

A Strategy for the Future and Sustainable Prosperity of Warwick District

This Council has, with its key partners, agreed a vision for the District, to "make Warwick District a great place to live, work and visit". The Local Plan, along with the accompanying delivery plans, is a key strategy to interpret and deliver that vision.

The Strategy of this plan is one that in order to maintain and enhance the District as a distinctive and attractive place in which to live, work and visit, intertwines:

- facilitating the growth and development of the local economy,
- providing for the growth of, and changes within, the local population,
- a strong development management framework requiring of development low carbon environmental sustainability, care for our heritage (built, cultural and natural), regeneration of those areas in need of social and economic improvement, protection of those areas of special significance, high quality of design and support by the appropriate and necessary range of transport, public service, green and other community infrastructure.

As an overall outcome of this plan, by 2028 the District will become known as a place for its "Sustainable, Garden towns, suburbs and villages" with a successful dynamic, broad based economy; catering for the needs of its growing and diverse communities.

This Strategy has been developed taking into account a wide range of information on local needs, an examination of the external environment, challenges the District as an area faces and views of the local community. The process has allowed all Councillors an opportunity to consider the information and to make a contribution.

Economy

The Plan will support a dynamic, flexible, low carbon based, mixed economy that:

- maintains what we have, ensuring existing businesses can stay or relocate within the district;
- maintains and ensures growth in our high value work sectors, e.g. smaller scale engineering, knowledge economy and creative industries;
- develops new industrial/commercial areas for a range of job creating activities;
- positively promotes and actively delivers tourism;
- maintains and promotes thriving town/shopping centres in our towns,

- continues our commitment to the Gateway site;
- seeks to attract new businesses including by marketing and via developing "Enterprise Zones" through business rate relief and use of Local Development Orders;
- promotes the regeneration of the more socially and economically deprived areas of the District and supports the rural economy.
- enables work with the education sector to improve the communities' skills base, especially in our targeted areas.

Community

The Plan will support growth in the District in the region of 550 new homes per annum on new allocated sites (this does not include sites already with planning permission nor those the allowance proposed to be made for windfall sites in the final 5 years of the plan), the precise quantum of which will be determined at the preferred options stage following an environmental and infrastructure capacity assessment of available sites, to mirror the expected growth of and change within the local population and economy and that:

- is catered for within well designed, distinctive new and extended neighbourhoods based on the principles of Sustainable Garden towns, suburbs and villages;
- provides for (new and existing) home and neighbourhood designs that are sustainable, low cost and carbon efficient;
- provides for a diversity of provision including:
 - * a range of affordable homes, including for first time buyers
 - * for the elderly and vulnerable
 - * for gypsies and travellers
 - * for other specialised needs
- re-assesses the present split of market/social housing with a variable tariff for social/affordable housing that is sensitive to viability;
- provides for individual and community safety by design.

Infrastructure and Environment

The Plan will ensure that the district has appropriate infrastructure and design codes in place that will create and define our sustainable garden towns and villages, protects and develops the bio diversity of the area, sustainable links communities, supports our town centres, encourages a safe, healthy and active lifestyle, resolves areas of air quality and traffic management problems, makes sure public services are easily available and accessible, and minimises the impact of existing and new commercial and housing development, involving:

- a comprehensive sustainable transport package including, for example, local bus and rail services, new and diverted traffic routes, traffic free routes, a park

and ride scheme, electric car promotion, cycle and footpath networks; but which does **not** include provision or support for HS2;

- green space infrastructure plan to maintain and enhance further a green and open district covering footpaths and cycle ways etc and to encourage active life styles (ability to walk to work/shop);
- developing community hubs for the joint provision of public services, including involvement of police, health, schools, leisure and cultural facilities;
- proposals to protect communities from flooding;
- making optimum use of the new financial tools available to the Council and partners to fund the infrastructure provision for the benefit of local communities
 - e.g. New Homes Bonus Scheme, Business Rate Retention Scheme, Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 agreements, Tax Increment Financing;
- distributing development across the District, linked to the availability of existing, and the provision of new infrastructure, with priority given to bringing forward brownfield land, wherever possible, over green field sites; and, ensuring that such development does not encourage or lead to the coalescence of settlements.

Involvement

The development and implementation of the Plan will involve local business and resident communities and will involve:

- working with Parish Councils, Town Councils and Neighbourhoods to deliver neighbourhood planning and design statements;
- working with our parish councils to ensure rural communities maintain their integrity with housing to suit all needs and offer rural employment opportunities;
- developing a protocol of the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 Agreements and the New Homes Bonus Scheme locally, linked to the catering of development.