

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

Like all local authorities the County Council has a responsibility to produce a Local Agenda 21 Strategy. The County Council's Best Value Performance Plan sets out the key objectives and performance areas for all our policies and programmes, including Local Agenda 21. In producing this first Strategy we have taken the opportunity to link with and add value to our other strategies, increasing our ability to make decisions and apply resources in the round.

The County Council has many strategic responsibilities covering areas such as Education, Social Services, Transport and Economic Development. In delivering its services it is important to all of us in Warwickshire that the environment is protected and enhanced and that people are not excluded or harmed by economic development. These themes are strongly in evidence in the County Council's five corporate objectives which are set out later in this document.

This is our first Local Agenda 21 Strategy and we accept that it is not perfect. It is, however, an important step. It is not an Local Agenda 21 Strategy for Warwickshire, but rather for the County Council setting out how it can contribute through its services and responsibilities.

OUR COUNTY 1998 - 2001

In February 1999 the County Council launched 'Our County 1998 - 2001' its first ever medium term strategic plan. Its priorities were developed in consultation with many organisations across the County and underpinned by the key principles of: Equality; Best Value; and Co-ordinated local governance.

Since the development of 'Our County' the Government has issued guidance on the development of community strategies, and we began the review of 'Our County' in the autumn of 2000. Together with key partners and stakeholders the County Council will be undertaking the development of a successor strategic plan. In addition we are committed to working with others and making connections with, and complementing the local community plans that are being developed in partnership with each of Warwickshire's District and Boroughs.

The Local Agenda 21 Strategy is specifically designed to move the County Council closer to sustainability by integrating and balancing social, environmental and economic considerations across its activities and procedures. It is, therefore, important to mesh community and LA 21 strategies. To make sure that this happens the County Council is committed to taking forward together the development of the Strategic Plan, the Best Value Performance Plan, community strategies and the Local Agenda 21 Strategy. This is essential if we are to focus efforts on the same priorities.

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WHAT IS LOCAL AGENDA 21 ALL ABOUT?

Local Agenda 21, or LA21, is a world-wide initiative that was agreed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to improve the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations by taking local actions. The heart of the idea is to move towards sustainability. The process of moving towards sustainability is often referred to as sustainable development. A widely used international definition of this is “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹

The Government defines sustainable development as balancing the issues of the environment, economy and society. The Government sets out its objectives for sustainable development as:

“to ensure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come - through:

1. social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
2. effective protection of the environment
3. prudent use of natural resources
4. maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment”

“A Better Quality of Life” Department of Environment, Transport & the Regions 1999

This means considering all four aspects when making decisions, so that one is not pursued at the expense of the others. We should not, for example, pursue a high level of economic growth unless we have considered the wider effects on the community, its use of natural resources and any potential damage to the environment, and considered them to be acceptable. This is reinforced by the Human Rights Act which requires public bodies to ensure their actions do not harm the rights of others.

THINK GLOBAL - ACT LOCAL

The Government recognises that in the past economic activity has tended to mean more pollution and a wasteful use of resources². Environmental problems do not respect arbitrary national or local government boundaries. Recent research has shown that the hole in the ozone layer now covers 3 million square miles, an area three times the size of the USA³. More locally, in 1998, air quality limits were broken on 362 days in Leamington Spa, the same number as in Birmingham⁴.

The Government has also recognised that in the past too many people have been excluded from the benefits of economic development⁵. Unfortunately, they often suffer the worst of the adverse side effects. The global picture is dramatic. A quarter

¹ From Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report) - report of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development. Oxford University Press 1987. ISBN 0 19 282080 X

² From A Better Quality of Life - A strategy for sustainable development for the United Kingdom - DETR. HMSO 1999. ISBN 0 10 143452 9

³ Announcement by NASA Upper Atmosphere Research Programme 8th September 2000.

⁴ From Quality of Life Starts Here - A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands. West Midlands' Round Table for Sustainable Development. 2000

⁵ See note 2

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of the world's population live on incomes of \$1a day, or less⁶. Although nationally and locally we do not face problems on this scale we cannot stand aside from these issues.

These problems have not resulted from a few major events like massive oil spills or nuclear accidents. They have occurred through the accumulation of small impacts which are the result of everyday actions. To tackle these problems, therefore, means thinking about these relatively small actions. It means considering the social, environmental and economic impacts before reaching decisions. This applies to organisations such as the County Council as much as it does to businesses and individuals. Indeed it is through working together that we will move most quickly towards sustainability.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL?

The County Council carries out a wide range of activities which aim to improve the quality of life in Warwickshire. Not every action or decision will, however, further all its social, economic and environmental objectives. In addition the County Council has to balance its actions across the whole of Warwickshire. It may have to decide, for example, whether building a park and ride facility on a green field site in one part of the County is a price worth paying to relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality elsewhere.

A key role of the County Council's LA 21 Strategy is, consequently, to make sure that sustainable development issues are fully considered. This means ensuring that its individual goals are not pursued in isolation, reducing potential conflicts and taking maximum advantage from any potential linkages that can advance the aims of sustainability.

Warwickshire County Council makes hundreds of these decisions each year, because of this it is important to know how far it is moving towards a more sustainable Warwickshire.

THE VISION

In order to gauge progress it is important to know the direction we should be heading, and to have a vision of what exactly we are seeking to achieve. With this in mind, the consultation for the preparation of this Strategy included the working up of a Vision for the Strategy. The Vision also builds upon a number of existing consultations and strategies. This includes, the many wide ranging consultation and participation exercises carried out by the County Council in recent years, vision statements from other Local Agenda 21 Plans and Strategies around Warwickshire and also the Regional Vision produced by the West Midlands' Round Table for Sustainable Development.

"Our Vision is of a community of equals. One that cares and listens, valuing what is said. It is a place where individuals and organisations act ethically, not only accepting responsibility for their own actions but sharing the responsibility for the welfare of each other and for the environment.

