

## **County Councillor Report**

### **Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 10th March 2026**

#### **Warwickshire County Council budget 2026/27**

Warwickshire County Council met on Tuesday 17 February to conclude their budget negotiations. Warwickshire County Council has approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7436/warwickshire-county-council-approves-2026-27-budget-to-protect-vital-services-and-support-residents>

#### **Increased SEND provision for Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

At its meeting on Thursday 5 March, Cabinet agreed to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation to establish new resourced provisions at three county primary schools and to increase places at an existing provision in Rugby. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7469/investment-approved-to-expand-specialist-provision-in-warwickshire-schools>

#### **SEND Reform consultation**

Government is consulting on proposed changes to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, including: early, local and fair support, effectively grounded in evidence, and with shared accountabilities across local partners.

Why your views matter

We are consulting on proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

The consultation document explains the changes we plan to make and asks for comments from everyone with an interest.

The changes aim to improve help and support for children and young people with SEND across the 0 to 25 years system.

We would like to hear from everyone who has an interest in the reforms including:

- children, young people and families
- teachers and leaders
- schools, trusts and early years and post-16 providers
- local authorities
- experts and academic organisations
- representative groups

You can also respond to this consultation via email at [SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk), or by post to:

SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. Have your say: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>

### **Adult Social Care Service Rated ‘Good’ by CQC**

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission’s assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7440/warwickshire-s-adult-social-care-service-rated-good-by-the-care-quality-commission>

### **Utility bill support available in Warwickshire**

A scheme providing financial assistance to help those who may be struggling with their utility bills this winter is now available until 16th February.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions’ Household Support Fund providing a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy and water bills. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7370/utility-bill-support-available-through-warwickshire-local-welfare-scheme>

### **Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation**

Have you given your views on what Local Government Reorganisation should look like in Warwickshire? This statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State’s invitation to councils

in Warwickshire to submit proposals for unitary local government for their area. You can find full details of the consultation, including a privacy statement, at: [Local government reorganisation in Warwickshire - GOV.UK](#).

The 2 proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025:

**1. Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council proposed one unitary council for the whole of the area of Warwickshire comprising the current areas of:**

- North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick. You can find the proposal at: [Warwickshire single unitary proposal](#)

**2. North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council proposed 2 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of: North unitary authority: North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby. South unitary authority: Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. You can find the proposal at: [Warwickshire 2 unitary proposal](#)**

This consultation asks questions about each proposal to help inform the assessment of the proposals. Complete the consultation survey here: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

### **Measles**

Measles cases are rising in the West Midlands, and children under 10 years of age are most at risk. Over 99% of those who have two doses of the MMRV vaccine offer long-term protection against measles and rubella. Although mumps protection is slightly lower, cases in vaccinated people are much less severe. For more information, please visit

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination)

### **Child Exploitation Awareness Day 2026 – 18 March 2026**

Warwickshire agencies are once again joining the national effort to tackle child exploitation as part of Child Exploitation Awareness Day on Wednesday 18 March. Every year, hundreds of children and young people experience exploitation. Behaviours such as missing school, secrecy online, or spending time with older individuals can all be signs that something isn't right – and everyone has a part to play in spotting and reporting concerns. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7474/warwickshire-partners-campaign-to-help-public-spot-signs-of-child-exploitation>

## **WCC Cabinet: March 2026**

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet met on Thursday 5 March 2026 at Shire Hall to consider a range of items focused on supporting residents, strengthening local services, and planning for the county's future. Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7472/recalibrating-warwickshire-is-the-focus-of-latest-warwickshire-county-council-cabinet-meeting>

## **Warwick Castle Unboxed**

Discover untold stories from the Warwick Castle archive at this new exhibition at Market Hall Museum, Warwick. Warwick Castle Unboxed combines objects and documents to tell some fascinating stories. The exhibition opens on Friday 20 March: The culmination of a four-year project, this exhibition begins with Fulke Greville asking King James I for Warwick Castle, over 300 years ago. The exhibition features stories about the Greville family, courting scandal in Regency society and managing ambulance trains in WW1  
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7459/warwick-castle-unboxed-new-stories-from-an-old-castle>

Chris Mills

County Councillor

Lighthorne