective travel choices is crucial in catering for this growth.

### 7.7.12 Study Timescale

The current timescale for the study is as follows:

- Inception - October 2009;

- Stage 1 Review of Evidence & Challenges - travel patterns, journeys most important to the economy, travel conditions inhibiting economic activity & most inhibiting factors and causes;
- Stage 2 Establish 'do-Minimum', identify possible interventions & stakeholder consultation;
- Draft Interim Report – February 2010;
- Stage 3 Sifting & Packaging Options – Outline options appraisal and identify complementary packages of measures and feedback to wider reference group;
- Final Interim Report – May 2010;
- Stage 4 Appraisal & Recommendations<sup>1</sup> – model development and appraisal of options;
- Final Report<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The progression of the study after the Final Interim Report stage will be dependent on Government spending priorities.

## The Strategy

### 7.7.13 General

The key objectives of this strategy for transport within the North-South Corridor are to:

- Support the local and sub-regional economy, including the Coventry to Nuneaton Regeneration Zone, the various town and city centres within the corridor, Warwick University and the Major Investment Site at Ansty;
- Support the planned housing and employment growth within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Warwick District, Rugby Borough, Coventry City and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough; and
- Reduce the environmental impact of traffic within the corridor and improve local air quality.

The proposals set out below describe how the County Council and its partners aim to deliver these objectives.

### 7.7.14 Key proposals

#### 7.7.15 Transport improvements to deliver growth

Over the next 10-15 years there is likely to be significant development which will add to the existing travel demands that already exist within the North-South Corridor. These include growth in:

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough (specific locations to be confirmed, but likely to include redevelopment within Nuneaton town centre, Camp Hill, the former Judkins Quarry and a number of sites close to the A444 and Coventry – Nuneaton rail line);
- Warwick District, including land at King's Hill (near Finham/Gibbet Hill), Thickthorn (Kenilworth) and a number of sites within central and southern Leamington Spa;
- Rugby Borough, specifically at Ansty and the former Peugeot plant near Ryton-on-Dunsmore; and
- Other parts of the corridor which fall outside the County, including Coventry City (e.g. Friargate, Warwick University, Keresley) and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (e.g. Earl Shilton/Barwell).

Further details of the development proposals located within Warwickshire can be found in the Nuneaton/Bedworth, Eastern Warwickshire and Warwick/Leamington Spa/Kenilworth/Whitnash Area Chapters.

## 7.7.16 Air Quality

Air quality issues within the main urban areas of the corridor are covered in the Air Quality Strategy and the Nuneaton and Bedworth and Warwick/Leamington Spa/Kenilworth/Whitnash Area Chapters respectively.

## 7.7.17 Public Transport

### 7.7.18 A Step-Change

The need for a 'step-change' in the quality and quantity of public transport in the North-South Corridor is a priority for the sub-region. The County Council, in partnership with Coventry City Council, and Centro (the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority) have investigated a number of options to develop and eventually deliver a step-change. The options are based on integrated planning and co-ordination of all public transport modes, and have historically included consideration of a number of possible interventions to deliver a 'step-change', including bus, guided bus, heavy rail, light rail and other innovative public transport systems.

A number of technical studies and appraisals have been undertaken to consider the viability and deliverability of various options to deliver a step-change. These have concluded that the public transport vision for the corridor should aim to:

- Support regeneration, by providing efficient links between areas of social deprivation and employment and education opportunities, health and leisure facilities and retail facilities;
- Meet the accessibility standards and aspirations of the region and sub-region;
- Provide links from the sub-region to the 'rest of the world', which is essential to its ongoing economic sustainability by attracting new investment and employees;
- Comprise a hierarchy of modes suited to the particular journeys being made within, to and from the corridor, with provision made for journeys over the entire length of the corridor;
- Provide high quality, convenient and reliable access to existing and proposed residential, employment, retail and leisure facilities in all the main centres in the corridor, including major regeneration initiatives in the Coventry to Nuneaton Regeneration Zone, the Coventry Arena complex, the expansion of Walsgrave Hospital, development at Coventry Airport and the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh, and the master plan proposals for Nuneaton, Bedworth and the University of Warwick;
- Meet the changing travel needs arising from the increasingly 24 Hour / 7 Day lifestyle, not only for people enjoying the extended facilities but also for those employed in providing them; and
- Encourage use of public transport as a viable sustainable alternative to the private car for journeys within, to and from the North-South Corridor.

### 7.7.19 Delivering the Step-Change

It is proposed to deliver the step-change in public transport within the North-South corridor through a combination of rail and bus initiatives, complemented by wider highway and traffic management measures.

The rail-based NUCKLE (Nuneaton-Coventry-Kenilworth-Leamington) initiative has been developed by the County Council in partnership with Coventry City Council and Centro, and comprises four phases of development:

- Phase 1 – Improved service frequencies between Coventry-Bedworth-Nuneaton with new stations at Ricoh Arena and Bermuda, platform lengthening at Bedworth and a new bay platform at Coventry;
- Phase 2 – Improved service frequencies between Coventry-Leamington with a new station at Kenilworth with services to Birmingham / London / Oxford / Thames Valley;

- Phase 3 – Extension of the Coventry-Bedworth-Nuneaton services to the East Midlands; and
- Phase 4 – Operation of ‘through’ Leamington Spa-Coventry-Nuneaton services.

Phases 1 and 2 are currently at an advanced stage of development and delivery is anticipated in the short term, with Phases 3 and 4 to follow in the medium/long term. However, as the delivery of rail initiatives involves a wide range of stakeholders and can often depend on strategic decisions which are taken in a regional and national context, the details and timescales of the later phases will need to be flexible to take advantage of implementation opportunities as they arise.

The County Council will continue to seek to secure a ‘through’ bus service between Nuneaton-Bedworth-Coventry-Kenilworth-Warwick/Leamington Spa to address the lack of such a service between the north and south of the County without the current requirement to change within Coventry. A through service would enable a free-flow between where people live and the opportunities for work and leisure without increasing congestion.

It is anticipated that the DaSTS Improving Connectivity in the Coventry North-South Corridor Study described above will recommended further transport measures from 2014 onwards.

### 7.7.20 Cycling

The Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 52 between Stratford-upon-Avon and Coalville in Leicestershire) travels through the entire length of the North-South corridor. Many sections of the route have already been implemented, and the County Council is working in partnership with Sustrans to complete it in full. This would provide a number of valuable inter-urban links within this corridor as well as forming part of the urban area cycle route networks. Much of the National Cycle Network utilises traffic-free routes or roads with low traffic volumes, in order to encourage more people of all ages and abilities to cycle, both for leisure and utility journeys.

### 7.7.21 Freight

The vast majority of freight movements in the North-South corridor are made by road, most of which are through movements that have no link to either Warwickshire or the wider sub-region. This is primarily due to the number of motorway and trunk roads that traverse the area, including the M6, M40, M69, A5 and A46. In line with the County Council's Sustainable Freight Distribution Strategy and the Warwickshire Freight Quality Partnership, an Advisory Lorry Map has been prepared showing the preferred lorry routes to industrial estates and key freight destinations within Warwickshire. These routes are designed to reduce the environmental impact of lorries driving through the area, including a number of key towns and villages.

The main generators of rail freight in the North-South corridor are the Murco oil terminal which is located on the Nuneaton – Coventry line at Bedworth and the Prologis distribution facility near Keresley.

### 7.7.22 Highway Improvements and Traffic Management Measures

#### Motorways and Trunk Roads

#### 7.7.23 A45/A46 Roundabout – Tollbar End, Coventry

Tollbar End is an important junction that links the A45, A46, a number of local roads, the industrial estates off Rowley Road and Siskin Drive, and access to Coventry Airport.

The roundabout is currently traffic signal controlled (except from the B4110 and Rowley Road accesses) and suffers from congestion particularly at peak times of the day. This is predicted to increase in view of local developments and traffic growth on the wider trunk road network.

The Highways Agency has prepared a major improvement scheme for the junction, which includes:

- A new two-lane dual-carriageway underpass link between the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass and the A45 Stonebridge Highway;
- Enhancements to the roundabout and existing accesses;
- Widening of the A45 Stonebridge Highway to a three-lane dual-carriageway between the new Tollbar End junction and Stivichall junction. This will improve capacity and allow traffic to maneuver safely into the required lane on approach to the junctions;
- Alterations to the Siskin Drive/Rowley Road junction from a roundabout to a traffic light controlled junction, to improve access to local businesses and the Airport;
- Provision of traffic lights on each entry arm to the new Tollbar End roundabout. These signals will be connected to those at the Siskin Drive/Rowley Road junction so as to provide maximum efficiency in allowing traffic through the area;
- Erection of new sign gantries and provision of revised lane markings to improve the northbound A46 approach to Stivichall junction. The existing road signs in this area of the scheme will also be improved; and
- In order to improve pedestrian access around Tollbar End roundabout, a new foot/cycleway will be provided along the southern side of the A45, linking the two junctions together.

