Background Technical Paper

Appendix 2 - Issues

1   Business and Employment

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the overarching objective is sustainable economic growth with the following planning objectives:

> 1. *Build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of towns and local areas;*
> 2. *Reduce the gap in economic growth rates; and,*
> 3. *Promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation.*

At the regional level[2], the aim is to significantly improve and maintain the physical and business environment of the region's employment areas and to provide and maintain a range and choice of the readily available employment sites to meet the needs of the regional economy. Companies should be encouraged to establish local partnerships. Plans should support the sustainable diversification and development of the rural economy and include positive policies to promote agriculture and farm diversification.

At the sub-regional level[3], there is a vision for Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire to be the centre for applied learning, where aspirational people create innovative products and services. This translates into the following objectives:

1. *Create a resilient economy with opportunities that are available to all;*
2. *Develop a sustainable and green economy;*
3. *Grow aspirations;*
4. *Enabling self-developing communities that provide quality of life; and,*
5. *Connect the sub-region.*

Business and civic leaders in Coventry & Warwickshire have submitted an outline proposal for the formation of a Local Enterprise Partnership across Coventry and Warwickshire with the vision of making the area a World Class economy in which to do business.

At the local level[4], there is a strategic aim to provide a strong, diverse economy which provides jobs for all. Priority is given to creating an economically vibrant and creative community – low carbon based, focussing on the development of the knowledge economy/creative/high value engineering and design industries.

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Employment Areas in Need of Modernisation and Renewal (PA5); Portfolio of Employment Land (PA6); Economic Development and the Rural Economy (PA14); Agriculture and Farm Diversification (PA15)
[3] Source: Sub-Regional Economic Strategy Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire
[4] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy

What's the situation now?

Notwithstanding the recent economic downturn, the district has consistently experienced relatively strong levels of economic growth and above average growth in the number of businesses[5], and is regarded as one of the strongest economies in the West Midlands region[6]. However, despite strong growth, average productivity in terms of the economic output per employee is below the national average[7].

The district's economy is characterised by its strength in knowledge intensive industries (over 25% of all enterprises), i.e. those that are intensive users of ICT technologies and have high shares of highly educated labour[8]. Similarly, the district has a much greater proportion of people employed (over 50%) in 'knowledge occupations' compared to the regional and national average. It is generally believed that jobs in the knowledge economy are likely to be more secure than those which require low skills and therefore easier to export. The district's economy is therefore considered to be more resilient than other areas to the economic downturn and well placed moving forward given its concentration within high growth sectors[9]. This may be critical in responding to the impacts of future job losses in the public sector.

The strength of the economy is also reflected in the number of new business start-up rates[10]. However, the proportion of growing businesses is lower than the county and national average[11], with particular concerns in respect of the limited growth (in employment terms) of small and medium sized businesses.

The proportion of people unemployed in the district has also consistently been lower than the county and national figures. The latest figures from January 2011[12] show that just over 2,000 residents were claiming job-seekers allowance, representing 2.3% of the working age population. However, there is considerable variation within the district with some areas experiencing unemployment rates just below 6%. Worklessness is a less familiar term than unemployment and is used to describe all those of working age who are not employed and are claiming a benefit, i.e. jobseekers' allowance, incapacity benefit, and income support. In the district, over 8% of the working age population are claiming benefits[13], again with significant variation between areas with some areas experiencing levels of over 20%.

Of those employed, the district has an above average and growing proportion of its residents employed as 'managers and senior officials', 'professional occupations' and 'associate professional and technical' (over 50%) compared with the rest of the county[14] and employment within the district is characterised by its strength in business services (24%)[15]. Conversely, it has a below average

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[5] Source: Local Economic Assessment Key Issues Summary Paper
[6] Source: The Work Foundation, 2009
[7] Source: Local Economic Assessment Key Issues Summary Paper
[8] Source: Quality of Life Report 2009
[9] Source: Experian, 2010
[10] Source: ONS (National Indicator 171 data)
[11] Source: ONS (National Indicator 172 data)
[12] Source: Claimant Count Unemployment, Office for National Statistics
[13] Source: Warwickshire Observatory: Warwick District Profile
[14] Source: Annual Population Survey 2007-2008
[15] Source: Understanding Employer Needs in Coventry and Warwickshire

and falling proportion of its residents in 'skilled trades occupations', possibly a reflection of the decline of the manufacturing sector with the loss of firms such as Ford, Potterton and Benford from the district. However, manufacturing firms do still retain a strong presence in the district although there is a shift towards more knowledge based hi-tech manufacturing, with a particular emphasis within the automotive industry.

The local economy therefore continues to be dependent on high levels of mobility between peoples' homes and jobs, with Warwick District being a major net importer of labour (i.e. more jobs than employed residents)[16]. This places an added pressure on the local transport infrastructure, demand for housing and local services, and in some sectors such as manufacturing has resulted in difficulties in finding adequate numbers of staff with the skills needed[17]. Increasing demand for housing can have the knock-on effect of increasing house prices, making it harder for people on lower incomes to access the housing market resulting in increasing in-commuting from outside of the district and making it harder for certain businesses in lower paid sectors to find employees. There is no evidence the economy is 'over-heating' to the point at which this is happening and having a negative impact on economic growth, however, there are some early indicators identified in other topic papers in relation to housing and transport.

The economic strength of the area might also be regarded as a factor that encourages more businesses to locate in the district, however, past rates of employment development for the last 10 years have been low, with the average amount of land developed being approximately 4 hectares[18]. A number of employment land allocations from the 1995 Local Plan and other committed sites have as a consequence remained undeveloped for many years, and the district currently has 69.45 hectares of land available for employment uses, e.g. offices, industrial and warehousing.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The absence of a Local Plan for the district identifying and co-ordinating future development and investment in jobs, homes, infrastructure and services may threaten the economic growth of the district as it would reduce businesses' and investors' confidence to expand or locate in the area. Uncontrolled or sporadic development might harm the environment and/or impact on local infrastructure capacity which may impact on the attractiveness of the area for economic growth.

The anticipated growth of the local population of the district will place greater demands for work, although this may be tempered by a fall in the working age population. Whilst it is hoped that the continued growth in the local economy will provide for these needs, the employment opportunities created in the absence of a plan may not be in the areas where it is most needed or in the types of jobs required to meet the skills of the existing population. The situation without the plan may be a lack of co-ordination between where new employment development takes place and where it is needed to address areas of

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[16] Source: Understanding Employer Needs in Coventry and Warwickshire
[17] Source: Understanding Employer Needs in Coventry and Warwickshire
[18] Source: Employment Land Monitoring April 2010

unemployment and worklessness. This may place increasing demands on transport infrastructure, including too areas outside of the district.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and economic investment within the district to help address the following issues:

1. Identifying a sustainable level of economic growth to meet existing and future employment needs, and to help address pockets of unemployment and worklessness;

2. Maintaining and developing the knowledge intensive industries to ensure the district retains its strong economy and is resilient to changing economic circumstances in the future, such as public sector job losses;

3. Improving the rates of businesses growth in the district to support the 'organic' growth of the local economy;

4. Improving transport infrastructure, the supply of homes, and the skills in the local population to ensure the needs of the local economy can be met within the district; and

5. Maintaining a flexible supply of land for business and assessing whether the currently available employment land is of the right type, and in the right location, to meet the future needs of the economy.

2   Climate Change

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1] planning is considered to have a key role in achieving sustainable development and addressing the causes and impacts of climate change through the following objectives:

1. *To reduce energy and resource consumption;*
2. *To reduce greenhouse emissions;*
3. *To design developments which can adapt to the impacts of climate change; and,*
4. *To increase the use and generation of renewable energy sources.*

They should also:

1. *Support delivery of the Government's timetable for reducing carbon emissions by meeting objectives for the achievement of zero carbon buildings, and*
2. *Have an evidence based understanding of the local feasibility and potential for renewable energy and use this information to set a target percentage of the energy to be used in new development to come from decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy sources.*

To support these objectives the Government has set out in law[2] a framework for enabling local planning authorities to require that a proportion of energy from new developments is met from renewable or low carbon sources. It has also set out a timetable for achieving zero carbon homes by 2016 through the progressive tightening of building regulations[3].

The following legally binding national targets have been set in relation to climate change which will need to be taken into account in planning for future growth:

1. *To ensure that 15% of total energy is provided through renewables sources by 2020 (Compared with under 2% in 2009), and*
2. *To cut carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels[4]*

To assist in meeting these targets the Government has introduced incentives to increase the level of electricity produced from renewable energy in the form of Feed in Tariffs. The Renewable Heat Incentive is a similar scheme for the renewable generation of heat which is scheduled to come into force in April 2011.

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1: Climate Change Supplement and Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy
[2] Source: Planning and Energy Act (2007)
[3] Source: Building a Greener Future Policy Statement (2007)
[4] Source: Climate Change Act (2008)

At the regional level[5], development plans should encourage proposals for the use of renewable energy resources and provide guidance on the most appropriate locations for the technology. The need to minimise energy demands from development, redevelopment and improvement by encouraging the use of sustainable construction techniques, best practice in energy efficient design, and orientation of all building types to maximise passive solar gain and encourage the use of good quality heating schemes for developments is identified.

At the local level[6], climate change is identified as a cross cutting issue affecting the four key themes of *Safer Communities; Health and Well Being; Housing; Economy, Skills and Employment*. The need to design sustainable homes which are energy efficient and minimise carbon emissions is identified as being important to ensure housing needs can be met into the future. It is also acknowledged that a strong and diverse economy should be based on low carbon principles.

What's the situation now?

The most current data shows that carbon emissions per capita within the district reduced between 2005 and 2008 and that transport was the largest contributor.

Table 1: Per Capita Local Carbon Emissions Estimates for (kt/CO2)

	Total per capita emissions	Industry and commercial	Domestic	Road transport
2005	9.3	3.2	2.4	3.6
2006	9.3	3.2	2.4	3.6
2007	8.8	2.8	2.3	3.6
2008	8.5	2.7	2.3	3.5

In terms of domestic energy efficiency, the district has seen an improvement annually since information has been collected bringing the cumulative total to 30.5% in 2008 and meeting the corporate target to reach a 30% improvement by 2011. Improving energy efficiency continues to be an important objective.

