



WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Public Local Inquiry 2006

Core Topic Paper 1

Background to the Local Plan
and the Core Strategy



1996 - 2011

February 2006

Warwick District Local Plan - Public Local Inquiry Core Topic Paper 1

Background to the Local Plan and the Core Strategy

1. Introduction

1.1 This core topic paper gives background information on the Warwick District Local Plan and provides a context for the other core topic papers that follow. This is one of a total of 12 core topic papers that have been prepared for the Public Inquiry into the Local Plan. These core topic papers do not seek to respond to individual objections to the local plan, but to provide background information on various key topics. The Council is also preparing detailed proofs of evidence and written statements that will respond to the detailed comments of objectors to the Local Plan. These will refer back to these core topic papers as necessary.

1.2 The twelve core topic papers are as follows:-

- Background to the local plan and the core strategy
- Housing (CD/16)¹
- Affordable Housing (CD/17)
- Natural Environment (CD/18)
- Development (CD/19)
- Historic Environment (CD/20)
- Employment (CD/21)
- Town Centres and Retail (CD/22)
- Transport (CD/23)
- Rural Areas (CD/24)
- Leisure, Recreation, community facilities and open space (CD/25)
- Coventry airport (CD/26)

¹ Throughout this and the other topic papers, documents contained in the core document library for the Local Plan Inquiry are given their reference number; for example CD/16.

1.3 This core topic paper is structured to provide background information on the following key areas:-

- Context
- Preparing the Local Plan
- Background reports
- Sustainability Appraisal
- The format of the Local Plan
- The core strategy and spatial strategy
- The Local Plan and other strategies

1.4 Many other supporting documents are referred to throughout this core topic paper. Some of these will carry a reference number (in brackets). This reference number relates to the Local Plan Core Document Library, and copies of these documents can be viewed by contacting the Local Plan Inquiry Programme Officer. Furthermore, many of the documents are available on the Council's web site (www.warwickdc.gov.uk).

2. Context

2.1 The local plan has been prepared against a context of unprecedented change in the way that development plans are prepared. This change has informed both the process that the local plan has followed and the structure and appearance of the document itself.

National

2.2 The local plan has been prepared under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, and following regulations set out in the Town & Country (Development Plans) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 3280). The primary Government guidance document has been Planning Policy Guidance Note 12: Development Plans (published in 1999). However, in 2004 the Government published the Town & Country Planning (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations (S.I. 2205) which set out revised procedures for taking the local plan through to adoption. Guidance on these

transitional arrangements is given in Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (2004). The Council has followed this guidance in re-depositing the local plan in 2005, and this local plan inquiry will result in a binding report from the Inquiry Inspector.

- 2.3 The policies of the Local Plan have sought to follow the most up-to-date Government guidance issued in the form of Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Planning Policy Statements and Government circulars. These are referred to throughout the various core topic papers as relevant.

Regional and sub regional

- 2.4 Although this Local Plan is being prepared against the context of previous planning legislation as set out above, it is directly affected by new legislation in the form of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This legislation has signalled an end to Structure Plans prepared by County Councils and an increased importance for Regional Planning Guidance as these are replaced by Regional Spatial Strategies.
- 2.5 This Local Plan was prepared in accordance with the **Warwickshire Structure Plan (1996-2011)** (CD/908) adopted by the County Council in 2001. References to this Structure Plan are found throughout the Local Plan. Under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act, the Structure Plan has the status of “saved” policy for three years from the commencement of the Act, i.e. to September 2007.
- 2.6 In June 2004 the Secretary of State issued the West Midlands Regional Planning Guidance (CD/1002) which became the **West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy** (RSS) on commencement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act in September 2004. This Local Plan must therefore be in conformity with this document also. The RSS covers the period to 2021. Where there is a conflict between the two strategic planning documents, the Council understands that the RSS takes precedence over the Structure Plan.
- 2.7 Following approval of both the First and Revised Deposit Versions of this Local Plan by Warwick District Council, it sought from the County Council a statement
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that the Local Plan was in general conformity with the Structure Plan. On both occasions, such a statement was issued prior to the Local Plan being placed on deposit.

