WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the additional meeting of Warwick District Council held at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 15 July 2026, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Redford (Chairman); Councillors Aizlewood, Armstrong, Barton, Billiald, Boad, Chilvers, Collins, Davidson, Davison, Day, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, Firth, B Gifford, C Gifford, Gorman, Hales, Harrison, King, Knight, Kohler, Luckhurst, Margrave, Matecki, Melrose, Milton, Payne, Phillips, Roberts, Rosu, Russell, Sinnott, Syson, Tangri, C Wightman, and P Wightman.

Officers: Chris Elliot – Chief Executive; and Graham Leach – Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

19. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Browne, Dray, Jones, Kennedy, Williams, and Yellapragada.

20. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

21. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chairman thanked Group Leaders for their understanding that there would be no business under, Item 6 Leaders and Portfolio Holder Statements, and Item 7 Questions to the leader and Portfolio Holders to focus on the main item of business.

22. **Petitions**

There were no petitions to consider.

23. **Notices of motion**

There were no notices of motion to consider.

24. **Leader and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

There were no Leader and Portfolio Holders' statements to consider.

25. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

There were no questions to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders to consider.

26. **Urgent Item – Dispensation for Councillors**

The Chairman had agreed to take an urgent report regarding a proposed dispensation for all Warwick District Councillors to fully participate in respect of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

The report sought to protect Members from inadvertent breaches of the requirements related to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or an "Other Registerable Interest", ensuring that the Council could conduct its business.

The recommendations of the report were proposed by Davison, Seconded by Councillor King and

Resolved that

(1) dispensations be granted to all Warwick District Councillors, until the 30 September 2026, from any conflicts of interest they may have in respect of their own property due to policies within the proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan; and
(2) the advice of the Monitoring Officer in respect of predisposition and the South Warwickshire Local Plan, be noted.

27. **South Warwickshire Local Plan – Joint Cabinet Recommendations**

At the invitation of the Chair the Council received representations from seven members of the public. The Chair thanked residents for their representations during this meeting.

(Councillor Collins and Day arrived during this item prior to 1) below starting.)

1) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 1 be noted. During the debate an amendment was proposed, and accepted by Councillor Davison and King, to include the following:

"that the South Warwickshire Plan housing numbers have been imposed on both Councils by the Government who changed the rules and moved the housing requirements out of metropolitan areas and into the rural areas which are less able to cope with the significant numbers put forward; the Government has put developer profits ahead of people"

Resolved that the importance of a having sound, up-to-date local plan to prevent the uncoordinated delivery of potentially less favourable sites for development and maximise the delivery of infrastructure to support development, noting also the particular importance of this given that neither District can currently demonstrate a five-year supply

of housing land; and that the South Warwickshire Plan housing numbers have been imposed on both Councils by the Government who changed the rules and moved the housing requirements out of metropolitan areas and into the rural areas which are less able to cope with the significant numbers put forward; the Government has put developer profits ahead of people, be noted**.**

Councillors King, Tangri, Aizlewood, Matecki, Boad, Kohler, Davison, Chilvers, the Head of Place, Arts, and Economy, the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer, and the Chief Executive spoke on this item.

(The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for 10 minutes to allow for a comfort break.)

2) It was proposed by Councillor Davison and seconded by Councillor King that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 2, be noted.

Resolved that the background information relevant to the report to Joint Cabinet of 14 July 2026, contained in Appendix 8, including the importance of submitting a Local Plan to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2026 in light of new regulations that prevent Local Plans prepared under the legacy plan making system being submitted after that time, be noted.

Councillors Davison, B Gifford, Chilvers, Matecki, and King spoke on this item.

(Councillor Melrose arrived during the debate for this proposal.)

3) It was proposed by Councillor Davison and seconded by Councillor King that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 3, be endorsed.

Resolved that the extensive work that has been undertaken by officers and Councillors to prepare the South Warwickshire Local Plan and the previous public consultations that have been undertaken on it 3, be endorsed.

Councillor King spoke on this item.

4) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 4, be noted.

Resolved that the schedule of changes that have been made to the South Warwickshire Local Plan as

set out in Appendix 9, including following the recommendations from the last meeting of the Joint Cabinet Committee on 28 May 2026, which include:

a) the removal of green field allocations totalling over 3,700 homes from the plan;
b) the introduction of 3 key public transport corridors to increase developer contributions to improved public transport;
c) measures to make it easier to sensitively introduce energy efficiency measures like double glazing;
d) tightened requirements for safe basic infrastructure from first occupation of new houses; and
e) agreed expected affordable housing levels at a minimum of either 30% or 40% across South Warwickshire, as set out below, be noted.

