

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

(Councillors Bell, Fowler, Hobley, Jackson, Jarvis, Jenns, Melia, H Phillips, Ririe, 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

20 JANUARY 2025

The Community and Environment Board will meet in The Chamber, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Monday 20 January 2025 at 6.30pm.

The day after the meeting a recording will be available to 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 719226 / 01827 719237 / 01827 719221.

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.

5 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27 November 2024** – copies herewith, to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC BUSINESS (WHITE PAPERS)

6 **General Fund Revenue Budget – 2024/25 Outturn and 2025/26 Estimates, Fees and Charges** – Report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Summary

This report covers the outturn position for 2024/25 and an estimate for 2025/26, together with future estimates for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. It also includes a review of the fees and charges for Community and Environment as detailed in Appendix C.

The Contact Officers for this report are Adrian Vaughan and Akanksha Downing (719379)

- 7 **Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2027/28** – Report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer)

This report identifies proposals for Community and Environment capital schemes to be included within the Council’s capital programme over the next three years.

The Contact Officer for this report is Nicholas Harris (719320).

- 8 **Financial Assistance to Outside Organisations** – Report of the Interim Director of Leisure and Communities

Summary

Borough Council support for outside organisations is provided in many ways, including through its Annual Grants scheme and through wider partnership agreements. This report considers the allocation of the Annual Grants funding.

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

- 9 **Fly Tipping Update** – Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work that the Environmental Health, Transformation and Streetscape Teams have undertaken in order to try and reduce fly tipping across the Borough.

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

- 10 **North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy Update**– Report of the Interim Assistant Director - Leisure and Community Service.

Summary

For the Board’s consideration, this report presents a revised draft of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2024 to 2033), a suggested implementation of smokefree play areas, and an amended green space hire process.

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

- 11 **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party** held on 23 September and 2 December 2024.

12 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

13 **Confidential Extracts of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 27 November 2024 – copy herewith to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

STEVE MAXEY
Chief Executive

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD**

27 November 2024

Present: Councillor Bell in the Chair.

Councillors Clews, Hobley, Jackson, Jarvis, Melia, Ririe, Singh, Smith, Symonds, Turley Whapples and A Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fowler (Substitute Councillor Clews), Councillor Jenns (Substitute Councillor Symonds) and Councillor H Phillips.

Also in attendance were Councillor Osborne, Councillor Parsons and Councillor Ridley. Councillors Osborne and Parsons, with the permission of the Chair, spoke on Minute No 24 – Leisure Project Update and Options.

22 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were declared at the meeting.

23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 20 August 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2024, having already been approved at the meeting held on 14 October 2024, were not considered. Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2024 were circulated as an Addendum, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24 Leisure Project Update and Options

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape set out the work undertaken to date to review the future provision of leisure facilities within North Warwickshire and the development of the new leisure project to date. The key considerations and options for the Board to consider in the future provision of the new facilities to replace the current facilities at Polesworth and Atherstone were outlined and the progress in respect of the future management and operation of the Council's leisure facilities was detailed.

Resolved:

- a That the progress to advertise for, and to procure a new leisure operator for the Borough to manage all the new and existing NWBC Leisure facilities with a contract period of ten plus five years be noted;**

- b That the progress to proceed with a design and build/developer agreement for the design and professional advice required to develop any new leisure facilities be noted;**
- c That the design, planning and procurement of a new leisure facility at Atherstone, to replace the existing facility off Long Street proceed;**
- d That a detailed business case to meet the Council's aspirations for the provision of a new leisure/health facility at Polesworth continues to be developed; and**
- e That Officers produce a business case for the use of the 106 funds we currently hold and bring a report back to the next meeting.**

25 Exclusion of the Public and Press

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act, namely it is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

26 Leisure Project Update and Options

The Interim Corporate Director - Streetscape detailed financial information in respect of the Leisure Project.

Resolved:

That the recommendation set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape be noted.

27 Waste In-Cab Solution

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape gave details of a Water In-Cab Solution.

Resolved:

That recommendations a, b and c, as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director - Streetscape, be approved; and

Recommendation to Executive Board:

That recommendation d as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape be approved by the Executive Board.

Margaret Bell
Chair

Agenda Item No 6

Community and Environment Board

20 January 2025

Report of the
Interim Corporate Director – Resources
(Section 151 Officer)

General Fund Revenue Budget –
2024/25 Outturn and 2025/26
Estimates, Fees and Charges

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report covers the outturn position for 2024/25 and an estimate for 2025/26, together with future estimates for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. It also includes a review of the fees and charges for Community and Environment as detailed in **Appendix C**.

Recommendation to the Board

- a To approve the estimated outturn for 2024/25;
- b To approve the 2025/26 estimates, as presented in this report for inclusion in the overall Tax Set 2025/26 report for the Executive Board on 10 February 2025; and
- c To approve the fees and charges as detailed in Appendix C of this report.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 In consultation with the budget officers and Directors this report presents the Community and Environment Board estimates for 2025/26 along with the outturn estimates for 2024/25. Supporting figures are in **Appendix A and B**.

- 2.2 At its meeting in November 2024, the Executive Board agreed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2025-2029, which required ongoing savings of £1.5 million to balance the medium-term budget. This required budget savings of £500,000 in 2026/27 with additional savings of £500,000 in 2027/28 and £500,000 in 2028/29. Only limited growth was built into the strategy therefore any additional expenditure will impact on the funding position.

- 2.3 The figures for the outturn 2024/25 and the estimates for 2025/26 are presented in Table 1. The summary figures are presented at CIPFA classification level in **Appendix A and B** which provides a more detailed breakdown of the figures. (The detailed cost centre pages are available but are not included as part of this report).

2.4 A subjective analysis of the Board's requirement is shown below:

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Forecast Budget 2024/2025 £	Original Budget 2025/2026 £
Employee Costs	4,359,920	4,271,990	4,731,840
Premises Related	1,243,520	1,239,120	1,264,570
Supplies and Services	1,446,780	1,625,510	1,323,020
Transport	706,030	768,880	727,200
Earmarked Reserves	(385,650)	(385,650)	1,350
Gross Expenditure	7,370,600	7,519,850	8,047,980
Income	(3,560,840)	(3,733,210)	(3,713,470)
Net Controllable Expenditure	3,809,760	3,786,640	4,334,510
Central Support	2,995,250	2,995,250	3,264,840
Capital Charges	881,360	881,360	881,360
Net Expenditure	7,686,370	7,663,250	8,480,710
Difference (Reduction)/increase compared to approved budget		(23,120)	817,460

3 Comments on the 2024/25 Estimated Outturn

3.1 The outturn for 2024/25 is estimated to be £7,663,250 a reduction of £23,120 on the approved budget. The main reasons for variations are set out below.

3.2 Leisure and Community

3.2.1 Employee costs show a reduction of £36k, with the majority of this due to gymnastics at Coleshill moving from direct delivery to being outsourced, this also had a loss of income for Gymnastics with the service being operated externally. Premises related expenditure reduced by £35k in line with the forecast, which is based on the actual expenditure, with utility costs coming in lower than the budgets. Supplies and services are increased by £11k mainly due to insurance costs being higher than original budgets, the insurance tender is due in July 2025, and it is hoped that the Council may be able to secure a reduction in insurance prices.

3.3 Streetscape

3.3.1 Domestic Refuse Collection

Employees have a £34k reduction, due to lower than budgeted use of agency staffing to cover vacancies. Premises related expenditure has increased by £20k due to higher than budgeted volume of third-party charges for bulky waste disposals plus increased fees from the external contractor, this is partly offset by increased income of £4k. Supplies and Services increases £4k due to stock uniform and clothing purchases, new mobile phone handsets, software

maintenance fees, partly offset by lower insurance costs. Transport increases £27k due to higher than budgeted vehicle repair, fuel, hire and insurance costs.

3.3.2 Grounds Maintenance

Employee budget has reduced by £59k due to vacancies and use of agency cover. Supplies and Services increase £4k due to insurance. Transport increases £4k due to higher workshop repairs and fuel costs.

3.3.3 Recycling

Employee costs increased £12k due to additional staffing and use of agency cover and inter-service staffing levels. As detailed above inter service costs for domestic waste employees were down by £34k. Supplies and Services increases £112k due to higher net fees from Sherbourne Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). A report providing an update on the MRF will be presented at the C&E Board in February.

3.3.4 Amenity Cleaning

Employee costs increase of £8k due to higher transport workshop / repair costs, partly offset by lower use of overtime. Transport increases £40k due to costs of fleet repairs, fuel, and insurance.

3.4 Environment

3.4.1 The increase in supplies and services by £10k is mainly due to higher software costs than anticipated.

4 Comments on the 2025/26 Budget Estimates

4.1 The 2025/26 estimate has been prepared considering the following assumptions:

- A 3% pay award from 1 April 2025
- Increased Employers National Insurance as directed by the Government, increasing the rate from 13.8% to 15% and reducing the NI-free amount from £9,096 to £5,000 annually.
- Inflationary increases of 2.5% on premises related expenditure
- Inflationary increases of 2.5% on software maintenance, vehicle fuel and insurance
- An increase in income to reflect the increases included based on the fees and charges increases in Appendix C.

4.2 The total estimated net expenditure for 2025/26 is £8,480,710 an increase of £817,460 on the 2024/25 estimated outturn and £794,340 on the 24-25 approved budget. The main reasons for variations from the revised budget to original 2025/26 are set out below.

4.3 **Leisure and Community**

4.3.1 Increase in employee's costs of £136k due to pay award, employers NI and increase in the hours to cover the mandatory training required to be undertaken by all the leisure staff. Premises related costs have increased by £27k of which £22k is in accordance with CPI and £5k increase is in the Green Space budget to cover the additional tree work identified. Supplies and services have reduced by £247k mainly due to the removal of the one off growth bids for Councillor Community Grants £255k and Changing Room condition surveys £7k. The use of earmarked reserves is also removed for 25/26 as the one off growth bids totalling £262k were one off for 24/25 and funded from the Business Rate Fluctuation Reserve. The reduction in expenditure along with the reduction in income from the reserve fund has a nil impact on the bottom line. costs of equipment. Increase in income of £9k due to the slight increase in leisure income.

4.4 **Streetscape**

4.4.1 **Domestic Refuse Collection**

Employee increases £49k due to pay award, employers NI and reinstatement of agency provision to previously defined establishment levels. Premises related costs reduce £21k to reinstate previous third-party charges for bulky waste disposals (and estimated reduction in volume of collections). Transport costs reduces £22k due to removal of one-off increases in repairs and vehicle hire costs.

4.4.2 **Grounds Maintenance**

Employee costs have increased by £142k due to reinstatement of budget to establishment level this was adjusted in the forecast budget due to vacancies, pay award and employers NI.

4.4.3 **Cesspool Emptying**

Employee costs have increased by £15k due to reinstatement of budget to establishment level this was adjusted in the forecast budget due to vacancies, pay award and employers NI.

4.4.4 **Recycling**

Employee costs have increased by £22k due to budgeted pay award and reinstatement of establishment staffing levels. Supplies and Services increase £56k due to increased gate fees from Sherbourne Recycling, this is because the gate fees were originally intended to have a rebate element, which is not anticipated to actualise in 25-26. Transport costs increase £8k due to inflation on fuel and insurance.

4.4.5 **Green Waste Service**

Employee costs increase £24k due to budgeted pay award and reinstatement of full establishment staffing levels. Income reduces £9k due to a revised

estimated number of customer subscriptions as increase in the fees may impact customer choice as to whether to renew their service in 25-26.

4.4.6 **Amenity Cleaning**

Employee costs increase £41k due to reinstatement of staffing budget to full establishment level and pay award. Supplies and services increase £22k due to a request for growth in equipment. Use of earmarked reserves is removed for 25/26 as the one off growth bid of £125k for enhanced street cleaning was for 24/25 only and funded from the Business Rate Fluctuation Reserve, the reduction in income from the reserve fund has a corresponding reduction in expenditure. If members want to continue with this initiative a growth bid will need to be requested for 2025/26.

4.5 **Environment**

4.5.1 Supplies and services costs have reduced by £28k and £30k reduction is due to external funding from PCC not yet been agreed hence the reduction in the income by £30k to offset the expenditure therefore having a nil effect overall.

4.6 **Central Support Services**

4.6.1 Central support costs have increased by £270k due to pay awards, employers NI increases and increments.

4.7 Removal of one-off growth – Councillor community grants, Enhanced Street Cleaning and changing rooms condition surveys.

5 **Income**

5.1 Changes in the levels of fees and charges for services under the responsibility of this Board are in Appendix C. Income from increased fees and charges is expected to contribute to the achievement of income targets.

6 **Risks to Services**

6.1 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, and further economic and market pressure affecting the generation of income. The estimate for 2025/26 is largely based on current levels of activity, but the potential for a reduction in usage remains given the current economic position. Cost pressures are also a continued risk for leisure facilities.
- Financial Impact from Sherbourne MRF, the operation has taken longer to stabilise than anticipated and the business plan has been revisited following the impact of Covid and the cost of living. This has had an impact on the financial returns and gate fees which have been built into the figures.
- Additional costs relating to the Refuse and Recycling Services if and when household numbers increase over the next ten years.

- Impact of the Governments policies on waste collection – food waste etc.

7 Future Year Forecasts

7.1 In order to assist with medium-term financial planning, Members are provided with budget forecasts for the three years following 2025/26. The table below provides a subjective summary for those services reporting to this Board:

	Forecast Budget 2026/2027 £	Forecast Budget 2027/2028 £	Forecast Budget 2028/2029 £
Employee Costs	4,873,760	5,019,950	5,170,540
Premises Related	1,302,470	1,341,580	1,381,810
Supplies and Services	1,362,700	1,403,600	1,445,660
Transport	749,010	771,510	794,640
Earmarked Reserves	1,350	1,350	1,350
Gross Expenditure	8,289,290	8,537,990	8,794,000
Income	(3,824,810)	(3,939,450)	(4,057,530)
Net Controllable Expenditure	4,464,480	4,598,540	4,736,470
Central Support	3,362,770	3,463,660	3,567,570
Capital Charges	881,360	881,360	881,360
Net Expenditure	8,708,610	8,943,560	9,185,400

7.2 The forecasts given above have used several assumptions, which include pay awards of 3% in 2026/27 through 2028/29; increases in premises costs by 3%, increases in contracts and general increases in supplies and services of 3%.

7.3 These forecasts are built up using current corporate and service plans. Where additional resources have already been approved, these are also included. However, these forecasts will be amended to reflect any amendments to the estimates, including decisions taken on any further corporate or service targets.

8 Report Implications

8.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

8.1.1 As detailed in the body of the report.

8.2 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

8.2.1 Continuing the budget strategy will allow the Council to manage its expected shortfall in resources without disruption of essential services.

