Participation & Inclusion

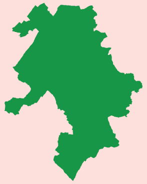
The Big Society agenda includes an expectation that our communities will step forward and play a greater role in shaping and supporting their neighbourhoods. This section examines some of the indicators relating to this theme and considers how equipped Warwickshire is to fulfil this initiative.

ARE OUR LOCALITIES READY FOR BIG SOCIETY?

Source: Place Survey 2008 and Partnership Place Survey 2009 combined

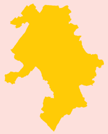
Overall 'Big Society Score'
(average of three individual measures)

highest ⟵ ⟶ lowest


Warwick Rural East
43.9


Abbey & Wembrook
24.3

% who feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood


Warwick Rural East
77.3%


South Leamington
41.6%

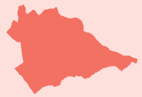
% who have given unpaid help at least once per month over the last 12 months

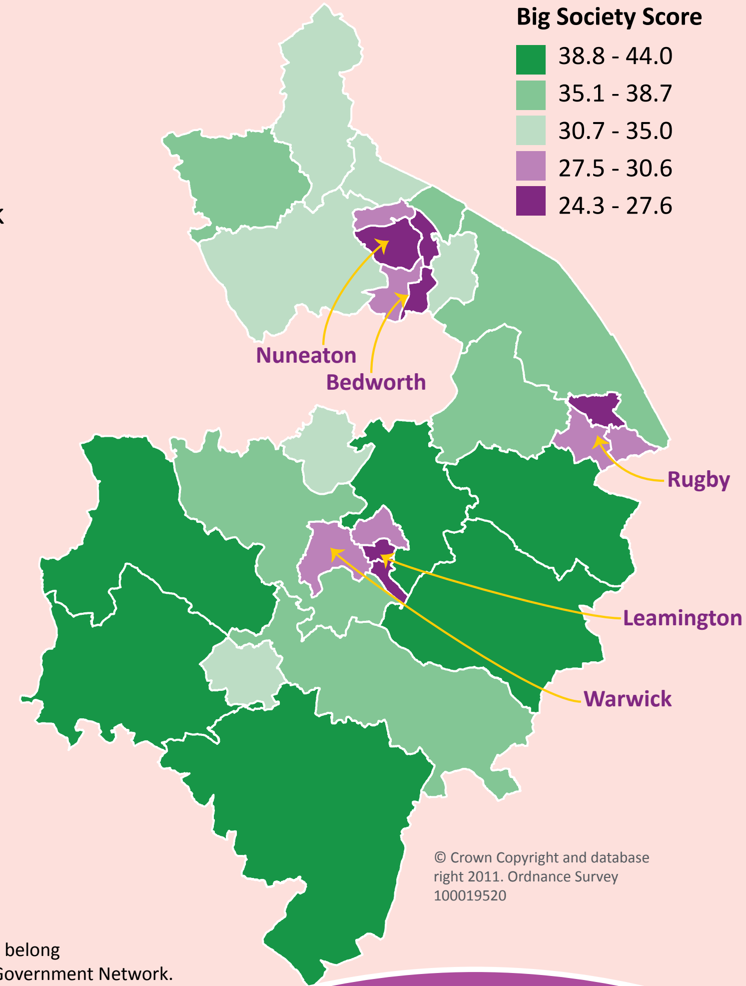

Shipston
35.5%


Bede & Poplar
16.5%

% who have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past 12 months


Dunchurch Division
22.9%


Eastlands & Hillmorton
7.6%



The Big Society Score is produced by taking average of three measures (% who have given unpaid help at least once per month over the last 12 months, % who feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood and % who have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past 12 months.) Methodology developed by New Local Government Network.

Voluntary Organisations

Description

Voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises are organisations which exist for community benefit and are independent of government. Many are registered charities.

