**Stratford on Avon District Councillor’s Monthly Report**

**for September 2025**

**Mike Rice, Liberal Democrat District Councillor**

**for Henley-in-Arden**

**Contact:** [mike.rice@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.rice@stratford-dc.gov.uk); mike.rice4henley@outlook.com

**Have your say on future of Warwickshire**

Warwickshire residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, voluntary and community groups are being invited to help shape the future of local councils in the county in a public engagement exercise.

Under government proposals for local authority reorganisation, all six councils in Warwickshire will disappear by 1 April 2028.

More information can be found on the options for reorganisation and what the changes mean to you in a booklet entitled ‘Shaping the future of our Councils’. The engagement booklet can be found by using the link: [Warwickshire North South Engagement Document](https://shapingourcouncils.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/J29580_Warwickshire-North-South-Engagement-Document_Web_FINAL.pdf)**.**

**Residents are invited to share their views in a questionnaire available from 7 August to 14 September.**

Councillors will use this information to help them to make their final decision. It is being run by Opinion Research Services (ORS) online at [www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk](https://shapingourcouncils.co.uk/).

For Stratford-on-Avon District residents, hard copies will be available from Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

No decisions have been made yet. This is your opportunity to shape the future of local government in Warwickshire. Whether you support the current proposal or have other ideas, your voice matters.

To complete the questionnaire online, visit: <https://shapingourcouncils.co.uk/get-involved/>

Five of the six councils – North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick – have already indicated their preferred option for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire.

At their individual Council meetings, elected members agreed that two separate unitary authorities was their preferred option.

Warwickshire County Council, on the other hand, has said it would prefer a single unitary council. It has carried out its own public engagement exercise, but that closed on 25 August.

The two unitary option divides Warwickshire into two halves. Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council areas would combine to form South Warwickshire, while the other three council areas would make up North Warwickshire.

The Councils’ decision was based analysis conducted by Deloitte, which will support the development of a formal proposal to be submitted to the government in November 2025.

The results of the engagement will inform the Councils’ final position, ahead of the formal submission to government in November this year.

**Get yourself checked out**

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. One in eight men will get it.

Yet the NHS does not routinely screen for prostate cancer, which is often symptomless in its early stages.

A simple blood test is all that’s required and the **opportunity to take a test will be coming to Henley soon**.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has teamed up with the Warwick-based Graham Fulford Charitable Trust to offer a PSA (prostate) test to local men aged over 40 years for the subsidised price of just £14.

Diabetes and cholesterol tests will also be available for £14 each for both men and women aged over 18 years old.

The blood tests will be carried out between 10.00 and 14.00 at Henley Memorial Hall, Station Road on Saturday, 22nd November. **But you must register in advance.**

Find out more and how to register for a blood test today at <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk> or call 01926 419959. PSA testing is explained at https://tgfct.org.uk.

**Improving Home Choice Plus**

Providing a better Home Choice Plus service, reducing the time it takes for people to find the homes they need, is the aim of a ‘refresh’ of the housing waiting list held by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC).

The first step in improving the accuracy and efficiency of housing allocations involves contacting applicants who have not actively bid for properties in the past 12 months.

These people are being contacted to confirm whether they wish to remain on the register. Responses will be requested by the end of September, and the register will be updated throughout October to reflect those who are actively seeking housing.

To support this work, SDC is investing in additional resources to speed up application processing and has begun procuring new IT software to improve usability for customers, housing officers and partners.

A review of key policies will also be undertaken to ensure they align with these improvements.

This targeted approach will help SDC better understand current housing needs, improve planning and resource allocation, and ultimately provide a better service for those seeking new homes.

**Stratford-on-Avon District is growing fast**

Stratford-on-Avon District is growing faster than all but two other English local authorities. Only Tower Hamlets and South Derbyshire are growing faster.

Population growth is estimated to be 17.4% between 2022 and 2032.

This means that an estimated population of 138,573 people in 2022 will become 162,678 in 2032.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), most of this population increase is expected to be from internal migration within the UK: in other words, people moving from another part of the UK to this District.

The projection estimates that while 77,251 people will leave the District, while 104,438 people will move into the District. A higher death-rate than birth-rate means that there will be an estimated net reduction of 4,482 people. International migration is projected to increase the District by 1,836 people.

The proportion of people over 65 years is estimated to rise from 24% to 27% by 2032. All age groups younger than 30 are estimated to see a decline in population, but the population aged 30-50 years is estimated to rise.

More information on how the latest ONS population data affects Stratford-on-Avon District may be accessed by contacting your District Councillor.