



Working *Together*

Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee

Notice of Meeting

Thursday 10 March 2022

4.15 p.m.

**The Town Hall
The Parade
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 4AT**

This meeting can also be viewed at

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCaFVTL9887wo5BJIsGWalfQ>

Members of the Committee are requested to attend

Chairman: To be appointed at each meeting

Councillors:

Stratford-on-Avon

Warwick

M Jennings

J Cooke

A Parry

A Day

D Pemberton

R Hales

Observers:

Chairman of Stratford-on-Avon District
Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor O'Donnell

Chairman of Warwick District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Milton

Chairman of Warwick District Council
Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Nicholls

Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District
Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Juned

Warwick District Council Liberal Democrat
Group Observer

Councillor Boad

Warwick District Council Labour Group
Observer

Councillor Mangat

Warwick District Council Green Group
Observer

Councillor Davison

JOINT CABINET/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10 March 2022

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman

To appoint a Chairman for each meeting from amongst the members of the Council that is hosting the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Disclosures of Interest

Members to declare the existence and nature of interests in items on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.

Declarations should be disclosed during this item. However, the existence and nature of any interest that subsequently becomes apparent during the course of the meeting must be disclosed immediately. If the interest is not registered, Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

Members are also reminded of the need to declare predetermination on any matter.

If Members are unsure about whether or not they have an interest, or about its nature, they are strongly advised to seek advice from officers prior to the meeting.

4. South Warwickshire Local Plan - Evidence Report (Pages 1 - 20)

To update Members on the various technical studies being prepared as part of the local plan evidence base to inform the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. In particular it seeks endorsement of the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) methodology.

5. South Warwickshire Local Plan - Update Report (Pages 21 - 42)

To update Members on the progress of the South Warwickshire Local Plan and to agree its scope and end date.

6. South Warwickshire Local Plan - Timetable Report (Pages 43 - 50)

To agree the timetable for the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

7. Urgent Business

To consider any business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is urgent in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES
Stratford-on Avon and Warwick District Councils

David Buckland
Chief Executive
(Head of Paid Service)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House, Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

Chris Elliott
Chief Executive
(Head of Paid Service)
Warwick District Council
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

General Enquiries: Please contact either:

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX
Telephone 01789 260245
Email committeemanagers@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill,
Royal Leamington Spa CV32 5HZ
Telephone: 01926 456114
Email: committee@warwickdc.gov.uk

For enquiries about specific reports, please contact the officers named in the reports

Details of all the Council's committees, Councillors and agenda papers are available via our websites on the [Stratford-on-Avon District Council Committee page](#)

We endeavour to make all of our agendas and reports fully accessible. Please see [Stratford-on-Avon District Council Accessibility Statement](#) for details

Details of all the Council's committees, Councillors and agenda papers are available via our websites on the [Warwick District Council Committees page](#)

We endeavour to make all of our agendas and reports fully accessible. Please see [Warwick District Council accessibility statement](#) for details.

Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee
10 March 2022

Title: South Warwickshire Local Plan – Evidence Report
Lead Officer: John Careford - Head of Place & Economy,
Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils (01789
260801)
Portfolio Holders: Councillor D Pemberton, Councillor J Cooke

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the various technical studies being prepared as part of the local plan evidence base to inform the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). In particular it seeks endorsement of the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) methodology.

Recommendations

- (1) That Members note the various technical studies underway, the results of which will be used to inform the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan; and**
 - (2) That Members endorse the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment methodology.**
-

1 Background/Information

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Plans to be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals.
- 1.2 The Scoping and Call for Sites consultation put forward suggestions as to what new evidence would be required to inform the SWLP, and Question 4 of the consultation sought views on this. Analysis¹ of the responses to this and ongoing discussions with stakeholders has and is informing the identified evidence base required for the next stage of the Plan – the Issues and Options consultation. Some of this evidence is being collected by partners and will form part of the discussions with the stakeholder meetings in the next few weeks.
- 1.3 The Scoping document also identified a range of key plans and strategies that will be taken into account. A number of respondents cited other documents that should be used to inform the SWLP. Other more recently published strategies will also need to be taken into account, including the Levelling Up White Paper as the SWLP will be a critical document in delivering on these missions and our ambitions and securing finance from

¹ Available at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp

the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- 1.4 Another aspect of the preparation of the Plan is ongoing engagement with our key stakeholders. To inform the next stage of the Plan, the Issues and Options, meetings have been set up with a range of organisations in order to progress any issues raised in their scoping consultation response, and to develop the growth strategy and necessary infrastructure requirements, along with the possible policy options.
- 1.5 A number of pieces of evidence are in the process of being prepared in-house or commissioned externally by consultants. **Appendix 1** sets out the current position with regards to preparing the evidence base, and identifies which initial evidence is expected to inform the Issues and Options, and which will be produced at a later date to inform the Preferred Options version of the Plan.
- 1.6 Of particular significance to highlight is the climate change evidence which is in the process of being commissioned. This evidence is required to address ten aspects in relation to climate change as follows and which will need to be refined as the plan progresses:
 - a) Set the context for climate change in relation to the South Warwickshire area using an analysis of the relevant existing available information, including a technical assessment of current and predicted changes.
 - b) Inform the growth strategy of the Plan by assessing the impacts of a variety of options and potential strategic allocations in relation to impacts on carbon emissions and impact on flooding and biodiversity and ability/opportunities for suitable mitigation and adaptation including the effect of higher temperatures.
 - c) Identify sites or broad locations within South Warwickshire where it would be appropriate to locate renewable and decentralised energy sources, including serving site allocations and existing built-up areas. This may include the establishment of a criteria based assessment upon which a Local Plan policy could be derived.
 - d) An assessment on what 'net zero carbon' means and looks like for new development in South Warwickshire, including embodied carbon, both in relation to residential and non-residential uses through a technical feasibility. Consideration of how the design and layout of schemes can embrace not only net zero carbon but also address other climate change mitigation and adaptation elements such as biodiversity, flooding, over-heating, resilience to increased temperatures, accessibility – building on concepts such as the 20 minute neighbourhood and how this could be applied to the South Warwickshire area. This would help inform the establishment of specific criteria based climate change policies within the Plan that new development will be required to satisfy.
 - e) Consideration of how the Plan can address retrofitting existing buildings to minimise carbon emissions and enable buildings to adapt to climatic changes, particularly given the local character and distinctiveness of many settlements within South Warwickshire. This should link to point b) above in relation to decentralised energy

sources.

- f) Climate Change impact assessment of policies within the Plan, including those not directly related to climate change, to understand any potential positive and negative implications.
 - g) Viability implications of both the preferred growth strategy and specific policies within the Plan related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This should include an assessment of the whole life costs. It is anticipated that the Plan will be aiming for carbon zero developments, as this is beyond the Future Home Standard evidence that is required to demonstrate if/how we can achieve this, and if not then what our carbon reduction targets should be.
 - h) Carbon Sequestration – The extent to which the Local Plan can assist in this process.
 - i) Offsetting evidence to inform a policy in the Local Plan on climate change offsetting, in terms of process, type of development eligible, cost and how it could be spent.
 - j) In recognition of the multiple pressures on rural land (such as renewable energy, local food production, biodiversity, tree planting etc), consideration of whether there are existing land typologies that could be protected and/or allocation to minimise carbon emissions.
- 1.7 Members will be aware that the potential need to undertake a Green Belt review was highlighted in the Scoping consultation. It is proposed that such a review should be carried out following the Issues and Options stage. This would conform to national policy in terms of needing to demonstrate exceptional circumstances before a review is undertaken and the Issues and Options consultation could be used to frame the conversation with residents and stakeholders about the merits and challenges of undertaking a Green Belt review, particularly in relation to addressing the climate change emergency.
- 1.8 It would also enable further engagement with our duty to co-operate with partners, particularly surrounding local authorities about the potential for other authorities to meet any of our needs and the level of support for a sub-regional approach.

Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)

- 1.9 A standard approach to the assessment of housing and employment sites is being applied across Coventry and Warwickshire and a public consultation in respect of this methodology concluded in December 2021. This sub-regional HELAA methodology sets out a high-level framework for assessing potential locations/directions for growth, within which individual Local Planning Authorities can tailor specific criteria to respond to their local circumstances. The HELAA replaces existing SDC and WDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments or SHLAAs
- 1.10 The methodology applies the standard 'traffic light' (red, amber, green) colour coding to indicate how a location might perform against each of the criteria:
- Red – locations may be considered unsuitable. The constraint is

absolute and cannot be mitigated.

- Amber – a constraint to development exists, but mitigation may be possible.
- Green – the location is not constrained by this criterion.

For some criteria a 'red' assessment would be sufficient to remove the site from the process as unsuitable. In others, it is possible that a more nuanced assessment maybe necessary where a location/site might on balance have the potential to achieve other objectives through development.