⁶ See note 2

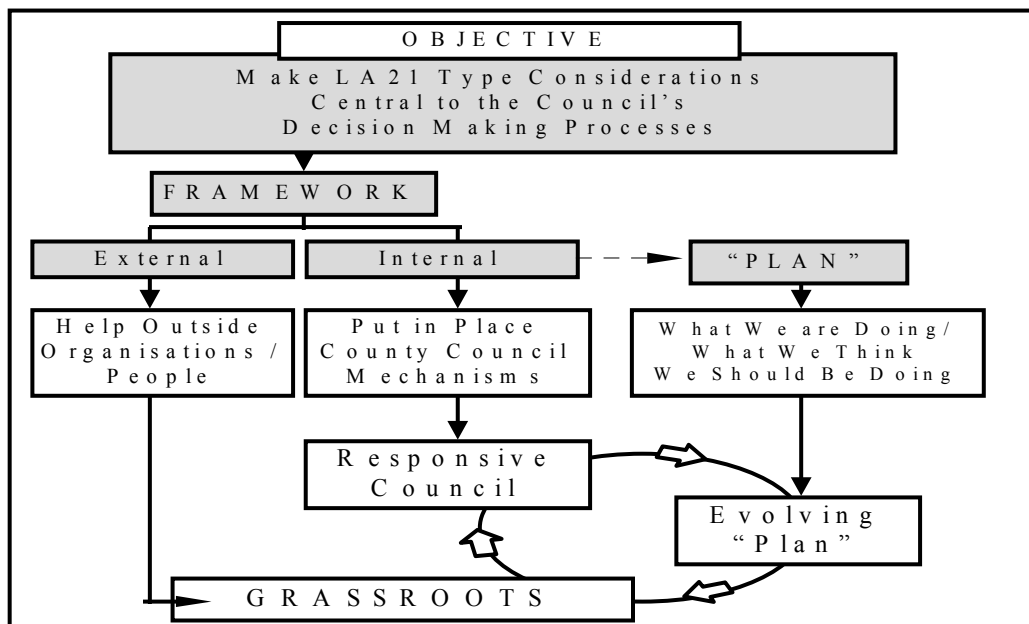
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Our Vision is of a community that respects and cherishes its rich heritage and its cultural and natural environment not only for its own sake, but also as valuable assets. As well as valuing the local, it is a community that also recognises its wider responsibilities to humanity and to the global environment.

In our Vision the community of Warwickshire looks forward and takes the initiative to secure the best long term future for our County."

THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LA 21 FRAMEWORK

In order for the County Council to make real progress towards the Vision, sustainable development should be at the heart of its decision-making. Already its five corporate objectives in the Best Value Performance Plan 2000 - 2001, the priorities set out in 'Our County 1998-2001' (the medium term Plan for Warwickshire), and numerous other strategies and initiatives embrace sustainable development. The Local Agenda 21 Framework builds on this by explicitly setting out its approach to sustainability thereby enabling better co-ordination within the County Council.



Underpinning the Framework are the three basic principles from "Our County".

Equality

The framework seeks to increase the involvement of the public and other organisations, particularly where they represent the diversity of Warwickshire's people and interests.

Best Value

Having a Local Agenda 21 Strategy in place is a key indicator in achieving Best Value. The root of Best Value, as sustainability, is one of taking a balanced approach to decision making, not simply on the basis of cost or speed, but on "quality". The

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Framework set out in this Strategy also incorporates the principles of Best Value by setting in place a continual cycle for increasing sustainability.

Co-ordinated local governance

The framework not only increases the co-ordination of the County Council's own actions but increases co-ordination with partners and others.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Within the broad Local Agenda 21 Framework the County Council has identified a range of Sustainability Objectives.

These take the County Council's five over-arching, corporate objectives as a starting point:

- To promote education, knowledge and personal development;
- To develop and maintain a vibrant, healthy local economy which promotes prosperity;
- To protect and develop vulnerable people, families and communities;
- To protect life and property; and
- To promote good health and a better environment.

(source: Warwickshire County Council Best Value Performance Plan 2000 - 2001)

Adding to and expanding upon these are a number of other objectives. These have been drawn from plans and strategies such as "Our County" and the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan which were produced with extensive involvement of others as well as those put forward by members of the public and other interested organisations specifically for inclusion in this document.

A. Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone

1. *to take action to make people feel less isolated or excluded from society.*
2. *to improve the health of the community.*
3. *to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and protect life and property.*
4. *to promote education, knowledge and personal development.*
5. *to meet housing needs.*
6. *to provide a fairer transport system.*
7. *to protect and develop vulnerable people, families and communities.*
8. *to improve the independence and quality of life of older people.*
9. *to reduce the distances people need to travel.*
10. *to ensure that public consultation is as wide ranging and inclusive as possible.*

B. Effective protection of the environment

11. *to promote a better and safer environment.*
12. *to protect and enhance the character and quality of Warwickshire's countryside and landscapes.*
13. *to protect habitats and species of acknowledged importance.*
14. *to seek opportunities for the enhancement of environmental assets and contribute to targets in UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.*
15. *to nurture Warwickshire's legacy of distinctive towns and villages, countryside, environmental wealth and heritage.*

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C. Prudent use of resources

16. *to conserve resources of land and energy, including minerals and water.*
17. *to encourage the efficient use of renewable natural resources and conserve non-renewable resources.*
18. *to reduce the volume of waste.*
19. *to reduce the pollution of air, land and water.*
20. *to ensure an efficient and effective use of land.*

D. A healthy economy

21. *to develop and maintain a vibrant, healthy local economy which promotes prosperity.*
22. *to provide a variety of employment opportunities to meet local needs.*
23. *to develop workforce skills and enhance employment potential.*
24. *to enable disadvantaged groups and communities to access opportunities into training and work.*

THE LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY

The County Council has taken forward these Sustainability Objectives within the context of the Framework to produce this Strategy. The particular roles of the Strategy being to:

- *Ensure that sustainability is at the heart of the County Council's decision making.*
- *Strengthen links between Sustainability Objectives where there are advantages for sustainability.*
- *Minimise the possibility of individual goals being pursued to the cost of others.*

Instead of dealing with each Sustainability Objective in isolation, they have been used as building blocks for ten broad sustainability themes. The ten themes are:

- *Putting sustainability at the heart of County Council decision making.*
- *Managing the environmental impact of County Council actions.*
- *The careful use of natural resources.*
- *Raising awareness of sustainable development .*
- *Enabling and supporting others.*
- *Increasing access to opportunities.*
- *Promoting local identity.*
- *Promoting the natural and cultural environment.*
- *Increasing awareness of ethical issues and actions.*
- *Improving health, safety and independence.*

This approach enables a number of objectives to be tackled simultaneously, emphasising the linkages across the Council's services. To highlight the connections between actions there is also a substantial overlap between themes.

The main aspects of the Strategy are as follows:

- The County Council is committed to reducing the harmful effects of its own activities and making them generally more sustainable. This includes: measures

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to increase the awareness of sustainability issues and existing best practices; ensuring that sustainable development issues are routinely considered in decision making; and carrying out initiatives such as increasing the energy efficiency of County Council owned properties.