8.3 Risk Management Implications

8.3.1 There are several risks associated with setting a budget, as assumptions are made on levels of inflation and demand for services. To minimise the risks, decisions on these have been taken using experience and knowledge of the past, and informed by current forecasts and trends. However, the risk will be managed through the production of regular budgetary control reports, assessing the impact of any variances and the need for any further action.

8.4 Equalities Implications

8.4.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the proposals in this report. Each service area referred to will have regard to the Council's varying equality duties when discharging their services.

The Contact Officer for this report is Adrian Vaughan / Akanksha Downing

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

**North Warwickshire Borough Council
Community and Environment Board
Summary of General Fund Revenue Estimates: Total**

Appendix A

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Forecast Budget 2024/2025 £	Variance Approved to Forecast Budget £	Original Budget 2025/2026 £	Variance Forecast to Original Budget £
Employees	4,359,920	4,271,990	(87,930)	4,731,840	459,850
Premises-Related Expenditure	1,243,520	1,239,120	(4,400)	1,264,570	25,450
Supplies & Services	1,446,780	1,625,510	178,730	1,323,020	(302,490)
Transport-Related Expenditure	706,030	768,880	62,850	727,200	(41,680)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Sheet and Earmarked Reserves	(385,650)	(385,650)	-	1,350	387,000
Gross Expenditure	7,370,600	7,519,850	149,250	8,047,980	528,130
Income	(3,560,840)	(3,733,210)	(172,370)	(3,713,470)	19,740
Net Controllable Expenditure	3,809,760	3,786,640	(23,120)	4,334,510	547,870
Central Support Charges	2,995,250	2,995,250	-	3,264,840	269,590
Depreciation and Capital Charges	881,360	881,360	-	881,360	-
Net Expenditure	7,686,370	7,663,250	(23,120)	8,480,710	817,460

**North Warwickshire Borough Council
Community and Environment Board
Summary of General Fund Revenue Estimates**

Appendix B

STREETSCAPE

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Forecast Budget 2024/2025 £	Variance Approved to Forecast Budget £	Original Budget 2025/2026 £	Variance Forecast to Original Budget £
Employees	2,977,140	2,925,340	(51,800)	3,248,410	323,070
Premises-Related Expenditure	309,240	335,590	26,350	332,820	(2,770)
Supplies & Services	724,790	856,300	131,510	829,010	(27,290)
Transport-Related Expenditure	703,060	765,910	62,850	724,200	(41,710)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Sheet and Earmarked Reserves	(125,000)	(125,000)	-	-	125,000
Gross Expenditure	4,589,230	4,758,140	168,910	5,134,440	376,300
Income	(2,199,480)	(2,334,250)	(134,770)	(2,334,850)	(600)
Net Controllable Expenditure	2,389,750	2,423,890	34,140	2,799,590	375,700
Central Support Charges	881,740	881,740	-	961,110	79,370
Depreciation and Capital Charges	404,020	404,020	-	404,020	-
Net Expenditure	3,675,510	3,709,650	34,140	4,164,720	455,070

LEISURE

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Forecast Budget 2024/2025 £	Variance Approved to Forecast Budget £	Original Budget 2025/2026 £	Variance Forecast to Original Budget £
Employees	1,382,780	1,346,650	(36,130)	1,483,430	136,780
Premises-Related Expenditure	919,800	884,760	(35,040)	912,500	27,740
Supplies & Services	633,680	644,930	11,250	398,400	(246,530)
Transport-Related Expenditure	2,970	2,970	-	3,000	30
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Sheet and Earmarked Reserves	(260,650)	(260,650)	-	1,350	262,000
Gross Expenditure	2,678,580	2,618,660	(59,920)	2,798,680	180,020
Income	(1,332,850)	(1,340,450)	(7,600)	(1,349,630)	(9,180)
Net Controllable Expenditure	1,345,730	1,278,210	(67,520)	1,449,050	170,840
Central Support Charges	1,515,580	1,515,580	-	1,651,990	136,410
Depreciation and Capital Charges	472,930	472,930	-	472,930	-
Net Expenditure	3,334,240	3,266,720	(67,520)	3,573,970	307,250

ENVIRONMENT

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Forecast Budget 2024/2025 £	Variance Approved to Forecast Budget £	Original Budget 2025/2026 £	Variance Forecast to Original Budget £
Employees	-	-	-	-	-
Premises-Related Expenditure	14,480	18,770	4,290	19,250	480
Supplies & Services	88,310	124,280	35,970	95,610	(28,670)
Transport-Related Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Sheet and Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Expenditure	102,790	143,050	40,260	114,860	(28,190)
Income	(28,510)	(58,510)	(30,000)	(28,990)	29,520
Net Controllable Expenditure	74,280	84,540	10,260	85,870	1,330
Central Support Charges	597,930	597,930	-	651,740	53,810
Depreciation and Capital Charges	4,410	4,410	-	4,410	-
Net Expenditure	676,620	686,880	10,260	742,020	55,140

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD

FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
TRADE REFUSE SERVICE		
(weekly collection)		
a) Collection Only		
1100 litre container per annum	279.00	293.00
660 litre container per annum	249.00	262.00
330/360 litre container per annum	234.00	246.00
240 litre container per annum	200.00	210.00
140 litre container per annum	156.00	164.00
Sack per annum	83.00	100.00
b) Hire & Collection		
1100 litre container per annum	434.00	456.00
660 litre container per annum	393.00	413.00
330/360 litre container per annum	284.00	299.00
240 litre container per annum	222.00	234.00
140 litre Container per annum	163.00	172.00
Reduction for first container at mixed commercial / domestic premises (per annum).	-47.00	-47.00
TRADE RECYCLING		
Hire & Collection		
1100 Litre container	434.00	456.00
660 Litre container	393.00	413.00
360 Litre container	284.00	299.00
240 Litre container	222.00	234.00
140 Litre container	163.00	172.00
Sack	83.00	100.00
Disposal will be charged at the rate specified by Warwickshire County		
Services provided to customers located outside the North Warwickshire Borough Council boundary will be subject to VAT at the standard rate.		
CLINICAL WASTE (per sack @ 3.5 kg capacity) (includes collection)	78.00	80.00
BLACK REFUSE SACKS (pack of 100) (does not include collection/disposal)	14.60	14.60
SALE OF BINS		
New developments & replacements		
240 Litre container	45.00	50.00
1 each of black, green, red 240 litre bins per individual property (householder)	135.00	150.00
1 each of black, green, red 240 litre bins per individual property (developer inc. 1st year garden subscription) *	N/A	187.50
660 Litre container	242.00	300.00
1100 Litre container	360.00	370.00
GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION		
Per bin, per annum	43.00	45.00

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD****FEEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025**

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE 20% VAT £	TOTAL CHARGE £
REMOVAL OF BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE		
Up to 5 items	34.00	40.00
Items in excess of 5 charged pro-rata per item (maximum 3 items)	6.50	7.00
HOUSE CLEARANCES	As per agreement	As per agreement
THE UNAUTHORISED DEPOSIT OF WASTE (FIXED PENALTY) REGULATIONS 2016		
Fly tipping fixed penalty	400.00	400.00
If paid before the end of 10 days following the date of notice	300.00	300.00
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2018-FIXED PENALTIES-FLY TIPPING-HOUSEHOLD WASTE DUTY OF CARE OFFENCES		
Fly tipping fixed penalty	400.00	400.00
If paid before the end of 10 days following the date of notice	300.00	300.00
CESSPOOL/SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE		
Collection & Disposal per load or part load - weak strength (on a contract paying by direct debit)	160.00	175.00
Collection & Disposal per load or part load - standard strength (on a contract paying by direct debit)	267.00	285.00
Collection & Disposal per load or part load - strong / high strength (on a contract paying by direct debit)	N/A	360.00
Additional charge to the above fees if not on a contract paying by direct debit	23.00	25.00

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD****FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025**

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
Lifetimes Card (per annum)		
Adult, Concessionary, Junior	1.00	1.00
Replacement card	1.00	1.00
Badminton / Squash (per court)		
Adult	9.40	9.80
Junior	5.90	6.00
Sports Hall - Polesworth / Coleshill / TQEA		
Whole hall - peak	36.50	37.50
Whole hall - concessionary/junior	26.50	27.50
Equipment hire	1.00	1.00
Commercial Hire		
Club Use - Premium for Commercial Organisations		
Badminton	12.50	13.00
Squash	12.50	13.00
Sports hall	44.50	47.00
Birthday Parties		
Birthday Party - rafts and floats (Atherstone LC)	125.00	125.00
Bouncy castle party (Col)	115.00	125.00
Bouncy castle party (Mem Hall)	N/A	120.00
Teas & coffees and Unlimited squash package	25.00	25.00
Other Activities		
Carpet bowls (Coleshill LC)	3.70	3.80
Playtimes	3.40	3.80
Playtimes (second child)	1.80	2.00
Playtimes (under 6 months)	-	-
Walking football (Coleshill LC)	3.70	3.80
Tea dance	3.40	3.80
Courses		
Gymnastics taster (1 only)	5.35	5.55
Gymnastics/trampoline 1 hour x 10	53.50	55.50
Gymnastics/trampoline 1.5 hours x 10	80.25	83.25
Dry Courses Direct Debit payment	23.10	24.00
Dry Courses Direct Debit payment 1.5 hours	34.65	36.00
Small Room Hire - Long Term Bookers		
1 Day	37.50	38.50
2 Day	71.00	73.00
3 Day	96.00	99.00
4 Day	112.50	116.00
5 Day	121.00	126.00
Salon		
1 Day	37.50	38.50
2 Day	71.00	70.00
3 Day	96.00	90.00
4 Day	112.50	100.00
5 Day	121.00	125.00
6 Day	N/A	150.00
7 Day	N/A	180.00

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD

FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
Hire of Pool - Long Term Block Bookers		
Main Pool Peak per hour	76.00	78.00
Main Pool Off Peak per hour	66.00	68.00
Small Pool Peak per hour	36.00	37.00
Small Pool Off Peak per hour	26.00	27.00
Lifetimes Fitness Suite		
Induction - monthly direct debits	Free	Free
Adult peak workout	5.60	5.70
Concessionary workout	4.20	4.30
Student direct debit	19.50	20.00
Student pass	19.50	20.00
Fitness classes - all sites	5.40	5.70
Fitness classes - concessionary	4.20	4.30
Gym Day Passes		
1 day	8.00	8.00
1 week	16.00	16.00
2 weeks	27.00	27.00
4 weeks	48.00	48.00
Personal Trainers		
Personal Training Rental	Price on application (as set by personal trainer)	5.70
Direct Debits (monthly memberships)		
Ultimate - all sites	38.00	38.00
Employee / army veteran	24.00	24.00
DD - Atherstone - gym & classes	32.50	32.50
DD - Coleshill	32.50	32.50
DD - Polesworth	26.00	26.00
DD - Swimmer	28.50	28.50
Student Memberships	19.50	20.00
Annual Memberships (12 months for the price of 11 months at contract rate)		
Ultimate-all sites	360.00	363.00
DD -Atherstone- gym & classes	300.00	302.50
DD -Coleshill	300.00	302.50
DD -Polesworth	230.00	231.00
DD -Swimmer	255.00	258.50
Student (All sites)	214.00	220.00
Direct Debits (Monthly Contracts)		
Ultimate - all sites	33.00	33.00
DD - Atherstone - gym & classes	27.50	27.50
DD - Coleshill	27.50	27.50
DD - Polesworth	21.00	21.00
DD - Swimmer	23.50	23.50

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD****FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025**

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
Queen Elizabeth School Sports Village		
Artificial Pitch 1-30 weeks bookings		
One pitch	37.50	38.50
Two pitches	73.00	74.00
Three pitches	95.50	97.00
All Year round Pitch booking		
One pitch	34.00	35.00
Two pitches	65.00	66.00
Three pitches	89.00	90.50
Indoor		
Sports hall adult	36.50	37.50
Sports hall junior	26.50	27.50
Badminton adult	9.40	9.80
Badminton junior	5.90	6.00
Swimming (at Atherstone Leisure Complex only)		
Adult swim (age 16+) inc ladies only	4.30	4.40
Junior swim (age 0 - 15)	3.30	3.40
Concessionary/Blue badge/OAP swim	3.30	3.40
Family swim (2 adults, maximum 3 children)	13.00	14.00
Inflatable adult	4.50	4.60
Inflatable junior	3.50	3.60
School swimming (per child)	2.40	2.50
School swimming (per teacher)	N/A	11.00
School swim per teacher (28-38 weeks)	27.00	27.80
School swim per teacher (39 weeks)	23.00	23.80
Adult lessons:		
Single lesson	5.50	5.70
Cash payment (10 week block)	55.00	57.00
Swimming lessons (junior / adult)		
Single lesson	5.35	5.70
Cash payment (10 week block)	53.50	57.00
Direct debit payment (per month)	22.25	23.75
One-off assessment	5.35	5.70
Aquacise	5.40	5.70
Aquacise (concessionary)	4.20	4.30

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD

FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
Atherstone Memorial Hall (per hour)		
Functions & Events		
Standard Hourly Rates:		
Hall hire during opening hours	26.00	27.00
Small Hall Room Hire	16.00	16.50
Training room hire (per hour)	12.50	13.00
Notes		
Facilities let for any sport or physical recreation are normally standard rated unless bookings comply with Customs and Excise rules regarding series of lettings.		
Facilities let for other purposes are exempt from VAT unless optional extra equipment or services are provided. In these circumstances a composite rate will apply.		
Commercial use- all facilities		
Charges negotiable according to the nature of booking.		
Promotional pricing		
Any of the above prices may be varied for promotional campaigns.		
Sports Pitches		
Casual hire (adult)	45.00	45.00
Casual hire (junior)	29.00	29.00
Seasonal hire (adult) (conditions apply)	515.00	515.00
Seasonal hire (junior) (conditions apply)	270.00	270.00
Seasonal hire (mini) (conditions apply)	205.00	205.00
Pavilions		
Casual matches (adult)	23.00	23.00
Casual matches (junior)	23.00	23.00
Seasonal hire-matches (adult) (conditions apply)	205.00	205.00
Seasonal hire-matches (junior) (conditions apply)	205.00	205.00

Please note: The charges highlighted in Yellow will be presented on a separate report by Community Team

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD****FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025**