- 2.8 The West Midlands Regional Assembly undertook an assessment of regional conformity as part of its response to the Revised Deposit Version (objector no. 323). It considered the Local Plan to be in conformity with the RSS in most respects with the possible exception of policy SSP7 – Coventry airport.

Local

- 2.9 Warwick District has an adopted Local Plan, the **Warwick District Local Plan 1989-2001** (CD/1). This was adopted in 1995 and although is now “out of time”, the Council resolved to continue to apply its policies until such time as the new Local Plan was adopted. With the adoption of the Warwickshire Structure Plan in 2001, a number of its policies became out of conformity. The Council now does not apply these particular “out of conformity” policies in determining planning applications. The relevant policies are listed in the Council’s Local Development Scheme (CD/802).
- 2.10 There are many other plans and strategies that provide the local context to the preparation of this Local Plan, and these are described in section 8 of this core topic paper.

3. Preparing the local plan

- 3.1 In accordance with Government regulations and guidance, the preparation of the local plan has followed several key stages as set out in table 1.

Table 1: Key stages in the preparation of the Warwick District Local Plan

Stage	Date	Key documentation²
Consultation on Key Issues	April – June 2001	Key Issues leaflet (CD/3) Key Issues Report (CD/4) Key Issues Report of Public Consultation (CD/5)
Approval of Local Plan First Deposit Version	September/ October 2003	Report to Executive, 15 th September 2003 (CD/6)
Placing of Local Plan First Deposit Version “on deposit”	12 th December 2003 – 23 rd January 2004	Warwick District Local Plan (First Deposit Version) (CD/8)
Approval of Local Plan Revised Deposit Version	May 2005	Report to Executive, 10 th May 2005 (CD/11)
Placing of Local Plan Revised Deposit Version “on deposit”	8 th July – 19 th August 2005	Warwick District Local Plan (Revised Deposit Version) (CD/13)
Consultation on “omissions sites”	January – February 2006	Omissions sites consultation, January 2006
Public Local Inquiry	Commences 4 th April	

3.2 All proper steps as required by legislation and regulations were carried out throughout the preparation of the local plan, including all requirements to advertise the local plan and make it available for public comment. It should be noted that under the transitional arrangements set out in regulations, the revised deposit of the local plan was a re-deposit of the whole local plan.

3.3 The Council has taken its duty to consult with the public seriously and has undertaken the following during the preparation of the local plan.

Key Issues stage

3.4 The Council undertook a three month period of intense consultation in 2001 to seek people’s views on the priorities that the local plan should address.

² The number refers to documents held in the Local Plan Core Document Library.

- A leaflet “Planning the Future” (CD.3) was distributed to over 44,000 households and businesses in the district. This included a questionnaire form and 2,216 of these were returned.
- The questions in the questionnaire were also put to the 1,000 members of the Warwick District Citizens’ Panel.
- A more lengthy “Planning the Future” report (CD/4) was distributed to over 300 local individuals, organizations and groups.
- A series of four public exhibitions took place. These were visited by approximately 470 people.
- A series of five themed forums was arranged to which an invited audience representing a cross section of views considered in detail some of the key issues facing the local plan.
- Meetings were offered to Parish and Town Councils and local amenity and other groups. Ten such meetings took place.
- A series of special events took place to engage with “hard to reach” groups within the community, such as the young, the elderly, disabled and ethnic groups.

3.5 More information about this public consultation can be found in the Key Issues Report of Public Consultation (CD/5).

Local Plan First Deposit Version

3.6 As part of, and in addition to, complying with statutory requirements, the Council publicized the Local Plan in the following ways.

- Copies of the Local Plan were sent to approximately 110 consultees. Although there are no longer any statutory consultees for local plans, PPG12 advises that certain bodies are consulted throughout the preparation of local plans. The Council has chosen to include the full range of (relevant) bodies listed in Annex C of PPG12 as consultees, and these have been sent free copies of both versions of the Local Plan. In addition to this, a further 200 people and bodies were informed by letter of the depositing of the Local Plan.

