

Annual Review
2008/09

A summary



WARWICKSHIRE

INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

FOREWORD

2008/09 has been a year of success for Warwickshire Investment Partnership, but also one of many challenges. The economic situation has changed the nature of the Partnership's work, with a crucial focus in recent months on supporting companies with their downsizing plans – consolidating their operations and finding smaller premises has proven vital to the survival of a number of local firms.



Support to existing Warwickshire companies has been essential during this difficult time. Facing these challenges together in partnership has given Warwickshire a solid platform from which to recover from the difficulties of the past 12 months. The key message is confidence for the future and preparing for the upturn.

Despite the UK recession, the number of enquiries from new start up companies has been encouraging over the last year, accounting for one third of all enquiries received by the Partnership in 2008-09. This demonstrates the entrepreneurial spirit of local businesspeople and confidence in the future economy.

This positive outlook is echoed when you consider that the Partnership has assisted 65 companies to relocate to, expand, or downsize within Warwickshire over the last year. These new investments have created 486 new jobs and have safeguarded a further 261 jobs for the County, reiterating that Warwickshire is still the ideal business location.

I am proud of the work delivered by Warwickshire Investment Partnership over the past year, and I look forward to 2009/10 – where the horizon looks brighter and we hope to welcome even more quality investment into the County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graham', written in a cursive style.

Jim Graham, Chief Executive, Warwickshire County Council

WARWICKSHIRE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Warwickshire Investment Partnership was established in 1998 to respond to inward investment enquiries from all over the world and expansion requirements from thriving local companies. We provide companies with all the help and information they and their employees need to make relocation and expansion profitable.

We would like to thank our partners in both the public and private sectors for their contribution in helping us to achieve these figures. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

We hope that you find this summary of our achievements over the past year informative.

Warwickshire Investment Partnership

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ENQUIRIES 2008/09

The Partnership received 602 enquiries in 2008/09. This is a decrease of 33% compared to last year 2007/08, which is a reflection of the current economic climate & global recession.

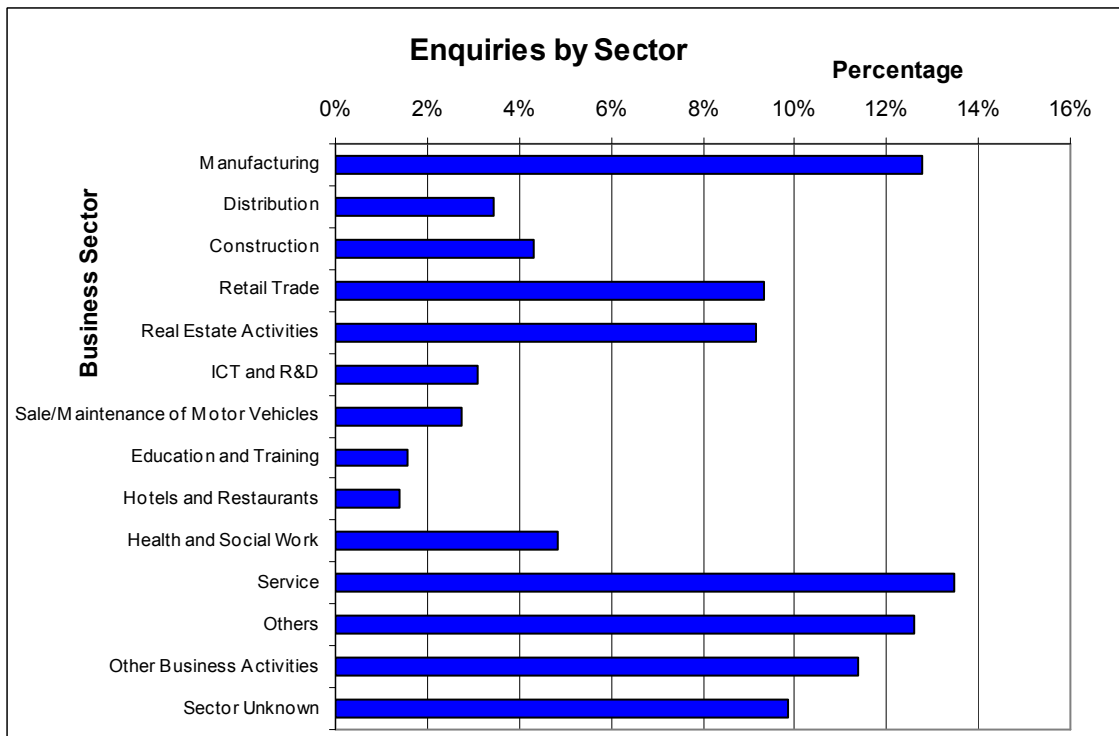
These enquiries resulted in 65 successful investments for the County, which have created 486 new jobs. Additionally, 261 jobs have been safeguarded for Warwickshire businesses.

