

**Report to the Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth
Joint Committee for Economic Growth and Prosperity**

Date – 30 November 2018

Sub-regional Local Plans Update and Strategic Planning Pathways

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper is presented to Joint Committee to provide an update on the current Strategic Planning position across the sub-region. The report outlines the joint working that has been undertaken to date and looks to further enhance and improve this joint working moving forward. Therefore the principle objective of this report is to obtain authority to work jointly on sub-regional evidence work beyond 2031.
- 1.2 In doing so it provides updates on the current round of local plans, monitoring outputs, evidence documents, reviews of national guidance and sub-regional growth projections as well as providing an indication of future joint evidence working.

Recommendations:

1. To jointly commission strategic cross border evidence. This will be primarily focused on, but not limited to, updating sub-regional housing and employment needs beyond 2031.
2. To discuss the next steps with representatives from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and relevant neighbouring local authority areas to research the context, governance and financial approach to future joint strategic planning options
3. To note the establishment of an Officer Sub-Regional Infrastructure Board including the LEP, to ensure long term coordinated infrastructure planning and delivery across Coventry and Warwickshire.
4. That an update report be brought back to the Joint Committee by June 2019.

2 Background

Joint Evidence

- 2.1 The six Coventry and Warwickshire authorities, supported by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) have been working together to produce various background evidence documents. Most notably this has included the Joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), including the 2015 and 2016 updates as well as employment studies. The following lists the topics on which strategic evidence has been prepared jointly within the sub region to support the current rounds of local plans:

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Strategic Green Belt Review
- Employment Land Review
- Strategic Green Infrastructure Study
- Water Cycle Study

2.2 The benefits of joint working can be demonstrated through cost savings, consistency in approach and ongoing cross border working, which greatly assists in demonstrating the duty to cooperate. This paper therefore recommends joint working to continue on this basis and provides a programme of the next topic areas to be covered.

Memorandum of Understanding

2.3 The jointly produced evidence on housing and employment has informed the Housing Requirements Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as approved by the Joint Committee in September 2015; and the Employment Land MoU as approved by the Joint Committee in July 2016. Both MoU's were subsequently endorsed by each local planning authority and have also supported the respective Local Plans.

Local Plans – Current Position

2.4 The table below provides a brief overview of current Local Plan progress across Coventry and Warwickshire:

Local Authority	Status	Local Plan Update	Next Planned Review
Coventry City Council	Adopted	The City Council adopted its Local Plan and City Centre Area Action Plan in December 2017. A suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) are now in the process of being developed to support the delivery of the Local Plan.	Policy DS1 of the Local Plan contains a requirement to review the need to review the Plan at March 2021
North Warwickshire Borough Council	At Examination	The Borough's Core Strategy was adopted in 2014. A submission version of the Local Plan responds to unmet needs from Birmingham, Coventry and Tamworth is currently at public examination. In doing so, the plan makes provision for 4,410 homes towards the needs of the GBBCHMA (Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area), which specifically includes 500 homes towards Tamworth's unmet needs.	5 years from the date of adoption – summer 2024
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough	Examination	The Borough Plan was subject to public examination over the course of 2017 and 2018. Main Modifications are currently subject to	5 years from the date of adoption – early 2024

Council		public consultation until December 2018. The plan is expected to be adopted in early 2019.	
Rugby Borough Council	Examination	The Local Plan was subject to public examination in the first half of 2018. Main Modifications have recently been consulted upon. The plan is expected to be adopted in early 2019.	5 years from the date of adoption – early 2024
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Adopted	The Core Strategy was adopted in July 2016. A number of SPD and a Site Allocations Plan are currently being developed to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. The Site Allocations Plan will also help identify additional safeguarded sites to provide additional options to meet unmet needs from Birmingham should the need arise. As currently adopted though, the Strategy includes a contribution of 2,720 homes towards the unmet needs within the GBBCHMA.	5 years from the date of adoption – Summer 2021
Warwick District Council	Adopted	The Local Plan was adopted in September 2017. A suite of SPDs are now in the process of being developed to support the delivery of the Local Plan.	Policy DS19 of the Local Plan contains a requirement to review the need to review the Plan at March 2021
Warwickshire County Council	Pre-Examination Consultation	WCC are actively preparing its updated Minerals Plan, which is due to be issued for public consultation in early 2019.	TBC