- The Local Plan was deposited at thirteen locations around the district including all local libraries.
- A two page spread was placed in the Leamington Spa Observer newspaper advertising the Local Plan and inviting comments on it.
- An interactive version of the Local Plan was prepared for the Council's web site. During the First Deposit period, this was visited by 648 people.
- Meetings were offered to Parish and Town Councils. Twelve such meetings took place.

Local Plan Revised Deposit Version

- 3.7 The Revised Deposit Version was publicized in much the same way as the First Deposit Version (see above). Three meetings were held with Parish and Town Councils. A new web site was created for the Revised Deposit Version and this received 1,484 visits during July and August alone.
- 3.8 More information about the measures that the Council took to publicise both the First and Revised Deposit Versions of the Local Plan can be found in the Warwick District Local Plan (Revised Deposit Version): Statement of Public Consultation (CD/12).

4. Background Reports

- 4.1 In preparing the Local Plan, the Council has undertaken a number of pieces of technical work, and information about some of these is provided in paragraphs 1.31 to 1.37 of the Local Plan.

Urban Capacity Study

- 4.2 The publication of PPG3 (Housing) in March 2000 required all local authorities to undertake Urban Housing Capacity Studies to inform local authorities of how much additional housing could be accommodated within its urban areas. This was supported by a "best practice" guide "Tapping the Potential" (2000) and the

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- response from the House Builders Federation “Realising the Potential”, published in January 2002.
- 4.3 The Council decided that in undertaking such a Study, it wished to understand the capacity for both housing and employment land. The Urban Capacity Study was prepared during the early part of 2002 and completed in July 2002 (CD/403). Section 2 of the Study outlines the methodology that the Council undertook. This involved engaging with various consultees and involving the development industry in evaluating both the methodology of the Study and in commenting on the “marketability” and viability of the different sources of capacity identified.
- 4.4 The Urban Capacity Study has been important in two ways. In terms of housing land, it helped to gauge likely levels of windfall housing expected during the Local Plan period and establish that there is no requirement for the Local Plan to make any allocations of housing land. In terms of employment land, it helped identify the sites that have been allocated for employment use in the Local Plan in policy SSP1.
- 4.5 **Land use monitoring.** The Council carries out annual land use monitoring exercises. More details of these are contained within the core topic papers on Housing and Employment.
- 4.6 **Annual Monitoring Report** (CD/801). In accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council has prepared an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The purpose of the AMR is to assess (a) the extent to which the Council has implemented its programme of plan-making in accordance with its Local Development Scheme and (b) whether the policies in the Local Plan are being achieved. The current AMR covers the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005.
- 4.7 **Retail Studies** (CD/503). In late 2001 the Council commissioned consultants DTZ Pida Consulting to undertake an assessment of the vitality and viability of the three town centres of Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth, and to suggest how the Local Plan should aim to protect and enhance these centres.
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This work has informed the production of the Local Plan. More information on this Study, and on subsequent work undertaken by DTZ on behalf of the Council, is contained within the core topic paper on Town Centres and Retail.

Habitat Biodiversity Audit/SINC Study

- 4.8 For a number of years, the Council has been working alongside the other local authorities within Warwickshire and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to undertake an audit of the habitat biodiversity of Warwickshire. This has informed subsequent work that has been undertaken and fed into some of the policies of the Local Plan. More information on this work is contained in the core topic paper Natural Environment.

5. Sustainability Appraisal

- 5.1 The Council has sought at all times to comply with relevant Government legislation and guidance in the way that it has carried out a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. These include the European Directive³, and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 1633).
- 5.2 A sustainability appraisal was published for the First Deposit Version of the Local Plan in November 2003 (CD/7) and placed alongside the Local Plan when it was placed on deposit. For the Revised Deposit Version of the Local Plan, the Council engaged consultants Entec to assist with preparing the sustainability appraisal that would seek to meet the requirements of legislation and the EU Directive. The methodology used by Entec is summarized in section 3 of the Final Sustainability Appraisal report (CD/14) which was placed on deposit alongside the Revised Deposit Version of the Local Plan.