In line with the Government's Big Society agenda and its proposals for 'Localism' and 'Open Public Services', local public sector partners are looking to encourage an increase in volunteering and community activism. This will include a greater involvement of voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises in identifying and meeting local needs, and taking over services or facilities previously run by public agencies.

Between September and December 2010, a National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises (NSCSE) was undertaken by Ipsos Mori on behalf of the Office for Civil Society. The same study was also conducted in 2008, and the results between these two projects can be compared. The 2010 survey was conducted at upper tier local authority level in England and was designed to gather information about the health of the sector and its relations with public agencies. Of the 1,754 registered charities and social enterprises in Warwickshire, 487 responded to the consultation, almost half of those invited to take part.

Performance

More than one-half of groups, 57%, reported that they had no full-time equivalent employees, and a further 22% stated that they had between one and five full-time equivalent employees. Two-thirds (66%) of organisations currently have between one and 20 volunteers and a small percentage (6%) report having in excess of 100 volunteers.

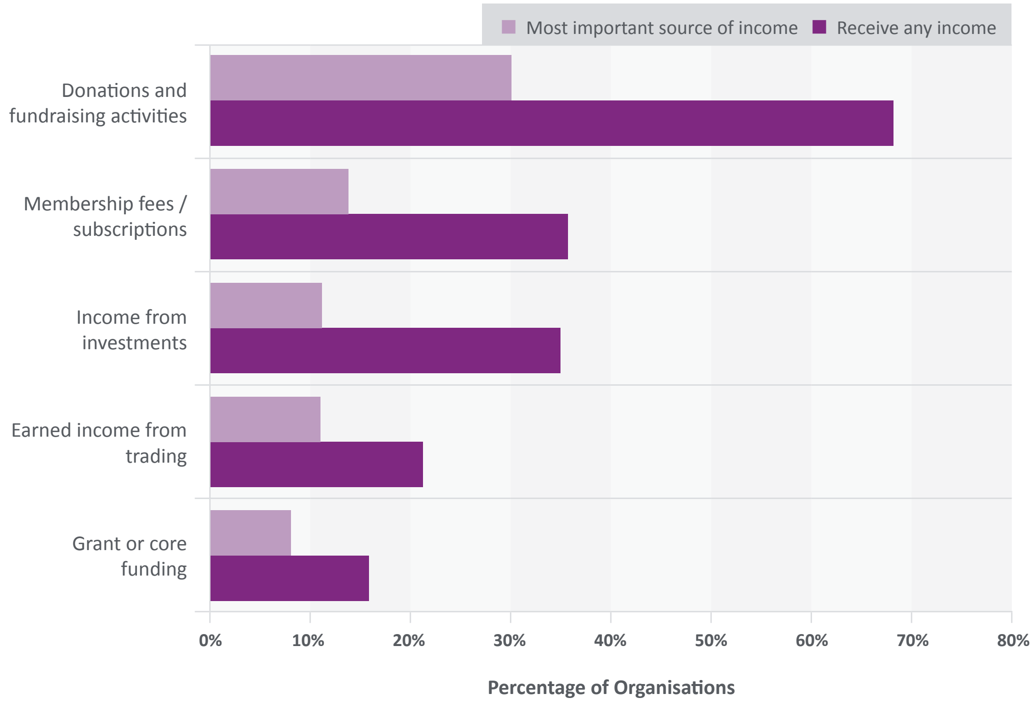
The survey also asked where the organisations carried out its activities. The highest percentage of respondents said that their main geographic area was their neighbourhood, with responses of 40% and 37% for 2008 and 2010 respectively.

The level of turnover produced by organisations varied vastly from the 24% of organisations citing less than £2,000, to the 19% who report turnover in excess of £100,000. Nearly one-third of organisations consider donations and fund-raising activities as their most important source of income, whilst a further one in six rely most heavily on membership fees and subscriptions.

Most organisations (91%) felt that they had successfully met their objectives over the last year, whilst 89% feel that they will do the same over the next 12 months.