- The County Council has an important role to play in exerting its influence and exercising its regulatory powers to affect the actions of others. Making sure that some aspects of legislation and the County Council's own planning policies are complied with are good examples of this.
- The County Council recognises it cannot achieve its Sustainability Objectives alone. It has an important role but to be successful it needs to work with others who share these aims and to promote the message to those who, as yet, do not. Because of this, the Strategy is intended to complement and connect with existing work and organisations by stressing the County Council's wide ranging activities, interests and partnerships across the whole of Warwickshire.
- The Strategy emphasises the need to increase the ability of the public and other organisations to participate in a well informed and productive way. The County Council can help make this happen by making its expertise and information resources more readily accessible. At the same time the County Council intends to make itself increasingly receptive and responsive to the views and aspirations of others. An important part of this is to raise awareness and understanding of sustainability issues among the elected members and staff of the County Council.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan includes examples of on-going County Council "good works". These give a flavour of the sorts of things that the County Council is already doing and are not intended as a definitive list. It also includes some additional actions that the County Council feel are necessary to help us move more quickly towards sustainability. In some cases these are already in hand and programmed for implementation.

The actions themselves are set out in a series of themes which bring together a range of initiatives from across the County Council. These themes are not definitive and there is considerable overlap between them. This overlap is useful in demonstrating the interconnected nature of sustainability issues. It also shows the added strength that comes from the cross benefits of individual actions working together. As a consequence it is important to consider the contents of the Action Plan as whole.

The Action Plan is not intended as a static document. Instead it will constantly evolve to reflect changing circumstances. Some actions will have a limited life and be replaced by new ones while others may remain relevant almost indefinitely.

The current Action Plan also includes initiatives and ideas put forward by members of the public, partners and other organisations. The County Council expects this to carry on and, within this context, will continue to produce new initiatives. Indeed, as

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the Strategy becomes more effective, the number of projects vying for inclusion in the Action Plan should increase.

IMPLEMENTATION

The County Council sees sustainability as central to its work. Because of this, implementation has already started on much of the Action Plan. Nonetheless, there is still more to be done to identify new actions and to co-ordinate implementation.

To this end the County Council are putting in place a system where each Department broadly assesses the sustainability of its own actions, and sets out its own brief LA 21 Strategy. Known as an Integrated Departmental Strategy (IDS), this will then be reviewed and monitored annually as part of the Council's Service Planning process. IDSs can be either a free standing document or an identifiable element within the Service Plan. Outputs from the IDSs will help to inform future reviews of this LA 21 Strategy. In addition a forum is being established for the County Councils strategic policy officers, the Corporate Policy Reference Group. This will provide an arena for debating sustainability issues and disseminating best practice and new ideas. It is also intended that this will be advised by an LA 21 Project Team. Its role, among other things, being to help provide a link between their community contacts and the forum. To co-ordinate the whole process and ensure that sustainability issues are kept to the forefront of County Council thinking, the County Council will identify a specific officer who will take responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this Strategy.

Within the context of joint working, the County Council will also actively seek new partners to contribute to and to help implement the Strategy. In many cases these partners may also be able to share costs or provide funding for specific projects. To maximise the benefits from fund raising and to improve the cross benefits from projects, the County Council will investigate taking a more co-ordinated approach to its external fund raising activities.

The Local Agenda 21 Strategy will be part of the review of "Our County" and, also, the Community Planning process. This means that one of the key ways of implementing it will be in partnership with others, including the District & Borough Councils, through the preparation of Community Plans. The County Council's five Community Development Project Officers will play an important part in this.

MONITORING

The Strategy includes a number of indicators to show whether its processes and mechanisms are working. In addition indicators are also included to show general progress towards sustainability. Where appropriate these Indicators will feed into the County Council's Best Value Performance Plan. This demonstrates the County Council's commitment to Local Agenda 21 and reinforces the linkages and mutual support of these two initiatives.

The County Council's LA21 'Headline Indicators' are:

- *Net change in natural / semi-natural habitats*

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- *Changes in population of selected characteristic species*
- *Recycling of household waste*
- *County Council energy use*
- *Community well-being*
- *Fear of crime*
- *Social participation*
- *Mortality rate*
- *How children travel to school*
- *Access to key services*
- *Percentage of employers rating Warwickshire as a good location*
- *Social and community enterprise*
- *Percentage of unemployed in Warwickshire classified as long term unemployed*

Through their Service Plans and Integrated Departmental Strategies, individual County Council departments will identify their own sustainability indicators and set appropriate targets. The degree to which these are met will affect the performance of the Headline Indicators. Regular reports will be made on the full range of indicators to the Environment and Community Scrutiny and Review Committee.

REVIEW

It is intended to review the LA 21 Strategy after three years. This being enough time for the actions to take effect and to provide a reasonable basis on which to judge its progress. In doing so the County Council will take account of the Community Planning Process, taking advantage of any potential benefits from linking the two together.

LOCAL AGENDA 21 ACTION PLAN

1. Putting Sustainability at the Heart of County Council Decision Making

Ensuring sustainable development issues are at the centre of County Council decision-making

Central to the County Council's approach is the aim to place LA21 type issues at the heart of its decision making process. The intention is to further develop and build on the approach embraced to date, a main part of which is the introduction of the concept of Integrated Departmental Strategies (IDS).

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- The five corporate objectives, 'Our County' and the strategic objectives of departmental service plans have a high degree of resonance with the concept of sustainable development.
- The incorporation within strategies and plans of sustainable development principles, for example, the Warwickshire Structure Plan (WASP) and the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan.

Some further actions

- **Preparing Integrated Departmental Strategies (IDS's)** The preparation of Integrated Departmental Strategies (IDS's) by each Department will assist in fully integrating sustainable development issues into decision making and consequently service provision. The preparation of IDS's should be undertaken at the same time as the annual review of Departmental Service Plans.
- **Assessing the Sustainability of County Council activities** The use of sustainability appraisals in assessing the sustainability of County Council plans, policies and programmes should be encouraged. A first step is the use of sustainability checklists which can provide a useful tool in testing the sustainability of policies, strategies and in decision-making. Checklists can help to identify the potential impact in meeting the main principles of sustainable development, provide an effective means of auditing sustainability performance and form a good complementary measure to the IDS mechanism. A Best Value and Sustainability Checklist has been produced by SOLACE (The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers). The use of this checklist is currently being considered.
- **Best Value Review Process** A five year programme of European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) and in-depth service reviews has recently begun as part of the Best Value Review process. Sustainability checklists will be used in these service reviews.

Targets and timescales

- Preparation of IDS's to be linked in with the review of departmental service plans. Guidelines for the drawing up of IDS's for Departments have been prepared and Departments are encouraged to have their first IDS in place by April 2001. Thereafter for each Department to review and update their IDS on a yearly basis.

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- To begin using sustainability checklists across all Departments, to monitor the findings and the changes which occur as a result of the application of the checklist, and to investigate the use of sustainability appraisals.
- To begin using sustainability checklists within the Best Value Review process at the earliest opportunity.

