

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 3 June 2025

A meeting of the above Committee will be held at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, on Tuesday 3 June, at 6.00pm and available for the public to watch via the Warwick District Council [YouTube channel](#).

### Membership

Councillor D Armstrong	Councillor M Luckhurst
Councillor A Barton	Councillor P Kohler
Councillor M Collins	Councillor A Milton
Councillor A Day	Councillor J Payne
Councillor D Harrison	Councillor P Wightman

### Emergency Procedure

At the commencement of the meeting, the emergency procedure for Town Hall will be announced.

### Agenda

#### 1. Appointment of Chair

To appoint the Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

#### 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

#### 3. Apologies & Substitutes

- (a) to receive apologies for absence from any Councillor who is unable to attend; and
- (b) to receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Chief Executive, together with the name of the Councillor for whom they are acting.

#### 4. Declarations 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.

5. **Appointment of Members to the Budget Review Group**

To appoint five Councillors from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, one from each Political Group to the Budget Review Group for the municipal year 2025/26.

6. **Appointment of the Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Champions**

To appoint a Member of Overview & Scrutiny Committee as the Council's second Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champion for the municipal year.

7. **Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2025.

**(Pages 1 to 11)**

8. **Work Programme, Forward Plan, & Comments from Cabinet**

To consider a report from Governance Services.

**(Pages 1 to 11)**

9. **South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Performance Report (2024/25)**

To consider a report from the Safer Communities and Civil Contingencies Manager.

**(Pages 1 to 17)**

10. **Cabinet Agenda – (Non-Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 4 June 2025**

To consider the non-confidential items on the Cabinet agenda which fall within the remit of this Committee. The only items to be considered are those which Committee Services have received notice of by 9.00am on the morning after Group meetings.

**(Circulated separately)**

11. **Public & Press**

To consider resolving that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Item Number	Paragraph Number	Reason
12	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

12. **Cabinet Agenda – (Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 4 June 2025**

- (a) To consider the confidential items on the Cabinet agenda which fall within the remit of this Committee. The only items to be considered are those which

Committee Services have received notice of by 9.00am on the morning after Group meetings.

- (b) **Kenilworth Wardens Report** - To consider the confidential Cabinet item, which is listed on the Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme.

**(Circulated separately)  
(Not for publication)**

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General Enquiries: Please contact Warwick District Council, Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4AT.

Telephone: 01926 456114

E-Mail: [committee@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:committee@warwickdc.gov.uk)

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

You can e-mail the members of the Committee at

[oandscommittee@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:oandscommittee@warwickdc.gov.uk)

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# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Milton (Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Collins, Falp, Harrison, Kohler, Luckhurst, Payne, and P Wightman.

**Also Present:** Councillor Roberts – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood.

## 114. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) Apologies were received from Councillor Redford; and
- (b) Councillor Falp substituted for Councillor Barton and Councillor Kohler substituted for Councillor Russell.

## 115. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 116. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2025 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 117. Work Programme

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer which informed Members of the Committee's work programme for 2024-2025, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Resolved** that

- (1) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 August 2025 be repurposed for the extraordinary O&S Committee meeting to discuss Local Government Reorganisation; and
- (2) Councillor King be requested to attend the Shakespeare England agenda item, as the outside body representative, on 8 July 2025.

## 118. Outside Bodies and Champions Briefing Note Report

The Committee considered a report from Governance Services. The briefing note provided a list of outside appointments and the appointed representatives, together with the evaluation criteria used by the Monitoring Officer for the appointment in the case of Council appointed representation (as seen at Appendix 1 to the report).

An annual statement from Councillors who were the Council's appointed representatives on outside bodies was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

An annual statement from the Council's Champions was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

The Committee was asked to review the annual reports and identify any areas to add to its work programme for more detailed scrutiny at a future meeting.

Councillors were requested to contact the Monitoring Officer if they considered that the Council should not appoint a representative to a specific outside body. The Monitoring Officer would consider this in liaison with the Leadership Co-ordination Group (LCG).

The Council's Champion update was provided for information purposes only. Councillors were advised if they had questions they should be directed to the relevant Champion.

No reports had been received from Councillor King in respect of Shakespeare England, from Councillor Payne in respect of Coventry Airport Consultative, or Councillor Yellapragada in respect of the Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Champions.

It was agreed that each year, Councillors appointed to represent the Council on Outside Bodies should submit an annual statement of the work undertaken by the outside body. For completeness, the work being undertaken by Champions had been included in this update.

The Council's Constitution, section 4 – Scheme of Delegation stipulated that the Monitoring Officer had authority to: MO (2) Subject to consultation with Group Leaders, make appointments to outside bodies in accordance with the political balance already agreed.

This delegated power allowed the Monitoring Officer to determine which outside appointments could be discontinued after consulting with the LCG.

The appointments by Council were made on a politically proportionate basis. The process for nominations was that the largest group on the Council was requested to make its nominations first, followed by, in turn, the second and third largest.

The guidance for outside body representatives needed to be reviewed.

In answer to questions from Members the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer advised that:

- the list of outside bodies had reduced significantly, by 75%;
- he would encourage Warwick District Council to reflect on the value of providing a representative to each of the outside bodies and whether the outside body continued to benefit from having a representative from WDC attend;
- the reporting methodology was introduced as a result of some outside bodies, on occasion, not meeting for a long period of time. It was now considered good practice to report annually;
- currently Members were asked to report back on their outside body appointments annually;
- officers were unaware of Members' attendance until the end of each municipal year;

- there were no direct sanctions for Members that failed to attend outside body meetings;
- introducing sanctions on non-attendance would be a decision for Council. For example, Council might decide if a Member had failed to attend multiple outside body meetings, they could appoint a different representative;
- it was impossible to know if the Council was missing out on information, if representatives failed to attend a meeting, given that it was not known what was discussed at the meeting;
- in relation to the outside bodies that had been removed from the list previously, these could be re-evaluated against the scoring matrix used;
- in relation to Members suggesting potential future outside bodies, Members could be given the criteria used, and asked to provide information as to how the body met the criteria;
- there was one potential outside body organisation, the Coventry, Warwickshire, and Solihull Local Access Forum which discussed rights of way, that needed to be discussed with Group Leaders;
- Members were able to explore whether there were any outside bodies they wished to suggest a representative from WDC attended;
- Members might wish to be cautious in regard to their capacity and time for adding further outside bodies, given the number of existing Working Parties, Committees, sub-Committees, and working groups in addition to their ward work;
- officers would have a conversation with Coventry Airport Consultative Committee in relation to Councillor Payne's concerns that he had received little contact from them and no invitations to meetings;
- there was potential for the Coventry Airport Consultative Committee to be replaced by a similar organisation that would look at the development of the site and focus on engagement work in future;
- the outside body organisations stipulated their own terms and conditions and rules with regards to who could attend the group and whether a substitute could attend in the representative's absence;
- guidance on where the focus should be would need to come from Councillors whether that be from Cabinet or Group Leaders;
- papers had been published today, 6 May 2025, for annual Council listing the outside body appointments for 2025-2026; and
- consideration should be given to whether the annual outside bodies report ought to come to Overview & Scrutiny Committee much earlier, potentially December, to allow a greater gap between the report and annual Council.

Committee Members were concerned with the attendance of some of the outside body representatives and the disparity in the feedback received in the annual statements.

**Resolved** that a further discussion be had at the Chair's briefing meeting scheduled for 2 June 2025.

#### 119. **Biodiversity Action Plan and Climate Change Adaption Plan**

The Committee considered a report from the Climate Change Adaptation Officer.

On 30 July 2024, a report entitled "Climate Change and Biodiversity Reporting" was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed that further reports be provided in April 2025 focusing on two key

areas: Climate Change Adaptation and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

Regarding climate change adaptation, the report included:

- Updated international, national, and local data relevant to the review of Warwick District Council's (WDC) Adaptation Action Plan.
- A concise overview of progress made on the Adaptation Action Plan.
- A detailed review of Theme 1 of the Action Plan (Mainstreaming climate resilience into Council operations and services).
- Insights and lessons learned from recent extreme weather events, including:
  - Heatwave of Summer 2022
  - Flooding in January 2024
  - Any subsequent events

In relation to the BAP, the report outlined measures to assess progress, along with a highlights and exceptions report on actions taken. It was agreed that this review would be repeated annually for ongoing scrutiny.