TRENDS

- Enquiries from new start up companies continue to be the most frequent reason for property searches in Warwickshire and account for around a third of all enquiries received in 2008/09.
- The Partnership's website continues to be the main source of all enquiries, with 341 enquiries in the past year coming from this source.

ENQUIRIES BY SECTOR

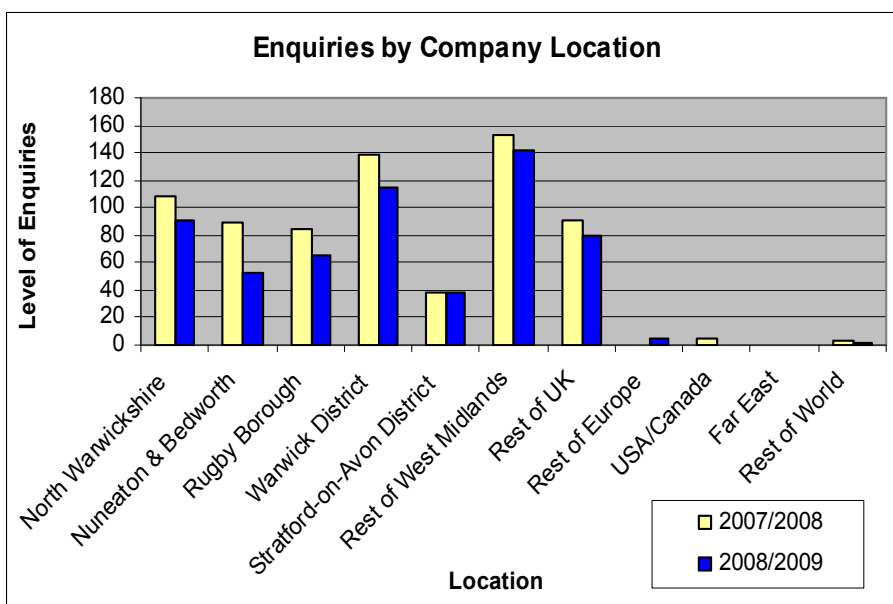
The graph shows the industry sectors of the businesses that are looking to relocate, expand or set up their business in Warwickshire. Enquiries from service sector companies are the highest level of enquiries again this year, with just over 1 in 7 companies being engaged in this sector.



The second highest sector this year is manufacturing which accounts for 1 in 8 enquiries. This is particularly encouraging in light of the recent job losses in some areas of manufacturing in the sub-region. A notable increase has been seen in the amount of enquiries received from the health & social work sector compared to previous years.

ENQUIRIES BY COMPANY LOCATION

This bar chart shows the location of companies when they register their enquiry.



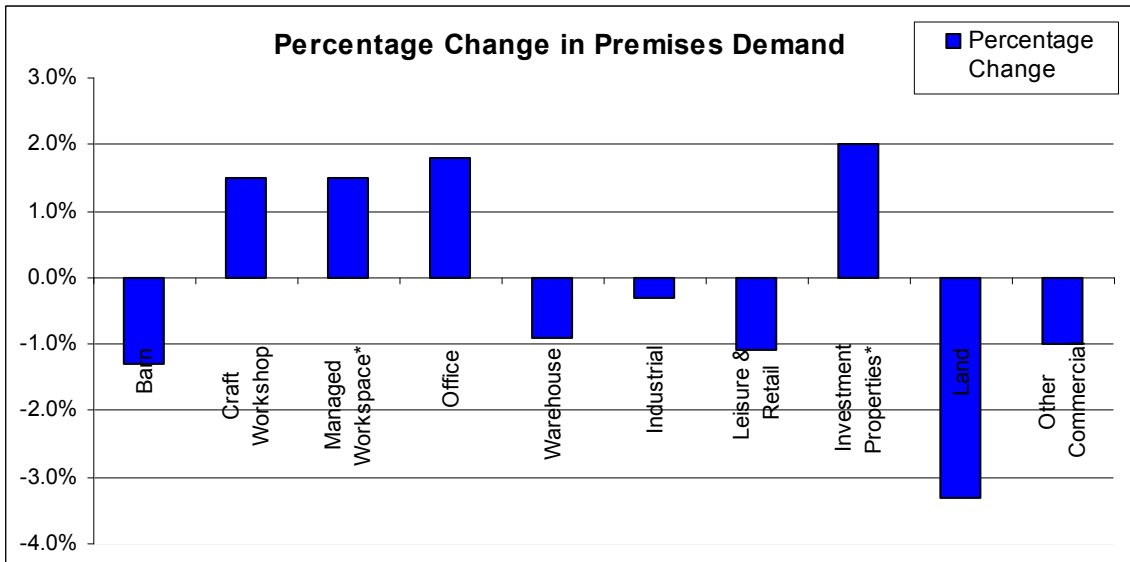
61% of our enquiries came from companies already located in Warwickshire.

The majority of our remaining Enquirers from outside the county are located in the Rest of the West Midlands area.