- 1.11 The sub-regional methodology outlines the types of locations and sites which may be identified for assessment. This includes, but is not restricted to, the sites identified in the Call for Sites exercise. Other locations/directions/sites will be compiled by officers in due course for assessment, in line with the sub-regional approach. This could include for example current allocations which do not presently benefit from planning permission, unimplemented planning permissions, previously withdrawn or refused planning applications, and sites from the Brownfield Registers.
- 1.12 It is important to note that any assessment of whether a location/site could be appropriate, is distinct from whether it should be developed, which is linked to the spatial strategy. Work on defining the spatial strategy options will run concurrently (though discretely) from the application of the HELAA methodology. It does not therefore automatically follow, that sites that could be appropriate for development would be allocated for such.
- 1.13 A multi-layered approach is being applied to the SWLP; within the HELAA itself, under the assessment of suitability, site/location attributes are being considered first before policy designations and site constraints are applied – see **Appendix 2**. The availability of sites and their achievability for development are also assessed to reach a conclusion about the overall deliverability of sites/locations.
- 1.14 An additional assessment outside the scope of the sub-regional HELAA based on the SWLP Scoping and Call for Sites consultation is then being applied.
- 1.15 HELAA Suitability Assessment: Location/site attributes – this stage is focussed on quickly sifting out obviously unsuitable sites, both in the 'call for sites' submissions and other types of sites which might be identified from the sub-regional methodology (e.g., previously withdrawn or refused planning applications). This is based on site size, location and in the case of 'call for sites' submissions, the proposed purpose of the site. All sites assessed as 'red' in one or more of the criteria in this sub-section will be removed from the assessment process at this stage.
- 1.16 HELAA Suitability Assessment: Policy designations and site constraints – principally using a desk-based assessment (i.e., GIS mapped data) this stage will identify whether a location/site is subject to any known policy or physical constraints. This will identify whether the site falls within or is adjacent to any policy designations (such as the Green Belt or the AONB), and whether it has any relevant ecological, land, or heritage constraints that would need to be considered.

1.17 HELAA Availability and Achievability Assessment – to confirm that the site is available for development at a given point in time and that there are no other legal or market impediments to delivery.

1.18 Additional Assessment – based on the four overarching principles² set out in the SWLP Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, additional settlement design and infrastructure mapping criteria have been developed. This work includes, for example:

- access and connection opportunities including barriers to connectivity
- landform
- accessibility to public transport services
- accessibility to infrastructure such as schools, shops and health services
- accessibility to public open spaces

2 Options available to the Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee

2.1 In respect of recommendation 2, two options are available; to endorse the methodology as presented or to amend the methodology. Not endorsing a methodology is not considered an option as Officers require some objective means of selecting potential locations for inclusion within the next Issues and Options consultation.

3 Consultation and Members' Comments

3.1 The two portfolio holders for Place and Economy have been fully involved throughout this process and are supportive of the recommendations. The SWLP Member Advisory Group which includes a number of Ward Councilors meets monthly and is supportive of the proposed approach.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

4.1.1 The South Warwickshire Local Plan is a Development Plan Document and as such, when adopted, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for both Districts. As such, its preparation has to comply with a number of statutory requirements including public consultation, regard to national policy, the achievement of sustainable development and fulfilment of the Duty to Co-operate. As a Development Plan Document, it will be subject to independent scrutiny through an examination in public to ensure that it is 'sound' (fit for purpose) and satisfies all necessary legal requirements. This includes ensuring that residents and stakeholders can engage meaningfully in the process.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 The estimated cost of producing and getting the South Warwickshire Local Plan in place is £2.2m, excluding staff costs. This cost is to be shared equally between Stratford and Warwick. Stratford has £1.3m in place within the Core Strategy Funding Reserve to fund its share. Warwick

² Tackling climate change, Improving connectivity, Promoting wellbeing, Increasing biodiversity

currently has £0.5m allocated, including £0.3m as part of the 2022/23 Budget. Further funding from Warwick will need to be agreed as part of future Budgets.

4.3 **Council Plan**

4.3.1 As a Development Plan Document, the South Warwickshire Local Plan will help the Stratford-on-Avon District Council achieve all five objectives of the Council Plan.

4.3.2 In respect of Warwick District Business Plan, the following comments can be made.

4.3.3 **External impacts of proposal(s)**

People - Health, Homes, Communities – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council’s ability to meet its housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing, and to provide sports, recreation, leisure, community and cultural facilities to serve its population.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe – The SWLP will have a major impact on all the Council’s “green, clean and safe” aspirations. It will support the Council’s ability to meet its climate change targets through the planning policies it puts in place regarding the location of new development and standards for new buildings. Policies in the Local Plan will also support safer communities.

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council’s ability to support the local economy through providing appropriate and affordable places of work in the right locations and by other policies to support the economy including within the district’s town centres.

4.3.4 **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

People - Effective Staff – It will be integral to the success of the SWLP that staff are properly trained and supported to undertake a wider range of tasks. As this is a joint Local Plan then the councils will need to work together to ensure that proper training and support is given to staff across both councils.

Services - Maintain or Improve Services - Good stakeholder engagement and public consultation are key to ensuring the success of the SWLP.

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term - It is anticipated that the SWLP will save costs over each authority undertaking its Local Plan review separately. This will be kept under close review throughout the process.

4.4 **Analysis of the effects on Equality**

4.4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is required and will be undertaken at various stages of the SWLP to ensure that strategies and policies contribute towards eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relations.

4.5 **Data Protection**

4.5.1 Both Councils will ensure that all data protection requirements are

adhered to. This will particularly be the case in respect of personal or commercially sensitive information that is provided to the Council through public consultation.

4.6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

4.6.1 Tackling Climate change and responding to the Climate Emergencies that both Councils have declared is at the heart of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. In order to maximise opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to meet net carbon zero targets, it is critical that the evolving Plan is informed by assessments on its impact on climate change. As such, consultants have been appointed to prepare these assessments and ensure that all aspects of climate change are considered as part of the SWLP. The Programme Director for Climate Change is directly involved in this work.

5 Risk Assessment

5.1.1 There are many risks associated with undertaking a Local Plan review. These are financial, reputational and, sometimes, legal. All local authorities are required to prepare Local Plans and both Councils are experienced in managing these risks. All stages of the Local Plan are subject to Councillor advice, scrutiny and approval and so there is plenty of opportunity for Councillors to have proper oversight of the technical work and procedures that are being undertaken.

5.1.2 There are additional risks in undertaking a joint Local Plan review with another local authority as is being undertaken here. These are largely political and relate to the willingness of both councils to continue to work together to approve the document.

5.1.3 In respect of the evidence base, it is important that Members understand the purpose of each study and how it can be used to inform plan preparation. With certain key studies, such as the HELAA, it is critical that Members are comfortable with the methodology in order to obtain political buy-in to the findings.

Background papers:

None

This page has been left intentionally blank

Appendix 1 – Evidence Base update

Title	Scope	Update Timescales /
Housing, Employment and Town Centres		
Coventry & Warwickshire HEDNA (Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment)	This takes into account a wealth of evidence such as population, household and economic growth projections in order to assess the need for housing and employment up to 2050.	Expected late spring 2022
HELAA (Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment)	A high level assessment which considers the quantity and quality of sites that could be developed for housing, employment or other uses.	Stage 1 methodology agreed and currently being applied to the Call for Site submissions
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	An assessment to determine the need for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation across the South Warwickshire Area up to 2050.	Being commissioned
Urban Capacity Study	The Urban Capacity Study will build upon the work of the HELAA, the Brownfield Land Register and the sites submitted in order to determine the ability of the urban areas to assist in meeting the development requirements.	Being commissioned
Town Centre Vision Assessments	To understand the role of our towns and key villages to inform their role in shaping the future of places in South Warwickshire. Further, more detailed assessments of quantum will be undertaken at a later stage in the preparation of the Local Plan	Being commissioned
Sustainability Appraisal		
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	An assessment to determine the potential effects of the Plan on protected habitats.	Being commissioned
Strategic Environmental Assessment / sustainability Appraisal (SA/SEA)	This is an assessment of the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the Local Plan.	Being commissioned
Climate Change		
Climate Change impacts assessment and evidence to inform the Local Plan	This evidence base needs to cover a range of aspects in relation to climate change. See text in report explaining the scope of the evidence base.	Being commissioned.
MET Office Climate Analysis	Information specific to South Warwickshire on climate change probabilistic projections	Expected spring 2022
Environmental		
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	An assessment which looks at all known sources of flooding that could affect existing or future development in an area.	Part 1 Study being commissioned at the sub-regional level
Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Green Infrastructure Strategy refresh	An update to the 2013 sub-regional green infrastructure strategy	Updated strategy is expected later in 2022.