Officers had requested a delay of one month for the reports to allow for analysis of data covering the full 2024/25 period.

In response to a recent request for feedback on the report's focus, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee specified that the report should focus on:

- How improvements in biodiversity would be measured, including early results.
- The connection between No Mow May and the BAP, specifically in terms of quantifiable impacts.
- General highlights, results, and any areas of significant progress or challenges.

Over the past 12 months much of the climate change adaptation work had focused on areas that overlapped with the BAP. While this had meant more attention on nature-based actions, work had also been undertaken on other adaptation actions. To streamline reporting, officers proposed combining the climate change adaptation and BAP reports into a single report due to the overlap.

The report mainly focused on the BAP, with updates provided on climate change adaptation (paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 to the report), including both actions directly linked to the BAP and others that had been carried out separately.

The vision of WDC's BAP was "to make Warwick District a place that was rich in nature, delivering multiple benefits for wildlife and people".

The BAP set out the strategic direction to 2050 for how WDC would protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity in the district, with a particular focus on the Council's own land and operations.

Approved by Cabinet on 10 April 2024, the BAP included a clear monitoring and reporting process to track progress. The Action Plan to 2030 served as a tool to track progress on each action, with activities set to begin at different times. Some actions were time-bound due to external factors, while others were short-term or long-term initiatives. In addition, the BAP included a series of measures to provide quantifiable reports on the work being undertaken.

These measures would become relevant at various points throughout the action plan, depending on when the associated actions were scheduled to start.

Ambition 3 of WDC's Climate Change Action Programme was: "To enable our environment and communities to have adapted to the potential of at least 3 degrees rise in global temperatures by 2100."

A revised Climate Change Adaptation Plan was agreed by Cabinet in December 2023. This plan set out the actions that should be considered to ensure that the natural environment, people, buildings, and businesses were prepared for the impacts of climate change. It used the findings from the West Midlands and Warwickshire County Council Adaptation Plans, along with the outcomes of the Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment 3 (CCRA3) and National Adaptation Programme 3 (NAP3), to create a localised plan for Warwick District. While the plan primarily focused on actions within WDC's areas of influence, it also emphasized the importance of partnership working to explore wider adaptation opportunities.

On the national level, the UK's climate change adaptation efforts were guided by the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which assessed climate risks and opportunities to inform future adaptation plans. The CCRA was updated every five years with the fourth edition (CCRA4) due for publication in 2026. The National Adaptation Programme (NAP) used the findings from the CCRA to outline actions to address these risks. NAP3 was published in 2023, with NAP4 due for publication in 2028, following the release of CCRA4. These efforts aimed to improve the UK's resilience to climate change, although progress had been considered slower than necessary to fully address the urgency of climate impacts. Local authorities were invited to report on their climate risks and adaptation actions in 2024 as part of the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP), established under the Climate Change Act. A small number of councils took part in this trial and the government would now consider whether to make reporting mandatory for all councils in the future.

In the past 12 months, much of the climate change adaptation work had focused on areas that overlapped with the BAP, such as restoring habitats, enhancing green spaces and promoting biodiversity to improve nature's resilience to climate change. Other actions, guided by the climate change adaptation plan had also been carried out to further strengthen climate resilience.

Significant achievements had been made during the first year of the BAP.

Key activities had contributed to the success of the BAP in 2024/25, including:

- Launch of Nature Patchwork: Nature Patchwork was an initiative designed to inspire and connect people to help nature by creating wildlife habitats in their gardens and community spaces. The initiative was a collaboration between WDC, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and other local community partners. The first area of focus was Royal Leamington Spa with a launch event held at the Sydni Centre on 8 March 2025. The Council hoped to expand to other parts of the District in the future.
- Supporting the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme (NHMP) in Warwick District: NHMP was a three-year pilot project aimed at tracking the number and distribution of hedgehogs across the UK. Wildlife monitoring cameras were set up across gardens, cemeteries and parks in

the Brunswick area including Eagle Recreation Ground and Leamington Cemetery. Initial results indicated a promising number of hedgehog sightings, suggesting a healthy local population.

- Biodiversity Photography Competition: The second photography competition saw another fantastic range of entries, this time with the theme "Bright, Beautiful, Great and Small."
- Introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) into the planning system and early investigation of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement on WDC land through the BNG system. Initial work had focused on Newbold Comyn, working closely with Trust Nature Services (side arm of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust), to understand potential opportunities. The next step was cost management modelling to assess long-term management costs and look at the financial viability and delivery model for implementing BNG at Newbold Comyn. The Council hoped to have this piece of work completed during Summer 2025. Subject to findings, a report would be presented to Cabinet to request approval to proceed with implementing BNG at Newbold Comyn, if deemed viable and appropriate.

Much of the climate change adaptation work over the past 12 months had linked closely with the BAP. Key actions included:

- increasing natural flood mitigation in WDC parks and open spaces by expanding or creating new scrapes to support water storage and slow the flow during heavy rain;
- supporting local food production through the planting of community orchards on WDC land;
- planting trees in residential areas to help with urban cooling, improve air quality, reduce flood risk, and increase carbon storage; and
- incorporating adaptation into grounds maintenance practices to improve resilience to flooding and drought, improve soil health, conserve water, and increase carbon storage in green spaces. This included sustainable planting schemes, expanding meadow areas, adjusting mowing practices (for example, cutting grass higher, No Mow May), mulching, and more.

Additional actions included:

- reducing wildfire risk in WDC parks and open spaces through signage and public guidance at key sites to encourage safer behaviour;
- raising public awareness and preparedness around extreme weather, including heatwaves and cold snaps, and activating emergency protocols when needed;
- supporting the development of Warwickshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, ensuring climate adaptation was a key consideration;
- supporting the integration of climate adaptation into the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan, including:
  - promoting water efficiency measures that went beyond national Building Regulations;
  - embedding adaptation within green infrastructure policies;
  - advocating for an Environmental Net Gain (ENG) approach that delivers adaptation benefits through nature-based solutions;
  - exploring policies to protect areas with high carbon storage and sequestration value; and
  - developing a Climate and Sustainability Impact Tool to inform and improve decision making across WDC, with climate adaptation

embedded as a core consideration.

The Action Plan to 2030 was a key tool for monitoring and tracking progress on each action. Actions were set to begin at different points throughout the plan, with some being time-bound due to external factors, and others being short-term or long-term initiatives. Appendix 1 to the report contained the Action Plan to 2030 Tracker for 2024/25, which provided an overview of the actions for this period, along with a progress update and an explanation for any delays.

The BAP also included measurable indicators to help quantify the work being undertaken. These metrics primarily focused on habitat improvements, as they were easier to monitor and update using the comprehensive grounds maintenance database. Appendix 2 to the report contained the reporting table for these measures, including data from 2024/25. In some cases, the data served as a baseline for future reporting and comparisons.

Whilst these measures showed WDC's efforts to improve conditions for wildlife, it's important to note that the direct benefits – especially in terms of species health – could take time to show. For example, improving grassland quality in the first year might not affect species health and diversity for many years as ecosystems take time to respond to habitat changes.

Research had shown that habitat restoration could support biodiversity, but species populations would often take several years to reflect the changes in habitat. Also, species trends were influenced by many factors outside the Council's control, such as land use changes and broader environmental changes. This made focusing on habitat improvements a practical way to measure progress and see more immediate results.

For species data, the Council relied on external sources like the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre (WBRC), but this data was primarily collected by volunteers and might not have been specific to the areas they were working in. Species surveys could be expensive and resource-heavy, so the Council focused on habitat-based measures, which were more cost-effective and provided valuable insights into ecosystem health.