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL	TOTAL
	CHARGE	CHARGE
	£	£
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PERMITS FOR PART A(2) INSTALLATIONS AND SMALL WASTE INCINERATION PLANT (FEES AND CHARGES) (ENGLAND) SCHEME 2017		
The charging scheme may be accessed via the following link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/permits-for-waste-incineration-fees-and-charges-for-applications		
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PERMITS FOR PART B INSTALLATIONS AND MOBILE PLANT AND SOLVENT EMISSION ACTIVITIES (FEES AND CHARGES) (ENGLAND) SCHEME 2017		
The charging scheme may be accessed via the following link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/permits-for-solvent-emission-fees-and-charges-for-applications		
CONTAMINATED LAND ENQUIRIES		
Simple	15.20	15.60
Detail	73.50	75.30
WORK IN DEFAULT OF NOTICE(S) SERVED		
Where NWBC carries out repairs which are the responsibility of the individual. (NWBC appointed as contractor)	Actual costs plus 20% admin.costs	Actual costs plus 20% admin.costs
Where the owner has failed to undertake the work.	Actual costs plus 20% admin.costs	Actual costs plus 20% admin.costs
PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES REGULATIONS 2009		
Statutory Fees (maximum)		
Risk Assessment (each visit)	500.00	500.00
Sampling (each visit)	100.00	100.00
Investigation (each investigation)	100.00	100.00
Granting an authorisation	100.00	100.00
Sample analysis -small/single supplies	25.00	25.00
Sample analysis -check monitoring	100.00	100.00
Sample analysis -audit monitoring	500.00	500.00
NWBC Fees		
Risk Assessments/Investigations (per hour)	63.30	64.80
Sampling visits/Granting authorisations (per hour)	27.60	28.30
Sample analysis	As charged by laboratory	As charged by laboratory
EXPORT CERTIFICATE (NON-VISIT)	54.00	54.00
FOOD EXPORT CERTIFICATE	66.00	66.00
Amendment to certificate	27.00	27.00
UNADOPTED STREETS AND CAR PARKS		
Builders' skip permits	33.50	34.30
Scaffolding/hoarding permits (for a period up to and including 1 month)	136.20	139.60
Vehicular access crossing	90.00	92.30
Licence agreement for temporary possession	399.20	409.20
Licensor surveyor's fee and legal costs	59.00	60.50
STREET WORKS LICENCE		
Inspection fee (per opening)	197.90	202.80
Administration fee to process application	388.30	398.00
ROAD CLOSURES		
Commercial organisations	Cost of advert + 15% admin. Charge	Cost of advert + 15% admin. Charge
Town/parish councils	50% of cost of advert + 15% admin. Charge	50% of cost of advert + 15% admin. Charge
Charities and non profit making bodies	Free	Free

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD

FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

	2024/25 CHARGE	2025/26 CHARGE
	TOTAL CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE
	£	£
SMOKING FIXED PENALTY FOR FAILING TO SIGN OR FOR SMOKING IN A SMOKE FREE AREA (Statutory)	50.00	50.00
Reduced charge for early payment	30.00	30.00
HOUSING ACT 2004		
Enforcement notice (service)	250.00	256.00
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT		
Work in default rate	cost + 20%	cost + 20%
REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VEHICLES (from private land)	87.00	89.00
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 (Statutory)		
Fixed penalty fine	108.00	111.00
THE REDRESS SCHEMES FOR LETTINGS AGENCY WORK AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT WORK (REQUIREMENT TO BELONG TO A SCHEME ETC) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2014 (Statutory)		
Fixed penalty fine	5,000.00	5,000.00
SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2015 (Up to Statutory Maximum)		
First Offence	2,500.00	2,500.00
	plus work in default costs	plus work in default costs
Second Offence	5,000.00	5,000.00
	inclusive of work in default costs	inclusive of work in default costs
DOG FOULING PENALTIES (Statutory)	80.00	80.00
If paid within 7 days	50.00	50.00
Failure to pay the fixed penalty may lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.00		
LITTERING PENALTIES (Statutory)	100.00	100.00
If paid within 7 days	65.00	65.00
STRAY DOGS	61.90	63.40

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD
FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

2024/25 CHARGE 2025/26 CHARGE

		TOTAL CHARGE £	TOTAL CHARGE £
Mobile Homes	Pitches		
New Application for Protected sites	2-10	360.00	360.00
	11-20	395.00	395.00
	21-30	430.00	430.00
	31-40	466.00	466.00
	41-50	501.00	501.00
	51+	536.00	536.00
Annual fee for protected sites	2-10	297.00	297.00
	11-20	333.00	333.00
	21-30	368.00	368.00
	31-40	403.00	403.00
	41-50	438.00	438.00
	51+	474.00	474.00
Transfer of a licence		280.00	280.00
Variation of licence conditions/site expansion		210.00	210.00
Expenses to review of suspended prohibition orders		370.00	370.00
Deposit, variation and deletion of site rules		70.00	70.00
Mobile homes Fit and Proper Person Test Fee		270.00	270.00
Fit and Proper Annual Review Fee		190.00	190.00
Appointing a person to manage a protected site		Hourly rate + expenses	Hourly rate + expenses

Houses in Multiple Occupation Fees

Households

HMO licence application fee	2-4	825.00	825.00
	5-9	871.00	871.00
	10-14	917.00	917.00
	15-19	963.00	963.00
	20+	1,008.00	1,008.00
HMO licence renewal fee	2-4	768.00	768.00
	5-9	803.00	803.00
	10-14	839.00	839.00
	15-19	874.00	874.00
	20+	909.00	909.00
Variation of a Licence		180.00	180.00
Transfer of a licence (License not TRANSFERABLE)		-	-

Other Fees

The expenses are, in the case of the service of an improvement notice or a hazard awareness notice		450.00	450.00
The expenses are, in the case of emergency remedial action under section 40, the expenses incurred		500.00	500.00
The expenses are, in the case of a prohibition order under section 20 or 21 of this Act, an emergency prohibition order under section 43 or a demolition order under section 265 of the Housing Act 1985, the expenses incurred		520.00	520.00
Review of suspended improvement notices (Sect 17) Annual Charge		370.00	370.00
Review of suspended prohibition orders (Sect 26) Annual Charge		370.00	370.00
Immigration Inspections		280.00	280.00

Agenda Item No 7

Community and Environment Board

20 January 2025

**Report of the
Interim Corporate Director - Resources
(Section 151 Officer)**

**Capital Programme 2025/26 to
2027/28**

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report identifies proposals for Community and Environment capital schemes to be included within the Council's capital programme over the next three years. Further reports for capital funding may also be presented to members at the Community & Environment Board early February.

Recommendation to the Board

That the Board supports the schemes detailed in Appendix A as the Council's current three-year capital programme for Community & Environment Board, subject to further bids considered at the February Community & Environment Board.

2 Introduction

- ... 2.1 The Capital programme presented in **Appendix A** is the existing programme with schemes carried forward where they will not be delivered in the current year. There are also a few new schemes looking to be introduced. In addition to these bids, further bids may be presented at the C&E Board in February. The Council has a shortfall of capital resources when compared against the three-year capital programme, as a result borrowing may be required to ensure the schemes can be funded. Borrowing has revenue implications for cost of borrowing in terms of interest and repayment of the loan that will need to be factored into the revenue budget. The funding of the capital programme will be presented as part of the full programme in the Executive Board report.

3 Schemes Included in the Capital Programme

- 3.1 Equipment at the Council's three leisure facilities is in constant need of updating and renewal if the product offering is going to continue to conform to health and safety standards and meet customer demands and expectations. The capital allocation will enable facility managers to meet legislative requirements, to maintain service standards and to protect significant levels of income. An additional capital allocation is included in 2025/26 for the replacement of fitness equipment across the facilities, as replacement takes place approximately every 5 years. If Members approve the building of a New Leisure facility this funding will not be required for replacing the equipment, however the new

facility will need funding for Fixture, Fittings & Equipment therefore this budget could be used towards this future cost.

- 3.2 Allocations were included in 2024/25 for the replacement of two of the Council's leisure facilities. The allocation of £3.75m for Atherstone was originally provided as the required match funding for the Levelling Up Fund bid, unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful. The budget has been carried forward into 2025/26 as a standalone allocation whilst the options for the future of the facility are developed with the view that site work will commence in November 2025. An allocation has also been included for a replacement facility at Polesworth, to provide a more holistic service than is currently provided at the Fitness Hub and that more closely meets the needs of the local community. This allocation has also been carried forward in to 2025/26 whilst the business case is developed.
- 3.3 The provision of a 3G artificial grass pitch within the Atherstone area is a priority within the Council's adopted Playing Pitch strategy and in respect of which this Board has identified Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground as its preferred site, subject to the development of a sustainable business plan and the acquisition of external financial support. Provision was included in 2023/24, however, it is yet to be finalised so the provision will be pushed back to 2025/26. This will be funded through Section 106 money.
- 3.4 In line with the approved Play Area Development Programme, detailed consideration will be given to the scheduled replacement/refurbishment of play area facilities at Ridge Lane, Atherstone, Old Arley, and Long Street, Dordon in 2025/26 along with the remaining Carried forward amount. Thereafter, consideration will be given to the need for improvement works at the play facilities in Sycamore Road, Kingsbury in 2026/27, as well as Boot Hill, Grendon in 2027/28.
- 3.5 Fleet Management – Various vehicles and equipment will need to be replaced in 2025/26 and 2026/27 including a new Trailer, 2 new Street Cleansing vehicles and 2 new horticulture vehicles. Two New Horticulture Vehicles and 3 new Refuse vehicles are in the fleet provision for 2027/28. A separate report on the future Fleet Management strategy will be presented to Members at Community & Environment Board in early February and this may require additional funding.
- 3.6 A summary of these schemes can be found in **Appendix A**.

4 Schemes for Inclusion in the Approved Capital Programme

- 4.1 The Programme includes £1,545,000 for works to improve the councils' pavilions at Mancetter, Ansley Workshops, Ridge Lane, and Piccadilly to bring them up to standard for consistent use. This is subject to 100% external funding that has been applied for via Football Foundation and UKSPF.
- 4.2 Provision for pitch improvements at the Queen Elizabeth Academy has been added to the programme being funded through section 106, with a possible

view of improving council owned pitches in the future to keep them at the top standard subject to funding.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

5.1.1 In terms of the overall capital programme, the bids included in this report and the 5th February reports will be collated into an overall programme and submitted to the Executive Board for final approval on 10 February 2025.

5.1.2 The programme will need to be funded and this could include borrowing, this will be presented in the report to the Executive Board in February.

5.2 Safer Communities Implications

5.2.1 The identified schemes would have positive implications for the development of safer communities, in that the provision of good quality leisure opportunities reduces the likelihood of criminal and/or anti-social behaviour.

5.3 Environment and Sustainability Implications

5.3.1 Capital investment is required if the Council is to maintain and enhance both its assets and the quality and consistency of its services to the community. Additional Investment is also required to meet the requirements set out in the governments new Simpler Recycling Policy.

5.4 Equality Implications

5.4.1 Public authorities are required to have due regard to the aims of the general equality duty when making decisions and when setting policies. The Council will need to consider if there will be any adverse impacts for particular groups as defined by the protected characteristics in making any decisions about the allocations of resources.

5.5 Risk Management Implications

5.5.1 The risks associated with the failure to undertake the proposed schemes are considered in assessing whether the schemes are essential or non-essential.

5.6 Legal Implications

5.6.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to obtain 'best value' in making arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

5.7 **Links to Council's Priorities**

- 5.7.1 The capital projects proposed for inclusion will contribute to enhancing community involvement and access to services and tackling health inequalities through improving well-being and providing leisure opportunities to all our citizens.

The Contact Officer for this report is Nicolas Harris (719320).

Draft Capital Programme - Approved Schemes

Name of the Scheme	Basic Details of the Scheme	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	3 Year Programme
Leisure Equipment	To replace the equipment used in the execution of various activity programmes in each of the leisure centres that conforms to industry and market standards relating to customer needs and safety requirements. The proposed investment protects significant levels of income. Whilst fitness equipment has been replaced over the last few years, there is other sports equipment that is in need of renewal.	30,000	20,000	20,000	70,000
Leisure Centre Fitness Suite Equipment Replacement	Planned full replacement of the fitness centre equipment at the three leisure centres in the Borough. This replacement will take place once the fund has built up sufficient funding for the work to take place.	250,000	-	-	250,000
Replacement Facility Atherstone Leisure Complex	Replacement of Atherstone Leisure Complex	3,750,000	-	-	3,750,000
Replacement Leisure Facility in Polesworth	Provision of a replacement Leisure Facility in Polesworth, subject to a sustainable business case	4,500,000	-	-	4,500,000
Artificial Grass Pitch	Provision to create a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch at Royal Meadow Drive	372,170	-	-	372,170
Artificial Grass Pitch	Provision for pitch improvements at The Queen Elizabeth Academy	75,000	-	-	75,000
Pavillion Works	Provision of works to a number of our pavillions. Mancetter, Ansley Workshops, Ridge Lane, and Piccadilly. All subject to external funding	1,545,000	-	-	1,545,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	General Funding for the Play Area Replacement Programme.	13,500	-	-	50,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	Ridge lane	50,000	-	-	50,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	Old Arley	50,000	-	-	50,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	Sycamore road, Kingsbury	-	50,000	-	50,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	Long Street, Dordon	50,000	-	-	50,000
Play Area Replacement Programme	Boot Hill, Grendon	-	-	50,000	50,000
Refuse Vehicles	Replacement Vehicles	-	-	1,096,200	1,096,200
Street Cleansing	Replacement Vehicles	-	90,000	47,000	137,000
Horticulture Vehicles	Replacement Vehicles	10,881	52,624	43,246	106,751
TOTAL		10,696,551	212,624	1,256,446	12,202,121

Agenda Item No 8

Community and Environment Board

20 January 2025

Report of the Interim Director of Leisure and Communities

Financial Assistance to Outside Organisations

1 Summary

- 1.1 Borough Council support for outside organisations is provided in many ways, including through its Annual Grants scheme and through wider partnership agreements. This report considers the allocation of the Annual Grants funding.

Recommendation to the Board

- a That Members note the work undertaken by North Warwickshire Citizens' Advice in 2024 / 25; and
- b That Members approve the grant to North Warwickshire Citizens' Advice for the next three consecutive years.

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 Members will be familiar with the Authority's provision of financial assistance to voluntary and outside organisations, which for a number of years supported a range of services for the community of North Warwickshire.
- 3.2 In 2022/23, the budget associated with this financial assistance was reduced, and therefore the number of services receiving support reduced from five organisations to two in 2022/23, then down to one in 2023/24.
- 3.3 In 2024/25, North Warwickshire Citizens' Advice was the sole recipient of an award, which was made in the sum of £32,550.

4 North Warwickshire Citizens' Advice (NW CA)

- 4.1 NW CA is monitored through the production of a report that details the support work that has been provided to the residents of North Warwickshire. The

...

report covering the period from 01 April 2024 to 15 December 2024 is attached at **Appendix A**. In brief, the report outlines that, in this period, NW CA dealt with over 1,800 enquiries, with clients presenting with over 13,500 issues, representing an average of 8.1 issues per case. The most common issues related to benefits, utilities and communications, and debt.

