

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

2007/2008



Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Our Vision, Mission, Objectives and Values	2 - 4
3 Elected Councillors	5 - 7
4 Finances and Resources	8 - 14
5 Performance of the Council	15 - 16
6 Portfolio Holder Statements	17 - 20
7 Contact Us	21

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our summary of accounts and annual report for 2007/08. We are producing this as a simple guide to what we've done and how much it cost in 2007/08. Our year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

We are a District Council and our main services are Planning, Waste Management, Car Parking, Environmental Health, Housing, Leisure and Amenities, Council Tax and Business Rate Collection and Housing Benefit Administration. We also collect Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils, as well as the County Council and the Police. However these are separate bodies from us and will prepare their own accounts and reports. You can find information about them from links on our website www.warwickdc.gov.uk.

As a result of reading this document you may want more information. The following are available:

- A full copy of our annual accounts which are produced in special format required by accountancy rules
- More information on our regular performance monitoring – which can be found in quarterly reports to the Council's Executive
- Information on our Corporate Strategy and Community Plan.

All of this information can be found on our website www.warwickdc.gov.uk

We finished our financial year with a surplus. This was mainly due to the Government not telling us until right at the end of the year how much money they would give us as a reward for increasing our yield on business rates. We have a relatively low level of Council Tax, with only 28% of District Council's levying less Council Tax.

The Council is managed by 46 elected councillors, who are the policy makers and approximately 500 staff provide the services and implement the agreed policies. A smaller group of councillors, elected by other councillors, forms the Executive Committee, and the members of this group are called portfolio holders, each one taking responsibility for an area of the Council's operations. A list of councillors can be found on pages 5-7 of this document

We measure our performance in a variety of ways but one of the most important is our performance indicators. We have 2 types of indicators; best value performance indicators which a body called the Audit Commission defines and dashboard indicators which are defined by ourselves. In 2007/08 we achieved 77% of the targets we set for all indicators. There is further detail on our results on pages 15-18 of this document. We can compare our best value indicator results as these are collected by all councils. Generally, we perform well compared to other district councils. 53% of our best value indicators were above average for 2006/7. This is the last year for which comparative information is available. Further details on comparisons and year on year trend data is also included later in this report.

Our Vision, Mission, Objectives, and Values

Our Vision

Our Vision for Warwick District is :

“Warwick District: a great place to live, work and visit”.

Our Mission

To provide the high quality, value for money services our customers expect, we will need to continue to improve. We have therefore set out our mission :

“Building upon Excellence, to become World Class by 2012”

Our Objectives

We aim to achieve our vision and mission by focusing our efforts on 7 key objectives



Housing	Improve housing services efficiency to meet the housing need of the district
Leadership	Provide clear community leadership and effective management of resources whilst delivering responsive public services in an open and transparent manner
Culture	Increase participation and attendance in the Council's cultural offering
Environment	Provide high standards of environmental services across the district delivering a sustainable and quality environment
Development	Create thriving town centres, keep pleasant villages and make the district an attractive place to live and work
Communities	Promote safe, vibrant and sustainable local communities
Customers	Improve the efficiency of service delivery to the Council's customers

Our Values

Our values set out the way we aim to conduct ourselves in the work we do. They are a statement of the behaviours our customers can expect from us when they deal with the Council and they underline the kind of organisation we would like to be seen as. Members of staff should be expected to act in accordance with such values but also should expect to be treated likewise by the Council as an employer and by the community.

Honesty and Integrity

we can be relied upon and will be truthful

Openness and transparency

we will be accountable and understandable

Fairness and equity

we will value all our citizens and our work will be without bias or prejudice

Community focussed

we will put the needs and aspirations of our local communities to the fore and we will work flexibly and collaboratively as one Council and with others in response

Environmentally sensitive

we will ensure our long term impacts are minimised and are sustainable for future generations.