No Mow May was part of a wider effort to restore habitats and support pollinators. By letting grass and wildflowers grow without mowing, the Council provided important food and nesting sites for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

In 2025, the Council would build on this by starting a Wildflower Verge Trial, which would reduce mowing throughout the growing season (spring to autumn). This would give wildflowers and plants more time to grow, improving their chance to thrive. The Council would survey the sites before and after the trial to track changes in plant diversity. Whilst the Council anticipated habitat improvements, it would take time for pollinators to benefit, and it could be hard to directly link changes from this initiative. For species data, the Council would rely on broader trends from sources like the WBRC, as it was difficult to directly measure the impacts on species from the trial alone.

Some of the key challenges in delivering the BAP were:

- **Measuring impacts:** It was difficult to measure the exact impact of the

BAP and link specific actions to changes in species and broader biodiversity. While habitat improvements like reduced mowing, meadow creation, and woodland management were important, it could take years for species populations to reflect these changes.

- **Public support:** Many of the biodiversity initiatives, such as traditional hedge laying and bulb planting, were well received by the public. However, some initiatives like No Mow May, faced resistance because they challenged traditional ideas of tidiness. Public opinion on these initiatives was divided, but the Council planned to continue educate people about the benefits and work to shift perceptions over time.
- **Data limitations:** Accurate progress tracking in the BAP relied on regularly updated data, particularly from the grounds maintenance database. However, there was a challenge when it came to assessing the percentage of WDC land being actively managed for biodiversity. The most recent land registry data available was from 2019, creating a mismatch with the up-to-date ground's maintenance data from 2025. This discrepancy complicated efforts to measure biodiversity improvements on WDC land accurately. The issue with outdated land registry data was being investigated, however, updating it could be costly and time-consuming.

In answer to questions from Members the Climate Change Adaptation Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood advised that:

- the infographic within the report would be included in the summer's biodiversity newsletter which was due to be published in June 2025;
- the biodiversity newsletter was seasonal;
- there would be further communication regarding the infographic, including adding it to the Council's website;
- there were various webpages in relation to the biodiversity action plan on the Council's website;
- officers were reliant on the species data from the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre, which sat with Warwickshire County Council's remit;
- the initial species data in the report was used to target specific species for action;
- officers had not received an update from Warwickshire County Council for 2024/25, as they had been busy developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
- this data was reliant on volunteers completing surveys;
- officers had good relationships with community groups across the District, including the Bee Friendly groups, who had been supportive of the work underway and were happy to complete surveys;
- officers had worked with educational groups to encourage students to support the survey work;
- officers had been heavily involved with the environmental side of the Local Plan to influence how it was developed;
- officers had commissioned a study in relation to green and blue infrastructure to look at the requirements in terms of new developments and how to protect wildlife and habitat;
- officers were considering the viability of going beyond the 10% biodiversity net gain target;
- officers from Green Spaces and the Climate Change Team were working hard to achieve the targets;

- the study that was being commissioned would be a key piece of evidence in the development of the Local Plan, which would inform specific policies in the Local Plan in relation to:
  - biodiversity net gain;
  - the protection of species;
  - the protection of habitats; and
  - the protection of trees.
- in relation to temperature rises, there was a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, which was on the website, that included climate change projections in Warwick District based on Met Office projections;
- the median estimated projections, for temperature rises, in relation to median omissions, would peak in 2080, then start to decline;
- the projected figure in Warwick District estimated a mean annual increase of three degrees by the end of the century;
- there is a lot of data available from the Met Office, however, the information was high level;
- in addition to No Mow May, officers were trialling a wildflower verge project;
- the wildflower verge trial consisted of a small number of areas across the District where verges would be left to grow for longer periods of time, not just for the No Mow May period, and would focus on plant diversity and improvements to species;
- the local community had been involved in the wildflower verge trial by completing surveys;
- officers would add photographs of invasive species to the Council's website and app to enable residents to clearly identify what these looked like;
- officers had linked up with Warwick Natural History Society to write an article for the biodiversity newsletter on the effect of Asian hornets;
- there were no firm plans in the Council's action plan to 2030 to reintroduce species. Instead, they would support organisations, such as the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in relation to rebuilding the eco-system;
- officers were aware Warwickshire Wildlife Trust were considering reintroducing beavers to Warwick District, however, this was a very lengthy process;
- there had not been a huge amount of focus on adaptation work with regards to flooding, however, in terms of the draft policies put forward for the most recent consultation for the local plan there was some more detailed work around flood risk, mitigation, sustainable urban drainage, and waste water management which had been developed with colleagues at Warwickshire County Council;
- policies needed to be firmly in place by Christmas 2025, to consult again on what would be the final policies;
- officers would continue to work with Warwickshire County Council flood risk staff and the Environment Agency;
- officers were working though the responses from the most recent round of consultations, there might be a resource requirement for this;
- officers needed to understand what the responses were from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, and Warwickshire County Council to understand how to refine the policies;
- officers were pleasantly surprised to see the Council had already reached 2030 targets. As a result, officers would review some of the targets that had been achieved;
- as part of the biodiversity action programme, officers had committed to complete a midway review in 2027, however, officers might consider bringing the date forward;

- the new planning software would be in place in 12 months. The conversation in relation to what the new system could offer (recording and monitoring biodiversity net gain) were only just beginning;
- the Council had a duty to report on biodiversity every five years;
- the first biodiversity report was due in January 2026;
- the Council had a duty to consider biodiversity in everything that it did and report to government how it was delivering this;
- officers were working with the Planning Team in relation to the requirements of the new software;
- biodiversity net gain, in regard to stakeholder developments, came into force in 2024. Officers were unsure whether there had been any planning applications whereby the Council had a financial stake had been submitted since the biodiversity net gain measures had been introduced;
- it was important to get the right policies in place for the next 20 years;
- as part of the wider Climate Change Team, there was a project called Local Engagement Work, which had recently been responsible for sending a survey to all Town and Parish Council's, as well as community groups, to ask what they had been doing in relation to climate action work and if they needed support from WDC;
- this information would be collated, and staff would assess where they could provide assistance;
- the Local Engagement Work would be arranging an event later in 2025 to bring everyone together, to invite speakers, for example some Parish Council's that were doing some great work to share their experiences and best practice;
- as part of the local plan engagement work, staff were working with Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) to provide Local Nature Action Plans;
- WALC had been working with the Local Nature Action Partnership to provide Local Nature Action Plan templates to Parish Council's to establish what their aims and aspirations were;
- Paragraph 3.3 in Appendix 2 to the report related to the new planning software;
- as part of the planning application approval process, applicants needed to commit to delivering biodiversity net gains over a 30-year period, of which there were legally binding monitoring requirements in place;
- the monitoring costs could be passed to the developer through section 106 agreements;
- there were actions within the plan that supported Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency with the work they were doing in relation to water quality;
- Warwick District Council were leading the way with their Biodiversity Action Plan. Other local authorities had been watching what Warwick District Council were doing and wanting to replicate it; and
- there was a lot of good biodiversity work happening within Burton Green Parish Council.

The Committee thanked staff for the report and praised the report author for how clear and well written it was.

**Resolved** that

- (1) Committee would be supportive of additional resources if it were deemed necessary; and
- (2) asked staff to review the 2030 targets that the

Council had already met.

**120. Commercial Strategy Scoping Paper**

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda and would feature on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting agenda on 3 June 2025.

(The meeting ended at 7.11pm.)

CHAIR  
3 June 2025

Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
3 June 2025

Title: Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Cabinet  
Lead Officer: Graham Leach, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer  
Portfolio Holder: Not applicable  
Public report  
Wards of the District directly affected: Not applicable

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### Summary

This report informs Members of Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the Committee's work programme for 2024-2025 (Appendix 1) and seeks confirmation of approach of a number of areas in respect of that work plan.

