Introduction

1.1 Further to the last meeting of the Warwickshire Lead Officers this report sets out a number of documents, their stage of development, timescales until adoption and how they link (if they do) together. The Report goes on to look at the Single Spatial Strategy in particular and the way forward.

1.2 The documents covered in this report are:
- Local Plans/Core Strategies
- Housing Numbers
- Employment Land Requirements
- The Integrated Infrastructure Plan
- The Growth Plan
- SEP 2
- Super SEP
- The Single Spatial Plan

1.3 In addition Diagram 1 includes a list of evidence that is required to prepare a Local Plan. This gives a flavour of the amount and scope of evidence required to prepare a Plan. The Diagram also shows the linkages to the various documents included in this report.

1.4 CSWAPO Planning Policy officers, except the County Council, have seen a draft copy of this report. They have not seen the sections on challenges or recommendations. Any comments have been incorporated into the report. Unfortunately the County Council were not sent a copy at that time but have seen the updated report and their comments will be reported back at the meeting.

2 Local Plans/Core Strategies
Who prepares? By each LPA

Timescales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LPA</th>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NBBC</td>
<td>Borough Plan</td>
<td>Submission version published Adoption 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWBC</td>
<td>Core Strategy</td>
<td>Adopted October 2014</td>
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<td>RBC</td>
<td>Local Plan</td>
<td>Issues and Preferred options published Adoption</td>
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<td>SDC</td>
<td>Local Plan</td>
<td>At examination Adoption 2016</td>
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<td>WDC</td>
<td>Local Plan</td>
<td>At examination Adoption late 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Local Plan</td>
<td>Submission version expected January 2016 Adoption 2017</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.1 Each Local Plan is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan and is based on a wide range of evidence.
Housing Numbers

3.1 Who prepares? By each LPA
Timescales: various – latest SHMA update was 2015

3.2 Housing numbers is an important part of the evidence base for the Local Plans / Core Strategies. National Guidance requires housing to be considered at the housing market level. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is prepared jointly with all LPA’s in the HMA. It is an essential part of the evidence base and forms part of the other housing evidence that may be deemed necessary at an individual local authority area.

3.3 In this area the SHMA covers the whole of Coventry & Warwickshire. However North Warwickshire and parts of Stratford fall within the Greater Birmingham HMA as well. There are two main stages to the process. The first is getting to an objectively assessed housing number (OAN) and then moving to the actual housing requirement for the locality. There may be reasons of requiring uplift to the OAN figure and this could be because of economic, affordability or market signals.

3.4 An MoU on housing numbers has been prepared which reflects the latest figures and agrees to a re-distribution due to capacity issues in CCC. The MoU may need to be updated following the publication of the NBBC SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment)

3.5 Population and household projections are regularly updated both by ONS and Central Government. This means that the numbers often feel they are constantly being changed and in current times continually increasing. New figures will be published during 2016.

Employment Land Requirements

4.1 Who prepares? By each LPA
Timescales: Various to date as they support each Local Plan

4.2 Each LPA has prepared an Employment Land Review (ELR) for their areas. These lead specifically to the employment land requirements contained in each of the Local Plan / Core Strategies. In addition a joint study was commissioned from Atkins.

4.3 Recently two additional studies have been carried out:
- CBRE on behalf of CWLEP; and,
- West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study commissioned by the West Midlands Local Authority Chief Executives

Both of these studies show a low supply of immediately available sites.

4.4 Employment figures are notoriously hard to predict and can be based on a number of calculations. These can be trend based, future predictions or a combination of these.
4.5 It is intended to prepare a MoU covering Employment land within the CW area in the first part of 2016. A MoU on Employment Land covering the West Midlands is also being explored in order to progress the West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study.

The Integrated Infrastructure Plan (IIP)

5.1 **Who prepares?** By WCC based on each District / Borough’s IDPs

**Timescales:** First Draft prepared in 2015. Organic document that needs updating

5.2 Infrastructure can be considered at different levels - local, cross-border, sub-region, regional and national. Each LPA produces an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany their Local Plan / Core Strategies. This specifically relates to the infrastructure required to deliver the District / Borough housing and employment. The IDP does not give the sub-regional or regional context.

5.3 The Integrated Infrastructure Plan looks at the whole of the sub-region and seeks to establish the infrastructure required to deliver the development across the sub-region at the strategic level. This will help statutory agencies and organisations in their planning of infrastructure. It can also give an indication where funding, at the sub-regional level, should be directed.

