

To: The Deputy Leader and Members of the Community and Environment Board

(Councillors Bell, Fowler, Gosling, Hobley, Jackson, Jarvis, Jenns, Melia, H Phillips, Singh, Smith, Turley, Whapples and A Wright)

For the information of other Members of the Council

For general enquiries please contact Democratic Services on 01827 719226 or via e-mail democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk.

For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the reports.

The agenda and reports are available in large print and electronic accessible formats if requested.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD AGENDA

16 OCTOBER 2023

The Community and Environment Board will meet in The Chamber, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Monday 16 October 2023 at 6.30pm.

The meeting can also be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel at [NorthWarks - YouTube](#).

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

4 **Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to put questions to elected Members.

Members of the public wishing to address the Board must register their intention to do so by 9:30am two working days prior to the meeting. Participants are restricted to five minutes each.

If you wish to put a question to the meeting, please register by email to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk or telephone 01827 719221 / 01827 719237 / 01827 719226.

Once registered to speak, the person asking the question has the option to either:

- a) attend the meeting in person at the Council Chamber.
- b) attend remotely via Teams; or
- c) request that the Chair reads out their written question.

The Council Chamber has level access via a lift to assist those with limited mobility who attend in person however, it may be more convenient to attend remotely.

If attending remotely an invitation will be sent to join the Teams video conferencing for this meeting. Those registered to speak should dial the telephone number and ID number (provided on their invitation) when joining the meeting to ask their question. However, whilst waiting they will be able to hear what is being said at the meeting. They will also be able to view the meeting using the YouTube link provided (if so, they made need to mute the sound on YouTube when they speak on the phone to prevent feedback).

- 5 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8 August 2023** – copies herewith, to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC BUSINESS (WHITE PAPERS)

- 6 **Budgetary Control Report 2023/24 Period Ended 31 August 2023** - Report of the Corporate Director – Resources

Summary

This report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023. The 2023/24 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, are given, together with an estimate of the outturn position for services reporting to this Board.

The Contact Officer for this report is Nigel Lane (719371).

- 7 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Progress Report** – Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

Summary

This report informs Members of the progress made in respect of delivery of the local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022 to 2025).

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346).

- 8 **North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies - Progress Report** - Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

Summary

This report informs Members of the progress made in respect of delivery against the priorities set out in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) and the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031).

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346).

- 9 **Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plan** – Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

Summary

Appended to this report, for Members' consideration, is a copy of the approved 2023 / 24 Service Improvement Plan (SIP), through which the Board has agreed to monitor the operational performance of the leisure facilities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Russell Simkiss (719257).

- 10 **Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Fouling** – Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report is to bring to members attention a consultation on a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control dog fouling issues within the Borough of North Warwickshire.

The Contact Officers for this report is Sharon Gallagher (719292).

11 **Air Quality Update** - Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work that the Environmental Health have undertaken to monitor air quality in the Borough.

The Contact Officers for this report are Sharon Gallagher (719292) and Milen Woldeab (719326).

12 **Minutes of the Climate Change Member Group** held on 6 September 2023 – copies herewith.

STEVE MAXEY
Chief Executive

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

8 August 2023

Present: Councillor Bell in the Chair.

Councillors Fowler, Jackson, Jarvis, Jenns, Melia, Parsons, H Phillips, Ririe, Singh, Smith, Turley, A Wright and Whapples

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gosling (Substitute Ririe) and Hobley (Substitute Parsons)

6 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

7 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 5 June 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2023, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Further to the discussion at the last Board Meeting held in June, the Interim Corporate Director of Streetscape was asked to write to the Strategic Director of Communities at Warwickshire County Council about the forthcoming User Survey of Household Waste Recycling Centres (Lower House Farm) the proliferation of street clutter in the Borough and enforcement activity regarding matters where powers lie with the County Council.

8 **Budgetary Control Report 2023/24 Period Ended 30 June 2023**

The Corporate Director - Resources detailed revenue / expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2023 to June 2023. The 2023/24 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, were given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 **Fly Tipping Update**

The Chief Executive updated Members on the work that the Environmental Health, Transformation and Streetscape Teams had undertaken in order to try and reduce fly tipping across the Borough.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 **Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plan**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development reported on the Service Improvement Plan (SIP), detailing activity through to the end of April 2023/24, through which the Board had agreed to monitor the operational performance of the leisure facilities at each of its meetings.

Resolved:

That progress made against the requirements identified in the approved 2023/24 Leisure Facilities Service Improvement Plan through which operational performance is monitored, be noted.

11 **Leisure Facilities Provision in Polesworth**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development outline appraised, and sought the Board's views on, current leisure facilities provision in Polesworth.

Resolved:

- a That the current position in respect of leisure facilities provision in Polesworth be noted; and**
- b That a further report be presented to this Board regarding proposals for future leisure provision in Polesworth.**

12 **Ansley Workshops Sports Ground and the Home Advantage Programme**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development drew the Board's attention to a new initiative of the Premier League, The Football Association and the Football Foundation, the Home Advantage Programme, which aims to support local authorities and grassroots football clubs to get the most out of the nation's grass pitches. It also asked Members to consider the submission of an Expression of Interest in seeking financial support from the Programme through which to enhance Haunchwood Sports Junior Football Club's security of tenure at, and engagement in the development of, Ansley Workshops Sports Ground.

Resolved:

That the principle of granting a long-term lease to Haunchwood Sports Junior Football Club, in respect of its security of tenure at Ansley Workshop Sports Ground and the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) in seeking financial support from the Home Advantage Programme through which to support the Club's development of the site both be approved.

13 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party

The minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party held on 10 July 2023, copies having been previously circulated, were noted.

Margaret Bell
Chair

Agenda Item No 6

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Corporate Director – Resources

Budgetary Control Report 2023/24 Period Ended 31 August 2023

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report covers revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023. The 2023/24 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, are given, together with an estimate of the outturn position for services reporting to this Board.

Recommendation to the Board

That the report be noted and that the Board requests any further information it feels would assist it in monitoring the budgets under its control.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Under the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP), services should be charged with the total cost of providing the service, which not only includes costs and income directly incurred, but also support costs relating to such areas as finance, office accommodation, telephone costs and IT services. The figures contained within this report are calculated on this basis.

3 Overall Position

- 3.1 The actual expenditure for budgets reporting to this Board on 31 August 2023 is £2,472,780 compared with a profiled budgetary position of £2,604,807; an underspend of £132,027 for the period. Appendix A to this report provides details of the profiled and actual position for each service reporting to this Board, together with the variance for the period.

- 3.2 Where possible, the year-to-date budget figures have been calculated with some allowance for seasonal variations, in order to give a better comparison with actual figures. Reasons for the variations are given, where appropriate, in the detail below.

3.3 Leisure Facilities

- 3.3.1 There is an overall underspend of £100,945 compared to the profiled budget. Employee costs are below budget by £56,858 due to vacancies. In addition there is currently an underspend on utility costs of £33,975.

Income is currently above profile by £23,762 across all sites relating to Direct Debits, Birthday Parties, Fitness Pay and Play, Swimming and use of the Memorial Hall.

These are partially offset by a current overspending in supplies and services above budget of £13,650, mainly due to repairs and maintenance of gym equipment.

3.4 Refuse and Recycling

3.4.1 Overall, refuse and recycling is above the profile budget by £15,621 on an annual budget of over £2.3m. This is mainly due to increased costs of recycling disposal and haulage costs of £44,363 and employee costs above budget by £19,248, in addition income is £14,086 below profile. These have been partially offset by a reduction in transport running costs of £60,885 due to lower fuel repairs and maintenance costs.

3.5 Amenity Cleaning

3.5.1 Overall, amenity cleaning is below the profiled budget by £15,151. This is mainly due to a saving from employee vacancies not covered by agency costs of £17,764.

3.6 Corporate Policy

The supplies and services budget is underspent by £6,618 compared to profiled budget.

4 Risks to the Budget

4.1 The key risks to the budgetary position of the Council from services under the control of this Board are:

- Deteriorating condition of assets, particularly the Leisure Centres, potential volatility associated with the cost of utilities and further economic and market pressure affecting the generation of income.
- Additional costs relating to the Refuse and Recycling services.

5 Estimated Outturn

- 5.1 Members have requested that Budgetary Control reports provide details on the likely out-turn position for each of the services reporting to this Board. The anticipated out-turn for this Board for 2023/24 is £7,276,580, the same as the approved budget.
- 5.2 The figures provided are based on information available at this time of the year and are the best available estimates for this Board and may change as the financial year progresses. Members will be updated in future reports of any changes to the forecast out turn.

6 Report Implications

6.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 6.1.1 Income and Expenditure will continue to be closely managed and any issues that arise will be reported to this Board at future meetings.

6.2 Environment and Sustainability Implications

- 6.2.1 The Council must ensure that it adopts and implements robust and comprehensive budgetary monitoring and control, to ensure not only the availability of services within the current financial year, but in future years.