### Recommendations

- (1) That Members consider the work programme (Appendix 1), the themes the Committee intends to scrutinise this year and agree changes to its Work Programme appropriately.
  - (2) That the Committee:
    - identifies any Cabinet items on the [Forward Plan](#) on which it wishes to have an input before the Cabinet makes its decision; and
    - nominates a Member to investigate that future decision and report back to the Committee.
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## 1 Background/Information & Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 The five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are: holding to account; performance management; policy review; policy development; and external scrutiny.
- 1.2 Two of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and to feed into policy development.
- 1.3 The pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions falls within the role of 'holding to account'. To feed into the pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions, the Committee needs to examine the Council's Forward Plan and identify items which it would like to have an impact upon.
- 1.4 The Council's Forward Plan is published 28 days before each Cabinet meeting and sets out the key decisions that are expected to be taken by the Cabinet in the next twelve months.

1.5 A key decision means a decision made in the exercise of an executive function by any person (including officers) or body which meets one or more of the following conditions:

- (1) The decision is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure or the making of savings in excess of £150,000. Excluded from this are all loans to banks or other financial institutions made in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy.

Officers' delegated powers to make the cabinet decisions are subject to the key decision/call-in regime where it is likely that the Council would incur expenditure or make savings above the threshold of £150,000.

In relation to letting contracts the key decision is the proposal to let a contract for a particular type of work. The subsequent decision to award the contract to a specific contractor will not be a key decision provided the value of the contract does not vary above the estimated amount by more than 10% for contracts with a value of up to £500,000 or 5% for contracts of over £500,000.

- (2) The decision is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in any two or more Wards.

In considering whether a decision is likely to be significant, a decision-maker will need to consider the strategic nature of the decision and whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the Council to a significant number of people living or working in the locality affected.

1.6 The Forward Plan is considered at each meeting and allows the Committee to look at future items and become involved in those Cabinet decisions to be taken if members so wish.

1.7 The Forward Plan also identifies non-key decisions to be taken by Cabinet in the next twelve months, and the Committee, if it wishes, may also pre-scrutinise these decisions.

1.8 There may also be policies identified on the Forward Plan, either as key or non-key decisions, which the Committee could pre-scrutinise and have an impact upon how these are formulated.

1.9 The Committee should be mindful that any work it wishes to undertake would need to be undertaken without the need to change the timescales as set out within the Forward Plan.

1.10 At each meeting, the Committee will consider its work programme and make amendments where necessary, and also make comments on specific Cabinet items, where notice has been given by 9am on the morning after Group meetings. The Committee will also receive a report detailing the response from the Cabinet, on the comments the Committee made on the Cabinet agenda in the previous cycle.

## Agenda Item 8

- 1.11 The Committee will consider issues that have due significance with reference to the following criteria:
- The number of residents impacted and the significance of that impact.
  - The amount of spend involved.
  - It concerns a strategic priority of the Council or key project.
- 1.12 On the day of publication of the Cabinet agenda all Councillors are sent an e-mail asking them to contact Committee Services, by 9.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to advise which Cabinet items they would like the Committee to consider.

Criteria for Items on the work plan	Scheduled Meeting dates
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> High Risk</li> <li><b>2.</b> High Value</li> <li><b>3.</b> Major Project</li> <li><b>4.</b> Decreasing Performance</li> <li><b>5.</b> Statutory/Constitution requirement</li> </ol>	<p>03/06/2025                      08/07/2025                      15/07/2025 Extraordinary                      02/09/2025                      14/10/2025                      11/11/2025 (NC)                      25/11/2025                      17/12/2025 JC Extraordinary                      03/02/2026                      24/02/2026 (NC)                      17/03/2026</p> <p>*NC = No Cabinet meeting</p>

Agenda Item 8  
Appendix 1 – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

<b>Title</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Councillor</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Where did item originate from</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Commercial Strategy scoping paper – outlining what is to be covered in the commercial strategy and the process for developing it	Andrew Rollins	03/06/2025	O&S 15/10/2025		
Elect a Chair and Vice Chair		03/06/2025	Standing Annual Item	On-going at the first meeting of each Municipal Year	5
To appoint members to the Budget Review Group (add the Group's remit which is saved to the annex in the Constitution)		03/06/2025	Standing Annual Item.		5
Appoint Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champion		03/06/2025	Standing Annual		5
Summary of the role, responsibilities and performance of the SWCSP.  Invite Councillor Falp (non-Exec rep) and the PH Safer Communities to O&S  See minute 76, 6 February 2024 for details requested in the report.	Liz Young / Marianne Rolfe.	03/06/2025	This is a Statutory requirement	Annual report next due March 2026	5
Kenilworth Wardens update	Darren Knight, Becky Burridge	03/06/2025	15/10/2024	Listed on the Cabinet agenda	
Shakespeare's England report from	Phil Clarke – Head of Place, Arts and Economy. Jo	08/07/2025	04/02/2025	O&S require a performance review of the	

Title	Lead Officer / Councillor	Meeting Date	Where did item originate from	Notes	Criteria
<p>Shakespeare's England to attend O&amp;S to answer questions from Members (Phil sending invitation to Operations Director Darren Tosh – <a href="mailto:darren@shakespeares-england.co.uk">darren@shakespeares-england.co.uk</a>)</p> <p>Councillor King to attend agenda item as the outside body representative.</p>	<p>Randall – Senior Economic Development Officer</p>			<p>last two years, to establish the value being delivered to residents and businesses. The report should explain what Shakespeare's England is, whether a ltd company, how and by who it is funded (with financials), what are the performance expectations, if Shakespeare's England are meeting these expectations, and if not why.</p>	
<p>Fly Tipping performance report</p>	<p>Zoe Court</p>	<p>08/07/2025</p>	<p>21 January 2025</p>	<p>O&amp;S have requested a report on fly tipping. To date, the Council only</p>	

Agenda Item 8  
Appendix 1 – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Lead Officer / Councillor	Meeting Date	Where did item originate from	Notes	Criteria
				record fly tipping recovered on Council land, and not from public land. The Committee wishes for further explanation.	

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## Appendix 1 – Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Lead Officer / Councillor	Meeting Date	Where did item originate from	Notes	Criteria
The Royal Pump Rooms Customer Service Centre – A year on	Dave Elkington, Cllr Melrose	08/07/2025	13 November 2024	O&S have requested an update in six months' time to include data and feedback from users of the Pump Rooms, not just users of the Customer Service Centre.	
Local Government Reorganisation	Darren Knight Councillor Davison	15/07/2025	27/05/2025	Extraordinary O&S to discuss LGR.	
Future High Streets Fund update – if everything is on track, the Committee will accept a short report to this effect following liaison with the O&S Chair.	Martin O'Neill Councillor Billiald	02/09/2025 - Short update to be provided via email before the meeting	O&S February 2023	Every 3 months until further notice	1, 2, and 3
Change Programme – Case for Change	Darren Knight; Councillor Davison	02/09/2025	O&S 5 March 24 and 3 Sept 2024	A six-monthly update to ensure that the savings are coming through and the Committee can see their impact in the budget.	