4.2 During this period, the highlights are:

- 21% of the people helped with benefits issues also had debt issues, indicative of how vulnerable people claiming state benefits are to falling into debt due to the cost of living.
- Over half of the people helped with debt issues also needed help with disability or legacy benefits issues. A third needed help with Universal Credit.
- 23% of the people helped with debt issues also needed crisis support with foodbanks or charitable grants.
- Over half of the clients who came with benefits and/or debt issues received advice on energy, bills and budgeting.

4.3 In 2024/25, the Board awarded NW CA an annual grant of £32,550 towards its core functions.

5 **Moving Forwards**

5.1 As mentioned above, given the budget for financial assistance to outside organisations has reduced in recent years, the Board is asked to consider maintaining the budget solely for an annual grant for NW CA.

5.2 Confirming the grant for the next three years will assist NW CA in its own budget setting and will ensure the continuation of its service to the residents of North Warwickshire.

5.3 The budget confirmed for the next three years is:

2025 / 26	£33,530
2026 / 27	£34,540
2027 / 28	£35,580

5.4 In conclusion, Members are asked to approve an annual award to NW CA for the next three financial years.

6 **Report Implications**

6.1 **Finance and Value for Money Implications**

6.1.1 The financial implications associated with the 2025/26 Annual Grants scheme are addressed in the main body of the report and are included in the estimates report on this agenda.

6.2 Safer Communities Implications

6.2.1 There is no direct safer-communities implication arising directly from this report, although NW CA's work, particularly with regard to the provision of financial advice, can help to prevent people from resorting to criminal activity to resolve their personal problems.

6.3 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

6.3.1 There are no immediate legal, data protection or human rights implications arising directly out of this report.

6.4 Environment, Climate Change and Health Implications

6.4.1 NW CA supports groups and individuals in a wide variety of ways that enhance personal and community wellbeing, including in respect of people's physical and mental health.

6.5 Human Resources Implications

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

6.6 Risk Management Implications

6.6.1 There is no change to the risk management implications previously reported to the Board consequent upon the content of this report.

6.7 Equalities Implications

6.7.1 An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment has previously been undertaken, which did not highlight any negative impacts consequent upon the proposed financial award. The advice offered by NW CA helps to provide equality of opportunity and address inequality within the local community.

6.8 Links to Council's Priorities

6.8.1 The provision of financial assistance to NW CA has positive and direct links to the corporate priorities in respect of:

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

Additionally, the Borough Council's Annual Grants scheme 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	Director of Leisure and Community Development	Report to Community and Environment Board (Financial Assistance to Outside Organisations)	March 2024



North Warwickshire Citizens Advice

Report to North Warwickshire
Borough Council
1st April 2024 – 15th December 2024



Figures from NWCA

April 1st 2024 – December 15th 2024.

Please note: Earlier iterations of this report use data from the entire Q1 to Q3 period of the financial year. This report uses data compiled two weeks before the end of 2024 and reflects trends and increases to data from the comparable period of 2023.

a) Opening hours

- Monday: 9.00am – 4.30pm
- Tuesday: 9.00am – 4.30pm
- Wednesday: 9.00am – 4.30pm
- Thursday: 9.00am – 4.30pm
- Friday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Face to face advice

In-person advice is available through our drop-in service, open 10.00am – 2:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Face to face appointments are also available throughout the week after an initial assessment by phone or email.

Telephone advice

Monday to Friday: 10:00 – 2:00

Email advice

Requests for advice can be made online through our website, www.nwcab.org.uk.

We aim to respond to email enquiries within 5 days.

b) Number of enquiries

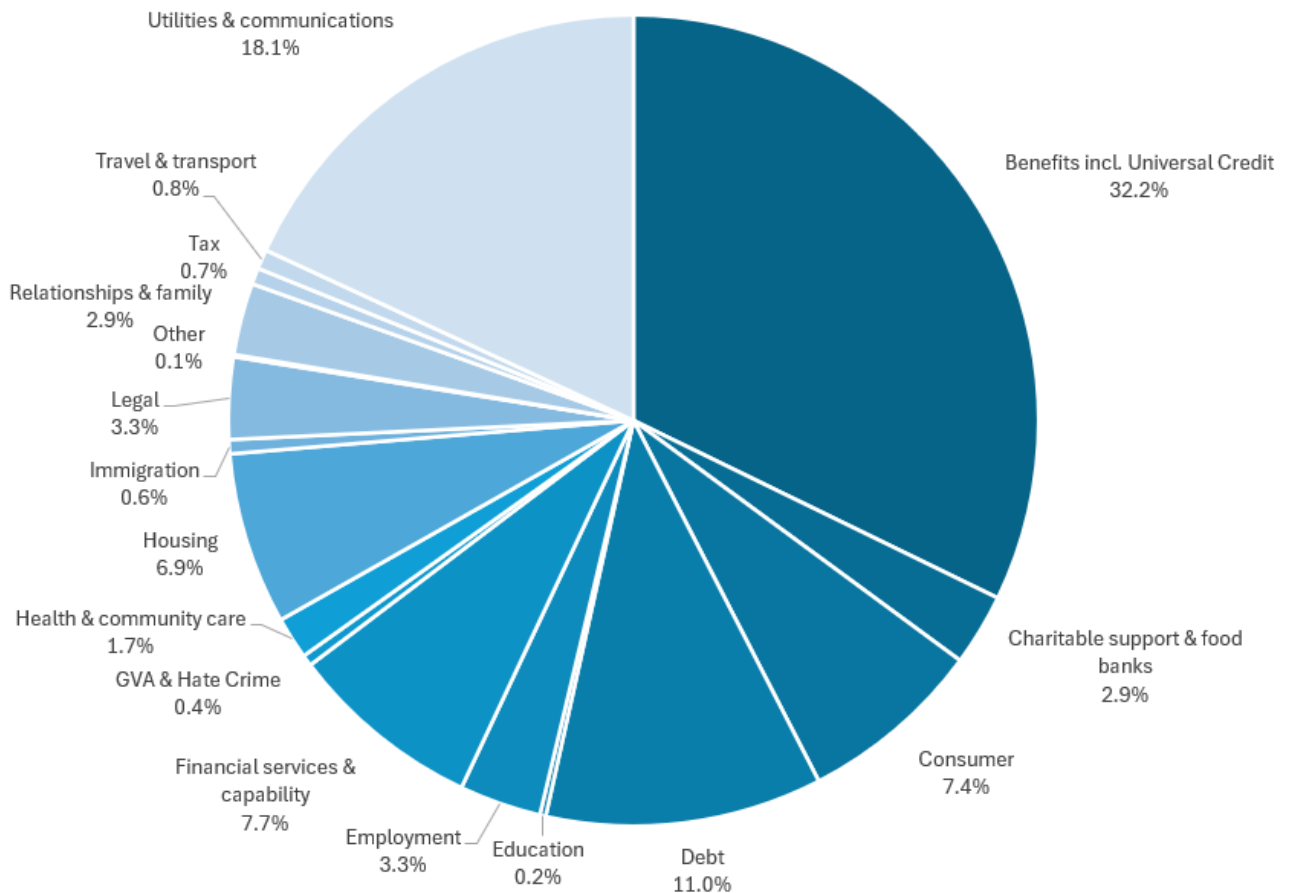
NWCA dealt with **1815** enquiries in this period.

c) Enquiries categorised by complexity:

Our clients during this period presented **13,530** issues, representing an average of **8.1** issues per case.

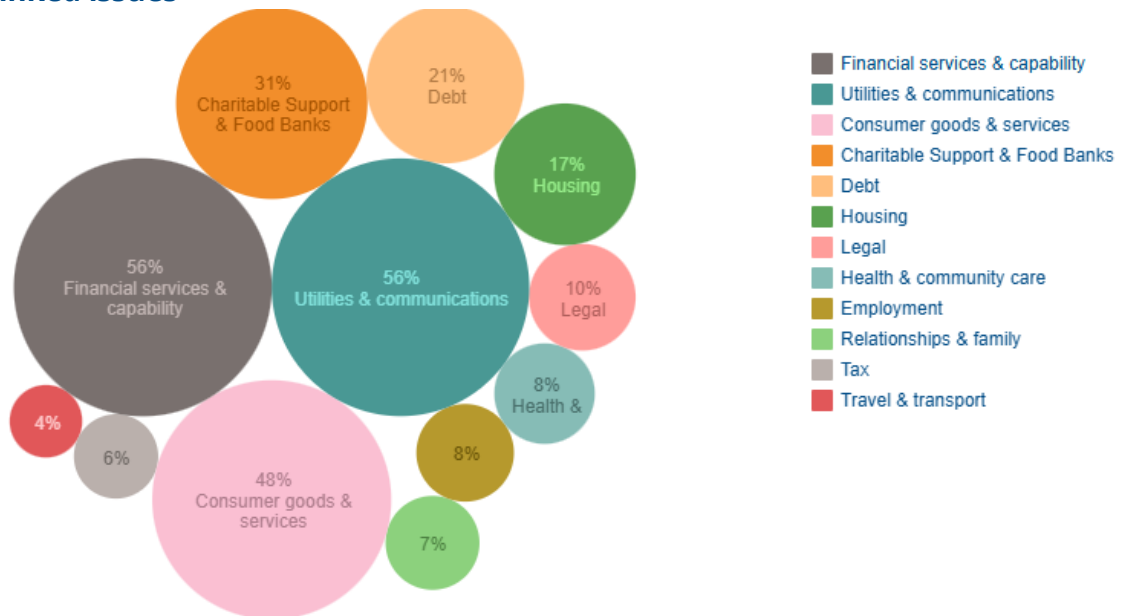
The three most common issues were:

1. **Benefits** – 32.2%
2. **Utilities & communications** – 18.1%
3. **Debt** – 11.0%

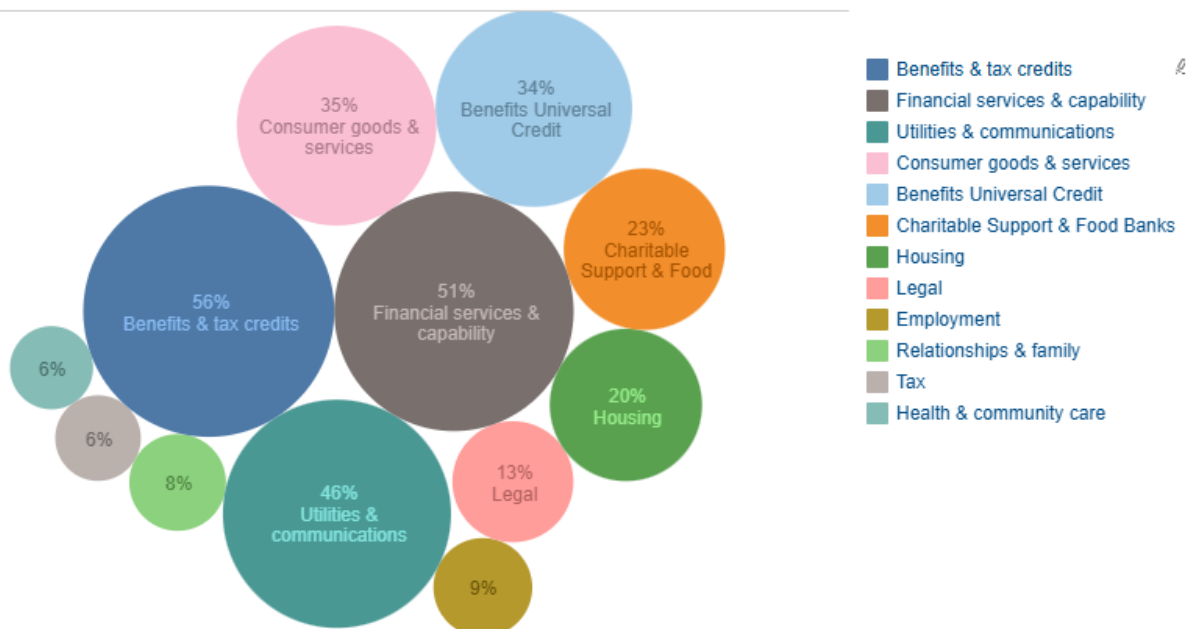


Most people we helped were experiencing multiple issues. The cluster diagrams below show some of the most common linked issues.

Benefits linked issues



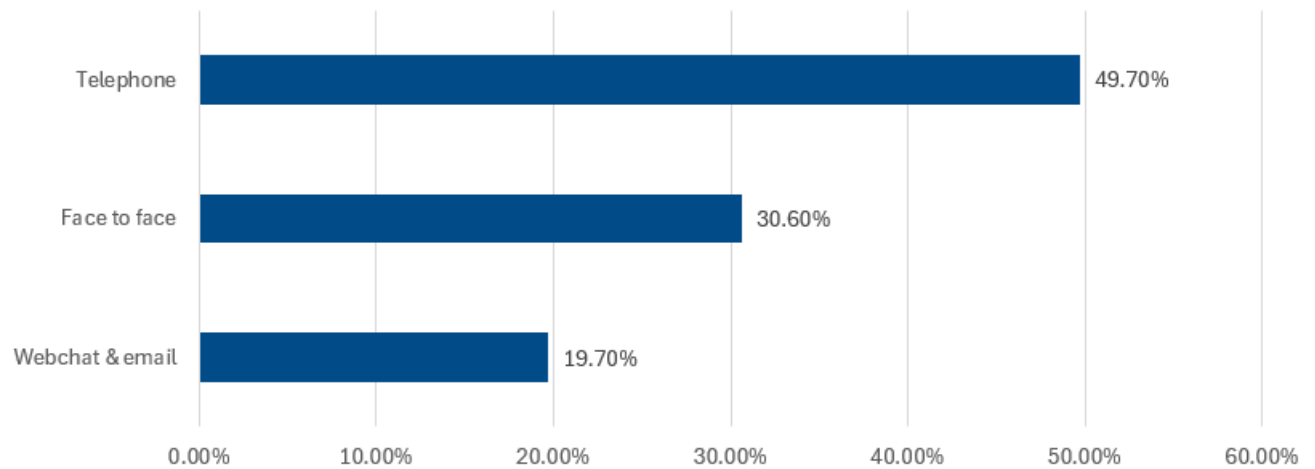
Debt linked issues



Highlights:

- 21% of the people we helped with benefits issues also had debt issues, indicative of how vulnerable people claiming state benefits are to falling into debt due to the cost of living.
- Over half of the people we helped with debt issues also needed help with disability or legacy benefits issues. A third needed help with Universal Credit.
- 23% of the people we helped with debt issues also needed crisis support with foodbanks or charitable grants.
- Over half of the clients who came to us with benefits and/or debt issues received advice on energy, bills and budgeting.