A public inquiry was held in January/February 2010 to consider the scheme. The Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government are currently in the process of considering the Inspectors report.

If the scheme proceeds, Statutory Orders will need to be made and land acquired. Subject to completion of the statutory processes and confirmation of funding, construction works could start on site in 2011, with the road open to traffic in 2014.

#### 7.7.24 A46/M40/A429 (M40 Junction 15) – Longbridge, Warwick

Longbridge is a strategic junction on the M40 where it meets the A46 and the A429 south of Warwick. A major improvement to the junction has recently been implemented which provides a bypass for the A46 to avoid the existing roundabout with the M40 and A429.

Following completion of this work, attention has switched to improving the existing circulatory carriageway of the roundabout. This will be widened from three lanes to four, with the work likely to be completed by Autumn 2010. Work is also underway to downgrade the existing A46 southbound carriageway to provide a local service road and access into Sherbourne.

Work to construct the new bridleway that runs between Sherbourne and the B4463 beneath the new Sherbourne roundabout will continue and farmers' access tracks and footpaths will be completed. The new bridleway route will enable pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to cross the new A46 bypass safely. From this point, cyclists will be able to take the current route through Sherbourne and over the existing cyclist/pedestrian bridge across the M40. There will be gates on the bridleway for use by the local farmer, with ungated access alongside for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Landscaping work to complement the scheme is ongoing.

#### 7.7.25 A46/C32 Stoneleigh Road/B4115 Stoneleigh Interchange

The A46 Stoneleigh Interchange is located between Kenilworth and Coventry and provides the principal access from the trunk road network to Warwick University and the National Agricultural Centre (NAC) at Stoneleigh. The interchange is currently a single overbridge with northern and southern access slip roads leading to simple priority junctions. The junction is currently subject to congestion at peak times, which can cause traffic to queue back on to the main carriageway of the A46. The Highways Agency has recently

As part of the expansion of the NAC, a scheme to improve the junction has been prepared which will replace the existing priority junctions with two small roundabouts. This scheme is currently on hold due to a lack of funding.

As part of any major development on land at King's Hill near Finham/Gibbet Hill, it is likely that the Stoneleigh Interchange will require a substantial improvement above and beyond that identified for the expansion of the NAC. The scale of these improvements will be tested in the Kenilworth and Stoneleigh Paramics model, which has been developed by the County Council in conjunction with the Highways Agency. This will need to take account of the committed expansion proposals at Warwick University.

#### 7.7.26 A46/A452 Roundabout – Thickthorn, Kenilworth

The A46/A452 roundabout at Thickthorn lies just to the south east of Kenilworth, and provides the principal access to Kenilworth and Leamington Spa from the A46. It also provides a secondary access from the A46 to the National Agricultural Centre (NAC) via the B4115.

As part of the expansion of the NAC, a scheme to fully signalise the roundabout has been prepared to increase capacity of the junction throughout the day. This scheme is currently on hold due to a lack of funding. A financial contribution towards this scheme may be sought from the developers of the Thickthorn site to the south east of the existing built-up area of Kenilworth.

#### 7.7.27 A46/A4177/A425 Stanks Roundabout, Warwick

The A46/A425/A4177 Stanks roundabout is located to the west of Warwick, and provides access from the A46 to Warwick town centre via the A425 Birmingham Road, Warwick Parkway via the A4177 and Old Budbrooke Road, and Hatton/Solihull via the A4177. The roundabout can be subject to congestion at peak periods, leading to traffic queuing onto the main carriageway of the A46. Key factors which contribute towards these problems are the heavy flow of traffic from the west, and the proximity of the junction to the main entrance of the IBM site.

The developers of part of the IBM site adjacent to the roundabout have proposed the construction of an additional arm from the development site to replace the existing priority junction onto the A425 Birmingham Road. No planning application has been made at the time of writing, and a full technical assessment of the junction has still to be agreed with the Highways Agency and the County Council.

#### 7.7.28 M6 Junction 2

Works have recently been completed to improve the roundabout at M6 Junction 2 with the A4600 and B4065. This has been undertaken in conjunction with the development of the major employment site at Ansty to the east of the A46 Coventry Bypass. Ramp metering has also recently been provided for both on slips of the M6.

Traffic signals have been installed at the junction to improve traffic flows, as well as to improve pedestrian and cyclist facilities. Improvements have also been made to signs, lining and lighting, as well as the installation of CCTV throughout the junction to monitor and respond to traffic incidents.

Further works are due to take place shortly to modify the two smaller roundabouts on the A46 where it passes beneath the M69. These will be removed and replaced with signal controlled junctions to improve traffic flows, and the approaches to these modified junctions will be realigned and widened as necessary.

#### 7.7.29 M6 Junction 3

The section of the M6 north of Coventry between the M69/A46 junction near Ansty (Junction 2) and the A444 junction near Bedworth (Junction 3) experiences heavy congestion throughout the day,

and particularly during peak periods. Ramp metering has recently been provided for both on slips of the M6.

No further improvements to the junction are currently committed. These may be required subject to development coming forward in the North Coventry/Keresley area. Any improvements will be tested in conjunction with the Highways Agency using the Paramics model which has been jointly developed with the County Council.

#### 7.7.30 A46/A428 Junction – Binley, Coventry

The A46 provides an important strategic link for traffic between the M1/M69 at Leicester and the M5 near Ashchurch. The road also provides an important route for local and medium distance movements wishing to avoid the centre of Coventry.

Once the proposed improvements at Tollbar End have been completed (see section of the LTP which covers the North-South Corridor), the A46/A428 interchange near Binley will be the only remaining non-grade separated junction on the A46 between Walsgrave Hospital and Marraway (north of Stratford-upon-Avon).

Some recent minor improvements have been carried out at this junction as part of a developer funded scheme related to the Binley District Centre. However, given the current congestion at this location and the impact which the improvements at Tollbar End will have, the County Council will continue to lobby the Highways Agency to bring forward a more significant improvement at this junction.

#### 7.7.31 A46/B4082 Sowe Link Road, Coventry

Subject to proposed housing development coming forward between Walsgrave Hospital and Tesco's, there may be a need to provide an improvement to the existing A46 junction with the B4082 Sowe Link Road.



## 7.2 Northern Warwickshire Area

### 7.2.1 Introduction

This section of the Local Transport Plan covers the area of Northern Warwickshire which includes the towns of Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill and their surrounding rural hinterland. The area covered by this section is similar to the administrative boundary of North Warwickshire Borough, however it excludes certain parts to the south east. These are included within the North-South Corridor chapter. Its socio-economic characteristics however, are represented by statistics related to North Warwickshire Borough.

This part of Warwickshire has strong travel links with a number of towns and cities located outside the County, including Tamworth, Sutton Coldfield, Solihull, Coventry and Birmingham. In developing the proposals for this part of Warwickshire, the County Council has worked in close partnership with Staffordshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, Birmingham City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Coventry City Council in order to be compatible with their LTP proposals.

The area of Northern Warwickshire is one of contrasts. Areas of employment growth in the Borough contrast with deprivation indices that are among the worst in the County. Access to cars is lower than in the south of the County, however public transport usage is also relatively low.

### The Overall Context

North Warwickshire is the smallest District/Borough in the County in terms of population, and covers an area of 110 square miles. Population density is 219 people per square kilometre, which compares with 268 people per square kilometre in Warwickshire as a whole. Unlike the four other District/Boroughs, most of the population of this part of the County live in rural areas.

### 7.2.2 Population

The population of the Borough in 2008 was 62,300, up 0.8% since 2003. This shows that the population has grown significantly less than the average growth of population for Warwickshire as a whole (see Table 2.4 below).

Table 2.4 Population 2002-2008

North Warwickshire Borough – Resident Population Characteristics			
Town	Population in 2002 (estimated)	Population in 2008 (estimated)	% Change
Atherstone & Mancetter	10,850	11,000	1.4%
Coleshill	6,350	6,600	3.9%
Polesworth	6,950	6,850	-1.4%
North Warwickshire	61,800	62,300	0.8%
Warwickshire	512,000 (mid 2003 estimate)	530,700	3.7%

There has been a considerable increase in the elderly (75-84) and very elderly (85+) age groups since 1992, with these age groups increasing by 20% and 30% respectively. Latest population estimates indicate that over 20% of the Borough's population is comprised of men over the age of 65 and women over the age of 60. In contrast, only 17.8% are aged 15 and under.

