

**Appendix 2**

Performance Report

**March 2025**

# Performance report MARCH 2025

## Traffic Light

Measure improving markedly

Measure improving

No/virtually no change, no trend or measure not “good” or bad”

Measure worsening

Measure worsening markedly

## CORPORATE PLAN 2023/27

Corporate Plan key objectives:

**Efficient and sustainable organisation – financial management, lean and responsive organisation**

**Safe, Liveable, Locally Focussed Communities – feeling safe, place-based enforcement, quality of life**

**Prosperous, active and healthy – jobs, infrastructure, connectivity, health**

**Sustainable growth, protected rurality - vibrant growth, sense of place, recognisably home**

## Efficient organisation – financial management, lean and responsive organisation

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| EO 1 - Deliver the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to improve the Council’s financial sustainability  Identifying the resources needed to deliver the Council’s plan to provide high-quality priority services to our communities |  | *Balanced budget and savings identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (N)*  *Review our approach to asset management with an Officer Board, reporting to Members, on a coordinated and proactive approach to the use of our assets, linked to service provision and commercial activity (N)*  *Appropriate charges for Green Waste and Parking to help sustain services (PI)*  *Efficiently collect money due to the Council, whilst continuing to offer support (PI)*  The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024-29 was reported to the Executive Board in November 2024 and the latest update can be found [here](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1894/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices). The MTFS was at the heart of the adopted budget, agreed by Council on 19th February 2025.  The Strategy is reviewed annually.  A number of projects have been identified in order to implement the Strategy’s aim of making the Council’s finances more sustainable, such as a review of the Council’s assets, a review of fees and charges that was included within the February 2025 budget, appraisal of the case for a commercial housing company (approved by this Board in June and which officer are taking further advice on regarding the preliminary steps for establishing the company), review of leisure provision, and a review of waste collection in the light of Government changes.  Collection rates for the current year are:  CTAX – Target for end of Financial year is 98.2%  Collection as of 26/02/2025 is 94.85%  NDR - Target for end of Financial year is 99%  Collection as of 26/02/2025 is 95.33%  Sundry Debts – current collection rate 83% (September’s rate was 84%) |
| EO 2 - A robust transformation programme to ensure our services and processes are as lean as possible  Consider new models of working and providing services |  | A separate update setting out the year’s transformation activities was [reported](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1854/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) to Executive Board in September 2024.  As Members will be aware, prior to 2019/20, the Council had no dedicated transformation resources and the progress made by the team has been excellent. A log of the prior achievements, as reported to this Board, is attached.  As can be seen from the report, there is a busy work programme which has been supplemented by the new Data Analyst post and the work on a Performance Dashboard report elsewhere on this agenda.    An update on recent work activity is included [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.northwarks.gov.uk%2Fdownloads%2Ffile%2F2259%2Ftransformation-updates-feb-2025&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  In addition, the Planning team, working with IT colleagues have successfully bid to join the [Open Digital Planning](https://opendigitalplanning.org/) programme which is “A community of forward-thinking Local Planning Authorities working together to shape a more efficient, data-driven planning system”. |
| EO 3 - Develop our staff in the new skills needed, properly supported by IT |  | *Staff survey results (PI)*  Staff appraisals take place on an annual basis and lead to the production of a training plan. The form has been revised this year to explicitly link individual objectives to the Corporate Plan via Divisions’ Service Plans.  The Council undertakes an annual staff survey. The 24/25 survey has now closed, and the results being collated. They will be reported to Members shortly and included in the September 2025 update of this Performance Report.  The key results for the 23/24 survey as are follows:  A total of 165 employees completed the survey. This is a response rate of 50%, which is an increase from previous years, which is positive in itself. There were 47 questions in total, which were split over 7 areas.  A summary of the responses is set out in the table below, with last year’s result to aid comparison and a graphic summary of the results can be found [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=x3VW3qYURqzw8unN8I7jajFc9GnCwmbR&id=B55DB4ThdEWI27dNcUbEEX-8EgxEStRLluwa97qjFohUQUsyRlNBVjhHOVBLWDJUUjkwSVFYVDhFTy4u&wdLOR=c11E2F1A9-40B7-4EEA-A7A4-330D9265C986) |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **No of Qs** | **Summary of Results** | | | | | | | | |
| **Best Ever** | **Significantly**  **Improved** | **Improved** | **Slightly Improved** | **Same** | **Slightly Worse** | **Worse** | **Significantly**  **Worse** | **Worse Ever** |
| **Communication** | 12 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Training & Development** | 9 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 | 4 |  |
| **Staff Morale** | 13 | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 5 | 6 |  |  |
| **Community Engagement** | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Management** | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |  | 3 | 1 | 1 |  |
| **H&S** | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| **E Learning** | 3 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **47** | **6** | **1** | **2** | **2** | **2** | **14** | **12** | **7** | **1** |

As can be seen, the results of this year’s survey are statistically lower in comparison to the results from the 2022 survey. However, overall, there were still many positive results.  For example, the question “Do you know how you can help the Council to succeed?” may be statistically ‘significantly worse’ when compared to the 2022 result, however, 82% of respondents answered ‘Yes’. There are however some areas that will be considered.

The results have been fed back to staff and Divisional actions plans are being produced to identify 3 key actions within each Team. A new staff engagement group has been created by the staff led Organisational Development Group and it held its first meeting on 7th February, as a workshop looking at these results, and met again on the 17th July. Further meetings are planned in 2025. Three sub groups have been established to look at Communication, Management and Staff Morale and work continues within these sub groups. In addition there are a number of recommendations from the LGA’s DMA review which were reported to Members last year that officers will consider, including a People Strategy which will look at these issues.

**Table Summary of Staff Survey Results 2023/24**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **No of Qs** | **Summary of Results** | | | | | | | | |
| **Best Ever** | **Sig.**  **Improved** | **Improved** | **Slightly Improved** | **Same** | **Slightly Worse** | **Worse** | **Sig.**  **Worse** | **Worse Ever** |
| **Communication** | 12 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Training & Development** | 9 | 2 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Staff Morale** | 13 | 11 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Community Engagement** | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Management** | 8 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **H&S** | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Data Protection** | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **47** | **31** | **9** | **2** | **2** | **2** | **1** |  |  |  |