2.5 The new NPPF requires that a Local Plan is reviewed 5 years from the point of adoption. As shown in the table above, as Stratford-on-Avon's Core Strategy was adopted in 2016 a review is anticipated to have commenced by 2021. This will also link in with the commitments to review plans in Warwick and Coventry around a similar time. Each review process will require an assessment of strategic needs to be undertaken and published within this timeframe.

2.6 As with the current round of adopted and emerging local plans, the review and update of one plan will inevitably impact others within the sub region. This is most notably the case when considering strategic housing and employment needs. Section 3.18-3.24 of this report details the most important changes to the newly published NPPF. However, the requirement to demonstrate a Duty to Cooperate continues to remain a significant part of plan making and must be achieved in order for a local plan to proceed to adoption.

- 2.7 Members resolved in November 2016 to commence work on a 'Compendium Spatial Strategy' for the CWLEP area. The continuation of this work was further endorsed by the Joint Committee in July 2017.
- 2.8 The objective was to summarise the existing strategic level policies and growth ambitions of the Coventry and Warwickshire authorities (to 2031) in one single place.
- 2.9 This utilised a web based platform to highlight key development areas alongside planned infrastructure opportunities on a series of interactive maps with links into local authority websites, policy documents and evidence base.
- 2.10 The framework will be easily accessible to a wide variety of audiences and users and provide a "one stop shop" for relevant, strategic level planning information with signposting of where to find details and more information.
- 2.11 A prototype of the website has now been completed and the final updates are currently being processed. The final launch of the website has been delayed however due to the importance placed on progressing recent Local Plans through examination, which will inevitably form component parts of this compendium. As these outstanding Plans progress the website will be updated and launched in line with Plan adoption.

3 Changes since the signing of the MoU's

- 3.1 A number of changes have recently taken place and this section of the report provides an update on the following areas which are considered to have a particular impact on the Coventry and Warwickshire area:
- ✓ Regional context;
 - ✓ Sub Regional Monitoring performance;
 - ✓ Updated NPPF;
 - ✓ New population and household projections position - housing needs as a result; and
 - ✓ Updated information / evidence

(1) *Regional Context*

- 3.2 In addition to the Local Plans covering Coventry and Warwickshire, it is also important to understand the position of other Local Authorities who may have an impact upon the Plans for our sub-region as well as the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). This also reflects the previous commentary in relation to the Housing Requirements MOU in relation to unmet housing needs originating from Birmingham.

Birmingham and the Black Country.

- 3.3 The Birmingham Local Plan was adopted in January 2017 with a shortfall in housing land of 37,900 homes to 2031. In 2018 a Strategic Growth Study was commissioned by the 14 Local Planning Authorities in the HMA to establish the extent to which the Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area¹ (GBBCHMA) can meet its own housing needs up until 2031 and 2036. The study was published on all participating local authorities' websites along with an initial position statement earlier this year².
- 3.4 The study reviewed the housing need and supply balance of each authority area and clarified that the overall level of unmet need has decreased to approximately 10,700 homes. This reflects other authorities in the HMA having made provisions for the unmet need in their respective plans. This includes Stratford-on-Avon DC and North Warwickshire BC.
- 3.5 The study makes a number of recommendations around how the remaining unmet need could be met across the GBBCHMA. This could include increases in density assumptions, new towns and urban extensions.
- 3.6 With regards the Black Country in particular, a Joint Core Strategy was adopted in 2008. This is currently in the process of being reviewed and extended to 2036. The first stage of this process saw the Issues and Options report published in 2017. This identified a shortfall of 21,670 homes when comparing supply within the urban area to identified needs. The document states that the shortfall arises predominantly in the period 2031 – 36. It is our understanding that this shortfall could be met through a range of approaches including possible urban extensions. The document also states that the review will test the accommodation of 3,000 homes of unmet housing need from the wider GBBCHMA
- 3.7 With the exception of planned contributions within North Warwickshire Borough and Stratford-on-Avon District, there are not expected to be any further growth pressures placed upon Coventry and Warwickshire in relation to the unmet housing needs from Birmingham and the Black Country HMA at