The trend of an aging of the population is set to continue. The 2006 population estimates indicate that the proportion of the population aged over 65 will increase to 56% by 2031. Forecasts from the Office for National Statistics suggest that the Borough's population will continue to rise during and beyond the lifetime of this LTP, but only by 11.9% up to 2031 compared to 22.1% for the County as a whole.

Indicators of health in North Warwickshire are generally similar to the average for Warwickshire or England. Life expectancy for men and women is slightly below the Warwickshire and England average. This is demonstrated in Table 2.5 below:

Table 2.5 Health Indicators

Performance Against the Census 2001 health indicators			
	Percentage of the local population with a long-term limiting illness	Percentage of the local population whose health is not good	Percentage of the local population aged 16-74 who are economically inactive, permanently sick/disabled
North Warwickshire	18%	9%	8.5%
Warwickshire	16.8%	8.1%	4.2%
England and Wales	18.2%	9.2%	5.5%

### 7.2.3 Socio-economic Issues

The mean household income of residents in North Warwickshire Borough is £25,413 per annum. This is below the County average (£26,209) and is the second lowest District/Borough within Warwickshire. The Borough as a whole performs well in terms of the Index of Multiple Deprivation; however, there are areas in two wards that fall within the 30% worst deprived wards in England (2004).

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 shows North Warwickshire Borough has two Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the top 30% most deprived nationally. The highest ranking SOA is Atherstone Central, ranked 4,982 nationally (out of 32,482 nationally) and 11th within Warwickshire (out of 333).

North Warwickshire also features as being deprived in other ranks of the IMD. The District has 13 SOAs in the top 30% most deprived nationally in terms of barriers to housing and services, and has 14 SOAs in the top 30% most deprived in terms of education, skills and training.

Car ownership levels within the District remain relatively high with just under 18% of households not having access to a private car. This compares with 19% in Warwickshire as a whole.

The unemployment rate within North Warwickshire Borough (2009 levels, as measured by the claimant count) remains relatively low at 4% even when compared to the County average (3.8%) and the West Midlands average (5.5%). This current rate is historically relatively high and can be attributed to the economic downturn which has affected the whole of the UK over the last few years.

North Warwickshire Borough has the third highest Job-Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate in the County behind Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and Rugby Borough. Although North Warwickshire's claimant rate has increased sharply in recent months due to the economic downturn, it still remains well below the Regional rate and just above the National rate. However, there is considerable variation within the Borough. Recent claimant rates (based on figures from August 2009) are highest in Atherstone Central ward at around 6.7% and lowest in the Fillongley ward at

2.6%. The current unemployment rate in North Warwickshire Borough is 4%, which compares similarly to a countywide level of 3.8% and less than a regional figure of 5.5%. Over two-thirds of the population of the Borough aged between 16 and 65 are economically active.

#### 7.2.4 The Local Environment

Despite its former status as a mining area, this area of the County has a varied and undulating landscape. Specific facilities that complement this landscape include Kingsbury Water Park, Hartshill Hayes Country Park, Shustoke Reservoir, Pooley Country Park and Heritage Centre and the Coventry Canal. The Borough is also home to the Belfry Golf Course.

### Travel Patterns

#### 7.2.5 Modal Split

The modal split in Northern Warwickshire as illustrated by the journey to work is set out in Table 2.6. There is a heavy reliance on the private car, and, to a lesser extent, walking. Use of public transport is relatively low, but has improved over the lifetime of the first two LTPs.

Table 2.6 Modes used for the journey to work

North Warwickshire Borough – Journey to Work Modal Split (Source: 2001 Census)				
	Car	Public Transport	Bicycle	Walk
North Warwickshire Borough	75.3%	4.5%	1.3%	7.3%
Warwickshire	71.2%	4.7%	2.9%	9.7%

Table 2.7 shows a summary of school travel patterns in the Borough. The modal split for school journeys is similar to the modal split in Warwickshire as a whole, but with slightly less reliance on the car and more walking and public transport use.

Table 2.7 Modes used for the journey to school

North Warwickshire Borough – Journey to School Modal Split (Source: WCC)				
	Car	Public Transport	Bicycle	Walk
North Warwickshire Borough	35%	17%	1%	47%
Warwickshire	37%	15%	4%	43%

#### 7.2.6 Transport Problems and Opportunities

A review of problems and opportunities for the area is set out below. The evidence considers the wider economic, environmental and social context that transport must operate within and the role of transport in addressing these wider issues. The evidence is considered in turn under each of the national transport goals.

#### 7.2.7 Goal 1: Supporting economic growth

#### 7.2.8 Tackling Congestion

Although congestion occurs on the motorway and trunk road network in the area, congestion is not deemed to be an issue on the County road network when compared to other parts of Warwickshire (especially in the main towns and surrounding urban areas).

## 5.2.9 Access to Employment

The major employment sites within Northern Warwickshire are generally located in the three main towns of Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill, with retail and office based work prevailing at a number of industrial sites including Hams Hall, Birch Coppice, Kingsbury Link, Station Road and Roman Way, Coleshill, Holly Lane and Carylton Road in Atherstone and Arley Industrial Estate. There are large single employer sites at Kingsbury Oil Terminal, Daw Mill Colliery and TNT in Atherstone, Birch Coppice and Kingsbury Link. Current statistics suggest that a large number of people work outside the area, and the majority rely on cars for these journeys. 75% of workers in the Borough travel to work by car or van, either as a driver or passenger. This is the highest percentage for the County. Nationally it also ranks highly, being 6<sup>th</sup> out of the 376 English and Welsh authorities.

The Borough also has the largest proportion of its workforce commuting out of the County (in 2001 the figure was almost 50%). As might therefore be expected, the Borough has the lowest percentage of people going to work on foot and by bicycle. Whilst 37% of those commuting out of the Borough travel to Birmingham or Coventry, only 3% travel by train. This may be a reflection of the fact that the only stations with direct trains to Birmingham are Coleshill Parkway and Water Orton. There are no stations within the area that have a direct service to Coventry (the nearest is Nuneaton).

To help maintain and increase employment levels, there is a need to ensure good transport links to existing and potential employment sites to maximise employment opportunities for local residents. The possibility of improving road connections to new employment development will be explored. The enhancement of transport connections (particularly rail) to link the Borough with employment opportunities elsewhere in the County and the Sub-Region will be pursued.

The area has a comprehensive network of motorway, trunk and county roads that facilitate the use of the car for the journey to work and leisure. Notwithstanding, an opportunity exists to grow the market for public transport especially to key destinations outside the area by the provision of better access to the rail network. Locally, buses have a key role to play in linking the main towns of Atherstone, Coleshill, Polesworth with Tamworth and Nuneaton. These also provide links to the main employment sites that are currently predominantly accessed by car.

Although congestion in the area is generally limited, the heavy through traffic flows on the motorway and trunk road network have a major impact on the environment. More effective use of the major roads is seen as key to reducing this impact, particularly for heavy vehicles that also use local roads to access the business and employment centres in the area. Cycling and walking are often seen as less safe than other modes of travel, especially for young people travelling to school. An opportunity exists to grow the market for travel using these modes by pursuing Safer Routes to School schemes and where appropriate the use of measures such as better lighting of transport facilities. At present the various modes of transport are not joined together in a way that allows travellers to make use of alternatives to the private car. Better interchange facilities at bus and rail stations (e.g. Coleshill Parkway) give the opportunity to change travel habits by allowing complex journeys to be made that are currently only possible by car.

### 7.2.10 Access to Education and Services

Secondary schools at Kingsbury, Polesworth, Atherstone and Coleshill are supported by a number of local primary schools. In parts of the area pupils may be transported to out-of-Borough schools if these are nearer facilities or particular educational requirements. Free school transport is provided for those pupils who live beyond the statutory maximum walking distance but within the county.

Further Education opportunities are available in Nuneaton, both at King Edward College and North Warwickshire & Hinckley College. Beyond the County boundary, Staffordshire County Council offer coach travel to Warwickshire residents in order to access Tamworth College.

The majority of villages have still retained a post office or general store. Major supermarkets are present in the towns of Atherstone and Coleshill, along with a selection of other facilities including banks and building societies.

### 7.2.11 Access to Town Centres

It is vital that ease of access to the main town centres and key transport links by all modes is provided to maintain long-term economic viability and vitality. Factors such as the nature, location and quantity of parking provision in the town centres, as well as barriers to pedestrian and cycle movement and limited public transport provision can all adversely affect ease of access. Maintaining the attractiveness of the area for new investment is essential to both retain and attract new businesses.

Opportunities to improve access have been developed over the course of the first two LTPs, for example the opening of Coleshill Parkway has provided a new accessible strategic rail link to/from the Borough. Improved rail services to London from Atherstone have also been introduced during LTP2. Improved cycle parking provision at both Coleshill Parkway and Atherstone rail stations has meant residents are less reliant on the car to access their local station.