Cllr. Malcolm Doody
(Conservative)
BISHOP'S TACHBROOK
Tel: 424048



Cllr. Richard Davies
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH ST JOHNS
Tel: 777107



Cllr. Alan Rhead
(Conservative)
BUDBROOKE
Tel: 624416



Cllr. John Hatfield
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH ST JOHNS
Tel: 777932



Cllr. Mrs Clare Sawdon
(Conservative)
BUDBROOKE
Tel: 485035



Cllr. Norman Vincett
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH ST JOHNS
Tel: 512453



Cllr. John Hammon
(Conservative)
CUBBINGTON
Tel: 632721



Cllr. Mrs Felicity Bunker
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH PARK HILL
Tel: 856157



Cllr. Norman Pratt
(Conservative)
CUBBINGTON
Tel: 425639



Cllr. Andrew Mobbs
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH PARK HILL
Tel: 07836 725999



Cllr. Michael Coker
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH ABBEY
Tel: 855433



Cllr. Dave Shilton
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH PARK HILL
Tel: 864873



Cllr. Mrs Ann Blacklock
(Liberal Democrat)
KENILWORTH ABBEY
Tel: 853740



Cllr. Les Caborn
(Conservative)
LAPWORTH
Tel: 492512



Cllr. George Illingworth
(Conservative)
KENILWORTH ABBEY
Tel: 511183



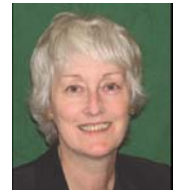
Cllr. Mrs Jane Knight
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON BRUNSWICK
Tel: 311807



Cllr. Mike Britland
(LABOUR)
LEAMINGTON BRUNSWICK
Tel: 421790



Cllr. Mrs Eithne Goode
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MANOR
Tel: 420818



Cllr. Balvinder Gill
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON BRUNSWICK
Tel: 420551



Cllr. Nicholas Pittarello
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MILVERTON
Tel: 498085



Cllr. Bob Crowther
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON CLARENDON
Tel: 330712



Cllr. Mrs Sidney Tyrrell
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MILVERTON
Tel: 429826



Cllr. Ms Janice Dean
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON CLARENDON
Tel: 888423



Cllr. Bill Gifford
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MILVERTON
Tel: 338776



Cllr. Alan Boad
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON CROWN
Tel: 339822



Cllr. John Barrott
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON WILLES
Tel: 624766



Cllr. Cliff Harris
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON CROWN
Tel: 339821



Cllr. Richard Edwards
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON WILLES
Tel: 313830



Cllr. Roger Copping
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MANOR
Tel: 425343



Cllr. Barbara Weed
(Labour)
LEAMINGTON WILLES
Tel: 07970 663336



Cllr. Ms Cymone De-Lara-Bond
(Liberal Democrat)
LEAMINGTON MANOR
Tel: 771961



Cllr. Mrs Susan Gallagher
(Conservative)
LEEK WOOTTON
Tel: 484654



Cllr. Michael Doody
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RADFORD SEMELE
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Cllr. Chris White
(Conservative)
WARWICK SOUTH
Tel: 400359



Cllr. Bertie Mackay
(Independent)
STONELEIGH
Tel: 02476 301976



Cllr. Bob Dhillon
(Conservative)
WARWICK WEST
Tel: 401537



Cllr. Mrs Moira-Ann
Grainger
(Conservative)
WARWICK NORTH
Tel: 882724



Cllr. Mrs Elizabeth Higgins
(Conservative)
WARWICK WEST
Tel: 493640



Cllr. Mrs Karen Scarrott
(Conservative)
WARWICK NORTH
Tel: 492602



Cllr. Michael Kinson
(Conservative)
WARWICK WEST
Tel: 499727



Cllr. Mrs Misan McFarland
(Labour)
WARWICK NORTH
Tel: 774974



Cllr. Mrs Judith Falp
(Independent)
WHITNASH
Tel: 312428



Cllr. Gerry Guest
(Conservative)
WARWICK SOUTH
Tel: 739888



Cllr. Tony Heath
(Independent)
WHITNASH
Tel: 429152



Cllr. Mrs Anne Mellor
(Conservative)
WARWICK SOUTH
Tel: 432275



Cllr. Bernard Kirton
(Independent)
WHITNASH
Tel: 356128



Following the last election in May 2007 the political composition of the council is:

- Conservative (24 seats)
- Labour (9 seats)
- Liberal Democrat (9 seats)
- Independents (4 seats)

For further information on how the council is run please follow the link below.

http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/WDC/Council_x2c_+government+and+democracy/Councils/Decision+making+%28council%29/

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR 2007/08

Income and Expenditure Account

This summarises the cost of running the Council's Services, and where the money came from to pay for them.

	2007/08 Net Expenditure £'000
Services	
Central Services to the Public	1,424
Cultural and Related Services	6,419
Environmental Services	5,703
Planning and Development Services	767
Highways, Roads and Transport Services	1,028
Housing Services	-227
Corporate and Democratic Core	2,174
Non-Distributed Costs	667
	17,955
Net Cost of Services	17,955
Accounting and other Financial Adjustments (*1)	633
	18,588
Net Operating Expenditure	18,588
General Government Grants	-2,938
Non-Domestic Rates Distribution	-8,715
Council Tax	-7,746
	-19,399
Total Income	-19,399
Net General Fund Surplus for the year	-811
Net Additional amount required by statute and non-statutory proper practices to be credited to the General Fund balance (*2)	-1,606
	-2,417
(Increase) / Decrease in General Fund Balance	-2,417
Net General Fund Surplus as at 31 March 2007	-1,100
Net General Fund Surplus as at 31 March 2008	-3,517

(*1) Accounting and other Financial Adjustments - Includes Parish Council Precepts, Interest on Investments, the net loss on the disposal of fixed assets. Full details are available in the Council's Statement of Accounts.

(*2) Full details are available in the Council's Statement of Accounts

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

This summarises the income and costs for the revenue activities undertaken by the Council in its role as a Landlord. Please note these amounts are also included within the Income and Expenditure Account.

	2007/08 Net Expenditure £'000
Income	
Dwelling Rents	-18,452
Non-Dwelling Rents	-737
Charges for Services & Facilities	-360
Contributions towards expenditure	-512
Total Income	-20,061
Expenditure	
Repairs and Maintenance	3,367
Supervision and Management	4,502
Other Charges	42
Increased Provision for Bad Debts	199
Subsidy Payment to Government	5,340
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	3,970
Total Expenditure	17,420
Net Cost of HRA Services per Income and Expenditure Account	-2,641
Financial Adjustments (*3)	-56
Surplus for the year on HRA Services	-2,697
Net Additional amount required by statute to be debited to the HRA balance (*4)	611
(Increase) / Decrease in the HRA Balance	-2,086
Net HRA Surplus as at 31 March 2007	-4,048
Net HRA Surplus as at 31 March 2008	-6,134

(*3) Financial Adjustments - Includes the HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core, the net loss on the sale of HRA assets, Amortised premiums and discounts, Investment Income. Full details are available in the Council's statement of Accounts.

(*4) Full details are available in the Council's Statement of Accounts

Capital Expenditure

The Council spends money purchasing and improving its assets.
The benefit of this lasts over several years.

Capital Programme	2007/08 Expenditure £'000
Housing Investment Programme	4,962
Refuse / Recycling	1,211
e-Government and ICT Strategy	1,158
Corporate Properties	380
Car Park Refurbishments / Enhancements	350
Purchase of Oakley Woods	330
Environmental Works	204
Other Schemes	876
Total Capital Expenditure	9,471