³ European directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”.

5.3 As is clear from the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report, the independent consultants considered that the Local Plan “*provides a robust framework against which to progress sustainability objectives within the District.*” It went on to state:-

“Many of the individual plan policies make a positive contribution towards specific sustainable development objectives and the proposed changes refer predominately to improvements in the accompanying text. Compared to the first draft of the Warwick District Local Plan, the proposed changes have strengthened the policy framework for achieving sustainable development. In particular by promoting:-”

- *A clearly articulated spatial strategy that directs development around existing Towns;*
- *Greater attention to the issues of flood risk and their assessment within development;*
- *Higher standards in design, for example the use of sustainable drainage systems;*
- *Provision for renewable energy;*
- *A stronger commitment to alternative modes of transport;*
- *Mixed use development and more effective use of land;*
- *Greater emphasis on protecting and enhancing existing designated sites; and*
- *Strengthening the role of rural settlements and rural service centres.”*

(Section 1.2.2 of Final SA Report (CD/14))

6. The format of the Local Plan

6.1 As has been noted above, this Local Plan has been prepared during a time of unprecedented change in the rules governing how development plans are prepared. This has had a significant impact on the format and appearance of the local plan document.

6.2 The Local Plan was being first drafted during a time when it was known that the Planning & Compulsory Act was in preparation. Informal advice from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Planning Officers Society and Local Government Association in 2002 was that local authorities currently preparing Local Plans should continue to do so, but should ensure that these were done in a way that was “Local Development Framework (LDF) compatible”. The reasons

for this were twofold; firstly to reflect emerging good practice and secondly, and more importantly, to enable these Local Plans to eventually translate more easily across into the new system. This guidance has strongly influenced the format of the Local Plan in two ways, firstly in its structure, and secondly in its style.

The structure of the Local Plan

- 6.3 In anticipation of the (then not published) Planning & Compulsory Act, local authorities were encouraged to adopt a structure to their Local Plans that would have similarities with the new Local Development Frameworks and would subsequently allow an easier transition into the new system. The way in which this was suggested, and how the structure of the Local Plan has been developed to respond to this, is as follows.

Advice: Local Plans should group together all core policies.

- 6.4 The Local Plan includes a **core strategy** including a spatial strategy (chapter three). Following this are grouped together all of the district-wide policies within section A of the Plan. Firstly, all of the generic **development policies** are identified in chapter 4. These are the policies that set out the main development principles that all development proposals may potentially be required to meet. They cover issues such as design, access, parking and drainage. Following this, within the “**sustaining communities**” policies of the Plan (chapter 5) are the policies that are designed to ensure that the needs of all communities across the district are protected and addressed. The first section (policies SC1 to SC8) deals with supporting communities, and includes policies to ensure a greater choice of housing and to protect assets such as employment land and buildings, public transport interchanges and open space. The second section (policies SC8a to SC13) focuses primarily on policies for planning obligations to ensure that the needs of all communities are met when new development takes place.

Advice: Local Plans should group together all “location specific” policies

- 6.5 Following on from the core strategy and district-wide policies are those specific to a general location. There are policies for **urban areas** (chapter 6), **town centres** (chapter 7) and **rural areas** (chapter 8). Furthermore, there are a number of **designated areas** that contain land that is both urban and rural (such as

conservation areas and areas of restraint), or are for defined areas within a broader location (such as green belt within the rural area). Policies on these issues can be found in chapter 9.

Advice: Local Plans should group together all site specific policies

- 6.6 The final chapter of the Local Plan groups together all of the policies which apply to a **specific site** (chapter 10). These include the employment allocations, allocations of major developed sites, the Park & Ride site and Coventry airport.