¹ Birmingham City Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Cannock Chase District Council, Dudley Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Tamworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Sandwell Borough Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Walsall Borough Council, Wolverhampton City Council

² https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/1945/greater_birmingham_hma_strategic_growth_study

this time. Should this situation change a further report will be presented to the Joint Committee.

Solihull

- 3.8 Solihull adopted its Local Plan in 2013, however it does not include an adopted housing requirement following legal challenge in 2014. Solihull are currently undertaking a Local Plan review and expect to consult on the next stage of the Plan in early 2019. The previous draft of the Plan identified opportunities to meet the Boroughs needs and made provision for 2,000 homes towards Birmingham's unmet needs to 2033.

Hinckley and Bosworth

- 3.9 Hinckley and Bosworth are currently undertaking a review of their Local Plan. This being carried out in stages, with the 'preferred options' expected to be consulted upon between December 2018 and Feb 2019. The Borough Plan is not expected to place any growth pressures on Coventry and Warwickshire.

Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan

- 3.10 The Strategic Growth Plan has been developed by a partnership made up all local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire and the LLEP. It puts forward long term proposals for future development requirements through to 2050. The Plan has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and public consultation but as a non-statutory plan has not been subject to public examination. A final version of the Plan has now been agreed by a sub-regional members working group and is expected to be endorsed by each local authority by the end of the year. It will help shape the new local plans for Leicestershire and be used to support bids for Government funding to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth.
- 3.11 The Strategic Plan does not place any development pressures on Coventry and Warwickshire, however it does recognise the close proximity of the 2 counties. As a result there are clear links around rail and highway infrastructure improvements particularly in and out of Coventry and along key corridors such as the A5 and A46.
- 3.12 MIRA continues to be identified as a key economic growth hub. Further significant growth around Magna Park at Lutterworth are proposed within Harborough District's local plan, which is currently at Examination. In addition a Rail Freight Interchange has been proposed just north of Hinckley in Leicestershire. This is at pre application stage with a submission of the application to the Infrastructure Planning Unit due in August 2019. These economic hubs will require further consideration in terms of commuting patterns as part of our own future planning work.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Spatial Framework

- 3.13 The WMCA is currently in the process of developing a Spatial Framework for the WMCA area with substantial growth aspirations. This framework will be primarily based on a compendium of existing Local Plans across the region, highlighting the key areas of growth and development, linked to key infrastructure projects. With regards Coventry and Warwickshire, the draft Framework is complimentary of the joint work undertaken, and the delivery of Local Plans, and the housing and employment MoU's. The Framework highlights that Coventry and Warwickshire are making adequate contributions towards the overall growth targets of the region to 2031. The final Framework is expected to be published in early 2019.

Transport for West Midlands

- 3.14 Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has been set up as part of the WMCA to co-ordinate investment to improve the region's transport infrastructure and create a fully integrated, safe and secure network. It is also responsible for assessing and planning the region's future transport needs so the network can meet the demands of businesses and a growing population.

(2) Sub Regional Monitoring performance

- 3.15 Contained within both the housing and employment MoU's was a commitment to undertake annual monitoring against the housing and employment targets. The 6 LPAs, WCC and CWLEP have supported the creation of a joint monitoring group to undertake this task. This group has worked to align consistent monitoring practices across all authorities, which in turn has supported joined up monitoring outputs for developing Local Plans. Following significant progress with Local Plans and the specific monitoring requirements within the Coventry Local Plan, this year sees the completion of the first sub-regional monitoring outputs.