## Appendix 1 – Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Lead Officer / Councillor	Meeting Date	Where did item originate from	Notes	Criteria
Performance Update from HEART To invite representatives from HEART – Jane Grant and Dawn Dawson.	Lisa Barker	11/11/2025	O&S Feb 2025		
Bereavement Services – An update with regards to the underperformance listed in the Q3 Budget Report.	Zoe Court, Pam Chilvers – Bereavement Services Development Manager, Cllr Roberts	11/11/2025	O&S 18 March 2025	Teams conversation with Zoe Court on 25 March 2025 to agree date item added to work programme.	
Extraordinary Joint Cabinet		17/12/2025	SDC 31/03/2025		
Future High Streets Fund update – if everything is on track, the Committee will accept a short report to this effect following liaison with the O&S Chair.	Martin O’Neill Councillor Billiald	03/02/2026 - Short update to be provided via email before the meeting	O&S February 2023	Every 3 months until further notice	1, 2, and 3
Procurement Act 2023 To consider a report from Finance 12 months on.	Andrew Rollins / Steven Leathley	Feb 2026	Chair briefing on 03/02/25 to discuss Cabinet agenda 06/02/2025		

## Appendix 1 – Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Lead Officer / Councillor	Meeting Date	Where did item originate from	Notes	Criteria
O&S End of Term report.	Committee Services Officer	17/3/2026	Standing Annual Item, Constitution requirement	Annual report - last scheduled O&S meeting in the municipal year.	5
Summary of the role, responsibilities and performance of the SWCSP.  Invite non-exec rep and the PH Safer Communities to O&S	Liz Young / Marianne Rolfe.	17/03/2026	This is a Statutory requirement	Annual report next due March 2027	5
Biodiversity Action Programme annual report	Becky Davies, Councillor Roberts	June 2026		Annual report next due June 2026	

**Scheduled Briefing Notes to All Councillors requested by the Committee**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Update Due by (end of Month)</b>
Members' Annual Feedback on Outside Appointments / Annual review of membership/participation of Outside Bodies (Includes a short synopsis on Champions)	Graham Leach (report collated by the Scrutiny Officer)	April every year
Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champions: End of Term Report.	Marianne Rolfe/Jane Rostron	April every year

Title: South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Performance Report (2024/25)

Lead Officer: Liz Young, Safer Communities & Civil Contingencies Manager

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jim Sinnott

Wards of the District directly affected: All

<b>Approvals required</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	20/05/25	Jim Sinnott
<b>Finance</b>	NA	-----
<b>Legal Services</b>	NA	-----
<b>Chief Executive</b>	20/05/25	Chris Elliott/Darren Knight/Dave Elkington
<b>Head of Service(s)</b>	20/05/24	Marianne Rolfe
<b>Section 151 Officer</b>	NA	-----
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	20/05/25	Graham Leach
<b>Leadership Co-ordination Group</b>	NA	-----
<b>Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?</b>	No (Information only report)	
<b>Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?</b>	No	
<b>Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?</b>	No	
<b>Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?</b>	No	
<b>Accessibility Checked?</b>	Yes	

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a legal duty to undertake scrutiny of crime and disorder at least every 12 months in accordance with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
- 1.2 The South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (SWCSP) is the statutory body for reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in South Warwickshire therefore the Council has taken the view that by scrutinising the effectiveness and performance of the Partnership, it is fulfilling its legal duty. Annual Performance Reports are therefore presented to this Committee on an annual basis.
- 1.3 This report highlights performance against priorities from 1 June 2024 to 1 June 2025.

## **2 Responsibilities of CSPs**

- 2.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutorily responsible for formulating and implementing strategies for:
  - The reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
  - Combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
  - The reduction of reoffending
  - Preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence
- 2.2 The current membership of the SWCSP Strategic Member Board is:

CLlr Jim Sinnott (Chair) – Warwick District Council  
CLlr Natalie Gist (Vice Chair) – Stratford District Council  
CLlr Judy Falp – Warwick District Council  
CLlr Ian Davison – Warwick District Council  
Warwickshire County Councillor (Fire & Rescue) -TBC following AGM  
Warwickshire County Councillor – TBC following AGM  
Warwickshire County Councillor – TBC following AGM  
CI Simon Ryan – Warwickshire Police  
Jackie Channell – NHS Integrated Care Board  
Andy Wade – Warwickshire Probation Service

Also invited is the Police & Crime Commissioner and/or his representative.  
The meeting is supported by senior officers from the responsible authorities.

[SWCSP Board Terms of Reference](#)

## **3. Strategic Assessment 2025 - 2029**

- 3.1 The CSP must produce or procure a Strategic Assessment to inform its priorities and to update the Partnership Plan which sets out what the CSP is doing to address these priorities.

- 3.2 Following a comprehensive review of the Strategic Assessment process in Warwickshire during 2020 it was agreed that a full document will be produced for each CSP on a four yearly basis.
- 3.3 The Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan are reviewed annually against in-year reporting. These annual and biennial processes enable any emerging issues to be identified and to inform any new proposed priorities, ensuring the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan remain valid.
- 3.4 Based on the 4 yearly cycle, the 6-month process began last September of producing the Strategic Assessment report which would inform the new CSP Priorities for 2025 to 2029.
- 3.5 MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring sessions took place with partners and specialists discussing each of the community safety themes to complete a picture for each district and borough. This analysis also assists in identifying specific issues in an area which will inform priority setting.
- 3.6 The final Strategic Assessment Report was presented to the SWCSP Board in February 2025 and the new Priorities for 2025 to 2029 were approved.
- 3.7 A sanitized version of the full [SWCSP Strategic Assessment 2025-29](#) has been produced specifically for this committee. The full written analysis and infographics have been removed due to the sensitive nature of this information and in line with data sharing agreements.

#### **4. CSP Board Activity 2024/25**

- 4.1 In addition to the Board overseeing the Strategic Assessment process this past year and approving the new Priorities for the next 4 years, it has also carried out the following activity:
  - Overseeing the effective and efficient use of external funding to deliver on Priorities
  - Receiving and scrutinising quarterly performance reports – directing action regarding highlighted areas of concern
  - Consideration of national developments e.g. new bills, duties and the implications for CSPs
  - Consideration and sign up to the Warwickshire ASB Strategic Framework
  - Ensuring compliance and delivery on the Serious Violence Duty
  - Consideration of the results of the Countywide [‘Your Say on Community Safety’](#) survey and implications for Warwick and Stratford Districts.
  - Commissioning, overseeing, and approving Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Reports for submission to the Home Office – currently there are 3 ongoing DARDRs in Stratford District and 4 in Warwick District
  - Ongoing monitoring of South Warwickshire-wide and local emerging issues through the Violence Against Women and Girls Board, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership, Hate Crime Partnership Board, Anti-Social Behaviour Steering Group, Modern Slavery Steering Group, Integrated Offender Management Delivery Board, and local Community Safety Partnership operational and problem-solving meetings.

## **5. Delivery of Priority Action Plans 2024/25**

- 5.1 The South Warwickshire Operational Partnership (SWOP) is responsible for receiving the approved Priorities from the Board and developing the action plans to deliver them. SWOP is made up of senior officers from the Responsible Authorities and housing providers, collectively these are the Relevant Authorities for information sharing.
- 5.2 Whilst the new Strategic Assessment process was being conducted, SWOP continued with delivery of the current action plans supporting the existing Priorities:
- **Serious Violence** – comprises 6 sub plans: Knife Crime, Night-time Economy, Domestic Abuse, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, County Lines, Exploitation
  - **Anti-social Behaviour**
  - **Rural Crime**
- 5.2 In addition to the direct delivery of the above action plans, there is also the requirement to contribute to and participate in the relevant County-wide Strategic Partnership Groups and ensure delivery of local interventions across these community safety themes:
- Hate Crime
  - Drugs and Alcohol
  - Reducing Reoffending
  - Cyber Crime
  - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
  - Violence Against Women and Girls
  - Prevent

## **6 Resourcing Action Plan Delivery**

- 6.1 The SWCSP does not have its own budget. The work of the SWCSP is funded through the core budgets of partners, via an annual bid to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and through external government funding opportunities.
- 6.2 During 2024/25 the SWCSP has been successful in bids to the OPCC, Safer Streets Round 5, Serious Violence Fund and Hotspot Response totaling £306,842 allocated to Warwick District.
- 6.3 The Council's Community Safety Team has also benefitted from UKSPF funding for the last 3 years. The allocation for 2024/25 (Year 3) of £368,600 has resourced a raft of community safety interventions, projects and initiatives, all aligned to the delivery of the SWCSP Priority Action Plans.
- 6.4 Table 1. shows the breakdown of the total funding of £675,442 for community safety for Warwick District, the interventions delivered as detailed within the relevant CSP Action Plans, and the CSP Priorities to which they relate.

Table 1.