5.4 The IIP will support the Local Plans, Core Strategies, SEP 1 & 2 and Single Spatial Strategy and will particularly help in the funding of schemes that are wider than District / Borough level. As the IIP evolves it will become increasingly important for it to provide a sub-regional context to infrastructure delivery/planning, which supports the on-going consideration of the Duty to Cooperate.

The Growth Plan

6.1 **Who prepares?** By WCC in consultation with each District / Borough in Warwickshire

**Timescales:** Prepared in 2015 with a review in 2016

6.2 The Warwickshire Growth Plan has been prepared by WCC with inputs from the five Warwickshire Districts / Boroughs. The document seeks to start to develop a range of projects and proposals that can be brought forward when funding opportunities become apparent. This Plan both feeds from the SEP but can also feed into the next review of the SEP. It also draws information from both adopted and emerging Local Plans.
SEP 2

7.1 *Who prepares?* By CWLEP  
*Timescales:* Consultation on revision due in early 2016

7.2 The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) was prepared in order to articulate the vision and policies of the LEP. SEP2 is a refresh of SEP1 bringing it up to date and will be discussed at the LEP Board meeting in January prior to a consultation.

7.3 The SEP is an aspirational document and this is sometimes why there has been a disconnect between it and the Local Plans /Core Strategies which take much longer to prepare and in the past supported by different evidence bases. This is being addressed with more joint working as well as joint commissioning of studies to ensure that the aspirations are deliverable and can be supported by the strategic planning process.

Super SEP

8.1 *Who prepares?* The three LEPs covered by the Combined Authorities  
*Timescales:* Unclear at present but likely to be during 2016

8.2 A Super SEP is being considered to include the three LEP areas covered by the Combined Authority – CWLEP, GBSLEP & BCLEP. The SEP2 work will therefore feed into this new document.

The Single Spatial Plan

9.1 *Who prepares?* Envisaged as a collective document involving each LPA with CWLEP (individual LPA commitment yet to be secured)  
*Timescales:* Turley’s have prepared a draft timetable with adoption in 2018

9.2 A Single Spatial Plan can be prepared in many different ways and this is discussed in detail in the Turley’s Report commissioned by CWLEP.

9.3 It is envisaged within the Turley Report that the current Local Plans will proceed with work beginning on a SSP as soon as possible. It is suggested that the work would be led by the CWLEP Planning Advisor with the CSWAPO Policy Group. Concerns were raised at the recent Planning & Housing Group about resources required to prepare the SSP whilst working on preparing existing plans. Staff resources were a particular concern taking into account the amount of work required to prepare a plan especially with staff reviews taking place and staff leaving in some authorities.

Challenges

10.1 There are clearly many challenges to the progression of a SSP. There is already a commitment from all local authorities and recognition by the LEP that Local Plans should be progressed. By 2017 all LPA’s will have or will almost have an adopted Plan in place. If Local Plans are not in place by
summer 2017 Government has indicated they will take over the role to implement a Local Plan.

10.2 Alongside this, through the Duty to Cooperate, there is general agreement about the distribution of housing through the Housing MoU with a timetable to consider any changes following further work by NBBC. There is also a timetable to get a MoU on Employment, particularly dealing with sub-regional land supply. Both of these MoUs will give a base for all LPA's to progress their Plans.

10.3 The basis for sub-regional working is therefore coming together and will be put at the heart of the emerging Local Plans.

10.4 So what will a SSP for the C & W area look like? The Turley report goes through a number of options and concludes that there should be a twin tracked approach of continuing to prepare Local Plans whilst also starting a formal sub-regional Plan. It is envisaged that this would go through the normal local plan examination process.

10.5 Is it important to say what the SSP will look like today if the main focus is on getting the current round of Local Plans in place? Not necessarily. Through the duty to cooperate a lot of work has or is being done which gives the basis for jointly agreeing the distribution of housing and employment land at a sub-regional level. There are many national and regional influences that could also change between now and when a SPP could be in place: such as combined authorities, devolution to name just two.

10.6 The argument could be made though that this does not deal with the detail of specific sites especially if they are of a sub-regional nature. However the planning system sees Local Plans as the basis for planning decisions. Both Regional and Structure Plans have been revoked / abandoned. This is not to say that it is not important to consider issues at these geographies but not necessarily to produce a plan at those levels.

10.7 Also if the MoU’s are concluded and then included in the emerging Plans then what advantage is there in also producing a separate document? It has been suggested that it is to bring all the information into one place so that Infrastructure planning can take place in a more robust way. Once all the Plans have been produced a composite set of Plans could be prepared without the need to have a SSP formal document.