### 7.2.12 Future Housing and Employment Growth

Despite having the highest percentage of affordable housing completions in 2007/8, availability of such housing is still a key issue for the Borough.

In order to meet the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy, land for a around 3,000 houses will have to be identified before 2026. The Housing Market Assessment states that approximately 290 units of affordable housing should be provided per annum. The Borough has the highest average household size and the highest percentage of properties with five or more people living in them. Nearly two thirds of households however have only one or two people living in them.

### 7.2.13 Goal 2: Tackling Climate Change

As shown in Figure 1.0 in the section relating to the background and policy context, North Warwickshire Borough has the highest transport related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This reflects the high transport usage which occurs as a result of the through-traffic on the strategic road network including the M6, M42 and A5. There is a need to move towards a low carbon transport system to help meet our carbon budget obligations. As such, opportunities will be sought to reduce transport related carbon emissions in the area.

The LTP process provides the opportunity to reduce transport related carbon emissions by encouraging residents to use their private cars less and increase their use of sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling, public transport and more sustainable car based travel (e.g. car clubs and car sharing). The provision of hard and soft transport measures, for example, school and workplace travel plans, provision of new cycle lanes, improved signing for pedestrians and improved public transport facilities can all contribute to a reduction in overall car use.

The land use planning process advocates development that reduces the need to travel. This means planning new developments that provide residential and employment opportunities in close proximity and taking wider accessibility issues into account when selecting sites to go forward for development.

### 7.2.14 Goal 3: Contributing to better safety, security and health

In 2009, there were 390 road casualties in North Warwickshire Borough, with:

- 50 killed or seriously injured; and

- 340 slightly injured.

The number of people killed or seriously injured on Warwickshire's roads has reduced significantly in recent years, and this has been reflected locally within North Warwickshire Borough. Despite this, the figures for the County as a whole demonstrate a higher level of casualties in rural rather than urban areas. The higher figures in this part of the County can therefore be largely explained by the predominantly rural characteristics of the Borough.

Doctor's surgeries are located in many villages as well as the major settlements. However, for hospital care a trip out of the area to Mile Oak, Tamworth (Sir Robert Peel), Coventry (Walsgrave), Nuneaton (George Eliot), Sutton Coldfield (Good Hope), Rugby (St Cross) or Central Birmingham is needed.

Total recorded crime within North Warwickshire Borough between April 2008 and March 2009 totalled 3,950 incidents, which equates to a rate of 63 for every 1,000 head of population (Source: Warwickshire Police). North Warwickshire Borough has the second lowest crime rate behind Stratford District and has seen a decreasing trend for the last four years. The Borough has the second highest percentage of perceptions of anti-social behaviour (equal to the average for the County), despite recorded levels of incidents being generally low. Whilst the Borough is close to the county average for percentages of residents believing people from different backgrounds get on well together and those who are satisfied with the local area, a higher than average percentage say they feel they belong to their neighbourhood.

Perceptions of how the police and council deal with anti-social behaviour and crime are again generally average but, as the overall crime rate is relatively low, this would imply that there may be more of an issue with communicating the figures and results than with crime itself. North Warwickshire does not face the same problems as other areas of the County with town centre crime and anti-social behaviour. Much of the Borough is rural and suffers from cross border criminality such as theft from vehicle offences. Generally levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are low but there are local pockets of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Atherstone, Arley, Whitacre and Polesworth currently report the highest levels.

### 7.2.15 Obesity

Obesity is a key health issue that affects the area. It is estimated that nearly 29% of the adult population of the Borough are obese; this is well above the County average of 26% and is therefore regarded as high. The proportion of children who are classified as overweight or obese in reception and year 6 is outlined in Table 2.8 below.

Table 2.8 Overweight and Obesity rates in Reception and Year Six Pupils

	North Warwickshire	Warwickshire
Reception - Overweight	13.9%	12.9%
Reception - Obese	9.9%	8.0%
Year 6 - Overweight	12.8%	13.5%
Year 6 - Obese	20.1%	18.1%

Increasing levels of physical activity can have a significant positive effect on weight control. Modal shift away from reliance on the car may have a positive impact on obesity levels and help reduce the incidence of obesity related illnesses. The provision of hard and softer measures such as school and work place travel plans may help encourage more people to walk and cycle, and thus contribute to a reduction in the incidence of obesity.

A detailed description of air quality issues within this part of Warwickshire can be found in paragraph 7.2.20.

### 7.2.16 Goal 4: Promoting Equality of Opportunity

Ensuring that good transport links are available to enable people to easily reach a wide range of key services and facilities is vital. Despite relatively high levels of car ownership, for the growing proportion of elderly people and residents living in the more rural part of the Borough, accessing key services may still prove difficult.

Improved access will be achieved through a combination of measures, including promoting public transport, improving the public/community transport offer where appropriate, improving facilities for walking and cycling, and village traffic schemes designed to improve the local environment.

Access to the national rail network is relatively limited, with Atherstone and Coleshill being the two main stations where a range of destinations are possible. Further access to the national network is available at Tamworth, Wilnecote, Coventry and Nuneaton.

A lack of easily accessible public transport in the more rural parts of the Borough continues to be identified as a key issue. Opportunities to improve travel choice for rural communities will be explored, including developing more flexible services where appropriate. In addition, better information about what already travel choices exist will also be provided. Through partnership working with other authorities and community groups, further opportunities will be explored over the LTP period.

### 7.2.17 Goal 5: Improving Quality of Life

The dominance of traffic along main roads that support a mix of uses can conflict with where people want to shop, socialise, live and work. Such conflict tends to occur within the Borough primarily within the three main town centres of, Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill. An additional consideration in these locations is the high number of historic and older buildings which, given their construction material, can leave them more susceptible to erosion and staining.

Excess traffic speed or high traffic volumes can also reduce the attractiveness of a place and make walking and cycling less attractive. Appropriate improvements will be made on a priority basis and where resources allow.

## The Strategy

### 7.2.18 Key Objectives

The key objectives of this strategy for transport within Northern Warwickshire are to:

- Support the long term stability and growth of the local economy;
- Support the planned housing and employment growth within the Borough;
- Support access to services and facilities, particularly for those without access to a car; and
- Reduce the environmental impact of traffic within the Borough and improve local air quality.

The proposals set out below describe how the County Council and its partners aim to deliver these objectives.

## Key proposals

### 7.2.19 Transport improvements to deliver growth

North Warwickshire has seen moderate housing growth over the last 10-15 years. During the same timescale, the area has seen major employment growth at sites such as Hams Hall, Birch Coppice

and, to a lesser extent, Atherstone. The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has identified a need for around 3,000 new dwellings to come forward in the Borough over the period to 2026. Coupled to this is the requirement for a further expansion of the employment sites at Hams Hall and Birch Coppice.

In 2009, the Borough Council consulted on a number of issues and options for how this growth could come forward, including development to meet Tamworth's needs. It is expected that a Draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy will be published in Summer 2010, with further consultation prior to the formal submission of the plan in Autumn 2010. Subject to an Examination in Public being held in late 2010/early 2011, the Borough Council is aiming to adopt the Core Strategy in Spring 2011.

Key to unlocking this growth is the provision of a balanced range of improvements which serve to both open up the sites and integrate them into the wider transport network. In the development of its LDF Core Strategy to date, the Borough Council has sought advice from the County Council and the Highways Agency regarding the transport implications of the various options for growth, as well as the access implications of a number of specific sites. The County Council will continue to input to this process (including the preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan) as necessary over the next two years.

### 7.2.20 Air Quality

A declared Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) at Coleshill in North Warwickshire has been in place since March 2001, and relates to one residential property adjacent to Junction 4 of the M6 where it intersects with the A446 and the M42. The AQMA is bounded by Stonebridge Road, Coleshill Heath Road, the M42, the M6 and M6 Toll, and relates directly to traffic on these motorways. The AQMA was originally declared for a marginal exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> objective.

The A446 has recently been detrunked, with responsibility passing to the County Council from the Highways Agency. However, given the predominant cause of the NO<sub>2</sub> exceedance being traffic levels on the M6 and M42, the Highways Agency has a key role to play in addressing the AQMA in partnership with the County Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Following the declaration of the AQMA near Coleshill, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was prepared by the Borough Council in conjunction with the Highways Agency. This was finalised in March 2003, and is reproduced in full in Appendix C. Given that the AQMA is principally related to the volume of traffic on the surrounding motorway network, any measures to have a positive impact on air quality are largely outside the influence of either the Borough or County Council. The focus has therefore been on establishing a monitoring regime to accurately measure air quality, in order to ascertain a timescale for the possible revocation of the AQMA. It is hoped that the transfer of traffic to the M6 Toll, along with the recent introduction of Active Traffic Management on the M42 will have a positive impact on traffic levels in the vicinity of the AQMA. Over the last few years the levels of NO<sub>2</sub> monitored have decreased at the site. If this trend continues it is possible that levels could fall below the annual mean objective level for NO<sub>2</sub>. If this occurs, the AQMA could potentially be revoked.

