

 Executive 8th June		Agenda Item No. 9
Title	Warwick Town Centre Area Action Plan – Options Consultation Paper	
For further information about this report please contact	Lorna Coldicott, Senior Planner (Policy, Projects & Conservation)	
Wards of the District directly affected	Development Services	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	2 nd December 2009	
Background Papers	www.warwicktowncentreplan.org	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes, 266
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	09/05/11	Chris Elliot & Bill Hunt
Head of Service	09/05/11	Paul Pinkney
CMT	10/05/11	
Section 151 Officer	09/05/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	09/05/11	Mike Snow
Finance	09/05/11	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	N.A.	
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Consultation with the Warwick Town Centre Partnership		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks the Executive's approval to undertake public consultation on the "Options" for the Council's Warwick Town Centre Area Action Plan.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Executive approves that Warwick District Council should undertake public consultation on the "Options" for the Warwick Town Centre Area Action Plan.
- 2.2 That the "Options" paper attached as **Appendix A** forms the basis for the public consultation.
- 2.3 That the Executive receive a draft area action plan in due course, taking into account the responses from the public consultation where appropriate.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Members resolved at the December 2009 Executive to undertake public consultation on the "Issues" for the Warwick Town Centre Area Action Plan and to receive an "Options" paper in due course, taking into account the responses from the public consultation where appropriate. A Report of Public Consultation on the "Issues" was published in June 2010 on the Warwick Town Centre Partnership website (www.warwicktowncentreplan.org). In accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS), a second stage consultation on the "Options" to address the issues is to be undertaken. The purpose of this stage of public consultation is to seek views on which option would best address the identified issues in the AAP.
- 3.2 The "Options" paper attached at **Appendix A** has been prepared by the Warwick Town Centre Partnership consisting of members and officers of the County, District and Town Councils, the Warwick Society and the Chamber of Trade. The paper is self explanatory and has been informed by the previous public consultation on the "Issues" paper.
- 3.3 An options paper would ordinarily suggest a number of sites which could potentially be developed or redeveloped or new uses found for certain buildings and offer these with appropriate options for public comment. However, in this case, the partnership decided that it wished to carry out more work on the possible options for these sites and buildings, so have taken a unusual decision not to include them as part of this stage of the consultation.
- 3.4 The paper will form the basis for a twelve week public consultation period running through July, August and September of this year. In accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the consultation will include the following elements:

- Advertisement in the local press and press release in the local media;
- Published on the Council's and the dedicated AAP websites
- Hard copies made available at all public deposit points around the local area
- Letters or e-mail alerts to all people and organisations on our database of parties and individuals who have expressed an interest in Warwick matters
- Questionnaire form to guide respondents;
- Public meeting/exhibition in Warwick town centre and,
- Attendance at other meetings/groups/community forum where requested

3.5 The exact details of the consultation will be considered by the Partnership.

3.6 Following the public consultation, all comments received will be analysed by the Planning Policy Team and reported back to Members in order to inform the next stage of the process.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4.1 **Policy Framework** – N/A

4.2 **Fit for the Future** – The final version of the Area Action Plan will need to align with and help deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Strategy where appropriate. It will also need to align with the Local Plan and our partners documents, including the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan and respective Asset Management Plans.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 Undertaking public consultation on the "Options" will have resource implications on the Council in terms of staff time, as well as financial implications in terms of costs of publicity/preparation of consultation material, etc. These costs should be able to be accommodated within the existing budgetary framework; however, this will depend on the nature of the consultation agreed by the Partnership and the extent to which funds are available from other partners. If the recommendations from the Partnership cannot be met from existing budgets, a further report will come to Executive.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

6.1 The Council could choose not to proceed with the consultation on the "Options", however, this would be contrary to the Council's approved LDS. Not pursuing the AAP would also leave the town centre without any detailed planning policy guidance and could result in ad hoc decisions being taken regarding various development opportunities that may come forward in the short term to the detriment of the town centre and its environment.