- 3.16 For the purpose of this report the monitoring outputs have been considered at a sub-regional level. This reflects the importance of monitoring the MoU's but also the housing and employment land needs of the sub-region as a whole. Each authority is responsible for publishing their own monitoring reports and it is the information behind these that has fed into this paper.

- 3.17 Although the results shown some local variations sub regionally housing completions have met requirements since 2011 and the employment completions have exceeded requirements since 2011. In addition, the housing land supply over the next 5 years is sufficient to meet requirements. As such, sub regionally the growth aspirations contained within each MoU are being met.

(3) Update on new NPPF and Strategic Planning

- 3.18 In July 2018 MHCLG issued a new National Planning Policy framework (NPPF). This represented the first time the NPPF had been updated since it was first published in 2012. Although the NPPF remains broadly consistent

with the aims and objectives of the original NPPF there were some key changes relating to housing needs, development in the Green Belt and strategic planning. The National Planning Practice Guidance, which supports the NPPF, remains in place as a set of live documents. Changes to some of these documents and the introduction of new PPG (focusing predominantly on housing needs and supply) remain subject to consultation³.

Housing Needs

- 3.19 The new NPPF introduced the concept of a standardised methodology for calculating housing needs. The details of this methodology are contained within the recently published MHCLG consultation 'Changes to planning policy and guidance including the standard method for assessing local housing need'. This considers a formula approach which draws on population projections, household formation rates and affordability of housing. The consistent methodology is intended to make the process of calculating housing need simpler and less contentious at local plan examinations. There is also a clear expectations that authorities need to take account of unmet housing need from other authorities through the Duty to Cooperate and Statements of Common Ground. Specific reference to Housing Market Areas has been removed, however it is indirectly implied that the delivery of unmet need in other authority areas still needs to be justified and agreed – which in turn will require a clear and transparent methodology and an agreed approach.

Development in the Green Belt

- 3.20 The purposes and objectives of Green Belt remain unchanged, however the new NPPF now places greater weight on regenerating brownfield sites within the Green Belt and is more explicit around the need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances to justify the release of land from the Green Belt to facilitate development. The new NPPF is now clearer on the need to have fully considered all alternative options and links this to the need to ensure efficient use of land, promoting higher density developments and high quality design. It also explicitly requires authorities to work closely with neighbouring authorities before changing Green Belt boundaries to consider whether they could accommodate some of the identified need.

Housing Delivery Test

- 3.21 The Housing Delivery Test has been brought in as part of the revised NPPF. This is designed to look back retrospectively at how well housing delivery rates over the previous three years have performed against the housing requirement for the same period. The test produces a percentage result which represents the percentage of homes delivered against the requirement for the previous three years.

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need?utm_source=e7c871c0-3a10-452e-aecb-abc0db0a6cb0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

- 3.22 Starting this November (exact date to be confirmed) LPAs will have to carry out the test and provide this information to MHCLG. It will then have to be carried out each year in November. MHCLG will check and publish the results for all Local Authorities.
- 3.23 LPAs who have only achieved between 85% and 95% will have to produce an Action Plan. The exact details of what has to be included in this are still being prepared however initial guidance suggests this will involve creating a 'delivery group' where the LPAs, developers and other stakeholders work together to identify the barriers to development and bring together a plan for how sites can be brought forward successfully. LPAs will have 6 months to create and submit this Action Plan. If the test result falls below 85% then a 20% buffer on land supply will be required as well as an Action Plan. This will effectively require the LPAs to have to demonstrate a 6 year housing land supply. It is suggested this would be achieved by working with developers to bring development further forward in the housing trajectory. It may also involve the requirement to look at additional sites which may come forward quickly. For 2018 if the test result falls below 25% this would mean that applications for housing would be assessed against the presumption in favour of sustainable development only and the Local Plan would not have to be used to assess these applications. Following 2018 this 25% threshold will change and become higher.