Some indicators

- Number of IDS's prepared by April 2001 and the review and updating of IDS's on a yearly basis.
- The use of sustainability checklists by Departments and the changes made to move closer to sustainability as a result of the application of the checklist. The use of sustainability checklists within the Best Value Service Reviews.

Reference to objectives met

Putting sustainability at the heart of County Council decision-making will help to achieve the full breadth of the objectives.

2. Managing the Environmental Impact of County Council Actions

Moving to minimise the adverse environmental impact of the County Council's routine activities

The ways in which the County Council operates within its various places of work and through the provision of services can have significant positive or negative environmental impacts. By actively seeking to minimise the adverse environmental impacts of the County Council's activities it can clearly demonstrate the commitment the County Council is making to this element of sustainable development and in doing so provide an example of good practice for others.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- A Green Transport Plan for County Council staff was introduced in July 1999, the implementation programme stretches over a three to five year period. A car sharing database has recently been developed and launched, public transport timetables are now readily available on a database for staff, three pool cycles are to be purchased and three pool cars are to be hired for a six month trial.
- The Property Services Department is embracing energy efficiency measures in the construction of new buildings, for example, in the proposed visitor centres at Ryton Country Park and Pooley Hall which include the reuse of roof tiles, oak boarding and cast iron guttering and features such as sun pipes, solar panels and use of water run off within the buildings.
- Through the design and implementation of various environmental enhancement schemes throughout the County positive environmental impacts are achieved.

Some further actions

- **Promoting building/energy efficiency in County Council owned properties**
 - a) Property Services are looking to establish a Water and Energy Management Plan for County Council property holdings, to measure, monitor and effectively control energy consumption. Cabinet are likely to be considering a report on this matter shortly.
 - b) Investigate the use of energy efficient building techniques for proposals for new County Council buildings and incorporate energy efficiency measures in all proposals for new County Council buildings and in refurbishment schemes.
- **Raising awareness of energy efficiency in County Council workplaces** The careful use of lighting, heating and water and the use of measures such as timers, reducing the thermostat and water filters, can greatly assist in reducing the impact on the environment. Various measures are already in place, although there is scope to reduce the impact further.
- **Giving active consideration to the implementation of an environmental management system such as the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and ISO 14001 or a sustainability management system such as Sustainability Integrated Guidelines for Management (SIGMA)** The process of working towards EMAS accreditation will entail putting in place many of the internal mechanisms necessary to ensure that sustainability becomes more fully entwined in the work of the County Council. The SIGMA project aims to create a strategic management framework for sustainability, in the future it is hoped that the outputs from the project will be taken forward by ISO.

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- ***Giving active consideration to making a corporate commitment to sustainable business practice and an improved environment (MACC2)*** To sign up to MACC2 a corporate commitment needs to be made to one or more of the three issues: greenhouse gas emissions, waste or water. In making a commitment targets will need to be set and will be made publicly available. Each year information will need to be made available on how we are meeting the targets.
- ***Implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the Green Transport Plan for staff*** The implementation of the Green Transport Plan for staff needs to be fully undertaken and regular monitoring carried out to measure the changes/improvements being made.
- ***Giving active consideration to teleworking for members of staff*** The use of teleworking where appropriate for members of staff to work from home or local telecentres, provides a significant opportunity to reduce the need to travel, and for 'hot desking' within County Council workplaces. Progress is already being made on the feasibility of teleworking for staff.
- ***Co-ordinating recycling initiatives across the County Council*** There are various recycling initiatives being pursued within County Council workplaces, such as the recycling of printer cartridges and the reuse and recycling of paper. Many other recycling initiatives take place on an ad hoc basis, such as the recycling of glass and plastic within the workplace and the collecting together of materials suitable for composting. By co-ordinating recycling initiatives across the County Council it is likely that a greater contribution can be made to reducing environmental impact.

In addition, any improvements to the way in which the County Council recycles its redundant computer equipment will be investigated.

Targets and timescales

- To have a Water and Energy Management Plan in place by the end of 2001 and to implement the Plan following approval.
- To have a programme for raising awareness of energy efficiency drawn up in the short to medium term.
- For all Departments and/or Sections to investigate the implementation of either an environmental or sustainability management system in the short to medium term.
- To actively consider signing up to MAC by April 2001.
- To ensure the full implementation of the Green Transport Plan, and its subsequent review.
- To give active consideration to teleworking for members staff in the short to medium term.
- To set up a programme for co-ordinating recycling initiatives, to include, for example, the production and regular update of a virtual magazine on recycling and sustainable development. A programme to be produced in the short term, and implemented in the short to medium term.

Some indicators

- The approval and subsequent implementation of a Water and Energy Management Plan.

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- To have a programme in place for raising awareness of energy efficiency.
- Whether Departments or Sections are working towards either an environmental or sustainability management system.
- Whether MACC2 is signed up to by April 2001.
- The full implementation of the Green Transport Plan and programme for review.
- The presence of a programme for co-ordinating recycling initiatives.

Reference to objectives met

Reducing the environmental impact of County Council actions helps meet the following objectives: A2, A4, A6, A9, A10, B11, B12, B14, B15, C16, C17, C18.

3. The Careful Use of Natural Resources

The County Council is able to use its influence and regulatory powers to encourage others to use natural resources carefully. In doing so, further progress can be made to minimise the unnecessary use of natural resources in Warwickshire.

The careful use of natural resources is an important strand of sustainable development. The County Council can contribute directly and through its work with others, by seeking to ensure that natural resources are used carefully so that their use is minimised wherever possible. For example, through minimising the use of drinking water in County Council buildings by looking into the use of 'grey water' where appropriate.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- Working with businesses to improve the quality of their products and to manage the impact of their activities on the environment, in line with internationally recognised industry standards ISO 9000 and ISO 14001.
- Policies in the Waste Local Plan limit the amount of waste going to landfill sites and encourage large scale composting facilities and material recycling facilities.
- Earlier this year the recycling of biodegradable waste from household waste sites began.
- Working with District and Borough Councils, through the Waste Forum, to develop an integrated Waste Strategy.
- Securing a long term household waste facility for the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Some further actions

- ***Investigating the use of incentives for using fewer natural resources.*** For example, by investigating the use of contracts that reward waste operators for minimising the amount of waste to landfill sites.
- ***Investigating the use of recycled glass and the furnace bottom ash from incinerators in road construction and maintenance.*** This has the potential to provide a market for recycling, limit the amount of waste that needs to be landfilled and reducing the amount of virgin raw material used and, consequently, the impact of quarrying and similar activities.
- ***Influence the design and orientation of buildings can help to minimise the unnecessary use of natural resources.*** Through the County Council's planning control function, but mostly through Planning Departments at the District and Borough Councils, guidance is given on the appropriate use of materials, design and orientation. Further guidance on the use of natural resources could be provided, for example, on making the best use of natural light and the use of recycled materials.
- ***Through work with others to raise awareness of energy efficiency to assist in promoting the careful use of natural resources.*** The County Council will continue to work with its wide range of contacts and partners to develop new ways increase awareness and encourage the careful use of natural resources.
- ***Investigate opportunities and encourage the use of renewable energy*** (renewable energy includes harnessing energy flows which occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment, as well as sources of renewable energy such as plant material, combustible or digestible industrial, agricultural and domestic waste materials). In Warwickshire renewable energy will derive largely from digestible industrial, agricultural and domestic waste.