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[5]Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008):: Energy Generation (EN1); Energy Conservation (EN2)

[6] Source: A Shared Vision – Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy

Table 2: Total domestic energy efficiency improvement

Domestic Energy Efficiency	Annual %	(Cumulative total)
2007/08	1.89%	(30.5%)
2006/07	2.21%	(28.6%)
2005/06	1.78%	(26.4%)
2004/05	2.10%	(24.6%)
2003/04	4.29%	(22.5%)
2002/03	5.03%	(18.2%)
2001/02	2.08%	(13.2%)
2000/01	2.22%	(11.1%)

The potential deliverability and viability of renewable and low carbon options within the district is as follows:

1. *The potential for standalone wind turbines within the district is limited due to the existence of a wide range of constraints.*
2. *The use of biomass heat and power within the district may be possible on a small scale providing that a local supply chain can be established.*
3. *There is potential for communal systems within large new build settlements (such as urban extensions over 1,000 dwellings) and with the opportunity to exploit Government incentives it is considered that this size of development has the potential to reach zero carbon by 2013.*
4. *There is a case for exceeding the current timetable for tightening building regulations in smaller developments (such as urban infill) by requiring 20% of the energy demand to be met through renewable and low carbon options. This is on the basis that Government initiatives to support low carbon development (Feed in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive) are exploited.*
5. *That larger developments should require 20% renewable energy in the period 2010 – 2013 however after this time buildings regulations will have caught up requiring residential development to meet Code Level 4.*
6. *There is potential for the creation of a Carbon Investment Fund which could collect section 106 contributions where the requirement cannot be met on site and used to support the delivery of low carbon measures such as off site renewable energy infrastructure (such as local authority led district heating) or retrofitting energy efficiency infrastructure in existing building stock.*
7. *In the rural area there is more potential for a shift to renewable and low carbon sources of energy as more properties are 'off gas' because it is uneconomical to invest in gas grid connections.*

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

Projections for climate change in the West Midlands based on medium emissions scenarios suggest hotter, drier summers, warmer wetter winters and more extreme weather events as follows:

Table 3: Future predicted temperature and precipitation

Temperature	2020	2050	2080
Winter mean temperature	1.3	2.1	2.9
Summer mean temperature	1.5	2.6	3.7
Precipitation	**2020**	**2050**	**2080**
Annual mean Precipitation %	0	0	1
Winter mean precipitation %	5	13	17
Summer mean precipitation %	-7	-17	-20

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population of the district will increase the demand for energy and heating which could increase reliance on fossil fuels and make targets to reduce carbon emissions more difficult to achieve. In the future the risk of finite resource scarcity could mean energy demands cannot be met if alternative renewable and low carbon sources are not developed. The situation without the new Local Plan would mean measures to reduce overall energy consumption and increase the use of renewable and low carbon technologies might not be implemented and this would make it difficult to meet national carbon emission targets. The absence of a new Local Plan would also make it more difficult to implement measures to ensure new development adapts to the predicted effects of climate change, which may have consequences for the local population and businesses, as well as the built and natural environment.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and investment within the district to help address the following issues:

1. Increasing the use of renewable and low carbon sources of energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, particularly in relation to the issue of peak oil and gas;
2. Ensuring new development is designed and built to a high standard of energy efficiency to reduce the overall demand for energy;
3. To contribute towards meeting Government targets for achieving zero carbon buildings and reducing carbon emissions;
4. To design buildings and spaces which are able to adapt to the projected impacts of climate change; and,
5. To ensure renewable and low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures are implemented sensitively within the historic environment and particularly for listed buildings.

3   Community Safety

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], planning should promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe and crime free. In addition, local authorities should develop robust design policies that aspire to create safe and accessible places where crime and disorder or the fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

At the regional level[2], plans should facilitate the co-ordination of land use and investment decisions of providers with improved service delivery to encourage the creation of safer neighbourhoods. In addition, development plans should promote the creation of high quality built environments which discourage crime and promote community safety.

At the county level, the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service mission[3] is to save life, protect property and the environment and reduce the risk to Warwickshire communities. Warwickshire Police Authority's mission[4] is to protect communities, prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and provide public reassurance.

Warwickshire Police have a number of priorities in order to deliver their vision of 'protecting communities together':

1. Reducing the number of people killed on our roads or by crime
2. Reducing crimes of violence and road injuries
3. Protecting people from loss, such as having their possessions stolen
4. Protecting against distress: giving people confidence to go about their lives without fear

At the local level, community safety issues are tackled by the South Warwickshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – a combination of police, Stratford and Warwick District Councils and other organisations . Their vision[5] is to make the area an attractive, environmentally sustainable, desirable area in which to live, work and visit, with a sense of safety proportionate to the low risk of becoming a victim of crime in the area.

For 2010-11 the priorities (in order) for Safer South Warwickshire are:

1. Serious violent crime
2. Antisocial behaviour (including criminal damage and arson)
3. Serious acquisitive crime
4. Controlling the speed of vehicles in residential area

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Social Infrastructure (UR4); Creating a High Quality Built Environment for All (QE3)
[3] Source: Vision & Mission Statement, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
[4] Source: Policing plan 2010 –2013, Warwickshire Police Authority
[5] Source: South Warwickshire Partnership Plan 2008 - 2011, Safer South Warwickshire

In addition[6], there is a strategic aim that by 2026 the people of Warwick District will feel safe going about their everyday lives, with the following priorities:

1. Reduce serious violent crime
2. Reduce antisocial behaviour including criminal damage
3. Reduce serious acquisitive crime including vehicle crime

What's the situation now?

In 2009/10 there were 8,129 recorded crimes in the district. This is the lowest total for ten years with 1,584 fewer crimes than the previous 12 month period[7]. In addition, fear of crime levels are also at their lowest for a decade[8]. This is lower than the average for the county[9]. There have also been reductions in anti-social behaviour within the district, with the exception of Leamington Town centre, where levels remained unchanged.

The top three wards for serious violent crime are:
1. Leamington Town Centre (Clarendon)
2. Milverton South East (Milverton)
3. Campion Hills & Newbold Comyn (Clarendon)

Warwickshire Police currently operate from a number of police stations across the district, including Kenilworth, Lapworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue currently have three stations within the district, a full time station at Leamington and two retained stations at Warwick and Kenilworth. As part of the authority's improvement plan, it is likely that Warwick fire station will close in 2011.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The continued growth of the district will place greater pressure on community safety services. This could result in potentially more crimes being committed, a rise in antisocial behaviour and possibly the fear of crime. Demands on the fire and rescue service could also increase. For both services, increasing congestion could result in longer response times. An increasing pressure on growth and development in the district may occur at a time when there is pressure to reduce public spending on community safety services. The situation without the new Local Plan, may lead to new development being located in areas which cannot easily be served by the police or fire services, or designed without community safety in mind which can help reduce crime and the perception of it.

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[6] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[7] Source: Warwick District Community Safety team, 2010
[8] Source: Fear of Crime & Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour 2009/10, Warwickshire Observatory
[9] Source: County comparisons can be made on the Warwickshire Crime Mapping website

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and investment in community safety within the district to help address the following issues:

1. Reducing crime and the fear of crime;
2. Tackling anti-social behaviour issues, particularly in relation to the night time economy in Leamington Spa;
3. Tackling traffic congestion which could impact of the ability of existing stations to meet standards of cover; and,
4. Improving the safety of the transport network for all users.

4   Heritage and Built Environment

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the historic environment and ensuring high quality and inclusive design for all development. The following objectives for the historic environment are:

1. To deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the historic environment:
- *recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource;*
- *take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation; and*
- *recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term.*

2. To conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that:
- *decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset;*
- *wherever possible, heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation;*
- *the positive contribution of such heritage assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued; and*
- *consideration of the historic environment is integrated into planning policies, promoting place-shaping.*

3. To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

The regional priorities[2] are to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the West Midland's diverse historic environment and manage change in such a way that respects local character and distinctiveness. Plans should recognise the value of conservation led regeneration in contributing to the vitality of communities.

At the local level[3], there is a strategic aim to protect and enhance the built environment.

What is the Situation Now?

The district has a rich history which has left a legacy of fine historic buildings and places, including castles of national importance at Warwick and Kenilworth. It currently contains 2,145 listed buildings, 4 of which are recognised as being at risk namely Baginton Castle, Goodrest Lodge (Leek Wootton), Old Castle Bridge (Warwick), and the Masters House (Warwick)[4]. There are 11 parks and gardens

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development and 5: Planning for the Historic Environment
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment (QE5)
[3] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[4] Source: Heritage at Risk 2010 Report

of special historic interest which cover 4% of the district's land area, of which two are considered to be at risk namely Guy's Cliffe and Stoneleigh Abbey. There are a further 28 historic parks and gardens designated of local importance. The district also contains 46 scheduled monuments, 12 of which are considered to be at risk. In addition, there are 29 designated Conservation Areas covering approximately 4% of the district's land area, none of which are on the at risk register. The historic environment therefore makes a significant contribution to the district and is in generally good condition. This contributes to the strong perception that Warwick District is a high quality environment overall, but there are pockets where the environment is less good and needs to improve. Nine out of ten residents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live in 2009/10[5].

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The quality of the historic and built environment makes an important contribution to the success of the district's economy. Without these attributes, the towns and villages would have considerably less charm and appeal as places to work, live or visit. In the absence of a new Local Plan, there is a risk that the quality of the historic and built environment deteriorates as a result of developments and changes to places which do not preserve what is important locally in terms of listed buildings, parks and gardens, and conservation areas.

Poor quality development can have a detrimental effect on the appearance of an area, which can affect the desirability of a place to live and work. This can potentially discourage private sector investment in repairing and maintaining buildings and spaces, and if not addressed can lead to a spiral of decline in an area. This may result in an increase in the number of buildings, sites and Conservation Areas 'at risk'.

It is also important to preserve the local distinctiveness of the district in its towns, villages and rural areas. This is what makes the place attractive to residents and visitors. This also applies to landscapes which, if sporadic development was allowed as a result of the lack of a local plan, could be lost or severely damaged.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it protects and enhances the historic environment and achieves a high standard of design throughout the district in the future to help address the following issues:

- Maintaining a strong local economy in order to ensure the district's historic assets are maintained in a good state of repair and to improve the condition of those that are at risk;
- Finding new uses for historic buildings and spaces which are either vacant or no longer appropriate for their current use;
- Maintaining the current high quality of the built environment and addressing areas where it needs to improve through change;
- Ensuring a high standard of inclusive design in all developments, whilst retaining and reinforcing local distinctiveness and character; and,
- Retrofitting energy efficiency and renewable energy, where appropriate, into historic buildings.

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[5] Source: Warwickshire Partnership Place Survey 2009/10

5   Health and Social Care

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the following planning objectives are relevant:

1. *Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life; and*
2. *Ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.*

More specifically, in relation to health, the four main objectives for health care[2] are putting patients and the public first; improving healthcare outcomes; autonomy, accountability and democratic legitimacy; and cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency.

In relation to adult social care, the vision is for the development of a personalised approach to the delivery of adult social care[3]. The four key elements are: prevention; early intervention and re-ablement; personalisation; and information, advice and advocacy.

At the regional level[4], there is an aim to improve social infrastructure service delivery and in turn facilitate the modernisation of local health services, and ensure any new social infrastructure is developed in appropriate centres, accessible by potential users.