**47 Questions in total split over 7 areas**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| EO 4 - Develop our vulnerability work from COVID 19 to provide additional assurance to residents who may be experiencing difficulties |  | **Financial Inclusion Update March 2025**  The Council has increased the resources it has to help people with financial issues and improve the sustainability of their finances, with a significant amount of work being undertaken by the Council and with its partners.  **Financial Inclusion Update March 2025**   * **Financial Inclusion Partnership meetings for 24/25 period:**   + 19/6/24 - TEAMs   + 26/9/24 – F2F (TEAMs link available)   + 5/12/24 - TEAMs   + 19/3/25 – F2F (TEAMs link available) * **Plan for 25/26:**   + - ‘Data Group’ now a standing agenda item       * To develop data led projects and initiatives to support ‘take up’ campaigns, help identify potential joint project work, emerging issues and funding opportunities       * Support households with energy saving linked to available EPC data     - Supporting Vulnerable residents and to consider a Vulnerability register for the LA     - Food Insecurity and options for support pathways     - Raise awareness and take-up of ‘gateway’ Benefits, such as Pension Credit     - Continue to develop initiatives and support for residents facing challenges with the cost of living, especially fuel   **Financial Inclusion Support Delivery: April 24 to February 25**   * **181** Households supported with Money Matters by the FI Support Officer   + **59** had a vulnerability   + **101** helped to claim additional benefits   + **39** Food vouchers awarded     - NB: Many in crisis, also accessed other options across the borough who were in crisis   + **33** Fuel Bank vouchers issued (Apr 24 to July 24)   + **144** referred / signposted for additional support services     - This will include multiple referrals for individuals to various organisations for support   + **39** referred for energy efficiency support and access to insulation schemes / small measures * **Headlines:**   + **£58,609.55 –** Helped to increase household incomes by this amount through benefit maximisation   + **£10,256 –** helped households to secure in DHP   + **£161,514 –** total debt owed by the households supported     - NB: this across 22 cases (approx. £7,341 per household)   + **£167,502.71** – total Council Tax debt owed by the households supported     - * NB: this is across 72 cases     - **24** Council tax Lump sum payments negotiated     - **45** Council tax payment arrangements put in place   + Outreach work developed and available in local venues and schools   + Attend the Over 65’s Social Supermarket to provide advice and signposting   + Supported initiatives, events and community groups   + FSM Campaign undertaken as part of Levelling Up work   + Cost of Living evet undertaken as part of Levelling Up work   **Emergency Food Provision**  From April 2024 North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) commissioned and funded through the UKSPF, ‘We Care UK’ to supply and deliver Emergency Food provision to residents facing financial hardship across the borough.  The relationship with We Care UK is based on a 3-year period, with the first 12 months being a funded period and the expectation that the following 2 years they will become a fully sustainable service.  We Care UK offer a responsive, seven day per week service, providing well balanced nutritional food for a minimum of three days. This helps support local people and families through an immediate food crisis. Referrals to We Care UK are made by approved agencies and organisations who may be helping to support local people in other ways. Once the simple online referral is made, the resident is contacted within a couple of hours to arrange for the food to be delivered the same day! We Care UK also offer doorstep budgeting sessions from their trained advisers and signposting to our other local partners for support.  **April 24 to Feb 25**  We Care UK provided:   * **424** households provided with an Emergency Food Parcels   + **244** households with children   + **85** single occupants   + **50** pensioner households   + **53** disabled households * We Care UK also offer budgeting sessions on the doorstep and follow ups. They supported:   + **71** households with budgeting support   **Christmas Support – We Care Uk**  We Care UK also provided an opportunity for NWBC and partners, to support families with Christmas hampers and children with age-appropriate toys. The support provided:   * **92** Christmas hampers provide to households * **233** Children received and age-appropriate toy / gift   We are looking forward to continuing the great work with We Care UK to support our local residents facing financial challenges and food insecurity.  **Christmas Support – Ediblelinks**  **Ediblelinks allocated NWBC 15 families to refer for Christmas Hampers in Dec 24:**   * **6** were identified NWBC teams * **8** were identified by Racemeadow * **1** PCSO * \*A We Care UK case study highlighting their work is attached below:   **Emergency Food Parcels (EFP) – by ‘Ward’**   * Embedded is the spread of EFP by ward. This does not include homeless or No Fixed Abode cases.     **Emergency Food Data – Graphs**  **We Care UK – Schools project**  We care UK were successful in securing some additional funding from the HSF to work in schools. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the schools would mirror those that NWBC have been working with on FSM in our Creating Opportunities area to help build better outcomes in a concentrated area. The schools included in the project are: Outwoods, St Benedict’s, Woodside, Nursery Hill and Arley, plus Racemeadow.  Given that the HSF funding was only awarded in December for completion by end of Mar, time was very limited. Schools were slow to take up the initiative and identify a designated lead to refer families. Therefore, the offer has been widened to take referrals from our secondary schools across the area. The data so far:   * **December 2024 - February 2025**    + **362** Households supported with food parcels via schools     - This included 644 people in total   + **91%** of the referrals had not had a food parcel previously, from any other source * However, there are additional offers that are offered across the borough which are promoted by our teams and on our website – see link[Food Supply Help | Cost of Living | North Warwickshire Borough Council (northwarks.gov.uk)](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/benefits/cost-living/2)   + - LA staff and We Care UK actively encourage residents to access the Ediblelinks Social Supermarket as a ‘next steps’ from crisis provision and as a platform into becoming a more sustainable shopping option.     - The LA also have a supply of **‘Emergency’ Aldi vouchers** which we use to support many in crisis       * We have to date, awarded **184** vouchers to the value of **£5,925** * **Ediblelinks Social Supermarket for over 65’s**   + To support pensioners, following the government’s announcement regarding the cessation of the Winter Fuel Allowance for all pensioners, Ediblelinks hosted a weekly Social Supermarket session for people over 65. This initiative started on 5th November 24.   + **Data:**     - Period 5/11/24 to 28/1/25 they have supported **246** pensioners to access affordable, nutritional food     - The NWBC FISO also attends to provide advice and signposting for any additional support   **UKSPF funded Projects**   * **NW Connect and Learn**    + Digital sessions started and were made available in 7 local community venues for 10 weeks   + Open to all residents who need to learn computer basics and get online   + Drop ins for residents to ask any question relation to getting online including mobile questions!   + Running alongside the **Money, Money, Maths** (DWP Multiply programme)     - A cost-of-living workshop helping people to budget and save money     - The outcomes document, up to end of June 24:     **Tackling Social Inequalities Funding (TSI)**   * Funding to continue to support **NW Connect and Learn** Sessions up to end of Mar 25, (originally funded via UKSPF until end of Mar 24)– a final report is awaited * **Red Card Gambling** awareness Sessions (up to end Mar 25)   + Open to **ALL** frontline workers, working across the NORTH (NB and NW areas)   + An **CPD accredited** course   + 10 sessions (30 participants per session max) – Completed by Dec 24   + These sessions most closely link to Priority 1 of the WCC Tackling Social Inequalities Strategy which relates to ‘***upskilling practitioners to increase their skills and confidence in identifying and supporting residents facing financial hardship’*.**   + **10** sessions completed to date (end of Aug 24)     - **98** attendees from across the FI Partnership     - Feedback:       * **75%** ‘excellent’ and **25%** Good       * **100%** enjoyed the awareness session       * **85%** commented that the course should be delivered again within their organisation       * Comments from attendees - ‘invaluable’, ‘insightful’, ‘informative. ‘a real eye opener’, ‘thanks for sharing your lived experience’ * **REPF**   + Approx 150 Energy Packs purchased, consisting of:     - Thermal electric throws     - Slow Cooker     - Draught proofing     - Radiator Reflector foil     - LED Bulbs   + We will be utilising and distributing some packs at the Big Day Out events and during a data lead project in spring / Autumn 25 in Mancetter south and Ridge Lane area   + We used 2 packs to incentivise engagement at the Mancetter and Ridge Lane Cost of Living event on 23/4/24   + Slow cookers have been provided to community groups as follows: Water Orton, Ridge Lane, St Peters Church in Mancetter to support their offer to the local community   **Councillor Hardship Fund**   * Following member approval the Councillor Hardship fund went live early 2024 * £5,000 allocated per ward * Eligibility Criteria and FI team to administer * The administration is all managed via the TEAMS channel * **Data** (to close in October 24):   + Total Fund = £85,000   + Spend £32,500   + Balance = £52,500   + Total number of applications = 25     - 2 Refused     - 23 Approved   **NWBC Winter Fuel Award**  North Warwickshire Borough Council agreed to make a payment to a target group of ‘pensioner’ residents to partially cover the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance following the Government’s announcement to cease the payment.  The ***NWBC Winter Fuel Award*** was a decision taken by members in October 2024. With only a finite amount of money available, and to avoid undue costs and time, it was decided to specifically target a cohort of Pensioners, who’s details were already held and who could be highlighted on our Benefits and Council Tax system. A one-off direct payment of £100 was made to the customers identified by the system. This cohort were determined by the criteria as outlined below:   * Over 66 years of age * NOT on Pension Credit * On Council Tax Support as at 1st October 2024 * Have less than £3,000 in savings   **NWBC WFA Data Outcomes:**   * **484** - Total number of pensioners that fulfilled the permitted criteria * **428** – Actual number of pensioners who received a NWBC Winter Fuel Award * Total Payments made = **£42,800** * **26** - Pensioners stated that they didn’t need or want the payment due to becoming entitled to Pension Credit / passed away * **8** – pensioners supported to claim Pension Credit * We have had some lovely feedback and many ‘thanks’ from our customers for the council support   + - *‘It is with a heartfelt thanks for the payment towards Winter fuel and it's so kind as any payment helps, It is appreciated’*   \*Refer to embedded document for further details    **Free School Meals**  **Headlines.....**   * Countywide FSM working group to look at take up and how it can be promoted better and help to increase numbers - ongoing * Michael Drayton school received TSI funding from WCC to provide FSM to all children in school for 1 term which has been very successful, and Warwick University are undertaking a study re outcomes – to be completed * As you are aware NWBC has developed and supported Free School Meal initiatives to ensure that we maximise take up for our children, wherever possible. Therefore, we are supporting the Food Foundation’s call for Free School Meal auto-enrolment which was sent to Stephen Morgan MP in December. A letter requesting the support from our 2 MP’s was issued in February 25, which they are both happy to support.   **NWBC FSM Project – *Have your cake and eat it!* (‘Creating Opportunities’ aka Levelling Up)**   * Locally, we secured some FSM funding from WCC to work in the Mancetter South and Ridge Lane to support FSM take up * 5 feeder schools for the area – Outwoods, Nursery Hill, Woodside, Arley and St Benedicts * We went ‘back to basics’ – letters home in school bags, placemat for every child in school, chatting to parents at school gates, checking FSM entitlement and offering advice drop-in sessions monthly   **FSM Data outcomes:**   * **951** letters and placemats issued to all children * **12** sessions speaking to parents direct at school gates * **74** Free School Meal forms completed * **20** additional FSM to register * **£187,960** additional Pupil Premium funding for the schools * **£475** per year saving for each FSM family (190 school days x average school meal @£2.50)   + - **20** FSM families total saving = **£9,500**   \*Refer to embedded documents for more detail    **To note:** below is a table that demonstrates that the FSM work undertaken over the last 6 vears has made a difference to the FSM numbers and take up in schools.    **Pension Credit Take Up**   * Low take up of Pension Credit nationally and in NWBC area pensioners ‘may be’ missing out on a approx. £4.2 million in North Warwickshire constituency – see below table * We looked at Revs and Bens data and identified a small ‘pilot’ cohort of 36 pensioners to work with where it appears that they may be entitled to Pension Credit   + We wrote to all the cohort informing them of a call to discuss and offer a PC check   + We completed calls and pension credit calculation checks to identify potential entitlement   + We discussed how they could apply, if they we able to apply themselves, had family to help, or whether we needed to help them to apply   + **Data Outcomes –** to date. Some are delayed due to delays in PC processing:     - **7** awarded     - **7** Did Not Qualify     - **6** awaiting decision     - **4** not wishing to pursue     - **1** deceased     - **1** moved out of area     - **2** moved to care homes     - **8** failed to engage and details passed to housing as NWBC tenants and had additional needs with other issues   + During this process we have also identified some cases where we should be applying Single Person Discount for pensioners. This has been rectified and an additional **£6,383** has been awarded in Single Person Discount * MP and Councillor Pension Credit ‘drop-in’ sessions have been supported across the borough by the FI team. We have been able to advice and to help claim. However, these have had relatively low attendance   + We have recently obtained access to a ‘Pensioner Credit Dashboard’ which holds a wealth of information regarding our pensioners. This is currently in the process of being revised for a more accurate overview of Pensioners across the borough. Once this is available, I will share the information. * PC Take Up messages have been scheduled to go out via our comms channels in line with the DWP comms toolkit provided   + We will