The style of the Local Plan

- 6.7 In addition to these structural issues, plan-making authorities were advised to adopt a particular style to the way in which policies, and indeed the whole Local Plan, should be drafted. This Local Plan has sought to respond positively to this advice.
- 6.8 ***Simplify.*** *The advice was that Local Plans should seek to simplify and reduce the number of policies they contain. They should not include a multiplicity of policies for different types of land use when a small number of criteria-based policies would provide the same level of protection.* This Local Plan has sought to follow this advice.
- a) It has relied wherever possible on **criteria-based policies** in place of specific policies for specific land uses. When drafting the Local Plan, policies were considered for a wide number of different specific land uses. Such policies, however, were only included in the Local Plan if it was felt that the issues raised by the land use could not be adequately covered by generic criteria-based policies. Accordingly, there are many policies found in the adopted Local Plan that are not found in the new Local Plan. This is not because the issue is no longer important, but because the needs of these land uses are adequately covered by the principles set out in the more generic policies. Examples of this include residential and nursing homes, sheltered housing, allotment gardens and canal corridors. As the core topic paper on countryside explains, a major reason why the Council has decided to remove the policy on Special Landscape Areas (formerly DAP3) has been because

the protection required by these areas is already well covered by other policies in the revised Local Plan.

- b) It has sought to **avoid duplication** between policies wherever possible. It is an important principle that the Local Plan should always be read as a whole and this is made clear in paragraph 2.3A of chapter two (the User Guide). Since many of the policies are either district-wide (chapters 4 and 5) or cover a wide area (chapters 6 to 9), there is no need for other policies to repeat what is stated elsewhere. For example, since policies DP6 and DP7 deal with access and traffic generation throughout the district, there is no need for other policies to include criteria on these issues.

6.9 ***Slim down.*** *The advice was that the Local Plan should not include superfluous details, particularly in the amount of information provided in reasoned justifications to policies.* The Local Plan has sought to do this whilst at the same time providing sufficient information for readers to understand the background and context of the policies and how they should be implemented. Whilst the length and detail of reasoned justifications vary according to the policy, they broadly follow a prescribed format as set out below (with policy SC5 (protecting open space) used as an example):-

- a brief overview of the issue addressed by the policy (the variety of open space with Warwick District and the need to protect this);
- a brief overview of Government and/or strategic planning policy on the issue (Government support for the importance of maintaining an adequate supply of open space for communities);
- a brief overview of any local priorities and concerns expressed through the “key issues” consultation on the Local Plan (78% of people considered that open spaces should be protected from new development);
- any amplification of the policy to enable it to be effectively implemented (what the Council means by the benefits of any proposal for the loss of open space to another recreation use outweighing the loss of that open space; what is meant by “sport and recreation facilities”, etc.).

6.10 ***Statutory.*** *The advice was that Local Plans should confine themselves to what is required by a statutory development plan.* This Local Plan is clear when issues

will need to be amplified through other advice prepared outside of the Local Plan, mainly through Supplementary Planning Documents. Examples of this include parking standards, protection for open space, affordable housing and design guidance.

- 6.11 **Strategic.** *The advice was that the Local Plan should only provide local detail where this was necessary. Not everything should go into the Local Plan. As the other comments in this section (and particularly those in para. 6.10) indicate, the Local Plan seeks to do this.*
- 6.12 **Spatial.** *The Local Plan should focus on policies with a spatial element, and should, where appropriate, reflect the spatial dimension of other plans and programmes. The Local Plan does seek to do this, and has included a spatial strategy within chapter 3. More details of the links between the Local Plan and other plans and programmes are included in section 8 below.*
- 6.13 In keeping with all these above principles, the Council is clear that the primary purpose of the Local Plan is that it is a **toolkit for development control**; to help the Council in its statutory role as a planning authority determining planning applications. The Council has decided that the Local Plan should not be a repository for its wider aspirations and objectives where these can be better addressed in other documents. Whilst the Local Plan quite properly makes links with other programmes, plans and strategies (such as the Community Plan, Housing Strategy and Local Transport Plan), it does not attempt to replicate these except where there are clear land-use implications that the Local Plan should address⁴. The Council would therefore resist the inclusion of further additional policies in the Local Plan where these seek to advance the aims of any individual or body, where these aims can and should be met through other document or initiatives.