This accounts for nearly 24% of our enquiries.

LAND AND PROPERTY ENQUIRIES

Industrial, warehouse and office units continue to be amongst the main requirements of enquirers with 45% of all enquiries being for these unit types. The biggest increase seen this year has been for office searches, which have increased by 2%. Searches for land sites has seen the largest decrease in 2008/09.



REQUIREMENTS BY SIZE

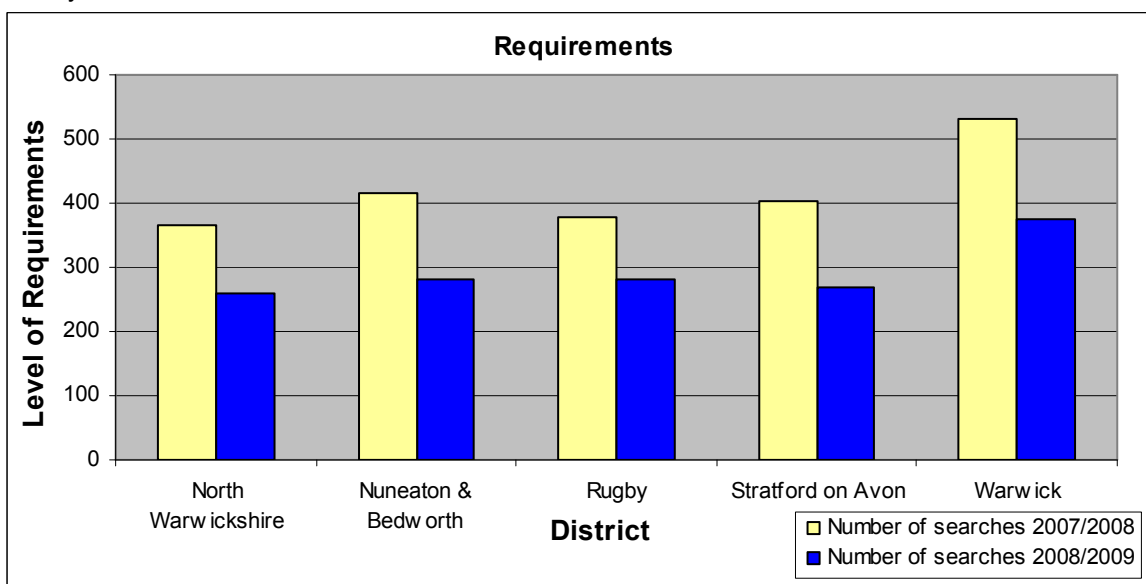
During 2008/09 the most demanded industrial space was in the 501—1,000 and 1,001-2000 sq ft size ranges. Warehouse premises saw a high demand for 1-500 sq ft units.

Office demand peaked at the 1-250 sq ft level, with nearly a third of all office enquiries specifying this size range. Increased demand for offices was also seen in the 1,001-2,000 sq ft size range.

The greatest demand generally is for smaller premises, which reiterates that inward investment is changing from large scale investors to smaller investments, particularly new start-ups.

ENQUIRIES BY PREFERRED DISTRICT LOCATION

Warwick District was the preferred district location in 2008/09, continuing the trend from the year previous. The number of searches across the other four districts and boroughs were almost evenly distributed.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

During 2009/10 Warwickshire Investment Partnership will continue to work with local companies, responding to their needs and supporting them through the current economic climate. The team will also be delivering a targeted programme of support for new investors, with the aim of increasing the level of investments and job opportunities across Warwickshire.

Clusters and sectors will also feature prominently in the Partnership's activities over the coming year, where there is real potential to further shape the motorsport, medical technologies and ICT offers at both a County and sub-regional level. Plans are also in the pipeline to extend this work to include aerospace and environmental technologies – two sectors of growing importance across the region.

The Partnership will continue to promote development opportunities across the County, including Ansty Park, the former Ford Foundry site, Judkins Quarry and the Stoneleigh Park redevelopment. There will also be a focus on Warwickshire's town centres to ensure investors are informed about the opportunities arising from the masterplans currently underway in Rugby, Stratford upon Avon and Nuneaton & Bedworth.

With over half of all enquiries arriving to the team via the WIP website, there will be a continued emphasis on improving the layout and information available to users, to make sure that this resource remains a valuable marketing tool.

Looking forward, our challenge is to ensure that Warwickshire continues to be a prime business location in the UK. The Partnership is confident that its future service delivery will continue to meet the needs of customers and provide a valuable service for companies investing in Warwickshire.

OUR PARTNERS

Warwickshire Investment Partnership is a working arrangement between the Economic Development Inward Investment functions of the following organisations:



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www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wips



T. 01789 296063
www.stratford.gov.uk



T. 024 7637 6321
www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk



T. 01926 456016
www.warwickdc.gov.uk



T. 024 7683 1278
www.coventry.gov.uk



North Warwickshire
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T. 01827 719287
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T. 024 7670 7400
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