



Warwick District Local Plan

Report of Public Consultation

Helping Shape the District –
Issues and Scenarios

December 2011



Contents

1	Introduction	3
2.	The Consultation Process	4
3.	Summary of the Consultation Response.....	8
	<i>Findings of the Consultation by Issue</i>	<i>10</i>
4	Uncertain future of the local economy / business economy.....	11
5.	High house prices and lack of affordable housing	15
6	Economic Strength of the Town Centre	19
7.	Public Facilities and Services	23
8.	Health and well being	26
9.	Road congestion and air pollution	28
10.	Threat of flooding	30
11.	Areas of poverty in Leamington and Warwick	33
12.	Threats to the built and natural environment.....	34
13.	Crime and fear of crime	39
14.	High Speed Rail 2	42
15.	Other issues.....	45
16.	Scenarios for Growth.....	49
17.	Local Plan Objectives.....	52
18	List of sites	55
	<i>Appendices</i>	
1	Deposit points	56
2	List of statutory organisations consulted	57
3	List of meetings attended	58
4	List of exhibitions / drop in sessions (including attendance)	61
5	Full schedule of responses to the questionnaire	63
6	Results of question 3 by person category and locality	67

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is preparing a Local Plan which will guide the future development of the District over the next 15 years. The first stage of this process was to ask the public what important issues and challenges they feel need to be addressed in the area and to establish what sort of place local people would like the district to be in the future.
- 1.2 The Council had previously engaged in discussions with local communities, businesses, voluntary groups, public organisations and landowners as part of the Core Strategy process and built on this work to prepare the consultation Paper 'Local Plan – *helping shape the district*'. This set out what the Council thinks are the important issues, together with three broad scenarios for how the district might change based on different levels of growth. This paper was accompanied by a questionnaire to obtain people's views and placed on public consultation between **18th March 2011 and 15th July 2011**.

Purpose of this Report

- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to set out the ways in which the public consultation was undertaken and to summarise the responses received. The findings from this report will be used to inform the next stage of the process.

2. The Consultation Process

- 2.1 A range of methods were used to ensure that the consultation was publicised widely and engaged with as many individuals, organisations and stakeholders as possible.

Notification of the Consultation

Website

- 2.2 The Local Plan consultation paper, background documents and questionnaire were made available to view and download on the Council's website via a dedicated 'New Local Plan' webpage. A quick link was set up at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan to make it easier for people to access this page. In addition, the questionnaire was available to complete electronically via the Council's online e-consultation system. The website was also continually updated throughout the consultation period to publicise forthcoming exhibitions and public meetings.

Deposit points

- 2.3 Hard copies of the documents were made available at locations across the District including the Council offices at Riverside House, Town Hall, Warwickshire Direct Offices and the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre (A full list is shown in appendix 1). Paper copies of the questionnaire were available to take away and these locations also served as drop off points for the return of completed questionnaires.

Correspondence

- 2.4 Prior to the start of the consultation we notified those who had expressed an interest in the Local Plan / Core Strategy or who had responded to previous consultations by sending approximately 1,156 emails and 1,892 letters. This included a large number of individuals as well as a wide range of groups and organisations representing the local community. All Statutory Consultees as outlined in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) were notified and invited to engage in the process (a full list is provided in appendix 2).
- 2.5 The Council's twitter followers (currently there are 850 subscribers) were notified at the start of the consultation and were made aware of forthcoming public meetings and exhibitions throughout the consultation period.
- 2.6 All Parish and Town Councils were notified of the consultation by letter and the Council offered to attend meetings on request to provide further information on the consultation. Local Authorities across Coventry and Warwickshire and adjoining Parish and Town Councils were also invited to engage in the process reflecting the emerging duty to cooperate within the Localism Bill.

Email Alert

- 2.7 An email alert was sent out to those who had signed up to the Council's email alert service to notify them of the start of the consultation period. Further alerts were sent out to publicise forthcoming public meetings and exhibitions and update subscribers on various aspects of the consultation (currently 640 people are signed up to receive the Council's email alert service).

Press Articles / Publicity

- 2.8 The consultation was advertised in the following local newspapers and free publications:
- A press release was circulated to **local radio stations, newspapers and news organisations** (14th March 2011).
 - A public notice was placed in **The Courier** newspaper (18th March 2011) outlining the dates of the consultation, where copies of the documents could be obtained and the ways in which people could respond.
 - An article was placed in the Spring 2011 edition of the **Focus magazine** which is distributed to all households within the District.
 - A full page advertisement was placed in the **Leamington Observer** newspaper (Thursday May 5th 2011) which included a list of forthcoming exhibitions.
 - An article was placed in '**Word on Warwickshire**', a Warwickshire Investment Partnership (WIP) publication aimed at the local business community.
 - Flyers were produced and these were distributed by the Community Partnership Team at Community Forum events
 - A number of interviews were undertaken for local radio stations
- 2.9 In addition to the above, a number of articles appeared in local newspapers documenting the consultation and outlining local interest and debate on the local plan paper. Copies of these articles are kept on file at the District Council Offices.

Meetings / Workshops

- 2.10 The Council organised a number of dedicated meetings and workshops as part of the consultation. In addition officers were invited to attend a series of other meetings to provide information to various organisations to help them respond. A full list of the meetings attended is set out in appendix 3.

Stakeholder Meetings

- 2.11 A series of meetings were held by the Council to bring together public and private stakeholders with similar interests in the Local Plan according to different topic areas including: **Risk, Transport, Water, Crime and Policing, Health, Environment, Historic Environment, Rural Environment, Youth Services and Sport and Leisure**. Meetings were held with officers from other Council departments including those responsible for Environmental Health Issues, Parks and Culture, and Neighbourhood Services

Engaging with Schools

- 2.12 Officers ran workshop sessions with students at a number of Local Secondary Schools within the District including:

- The Student Parliament at North Leamington School
- Geography GCSE and AS Level Students at Aylesford School
- Year 9 students at Campion School

As part of these sessions an options exercise (depicting a fictional town) was carried out to provide students with an understanding of the issues and challenges involved in planning the future development of an area.

Engaging with Neighbouring Authorities

- 2.13 The Council engaged with the Warwickshire County Council Strategic Infrastructure Group which includes senior officers responsible for adult health, transport, education, and property services. We also attended a meeting of Elected Members responsible for Local Plan issues at Stratford District Council, and attended the Warwick Area Committee of Warwickshire County Council.

Engaging with Town and Parish Councils

- 2.14 We publicised the consultation at a meeting of the Warwickshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and ran two dedicated sessions for Warwick District Parish and Town Councils at their local association meeting and a District Council Planning Forum.

Public Meetings

- 2.15 Officers attended and gave presentations on the consultation at ten public meetings across the district (listed below) arranged by local residents associations and organisations, Parish and Town Councils, and District Councillors. Copies of the document and questionnaires were also distributed at these meetings.

- Lillington Free Church (8th March 2011)
- Wainbody Ward Forum, Finham Park School (8th March 2011)
- Milverton, St Mark's Church (17th March 2011)
- Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club (23rd March 2011)
- Kenilworth, St John's Church Hall (24th March 2011)
- Finham Residents Association AGM, Finham Primary School (28th March 2011)
- Barford Village Hall (23rd May 2011)
- Warwick Town Council (14th June 2011)
- Whitnash Town Council (22nd June 2011)
- Budbrooke Village Hall, Hampton on the Hill (6th July 2011)

Business and Property Meetings

- 2.16 The Council participated in a series of events aimed at the local business community including:
- A business breakfast for major employers in the District at the Wright Hassall Offices in Leamington
 - A business breakfast for local employers and businesses at the Rose and Castle in Warwick
 - A business breakfast held by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.
 - A meeting of the local Property Professionals Group
 - Meetings were also held with other major employers and businesses such as the University of Warwick, those acting on behalf of landowners in the district, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and Leamington and Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership Groups.

Exhibitions / Drop in Sessions

- 2.17 We held 25 exhibitions / drop in sessions across the district where officers were available to discuss the consultation in more detail directly with the public (listed in appendix 4). A wide range of venues were chosen with the aim of reaching as many different members of the local community as possible both in rural and urban areas. These ranged from supermarkets, the University of Warwick, and Warwickshire College to smaller venues such as stops on the Rural Mobile library route and sessions at 'The Gap' community centre in Warwick. As a result of these sessions we were able to reach over **1000** individuals.

Representative Sample Survey

- 2.18 A face to face survey was conducted of 700 randomly selected local residents to obtain a sample of responses to the questionnaire which would be representative of the population of the District in terms of geographical area and socio-economic characteristics. The interviews were undertaken at residential addresses selected in advance distributed evenly across the seven Community Forum Areas of Kenilworth, Leamington North, Leamington South, Rural East, Rural West, Warwick, and Whitnash. This ensured a wide range of neighbourhoods were covered by the research. Ten sampling points, each of 125 addresses, per Community Forum Area were selected so that interviews were spread across 70 separate points in the district, ensuring that the data for this sample size is as representative as possible. Interviewing was carried out between 4th and 24th July using a 15 minute questionnaire jointly designed by BMG Research and Warwick District Council. The findings of this survey are discussed by issue in the following sections and in more detail in a separate report.

3. Summary of the Consultation Response

- 3.1 We received a total of 469 completed questionnaires. Of these 325 were submitted online via the Council's e consultation system, 15 via email and 129 were submitted as paper copies. The findings of the questionnaire are discussed in the following chapters and a schedule of responses for each question is set out in appendix 5. In addition to the questionnaire responses, 58 letters were received. The following tables provide some information on who responded to the consultation.

Respondents by Category

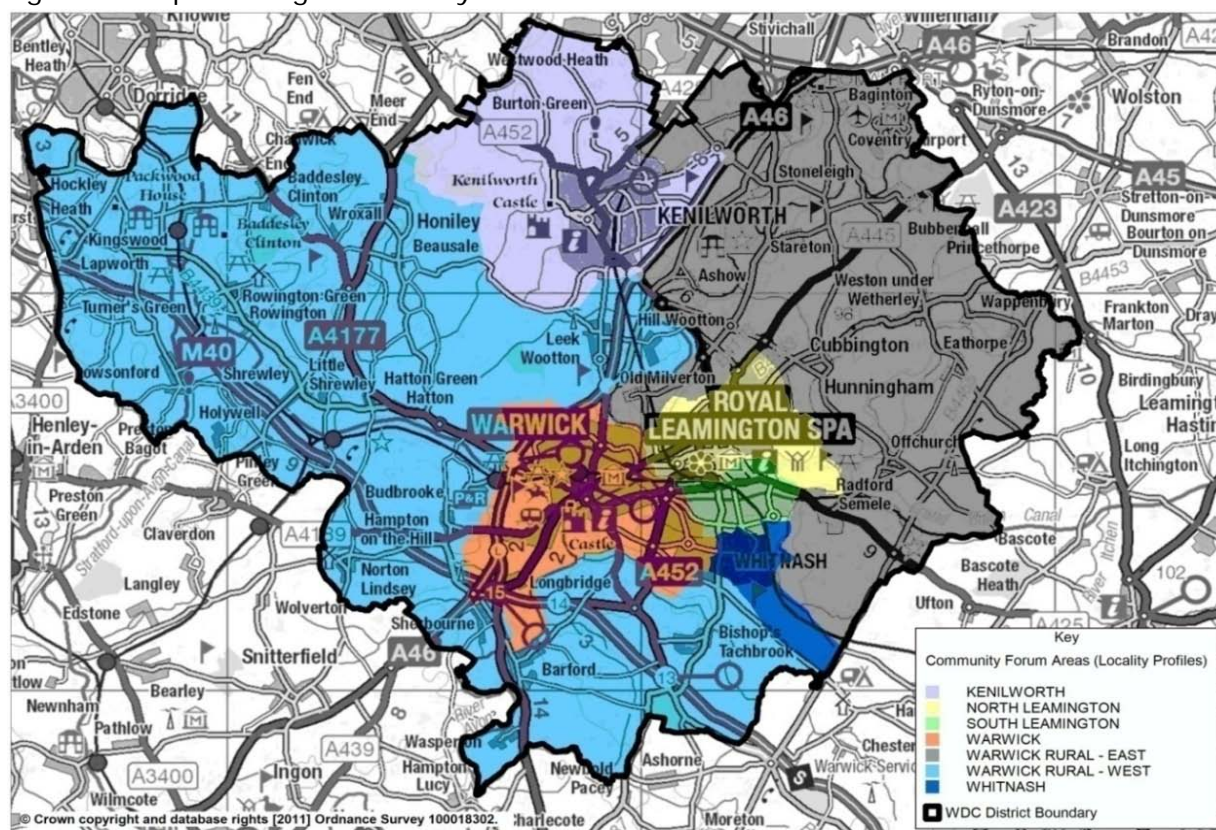
Respondent Category	Survey responses	Survey responses	Open letter responses	Open letter responses	Total Unique Respondents	Total Unique Respondents
Adjoining Council	0	0.0%	1	1.7%	1	0.2%
Commercial	26	5.5%	21	36.2%	38	7.5%
Councillor	3	0.6%	0	0.0%	3	0.6%
Couple	15	3.2%	1	1.7%	16	3.2%
Family	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.4%
Individual	378	80.6%	12	20.7%	382	75.8%
Organisation	15	3.2%	11	19.0%	23	4.6%
Parish Council	6	1.3%	1	1.7%	6	1.2%
Parish Councillor	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Residents' Association	3	0.6%	1	1.7%	4	0.8%
School	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.4%
Statutory Consultee	2	0.4%	7	12.1%	9	1.8%
Town Council	3	0.6%	3	5.2%	4	0.8%
Unknown / Anonymous	13	2.8%	0	0.0%	13	2.6%
Total	469	100.0%	58	100.0%	504	100.0%