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Targets and timescales

- To increase the amount of waste recycled by the County Council from 2.5% to 5.4% as a result of the introduction of the composting scheme for green waste at waste sites in the medium term.
- To reduce the amount of waste going to landfill in Warwickshire by 700,000 tonnes a year. Medium term
- To recover 40% of municipal waste. Medium term
- To investigate the use of incentives for the use of less natural resources in the medium to long term.
- To prepare guidance with partners on minimising the use of natural resources through the design and orientation of buildings, in the short to medium term.
- To investigate ways of working with others to raise awareness of energy efficiency in the medium to long term.
- To investigate opportunities for and encourage the use of renewable energy where possible in the medium to long term.

Some indicators

- The increase in the amount of waste recycled.
- Whether an investigation of the use of incentives has been carried out.
- The production of guidelines with partners on minimising the use of natural resources through building design and orientation.
- Whether an investigation of ways of working with others to raise awareness of energy efficiency has been undertaken.
- Whether an investigation of opportunities for the use of renewable energy has been carried out.

Reference to objectives met

The careful use of resources helps to meet the following objectives: A9, B11, B12, C16, C17, C18, C19.

4. Raising Awareness of Sustainable Development

Raising awareness of what sustainability means and how people can participate

The County Council can raise awareness of sustainability through many channels, such as the training of staff and Members, through its wide range of activities and partnerships, and through its role as a key information provider.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- Through involvement in School Environment Days, and the design and implementation of environmental enhancement schemes.
- Through the Safer Routes to School initiative, the cycling awareness scheme, and the creation and promotion of a network of safe routes for recreational cycling leading from urban centres into the countryside and linking to attractions and local facilities.
- The Wasteline campaign which includes the promotion of reduce, reuse and recycle, and the production, promotion and sale of the 'Compost Capsule'.
- Support is given to companies for environmental awareness training and in progressing environmental audits, some of which have led to the achievement of the internationally recognised industry standard ISO 14001, Quality and Environmental Management Systems for businesses.
- Support is given to companies to reduce waste through the Business Wasteline.

Some further actions

- ***Raising awareness of sustainable development for staff and Members***
Actions will be taken to specifically raise the awareness of sustainable development for staff and Members. This is likely to include seminars, workshops, and regular updates on activities. Other ideas suggested by staff include producing a 'virtual' magazine, having a sustainable development bulletin board, regular surveys and events.
- ***Co-ordinating and disseminating information on sustainable development good practice*** Working with District and Borough Councils, Local Agenda 21 groups and other groups and organisations, look into how the County Council can contribute to making information available on sustainable development, the use of Warwickshire libraries and other key information points, and collecting and disseminating information on good practice. In addition there is a need to look into how the County Council can best contribute to existing local newsletters on sustainable development and Local Agenda 21.
- ***Using the Warwickshire website to disseminate information on sustainable development*** The use of the internet provides an additional and valuable channel for disseminating information. A regular feature on sustainable development could be set up on the website and regularly updated.

Targets and timescales

- To set up a programme for raising awareness of sustainable development for staff and Members. A programme to be produced in the short term, and implemented in the short to medium term.

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- To investigate and establish how the County Council can most effectively contribute to the provision, co-ordination, and dissemination of sustainable development information, including the use of the Warwickshire website. This should be undertaken in the short and medium term.

Some indicators

- To have a programme in place for raising awareness of sustainable development for staff and Members.
- Whether how the County Council can most effectively contribute to the provision, co-ordination, and dissemination of sustainable development information has been fully investigated.

Reference to objectives met

Raising awareness of sustainable development will help to achieve the full breadth of the objectives.

5. Enabling and Supporting Others

Increasing the ability of others to participate in and to influence progress towards a more sustainable Warwickshire. Ensuring that people have the information they need to help them make an informed judgement and providing worthwhile avenues for their participation. In many cases the County Council works with others to improve quality and efficiency.

Public involvement is a key element of Local Agenda 21 and the County Council recognise the importance of engaging more actively with others. Moreover, it has an important role to support the work of individuals and community and interest groups who share the same broad aims. The County Council is continually looking for ways to improve the way it does this.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- The County Council has a Consultation Strategy, which provides good practice guidance on carrying out consultation.
- The County Council has a consultation database provides information to make the most effective use of consultation being undertaken.
- For its Local Transport Plan, the County Council involved a wide range of interest groups, including transport operators, businesses, local residents, District Councils and community groups in an extensive consensus building exercise.
- Working with businesses to help them minimise their waste and increase their energy efficiency.
- Working with Health colleagues to agree systems to identify carers living in the community in order to provide better support for them.
- Engaging young people in the formulation of our Policy for Young People and setting up Youth councils for each district to debate and look at new policies that affect this group.
- The County Council's Policy for Older People involving the numerous individuals and organisations in the "Speak Up" initiative and has resulted in the establishment of eight permanent Older People's Forums across Warwickshire.
- The County Council continues to improve and evolve its participation and consultation processes, making this as wide ranging and inclusive as possible. This has included consensus building, participation or consultation, as well as, where appropriate, using local representative groups or taking a representative sample of the population.

Some further actions

- **Further improvements to internal and external co-ordination.** The County Council will continue to make improvements to its processes and internal organisation to improve co-ordination and dissemination of best practice. It will also continue to increase its work with partners and explore new ways of working to develop and deliver joint strategies.
- **Increasing access to County Council information** by putting more information on the County Council's website. For example, investigating making the Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) available via the internet.
- **To identify all County Council services that can be delivered electronically** and develop ways of doing so. Increasingly computer and remote access to services is becoming important. By providing remote access to County Council

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services and information this should particularly help those in rural areas, with mobility problems and those without access to a car.