Settlement Analysis		
Connectivity	Assessing the existing connections within the larger settlements of South Warwickshire	Completed
Density	Assessing the existing density within the larger settlements of South Warwickshire	Completed
Landform	Assessing the landform surrounding the larger settlements of South Warwickshire in terms of identifying development constraints	Underway
Soft Infrastructure Mapping	Identification of local health, education, transport and community facilities	Underway
Overall settlement analysis to identify growth options	Using the connectivity, density, accessibility and landform analysis to identify possible settlement growth options and design/density parameters	Underway
Health		
Health Impact Assessment (HIA)	This is a tool to identify and optimise the health and wellbeing impacts of the Plan	Ongoing discussions with Public Health Warwickshire
Equalities		
Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)	An assessment to ensure that equal opportunities have been taken into account in the preparation of the Local Plan	This will develop throughout each stage of the Plan as it progresses.
Other evidence anticipated to be required to inform later stages of the Plan		
Site Delivery and Viability Studies	An assessment to ensure that sites critical to delivering the strategic priorities of the Plan are deliverable and viable	Expected for Preferred Options stage
Water Cycle Study	This assesses the constraints and demands future development will place on existing water services infrastructure including waste and supply	Discussions being held at a sub-regional level for a joint piece of evidence across Coventry and Warwickshire
Transport Assessment	This will set out the transport implications in relation to development and identify measures that can deal with the impacts of schemes in relation to the various modes of travel	Expected for Preferred Options stage
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	This will set out the strategic infrastructure requirements in order to deliver growth planned for within the Plan	Expected for Preferred Options stage
Landscape Character Assessment	An assessment undertaken to help identify various landscape types with a distinct character that is based on a recognisable pattern of elements, including combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.	If not incorporated into the sub-regional Green Infrastructure then this evidence may be required for Preferred Options
Green Belt Study	A review which provides evidence of how areas of Green Belt perform against the purposes set out in national policy. This can be used alongside other evidence when considering potential changes to the Green Belt	Expected for Preferred Options stage.
Sports, Leisure and Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies	An assessment of the current facilities within South Warwickshire and to identify the likely additional need to support the Plan's growth strategy	Expected for Preferred Options stage
Air Quality Assessments	An assessment to look at the air quality impacts of the proposals in the Plan on Air Quality Management Areas in South Warwickshire	Expected for Preferred Options stage

Built Heritage and Archaeology site selection and impact assessments	An assessment of the heritage and archaeological impacts of any growth strategy proposals and identify any possible mitigation opportunities.	Expected Preferred stage	for Options
Tourism Accommodation Assessment	An assessment of the current visitor accommodation stock within South Warwickshire and to identify the likely accommodation demand and trends through to 2050.	Expected Preferred stage	for Options

This page has been left intentionally blank

Appendix 2 – HELAA Assessment Criteria

SUITABILITY

A. Site/location attributes

This first section of the 'suitability' criteria, is designed to quickly sift out locations and sites, which by reason of their size, location (in relation to existing settlements) or purpose (in the case of 'call for sites' submissions only) are considered unsuitable. Any 'red' assessments in this stage will result in the location/site being removed from the process with no further assessment.

Site size

	Site size
Red	Site less than 0.4 ha and deemed unlikely to be able to accommodate 10+ dwellings
Amber	Site less than 0.4 ha but may be capable of accommodating 10+ dwellings
Green	Site greater than 0.4 ha

Red categorisation in this case would result in the site being assessed no further.

Site purpose

	Purpose (Call for Sites submissions only)
Red	Site put forward for protection – i.e. no change from its existing state.
Amber	N/A
Green	Site put forward for development potential

Red categorisation in this case would result in the site being assessed no further. The site will be removed from the process as unsuitable, given that the purpose of the assessment process is to assess potential for development. Where the same land (either as a whole or in part) has been put forward under a separate submission for its development potential, that submission will be assessed in line with this assessment methodology.

Site Location

	Site Location
Red	The site is located in the open countryside, divorced from existing settlements (in itself and in combination with other sites), and is not of sufficient size to consider a new settlement in itself or in combination with adjacent available sites.
Amber	The site is not within or immediately adjacent to an existing settlement, but in combination with other potentially available sites could become an extension to an existing settlement or become part of a new settlement.
Green	The site is within or immediately adjacent to an existing settlement OR The site is remote from existing settlements but could be of sufficient size to create a new settlement (minimum 200ha*)

*based on other 'garden village' schemes both within and beyond South Warwickshire. The scale of any new settlement must however be linked also to 'achievability' criteria.

Red categorisation in this case would result in the site being assessed no further. The site will be removed from the process as unsuitable.

B. Policy designations and site constraints

National policy designations

	Green belt	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Registered Park and Gardens
Red	N/A	The site is wholly or substantially* within the designated AONB -	The site is wholly or substantially* within a registered park and garden.
Amber	The site is wholly or substantially within the designated green belt	The site is directly adjacent to the AONB	The site is directly adjacent to a registered park or garden
Green	The site is wholly outside of the designated green belt and not directly adjacent to it	The site is wholly outside of the designated AONB and not adjacent to it	The site is not within or adjacent to a registered park or garden.

*substantially is considered to be 50% or more of the gross area.

Sites which fully or partially fall within the Green Belt, will not be automatically removed from the assessment process at this stage. The Green Belt is a restrictive policy constraint that will need to be carefully assessed as part of the overall development strategy of the SWLP. This will further inform whether any locations or sites within the greenbelt should be developed. The purpose of the HELAA is to assess only whether sites *could* be developed, and not whether they *should*.

Sites within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are also highly restrictive. Sites which are indicated as red in these criteria may not be assessed further. Any sites within a registered park or garden would also be removed from the process as unsuitable.

Ecological designations

	European Wildlife site	National Wildlife Site	SSSI	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Local Wildlife Site	Potential Wildlife Site	Ancient Woodland
Red	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation	Site wholly within an area with this designation
Amber	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation	Site partially within and/or immediately adjacent to an area with this designation
Green	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.	Site does not include any land within this designation, nor is it immediately adjacent to it.

Red categorisation in one or more of the above criteria would result in the site being assessed no further. The site will be removed from the process as unsuitable.

Land constraints

	Flood risk	Brownfield/greenfield	Agricultural land quality	Minerals and waste
Red	Site is wholly or substantially within the flood zones 2 or 3 or subject to surface water flooding	N/A	The site is comprised wholly or substantially of the highest quality agricultural land within Grades 1 and/or 2	The site is wholly or substantially within a minerals and waste allocation.
Amber	Site is partially with flood zones 2 or 3 and/or partially subject to surface water flooding.	The site is wholly or substantially comprised of land that has not been previously developed (greenfield)	The site is within grade 3a or only partially grade 1 and/or 2	The site is within a minerals and waste safeguarding area
Green	The site is wholly outside of flood zones 2 and 3, and is not subject to surface water flooding.	The site is wholly or substantially comprised of previously developed (brownfield land)	The site is comprised of grade 3b, 4 or 5 agricultural land, or does not currently comprise agricultural land.	The site is not within a minerals and waste allocation or safeguarded area

Heritage constraints

	Heritage assets	Note heritage asset(s)** and whether within the site or the relative in proximity to the site
Red	The location/site is likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on a heritage asset and its setting, for which no mitigation can be envisaged.	
Amber	The location/site includes a designated heritage asset, for which further assessment is required. OR the location/site is in relatively close proximity* to a designated heritage asset, and assessment of impact on the setting of that asset would require further assessment	
Green	The location/site does not include any designated heritage assets, and it is unlikely to directly impact upon the setting of any heritage assets.	

*a degree of judgement will need to be employed in assessing the relative proximity of the asset. The actual proximity of any potential development location and its relevance to the asset is likely to vary dependent on the type of heritage asset, and the type and scale of development that may be envisaged.

**heritage assets could include the following: listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, archaeological interest, or local heritage assets.

AVAILABILITY

	Ownership
Red	Site is in multiple ownerships, with no clear indication of willingness to work together or sell.
Amber	Site in multiple ownerships/tenancies but landowners have expressed willingness to sell. Any barriers to availability (i.e. operational requirements or tenancies) may be overcome.
Green	Site in single ownership, where the landowner has expressed intention to sell, or the land is already under the control of a developer

ACHIEVABILITY

	Viability and deliverability	List potential constraints to 'achievability' (e.g. major infrastructure within/close to the site; such as HS2, or pressurised gas pipes etc; or known contamination)
Red	Development costs, market conditions and/or constraints are likely to make delivery unviable	
Amber	Site constraints and associated additional development costs may potentially be mitigated to make development viable.	
Green	No foreseen extraordinary development costs or constraints. Market conditions appear favourable.	