GRANT/FUND	KEY INTERVENTIONS DELIVERED IN WARWICK DISTRICT	LINK TO CSP PRIORITIES
<p>OPCC £30,000</p>	<p><b>Target Hardening Interventions Warwick District (4k)</b></p> <p>Providing victims of Cuckooing, Domestic Abuse and ASB subscription free video doorbells to enhance feelings of safety within the home and capture evidence to assist police investigations.</p> <p><b>Diversionsary Activities (10k)</b></p> <p>Delivering VR sessions focusing on knife crime and opening conversations amongst young people surrounding the choices of carrying a knife. The VR sessions are interactive and include further lesson plans to discuss the choices in further detail and engage in conversations. We want our Community Wardens and Youth Clubs to deliver sessions within their youth clubs over several weeks to continue the conversations and help to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in knife crime. 526 young people have engaged in the project.</p> <p><b>Targeted Youth Outreach Facilitated by Young People First (14k)</b></p> <p>Detached youth work is of vital importance as it addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by young people who may not be engaged in traditional youth services or programs, and who may be at risk of exploitation or engagement in risky behaviours. We have delivered detached youth work in a consistent location - in Leamington Town Centre (a well-known ASB and Serious Violence hotspot).</p> <p><a href="#">Detached Youth Work - Report (1 Sep 2024 - 28 Feb 2025).docx</a></p> <p><b>ASB Staff Training (2k)</b></p> <p>Janine Green, an expert and award-winning, is nationally recognised as a leading ASB and Community Safety practitioner, delivered an in-depth training course on the practical use of the tools and powers and mediation available to council officers. The session was tailored for Warwick District and partners from Warwickshire SNT, Environmental Health and housing. Training</p>	<p>Violent Crime</p> <p>County Lines</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>Rape and Sexual Offences</p>

	a range of partners has provided professionals with the knowledge and confidence to use the tools which will reduce crime and ASB.	
<b>SERIOUS VIOLENCE</b> <b>£15,000</b>	<p><b>Safe Space Initiative (6k)</b></p> <p>Leamington’s Safe Space (based at South Lodge) continues to operate every Friday and Saturday night from 22.00 – 04.00, ensuring that users of the nighttime economy have access to support and signposting.</p> <p>Warwick District Council’s Safe Space provision is the first of its kind in Warwickshire, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to Community Safety. The scheme forms part of a package of interventions to enhance feelings of safety, reduce crime and disorder and protect people from harm.</p> <p><a href="#">J28290 Safe Space update infographic 2024 2025.pdf</a></p> <p><b>The Student Voice (4.5k)</b></p> <p>The Student Voice is a web-based contextual safeguarding tool designed to help schools capture real-time insights into students’ safety experiences across various environments, including school grounds, local communities, and home settings. By utilising interactive maps and a traffic light (RAG) rating system, students can anonymously or confidentially report areas where they feel safe or unsafe, facilitating early intervention and targeted support from safeguarding and community safety teams.</p> <p>Key Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive Reporting: Students can pinpoint specific locations and situations where they feel at risk, providing detailed context for their concerns.</li> <li>• Comprehensive Coverage: The platform addresses a wide range of issues, including peer-on-peer abuse, mental health challenges, bullying, and online safety, ensuring that various aspects of student well-being are considered.</li> <li>• Hotspot Mapping: Safeguarding/Community Safety teams can visualise and monitor</li> </ul>	<p>Violent Crime</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>Rape and Sexual Offences.</p> <p>County Lines</p>

	<p>'hotspot' areas with higher incidences of reported concerns, allowing for proactive measures to enhance safety in these locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Provision: The app offers students access to support resources, guidance, and emergency contact information, promoting self-help and awareness.</li> </ul> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Students: Provides a secure and user-friendly platform to voice concerns without the need for face-to-face disclosures, which can be intimidating.</li> <li>• For Schools: Enables the collection of actionable data to inform interventions, supports compliance with safeguarding guidelines, and fosters a culture of openness and proactive support within the school community.</li> <li>• For Community Safety: Provides a valuable insight into the lived experience of children and young people's concerns in the community. The data captured will enable us to identify places and spaces where young people feel unsafe and respond with appropriate interventions. This platform also allows us to give feedback to students on how we've addressed their concerns, building a culture of 'you said, we did'.</li> </ul> <p>Through a combination of UKSPF and Serious Violence funding we have funded access for 8 schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnold Lodge</li> <li>• Aylesford</li> <li>• Champion</li> <li>• Kingsway Primary</li> <li>• Myton School</li> <li>• North Leamington</li> <li>• Trinity</li> <li>• Warwick School</li> </ul> <p><b>Serious Violence Parents/Carers support sessions (4.5k)</b></p> <p>This initiative delivered a series of workshops designed to break down barriers for parents,</p>	
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	<p>create a supportive network within the local community, and empower parents to seek assistance proactively. The overarching goal is to prevent serious youth violence by enabling parents to identify and access support at the earliest opportunity, thereby reducing the risk of their children becoming offenders. A total of 61 families attended sessions resulting in increased knowledge and confidence in supporting young people.</p>	
<p><b>SAFER STREETS ROUND 5</b></p> <p><b>£ 186,380</b></p>	<p><b>Community Warden Team: Staffing and Training: (125,628)</b></p> <p>Funding has been used to increase the number of Community Wardens conducting high visibility uniformed patrols across hotspot areas within the district.</p> <p>The Warden team have completed Community Safety Accreditation Training to give them additional delegated powers from Warwickshire Police to aid them in effective enforcement of the districts' Public Spaces Protection Orders.</p> <p><b>CCTV Installation x3: (£60,752)</b></p> <p>Three new CCTV cameras linked to the WDC control room have been installed in hotspot locations.</p> <p>York Walk Old Warwick Road Rugby/Warwick New Road</p>	<p>Violent Crime</p> <p>County Lines</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>Rape and Sexual Offences</p> <p>Personal ASB</p>
<p><b>Hot Spot Response:</b></p> <p><b>£75,462</b></p>	<p><b>Community Warden Staffing: (£68,848)</b></p> <p>Funding for two full-time Wardens to conduct targeted patrols of six hotspot areas for ASB and Serious Violence in Leamington. Key objectives are to reduce ASB and Serious Violence, enhance public confidence and safety.</p> <p><b>Hotspot Coordination: (£6,614)</b></p> <p>Coordination of Warden Rota to ensure patrols are conducted at the right times to address emerging issues. Monitoring positive outcomes to share with the Home Office and other partners.</p>	<p>Violent Crime</p> <p>County Lines</p> <p>Personal ASB</p>
<p><b>UKSPF</b></p> <p><b>£368,600</b></p>	<p><b>Lighting Projects at Victoria and Mason Park (£164k)</b></p> <p>Solar bollard lighting was installed around the circular route in Victoria Park. The lights provide a</p>	<p>Violent Crime</p>

	<p>way-finding solution for the community to access this green space after dark. The bollards get brighter as people approach.</p> <p>Mains lighting installed covering Victoria Park Skate Park. This solution ensures skaters can use the park safely in low light. The lights are on a timer and will go off at 10pm each night.</p> <p>Solar bollards were installed in Mason Park in Lillington following concerns from the local community about feeling unsafe after dark. The columns have been installed on the main route from the rear of the youth club to Fell Close to provide a safe walking route through the park.</p> <p><b>CCTV Installation/Upgrade x3 (£36.5k)</b></p> <p>Three CCTV cameras installed/upgraded in hotspot locations for ASB and Serious Violence.</p> <p>Both installations within Pump Room Gardens and Packington Place have already resulted in positive outcomes with operators and Community Wardens working together to disrupt drug activity, resulting in seizure of weapons, drugs and persons arrested. Victoria Park camera upgraded for better clarity at night. CCTV infrastructure also relocated from Christine Ledger Square to Radcliffe Gardens to maintain wireless network.</p> <p><b>Emergency Help Point Maintenance (19.3k)</b></p> <p>A maintenance contract to regularly service our 14 emergency contact points across the district to ensure the public can reach out to our CCTV team where required.</p> <p><b>Silence of Suicide Training and Welfare Sessions. (4k)</b></p> <p>Warwick District's Community Safety Team commissioned SOS to deliver a 1-day suicide prevention training programme, this included our Community Warden team who offer a visible, uniformed presence across the district.</p> <p>In addition, they are continuing to deliver community outreach sessions with a focus on the nighttime economy in Leamington. These sessions involve two suicide prevention officers engaging with members of the public</p>	<p>County Lines</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>Rape and Sexual Offences</p> <p>Personal ASB</p>
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in the high footfall areas of Leamington Town Centre and working with the Community Safety Team from our designated Safe Space initiative. They had a branded welfare van which is kitted out with a seating area in the back for confidential conversations to take place, this has proved to be popular with those who are struggling with their mental health.