Respondents by Community Forum Area (Locality identified on figure 1 below)

Respondent Category	Survey responses	Survey responses	Open letter responses	Number of open letter responses	Total Respondents *	Total Respondents *
Kenilworth	53	11.3%	4	6.9%	56	11.1%
Leamington - North	68	14.5%	2	3.4%	70	13.9%
Leamington - South	18	3.8%	1	1.7%	19	3.8%
Warwick	70	14.9%	10	17.2%	74	14.7%
Warwick - Rural East	36	7.7%	2	3.4%	36	7.1%
Warwick - Rural West	144	30.7%	8	13.8%	147	29.2%
Whitnash	17	3.6%	2	3.4%	18	3.6%
Unknown / Anonymous	9	1.9%	0	0.0%	9	1.8%
Outside District	54	11.5%	29	50.0%	75	14.9%
Total	469	100.0%	58	100.0%	504	100.0%

* Please note: Some people responded to both the survey and the submitted open letter representations.

Figure 1: Map showing Community Forum Areas



Findings of the Consultation by Issue

- 4 Uncertain future of the local economy
- 5 High house prices and lack of affordable housing
- 6 Economic strength of the town centre
- 7 Size and condition of public facilities and services and whether they can meet current and future needs
- 8 Unequal opportunities to improve health and well being
- 9 Road congestion and air pollution
- 10 Threat of flooding of homes and businesses
- 11 Areas of poverty in Warwick and Leamington
- 12 Threats to the Environment
- 13 Crime and Fear of Crime
- 14 HS2
- 15 Other Issues
- 16 Scenarios
- 17 Local Plan Objectives
- 18 Sites

4 Uncertain future of the local economy / business economy

- 4.1 In the consultation paper we identified that the effects of the recent recession and not knowing how the economy will change in the future as key issues which need to be addressed through the local plan in terms of its role in guiding future economic development.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 4.2 Of those who responded to the question of how important the uncertain future of the local economy is for the local area, 69% (302 respondents) either strongly agreed or agreed that it is important. The majority of respondents to this question thought that it would be best addressed by Scenario 1 (184 respondents) and Scenario 2 (156 respondents).

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 4.3 69% of respondents agreed that the uncertain prospects for the local economy are important for the local area and this was fourth out of the 10 issues identified in terms of the proportion of people in agreement. When asked to prioritise three issues, 12% of respondents ranked the economy as the issue of highest priority and 27% of respondents ranked the issue within the top three. The number of respondents ranking this issue as the top priority was similar across the community forum areas with a slightly higher percentage of respondents ranking it top in the areas of Kenilworth and Leamington North. Of those who had identified the uncertain future of the local economy as their top priority 38% thought that Scenario 1 would best address the issue closely followed by Scenario 2 (33%).

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 4.4 A series of meetings were undertaken to bring together and engage with key organisations representing the business community. The Chambers of trade expressed concern for the town centre economies and that the Local Plan needs to support businesses, and protect employment land from being lost to residential uses but also from the threat of out of town shopping. A further point was the importance of acknowledging the differences between the towns.
- 4.5 At a meeting of the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP, the lack of affordable housing was identified as a significant issue affecting the local economy in terms of the ability of the local workforce to live within the District. Concern was also raised that there should be flexibility within the Local Plan to cater for instances where a major business may wish to expand.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 4.6 A range of views were expressed in relation to how the local plan should guide future economic development in the District. There was agreement that economic development will be needed alongside any additional housing growth to ensure that the District expands sustainably. In particular, there was agreement of the need to create additional jobs to meet the demand from an increasing population and reduce commuting outside the District.
- 4.7 However, there was concern that the effects of the current recession should be taken into account in preparing the local plan and that any major new schemes should wait until the recession has finished. It was pointed out that the Council will need to make bold decisions to encourage investment and provide the necessary support for businesses to survive and continue to grow. It was noted that whilst the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP identified stronger economic performance for Warwick District than other parts of the region however there are still key issues which could affect economic recovery such as the relationship with housing growth and congestion on strategic routes into Leamington and Warwick
- 4.8 A number of respondents, raised concern that as currently drafted the local plan paper does not reflect the government's approach to supporting economic growth. In particular the Government's commitment in the 'Plan for Growth' to ensuring the planning system does everything it can to rebuild the economy. It was pointed out that local authorities should be proactive in driving and supporting growth and identify the housing, business and other development needs of the area. Local authorities should also plan positively for new development and prepare local plans with sufficient flexibility to respond to rapid shifts in demand or other economic changes.
- 4.9 Related to this, concern was raised over the need to widen the definition of employment land in the Local Plan to include uses outside B1, B2 and B8 in line with the definition in paragraph 4 of PPS4.
- 4.10 It was suggested that a pro-growth local plan should not be viewed as inconsistent with the overarching objective for sustainable development and can still ensure adequate environmental protection. There was support for the production of a Local Plan which is fit for purpose, adequately making provision for development needs, placing top priority on new investment and jobs.
- 4.11 It was suggested that the Local Plan should build on the District's existing strengths in the science and technology sector. As part of this, a portfolio of sites of sufficient range and quality which are capable of meeting the requirements of this sector and to allow clustering of similar uses should be provided. It is suggested that whilst Warwick Technology Park possesses these

qualities it is completely developed and the current portfolio of sites for the District are not suitable.

- 4.12 Reference was also made to the need to acknowledge and support the growth of the higher and further education sectors as these act as an important generator of employment and investment. Reference should be made in the Local Plan to the university's role both as an economic driver and educational institution.
- 4.13 A number of comments were made highlighting the need to encourage and support new and existing businesses.
- The need to make it easier for smaller businesses to get offices. It was suggested that centralised services such as secretarial support, car parking and meeting rooms could be established and charged on a usage basis along with furnished office suites provided on rolling two month contracts.
 - Concern that business rates are too high and putting off new business start ups and the need to avoid this causing businesses to move out of the town centre.
 - That the removal of regional funding has reduced the support available to businesses.
 - Recognition that while road congestion and pollution is important businesses rely on deliveries. The A452 should be widened to assist business infrastructure. In addition the provision of excellent facilities and infrastructure drives investment rather than the other way round
- 4.14 It was suggested that local commerce should be encouraged in terms of using local companies and suppliers and drawing upon the local workforce. However there was also concern that an issue exists with labour and skills availability, in particular a shortage of both specialist and semi skilled labour, and that this is very important to attract major employers to the area.
- 4.15 The Local Plan also needs to consider issues of sub regional importance which have potential to impact upon the future requirements and shape of the district. In particular the District's relationship with Coventry and the impact of this on the role and function of Warwick District. It is essential that the Local Plan has a meaningful strategy towards sub regional growth in line with the requirement to cooperate with other authorities through the localism bill. The strategic relationship with Coventry is not included anywhere in the key issues report. Authorities should work together to ensure that needs and opportunities that extend beyond, or cannot be met within their own boundaries are identified and accommodated in a sustainable way. It should also acknowledge the relationship between employment availability in Coventry and residence in Warwick District and the need therefore to address sub regional deficiencies in job provision.

4.16 A number of other general comments were raised in relation to the Districts economy:

- It is difficult to see how economic issues will be resolved by additional local development as local prosperity is far more dependent on national economic trends. It is important that WDC does not become more of a dormitory town for the West Midlands Conurbation; instead the focus should be on attracting business growth.
- There is a shortage of land for industrial development, particularly logistics facilities.
- There was concern over high levels of unemployment and a particular issue of youth unemployment.
- Need to focus on export and international trade to take the region forward. There are too many shopping centres and retail outlets are not assisting the economy.
- The district should be established as a centre for excellence in renewable energy technologies.
- The improvement of agricultural businesses should be allowed to enhance the rural economy.
- Concern of the sustainability of small businesses in villages
- A comprehensive effort should be made via a centralised agency to market and seek a reuse for vacant office and retail space before it is demolished.

5. High house prices and lack of affordable housing

- 5.1 In the consultation paper, we identified the following issues relating to the provision of housing which we feel need to be addressed through the local plan.
- relatively high house prices limiting local people's ability to buy or rent property in the area and creating the need for more affordable housing for families in towns and villages
 - the need to provide more housing to meet people's needs in the future, particularly those of older people.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 5.2 Of those who responded to the question of how important the issue of "high house prices and the lack of affordable homes" 31% (138 respondents) *strongly agreed* that it was an important issue and 24% (108 respondents) *tended to agree* that it was an important issue. Only 7% (31 respondents) *strongly disagreed* that it was an important issue. In response to the question about which growth scenario would best address this issue 41% selected Scenario 2 (halfway point) and 40% selected Scenario 1 (low growth).

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 5.3 The sample household survey, carried out on behalf of the District Council, asked people whether they agreed with each "Important Issue" identified by the Council. The "High House Prices and Lack of Affordable Homes" issue was considered to be an important issue by 73% of people who took part in the survey. Only 10% disagreed that it was an important issue and the remainder, 18%, neither agreed nor disagreed. The Issue was ranked third, out of the 10 issues identified, in terms of the proportion of people in agreement. However, this issue was the one with which the highest proportion of residents *strongly agreed* – 30% of total respondents.
- 5.4 Residents were also asked to identify the three issues which they considered should have top priority. Nearly a quarter of residents (24%) selected High House Prices and the Lack of Affordable Homes as their top priority. Approximately 44% of residents included the issue as one of their top 3 priorities – the second highest proportion of residents after those choosing Crime and Fear of Crime.

- 5.5 In each of the Community Forum areas, with the exception of Warwick, the issue chosen by the highest proportion of residents as their top priority was High House Prices and the Lack of Affordable Homes. Leamington South had the highest proportion of residents choosing this issue (33%), followed by Whitnash and Rural West (both 29%).
- 5.6 When responses to this question are examined by the age of respondents, it is clear that the issue is considered to be a top priority across the age range. High House Prices and the Lack of Affordable Homes is the issue most commonly selected by all age groups as their first priority.
- 5.7 Residents were asked which of the three Scenarios for Growth would best address the first priority issue which they had previously identified. Of those who had chosen High House Prices and Lack of Affordable Homes as their top priority, the highest proportion (42%) of respondents felt that Scenario 2 would best address the issue. The remainder were evenly split between Scenarios 1 and 3, with 29% of respondents choosing each.