continue to promote the take-up of Pension Credit as it is a vital ‘gateway’ benefit for many pensioners     **CitySave Credit Union**  **Affordable Credit**   * A working group has been established across Warwickshire to look at more affordable lending options * Some funding available via WCC and IMLT (POCA) * New initiative in relation to ‘affordable lending’ offer for those who are generally unable to borrow from mainstream, lenders via CitySave Credit Union * Some funding has been allocated for 24/25 in relation to communication for CitySave and maximising reach across the county with target groups * This work will continue to be developed throughout 2024/25, and hopefully 2026 * We will continue to build our relationship and promote Citysave Credit union as an saving and affordable lending option for our residents   **NWBC Employee Support**   * City Save CU payroll deduction scheme available and promoted for employees. A direct deduction form salary for ‘savings scheme’ * The CU offer of the ‘*PrizeSaver’* Account – where you could win up to £5,000 per month * We will continue to promote this to employees   **Severn Trent Water (STW)**   * We have been working on a setting up a pilot with STW for our Intro tenancies to give a discount of up to 70% on their water bills to support people in the first 12 months   + However, progress has been slow and we are still in the process of trying to get the DSA and appropriate documentation agreed between the two parties – this is still an ongoing issue * STW will be presenting to the NW FIP re new schemes available * We have scheduled in some STW refresher training sessions for NWBC and partners * STW have offered for the FISO and TSO (Housing) to become trusted referral agents for the Big Difference Scheme, however this is dependent on the DSA been agreed and signed. Training will be provided by STW   **Creating Opportunities – Mancetter and Ridge Lane**   * The FI team supported local initiatives in relation to ‘Creating Opportunities’ (aka Levelling Up’) – ‘Have Your Cake and Eat It! (FSM campaign), SMART Living (cost of living event), TIME Out sessions, café and drop-in sessions * Future initiatives in the coming months and Warmer Home, Healthier You (Project EPC)   **Communications**   * We will continue to promote messages in relation to FI activity, employment, Move to UC, benefit changes, PC up take and important information in relation to cost of living challenges. * We work with the Communications team to schedule relevant messages over a period of time |
| EO 5 - Ensure as many services are based in North Warwickshire as possible to ensure they reflect and respond to the Borough, including working with partners on digital connectivity. |  | The Council continues to advocate for as many services as possible to be delivered in the Borough.  As reported previously, several services have been co-located with leisure services. The Council is seeking to increase the number of related services on offer at its centres, including using advanced health measuring scales using funding from the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.  The Council continues to implement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund delivery plan, with a total of £1.4m allocated to a range of projects in the community and to support local businesses.  As mentioned below in PH5 and PH6, a Warwickshire North Place Health Grant has been created and the Council has bid for funding to support the acquisition of the equipment and staff training that would enable the provision of blood glucose and blood cholesterol testing. This is part of an overall push to integrate our leisure and exercise offer with the related health issues, as part of an overall wellbeing service and more supportive membership journey for those using our Leisure services. Recent additional actions include a weekly Memory Café started at Atherstone Memorial Hall. Officers are working with the George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust on the option of hosting a Cardiac Rehabilitation programme at the Memorial Hall.  Our work on Community Safety continues to push for greater Police resource in the Borough and more continuity of service. Successful bids for OPPCC funding and Safer Streets funding have been made and a number of projects/services will be introduced in to the Borough.  Members are aware of the Council’s work to improve its leisure offer. Work continues with partners, particular health to examine if the related services included in the LUF bids can still be included in order to secure and improve the services available in the area.  There have been a number of meetings (the latest on the 13th February) with Network Rail and the [West Midlands Rail Executive](https://wmre.org.uk/) (WMRE) (part of the Combined Authority arrangements) on the opportunities for more rail services in the Borough, This has focussed initially on Water Orton and Coleshill Parkway.  The Government has announced initial funding of £123m for the Midlands Rail Hub (MRH) project, using funding repurposed following decisions on the future of HS2. This funding will be reviewed as part of this summer’s Comprehensive Spending Review, and currently forms part of a £1.75bn investment strategy for the MRH with the aim of more services in and out of Birmingham (and other cities). The Eastern Project section of the MRH will look at more trains per hour from Birmingham to Nottingham and to Leicester which may allow for more services within the Borough. Improvements at Moor Street Station is key to this and services from our area may terminate there rather than New Street.  This project is at an early stage but as a result of meeting with WMRE’s Head of Rail Policy and Strategy, our wish for additional services (and which cover more of the day) is being advocated for within that development work. The proposal is being finalised for submission ahead of the timetabling process which is then announced in December. This Council and the County Council will be writing again to CrossCountry trains to express its support for these additional services.  The County Council are currently reviewing the ‘station prospectuses’ for Coleshill Parkway and Water Orton which have been completed in draft and will be discussed as part of the Transport Strategy work. WCC are also reviewing the options to improve services at Polesworth station. There are also longer-term aspirations regarding a new Polesworth station and a Kingsbury Parkway station.  All these projects will form a significant part of the North Warwickshire Transport Plan (see PH4 below)  A Member meeting/workshop with Severn Trent Water took place on the 4th December and allowed Members to raise a number of concerns regarding the quality of the services in the Borough. A separate email address has been provided for Councillors – Officers are aware that there are times when replies are delayed, and this has been raised with Severn Trent Water officers.  The Council continues to work with the County Council on improving digital connectivity in the Borough. Devices are being placed with our refuse vehicles (as they cover the whole of the Borough) which will measure the strength, or otherwise, of the mobile phone network in the Borough to give further information on areas with poor coverage.  The CSW Broadband project is now complete with 78,000 properties across the region now capable of being connected to the fastest broadband. The final project included new cabinets in Dordon, Grendon and Hartshill.  Warwickshire and Leicestershire have been awarded £71m from Project Gigabit and have appointed City Fibre to assess where interventions would be helpful.  We are also involved in communications about the digital switch that is due to happen this year.  A workshop with WCC colleagues is being developed in the summer in which the connectivity issues affecting the Borough can be discussed. Member representation will be invited to this workshop. |