This page has been left intentionally blank

Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee
10 March 2022

Subject: South Warwickshire Local Plan – Update Report
Lead Officer: John Careford - Head of Place & Economy,
Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils (01789
260801)
Portfolio Holders: Councillor D Pemberton, Councillor J Cooke

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the South Warwickshire Local Plan and to agree its scope and end date.

Recommendations

- (1) That Members note the summary of the feedback that has been received in response to the Scoping and Call for Sites consultation during May/June 2021;**
 - (2) That the end date of the South Warwickshire Local Plan is 2050; and**
 - (3) That Members agree that the South Warwickshire Local Plan is prepared as a suite of plans with Part 1 being a strategic plan establishing the development strategy and strategic policies.**
-

1 Background/Information

- 1.1 Stratford-in-Avon (SDC) and Warwick (WDC) District Councils consulted on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Scoping and Call for Sites document between 10 May and 21 June 2021. Four 'golden threads' run throughout the plan:
 - Tackling climate change
 - Increasing connectivity
 - Increasing biodiversity
 - Promoting wellbeing
- 1.2 In the same way as infrastructure, the economy is not a 'golden thread' in itself but cuts across all four components. As such, the Plan is also seen as a key delivery mechanism for the various corporate strategies including climate change and the emerging joint South Warwickshire Economic Strategy.
- 1.3 The consultation sought responses to 53 specific questions covering range of topics and structured across 4 chapters:
 - Questions 1-6 about the scope of the plan and the call for sites
 - Questions 7-38 about key strategic planning issues

- Questions 39-41 about the vision and strategic objectives
 - Questions 42-53 about various options for growth
- 1.4 561 individuals/organisations responded to the consultation and 557 sites were submitted as part of the Call for Sites. A Consultation Statement setting out the consultation approach and a summary of the consultation responses received is available at **Appendix 1**¹. Social media for the consultation attracted some 84,500 impressions and the accompanying videos were watched over 2,500 times. Officers also undertook a feedback survey of those who responded to learn lessons from the consultation.
- 1.5 The results of the call for sites exercise are available to view via interactive mapping software at [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#). It must be stressed that the call for sites is simply a long list of the sites that have been submitted to Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils for consideration through the South Warwickshire Local Plan process. Publication of the Call for Sites is in no way an endorsement by either Council that the site is either suitable for development or will be included within the Local Plan itself. These sites have not yet been analysed and as such it is unlikely that all sites will be taken forward as the plan progresses. The decision to publish the call for sites in their 'raw' form was one of transparency. The methodology that the Councils are applying to assess locations and sites is set out in a separate agenda item in respect of the evidence base update.

Plan Period

- 1.6 Section 3.3 and Question 3 sought responses on the plan period i.e., the length of time that the policies in the Local Plan should be valid for. Paragraph 22 of the NPPF (July 2021) states that:
- Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption, to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure. Where larger-scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns form part of the strategy for the area, policies should be set within a vision that looks further ahead (at least 30 years), to take into account the likely timescale for delivery.*
- 1.7 By planning over a longer time period, we will be able to align more easily with infrastructure providers who typically take a longer-term view on investment decisions. This will help ensure that new developments are supported by the necessary improvements in infrastructure. 2050 is also the date of the Government's goal to achieve a 100% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions (relative to 1990 levels).
- 1.8 There were 235 respondents to this question. In total there were 127 respondents supporting the proposed end date, 71 objecting and 37 did not provide conclusive answers either way.
- 1.9 Of those supporting the proposed 2050 end date the majority agreed that this would provide an opportunity to consider strategic growth options and to plan more sustainably. A longer plan period would allow the delivery of

¹ Also published at [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#).

significant developments, and even new settlements, in full, which would help meet the needs of both districts and the unmet need across the Housing Market Area. A longer plan period would also help in bringing forward the necessary infrastructure, as well as provide certainty to local communities and developers.

- 1.10 Respondents also commented on the importance of a longer plan period when a review of the Green Belt is considered. Any changes to the Green belt boundary would need to endure well into the future, and to prevent piecemeal release in the future, a realistic understanding of future development is required. It was also commonly acknowledged that 2050 aligns with the national targets to be carbon neutral.
- 1.11 The arguments against the proposed end date are largely centered around the uncertainty of the future and the pace at which society and technology can change, as shown by the recent pandemic. As such, it is believed the Plan would become out of date too quickly. There are also concerns that a long-term Plan would not meet short term requirements, and there is a strong feeling that quicker action needs to be taken to combat climate change.
- 1.12 Another strong argument against the proposed end date, is that both existing Plans are being 'replaced' 4-5 years after they were adopted, despite still having approximately 10 years left of the Plan period. There is therefore concern as to how a new Plan, with an even longer Plan period can remain relevant, when the existing ones are being replaced so soon after adoption.
- 1.13 With regards to the 38 respondents who did not provide conclusive answers either in support or against the proposed end date, most believed 2050 should be the absolute minimum end date, and it should in fact extend beyond this date. There were also comments relating to the rigidity of the Plan, and how it would be important to ensure adequate review mechanisms to make sure we are not 'stuck' with an out-of-date plan based on out-of-date evidence.

Scope of Plan

- 1.14 Section 3.2 and Question 2 sought responses on the scope of the plan. It suggested that rather than prepare a single comprehensive Plan, that we should split the plan-making process into at least two separate parts.
- 1.15 Part 1 will establish a robust and flexible framework setting out where and how much development should take place across South Warwickshire. It will include the core principles and strategic policies that can provide the context for more detailed policies to follow. This framework should be capable of remaining relevant for the duration of the Plan period. This split approach will enable us to prepare the first part of the Local Plan much more quickly. This will provide clarity and certainty to communities and landowners. It will also ensure that we can continue to proactively manage development pressures facing South Warwickshire. Essentially, Part 1 establishes the framework for subsequent parts of the SWLP to come forward. It could also provide a meaningful role for neighborhood plans to focus on detailed local policies within the context of the strategic planning framework established by Part 1. No decisions have yet been made about how we progress subsequent plans although this approach

provides us with flexibility to adopt the most appropriate solution. It may be that a hybrid approach is most appropriate reflecting the geography and challenges facing South Warwickshire.

- 1.16 The practical effect of having a Part 1 Plan is an acceptance that Part 1 will not identify or include every development site; it will only identify strategic sites and locations. Non-strategic sites would be identified in subsequent parts of the Plan. There is a further discussion to be had as to what the detail of this approach looks like.
- 1.17 The most important component of Part 1 is the development strategy – also known as the spatial strategy; the name given to the approach set out in policy as to how the Plan apportions growth to the area. It identifies a hierarchy of settlements based on the principles of sustainable development where the more sustainable locations, at the top of the hierarchy, receive more growth. The hierarchy can include existing settlements, locations/key sites as well as new settlements. Typically, housing and job numbers are apportioned to these locations. Essentially, the development strategy sets out how much development goes where.
- 1.18 The current development strategies are set out in Policies CS.15 and CS.16 of the SDC Core Strategy and Policies DS4, DS6, DS7 and DS8 of the Warwick Local Plan. They relate to both housing and employment. The WDC Local Plan meets its housing requirement in full by allocating sites of a variety of sizes. The SDC Core Strategy also met its housing requirement in full albeit by allocating a more limited number of larger sites, strategic and non-strategic in nature². Both plans fully meet their jobs requirement by allocating sufficient employment sites.
- 1.19 The term 'strategic sites' is not defined as such but is regarded as being sites central to the delivery of the plan. As such, strategic sites should not be defined by size alone, although this can be a useful proxy. The NPPF sets out guidance in respect of the approach to strategic policies (not sites per se) – see excerpt in **Appendix 2**.
- 1.20 The most important aspect of the Plan is to be able to demonstrate deliverability. As such, strategic sites could encompass locations where significant change or substantial growth is proposed or where development is required in the early years of the Plan period necessary to maintain a 5-year housing land supply. For the avoidance of doubt, the Part 1 plan would need to identify any areas for Green Belt release, including any areas of new Green Belt.
- 1.21 It should be noted that local planning authorities are required to assess the up-to-dateness of their Plan every 5 years, and review Plans if necessary. This requirement fits well with the framework being set in a Part1 Plan enabling the detailed policies in subsequent Plans to be updated and remain relevant to 2050; in other words, we fix Part 1 now for the period to 2050 and subsequent parts of the Plan are prepared and reviewed on a more regular basis as necessary over the 25-year period e.g., to take into account changes in technology and standards.

² The housing 'to-find' figure needed to be met by allocations in the Core Strategy was significantly reduced owing to applications being granted consent or via appeal. The Site Allocations Plan seeks to identify additional housing sites beyond the housing requirement as well as reserve housing sites.