10.8 Notwithstanding the above is there political buy-in to produce a SSP? At the current time it is not clear that there is. Localism means that decisions are brought closer to the local level so LPA’s may be unlikely to want to lose their sovereignty over making decisions locally. However this is not to say that LPA’s do not see the benefit of coming together to come to some agreement over the larger than local issues. A SSP in whatever form it takes clearly needs to be led by local authorities as they have the statutory power to prepare plans for their areas.
10.9 Another challenge for LPA’s is the ever decreasing budget to keep plans up to date. To twin track the current local plans as well as a formal SSP may not be feasible due to staff and financial resources. Further work needs to be carried out into terms of time and resources that are or could be available to prepare both current local plans and a SSP to fully understand this issue.

**Way Forward**

11.1 It is suggested that the following gives a way further:

1. LPA’s continue to produce their individual Plans in order to get a complete set of Local Plans by 2017

2. CSWAPO Policy Officers continue to work on:
   a) Finalising the Housing MoU following the SHLAA results from NBBC
   b) To bring forward an Employment MoU

3. The emerging / adopted Plans to be fitted together to create a composite Plan for the sub-region

4. Planning Officers be asked to report back on progress of the above to this meeting and any other implications that need to be considered.

Dorothy Barratt - January 2016
Diagram 1: Diagram showing the linkages and inter-relationships between the documents as well as providing a list of evidence

- **Local Plans/Core Strategies**
  - Prepared by each LPA

- **The Integrated Infrastructure Plan**
  - Prepared by WCC with LPA’s and LEP

- **The Single Spatial Plan**
  - Prepared by all LPA’s and LEP

- **SEP 2**
  - Prepared by CWLEP

- **Super SEP**
  - Prepared by 3 LEP’s covering the Combined Authority area

**Evidence Base**
- SHMA - Housing Numbers
- Employment Land Requirements / Reviews
- SHLAA
- Infrastructure Delivery Plans
- Water Cycle Study
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Sustainability Appraisal + Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Viability Assessment
- Landscape Character Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Open Space & Playing Pitch Strategy
- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Gypsy & Travellers Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

**The Growth Plan**
- Prepared by WCC
**Draft Timeline**

*Please Note: The timeline below has not been considered against resources particularly the staff*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month/Year</th>
<th>Local Plan Tasks</th>
<th>Single Spatial Strategy Tasks</th>
<th>SEP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2015</td>
<td>MoU on Housing Distribution</td>
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<td>Oct-Dec 2015</td>
<td>Ratification of MOU by all six authorities</td>
<td>Review options for SSS</td>
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<td>Explore governance arrangements</td>
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<td>Jan 2016</td>
<td>Reopening of Stratford EIP</td>
<td>Decision to commit to SSS</td>
<td>Review of SEP commences</td>
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<td>Warwick Inspector reviews progress</td>
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<td>Feb 2016</td>
<td>Warwick Reg 19 consultation</td>
<td>Consideration of Birmingham shortfall once known</td>
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<td>MoU on Employment</td>
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<td>Mar 2016</td>
<td>Coventry plan submitted</td>
<td>Scoping of outstanding evidence including baseline SA and strategic infrastructure study</td>
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<td>Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth consultation</td>
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<td>Birmingham Development Plan adopted (estimate)</td>
<td>Review of Warwick MOU in light of Birmingham shortfall</td>
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<td>Stratford plan adopted</td>
<td>Outcome of CA process known</td>
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<td>Warwick submission</td>
<td>SHMA update post ONS figures</td>
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<td>Rugby Reg 19 consultation</td>
<td>ELR update to reflect SHMA</td>
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<td>Publication of an Integrated Assessment Review as part of SA process</td>
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<td>Put in place governance arrangements</td>
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<td>Coventry EIP</td>
<td>Review of transport infrastructure post-CA reorganisation</td>
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<td>Sep 2016</td>
<td>Warwick EIP</td>
<td>Agree Issues and Options for Consultation</td>
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<td>Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth EIP</td>
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<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Rugby EIP</td>
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<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>Warwick adoption</td>
<td>Prepare preferred option SSS</td>
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<td>NW Local Plan Review EIP</td>
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<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>Rugby plan adopted</td>
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<td>Review of Hinckley &amp; Bosworth plan commences</td>
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<td>Spring 2018</td>
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<td>Adoption of Single Spatial Strategy</td>
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