

Foreword

Welcome to the Warwick District Local Plan.

Warwick District is acknowledged as a beautiful place to live in, work in and visit. With its attractive countryside, excellent location, good communications links and rich heritage, the District has long been a focus for new development. The role of planning, in supporting communities living and working in Warwick District, is to protect this heritage and yet at the same time manage and guide our future development needs.

Warwick District Council attaches great importance to ensuring that a strong planning framework is in place to guide development within our district. Our Corporate Strategy is committed to maintaining the quality of life which the District has to offer and ensuring that this quality is available to everyone. Making the district more sustainable for future generations and maximising provision of affordable housing remain high priorities.

Our planning service has a central role to play in achieving these objectives. In 1995 we adopted our first district-wide local plan which gave us a single plan to guide development across the district. Much has happened in the years since that local plan was adopted, and this local plan is the first proper opportunity to address all of these issues and to take forward our planning vision for the district.

This Local Plan has been prepared following lengthy periods of public consultation that took place in the winter of 2003/04 and the summer of 2005. These resulted in 2,111 comments from a total of 354 individuals and organisations, and all were considered at a major public local inquiry held between April and September 2006. Following that inquiry, the Council received the binding report of the Inspector in June of this year. It is his recommendations that have been incorporated into this final adopted version of the Local Plan.

This Local Plan is the last one that the District Council will be preparing. Government legislation introduced in 2004 has heralded the introduction of a new series of planning documents that will, eventually, replace the Local Plan. These are collectively known as the “Local Development Framework” (LDF) and work is already underway on preparing these. You can find out more about the LDF on our website www.warwickdc.gov.uk/planning.



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