- **Setting up a Sustainable Development Forum**, possibly in connection with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, to enable a Countywide debate and dissemination of ideas and good practice. Seeking representation that reflects the diversity of communities and interests across Warwickshire.
- **Re-establish a Business and Environment Forum** and link it into Regional Network, ENSIGN. The way businesses operate has a great impact on the aims of sustainability. It is important that they are helped to understand the advantages of acting sustainably and to have a forum to exchange information and experiences.
- **Investigate ways of improving the way the County Council provides financial support.** To investigate ways of increasing efficiency, looking into the possible advantages of linking funding to the sharing of facilities between recipients, whether funding should be conditional on supporting other relevant initiatives eg Wasteline.
- **To investigate a more co-ordinated approach to obtaining external funding.** Many projects are funded or partly funded by external sources. There may be advantages in linking together funding exercises from across the County Council and with partners to maximise cross benefits.

Targets and Timescales

- Re-establishment of the Business and Environment Forum. Short term
- Establishment of Biodiversity Forum. Short Term
- Increase number and quality of data-bases available to the public on the County Council's website. Year on year improvements
- Ensure all major County Council policy initiatives involve an appropriate level of external participation/consultation.
- All services that can be delivered electronically to be on-line by 2005

Some indicators

- Existence of Business and Environment Forum
- Existence of Biodiversity Forum
- Number of businesses involved in the "Business Wasteline" initiative
- Number of data-bases available to the public on the County Council's website.
- Number of visitors to Warwickshire libraries
- Percentages of services that can be delivered on-line that are delivered on-line.

Reference to objectives met

Enabling and supporting others help meet the following objectives: A1, A4, A10, B11, B12, B13, B14, C17, C18, C19, D21.

6. Increasing Access to Opportunities

Ensuring that all people in Warwickshire have access to services, facilities and reasonable job opportunities.

The County Council has a responsibility to make its services as accessible as possible. It also has a wider role in helping people to have access to opportunities through training and support for local businesses. The County Council also provides financial support for socially important public transport services and has policies that encourage development where it is physically most accessible.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- In support the Government's New Deal the County Council has launched a range of new services to directly help people who wish to work but experience difficulties in securing employment. This includes working with partners to deliver the New Deal for 18-24 year olds in Warwickshire through the Joint Venture Partnership.
- The County Council's involvement in area based regeneration initiatives in a number of areas, notably West Nuneaton, Old Town Leamington and the North Warwickshire Mining Villages. These involve a package of physical and environmental improvements, new community facilities and community support services, support for educational progression, improved access to training and local job opportunities.
- Through its Policy for Older People, in partnership with others, the County Council has initiatives including: developing specialised IT training for older people; supporting additional transport services in urban and rural areas; a "Benefits Take Up" campaign to encourage older people to claim additional income; a range of support for older people in their own homes; and a mentoring in schools project.
- The Rural Transport Forum continues to develop new initiatives such as producing a user friendly transport pack for those with mobility impairment.
- Supporting rural retail businesses through the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Rural Regeneration Partnership and helping rural businesses benefit from new technology through the Warwickshire Increasing Rural Enterprise Development (WIRED) project.
- The County Council's "Wheels to Work" initiative rents mopeds to young people in rural areas to give them access to job opportunities.
- The County Council promotes family friendly employment practices amongst local employers through training and consultancy service and through co-ordinating links with early years and childcare workers.
- Developing with partners a "Sure Start Scheme" for pre-school children and their families to help parents exploit employment opportunities and provide access to early education, health services, family support and advice.

Some further actions

- ***Implementing the "Sure Start" scheme for pre-school children across the County.***
- ***Extending the "Wheels to Work" moped rental initiative*** to other rural areas.
- ***Providing greater support to food supply chain businesses and employees*** in Warwickshire. Particularly in the rural areas many people are involved with food production. This is an important element of rural life and characteristic of Warwickshire. Farmers Markets have been one successful way of doing this but

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there will be many other ways that could be investigated, from supporting agricultural diversification to increasing the amount of produce the County Council takes from local suppliers.

- **Investigate area based training programmes** which work with the community to identify and address their specific training needs. Particularly in rural areas there can be limited access to opportunities and training. There is scope to investigate whether more could be done to tailor training to particular places and individuals and to provide it locally.
- **Provide greater support for the role of market towns** as the focus of community facilities and services. Market towns have an important role as service centres for rural areas and reduce the need for people to travel greater distances.
- **Investigate the further use of County Council buildings by community** and other groups for training, leisure and education. There maybe scope to use these buildings and facilities more regularly for the benefit community. Particularly where they are normally closed for long periods. This also has potential to reduce the need to travel and strengthen local identity

Targets and timescales

- Increase in number of employers supporting family friendly schemes. Year on year increases.
- Arrange family friendly practices awareness raising seminars and events for businesses. 2001
- Increase number of people taking advantage of “Wheels to Work” initiative. Year on year increases.
- Setting up of an Older Volunteer-based School Mentoring Scheme
- Increase the number of older people undertaking IT training. Year on year increases.
- Existence of a “Sure Start” schemes for pre-school children in all districts and boroughs. Medium term.
- To continue to support access to employment for all disadvantaged groups.
- To explore taking training and expertise to people in rural areas and thereby reducing the need for them to travel to central facilities, in the short to medium term.
- To investigate the further use of all County Council buildings not currently used for community use in the medium term.

Some indicators

- Number of jobs created through initiatives involving the County Council
- Number of people participating in the “Wheels to Work” scheme
- Number of businesses and organisations who are using or have used the County Council’s family friendly consultancy service
- Number of rural businesses supported by initiatives involving the County Council
- Number of schools using older people as mentors
- Number of older people undertaking IT training
- Number of “Sure Start Schemes” and/or number of families involved.
- The amount of support given to disadvantaged groups seeking access to employment.

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- The exploration of the need to provide training and expertise to people in rural areas without them needing to travel to central facilities. If a need is identified, the number of people provided with training in their own area.
- The number of County Council buildings considered for community use.

Reference to objectives met

Increasing access to opportunities helps meet the following objectives: A1, A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, B15, C20, D21, D22, D23, D24

7. Promoting Local Identity

Ensuring that places in Warwickshire continue to have a unique character.

Diversity significantly contributes towards local identity. This diversity embraces the built, the cultural and the natural environment. There are various ways in which local identity can be promoted through the activities of the County Council.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- Various Town Centre Action Plans have been produced recently and projects stemming from these plans are being implemented.
- The preparation of a Cultural Strategy which will embrace the distinct identities within the County .
- The School Grounds Improvement Scheme involves work with individual schools to draw up environmental and landscape improvements to school grounds that are unique to each school.
- Through work with Environmental Trusts involving the local community in the development and management of projects.
- Through the Parish Paths Partnership, linking with local communities and volunteers to enable the management of local rights of way to be undertaken at the local level with local resources.
- Involvement of local communities in the management of facilities, for example, the ongoing strengthening and consolidation of the Advisory Group at Hartshill Hayes Country Park.
- Working with partners on biodiversity issues and projects, such as a Phase 1 habitat survey, Wildlife Sites project and Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- The Vital Villages programme provides support to village shops, assists rural communities and encourages local food sourcing.
- Providing information and advise to Parish Councils on specialist heritage and wildlife matters.