- 1.22 There were 230 respondents to this question. In total there were 151 respondents supporting the approach of a strategic Part 1 Plan, 43 objecting and 36 did not provide conclusive answers either way.
- 1.23 The two primary arguments in support of a strategic Part 1 Plan, is that it will expedite the Plan making process, in turn providing clarity and certainty for developers and communities, and that it will allow the Councils to focus on the strategic priorities of the area. There is also an understanding that having a high-level Plan allows a level flexibility in the plan making process should there be any drastic changes or reforms.
- 1.24 Interestingly many of the arguments against a 2 Part Plan are direct opposites of the arguments above. Many respondents believe that a 2 Part Plan will cause confusion and uncertainty, particularly for smaller villages who will need to wait for the Part two Plan to come forward before they understand the full extent of development across the district. However, the most prolific argument against a 2 Part Plan, is the time taken for the second Plan to come forward. Many respondents believe that a two Part Plan will take too long to be adopted and there are concerns that this may cause shortfalls in the 5 Year Housing Land Supply which may result in unplanned development. Many respondents pointed to the difficulties Stratford-on-Avon District Council have had with the Site Allocations Plan. The view of these respondents is that a 'full' plan should be progressed.
- 1.25 For those that did not provide conclusive answers they share many of the views presented above. Most understand the sentiment behind the high-level strategic Part 1 Plan, but they also have some concerns. For some, it was unclear what the Part 1 Plan would contain, and what 'strategic matters' it would cover, and whether a Part 1 Plan might lack the necessary detail; greater clarity over its contents were requested. Many respondents suggested that the Part 1 Plan would need to cover strategic allocations and have a conclusive development strategy. For those that were concerned about the timescales, it was commonly stated that Part 2 would need to come forward in a timely manner so that the detailed matters were not delayed.
- 1.26 Overall, the vast majority of respondents understood and agreed with the approach of a two Part Plan. In conclusion, a Part 1 plan that establishes the strategic principles for development over the long term provides flexibility in respect of how we then plan the details. Some of those details will be included in Part 1 (i.e. strategic locations and any Green Belt locations), some would be incorporated in subsequent South Warwickshire Local Plans, whilst some details could be included within neighbourhood plans. Importantly, commencement of any work on subsequent SWLP documents would not have to wait until adoption of Part 1 but could be brought forward in close succession.

2 Options available to the Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee

- 2.1 There are two substantive recommendations in this report. In respect of recommendation 2, an end date is required. A date of 2050 is proposed for the reasons set out above. If Members do not agree that 2050 is the appropriate date, then an alternative date needs to be established.

- 2.2 In respect of recommendation 3, if Members do not agree that with the proposed approach of having a strategic Part 1 Plan, then the alternative is for a single comprehensive SWLP to be produced. Members should be aware of the likely impact on plan-preparation timescales of such an approach.

3 Consultation Members' Comments

- 3.1 The two portfolio holders for Place and Economy have been fully involved throughout this process and are supportive of the recommendations. The SWLP Member Advisory Group which includes a number of Ward Councilors meets monthly and is supportive of the proposed approach.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 4.1.1 The South Warwickshire Local Plan is a Development Plan Document and as such, when adopted, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for both Districts. As such, its preparation has to comply with a number of statutory requirements including public consultation, regard to national policy, the achievement of sustainable development and fulfilment of the Duty to Co-operate. As a Development Plan document, it will be subject to independent scrutiny through an examination in public to ensure that it is 'sound' (fit for purpose) and satisfies all necessary legal requirements. This includes ensuring that residents and stakeholders can engage meaningfully in the process.

4.2 Financial

- 4.2.1 The estimated cost of producing and getting the South Warwickshire Local Plan in place is £2.2m, excluding staff costs. This cost is to be shared equally between Stratford and Warwick. Stratford has £1.3m in place within the Core Strategy Funding Reserve to fund its share. Warwick currently has £0.5m allocated, including £0.3m as part of the 2022/23 Budget. Further funding from Warwick will need to be agreed as part of future Budgets.

4.3 Council Plan

- 4.3.1 As a Development Plan Document, the South Warwickshire Local Plan will help the Stratford-on-Avon District Council achieve all five objectives of the Council Plan. Arguably, the Local Plan is the most important policy document that the Council prepares as it represents the spatial expression of the Council's vision and ambitions.
- 4.3.2 In respect of the Warwick District Business Plan, the following comments can be made:

4.3.3 External impacts of proposal(s)

People - Health, Homes, Communities – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council's ability to meet its housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing, and to provide sports, recreation, leisure, community and cultural facilities to serve its population.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe – The SWLP will have a major impact on all the Council's "green, clean and safe" aspirations. It will support the

Council's ability to meet its climate change targets through the planning policies it puts in place regarding the location of new development and standards for new buildings. Policies in the Local Plan will also support safer communities.

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council's ability to support the local economy through providing appropriate and affordable places of work in the right locations and by other policies to support the economy including within the district's town centres.

4.3.4 **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

People - Effective Staff – It will be integral to the success of the SWLP that staff are properly trained and supported to undertake a wider range of tasks. As this is a joint Local Plan then the councils will need to work together to ensure that proper training and support is given to staff across both councils.

Services - Maintain or Improve Services - Good stakeholder engagement and public consultation are key to ensuring the success of the SWLP.

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term - It is anticipated that the SWLP will save costs over each authority undertaking its Local Plan review separately. This will be kept under close review throughout the process.

4.4 **Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

4.4.1 Tackling Climate change and responding to the Climate Emergencies that both Councils have declared is at the heart of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. In order to maximise opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to meet net carbon zero targets, it is critical that the evolving Plan is informed by assessments on its impact on climate change. As such, consultants have been appointed to prepare these assessments and ensure that all aspects of climate change are considered as part of the SWLP. The Programme Director for Climate Change is directly involved in this work.

4.5 **Analysis of the effects on Equality**

4.5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is required and will be undertaken at various stages of the SWLP to ensure that strategies and policies contribute towards eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relations.

4.6 **Data Protection**

4.6.1 Both Councils will ensure that all data protection requirements are adhered to. This will particularly be the case in respect of personal or commercially sensitive information that is provided to the Council through public consultation.

5 **Risk Assessment**

5.1.1 There are many risks associated with undertaking a Local Plan review. These are financial, reputational and, sometimes, legal. All local authorities are required to prepare Local Plans and both Councils are

experienced in managing these risks. All stages of the Local Plan are subject to Councillor advice, scrutiny and approval and so there is plenty of opportunity for Councillors to have proper oversight of the technical work and procedures that are being undertaken.

- 5.1.2 There are additional risks in undertaking a joint Local Plan review with another local authority as is being undertaken here. These are largely political and relate to the willingness of both Councils to continue to work together to approve the document.
- 5.1.3 Ultimately, as local planning authorities, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are obliged to prepare and keep up to date a Development Plan for their area. The SDC Core Strategy will be 5 years old in July and WDC's Local Plan will reach that milestone in September 2022. Whilst both plans remain up to date, it is prudent to start to consider now planning for the period post 2031/2029 when those plans expire. It is also timely, in light of the COVID pandemic to use the Development Plan process to support economic growth and the rebuilding of the South Warwickshire economy.
- 5.1.4 In respect of the scope of the Plan, providing less detail in SWLP1 defers decision-making on some aspects of the Plan to subsequent SWLP documents. Providing lots of detail in SWLP1 will affect the timescale for its preparation. A timetable for the preparation of subsequent SWLP documents has not yet been devised. However, if necessary, work would not need to await final adoption of SWLP1 and could be progressed alongside SWLP1 and follow in relatively quick succession. Alternatively, with SWLP1 establishing the planning framework, long-term development sites and allocations for the first 5 years of the Plan period, subsequent allocation documents could be prepared every 5 years to ensure that there was an up-to-date supply of deliverable allocations but able to reflect changes over the Plan period.

Background papers:

None

Supporting papers:

South Warwickshire Local Plan Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation – May 2021 available at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp

South Warwickshire Local Plan Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation 10 May to 21 June 2021

Consultation Statement January 2022

Contents

1. Introduction and Background	3
1.1. Introduction	3
1.2. Background to the Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation	3
1.3. Stages of Consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan	4
2. Methods of engagement	5
2.1. The Scoping and Call for Sites consultation document.....	5
2.2. South Warwickshire Local Plan Website.....	5
2.3. Consultation Methods	5
2.4. Duty to Co-operate.....	7
2.5. Feedback Survey.....	8
3. Analysis of responses received to the Scoping and Call for Sites consultation	9
3.1. Response Numbers.....	9
3.2. Duty to Co-operate Responses.....	9
3.3. Responses received to the scoping consultation questions	10
3.4. Call for Sites Submissions	10
4. Next Steps: How the responses will help shape the South Warwickshire Local Plan	11
Appendix 1.....	12
Summary of the key strategic and cross-boundary issues raised from Duty to Co-operate bodies to the Scoping Consultation	
Appendix 2.....	19
Summary analysis of the responses received to the 53 Scoping Consultation questions	

1. Introduction and Background

1.1. Introduction

This document provides a summary of the consultation undertaken on the first stage of the production of the South Warwickshire Local Plan – the Scoping and Call for Sites consultation - which ran for 6 weeks from 10 May to 21 June 2021.