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 5.8 Warwick District is generally considered to be an attractive location for house builders. However, as is the case nationally, the housing market suffered a decline following the credit crunch of 2007 and house builders have cited the difficulties of obtaining mortgages as one of the most important contributions to the current slowdown in the housing market. However, looking to the future, house builders are interested in opportunities to build new homes in the District.
- 5.9 At the public meetings, affordability was raised as an issue but members of the public were not convinced that building more homes would lead to lower house prices. There was a view that new homes should be built to meet the needs of local people rather than in-migrants.
- 5.10 Affordability in the rural areas was considered to be a very important issue by people who attended meetings in villages. In some cases a particular need was identified for affordable housing for first-time buyers and older people who wished to remain in the village. Similarly, some parishes considered there to be a need for small developments of market housing to meet the needs of existing residents. It was also considered that some additional housing might help to support existing shops and services.
- 5.11 Providers of rural affordable housing identified the high costs of rural affordable housing schemes, particularly where the numbers of homes exceeded 10, the size threshold above which a contribution for education provision would be required by the County Council. These contributions were not insubstantial and, in many cases, they tipped the balance

making the scheme unviable. Mixed housing schemes of affordable and market housing were supported in order to improve development viability.

- 5.12 The issue of high house prices was highlighted by the business sector, in terms of the inability of many local workers to be able to afford to live in the District. One case was cited whereby, out of 120 employees, 80 were commuting in to the District to work from elsewhere.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 5.13 Respondents commented on issues relating to the types of homes which should be provided, possible areas for building new homes and the nature of new housing developments.
- 5.14 A number of respondents commented that there was a need for secure, suitable and affordable housing for the growing number of older people. There was also a need for more family houses with gardens and for affordable homes for young people. There should be a good mix of market and affordable homes and more large houses should be resisted. Others felt that more social homes should not be built because, for example, they would lead to an increase in the cost of providing local services, in times of cuts in public services, or lead to a fall in house prices. Some respondents mentioned the high level of need for affordable housing in the District and ways in which the Local Plan should address this need with targets for provision and sound policies for meeting the targets. There should be a clear link between the Local Plan and the Housing Strategy.
- 5.15 In terms of where new homes should be built, a number of respondents were of the view that empty properties and brownfield sites should be used to provide new homes before any greenfield land was developed. Some felt that new development should be concentrated within, or on the edge of, existing towns and villages while others stated that new development should not be located near existing new housing estates. There was support for spreading new development around the District in small pockets rather than in large new estates. There were some suggestions that existing run-down houses and flats should be improved in order to reduce the need for building new homes.
- 5.16 A number of comments were made about the nature of new developments. Many felt that new homes should be built to a high standard in terms of, for example, internal space standards, the provision of gardens and allotments and energy conservation. Others felt that the provision of adequate parking was important whilst some suggested housing developments should cater for pedestrians as a priority rather than the private car. The provision of adequate facilities, such as schools,

shops and open space, was considered by many to be essential for any new housing development. Similarly, a number of respondents stated that it was important to make sure that the road network would be able to cater for any increase in traffic.

- 5.17 There were a number of comments about the level of student housing in the District. Some respondents felt there were too many student houses and that more accommodation should be provided within the University campus itself. There was also a view that student accommodation took low cost housing away from other potential first time buyers or renters.

6 Economic Strength of the Town Centre

- 6.1 We identified the economic strength of the town centres of Warwick, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth and the threat to these from retail and leisure developments elsewhere as issues which need to be addressed in the Local Plan.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 6.2 Of those who responded to the question of how important the economic strength of the town centres is for the local area, 46% (203 respondents) agreed and 31% (138 respondents) strongly agreed that it is important. The majority of respondents thought that the issue would be best addressed by Scenario 1 (173 respondents) and Scenario 2 (159 respondents).

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 6.3 74% of respondents agreed that the economic strength of the town centres is an important issue for the local area and this ranked joint top out of the 10 issues identified in terms of the proportion of people in agreement. In addition, when asked to prioritise three issues this was the second most common top priority. It was selected as a top priority by a similar number of respondents in each Community Forum Area, the exceptions being Leamington North who had the highest number (18%) of respondents ranking it as top and Rural West who had the lowest number (8%). Of those who had identified the economic strength of town centres as a top priority 40% thought that Scenario 2 would best address the issue closely followed by Scenario 1 (37%).

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 6.4 A number of general points in relation to town centre issues were made at public meetings and at the topic meetings with stakeholders the details of which are summarised along with other comments below. The Chambers of Trade for each town expressed concern with ensuring that a viable offer is maintained within the three town centres and interest in how the Local plan could support town centre business.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 6.5 There was general agreement of the need for economically strong, vibrant and attractive town centres. However views on how this should be achieved through the local plan ranged from actively encouraging the growth of the retail and leisure offer to limiting further development in the town centres.

Warwick Town Centre

- 6.6 A number of responses were made specifically in relation to Warwick Town Centre and the need to preserve its unique identity and character as a small historic market town. It was suggested that growth may not be the appropriate objective for Warwick town centre and that large scale development would be detrimental and should be avoided. It was also considered that there is sufficient visitor accommodation in the town centre and further increases may cause small operators to go out of business.
- 6.7 A number of respondents suggested that the plan should seek to build on the existing range of independent retailers and niche markets (such as book sellers, art shops and antique dealers) established in the town and which have allowed it to cope with the recession better than most high streets. It was also suggested that the success of restaurants and cafes in Warwick should be built on and that the town could emulate Ludlow becoming a food town by combining quality dining with independent retailers and local produce.
- 6.8 There was also concern that the background report to the consultation paper omits mention of residential and office uses as town centre activities, which are the two largest economic activities in Warwick town centre. In doing so it prejudices work that has not yet been started on the Town Centre Plan (AAP) to consider which services will play the 'anchor function'. It was also suggested but more generally across the three towns that tourism should be included alongside retail and leisure as facilities which need continuing improvement in the town centres.

Leamington Town Centre

- 6.9 There were also a number of comments made specifically in relation to Leamington Town Centre including:
- The need to improve Lower Leamington Town Centre and care should be taken that it does not become a 'student ghetto'.
 - There are not enough crossings over the river in Leamington.
 - Should encourage more student centred amenities such as late night coffee houses
 - Redevelop of cultural quarter and Court Street
 - There has been degeneration of Leamington town centre, demonstrated by the increase in betting and pound shops and number of vacant / empty units
 - Create green areas in the town centre
 - To attract tourists a canal basin should be created
 - The council should plan on the basis of Leamington's identity and character rather than relating to its relationship with other non comparable centres, such as Coventry and Birmingham

Retailing

- 6.10 There were a range of comments made specifically in relation to retail development in the town centres. There was concern that the additional demand for retail is based on the assumption that the population will increase. To ensure that new floor space will contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of existing retail centres it was suggested that the local authority should look at both quantitative and qualitative need.
- 6.11 It was suggested that the plan should avoid including policies which restrict A2 uses in designated retail frontages or the Council will risk the Local Plan being unsound. The focus should be on the quality of the occupier not maintaining an arbitrary level of a particular use class. It is pointed out that A2 financial services are increasingly retail in their appearance and add to the vitality and viability of the town centres by attracting high levels of footfall, commensurate with and often higher than, the best known national multiple Class A1 traders.
- 6.12 There was support for concentrating development in the town centres to maintain their viability and that retail development outside the town centre should be restricted. However, it was suggested that empty units should be used first and that there should be no further retail development until the existing retail areas are recovered. It was considered by some respondents that further growth of major retail stores and supermarkets in the town centres should be restricted possibly by means of a threshold. It was suggested that the consultation paper offers a distorted perspective by implying that intensive large scale redevelopment is required to ensure the economic vitality and viability of a town centre. There are two problems associated with this approach, firstly, that it destroys the historic street pattern and extinguishes evening life and secondly, evidence suggests that the decline of high street retailing is a long term trend. However, one respondent suggested the need to attract more department stores in the town centres. There was also support for promoting the growth of local independent suppliers and retailers such as local greengrocers and service providers.
- 6.13 A further point was made that outside of the town centres provision should be made in large housing developments for local retail outlets which would avoid an increase in traffic, provide access to shopping for those without a car and encourage vibrant neighbourhood centres.
- 6.14 There were also a number of general points made in relation to the town centres which included the need to:
- Encourage and sustain town centre businesses and new start ups by ensuring that rents aren't too high, offering reduced council tax
 - Address parking issues in the town centres, this could include providing free or more affordable parking, and providing residents with an annual parking ticket to allow a certain period of parking in the town centres per day.
 - Encourage more town centre living

- Enforce town centre planning regulations relating to façade colours, signage, advertising etc.
- Ensure that the fundamental qualities, heritage and individuality of the town centres is maintained and enhanced for future generations
- That more D1 class uses are allowed in the town centres

7. Public Facilities and Services

- 7.1 We identified the size and condition of existing community facilities and services (particularly schools and health care facilities) and whether they can meet current and future needs as issues which need to be addressed in the Local Plan.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 7.2 Of the 443 respondents to this question, 75% (333 respondents) strongly agreed or agreed that the size and condition of public facilities and services and whether they can meet current and future needs is an important issue for the local area which should be dealt with in the Local Plan.
- 7.3 The majority of respondents thought that this issue would be best addressed by Scenario 1 with 212 respondents in support, Scenario 2 supported by 127 respondents and Scenario 3 by 84 respondents.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 7.4 74% of respondents agreed that the ability of community facilities and services to meet the needs of local people is an important issue and this was fourth in the list of the top ten with 12% in support. 14% see the issue as their second priority issue with 10% considering it a third priority issue. The number of respondents ranking this issue as the top priority across the community forum areas was 19% in Warwick and 12% in Rural West. Of those who had identified threats to the built and natural environment as their first identified priority 49% thought that Scenario 1 would best address the issue followed by Scenario 2 (38%) and then Scenario 3 (13%).

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 7.5 In one of the stakeholder meetings it was stated that there are already problems in the rural area, of continuous water supply. New development is therefore preferred close to the existing urban infrastructure. There may be infrastructure provision delays due to recent changes to customer rights. There is a need to take into account Severn Trent Sewerage Management Plans which plan the functionality of the sewerage network and detail planning for future demand.
- 7.6 It was pointed out that infrastructure and schools in particular need to be considered early. Officers at Warwick District Council will be under more pressure to provide service to more people with increased development.

- 7.7 Concern was expressed that the role of local authorities will be diminished on enactment of the Education Bill. This bill will encourage 'clusters' of schools to apply for 'academy' status. The local authority will remain responsible for 'sufficiency of places', but it is unclear how much control the authority will have over new school provision.
- 7.8 Additionally the future of youth services is uncertain. The nature of provision is changing and cuts are inevitable. The voluntary sector needs to build up its own delivery. There are existing gaps in provision at The Cape, Woodloes, Bury Road Estate, Whitnash and the rural areas. It may be an idea to establish a 'consortia' of community facilities to include youth provision.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 7.9 A respondent commented that a 'One Front Door' approach, taking key services to those in the community in greatest need, is required. 'One Stop Shops' currently don't have access to the latest research on this. In future, some may evolve into 'One Front Doors' providing a wider range of services tailored to each community need. These principles should be applied to new communities and guide sustainability.
- 7.10 One respondent stated that new developments need to be assessed to determine how they would access key public services, particularly for affordable housing allocations. A range of public services needs to be accessible to those with health, employment and financial problems. Larger developments will represent bigger need. To achieve service provision requires:
- Assessment of existing local public service provision to build/expand
 - Acknowledge lack of provision and work with providers to remedy
- 7.11 Where new public service provision is required, the possibility of collating services to provide a joined up service offer should be considered. There is a lack of services in the rural area, especially for the young, the old and those on limited income. Services should be available throughout the district and not just in the towns. The accessibility to services is as important as their size and condition, particularly as some might be further centralised taking little account of access problems from rural areas without public transport.
- 7.12 A minimum development strategy would allow the local administration to be reduced in scale and cost and reduce pressure on local hospitals, care homes, fire service and schools. These services are currently under pressure. Children are having to travel to schools at a distance for example, as there is a lack of provision locally. This can have long term detrimental effects.

