Warwick District Council ('WDC') Report for KTC March 2024 - Cllr Kyn Aizlewood **ENCLOSURE 10**

	Issue/Portfolio Holder(s)	Current status
1	Arts & Leisure - Cllr Ella Billiald	• There had been recent flooding at the Pump Rooms Gallery. • A second round of funding had been identified for the Town Hall project, which should see works start shortly. • The annual symposium for Warwick District's creative community took place at the Royal Spa Centre on 15 February 2024. • Repair work to the Pump Rooms roof is expected to start in June 2024. • Warwick District Council is one of six local authorities that have successfully contracted the University of Warwick Science Park to provide a leading business support scheme which helps local businesses access finance, mentoring, and more. The scheme helped create more than £19 million in value and 175 jobs for businesses in Warwickshire between 2016 and 2023. This was part of the £4.6 million Business Growth Warwickshire Programme, which is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Warwickshire County Council. • Businesses in need of support will be referred to Business Ready through the programme. They will receive free, tailored advice, including access to sector-specific expertise, specialist mentors, advice around finance or grant funding, and dedicated business workshops.
5	Governance - Ian Davison	• Katie Hunt has resigned from her role as a District Councillor representing the Warwick District Council Leamington Clarendon ward.
6	Finance - Jonathan Chilvers	• A revised 10-year Housing Investment Plan (HIP) capital budgets for the construction and acquisition of new Council housing and funding for major works to housing stock were approved by WDC.
7	Housing - Paul Wightman	• The Compliance Program Board met on 14 February 2024; the regulator had decided not to make any regulatory finding against the District Council at this stage, as steady progress had been made. • The Income Recovery Team had been shortlisted for the Local Government Chronical innovations award. Arrears rose to nearly £1.4 million during the Covid pandemic but since then, the team had introduced a new monitoring system for the recovery of arrears and had managed to bring arrears down to the lowest they have ever been.
8	Neighbourhood services/Leisure Ian Davison, Jim Sinnott and Will Roberts	• The WDC Safe Space initiative had just completed its first quarter. The highest number of reported serious violence incidents in the district and the second most reported area of violence against women and anti-social behaviour occurred within Leamington Spa Town Centre. The team had dealt with issues such as domestic abuse, sexual harassment and mental health issues. Two thirds of visitors to the safe space were under the age of 25 and two thirds of visitors were female. • The official Castle Farm opening took place on 24 February 2024; the Castle Farm play equipment is due to be upgraded in 2024/25. • The Council has approved £22 million for the construction of Abbey Fields Pools, including two pools with accessible provision. The estimated completion date for this work is summer 2026.
9	Planning and Place - Chris King	• Officers are looking into glazing within listed buildings, with a view of giving homeowners' alternative approaches, where possible. • There had been a briefing for all Councillors on the draft University of Warwick SPD (Supplementary Planning Documents). This will shortly form the basis of public consultation and includes an outline proposal to develop an EcoPark on Green Belt land North of Kenilworth.
10	Waste & recycling - Will Roberts	• The next scheduled clean-up of litter on the A46 would start in March 2024.