| EO6 – Action from the Residents’ Survey |  | As Members will be aware, the overall [results](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1510/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) from the Residents’ Survey were very positive.  There were a number of issues however which highlighted areas for the Council, and its partners, to work on.  The Council is very keen for the Residents’ Survey to remain a ‘live’ document and to influence the Council’s actions and priorities.  To that end, the Council’s Budget adopted last month continued to reflect the issues raised and provided further initial funding towards examining the feasibility of replacement leisure facilities given the general support for enhanced leisure provision set out in the survey results.  The top priorities for households included inflationary pressures on the cost of living and the Council has increased the staffing resources in our Financial Inclusion Team (see EO4 above for an update on the Council’s Financial Inclusion work). It also provided a payment to older residents to offset some of the loss of Winter Fuel Payments.  In addition the appearance and cleanliness of the Borough was identified and the Council identified further funding for street cleaning (£125,000) and a High Street Grant fund £100,000). Both of these projects have now been agreed for a second year.  The issue of feeling safe after dark was also highlighted and Officers will seek to discuss this with partners with the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership.  How we communicate with residents, in particular our reception and customer service arrangements, also came out as a priority and the Interim Corporate Director Resources and Head of Corporate Services will lead a review into these areas which will start in the next few months. |
| EO7 – Continue the Council’s sustainability work looking at the business case for reducing our carbon emissions |  | The Council has declared a climate emergency and adopted a [Climate Change Action Plan](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/download/10/climate-change-downloads) and the latest position is set out below:  **Fleet electrification**  The Council recently approved a report looking electrify the small fleet (vehicles less than 3.5 tonnes). This decision will lead to a significant reduction in scope 1 (direct) emissions for the Council. As the electricity grid continues to become less carbon intensive as more renewable projects are connected, this will see the electrified fleet emissions reduce down to net-zero.  The Council fleet produces an estimate 550-600tonnesCO2 annually. It is believed that by electricity the small fleet these scope1 emissions be reduced by an estimated 100-200 tonnesCO2 annually. With the remaining emissions coming from the Council’s heavy fleet refuse and recycling vehicles.  To support this development, a tender is currently live to allocate an installer of Electric Vehicle Charging points at Sheepy Road Depot. This will enable the Council charge the vehicles overnight, and aim for a cheap electrical tariff allowing low carbon, and cheaper energy to run vehicles than internal combustion counterparts.  **Low Carbon Diesel replacement pilot**  It is likely not viable to replace the heavy fleet with electric vehicles prior to their replacement towards the end of the decade. However, it is important that work is undertaken to continue to reduce emissions to achieve the Council’s net-zero target.  Alternative fuels are available that provide a significant emissions reduction when used in place of diesel. One such fuel is known as Hydrotreated vegetable Oil, HVO. The emissions saving can be between 70%-95% simply by using this drop in alternative fuel.  Whilst the Council explores if HVO is a valid proposal for the Council’s net-zero plan, a joint pilot has been undertaken alongside Warwickshire County Council.  HVO fuel will be used in a single vehicle of North Warwickshire to monitor vehicle performance, any mileage impacts, cost impacts of alternative fuels and sustainability. This pilot has been operation since 17th February 2025, with no vehicle issues reported by the vehicle manager. The emissions savings will be calculated in time, as the exact emissions per litre of fuel cannot be provided at fuel delivery. But should the pilot prove successful, it is possible that HVO or another alternative fuel, may offer an option to reduce emissions, prior to electrification    **Gas usage**  Data processing of utilities is an ongoing issue that is being resolved through ongoing communication with the energy providers, the production of internal systems and the installation of smart meters. Despite these challenges the data is already able to indicate trends in gas usage across the Council.  The Council House demonstrates that there has been a reduction in gas use from 2020 to 2024. This is a positive step as the burning of gas is a direct cause of CO2 emissions, hence minimising gas use is an essential step to reaching net-zero emissions. Gas usage can be reduced through improving the fabric of the building (insulation), reducing heat loss (air tightness, Heat recovery) or behaviour change (reducing thermostats, etc). However, these methods will always reach a limit on the level of reduction attainable. A net-zero future will see gas boilers widely removed and replaced with low carbon technologies such as heat pumps, or other electrical systems. The levelling off of gas usage reductions at the Council house in 2022 and 2024 may suggest that the gas usage has hit a point that a more significant retrofit is now required. If the gas boiler were replaced with an electrical system the emission would reduce in line with the electrician of the UK energy grid. With the current labour government aiming for a carbon free grid by 2030.  **Atherstone leisure redevelopment**  Atherstone leisure centre is the Council’s greatest user of gas. This gas is used to heat the pool and the building. The gas consumption of Atherstone accounts for roughly 68% of the Councils entire gas usage, and directly emits around 300 tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere each year.  The recent discussions regarding the redevelopment of the Atherstone leisure complex presents an opportunity to significantly reduce the Council’s emissions and take a substantial step towards the net-zero target. If any new heating system were electrical, and the grids carbon intensity reduces as expected towards 2030, it will be possible to negate the direct emissions currently released from the leisure centre. Failure to electrify heating will likely lead to a substantial gas consumption well beyond the 2030 net-zero target. Discussion regarding the leisure centre are still ongoing. But it is hoped energy efficiency, gas usage and emissions will be a part of those discussions.  **Emissions trajectory**  There is still a considerable amount of work to complete in order to achieve net-zero by 2030. However, if the outlined developments are successfully completed,   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Project | Estimated Emissions reduction (tonnes) | | Electrification of the small fleet | 150 | | HVO for a single refuse vehicle | 9 | | Electrified heating for Atherstone leisure | 300 |   Then it is estimated that this could reduce the Councils emissions by 459 tonnes. A 63.5% reduction compared to the 2019 emission baseline. This level of reduction will support the Council in the continued drive for net-zero by 2030, and whilst acknowledging the challenge in achieving this goal, the outline reduction continues to keep the target in sight. |