- 7.13 Several respondents pointed out that there is a shortage of provision for youth in the area, but one also concluded that the needs of all sectors of the community should be assessed to see what other gaps exist. Mothers with toddlers in the rural area and older people in the countryside have particular needs too.
- 7.14 Respondents acknowledge that the health service is under extreme pressure and conclude that adding more housing will exacerbate the problem. These respondents state that housing should not be built until service improvements can be provided or new services added where there have been none provided previously.
- 7.15 It was the view of one respondent that there should be opportunities to develop facilities in places of worship. To ensure viability it is suggested that financial support should be available to support village halls and community centres.
- 7.16 Comments specifically relating to villages state that there are few public facilities and that schools have limited scope for expansion. Furthermore, in one particular village, although there are village halls and a small shop, the shop almost closed quite recently and the village hall struggles to find people to run it.
- 7.17 One respondent has pointed out that all major services for south Leamington are located north of the river and this makes access difficult for residents and more importantly, for the emergency services.
- 7.18 One issue that was discussed by a number of respondents is that of Warwickshire County Council reducing the number and hours of opening for libraries. Particular concern was raised about the uncertain future of the rural mobile library service.
- 7.19 A general list of those facilities which will be put under more pressure by new development was suggested by one respondent. These include the police, sewerage, water, health and education. Another respondent commented that there is a general lack of amenities overall. Yet another simply states that it is important to meet the needs of the local community.
- 7.20 A respondent suggested that there is a need to develop training opportunities for young people, particularly in agriculture
- 7.21 By restricting the amount of new development, the need for additional services will be reduced.

8. Health and well being

- 8.1 We identified that people's general health and well being and the need for people (particularly teenagers and young people) to have access to sport and cultural experiences, such as cinemas and community events are issues which need to be addressed through the Local Plan. We asked people if they agreed this was an important issue facing their local area today.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 8.2 Of those who responded to the question of how important unequal opportunities to improve health and well being is to the local area, 42% (180 respondents) either strongly agreed or agreed that it is important. A considerable number of respondents (36%) neither agreed nor disagreed.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 8.3 Two thirds of respondents (67%) agreed that improving access to sporting and cultural facilities should be addressed through the Local Plan, with only 13% disagreeing. However, this issue was viewed as a low priority compared to all the other issues identified, with the exception of the threat of flooding. This view was held consistently across the District.
- 8.4 Nearly half of respondents (48%) felt that scenario one best addressed the issue of improving access to sporting and cultural facilities, with just over a third (37%) identifying Scenario two.

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 8.5 Officers met with representatives of Warwickshire NHS (PCT) who hold a lot of information and evidence on the health issues within the District which fed into the consultation paper. Their current priorities are around improving life expectancy, reducing health inequalities (e.g. fuel poverty), affordable warmth, and housing. Their focus therefore includes; tackling obesity, mental health, increasing physical activity, and supporting independent living. The meeting highlighted issues around ensuring new developments encourage non-car use and include adequate open space provision. Extra care housing for the elderly is also important as a means of reducing isolation which is often a major cause of mental health issues.
- 8.6 Meetings were also held with representatives of South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust who have taken over community health care in the District, and are also responsible for Warwick Hospital. The growing number of older people is one of the main concerns of the Trust in developing their future services, and they have plans for remodelling

services to better meet the needs of the elderly, as well as increasing maternity and cancer services.

- 8.7 In relation to Warwick Hospital, the majority of hospital beds are occupied by the elderly as well as the very young. It is expected that the need for hospital beds will reduce over the next few years as community nursing services are developed. It is not expected that any additional floorspace will therefore be required, but there will be the need for health service provision within major developments.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 8.8 Respondents made a number of comments in response to this issue. Many highlighted the need to improve opportunities for sport and recreation, particularly for younger people, with the lack of a high class sports facility in the District noted. Using sport to improve health and wellbeing of the local community was cited as an important issue.
- 8.9 The health service is under extreme pressure and adding more housing will exacerbate the problem. Housing should not be built until service improvements can be provided or new services added where there has been nothing before.
- 8.10 There was recognition of the role of cultural, heritage and arts facilities as well as community events as a means of education and bringing people together, and that these also deserve protection and enhancement as foundations for future development. Maintaining cultural and community identity can strengthen the sense of place and belonging, and was also cited as an important related issue.

9. Road congestion and air pollution

- 9.1 We identified that road congestion and air pollution, particularly around the main junctions along the A46 and M40, the routes into the towns and within the town centres were issues which needed to be addressed through the Local Plan. We asked people if they agreed this was an important issue facing their local area today.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 9.2 Of those who responded to the question of how important road congestion and air pollution is to the local area 47% (207 respondents) strongly agreed that it is important with the vast majority (69% 294 respondents) considering that it would be best addressed by Scenario 1.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 9.3 Two thirds of respondents (68%) agreed that road congestion and air pollution should be addressed through the Local Plan, with only 18% disagreeing. However, this issue was not viewed as high a priority as issues in relation to crime, housing, economy, and community facilities. This view varied across the District, with respondents in Warwick attaching much greater importance to this issue than respondents in Kenilworth and South Leamington. The majority of respondents (77%) felt that scenario one best addressed the issue of road congestion and air pollution

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 9.4 Officers held meetings with representatives of Warwickshire County Council as local highway authority responsible for local transport matters, and with the Highways Agency who are responsible for the major roads within the District. Both bodies hold a lot of information and evidence on the transport issues within the District which highlight this as an important issue, and this fed into the consultation paper. They have also developed traffic models of the urban areas and main routes in order to assess how the issues might change over time with changing traffic levels.
- 9.5 A number of points were also raised in discussions at public meetings that officers attended. These included concerns about the capacity of the road network to accommodate any further traffic related to new development, and concerns about the quality of existing public transport services and cycleways and the need for more investment.

Summary of Comments made to Council

- 9.6 Respondents made a number of comments in response to this issue. There were a number of points made in support of public transport improvements, in particular support for a new railway station in Kenilworth and better rail

services north-south within the County, and more frequent bus services in the rural areas. Traffic congestion was acknowledged by many respondents, citing air and noise pollution as impacts on the quality of life of residents, particularly within Warwick town centre. Better traffic controls and improving cycle paths and pedestrian facilities to provide alternatives to using the car were identified. Others highlighted problems with traffic speeding in the villages.

10. Threat of flooding

- 10.1 We identified that the threat of flooding to homes and businesses is a key issue which needs to be addressed in the Local Plan. In particular where surface water may flood towns and villages and the concern that the threat of flooding will increase because of climate change.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 10.2 439 people responded to the question that asked how important for their local area they considered the issue of the threat of flooding of homes and businesses. Of these respondents 50% (218 respondents) agreed that the threat of flooding was an important issue which should be dealt with by the Local Plan. A further 28% (125 respondents) took a neutral stance with regard to this matter and 22% (96 respondents) did not consider the threat of flooding an important issue.
- 10.3 Of those that responded to the question regarding the best growth scenario for the District, scenario 1 was selected by the majority of respondents (68%) as the best approach for dealing with the threat of flooding of homes and businesses. A further 21% preferred Scenario 2, with 11% selecting Scenario 3.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 10.4 The sample household survey, carried out on behalf of the District Council asked people whether they agreed with each "important Issue" identified by the Council. The threat of flooding to homes and businesses was considered to be an important issue by 40% of people who took part in the survey. Surprisingly 39% disagreed that it was an important issue and the remainder, 21%, neither agreed nor disagreed. The issue was ranked last, out of the ten issues identified in terms of the proportion of people in agreement.
- 10.5 Residents were also asked to identify the three issues which they considered should have top priority. Overall the threat of flooding to homes and businesses did not feature as a high priority in the hierarchy of local concerns with only 3% of residents selecting this issue as their top priority.
- 10.6 The Rural East Community Forum Area had the greatest concern regarding flooding with 7% of respondents from that area identifying it as a priority issue (a factor in this may be the incidence of severe flooding that took place in the Cubbington locality). Conversely only 1% of the

Whitnash, Rural West and Leamington South Community Forum Areas regarded this matter as a priority issue.

- 10.7 Residents were asked which of the three Scenarios for Growth would best address the first priority issue which they had previously identified. Of those that had chosen the threat of flooding to homes and businesses as their top priority, the highest proportion (56%) of respondents felt that Scenario 1 would best address the issue. 27% thought Scenario 2 would best address the issue , followed by 16% that opted for Scenario 3.

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 10.8 In the Natural Environment Group Meeting the Environment Agency stated that Flood and Water Management Plans (as a requirement of the Floodwater Management Act) should be recognised by the Local Plan. Flood Water Management Plans have the purpose of analysing flood risk and its potential impacts in order to develop a more co-ordinated approach between stakeholders necessary to enable the implementation of flood relief or flood protection measures.
- 10.9 In a meeting with Severn Trent one of the main challenges identified was that of current S.T. infrastructures capacity to cope with waste water. Severn Trent stressed that they will have to fully understand the scale and distribution of any potential future development in Warwick District in order that they can assess the capacity of systems and their treatment plants to contend with increased demand. Severn Trent also expressed a preference for any significant future development to be sited adjacent to existing urban areas in order that they can more easily plan for its appropriate connection to existing drainage systems. Severn Trent also asked Warwick District Council take into account the ST Sewerage Management Plans which plan the functionality of the sewerage network, and how to plan for future demand.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 10.10 A number of respondents stated that the infrastructure of current developments around Warwick should be improved before any further 'extensions' are proposed. It is considered very important to ensure that there will be no flooding as a consequence of additional growth.
- 10.11 Reference was also made to concerns that flooding on farmland should be given careful consideration in the Local Plan/ future development allocations.
- 10.12 It was suggested that local sewers and storm (surface) drainage systems should be given enhanced capacity to ensure that they can properly cope with current and any future additional development related pressures.

- 10.13 Respondents suggested that Planning permission for new development should only be given where there is no additional risk to existing homes/ businesses and that any new building should only take place outside of the flood plain with emergency evacuation contingencies being given proper consideration.
- 10.14 A range of views were expressed regarding perceived poor drainage systems across Warwick (particularly at Hatton Park). There are concerns that the problems associated with these systems will be exacerbated by further development.
- 10.15 Representations were made regarding fields near Cubbington and Lillington and that they should not be developed because of the risk of flooding to existing properties/ settlements. Related to this was a request for the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Cubbington to be implemented as soon as possible.

11. Areas of poverty in Leamington and Warwick

- 11.1 We identified that there are areas of poverty in the towns of Warwick and Leamington Spa which need to be addressed in the Local Plan.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 11.2 435 people responded when asked how important the issue of poverty in Leamington and Warwick was for their local area. Of these, 46% (202 respondents) agreed that poverty is an important issue and of these 73 respondents strongly agreed. 28% of respondents remained neutral and 25% (110 respondents) did not consider areas of poverty to be an important issue.

- 11.3 43% of respondents thought that Scenario 1 was the best approach for dealing with areas of poverty, followed by 39% identifying Scenario 2 and 18% favouring Scenario 3.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 11.4 65% of respondents agreed that areas of poverty were an important issue for the area. However, when respondents were asked to rank their top three priority issues the issue wasn't ranked highly.

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 11.5 A number of general points were made in relation to the issue of poverty in the District at public meetings and at the topic meetings with stakeholders the details of which are summarised along with other comments below.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 11.6 Responses to this issue were concerned with increasing the redevelopment of deprived areas by encouraging regeneration and "greater investment in leisure activities and spaces". A respondent also stressed that dealing with areas of poverty required a wide approach that encompassed social issues alongside economic issues.