Strategic Planning

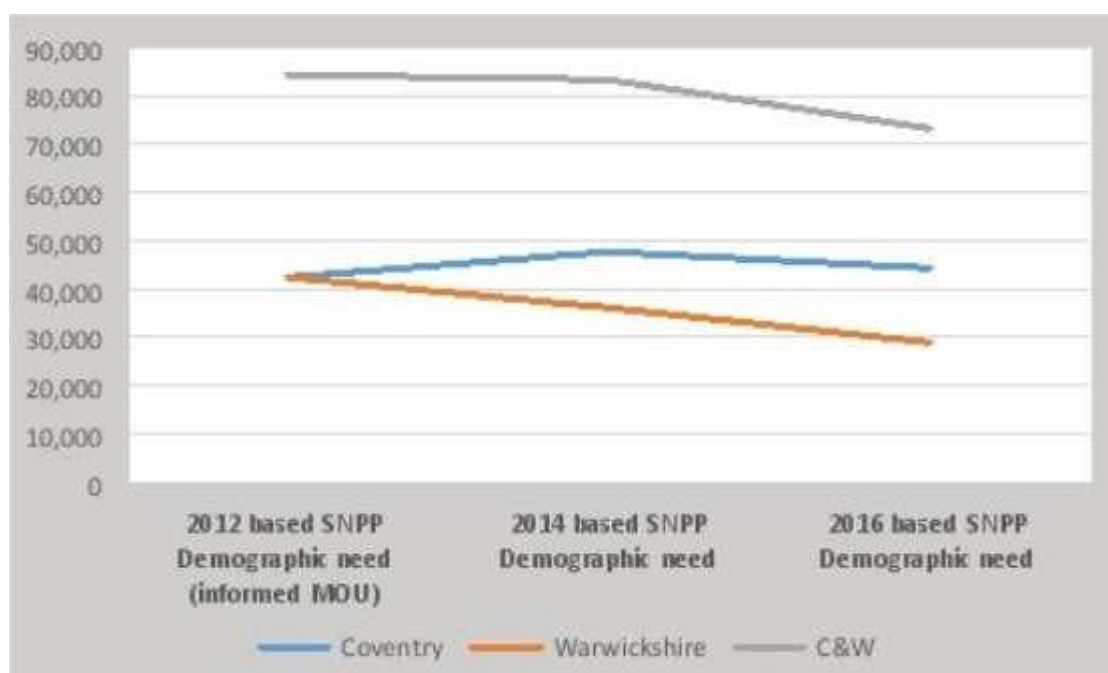
- 3.24 The new NPPF made a number of changes in relation to Strategic Planning. This included:
1. The return to strategic and non-strategic policies – this includes clear reference to the opportunity for joint plans to be developed as well as individual plans. Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing forward sufficient land to meet development needs. This should include allocating sufficient sites or set out clear mechanisms for how sites will be delivered. This could include broad locations for long term development.
 2. The Duty to Cooperate remains but it is now to be evidenced through Statements of Common Ground. These are documents produced jointly by local authorities to identify key areas of strategic planning and how the authorities will work together to evidence them and satisfy the duty to cooperate in an effective and efficient manner.
 3. A standard Local Plan review mechanism has now been introduced that requires all local plans to be assessed and reviewed at least once every 5 years from the date of adoption. Such a review needs to have full regard to any significant changes in development needs of an area.

(4) Updated information / evidence

- 3.25 In addition to the information highlighted above in paras 3.15 to 3.17 in relation to update information on housing and employment land there are also updated population figures as well as a market signals study in relation to the type and availability of sites for employment use. These are additional pieces of evidence to be taken into consideration.

New population and household projections position - housing needs as a result.

- 3.26 In May 2018 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued their new Sub National Population Projections. These were followed by ONS Household Projections in September 2018.
- 3.27 When both sets of projections are considered together they show a lower rate of growth that previously projected which equates to 159,000 additional households each year compared with the 210,000 previously projected. This pattern is seen across the sub-region although to a slightly lesser extent on average (approx. 12% instead of 24%). The graph below shows the slight decline in housing need across the sub-region based on the demographic projections issued by government to ensure a consistent set of data for comparative purposes.