d) How people have contacted us:



e) Paid staff

North Warwickshire Citizens Advice currently employs 15 staff, FTE 11.

f) Volunteers

There are currently 25 volunteers working with North Warwickshire Citizens Advice. These include administration and trustee roles, but consist predominantly of Advisers who typically give either one or two days of their time, each lasting 5-6 hours, for advice sessions via face to face, telephone and email.

g) Training sessions undertaken by staff:

The bureau delivers a monthly training session, usually on the Third Wednesday of each month. Attendance is mandatory for all volunteers and paid staff. During this period, the following training was delivered:

April 2024	<p><u>Quality of Advice – Daniel Sargent – NWCA</u> Training for all staff and volunteers to have an understanding of how our cases are audited and use best practices for maintaining quality.</p>
May 2024	<p><u>Debt Assessments – Nigel Ashfield – BRANCAB</u> Overview of debt including assessment of clients’ position/debts at initial point of contact to ensure best action for client. Ensuing understanding of questions required. All staff and volunteers to have an understanding to support with referrals to debt adviser.</p>
June 2024	<p><u>Homelessness & Housing Options – Daniel Sargent – NWCA</u> To increase and embed knowledge regarding homelessness and housing options, where to find resources for information and supporting advice for clients.</p>
July 2024	<p><u>Gambling Addiction Awareness – Tony Kelly – Redcard</u> For all staff and volunteers to understand gambling its forms and impact on individuals and families.</p>
September 2024	<p><u>Cybercrime Support & Prevention – Ilsa Tarbuck – Warwickshire Police</u> Support and prevention work taking place by police cyber crime unit. To provide message to all staff and volunteers how cyber crime happens the people being targeted and how to look out and stay safe.</p> <p><u>Bereavement Benefits Awareness – Daniel Sargent – NWCA</u> A workshop for staff and volunteers covering eligibility and application processes for bereavement benefits.</p>
October 2024	<p><u>Dementia Awareness – Joanne Douglas – Dementia Friends</u> Information and presentation from Dementia Friends about what they do and how they support people, with insight into the help they can offer our service users.</p> <p><u>Section 21 Notices – Daniel Sargent – NWCA</u> A workshop for staff and volunteers with a refresher course on checking whether a section 21 notice is valid and advising clients on their options during eviction proceedings.</p>
November 2024	<p><u>Exploration & Holistic Advice – Jolene Morrow – NWCA</u> In depth practical training on exploring a client’s situation and recognising related issues that should be addressed for holistic advice.</p>
December 2024	<p><u>PIP Application Forms – Jacqueline Thompson – BRANCAB</u></p>

	In depth practical training on exploring a client’s situation and recognising related issues that should be addressed for holistic advice.
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Note that the training plan is suspended during August for Summer holidays.

h) Number of formal complaints about the bureau

No formal complaints were received during this period.

i) Key indicators

Comparison Apr 2023 – Dec 15th 2023 with Apr 2024 – Dec 15th 2024

+20%
Increase in unique clients advised compared to the previous year

+32.2%
Increase in issues with disability benefits such as PIP and Attendance Allowance

3x
as many issues with Council tax arrears, including a 2.9x increase in bailiff issues

+34.2%
Total income gained through benefit claims or energy and budgeting advice

j) Key outcomes



203 benefit increases, reinstatements or new awards for a total annualised value of **£1,005,066**.



£9,084 procured for our clients through charitable grants and emergency fuel or food referrals.



£156,902 per year saved for clients through energy, financial capability and budgeting advice



570 clients reporting improved health and improved capacity to manage their circumstances.

Commentary

North Warwickshire Citizens Advice has had a busy and challenging 2024. We have again seen an increase in client numbers and particularly in the complexity of their issues. Interestingly demand for face-to-face appointments has doubled this year. Clients report to us that they feel that due to the very nature of the issues that they are presenting with, it is often too difficult for them to explain their problems unless able to see an adviser in person.

Demand for debt advice this year has highlighted areas of local concern, including that we have seen a 61% increase in clients seeking help with rent arrears, with a disproportionate increase of 91% in local authority housing. Further, advice issues involving bailiffs have increased to more than triple than amount we saw last year. We have also seen an increase in demand for disability benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Attendance Allowance (AA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA). Our top three categories for this period are Benefits, Utilities and Debt. Unfortunately, debt is now the third most popular category that clients need advice on, as opposed to Financial Services and Capability in 2023. We have an in-house debt adviser regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and funded by MaPS (Money and Pension Service) to undertake debt advice appointments.

We continue to work with and support a diverse range of organisations, groups and clients. In 2024 these included individuals with dementia and their carers, the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, clients who have settled into North Warwickshire from Ukraine, Warwickshire Vision for the Blind and visually impaired and the North Warwickshire Financial Inclusion Partnership (NWFIP) to name a few. We are pleased to report that financial gains for clients resulting from our advice have steadily increased to £1.1 million this financial year compared to £875,000 in 2023.

A project supported by Cadent that we started in October 2023 has gone from strength to strength. The project initially provides energy advice to clients, including energy efficiency advice, information on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, energy debt etc. but then 'branches out' to provide a holistic approach to all areas of advice such as housing, employment, disability benefits and consumer issues. It therefore provides each client with a seamless service. The service to clients, from feedback received, has been invaluable and as a result, Cadent have funded a full time Disability Benefit Adviser until 31/3/2026, who works alongside the project. This is to help mitigate the high demand of clients that require assistance with the eligibility and completion of disability benefit applications.

We have continued with two other energy projects, the Energy Advice Project (EAP) and the Energy Outreach Project (EOP). Both projects deliver targeted energy information and advice, the EOP advisers actively working in the community.

We are now delivering MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. This is an online session delivered by our in-house trainer.

Following successful negotiations, we have been further funded by Cadent to deliver

information and advice via a Mobile Advice Centre (MAC). The vehicle is fully equipped with a general 'meet and greet' area and a private interview area with wi-fi. The MAC will attend various locations along the A5 corridor from Atherstone to Tamworth. The MAC will also be available, where possible, to attend events such as an MP's surgery or a village fete. We have identified from data mapping exercises a number of initial areas where we will attend, and have already spoken at the NWFIP for suggestions on locations that have been very welcome. Attendees on the MAC will be provided with a free carbon monoxide monitor (if they have gas facilities and do not have one) and given the eligibility criteria for the Priority Service Register and information on energy efficiency savings. If they need additional advice, they will be seen at the time or given a follow up call/appointment or a referral to our debt adviser as appropriate.

Alongside our service, we also host a number of other services who use our Welcome Street office and facilities. These include the Alzheimer's Society, P3 Housing, 1st Mediation and local family and property law solicitors who offer a free initial consultation to clients who require more specialist legal advice.



In 2023 we received funding from the UKSPF towards the restoration of several windows at the back of our building in Welcome Street and towards toilet facilities for those with additional needs. I am pleased to report that this work has been completed. We are now looking to 'spruce up' the rest of the office with new painted walls/ceilings etc.

With considerable thanks to both Wickes Home Improvement Centre, Nuneaton who arranged a substantial donation of paint and painting materials, and Crown Paint, Tamworth, we will be carrying out this work in the New Year.

This year we celebrated 85 years of National Citizens Advice with tea and cakes provided to our volunteers and staff and discussed the history of the service and how it has developed into the delivery of an invaluable and free advice service as we know it today.



We would like to thank North Warwickshire Borough Council for their continued support alongside those aforementioned.

Lorraine Verrall
Chief Executive Officer

Free, confidential advice.

Whoever you are.

We help people overcome their problems and campaign on big issues when their voices need to be heard.

We value diversity, champion equality, and challenge discrimination and harassment.

We're here for everyone.

nwcab.org.uk



@NorthWarksCAB

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North Warwickshire Citizens Advice is a registered Charity (1105712) and Company Limited by Guarantee (5154555 England).

Agenda Item No 9

Community and Environment Board

20 January 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Fly Tipping Update

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the work that the Environmental Health, Transformation and Streetscape Teams have undertaken in order to try and reduce fly tipping across 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 work of the Environmental Crime officer, Environmental Health, Streetscape, Communications Team and Legal colleagues are undertaking, to reduce fly-tipping within the Borough.

3 Updates

- 3.1 We have used the grant money from DEFRA to produce and distribute a fly tipping leaflet to all homes in the Borough (Appendix A). With the other part of the grant (£5,658) we are planning to purchase two drones and more trail cameras; this has been authorised by DEFRA.
- 3.2 The Environmental Crime Officer (ECO) has produced the following case study which details the actions undertaken to investigate a recent case of fly tipping.

Overview of Incident

On 17th September 2024, a report was made to WCC that a Fly Tip had occurred on The Green, being a leafy lane in Freasley. On 18th September 2024, Environmental Crime Officer, Andy Timmins attended the scene to gather evidence and make local enquiries.

At the Fly Tip location, no CCTV or witness were identified. Following a fingertip search of the tip, numerous letters and documentation were seized displaying an address in Shard End. Evidential images were taken at the scene.

A visit was conducted to one of the addresses whereby elderly resident stated documents were theirs and that a neighbour organised a removal of waste for him. Statements were arranged and taken from both individuals who provided their accounts and details of company used and social media text narrative which was seized for evidence.

Information received from one of the witnesses stated another resident of Shard End a mile away had also visited them with documentation from a Fly tip near where she lives. Resident (3) visited, and her account taken by way of a witness statement. Information now suggested the Waste Removal Company (EA Licenced) had removed the waste initially to land in Birmingham and then subsequently Freasley.

Enquiries made into the Company provided by the witness, included Companies House, Environment Crime Agency, Birmingham Council and the Police. Council Tax search conducted and confirmed address of Company Director. Two Interview Under Caution Letters sent out to which the individual failed to attend or get in touch.

ECO attended Company Directors address in Shard End to make doorstep enquiries. Individual's parents at property stated individual's current living address is unknown. Currently in conversation with father to attempt to get him in for IUC.

3.3 From the 14 October 2024 to 19 December 2024 Streetscape have cleared 189 Fly tips.

3.4 We have 31 open cases. We have received 19 complaints with potential evidence since 14/10/2024.

4 **Measures/Performance Information**

4.1 Requirement to submit data every three months to the Environment Agency.

4.1.1 At present, all instances of fly tipping will be viewed initially by the ECO will assess to determine if there is the possibility of evidence in the waste, he will then liaise with the Streetscape Team to let them know he is visiting the site, or if the site is free for clearance. If the site is visited and free for clearance the ECO will give the exact location via What3Words.

5 **Report Implications**

5.1 **Financial Implications**

5.1.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 **Safer Communities Implications**

5.2.1 An increased focus on fly tipping to achieve better outcomes, which will lead to residents feeling safe in their community.

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

5.3.1 Fly tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There is also a Duty of Care specified in this Act which requires producers of waste, including householders, to take all reasonable measures to ensure that their waste is disposed of correctly and legally and where applicable is only transferred to someone who is authorised to transport or dispose of it.

5.3.2 The use of the security cameras is subject to a protocol to ensure compliance with the relevant legal requirements for CCTV surveillance. The protocol has been reviewed as required to comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulations and updated guidance prepared by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner. It is also necessary to obtain authorisation for covert surveillance under RIPA, which must then be approved by the Magistrates Court. It is essential that this authorisation is obtained prior to deployment for covert surveillance.

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

5.4.1 Tackling fly tipping will make positive contributions towards improving the environment and sustainability. The fly tips create adverse impacts on the local environment and use significant resources in removing them and carrying out investigations.

5.4.2 By reducing fly tipping the quality of life in local communities will be improved.

5.5 **Risk Management Implications**

5.5.1 None relating to this report.

5.6 **Equality Implications**

5.6.1 There are no known adverse impacts on any of the groups defined in the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristics. The adverse impacts of fly tipping on the local environment is often in rural locations although not exclusively.

5.7 **Links to Council's Priorities**

5.7.1 The ongoing actions will contribute towards the priorities of creating safer communities and protecting our countryside and heritage.

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

Background Papers

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

Backgro und Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

Checking who has a waste carrier licence



Scan this QR Code to check or find a licensed waste carrier in your local area.



Fixed Penalty Notices

If you are caught fly tipping, you'll be required to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Fly tipping: Fee paid within 10 days (£) £600

Fee paid within 14 days (£) £1000



Duty of Care: Fee paid within 10 days (£) £400

Fee paid within 14 days (£) £600

Bulky Waste Collections

We collect large or bulky items from households within the North Warwickshire area for a small charge. Scan to read more >>>



The SCRAP Initiative

Suspect – beware of rogue waste carriers. Reputable companies do not usually make direct approaches. If in any doubt, do not allow them to take your waste.

Check – ask for their waste carrier registration details and verify them either by checking the online register or by calling (03708) 506 506. Note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away, just in case.

Refuse – refuse unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your research and choose who you wish to approach.

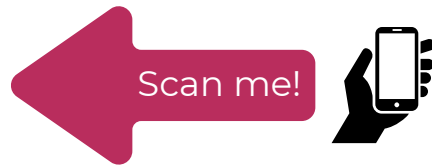
Ask – always ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.

Paperwork – make sure you get a proper receipt containing the written information for your waste. This should include what has been removed and where it will be going. Make sure the company or tradesperson's details are included.



Where can I report fly-tipping?

Report fly tipping by visiting our website:



What 3 Words

What3words is an app that **points to a specific location**. It reads your location and gives you 3 unique words which you can quote to us to give us the most accurate location of the fly tip.



Scan here to try

When reporting an incident, residents should include information on the size of the load, the type of waste, and the exact location (the road name or what3words location) These questions will be asked when you report the fly tip on our website. We also ask residents to note the vehicle's registration number and check their cameras.



FLYTIPPING

the illegal dumping of items

This booklet includes everything your household needs to know regarding preventing and reporting fly tipping.



Agenda Item No 10

Community and Environment Board

20 January 2025

Report of the Interim Assistant Director - Leisure and Community Services

North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy Update

1 Summary

- 1.1 For the Board's consideration, this report presents a revised draft of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2024 to 2033), a suggested implementation of smokefree play areas, and an amended green space hire process.

Recommendations to the Board:

- a) That the Board adopts the revised draft North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2024 to 2033)
- b) That Members consider the recommendation proposed by the Health and Wellbeing Working Party to create smokefree play areas; and
- c) That Members note the updated hire process.

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 Strategy requires review in order to be kept up to date to meet National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document requirements.
- 3.2 A contractor was appointed to undertake a review of the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Green Space Strategy. The revised Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031) was adopted by this Board in January 2024.

