

Councillors Report 17th March

1/ Support for parishioners re the census

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2/ Roadside waste collection

Once roadside waste has been collected Contact Street Scene and they will send Biffa out to collect it. If bags are left, they will be treated fly tipping.

3/ Foot Paths and NFU

The NFU are in discussion about allowing footpaths to be diverted around the edge of fields.

4/ County Council elections due on the 6 May.

5/ At the Council meeting the main items for discussion was

The merger of two district councils, Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. At this stage Council are being asked to consider whether it wants to adopt the proposed vision and make preparations for a submission to central government. There would however be a further decision required of Council

The proposal does not relate to unitary government across South Warwickshire, although this may be a later option. It has to be borne in mind that Warwickshire County Council have made a submission to MHCLG on a single Warwickshire Unitary Council.

Council Tax Harmonisation

There were several questions surrounding the 3 options which were highlighted within the Deloitte's report. It was explained that if South Warwickshire Council was created that any decision on Council Tax would be reserved to that authority, however, slides were shared which provided more context and illustrations on the 3 options these are provide as follows:

If South Warwickshire Council is formed then there would need to be a standard level of Council Tax at district level over that, the current proposed levels of Council Tax are:

- Stratford on Avon DC - £149.12
- Warwick DC - £176.86

This means that there is currently a difference of £27.74 across the two areas which would need to be considered. The Deloitte's report provided 3 Options:

Option 1

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	164.12	169.12	174.12	179.12
Warwick DC	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	179.12

Option 2

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	176.86
Warwick DC	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86

Option 3

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	177.99
Warwick DC	176.86	181.86	186.86	177.99

The question of Council Tax harmonisation is more complicated when considered over the whole of Warwickshire given the various levels of Council Tax. The expected district levels of Council Tax for 2021/22 across the county are as follows:

- Stratford : £149.12
- Warwick : £176.86 – difference from SDC - £27.74
- Rugby : £ 155.66 (plus special expenses) – difference from SDC - £6.54 (plus special expenses)
- Nuneaton & Bedworth : £244.66 – difference from SDC - **£95.54**
- North Warwickshire : £217.30 – difference from SDC - £68.18

Engagement with the Public.

It was clarified that there are no plans to undertake a full referendum on the proposals, however, there was a commitment to undertake meaningful consultation with the public. There would also be consultation with the business community and the Council's other stakeholders.

All of this consultation would be undertaken before the Council considered before any submission is considered at a future meeting of Council.

In relation to the other mergers of district councils undertaken recently, ie West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Somerset West & Taunton, there is no evidence that referendums on these proposals were undertaken.

What would be the impact on the Council if the proposals are not accepted?

The savings arising joint working with Warwick DC have been included within the Medium Term Financial Plan which is being considered by Council on 22 February 2021. These savings total around £3m over this period, and by year 5 of the plan they are included at £1.25m per annum.

If the Council had to find savings from within its operations rather than working more closely with Warwick this would undoubtedly impact upon the ability to continue to deliver the Council's discretionary services. Examples of the Council's discretionary services include:

If the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix 1 is approved,

the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2020/21 2021/22 % Increase.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council £144.12 to £149.12 3.47%

Warwickshire County Council £1,488.87 to £1,533.51 3.00%

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner £237.97 £252.96 6.30% Sub-total £1,870.96 £1,935.59

3.45%

Town and Parish Councils (average) £62.44 £65.17 4.37%

TOTAL increase; £1,933.40 £2,000.76 3.48%

Latest data for Coventry and Warwickshire

Data is available here : <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/> and is updated on a weekly basis, covering vaccinations in the Monday to Sunday of the week prior.

% who have had at least 1 dose (using ONS denominators) 65-69 70-74 75-79 80+ 91.9% 95.2% 100%* 96.7% 100%*

signifies that the number who have received their first dose exceeds the latest official estimate of the population from the ONS for this group.

1 st dose Under 65 65-69 70-74 75-79 80+ 132,682 40,884 43,264 34,376
45,708

2 nd dose Under 65 65-69 70-74 75-79 80+ 1,847 85 69 67 4,234

Each cohort is a different size, for example cohort 7 which is people aged 65-69 is larger than cohort 70-74. The largest cohort to date for Coventry and Warwickshire will be those aged 50-54.