## Safe, liveable, locally focussed communities – feeling safe, place based enforcement, quality of life

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| COM 1 - Continue to play a leading role in the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership working with the community, including the Police, Town and Parish Councils and people of all ages, background and areas, to improve public perception of crime and public confidence in feeling safe by contributing towards the achievement of the Partnership plan actions and targets for the current strategic priorities. This will be particularly important for those who have spent considerable periods of time shielding against the risk caused by COVID-19.  COM 2 - Work with partners to resolve Safer Neighbourhood issues, including, where necessary, taking action to address anti-social and nuisance behaviour |  | *Reporting on a range of Safer Communities indicators linked to Violent Crime (with a focus on domestic violence and abuse, sexual offences and drug and alcohol related), Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety (with a focus on road traffic accidents resulting in killed or serious injuries), Crime in Rural Areas (PI, N)*  Updates regarding the key Safer Communities issues are reported to the Safer Communities Sub Group  The latest agendas can be found [here](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1892/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices), and [here](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/617/safer-communities-sub-committee), with a further meeting on the 25th March.  As discussed in EO6 above, the recent residents’ survey has provided further insights into residents’ views on feeling safe. The vast majority of residents (94%) say that they feel safe in their local area during the day, and this is in line with the LGA national benchmark 93%) but above the regional benchmark (89%).  However, the figure for feeling safe after dark (62%) underperforms both LGA comparators (73% national and 67% regional). Officers have arranged to meet with the County Council’s Community Safety analysts to discuss what further work can be done to understand the reasons behind this issue. The County Council, on behalf of the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships, have undertaken a survey of reported cases and perceptions of Community Safety which will help with this further work. The ‘Your Say on Community Safety’ survey last summer, hosted on the Ask Warwickshire website: [https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk](https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/) The survey asked people who live, work and/or study in Warwickshire for their views on a range of community safety issues. The results were used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessments, which were undertaken in the autumn and used to set new CSP priorities. They will be analysed down to Ward level, so should give us a helpful insight into the views of residents and those who work and study in the county. This will be reported to the March Safer Subcommittee but the draft priorities are as follows:  Image.png  This reflects the motion approved by the Council on Domestic Violence at its February meeting. A brief overview of work to date on this subject will be taken to the March Safer Sub committee with a fuller presentation at the next meeting.  A monthly ‘Problem Solving Meeting’ is chaired by the Police Inspector to consider data and target hot spot locations using the SARA problem solving approach and to implement Problem Solving Plans. Current plans include:   * Theft from motor vehicle offences – **Operation YARD** is focusing on Corley Services. Several arrests have been made linked to organised crime. * **Operation REDUCE** - tackling, disrupting and dismantling county lines drug supply activities. Work is to be undertaken at several locations in North Warwickshire. Offenders are believed to be cross-border from the West Midlands   Four projects have been approved for funding via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, including Off Road Bike Projects (K Barrier Installation and fencing), a Road Safety Project and Crime prevention equipment to address acquisitive crime in NW.  **Serious Violence Project**.  One project has been approved to fund a Virtual Reality knife crime programme that will visit secondary schools in North Warwickshire.  Members will be aware that work on a Public Spaces Protection Order in respect of Atherstone Town Centre covering several anti-social activities has been approved by this Board earlier this year. The legal process post adoption has now been completed and the Order is in effect.  The CCTV system in Atherstone continues to be well used and effective, supported by funding from the UKSPF. This was further supported in the February 2025 budget.  In addition, there has been other significant funding on CCTV. As a result of successful funding applications via Safer Streets Funding and UK SPF, 12 new cameras have been purchased with 4 cameras allocated to Parish Councils. North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership therefore currently has 20 cameras.  The Housing team continues to work with the Police’s Safer Neighbourhood Teams on issues of anti-social behaviour. The Tenancy Services Team and our Solicitor have recently tackled two serious cases of anti-social behaviour. In one an injunction was obtained to protect residents. In the other close liaison with the Police and mental health services enabled the team to safeguard the joint tenant and neighbours. |
| COM 3 - Advocate on behalf of the Borough to ensure sufficient levels of key services in the area, particularly Police and street lighting. |  | See update on EO 5 above |
| COM 4- Maintain a very high standard of street cleanliness throughout the Borough, tackling litter and fly tipping as quickly as possible |  | *Report on the cleanliness of the Borough (PI)*  The latest position on fly tipping was reported to the Community and Environment Board meeting on the [5th February 2025](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2031/Agenda%2520-%2520Community%2520%2526%2520Environment%2520Board%2520-%25205%2520February%25202025)  The Council has created a new post of Environmental Crime Officer, and following a successful recruitment exercise, Andy Timmins started work last year and has presented on the detail of his work to date to the C&E Board.  Since August the Council has investigated 218 cases. 9 Fixed Penalty Notices have or will shortly be issued, four cases are being listed for prosecution, there has been one formal caution and 4 Community Protection Warnings |
| COM 5 - Ensure maximum coordination between enforcement teams to resolve complex social and environmental issues likely to significantly impact on quality of life. |  | *Report on the work of our enforcement teams in Planning, Housing and Environmental Health (N)*  The Planning, Environmental Health and Legal teams continue to work together on cross cutting issues.  One recent example of this was the traveller incursion at the Cattle Market car park in Atherstone where members from all three teams ensured there was an injunction served and the car park recovered within a week of the incursion.  The structures for both the Environmental Health team and Planning teams have been reviewed in recent year and additional posts added, for example in the February 2025 budget which provided money for a further Planning Enforcement Officer. Regular updates on this work are provided to the Planning and Development and Community and Environment Boards.  The Chief Executive continues to chair joint working project groups on issues as necessary, for example on the safety issues relating to protests at Kingsbury Oil Terminal, fly tipping cases, the Lea Marston Shooting Ground, and more recently the Abattoir in Arley on which Environmental Health and Planning Officers are working closely together. The case is due to be reported to the Planning and Development Board shortly. |
| COM 6 - Support for High Streets via the High Street Grant Fund and UKSPF funding’ |  | The Communities team continue work with the three Partnerships in Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth, in delivering a range of activities to both enhance the attractiveness of the market towns, increase footfall and support local businesses.  The Market Towns Officer role, funded through UKSPF, will continue to be delivered until March 2025, and focuses on supporting the Partnerships.  This includes seeking funding to support their continued work, as well as working more generally with businesses to identify their concerns and ideas for future growth.  The Shop Front Improvement Grant, announced in the Council’s Budget in February last year and renewed in this year’s budget, has proved extremely popular:    Some examples of the improvements can be found on this document:    Further work will be required, with the Heritage and Conservation Officer, to ensure that grants are well spent and the work conforms to appropriate planning regulations. |

