The Environment

Transport emissions are the biggest contributors to climate change and poor air quality is also damaging to health. We want to put the environment at the heart of our decision making in order to achieve the government's and WCC's targets on emissions and to address the climate emergency declared by WCC.

We consider the environment to be a key theme within the LTP with a focus on protecting our climate and enhancing our spaces. We will respond to the effects of transport on climate change, the net zero carbon target and to drive forward a more sustainable future. As a County, the activities of our people and organisations within it have a huge impact on our environment.

Initial work on the LTP has identified the following challenges:

Noise Pollution	Climate Change	Loss of Habitat and Wildlife
Air Quality	Flooding and Water Management	

To help address these challenges, we have identified some high-level aims of the LTP which are outlined in GREEN below. These will be developed in more detail as work on LTP4 progresses.

Noise Pollution

Transport is one of the main contributors to noise pollution which can negatively affect health, wellbeing, productivity and the natural environment.

Exposure to transport related noise in Warwickshire is primarily concentrated along the motorway and trunk road network and key rail corridors.

The LTP will aim to consider noise-reducing measures to minimise noise pollution, particularly along key transport corridors. This aim is in line with objectives set out in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Action Plan.

Loss of Habitat and Wildlife

Habitat loss poses the greatest threat to species. Transport related infrastructure such as roads, railways and stations have an impact on surrounding habitats. For example, roads divide our landscape and create barriers which are impassable for many species[4].

At the end of 2018, Warwickshire had 600 Local Wildlife Sites spanning across an area of approximately 7,000 hectares[5] which we aim to preserve for future generations.

The LTP will seek to minimise transport impacts to habitats and wildlife and consider implementation of green infrastructure where possible.

Flooding and Water Management

One of the outcomes of Climate Change has been increased flood events, which in turn can impact on the transport network such as roads, cycling and walking routes, bridges, and rail tracks. The design of transport infrastructure itself can also have an impact on flooding through drainage from the highway and transport network. Therefore, transport plays a key role in the County's water management plans.

The LTP will aim to ensure that the transport network does not contribute to flooding issues and seek to reduce the impact when it occurs. We will work with organisations such as the Environment Agency to manage impacts and develop a safe and resilient transport network.

Air Quality

Air quality is the term we use to describe how polluted the air we breathe is. When air quality is poor, pollutants in the air may be hazardous to people, particularly those with lung or heart conditions.

Transport is a major contributor to poor air quality in Warwickshire. For example, road traffic accounts for 65% of NO2 and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions[6]. Breathing air with high levels of NO2 can cause respiratory and other health issues with between 28,000 and 35,000 deaths a year in the UK attributed to long term exposure to air pollution[7].

Nine Air Quality Management Areas have been declared within Warwickshire in response to high pollutant levels. Eight out of these nine areas in Warwickshire are ranked within worst air quality areas nationally[8].

The LTP will aim to improve air quality by reducing traffic, tackling congestion, encouraging people to travel sustainably (e.g. walking and cycling) and encouraging use of clean energy vehicles.

Climate Change

A Climate Change emergency was declared in Warwickshire in 2019. Declaring a Climate Emergency makes it a requirement to take immediate action to drastically reduce carbon emissions. This means the Council is now accountable for delivering the requirements of its Climate Emergency Declaration. Transport is the largest contributor to carbon emissions.

We are committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, and the LTP will play a vital role in achieving this.

4 https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/Nature_recovery_network_final.pdf

5 https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/HBA

6 Transport for the West Midlands Congestion Management Plan

7 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-publishes-air-pollution-evidence-review
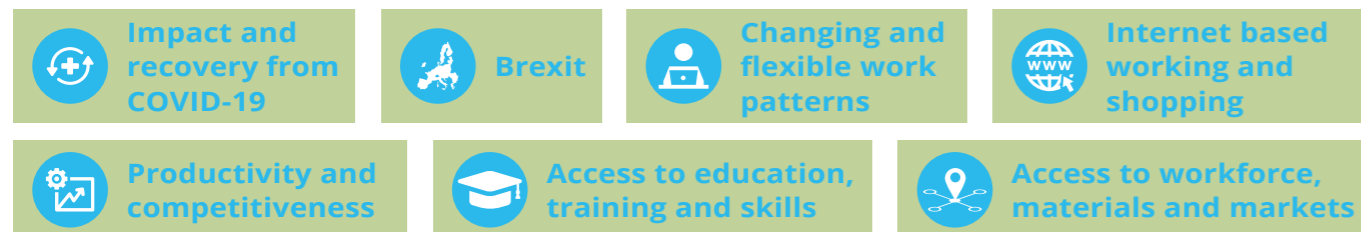
8 Warwickshire Challenges (2019)

The Economy

Having the right transport infrastructure in place is key to stimulating the local economy and facilitating the smooth operation of businesses. Our transport plan will play a vital role in attracting investment into Warwickshire and creating jobs for local people. This will also be important to supporting the recovery from economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a clear focus on driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, productivity and prosperity within the LTP.