4 Revised North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy (2024 to 2033)

4.1 In the production of the revised draft of the Green Space Strategy, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A, the consultant used a methodology that was in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Companion Guidance to its predecessor, Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17). This methodology included the following elements:

- Review of national, regional and local strategy and policy documents
- Division of open space into typologies
- Qualitative and quantitative assessments of open space
- Use of quantitative and accessibility standards
- Consultation and analysis
- Identification of shortfalls in provision
- Conclusions and recommendations

4.2 In view of Members' and partners' familiarity with its style and content, the consultant was advised to make use of the framework and structure provided by the current Strategy, which had set out a succinct framework through which to strive to meet certain standards of provision.

4.3 The draft Strategy identifies a vision for green space, that:

“North Warwickshire will have a well-planned, protected and managed network of sustainable, biodiverse green spaces that meets the needs of its communities and that maximises the opportunities presented by new developments”

This vision is underpinned by a set of key objectives. After identifying the green space typologies and standards, with which the Board is familiar, section two then sets out the key policy and service priorities that will frame related work through until 2033. The Policy Priorities include, not just the protection and enhancement of existing green space, but also the commitment to seek new green space to meet the needs of a growing population. The minimum Local Green Space Standards, which were identified in the previous Strategy, have been retained. By following the recommended Local Standards, it will be possible to ensure that the Borough retains the types and quantities of green space needed for healthy, sustainable communities. The key service priorities are based on the following themes or issues:

- Improvement, maintenance and cleanliness
- Safety and security
- Tree management
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Children and young people
- Community engagement

- 4.4 In preparing the revised draft Strategy, the consultant, as well as undertaking consultation with stakeholders and potentially interested parties, including all local parish and town councils, used information that evidentially underpinned the production of the original document, as well as the Open Space Assessment report. Within the consultation, views were sought on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space and anecdotal information was sought on the desire for the provision of additional facilities and services.
- 4.5 The main issues identified focused on the quality of provision, rather than the quantity. North Warwickshire has sufficient amenity green space, public parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, but there is a need to prepare site improvement and management plans for key sites; to improve safety and security; to enhance accessibility; to encourage community engagement with green spaces and to create opportunities for increased participation in safe walking, jogging and cycling.
- 4.6 The section on resources identifies the need to maximise developer contributions and to diversify the funding streams for green spaces. Further, due to the strain on Borough Council resources, it is proposed that only strategically significant sites will be considered for adoption by the Authority, and, where this is the case, only where appropriate commuted sums have been negotiated within any associated developer agreements.
- 4.7 The Board is recommended to adopt the draft Green Space Strategy. Subject to its adoption, the Strategy will then frame the development of a supporting Action and Funding Plan.
- 4.8 Upon its adoption, the Green Space Strategy will provide an invaluable long-term framework that will enable Members and Officers to prioritise activity and resources and to secure external funding support for related projects that are known to be of considerable value to local residents. Furthermore, it will be material to the planning process and will inform both the Development Control and Forward Planning functions to ensure adequate green space provision across the Borough.

5 **Smokefree Places**

- 5.1 As detailed in the minutes, a presentation was given the Health and Wellbeing Working Party in December 2024 on the Smokefree Generation Grant.
- 5.2 Tobacco, and especially cigarette smoking, is the single biggest entirely preventable cause of ill health, death and disability in this country. Stopping people from ever starting smoking, as well as supporting current smokers to quit, will improve public health and reduce disparities, reduce the burden on the NHS and the social care system, and provide substantial benefits to the workforce and the economy.
- 5.3 In October 2023, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced [‘Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation’](#). The paper included proposals to:

- Legislate to raise the age of sales - one year every year from 2027 onwards.
- Double the funding for local authority Stop Smoking Services from next year, starting from April 2024 and continuing to 2028-29.
- Increase funding for awareness raising campaigns by £5 million this year and £15 million from next year onwards.
- Increase funding for enforcement on illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes by £30 million from next year.
- Launched a consultation on specific measures to tackle the increase in youth vaping.

5.4 To support this initiative, the Health and Wellbeing Working Party proposes the following:

- a) Each Authority-owned play area which has equipment enclosed with bow top fencing, becomes a smoke-free place.
- b) Through the hire of our pitches and green spaces, we will encourage teams and their spectators to be smoke-free during the duration of the hire.

5.5 If this Board approves, officers will work with local schools to design the signs for each smokefree site.

6 Hire of Green Spaces

6.1 Authority – owned green spaces have always been available to hire, but interest has always been ad-hoc and inconsistent. Work has been undertaken to create consistency and improve the hire process, therefore encouraging more hires and creating additional income.

6.2 If this Board agrees, an online booking form will be launched, which enables individuals, groups or organisations to enquire and hire a green space, whilst ensuring all events meet health and safety guidance and offering support on the planning process.

6.3 The [website](#) has been updated with recent drone footage of each site, showcasing exactly what each site offers and enabling prospective hirers to choose the most appropriate space.

6.4 There is a need for a clear pricing structure. The proposed cost to hire a green space, outlined in Appendix B, has been benchmarked with other local authorities.

6.5 Hires will managed by the Communities Team within the Leisure and Communities division.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

7.1.1 There is no new financial implication arising directly out of this report. Subject to its approval, the Green Space Strategy will require to be underpinned by a robust and sustainable Action and Funding Plan.

7.1.2 An approved Green Space Strategy and its supporting Action and Funding Plan will help to ensure the provision and protection of related services and provide the evidence for bids for external funding support, without which it will not be possible to realise all the aspirations within the Strategy itself.

7.1.3 Income raised through the hire of green spaces will be ring-fenced for the maintenance and improvements required for the sites.

7.1.4 If the proposed fees in Appendix B are agreed then they will need to replace the current fees contained in the estimates report contained elsewhere on this agenda.

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.

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.

7.4.1 Adopting smokefree play areas will improve and promote health and wellbeing.

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.

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	North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy (2018 to 2031)	January 2024
4	Director of Leisure and Community Development	North Warwickshire Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies Progress Report	March 2024



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

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NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

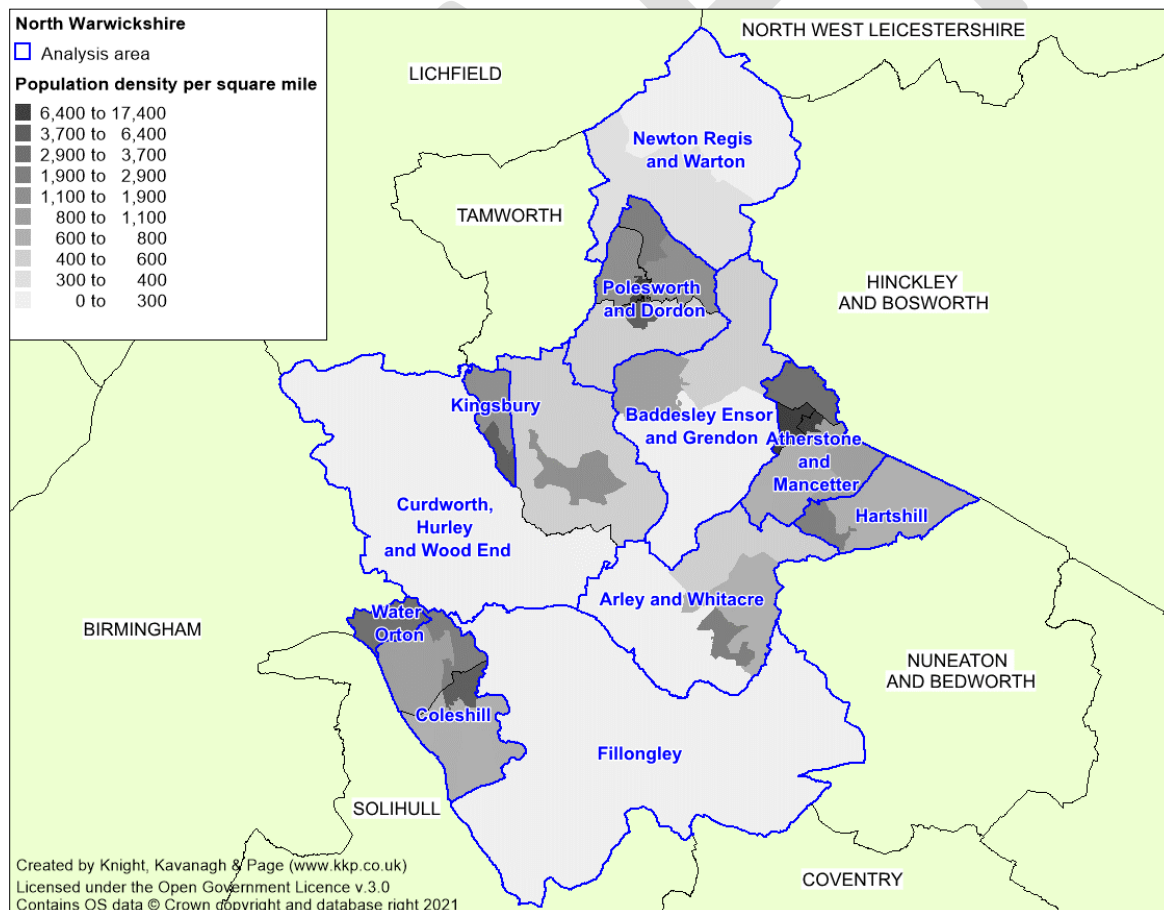
North Warwickshire

North Warwickshire is the northernmost district in the county of Warwickshire. It has several large urban settlements on its doorstep, including Tamworth, Nuneaton, Coventry, Sutton Coldfield and other settlements within the Birmingham conurbation.

North Warwickshire is overwhelmingly rural in nature, with approximately two third of its area designated as Green Belt. The population of the Borough is 65,452 (Census 2021), most of which is centred in the three main towns: Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth. The rest of the population is dispersed throughout a number of smaller rural settlements. The dispersed nature of the Borough has particular implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The map below shows the local authority spatially, illustrating the location of North Warwickshire and its borders with Lichfield and North West Leicestershire to the north and Hinckley and Bosworth and Nuneaton and Bedworth to the east. To the south of North Warwickshire are Coventry and Solihull, with Birmingham to the west.

Figure 1.1: Analysis Areas in North Warwickshire



What is Green Space?

Green Space refers to the range of green areas that are used by the public and includes parks, landscaped spaces in and around housing estates, sports pitches, children's play areas, wildlife and countryside areas, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards.

The Borough Council has produced and adopted a Playing Pitch Strategy, which covers pitches used for cricket, football, hockey and rugby. These formal pitches, therefore, will not be considered alongside other green space in this Strategy.

Why is Green Space Important?

"A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit. Open spaces also provide the vital green infrastructure that enables us to deal with floods or mitigate and adapt to climate change while providing wildlife habitats, sporting facilities or beautiful parks."

As identified in "The value of public space" (CABE Space, 2014), good quality green space has many benefits:

The Economic Value of Public Space: The presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool; businesses are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these, in turn, attract customers, employees and services.

The Impact on Physical and Mental Health: Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health by encouraging people to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. In other words, open spaces are a powerful weapon in the fight against obesity and ill-health.

The Benefits to Children and Young People: Play is crucial for many aspects of child development, from the acquisition of social skills, experimentation and the confrontation and resolution of emotional crises, to moral understanding, cognitive skills, such as language and comprehension, and, of course, physical skills. Good-quality public spaces can help to fill this gap, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.

Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime: Fear of crime and, to a much lesser extent, crime itself, can deter people, not just vulnerable groups, from using even good-quality public spaces. Children and young people, for example, are often prevented from using parks, squares and streets because of their parents' fears about crime, whilst women often also face particular concerns. Physical changes to, and the better management of, public space can help to allay these fears. Such changes can help everyone to make the most of public spaces.

The Social Dimension: Public spaces are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a democratic forum for citizens and society. When properly designed and cared for, they bring communities together, provide meeting places and foster social ties. These spaces shape the cultural identity of an area, they are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities.

Movement In and Between Spaces: Well-designed streets and public spaces encourage walking and cycling and have the power to make the environment safer by reducing vehicle use and speeds. ‘Home Zones’ have begun to demonstrate the benefits of redesigning streets for shared use by residents and pedestrians, not just cars.

Biodiversity and Nature: The significant increase in hard surfacing and the reduction in green spaces lead to higher temperatures in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the ‘heat island effect’. Vegetation – whether in public spaces or private gardens – can help to redress this imbalance. It brings many important environmental benefits, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants. More, bigger, better managed and well connected green space can assist in nature’s recovery supporting our wider wildlife in an ecological crisis and providing connectivity, space and resilience for populations.

Why Develop a Green Space Strategy?

The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy is informed by a green space / open space assessment and audit. The audit set out an up-to-date assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of various forms of open space across North Warwickshire. The Green Space Strategy, therefore, is the opportunity to identify the priorities and actions required to meet the expressed “vision”.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Within Warwickshire, for some time, “biodiversity offsetting” has been used to quantify the impact that a development has on the natural environment and, where possible, to mitigate these impacts. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), itself, is an approach to development and / or land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was before a development takes place.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that Local Plan policies should enhance the local and natural environment, amongst other things, by providing net gains for biodiversity, by promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and by supporting developments that integrate opportunities to improve biodiversity within their design.

Through the Environment Act 2021, the Borough Council is now under a duty to enhance biodiversity through the implementation of its policies and provisions. The duty requires the Authority to consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, to agree policies and objectives based on these considerations and then to act to achieve these policy objectives. It will do so across the range of its service functions and through its adopted Local Plan and this Green Space Strategy. Within this context, the Borough Council will consider how land within its ownership can be managed to enhance biodiversity.

Starting from April 2nd 2024, most new developments within the North Warwickshire borough area must show a 10% increase in biodiversity through detailed plans focused on ecological sustainability. These plans should actively contribute to habitat protection and improvement.

Policy LP1 on Sustainable Development requires development proposals to:

- Provide, conserve, and enhance biodiversity.
- Create linkages between green spaces, wildlife sites, and corridors.
- Retain existing natural features (trees, hedgerows, water bodies) where possible, and protect them during construction.
- Replace or enhance natural features if they are lost due to development.
- Use native species and avoid invasive ones in new landscaping to benefit biodiversity.

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Local Context

North Warwickshire Local Plan (2021-2033)

The North Warwickshire Borough Council Local Plan (September 2021) sets out the vision and spatial planning strategy for North Warwickshire up to 2033.

The vision for the Local Plan is to develop:

“A place where people want to live, work and visit, now and in the future, which meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to the local environment and contributes to a high quality of life. A place which is safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run and offers equality of opportunity and good services for all”.