12. Threats to the built and natural environment

- 12.1 We identified that the pressure for new development could potentially threaten the high quality built and natural environments in the district, particularly historic areas and the cost of maintaining historic buildings and areas which needs to be addressed in the Local Plan.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 12.2 Of the 443 respondents to this question, 73% (323 respondents) strongly agreed or agreed that threats to the environment are important issues for the local area which should be dealt with in the Local Plan.
- 12.3 A large majority of respondents thought that this issue would be best addressed by Scenario 1 with 305 respondents (72%) in support; Scenario 2 was supported by 80 respondents (19%) and Scenario 3 by 40 respondents (9%).

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 12.4 68% of respondents agreed that threats to the built and natural environment is an important issue and this was seventh in the list of the top ten with 7% in support. 9% see the issue as their second priority issue with 9% considering it a third priority issue. The number of respondents ranking this issue as the top priority across the community forum areas was 16% in Rural West and 11% in Kenilworth and Rural East. Of those who had identified threats to the built and natural environment as their first identified priority 81% thought that Scenario 1 would best address the issue followed by Scenario 2 (12%) and then Scenario 3 (6%).

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 12.5 Contributors to meetings suggested that the Government is weakening planning powers and that the Council should retain policies that are best practice.
- 12.6 Another issue raised is that of street furniture and its impact on the street scene and town centre environment. Furthermore, consideration should be given when large planning applications are assessed as to what the impact might be on the street pattern. Traffic is and will continue to be a major issue.
- 12.7 The issue of student accommodation and the impact this has, particularly in Leamington, with family housing being given over to students and neighbours feeling isolated from the rest of the community was raised. It was suggested that perhaps students should be encouraged to live in one

area, segregated from the rest of the community or better still, on campus.

- 12.8 It is considered that Localism is likely to have a negative effect on heritage but as local lists are a means of protection, one view is that the Council should adopt policies in the local plan that will promote them.
- 12.9 It is suggested that a heritage strategy is needed and a hook is needed in the Local Plan for good practice. Overall there should be less distinction between landscapes and the built environment, since both contribute to the environment. Retrofitting energy efficiency measures detracts from Listed Buildings. English Heritage issues a lot of guidance on this and it should be used. There needs to be a balance in new developments with the inclusion of affordable housing.
- 12.10 It was pointed out that there is a potential gap with regard to landscape evidence for the whole of the County. The 'Lawton Review – Making Space for Nature' suggests ways of protecting and improving the natural environment and connecting habitats, particularly with the threat of climate change. Habitat connectivity through the district is a key issue to be addressed.
- 12.11 Other documents have been suggested that could be useful when considering spatial options which the Council should pay heed to. The WWT Opportunity mapping could assist with associated biodiversity targets. There is also updated information on woodland opportunity mapping produced by the Forestry Commission in the Regional Forestry Framework which would prove useful.
- 12.12 Other issues that should be considered include the quality of housing, the issue of the shared use of highways from a health and safety point of view, the separation of different uses in new developments and the environmental implications of airborne pollution and green energy generators.
- 12.13 Finally a view was expressed that threats to both the natural and the built environment do not only come from development. Other threats include those from the management of land. It is suggested that a phrase is added to this issue promoting an active management programme to enhance the environment.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 12.14 Respondents were keen to support the protection of the historic environment including the built environment as they point out that only farmland and the threats to it are mentioned in the scenario. Historic buildings etc should have the same importance accorded to them as other environmental components. The view overall is that the Council should

focus on improving what is here already. To that end, towns should retain their individuality/identity.

- 12.15 Whilst the historic environment is considered to be in “generally good condition” respondents pointed out that there are designated assets including buildings, parks and gardens and scheduled monuments on the national ‘at risk’ register, and also “pockets where the environment is less good and needs to improve”. It will be important for the Local Plan to highlight where these pockets are and how it is intended to enhance assets at risk and areas in need of improvement. One respondent suggested that a fund be set up to encourage landlords to maintain and improve their properties. It was generally agreed that period architecture and heritage need to be preserved. . It is important to find new uses for vacant historic buildings, whilst maintaining vigilance over the change of use of older properties simply to exploit maximum multi-occupied rental income. Sanctions may be necessary to ensure adequate management of matters of detail which can have a major impact on the environment of a neighbourhood. Areas of archaeological interest should also be protected and this is not always acknowledged
- 12.16 Support was expressed for the objective on location and design improving, not just maintaining, the built and natural environments, especially historic areas and buildings. There is a risk of overdevelopment in areas of environmental and historic sensitivity. The conservation of protected historic assets requires economic uses to be established, partly by planning policy, to ensure their viability. The objective in the paper, as worded, suggests that primacy is given to the needs of the economy over those of conservation, and this is not considered acceptable. Reference to the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record and the Warwickshire Historic Characterisation study should be made.
- 12.17 One respondent stated that Leamington displays numerous examples of proliferating and competing signs, barriers and eyesores, in both the public and private domain. The setting of a rich heritage of buildings is often marred by a messy accumulation of street clutter. It should be an objective of the plan to address this by public bodies setting an example and encouragement and possible enforcement action on private signs.
- 12.18 Concern was expressed about the possible degradation of village/rural areas and communities and Conservation Areas which need to be protected. New development in the rural area should be based on Parish Plan assessments of need and then, environmentally sympathetic to the area.

- 12.19 One respondent was critical that new parks or woodlands have not been proposed. Additionally, other respondents wish to see the protection of allotments and the assessment of the suitability of land for possible new allotment sites which are important to the sustainable production of food. It is also considered that protected trees and woodland must remain so and there should also be a commitment to street trees. Similarly, several respondents thought it essential that high quality agricultural land for food production should be retained. The agricultural industry needs regenerating in rural areas and increasing food production could benefit grower and consumer. Connected with this, one respondent expressed the view that mineral extraction should not take place where it would affect best and most versatile agricultural land or on flood plains.
- 12.20 Many respondents considered that there is a need to retain green belt land by using brownfield sites within the existing built-up areas of towns for new development and greenfield sites adjacent to the District's villages. Increasing the sprawl around the existing built-up areas would damage the rural setting of the towns to the detriment of both their economies and their environment. New developments can damage the natural environment and destroy tracts of countryside with consequential loss of habitat for wildlife which cannot be replaced and results in fragmentation. Additionally those green field spaces that have special landscape qualities should be retained. It is important to retain the balance between important towns and beautiful countryside.
- 12.21 The objective on location and design improving (not just maintaining) the built and natural environments, especially historic areas and buildings, is supported. The environmental quality of all new housing development should be substantially improved and only residential development that demonstrates evidence of considerate and impressive design should be considered. There is a risk of overdevelopment in areas of environmental and historic sensitivity. To combat this it is suggested that necessary growth should be accommodated with minimum impact on the natural environment which will deliver sustainable benefits for the natural environment and for people. To support this, an assessment of environmental capacity should be central to decisions on future development and the provision of green infrastructure should be an integral part from the outset.
- 12.22 The way to address some of the issues relating to landscape and green infrastructure is to incorporate planning policies within the Local Plan that promote landscape scale conservation and the early consideration for the provision of green infrastructure. There is a view that this approach is supported by the Council's own research which demonstrates for example, that parks and open spaces are important to

the residents of Warwick District. There should be a programme of replanting of trees and hedgerows and river quality should be improved. Another relevant view expressed is that developing river and canal-side amenities will improve the quality of life and local strengths.

- 12.23 In relation to biodiversity, one respondent suggested that the Local Plan should also consider how it can contribute to delivering the aims and objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Section 40 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) places a duty on local authorities to have due regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity. The requirement of the law and of Government policy substantially is to reduce CO₂ emissions to reduce man-made damage to the global atmosphere. It is claimed that this is absent.
- 12.24 Respondents in villages rate their green spaces as important, also local locks, canal towpaths, mature trees and hedgerows. They would like to see better open spaces, verges and improvement to wildlife habitats, better footpath access and signposting.
- 12.25 One respondent believes that overdevelopment will lead to the destruction of house values and the tourist industry. Another stated that Warwick is a small historical market town and needs to be maintained and enhanced as a key tourist attraction.
- 12.26 One view expressed was that high density developments are leading to more people moving out from the towns into locations with lower densities. Additionally, there is a lack of car parking facilities within new developments.
- 12.27 Another view suggested that air quality is reduced by house- building and the resulting pollution increases the risk of climate change.

13. Crime and fear of crime

- 13.1 We identified that the Local Plan needs to address crime and the fear of crime, particularly in town centres, and the need to protect the community from harm.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 13.2 440 people responded to the question that asked how important for their local area they considered the issue of crime and the fear of crime. Of these respondents 64% (283 respondents) agreed that crime and the fear of crime was an important issue which should be dealt with by the Local Plan. A further 21% (93 respondents) took a neutral stance with regard to this matter and a further 15% (64 respondents) did not consider crime and the fear of crime an important issue.
- 13.3 Of those that responded to the question regarding the best growth scenario for the District, scenario 1 was selected by 59% of respondents as the best approach for dealing with crime and the fear of crime. A further 28% preferred Scenario 2, with 13% selecting Scenario 3.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 13.4 The sample household survey, carried out on behalf of the District Council asked people whether they agreed with each “important Issue” identified by the Council. Crime and the fear of crime were considered to be an important issue by 67% of people who took part in the survey. Only 17% disagreed that it was an important issue and the remainder, 16%, neither agreed nor disagreed. The issue was ranked 8th, out of the ten issues identified in terms of the proportion of people in agreement.
- 13.5 Residents were also asked to identify the three issues which they considered should have top priority. Overall crime and the fear of crime was the issue most likely to feature in residents top three priorities (46% of all responses).
- 13.6 Leamington South Community Forum Area had the greatest concern regarding crime and the fear of crime with 23% of respondents from that area identifying it as a priority issue. Conversely only 9% of the Kenilworth Community Forum Area regarded this matter as a priority issue.

- 13.7 When responses to this question are examined by the age of respondents, it is clear that the issue is considered to be an important priority by the 25 to 44 age group (second only to High house prices and lack of affordable homes).
- 13.8 Residents were asked which of the three Scenarios for Growth would best address the first priority issue which they had previously identified. Of those that had chosen crime and the fear of crime as their top priority, the highest proportion (62%) of respondents felt that Scenario 1 would best address the issue. 27% thought Scenario 2 would best address the issue, followed by 10% that opted for Scenario 3

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 13.9 In the Youth Topic Meeting concerns were raised about the intended cuts in youth services and youth centres across the County /Warwick District. It is feared that these cuts will affect the ability of youth workers to liaise /work with Police Community Support Officers (also under threat of reduction) concerning problems/ issues regarding youths and young people in the area.
- 13.10 In a meeting with the Council's Community Safety Team it was considered that Leamington Town Centre had reached saturation point in terms of numbers of pubs and clubs. The Community Safety Team asked for new development to be mindful of linkages to town centres as new footpaths etc can cause 'corridors' of movement with associated disturbance/noise etc late at night as people travel home from town centres. Generally new development should also maximise opportunities for the natural public surveillance of areas in order to reduce crime/anti-social behaviour.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 13.11 It is considered as 'very encouraging' that the important issue of maintaining low levels of crime and fear of crime is included in the Local Plan consultation as an issue. Regardless of the growth scenario that is ultimately adopted it is asked that there should be a co-ordinated approach to the planning of public services infrastructure (including opportunities for partnership working and shared services between agencies). It has also been suggested that we should ensure that emergency services are given access to any new infrastructure funding opportunities via Section 106 Agreements or future Community Infrastructure Levy finance.
- 13.12 A questionnaire conducted in the Hatton area indicated that crime is a major concern, with almost half of respondents expressing a fear of crime. About a quarter of respondents to this particular questionnaire

stated that they had experienced some form of crime, or been affected by anti-social behaviour in the Hatton area within the last two years.