⁴ Examples of this include the transport proposals for Kenilworth Station and the Park & Ride site from the LTP, and the priority to increase levels of affordable housing contained in the Housing Strategy.

- 6.14 As a result of the approach described above, the Local Plan has achieved the aim of being significantly shorter than its predecessor, containing 88 policies as opposed to 213 in the adopted Local Plan. In making its formal response to the first Deposit Version, the Government Office for the West Midlands (objector 110) praised the conciseness of the Local Plan and commented that the criteria-based nature of many of its policies helped to simplify the document.
- 6.15 The Local Plan has also been presented in a loose leaf format to better reflect the style and approach of the new Local Development Frameworks.

7. The Core Strategy and Spatial Strategy

- 7.1 The Local Plan **core strategy** has been developed in a way that makes a clear link between the community's aspirations as set out in the Community Plan, the Government's own definition of sustainable development and the aims and objectives of the Local Plan.
- 7.2 The starting point of the Local Plan core strategy is the four Government aims for sustainable development.
- Maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Social progress that meets the needs of everyone. (PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development, paragraph 4 (CD/1101)).
- 7.3 Grouped under these four aims are the 21 objectives that make up the core strategy. These objectives are not policies, however they do set the context for the policies that follow. As paragraph 3.6 of the Local Plan core strategy explains, they are intended wherever possible to complement each other. It is also recognised, however, that there may be conflict between objectives and that in these cases the objectives need to be balanced and integrated.
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- 7.4 During the deposit period on the First Deposit Version of the Local Plan the objectives within the core strategy generated a number of comments. Many of these sought assurance as to how the objectives would be interpreted and the Revised Deposit Version seeks to respond to many of these by amending the text that follows each of the objectives.
- 7.5 The Revised Deposit Version also, however, redrafts a number of the objectives themselves. This happened following the work undertaken by the Council and Entec on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan. As part of the Scoping Report for this, Entec took the objectives that had been developed for the First Deposit Version and refined these to produce the objectives against which the policies of the Local Plan would be assessed. Entec then suggested that the objectives of the Local Plan be redrafted to match those in the Sustainability Appraisal. This was only a relatively minor exercise that did not, in the Council's opinion, undermine any of the objectives that had already been drafted. It resulted in the loss of one objective ("to support small businesses") and this was considered to be adequately addressed under objective 1A ("to maintain high levels of economic growth"). Two new objectives were added; "to protect and improve air quality" (objective 2F) and "to reduce the generation and disposal of waste" (objective 3D). Both of these were considered to add areas not previously adequately covered by the core strategy.
- 7.6 The Local Plan **spatial strategy** was included within the Revised Deposit Version of the Local Plan at the suggestion of the Government Office. Although the division of the Local Plan into sections covering different specific geographic areas (urban, rural, etc) was intended to emphasise the spatial element to the Plan's policies, it was suggested that this be brought together within a single spatial strategy. This is now covered in paragraphs 3.6A to 3.6F of the Local Plan.

8. The Local Plan and Other Strategies

- 8.1 The Local Plan has not been prepared in a vacuum. Across the Council, and in tandem with the wider community, a wide number of plans and strategies have
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been prepared and these have all informed and guided the policies of the Local Plan. Appendix 1 contains a listing of some of these and the key policies within the Local Plan that have addressed themes within these strategies.

8.2 In preparing the Local Plan policies, officers from the planning department have worked alongside colleagues from other departments and representatives from other authorities and organisations on key individual policies. Officers from the Planning department attend meetings on a regular or occasional basis with a number of wider inter agency groups. These groups have provided a forum for others to contribute ideas to help develop Local Plan policy, and for planning officers to discuss and test ideas on emerging Local Plan policy and wider planning policy issues. These groups have included:-

- Housing Strategy Steering Group
- WDC/RSL Joint Commissioning Partnership
- South Housing Market Area Co-ordination Group
- Action 21 (the Local Agenda 21 group)
- Warwickshire Habitat Biodiversity Audit Working Party
- Leamington Spa Town Centre Steering Group
- Warwick Economic & Community Development Committee
- Kenilworth Town Centre Steering Group
- Warwick District Towns Conservation Area Advisory Forum

8.3 The Planning Department played a significant role in the development of “Warwick 2020”, the **Warwick District Community Plan** (CD/103). The Head of Planning & Engineering was the lead officer in the Environment LSP theme group and planning issues that are directly relevant to the Local Plan are prominent within the Community Plan. In particular, the following priorities are directly relevant.