The Contact Officer for this report is Nigel Lane (719371).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
Executive Board – Agenda item 10	Corporate Director - Resources	General Fund Revenue Estimates and Setting the Council 2023-24	13 th Feb 2023

**Community and Environment Board
Budgetary Control Report 2023/2024 as at 31 August 2023**

Cost Centre	Description	Approved Budget 2023/2024	Profiled Budget 2023/2024	Actual August 2023	Variance	Comments
3072	Polesworth Sports Centre	(5,580)	(3,495)	(3,169)	326	Paragraph 3.3
3073	Polesworth Gym	297,080	126,553	94,869	(31,684)	Paragraph 3.3
3075	Coleshill Leisure Centre	566,470	249,964	243,353	(6,611)	Paragraph 3.3
3077	Atherstone Leisure Complex	1,146,500	481,701	427,723	(53,978)	Paragraph 3.3
3082/83	Memorial Hall (Sport)	201,330	82,885	73,888	(8,997)	Paragraph 3.3
5064	QE School - Artificial Grass Pitch	20	(9,771)	(7,250)	2,521	
	Leisure Services Sub Total	2,205,820	927,837	829,413	(98,424)	
4002	Commercial Pollution Control	480,960	202,142	201,590	(552)	
4003	Domestic Pollution Control	30,650	16,078	15,180	(898)	
5005	Animal Control	33,930	16,162	15,636	(526)	
5006	Abandoned Vehicles	5,800	4,181	4,181	(0)	
	Environmental Health Sub Total	551,340	238,563	236,586	(1,977)	
5000	Domestic Refuse Collection	1,192,320	465,781	436,805	(28,976)	Paragraph 3.4
5001	Streetscene Grounds Maintenance	159,560	92,203	86,170	(6,034)	
5002	Trade Refuse Collection	(30,910)	(152,109)	(148,361)	3,748	Paragraph 3.4
5003	Cesspool Emptying	66,800	28,513	18,634	(9,879)	
5004	Recycling	1,158,180	192,544	233,393	40,850	Paragraph 3.4
5010	Amenity Cleaning	776,590	316,228	301,077	(15,151)	Paragraph 3.5
5013	Unadopted Roads	21,980	9,158	6,170	(2,988)	
5014	Drain Unblocking and Land Drainage	20,290	8,454	8,454	(0)	
5015	Street Furniture	7,590	3,163	2,563	(600)	
5016	Atherstone Market	3,980	2,044	1,488	(556)	
	Streetscape Sub Total	3,376,380	965,979	946,392	(19,587)	
5021	Public Health Act 1984 Burials	5,020	3,095	4,850	1,755	
	Head of Legal Services Sub Total	5,020	3,095	4,850	1,755	
5023	Consultation	17,100	7,125	6,370	(755)	
	Chief Executive Sub Total	17,100	7,125	6,370	(755)	
5034	Landscape	13,040	667	667	-	
	Economic Development Sub Total	13,040	667	667	-	
5019	Green Space Budget	699,950	286,249	285,942	(307)	
5025	Corporate Policy	82,560	44,143	37,525	(6,618)	Paragraph 3.6
5030	Rural Regeneration	72,280	29,866	29,591	(274)	
5040	Marketing and Market Research	15,160	6,317	3,708	(2,608)	
5044	Support to Voluntary Organisations	46,710	20,383	20,383	-	
5055	Health Improvement	85,500	35,625	35,564	(61)	
5056	Safer Communities	105,720	38,958	35,787	(3,172)	
	Community Development Sub Total	1,107,880	461,542	448,501	(13,040)	
	Total Net Expenditure	7,276,580	2,604,807	2,472,780	(132,027)	

Original Approved Budget	7,534,500
Non Corporate Training Virements	13,840
Corporate Training Virements	1,910
Recruitment Virements	1,540
Cesspool Vehicle hire budget virement	(1,610)
Community Development staff restructure moved to service budgets	(118,100)
Balance of LATCO saving Virement	(17,880)
Additional income for leisure VAT (virement)	(137,620)
Current Budget	7,276,580

Agenda Item No 7

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Progress Report

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the progress made in respect of delivery of the local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022 to 2025).

Recommendation to the Board

That Members note and comment upon the progress made in respect of the delivery of the local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022 to 2025).

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) is a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the United Kingdom. Nationally, it provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a prescribed formula, rather than through a competitive process. Its purpose is to help places across the country deliver enhanced outcomes for those people and communities that need it most.
- 3.2 In August 2022, the Chief Executive submitted the Borough Council's SPF application and Investment Plan to Government, further to which North Warwickshire was allocated £1.965 million. The Borough Council is named as the "lead authority" for the management and administration of the local fund, which is allocated against three UK SPF Investment Priorities:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

3.3 The Investment Plan submission to Government was required to allocate funding across these three priorities and across each of three financial years. Appendix A details these funding allocations. The Investment Plan had to include indicative projects and potential cost allocations against a number of detailed interventions and also had to identify anticipated outputs and outcomes within each of the three Investment Priorities. In collating the list of indicative projects, detailed consideration was given to the priorities, strategies and plans of the Authority.

3.4 In addition to the UK SPF allocation, North Warwickshire has also been awarded an additional allocation of £495,639 through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). The REPF is only available to spend from April 2023 to March 2025, as follows:

- 2023 / 2024: £280,000
- 2024 / 2025: £215,639

3.5 Unlike the UK SPF allocation, the REPF can only be used for capital spend within the priority interventions of “Community and Place” or “Supporting Local Business”.

4 Progress

4.1 North Warwickshire Advisory Panel

4.1.1 The allocation of UK SPF and REPF funding is a process led by the Borough Council and the corresponding decisions are made by Borough Councillors. Applicants are invited to submit a Project Brief to the Authority, which is also allowed to directly commission projects if it so wishes. Applications are considered by a North Warwickshire Advisory Panel, which is led by six appointed Borough Councillors and chaired by the Leader of the Council. The Advisory Panel is supported by Officers and a small number of external partners who possess knowledge within one of the three investment priorities.

4.1.2 The Panel convenes each quarter and is responsible for deciding how the funding is allocated and for overseeing the progress of the project. The Panel’s Terms of Reference are appended to this report for information (Appendix B).

4.2 Communities and Place

4.2.1 The Communities and Place Investment Priority enables places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and to create the foundations for economic development at a neighbourhood-level. The intention is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting the development of “pride in place”.

4.2.2 There are two principal objectives relating to Communities and Place:

- Strengthening social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and to community-led projects.
- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in high quality places in which people want to live, work, play and learn, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

4.3 Supporting Local Business

4.3.1 The Supporting Local Business Investment Priority enables places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.

4.3.2 There are three objectives relating to Supporting Local Business:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build upon existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and to stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and to start or grow their exports.

4.4 People and Skills

4.4.1 Through the People and Skills Investment Priority, places can use their funding to help reduce the barriers people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for areas to support local growth.

4.4.2 There are four objectives relating to People and Skills:

- Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low-level qualifications and skills in mathematics, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers (in England, this is delivered through the Department for Education's Multiply programme).

- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.
- Supporting areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work and to supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through a wider range of routes or enabling more intensive / innovative provision, both qualification and non-qualification based. This must be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

5 Summary

5.1 The date, 47 projects have been allocated funding through the UK SPF and REPF programmes.

5.2 The table below shows the current spend within each Investment Priority:

	Total Spend to Date	Total Allocation		Total Left to Allocate
		2022 /23	2023 / 24	
Communities and Place	£458,820	£181,044	£278,088	£312
Local Business	£146,583	£27,500	£117,000	-£2,083
People and Skills	£73,058	£30,000	£82,000	£38,942
Rural England	£50,493		£280,000	£229,507

5.3 Appendix C identifies the projects that have been supported to date, as follows:

- 31 projects within Communities and Place
- 7 projects within Supporting Local Business
- 6 projects within People and Skills
- 5 projects within Rural England

Members should note that £75,000 of funding within the Local Business priority has been allocated to WCC for the joint commissioning of business support across Warwickshire.

6 Summary Conclusion

- 6.1 The funding within the Communities and Place and Local Business priorities has been fully allocated for year one and year two, with a small amount left for disbursement within the People and Skills category.
- 6.2 There is a significant amount of funding within the Rural England programme left to allocate. Officers will be targeting various organisations, partners and schemes in order to encourage applications that deliver on the associated outputs and outcomes required.
- 6.3 Currently, applications are only considered for spend within the current financial year, but applications for the third and final year of the programme (2024 / 25) can be tabled at the Advisory Panel meeting to be held in March 2024.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 7.1.1 The funding implications of involvement in the UK SPF and REPF programmes are detailed in the main body of the report and in Appendices A and C. 4% of the overall allocation can be used in support of the Authority's administration of the funding schemes.

7.2 Safer Communities Implications

- 7.2.1 UKSPF funding has been allocated to projects which should have a positive impact upon reducing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 7.2.2 In addition, there is a specific intervention within Communities and Place related to safer communities, for which funding has been allocated: E5: Built and landscaped environment to "design out crime".

7.3 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no legal, data protection or human rights implications arising directly from this report. Members, however, are asked to note that in its management of the associated processes, the Borough Council will need to carefully consider each bid application in order to determine if it falls within one or more of the Investment Priorities and is, of itself, a viable proposal that will deliver appropriate local benefit. Specific legal advice will be given, as necessary, in relation to the application and approval processes.

7.4 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

7.4.1 The UK SPF and REPF programmes support undertakings that seek to enhance community, environmental and economic sustainability and strengthen local communities. The programmes are also helping to create a stronger sense of place and improve community health and wellbeing. Further, investment in local businesses and in the skills held by local people positively impacts on physical and mental health.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

7.5.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.6 Risk Management Implications

7.6.1 The risks associated with the UK SPF and REPF programmes have been, and will continue to be, managed through approved divisional risk management processes, most specifically in relation to the effective management of partnership work, the efficient delivery of externally supported projects and programmes that meet corporate priorities and the appropriate administration of all forms of financial assistance. Implementation of relevant processes will ensure the delivery of programmes that meet Government requirements and minimise any risk to the Borough Council in its capacity as the "lead local authority".

7.7 Equalities Implications

7.7.1 Effective delivery of the UK SPF and REPF programmes will not adversely affect any groups or individuals defined by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act.