- 13.13 It is considered that here is a high level of petty crime in Leamington Spa. Reference was also made to the fact that it is perceived that there is currently inadequate policing in Warwick District.
- 13.14 It was suggested that any increase in houses (and ultimately the population of Warwick District) may not necessarily lead to an increase in police numbers. It is considered that new growth would create an extra burden on police and other emergency services. It is also suggested that the police should be given more autonomy and that beat officers should be freed –up from the demands of ‘paperwork’/administrative tasks to carry out more active ‘front line’ policing.
- 13.15 Respondents stated that they believe that litter is a problem across the District and that there should be a no litter policy. It is suggested that litter perpetrators should be punished by the imposition of community service orders and required to tidy up litter.
- 13.16 A range of views were expressed that voiced concerns regarding the existing budget cuts stretching emergency services. It is considered that the extra burden that these agencies would have to deal with if further development /population expansion comes to this area (as a result of the Local Plan) would be problematic.

14. High Speed Rail 2

- 14.1 We identified that in preparing the Local Plan the Government's planned High Speed 2 rail line and its possible effects on the area is an issue, although not one the Local Plan can influence.

Summary of Sample Survey

- 14.2 The sample household survey, carried out on behalf of the District Council asked people whether they agreed with each "important Issue" identified by the Council. HS2 did not appear in this list of ten issues, however all residents were asked if there were any other important issues affecting the local area. The majority of respondents (83%) did not make a comment. The remaining respondents provided a broad range of comments, with High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) being mentioned by the largest proportion (3% of respondents and 15% of those making a comment).

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 14.3 In a meeting held by The Liberal Democrat Party at Kenilworth concerns were raised that the Local Plan (and the District) would be greatly altered if HS2 went ahead. It was also considered wrong that the Government could propose a multi billion pound project (HS2) but not support the financing of a new (and much needed) Kenilworth railway station.
- 14.4 The Natural Environment Group Meeting identified that if HS2 went ahead that it would affect the District's landscape and natural environment, and that it should be noted that there would be potential for significant mitigation measures.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 14.5 There is support for the HS2 proposal and a belief by some parties that it represents a major opportunity for the West Midlands in terms of jobs and wider economic benefits. It is implied that capacity improvements as a consequence of HS2 will bring about improvements to the 'classic rail' network already in existence.
- 14.6 Respondents have stated that HS2 has blighted housing values in the District and that the construction process will adversely affect village life. As a direct consequence, a site for a new village hall may have to be found in the Green Belt at Burton Green if HS2 is implemented. Some houses in the District may have to be demolished and there should be

consideration of a means to re-house their occupants in their immediate locality (if that is what they wish).

- 14.7 There is concern that the HS2 proposal will affect the northern part of Kenilworth golf course and prejudice the future viability of it to continue as an important recreational resource/ facility in the District. In the event that HS2 is implemented the future (alternative) use of the remaining golf course land should be given careful consideration through the planning (Local Plan) process.
- 14.8 Respondents have stated that HS2 may have a drastic impact on the Local Plan and the future of Warwick District if it becomes a reality.
- 14.9 It was suggested that the settlement of Cubbington has had a lot to contend with regarding flooding concerns. It is considered that the disturbance associated with HS2 will cause even more problems for this particular locality. As a consequence it suggested that the Cubbington area should be spared from any further development pressures/ requirements in the Local Plan.
- 14.10 Comments have been made that HS2 will devastate the environment and the quality of life of those living nearby. It is suggested that HS2 will have a major impact on the local economy, environment, local welfare, property prices, transportation, and cause the loss of valuable agricultural land.
- 14.11 Concerns have been raised that if HS2 goes ahead that there will be a possibility of a 'ribbon' development of industrial and commercial schemes along the route in the future and that this will (detrimentally) change the outlook and the future of land that is currently protected by the Green Belt.
- 14.12 Views were expressed that the Local Plan should have regard to and accommodate the potential impacts of HS2.
- 14.13 There are concerns that HS2 will damage stands of ancient woodland and local wildlife habitats at various locations across the District.
- 14.14 It was suggested that HS2 may affect the availability of land for future residential purposes throughout Warwick District.
- 14.15 A number of comments were raised that voiced concerns that HS2 will affect the viability of some businesses and farms and should not go ahead.

- 14.16 It was suggested that it would be good for the area if HS2 were to be installed quickly as well as improvements to the Station Area of Leamington Spa.

15. Other issues

- 15.1 As part of the consultation we asked people to let us know if we had missed any important issues which need to be dealt with in the Local Plan. In response, a wide range of views were expressed both through the responses, but also at the public meetings and topic meetings held with stakeholders.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

Planning/ Local Plan Process

- 15.2 There was concern that the revocation of the RSS should not delay the process and the timetable to adoption should be speeded up. It was suggested by one respondent that planning permission should be strictly controlled however this view was countered by the suggestion that over restrictive planning policies are preventing the “organic” growth of the District.
- 15.3 The need for sustainable communities which reduce travelling to work was highlighted together with ensuring a sense of place and identity is provided.

Energy & Recycling/ Green Issues/ Water / Resources

- 15.4 The lack of reference to Climate Change and reducing CO₂ within the issues to be addressed was criticised. There was concern over the issue of energy security and that carbon resources are already stretched and that the development of a low carbon economy should be encouraged by considering opportunities for alternative energy supply. There was support for the local generation of low carbon electricity and more specifically that ground source heat pumps and solar panels should be fitted on all new homes or even existing housing stock. However there was concern by one respondent that no more wind farms should be erected.
- 15.5 There was support for an expansion of recycling with a suggestion that there should be more sites producing power from combustible waste. In addition that the design of communities and supporting services should encourage and enable communities to follow the waste hierarchy – reduce, re-use, recycle, recover, with landfill as the last resort.
- 15.6 It was suggested that more land should be set aside for food production and allow food to be sourced locally. There was concern over poor water quality and issues with water supply more generally. In relation to natural

resources in the District it was suggested that gravel extraction from existing settlements such as Barford should be prevented.

Consultation

- 15.7 There was criticism that the consultation was undertaken poorly by the local authority and caution is needed when interpreting the results. It was claimed that the issues are biased to favour high growth and the questionnaire should have allowed respondents to comment freely on each Scenario. However there was also criticism that the consultation was biased towards low growth.
- 15.8 It was suggested that more clear and transparent communication was needed with the local population. Wider points were made that the public should be made aware of new development proposals in their area beforehand (leaflets etc) and that there should be more consultation on major developments. A bureaucratic nightmare which has no doubt cost a fortune.
- 15.9 It was also considered that an unsatisfactory approach was taken in that the scale of growth that is needed to meet development requirements has not been identified nor have the development requirements that may arise from neighbouring authorities such as Coventry City. The problem with this approach is that it is very narrow in its feedback and will tend to stifle initiatives and growth opportunities
- 15.10 The list of scenarios is criticised as being simplistic and not giving sufficient detail as to the likely scale of development they represent. The background papers and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report are criticised as not aiding understanding of the quantum of development, but merely descriptive of the features of housing policy, the housing market and demographics.
- 15.11 One respondent commented that there is no objective assessment of 'development needs' leaving consultees with no assistance and leading to a flawed approach. There is also a lack of documentation in the evidence base relating to the historic assets of the district and these should be included. All listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments on the 'at risk' register should be included in baseline information.

Gypsies & Travellers

- 15.12 The provision of gypsy and traveller sites in the District was raised as an issue however views on this were mixed amongst the respondents. Some suggested that there is an urgent need for gypsy and traveller accommodation and that information from the 2011 census should be fed into the process and others suggested that no more land should be given

over for this purpose and travellers should be prevented from tarmacing over green belt land. A specific point was made in relation to removing travellers from Beausale.

Roads/ Transport

15.13 General points were made on the need for suitably linked bridle paths to keep horses off the road, on the provision of public footpaths and the excessive light pollution caused by street lighting. There was specific concern over public transport on the Woodloes Estate and speeding traffic on Welsh Road.

12.12 More housing, employment, retail and associated facilities will undoubtedly increase traffic and encourage additional traffic in to use those facilities

Allotments

15.14 There was support for expanding the provision of allotments within the district both by setting aside a percentage of development land but also releasing WDC land for this purpose. There was concern that existing allotments should be protected from development threats.

Infrastructure

15.15 It was suggested that the necessary infrastructure needs to be in place to support development and that issues with existing infrastructure need to be addressed first.

Visitors/ Tourism

15.16 Concern was raised at the lack of visitor attractions and the need to enhance tourism. Specific mention was made to the area of Coten End traffic lights as being unattractive for visitors

Sites

15.17 There was some concern raised that there are no sites mentioned in the consultation and more than one agent requested that the site which they represent be confirmed as still appropriate for consideration as part of this process and as a comprehensive redevelopment site or new development site.

Biodiversity Monitoring

15.18 It was suggested that the Council should adopt the Biodiversity Action Reporting system of monitoring of the natural environment, including suitable indicators in local plan policies.

Infrastructure Finance

15.19 It was suggested that the Council adopt the national Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure that infrastructure can be delivered to serve

new development. Other revenue streams were also recommended specific to individual topic areas.

16. Scenarios for Growth

- 16.1 As part of the consultation, we asked people which of the three scenarios for growth they thought would best address the issues (scenario one representing low growth, scenario three high growth, and scenario two a mid-point between the high and low scenarios). We also asked people to suggest any alternative scenarios they thought would better address the issues.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 16.2 58% of respondents to the questionnaire (244 respondents) considered that Scenario 1 would be the best option for the District, with 28% (116 respondents) favouring Scenario 2 and 14% (59 respondents) preferring Scenario 3. A full schedule of the responses to this question by locality and person category is attached in appendix 6.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 16.3 Just over half of respondents (53%) considered that scenario one would be best for the District, with over a third (37%) preferring scenario two, and only 10% favouring scenario three. These proportions varied considerably by community forum area of the District, with 66% of respondents in Kenilworth preferring scenario one, compared to only 32% in South Leamington. Similarly, 18% and 14% of respondents in South Leamington and Warwick respectively preferred scenario three.

The most common reasons given by those preferring scenario one was that they felt the area already had enough homes, and they were against development on green belt land and preferred less impact on the environment. In relation to scenario two, respondents preferred this scenario as it was more balanced and a compromise between competing objectives, and also recognised that more homes are needed. The overwhelming reason for those who preferred scenario three was the need for more housing

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 16.4 Officers were invited to a number of well attended public meetings where the scenarios were explained as part of their presentation, and questions/discussion took place involving members of the public. At the end of some of these meetings, the public were invited to vote for which of the three scenarios they preferred by holding up different coloured cards.

- 16.5 A number of points were raised in discussion at public meetings which echo comments made in responses highlighted elsewhere in this report; in particular questioning the need for growth, concerns about the capacity and ability of infrastructure to be improved to cope with levels of growth, and concerns about the impact of growth on the character and environment of the area. Some also questioned the financial benefits of growth and whether these would improve the area.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 16.6 The views expressed in response to the scenarios put forward in the consultation vary considerably, from those advocating reasons for no growth to those supporting higher levels of growth than scenario three.
- 16.7 There was clear support for scenario one, many feeling this matches the views of local residents. Many felt that limiting growth in Warwick District to previously developed sites within the towns and villages would support their regeneration, and also the regeneration of the major urban areas in the region. Others felt this level of growth would reduce adding to the burdens on the existing road network and help maintain the existing quality of life. Views were also expressed in opposition to scenario one. Many felt this scenario did not reflect the recent announcements made by the Government urging Councils to 'plan for growth', or that the scenario was supported by any evidence that it would meet the future needs of the District and may therefore put pressure for more growth elsewhere in the region. This view was held by many landowners/developers.
- 16.8 Scenario two draws support on the grounds of its ability to deal with the important issues, and it is noted that this level of growth is in line with the previous figures emerging from the Regional Spatial Strategy. Others also cite the need for investment in local schools, and the potential to generate additional resources from this scenario to absorb future growth in student numbers. Similar views were expressed in opposition to scenario two as for scenario one, in that it was not supported by any evidence of future needs, nor does it reflect the Government's recent statements.
- 16.9 Scenario three draws support, mostly from the landowner/development sector with many citing it as the only scenario which can address the issues of housing and infrastructure needs that exist in the area. The economic benefits are also referenced, including its consistency with the Government's emphasis on economic growth, and the need for more housing to support the economic aspirations of the Enterprise Zone bid at Coventry Airport. Scenario three also drew opposition, with concerns expressed over the impact of building on greenfield land, its impact on

communities and possible coalescence of towns and villages. Other criticisms also included the absence of any population forecast to support the scenario.