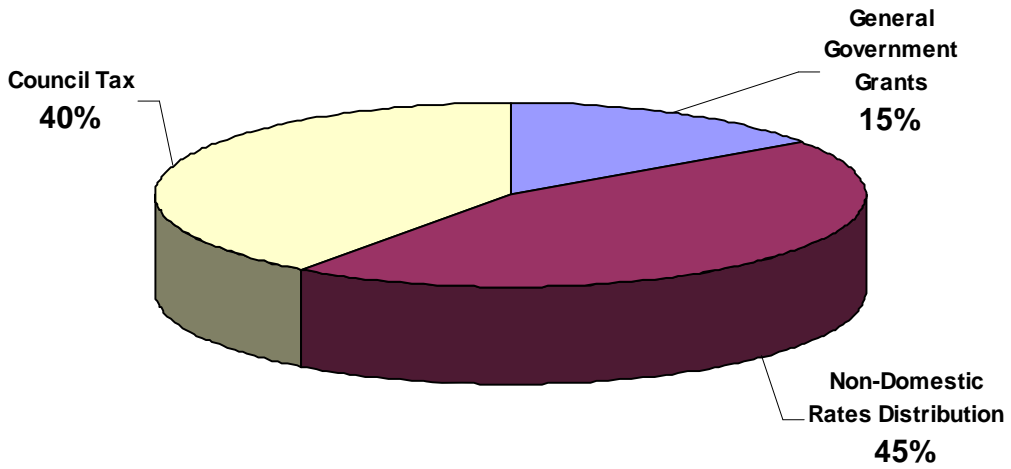
The Financial Position of the Council

The Balance Sheet shows the Financial Position (Assets and Liabilities) of the Council at the end of March 2008 - What the Council owns and is owed.

	31st March 2008 £'000
Intangible Assets	242
Fixed Assets	411,202
Other Long Term Assets	91
Total Long term Assets	411,535
Current Assets	39,838
Total Assets	451,373
Current Liabilities	-11,071
Long Term Liabilities	-26,300
Total Assets less Liabilities	414,002

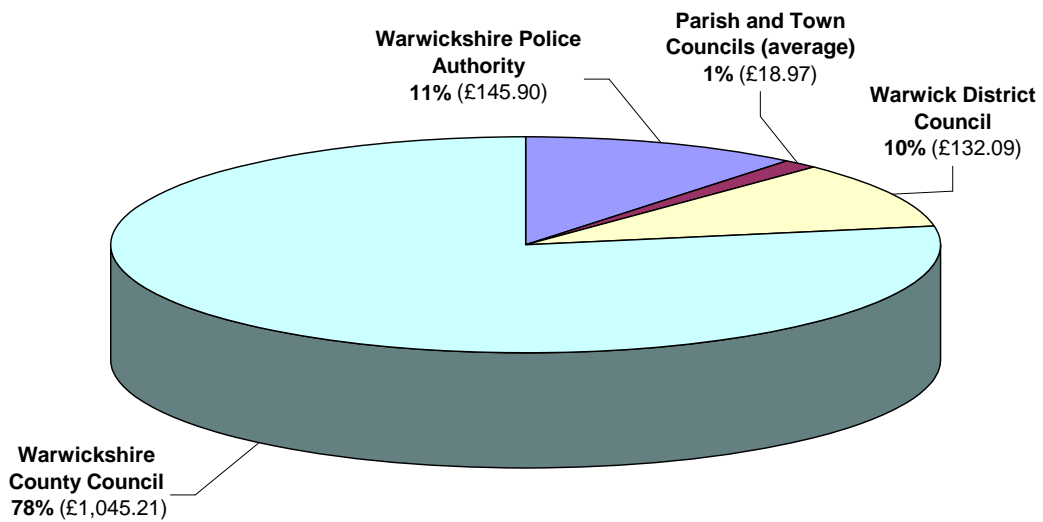
Full details of the reserves and balances funding these assets are available in the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Where the Council gets its money from