7.8 Links to Council's Priorities

7.8.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and the projects that it support, have direct and positive links to the following corporate priorities:

- Safe, liveable, locally focused communities
- Prosperous and healthy
- Sustainable growth and protected rurality
- Efficient organisation

7.8.2 Additionally, projects funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund positively impact upon the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy to:

- Raise aspirations, education attainment and skill levels
- Develop healthier communities
- Improve access to services|

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346)

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No.	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
1	Chief Executive	Report to Executive Board (Levelling Up, Devolution and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund)	July 2022

Appendix A

Investment Priority	Intervention	2022 / 23		2023 / 24		2024 / 25	
		Capital 22/23	Revenue 22/23	Capital 23/24	Revenue 23/24	Capital 24/25	Revenue 24/25
Communities & Place	E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets	£0	£10,000	£30,000	£15,000	£20,000	£0
Communities & Place	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£30,500	£28,000	£77,500	£27,588	£170,000	£47,000
Communities & Place	E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer	£0	£5,000	£0	£5,000	£0	£5,000
Communities & Place	E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'	£17,000	£17,500	£10,000	£0	£20,000	£10,000
Communities & Place	E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	£0	£0	£6,000	£2,000	£6,000	£2,000
Communities & Place	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£0	£0	£10,000	£5,000	£0	£0
Communities & Place	E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£15,000
Communities & Place	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£40,000
Communities & Place	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	£10,000	£5,544	£0	£10,000	£27,970	£84,000
Communities & Place	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£5,000	£12,500	£2,000	£15,500	£2,000	£15,500
Communities & Place	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£7,500	£15,000	£5,000	£20,000	£5,000	£20,000
Communities & Place	E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities	£10,000	£7,500	£15,000	£2,500	£15,000	£2,500
Communities & Place	Total	£80,000	£101,044	£155,500	£122,588	£265,970	£241,000
Local Business	E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector	£0	£15,000	£0	£40,000	£0	£37,000
Local Business	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£0	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£10,000	£15,000
Local Business	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	£0	£0	£5,000	£10,000	£0	£45,000
Local Business	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	£2,500	£5,000	£12,000	£0	£0	£12,750
Local Business	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.	£0	£0	£5,000	£15,000	£0	£44,500
Local Business	E29: Supporting decarbonisation & improvemening natural environment	£0	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£0	£35,000
Local Business	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£40,000
Local Business	E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	£0	£5,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
Local Business	Total	£2,500	£25,000	£32,000	£85,000	£10,000	£229,250
People & Skills	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	£0	£20,000	£0	£24,000	£0	£56,000
People & Skills	E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills	£0	£10,000	£0	£12,000	£0	£53,000
People & Skills	E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£60,000
People & Skills	E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£40,000
People & Skills	E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£50,000
People & Skills	E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£60,000
People & Skills	E39: Green skills courses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£32,250
People & Skills	E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£40,000
People & Skills	E41: Funding to support local digital skills	£0	£0	£0	£16,000	£0	£112,500
People & Skills	Total	£0	£30,000	£0	£82,000	£0	£503,750

NWAP Terms of Reference

1. INTRODUCTION

The North Warwickshire Advisory Panel is the decision-making body for the allocation of the UKSPF funding.

It comprises representatives from a range of internal and external partners with an interest and commitment to the three Intervention Priorities:

Communities and Place
Local Businesses
People and Skills

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Consider applications for funding in accordance with agreed procedures.

Approve or reject applications for funding in accordance with agreed procedures.

Receive and consider information on the progress of the programme generally and the performance of projects, including the delivery of outputs and outcomes.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Six Councillors will sit on the NWAP:

- Councillor D. Wright
- Councillor Bell
- Councillor Clews
- Councillor Gosling
- Councillor H. Phillips
- Councillor Ridley

Membership of the NWAP is not limited to a defined period. Partners may attend as and when required if appropriate.

There is no defined split with regard to the representation on the NWAP. There is no limit to the number of internal or external partners who can attend.

The list of organisations invited to attend the NWAP include:

- North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)
- Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA)
- North Warwickshire Citizens Advice (NW CA)
- Warwickshire County Council (WCC)
- Warwickshire Police
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Schools / College representation

4. CHAIRPERSON

Councillor D. Wright

5. WORKING GROUP

The NWAP will be supported by an internal working group consisting of officers from NWBC:

Chief Executive
Director of Leisure and Community Development
Community Development Manager
Senior Policy Support Officer
Financial Inclusion Manager

North Warwickshire Borough Council, as the Lead Local Authority, is responsible for the organisation and administration of UKSPF.

6. MEETINGS

The NWAP will meet on a quarterly basis.

The Working Group will provide the administrative support for the NWAP.

A record will be kept of all decisions made by the NWAP.

7. VOTING

The approval or rejection of project applications will need to be considered against the Investment Priorities and Interventions and the associated funding allocation.

The NWAP will seek to reach agreement on recommendations by discussion and consensus.

On occasions when a formal vote is required, only the named Councillors are entitled to vote.

Appendix C

	Project name	Total funding allocated
COMMUNITIES AND PLACE	AccessAble	£7,700
	Sycamore Road Play Area	£27,100
	Abbey Green Play Area	£19,500
	Money Max	£15,000
	Football licenses	£2,220
	Baxterley in Bloom	£3,000
	Big Day Out	£2,500
	Royal Meadow Drive pitch assessment and building survey	£5,800
	Mancetter and Piccadilly k barriers	£4,840
	Storage container	£2,934
	Footfall counters	£7,428
	Play area	£12,500
	CA premises	£15,000
	NW Connect	£17,497
	SPD	£5,880
	CCTV - flytipping	£18,495
	CCTV	£25,000
	Kitwood Play Area	£50,000
	Mancetter Play Area	£50,000
	Coronation Grants	£14,200
	Heritage Forum membership	£100
	ATC CCTV	£25,218
	Newton Regis PTA	£11,890
	Baxterley school room	£24,999
	Memory Room	£2,380
	Living Heritage	£2,500
	Arts Quilting	£2,500
	Disability Forum meetings	£2,000
	Skate Park provision	£50,000
	Guide hut asbestos & electrics	£10,000
Market Towns Officer	£20,640	

TOTAL	£458,820
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	Project name	Total funding allocated
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS	Community bookshop repairs	£2,500
	Coleshill - Institute of place report	£7,500
	OBH survey	£5,000
	Business Support review	£4,083
	Polesworth - Institute of place report	£7,500
	Joint Commissioning with WCC	£75,000
	CA premises	£45,000

TOTAL	£146,583
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	Project name	Total funding allocated
PEOPLE AND SKILLS	Cost of Living training sessions	£7,558
	Walking groups	£2,000
	WCAVA Volunteer Awards	£1,000
	Community Outreach physio	£18,000
	Beam	£20,000
	Volunteer It Yourself	£24,500

TOTAL	£73,058
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	Project name	Total funding allocated
RURAL ENGLAND	Dordon Community Hub outdoor space	£13,500
	Volunteer It Yourself	£4,500
	Hood Lane Farm	£2,493
	Green space accessibility	£20,000
	Lea Marston Playground	£10,000

TOTAL	£50,493
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Agenda Item No 8

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies - Progress Report

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the progress made in respect of delivery against the priorities set out in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) and the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031).

Recommendation to the Board

- a) That Members note and comment upon the progress made in respect of the implementation of the priorities of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031); and,
- b) That the Board approves, or otherwise varies, the use of open space Section 106 receipts, as identified in section 4.5 of the Director of Leisure and Community Development's report.

Recommendation to Resources Board

- c) That the Resources Board approves a supplementary estimate for £44,963 for the enhancement of open space and play provision in Abbey Green Park, Polesworth, as detailed in section 4.5.1. of the report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 As Members are aware, the Board formally adopted the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033) at its meeting held in January 2020. The Playing Pitch Strategy was adopted by the Board at its meeting held in January 2019. This report provides an update on progress in respect of delivery against the priorities identified in both documents.

4 Service Priorities

4.1 Improvement, Maintenance and Cleanliness

Atherstone Sports Club

- 4.1.1 Members are aware that, in November 2021, the Resources Board granted permission for Atherstone Sports Club to enter into a long-term (30 years) lease in respect of its management, development, maintenance and use of part of Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground. The content of that draft lease has been agreed with Atherstone Sports Club and the legal representatives of both parties. The timing of the formal signing of the lease is a matter that has the potential to affect future applications for external funding support, as a consequence of which both the Sports Club and the Borough Council have determined to enter into an “Agreement for Lease”, which formalises the commitment to enter into a lease arrangement, thereby meaning that the Lease itself can be signed at a later date.
- 4.1.2 The individual clubs that make up the over-arching Sports Club have been working hard with their respective governing bodies and each other on the production of the overall site development and business plans that will frame the growth of the proposed outdoor sports hub. The Sports Club has undertaken a detailed assessment of its playing pitch requirements and surveyed the fitness for purpose of its ancillary accommodation. Additionally, it has been working on the planning application that will support the intended construction of a floodlit, fenced artificial grass pitch, soft landscaping and improved access and parking arrangements at the Recreation Ground. A flood risk assessment and topographical survey are being undertaken in support of the planning process. An associated Funding Plan and a Marketing and Communication Strategy are also being developed.
- 4.1.3 The Football Foundation has initiated early site survey work at the Recreation Ground, which is an important first stage in the development of a funding application to advance plans to develop a high quality multi-sports hub at Royal Meadow Drive.

Boot Hill Recreation Ground, Grendon

- 4.1.4 The Board is aware that the sports pitch improvement works at Boot Hill Recreation Ground were completed in November 2020. In furtherance of needs identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy, Grendon Football Club, with which the Borough Council has agreed to enter into a Tenancy at Will, has been very proactive in encouraging and managing appropriate use of the Recreation Ground, alongside the informal access that remains for the local community.
- 4.1.5 The Board has previously been informed that the only affordable means by which to address the need for ancillary accommodation on the site was to address the subsidence and repair the existing brick-built pavilion. Whilst it took longer than originally anticipated, the highly specialised work on the

fabric of the building is complete, further to which the Authority is working closely with the Football Club to reinstate the internal changing accommodation. It had been hoped that the renovation of the site would be complete in time for the start of the football season, but these internal improvements are the subject of current on-site activity. In view of the popularity of the site, there is a growing understanding that there may be a need to address car parking issues associated with use of the Recreation Ground. Section 106 receipts are held, however, that can only be used at the site, which provides a route through which to address this need without any impact on the Borough Council's capital or revenue budgets.

AccessAble

- 4.1.6 The Authority has renewed its contract with AccessAble to produce Accessibility Guides for sites across North Warwickshire. The new contract, which runs from September 2022 to August 2027, provides detailed and summary Guides relating to publicly accessible buildings and green spaces across the Borough. These are publicised on the [AccessAble website](#). In addition, AccessAble has produced Play Area Access Reports for all Authority-owned play spaces, which include recommendations for how to improve accessibility at each site. Funding has been sought through the Rural England Prosperity Fund to progress this work.

4.2 Tree Management

- 4.2.1 Whilst the Green Space Officer (Trees) is responsible for the provision of a professional arboricultural service in respect of the Authority's tree stock, Members are aware that this post has been vacant for over two years. As previously reported, inspections and the associated reactive works are currently being completed, very satisfactorily, by arboriculturists at Warwickshire County Council.
- 4.2.2 Since April 2023, work has been instructed on 19 different sites and to 40 trees, 16 of which have had to be felled. In all cases, the trees were classified as being "dead, dying or dangerous". In these cases, the trees were deemed to be causing a structural issue with property and / or boundary walls or providing some other form of significant obstruction for the local community.
- 4.2.3 In addition to the replanting of trees previously reported to the Board, a number of initiatives have taken place:

Tiny Forest: The Authority has entered into an agreement with Earthwatch to provide a "Tiny Forest" on Station Road, Coleshill. A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast-growing native woodland around the size of a tennis court (approximately 200m²), which is combined with an engagement programme to support community "ownership" and provide social benefits. This site has now been completed and will be maintained by Earthwatch for the first two years.

Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund: Following the award, Warwickshire County Council has recruited two Officers, who will be in post until March

2025, to support tree planting work across the county. Since their appointment, the Officers have overseen the completion of the first Local Authority Treescape Fund grant (LATF), which was followed by the submission of a second successful LATF bid last month. They are also awaiting the outcome of a bid submitted to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. These bids have been submitted in collaboration with all local authorities within Warwickshire through a newly formed “Tree Planting in Warwickshire” group.

Coronation Living Heritage Fund: This Fund, which has recently been released by DEFRA, supports the planting of community orchards in celebration of the King’s Coronation earlier this year. The Authority, in partnership with WCC, has submitted an application for financial assistance, which will enable the provision of a grant scheme to which community groups can apply in support of their development of local community orchards. All Councillors and parish and town councils have been made aware of this opportunity.

4.3 Biodiversity and Climate Change

4.3.1 Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach to development, and / or land management, which aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was before any development took place. Implications for the Authority regarding the new duty to enhance biodiversity were reported to the meeting of the Executive Board held in June 2023. A presentation, delivered by Warwickshire County Council, has also been given to Councillors.

4.3.2 The Green Space Strategy sets out a number of priorities in respect of the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity through habitat creation and management, to which the Local Nature Reserves Project is making a significant contribution. The four local reserves are managed through an agreement with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. A report on related work is provide at Appendix A.

4.4 Children and Young People

4.4.1 The Green Space Strategy recognises the vital role of open space in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction and it commits the Authority to supporting the development of a strategic network of play facilities across the Borough. The Play Area Development Programme has enabled the Authority to meet this commitment through the delivery of an associated action plan.

4.4.2 Members will be aware that, through the Play Area Development Programme, the following sites have been developed / refurbished since 2021:

- Holly Bank, Austrey
- Cole End Park, Coleshill
- Piccadilly

- Corley
- Hurley
- Abbey Green Park, Polesworth
- Wood End
- Kitwood Avenue, Dordon
- Brook Walk, Mancetter
- Brett's Hall Pump Track, Ansley Common

4.4.3 The next site to be developed through the Programme is that located at Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground in Atherstone.

4.5 Section 106 Receipts

4.5.1 The Borough Council is currently holding a number of Section 106 receipts for, amongst other things, open space-related undertakings. The formal Agreements associated with these receipts are frequently very specific about where, upon what and by when the money can be used. The following table details those receipts upon which the views of the Board are sought in respect of their proposed use:

Parish	Sum (£)	Use by Date	Planned Use	Priority
Atherstone	152,582	September 25	£75,000 to support the development of play provision at RMD*	Green Space Strategy
Coleshill	13,260	April 29	Tree planting and accessibility work in Cole End Park**	Green Space Strategy
Grendon	20,000 + approx. 74,245	March 26	Improvements at Boot Hill Recreation Ground and play area***	Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies
Polesworth	44,963	November 32	Enhancement of open space and play provision in Abbey Green Park****	Green Space Strategy
Ridge Lane	17,412	None	Improvements to the play area in Ridge Lane *****	Green Space Strategy

Notes:

* This will allow the Play Area Development Programme to undertake much needed work at the Baxterley play area much earlier than anticipated. The use of the residual sum will be determined by Councillors upon receipt of the revised Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies

** Use determined by S106 Agreement

*** S106 receipt can only be used at Boot Hill Recreation Ground and play area

**** Use determined by S106 Agreement

***** Use determined by S106 Agreement. Spend to be undertaken in 2025 / 26, in line with the Play Area Development Programme

5 Area Priorities

5.1 Arley and Whitacre

For health and safety reasons, the skate provision at Old Arley Recreation Ground is due to be removed. Consultation has started with Ward Members and the local community to determine what new provision will be installed by way of replacement. Funding for the replacement equipment has been allocated through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF).

5.2 Atherstone and Mancetter

Following reports of a damaged gate at the entrance to Mancetter Recreation Ground from Greendale Close, and resultant issues with nuisance bikes gaining access to the site, a K Barrier was installed in September. Funded through the UK SPF, the K Barrier enables access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and other mobility aids, whilst preventing nuisance bikes and vehicles gaining access.

5.3 Baddesley Ensor and Grendon

Officers have recently been contacted by Grendon Parish Council regarding the installation of a new piece of equipment at the play area on Boot Hill, Grendon. Discussions are on-going, but the type of equipment, which will be funded by the Parish Council, will be determined in consultation with the local community and Ward Members.

5.4 Coleshill

Funding has been allocated through the UK SPF to improve the steps and reinstate the hand rail on the access leading down to Cole End Park from the A446 / Stonebridge Road. A contractor has been confirmed, and work will start in the coming weeks.

5.5 **Curdworth, Hurley and Wood End**

For a number of years, the chicken wire fencing surrounding the play area at Piccadilly Sports Field has not been fit for purpose and the chicane barrier between Piccadilly Crescent and the Sports Field made access difficult for pushchairs and mobility aids. Using UK SPF funding, a K Barrier has been installed to improve the access to, and security at, the site.

In addition, UK SPF funding has been approved to install a K Barrier at Hurley Recreation Ground, at the entrance of Lime Grove, to replace the current kissing gate, as recommended within the AccessAble accessibility review.

5.6 **Fillongley**

The perimeter of the play area at Church Lane, Corley, comprises both fencing and hedgerow. Due to a gap in the roadside hedgerow, additional fencing has been installed to improve site security and safety.

5.7 **Hartshill**

Funded through the Parish Council, a circular path and benches were installed at Grange Road Recreation Ground, Hartshill, in May. In addition, UK SPF funding has been allocated for the installation of a K Barrier at the site to replace the current kissing gate. This will improve the access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and other mobility aids. The Parish Council is also seeking to replace the goalposts that are currently on the site.

5.8 **Polesworth and Dordon**

Due to health and safety concerns, the “half pipe” at Abbey Green Park, Polesworth, has been removed. Consultation with the local community is currently taking place to determine the most appropriate way in which to replace this piece of equipment.

Following an inspection by an external company, the zip line at Long Street, Dordon, had to be removed. A replacement zip line has been ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks. As a result of vandalism, the basket swing on the site has also had to be removed, although a replacement has been ordered and will be installed by the end of September. A new wheelchair accessible roundabout is also being installed within this timeframe.

As recommended in the accessibility review, UK SPF funding has been allocated to provide two K Barriers at Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground, Dordon. This will improve access and increase security at the site.

6 Review of the Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies

- 6.1 The Board is aware that the audit and assessment work for the Playing Pitch and Green Space Strategies was undertaken in 2018. Formal Sport England Guidance requires the supply and demand data for adopted Playing Pitch Strategies to be updated every three years. Similarly, the Green Space Strategy requires review in order to be kept up-to-date to meet National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document requirements. In the case of the Playing Pitch Strategy, if no review and update have been carried out within three years, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport will consider the information upon which it is based to be out of date. There is, therefore, a requirement for both documents to be reviewed and updated.
- 6.2 As the Board is aware, a single external contractor has been appointed to undertake the review of both Strategies. In the case of the Playing Pitch Strategy, there is a formal (Sport England) four stage (Prepare, Gather Information, Assess the Data and Develop the Strategy) process through which to progress if the Strategy is to be recognised by Sport England and any potential funding partners. This process involves close engagement with relevant governing bodies of sport, as well as local clubs and organisations. With regard to the Green Space Strategy, the approach being taken locally is consistent with best practice guidance from Natural England, The Play Council and Fields in Trust, etc. The review of both documents is involving detailed audit, site assessment and consultation activity.
- 6.3 Work is progressing well in respect of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Stage A scoping work has been undertaken in conjunction with both the Borough Council and the relevant governing bodies of sport. The Stage B data collection and site assessment work are also complete for both the winter and summer sports. The Authority has recently taken receipt of the initial draft Stage C Assessment Report, the content of which is being reviewed by Officers. The Report will be the subject of a meeting with the consultant and relevant national governing bodies, which will be held shortly before this meeting of the Board. After that meeting, the consultant will move to the Stage D production of a final draft of a revised Playing Pitch Strategy. Whilst it would not be appropriate to predict the key headlines of the revised Strategy, it would be surprising if issues were not raised about the need for additional provision for youth sport, concern about the quality of some playing pitches and ancillary accommodation and the need to provide 3G artificial grass pitches.
- 6.4 From its meeting held in March, the Board is aware of a problem associated with the gathering of data to inform the Green Space Strategy process, which had delayed implementation of the associated project plan. It is, however, pleasing to be able to report that the consultant overcame the problem and that the Borough Council has also taken receipt of a draft Open Space Assessment Report. This very long report focuses on the findings of research, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping and it provides detail about what provision exists in the Borough, its condition, distribution and

overall quality. The consultant will now move towards the review and revision of the current local Green Space Strategy, a new draft of which will reflect emerging issues, such as climate change and biodiversity net gain.

- 6.5 It is anticipated that it will be possible to table revised drafts of both the Playing Pitch and Green Space Strategies at the meeting of the Board to be held in either January 2024 or March 2024.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 7.1.1 The financial implications arising directly out of this report are identified within the Green Space Strategy Action and Funding Plan and within the Playing Pitch Strategy. The corresponding actions will be financed through approved budgets, through external funding support or through developer contributions.

- 7.1.2 The proposed works required to enhance open space and play provision in Abbey Green Park, Polesworth, in the sum of £44,963, will need a supplementary estimate to add this into the current year's capital programme. The works will be fully funded through the use of the identified Section 106 receipt.

7.2 Safer Communities Implications

- 7.2.1 Projects advanced through the Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies contribute to community safety by providing well-managed open space and recreation areas that afford opportunities for positive activity.