- S3 Work towards providing a safer physical environment
- F1 To explore ways of providing more affordable, accessible and sustainable housing

- P1 To continue the regeneration of the town centres
- S1 Protect and enhance the built and natural environment
- S3 Increase energy efficiency and increase the use of sustainable energy
- S4 Promote greener travel and use of public transport

8.4 Warwick District Council also has a clear **corporate strategy** (CD/101) within which planning issues addressed by this Local Plan feature prominently. The corporate strategy vision for the District “*we want Warwick District to be safe, healthy, fair and prosperous now and into the future*” is identical to that in the Local Plan. The corporate strategy contains 21 priorities, several of which are directly addressed through the policies in the Local Plan.

- To regulate and influence land use to achieve sustainable development.
- To reduce the threat of flooding.
- To contribute to regeneration and economic activity by encouraging a diverse range of businesses.
- To promote accessibility to and the vitality of town centres.
- To support tourism.
- To improve the quality and accessibility of open spaces
- To increase the number of affordable houses in the district.

8.5 Several of the other 21 priorities are indirectly addressed through the Local Plan. These include:-

- To conserve and recycle and encourage others to conserve and recycle resources
- To tackle nuisance and anti social behaviour
- To promote healthier lifestyles
- To promote sport and physical activity
- To promote cultural activities

- 8.6 The corporate strategy is supported by a comprehensive performance management framework which ensures that these priorities are achieved. In addition to the Council's wider reporting of its performance, the direct planning aspects of the corporate strategy are reported through the Annual Monitoring Report (CD/801).
- 8.7 More widely, the Council's management and reporting framework ensures that corporate decisions which have planning implications can be fully considered and vice versa. An example of this is the recent SPD on "Managing Housing Supply" (CD/202) which was introduced with unanimous support from the Council's Executive notwithstanding its likely impact upon achieving affordable housing objectives in the Corporate and community Plans. (More information on this document can be found in the Housing Core Topic Paper.) The Council's commitment to managing and monitoring its performance was recognized with its award of an "excellent" rating in the 2004 CPA assessment when it was placed in the top 5% of district council's nationally.

Appendix 1**Key links between the Warwick District Local Plan and other key strategies and plans**

Please note that this list is not intended to be exclusive, either in the list of other key strategies mentioned, or in the relevant policies in the Local Plan that are listed.

Strategy/plan	Author	Key policies within Local Plan
Community Plan (Warwick District 2020)	Warwick Partnership	Many
Crime and disorder Strategy	WDC	DP13
Housing Strategy	WDC	SC1, SC9, RAP5
"Imagine it Differently" Public Arts Strategy	WDC	SC13
Local Cultural Strategy	All local authorities in Warwickshire	SC13, TCP7
Local Transport Plan	WCC	DP6, DP7, SSP4, SSP5, SSP6
Play Strategy	WDC	SC5, SC11
Regional Spatial Strategy	Government Office for the West Midlands	Many
Tourism Strategy	Heart of England Tourist Board	UAP7, UAP8,
South Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy	South Warwickshire Economic Development Team	SC2, UAP2, RAP7, SSP1, SSP2, SSP3
Sport and Recreation Strategy	WDC	SC5, SC6, SC11
Tree and Woodland Strategy	WDC	DP3, SC5, DAP4, DAP13
Warwick District Corporate Strategy	WDC	Many
Warwickshire Structure Plan	WCC	Many
Town centre Management Plans (Leamington Spa, Warwick, Kenilworth)	Town Centre Management Initiatives	SC1-8, UAP1-8, TCP1-13, DAP6-13)