Voluntary Organisations

Figure 9.1: **Percentage of organisations receiving income from various sources**



Source: Ipsos Mori, 2010

The results from the survey suggest that the sector has an increased role in delivering public services – a quarter (25%) of organisations reported this to be their main role in 2010, compared with just 13% in 2008. Results also reveal that 24% have direct dealings with local statutory bodies, and 12% see statutory bodies as their most important source of income.

Relationships between the sector and local statutory bodies have improved since 2008; two in five organisations agree that local statutory bodies respect their independence (41%) and a similar proportion agree that local statutory bodies understand the nature of their organisation (35%). However, around one in five organisations (22%) are dissatisfied with their ability to influence local decisions relevant to them.

Nearly one-quarter of organisations (23%) currently receive support from other charities, social enterprises and / or voluntary organisations in their local area. When asked how satisfied they were with the support available from these organisations, 20% of all respondents stated they were satisfied; an increase from 14% of respondents in 2008. Both of these sets of results include a large percentage of organisations (between 55% and 60%) who have not used this support, and answered 'not applicable' to the satisfaction question.

The findings highlight the importance of donations and fund-raising activities to the sector, with nearly a third of organisations (30%) citing this as their most important income source. As in 2008, 36% of organisations reported receiving some form of statutory funding and 17% cite this as their most important income source.

Encouragingly, most organisations (91%) felt that they had successfully met their objectives over the last 12 months, a similar result to the findings at a national level. The confidence that organisations have in their ability to meet their main objectives was reflected by the response given when asked whether they would be able to meet them in the coming 12 months. In both 2008 and 2010, 89% of respondents stated that they were confident, Figure 9.5 provides more details about the level of resources and ability organisations have in meeting their main objectives.

Figure 9.2: **Ability of responding organisations to meet main objectives**

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Don't know	Not applicable	No answer
Income from all sources	56%	33%	1%	6%	5%
Management & leadership staff	55%	15%	1%	18%	12%
Volunteers	46%	30%	1%	15%	8%
Financial reserves	58%	25%	1%	6%	9%
Advice & support	54%	9%	5%	18%	13%

Source: *Ipsos Mori, 2010*

Outlook

At the time of writing this report the full dataset is not available so only limited analysis is possible, but broadly it would appear that Warwickshire's charities and social enterprises have a similar profile to the national one, and that there has been little significant change between 2008 and 2010.

From the data extracted from the NSCSE it appears that, in general, charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the county were confident about their position. However the full impacts of many of the savings being made in the public sector were not known at the time. In addition the County Council's work on investigating social enterprises was in its infancy. While the County Council has aimed to maintain budgets to support grass-roots community initiatives, the prioritisation of services for those with the greatest needs is having a significant impact on groups providing low-level community services such as community transport and lunch clubs.

Despite this, there are opportunities ahead:

- Changes to the public service delivery and the focus on customer choice will open up new markets for charities, community groups and social enterprises.
- The increasing focus of Warwickshire's public agencies at a 'locality level' will continue to provide opportunities for local community groups to shape and deliver local provision.

Further Information

Big Society
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/big-society

Localism
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishguide

Open Public Services White Paper
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/open-public-services-white-paper

National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises
The full set of the Ipsos Mori survey results can be found at:
http://www.nscsesurvey.com/results2010/download/

Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action
WCAVA is Warwickshire's local support service for voluntary and community orgaisations:
www.wcava.org.uk

Voter Turnout

Description

Turnout rates at local elections help provide some indication of social participation and community involvement. It acts as a barometer of the strength of feeling towards issues affecting local communities. It also provides an idea of the level of influence residents feel they have over local issues, with low turnout rates perhaps reflecting either apathy or some level of contentment.

This indicator uses information collected by the Electoral Commission on General Election turnout rates, and data collected by Warwickshire County Council's Democratic Services Team.