**Prosperous and healthy –**

**Jobs, Infrastructure, connectivity, health**

## Prosperous and healthy – jobs, infrastructure, connectivity, health

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| PH 1 - Produce a revised Economic Development Strategy linked to the UK and WM Industrial Strategies, including identifying projects to be supported from Government funding. |  | | *A dashboard of economic indicators linked to the Economic Development Strategy including skill levels, employment rates, benefit claimant rates, wage/salary data (PI, N)*  A revised draft Economic Development Strategy, to complement the employment land strategy within the adopted Local Plan, was considered by this Board last year before being consulted on, together with several Forward Planning documents. The consultation responses are currently being considered and a final draft Strategy will be reported to Members in due course. However, there are a number of other pieces of work which need to be prioritised, such as a review of the Local Plan  The Council has also input into the Warwickshire Strategy, the Coventry and Warwickshire Strategy and a West Midlands Investment Strategy. | |
| PH 2 - Use developer contributions and other funding to maximise opportunities to support business and the employment of local people including addressing skills gaps as well as the improvement of the environment, leisure and other community services that add value to people’s lives.  Implement measures funded by the Business Support element of the North Warwickshire UKSPF |  | | The Council issues an Infrastructure Funding Report every year, the latest being 2024, which has been published recently and since the last performance update, having been [considered](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2030/Agenda%25202%2520-%2520Planning%2520%2526%2520Development%2520Board%2520-%25203%2520February%25202025) by the Planning and Development Board in February 2025. Each year’s report can be found [here](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/download/56/council_tax_resident_care_home_downloads)  The County Council’s statements can be viewed [here](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/developer-contributions/annual-infrastructure-statement/1)  There is an extensive Infrastructure Delivery Plan linked to the adopted Local Plan, which will seek developer contributions on a range of issues [IDP 2018](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/2258/infrastructure-delivery-plan-march-2018)  Work continues to offer support to those seeking jobs and further training. A skills plan is being developed with local partners to support the employment land allocation in the Local Plan for Horiba MIRA, which was recently granted planning permission.  Work also continues with HS2 to ensure barriers to employment within our area are reduced with regular meetings between Officers, HS2’s contractors, DWP and WCC officers and a number of drop in events and increased promotion of jobs opportunities. This supplements the allocations made within the People and Skills element of the UKSPF work. There has been considerable progress on this as shown in the tables below. In quarter 3 22/23 the number of people who had been unemployed who were now working on the HS2 project from North Warwickshire was 8 however by quarter 3 23/24 that had increased to 27. Similarly, the number of apprenticeship starts by our residents has increased over the same period has increased from 14 to 17.      The latest position overall is:    The Council has [adopted](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/67/open-space-recreation-and-sport-spd-adopted-january-2023-) a revised Supplementary Planning Document relating to developer contributions earlier this year, including for Open Space, Sport and Recreation contributions.  The Council continues to allocate UKSPF funding with £1.465m committed to December with further projects approved at the December meeting.    The Council will award a further £255,000 additional funding to communities via the Councillor Community Grant scheme announced as part of the Council’s adopted budget in February 2025. | |
| PH 3 - Manage development and work with partners to deliver its associated infrastructure, in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan |  | | The Council [resolved](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1052/Download%2520the%2520Minutes) to undertake a review of the adopted Local Plan, once national policy changes have been confirmed. Whilst the Government has recently issued a revised National Planning Policy Framework for consultation, the revised regulations on Local Plan making have not yet been issued. However, Government officials have confirmed that the intention is to issue those in the summer this year.  Work continues on the delivery of the adopted Plan. This is particularly important in relation to the strategic allocations.  The Local Development Scheme has been updated to reflect the work programme and at its meeting on the 26th February the LDF Sub committee [agreed](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2046/Agenda%2520-%2520LDF%2520-%252026%2520February%25202025) to commence the review of the Local Plan.  The programme for this review is set out in the report to the LDF Sub committee at the link above and as set out in the revised Local Development Scheme: | |
| PH 4 - Progress the North Warwickshire Transport Strategy to improve strategic roads such as the A5 and A446, improve transport links, including cycle links, footpath links, public transport, and all forms of rail provision. |  |  | | *Progress reports on the action plan for the Transport Strategy (N)*  Warwickshire County Council has developed a revised Transport Strategy and the strategy relating to North Warwickshire will now be contained within that document. The County Council has now [approved](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4385/approval-given-to-a-new-local-transport-plan-for-warwickshire) the Strategy.  An initial officer meeting took place on the 23rd February regarding the North Warwickshire Local Transport Plan. The draft timeline for this work was produced and transport issues relating to health and employment/skills is likely to be a key issue, as identified through the initial work on Levelling Up. However due to the election last year and staffing changes at the County Council this work has yet to start.  The County Council has now commissioned consultant to do some initial work on the Area Strategies and we expect conversations with WCC in May/June.  Nearly £80m was allocated for the first phase of improvements to the A5 in the March 2020 budget, one of only three schemes in the country allocated funding. Project meetings have started on that scheme and Members will be aware that a consultation on the options for the Grendon to Dordon part of the road, together with proposals for the roundabout at Holly Lane took place last year. The wider upgrade from the M42 to the M69 is now thought more likely as a result of the funding for the first phase. That scheme is one of the pipeline projects being developed as part of the Government’s next [Road Investment Scheme](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/pipeline-of-possible-future-schemes/) (RIS3), the only one currently in the Midlands.  National Highways have recently raised concerns about the rising costs of the A5 work and that further funding may be needed. We are working with them, the County Council and Homes England on this issue and National Highways submitted further details to the Department for Transport in the summer.  National Highways are now looking at seven projects along the A5 from the M42 to the M69 and officer working groups have been established. Progress and any further announcements on funding will be reported to Members when made. | |
| PH 5 - We will work in partnership with other agencies to tackle health inequalities through implementation of the corporate Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and relevant Warwickshire North Place Plan priorities, as part of our advocacy work for the Borough within the health system as well as by ensuring access to leisure and other community service opportunities that promote active, healthy lifestyles.  PH 6 - Ensure our work through a number of services such as Planning, Environmental Health, Leisure and Community Development and Housing contribute to improving the wider determinants of health and to enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of local residents |  | | *Progress reports on the action plans for the corporate Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and JSNA and relevant Warwickshire North Place Plan priorities (N)*  *A dashboard of health indicators on key health indicators, including life expectancy, access to mental health services, road mortality, and active lifestyle indicators (PI)*  The Council’s Health and Wellbeing Action Plan is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Working Party, with the minutes of that body report to the Community and Environment Board. A draft revised Action Plan 2023-27 was [agreed](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/202/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) in February last year.  The Warwickshire North Plan is attached here, and a partnership day is being held on 7th March to review these priorities.    The Warwickshire North Health and Wellbeing Board has identified four priorities, identified through workshops    The Council’s contribution to these priorities can be found in this attachment.    Funding for Coventry and Warwickshire has been obtained from the Government’s [WorkWell](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workwell) fund which is aimed at those not currently in the labour market due to health issues. This is a key issue within North Warwickshire and more details are available [here](https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk/workwell)  Officers continue to attend the Local Estates Forum which looks at physical assets available to promote health and wellbeing  Members will be interested in a practical example of work that has been undertaken by the Warwickshire North Delivery Group, which includes officers from this Council, on a practical project to boost whooping cough vaccinations.  As set out in the case study below, the take up rate has increased from a low of 14.8% in May 2023 to 64.5% a year later, with higher rates in other months.    The Council’s work on Air Quality continues and has been reported to the Health and Wellbeing Working Group last month. | |
| PH 7 - Progress the business case for replacement leisure facilities |  | | The Council has agreed to explore the feasibility of improving the leisure facilities within the Borough.  Reports of progress are regularly taken to the Community and Environment Board together with informal briefings. | |