It is also worth noting that the affected farmhouse within the AQMA is currently unoccupied and has been so for the past year. Attempts have been made to contact the estate manager responsible for the property to establish its intended future use, but this has been to no avail. If the property remains unoccupied it could potentially fall into a state of disrepair and this could also possibly result in the AQMA being revoked.

## 7.2.21 Village Traffic Plan Initiative

The aim of the Village Traffic Plans initiative is to address small scale traffic-related and safety concerns in North Warwickshire communities through a co-ordinated, multi-agency review. As such, they provide a series of individual, integrated transport solutions.

Parish Councils now have a point of contact within the County Council to raise traffic and safety enquiries, through contact with a Village Traffic Plans Officer, dealing directly with their area. The improved level of communication has produced positive outcomes on various issues, and has helped Members in their community leadership role.

A programme of works to improve street lighting, footway maintenance and drainage schemes has been instigated as part of the ongoing Village Traffic Plan treatment for North Warwickshire towns and villages. A summary of these is provided below:

### 7.2.22 Fillongley

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village.
- Improvements to the pedestrian environment on the Nuneaton Road and Coventry Road, by the implementation of a programme of dropped kerbs and footway resurfacing.
- Gateway features were installed on the main approaches to the village .

### 7.2.23 Dordon

- Implementation of a traffic calming scheme to address speeding traffic through the village.

### 7.2.24 Shuttington

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village.
- Gateway features were installed on the main approaches to the village .
- Improvements to the pedestrian environment on the Main Road, by the installation of a footway linking the Village Hall to the village.

### 7.2.25 Grendon

- Implementation of a traffic calming scheme to address speeding traffic through the village.

### 7.2.26 Old Arley and New Arley

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village, including alteration to existing speed limits
- Gateway features were installed on the main approaches to the village .
- Improvement of signing to the Industrial Park, thus reducing HGV traffic through the village centre

### 7.2.27 Middleton

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village, including alteration to existing speed limits
- Gateway features were installed on the main approaches to the village

### 7.2.28 Lea Marston

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village, including alteration to existing speed limits

- Gateway features were installed on the main approaches to the village, together with a build-out on Hams Lane.

#### 7.2.29 Water Orton

- Improvements to the pedestrian environment on Coleshill Road and Vicarage Lane by the installation of dropped kerbs.
- Initiation of a Park & Stride scheme, in conjunction with Water Orton School and local businesses.
- Provision of a programme of road safety education for pupils from the Road Safety Education Officer.

#### 7.2.30 Warton

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic outside Warton Nethersole school.
- Provision of a programme of road safety education for all pupils from the Road Safety Education Officer.

#### 7.2.31 School End, Maxstoke

- Implementation of measures to address speeding traffic through the village, by a coordinated Village Traffic Plan and Village Speed Limit Review.

### 7.2.32 Public Transport Improvements

#### 7.2.33 Bus

The County Council will continue to support the existing minimum level of bus service provision and the development of a greater degree of flexible, demand responsive bus and taxi services, in order to sustain and increase level of access to key facilities and thus reduce social exclusion.

Along with improvements to bus services which will come forward as part of new development, the main proposal in this area of the County is for a further inter-urban Quality Bus Corridor between Nuneaton, Atherstone and Tamworth. It is envisaged that this scheme, which will provide enhanced bus stop infrastructure along the route, will be implemented in partnership with Staffordshire County Council.

#### 7.2.34 Rail

Detailed work has now been completed on behalf of Centro, Birmingham City Council, Warwickshire and Staffordshire County Councils into the feasibility and business case for reinstating local passenger services between Birmingham, Water Orton and Tamworth. The best performing scheme would provide a half-hourly service from Birmingham Moor Street calling at the existing stations at Water Orton, Coleshill Parkway, Wilnecote and Tamworth and at new stations at Fort Parkway, Castle Bromwich and Kingsbury. The proposal would require the construction of new chord lines at Camp Hill to provide access into Birmingham Moor Street station.

Overall, the study which has been undertaken shows that, even taking account of the considerable capital cost of constructing the Camp Hill Chords, there appears to be a strong business case for progressing the Tamworth Line proposals. Centro are proposing to start further development work on the Camp Hill Chords during 2009/10.

Gaining funding support for this major project in these difficult financial times is clearly going to be challenging. The County Council will continue to pursue a scheme to deliver a new station at Kingsbury in the medium term.

### 7.2.35 Community Transport

Apart from the general improvements set out within the Community Transport Strategy, the following specific interventions are proposed within Northern Warwickshire:

- Enhance facilities for community transport passengers at Atherstone Railway Station and Atherstone Bus Station, consistent with the aims set out in the Public Transport Interchange Strategy;
- Incorporate community transport service information at existing and new Bus Information Points (see below); and
- Seek opportunities for developing service level agreements with community transport operators such as Merlin Venture Limited.

### 7.2.36 Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

Enhanced facilities for taxis and private hire vehicles will be provided at key interchanges consistent with the aims set out in the Public Transport Interchange Strategy.

The County Council will develop Taxibus services to meet specific demand in the County where conventional public transport is neither operationally or economically appropriate.

### 7.2.37 Public Transport Interchange

A regular rail service was restored to Atherstone in December 2009 following completion of the West Coast Main Line upgrade. The town is now served by a broadly hourly semi-fast service between Crewe and London Euston. Since introduction of the new service, the station has experienced strong passenger growth and it is anticipated that demand will continue to grow in the future. The station currently has less than 10 car parking spaces. As such, the County Council will continue to work with Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies to seek to increase car parking provision, and to improve the non-car accessibility of the station.

### 7.2.38 Public Transport Information

Bus Information Points have been delivered to date at a number of locations within the area, including Atherstone Bus Station, Polesworth and Coleshill Parkway.

Further new Bus Information Points will also be provided at the following locations:

- Chapel End; and
- Water Orton Railway Station.

### 7.2.39 Improvements for Walking and Cycling

Walking and cycling are the most effective means of making local journeys in a sustainable way. To maximise the use of the cycling facilities installed at Coleshill Parkway (which include a cycle lane over the bridge), the County Council will keep under review the need for further improvements to the local cycle network to provide employees at Hams Hall with better links to/from the interchange. Opportunities to secure funding towards these improvements from further development in the area will be pursued where possible.

### 7.2.40 Safer Routes to School

In addition to the pedestrian and cycle improvements identified above, the County Council will continue to invest in Safer Routes to School schemes within Northern Warwickshire on a priority basis as resources permit.

### 7.2.41 Powered Two Wheelers

Improvements for powered two wheelers will be made in line with the proposals contained in the County Council's Powered Two Wheeler Strategy. Consideration will be given to the provision of dedicated powered two wheeler parking within Coleshill, subject to identifying a suitable location.

### 7.2.42 Parking

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) is generally recognised to be the most effective way of ensuring that parking regulations are adhered to. CPE has yet to be introduced within the North Warwickshire, although consideration is being given to how it could be introduced in the future. Currently there are no parking charges levied in the 15 off-street car parks operated by the Borough Council. Disabled parking spaces are available in most of these facilities.

### 7.2.43 Freight

The County Council has established a freight quality partnership with hauliers, and has identified routes that should be used for freight movements passing through the area. The Advisory Lorry Route map provides advice for drivers on the best available routes for heavy goods vehicles in Warwickshire, and has been widely distributed within the freight industry. It is also available on the County Council's website.

The Hams Hall International Freight Terminal continues to grow and as such acts as a railhead for containerised freight from a wide area. The opening of the Birch Coppice Industrial Area, although rail served, has also added pressure on the road network from freight movements. These pressures are likely to increase as both facilities expand over the next 15 years.

The County Council will consider the need for the introduction of a management strategy for Heavy Commercial Vehicle parking in the Hams Hall area. This may include the provision of dedicated parking areas and traffic management measures to prevent heavy vehicles accessing and parking in residential areas.

It has been agreed that the County Council will undertake a review of its Environmental Weight Limit policy, and how it could be used to manage the impact of inappropriate road usage by HGVs within Warwickshire. As part of this process, it is proposed to approach all of the Locality Panels within the County to gather information on local HGV issues to inform the review. This work will commence as resources become available.

### 7.2.44 Highway Improvements and Traffic Management Measures

#### 7.2.45 County Roads

##### 7.2.46 Green Man Crossroads, Coleshill

As part of on-going work to reduce pressure on the heavily congested Green Man crossroads in Coleshill town centre, the County Council is investigating a number of possible signage options to deter through traffic and inappropriate HGV movements.