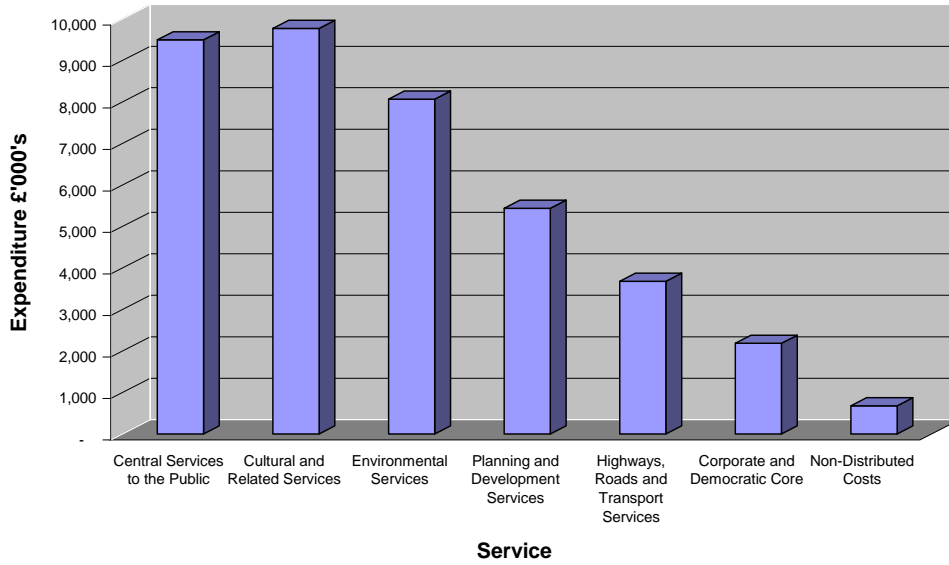
The council tax paid by Warwick District residents is distributed to local authorities on the proportions below:

% of 2007/08 Council Tax to each authority (Council Tax Charge at Band D Given for Illustration)

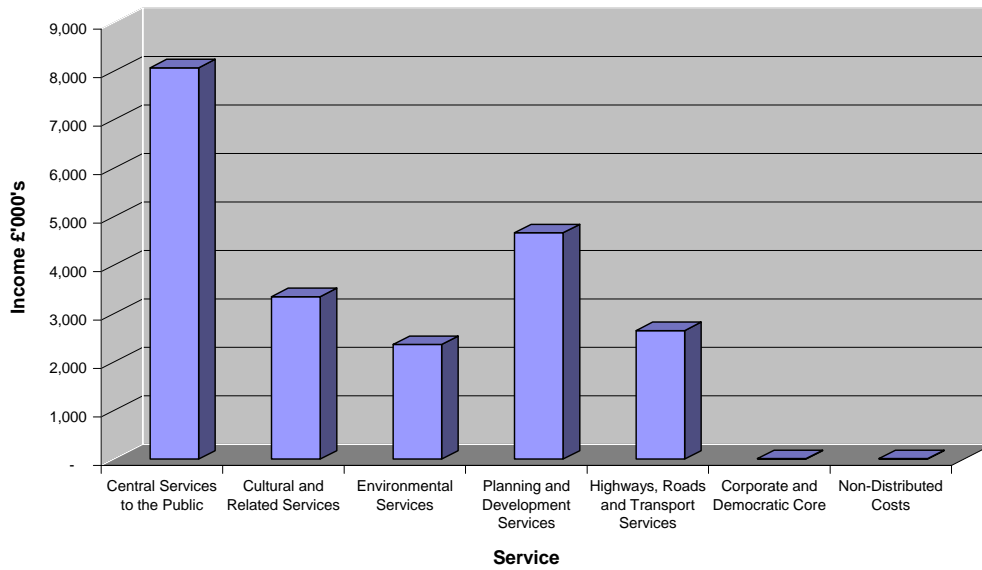


OUR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY SERVICES AREA IN CHARTS