## sustainable growth, protected rurality – vibrant growth, sense of place, recognisably home

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| SG 1 - We will ensure we have an up-to-date Local Plan**,** which remains the best way to provide the homes, jobs and other sustainable growth needed in the area. Crucially it also provides the best mechanism to ensure as far as we can that development only happens in the right areas, and for the protection of the Green Belt. |  | *Report on progress of the Local Plan and subsequent reviews (N)*  *Report on key planning and housing data such as the five year housing supply, percentage of affordable homes, amount of land built on brownfield and allocated sites. (PI)*  *Report to the Planning and Development Board on pressures on the Green Belt, design and heritage issues including conservation areas (N)*  The North Warwickshire Local Plan was adopted on 29th September 2021. As mentioned above, the Council has resolved to review the Local Plan.  Regular updates are [reported](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2001/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) to the Planning and Development Board on recent appeal decisions  Monitoring information on the development provided during each year will be report to Board on an annual basis with the most recent report considered at the [LDF Sub committee](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2046/Agenda%2520-%2520LDF%2520-%252026%2520February%25202025) in February 2025. |
| SG 2 - We will continue to work with regional partners to ensure our Plan fits into the wider regional context and that we all working together ensure the necessary supply of homes, jobs and infrastructure. |  | The Duty to Cooperate was a key component in the North Warwickshire Local Plan and the housing allocations make a substantial contribution to the wider regional housing need, a requirement given that North Warwickshire is part of both the Coventry and Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham Housing Market Areas.  The review of the Local Plan mentioned above will consider the role the Borough needs to play with regard to wider than local needs. |
| SG 3 - Use our Design Champions to ensure the best achievable designs are implemented and developed so as to reflect setting and local character.  SG 4 - Seek to secure the protection of the best of the Borough’s built and rural heritage, as well as our natural assets such as the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership |  | Members will be involved in Master Planning for the Strategic Allocations.  Design Champions will continue to be involved with developers at both pre-application and application stages of the process  A new round of Civic Awards for the best development and heritage work within the Borough is part of the Forward Planning Team’s Service Plan for 25/26  Officers to continue to sit on the board of the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership  Opportunities for biodiversity net gain will be explored and developed, particularly as the Environment Act has been enacted. Reports on these matters have been considered by the [LDF sub committee](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2046/Agenda%2520-%2520LDF%2520-%252026%2520February%25202025) in February 2025, and on the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Natural Capital Investment Strategy to this Board’s [last meeting](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2034/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) |
| SG 5 - To press for the maximum mitigation and benefits for the Borough arising from HS2, particularly during construction in partnership with other affected Councils and community action groups |  | Officers continue to meet with HS2 regularly to discuss the project. In particular, officers attend regular consents meetings with the main works contractors and HS2 staff, as well as the Special Management Zone Meeting.  One current issue is concerns about dust in Water Orton and links to local health concerns. As mentioned above, external funding has been obtained for five monitors in the village and the results will be reported to Members.  HS2 have agreed to fund a planning officer to deal with consents under the HS2 Act and an appointment to this role was made in January 2022 and was renewed in December 2023. Funding for an additional Environmental Health officer has also been obtained and an appointment made.  Recent work has related to the Bromford Tunnel extension and the associated Transport and Works Act Order.  An appeal hearing in respect of the Bromford Tunnel Portal took place in April 2022. The decision on this appeal was issued on the 14th May. The appointed Inspector agreed with the Council on the main issue in the case, however the Secretaries of State for Levelling Up (as it was then) and Transport disagreed with the Inspector and granted consent. The Council has issued a claim for a Judicial Review of that decision and this was heard at the High Court in London on 26th to the 28th February. Judgment has been reserved and will be reported to Members as soon as possible.  As a result of the legal challenge, the decision of the Transport and Works Act Order still remains undetermined, following objections from the Borough Council and others, and a decision about how the application will proceed has been successively postponed.  Members are engaged in consultation on the design and appearance of the Delta Junction viaducts, overbridges, embankments and other structures, via a Subgroup of the Planning and Development Board.  Officers continue to be part of the national HS2 Planning Forum.  Officers liaise with the Constituency Member of Parliament, and have engaged the HS2 Minister and Department for Transport officials, with regards to concerns about the adherence to due process and the bounds of HS2 Act powers in respect of works advancing ahead of the consents process and in respect of the preservation of archaeological heritage.  Officer’s continue to work to achieve legacy community benefit from the HS2 development, including connectivity improvements (cycling/walking) and heritage interpretation.  With regard to walking and cycling, the Chief Executive chairs a multi agency meeting to improve routes around the line of the railway, as shown on the map below. |
| SG 6 - Continue to implement the adopted North Warwickshire Leisure Facilities, Green Space and Playing Pitch Strategies, and the accompanying Local Football Facilities Plan, in accordance with their associated Action and Funding Plans. |  | Progress with regard to work undertaken within leisure facilities and in respect of the Borough Council’s green spaces and playing pitches is regularly reported to the Community and Environment Board and the Board [adopted](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1498/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) the revised Playing Pitch Strategy at its meeting held in January 2024.  The latest [update](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1865/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices) was reported to the October C&E meeting  As mentioned above, a revised Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document has also been approved by the Borough Council.  The Council continues to undertake considerable work in support of local sporting facilities and announced as part of the adopted budget in February, further funding to assess the condition of pavilions/changing facilities within the Council’s ownership.  Following the dissolution of the Atherstone Town Community Football Club management company, Officers worked speedily with the new management to resolve the Health and Safety issues at the ground and to allow games to be scheduled there again. Officers continue to monitor the position but considerable progress has made.  £250k has been obtained from the Football Foundation through which to develop the Ansley Workshops Sports Ground into a high quality, community-managed facility and Community Development has been working on a number of funding applications (Inclusive Communities Fund, Social Fabric Fund, Lottery and UK SPF) through which to try and improve the on-site ancillary accommodation. Further details can be found [here](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1554/Download%2520the%2520Agenda%252C%2520Reports%2520and%2520Appendices)  Significant developments relating to open spaces in Atherstone (Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground), Grendon (Boot Hill Recreation Ground), Ansley Workshops and Baxterley have been undertaken in conjunction with external partners, whilst Play Area Development Programme improvements have been made in Corley, Dordon, Hurley, Mancetter, Polesworth and Wood End.  The Borough Council recently opened the Borough’s second pump track at Dordon on the [1st March 2025](https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19yZ6j63No/?mibextid=wwXIfr) |
| SG 7 - To implement our Homeless Strategy and work on private housing. |  | Report progress on homelessness, private housing and other housing issues (N)  The Council’s Housing Task & Finish Group continues to meet to discuss current Housing issues and direct service delivery. Joint meetings are held with the Borough Wide Tenants Forum in order to share views on the delivery of the Council’s landlord’s services.  The Council’s own homelessness strategy has been reviewed and will be published. A review of Countywide homelessness is underway. In North Warks the strategy review indicated an increase in use of temporary accommodation and applicants seeking alternative accommodation due to domestic abuse.  The operational arrangements for the Private Sector Team have been reestablished following the return as an in house service. All of the necessary policies and procedures are in place. During 2025 we will anticipate the passage of the Renters Reform Bill and seek to draft a Private Sector Housing Strategy.  The extensive major works programmes to blocks of flats over the last 5 years culminates with the completion of works to Abbey Green Court, Polesworth.  The new structure of the Maintenance Service is now established and tenant satisfaction feedback about the service remains above the national averages. The team is focussed on delivering services which ensure regulatory compliance and meeting the Decent Homes Standard. Ensuring the Council’s properties are not in disrepair is fundamental to the delivery of the service.  A proactive, directed case management approach to dealing with damp and mould in tenanted properties will be introduced in April 2025 in advance of the implementation of Awaab’s law.  A review of how the Housing Management Team provides services to address anti social behaviour/ neighbour nuisance will be completed in March and will be reported to the Housing Task and Finish Group and Borough Wide Tenants Forum initially. |