INWARD INVESTMENT TASK GROUP – 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

A meeting of the Inward Investment Task Group will be held at 5.30 pm on Monday 24 September 2012 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor Ms Robbins
Chairman

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2012.
2. Apologies - to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest.
   To receive declarations of –
   (a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;
   (b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and
   (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.
4. Medium to long-term plans for economic growth and inward investment at county level – Dave Hill, Strategic Economic Development Team Manager, Warwickshire County Council and member of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership inward investment group.

5. Update on proposals for pooling business rates – Head of Resources (briefing paper attached).

6. Consultation arrangements (briefing paper attached).

7. Programme of work (revised one page strategy attached).

8. Dates of Future Meetings – please bring your diaries to the meeting.

Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed here via the website.

Membership of the Task Group: -

Councillors Ms Robbins (Chairman), Ms Edwards, G Francis, Hazelton, Mrs O’Rourke and Roberts

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (01788 533523 or e-mail linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.
1. Introduction

The Government invited local authorities to come forward with their pooling proposals for local business rate retention by 27th July 2012. At its meeting on 25th June 2012 Cabinet formally gave approval for the Council to express its interest in joining any Warwickshire-wide business rate pool. The key issues identified at that time were:

- Pooling will be entirely voluntary and not imposed by the Government;
- Local authorities will themselves determine the pool’s geographic coverage, including wider than within a county region, although the Government will have the ability to refuse pooling proposals where they perceive that there is no clear rationale for the proposed pool. The Government will also have the right to consider whether the operation of pools could impact the level of funding available for the safety net and (in exceptional circumstances) consider such affordability, when making decisions on pools;
- One pool member will need to act as the lead authority, purely in terms of payment / administrative arrangements;
- Pools can be any size, although authorities can only be a member of one pool. Those authorities that are affected by pool proposals e.g. neighbouring authorities in a county region who are not included within the pool and who may be disadvantaged will be consulted by the DCLG;
- Pools will need to determine their own governance arrangements and transparently publish their pooling arrangements and financial information on how the pool will operate; and
- There will be no specific additional financial incentive for pooling, although the Government retains the option to consider this in future.
- The designation of the pool area must be made by the DCLG in advance of authorities being notified of the basis of the calculation of top ups/tariffs i.e. before the Local Government Finance Report is published (usually late November/early December). The Government intends to allow authorities the chance to withdraw from pooling arrangements once the draft Local Government Finance Report is published (if the request is made within 28 days of the draft report being published).
The DCLG will also be able to attach specific conditions to a pool e.g. in relation to publication of financial information and to dissolve a pool if conditions of pool designation are breached.

The initial expression of interest for a Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool submitted to the DCLG on 27th July 2012 is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Current Position

The Government began to firm up its requirements for designation of local business rate pools by writing to all those authority leads who had submitted an initial expression of interest in forming a pool. The letter from the DCLG dated 13th August 2012 is shown at Appendix 2. It set a number of deadlines into the process which led to the attached response from Warwickshire County Council (although the actual lead authority for the business rate pool has not yet been determined) on behalf of the pool dated 10th September 2012. This is shown at Appendix 3. The final deadline for submission of detailed pool proposals to the DCLG is 19th October 2012.

The Finance and Revenues Officers from the councils within the proposed Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool have been meeting and continue to meet on a regular basis to work through proposed governance arrangements for the pool. A report will be sent to Cabinet on 15th October 2012 outlining the current Government proposals and seeking approval for Rugby Borough Council to participate in the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rate Pool for 2013/14 based on a draft memorandum of understanding which is currently being finalised for the report.

Since the initial expression of interest for a business rate pool was submitted to DCLG on 27th July 2012, there has been a notable change in the Government’s proposals for a pool designation. On 23rd August 2012, DCLG clarified the rules in relation to the options available to councils. Whilst DCLG would still allow an authority to withdraw from a pool after 19th October 2012 until the date of the final local government finance settlement, if they did so this would trigger the collapse of the entire pool, i.e. no Coventry and Warwickshire pool of any description could be established for 2013/14.