- 16.10 Other scenarios were put forward. A small number of respondents have suggested no growth as their preferred scenario, citing concerns over the sustainability of growth, and that growth does not represent progress and that other methods of achieving economic activity should be found. Others suggested very little new development is needed given the number of vacant houses, shops and offices currently available, and the lack of certainty in forward planning over such a long time period given the current economic uncertainties. Some also felt that growth only served to fuel further growth in the future, which infrastructure or public services cannot keep pace with.
- 16.11 Others have called for growth based on local needs that provides affordable housing and housing for the elderly, which would be lower than scenario two. Alternatively, others consider the evidence of housing need and particularly affordable housing need would require levels higher than scenario three. Others have cited greater flexibility required rather than setting a target, particularly given the uncertainty in the economy.
- 16.12 More generally, many comments are made that recognise the need for growth but that it should be the right development in the right place, and that it is accompanied by appropriate improvements in services and infrastructure to deal with the impacts of growth.

17. Local Plan Objectives

- 17.1 As part of the consultation we asked people to consider the 15 draft objectives we have proposed and identify how important they are for the new local plan. We also asked if any other objectives should be included.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

- 17.2 The majority of those who responded to the question of how important the draft objectives are, listed each of the objectives as being either very important or important. The objectives concerned with ensuring that new developments are well designed in terms of maintaining and improving the built and natural environment, providing public and private open spaces, reducing the need to travel and the efficient use of water and energy had the highest number of respondents identifying them as very important.

Summary of Sample Survey Responses

- 17.3 For each of the objectives at least 80% of respondents agreed with the aim. Particular support was given to the aims; to attract new jobs and encourage existing businesses to grow but maintain a balance with housing growth, the need to ensure water and energy is used efficiently, and that utility, water and waste services are improved to meet the needs of new development.

Summary of Comments made at Meetings

- 17.4 A number of general points in relation to the objectives were made at public meetings and at the topic meetings with stakeholders the details of which are summarised along with other comments below.

Summary of Comments made to the Council

- 17.5 A wide range of comments were received in relation to the objectives some in support and others suggesting the inclusion of additional objectives or amended wording. A number of general points were made expressing concern that whilst the objectives are a worthwhile list they are too aspirational and it would be difficult to assess whether they are being achieved. In addition there was a suggestion that the objectives should have been debated and agreed before any scenarios were developed and the failure to do this is a major weakness of the draft.
- 17.6 The importance of the objectives in defining the basic responsibilities of the local authority was recognised and supported. There was particular support for objective 4 on the sustainable siting of development and objective 7 on their location and design improving (not just maintaining) the built and natural environments, especially historic areas and buildings.

In relation to this particular reference was made to the importance of green space in separating and maintaining the identity of Warwick from Leamington, Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook.

17.7 A number of more detailed comments were expressed in relation to the wording of particular objectives:

- The first three objectives are based on false assumptions as increases in consumption and housing demand are impossible. There is concern that the estimates which form the basis of the plan were produced before the current recession. It is likely that no greenfield development will be necessary if further studies are undertaken and land is used more efficiently for example, by requiring housing densities of 100 homes per hectare.
- Some of the objectives such as No 4 and 14 are poorly expressed and very wordy and appear to be encompassing more than one objective.
- It is hard to see any real difference between No 1 and 2 in terms of likely effect. In addition, it is pointed out that these objectives promote balance between economic growth and housing growth, as though each justifies the other when it is actually a circular argument. The argument for housing is unsupported in terms of level, tenure, type of location therefore without evidence the objective has no meaning.
- The word 'leisure' should be removed from objective 3 as this will overlap with objective 15.
- Targets should be set within the objectives for CO2 emissions in line with the UK carbon plan.
- The wording of objective 2 should be amended so that it refers to 'existing and future housing needs'
- There is concern over the meaning of objective 10 which as worded suggests primacy is given to the needs of the economy rather than conservation.
- The objectives to improve social, transport and service infrastructure are noted however it is suggested that achieving this and correcting present deficiencies is likely to be more difficult in the higher growth scenario, as the impact of high growth on the District's infrastructure would be greater than any additional funding resulting from it could resolve.

17.8 In addition to the above comments a number of additional objectives were suggested for inclusion in the Local Plan:

- *'To achieve stability within the existing establishment and population and improve the quality of what we have rather than increasing the quantity'*

- *'To maintain a 5 year supply of housing'* – although this is a national objective it is very important that people understand it is an objective of the local plan.
- *'To locate development in the most sustainable locations, even if this does involve building on green field land'* – suggests that it is impossible to meet an objective of developing the most sustainable location if you exclude all green and farm land.
- *'To find ways of providing and maintaining public facilities, affordable and social housing for sale and rent in the face of ever increasing restrictions on public expenditure'* – without this the local plan carries the risk of misleading people over what is and isn't possible.
- There should be an objective that reflects the ageing population and a desire to ensure their needs are met.
- It is suggested that objectives should be included regarding ongoing public service provision and which refer to 'a co-ordinated approach to planning public services infrastructure, including opportunities for partnership working and shared services between agencies' and 'access to new infrastructure funding particularly developer contributions via Section 106 and the community infrastructure levy'
- The objectives should recognise the importance of agriculture in terms of its role in managing the environment, landscape and biodiversity, as well as providing local produce, sustainable fuel sources, and rural business opportunities

18. List of sites

18.1 A number of respondents also identified the following sites and made comments either in support or objection to development. This consultation was not seeking views on specific sites and these will be considered at a later stage of consultation.

- **Warwick Racecourse** - the Local Plan should include a policy to allow the improvement of facilities at the racecourse and adopt a more flexible approach to the area of restraint boundary.
- **Hatton SHLAA sites** - R36 'west of Barcheston Drive', R37 'east of Barcheston Drive' and R38 'North Birmingham Rd, Hatton'
- **Coventry Airport and surrounding land** – the Local Plan should include a policy to recognise the role of the airport and to support its plans for expansion both in terms of passenger services and the growth of freight and aviation services.
- **Land at Gallows Hill, Warwick**
- **Hatton Country World / Experience** - should be allocated as a major developed site in the green belt and include a site specific policy for the Hatton Estate as a strategic tourism site.
- **Land north of Common Lane, Kenilworth**
- **Land at Thickthorn, Kenilworth**
- **Europa Way (south), Warwick**
- **Land at Baginton (south of village)**
- **University of Warwick** – the campus should be removed from the green belt to assist in achieving its proposed growth and vision.
- **Stoneleigh Park** - should be considered as a 'strategic site' and include a policy to guide development.

Appendix 1 – Deposit points for documents and questionnaires

- The Council Offices: Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa
Monday – Thursday 8.45 am – 5.15 pm; Friday 8.45 am – 4.45 pm
- The Town Hall: Parade, Royal Leamington Spa
Monday – Thursday 8.45 am – 5.15 pm; Friday 8.45 am – 4.45 pm
- Warwickshire Direct Whitnash: Whitnash Library, Franklin Road, Whitnash
Monday and Friday 9.30am – 5.30pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am – 7pm,
Wednesday 10.30am – 5.30pm, Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm
- Leamington Spa Library: The Pump Rooms, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa
Monday and Thursday 9.30 am – 8.00 pm; Tuesday 10.00 am – 8.00 pm; Wednesday and
Friday 9.30 am – 5.00 pm; Saturday 9.30 am – 4.00 pm; Sunday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
- Warwickshire Direct Warwick: Shire Hall, Market Square, Warwick
Monday to Thursday 8.00am – 5.30pm, Friday 8.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am –
4.00pm
- Warwickshire Direct Kenilworth: Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth
Monday and Thursday 9.00 am – 7.00 pm; Tuesday and Friday 9.00 am – 5.30 pm;
Wednesday 10.30 am – 5.30 pm; Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
- Warwickshire Direct Lillington: Lillington Library, Valley Road, Royal Leamington Spa
Monday and Friday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm; Tuesday and Thursday
9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm; Saturday 9.30 am – 4.00 pm
- Brunswick Healthy Living Centre: 98-100 Shrubland Street, Royal Leamington Spa
Monday - Thursday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm; Friday 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

Appendix 2 – List of Statutory Consultees

Advantage West Midlands
Ancient Monuments Society
British Gas Properties
British Gas Trading
British Telecommunications plc
British Waterways
Central Networks
Centro
Defence Estates
DEFRA
Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
Department for Transport
Department for Works & Pensions
Department of Health
E.ON UK plc
English Heritage
Environment Agency (Biodiversity)
British Rail Residuary Board
Health and Safety Executive
Highways Agency
Home Office
HSE Chemical & Hazardous Installations Division
Ministry of Defence
National Grid
Natural England
Network Rail
NHS Warwickshire
NHS West Midlands Division
nPower
Oil & Pipelines Agency
Positive about Young People
Powergen UK plc
Scottish Power
Severn Trent Water (Disposal)
Severn Trent Water (Supply Team)
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
South Warwickshire Foundation trust
South Warwickshire PCT
The Coal Authority
The Theatres Trust
Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance
Warwickshire County Council - Environment & Economy
Warwickshire County Council - Heritage & Culture (Museums)
Warwickshire County Council - Landscape Architect Team
Warwickshire County Council (Minerals Policy Team)
Warwickshire County Council [Gypsy and Traveller Team]
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service
Warwickshire Police

Appendix 3 – List of Meetings

Date	Group	Invitees
Officer / Councillor Meetings		
18.01.11	Warwick Area Committee	WCC Members
19.01.11	Senior Officers Meeting	WDC Senior Officers
01.03.11	WPEG	Wide range of organisations
11.03.11	Food & Occupational Safety & Health	
16.03.11	WDC Environmental Protection Team	
21.03.11	WDC Parks/Culture	
28.03.11	Neighbourhood Services	
31.03.11	CAAF	CAAF Members
24.05.11	Stratford DC	Member Working Group
13.06.11	WCC Strategic Infrastructure Group	WCC Heads of Service, Adult Health (Tim Willis), Transport (Roger Newham), Education (Simon Gore), Property Services, Customer Services, Jasbir
Topics		
28.01.11	Risk	Richard Barr
01.02.11	Transport	WCC & Highways Agency
03.02.11	Water	STW – Peter Davies
10.02.11	Planning Forum	All Town and Parish Councils and Amenity Groups
17.02.11	Crime/Policing	Police - Tim Sanders, Clive Phillips WDC - Pete Cutts
15.03.11	Health	NHS – Jane Dowsett WCC – Andrew Sharp
15.03.11	Environment (2 nd group)	British Waterways - Katherine Burnett FOE – John Brightley EA – Jane Field
17.03.11	Environment	Woodland Trust – Justin Milward Natural England – Allison Crofts WCC Ecology – David Lowe Warwickshire Wildlife Trust – Gina Rowe EA – Giles Matthews
21.03.11	Historic Environment	EH – Rohan Torkildsen WCC - Ben Morton WCC – Jonathan Parkhouse CLARA – Malcolm Welsh Leamington Society – Richard Ashworth Leamington Society - Archie Pitts

