

Title: Local Council's Charter

Lead Officer: Bernadette Allen, Community Wellbeing Team Manager

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jim Sinnott

Wards of the District directly affected: Rural areas

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	14/01/25	Councillor Jim Sinnott
Finance	08/01/25	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services		
Chief Executive	11/12/24	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	08/01/25	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	11/12/25	David Elkington
Section 151 Officer	08/01/25	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	11/12/24	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group	14/01/25	Cllrs Davison, Harrison, Boad, Day and Falp
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	No	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	Yes	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	No	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

Summary

This report seeks Cabinet approval to agree a revised version of the Local Council's Charter.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That the Charter as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted.
 - (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Portfolio Holder to agree any minor changes to the Charter arising from continuing partnership discussions.
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2 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 2.1 The relationship this Council has with Town and Parish Councils within the District is very important and overall, very positive with several Members of this Council also sitting on Town and Parish Councils so that regular contact is maintained between the Councils, its Members and Officers.
- 2.2 The Council will be keen to maintain and strengthen this relationship and for quite a few years has been a party to a Charter that has been developed across Warwickshire.
- 2.3 This Charter has been revised and has been the subject of extensive conversations. Whilst those discussions continue a final draft has been produced and whilst this may continue to evolve Officers are keen to present the current version to Members for adoption as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Charter codifies what in the main is widespread practice within the district and therefore in Officers' view it is helpful in that regard. The Cabinet is asked to give delegated powers to the Chief Executive to incorporate any further minor amendments, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the portfolio holder and the Parish and Town Council Champion, (currently Councillor Redford).
- 2.5 The White Paper on Devolution recently published adds support to the purpose of this Charter.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative option would be not to sign the Charter, which could impact on the current positive relationships we have with Town and Parish Councils in the District. This is because the overall aim of the Charter is to improve relationships between the tiers of Local Government in Warwickshire.

4 Legal Implications

There are no specific implications.

5 Financial Services

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications as the over aim of the Charter is around improving relationships with Town and Parish Councils.

6 Corporate Strategy

- 6.1 The Corporate Strategy sets out Warwick District Council's vision for enhancing the district by playing on our strengths. One of the strengths of the Council is working in partnership to enable and support improvements to communities and the local economy. By adopting the Charter, the Council

can demonstrate how we can work with other tiers of local government to ensure these aspirations are met.

- 6.2 Delivering valued, sustainable services – by improving and building on the relationships with Town and Parish Council we can work together to ensure the needs of residents are met.
- 6.3 Low cost, low carbon energy across the district – Warwick District can share learning with Town and Parish Councils to improve the energy efficiency of their own Council buildings and how they might introduce renewable energy generation capacity to achieve low cost and low carbon energy.
- 6.4** Creating vibrant, safe, and healthy communities of the future – this priority is about supporting our communities, in urban and rural, to develop innovative ways of working together to improve, health, safety, wellbeing and tackle inequalities.

7 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications for environmental or climate change.

8 Analysis of the effects on Equality

- 8.1 There are no effects on equality as the aim of the Charter is around improving relationships with different tiers of local government and share good practice which will support all residents.

9 Data Protection

- 9.1 There are no Data Protection implications arising from this report.

10 Health and Wellbeing

- 10.1 The rationale of the Charter is to that it is a is a framework to support a mutually beneficially working relationship between these various levels of Local Government in Warwickshire. Working better in partnership will benefit local people.

11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 If the Council chooses not to adopt the Charter as a framework for working with Town and Parish Councils, there is a reputational risk to the Council from not being seen as willing to work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils.
- 11.2 Reputational risk to the Council in respect getting the Town and Parish Council's to support projects and initiatives aim at creating thriving town centres and parish areas.
- 11.3 Financial risk of Town and Parish areas not providing a contribution aimed at improving the Town or Parish Area.
- 11.4 The Charter is about working and together by demonstrating:
 - Improving communication
 - Consulting each other
 - Giving support and help
 - Measuring how well we are doing.

The above can only be achieved by signing the Charter which acts a framework for partnership working.

12 Consultation

12.1 The Warwick District Town and Parish Champion has been consulted and therefore is keen that the Charter is agreed and signed.

Background papers:

None

Supporting documents:

Please find the proposals for Website advertising and roundabout sponsorship attached.