To achieve this, the Plan lists the following aims:

- ◀ Promote sustainable construction practice in all new developments, including energy efficiency and the use of recycling.
- ◀ Manage development so as to reflect the local character and appearance of our towns and villages.
- ◀ Promote sustainable design, which mitigates and adapts to climate change and increased flood risk.
- ◀ Limit adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecology assets.
- ◀ Create and enhance habitats that support nature's recovery- making space for nature and aiming to achieve 30% of land in recovery for nature by 2030.
- ◀ Provide and enhance the provision of open and green spaces.
- ◀ Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the perception of crime through the application of Secured by Design standards.
- ◀ Reduce adverse impacts on neighbourhood amenity.
- ◀ Promote sustainable water and drainage management.
- ◀ Reduce the impact of traffic on the environment.
- ◀ Reduce the impact of contaminated land.

To provide and enhance the provision of open and green spaces, the Local Plan will:

- ◀ Identify, maintain and enhance existing green infrastructure assets where possible.
- ◀ Optimise opportunities to create links between existing green infrastructure within the Borough and surrounding sub-regional networks.
- ◀ Help to deliver new green infrastructure assets where specific need has been identified.

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North Warwickshire Corporate Plan (2023-2027)

The Corporate Plan aims to protect the rurality of North Warwickshire, support its communities and promote the wellbeing of residents and business. To achieve this, the Plan sets out four key visions, which it aims to deliver (illustrated below).

Figure 1.2: North Warwickshire's Corporate Plan Key Visions.



North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy (2024 to 2031)

The Playing Pitch Strategy is a strategic assessment in the context of national policy and local sports development needs that provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the Borough. The primary purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that the provision of playing pitches can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents in North Warwickshire.

The assessment, for practical reasons, focuses upon football, rugby union, cricket and hockey. Key to the Green Space Strategy is the identification in the Playing Pitch Strategy of the future needs with regard to accessible, high quality green space, sports and recreation facilities.

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Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020 to 2025)

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is Warwickshire's high-level plan for reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for local residents. The Strategy is owned by Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. Its three long-term strategic aims are;



In order to deliver countywide ambitions, the Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed three priority areas to focus on over the timeframe of the Strategy.

- ◀ Help our children and young people have the best start in life.
- ◀ Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities.
- ◀ Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health.

North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2023 to 2027)

The North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2023 to 2027) sets out actions to improve health and wellbeing across the Borough. These are assigned to the following divisions:

- ◀ Environmental Health
- ◀ Finance (including Revenues and Benefits)
- ◀ Housing
- ◀ Human Resources and Health and Safety
- ◀ Leisure and Community Development
- ◀ Planning
- ◀ Streetscape

In terms of Leisure and Community Development, the following key actions are identified:

- ◀ To update and improve the Authority-owned play areas through the Play Area Development Programme.
- ◀ Provide a programme of holiday provision for children and young people in the Borough Council's leisure facilities during each school holiday.
- ◀ Formulate an action plan from Poverty Proofing feedback and ensure that the related services continue to improve their accessibility.
- ◀ Monitor and review feedback through surveys, verbal customer and staff feedback, and adapt the service to meet customer needs.

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The Streetscape actions are also relevant to the Green Space Strategy. These set out aims to:

- ◀ Inspect and maintain play areas, including teen shelters, ball courts and play equipment in order to promote outdoor play for all children and a healthy outdoor area for the local community.
- ◀ Maintain green and open space areas, including parks, recreation grounds, estates and verges, to create a safe, clean and healthy environment for all residents and visitors.
- ◀ Carry out street cleaning, fly tip removal and work with volunteer litter picking groups to create and maintain a safe and clean, healthy Borough for all residents and visitors to enjoy.
- ◀ Maintain the Borough Council's leisure facilities and contribute to associated projects and undertakings.

Typology and Local Standards

The audit undertaken for the Green Space Strategy looked at the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces. Following on from this, research was undertaken to enable the Borough Council to adopt minimum local standards for the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces that are needed in North Warwickshire.

The audits provide an understanding of the current condition, amount and location of the following types of green spaces throughout North Warwickshire:

Green Space Typology

- ◀ **Parks and Public Gardens:** Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- ◀ **Natural and Semi-natural Green Space:** Woodland and other spaces that are managed in a way that promotes biodiversity and allows nature to develop. ([LNR's?](#))
- ◀ **Amenity Green Space:** Typically, green spaces in and around housing estates and village greens.
- ◀ **Provision for Children and Young People:** Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- ◀ **Allotments:** Plots of land subdivided to provide opportunity for people to grow produce.
- ◀ **Cemeteries and Churchyards:** Burial grounds providing opportunities for quiet recreation, contemplation and biodiversity.
- ◀ **Green Corridors:** Routes used for walking, cycling and / or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, which also provide opportunities for wildlife migration.
- ◀ **Outdoor Sports Areas:** Addressed in the North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy.

The latest audit identifies a total of over 200 open space sites, equating to over 700 hectares of open space across North Warwickshire.

Local Green Space Standards

Local green space standards are key to planning for, and managing, green space in the future.

The North Warwickshire Local Standards are based on the results of local consultation, and are also informed by pragmatic considerations. They are intended to be achievable. The standards are for minimum levels of provision. It should be noted that just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards, this does not mean that there is surplus provision, as all such provision may be well used.

In addition, the standards (as they relate to various forms of open space) reflect only the importance for given recreational activities. Open space may have intrinsic value for other reasons, including visual and ecological. The recreational utility of open space must, therefore, be viewed in the context of broader environmental and planning considerations.

The standards are split in to three categories – Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

The 'Quantity' Local Green Space Standards are detailed in Appendix A and should be read in conjunction with the 2023 Open Space Assessment Report, which helps to inform and identify potential shortfalls in existing provision.

SECTION 2: KEY PRIORITIES

The value of green spaces to local communities is well understood. It is critical that green space is protected and that green space development is also planned in a considered, strategic and sustainable manner.

The following themes, along with their associated policies, aim to protect and enhance the Authority's green space.

Our Vision

The Green Space Strategy is about land and about people. Our vision is:

North Warwickshire will have a well-planned, protected and managed network of sustainable, biodiverse green spaces that meets the needs of its communities and that maximises the opportunities presented by new development.

Our Objectives

The Green Space Strategy sets out a framework to fulfil the following objectives:

- ◀ **Protect, improve the management and maximise the benefits of green spaces:** Fields in Trust research identifies that parks and green spaces across the United Kingdom provide people with over £34 billion of health and wellbeing benefits. The report also states that parks provide a total economic value of just over £30 per year to each person in the United Kingdom. The value of parks and green spaces is higher for individuals from certain disadvantaged and under-represented communities. The loss of parks and green spaces, therefore, will disproportionately impact those people who value them the most.
- ◀ **Co-ordinate action and develop partnership working:** Many local groups, organisations and agencies are actively engaged in bringing forward a wide range of site improvement projects. There is a need to co-ordinate all of this activity to ensure that resources are used effectively and that the benefits are maximised.
- ◀ **Access funding opportunities:** There is a range of funding possibilities for green spaces. By providing a clear and co-ordinated set of policies and proposals, the Green Space Strategy will ensure that an effective case for investment is made when submitting bids for funding. Experience shows that in areas of the country where a strategy has been produced, access to funding sources has increased significantly.
- ◀ **Promote green space investment as a policy priority:** Having a Green Space Strategy will elevate the status of green space issues in the Borough during the consideration of public policy priorities.
- ◀ **Help to create sustainable communities:** Attractive green spaces play a vital role in creating sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities, where people will choose to live and work, both now and in the future.

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- ◀ **Support the Borough Council's duty to enhance biodiversity:** Through the implementation of its priorities, and particularly in respect of the management of its own land, the Green Space Strategy will be used to advance a corporate commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It will also be used as material support for the implementation of the policies of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

Policy Priorities

Protection and Enhancement of Existing Green Space by:

- ◀ Informing the Planning process in the consideration of planning applications to protect against the loss or inappropriate development of green space.
- ◀ Informing any review of the Borough Council's land holdings and any proposals for disposal.
- ◀ Informing the development of a Green Space Strategy Action and Funding Plan.
- ◀ Promoting funding opportunities; including supporting the local community to apply for funding.
- ◀ Ensuring that in the consideration of potential new development and / or the management of land, opportunities are taken to enhance local biodiversity.

Seek New Green Space by:

- ◀ Informing the Planning process through the Local Plan and the consideration of strategic allocations and planning applications.
- ◀ Using the identified local Green Space Standards, along with the audit of green space, to identify and provide for green space needs in local communities.

Service Priorities

A number of common themes concerning green space provision are highlighted as part of the audit. From these, there is a need for the following:

- ◀ Prepare site improvement and management plans for all significant green space sites, noting the need for more seating and improved signage / welcoming entrances.
- ◀ Improve safety and security.
- ◀ Continue to tackle vandalism and graffiti.
- ◀ Continue to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ◀ Ensure an even spread of good-quality facilities across the Borough.
- ◀ Ensure that facilities are accessible to people in rural areas.
- ◀ Improve partnership working between the Borough Council and other providers of green space.
- ◀ Target providers' combined resources more effectively.

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- ◀ Increase provision for children and young people.
- ◀ Increase provision of, and access to, bridleways and cycle paths.
- ◀ Encourage greater community engagement with local green spaces.
- ◀ Increase awareness of the availability of recreation facilities by improving publicity and promotion.

The Council will address these issues through the Service Priorities set out below:

Improvement, Maintenance and Cleanliness

The Borough Council recognises that effective, efficient and adequately resourced grounds maintenance is key to improving the quality of its green spaces and will:

- ◀ Review, when required, the current grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure coherent and appropriate work programming and adequate allocation of resources, in light of the potential for extensive new developments.
- ◀ Review grounds maintenance operations and seek to identify opportunities for less intensive management practices that are cost effective and deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for alternative maintenance arrangements for some sites, such as partnership working with other providers or community management projects.
- ◀ Invest in basic service improvements, such as improving footpaths, site furniture and installing signage (including the use of Quick Response 'QR' codes, which will allow smart phone users access to additional information).
- ◀ Work in partnership with other providers and, where improvements to their green spaces have been identified, support them by offering advice and guidance.

Safety and Security

Green spaces should be welcoming places where people can enjoy recreation and leisure activities in confidence and safety. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Adopt a programme of measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in green spaces, ensuring that 'Secure by Design' principles are followed.
- ◀ Audit unauthorised access from neighbouring properties and land grab. Licence or remove access. Identify and pursue a legal resolution for land grab.
- ◀ Develop a policy on the use of drones across Borough Council sites.
- ◀ Develop a policy on the use of metal detectors across Borough Council sites.

Tree Management

A well-managed, sustainable and renewable tree stock provides long term benefits for the environment and is an essential element of attractive, good-quality green space. The Borough Council will:

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- ◀ Prepare and adopt a Tree Management Policy to inform the management of the Borough Council's tree stock
- ◀ Consider opportunities to plant native trees on open space in accordance with the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (Arden, 1993).
- ◀ In the interests of sustainability and increased biodiversity, aim to replant at least two trees in the same community for every tree that is removed.

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Well-managed, multi-functional green space benefits both people and wildlife and can contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity through habitat creation and management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules.
- ◀ Seek opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly increased flood risk, through appropriate planting and land management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules.
- ◀ Implement Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
- ◀ Support partners to enhance and conserve biodiversity on publicly accessible sites, particularly noting the need to mitigate the impact of HS2.
- ◀ Continue to be a Board member of the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership and support its work and vision "to create a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all".
- ◀ Work with partners to increase opportunities for community engagement in habitat creation and management projects.
- ◀ Support and encourage the development of 'green and blue corridors'.
- ◀ In partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, continue to manage and develop Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

Children and Young People

Green space plays a vital role in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction and to explore and learn in the wider environment. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Review current play provision to ensure that all built play facilities continue to offer good play value, meet current safety standards, are accessible and are secured by design. Prepare an action plan for enhancements and refurbishments.
- ◀ Consider opportunities to provide more exciting and innovative play solutions for all ages, including, for example, BMX / pump tracks and iPlay opportunities.
- ◀ When developing green spaces and / or play areas, consider the inclusion of natural 'green' play using natural and renewable materials.
- ◀ Promote and encourage inclusive and accessible forms of provision.

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Community Engagement

Green space is for people. It is somewhere to relax, to enjoy sport and recreation and to enjoy the natural environment. Local spaces can provide a focus for family outings and for community activities. The Borough Council is keen to encourage people to use their local spaces and to take pride in their development. We will:

- ◀ Support existing, and develop new, “Friends Groups” to participate in the development and oversight of local green spaces.
- ◀ Continue to support and work in partnership with the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation to ensure that residents are able to access good-quality allotment sites.
- ◀ Support allotment associations to reduce the number of unused plots and to improve the quality of provision.
- ◀ Publicise and promote green spaces and play facilities through the internet and through the promotion of activities and events on sites.
- ◀ Develop guidance, procedures and pricing for the community and commercial use of green space for events.
- ◀ Work with partners, stakeholders and developers to protect, enhance and increase connectivity between green spaces throughout the Borough.
- ◀ Develop a method for measuring and monitoring the level of use of key parks and green spaces.

Borough-wide Priorities

The following priorities apply to the whole Borough

- ◀ Prepare site improvement and management plans for all parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites.
- ◀ Support parish and town councils and other providers to prepare site improvement and management plans for all key parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites in their ownership.
- ◀ Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses, such as new play space or for management as natural green space.
- ◀ Where appropriate, permit the release of some informal open space only where this will secure funds to improve existing facilities and avoid the loss of all other types of publicly accessible open space across the area.
- ◀ Support the development of green “tree” and “cycle” corridors.
- ◀ As new housing sites are developed, ensure new green space sites have appropriate management plans.
- ◀ When considering new housing developments or sites identified for disposal, ensure a strategic balance of play provision in the locality.
- ◀ Ensure adequate provision for formal outdoor sports not identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy, e.g. bowls, BMX, skate, etc.
- ◀ Develop opportunities for the use personal technology to encourage greater use of green spaces and improve mental and physical health through increased activity.

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- ◀ Target resources, particularly developer contributions, to improve the quality of open spaces in the area.
- ◀ Only consider assuming the adoption and future management of newly created open spaces and / or play areas where these sites are of strategic significance and only where appropriate resources have been allocated.

Area Priorities

Arley and Whitacre

- ◀ Support improved access to the countryside through the promotion of footpaths and routeways through the area.
- ◀ Develop a management plan for Brett's Hall Recreation Ground in Ansley Common, in conjunction with an improvement plan for the adjacent Brett's Hall Allotments.
- ◀ Ansley Village Recreation Ground, Arley Recreation Ground, Brett's Hall Recreation Ground, and Gun Hill Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Atherstone and Mancetter

- ◀ Prioritise the improvement and development of Mancetter Recreation Ground including its play equipment / offer.
- ◀ Support Atherstone Town Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision; particularly at Westwood Road recreation ground.
- ◀ Develop Atherstone Riverside as a Local Nature Reserve.
- ◀ Support, where possible, the extension to Atherstone Cemetery.
- ◀ Mancetter Recreation Ground, Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground and Westwood Road Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Baddesley and Grendon

- ◀ Seek the provision of more play facilities, particularly provision catering for older age ranges.
- ◀ Baddesley Common, Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground, Baxterley Playing Field, and Boot Hill Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Coleshill

- ◀ Resolve the future of Brendon Close Play Area.