7.3 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no legal, data protection or human rights implications arising directly out of this report. The proposed lease with Atherstone Sports Club, in respect of its use and development of Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground, has previously been considered by both this and the Executive Board.

- 7.3.2 Receipts from Section 106 agreements must be spent in accordance with the agreements themselves, unless specifically agreed with the other parties to the agreement.

7.4 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

- 7.4.1 Delivery of priorities identified in the Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies contributes directly to environmental improvements, enhancement of biodiversity and mitigation of the effects of climate change. It also helps to build sustainable and vibrant communities. It is anticipated that the revised draft Green Space Strategy, to be considered at a future meeting of this Board, will reflect issues associated with climate change and biodiversity net gain.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

7.5.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly out of this report.

7.6 Risk Management Implications

7.6.1 There are no direct risks consequent upon the services identified within this report. The activity that is included within the Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies, however, will be risk assessed and appropriate controls put in place, where appropriate.

7.7 Equalities Implications

7.7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report. The Authority's green spaces and playing pitches are provided for the benefit of the whole community and no group or individual defined by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act will be excluded therefrom. The work being undertaken in conjunction with AccessAble should lead to further improvement in the accessibility of public spaces, as well as the quality of information available to the community about the accessibility of those sites.

7.8 Links to Council's Priorities

7.8.1 The North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies have direct and positive links to the following corporate priorities:

- Safe, liveable, locally focused communities
- Prosperous and healthy
- Sustainable growth and protected rurality
- Efficient organisation

7.8.2 Additionally, implementation of the provisions of the Strategies contributes directly to the attainment of the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy to:

- Raise aspirations, education attainment and skill levels
- Develop healthier communities
- Improve access to services

The Contact Officer for this report is Becky Evans (719346).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No.	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
1	North Warwickshire Borough Council	North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031)	January 2019
2	North Warwickshire Borough Council	North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2020 to 2033)	January 2020
3	Director of Leisure and Community Development	Play Area Development Programme	January 2021
4	Director of Leisure and Community Development	North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies Progress Report	March 2023
5	Chief Executive	Natural Environment, Including Biodiversity Net Gain	June 2023



Report on Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Support for Local Nature Reserves Management in North Warwickshire April 2023 to September 2023

Introduction

The following comprises a summary of works delivered in the first half of 2023 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (“WWT”) in connection with Abbey Green Park, Cole End Park, Daffern’s Wood and Kingsbury Meadow Local Nature Reserves (“LNR”s). There is a remaining 7 months to March 2024 where further works on sites are planned and a final report will be produced.

Headlines

Over the period of reporting, there has been **a total of 40 individual incidences of practical volunteering** occurring at the sessions **across 4 sites on 5 sessions**. There was an additional contribution of 6.2 hours across four sessions at Dafferns Wood by a newly recruited breeding bird surveyor.

The work achieved has been varied and detailed below, but cumulatively the time committed by the **volunteers to date equates to 206.2 hours. This can be represented as 29.45 days of volunteering input.**

Based on the £14.00 rate for volunteering value this totals and in-kind cash value of £2,886.80 for the period being reported on.

A full summary of volunteering contribution will be provided in the final report in April 2024.

Summary of Activity:

Cole End Park:

The summer works of Himalayan Balsam pulling, maintenance of the newly planted tree whips and plug plants was completed. The late summer works of cutting the River Cole buffer strip to knee height was also completed in early September. The Trust’s midweek volunteers ‘Tame Force’ and ‘Nature Force’ have worked on these projects, and as a bonus, a Severn Trent corporate group gave a day of their time too. A guided walk also took place in early July. Trust staff enjoy a good working relationship with new Councillor Peter Fowler and we hope to sign him up as a volunteer in the future.

Abbey Green:

All the Himalayan Balsam was pulled on this site before seeding and we shall keep a close eye next summer. The ‘top meadow’ was cut and raked by Trust staff and volunteers in late July. A proportion of the wetland vegetation in the channels will be pulled in September and

October. A local person is signed up as a Trust volunteer, allowing them to undertake some tasks on site.

Kingsbury Meadow:

A third of the sedge bed was cut, and drier grassland areas were sensitively cut (due to the presence of ant hills) in August and September) As a bonus, the walking path on the south side of the brook received a cut back whilst we had power tools and volunteers on site and a willow tree that had fallen on the path was dealt with. Invasive variegated yellow archangel and Virginia Creeper were cut back or pulled. Work parties are scheduled for the autumn to cut back a proportion of bramble and scrub and weave the willow structures.

A guided walk was run in late June.

As of early September, we are in the latter stages of getting permission to install 2 Natural Flood Management structures in the Hurley Brook that runs through the site. We had a meeting with Councillor Andy Jenns who is supportive and we agreed some actions to keep local people informed. The structures will be installed once permission is thorough this autumn.

Dafferns Wood:

The bulk of the work at this site is woodland management and this is scheduled for the winter months. We did make a start on the grassland management works though in mid-August. The 5-year and 10-year woodland management plan and, for the latter, Tree Preservation Order permission, is granted and in place. A guided walk took place late June. A constructive working relationship is being enjoyed with a local person who is acting as our 'eyes and ears' for the site and with local Councillor Jodie Gosling.



Abbey Green, grassland management on the 'top meadow' with mid week volunteers.
Photo credit Eddie Asbery



Kingsbury Meadow path cut backs and removal of fallen tree. Photos credit Eddie Asbery.



Cole End Park Cutting back to knee height of the buffer strip along the River Cole. Photos credit Eddie Asbery.

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Agenda Item No 9

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development

Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plan

1 Summary

- 1.1 Appended to this report, for Members' consideration, is a copy of the approved 2023 / 24 Service Improvement Plan (SIP), through which the Board has agreed to monitor the operational performance of the leisure facilities.

Recommendation to the Board

That the Board notes and comments upon the progress made against the requirements identified in the approved 2023 / 24 Leisure Facilities Service Improvement Plan.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant Members and any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 In order to continue to provide a focused approach to service delivery, at its meeting held in March 2023, the Board approved a 2023 / 24 Leisure Facilities Service Improvement Plan (SIP), which would guide activity through until March 2024. A copy of the adopted Plan, which details the key actions, work programmes and improvements to be achieved by the end of March, is attached at Appendix A. The Plan seeks to highlight those matters that the Board has determined are important in order to enhance the quality and sustainability of the service delivered through its leisure facilities.

...

4 Service Improvement Plan: Progress

- 4.1 The SIP attached at Appendix A evidences the progress made by the Leisure Facilities section through to the end of September 2023. Members are invited to comment on that progress. Any significant changes and / or progress made in October will be reported verbally to the Board at its meeting.
- 4.2 As agreed with Members, this report does not seek to provide detailed commentary on the progress being made in respect of each action identified within the SIP. Instead, it aims to update the Board on the key areas of recent

progress made within the leisure facilities. Members, however, are invited to comment and advise on any areas of activity upon which they wish Officers to focus in order to improve the operational viability of the service.

- 4.3 There has, of course, been a relatively short period between the previous SIP-related report provided to the Board and this meeting. Historically, the late summer is also a relatively quiet time for indoor leisure facilities. It is pleasing to be able to report, however, that membership and visitor numbers are continuing to recover from the previously reported impacts of the pandemic. A verbal report on the latest position will be provided to the Board at its meeting.
- 4.4 Councillors will be aware that, within its spring budget, the Government announced the availability of a national £60 million fund through which to support publicly accessible swimming pools with their increased cost pressures. This “competitive” fund was split into two phases. Phase 1 provided £20 million of revenue funding to support successful applicants with the increased cost of utilities and pool water chemicals. The application window for this phase closed in August 2023. Phase 2 made £40 million of capital monies available (supplemented with an additional £20 million of Lottery funding) to help improve the medium to long-term energy efficiency of public swimming pools. Applications for this Phase can be made up to the middle of October. At the time of writing this report, Officers had made an application for revenue funding support.
- 4.5 During August and September, the facilities promoted a short survey focusing on the gymnastics course offer available in Coleshill and Polesworth. The response from participants was extremely positive, most particularly in respect of the overall quality of the service provided by the coaches. A health and fitness survey is scheduled to be undertaken in October / November, the outcomes from which will be reported to Members in due course.
- 4.6 Summer holiday programmes were offered in Atherstone and Coleshill during August, but not in Polesworth, as the Borough Council does not hire the School sports hall during holiday periods. The activities were well received by participants, although, understandably, some sessions attracted higher attendances than others. Whilst a verbal report will be available for the Board at its meeting, soft play, fun sessions and swimming crash courses continue to be very popular.
- 4.7 Leisure Facilities staff have continued to improve the health and leisure offer for their communities, some recent examples of which are shared below:
- A new weekly Memory Café, operated by Home Instead, commenced at Atherstone Memorial Hall in September. The Memory Café provides an opportunity for those people living with dementia and their carers to get together, provide mutual advice and support, thereby improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing
 - Discussions are being held with the George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, with a view to its possible use of the Memorial Hall as a venue for

health and wellbeing classes for heart failure patients. Whilst these discussions are ongoing, they are focused on the possibility of classes starting towards the end of the calendar year. The Board and the Health and Wellbeing Working Party will be kept informed of progress in respect of this opportunity

- Coleshill Leisure Centre is continuing to develop its relationship with local schools. Coleshill School is funding the provision of 30 passes for its sixth form students, whilst the Centre is also hosting work experience opportunities for a small number of students at the Woodlands School
- A new Les Mills exercise class programme was launched across the facilities during late September / early October
- A recruitment drive for Swimming Teachers was undertaken over the summer, which yielded positive results. It is hoped to be able to introduce three new Teachers into the service in the very near future, whilst training opportunities are being sought for unqualified people who are interested in related roles

4.8 The Leisure Facilities team, in conjunction with relevant colleagues throughout the Authority, will continue to manage and monitor the implementation of the requirements of the SIP on a regular basis and to report accordingly to each meeting of this Board, including to its next scheduled meeting to be held in January 2024. This process will continue to afford Members an opportunity to both understand and direct relevant aspects of the performance of the Borough Council's leisure facilities.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

5.1.1 Whilst there is no financial implication arising directly out of this report, the SIP will enable the Board to monitor the performance of the leisure facilities at each of its meetings and to advise on activity that would improve operational sustainability.