Warwickshire has a varied economy, with large and small businesses both urban and rurally located, all of which focus on a number of different sectors that in turn have varying transport requirements. An LTP with a strong economy focus could prioritise issues such as economic growth, increasing productivity and supporting delivery of housing and employment developments. The LTP can also seek to support growth in a sustainable way. For example, the County Council is working with partners to support the development of green transport solutions and innovations, such as Very Light Rail, battery development and hydrogen propulsion. It can also support this in a sustainable way.

The following challenges have been identified which the LTP will need to address:

Impact and recovery from COVID-19	Brexit	Changing and flexible work patterns	Internet based working and shopping
Productivity and competitiveness	Access to education, training and skills	Access to workforce, materials and markets	

To help address these challenges, we have identified some high-level aims which are outlined in GREEN below. These targets will be developed in more detail as work on LTP4 progresses.

Access to education, training and skills

Transport can improve our quality of life by providing access to training and education. For example, in 2017 & 2018, almost 4000 new apprentices started an apprenticeship in Warwickshire[9]. We want to improve people's access to these opportunities so that more time and energy can be spent learning, contributing to the community and building the local economy. The average journey time to the nearest secondary school in Warwickshire is 11 minutes by public transport and 22 minutes on foot[10].

The LTP will aim to develop a transport system that is accessible and opens opportunities for students, apprentices and young adults to learn and grow in Warwickshire.

Changing and flexible working patterns

Home working and flexible working patterns has had a major impact on the transport network, with more people choosing to work from home on a more regular basis therefore reducing the need to use public transport and private vehicles. Whilst working flexible hours will not necessarily reduce total trips overall, we may see less traffic in the traditional 'rush-hours' and will potentially become more staggered throughout the day.

The LTP will consider the changes to work patterns and travel behaviours during the pandemic, shortly after it and in the long-term.

9 Warwickshire Challenges (2019)
10 https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/

Productivity and competitiveness

Warwickshire's economy is innovative, competitive and entrepreneurial. Warwickshire will look to harness and support this to enable a productive and competitive economy. In 2019, congestion cost the UK economy £6.9 billion, with the average UK road user losing 115 hours to congestion[11]. Congestion also impacts on the productivity and competitiveness of businesses locally although access to transport networks is a key reason many businesses locate in Warwickshire. The County Council is working with Midlands Connect and other partners to bring forward improvements on the A5 and A46 corridors which will support productivity and improve access to international trade by providing better connections to locations such as East Midlands Airport and ports at Humberside, Bristol and South Wales.

The LTP will facilitate emerging businesses in the varying ways they use the transport network, as well as improving journey times and reducing congestion.

Access to workforce, materials and markets

The transport network provides access to workforce, materials and markets. The LTP will play an important role in maintaining and improving this. Vehicle design, manufacturing and technology is a prominent industry within Warwickshire and requires good access to workforces, materials and markets. Tourism also relies heavily on the transport network and generates just over £1 billion to the local economy, which in turn supports over 18,000 jobs.

The LTP will need to consider the diverse range of industries within Warwickshire and provide a high quality transport network for the County's needs.

11 https://inrix.com/press-releases/2019-traffic-scorecard-uk/
12 Warwickshire COVID-19 Recovery Plan https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=8436
13 Warwickshire Challenges (2019)

Brexit

Although there are many unknown variables, Brexit is likely to have a significant impact on transport and the transport network nationally and within Warwickshire.

The LTP will consider potential impacts that Brexit will have on the transport network in Warwickshire, especially in relation to freight and distribution.

Impacts and recovery from COVID-19

Covid-19 has had a major impact on key sectors of our economy and has provided us with economic uncertainty. **The Warwickshire Covid-19 Recovery Plan**[12] provides further details of how we can target our recovery and provide support to where it is most needed. The County Council will work with regional partners such as Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and Midlands Connect to identify how transport can contribute to achieving the Government's commitment to 'build back better and bolder' from the aftermath of Covid-19, particularly for disadvantaged communities. A high number of people have encountered job losses and face future financial hardship. The number of people claiming benefits across Warwickshire has more than doubled, from 1.9% in May 2019 to 5.0% in May 2020[13].