Performance

Over the last 50 years, turnout rates at General Elections have generally been on the decline. In 1950, 84% of the electorate in the United Kingdom used their vote, but 50 years later, the turnout rate at the 2001 General Election was just 59%. At the most recent General Election in 2010, the UK had a turnout rate of 65%, although the constituencies in Warwickshire consistently show levels above the national average. The table shows that in the last four General Elections, the turnout rates in each of the Warwickshire constituencies are higher than the UK average. It is important to note that between 2005 and 2010, the Boundary Commission for England recommended that the county be divided into six constituencies, and therefore rates are not directly comparable at constituency level

The last County Council elections were in June 2009, when voting took place across all 56 electoral divisions in the county. Generally the turnout rates for local elections are expected to be lower than those witnessed for the General Elections; the turnout rate across Warwickshire in the 2009 local elections was 40%. Only one electoral division had more than one-half of the electorate vote, Dunchurch (52%), whilst two electoral divisions had a turnout rate of less than 30% (Brownsover 28% and Leamington Brunswick 29%).

Figure 9.3: **Turnout rates at General Elections since 1997**

	1997	2001	2005	2010
Nuneaton	74.3%	60.1%	61.7%	65.8%
Rugby	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	68.9%
Stratford-on-Avon	76.3%	64.4%	68.8%	72.7%
Warwick & Leamington	75.7%	65.8%	67.5%	72.3%
Warwickshire North	74.7%	60.2%	62.2%	67.4%
Kenilworth & Southam	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	75.3%
Rugby & Kenilworth	77.1%	67.4%	68.4%	N/A*
United Kingdom	71.4%	59.4%	61.4%	65.1%