5.2 Safer Communities Implications

5.2.1 The Authority's leisure facilities contribute to community safety by providing well-managed services that afford opportunities for positive activity and, therefore, a creative alternative to potential criminal and / or anti-social behaviour.

5.3 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

5.3.1 There are several powers under which the Borough Council may provide leisure facilities, staff, instructors and equipment, including Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. That Act and other legislation give the Authority broad management powers for those facilities and the SIP plays an integral role in that management process.

5.4 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

5.4.1 Leisure facilities have a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and the sustainability of local communities by providing opportunities for formal and informal recreation and by contributing to an improved quality of life.

5.5 Human Resources Implications

5.5.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report, other than those to which reference is made in the appended Service Improvement Plan and upon which commentary is provided therein.

5.6 Risk Management Implications

5.6.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. The activity that is included within the Service Improvement Plan, however, will be risk assessed and appropriate controls put in place, where appropriate.

5.7 Equalities Implications

5.7.1 The activity identified in the Service Improvement Plan is intended to advance the Authority's commitment to ensuring equality for all members of the community across its portfolio of service provision. This intention is enhanced by the poverty proofing programme being advanced through the leisure facilities and which has previously been discussed by the Board and the Health and Wellbeing Working Party.

5.8 Links to Council's Priorities

5.8.1 The Service Improvement Plan has direct links to the following corporate priorities:

- Safe, liveable, locally focused communities
- Prosperous and healthy
- Sustainable growth and protected rurality
- Efficient organisation

5.8.2 Additionally, the Borough Council's leisure facilities contribute directly to the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy to:

- Raise aspirations, educational attainment and skill levels
- Develop healthier communities
- Improve access to services

The Contact Officer for this report is Russell Simkiss (719257).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
1	Director of Leisure and Community Development	Report to Community and Environment Board (Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plan)	August 2023

North Warwickshire Leisure Facilities

Service Improvement Plan - April 2023 to March 2024

Aim: To improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the Borough Council's Leisure Facilities

Responsible Officers Key:

D:	Director
LFM:	Leisure Facilities Manager
SSRO:	Service, Sales and Retention Officer
SAEO:	Sports, Activities and Events Officer
OO:	Operations Officer(s)
LMT:	All of the above

Last Updated: 28 September 2023

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
Recover and Reinvent ‘Optimising the opportunity for communities to live an active lifestyle’, ‘Continue to reinvent to be relevant to evolving community needs’	Be pro-active in encouraging more people to live more active lifestyles	Continue to adapt to make services more inclusive, accessible and inviting: At each meeting, to update the Board on service progress in respect of the ‘Poverty Proofing’ action plan; Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) action plan; establish further external reviews and training through the year	April 2024 and ongoing	To identify within the review process	OO	→	The Poverty Proofing Action Plan has been finalised and discussed with the H&WWP. Updates on progress will be provided throughout the year
	To continue to understand what communities want and work collaboratively to encourage a ‘leadership community’ to do the same	Using community engagement / steering groups where appropriate, adapt to deliver services differently or create new services in their place with the goal to keep the community engaged, more active and living healthier, happier lives	March 2024		LMT	→	As part of the EDI Action Plan, Leisure Facilities completed local consultation regarding autism awareness and is currently reviewing gender identity, with a view to reviewing policy and procedure Examples will be identified throughout the report, including in respect of autism awareness
	Review pricing and packages	To review fees, charges and packages to ensure affordable services in alignment with the local and wider market	January 2024		LMT	→	The review will take place in conjunction with the budget setting process
	Explore the opportunity to optimise the use of space across facilities	Review opportunities to optimise the use of space in facilities to increase services, attendance and improve financial performance	March 2024		LMT	→	Following feedback from a recent survey and staff discussion, making reception areas more welcoming and using space better is an area for review. Opportunities have also been identified at Coleshill to develop a group cycle studio, if / when funding allows
	Become ‘greener’ within the context provided by the corporate Climate Change Action Plan	Within the context provided by the corporate Climate Change Action Plan, consider climate change in the operation of service and plan to do things differently and to be “greener”	March 2024		LMT	→	Atherstone Leisure Complex is exploring new cleaning methods to reduce the need for various chemicals, which will

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
							<p>be safer, greener and more cost effective</p> <p>This issue will also be reviewed in the context of the SE SPSF</p>
<p>Connecting with Communities</p> <p>Continue to be outward looking and community focused</p>	<p>Actively consult, engage and seek feedback to understand what communities want and to shape current and future services</p> <p>Focus on delivering services tailored to the wants and needs of the community</p>	<p>Continue to ask questions and gain feedback on current and future services throughout the year. To feedback to the Board regularly about surveys, forums, mystery visits and reviewing verbal and written feedback</p> <p>Generate a Net Promoter Score (NPS) for each facility and the service as a feasible measure of performance</p> <p>Collaborate with community groups and other appropriate partners to ensure the development and delivery of internal and external services, events and community projects. To report to the Board at each meeting</p>	<p>March 2024</p> <p>Revised to March 2024</p> <p>Ongoing until March 2024</p>	<p>Provision made within the revenue budget</p> <p>Identify within the review</p> <p>Provision made within the revenue budget</p>	<p>OO</p> <p>OO</p> <p>SAEO / SSRO</p>	<p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p>	<p>The latest sports and activities survey gave valuable feedback for service improvement plans.</p> <p>A NPS of +24 was achieved</p> <p>A Gymnastics course survey was completed during August / September, with a NPS of +56. The next survey (health and fitness) is due in October</p> <p>Everyone Health, which has been engaged in social prescription discussions, delivered exercise referral systems training with teams in July – Work on the new system is ongoing, but communication between the parties is good and patients are being inducted</p> <p>Communication with Warwickshire County Council took place to progress the Autism awareness project</p> <p>Atherstone Family Fun has maintained delivery of activities at Atherstone Memorial Hall</p>

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress			
							TQEA has been engaged to discuss the use of leisure facilities in offering students different curriculum-based leisure service experiences			
Positive Experiences for the community, with a particular focus on: - Children and Young People - Active Ageing - Disabled, Disadvantaged and Special Education al Needs (SEND)	Optimise opportunities for the community, with a particular focus on services for children and young people to be more physically active	Holiday Activities Continue to offer holiday activities through the year (and where possible increase the quality and diversity of the programme). To achieve attendances at or above that in 2022/23	February 2024	Provision made within the revenue budget Process	OO	→	Holiday activities were offered at Atherstone and Coleshill in August			
		Parties Optimise party sales to achieve sales and participation levels at or above that in 2022/23	March 2024					OO	→	Party sales are good, particularly at Coleshill, having sold 96% of all parties to date
		To complete a party review and shape a plan to consider how to improve the quality, choice and packages on offer for achieving this	October 2023					OO	→	The review will take place later this financial year
		Schools To improve the performance of the school swimming service back to that of 2019/20 (48-50 taught sessions per week)	March 2024	Provision made within the revenue budget process	OO	→	Having reached out to a number of schools, bookings prospects have improved for the autumn / winter school term, with 45 taught sessions currently confirmed			
		Network with schools to understand if / how Leisure Services could offer more to support the curriculum / health and wellbeing / positive experiences for children and young people	February 2024		OO	→	The review will take place later this financial year			
		Deliver work experience schemes	July 2023		OO	→	Work experience took place in the week commencing 10 July 2023			

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
			December 2023		OO	→	Coleshill now has an agreement with Woodlands Primary Special Needs School, through which weekly work experience is offered
		Explore opportunities to develop apprenticeships and volunteer experiences that may lead to employment	March 2024		LMT	→	The review will take place later in the financial year
		<p style="text-align: center;">Sports and Coaching</p> Optimise the number of junior coached and activity sessions hosted within the facilities, both through increasing the in-house offering and recruiting new groups (restore previous and create new opportunities)	March 2024		OO	→	Coleshill Leisure Centre significantly increased its external coached activity last year, hosting more cheerleading, dance, cricket, football and restoring its gymnastics scheme numbers
			March 2024		OO	→	Polesworth's gymnastics scheme recently exceeded 200 gymnasts and a waiting list is held. Options to extend the scheme are being considered
		<p style="text-align: center;">Swimming</p> Continue to enhance the number of swimmers on the Learn to Swim scheme, versus 2022 / 23	March 2024		SSRO	→	Although swimming lesson numbers are performing well, waiting lists are growing. With a need for more teachers to address the issue, a recruitment drive is currently taking place. Four new Swimming Teachers are being recruited and training courses scheduled for the non-qualified potential teachers

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
		Continue to review the pool timetable and make positive changes to optimise attendances, income and best accommodate the diverse needs of the community	December 2023		OO	→	Although small changes take place throughout the year, useful feedback from surveys, poverty proofing and customer feedback will feed into the review later this financial year
	Continue to improve the service offering for the “active ageing” populations within in North Warwickshire	<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Fitness</p> Network with schools and communities to increase awareness of junior fitness services, with the aim to increase junior membership sales	December 2023		OO	→	Separate schemes at both Coleshill School and TQEA continue to run to increase junior usage of health and fitness services – Coleshill School is funding 30 Student Passes for sixth form pupils in the current academic year
	Continue to improve the service offering for disabled, disadvantaged and Special Educational Needs (SEN) populations of North Warwickshire	Engage with more community groups to understand their needs. With this information, continue to develop and deliver services that will enhance service quality, increase provision and improve awareness of what is available in the community Secure funding for; and deliver services in the community around tackling inequalities, to ensure a more diverse and inclusive service offer	March 2024		LMT	→	Feedback from the Health and Fitness Survey last year is shaping activity to address the need to offer more social and intermediate intensity activities Facilities aim to offer more services as highlighted in the feedback throughout the year Alongside the EDI and Poverty Proofing Action Plans, the County Council secured funding, which includes provision for Leisure Facilities staff to undertake autism awareness training, with a view to identifying action to improve service