Gross Expenditure by Service



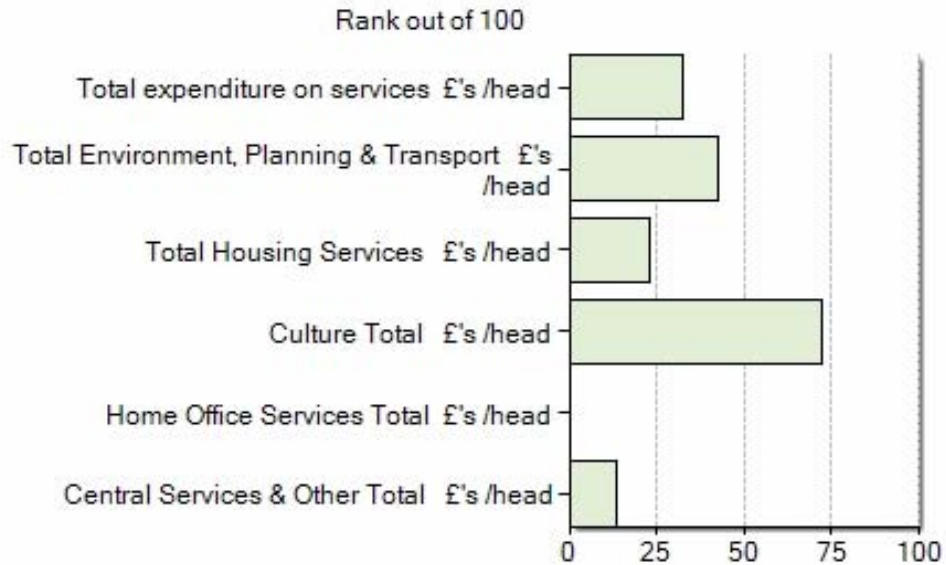
Gross Income by Service



HOW OUR EXPENDITURE COMPARES TO OTHERS – SPENDING PLANS 2007/08

The only comparative data we have is from the Audit Commission who analyse all Councils spending plans. This information takes some time to collate and so the latest data we have is for 2007/08 spending plans.

The information uses quartiles. This means that the highest spending Council is ranked 100, and the lowest is ranked 0. It shows that this Council's spending is lower than average, and this reflects our low level of Council Tax.



SUMMARY TREND AND COMPARISON INFORMATION

Figures 1 to 5 below show a summary of the council's performance in relation to national (best value) performance indicators. We are required to collect these indicators along with all councils and the results are audited by the Audit Commission to ensure comparisons can be drawn between councils. Figure 6 shows our performance in detail for each national (Best Value) performance indicator.

Comparative figures for the Council's audited results are made available by the Audit Commission in December each year. As the results for 2007/08 have only just been submitted the results discussed below relate to the years 2005/06 and 2006/07. In the detailed table which follows in Fig.6, the actual results for 2007/08 have been included in the right hand column for information.

Summary position

Fig.1

Warwick District Council	2005 - 2006		2006 - 2007	
	No.	%	No.	%
Above Average	45	66.2%	34	53%
Below Average	23	33.8%	30	47%
Best Quartile	22	32.3%	20	30.8%
Mid Quartiles	32	47.1%	29	44.6%
Worst Quartile	14	20.6%	16	24.6%

Trend Information between 2005/06 and 2006/07

Full information on an indicator by indicator basis is contained within the full table within Fig.6

Fig.2

Warwick District Council Actual Results		
	Number	Percentage
Improved Results	26	44%
Static Results	11	19%
Declining Results	22	37%
Applicable indicators	59	

Fig.3

National Average Result Figures		
	Number	Percentage
Improved Results	53	84%
Static Results	2	3%
Declining Results	8	13%
Applicable indicators	63	

Fig.4

WDC Position Compared to National Averages		
	Number	Percentage
Improved Position	2	3%
Static Position	50	79%
Declining Position	7	11%
n/a	5	7%
Applicable indicators	63	

Fig.5

WDC Quartile Position (NB where year on year quartile comparison is possible)		
	Number	Percentage
Improved Position	9	15%
Static Position	40	68%
Declining Position	10	17%
Applicable indicators	59	

SUMMARY INDICATOR PERFORMANCE BY PORTFOLIO

Fig.6 below shows a summary of all of our performance in relation to PIs including dashboard indicators. These are the performance indicators we have chosen to measure as they reflect local priorities and enable us to measure our performance in key areas.