At the county level, there are four strategic goals for health in Warwickshire: Best Quality, Engagement, Sustainability and Transformation[5]. There is also a vision at the county level for everyone to "live healthy, active and independent lives"[6]. One of the priorities for the County Council is "maximising independence for older people and adults with disabilities"[7]. In addition, NHS Warwickshire & the County Council have identified the current and future main health and wellbeing needs of the county.[8]

At the local level, there are a number of strategic aims to promote the wellbeing of the population and their access to housing, health, education and employment[9]. The priorities for health and well being include issues such as health promotion, removing barriers to sport and recreation; building the capacity of the voluntary sector; replicate the best practice of Brunswick

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[1] Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
[2] Source: Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS
[3] Source: Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care
[4] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Social Infrastructure (UR4)
[5] Source: Best Health for Everyone
[6] Source: People, Places and Prosperity (Warwickshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy) 2009-2026
[7] Source: Warwickshire County Council's Corporate Business Plan
[8] Source: Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009)
[9] Source: A Shared Vision (Warwick District's Sustainable Community Strategy) 2009-2026

Healthy Living Centre; improve signposting to services; improve access to drug and alcohol rehabilitation and support services and produce an anti-poverty strategy.

What's the situation now?

The county as a whole experiences generally lower levels of illness and premature mortality than many areas of the country. However, it is the same for conditions which commonly cause death and disability – circulatory disease, cancers, diabetes, respiratory, gastrointestinal disease and avoidable injury. Lifestyle issues such as smoking, exercise, diet, alcohol and other substance misuse remain the underlying causes of premature ill-health and it is known that people from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to adopt unhealthy lifestyles. Health inequalities are present across the county.

The increasing proportion of elderly people is a major challenge in Warwickshire - increased life expectancy brings with it an increase in the number of people in need of health and social care.

In terms of health facilities, there are currently seventeen GP practices in the district, of which seven consist of less than four GPs and four consist of six or more GPs. Three of these practices operate on two different sites. The changing nature of the services which are provided by GP practices means that some are unable to satisfactorily adapt within their existing premises. A total of seven practice premises are currently the subject of a review to establish whether they are fit-for-purpose taking into account strategic fit, functional suitability, quality and capacity to meet future needs. The GP practices are reasonably well located across the district.

There are three community clinics in the district - Kenilworth Clinic, Brunswick Healthy Living Centre and Crown Way Clinic – as well as a Teenage Health Clinic and an Occupational Health Clinic. There are 31 Dental Practices. Kenilworth Clinic is identified as being in need of significant investment for refurbishment. Mental Health Services are centred on St Michael's Hospital which provides both in-and out-patient facilities. In addition, there are a number of other clinics, primarily in Leamington Spa, dealing with Outreach and Recovery, Substance Misuse, Drugs, Eating Disorders and Elderly Mental Health.

In line with the new emphasis on personalised services in Warwickshire NHS's health strategy, new ways of delivering services to the community will be developed in the future. These include the use of the "hub and spoke" model where community health services are centralised within hubs and deliver services to people's homes. Similarly, "virtual wards" will provide support in the community for people with complex needs as an alternative to hospital.

Adult social care includes care for adults with mental health problems, and physical and learning difficulties. Care services currently fall within three categories: domiciliary and residential care and day opportunities. In line with "Putting People First", services are currently being remodelled with the emphasis on personalisation and greater independence. Care for older people will, where possible, be delivered within the home, remodelled sheltered housing or purpose built extra care housing.

The key to independent (or active) living for older people is based upon health, housing and social service providers pulling together to form the so-called "triangle of independence".

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

A number of changes to the way in which health and social services are delivered are likely to take place over the period of the plan. Where such changes have land use implications, the process of planning and delivering the new services will be less efficient without a long term spatial plan which is able to co-ordinate future needs in terms of service delivery centres.

Where new housing development takes place, there will be a corresponding increase in the demand for health and social services. Without a plan, the providers will be unable to forecast this future demand and make the appropriate decisions to meet it. In terms of urban extensions, there would be no mechanism to ensure that facilities to meet the increased demand will be provided within the developments. The health, social and specialist housing needs of an increasing number of older people may not be adequately met.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issues and challenges for health and social care are:

1. Ensuring that the health and social care infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of an increased population;
2. Making appropriate provision for health and social care services within new development;
3. Meeting the specialist housing needs of a growing number of older people;
4. Working with providers to deliver remodelled services in appropriate and accessible locations;
5. Ensuring that health and social care needs are adequately met in rural areas; and,
6. Ensuring that the natural and built environment is conducive to living healthy lifestyles.

6   Social & Economic Deprivation

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the following planning objectives are relevant:

1. *Makes a positive difference to people's lives and helps to deliver homes, jobs, and better opportunities for all;*
2. *Delivers a high level of employment and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being, in ways that protect and enhance the physical environment; and,*
3. *Ensures that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community*

At the regional level[2] there is a strategic aim to improve factors such as housing, environmental quality, transport and access to leisure facilities to enhance the attractiveness of the West Midlands to inward investment to, in turn, improve quality of life. In addition, there is an aim to ensure the conditions in 'areas of need' are addressed so that they become 'areas of opportunity'.

At the county level[3], the vision is that in 2026, Warwickshire will be a fair, safe and prosperous place where inequalities that exist between communities will be reduced; there is good access to services, choice and opportunity; and sustainability is pursued through balancing our current needs with those of future generations. Tackling inequality, access to services and sustainability are key themes. One of the three over-arching themes is to "Narrow the Gaps" - reducing the inequalities that exist by geography or through communities of interest.

At the local level[4], there is a number of strategic aims to ensure that the work of partner agencies promotes the wellbeing of the population and their access to housing, health, education and employment. The cross cutting themes, include:

1. *Narrowing the gaps on a range of priority actions;*
2. *Working with families at risk;*
3. *Engaging and strengthening communities, including community cohesion; and,*
4. *Rurality – targeting disadvantaged rural locations*

The three targeted wards are Brunswick Ward, Crown Ward and West Warwick Ward.

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development)
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Prosperity for All (PA1)
[3] Source: People, Places and Prosperity (Warwickshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy) 2009-2026
[4] Source: "A Shared Vision" (Warwick District's Sustainable Community Strategy) 2009-2026

What's the situation now?

National statistics which measure relative deprivation have highlighted three general localities in Warwick District which are amongst the most deprived 20% or 30% of areas in England. These include Lillington East, Brunswick South East and South West, and Packmores West.

There have been a considerable number of targeted interventions in the Brunswick and Crown wards in Leamington in recent years and significant improvements made in narrowing the gaps. These include targeting public and voluntary services such as health, education, youth, community safety and child care with the emphasis on children and families. Such targeted efforts are now being expanded to take in some of the estates in Warwick where pockets of deprivation exist.

Significantly, a number of rural localities in the district are ranked amongst the most deprived 10% in the country in terms of barriers to housing and to services. The Council supports the Rural Community Council which is in turn supporting Parish Councils to produce Parish Plans and/or Housing Needs Surveys.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

New development can deliver new housing, including affordable housing, employment, and associated infrastructure and services. Without a plan this would not necessarily be located in areas which can benefit areas of social and economic deprivation. In addition, in rural areas, housing pressures may continue to grow but new housing would not necessarily be targeted towards meeting local needs and supporting services. In the absence of a Local Plan, areas of deprivation may therefore deteriorate within the district.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

1. Ensuring that, where possible, new development is located in areas which are well placed to benefit deprived areas in terms of new housing and employment and improved infrastructure and services;
2. Ensuring that, where development sites emerge within or close to deprived areas, the nature of the development will primarily be targeted towards meeting the needs of deprived areas; and,
3. Enabling new development in rural areas which meets local housing needs and improves access to services.

7   Leisure & Culture

What's the policy context?

At the national level[1], planning should support the promotion of health and well being by making provision for physical activity. Cultural activities, open space, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life, promote social inclusion and community cohesion, and contribute to health and well being. Planning should therefore assess the existing and future need for open space, sports and recreational facilities, as well as audits of existing open space and facilities, in order to provide local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained facilities.

Regional policy[2] states the need to encourage both the improvement of existing leisure and culture provision as well as the creation of new facilities. Policies should support the further development and success of key regional tourism and cultural assets including live theatre and music venues; significant historic sites; buildings and gardens; registered museum collections; libraries and archives; and indoor and outdoor sports venues.

At the local level[3], the strategic aim is to ensure there are opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sport, the arts and cultural activities, and that everyone is able to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and sense of well being. Improving play opportunities and experiences for children and young people is also a key local aim[4].

What's the situation now?

Warwick District contains a large number of opens spaces which vary in terms of type, quality and size. These include formal sports fields, parks and gardens, nature reserves, informal recreation areas, children's play areas, allotments, rivers, canals, cemeteries and woodland. In total, there is over 1,700 hectares of open space within the district, with just under 700 hectares being unrestricted and publicly accessible[5]. There is also a large number of indoor facilities. Participation in sport is high (26.9%) in comparison with regional and national figures[6].

There is also a wide range of arts and cultural facilities within the district, including theatres, cinemas, libraries, galleries and visitor attractions, such as Warwick Castle. In addition, there are a number of nationally recognised events and festivals including Warwick Words and Folk Festivals.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population of the district will inevitably place greater demands on existing open space, sports and cultural

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development and Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Tourism and Culture (PA10); Prosperity for All (PA1)
[3] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[4] Source: Warwick District Play Strategy
[5] Source: Parks and Open Spaces Audit 2008
[6] Source: Active People Survey Results 2009

facilities. Those increasing demands may also coincide with a period of pressure to reduce public spending on both facilities and services.

Without the new Local Plan, there is a risk that new housing and business developments may result in the loss of existing open space, or missed opportunities to secure qualitative or quantitative enhancements to existing leisure and cultural facilities across the district. Opportunities for people to participate in sports and enjoy the arts within the district may also diminish without the co-ordination of public and private sector investment. The absence of a Local Plan may impact on the ability to make bids for public funds, attract private sector money, and assemble land for leisure and cultural projects.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and investment within the district to help address the following issues:

1. Providing an appropriate amount and quality of open space opportunities for sport and recreation throughout the district; and
2. Ensuring that opportunities for enhancing the level and quality of cultural and leisure facilities are sought in conjunction with future development proposals.

8   Housing

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the Government's key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. The following planning objectives for housing are to deliver:

1. *High quality housing that is well-designed or built to a high standard;*
2. *A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural;*
3. *A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice;*
4. *Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure; and,*
5. *A flexible, responsive supply of land, including re-use of previously-developed land, where appropriate.*

The Government also wishes to improve housing choices and provision for older people through building more mainstream and specialised homes[2]. All public housing will be built to Lifetime Homes Standard by 2011, with an aspiration that all new housing will be built to these standards by 2013. Having regard to the fact that domestic carbon emissions represent over a quarter of the UK's carbon emissions, the Government also has a programme to achieve zero carbon homes by 2016 through the progressive tightening of building regulations[3].

