

Executive Directors' foreword

In the last edition of the Parish and Partners briefing we reported on the restructuring of the Council's management team. We are pleased to confirm that the new management team is now complete with the appointment of David Platts as Head of ICT and Revenues. David has joined us from Charnwood District Council and has a wealth of knowledge and experience which will add value to the Council.

Despite the holiday period it's been a busy last three months for the Council and amongst the highlights were the adoption of the Core Strategy in July and the establishment of the West Midlands Combined Authority as a legal entity.

Work has also progressed on the Strategic Review which we mentioned in the last edition. The working group is focusing on 5 work streams:

1. Future Vision of Service Provision
2. Cost Comparison and Benchmarking
3. Ways of Working
4. Income Generation and Asset Review
5. Strategic and Policy Issues

To help inform the review key stakeholders were invited to attend interviews with members of the review group. The purpose of this was to understand what their organisations priorities were, how they aligned to the Council's priorities and how we could work together to deliver benefits for the community around the current and emerging priority areas.

The response from stakeholders has been extremely supportive with only two organisations declining to participate. Of those who have been interviewed included John Crossling, County Officer for Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC).

The information obtained via the interviews will now be analysed to identify the main priorities and these will be used to help shape the final recommendations. We will keep you informed of progress but if you have any particular interest in the work streams please contact David Buckland (david.buckland@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

In addition would like to draw your attention to a consultation exercise which is underway at present in relation to the future Local Council Tax Support scheme. All comments would be welcomed in the review, ahead of the deadline of Wednesday 12 October.

That's all for now, the Council looks forward to continuing its work with you in the future.



Dave Webb



David Buckland

Parish and Partners Briefing

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Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Management Arrangements September 2016

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(excluding Land Charges)
Housing Services
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Planning Applications
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Estates Surveyors
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Street Scene



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Council Tax
Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Housing Benefits
ICT



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Core Strategy

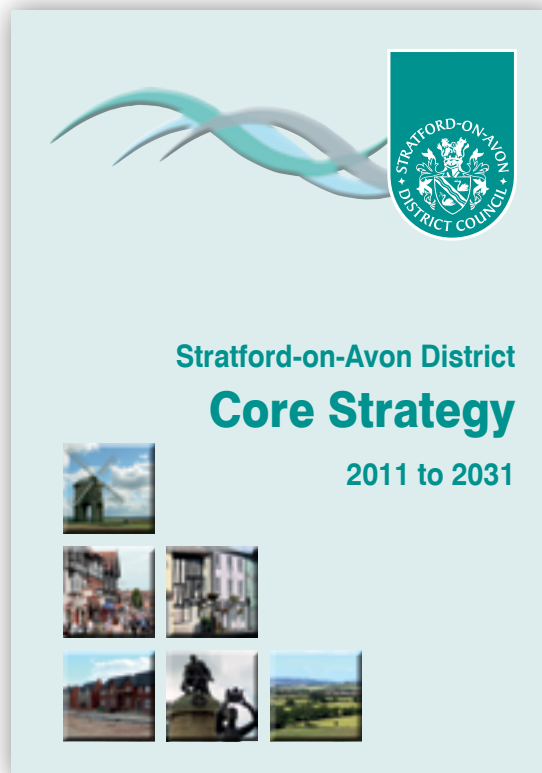
Stratford-on-Avon District Council adopted its Core Strategy on 11 July 2016 and now forms part of the legal 'Development Plan' for the District to decide planning applications.

The Core Strategy is also a proactive document that sets out how development will be managed across the District to 2031, and can be seen as the spatial expression of the Council's corporate aims and objectives.

Adopting the Core Strategy is a proud achievement for the Council particularly since research has found that only 31% of Local Planning Authorities have an up-to-date NPPF compliant adopted plan*.

The Core Strategy can be viewed at www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy

The Council is now focusing on preparing its accompanying Site Allocations Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan as well as its suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that provide further guidance on specific policies in the Core Strategy. The Council adopted the first of its SPDs on Gaydon Lighthorne Heath on 11 July 2016.