Some further actions

- ***Undertaking work on an Historic Landscape Characterisation Study*** and an Urban Survey of the County's historic towns to complement the site specific data on the Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record. Recording our current assets is an important part in understanding and, consequently, protecting and enhancing local character. It also helps judge relative importance and provide a factual baseline for measuring change.
- ***Investigating further opportunities for local communities to become more fully involved*** in the preparation, implementation and management of projects and facilities. In order for the County Council to become more responsive and for its services to increasingly reflect the needs and aspirations of particular communities it is important that it continues to develop new ways of involving the community.
- ***Continuing to support the role of market towns.*** Market towns are not only important service centres but often the focus of local identity. There is a need to look at co-ordinated support including planning policies, the delivery of public services by the County Council and its partners, farmers markets, cultural events and other similar initiatives.
- ***Investigating increasing the use of locally sourced services and goods used by the County Council.*** The County Council is a major consumer of services and

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products. Its purchasing behaviour and policies could be used to benefit local suppliers and reinforce local identity. The use of locally sourced materials in buildings can reinforce local distinctiveness.

- **Encouraging buildings that reflect the locality.** The County Council as property owners and through working in partnership with others can use its influence to encourage buildings to reflect their surroundings. This should not prevent innovation but help reinforce local distinctiveness. For example, through the use of local materials and assimilation into the landform/townscape.
- **Investigating the wider use of Environmental Assessment (EA) for County Council Actions** The County Council itself often designs major building works, such as new roads. In many circumstances, especially when planning permission is required, the environmental implications of such work are fully taken into account with an EA being produced. However, many other schemes that do not require planning consent do not go through such an assessment.

Targets and timescales

To produce an Historic Landscape Characterisation Study and an Urban Survey of the County's historic towns to complement the site specific data on the SMR in the short to medium term.

- In the short term to investigate further opportunities for local communities to become more fully involved in the preparation, implementation and management of projects and facilities. In the longer term to ensure that all opportunities for community involvement are fully explored.
- To significantly increase the proportion of locally sourced produce sold in the County in the medium term.
- To investigate the wider use of Environmental Assessments in the medium and long term.

Some indicators

- The production of an Historic Landscape Characterisation Study and an Urban Survey of the County's historic towns.
- Number of projects in which local communities have a long term involvement.
- The proportion of locally sourced produce sold in the County.
- Whether the wider use of Environmental Assessments has been investigated.

Reference to objectives met

Promoting local identity helps meet the following objectives: A4, A9, A10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B15, C16, C17, D21.

8. Promoting the Natural and Cultural Environment

Ensuring that Warwickshire promotes the variety and long-term security of its indigenous species, encourages the appropriate management of wild life habitats, and provides well-documented and accessible information on our natural and cultural heritage.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- The County Council promotes the study, preservation and interpretation of natural history, geology and archaeology. In-house experts manage data, answer enquires provide advice on the implications of land use change and undertake projects.
- A ranger service is employed to help ensure wildlife and amenity are catered for at the Country Parks.
- The County Council is working in collaboration with district councils, Coventry and Solihull Councils, English Nature, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency and a variety of other organisations, local groups and local experts on several key projects, including a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Wildlife Sites project and Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Some further actions

- Secure long term financial security for key projects.
- Stronger partnerships with local communities, landowners, farmers, local industry, local experts and other key organisations and stakeholders.
- Completion and implementation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, including the securing of a full-time Biodiversity Officer to co-ordinate it.
- Improved resources for managing biological, geological and archaeological data, including a full-time Records Centre Manager for the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre.
- Enhance public access to ecological and archaeological data (a bid has recently been submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund to make the Warwickshire Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record accessible via the internet).
- Improved coverage of ecology, geology and archaeology in planning control, more extensive use of Environmental Assessments and Appraisals, and improvements in the quality of these.
- Development within a national framework, of effective indicators for the well-being of archaeological and historic sites and landscapes.
- More extensive use of mitigation measures to reduce damaging impacts of development, with compensatory measures to off-set losses of habitats, species, accessible geology and archaeology where these are unavoidable.
- Increased use of the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) programme and Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) to complement statutory Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings during planning control work.

Targets and timescales

- Promotion of targets for species and habitats to be established by a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and to secure a full time dedicated post for its co-ordination in the short term.
- Proposals for HLC and EUS to be prepared by end of 2000.

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Some indicators

- Total numbers of species; also losses and gains of species, including flagship/indicator species or entire groups of species where these are well recorded.
- Total area of different wildlife habitats and losses or gains of these habitats.
- Changes in habitat quality/numbers of well managed sites.
- Changes in the number of SSSIs, LNRs, SINCs and RIGSs.
- Number of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets being achieved.
- Numbers and status of sites on 'Buildings at Risk' register.
- Number of sites where archaeological management arrangements are in place.
- Quality of data in the various record centres defined as data which is comprehensive , accurate, up to date, accessible and capable of computer analysis.
- Employment of a Biodiversity Officer and Biological Records Centre Manager.
- Number of published atlases and checklists for Warwickshire's wildlife.

Reference to objectives met

Promoting the natural and cultural environment helps meet the following objectives: A4, A10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B15, C16, C17, C18, C19, C20.

9. Increasing Awareness of Ethical Issues and Actions

To ensure that the actions of the County Council do not unwittingly harm the rights of others and to support people and organisations working towards the same ethical ends as the County Council.

The County Council is a very large and high profile organisation. The way it conducts itself sends important messages to individuals and other organisations. The County Council also has scope to influence to its suppliers and service providers through its requirements as a customer.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- The County Council has committed itself to the Commission for Racial Equality “Standards for Local Government” and is actively monitoring its racial equality policy.
- The County Council has a clear and actively implemented Equal Opportunities policy.
- Promotes equal opportunities principles through training client businesses, through introducing contract compliance, and through the promotion of disability access standards.
- The County Council upholds high standards of confidentiality and complies fully with the Data Protection Act 1999.
- The County Council is supporting the development of Credit Unions across the County.