The LTP will consider ways to support access to jobs and businesses for those who have been impacted by COVID-19, as well as playing a key role in the recovery of town centres.

Internet based working and shopping

In recent months, people have become more digitally connected than ever before, due to an increase in home working and online shopping.

The LTP will consider how this will affect travel patterns, commuting and maintaining the vitality of local town centres.

Place

A sense of place is a unique collection of qualities and characteristics, including visual, cultural, social, and environmental that make up a location. In our case, Warwickshire is made up of a wide variety of rural and urban places from villages to market towns that all have unique characteristics. Transport choices in Warwickshire should support high quality places throughout the County, reflecting the specific requirements of those places in line with their different characteristics and needs.

Warwickshire benefits from being located at the heart of the UK transport network with good road, rail and air links to the rest of the country and beyond. These strong and improving links have helped drive economic development and job creation in the County.

The LTP will focus on supporting and maintaining high quality places that promote connections within, between and beyond settlements across all areas of Warwickshire and further afield.

Initial work on the LTP has identified the following challenges:

Regional Connections	**National and International Connections**	**Access between Rural and Urban Areas**
Public Space and Improvement of Place and Character	**Rural Isolation (Lack of Connection to Wider Areas and Services)**	**Housing Growth and Development**

To help address these challenges, we have identified some high-level targets which are outlined in GREEN below. These targets will be developed in more detail as work on LTP4 progresses.

Rural Isolation (Lack of Connection to Wider aAeas and Key Services

A key rural issue is the lack of connection to local activities, services and the wider transport network. Over 32% of Warwickshire's population live in rural areas[14], meaning that a lack of access to critical services such as healthcare, education and childcare affects a significant proportion of people. Access to superfast broadband can also support rural living and benefit the transport system, for example by enabling home based working which can reduce travel demand.

The LTP will aim to reduce rural isolation through improving rural accessibility as well as embracing innovative ways of connecting rural communities to keys services.

Housing Growth and Development

New housing and population change has a significant impact on the transport network. Warwickshire had an increase of over 4,000 new houses in 2018-2019[15], and many more new homes are planned to be built over the next 10 years and more than 500 hectares of employment land has been identified for development, creating new demand for travel and pressure on the transport network.

The LTP will account for future housing projections and employment growth identified within the local plans to ensure new demand for travel can be accommodated.

Regional Connections

There is significant movement across Warwickshire's borders to surrounding areas for commuting, business and other activities. This is supported by good road and rail links including for example connections to the Thames Valley via the Chiltern Line and M40, East Midlands and East of England via rail corridors and A14, South and South East via rail corridors including the North Cotswold Line, A34, A5, South West via the A46, A429 and A350 and North West Midlands/Wales via the West Coast Main Line and A5. The regional transport network supports commuting journeys made between Warwickshire and Coventry, the West Midlands conurbation, Tamworth, Hinckley, Lutterworth, Daventry, Banbury and Redditch.

The 2011 census found that approximately 35% of people who work in Warwickshire commuted into the county from surrounding areas. Almost 40% of commuters who live in Warwickshire travel to work in other counties, mainly Birmingham and Coventry.[16]

The LTP will need to maintain and improve regional connectivity with the wider Midlands cities and destinations, while accounting for the changing needs and travel behaviour.

Access between Rural and Urban Areas

Transport between rural areas, villages, larger towns and market towns provides access to vital services as well as leisure, education and employment opportunities. The average travel time to reach the nearest key services in Warwickshire is longer than the average in England[17]. Rural-urban transport links are key to improving this.

The LTP4 will consider rural – urban connections to improve access to key services such as medical, educational services and grocery stores.

National and International Connections

Access to global markets has been restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however it is still important, and Warwickshire needs strong links to gateways such as Birmingham Airport and coastal ports in order to support its businesses.

In addition, the County draws in tourism from around the world, particularly to Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, and increasingly to other locations such as Nuneaton. The M6, M6 Toll, M40, M42, M45, M69, A5, A38, A45 and A46 all provide access into Warwickshire. The Chiltern Main Line and the West Coast Mainline railways run through Warwickshire and future connections with HS2 are in the pipeline.

The LTP will support maintaining and enhancing these existing connections to National and International markets.

Public Space and Improvement of Place and Character

Traffic and transport infrastructure can have both a detrimental impact on the appearance and character of our towns and streets, as well as playing a role in their revitalisation. It can also impact on how we use our streets and interact with the places around us. Warwickshire has a rich cultural heritage and many of our towns feature historic town centres and streetscapes. With local plans setting out housing growth, it is important to maintain Warwickshire's character.