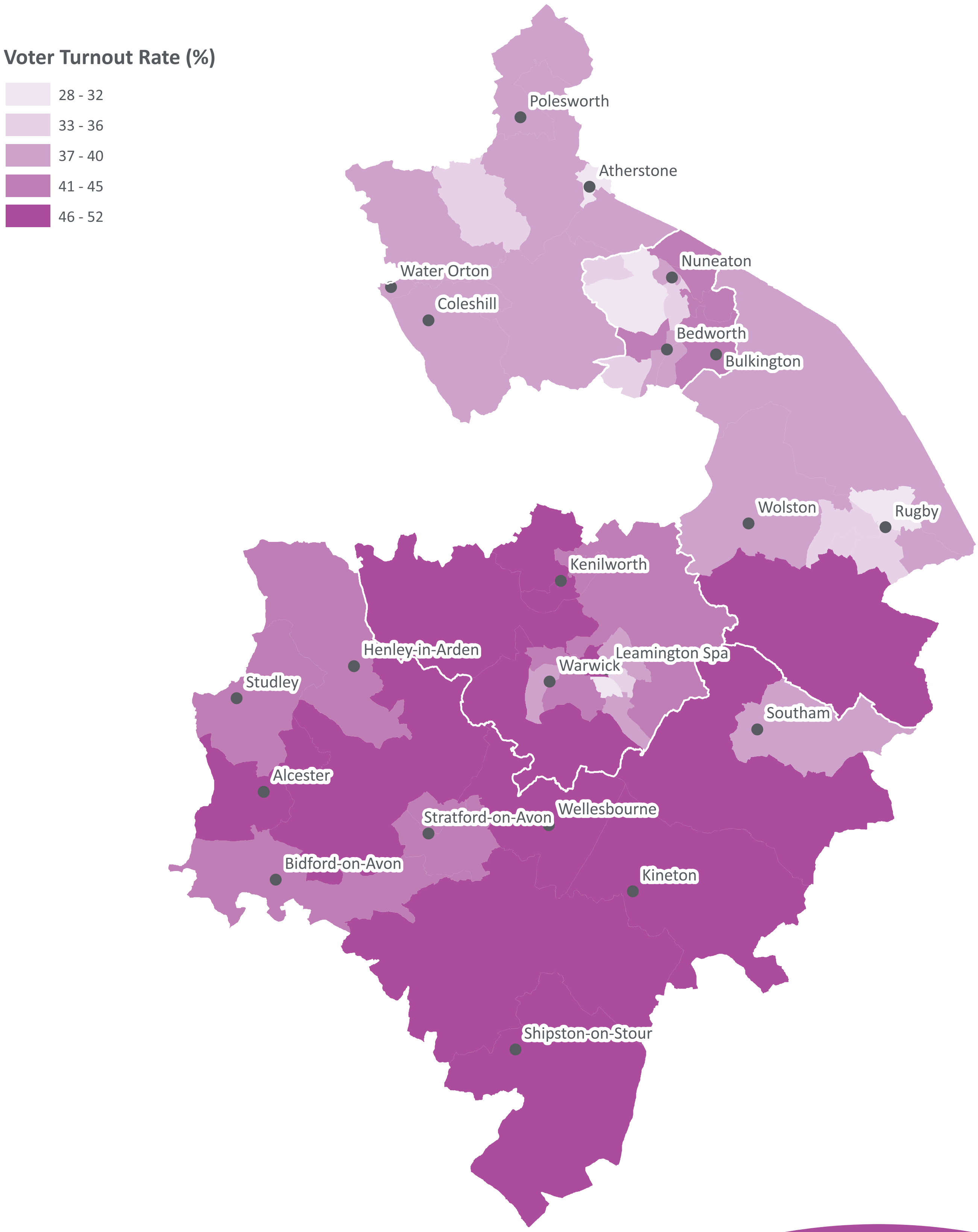
Source: The Electoral Commission, 2010

**Note:* Between 2005 and 2010, the Boundary Commission for England recommended that the county be divided into six constituencies.*

The turnout rate in the 2009 local elections in Warwickshire was 40%; only one Electoral Division had more than one-half of the electorate vote.

Voter Turnout

Figure 9.4: **Voter turnout at the 2009 local elections in Warwickshire, by electoral division**



Voter Turnout

Figure 9.4 shows the turnout rates at the 2009 local elections; the map shows that higher turnout rates were witnessed in many of the rural areas in south Warwickshire. Most of the main towns in Warwickshire had lower turnout rates, particularly Leamington Spa, Rugby, Atherstone and the western areas of Nuneaton.

Outlook

Recent research published in the Hansard Society's Audit of Political Engagement 2011 suggested that 'while interest in politics and Parliament has increased, this has not been matched by an increase in participation in politics'. Although turnout rates in Warwickshire are consistently higher than those witnessed nationally, three in five of the electorate chose not to vote in the most recent local elections. This could reflect either high satisfaction levels with the current situation, a belief that there is relatively little difference between the voting options or a general level of disinterest in politics.

Further Information

For further information about local elections and turnout rates, please visit the County Council's website http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/elections, or alternatively contact the Warwickshire Observatory on 01926 418049 or e-mail research@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Access to Key Services

Description

This indicator uses three main sources for information to summarise access to key services. Firstly, a Rural Services Series dataset, produced by the Commission for Rural Communities, gives information about availability of services in rural areas by distance. This is based on a calculation along the road network from the centre of a postcode to the nearest outlet of a particular service. Rural households are those defined by the 2004 Rural and Urban definition as 'Hamlet and isolated dwellings', 'Village' and 'Town and fringe'.

Secondly, the Indicies of Deprivation 2010 were recently released; this is a nationally recognised measure of deprivation at the lower layer Super Output Area level (SOA). SOAs have an approximate population of 1,500 residents and allow the identification of small pockets of deprivation. There are 333 SOAs in Warwickshire. The Indicies 2010 have seven domains representing different aspects of deprivation which are weighted and combined to create an overall IMD. One of the domains is barriers to housing and services; this includes measures such as household overcrowding, difficulty of access to owner-occupation and, of more relevance to this indicator, road distance to a GP surgery, road distance to a supermarket or convenience store, road distance to a primary school and road distance to a Post Office.