The detailed results are found within the full reports on the website at http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/WDC/Council_x2c_+government+and+democracy/Councils/Council+performance/Performance+indicators/

Fig 6

Portfolio	% (and number) of indicators		
	Achieved Target	Below Target	No Data Available
Community	64% (7)	36% (4)	0% (0)
Corporate and Strategic Leadership	68% (21)	32% (10)	0% (0)
Culture Services	65% (17)	31% (8)	4% (1)
Customer and Business Improvement Services	82% (46)	18% (10)	0% (0)
Development	84% (31)	13% (5)	3% (1)
Environmental Services	83% (40)	15% (7)	2% (1)
Housing Services	68% (30)	30% (13)	2% (1)
All Portfolios	76% (192)	22% (57)	2% (4)
Excluding Unavailable Data	77% (192)	23 % (57)	-/-

The Council's approach to Performance Management is designed to ensure the objectives and priorities detailed within the Corporate Strategy 2008 - 2011 are effectively implemented, monitored and managed to achieve real improvements in the quality of life of local residents. For further information please follow the link below.

http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/WDC/Council_x2c_+government+and+democracy/Councils/Council+performance/Performance+management.htm

COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To promote safe, vibrant and sustainable local communities

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Implement an early warning system advising parents of whereabouts of children and anti-social behaviour issues.
- Implement an electronic case management system to produce anti-social behaviour documentation and reports
- Develop and implement plans to reduce the incidence of violent crime, criminal damage, and theft from vehicles and domestic burglary.
- Encourage Parish Councils to strengthen rural communities through the Rural Excellence initiative and allocation of rural initiatives grants.
- Investigate the viability of introducing a subsidised taxi service scheme for rural areas.
- Run at least one SWOOP event in partnership with the PCT to prevent slips, trips and falls.
- Deliver information and advice programme in Care Homes to contribute to the Fit 3 Falls prevention initiative in Care Homes.
- Review the criteria for the Small Grants Scheme.
- Assist the County Council to develop a county-wide Telecare service for older people
- Increase take-up for the Warwick Response community alarm service

CORPORATE & STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To provide clear community leadership, and effective management of resources, whilst delivering responsive public services in an open and transparent manner.

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Update the Constitution of the Council to take account of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Carry out the alterations to Riverside House and to the Town Hall to achieve the programmed savings
- Carry out the Year 2 proposals of the Building on Excellence Programme
- Support implementation of the new Sustainable Community Strategy for the District
- Develop proposals to achieve financial savings over the next 3 to 4 years
- Develop a Shared Services Strategy to achieve financial savings
- Achieve Lexcel accreditation for Legal Services
- Progress the automated Land Charges response
- Update the Council's Governance Standards in the light of the new code of practice

CULTURE PORTFOLIO 2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To increase participation and attendance in the Council's cultural offering

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Achieve full Accreditation for Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum under the Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Galleries in the UK.
- Complete the Lottery funded *Tapping In* project to provide digital access to the collections of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum on schedule (June 2008).
- Refurbish the Children's Gallery of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum subject to external funding being obtained.
- Continue to work with Bowls England to protect the future of championship bowls at Victoria Park
- Agree a strategic plan for the future of golf provision at Newbold Comyn
- Complete the refurbishment of the cinema including replacement of seats, lighting and sound systems subject to external funding being obtained.
- Develop and expand e marketing at the Royal Spa Centre
- Expand online booking opportunities to include additional facilities e.g. children's holiday activities
- Support the effective operation of the Warwick District Local Sports Network, working in partnership with CSP, PCT, schools and local sports clubs and maximising any opportunities that arise associated in the lead up to London 2012 Olympics
- Continue the building refurbishment programme at the leisure centres
- Develop and implement the Play Strategy (£220,000 Big Lottery bid)

CUSTOMER & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PORTFOLIO 2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To improve the efficiency of service delivery to the Council's customers