Hard copies of the Core Strategy and accompanying set of Policies Maps are available to purchase from the Planning Policy Team on 01789 260865 priced at £47.50. Parish Councils can purchase up to two copies at cost price of £25 each#.

- * Early Adopters and the Late Majority', Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, April 2016
- # Prices quoted correct as at September 2016 and exclude VAT and postage and packing.

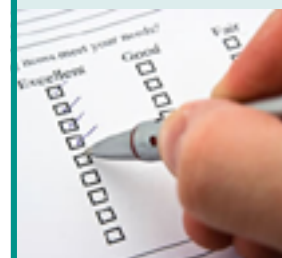
Need HELP... with the survey for your Plan?

A personalised consultation service is available, totally independent from the Parish, Town or Neighbourhood Plan process in your area.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Consultation & Insight Unit offers you:-

- > Pick and Mix flexible approach
- > Survey design from draft questionnaire to final report
- > Low cost one-stop shop for all your market research needs
- > Data processing via an unconnected, unbiased third party
- > Anonymity assured
- > Work carried out to Market Research Society guidelines

Satisfied clients include Parish Councils from both within and outside Stratford-on-Avon District.



Feedback received includes:

"Just wanted to say a big thank you for doing a cracking job on our village survey"

"Again thanks to you and your staff for a professional job – and lots of patience!"

Get professional assistance for your consultation

Contact Simon Purfield on



01789 260118



simon.purfield@stratford-dc.gov.uk



www.stratford.gov.uk



Parish Champions

Streetscene (the Waste, Recycling, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance team at Stratford-on-Avon District Council) are looking at a new initiative and putting some feelers out for community spirited individuals to be a nominated Champion for their parish.

This person would work in partnership with the District Council on a voluntary basis to support and enhance the works that the District Council carry out.

Our vision is that the Champion would be a local resident who gets excited and enthusiastic about engaging with their local communities. They would be additional eyes and ears on the ground for the District Council, providing feedback on any issues within their parish and organising groups of local residents to help keep their parishes clean and litter free in between scheduled works by the District Council.

The Champion would have direct support from the Streetscene team, with occasional meetings at the Council Office and would be provided with a pack of useful tools and information, including work schedules; allowing the Champion to directly answer many of the queries or concerns raised by local residents.

They could take on as little or as much as they'd be comfortable with, with the chance of getting involved in local events, promoting litter picks and recycling campaigns.

If you're interested in being a Parish Champion please contact Anna Macdonald or Angela Lloyd at SDC on 01789 267575 or email us at streetscenedutyofficer@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Warwickshire County Councillors Grant Fund

Warwickshire County Councillors Grant Fund 2016/17 launched on Monday 26th July. The purpose of the Fund is to help communities address issues of local concern to them. It is primarily aimed at community and voluntary organisations and provides grants of £5,000 per Councillor for small scale projects that meet community needs within the District of Stratford upon Avon. Bids should normally be supported by the County Councillor for the electoral division in which the project is based.

Town & Parish Councils are also eligible to apply to the Fund for a community project, but this will be at the discretion of the councillor and will vary according to the preference of your Councillor.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm on Friday 7th October and all applicants will be informed of the decision by early December.

The application form and guidance notes can be downloaded and completed online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fundinglocalprojects

For further information about the Fund, or to book a place on the workshop, please contact Amanda Wilson-Patterson on 07780 995817 in the first instance or Ros Anscombe, Area Admin Assistant for South Warwickshire on 01926 413644.



Have your say on Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Each year the District Council reviews how much reduction in Council Tax is given to working age people. There are a number of proposed changes for next year and the District Council is currently consulting on this.

Of the 56,769 households within the District, the Council provides financial support for around 6,700 (12%) residents who are eligible for support through the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme – although the proposed changes will not affect people of pension age (around 3,600 claimants).

Stratford District Council's own scheme has largely stayed the same with no change for current claimants and continuing to protect households on the lowest incomes as well as retaining all of the existing protections and providing additional support for war pensioners. The District Council mitigated any loss in funding by introducing changes to discounts and exemptions for second homes and long term empty properties.

The Government has announced that it intends to further reduce the cost of welfare support budgets in the coming years, which will result in further funding reductions for the District Council.