Finally, the current Government has acknowledged that an improvement in broadband speeds in rural areas is vital to ensure that households are able to access services on-line, can interact more easily via technology to access work opportunities, entertainment and healthcare, and it will mean that public services are fully accessible. In addition if businesses are unable to connect to a fast and reliable network they may consider re-locating to or setting up in urban areas. This could have a negative effect on economic development in rural areas.

Performance – Access to Services (road distances)

Data produced by the Commission for Rural Communities is summarised in Figure 9.5. The results have been broken down by rural and urban areas, based on census output areas. Warwickshire is made up of 1,739 census output areas; of these 1,144 are defined as urban (66%), 258 village (15%), 259 town and fringe (15%) and 78 hamlet/isolated dwellings (4%). For the purposes of this analysis, the three most rural of these classifications have been grouped together.

The results show that, unexpectedly, a high proportion of households in urban areas have access to all of the service outlets. However, some rural areas have relatively poor access to services, for example only 7% of households in rural communities in North Warwickshire Borough are within 4 km of a bank or building society. Proximity to secondary schools is also poor in many of the rural areas, with less than one-half of households in Rugby Borough, Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District being within 4 km of secondary education.

There are 29 SOAs in Warwickshire that fall within the 10% most deprived areas nationally for barriers to housing and services; 17 of these SOAs are in Stratford-on-Avon District.

Figure 9.5: **Percentage of households within set distances of key services via the road network, 2011**

Facilities	North Warwickshire Borough		Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough		Rugby Borough		Stratford-on-Avon District		Warwick District	
	Rural %	Urban %	Rural %	Urban %	Rural %	Urban %	Rural %	Urban %	Rural %	Urban %
Banks and Building Societies (4 kms)	7	89	100	96	41	94	57	99	26	99
Cash Points (4km)	98	100	100	100	84	100	77	100	95	100
All GP Surgeries (4km)	89	100	100	100	83	100	73	99	83	100
Pharmacy (4km)	78	100	100	100	63	100	60	99	39	100
Dentists (4km)	60	100	100	100	36	98	58	100	39	100
Job Centres (8km)	62	100	100	100	63	100	16	100	55	100
Petrol Stations (4km)	83	100	100	100	72	100	72	100	59	100
Post Offices (2km)	76	87	95	98	72	100	76	94	42	97
Convenience Stores (4km)	84	100	100	100	78	100	71	100	69	100
Supermarkets (4km)	83	100	100	100	72	100	63	99	39	99
Primary Schools (2km)	84	100	100	99	72	100	80	100	61	100
Secondary Schools (4km)	58	100	100	100	45	98	46	99	32	100
Public Houses (2km)	93	100	100	100	88	100	85	99	66	100

Source: Commission for Rural Communities, 2011

Performance – Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010

The IMD 2010 domain on barriers to housing and services shows that within Warwickshire there are 29 SOAs that fall within the top 10% most deprived areas nationally; a further 23 are within the top 20% most deprived and a further 11 are within the top 30%.

Of the 29 most deprived SOAs in Warwickshire for this domain, 17 are within Stratford-on-Avon District, whilst none are within Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough. The three most deprived SOAs are within the most deprived 1% of SOA's nationally.

Figure 9.6: **Super Output Areas that fall within the top 10% most deprived for barriers to housing and services**

Rank in Warks	SOA Name	Borough/District	Rank (in the top 10% most deprived)
1	Stoneleigh	Warwick	163
2	Ladbroke & Priors	Stratford-on-Avon	195
3	Long Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	276
4	Leam Valley	Rugby	492
5	Wroxhall, Haseley & Honiley	Warwick	671
6	Bubbenhall, Wappenbury, Weston & Eathorpe	Warwick	735
7	Welford	Stratford-on-Avon	836
8	Burton Dassett	Stratford-on-Avon	900
9	Lapworth South, Bushwood, Lowsonford & Rowington	Warwick	935
10	Fosse East	Rugby	1,218
11	Easenhall, Newton & Biggin and Harborough Magna	Rugby	1,427
12	Brailes	Stratford-on-Avon	1,434
13	Bardon	Stratford-on-Avon	1,874
14	Tanworth	Stratford-on-Avon	1,894
15	Claverdon	Stratford-on-Avon	2,033