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Continue roll out of one stop shops
- Relocate Customer Service Centre to Shire Hall, Warwick
- Develop accessibility and usability of the website and continue to increase the number of services that can be accessed
- Develop proposals for improving staff reward and recognition
- Develop a revised performance framework to ensure the Council stays focused on delivering the new Corporate Strategy
- Undertake service reviews in areas where there is scope for significant improvement to service quality or service efficiency
- Develop Resourcing Strategy that maximises efficiencies in recruitment practices including advertising and temporary staff
- Introduce a competency framework for the council to support Building on Excellence
- Enter the Best Council To Work For competition with the aim of being in the top 100

DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO 2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To create thriving town centres, keep pleasant villages and make the district an attractive place to live and work

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Promote planning design guidance, pre-application discussions and advice.
- Development inward investment projects including seeking funding.
- Ensure an annual Programme of town centre promotional activities via Town Centre management and partnerships.
- Re-develop Chandos Street in Leamington as a major sub-regional shopping centre
- Support the investigation of a Business Improvement District for Warwick
- Develop the Core Strategy to set out the vision, objectives and district spatial development strategy.
- Consider implications of the likely growth in the district until 2026
- Prepare planning briefs for the station area of Leamington Spa and the Ford Foundry site
- Promote actions to reduce the risk of flooding, including directing development away from areas of flood risk
- Progress:
 - Warwick Development Projects – including Pageant House Court House and Gardens Rejuvenation
 - Old town Enterprise Projects - including Althorpe Street Enterprise Centre, Arches in Court Street, Cup/Spencer's Yard
 - Focus on Stoneleigh Park as food and farming centre.
- Rural project – Parish and village plans.
- Develop a strategy with Warwickshire College and the Universities of Warwick and Coventry to utilise skills development for the benefit of new inward investment and existing companies.

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO 2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To provide high standards of environmental services across the district delivering a sustainable and quality environment.

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Ensure all residents receive an effective and efficient recycling and refuse service which is flexible in operation to accommodate special needs
- Develop recycling facilities for schools and double the schools education Programme.
- Expand recycling bank sites to provide additional recycling facilities
- Provide an effective and efficient contract management system to deal with missed collections and service requests.
- Provide an effective cleansing service for public conveniences and car parks
- Improve the Council's response to graffiti and fly posting, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.
- Develop and implement energy efficiency projects to reduce fuel inputs necessary to

- deliver core services and maintain council properties
- Increase multi-agency checks of licensed premises and tax/private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.
 - Implement the Local Air Quality Action Plan.
 - Install new Cremators at Oakley Woods with Mercury Filtration
 - Successfully introduce Woodland Burial at Oakley Woods

HOUSING PORTFOLIO 2008/09 Portfolio Holder Statement

Portfolio Objective

To improve housing services efficiency to meet the housing need of the district.

2008/09 Key Projects and Actions

- Review the Homelessness Strategy and ensure that the prevention agenda is embedded both internally and with external partners.
- Review the Housing Register and implement the Home choice Review
- Take forward the recommendations of the Gypsy and Travellers Assessment for the provision of permanent and temporary sites
- At a local level, work to reduce the level of outstanding Disabled Facility Grants and reduce the waiting list.
- Through the Supporting People Core Strategy Group lobby for equitable services across the county
- Work with CLG, as a member of the self financing 'modelling group' of 6 authorities, on the national project to evaluate the feasibility of establishing self-financing HRAs and assess the impact of proposals emerging from the national review of the housing subsidy system on a potential self financing business plan
- Assess the potential for self financing to secure the long term investment needs of the stock and address a range of strategic housing priorities including supply of new affordable housing Restructure the Housing and Property Services' service area to maximise synergies and efficiencies across service delivery to council tenants and corporate clients
- Work with the County Council on the development of a county-wide Telecare service and prepare to tender to deliver a Telecare service county-wide or across the south of the county post April 2009
- Determine the most effective use of properties currently designated for letting to older people as part of the district wide review of older persons housing
- Evaluate the benefits of the current letting and transfer incentive schemes