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
							Leisure Facilities will continue to engage with partners to secure funding for the Authority and its community groups
Connecting with Health and Wellbeing	To increase awareness of the importance of health and wellbeing within the community	Report to the Health and Wellbeing Working Party (H&WWP) on the Leisure Facilities-related actions within the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan	Ongoing	Provision made within the revenue budget process	LFM	→	Leisure Facilities continues to attend and contribute to the work of the H&WWP
		Deliver Health and Wellbeing events and campaigns throughout the year, joining up working with other groups and organisations where possible and linking to charities to enhance the impact where appropriate	March 2024				SEAO / SSRO
	To further develop the choice of health and wellbeing services to strive to improve physical and mental wellbeing within the community	Working with Everyone Health, social prescribers and other stakeholders, to increase the capacity and options available on the referral scheme and through social prescription into services	Ongoing		SSRO	→	A (Home Instead) Memory Café was introduced at the Memorial Hall in September and, in conjunction with George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, consideration is being given to the introduction of classes for heart failure patients
		Working with corporate and local businesses, create a "Workplace Wellbeing" pack and service offering, targeting corporate and local / high street businesses	November 2023		SSRO	→	Training took place with Everyone Health to learn the new referral system software in July. System configuration is awaiting completion by Everyone Health
							Discussions continue to take place around developing better social prescription pathways

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
		<p>Following Mental Health First Aid Training, to embed processes within the service that will optimise the benefit to public and staff</p> <p>Periodically gain feedback on the impact existing and new services are having on the physical and mental wellbeing of the community and thereafter to improve the focus and impact of the service offer</p>	<p>July 2023</p> <p>March 2024</p>		<p>LFM</p> <p>OO</p>	<p>→</p> <p>→</p>	<p>The review will take place later this financial year</p> <p>Leisure Facilities plan for Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA) to be included on staff notice boards, with information about MHFA</p> <p>Leisure Facilities will work corporately to ensure the planned benefits of this training are replicated in centres</p> <p>In recent survey results, there were lots of positive comments and stories about how the service offer had helped people with their mental health, particularly with reference to the pandemic period</p>
Active Environments	Continue to network and increase opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in alternative environments	To work with groups and organisations to improve participation opportunities delivered externally in alternative environments	October 2022	To identify within the review process	LMT	→	<p>Leisure Facilities plan to complete outreach activity around health testing throughout the year. The Council House was the first of these locations and more will be planned through the year</p> <p>Discussions are still in place with The Coleshill School about the potential letting of its outdoor facilities. The Board will be updated in due course, although there is a delay in the School's sourcing of funding</p>

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
	To explore digital technology in supporting service delivery	<p>To work with Community Development to promote active travel, increase opportunities and awareness of opportunities to walk, cycle and run</p> <p>To scope digital and technological opportunities that will enhance the service offering and reduce barriers to participation (cost, time, access, other)</p>	<p>November 2022</p> <p>March 2024</p>	To identify within the review process	<p>LMT</p> <p>LFM</p>	<p>→</p> <p>→</p>	<p>through which this project will be advanced</p> <p>Leisure Facilities, Community Development and Planning met with the County Council to advise on its plans around cycling, walking and running in Northern Warwickshire</p> <p>With the support of the H&WWP, Leisure Facilities has purchased advanced health testing scales to introduce into the service</p> <p>The team continues to explore the cost-benefit of a number of other technologies, including: CRM and member retention technology; sales management and social value software</p>
Health and Fitness	Improve the quality of the health and fitness service across the facilities, focusing on re-engaging members, improving retention, increasing sales and providing a positive customer experience	Embed the 'Member Journey' for health and fitness customers across Leisure Facilities, including health testing scales and, if successful, blood testing.	August 2023	Provision made within the revenue budget Process	SSRO	→	<p>A detailed member journey was piloted at Polesworth and is being introduced at Coleshill, from which work at Atherstone will follow. The introduction of health testing scales was part of this journey, which is now offered across sites</p> <p>The additional option of blood test checks is something that the service aspires to deliver later this financial year</p>

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
		Ensure the delivery of health and fitness marketing campaigns throughout the year to achieve sales targets	Ongoing until March 2024		SSRO / LFM	→	Leisure Facilities “Join for a Coin” offer ran through May / June with the aim to attract new users to the facility. Performance was good, although pre-set targets not quite achieved. Learning was taken from the marketing mix used for future offers
		Deliver regular member engagements, incentives and service developments to optimise retention	Ongoing until March 2024		SSRO	→	Leisure Facilities continues to offer gym challenges; members of the month; deliver quarterly class launch events and offer engagement and awareness activities, including campaigns to increase the awareness, e.g. Mental Health Awareness Week, Diabetes Awareness Week
		Review the group exercise programme to ensure occupancy levels are proactively managed	Ongoing until March 2024		SSRO	→	Group exercise classes are reviewed regularly. They are currently performing very well across sites. Changes are made quarterly to optimise performance and align with customer demand. A new Les Mill Class programme will be launched at the beginning of October
		Review the opportunity for funding and cost / benefit of reporting, CRM and sales management software	October 2023		SSRO	→	The review will take place later this financial year

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
Health and Safety / Operations	To ensure appropriate levels of skilled staff are available to maintain service	Ensure staffing levels and development opportunities are appropriately managed throughout the year	Ongoing until March 2024	Divisional and Corporate Training Budget	OO	→	Recruitment and selection takes place throughout the year as required
							Various staff are enrolled on first aid, exercise referral and gym courses, as required
							Swimming Teacher resilience to maintain / grow the scheme is a live issue. The team is pro-actively working to address this need. New Teachers are currently being appointed / trained
	To ensure all staff are engaged and have a clear role in maintaining service	Ensure appraisals are completed and communication structures are maintained at all levels through the year	Ongoing until March 2024		OO	→	Training plans have been completed and submitted. Appraisals are up to date
	Ensure health and safety is maintained at all times within Leisure Facilities	Continue to review, update and improve facility health and safety. To feedback progress and outcomes of health and safety and building audits	Ongoing until March 2024		OO	→	Regular one to ones and team meetings continue to take place across sites
		Continue to monitor and audit health and safety knowledge and compliance. To feedback training updates and spot check results to the Board	Ongoing until March 2024		LFM	→	Health and Safety review schedules are set across sites. The responsible team meets regularly to ensure health and safety tasks are completed throughout the year
		Introduce a “staff recognition scheme” to recognise and reward high performance within teams	July 2023		SEAO	→	Audits take place throughout the year to assess performance and identify improvements
							Spot checks take place throughout the year for various

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
							<p>areas of health and safety to ensure adherence to procedures</p> <p>Recognition of achievements have been acknowledged for each month, including an award for the “Employee of the Month”</p> <p>The team aims to shout more about successes and the achievements of individuals and teams throughout the year</p>
Marketing and Promotion	Ensure effective marketing to the public to optimise engagement and potential return on investment	<p>Create an updated and proactive Marketing Plan, to include events scheduled throughout the year</p> <p>To update the Board on campaigns and marketing activity throughout the year</p> <p>Optimise web and App engagements (at or above that of 2022 / 23) and increase social media followers and engagements</p> <p>Deliver internal and external leisure bulletins</p>	<p>April 2023</p> <p>Ongoing until March 2024</p> <p>Ongoing until March 2024</p> <p>May, August December, March</p>	<p>Provision made within the revenue budget Process</p>	<p>SEAO</p> <p>SEAO</p> <p>SEAO</p> <p>SEAO</p>	<p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p>	<p>Planned marketing and promotional campaigns have been identified and delivered throughout the year, and updated through the SIP / Board reports</p> <p>The first campaign (Join for a Coin) has ended and been fed back to Board (August)</p> <p>Combined leisure website and App performance remains comparable with that of 2022/23</p> <p>A newsletter was shared in May 2023</p>

Theme	Action	Target	Timescale	Resource / Cost	Lead Officer	RAG and DOT	Comment / Progress
		Re-brand and undertake appropriate marketing activity (Brand Book, web, socials, literature, signage and more)	July 2023		SEAO	→	The leisure team has been developing a "brand" toolbox for future discussion with MT
Monitoring, Review and Evaluation	Report on performance against the actions identified in this Service Improvement Plan to each meeting of the C&E Board		Every Community and Environment Board		D / LFM	→	SIP progress reports are presented to each meeting of the C&E Board

Agenda Item No 10

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

**Consultation on Public Spaces
Protection Order Dog Fouling**

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report is to bring to members attention a consultation on a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control dog fouling issues within the borough of North Warwickshire.

Recommendation to the Board

That the Board supports a consultation on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order as set out in the report and agrees to the fixed penalty notice charge reduction for early payment.

2 Background

- 2.1 A previous order was issued under The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed, Offences and Penalties, Etc.) Regulations 2006. In October 2017 Dog Control Orders automatically converted to Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 however, the 'converted Order' automatically expired after 3 years meaning the Council must now consider making a new Order. A draft of the proposed Order can be found at Appendix A.

3 Public Consultation and Engagement.

- 3.1 Consultation is required to ascertain public support for the Council making a PSPO to enforce dog fouling issues within the borough.

- 3.2 The questions which is suggested should be included in the consultation can be found at Appendix B.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the consultation process is conducted in accordance with the Cabinet Office Guidelines for PSPO's. To ensure that towns and parishes can consider these proposals within their meeting cycle, the consultation period will be conducted within 6 weeks.

- 3.4 The proposals and consultation will also be circulated to a wide variety of interested parties, including residents via a variety of communication channels, including NWBC Website, Social Media, GovDelivery, Parish and Town councils via elected members, community safety partners and health and wellbeing partners. The results of the consultation will be used as the basis for a further report to the committee on the proposed implementation of the PSPO.

4 **Report Implications**

4.1 **Financial Implications**

4.1.1 This report does not identify any financial implications.

4.2 **Safer Communities Implications**

4.2.1 These are set out in the report.

4.3 **Legal and Human Rights Implications**

4.3.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 2014 Act) allows a PSPO to be made if;

- (a) activities being carried on in a public place in the Council's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality or it is likely that such activities will be carried on and have that effect; and,
- (b) the activities are persistent or continuing in nature, unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by the PSPO.

4.3.2 A PSPO must identify the areas to which it applies and may:

- (a) prohibit specified things from being done;
- (b) requires specified things to be done by those carrying on certain activities; or,
- (c) both those things.

4.3.3 The prohibitions or requirements in a PSPO may only be those which are reasonable to prevent or reduce the detrimental effect or the activities concerned or the risk of its continuance. Accordingly, Members should consider whether each of the proposed prohibitions have that effect.