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- ◀ Support the Town Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide additional allotment provision.
- ◀ Work in partnership with Tame Valley Wetland Landscape Partnership and the Environment Agency to create and implement the Cole Valley Landscape Project.
- ◀ Cole End Park and its Nature Reserve, Ennerdale Green and Coleshill Memorial Park provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Curdworth, Hurley and Wood End

- ◀ Support the promotion of access to rights of way across the area.
- ◀ Support Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision, particularly at King George V Playing Fields.
- ◀ Hurley Recreation Ground and Wood End Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Fillongley

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide an enhanced offer, particularly at Fillongley Park.
- ◀ Fillongley Park, Shustoke Playing Field and Butts Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Hartshill

- ◀ Ensure quality of play provision at Snowhill Recreation Ground as only forms of play facilities.
- ◀ Hartshill Hayes Country Park, Hartshill Recreation Ground, and Snowhill Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Kingsbury

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision, especially for older ages, particularly at Kingsbury Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Kingsbury Playing Field and Kingsbury Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

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Newton Regis and Warton

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in any mitigation linked to HS2.
- ◀ Austrey Playing Fields, Newton Regis Playing Field, Shuttington Recreation ground, and Warton Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Polesworth and Dordon

- ◀ Support the development of green “tree” and “cycle” corridors in regard to Hoo Hill, Hollies Ancient Woodland, Dordon Common, the Hills at Polesworth Common, Dordon Hall Lan, Holloway and Drovers Lane in St Helena.
- ◀ As new economic sites are developed, support the provision of new / relocation of existing allotments and playing pitches in Dordon.
- ◀ Abbey Green Park, Birchmoor Recreation Ground, Long Street Recreation Ground, Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground, North Warwickshire Recreation Ground and Pooley Country Park provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Water Orton

- ◀ Hidden Park and Water Orton Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.
- ◀ To develop green spaces within the village of Water Orton in line with aims and objectives of the neighbourhood plan. Ensure that the development of green spaces will be sympathetic to the aesthetic of the village.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to open and develop Parish council land on plank Lane.
- ◀ To enhance and improve the play/leisure equipment on the green and play field.

SECTION 3: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Resources

Clearly, there are financial implications attached to the implementation of this Green Space Strategy. In providing and managing green space within the public realm, the Borough Council does not, and cannot, work in isolation. In particular:

- ◀ It is essential to secure the support and co-operation of local parish and town councils, associated trusts and committees responsible for the management and maintenance of much of the Borough's stock of accessible green space.
- ◀ Nature conservation trusts, agencies and the County Council have responsibility for much of the accessible natural green space found in rural areas, in particular wildlife sites, country parks and designated habitats with public access.
- ◀ Agencies, such as the Canals and Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency, have the ability to control and influence the management and maintenance of green space associated with the Borough's considerable network of water corridors and bodies.
- ◀ Institutional landowners, such as the Coal Authority and the Church, control substantial tracts of land with great potential for development and use as accessible green space for the public good.
- ◀ Developers will be responsible for directly or indirectly providing new green space in relation to planned growth.
- ◀ The County Council and local schools control large amounts of educational land with areas of unexploited potential in terms of contributing to green space strategic goals.
- ◀ The County Council, with responsibility for highways and rights of way, can also help to influence and promote the creation of green corridors and routes.
- ◀ Other local and national agencies, such as health authorities, the police, Natural England and Sustrans, can help to achieve many projects that increase positive community interaction with green space.

The following policies will help the Borough Council to secure, co-ordinate and target resources effectively.

Resources
<p>The study underpinning the Strategy clearly identified the value attached to green spaces by the community for many forms of recreation, both informal and organised. The evidence, both locally and nationally, points to the primacy of the outdoor environment in providing most people's physical recreational needs. To ensure, as far as possible, that investment priorities reflect this, the Borough Council will:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Prepare a rolling Action Plan and Funding Plan that identifies how and when the Borough Council and other stakeholders will achieve key priorities.◀ Review its investment of time and resources into the management and maintenance of local green space.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Resources

- ▶ Maximise developer contributions through the Open Space Supplementary Planning document and through contributions, including S106 Agreements and / or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- ▶ Seek opportunities to diversify funding streams for green spaces, including greater income from partnerships, commercial activity, fees and charges, developer contributions, sponsorship, grant funding and fundraising (such as crowd sourcing).
- ▶ Consider assuming the adoption and future management of newly created open spaces and / or play areas only where these are of strategic significance and only where appropriate resources (staffing / finance) have been allocated, for example through the provision of a commuted sum.

Monitoring

The Green Space Strategy must be kept up-to-date and must continue to meet its priorities whilst fulfilling the Borough Council's corporate objectives, local planning policies and the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This means that monitoring and review are essential. The following policies will help to ensure the currency and legitimacy of the Strategy.

Monitoring

To be effective the Green Space Strategy must be a living document, kept under constant review and revision. The Borough Council will:

- ▶ Review and update the Action and Funding Plan annually.
- ▶ Set out in the Action and Funding Plan performance targets against which delivery of the Green Space Strategy and the Action and Funding Plan will be monitored and, if necessary, revised.
- ▶ Report, as a minimum, annually to Borough Councillors on progress in delivering the Green Space Strategy and its Action and Funding Plan.
- ▶ Ensure that the Green Space Strategy continues to relate to the Borough Council's corporate objectives and is embedded therein.
- ▶ Review and refresh the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study and the Green Space Strategy on a five-year cycle.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

APPENDIX A: QUANTITY STANDARDS

Table A1: Summary of Quantity Standards (hectares per 1,000 Population)

Typology	National Standard ¹	North Warwickshire (2019)	Open Space Report (2023) Quantity Levels
Parks and Gardens	0.80	0.50	3.96
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	1.80	0.50	7.15
Amenity Green Space	0.60	0.50	1.43
Provision for Children and Young People	0.25	No minimum space specified	0.08
Allotments	0.25	0.40	0.38

¹ As suggested by Fields In Trust. For allotments, the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) is used.

Appendix B

Pricing structure for hire of green spaces:

Commercial Hire	
Circus & Fair hire	1 day - £395 3 day - £495 5 day - £795
Hourly hire for exercise classes & sports sessions	£15 an hour
4 hour rate for exercise classes & sports sessions	£30
All day hire for exercise classes & sports sessions	£45
6 month hire for exercise classes & sports sessions	£225
Yearly hire for exercise classes & sports sessions	£450

Community/Charity Hire for Events	
Event	Free if not charging public admission
Small event up to 500 people if charging admission	£75 (£15 extra for additional days)
Medium event 501 - 2000 people if charging admission	£150 (£25 extra for additional days)
Large event 2001 - 4999 people if charging admission	£300 (£50 extra for additional days)
Major event 5000+ people if charging admission	Price on application

Health and Wellbeing Working Party Minutes

23 September 2024

Present: Cllr. Smith (Chairperson), Cllr. Stuart, Cllr. Whapples, Cllr. Hobley, Cllr. Davey, Becky Evans, Dave Winter, Sally Roberts (all NWBC), Jamie-Rae Tanner (WCC)

Apologies for Absence: Jane Coates (WCC), Cllr. Bates, Milen Woldeab

Item	Notes	Action
4	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting (23 April 2024) and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.</p> <p>At its previous meeting, following a presentation by WCC, the Working Party had requested more comparative data on each school in relation to long-term absences. BE to chase.</p>	BE
5	<p>SPOTLIGHT – Measles and Whooping Cough</p> <p>A presentation on vaccinations, which will be circulated with the minutes, was given to the Working Party by Jamie-Rae Tanner, Public Health Consultant.</p> <p>Information was provided on measles, whooping cough / pertussis, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines.</p> <p>J-RT requested that the Working Party help to promote the vaccines to increase uptake.</p> <p>The Working Party requested additional data on vaccine uptake at each GP surgery.</p>	ALL J-RT
6	<p>SPOTLIGHT – Act on Energy</p> <p>Deferred</p>	
7	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p><u>WCC</u></p> <p>A number of health – related projects have been funded through Councillor Grants which is currently open for its second round of funding. The deadline for applications is 3 November.</p> <p>The Warwickshire Food Strategy 2023-2026 and delivery plan was approved by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet on the 18 April. There are three core priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving access to affordable food 2. Improving opportunities for people to eat more healthily 3. Encouraging more sustainable approaches to food supply, to reduce food waste and greenhouse gas emissions <p>"Kind Communities – Kind Food" is the heading for the community engagement aspect of the Food Strategy, and 4 groups in North Warwickshire have been awarded grants for food - related community projects.</p>	

Item	Notes	Action
	<p><u>Financial Inclusion</u></p> <p>From 1 April 2024, emergency food provision in North Warwickshire has been delivered by We Care UK.</p> <p>There has been great feedback in relation to the new provider, and anyone with a @northwarks.gov.uk email address can make a referral.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion Team are targeting parents at the school gates to encourage them to apply or find out if they are entitled to a Free School Meal.</p> <p><u>Leisure Facilities</u></p> <p>On the 18 September, the leisure facilities used National Fitness Day to promote the sites, offering promotions and joining the social media campaign #yourhealthisforlife</p> <p>DW to share any future marketing material with the Working Party to promote.</p> <p>On 17 September, blood glucose and cholesterol testing took place in the Council House for NWBC staff. 40 tests were completed, and a further testing event will take place on 2 December.</p> <p>Work continues with regard to Act for Autistics, providing training sessions for staff and conducting site surveys.</p> <p>The Working Party requested information on site closures. DW to provide for each meeting.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>
8	<p>Budget</p> <p>No requests received.</p>	
9	<p>Feedback from Relevant Partnership Meetings</p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>02 December 2024 at 18:00 24 February 2025 at 18:00 28 April 2025 at 18:00</p>	

Health and Wellbeing Working Party Minutes

2 December 2024

Present: Cllr. Smith (Chairperson), Cllr. Stuart, Cllr. Hobley, Cllr. Davey, Cllr. Ririe, Becky Evans, Rachael Hall, Milen Woldeab (all NWBC), Katie Wilson (WCC), Jane Coates (WCC), David Simkins (WCAVA), Dawn Sargent (GEH).

Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Whapples (substituted by Cllr. Ririe), Sally Roberts

Item	Notes	Action
4	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting (23 September 2024) and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.</p> <p>Previous actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its previous meeting, following a presentation by WCC, the Working Party had requested more comparative data on each school in relation to long-term absences. This has been provided and circulated. • Cllr. Stuart requested more comparative data on each school in order that Ward Members could view how schools in their area were performing. The Working Party asked if there was any youth provision / resource that could be allocated in those areas with low attendance rates. WCC provided the following response: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members can view schools' attendance data using the following GOV.UK link, this data is in the public domain but is a couple school terms lagged. Pupil absence in schools in England, Autumn and spring term 2023/24 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK The data can be filtered by schools in individual wards/areas 2. We have been successful with a bid for UKSPF funding to trial an approach for 6 months in North Warwickshire. This project is aimed at identifying and reducing barriers to attending school in Atherstone. We are trialling a tiered package of support, working with children, their families and the secondary school in Atherstone. Once we have completed the project we will be able to analysis what support works best with a view to seeking to roll out further. 3. WCC's Youth Service also have a youth offer based at the Radcliffe centre. 	
5	<p>SPOTLIGHT – Smokefree Generation</p> <p>A presentation, which will be circulated with the minutes, was given to the Working Party by the Public Health Service Manager (Smokefree Generation / Tobacco Control).</p> <p>As a person who smokes, Cllr. Hobley has volunteered to take part in the smoke free service and is happy to share her journey to encourage others to stop smoking.</p> <p>Additional funding has been allocated to Warwickshire to increase the number of smokers engaging with effective interventions to quit smoking. The service is open to everyone who live and / or works in Warwickshire. Any opportunities to engage with local residents and / or businesses should be sent to Katie Wilson katiwilson@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Cllr. Hobley</p> <p>ALL</p>

Item	Notes	Action
	<p>In support of the programme, the Working Party proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Each Authority-owned play area which has equipment enclosed with bow top fencing, becomes a smoke-free place. It was suggested to work with each local school so the pupils can design specific signs for each site. b) Through the hire of our pitches and green spaces, we will encourage teams and their spectators to be smoke-free during the duration of the hire. <p>These suggestions will be taken to the meeting of the Community and Environment Board in January for endorsement.</p>	BE
6	<p>Operation “Plenty”</p> <p>In partnership with Fire and Rescue, our Safer Neighbourhood Team are running “Operation Plenty” to visit vulnerable, lonely and isolated residents in North Warwickshire.</p> <p>The scheme is currently open to referrals. If you know someone in your community who would appreciate a visit from a police officer for a cup of tea and a chat, contact (with their consent) sntreachout@warwickshire.police.uk.</p> <p>To support the project, officers are collating information on local community groups who are offering support over Christmas, which will given to the resident during their visit. Information on local support and groups should be send to rachaelhall@northwarks.gov.uk</p>	ALL ALL
7	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>WCAVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Funding Fair was held in Atherstone which attracted over 50 organisations. • A number of funders are putting more emphasis on strategic links and priorities, and therefore groups may find it harder to apply for larger pots of money. <p>Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an interactive map of air quality which can be found at Air Quality Map - Check air pollution in your area - Airly Map with the information on the background data found at Background Mapping data for local authorities - Defra, UK 	
8	<p>Budget</p> <p>It was agreed by the Working Party that if endorsed by the Community and Environment Board in January, the cost to produce the smoke-free place signs for play areas could be funded through the Working Party budget. BE to confirm amount once agreed.</p> <p>The Working Party discussed the opportunity to use this budget to extend county-wide offers (such as the ICB lung bus) to increase the offer to those areas most in need in North Warwickshire. BE to explore the cost of increasing the engagement of the lung bus in North Warwickshire with the ICB.</p>	BE BE
9	<p>Feedback from Relevant Partnership Meetings</p> <p>None recorded.</p>	

Item	Notes	Action
10	Any Other Business None recorded.	
	Future Meeting Dates 24 February 2025 at 18:00 28 April 2025 at 18:00	

Agenda Item No 12

Community & Environment Board

20 January 2025

**Report of the
Chief Executive**

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Recommendation to the Board

To consider, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

Agenda Item No 13

Confidential Extracts of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 27 November 2024

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

In relation to the item listed above members should only exclude the public if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, giving their reasons as to why that is the case.

The Contact Officer for this report is Marina Wallace (719226)