- 3.28 This shows that housing need in Coventry has increased slightly compared to the information that informed the MOU, increasing from approx. 42k to 44,500 homes over the 20 year period.
- 3.29 Housing needs in Warwickshire have declined however from approx. 42k to 29k. This generates the overall decline sub-regionally from approx. 84k to 73k between 2011 and 2031.
- 3.30 It is important to note however that such projections represent the starting point of identifying housing needs and have no regard to economic growth pressures, affordability of housing or standard allowances for vacant or second homes. The figures also need to be set in the context of the national housing target of 300k homes a year and the WMCA target of 215k homes across the region by 2031.
- 3.31 In support of the national target, government issued a revised standardised housing methodology for consultation on the 26th October. This seeks to

update the previous methodology issued in September 2017 and continues to focus on increasing levels of demographic based housing needs in response to affordability pressures. This continues to be set in the context of achieving the national housing target of 300,000 homes per year are built across England by the mid-2020s

- 3.32 Having regard to the information above, it is clear that housing need dynamics across Coventry and Warwickshire are continuing in a similar way to other recent projections, in so far as needs originating from Coventry remain increasing and high whilst needs originating across Warwickshire are decreasing. In terms of overall need, although there is a reported decline based on current demographic projections, we know that ongoing changes with national standardised methodology and overall government housing targets means actual housing need is likely to increase above initial demographic projections. Projections also continue to show an increase in housing needs in all areas beyond 2031.
- 3.33 In this context it will be important to fully understand the new methodology, with a view to undertaking a review of housing needs across the sub region. This would also provide an opportunity to have full regard to matters of affordability and economic growth pressures and how they will impact on housing need across Coventry and Warwickshire going forward, especially in the context of the updated NPPF. This forms the basis of recommendation 1 of this report.

Coventry & Warwickshire Sub-Regional - Employment Market Signals Study

- 3.34 In April 2018, the 6 Coventry and Warwickshire authorities in partnership with WCC and CWLEP commissioned a joint study to examine the current status of the sub regions employment market. The primary purpose of the study was to look at whether the current and future supply of employment land meets the needs of the market in terms of quality and affordability.
- 3.35 The report is now nearing completion with an initial draft highlighting a number of key points. These include:
- ✓ potential future issues with recruitment across the sub-region as the working age population beings to shrink;
 - ✓ in line with the above, the report highlights how important public transport and accessible sites for employment activities are and will continue to be going forward;
 - ✓ The importance of an excellent Wi-Fi connection;
 - ✓ That the current market is experiencing a low churn on existing industrial estates, meaning existing employment land is becoming available less frequently than it has in the past;
 - ✓ Coventry and Warwickshire will continue to be an attractive location;
 - ✓ Strong rates of business survival across the sub-region;
 - ✓ There is currently a low level of grade A (high quality) office space being built – and reference the importance of the Friargate scheme in Coventry in this respect;
 - ✓ That often new small industrial units were not viable and so these were hard to provide. As such the report highlighted the strategic importance

of the availability of 'affordable' employment land across the sub-region.

- 3.36 The outputs of the employment market signals study will help to inform the joint evidence that is being sought in recommendation 1, where a full assessment of sub regional employment needs beyond 2031 will be undertaken. In particular, this will need to explore further the observations made within the report around employment growth pressures and demand in the medium to long term to support continued growth and economic prosperity.
- 3.37 In this respect, employment growth and job creation will require housing delivery to help promote sustainable development principles and minimise commuting. Aligning economic and housing needs in a joint and consistent study will help plan positively for a prosperous local economy that maintains a competitive edge and that is proactive instead of reactive.