#### 7.2.47 Station Road, Coleshill

The County Council will keep under review the need for an improvement to Station Road North, as the main access to Coleshill Parkway from the town centre.

#### 7.2.48 A51 Dosthill Bypass

The County Council, in conjunction with North Warwickshire Borough Council, Tamworth Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council, will keep under review the need for, and benefits of, a bypass of Dosthill on the A51.

#### 7.2.49 Motorways and Trunk Roads

##### 7.2.50 A Strategy for the A5

The A5 is an important strategic link which runs along the northern edge of the County boundary with Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, and provides access to a number of major industrial areas such as Birch Coppice. Within Northern Warwickshire, the road also provides an important access to the M42/A42, the M69/M1 and the M6 Toll.

In the absence of a long term strategy for the A5, it has been agreed to prepare a suitable document in conjunction with the Highways Agency and other local stakeholders. This will include a targeted set of improvements for the whole of the A5 corridor within Warwickshire.

##### 7.2.51 A5/A444 Royal Red Gate junction

An improvement has been proposed by the Highways Agency to replace the existing staggered A5/A444 junction (near the Royal Red Gate public house) with an off-line roundabout. This will address a combination of safety and congestion issues which occur throughout the day. The scheme, which has been prioritised in the West Midlands Regional Funding Allocation, is currently subject to a review by the Highways Agency to consider both the design of the scheme and whether it still represents value for money. It is envisaged that, subject to the outcome of this review, advice on the preferred route for the scheme will be provided to Ministers later in 2010.

The purpose of the preferred route announcement is to allow the line of the preferred route to be protected from development. This does not however guarantee that the scheme will proceed. Once the preferred route has been announced, the next stage in the development of the scheme would be the preparation of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008. The DCO application would then be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) by the end of March 2011. The application will be examined by a commissioner or panel of commissioners and there will be an opportunity for further consultation on the proposals.

Subject to the confirmation of funding at each stage and progression through the DCO process, it might be possible for implementation of the scheme in 2012/13 for completion in 2014.



## **Agenda Item No 7**

### **Planning and Development Board**

**16 August 2010**

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

**Old Bank House  
Garden Wall and Trees**

#### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report addresses the proposed felling of a number of trees in Old Bank House Garden, Atherstone; both to protect the unstable wall that surrounds the Garden and also to open up the area to provide a more attractive amenity space for the local community.

#### **Recommendation to the Board**

- a That the Board notes and comments upon the works proposed to be undertaken within Old Bank House Garden, as detailed in the attached report and appended schedules, prior to the further consideration of this matter by the Resources Board; and**
- b That the Board advises officers about the manner in which it wishes to be informed of any future tree-related works proposed to be undertaken by the Borough Council within Conservation Areas.**

#### **2 Consultation**

##### **2.1 Portfolio Holder, Shadow Portfolio Holder and Ward Members**

- 2.1.1 The Portfolio and Shadow Portfolio Holders for Countryside and Heritage, Health, Well-being and Leisure, Environment, Community Life and Resources, together with relevant Ward Members, have had the opportunity to comment on the content of this report.

#### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The felling of trees in a Conservation Area requires the submission of an application to the Local Planning Authority in order to determine the need or otherwise for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Local Authority work to its own trees is exempt from this procedure. In respect of works proposed in Old Bank House Garden, however, it is considered important that the Board is

aware of the proposals because of their visibility and significance to the local community.

- 3.2 Old Bank House, a Georgian Grade 2 Listed Building within the local Conservation Area, has a high wall bounding its gardens. The wall was probably originally constructed to protect delicate plants, espaliered fruits and the like.
- 3.3 Over recent years deterioration in the condition of the wall has been noted and the prolonged and particularly cold weather experienced last winter has resulted in considerable frost damage.
- 3.4 As a consequence, external engineers were commissioned to undertake a visual inspection of the wall. They concluded that whilst the wall is broadly structurally stable and safe there are numerous defects, some of which require immediate attention to prevent costly damage and slight risk to persons from falling debris.
- 3.5 In brief, there are numerous areas of local disruption and cracking to the wall resulting from direct mechanical action of the trunk and root development of woody plants and shrubs that have either “self-set” or been planted too close to the wall. In the case of a buddleia it is actually rooted at high level in the wall itself.
- 3.6 This type of damage should not be confused with subsidence brought about by indirect tree root activity and the extraction of moisture from clay soil, which is unrelated to the damage evident in Old Bank House Garden.
- 3.7 There are several areas within the Garden where overhanging branches are resting on the wall copings. In high winds this could cause the copings and between four and eight courses of masonry below them to become dislodged, with the consequential risk of falling debris.
- 3.8 There is a significant length of wall to the north that is completely clad in ivy. Where the ivy foliage is as dense and developed as that prevalent within the Garden, it is highly likely that the roots bonding it to the wall will have disrupted the supporting masonry. Great care must be taken in cutting away the foliage to allow the extent of potential root damage to the wall elevations to be assessed. Under these circumstances it is recommended that the ivy should be severed at the base with hand tools and be allowed to die prior to its removal.
- 3.9 The copings throughout the garden are relatively loose and could be moved with simple manual pressure, as could the top few courses of masonry. This is a natural consequence of normal weathering in largely unprotected masonry incorporating lime mortar.

#### **4 Trees**

- 4.1 Following a recent assessment of the trees by the Borough Council’s Horticultural Officer (Trees) and a subsequent meeting with the structural engineer, it has been identified that there is evident conflict in specific areas of

the garden between the trees and the wall. This conflict can clearly be seen on the western side of the wall that bisects the garden and the car park.

4.2 It has been identified that in order to resolve the current degradation of the wall a number of trees should be removed, both to afford access to the wall and also to remove the risk of further foreseeable damage occurring. As documented within the Tree Schedule submitted with the Section 211 Notice to the Development Control section (and as attached at Appendix A), there are no significant trees to be removed or trees which could be further protected by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.3 It is proposed that a total of 14 trees and one large shrub should be felled. These trees consist of three figs, three goat willow, three cherries, one Japanese red cedar, one southern evergreen magnolia, one tulip, one pyrocantha and a viburnum. All of these trees are considered to have poor structural form; or are causing damage to the wall; or there is a foreseeable risk of future damage; or should be removed as part of a wider improvement project and good tree management. There are some remedial tree works proposed to a number of the larger mature trees, however, which consist only of the removal of dead canopy, the removal of ivy and/or the lifting of lower canopies. There is no proposed felling of any of the large significant trees within the Garden.

4.4 All of the trees, with the exception of the three goat willows, are exotic specimens with no relation to a traditional walled garden.

4.5 Although the removal of trees and shrubs is likely to have an impact on the aesthetics of the area in the short-term, this will be improved with the planting of a number of new trees and shrubs in appropriate locations. The aim will be to create specific areas of colour and contrast. The proposal is to provide a traditional walled garden setting, which will then be more frequently used and enjoyed by the public. At the current time, the path on the western side of the Garden is relatively unused due to the canopies of the trees and dense undergrowth, which together provide a dark and intimidating area.

## 5 Conclusion and Proposed Works

5.1 Although the wall in Old Bank House Garden is generally stable it has now reached the point where extensive maintenance is required. In such cases, the rate of deterioration increases with time and, if left, the wall will require significant re-building within the next five years.

5.2 It is, therefore, proposed that the following works be carried out in order of priority:

- Undertake rigorous tree surgery to all branches of trees in contact with wall elevations and copings, as per the appended Tree Schedule and Plan
- Remove the ivy to allow root damage to wall elevations to be determined

- Remove trees where the trunk is in contact with any part of the wall, together with appropriate treatment of the stumps
- Remove and re-bed loose and weathered masonry
- All cement-based pointing to be chopped out and replaced with lime mortar
- All significant masonry cracks to be stitched with bed joint reinforcement or resin bonded prior to pointing

5.3 Until the foliage, branches, saplings, etc. have been stripped back it is impossible to determine the extent of the work required to the masonry, although it is estimated that the total cost of the proposed works will be in the region of £20,000.

5.4 There is significant evidence that the trees are having a direct impact on the condition of the wall, which will cause it to further decline in future years. The planned removal and replacement of predominantly exotic trees, therefore, is considered to be justifiable, particularly when account is also taken of the trees remaining structural life, which is limited due to their current form.

5.5 There are no proposals to fell any of the larger mature trees, such as the oaks, beech, lime or robinia, for to do so would have a dramatic and negative impact on the character of the area.

5.6 Any works would be phased over a number of years, with the most urgent areas being addressed first. It is proposed that the works should commence in September 2010, before the onset of winter.