Section 2 of this report details the methods that were used to promote the consultation and explains how our Duty to Co-operate partners were engaged in the consultation process. Following the consultation a feedback survey was sent to respondents, this has identified a number of actions that we will take forward to improve our communications for future consultations, this is explained further in section 2.5.

Section 3 provides information on the responses received to the consultation and the submitted call for sites, with guidance on how to access this information online. An analysis of the responses received from our duty to co-operate partners and the scoping document questions are detailed in Appendices 1-2.

Section 4 of the report provides information on how the feedback from the consultation will inform the next steps in the production of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

1.2. Background to the Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation

A local plan is a legal document that councils are required to prepare, and which sets out the future land use and planning policies for the area over a set period of time. A local plan typically corresponds to the boundaries of local planning authorities e.g. Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. Both Councils have committed to undertaking reviews (i.e. replacements) of their existing respective Core Strategy and Local Plan. The Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy runs to 2031 and the Warwick District Local Plan runs to 2029. New plans are needed to plan for the development challenges beyond these dates.

We think that we should prepare a single Local Plan for the whole of South Warwickshire. Aside from the common history of being within Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District have similar economies, demographics and face common challenges. Many of these challenges such as climate change, biodiversity and infrastructure, do not stop at the District boundaries. Plan-making is also expensive. We think preparing a single plan for a larger geography will be both more effective and efficient.

This work is being done in advance of any formal merger between Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick district councils. It is entirely separate to the proposal that sees Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils becoming one single organisation. Many councils across the country work together on joint plans for their areas e.g. South Worcestershire Development Plan, Leicestershire Strategic

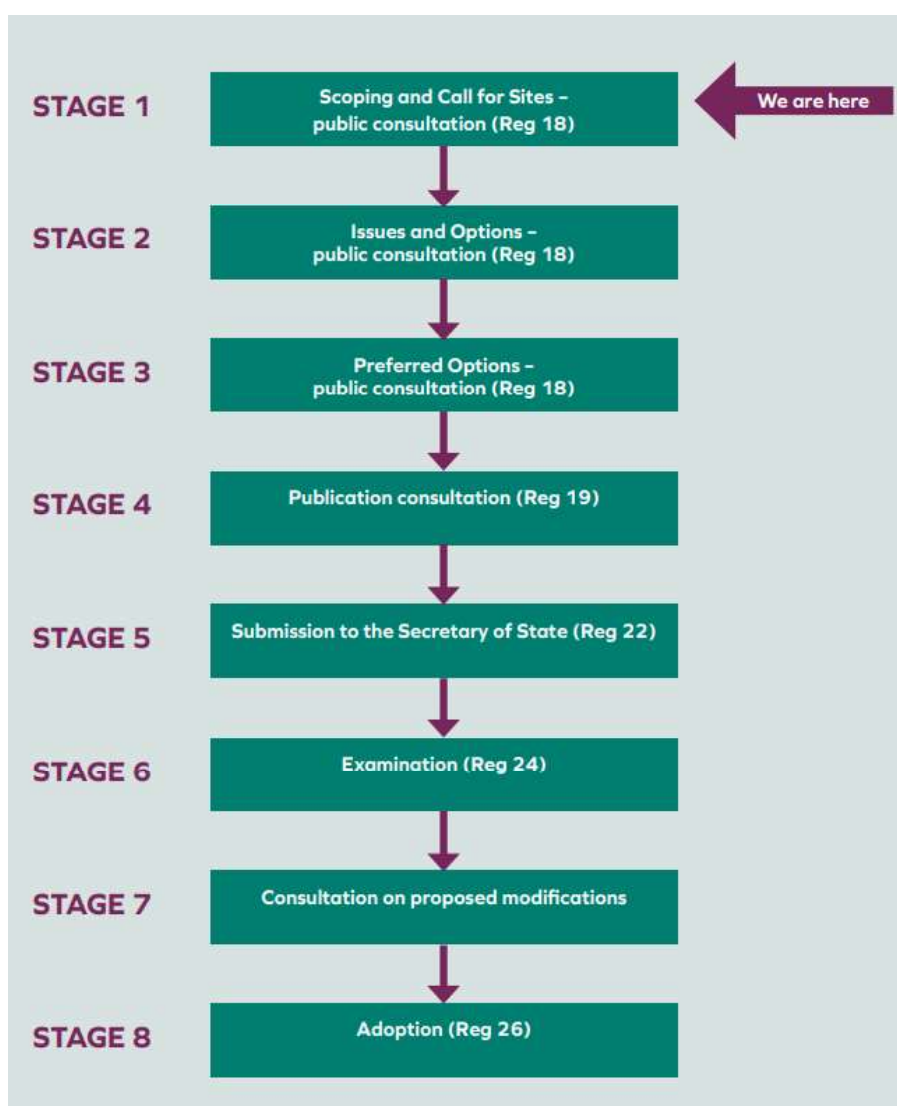
Growth Plan. A single South Warwickshire Local Plan could still be prepared therefore, even if the merger between the two councils were not to go ahead.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out how Local Authorities should achieve sustainable development through the preparation of Local Plans and decisions on planning applications taking into account the economic, social and environmental roles of sustainable development. Local Plans are considered to be 'sound' where they have been positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan will be guided by national planning policy and legislation in this respect.

1.3. Stages of Consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan

The figure below outlines the eight stages we are required to follow to prepare the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The Scoping and Call for Sites consultation was the first stage in the plan-making process.

The latest timetable is available to view at: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#).



2. Methods of engagement

2.1. The Scoping and Call for Sites consultation document

The consultation document aimed to guide interested parties through the main issues and identified a range of possible growth options in an easy to read format with the use of images, diagrams and maps to assist in its readability. Section 1 of the consultation document set out the ways in which people could view and respond to the consultation.

The consultation document was 107 pages long and included within it a series of 53 questions to help respondents in focusing their responses. These were interspersed throughout the document and also listed within Appendix 2 of the consultation document.

Information on the Call for Sites was set out within section 3.7 of the consultation document and a Call for Sites Proforma was included at Appendix 3.

An online version of the document was available on the SWLP website which enabled comments to be submitted directly online.

2.2. South Warwickshire Local Plan Website

A dedicated website www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp was set up and included full details of the consultation including:

- Consultation document, key diagram map and supporting technical work
- Facility to make comments online
- Comments Form and Call for Sites Proforma
- Videos, leaflet and links to public Q&A events
- FAQs and information on the process, governance and timetable
- Opportunity to sign up to be kept informed on the progress of the SWLP

In addition, a range of activities were undertaken in a variety of formats to promote the consultation is set out in the table below.

2.3. Consultation Methods

The aims of the consultation strategy were to:

- Promote the consultation to residents and businesses
- Reach different and more hard to reach groups by using a variety of communications channels
- Promote the consultation to partners who can inform local residents and businesses
- Provide opportunities for people to ask questions about aspects of the consultation and to encourage discussion

Summary Leaflet

135,000 A4 sized leaflets were distributed by Royal Mail to all households across South Warwickshire

Videos

Two videos were produced which were added to the SWLP webpage and promoted through social media:

- Animated Video
- Portfolio Holder Video

Press Releases

Two press releases were issued:

- April 2021 after approval for consultation at Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee
- May 2021 at the start of 6-week consultation period

Paid Adverts

Paid adverts were placed into local papers in the first and fourth weeks of the consultation.

Statutory Notices

Statutory Legal Notices were placed in local papers in the first week of the consultation.

Social Media

Social media strategy was developed with regular posts on the Councils social media accounts.

Emails/Letters

A wide range of stakeholders and individuals on the Councils planning policy consultation databases were notified of the consultation via email or letter.

Posters

Printed posters were sent to all Parish Councils to encourage them to put them up in noticeboards etc. around their parish.

Deposit Points for paper copies

Paper copies were placed in the main libraries and the Councils office receptions, along with copies of the comments form.

Online response portal and Comments Form

The online consultation portal was promoted throughout the consultation period for responses, however for those not willing or able to respond online a comments form was made available on the website which could be downloaded and emailed or posted. Copies were made available at deposit points.

Call for Sites

The Call for Sites was promoted through the various methods and a proforma was available on the website to download and email and post.

Consultation Events

Given that the consultation was undertaken during a time when pandemic restrictions were in place, it was not possible to have a face-to-face launch event or smaller sessions. As such all of the events were held online.

A total of 16 x 1 hour online Q&A Sessions were held during the consultation as follows, the numbers in brackets indicate the approximate number of people that attended the sessions.