As a result the District Council has agreed to undergo an informal consultation exercise based on the following:

- Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80%.
- Removing the Family Premium for all working age applicants.
- Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive council tax reduction to 4 weeks.
- To remove the element of a Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants.
- To limit the number of dependant children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two.
- To remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them.

The consultation results will go to The Cabinet in November with the final scheme going to Council in December 2016.

The consultation started online on Wednesday 17 August and runs for eight weeks ending at 5pm on Wednesday 12 October.

All the information is available on the District Council's website www.stratford.gov.uk by following the front page link to the online survey or here <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=147143539879>

In addition, all claimants under 65 have received a questionnaire in the post to be completed by Friday 30 September.

Key facts

Why is a change to the Council Tax Reduction scheme being considered?

Until April 2013 there was a national scheme called Council Tax Benefit. The Government made local Councils responsible for replacement schemes from 1 April 2013 and reduced funding to support the schemes. Since then, funding has further reduced. The District Council also need to make amendments to keep the Council Tax Reduction in line with Housing Benefit which it also administers to keep administration costs low.

Who will this affect?

Working age households in the District who currently receive or will apply for Council Tax Reduction. Pension age households will not be affected as Central Government prescribed the scheme.

Everyone of working age will pay something - current working age Council Tax Reduction scheme claimants could see a reduction in support of 20% of their Council Tax bill in 2017/18 meaning 80% is still paid.



Roll up, Roll up - 2016 Stratford Mop Fair

The 2016 annual Mop Fair in Stratford-upon-Avon takes place on Tuesday 11 October and Wednesday 12 October.

The Charity Mop is on Tuesday 11 October from 4pm until 11pm. The Main Mop is on Wednesday 12 October from 11am until midnight and will be formally opened by The Chairman of Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, Cllr Sue Adams.

The Mop has an historic tradition. The original Charter was granted by Edward VI on 28 June 1544 and its part of what makes Stratford-upon-Avon unique.

As well as the usual attractions of the thrill rides, ghost train and stalls, the 127 year old Golden Carousel is also returning to Stratford for a third year. The fair is also renowned for the open roasting of pigs and the atmosphere remains at a premium right up until its midnight closure.

Stratford-on-Avon Mop Fair has its origins in hiring agricultural and domestic labour, set out some time during the reign of Edward III and provision of the statutes of labourers. The date is set for 12 October (or is moved if the 12th October falls on a Sunday), and as a pleasure fair it remains a key date in the Warwickshire calendar.

In the 1950s, during the prominence of railway travel, a plethora of special trains were laid on to ferry the local population to and from the fair.

Stratford Mop has an associated 'runaway mop' one week later taking place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October. This tradition derived from the need for employers to reconsider and re-hire any staff before committing to a full years work.

The District Council is very grateful for local people and businesses assistance and co-operation in making the operation of the Mop as trouble free as possible.



Stratford-upon-Avon Road Closures

To accommodate the Mop the following streets in Stratford-upon-Avon will be closed from 5am on Tuesday 11 October until 6am on Thursday 13 October:

- Greenhill Street
- Rother Street (from Ely Street)
- Wood Street
- Union Street
- Bridge Street
- Windsor Street (from Mansell Street)
- Meer Street
- Henley Street
- High Street

This year's runaway Mop will take place in the town centre on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October. The following streets will be closed from 5am on Thursday 20 October until 6am on Saturday 22 October:

- Greenhill Street
- Rother Street (from Ely Street)
- Wood Street
- Windsor Street (from Mansell Street)
- Meer Street

The District Council appreciates these closures of town centre streets can cause problems with access for vehicles and parking during this time, but the road closures will be strictly enforced.



Other Mop Fair dates:

Monday 3 October – Alcester

Monday 17 October – Southam



Stratford District Council condemns Hate Crime

The Council has passed a notice of motion to condemn hate crimes unequivocally and reassure all people living in Stratford District that they are valued members of our community.

Nationally Hate Crime is under reported and Warwickshire Police is committed to addressing this issue by giving victims of hate crime the confidence to come forward and report their experience.