4.3.4 The 2014 Act requires a local authority to take certain steps before making a PSPO including consultation. Those who must be consulted include:

- (a) the chief officer of police and the local policing body for the police area that includes the restricted land, i.e., the Chief Constable for Warwickshire and the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- (b) the community representatives which the Council considers appropriate, for example, users of the land to which the restrictions will apply; and,
- (c) the owner or occupier of any land within the restricted area.

Accordingly, the Council must expressly contact those people / bodies as part of the consultation process. It is also recommended that those referred to at (c) are asked to identify the land they own or occupy within the borough so that the Council is clear which areas of land any PSPO would apply to. In turn this will allow the Council to consider whether any specific piece of land should or should not be included and, once any PSPO is made, assist with enforcement.

4.3.5 If any of the land concerned is registered common land, a registered town or village green or open access land the Council may need to take additional steps to consult

representative organisations. It is recommended that the Council identifies any such land which is likely to be affected prior to any consultation exercise.

- 4.3.6 The Council must also consider any likely impact on the rights protected by the Human Rights Act 1998, particularly those relating to freedom of expression and assembly. There is little likelihood of the proposed PSPO impacting on those rights.
- 4.3.7 It is an offence to breach a PSPO once made however, the 2014 Act gives the Council power to issue a fixed penalty notice, which if paid prevents the Council from prosecuting the person concerned for that offence.
- 4.3.8 The Council must also consider Guidance issued by the Secretary of State when making a PSPO, the most recent version having been issued in March 2023. This states that any consultation should be reasonable and proportionate to the issues concerned.

4.4 **Risk Management Implications**

- 4.4.1 None relating to this report.

4.5 **Equality Implications**

- 4.5.1 The Council will need to consider whether there is potential for a PSPO relating to dog fouling to impact negatively on those who rely on an assistance dog in relation to a disability which is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. In that respect, Members should consider whether the savings in paragraph 7 of the proposed PSPO sufficiently mitigate any potential negative impact. It is further suggested that any consultation expressly invites the views of any body or persons which represent those having such disabilities within the Council's area or more broadly support those persons.

4.6 **Environmental, sustainability and Health Implications**

- 4.6.1 Failure to remove dog faeces from land can lead to several negative effects, increasing nitrogen and phosphorus levels, which may alter plant diversity and has the potential to reduce biodiversity, dogs may also deposit roundworm(*toxocara canis*) eggs onto the land which can lead to infection of people, and in rare cases lead to blindness.

The Contact Officer for this report is Sharon Gallagher (719292).



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014
SECTION 59
PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL ORDER 2022**

North Warwickshire Borough Council (“the Council”) being satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59(2) and 59(3) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) have been met in relation to this order, namely that failure to remove dog fouling and incorrect disposal of dog foul bagged or otherwise, is an issue in North Warwickshire, frequently reported and seen across the borough. Accordingly, this behaviour has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that the behaviour will be carried out in the area and have such an effect. The Council is also satisfied that the effect, or likely effect, of the behaviour is, or likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, and these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by the notice, and that it is in all circumstances expedient to make this order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

The council in exercise of its powers under Sections 59,60,61 and 72 of the Act and under all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Order:

General provisions:

1. This Order applies to all land in the administrative area of the Council to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission namely
 - a) All roads and pavements throughout the Borough
 - b) All Council owned land including parks, gardens, recreation and sports grounds, cemeteries, open spaces, enclosed children’s play areas, car parks and parking places
 - c) All land belonging to Warwickshire County Council and Town and Parish Councils to which the public have access
 - d) All footpaths and other rights of way that cross land owned by the County, Borough, Town and Parish Councils.
2. A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this Order is guilty of a criminal offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and liable to a fine on summary conviction not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000).

Obligations on persons with dogs:

3. Fouling

If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies a person who is in charge of the dog at the time must remove the faeces from the land forthwith unless

- (a) He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) The owner, occupier or other person or authorities having control of the land has consented (general or specifically) to his failing to do so.

4. Means to pick up

A person in charge of a dog on land to which this order applies must have with him an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog unless

- (a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so: or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

The obligation is complied with if, after a request from an authorised officer, the person in charge of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.

5. Fixed Penalty Notice

An authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence. You will have 14 days to pay the fixed penalty of £100 discounted to £75 if paid within 10 days.

6. Appeals

Any challenge to this order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the Council did not have power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the Order or any prohibition or requirement in it pending the Court's decision.

7. Exemptions

Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who –

- (a) Is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- (b) A person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance.

For the purpose of this Order:

- A person who has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.
- Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land, which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land.
- Being unaware of defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity of otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.
- “an authorised officer of the Council” means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of the Council who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purposes of giving directions under the Order.

This Order shall come into operation on (date to be agreed) and shall have effect for a period of 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further orders under the council's statutory powers.

**The Common Seal of North Warwickshire)
Borough Council was hereunto affixed)
The day of 2023 in the)
presence of:-)**

Appendix B

Question	Yes	No	comments
Please select which area you live in	(drop down)		
Do you support North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) insisting that dog owners/persons in charge of a dog, pick up dog faeces (poo) on any land which is open to the air to which the public have access?			
Do you support NWBC's proposal that a person who is in control or possession of a dog when an offence is committed, (fouling or picking up after their dog) being the person who is liable regardless of animal ownership			
Do you support NWBC issuing Fixed Penalty Notices of £100 for failure to pick up dog faeces (poo) on land detailed in section 1 of the order.			
Do you have any suggestions/recommendations as to how we can reduce the impact of such behaviour?			

Agenda Item No 11

Community and Environment Board

16 October 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Air Quality Update

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the work that the Environmental Health have undertaken to monitor air quality in the borough.

Recommendation to the Board

That the report be noted.

2 Background

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the actions being undertaken by the Environmental Health team and in partnership with Warwickshire County Council's Public Health Teams, to provide funding for further air quality monitoring.

2.2 Air Quality Actions

- Air Quality impacts our residents and visitors to the Borough and surrounding areas.
- North Warwickshire Borough Council undertook non- automatic (i.e., passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 31 sites during 2022.
- The results from the monitoring have not identified any exceedances therefore NWBC does not currently have an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- Despite no AQMA's being identified, potential hotspots have been identified.
- At present, the Council does not monitor Particulate Matter 2.5 or 10.(PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀)
- Environmental Health have secured funds for three monitoring locations from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).
- The monitoring system is called Airly and the sensor measures PM (1, 2.5, 10), NO/O₃ and NO₂, temperature, air pressure and humidity.

3 Overview

- 3.1 According to the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010, North Warwickshire Borough Council does not have an exceedance in Particulate Matter 2.5 or 10.
- 3.2 As required in the Environment Act 2021, new targets for Particulate Matter were published this year.

3.3 The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 require that in England by the end of 2040:

- An annual average of 10 µg/m³ for PM_{2.5} is not exceeded at any monitoring station.
- Population exposure to PM_{2.5} is at least 35% less than in 2018.

3.4 Monitoring is required to ensure North Warwickshire Borough Council is meeting the new targets. This monitoring could identify potential hotspots or exceedances which the team have been unaware of. With this information, Environmental Health can produce a mitigation plan.

4 **Summary**

4.1 Public Health were contacted by the MP Craig Tracey's office and Councillors. They had received complaints of poor air quality in Water Orton. Warwickshire County Council Public Health have agreed to fund 5 additional monitoring locations for the Water Orton area.

4.2 Environmental Health have approved a 3-year contract for 3 additional monitoring kits for the rest of the borough. If the location chosen does not highlight a hotspot, the monitoring systems can be moved. Environmental Health have secured £9,436.31 from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund for these monitoring systems.

4.3 Environmental Health have reviewed the dust complaints received since 2018. As of 21.9.2023, Environmental Health have received 45 complaints. These locations are dispersed across the borough and the data does not show a hotspot.

5 **Report Implications**

5.1 **Finance and Value for Money Implications**

Initially, the report does not identify any financial implications as the funding for the project is for three years.

5.2 **Legal Data Protection and Human Rights Implications**

5.2.1 The Council has a number of responsibilities to monitor Air Quality under the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the Environment Act 2021. One duty which is referred to above, is to establish an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where it is predicted that air quality objectives will not be met. If an AQMA is established the Council must then prepare an Air Quality Action Plan for the area concerned identifying appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts of air quality.

5.2.2 As stated in the body of this report, no evidence currently exists that air quality objectives will not be met however, the monitoring measures referred to are an essential part of the Council's ongoing obligations to ensure that any potential harm is identified, and appropriate mitigation action taken.

5.3 **Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications**

5.3.1 Monitoring Air Quality will make positive contributions towards improving the environment and sustainability. Cleaner air will improve the health and wellbeing of residents in North Warwickshire and the surrounding areas.

5.4 **Risk Management Implications**

5.4.1 None relating to this report.

5.5 **Equality Implications**

5.5.1 There are no known adverse impacts on any of the groups defined in the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristics.

5.6 **Links to Council's Priorities**

5.6.1 Links to Local Plan. Priorities to avoid and address unacceptable impacts upon neighbouring amenities through air quality.

The Contact Officers for this report are Sharon Gallagher (719292) and Milen Woldeab (719326).

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

6 September 2023

Present: Councillors Barnett, Fowler, Gosling,

1. **Introductions to the board**

Cllr Fowler introduced the group noting that following on from the climate declaration in 2019 North Warwick Borough Council is moving forwards with our climate actions, key officers in position and the climate members working group to make a concerted effort towards the council's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

For clarification, the structure of the working group will have minutes and papers being managed by Robert Snape and Cath James, the Chair of the Board will be reporting progress on actions to the C&E Board. A question was raised as to whether a formal Terms of Reference had been established for the Group. Officers agreed to review past papers and to bring these back to a future meeting.

2. **Climate Change introduction and recap presentation**

Officers provided an overview of global climate change, progress towards net-zero and the Council's own emissions. Slides will be shared with the working group members.

3. **Councillor questions Q & A**

Members were invited to query several aspects of the presentation regarding the councils carbon baseline, including available technologies and timescales.

4. **Proposed next actions**

The structure of future meetings was discussed. 2 focus areas were selected from the areas within the Climate Action Plan. These focus areas will be explored in more detail at the next meeting with officers informing the group of progress towards net-zero.

The following meeting in December 2023 shall focus on the following Focus areas,

Focus Area 5 – Forward planning and development management

Focus Area 1 – Travel & Transport