4 Infrastructure programmes and opportunities

- 4.1 The current round of Local Plans all contain an up to date Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which is a fundamental requirement of national guidance. An IDP clarifies the infrastructure required to support the level of growth identified in the Local Plan and brings together a wide range of requirements including: highways, education, utilities, public transport, green and blue infrastructure and health care etc.
- 4.2 The delivery of cross boundary infrastructure is a key part of the Duty to Cooperate, and is supported by Warwickshire County Council as the highway authority and Coventry City Council in its role as a unitary authority. The funding of and delivery of strategic infrastructure is however becoming increasingly complex and requires increasing levels of cross boundary working. The recent Housing Infrastructure Fund bids, have in part at least, been coordinated through the WMCA, and the sub-region has been broadly successful in securing funding provisions towards specific schemes. These include:

Site	Summary of infrastructure works	Funding requested
Eastern Green SUE	Marginal Viability Fund – Forward delivery of grade separated junction to unlock site access and accelerate housing delivery.	£12.7m
Kenilworth Secondary School	Marginal Viability Fund – funding to unlock delivery of new secondary school and Sixth Form College in Kenilworth. Will also release existing sites for new homes.	£9.6m
Long Marston Airfield	Marginal Viability Fund - Long Marston Airfield Garden Village Phase 1.	£13.4m
Long Marston (South Western)	Forward Funding pot - to develop the South Western Relief Road to mitigate measures required as part of the Long Marston Airfield Garden Village development and relieve traffic congestion in	£40m

Relief Road)	Stratford-upon-Avon town.	
Coventry Ring Road	Forward Funding Pot - Improvements to Junction 9 and adjacent highway to improve connectivity and permeability.	£8m
Westwood Heath and King's Hill	Forward Funding Pot - Phase 2 of the A46 Link Road.	£35.13m
A5	Forward Funding pot – dualling of A5 in North Warwickshire.	£24m*

* Figure still to be determined.

- 4.3 Further infrastructure projects are also being brought forward through:
1. Midlands Connect programme;
 2. Highways England delivery programme;
 3. Western Power upgrades;
 4. One Public Estate programmes; and
 5. Environment Agency Flood Mitigation programme.
- 4.4 As we begin to focus on the delivery of our Local Plans, looking forward towards the longer term growth and prosperity of the sub-region, it will be increasingly important to coordinate infrastructure requirements and identifying new opportunities. This will also help ensure the greatest financial benefit and impact of infrastructure investment to maximise the delivery of new homes and jobs as a result.
- 4.5 To this end Recommendation 3 of this report seeks the approval of the creation of a sub-regional infrastructure board, which will bring together representatives of all key infrastructure partners across the sub-region. This will provide a single joined up arena within which all local authorities and its partners can plan positively for sustainable growth and achieve the most cost effective delivery of infrastructure. At a time of increasing resource pressure, a joint approach to infrastructure planning will allow for a set of regular meetings with all partners instead of individual meetings with 7 separate authorities. It will also help ensure the infrastructure plans of respective organisations are aligned across the sub-region. Subject to the approval of recommendation 3 the exact membership and terms of reference for the Board will be developed and presented as part of the update report in June 2019.
- 4.6 To this end, it will be very important for the work of this group to involve and co-ordinate the planned infrastructure with the work of the CWLEP in order to help deliver the Local Growth Strategy and the emerging Local Industrial Strategy as well as co-ordination with the distribution of funds that the LEP has or has access to. As such, it is important to clarify that CWLEP representatives will be part of the proposed Infrastructure Board.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Taking into consideration the above and in particular due to the changing national and regional background as well as the continuing need to provide

evidence of complying with the Duty to Co-operate it is considered important that the Coventry and Warwickshire area continues working together proactively and jointly, and to explore further potential opportunities of joint working that can achieve economies of scale and consistencies in approach. In order to do this, further evidence and research will be required as well as discussions with other organisations such as MHCLG, PAS and neighbouring authorities to explore best practice and the options, including possible funding sources for moving forward.

- 5.2 It is proposed that housing and employment studies (or a study to which combines both elements) be commissioned. This would update the Joint SHMA and employment land requirements which are the first pieces of evidence that are needed to bring forward reviews of Local Plans, if necessary.
- 5.3 It is therefore recommended that officers procure further sub regional evidence and engage in discussions with PAS, MHCLG and other neighbouring authority areas around the opportunities and issues associated with wider joint planning processes. Officers will report back to the Joint Committee in June 2019 on the progress of this research and meetings.