Councillors King, Gorman, Davison, Chilvers, Boad, Matecki, Collins, Kohler, King, C Gifford, B Gifford, Day, Phillips, Armstrong, and Head of Place, Arts, and Economy spoke on this item.

5) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 5, be approved.

Resolved that

(1) the Publication draft South Warwickshire Local Plan (Appendix 1) subject to an amendment to policy HO.3 to require that in zone 1, a minimum of 40% onsite affordable housing is provided with 50% on Green Belt sites and sites proposed to be released from the Green Belt through the SWLP, subject to viability, and that the approach for zone 2 sites also properly reflects government policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework;
(2) the Publication draft policies map (**Appendix 2**);
(3) Sustainability Appraisal report (Appendix 3);
(4) Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix 4);
(5) Schedule of responses to the Preferred Options public consultation (Appendix 5);
(6) Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix 6);
(7) Effective Cooperation Compliance Statement (Appendix 7); and
(8) the supporting evidence base (together the "proposed submission documents").

be approved for a seven-week public consultation (period for representations) in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning

(Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012, subject to the other Council also approving these documents, be approved.

Councillors King, Davison, Milton, Payne, Aizlewood, Collins, Armstrong, R Dickson, B Gifford, Davidson, Kohler, Russell, Matecki, Boad, Chilvers, Hales, Day, Barton, Harrison, Melrose, Rosu, and King spoke on this item.

Prior to the vote being taken a recorded vote was proposed and duly seconded by two Councillors. The record of the vote were as follows:

For: Armstrong, Barton, Billiald, Chilvers, Collins, Davidson, Davison, Day, Falp, Gorman, King, Knight, Luckhurst, Margrave, Melrose, Roberts, Rosu, Sinnott, Tangri, C Wightman, and P Wightman.

Against: B Gifford, C Gifford, Syson, Boad, Aizlewood, K Dickson, R Dickson, Kohler, Hales, Matecki, Milton, Payne, Phillips, Redford, and Russell.

Abstain: Harrison and Firth.

(Councillors Aizlewood, Firth, Luckhurst, and Tangri left at the conclusion of 5).)

6) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 10 June 2026 Cabinet meeting in respect of Community Climate and Nature Fund Proposal, be delegated.

Resolved that authority be delegated to the Head of Place, Arts & Economy (Warwick District) and Head of South Warwickshire Local Plan (Stratford-on-Avon District), in consultation with the Leaders and relevant Portfolio Holders of both Councils, to make minor amendments and corrections as necessary to the proposed submission documents (including evidence base document). Also include a further check by officers to ensure "could, should and would" are correctly applied within the plan, to ensure it is as robust as possible, prior to the commencement of the public consultation.

Councillors Matecki, King, and Davison spoke on this item.

7) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 7, be noted.

Resolved that all the above decisions require agreement from both Councils in order for the South Warwickshire Local Plan to progress to a Publication Regulation 19 consultation 7 be noted.

8) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 8, be noted.

Resolved that once the Regulation 19 consultation has been undertaken, the opportunities for either Council to make changes to the South Warwickshire Local Plan are very limited, be noted.

Councillors Barton, Davison, and the Head of Place, Arts, and Economy spoke on this item.

9) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Day that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 9, be approved.

Resolved that following the close of the Regulation 19 consultation, the response to the consultation will be reported to SWLPAG, the Overview & Scrutiny Committees at both Councils, Joint Cabinet Committee, and both Councils and that each Council will at that time be asked to approve the South Warwickshire Local Plan, and associated documents, for submission to the Secretary of State for examination, be approved.

Councillor Day spoke on this item.

10) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the recommendations from the of 14 July 2026 Joint Cabinet meeting in respect of recommendation 10, be agreed.

Resolved that clear success criteria for the communications plan for the reg 19 consultation be set out in advance, be agreed.

11) It was proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Davison that the additional recommendation from the Stratford- on-Avon District Council meeting of 15 July 2026, be agreed.

Resolved to write to all MP's representing the area to ask them to meet, cross-party, with Ministers, to request early government investment to help Warwick District Council work alongside Stratford-on-Avon District Council to achieve its aims, be agreed.

Councillors King, Davison, Phillips, Matecki, Kohler, and the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer spoke on this item.

28. **Phillip Clarke – Head of Place Arts and Economy**

The Chairman recorded the Council's collective thanks and best wishes to the Head of Place, Arts, and Economy, after his upcoming retirement after 39 years of exemplary service in Local Government.

29. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Davison, and

Resolved that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such documents as it may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 10.12pm.)

CHAIRMAN
29 July 2026