## **6 Report Implications**

### **6.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications**

6.1.1 Specific allocation exists for the works identified in this report and the appended schedules within the existing Building Maintenance and Parks and Playing Fields revenue budgets. There is also the possibility that, if approved by the Resources Board in September, an under spend on the Memorial Hall Car Park Wall capital budget can be vired to assist in funding these works.

### **6.2 Safer Communities Implications**

6.2.1 Well managed trees and physical structures are less likely to present a hazard to persons or property.

### **6.3 Legal and Human Rights Implications**

6.3.1 The Authority has a Duty of Care in respect of the management and maintenance of its trees and property. The act of a tree or building or part thereof causing injury to a person or persons is likely to give rise to litigation,

either as a claim in negligence or under the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984.

#### **6.4 Environment and Sustainability Implications**

6.4.1 Well-managed and maintained trees and property make a positive contribution to the environment and to creating sustainable communities within which a good quality of life is enjoyed by local residents.

#### **6.5 Risk Management Implications**

6.5.1 The report identifies the risks associated with a failure to undertake the works proposed for the wall and trees within Old bank House Garden. The identified works have the additional advantage of improving the medium and long-term aesthetic value of the Garden and reducing future maintenance costs associated with the wall.

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

6.6.1 Implementation of the proposed works will directly impact upon the corporate priorities to:

- Enhance community involvement and access to services
- Protect and improve our environment
- Defend and improve our countryside and rural heritage
- Make best use of our resources

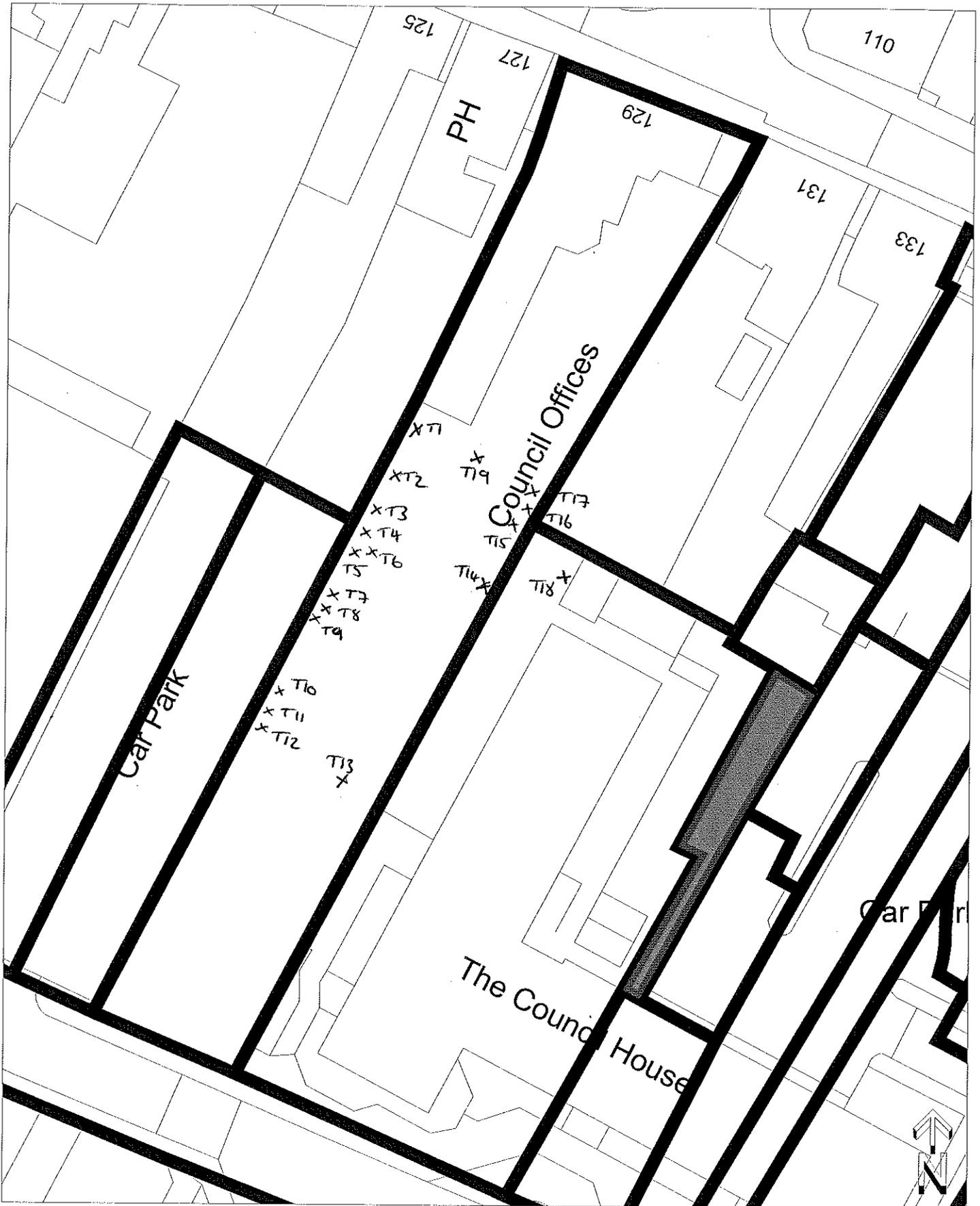
The Contact Officers for this report are Chris Jones (719265) and Peter Wharton (719275).

#### **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			

# The Council House, South Street, Atherstone



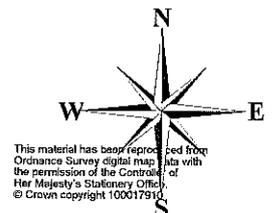
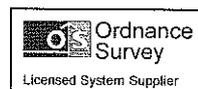
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North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

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### Tree Schedule

**Authority Name:** NWBC  
**Site:** The Council House Garden, Atherton  
**Tags:** Various  
**Ref:**

**Inspector:** P. Wharton  
**Date Inspected:** 14/07/2010  
**Weather Conditions:** Overcast with light rain.

Tree No.	Tag No.	Species	Estimated Height (m)	Average Canopy Radius (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments and Additional Notes	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Priority	Next Inspection	Hours	Cost (£)
T1	No tag	Fig ( <i>Ficus carica</i> )	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mat	Good	Poor	Specimen exhibits a leaning and dominant tendency to the north east. The base is causing a number of structural issues with the wall which require resolving.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T2	No tag	Goat willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Fair	Specimen exhibits a leaning and dominant tendency to the north east. The base is causing a number of structural issues with the wall which require resolving.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T3	No tag	Goat willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Fair	Specimen exhibits a leaning and dominant tendency to the north east. The base is causing a number of structural issues with the wall which require resolving.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T4	4318	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mid	Fair	Fair	Small slender specimen located adjacently to historic wall.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
T5	No tag	Southern evergreen magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> )	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mid	Fair	Fair	Small slender specimen located adjacently to historic wall.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
T6	No tag	Japanese red cedar ( <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> )	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mid	Fair	Poor	Specimen exhibits a leaning tendency to the east from 0m towards the footpath. Due to leaning tendency tree will have a limited structural life.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
T7	No tag	Fig ( <i>Ficus carica</i> )	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Poor	Specimen exhibits a leaning and dominant tendency to the north east. The base is causing a number of structural issues with the wall which require resolving.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T8	No tag	Fig ( <i>Ficus carica</i> )	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Poor	Specimen exhibits a leaning and dominant tendency to the south. The base is causing a number of structural issues with the wall which require resolving.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T9	No tag	Firethorn ( <i>Pyracantha</i> )	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Fair	Small specimen which provides under story cover.	Fell and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T10	No tag	Tulip ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	6 - 10	1 - 5	Yng	Fair	Fair	Young specimen which exhibits a number of tight included forking unions which are likely in future years to limited its structural life. The tree has also been suppressed on the southern side during its establishment.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
T11	4319	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mid	Fair	Fair	Small specimen located beneath large mature oak tree.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
T12	4320	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mid	Fair	Fair	Small specimen located beneath large mature oak tree.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		