- 4 public
- 5 with Parish Councils - Avon, Arden, Itchen, Stour and Leam
- 1 with Citizens Panel representatives
- 1 with the SWLP Place Board
- 1 with Business Forum
- 1 with Green and Blue Infrastructure Providers
- 1 with Developer Forum
- 1 with Community Infrastructure Providers
- 1 with the Infrastructure Partnership

Youth Engagement

A short questionnaire, based on the questions in the full consultation document, was distributed among the organisations that sit on the Stratford Youth Network. These organisations were asked to send the questionnaire to the individuals they work with and forward any responses directly to us. No responses were received in this way.

2.4. Duty to Co-operate

Local Planning Authorities are bound by the statutory duty to co-operate whereby strategic policy-making authorities are required to co-operate with each other when preparing policies which address strategic matters. The aim is to ensure effective cooperation to enable strategic policy-making authorities and infrastructure providers to establish whether additional strategic cross-boundary infrastructure is required.

Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, the Duty to Co-operate places a legal duty to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that these authorities should produce, maintain and update one or more statement(s) of common ground throughout the plan making process in order to demonstrate that a Plan is based on effective co-operation. Such statement(s) provide a written record of progress made on strategic cross-boundary matters and demonstrates where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan making process. They form part of the evidence required to demonstrate that a Local Planning Authorities has complied with the duty to co-operate.

All Duty to Co-operate (DTC) partners were emailed a Duty to Co-operate form to identify and strategic cross boundary issues that need to be addressed and/or delivered through the SWLP. Specific DTC responses and/or other more general responses were received from the following twenty DTC bodies:

Bromsgrove District Council	Homes England (joint response with Morris Homes)
Cherwell District Council	Natural England
Cotswold District Council	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Cotswolds Conservation Board	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Coventry City Council	Redditch Borough Council
Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP)	South Worcestershire Councils
Environment Agency	Transport for West Midlands
Highways England	Warwickshire County Council
Historic England	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

An analysis of the Duty to Co-operate responses is set out within Section 3 of this report.

2.5. Feedback Survey

After the consultation period had closed, a Feedback Survey was sent to those who had made comments on the Scoping Consultation in order to help identify any ideas for improvement for future communications on the SWLP.

A total of 118 full responses and 31 partial responses were received.

Following analysis of the responses a number of actions have been identified for further investigation/action by officers in order to improve future communications on the SWLP:

- Introduce an E-Newsletter to keep those signed up informed about the plan
- Improve the readability and length of the consultation documents
- Improve the functionality of the interactive consultation document to improve usability
- Run a number of in person consultation events alongside the use of online sessions and increase the advertisement for both.
- Improve youth engagement
- Enhance engagement with Parish Councils to enable an increased level of involvement
- Develop a more enhanced social media strategy making the most of the technology this channel offers
- Investigate the use of interactive maps on the SWLP website

3. Analysis of responses received to the Scoping and Call for Sites consultation

3.1. Response Numbers

The number of responses to the Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation is as follows:

- Respondents to the Scoping Consultation document = 561
- Submitted Call for Sites = 555

The number of interactions to the various engagement methods is as follows:

Social Media	During the consultation there were 84,535 impressions via the Councils social media channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instagram – 7,078 • Facebook – 38,176 • Twitter – 32,655 • Linked-In – 6,626
Videos	During the consultation, there were 2,527 views of the videos - 1,556 for the animated video and 971 for the portfolio holders video.
Consultation Events	Approximately 152 people attended one of the 16 events. The key comments coming out of these sessions were noted and will be taken into account in the preparation of the Plan.

3.2. Duty to Co-operate Responses

Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the following 14 key strategic and cross-boundary issues that Duty to Co-operate respondents, in response to the Scoping Consultation, consider are important to be addressed through the SWLP:

1. Housing and Employment requirements and impacts
2. Addressing climate change and ecological emergencies
3. Transport Infrastructure
4. Cotswold National Landscape/Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
5. Increased recreational pressure in Worcestershire
6. Health needs
7. Changing market trends and covid recovery
8. Power and Broadband
9. Green Belt
10. Flood Risk
11. Water Resources and Wastewater
12. Education needs
13. Strategic Design Principles to enhance regional connectivity
14. E-Infrastructure and other low-emission vehicles

3.3. Responses received to the scoping consultation questions

There were a total of 561 written respondents to the consultation. All of the responses received are available to view on the [South Warwickshire Local Plan website](#).

This facility allows users to search by Question Number to see what responses were received to any particular question and it is also possible to search for responses by surname or organisation.

Appendix 2 provides a summary of the responses to each of the 53 consultation questions contained within the Scoping Consultation document.

3.4. Call for Sites Submissions

There were a total of 556 Call for Site submissions. These sites have now all been mapped and are available to view on our [interactive mapping facility](#) on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website.

Further information on how to view and search for specific areas and Call for Sites submissions is available on the website at the above link.

4. Next Steps: How the responses will help shape the South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation responses and call for sites submissions will be used to inform the next stage in the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan – the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

This will propose more specific issues for the Plan to address, and set out some potential options as to how the Plan could address these issues. This will include more refined growth options following an analysis of the call for site submissions and other identified land that may be suitable for future development.

In addition to being informed by the consultation responses and call for sites submissions, a wide range of evidence will need to be collected or commissioned to help identify issues and support arguments for and against potential options. This evidence base will be crucial in providing use with as much up to date information as possible to help us make informed decisions.

The meaningful involvement of relevant stakeholders throughout the plan-making process is essential. Further engagement with key partners will continue over the next few months to help align the various strategies, including infrastructure requirements, and thereby help shape the content of the Issues and Options consultation document. As the plan-making process continues, the preparation of appropriate Statement(s) of Common Ground will be established with regards to the key issues identified.

Further rounds of consultation on the Local Plan will take place as summarised in Section 1 of this report. When finished and formally adopted by both Councils, the South Warwickshire Local Plan will replace the equivalent policies in the adopted Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy and the Warwick District Local Plan. It can then be used to shape development and assess planning applications across the South Warwickshire Plan area.

This page has been left intentionally blank

Appendix 2 – Excerpt from NPPF Chapter 3: Plan Making

Strategic policies

20. Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for:

(a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;

(b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

(c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and

(d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

21. Plans should make explicit which policies are strategic policies. These should be limited to those necessary to address the strategic priorities of the area (and any relevant cross-boundary issues), to provide a clear starting point for any non-strategic policies that are needed. Strategic policies should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies.

22. Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption, to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure. Where larger-scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns form part of the strategy for the area, policies should be set within a vision that looks further ahead (at least 30 years), to take into account the likely timescale for delivery.

23. Broad locations for development should be indicated on a key diagram, and land-use designations and allocations identified on a policies map. Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, and at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period, in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (except insofar as these needs can be demonstrated to be met more appropriately through other mechanisms, such as brownfield registers or non-strategic policies).

This page has been left intentionally blank

Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee
10 March 2022

Subject: South Warwickshire Local Plan – Timetable

Lead Officer: John Careford - Head of Place & Economy,
Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils (01789
260801)

Portfolio Holders: Councillor D Pemberton, Councillor J Cooke

Summary

The purpose of this report is to agree the timetable for the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