**Fallow Hill Community Engagement Sessions (10k)**

[Fallow Hill & Youth Club \(1\).docx](#)

**REACT Case Management System (41k)**

Warwick District Council's Community Safety Team has purchased REACT, a new Anti-Social Behaviour Case Management System, which will enable officers to deal with cases more efficiently. REACT and the accompanying ASB App will also allow the public an easier reporting pathway with access to regular updates on the progress on their case. The system will also support incident reporting for our Community Warden Team; key data will provide analysis to monitor emerging trends and team performance.

**Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative (6k)**

Funding to support local businesses in Warwick who wish to trial membership to the partnership retail crime initiative. Businesses have access to a shared intelligence system called DISC which allows an efficient reporting pathway to the police and access to galleries of prolific offenders to watch out for. 19 retailers and 4 pubs are now onboard across the town

**Community Safety Officer Salary (55k)**

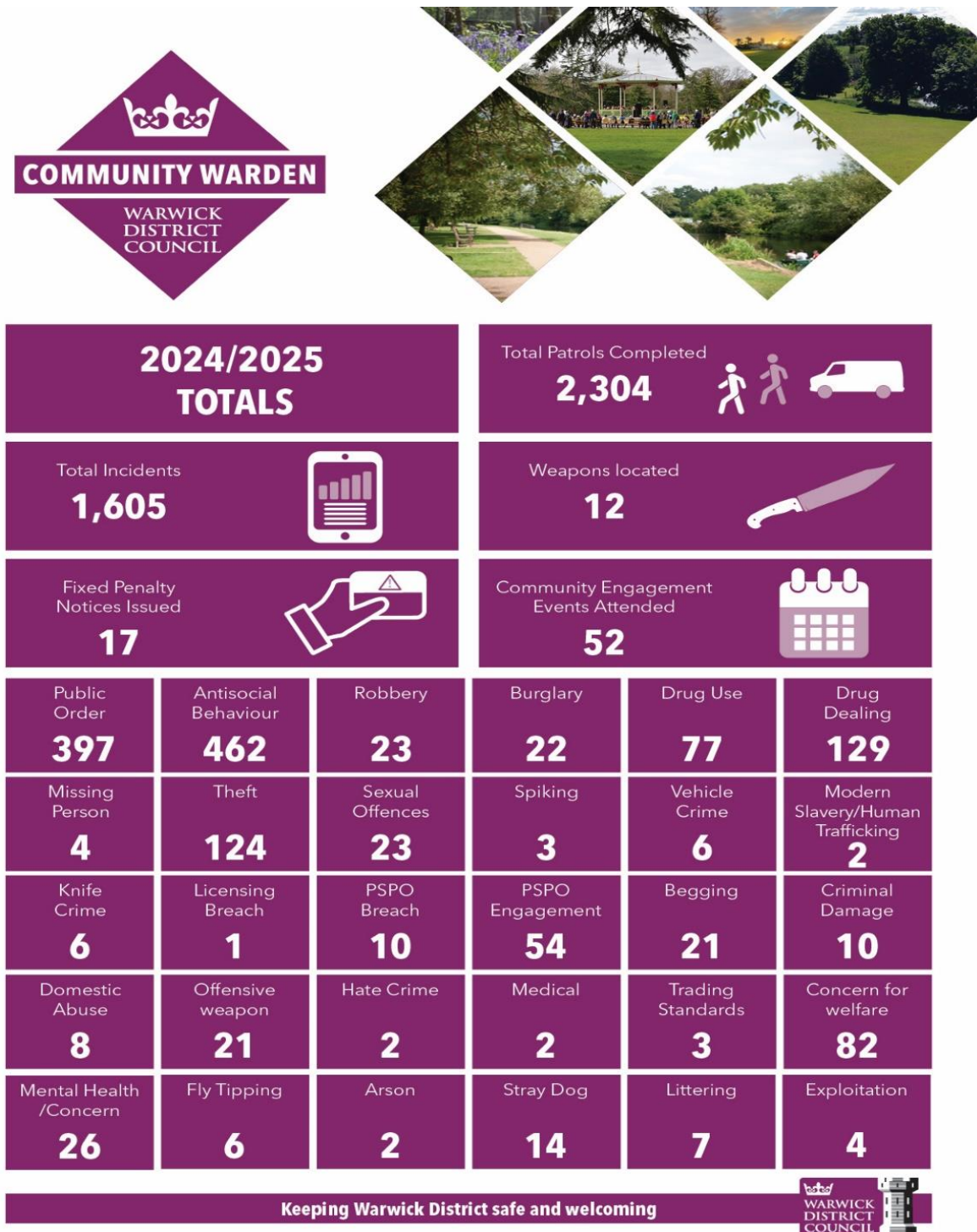
One year contract extension for a Community Safety Officer post to continue project delivery, ASB case management, bid writing and partnership activities.

**The Student Voice (33k)**

See update in Serious Violence section

## 7. Community Warden Overview

7.1 The Community Warden service has continued to deliver visible, impactful community safety work across Warwick district throughout 2024–25.



## 7.2 High Visibility and Community Presence

Wardens have provided a consistent, uniformed presence across towns and neighbourhoods, patrolling high footfall areas, antisocial behaviour hotspots, and key public spaces. Their approachability and visibility have helped build trust within local communities, contributing to increased feelings of safety among residents and visitors alike.

### 7.3 Support and Signposting

Wardens have supported vulnerable individuals through direct engagement and by signposting to relevant services, including housing support, mental health provision, substance misuse teams, and local charities. They play a crucial role in early intervention, often de-escalating situations before they require police involvement.

### 7.4 Partnership Working

The service continues to work closely with a wide range of partners including Warwickshire Police, elected members, children's services, community safety officers, local schools, housing associations, businesses, and voluntary organisations. This joined-up approach ensures that responses to antisocial behaviour and community concerns are coordinated and effective.

### 7.5 Disruption and Deterrence through Operation Resolve

Community Wardens have been central to Operation Resolve, working collaboratively with police and enforcement partners to disrupt and deter antisocial behaviour and serious violence. Their local knowledge and regular engagement have contributed to early identification of emerging issues and supported targeted interventions

In 2024/25, our Community Wardens frequently matched, and in many instances, surpassed our police colleagues in outcomes such as the use of ASB powers and the seizure of weapons. This has contributed to consistent reductions in both Serious Violence and ASB across all our designated hotspot zones, see statistics below.

Quarter	ASB 3-Yr Av	ASB 2024/25	SV 3-Yr Av	SV 2024/25
Q1	153	95 (-38%)	48	43 (-10%)
Q2	155	90 (-42%)	60	50 (-16%)
Q3	141	86 (-39%)	72	45 (-38%)
Q4	126	89 (-29%)	54	44 (-18%)

### 7.6 Supporting the Night-Time Economy and Safe Space Initiative

Wardens have played an instrumental role in managing the night-time economy, working alongside partners including Street Pastors and Safe Space volunteers. Their presence during weekend evenings has helped maintain public order, offer reassurance, and support those who are vulnerable or in need of assistance. Their involvement in the Safe Space initiative at South Lodge has been vital to its continued success.

## **7.7 Intelligence Gathering and Enforcement**

The Community Warden service has been highly effective in gathering local intelligence, which has directly supported the wider Community Safety Team in identifying persistent offenders and taking proportionate enforcement action. Through their daily engagement with residents, businesses, and partners, Wardens have built a trusted presence that encourages the sharing of information relating to antisocial behaviour and criminal activity.