Tree No.	Tag No.	Species	Estimated Height (m)	Avg. Canopy Radius (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments and Additional Notes	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Priority	Next Inspection	Hours	Cost (£)
T13	611	Sessile oak ( <i>Quercus petraea</i> )	16 - 20	6 - 10	Mat	Good	Good	Large mature specimen of high amenity value and is currently in good overall condition. The canopy appears dense and well formed, however there is some large deadwood associated with the lower canopy.	Remove large diameter deadwood.	3	3		
T14	No tag	Goat willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	6 - 10	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Fair	Mature specimen which has grown directly adjacent to the historic wall and both the lower canopy and roots are having an adverse affect on the structural integrity of the wall.	Fall and remove stump due to impact it is having on the adjacent wall.	4	7		
T15	4332	False acacia ( <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> )	16 - 20	6 - 10	Mat	Fair	Fair	Specimen has a leaning tendency to the south and dominant canopy in the same direction due to the proximity of other trees. Trunk is clad in dead ivy. Large deadwood associated with the canopy.	Remove large diameter deadwood and dead ivy.	3	3		
T16	4333	False acacia ( <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> )	16 - 20	6 - 10	Mat	Fair	Fair	Specimen has a leaning tendency to the east and dominant canopy in the same direction due to the proximity of other trees. Trunk is clad in dead ivy. Large deadwood associated with the canopy.	Remove large diameter deadwood and dead ivy.	3	3		
T17	4334	Copper beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica Purpurea</i> )	16 - 20	6 - 10	Mat	Good	Fair	Large mature specimen located adjacently to footpath. Visible graft union at 0.5m above ground level. Small diameter deadwood associated with the canopy. Canopy appears dense and well formed.	No works required currently.	6	3		
T18	No tag	Common lime ( <i>Tilia x europaea</i> )	10 - 15	6 - 10	Mat	Good	Good	Middle aged specimen located adjacently to office out building. Canopy is well formed however located in direct contact with building beneath it.	Lift lower canopy to provide a 2m clearance of building beneath.	4	4		
T19	No tag	<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	1 - 5	1 - 5	Mat	Fair	Fair	Large multi-stemmed <i>Viburnum</i> located to the north of the formal gardens. Specimen is overgrown and could be better replaced with a more appropriate tree.	Fell as part of wider landscaping scheme.	4	7		
<b>Total Cost (£)</b>													

**Agenda Item No 8**

**Planning and Development Board**

**16 August 2010**

**Report of the Chief Executive and the  
Director of Resources**

**Progress Report on Achievement  
of Corporate Plan and  
Performance Indicator Targets  
April - June 2010**

**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 Planning and Development Board for April to June 2010.

**Recommendation to the Board**

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

**2 Consultation**

**2.1 Portfolio Holder, Shadow Portfolio Holder and Ward Members**

- 2.1.1 The Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillors Bowden and Butcher have been sent a copy of this report and any comments received will be reported to the Board.

**3 Background**

- 3.1 This report shows the first quarter position with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets for 2010/11. This is the first report showing the progress achieved so far during 2010/11.

**4 Progress achieved during 2010/11**

- 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 national and local performance indicators during April to June 2010/11 for the Planning and Development Board.

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

Red – target not achieved

Amber – target currently behind schedule and requires remedial action to be achieved

Green – target currently on schedule to be achieved.

## 5 Performance Indicators

- 5.1 The current national and local performance indicators have been reviewed by each division and Management Team for monitoring for the 2010/11. Members should be aware that the current set of national indicators are being reviewed by the Coalition government and maybe subject to deletion and or changes in the current year. For example the requirement to carry out a Place Survey has recently been announced as ending.

## 6 Overall Performance

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan performance report shows that 56% of the Corporate Plan targets and 67% 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	5	56%
Amber	4	44%
Red	0	0%
Total	9	100%

### Performance Indicators

Status	Year End Number	Percentage
Green	2	67%
Amber	1	33%
Red	0	0%
Total	3	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 Major applications are considered by the Police Architectural Liaison Officer who is looking to ensure that Secure by Design principles are applied for new developments.

### 8.2 Legal and Human Rights Implications

8.2.1 The national indicators have been specified by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as part of a new performance framework for local government as set out in the local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities. They are currently being reviewed by the Coalition Government.

### 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.

### 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 Equalities

8.5.1 There are indicators relating to Equality reported to other Boards.

### 8.6 Links to Council's Priorities

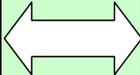
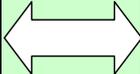
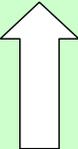
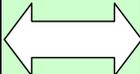
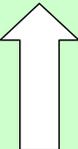
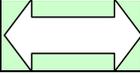
8.6.1 There are a number of targets and performance indicators included relating to protecting and improving our environment and defending and improving our countryside and rural heritage.

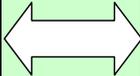
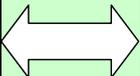
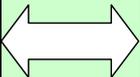
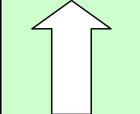
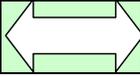
The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Beggs (719238).

### 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

Ref	Start Date	Action	Board	Lead Officer	Reporting Officer	Theme	Sub-Theme	Update	Traffic Light	Direction
24	Apr-10	Publishing the Core Strategy by October 2010 and submitting it formally to the Secretary of State	Executive Board / Planning Board	ACESC	Dorothy Barratt	Housing		Work on Core Strategy stalled due to abolition of RSS	Not applicable	
29	Apr-10	Publishing the Core Strategy by October 2010 and submitting it formally to the Secretary of State which will include policies to defend the openness and character of the countryside, policies containing strategic housing proposals and other land use implications. Policies will also be included to reflect the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Executive Board / Planning & Development Board	ACESC	Dorothy Barratt	Countryside & Heritage		Work on Core Strategy stalled due to abolition of RSS	Not applicable	
30	Apr-10	To move towards the management of development rather than its control where appropriate, looking at development proposals as an opportunity to deliver the Council's priorities and objectives as set out in the Sustainable Community Plans, the Corporate Plan, and not just the Development Plan. To report on the effectiveness of this approach by March 2011	Planning & Development Board	Head of DC	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		Development management is becoming more embedded in decision making - eg. the Section 106 for Phase 2 of Birch Coppice. This will be reported in more detail to Board in August 2011.	Amber	
32	Apr-10	Consideration of planning applications to ensure only appropriate development is allowed in the Green Belt including policies to focus development within the agreed settlement hierarchy in the Core Strategy by February 2011	Executive Board / Planning & Development Board	Head of DC/DCE	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		This is the basis of current planning determinations, notwithstanding the delays in moving the Core Strategy forward.	Green	
33	Apr-10	Working with partners at the sub regional level to gather information and then develop a financial plan for financial contributions linked to development. At the same time gathering information locally and develop a robust financial plan for inclusion in the LDF process by February 2011 including a Supplementary Planning Document on contributions for Open Space provision within the LDF process by February 2011	Executive Board / Planning & Development Board	ACESC	Dorothy Barratt	Countryside & Heritage		Work continuing to be gathered although there may be implications from abolition of RSS and work on Core Strategy that may impact on the implementation.	Green	
34	Apr-10	Implementing the revised policy and provide an annual report on the outcomes of the Enforcement Policy by March 2011	Planning & Development Board	Head of DC	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		Report to go to Board in August 2011.	Amber	

Ref	Start Date	Action	Board	Lead Officer	Reporting Officer	Theme	Sub-Theme	Update	Traffic Light	Direction
40	Apr-10	Including policies in the Core Strategy to protect the best of our existing buildings and ensure new build is in keeping with the character of the area by February 2011	Planning & Development Board	ACESC	Dorothy Barratt	Countryside & Heritage		Work on Core Strategy stalled due to abolition of RSS	Amber	
41	Apr-10	Considering planning applications so as to protect the best of our existing buildings and ensure new build is in keeping with the character of the area	Planning & Development Board	Head of DC	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		This is a ongoing planning consideration.	Green	
42	Apr-10	Design briefs for strategic sites in the Core Strategy and SPD on issues such as local distinctiveness and design to be prepared following the publication of the Core Strategy in February 2011	Executive Board / Planning & Development Board	ACESC	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		Work on Core Strategy stalled due to abolition of RSS	Amber	
43	Apr-10	To ensure design advice is given at pre-application stages in appropriate cases and to introduce a system of post development visits. Continue to use the design champion	Executive Board / Planning & Development Board	DCE	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		Design Champion involved in pre-application discussions and post development visits now taking place.	Green	
44	Apr-10	To prepare for the Civic Award event in 2012	Planning & Development Board	DCE	Jeff Brown	Countryside & Heritage		No action needed yet.	Green	





Performance Indicators  
Planning Development Board

PI Ref	Description	Division	Section	High/Low is good	2010/11 Target	2009/10 Outturn	National Best Quartile	Performance	Traffic Light	Direction	Comments	Suggested reporting interval	Board	Reported to MT
<b>Development Control</b>														
NI 157a	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for major application types	Development Control	Development Control	High	65%	64.71%	81.6%*	33.3%	Amber		This relates to 1 application out of 3.	Q	Planning and Development Board	Yes
NI 157b	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for minor application types	Development Control	Development Control	High	85%	84.52%	84%*	87.50%	Green			Q	Planning and Development Board	Yes
NI 157c	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for other application types	Development Control	Development Control	High	95%	92.48%	93.91%	94.32%	Green			Q	Planning and Development Board	Yes