There is also the Building for Life initiative which is the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. This is a way of assessing the quality of new developments using twenty criteria in the categories Environment and Community; Character; Streets, Parking & Pedestrianisation; and Design & Construction.

At the regional level[4] there is a need to create a variety and choice of good quality housing. For this to be achieved local authorities, developers, and social housing providers need to work together to: improve the quality of the existing housing stock; create a range of new housing developments whilst optimising the opportunities for recycling land and buildings; ensure the provision of affordable social and low cost market housing and create more balanced and mixed communities. It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority to keep under review the need for affordable housing in their area based on local housing needs assessment.

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing
[2] Source: Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society
[3] Source: Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement
[4] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Housing within Major Urban Areas (CF1); The Reuse of Land and Buildings for Housing (CF4); Delivering Affordable Housing and Mixed Communities (CF5)

At the sub-regional level[5], the vision is to increase the supply of housing in the sub-region to enhance economic development, meet diverse needs and support the creation of sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, with the following objectives:

1. *Growth – contributing to the delivery of housing growth to meet local and regional housing targets;*
2. *Affordability – securing the delivery of new affordable homes and ensuring existing stock is made decent;*
3. *Renewal – supporting the regeneration of underperforming areas and the renewal of deteriorating estates; and,*
4. *Sustainability – delivering high standards of design in buildings, public spaces and places, and creation of sustainable communities*

At the local level[6], there is a strategic aim to ensure that everyone's housing needs are met. In addition, housing is one of the priority areas for action by the partner agencies:

"Building Communities – providing sustainable, quality housing for everyone who wishes to live and work in the district"

The priorities for housing are to:

1. *Ensure sufficient suitable land for housing is available and able to be developed to meet future requirements and that new housing development is of the right type, size and tenure*
2. *Manage the impacts of housing growth effectively*
3. *Implement section 106 agreements effectively to ensure new residential developments have the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of the community*
4. *Develop a more integrated partnership approach to meeting housing demand*
5. *Design in sustainability to new developments*
6. *Work closely with community forums to maintain a good quality of life for residents and ensure a clean, green and safe environment in which to live.*

What's the situation now?

Housing in Warwick District is concentrated within the towns of Warwick, Leamington Spa, Whitnash and Kenilworth – approximately 84% of the district's population live in the urban areas[7]. The housing market in the district has been particularly buoyant in the recent past with housing growth rates amongst the highest in the region. The estimated population of the district at 2009 of 139,000 represents an increase of 13% since 1999[8]. Between 2004 and 2009, the district had the highest level of population growth in the West Midlands region.

The district includes a wide range of housing which, compared with the rest of Warwickshire, includes higher than average proportions of flats and privately

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[5] Source: Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Housing Growth Strategy
[6] Source: Warwick District: Sustainable Community Strategy
[7] Source: Office for National Statistics Mid 2008 Population Estimates for Super Output Areas
[8] Source: Office for National Statistics Mid Year Population Estimates 1999-2009

rented homes. Despite this, however, the district had a median property price of £189,950 in 2009[9], well above the county and regional averages. This has lead to problems of affordability, particularly for young people, many of whom have to leave the district to access housing which they can afford to buy. In 2009, the district had an affordability ratio of 6.91[10] and in October 2010 there were 3,588 households on the Home Choice Register. A recent Housing Assessment[11] has indicated an annual need for 371 subsidised affordable homes.

Warwick District has a relatively young population compared with the national profile with a particularly high proportion of young people in the 20-39 age range. This is partly explained by the proximity of the University of Warwick, many of whose students choose to live in the district's towns, particularly Leamington Spa. At the same time, however, the district is a popular choice of residence for more affluent families with employment ties in the wider sub-region. However, recent Housing Assessments have shown a shortage of small to medium family homes with gardens.

The national trend of growing numbers of older people is equally applicable to Warwick District. Current population projections show that the proportion of people aged 75 and over will increase from 15% in 2008 to 19% in 2026[12]. Older people are increasingly more likely to live independently for longer and this will impact on the suitability of housing to meet their specific needs.

Most of the district's rural settlements have a population of less than 2,000, are within a few miles of an urban area and have limited services, employment and public transport. There is a high level of dependency on the towns. In terms of housing, recent Housing Needs studies have shown that there is a shortage of small homes at the lower end of the market suitable for both younger and older people. Some villages, however, have a shortage of larger family homes.

There are currently no temporary or permanent sites for gypsies and travellers in Warwick District. There are occasional illegal encampments in the district by travellers passing through the district.

Large areas of the district are unsuitable for new housing due to the presence of historic buildings, parks and gardens, nature reserves and areas liable to flood. The area of the district to the north of Warwick and Leamington is currently designated as Green Belt.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

In the absence of a new Local Plan, there will not necessarily be sufficient homes to meet the needs of newly-forming households, those wishing to move to the area for work and those wishing to move to more suitable accommodation.

New homes will not necessarily be located in places which are close to jobs, services, public transport and community facilities or in areas where development does not harm areas of acknowledged importance such as Nature

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[9] Source: Communities and Local Government Live Tables: Median House Prices from Land Registry Data
[10] Source: Communities and Local Government Live Tables: Ratio of Median House Prices to Median Earnings 2009
[11] Source: South Housing Market Assessment Monitoring Report 2010
[12] Source: Office for National Statistics: 2008-based Population Projections

Reserves or Historic Parks and Gardens. The right types, sizes and tenures of homes to meet needs will not necessarily be built.

Without plans for new medium to large housing developments, there will be very limited opportunities to provide affordable rented and Homebuy (shared ownership) homes and to properly plan for the necessary infrastructure such as schools and doctors surgeries.

There will be limited opportunities to meet the housing needs of the whole population, such as young people, families and older people, and to ensure that new and existing housing areas offer a high quality, sustainable environment.

If housing needs are not met, this will lead to out-migration as people, particularly young working people, move to find homes in neighbouring areas such as Rugby and Coventry. This reduction in the local workforce could have a damaging effect on the local economy as businesses find it difficult to recruit. There would also be an increase in commuting and potentially a further ageing of the local population.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issues for the new Local Plan in terms of housing are:

1. Identifying a sustainable level of housing growth to meet existing and future need, and to help address issues of affordability;
2. Identifying suitable locations for new housing development;
3. Ensuring new housing developments are built to a high standard in terms of both design quality and sustainability and provide safe, inclusive, vibrant and attractive places where people want to live;
4. Ensuring new housing includes the right mix of housing sizes, types and tenures to meet the changing needs of the whole population;
5. Meeting national targets for building zero carbon homes;
6. Ensuring that the district can accommodate university students without harming the balance of existing communities; and,
7. Making provision for gypsies and travellers in order to address need.

9   Natural Environment

What's the policy context?

At the national level[1], the planning objectives for the natural environment include:

1. Ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced;
2. Conserving, enhancing and restoring the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible, improving the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites;
3. Enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people; and,
4. Protecting open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources.

Environmental improvement is a key component of the Regional Spatial Strategy[2] in order to underpin the overall quality of life of all areas and support wider economic and social objectives. The aim is to optimise the contribution that the natural environment can make to the regeneration of the West Midlands by taking a common approach to biodiversity and nature conservation issues across boundaries. In addition, regional policy also aims to maintain and enhance the region's biodiversity and aims to reach the West Midlands' minimum share of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

At the county level[3], the aim is to work with partners to protect and enhance existing and future wildlife populations and habitats in Warwickshire, within a resilient landscape. This will be achieved by increasing the amount of land and buildings positively managed for biodiversity, averting local extinction of species and reducing the number of species on the danger list. The local biodiversity action plan contains action plans for local habitats and many species.

At the local level[4], there is a strategic aim to protect and enhance the natural environment.

What's the situation now?

Warwick District possesses a natural environment that is regarded as being of a particularly high quality[5]. Broadly speaking there are two types of natural asset that combine to give Warwick District its distinct natural environment. They are:

- particular landscape characteristics familiar to the locality; and
- specific environmental assets including nature conservation/ biodiversity interests, and features of historic value (geologically/geomorphologically important features).

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Conserving and Enhancing the Environment (QE1); Restoring Degraded Areas and Managing and Creating High Quality New Environments (QE2); Protecting, Managing and Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (QE7)
[3] Source: Warwickshire Biodiversity Strategy
[4] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[5] Source: Warwick District Green Infrastructure Study

Much of Warwick District (about 80%) is in agricultural use, some of which is designated as the best and most versatile agricultural land. The landscape of the district is a product of the particular geological conditions combined with the impacts of farming practices over the centuries. The majority of the natural landscape falls within either the Historic Arden or Dunsmore landscape character areas. The district also contains a large number of environmental assets, including features of historic interest, geological/geomorphological significance and particular habitats of nature conservation interest. These range from Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Local Nature Reserves and significant tracts of woodland deemed to be of ancient origin. There are also many other sites and features that are subject to non-statutory designations that reflect their particular contribution to biodiversity.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The quality of the natural environment makes an important contribution to the success of the district's economy. Without these attributes, the towns and villages would have considerably less charm and appeal as places to work, live or visit. In the absence of a new Local Plan, there is a risk that the quality of the natural environment deteriorates as a result of developments and changes to places which do not preserve what is important locally in terms of landscape and areas of ecological interest.

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population of the district will inevitably place greater demands on the natural environment. These increasing demands may also coincide with a period of pressure to reduce public spending on public open spaces. The situation without the new Local Plan would be a lack of co-ordination between where new development takes place and where investment in open space is focussed. The absence of a Local Plan may also impact on the ability to make bids for public funds, attract private sector money, and for assembling land for natural environment projects.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can assimilate any growth in the locality without prejudicing the future of the district's most valuable natural environment assets. In doing so the plan will have to address the following issues:-

1. Maintaining the current high quality of the natural environment, particularly sensitive habitats and areas of landscape value;
2. Improving the quality of the natural environment, particularly in areas where there are opportunities to improve public access and enjoyment of such assets;
3. Habitat change and migration patterns in response to climate change; and,
4. Delivering opportunities to improve habitat connectivity both within the district and the wider sub-region.

10   Schools and Learning

What's the Policy Context?

At a national level[1], there is a commitment to creating a world-class state education system, working to improve the opportunities and experiences available to children and the education workforce by focusing on the following priorities:

1. *Giving greater autonomy to schools;*
2. *Improving parental choice;*
3. *Offering more support for the poorest;*
4. *Whole system improvement; and,*
5. *Greater quality provision for children.*

There is also a responsibility on local authorities to provide an efficient, compulsory education for all 5-16 year olds and sufficient schools in their area to do so[2]. Provision of education for 16-18 year olds and for certain types of education for those aged 19+ may also be provided by the local authority. Warwickshire County Council is the local authority with responsibility for the provision of schools and learning within Warwick District.