Our new LTP will consider Warwickshire's existing assets. We have high quality public and green spaces, a strong identity and culture, which attracts 9.3 million visitors each year[18]. We must protect and enhance the character of these places when making changes to our transport network, towns, villages and public spaces.

14 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-418
15 https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/housing/
16 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1014-319
17 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-418
18 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-688-360

Wellbeing

The pandemic has shown us all how connected we are and how much we rely on connections to services, leisure, and each other for our wellbeing. Transport can have a significant impact on people's overall wellbeing including their mental and physical health and this has also been brought to the fore during the Covid-19 pandemic as more people have chosen to walk and cycle to stay healthy. Having good transport options can help link a community, promoting the happiness and wellbeing of everyone living and working there. We think our LTP4 should consider how to keep people safe and secure whilst travelling and provide people with swift and convenient ways to get together also ensure people have access to services, leisure, job and education opportunities.

Initial work on the LTP has identified the following challenges:

Access to Health and Social Care	Security and Safety	Transport Related Pollution
Road Safety	Social Inclusion	Mental Health	Supporting Active Lifestyles

To help address these challenges, we have identified some high-level aims which are outlined in GREEN below. These will be developed in more detail as work on LTP4 progresses.

Mental Health

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health, and we must take care of our minds as we do with our bodies. Being able to get around safely, interact with others, and access the services we need is important for our wellbeing.

Around 43,000 people aged 65 years and over are estimated to experience some degree of loneliness[19] and an estimated 46,000 people in Warwickshire (aged 16 – 74) have a common mental health problem[20]. There are significant mental health and wellbeing benefits to regular walking and cycling[21], and being able to access green space.

> The LTP will support and raise awareness of the mental health and wellbeing benefits of walking, cycling and being able to access green spaces.

Security and Safety

Crime and the fear of crime can impact how we carry out our lives and the transport choices we make. Transport-related crime and safety has larger impacts on some segments of society than others. In Warwickshire 4,097 vehicle crimes and 442 bike thefts were reported between November 2019 and October 2020), both above the average for the West Midlands[22]. Lorry parking and associated anti-social behaviour has become an issue in parts of Warwickshire, particularly on corridors such as the A5 where the logistics sector has a strong presence.

> The LTP will aim to consider measure that reduce transport-related crime, fear and intimidation. Security and safety will influence the development of the priorities set out in the LTP.

Transport related Pollution

There is strong evidence that links exposure to air pollution, including the harmful emissions produced by motorised vehicles such as cars, trucks and buses, to health issues such as the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer, and that it exacerbates asthma. Approximately 29,000 deaths per year in the UK are linked with air pollution associated with road traffic.[23] Transport can also create noise pollution which can also impact on health.

> The LTP will aim to improve congestion and reduce the impact of transport on air pollution.

Supporting Active Lifestyles

We know that being active is good for our health and there is increasing recognition that encouraging 'active travel', such as walking and cycling has significant potential to address some of the key public health issues facing the UK, such as obesity, heart disease and strokes.

In 2016/17 18% of adults in Warwickshire walked to work and 2% cycled to work at least three days per week, significantly lower than the average for England[24].

> The LTP will consider ways to encourage walking and cycling, to significantly increase levels of active travel.

Road Safety

Road safety remains a significant concern. In 2019, 1,110 Road Traffic Collisions which resulted in an injury were reported in Warwickshire. Furthermore, concerns over safety remain a significant barrier to people choosing to make more journeys by bicycle or on foot.

> The LTP will aim to put road safety at the forefront of corporate and local objectives to make Warwickshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

Access to Health and Social care

An effective transport network is essential to give people access to services that keep us healthy and happy. Predictions suggest that we are likely to have more older people within our population, and this will have an impact on the demand for health and social care services in the future[25]. Access to healthcare by all transport modes will be increasingly important. A 2015 study showed that less than a third of Warwickshire's population could reach a hospital within 60 minutes via public transport[26].

> The LTP will aim to improve access to key services whilst considering the changing way people access these services.

Social Inclusion

We all need social interaction and transport plays an important part in our ability to meet with other people. There are nearly 42,000 residents in Warwickshire whose day-to-day activities are drastically limited because they do not have access to suitable transport options.[27] Age and disability can reduce access to transport options.

> Our target is to set out a vision for the future where we can support an inclusive transport system that works for everyone, enabling everyone to feel part of a community.

19 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-418
20 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-418
21 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-630-956
22 https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/
23 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-630-956
24 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-418
25 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1014-319
26 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-644-420
27 https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/