

 Executive Committee – 5th November 2014		Agenda Item No. 3
Title	Warwickshire Local Councils Charter	
For further information about this report please contact	Bernadette Allen Tel: 01926 456020 Bernadette.Allen@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Rural East and Rural West Ward area	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	Yes/No If yes state why	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	June 2005	
Background Papers	Local Council Charter 2006	

Contrary to the policy framework:	Yes/No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	Yes/No
Key Decision?	Yes/No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes/No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes/No (If No state why below)
No equality and sustainability impact assessment was undertaken by Warwick District as the report is about the adoption of a Local Council's Charter, which falls within the responsibility of Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	04/10/14	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	02/10/14	Richard Hall
CMT	04/10/14	Chris Elliott/ Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	04/10/14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	04/10/14	Andrew Jones
Finance	04/10/14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils have consulted with relevant Officers from the County and District/ Borough, Town and Parish Councils on the Warwickshire Local Councils Charter.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils, in consultation with local councils in Warwickshire, have developed a Charter which sets out how they aim to work together for the benefit of local people.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Warwickshire Local Councils Charter in appendix 1 be adopted by the Council to govern the relationship between all tiers of local government in Warwickshire.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 The Charter is a framework to support a mutually beneficial working relationship between the different tiers of local government in Warwickshire. The focus of Charter is about how Principal Councils can develop better partnership working with Local Councils that will benefit local people.
- 3.2 The existing Council Charter (2006) is about how Local Councils could contribute to strong democratic government by shaping the decisions that affect their communities in the following ways:
- They offer a means of decentralising the provision of certain services and of revitalising local communities
 - They can represent the views of their area and effectively influence the development of the Principal Councils' policies and services
 - They can provide valuable feedback on how Council services are working in their area and how changes in policy are likely to affect the local community.

The revised Charter outlines how Councils can work together to provide better services by:

- Improving communication
- Consulting each other
- Giving support and help
- Measuring how well we are doing

- 3.3 Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils, in discussion with representations of all of the Principal Councils, have produced a common charter. This has led to the production of the document which is circulated as appendix 1 to this report.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 The adoption of the Local Council Charter contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Policy framework by encouraging all councils to work together to provide better services for the whole community.
- 4.2 The proposal to adopt the Local Councils Charter contributes to a number of the cross cutting themes identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Charter will contribute in the following ways:

- Engaging and strengthening communities – by encouraging all councils to work together to provide better services
- Rurality – targeting disadvantaged rural locations – by the councils working together to give support and help to disadvantaged rural locations.

In addition the recommendation to adopt the Local Councils Charter contributes to the 3 Fit for the Future strands in the following ways:

- Service – by all Councils working together to provide better services to our customers
- People – by encouraging all Councils to give support in communities where it is most needed
- Money – by all Councils working together to avoid duplication to help cut down costs

4.3 Impact Assessments

No equality impact assessment was undertaken by Warwick District as the report is about the adoption of a Local Councils Charter, which falls within the responsibility of Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The Council may provide support within existing resources to assist with the delivery of the Local Councils Charter. There is no impact on existing budgets.

6. Risks

- 6.1 The Local Councils Charter 2006 for Warwickshire is the current framework used to support a mutually beneficial relationship between all tiers of local government. The risk to the Council, if it chooses not to adopt the new Local Councils Charter, is that the Council can be seen to be in conflict with the agreed values and behaviours outlined in the Nolan Principles in Public Life. The Nolan principles include Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, and Leadership and these are the values and behaviours that all Councils should adhere to.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 No alternative option was considered as the aim of the Charter is to provide a framework to support a mutually beneficial relationship between all tiers of local government in Warwickshire.

8. Background

- 8.1 The Local Councils Charter in appendix 1 replaces the existing Local Council Charter which was published in 2006.