Regional policy[3] states there is a responsibility for local authorities to facilitate the needs of higher/ further education institutions and research facilities to grow and expand, and the need to develop businesses that are linked to higher/ further education institutions and research facilities by the provision of sites, premises and supporting infrastructure.

At the county level, Warwickshire County Council has decided to prepare a Strategy Plan[4] for each area within the county. Every Strategy Plan includes the following principles:

1. *Be first and foremost based on the interests of learners and not any individual institution,*
2. *Have as its aim a successful school in every community,*
3. *Link to the other area's strategic plans,*
4. *Assist in raising the aspirations of all young people and standards in schools and colleges, in particular for the young people who are currently under-performing,*
5. *Aid transition between key stages and progression to positive destinations post-16, reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs),*
6. *Be as inclusive as possible and ensure equality of opportunity,*
7. *Improve the availability of services to children, young people and the local community to support learning and their wider well-being,*
8. *Aim to provide every school with a high quality learning environment which supports higher standards and greater community access,*

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[1] Source: Education Act 1996
[2] Source: Education Act 1996
[3] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Development related to Higher/ Further Education and Research Establishments and incubator units (PA4)
[4] Source: The Primary Strategy for Change, February 2008

9. *Be responsive to the future supply and demand of school places in order to achieve value for money,*
10. *Provide choice and diversity of education institutions,*
11. *Foster a competitive professional environment to attract and retain the best teachers and head teachers in Warwickshire schools, and*
12. *Recognise and include denominational education where it currently exists.*

At the local level, there is a strategic aim to ensure that every child and young person including those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged has the greatest opportunity to be the best that they can be, and that residents have a strong learning culture that spans all age groups[5].

In January 2011, the Government introduced the Education Bill to Parliament. The aim of the Bill is to implement the Government's education reforms[6] and help deliver higher standards for children. The Bill introduces the right of schools to become Academies, independent of local authority control, as well as the opportunity for independent providers of education to set up "free schools".

What's the situation now?

Primary and Secondary Schools
At October 2010, there were 8,812 pupils on roll in Warwickshire County Council Primary Schools and 7,258 pupils on roll in Secondary Schools.

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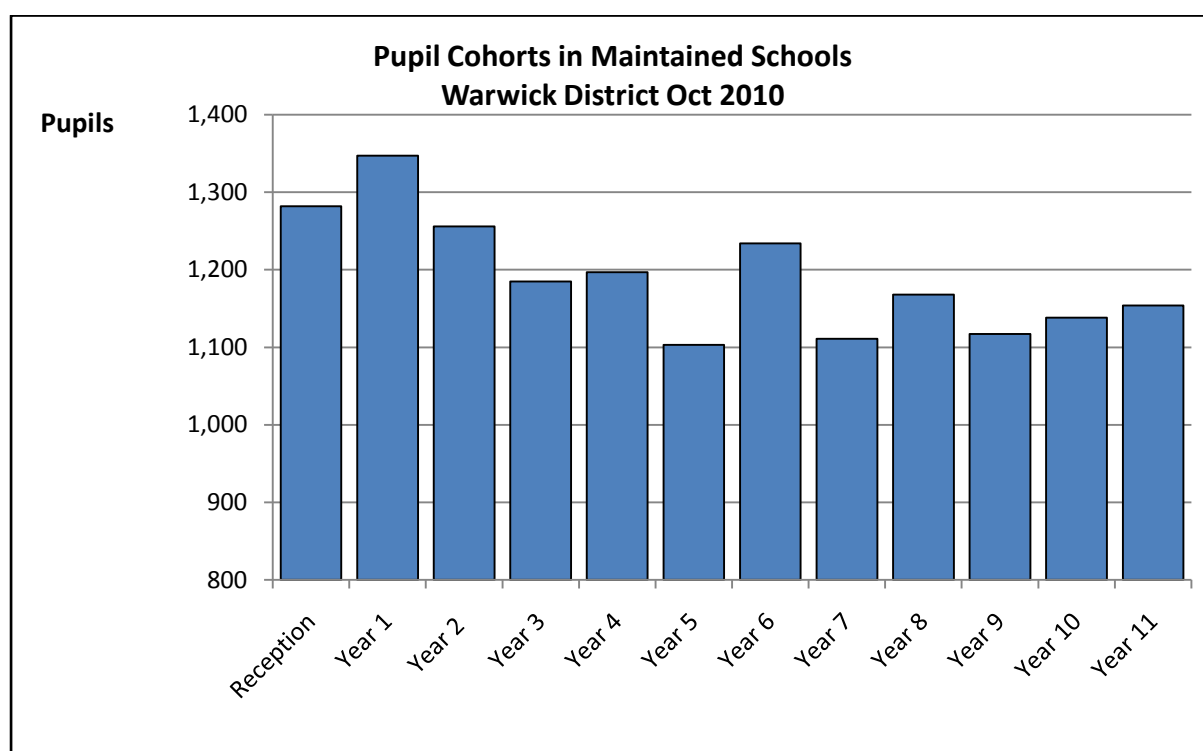
[5] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[6] The Government's Education reforms are set out in the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" (2010)

Source: Warwickshire County Council

The above chart demonstrates the impact of increasing birth rates on school numbers. Birth rates in Warwickshire increased steadily between 2002 and 2008 after a period of declining birth rates since the early 1990's. The impact of this increase started to feed into primary schools in Warwickshire in 2007 and it can be seen from the above chart that the number of reception children now exceeds the number of children in Year 6. This is leading to year-on-year increases in numbers on primary school rolls, particularly in urban areas where new housing development has increased the pressure on schools.

Secondary school rolls, however, are still feeling the effect of the decline in birth rates in the 1990s and more children are leaving in Year 11 than starting secondary school in Year 7. Nevertheless, some secondary schools in the district are oversubscribed due to parental choice. The recent rise in birth rates is expected to impact on secondary school roles in about 2016/17.

Early Years and Child Care

Warwickshire County Council has two specific duties in relation to early years and child care: the Outcomes Duty and the Sufficiency Duty.

The Outcomes Duty requires local authorities to work with partners to improve the outcomes for children under 5 and reduce inequalities between them. Delivery of this duty is mainly through Children's Centres, some of which are linked to an early education unit.

The Sufficiency Duty requires local authorities to assess the local childcare market and secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to take paid employment or enter training that will equip them to find a job. It covers children and young people in the age range 0-14 (or 0-17 if the young person has a disability).

Warwickshire County Council's policy is not to develop new maintained sector provision unless there is no private, voluntary or independent sector provision available.

In Warwick District in 2010, there were 6 local authority funded nursery schools in the district, some of which are attached to Primary Schools. In addition to this, there were 49 private nurseries providing full day care and 21 providing sessional day care. There were 152 childminders in the district and 34 "out of school" clubs. The County Council also funds seven Children's Centres which provide early learning experiences for young children and advice, information, opportunities and courses to parents and carers of under 5's.

Post 16 Learning

Warwickshire County Council is responsible for post 16 learning. It has responsibility for securing sufficient education and training for young people aged 16-19 and up to 25 for those with learning difficulties or disabilities, and for young people aged 10-18 in youth custody.

Figures from September 2009 show that in Warwickshire approximately 84% of Year 11 school leavers continued with their education or entered work-based learning - 43% continued their education in schools or sixth form colleges, whilst 29% continued at a college of Further Education and 6% entered work-based learning. The remainder, 6%, continued their education on a part-time basis.

The proportion of young people aged 16-18 in Warwick District who were not in education, employment or training in November 2010, was 5.1%. This compared with 5.5% in the county as a whole.

In terms of tertiary education, South Warwickshire College of Further Education offers post 16 education with a range of courses across six campuses throughout the county, two of which lie within the district. The University of Warwick lies partly within Warwick District's area and is one of the UK's leading universities with an acknowledged reputation for excellence in research and teaching, for innovation and for links with business and industry. The University's vision is to be in the top 50 world universities by 2015.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The anticipated growth of the population of the district will inevitably place greater demands on school places and childcare provision. Depending on the location of that growth, this may place additional pressure on particular schools and result in falling numbers in other schools. Increasing demands on schools may also coincide with a period of pressure to reduce public spending on both infrastructure and services.

The situation without the new Local Plan would be a lack of co-ordination between where new development takes place and where investment in schools, colleges, nursery and childcare provision is focussed. The lack of co-ordination may also result in delays to the timing of when improvements are made which may affect the delivery of development, or result in a lack of places or overcrowding in existing schools. The absence of a Local Plan may also impact on the ability to make bids for public funds, attract private sector money, and for assembling land for education projects.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can co-ordinate future development and investment within the district to meet the educational needs of the existing and future population.

11   Retailing and Town Centres

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the objectives for planning are to promote the vitality and viability of town and other centres as important places for communities by:

1. *New economic growth and development of main town centre uses to be focussed in existing centres, with the aim of offering a wide range of services to communities in an attractive and safe environment and remedying deficiencies in provision in areas with poor access to facilities;*
2. *Competition between retailers and enhanced consumer choice through the provision of innovative and efficient shopping, leisure, tourism, and local services in town centres, which allow genuine choice to meet the needs of the entire community (particularly socially excluded groups); and,*
3. *The historic, archaeological and architectural heritage of centres to be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced to provide a sense of place and a focus for the community and for civic society.*

At the regional level[2] there is a strategic aim to develop a network of strategic town centres which are enhanced in order to play a leading role in urban renaissance programmes. This should be achieved through maintaining and enhancing the role of urban centres and access to services; promoting a sense of identity; and creating opportunities for development particularly for business, retail, leisure, tourism, cultural, educational and other services which are accessible to all.

At the local level[3], there is a strategic aim to deliver a strong and diverse local economy, with a priority to focus on the health of its town centres, regenerating strategic sites and intensifying development through developing Area Action Plans and to market the opportunities identified.

What's the situation now?

Warwick District has a network of centres, each offering a range of shops and services to the local population. A summary of the current situation and health of these centres is as follows:

Leamington Spa town centre is considered to be a relatively healthy town centre. The breadth of its current retail offer is broadly in line with other higher order centres in the UK. It has department store representation and a good range of national multiple retailers are present. These all serve an important anchor function to the centre, because they continue to bring shoppers into the town centre. The vitality and viability of the centre is underpinned by:

1. *the expansion, albeit small, in the quality and range of retailers in recent years (such as the introduction of Regent Court);*

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Guidance Note 4: Planning For Sustainable Economic Growth
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Enhancing the Role of the City, Town and District Centres (UR3); The Network of Town and City Centres (PA11)
[3] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy 2009- 2026

2. *the healthy list of operators seeking representation in the centre;*
3. *steady prime Zone A rentals; and*
4. *an environmentally attractive shopping environment.*

However there are concerns about:

1. *fall in the UK Venuescore rankings;*
2. *the loss of an independent department store operator, Woodwards;*
3. *the level of vacant outlets and floorspace;*
4. *decreasing pedestrian footfall; and*
5. *the limited scale of substantial new development in the centre during the past two decades.*

Leamington Spa's retail performance and prospects cannot be divorced from those of competing centres. In this context the town centre competes at a sub-regional level with Coventry and Solihull, and with the regional centre at Birmingham. All of these centres have seen the implementation of major retail and leisure schemes, which has resulted in Leamington Spa losing its competitive edge due to the limited amount of investment in new retail facilities in the town centre.