Recommendation

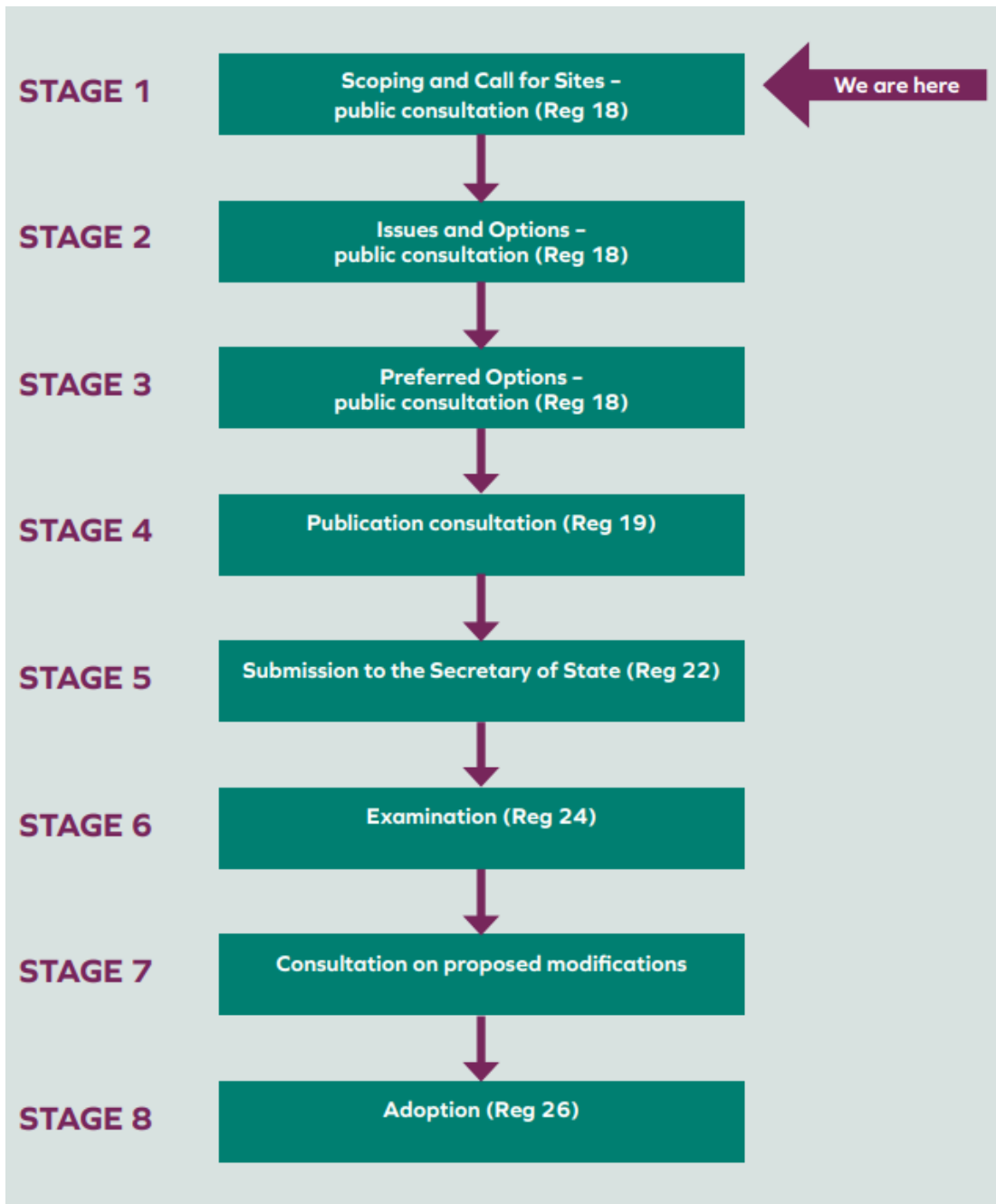
That the timetable for the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan is agreed and incorporated into each Council's respective Local Development Scheme in due course.

1 Background/Information

- 1.1 There are a number of stages to the preparation of Local Plan documents (see Figure 1 below). Publishing a timetable setting out when these various stages are likely to occur helps ensure that residents and stakeholders can more fully engage in the process.
- 1.2 An indicative timetable for the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) was published in Autumn 2020 with the intention that it would be confirmed following the initial Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation held between May and June 2021.
- 1.3 The intention is to consult on the next stage of the SWLP – Issues and Options – in late summer 2022. As such, it is considered necessary to confirm these timescales.
- 1.4 It is also a legal requirement to prepare a Local Plan in accordance with the published Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a work programme that provides information about the Local Plan/Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that a Local Planning Authority will produce. The LDS sets out the subject and geographical area that each DPD will cover and the timetable for its preparation and revision. SDC and WDC's current LDS's do not include an up-to-date timetable for the SWLP.
- 1.5 This report seeks to agree the SWLP timetable so that it can then be included within each Council's LDS in due course. The timetable is attached at **Appendix 1**.

1.6 It should be noted that the timetable will be kept under review and can be adjusted as necessary. It is considered challenging but realistic and provides for a degree of flexibility. One key variable relates to the 2023 local elections which may be postponed to 2024 if the Government confirms the political merger of the two councils.

Figure 1 – Stages of Local Plan Preparation



- 1.7 Whilst much of the work on the SWLP can be undertaken in parallel, certain aspects of plan preparation are sequential. Given the importance of housing and job numbers, it is considered sensible to await the publication of the 2021 Census results before consulting on the Issues and Options version of the SWLP. The headline results are due Spring 2022. Delay to publication may impact on the proposed timetable. The alternative would be to consult using current projections which are based on figures that are now 10 years old. The Census will also provide an opportunity to verify the accuracy of these projections.
- 1.8 It should also be noted that the timetable, post submission of any plan is determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

2 Options available to the Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee

- 2.1 There are two options available to the Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee. The first is to agree the timetable as drafted, noting that it can be kept under review and adjusted as necessary. The second option is to agree an alternative timetable. Not confirming a timetable is not considered to be a realistic option.

3 Consultation and Members' Comments

- 3.1 The two portfolio holders for Place and Economy have been fully involved throughout this process and are supportive of the recommendations. The SWLP Member Advisory Group which includes a number of Ward Councilors meets monthly and is supportive of the proposed approach.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 4.1.1 The South Warwickshire Local Plan is a Development Plan Document and as such, when adopted, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for both Districts. As such, its preparation has to comply with a number of statutory requirements including public consultation, regard to national policy, the achievement of sustainable development and fulfilment of the Duty to Co-operate. As a Development Plan document it will be subject to independent scrutiny through an examination in public to ensure that it is 'sound' (fit for purpose) and satisfies all necessary legal requirements. This includes ensuring that residents and stakeholders can engage meaningfully in the process.

4.2 Financial

- 4.2.1 The estimated cost of producing and getting the South Warwickshire Local Plan in place is £2.2m, excluding staff costs. This cost is to be shared equally between Stratford and Warwick. Stratford has £1.3m in place within the Core Strategy Funding Reserve to fund its share. Warwick currently has £0.5m allocated, including £0.3m as part of the 2022/23 Budget. Further funding from Warwick will need to be agreed as part of future Budgets.

4.3 Council Plan

- 4.3.1 As a Development Plan Document, the South Warwickshire Local Plan will help the Stratford-on-Avon District Council achieve all five objectives of the Council Plan.

4.3.2 In respect of Warwick District Business Plan, the following comments can be made.

4.3.3 **External impacts of proposal(s)**

People - Health, Homes, Communities – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council’s ability to meet its housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing, and to provide sports, recreation, leisure, community and cultural facilities to serve its population.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe – The SWLP will have a major impact on all the Council’s “green, clean and safe” aspirations. It will support the Council’s ability to meet its climate change targets through the planning policies it puts in place regarding the location of new development and standards for new buildings. Policies in the Local Plan will also support safer communities.

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The SWLP will have a major impact on the Council’s ability to support the local economy through providing appropriate and affordable places of work in the right locations and by other policies to support the economy including within the district’s town centres.

4.3.4 **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

People - Effective Staff – It will be integral to the success of the SWLP that staff are properly trained and supported to undertake a wider range of tasks. As this is a joint Local Plan then the councils will need to work together to ensure that proper training and support is given to staff across both councils.

Services - Maintain or Improve Services - Good stakeholder engagement and public consultation are key to ensuring the success of the SWLP.

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term - It is anticipated that the SWLP will save costs over each authority undertaking its Local Plan review separately. This will be kept under close review throughout the process.

4.4 **Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

4.4.1 Tackling Climate change and responding to the Climate Emergencies that both Councils have declared is at the heart of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. In order to maximise opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to meet net carbon zero targets, it is critical that the evolving Plan is informed by assessments on its impact on climate change. As such, consultations have been appointed to prepare these assessments and ensure that all aspects of climate change are considered as part of the SWLP. The Programme Director for Climate Change is directly involved in this work.

4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

4.5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is required and will be undertaken at various stages of the SWLP to ensure that strategies and policies contribute towards eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relations.

4.6 Data Protection

4.6.1 Both Councils will ensure that all data protection requirements are adhered to. This will particularly be the case in respect of personal or commercially sensitive information that is provided to the Council through public consultation.

5 Risk Assessment

5.1.1 There are many risks associated with undertaking a Local Plan review. These are financial, reputational and, sometimes, legal. All local authorities are required to prepare Local Plans and both Councils are experienced in managing these risks. All stages of the Local Plan are subject to Councillor advice, scrutiny and approval and so there is plenty of opportunity for Councillors to have proper oversight of the technical work and procedures that are being undertaken.

5.1.2 There are additional risks in undertaking a joint Local Plan review with another local authority as is being undertaken here. These are largely political and relate to the willingness of both Councils to continue to work together to approve the document.

Background papers:

None.

This page has been left intentionally blank

Appendix 1

Stage	2022												2023												2024												2025												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
1. Scoping & Call for Sites																																																	
2. Issues & Options									PC	PC																																							
3. Preferred Options															PU	PU		PC	PC	PC	PC																												
4. Publication																																																	
5. Submission																																																	
6. Examination																																																	
7. Main Modifications																																																	
8. Adoption																																																	
Key																																																	
	PC	Minimum 6 weeks consultation within this period																																															
	PU	Purdah																																															
	EX	Examination Hearings																																															
	IR	Inspector's Report																																															

This page has been left intentionally blank