Rank in Warks	SOA Name	Borough/District	Rank (in the top 10% most deprived)
16	Ettington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,051
17	Corley	North Warks	2,206
18	Aston Cantlow	Stratford-on-Avon	2,220
19	Fillongley and The Packingtons	North Warks	2,289
20	Marston and Water Park	North Warks	2,377
21	Newbold-on-Stour, Ilmington East & Whitchurch	Stratford-on-Avon	2,534
22	Moreton Morrell, Ashorne & Newbold Pacey	Stratford-on-Avon	2,540
23	Vale of the Red Horse	Stratford-on-Avon	2,864
24	Wellesbourne South	Stratford-on-Avon	2,985
25	Sambourne	Stratford-on-Avon	3,036
26	Leek Wootton, Guys Cliffe & Beausale	Warwick	3,158
27	Princethorpe, Marton, Frankton, Bourton & Draycote	Rugby	3,198
28	Hampton Lucy & Fulbrook	Stratford-on-Avon	3,213
29	Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	3,248

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2010

Note: A ranking of 1 represents the most deprived area and a ranking of 32,482 represents the least deprived area nationally

Access to Key Services

Performance – Access to Superfast Broadband

£830 million of public funding has been made available between 2011 and 2017 so that rural areas can obtain superfast broadband, i.e. speeds of more than 24Mbps, and benefit from the access this provides to a range of services and opportunities. Warwickshire County Council, in partnership with Coventry City Council, Solihull Borough Council and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are working together to bid for some of this funding to enable high-speed broadband to be made available to every part of the sub-region.

As part of their work they are gathering evidence of current broadband provision by undertaking a survey of households and businesses. The full results will be available later this year but early results show that 58% of both businesses and households describe their internet access as poor, whilst 86% and 83% respectively would like to upgrade to faster broadband within one year.

Data for Warwickshire, released by Ofcom in July 2011, shows that nearly one in five users (18%) are getting less than 2 Mbps. Two-thirds (66%) of households currently have access to superfast broadband, this is the proportion that are within the coverage area of superfast broadband networks. The average line rate (sync speed) in the county, i.e. the rate at which a broadband modem or router communicates with the BT Exchange, is 6.8 Mbps slightly lower than the average for the UK, which is 7.1 Mbps.

Outlook

The overall picture of access to services provided by the public sector is gradually emerging as changes to provision are being necessitated by cuts to public sector budgets. Also emerging is the impact that the Big Society will have as communities increasingly take on responsibility for services that were previously delivered by the public sector. The New Local Government Network released a report in June 2011 that showed which areas of the country are most ready to benefit and those most at risk from the Government's Big Society agenda. The data, based on the results of the Partnership Place Survey 2009/10, show that Warwickshire is close to the national average in terms of its ability to respond to the agenda.

If the work currently being undertaken in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire is successful, broadband speeds could improve in the county in the coming years. It could also see public sector organisations working together by sharing their networks for the benefit of households and businesses in the county.

Further Information

Further information on access to services can be obtained from the Commission for Rural Communities:
www.defra.gov.uk/crc/documents/rural-services-data-series.
The website also lists the findings of previous surveys.

The Governments strategy for delivering broadband can be found at:
http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/10-1320-britains-superfast-broadband-future.pdf.

A map showing broadband information by authority can be found at: http://maps.ofcom.org.uk/broadband/.

Further information on which areas of the country are most ready to benefit and most at risk from the Government's Big Society agenda can be found at:
http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2011/realising-community-wealth-local-government-and-the-big-society/.