Kenilworth is perceived as a healthy town centre catering for the local catchment and visitors alike and is performing well at its level in the shopping hierarchy. Positive indicators include:

1. *a good range of national multiple retailers present;*
2. *an increase in rental levels;*
3. *low vacancy and the centre;*
4. *environmentally attractive; and*
5. *no obvious negative crime perception.*

Furthermore, the centre's profile and trading performance have been significantly enhanced by the new investment associated with the redevelopment of Talisman Square, anchored by Waitrose. Sainsbury's to the south of the town centre also acts as an important anchor and generator of linked trips. The evidence indicates that the existing shopping provision in the town centre has benefitted from the Talisman Square redevelopment.

Kenilworth town centre will never compete with the higher order centres for comparison trade, especially in the fashion sector. Therefore its future performance and prospects will depend on its ability to meet local needs efficiently. Fundamentally, at this level in the shopping hierarchy the maintenance and enhancement of the food shopping function is of paramount importance. If people shop for food locally, they may be inclined to resist other destinations for non-food visits and other retailers in the centre are therefore supported. Now that Kenilworth's shopping function is better anchored, its overall prospects for the future are enhanced.

Despite the centre's current health, there are concerns as to the limited amount of investment in traffic management in the centre, which could result in the town losing its competitive edge and attractiveness.

Generally speaking, Warwick town centre accommodates a good range of middle to upmarket independent and leisure service operators catering for shoppers and tourists alike. This is in contrast to neighbouring Leamington Spa, which is more functional and predominantly governed by national multiple retailers selling mainstream fashion. In this way, it can be argued that these neighbouring shopping destinations complement each other.

Given that Warwick does not have a wide range of national multiples, especially comparison retailers, it is considered that that the important anchor function to the centre as a whole is served by the strong service sector.

Whilst there is no specific evidence to point to a picture of fragility or decline in the health of Warwick town centre, the limited degree of retailer interest and the recent decline in pedestrian footfall does not point to a vibrant and robust centre. This, together with the limited scale of new investment in the centre, leads to the view that whilst the centre is vital, it is not particularly viable in terms of attracting new development and investment. Moreover, and in practical terms, given the proximity of Leamington Spa, it is likely that the town centre will continue to lose trade to the dominant centres in its hinterland, especially in terms of expenditure in fashion goods. The present comparison retail offer of the town centre is unlikely therefore to be significantly improved.

Outside of the town centres, there are a number of major retail outlets across the district. These offer an alternative to town centre destinations and include several large foodstores. The scale, quality and offer in these out of centre locations have a significant impact on shopping patterns across the district. The main out of centre locations include the Leamington Shopping Park (formerly Shires), Shires Gate, Myton Road and Emscote Road.

Warwick District also has a large number of smaller local centres, shopping parades and isolated shops. These include small clusters of shops in historic parts of the towns and planned shopping parades developed as towns have expanded. All these locations play an important role in providing shops and services within easy walking distance of many people. Although the vast majority of shops are within the urban area, a number of the district's villages also contain local shops although there number has decreased in recent years.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The anticipated growth of the population of the district is likely to lead to additional demand for retail and investment in the retail sector. Without a Local Plan for the district directing that investment towards the town and local centres, retail development may take place in other less sustainable locations which may reduce demand for existing centres and reduce their attractiveness to shoppers, retailers and investors.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan will be how it can maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of existing town and local centres through directing and shaping the future development of the district. In doing so, the plan will have to address the following issues:

1. Identifying a sustainable level of retail growth to meet existing and future needs;
2. Identifying a network and hierarchy of centres to meet the needs of their catchment; and,
3. Identifying a strategy for the future management and growth of the town centres to meet future needs.

12   Transport

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the following planning objectives for transport are:

1. To promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight;
2. To promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling; and,
3. To reduce the need to travel, especially by car.

At the county level[2], the following objectives translate the five national transport goals from the Department for Transport's publication 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System':

1. To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens in order to promote a fairer, more inclusive society;
2. To seek reliable and efficient transport networks which will help promote full employment and a strong, sustainable local and sub-regional economy;
3. To reduce the impact of transport on people and the (built and natural) environment and improve the journey experience of transport users;
4. To improve the safety, security and health of people by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;
5. To encourage integration of transport, both in terms of policy planning and the physical interchange of modes; and,
6. To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.

A key element of the regional vision[3] is to develop an integrated transport network by significantly improving accessibility and mobility, developing high quality sustainable and public transport and bringing in measures to ensure strategic links to external markets are maintained. Local authorities, developers and other agencies should work together to: reduce the need to travel especially by car; provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling; provide attractive and reliable alternative to the private car and develop strategies to increase awareness of these; develop an integrated public transport network; develop a strategic park and ride; manage car parking; manage and develop national and regional transport networks; and develop a regional freight strategy.

At the local level[4], there is a strategic aim to ensure that transport infrastructure enables easier access to key services and facilities. There are a number of

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport
[2] Source: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3
[3] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Developing accessibility and mobility within the Region to support the Spatial Strategy (T1); Reducing the need to travel (T2); Walking and cycling (T3); Promoting Travel Awareness (T4); Public Transport (T5); Strategic Park and Ride (T6); Car Parking Standards and Management (T7); The Management and Development of National and Regional Transport Networks (T9); Freight (T10)
[4] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy

current proposals for transport improvements within or adjoining Warwick District[5], including:

1. *Managing the highway network;*
2. *Develop quality bus corridors;*
3. *Provision of a new rail station at Kenilworth and associated train service improvements to Leamington Spa and Coventry and elsewhere;*
4. *Improve rail station facilities, including a Station Travel Plan for Leamington Station and increases to car parking capacity at stations such as Hatton, Warwick Parkway and Leamington Spa;*
5. *Improve rail services, including the third stage of Project Evergreen to reduce journey times and improve capacity on the Chiltern line;*
6. *Enhance facilities for community transport;*
7. *Invest in the pedestrian and cycle environment and develop safer routes to school;*
8. *Introduce a Park and Ride to serve both Warwick and Leamington Spa town centres;*
9. *Develop traffic management improvements within Warwick town centre; and,*
10. *Improve key locations on the motorway and trunk road network, including the A46/M40 Junction 15 (now completed), A45/A46 Tollbar End junction,A46/A4177/A425 Stanks roundabout, A46/A452 Thickthorn roundabout, A46/C32 Stoneleigh roundabout,t and junctions 13 and 14 of the M40.*

What's the situation now?

In terms of the strategic road network (i.e. M40, A45 and A46), a number of junctions currently experience congestion and stress at peak periods[6]. This is reported to be having a negative effect on business competitiveness and the attractiveness of the area for inward investment[7]. Map 1 and 2 below indicate congested areas at peak times.

Traffic flows in each of the three main towns in the district are monitored to establish traffic growth or reduction. Based on 24 hour flows recorded at cordon sites around the towns, traffic flows have fallen in each of the three main towns between 2000 and 2009[8]. However, congestion at peak periods of the day is widely recognised as a problem within Warwick District, particularly within and around the main towns and on key inter-urban routes such as the A452 between Kenilworth and Leamington Spa, and the A445 and A425 routes between Leamington Spa and Warwick. Average traffic speeds in the main towns act as a proxy for congestion and the latest figures on key routes (between 8-9am) reveal an overall deterioration of traffic speeds[9]:

Town	1998-2000	2001-2003	2007-2009	% change
Leamington	16.3	13.7	14.7	-9.8%
Warwick	10.94	11.49	9.32	-14.8%
Kenilworth	18.75	16.86	19.16	+2.2%

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[5] Sources: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3, Highways Agency website, Network Rail Route Plan M West Midlands & Chiltern 2010, High Speed 2 website
[6] Source: West Midlands Strategic Road Network Study: Report for the Highways Agency
[7] Source: DaSTS Improving Connectivity in the Coventry North/South Corridor
[8] Source: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3
[9] Source: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3

Congestion is one of the main contributors towards areas of poor air quality within the district. There are currently four declared Air Quality Management Areas located in the main towns as a result of the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide not being met. Road transport in Warwick District is also responsible for over 40% of CO_2 emissions contributing towards climate change[10].

In response to previous consultations, the bus network has been the most popular aspect of the transport system that needs to be improved in the district[11]. Respondents also suggested more and better railway stations, park and ride schemes, and greater integration of different networks. Passenger demand for bus and rail services has increased significantly during recent years, and this is forecast to grow further in the future[12].

In terms of access to services, 90% of the resident population are considered to have good access from their communities to key services including employment opportunities[13].

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population of the district will inevitably place greater demands on the transport system. This is likely to result in increased traffic flows, with potentially more congestion, significant delays with a number of junctions exceeding capacity[14], and also increased demand for public transport services. An ageing population may also put greater demands on public and community transport services to access services. These increasing demands on transport may also coincide with a period of pressure to reduce public spending on both infrastructure and services.