Some further actions

- ***Ensure that the implications of the Human Rights Act are complied with.*** The Act came into force on 2nd October 2000 and the County Council will need to assess whether its actions unwittingly cause harm, either directly or indirectly, to the rights of others.
- ***Encourage local businesses and organisations to develop and produce environmentally friendly goods and services*** and to adopt ethical policies and practices, through among other things, contract compliance. The County Council is a significant customer of goods and services and could use its purchasing power to support and encourage others to operate in a more sustainable and ethical way.
- ***To produce Corporate Sustainable Purchasing, Procurement and Disposal Guidelines which take into account ethical considerations.*** This might look into issues such as: the use of products from genetically modified sources; the use of products that have been produced by unfairly exploiting others; and investigating whether and in what circumstances we should favour suppliers with “green” and/or ethical credentials. This would also look into more obviously sustainable issues such as: recycling photocopier toner cartridges; requiring suppliers to minimise/retrieve packaging; and disposing of redundant County Council property to voluntary groups.
- ***To investigate the potential pros and cons of ethical banking,*** particularly with regard to the County Council’s Pension Fund. The activities of the County Council send important messages to others. The County Council controls substantial budgets and can provide significant support to ethical institutions and businesses through its investment and banking decisions.

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- **To investigate the practicalities of Local Exchange and Trading Schemes (LETS).** These allow people and businesses to exchange services without money, engendering a spirit of co-operation and in many cases giving people access to services that they might not normally have.
- **To investigate setting up and supporting further Credit Unions around Warwickshire.** Credit Unions are important examples of community self help.
- **To investigate a Corporate policy supporting the reasonable needs of members of staff who are also volunteers** for recognised community groups or charity organisations. Community groups and charities are a vital part of the community and volunteers an important community resource. One way the County Council could provide more support to these organisations is to support the reasonable needs of members of staff who are also volunteers.

Targets and timescales

- To take actions to fully comply with the Human Rights Act in the short term.
- To develop County Council sustainable and ethical purchasing, procurement and disposal guidelines in the short term.
- To investigate whether a corporate policy supporting members of staff who are also volunteers is required.

Some indicators

- Having corporate sustainable and ethical purchasing , procurement and disposal guidelines
- Whether a corporate policy supporting members of staff who are also volunteers has been investigated.
- Number of Local Exchange and Trading Schemes supported by the County Council.
- Number of Credit Unions supported by the County Council.

Reference to objectives met

Increasing awareness of ethical issues and actions helps meet the following objectives: A1, A2, A3, A4, A7, A8, A10, B11, C16, C17, C18, C19, D21

10. Improving Health, Safety and Independence

To ensure that the people of Warwickshire benefit from improving standards of health, safety and independence.

The extent to which people are healthy and feel safe and independent is critical to their enjoyment of life. This is particularly important to those who might be marginalised by society due to age, ill health, economic disadvantage or disability. Part of the County Council's work is to help remove barriers to this improve the quality of life for individuals and the community as a whole.

Examples of existing/ongoing County Council activities

- In partnership with other agencies, carrying out an initiative for fire crews to fit a smoke detector to the homes of all "at risk" older people.
- Free safety check for portable domestic electrical appliances, including electric blanket testing scheme.
- Preventative support scheme, in all five districts and boroughs, aimed at maintaining independence by offering "low level" support to (mainly) older people who would not otherwise qualify for Social Services support.
- The County Council's Local Transport Plan outlines integrated actions and sets targets to reduce road casualties, with specific targets for children. The actions include providing safer routes to school, running educational events for children and drivers, improving the safety of the transport infrastructure; making town centres safer for pedestrians; and developing "Quality Walking Corridors".
- The County Council are working in Partnership with the Health Authority and the District Councils to implement the "Our Healthier Warwickshire" programme.
- The County Council has worked in partnership with the 5 districts and produced five local strategies spelling out how we can combat crime over a three year period.
- Initiatives increasing support for people with mental health problems, and developing rehabilitation services for people to regain independence following periods in hospital.
- Together with its partners the County Council is working to implement its Policy for Young People. This deals specifically with the following issues: access to leisure provision; school exclusions and poor attendance; employment and training; homelessness and accommodation; services to young offenders and to victims of crime; pregnancy and sex related health; substance misuse; and family relationship difficulties.
- Working to achieve national accreditation for Warwickshire Health Promoting School Scheme (WHPSS).
- Running a series of multi-agency events for the over fifties to reduce accidents and crime through SWOOP (Safety in Warwickshire Opportunity for Older People).

Some further actions

- **Take action to improve the health of children in need** by reducing teenage pregnancies, including the appointment of a countywide Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator.

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- **Initiate project with cross boundary trading standards partners to enforce legislation relating to food composition, labelling and advertising** including projects on school meals nutrition and school milk quality and composition.
- **Ensure more broadly accessible health and welfare services for young people** in each district of the County, including investigating the potential of new technology through websites and development of “virtual advice” facilities.
- **Investigate carrying out accessibility audits** and developing a strategy to make all County Council properties compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. The County Council deliver a great number of services and it is important that they are physically accessible to the maximum number of people.
- **Continuing to work with the Police** and other partners to develop crime reduction strategies and reduce local problems of crime and disorder. In particular by giving attention to reducing crimes identified as being of local concern in the local crime and disorder strategies.

Targets and timescales

- Reduce the number of emergency admissions to hospital of people aged 75 and over (per 1000 population aged 75 and over) to hospital.
- Reduce the number of emergency psychiatric re-admissions within 90 days of hospital discharge per 1000 people aged 18 - 64.
- Increase the number of disabled children who are provided with regular respite care as a proportion of all children looked after by the local authority to at least 7.8% in the short term.
- To have a Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator in place. Short term (1-3 years).
- Reduce number of those killed or seriously injured by 40% by 2010 (against a 1994-1998 average baseline).
- Reduce number of children killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2010 (against a 1994-1998 average baseline).
- To investigate carrying out an audit of all County Council properties providing a service to the public using “Designing for Accessibility” checklist in the short term.
- Increase the number of care leavers known to be in suitable accommodation to 95% by 2002.
- Increasing the number of care leavers known to be engaged in education, training or employment to 75% by 2002

Some indicators

- Number of emergency admissions to hospital of people aged 75 and over (per 1000 population aged 75 and over) to hospital.
- Number of emergency psychiatric re-admissions within 90 days of hospital discharge per 1000 people aged 18 - 64.
- Number of disabled children who are provided with regular respite care as a proportion of all children looked after by the local authority to at least 7.8% during 2000-2001.
- Number of older people who are helped to live at home
- Number of adults 18-64 receiving community based services who have mental health problems.
- Number of teenage pregnancies
- Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.
- Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

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- Number of County Council properties providing services to the public which are accessible to people with mobility difficulties.
- Number of “bad” air quality days.
- Number of care leavers known to be in suitable accommodation.
- Number of care leavers known to be engaged in education, training or employment.
- Number of crimes committed.

Reference to objectives met

Improving Health, Safety and Independence helped meet the following objectives:
A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, B11.