Nobody should tolerate being victimised because of who they are, hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's:

- Race (including nationality, national origin, ethnic origin, race and colour)
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender
- Individual characteristic that makes someone appear different

How do I report a hate crime?

You can report a crime in confidence in any of the following ways:

- In an emergency call 999
- For non-emergencies call 101
- Report online at www.report-it.org.uk
- Call in at a police station or stop police officers in the street
- Call Victim Support on 01926 682 693. You do not need to provide your name when reporting to Victim Support.

For more information about Hate Crime in Warwickshire visit <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/hate-crime>



Register for information regarding new Planning Applications

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has launched an online tool which has been designed to help all Parishes, partners and residents access information on new planning applications within their neighbourhoods.

This new tool will send email alerts to anyone who has registered via the Council's website notifying them of any planning applications which have been registered with the Council and which fall within the selected geographical area.

This new tool will not replace the press and site notices, it is being introduced to supplement the existing arrangements. It will be an additional method of communicating which will be more reliable and immediate for all those who register.

The tool is live now and to register please use the following link:
www.stratford.gov.uk/planaalert



Robert Weeks
Head of Planning and Housing
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House, Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX

WWW.STRATFORD.GOV.UK



New contracts awarded

Following a formal commissioning and procurement process, two year contracts which will begin on 1st July have now been awarded to third sector organisations to deliver countywide services in each District and Borough across Warwickshire as follows:



Third Sector Support and Development Services

This contract has been awarded to Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action <http://www.wcava.org.uk/>

WCAVA will provide:

1. Organisational support to third sector organisations, including funding advice, training, organisational / constitutional development in order to support them to be stronger and more sustainable.
2. Effective two-way communication between the wider third sector and the County Council in order to help influence and shape future design and delivery of services and support.
3. Support to third sector organisations to maximise opportunities to secure funding from a wide range of sources in order to build capacity and sustainability, and reduce reliance on public sector grant funding.
4. Volunteer recruitment services in each District/Borough, promoting and encouraging residents and staff in local organisations to give some of their time to support Third and Public Sector organisations to support our more vulnerable communities.
5. Support to organisations who recruit volunteers, encouraging and providing expert advice and guidance to employers in the public, third and private sectors on how to best manage this valuable resource.

Advice Services

This contract has been awarded to the Citizens Advice Service in each District and Borough, in association with Warwickshire Employment Rights Service.

The CAs and WERS will provide:

1. Personal debt, employment and welfare advice to residents to help them resolve their financial difficulties.
2. Money management advice to residents to help them increase their skills and confidence in managing their finances, in order to increase personal resilience.
3. Information and intelligence to partners in order to help all stakeholders involved in addressing financial exclusion issues to design and shape services and support to vulnerable residents.

These services contribute directly to helping us to build community capacity and resilience within Warwickshire. The services are available for all partners to refer into as appropriate,

Please contact Jenny Murray jennymurray@warwickshire.gov.uk for more information.





Stratford-on-Avon District Council meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
Wednesday 5 October	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Monday 10 October	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 19 October	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Monday 24 October	2.00pm	Council	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 26 October	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Monday 7 November	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 9 November	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 16 November	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Wednesday 30 November	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Monday 5 December	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 7 December	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Monday 12 December	2.00pm	Council	Elizabeth House



You are able to watch the live webcasts of Council, Cabinet and Planning meetings or view recordings later whenever you want at <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/stratford-council/live-webcast/>

Community Forum Meetings



Community Forums are an interactive event enabling residents to learn about issues big and small affecting their area, get answers to questions and influence local decision-making. Anyone with a question about a local issue can go along and put it to officers from a range of organisations.

Date	Forum	Venue
Wednesday 30 November	Southam / Feldon	To be confirmed
Thursday 1 December	Wellesbourne / Kineton	Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Village Hall
Tuesday 6 December	Shipston / Stour	Shipston High School, Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4DY
Thursday 8 December	Arden / Stratford	To be confirmed
Thursday 8 December	Stratford Town	Stratford District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX
Tuesday 13 December	Alcester / Bidford	To be confirmed

