

Kineton Parish Council
September 2024
District Councillor Report

South Warwickshire Local Plan Housing Update

Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council are working together to prepare a [Local Plan for the South Warwickshire](#) area.

At the [Joint Cabinet / Executive Committee](#) meeting that took place at the beginning of August, both Councils endorsed a study which set out that 1,679 dwellings per annum should be delivered to meet the area's future housing needs in the next version of the emerging Local Plan.

All Local Authorities are required by law to prepare a Local Plan for their respective areas, setting out which areas should be developed, and which areas should be protected for at least the next 15 years.

As part of the plan preparation process, this meeting focussed on the recommendations of a study called a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment ([HEDNA](#)) prepared by independent consultants, ICENI.

The key headline from the HEDNA study work is that it was no longer considered credible to continue to use outdated lower housing provision figures provided by the national government's Standard Methodology (published in 2018). This was due to housing moratorium policies being lifted after 2014 and more up-to-date Census data from 2021 becoming available.

The endorsed figure of 1,679 per annum will now be used as the basis for the next version of the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan, known as the Preferred Options, which will be consulted upon with the public in the coming months.

It was also recognised at the meeting that earlier in the week, the new Government had launched a public consultation on a series of major changes to the planning system which if implemented would substantially impact on the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

This includes a new '*standard method*' which would require very many more homes to be built across South Warwickshire to meet local needs than is currently contained within the HEDNA, which is some 2,178 homes per year, almost a 30% increase on the endorsed figures.

Consequently, Members of the committee recognised there will be a need for flexibility to potentially accommodate the new '*standard method*' in the preferred options version of the plan and that further versions of the plan, as it is taken forward

to adoption, will need to reflect on the outcome of the Government's public consultation, which concludes on 24 September.

Don't lose your vote - residents in Stratford-on-Avon District urged to check voter registration details

Stratford-on-Avon District residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them.

The annual canvass allows Stratford-on-Avon District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage them to register before it's too late.

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. In Great Britain, 92% of those who have lived in their home for 16 years will be registered, compared with 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than a year.

Delay on replacement UBUS service

From September, Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) joint UBUS service was due to be replaced by a new Demand Responsive Transport Service (DRT) solely from Warwickshire County Council.

However, the new DRT service is now planned to be introduced on 4 November.

This is to allow more time for WCC to procure the new service and manage the migration from the existing service.

The District Council and WCC have worked with the existing providers to extend UBUS, so residents can continue to access the transport across the District until the new service is in place.

During this time, from 31 August, four buses instead of five will be operating the UBUS service until 1 November, although all other details including booking, operating times and areas covered will remain the same.

Cllr Alan Scorer