This intelligence has informed the use of key antisocial behaviour tools and powers, including Community Protection Warnings and Notices, as well as supporting case building for joint enforcement action. Wardens have also played an instrumental role in enforcing the District's Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), issuing fixed penalty notices for breaches such as street drinking, dog control violations, and antisocial behaviour in public spaces.

Their enforcement activity not only addresses harmful behaviour but reinforces public confidence that concerns are being acted upon quickly and visibly.

## **7.8 Support to Animal Welfare and Stray Dog Management**

Community Wardens have provided vital support to the Council's Animal Warden service, increasing operational resilience and ensuring timely responses to reports of stray or lost dogs. Working closely with the Animal Warden and local kennels, Wardens have helped ensure that dogs are safely collected, cared for, and reunited with their owners or transferred to appropriate facilities. Their involvement has enhanced the Council's ability to respond to animal welfare concerns efficiently, especially during peak times or out-of-hours situations.

## **8. Rural Crime Action Plan Performance**

- 8.1 Crime occurring in rural areas accounts for one third of all recorded crime in South Warwickshire. This is due to the large areas classified as rural in Stratford-upon-Avon District, with nearly two thirds of the total recorded crime in this district alone occurring in rural areas.
- 8.2 Within South Warwickshire there are two Rural Crime Advisors (RCAs) based in the Stratford District Council Community Safety Team who carry out dedicated work with individuals, businesses, and communities to reduce the impact of crime in rural areas.
- 8.3 The posts are jointly funded by Stratford District Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, who also created the Warwickshire Police Rural Crime Team (RCT). The RCAs work alongside the RCT and local policing teams, as well as with other partner agencies, to deliver the CSP Rural Crime Action Plan.
- 8.4 Warwick District benefits from a proportionate allocation of RCA resource, covering the SNT geographies of Warwick Rural West and Warwick Rural East. Quarterly performance reports for 24/25 were submitted against the following KPIs:
  - *Number of rural crime victim referrals received, and visits conducted*

- 12 referrals were received and subsequent visits carried out.
  - These involved farms, residential properties, heritage sites and small businesses.
  - Support provided includes crime prevention advice and information packs, loan of crime prevention equipment e.g. cameras and alert systems, monitoring and updates to police
  - Visit to Newbold Comyn to assess and input into actions to address disruption to badger sets and cycle trails
- *Number of rural crime awareness raising events held*
    - Attendance at Kenilworth Livestock Market. At this event they specifically focussed on the stall holders who were either farmers or small business owners, visiting each stand discussing crime prevention and handing out farming/business crime prevention information packs.
    - Attendance at the Van and Caravan Crime Prevention Event at Weston under Wetherley/Hunningham.
    - Attendance at the NFU Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime Event at NAC
    - Also assisted police with Operation Recall which involves raising awareness with the public of the need to keep dogs on leads around livestock. Work included discussions with National Trust properties (x2), veterinary practices (x4) and public houses (on dog walking routes).

## **9. Performance Monitoring and Review**

- 9.1 The Business Intelligence Team (WCC) produce a series of quarterly reports and annual performance reports for the SWCSP providing an overview of crime and disorder data which they obtain from the following sources:
- Police crime and incidents
  - Children and Families Front Door referrals
  - Child Exploitation, Missing and Trafficking Framework
  - Youth Justice Service
  - Probation Service
  - Education Data
  - Substance Misuse – CGL and Compass
  - Domestic Abuse – Refuge and DACs: MARAC Performance Data
  - Rural Crime Team, Warwickshire Police
- 9.2 Breakdowns of offences for the different crime types pertaining to each of the CSP Priorities since April 2024 with year-to-date comparisons and a summary of key findings can be accessed in these performance reports [Q4 2024/25](#) and [March 2025](#) . (Annual Performance Reports are only produced in years 2 and 3 of the 4-year strategic assessment cycle).
- 9.3 This [table](#) shows the reported crime and ASB by ward between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## **10. Risks and Challenges**

- 10.1 Whilst external funding to deliver community safety initiatives can support innovation and provide much needed resources, there are risks in terms of sustaining these interventions. Many external grants are time-limited, creating uncertainty about the future of funded programmes once the funding period ends.
- 10.2 Bidding for and managing external grants requires the skills and experience of bid writing and involves time-consuming monitoring, reporting and compliance. Warwick District Council's Community Safety Team has been exponentially more successful than our counterparts in other districts and boroughs as they have had the capacity to manage both external bids and internal delivery effectively.
- 10.3 For 2025/26 the Community Safety Team has been successful in bids to the Hotspot Response Fund (£95k), Serious Violence Fund (£15k), OPCC (£35k) and Leamington Town Council (£14k), the latter covering the running costs for the Safe Space for the next 12 months.
- 10.4 One of the two community safety officers is currently on a fixed term contract which ends March 2026. Building permanent capacity within the Team is essential to maintain the level of service delivery, ensure that future funding opportunities are maximised and to provide a stable foundation.
- 10.5 The Community Warden Team's current establishment comprises 4 x permanent FTE, 1 x permanent PTE and 1 x FTC FTE (to October 2026). This year's Hotspot Response grant has funded 2 additional FTC FTE warden post for the next 12 months.
- 10.6 Their role is key to delivering against the CSP Priorities acting as both deterrents to crime and anti-social behaviour and enablers of early, low-level intervention.
- 10.7 The Warden Team has been in existence for less than 2 years, and its impact in that time has been significant, enhancing feelings of safety, supporting enforcement and building stronger community ties. Long term, core funding is essential to maintain consistency, visibility and impact and to retain trained and experienced staff.
- 10.8 The district's Public Spaces Protection Orders are currently under review, and the Wardens, as authorised officers, play a crucial role in reinforcing compliance in PSPO areas, with a visible presence that helps deter problematic behaviours. The review is proposing additional new orders, so sustaining the capacity of the Community Wardens as front-line enforcers is vitally important.
- 10.9 Community Safety Partnerships are at the frontline of delivering safer communities. However, new and evolving legislation is placing additional duties and expectations on these partnerships. Effective governance, resourcing, and

inter-agency coordination will be essential to meet new statutory responsibilities while maintaining public trust and ensuring community safety.

Key legislative developments include:

- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
  - Serious Violence Duty - CSPs have a legal duty to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence
  - Data Sharing Requirements – public bodies must share information more systematically
- Respect Orders and ASB Powers
  - Ensuring consistent application of tools and powers, meeting community expectations and legal requirements
- Martyn’s Law
  - Requires venues and public spaces to take steps to protect the public from terrorist threats

These legislative changes significantly expand the statutory responsibilities of CSPs and local authorities, demanding stronger collaboration, new capabilities, and sustained investment to effectively protect communities and meet legal obligations.

## 11. Conclusion

- 11.1 To summarise, this report demonstrates that the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership has made positive progress in addressing local priorities such as anti-social behaviour, violent crime, and crime prevention in the Warwick district. However, new legislation, resource pressures, and rising demand highlight the need for continued performance monitoring, strengthened partnership working, and a focus on long-term sustainability.

### Background papers:

[O&S CSP Performance Report 2023](#)

### Glossary

SWCSP	South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership
SWPB	Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board
SWOP	South Warwickshire Operational Partnership
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
DARDR	Domestic Abuse Related Death Review
DACS	Domestic Abuse Counselling Service
MoRiLE	Management of Risk in Law Enforcement
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
GOSS	Going Out Staying Safe
RASSO	Rape and Serious Sexual Offences
NTE	Night-Time Economy
SOC	Serious Organised Crime
CGL	Change Grow Live – (Drug and Alcohol commissioned service)

WRCI	Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative
CIOG	Community Impact Operational Group
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSO	Community Safety Officer
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
WDC	Warwick District Council
SDC	Stratford District Council
WCC	Warwickshire County Council
RCAs	Rural Crime Advisors