Date	Group	Invitees
		Kenilworth Society – Joanna Illingworth Warwick Society – James Mackay Warwick Society – Antony Butcher Warwick Society – Christine Hodgetts Tanya Newby
22.03.11	Rural	Rural Housing Enabler – Phil Ward NFU – Roger Campion Warwickshire Hub – Carrie Robbins RASE will not attend on this occasion but will wish to be involved later
04.04.11	Youth Services	Victoria Jones (Warwickshire Children & Voluntary Youth Services) Shinderpaul Bhangal (WCC Area IYSS Team Leader – Warwick)
23.06.11	Sport England	Bob Sharples
Schools		
18.02.11	North Leamington School	Student Parliament
15.03.11	Aylesford School	Geography students
26.05.11	Myton and Campion Schools	Both Schools
24.06.11	Campion School	Year 9 Students
Town and Parish Council Meetings		
05.03.11	Warks Assoc. of Town and Parish Councils	All clerks and members of Town and Parish Councils
04.04.11	Warwick District Town and Parish Councils	Town and Parish Councils
26.05.11	Leamington Town Council Meeting	All Leamington town councillors
Public Meetings		
08.03.11	Public Meeting (Alan Boad)	Lillington
08.03.11	Wainbody Ward Forum	Public
17.03.11	Public Meeting (Bill Gifford)	Milverton
23.03.11	Public Meeting (Richard Brookes)	Bishops Tachbrook
24.03.11	Public Meeting (Ann Blacklock)	Kenilworth

Date	Group	Invitees
	7pm	
28.03.11	Finham Residents' Association - AGM	FRA
23.05.11	Barford Public Meeting	Public Meeting
14.06.11	Warwick Public Meeting	Public Meeting organised by Town Council
22.06.11	Whitnash Public Meeting (Town Council)	
06.07.11	Hampton Magna Public Meeting	Public meeting – contact Clare Sawdon
Businesses / Property		
23.03.11	Warwick District Business Breakfast	Major employers (Chris Elliott speaking)
06.04.11	Housing Landlords Seminar	Need banners and info setting up before meeting
12.04.11	Leamington Forum	Town centre partnership
17.05.11	LEP	LEP Planning Group
18.05.11	Hallam Land Management	Alasdair Jones (Marrons) and Sally Adlen (Hallam Land Management)
06.06.11	Warwick University	University
16.06.11	Professional Associations Leading to Success	Local business breakfast meeting
16.06.11	Property Professionals Group	Property professionals
24.06.11	Cov & Warks Chamber of Commerce	
10.03.11	Kenilworth Town Partnership	KTP
Community		
19.04.11	WCAVA	Pauline Urwin
21.06.11	Community Action Forum	Young people's groups

Appendix 4 – List of exhibitions / drop in sessions

Exhibition	Date and time	Attendance numbers
Rural Business Event, Stoneleigh Park	5 th April, 10am to 2pm	3
Landlords Forum, Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa	6 th April, 5.30pm to 7.30pm	5
Warwick Library and Customer Service Centre	11 th April, 9am to 2pm	25
Brunswick Healthy Living Centre	9 th May, 10am to 3pm	12
Whitnash Library, Whitnash	10 th May, 2pm to 5pm	10
Brunswick Healthy Living Centre	12 th May, 10am to 3pm	15
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick	17 th May, 10am to 3pm	25
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick	18 th May, 10am to 3pm	36
Kenilworth Library and Customer Service Centre	19 th May, 9.30am to 4pm	34
Asda, Chesterton Drive, Sydenham	20 th May, 12pm to 7pm	93
Rural Mobile Library (Hampton on the Hill stop)	24 th May, 12pm to 1pm	0
Warwickshire College	25 th May, 10am to 2pm	33
Lillington Library and Warwickshire Direct Office	26 th May, 2.30pm to 5pm	5
Rural West Community Forum Bishops Tachbrook	26 th May, 7pm to 7.30pm	6
Tesco, Emscote Road, Warwick	3 rd June, 2pm to 7.30pm	83

Exhibition	Date and time	Attendance numbers
Tesco, Emscote Road, Warwick	4 th June, 10am to 4pm	200
Rural Mobile Library, Stoneleigh Village	6 th June, 9.45am to 10.15am	1
Kenilworth Community Forum, Kenilworth School, Kenilworth	6 th June, 6.30pm to 7pm	15
The Gap, Warwick	8 th June, 10am to 11am	25
North Leamington Community Forum, Lillington Primary School	9 th June, 5.30pm to 6pm	10
Royal Priors Shopping Centre, Leamington Spa	10 th June, 10am to 4pm	109
Royal Priors Shopping Centre, Leamington Spa	11 th June, 10am to 4pm	106
Warwick Community Forum, Emscote Infant School, Warwick	16 th June, 5.30pm to 7.30pm	60
Community Area Forum, Dorma Place Conference Centre	10.30am to 2pm	9
South Leamington Community Forum, Sydni Centre, Sydenham	5.30pm to 6pm	12

Appendix 5 – Summary of responses to questionnaire

Important Issues	To what extent do you agree these are the important issues for your local area?					Which of the three scenarios do you think best addresses the issues?		
	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Scenario 1 Low levels of growth, limiting new development to within the towns and villages and protecting all farmland	Scenario 2 Halfway point to encourage a limited amount of new development and growth	Scenario 3 High levels of growth to support a growing population and economy and provide improvements to services and facilities
Uncertain future of the local economy (%)	154 (35)	148 (34)	83 (19)	41 (9)	12 (3)	184 (43)	156 (37)	84 (20)
High house prices and lack of affordable homes (%)	138 (31)	108 (24)	92 (21)	74 (17)	31 (7)	170 (40)	173 (41)	80 (19)
Economic strength of the town centres (%)	138 (31)	203 (46)	77 (18)	19 (4)	3 (1)	173 (41)	159 (37)	95 (22)
Size and condition of public facilities and services and whether they can meet current and future needs (%)	161 (36)	172 (39)	71 (16)	27 (6)	12 (3)	212 (50)	127 (30)	84 (20)
Unequal opportunities to improve health and well being (%)	71 (17)	109 (25)	157 (36)	75 (17)	22 (5)	208 (50)	147 (36)	57 (14)
Road congestion and air pollution (%)	207 (47)	139 (31)	68 (15)	24 (6)	6 (1)	294 (69)	76 (18)	55 (13)
Threat of flooding of homes and businesses (%)	98 (22)	120 (27)	125 (29)	71 (16)	25 (6)	285 (68)	90 (21)	44 (11)
Areas of poverty in Warwick and Leamington (%)	73 (17)	129 (30)	123 (28)	89 (20)	21 (5)	178 (43)	162 (39)	74 (18)
Threats to the environment (%)	199 (45)	124 (28)	73 (17)	36 (8)	11 (2)	305 (72)	80 (19)	40 (9)
Crime and fear of crime (%)	112 (25)	171 (39)	93 (21)	48 (11)	16 (4)	245 (59)	118 (28)	53 (13)

Question 2 – Open responses analysed as part of the topic papers

Question 3 – What is your Preferred Scenario?

Scenario 1	244 (58.23%)
Scenario 2	116 (27.68%)
Scenario 3	59 (14.08%)

Question 4 – Open responses analysed as part of the topic papers

Question 5 – How important do you consider these draft objectives for the Local Plan to be?

Objective	Very important	Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Not at all important
1. Provide a sustainable level of economic growth, and balance this with housing growth	178 (41%)	140 (32%)	63 (15%)	33 (8%)	19 (4%)
2. Provide a sustainable level of housing growth, and balance this with economic growth, to meet future housing needs and affordability	142 (33%)	124 (29%)	68 (16%)	60 (14%)	35 (8%)
3. Provide a sustainable level of retail and leisure that will meet people's existing and future need	123 (28%)	183 (42%)	78 (18%)	33 (8%)	16 (4%)
4. Make sure that new developments are in places that will reduce the need for people to use their cars, reduce road congestion to improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and encourage more healthy lifestyles by walking and cycling more	269 (62%)	102 (24%)	31 (7%)	18 (4%)	12 (3%)

Objective	Very important	Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Not at all important
5. Make sure new developments are designed and built so they use water and energy efficiently and reduce the overall demand for natural resources	267 (62%)	115 (27%)	33 (8%)	7 (1%)	8 (2%)
6. Make sure that new developments are located, designed and built so that they deal with the expected effects of climate change, particularly flooding	254 (59%)	118 (27%)	39 (9%)	9 (2%)	10 (3%)
7. Make sure new developments are designed and located to maintain and improve the quality of the built and natural environments	290 (68%)	105 (24%)	24 (6%)	4 (1%)	6 (1%)
8. Make sure new developments are built to a high standard in terms of design	266 (62%)	116 (27%)	35 (8%)	5 (1%)	7 (2%)
9. Make sure new developments provide public and private open spaces where there is a choice of areas of shade, shelter and recreation which will benefit people, wildlife, flood storage and carbon management	274 (64%)	99 (23%)	38 (9%)	8 (2%)	7 (2%)
10. Make sure that if buildings and spaces need to be adapted to meet the changing needs of the economy and to deal with environmental issues, they will be adapted in a sensitive way	224 (52%)	150 (35%)	41 (10%)	5 (1%)	11 (3%)
11. Enable organisations that provide community infrastructure to provide and maintain improved facilities and services	195 (46%)	155 (36%)	56 (13%)	12 (3%)	9 (2%)
12. Enable utility, water and waste organisations to improve their infrastructure and services and contribute to dealing with the causes of climate change	212 (50%)	143 (34%)	47 (11%)	14 (3%)	10 (2%)
13. Enable transport providers to provide improvements, particularly better and more integrated public transport, cycle and pedestrian facilities	264 (62%)	109 (26%)	34 (8%)	12 (3%)	7 (2%)

Objective	Very important	Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Not at all important
14.Enable improvements to be made to the built and natural environments which will help maintain and improve historic assets, improve habitats, provide public access and enjoyment of open spaces, reduce flood risk and minimise the effects of climate change	263 (61%)	118 (27%)	36 (8%)	5 (1%)	8 (2%)
15.Enable improvements to be made to maintain and improve the quality of cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities	157 (37%)	165 (38%)	82 (19%)	20 (5%)	6 (1%)

Question 6 – Open responses analysed as part of the topic papers

Appendix 6 - Results of Question 3 (Preferred Scenario) by Person Category and Locality

Community Forum Area (Locality)

Respondent Category	Scenario 1 #	Scenario 1 %	Scenario 2 #	Scenario 2 %	Scenario 3 #	Scenario 3 %	Total Count - response to question 3	Total Count-response to question 3 as %
Kenilworth	26	57.8%	13	28.9%	6	13.3%	45	10.74%
Leamington - North	26	41.3%	27	42.9%	10	15.9%	63	15.04%
Leamington - South	8	47.1%	5	29.4%	4	23.5%	17	4.06%
Warwick	35	58.3%	17	28.3%	8	13.3%	60	14.32%
Warwick - Rural East	19	59.4%	11	34.4%	2	6.3%	32	7.64%
Warwick - Rural West	101	74.3%	29	21.3%	6	4.4%	136	32.46%
Whitnash	9	81.8%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	11	2.63%
Unknown / Anonymous	5	55.6%	3	33.3%	1	11.1%	9	2.15%
Outside District	15	32.6%	9	19.6%	22	47.8%	46	10.98%
<u>Total</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>58.2%</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>27.7%</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>14.1%</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Person Category

Respondent Category	Scenario 1 #	Scenario 1 %	Scenario 2 #	Scenario 2 %	Scenario 3 #	Scenario 3 %	Total Count - response to question 3 a #	Total Count-response to question 3 as %
Adjoining Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Commercial	1	3.8%	4	15.4%	21	80.8%	26	6.2%
Councillor	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.7%
Couple	12	80.0%	2	13.3%	1	6.7%	15	3.6%
Family	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Individual	209	62.0%	95	28.2%	33	9.8%	337	80.4%
Organisation	4	44.4%	5	55.6%	0	0.0%	9	2.1%
Parish Council	5	83.3%	1	16.7%		0.0%	6	1.4%
Parish Councillor	0 *		0 *		0 *		0	0.0%
Residents' Association	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.7%
School	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Statutory Consultee	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	0.5%
Town Council	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Unknown / Anonymous	7	53.8%	4	30.8%	2	15.4%	13	3.1%
Total	245	58.5%	116	27.7%	58	13.8%	419	100.0%