The situation without the new Local Plan would be a lack of co-ordination between where new development takes place and where investment in transport is focussed. The lack of co-ordination may also result in delays to the timing of when improvements are made which may affect the delivery of development. The absence of a Local Plan may also impact on the ability to make bids for public funds, attract private sector money, and for assembling land for transport projects.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and transport investment within the district to help address the following issues:

1. Reducing road congestion at peak times in the main town centres, particularly within the air quality management areas, along the inter-urban routes between the towns, and at key junctions where the local road network meets the A45, A46 and M40;

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[10] Source: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3
[11] Source: Core Strategy Issues Paper Report of Public Consultation
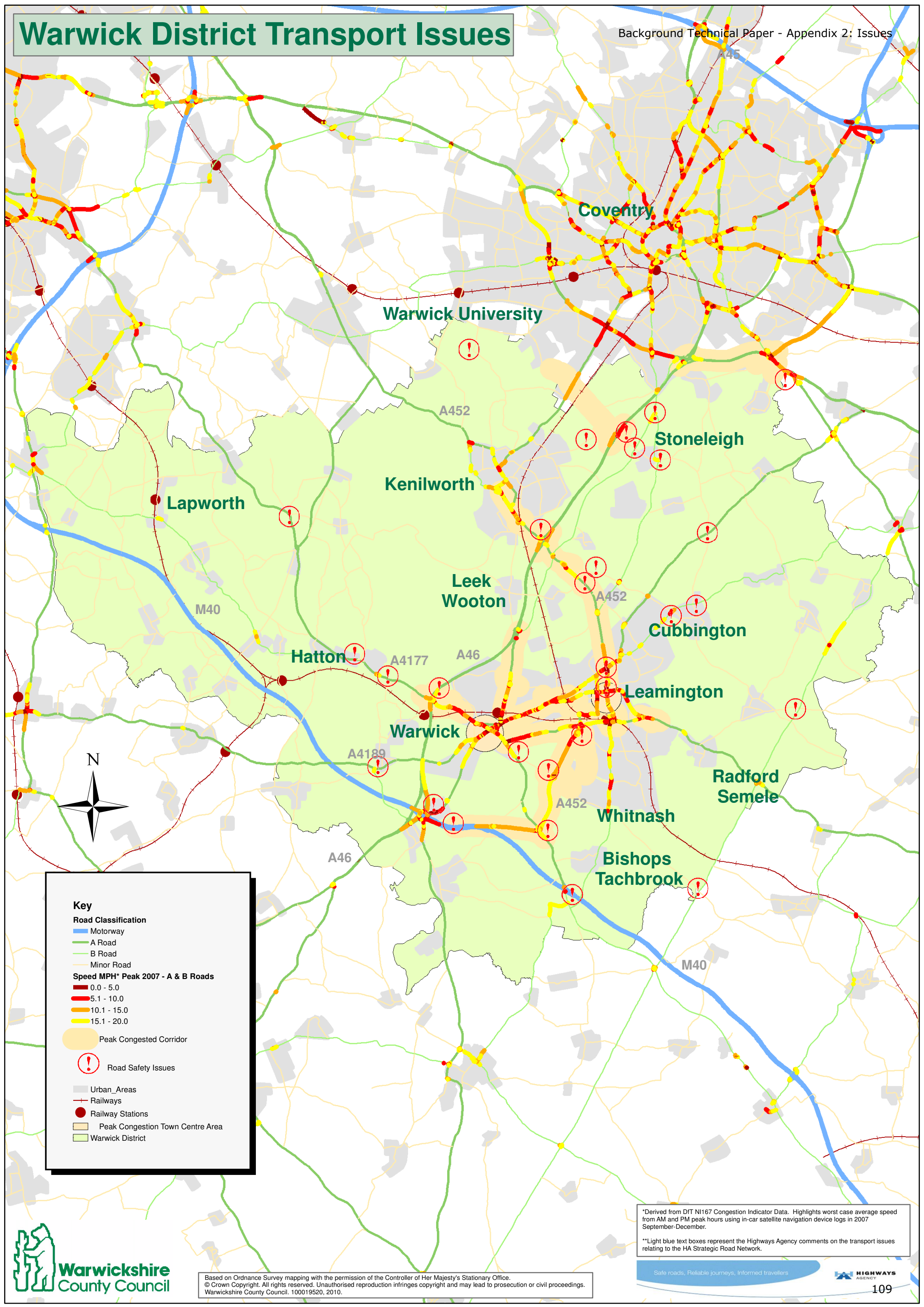[12] Source: Warwickshire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3 and Network Rail Route Plan M West Midlands & Chiltern 2010
[13] Source: Warwickshire LAA Indicator
[14] Source: West Midlands Strategic Road Network Study: Report for the Highways Agency

2. Reducing the use of the private car within the district in order to improve air quality and reduce CO2 emissions;

3. Improving public transport, particularly through the delivery of Kenilworth Rail Station, improvements to bus and rail services between Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Coventry, and improved access to interchange facilities;

4. Improving cycle and pedestrian routes and facilities (including safer routes to schools) to deliver a network connecting the four towns of the district;

5. Improving transport links between the areas of high unemployment and worklessness with the main town centres and employment locations;

6. Improving the safety of the transport network for all users; and,

7. Working with businesses to encourage and deliver sustainable travel patterns for staff and visitors.

Warwick District Transport Issues

A46

Coventry

Warwick University

A452

Stoneleigh

Kenilworth

Lapworth

Leek
Wooton

A452

Cubbington

M40

Hatton

A4177

A46

Leamington

Warwick

Radford
Semele

A4189

A452

Whitnash

A46

Bishops
Tachbrook

M40

N

Key

Road Classification

Motorway
A Road
B Road
Minor Road

Speed MPH* Peak 2007 - A & B Roads

0.0 - 5.0
5.1 - 10.0
10.1 - 15.0
15.1 - 20.0

Peak Congested Corridor

⊘ Road Safety Issues

Urban_Areas
Railways
Railway Stations
Peak Congestion Town Centre Area
Warwick District

*Derived from DfT NI167 Congestion Indicator Data. Highlights worst case average speed from AM and PM peak hours using in-car satellite navigation device logs in 2007 September-December.

**Light blue text boxes represent the Highways Agency comments on the transport issues relating to the HA Strategic Road Network.

Safe roads, Reliable journeys, Informed travellers

HIGHWAYS
AGENCY

Warwickshire
County Council

Warwick District Transport Issues

Key

Road Classification
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Minor Road

Speed MPH* Peak 2007 - A & B Roads
- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 15.0
- 15.1 - 20.0

- WDC Boundary
- Peak Congested Corridor
- Committed Scheme
- Scheme Proposal or Investigation
- (!) Road Safety Issues
- Urban_Areas
- Railways
- Railway Stations
- Peak Congestion Town Centre Area

Stivichall Interchange
- No major issues at present.
- Any future mitigation at Tollbar End likely to impact on Stivichall Jn.
- Potential to queue back between A45/B4113 and Stivichall Jn in the future.

Tollbar End Roundabout
- Significant queues on the A45 and A46 with high turning movements to Coventry, northbound to the M6 , Rugby and the M1.
- The 'A46' and 'Kenilworth and Stoneleigh' models show that junction mitigation will be required by 2020.

Stoneleigh Junction
- Significant queues on junction off-slips that reach the A46 mainline in the AM Peak. This is primarily caused by traffic to Warwick University.
- Investigation to upgrade the junction by WCC.

Thickthorn Roundabout
- Significant queues on the A452 eastbound approach in the AM Peak. This is a result of the volume of turning vehicles on the circulatory and exit blocking on the A452 into Leamington.
- Potential for future queues on the off slips if traffic to Leamington increases.
- Significant queues on the A452 westbound approach in the PM Peak. Queues also on the A46 northbound off-slip which on occasion reach back to the mainline.
- Future development close to this junction likely to exacerbate existing issues at this junction.
- Investigation to signalise the junction by WCC.

Leek Wooton Roundabout
- No significant issues on the A46 off-slips, however long queues are common on the southbound route into Warwick on the A429 Coventry Rd in the AM Peak, with queuing all the way to the A46 Jn. Queues originate at Primrose Hill / A429 Coventry Rd / Spinney Hill.
- Possible issues on the A46 off-slips if traffic increases in the future.

Stanks Roundabout
- Long queues common on the eastbound approach (A4177) to Warwick centre, both A46 off-slips (which often reach back to the A46 mainline especially on the southbound off-slip) and the circulatory in the AM Peak.
- Significant queuing noted on the A425 out of Warwick town centre in the PM peak. This does not result in issues on the A46 off-slips.

M40 J15 (Longbridge)
- No significant issues since the introduction of the new dual carriageway bypass of the M40 Junction 15, allowing vehicles travelling on the A46 to avoid this junction.

M40 J14
- Long queues at the Jn stretching onto the M40 (Eastbound) mainline carriageway, with queuing vehicles often observed on the hard shoulder, reaching back to M40 J15. Queues attributable to the Warwickshire local road network and the congestion along Europa Way.
- Significant operational issues at the Jn (and M40 J15) if future development occurs in this area.

M40 J13
- No significant queuing noted.
- Safety issues - accidents caused in part by the short nature of the northbound off-slip and the exit being a priority Jn.

Site	Committed or Completed Scheme
1	A46 Stanks Grade Seperated Island Signalisation Due 2011
2	M40 J15 Longbridge Bypass Completed 2010
3	A429 Gallows Hill Junction Signalisation Completed 2010
4	A425 Emscote Rd Signal Upgrade Due 2011
5	Kenilworth Town Centre One-Way System Completed 2008

Site	Scheme Proposal or Investigation
1	A452 Europa Way/Heathcote Lane Roundabout Signislation
2	A452 Princes Drive and Shires Retail Area Roundabout Signalisation
3	Warwick Town Centre Street By Street Proposals
4	A46 Thickthorn Island Signalisation
5	A46 Stoneleigh Priority Junction Upgrade
6	A45 Tollbar Bypass
7	Kenilworth Station

*Derived from DfT NI167 Congestion Indicator Data. Highlights worst case average speed from AM and PM peak hours using in-car satellite navigation device logs in 2007 September-December.

**Light blue text boxes represent the Highways Agency comments on the transport issues relating to the HA Strategic Road Network.

Safe roads, Reliable journeys, Informed travellers

Warwickshire County Council

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

13   Utilities

What's the policy context?

At a national level[1], the planning of new development should be supported and informed by a robust infrastructure planning process providing evidence of what infrastructure is needed to support the proposed development, taking into account the type and location. As part of this, the process should:

1. *Identify the needs and costs, phasing of development, funding and sources and responsibilities for delivery*
2. *Set out the specific infrastructure requirements of any strategic sites to be included in the Core Strategy*
3. *Regularly engage with key infrastructure stakeholders responsible for infrastructure delivery.*
4. *Where possible agencies responsible for infrastructure and local authorities should seek to align their planning processes.*
5. *Ensure proper provision is made for uncertainty where information is not available*

Telecommunications

In relation to telecommunications, infrastructure local planning authorities are encouraged to engage with operators regarding their roll out plans for the area and ensure that prospective developers consider with the relevant operators how the telecommunication needs of the occupiers will be met[2].

Electricity Supply Network

As holder of the license to transmit electricity under the Electricity Act 1989, National Grid has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system. Regional companies own and are responsible for operating the local electricity distribution networks which comprise of overhead lines and cables at 132,000 volts or less which supply electricity direct to households and businesses.

Gas Supply Network

National Grid owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system which nationally consists of approximately 4,300 miles of pipelines and 26 compressor stations connecting to 8 distribution systems. It has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient co-ordinated and economical transmission system and respond to requests for new gas supplies. New infrastructure requirements are often needed to meet increases in demand and changes in patterns of supply. This is either in response to connection requests from new power stations or to meet increases in demand from local distribution suppliers.

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning
[2] Source: Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications

Works to provide further supplies to the local distribution network are generally the result of overall growth in a region rather than a specific development.

What's the situation now?

In Warwick District, E-on Central Networks is responsible for electricity distribution at the local level and National Grid Distribution own and operate the lower pressure gas distribution network to household and companies. Other electricity and gas companies, such as Powergen, buy this electricity and gas and supply it to consumers.

The western and central areas of the district have a high number of non gas connected domestic properties. In urban areas, this may be because electricity was favoured at the time the building was being developed, however, in rural areas it is likely that many buildings will be located where it is uneconomical to invest in gas grid connections.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

Anticipated growth in the local economy and population will increase the demand for electricity and gas and the infrastructure needed to supply it. If this is not carefully managed it could affect the timing of development. Without the plan it would be difficult for utility providers to plan the necessary infrastructure.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

1. Ensuring that the infrastructure needed for utilities is in place to meet the needs of an increased population, and the investment plans of key utilities providers are aligned with future plans for development.

14   Waste and Recycling

What's the policy context?

The [EU Waste Framework Directive](#) provides the overarching legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste. This requires all Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment. The directive also requires Member States to take appropriate measures to encourage firstly, the prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness and secondly the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation or any other process with a view to extracting secondary raw materials, or the use of waste as a source of energy.

At a national level, the Government's aim is for a 'zero waste' economy. The overarching objective of Government policy on waste is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible[1]. There are a number of key planning objectives, including:

1. Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option, but one which must be adequately catered for;
2. Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste, and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their communities; and,
3. Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management .

At regional level[2], policy aims to meet the following targets:
   1. *To recover value from at least 45% of municipal waste by 2010; 67% by 2015*
   2. *To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010; 33% by 2015*

The future waste management needs of all major waste streams are matters to be determined in development plans and through Waste Management Strategies. Planning authorities should include policies for all major waste streams to guide the location of waste treatment and recycling facilities to appropriate locations and where possible site specific proposals for new waste management to be included in development plans.

At the county level[3], the following strategic objectives provide the direction for waste management:

1. To minimise the amount of waste generated in Warwickshire with a target of 10% reduction in waste growth by 2015;

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): Targets for Waste Management in the Region (WD1); The Need for Waste Management Facilities by Sub-Region (WD2); Criteria for the Location of Waste Management Facilities (WD3)
[3] Source: Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Waste Minimisation Strategy

2. To maximise the amount of material recycled and composted in Warwickshire and to meet and exceed our statutory recycling targets of 30% by reaching 40-45%;
3. To limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill by making use of the existing energy from waste facility in Coventry, and to ensure that we meet our landfill diversion targets;
4. To make use of existing waste treatment infrastructure in Warwickshire; and,
5. To contribute to the generation of energy from a non-fossil source.

At the local level[4], there is a strategic aim to help communities actively minimise their environmental impacts with a local target of 60% of waste to be recycled or composted.

What's the situation now?

In 2008/09, the district produced 376kg of waste per head of population which was a significant reduction compared to previous years[5]. Over 50% of this waste was recycled and/or composted, which exceeded the county target for the first time in the district. All waste collected by the local authority is disposed of by Warwickshire County Council, as the waste disposal authority. It is also the responsibility of the County Council to plan for and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the identified need. The district currently contains two waste management facilities, namely the household waste recycling centres in Kenilworth and Leamington Spa.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population of the district is likely to result in increasing amounts of waste to be collected and disposed of, and therefore place greater demands on waste infrastructure. The situation without the new Local Plan might be a lack of co-ordination between when and where new development takes place, and when and where investment in waste infrastructure is undertaken. This might result in the district failing to meet targets for dealing with waste and recycling, and result in greater levels of waste being sent to landfill sites.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

The key issue for the new Local Plan is how it can shape and co-ordinate future development and investment in waste management facilities within the district to help address the following issue:

1. Increasing recycling and composting rates to minimise the amount of waste disposed of to landfill.

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[4] Source: Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy
[5] Source: Warwickshire Quality of Life Report

15   Flooding and Water

What's the policy context?

Flooding

At a national level[1], the aim is to direct development away from areas of high flood risk and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. A strategic approach should be taken in order to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in the following ways:

1. *Identify land at risk from flooding by preparing a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;*
2. *Ensuring that the location of new development avoids flood risk to people and property and that development is only permitted in areas of flood risk where there are no alternative sites and the benefits of the development outweigh the risks;*
3. *Ensuring that land needed for flood management is safeguarded from development;*
4. *By reducing flood risk through the location, layout and design of new development and by ensuring sustainable drainage systems are incorporated; and,*
5. *Using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding i.e. surface water management plans, reinstating flood plain.*

At the regional level[2], the aim is to protect and improve water quality and where necessary reduce the risk of pollution. Development plan policies should reduce any adverse effects of development on the water environment; any that pose an unacceptable risk to the quality of water sources should be avoided. Water supplies should be conserved and the demand managed. The river and inland waterway corridors need to be maintained and enhanced as key strategic resources, particularly helping to secure the wider regional aims of regeneration, tourism and the conservation of natural, built and historic environment, and the plan should protect and enhance wetland species and habitats.

At the county level, Warwickshire County Council[3] are the 'lead local flood authority' with responsibility for developing, maintaining and monitoring a local flood risk management strategy in partnership with other relevant bodies in the area. They are required as the Sustainable Urban Drainage Approving Body (SAB), to be responsible for the approval of drainage systems within Warwick District, and also for adopting and maintaining SUDs serving more than one

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[1] Source: Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (PPS25)
[2] Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2008): The Water Environment (QE9)
[3] Source: The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

property. The County Council also has a duty[4] as the lead flood authority to prepare preliminary flood risk assessment maps in accordance with the EU Flood Directive. These will need to be taken into account when deciding the location of new development.

The Environment Agency is also responsible for preparing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) covering the whole of England and Wales. They provide an overview of the flood risk across each river catchment and recommend ways of managing those risks by promoting sustainable flood risk management. The district is covered by the River Severn CFMP and the River Trent CFMP. The catchments are sub divided into policy units each with specific flood risk management policies. The following units cover Warwick District:

CFMP	POLICY UNIT	POLICY	
River Severn	Coventry Cluster	5	Take further action to reduce flood risk
	Upper Avon	6	Take action with others to store water or manage run off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits, locally or elsewhere in the catchment
	Avon Tributaries	3	Continue with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk at the current level
	River Arrow & River Alne	3	Continue with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk at the current level
River Trent	Mid Staffs & Lower Tame	6	Take action with others to store water or manage run off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits, locally or elsewhere in the catchment

Water Quality and Provision

In terms of water quality, the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) has the following objectives:
1. *To prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems;*
2. *That all water bodies should meet 'good' ecological status by 2015;*
3. *To promote the sustainable use of water;*
4. *To reduce or phase out pollutants that pose a significant risk to the aquatic environment;*
5. *Reduce the pollution of ground water; and,*
6. *Contribute towards mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.*

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[4] Source: Flood Risk Regulations (2009)

As the 'competent body' responsible for delivering these objectives the Environment Agency (EA) has prepared a series of draft River Basin Management Plans which set out the current status of the water body and an action plan for meeting 'good ecological status' in line with the WFD. In addition, the EA also strives to manage and protect groundwater sources and planning activities that might affect groundwater.[5]

In terms of water provision, the national strategic vision for managing water resources in England up until 2030 includes the following measures[6]:

1. *Reduced per capita consumption of water to an average of 130 litres per person per day or potentially 120 litres per person a day;*
2. *Amend building regulations to include a minimum standard of water efficiency in new homes; and,*
3. *In areas of severe water stress it is believed that near universal metering will be needed.*

There is a requirement on local planning authorities to take steps to encourage water conservation where appropriate[7].

Severn Trent Water is the appointed water company for the district with the responsibility of providing sufficient quantity and quality of water to meet demand whilst minimising the impact on the environment. They are responsible[8] for the operation and maintenance of the existing public foul drainage network and for providing waste water treatment capacity for future domestic development. They are also responsible for the public surface water drainage networks. From 2011, all private sewers and lateral drains that drain to public sewers will transfer into the ownership of the appointed water company removing the burden on householders and allowing for a more integrated sewerage system.

Severn Trent published their water resources management plan to demonstrate how they intend to meet future water demand over the next 25 years. Their overall aim is to maintain and achieve target levels of service whilst minimising impact on the environment by reducing leakage, managing the demand for water and developing new resources.

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[5] Source: Groundwater protection: Policy and practice (GP3)
[6] Source: Future Water (2008)
[7] Source: Water Act 2003
[8] Source: Section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991

Improvements to water infrastructure are programmed into the company's capital plan which runs in five year AMP (Asset Management Plan) cycles of which we are currently in AMP5 (2010 – 2015) which seeks to:

1. *Reduce leakage;*
2. *Increase the rate of household meter uptake through the promotion of free meter options and targeted policy of metering upon occupant change;*
3. *Increase water efficiency measures beyond AMP4 levels; and,*
4. *Maximise use of existing water resources by improving grid connectivity and supply network.*

What's the situation now?

Flooding

A Stage One Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken which identifies the areas currently under threat and the potential for further flood risk due to climate change based on a 20% increase in flow down the watercourse. The assessment showed areas at highest risk followed routes adjacent to rivers and canals. A number of locations within the district are also known to suffer from surface water flooding.

Water Quality

The district lies predominately within the Warwickshire Avon area of the Severn River Basin Management Plan of which, in relation to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, 11% of water bodies are currently at good ecological status and are expected to remain the same at 2015. A small area of the district lies within the Tame, Anker and Mease area of the Humber RBMP area of which only 3% of water bodies are at good ecological status however this is expected to remain the same.

In terms of waste water infrastructure, there is no existing capacity at the Waste Water treatment works at Finham or Longbridge however Seven Trent Water do not consider this to be a barrier to development as there is physical capacity to increase the works. They also believe there is capacity within the receiving water course to allow further discharge consents in relation to waste water treatment. Network capacity constraints are being appraised by Severn Trent as part of their sewer flooding investment programme.

What will the situation be without the new Local Plan?

Without the new Local Plan, the impact of flooding (which is projected to increase due to climate change) on people and property could increase if development is not directed away from areas of high flood risk. The plan is also needed to ensure new development is designed to ensure surface water is properly managed and does not increase flooding.

The anticipated growth of the local economy and population will place increased demand on water infrastructure both in terms of meeting the potable water

requirements and treating waste water. Without the new Local Plan, there may be a lack of co-ordination between development and the delivery of necessary water supply and waste treatment. It is important to ensure that increased demand, such as waste water treatment caused by future development does not cause deterioration in the existing status of watercourses or make it more difficult for the water body to meet 'good ecological status'.

What are the key issues for the new Local Plan?

1. To manage the risk of flooding to people and property within the district;
2. To ensure that new development does not increase surface water flooding;
3. To ensure that an adequate supply of water is available to meet increasing demands;
4. To ensure that waste water treatment is adequately met and does not result in a deterioration of the quality of receiving water courses or undermine the ability to meet 'good status' ; and,
5. To increase the proportion of water bodies meeting 'good status'.