It is therefore imperative that a firm decision is made by each authority within the proposed pool as to whether they are fully committed to participating in 2013/14. No further review of the decision to be in the pool could take place for a further 12 months and reviews would be annual thereafter.

Adam Norburn, Head of Resources
Appendix 1

Rates Retention Scheme: Pooling Expression of Interest

1. Pool Title or Description

Coventry and Warwickshire

2. Lead contact for the pool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Virginia Rennie</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Warwickshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Group Accountant (Budget and Technical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Finance Service, Resources Group, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>01926 412239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vrennie@warwickshire.gov.uk">vrennie@warwickshire.gov.uk</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note, Warwickshire County Council is only the lead authority for the purpose of making this submission. Once details of the final pool membership and governance arrangements have been agreed the lead contact/authority may change.

3. Local Authorities included in the pool

- Coventry City Council
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council

4. Counties and/or Local Enterprise Partnership(s) pool covers

The authorities included in the expression of interest pool represent the whole of the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP area.

Discussions about local pooling arrangements are still at an early stage and therefore under the single expression of interest we would like it registered that our final proposals may not be for a single pool of all seven authorities. The full range of options being considered are:

- A single pool of all seven authorities
- Two pools – Coventry City Council plus one or more of the District/Borough Councils and Warwickshire County Council plus one or more of the District/Borough Councils
- A single pool of Coventry City Council and/or Warwickshire County Council plus one or more of the District/Borough Councils

Until there is more clarity over the details of the business rate retention scheme and the likely financial impact and the outcomes of our discussions about governance arrangements have progressed further we will not be in a position to make a final decision on the membership of the pool.
5. **What is the aim/rationale for the pool? Please briefly describe**

The aim of the pool/s is to further encourage cross-boundary economic regeneration activity across the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP region, aligning this with the potential financial benefits of business rate growth and to protect against significant volatility in the level of resource of individual pool members.

6. **Does the pool support the area's growth priorities (including Local Enterprise Partnership strategy and priorities)? If so, briefly describe how**

The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP has a 5 year strategy identifying 3 key ambitions for the local area. These are:
- Create an environment where it is easy for businesses to start, locate and thrive
- Accelerate the growth of our economy through targeted support in our key strategic sectors
- Tackle the skills problems by aligning supply and demand

As outlined above, once consideration has been given as to whether to protect authorities from the additional volatility inherent in the rate retention system, funding will be used to support these ambitions. Details of how these key ambitions will be supported will be considered through the agreed governance arrangements once the level of any available resource is known.

7. **Please provide an indicative timetable for developing the detailed proposal and securing Chief Executive and S151 officers sign off.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 July</td>
<td>Expression of Interest submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Development of:</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Draft governance arrangements covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Structure for managing the pool, including decision-making processes</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>o Identification of the lead authority and clarification of roles and responsibilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Transparency of decision-making and reporting arrangements</td>
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<td>o Dissolution and exit arrangements</td>
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<td>o Financial management of the pool</td>
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<td>- Draft protocol on the distribution of resources within the pool</td>
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<td>- Draft protocol on the management of volatility of business rates across all members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Prospective pool members take the draft pooling agreement through their own governance arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before 19</td>
<td>Formal sign-off of arrangements by Chief Executives and Section 151 officers</td>
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Dear Lead Authority,

Pooling: Expression of Interest

Thank you for submitting an Expression of Interest for pooling business rates. I have had conversations with a number of you already and I will be contacting all of you shortly to discuss progress towards the October deadline. In advance of those discussions I wanted to set out our expectations in terms of handling the key activities over this period of development.

As the Pooling Prospectus makes clear, the Government’s view is that rather than trying to impose a uniform model from the centre, it is for the members of the pool to determine how best a pool might work. This will allow pools to develop which reflect both the unique characteristics of the area and will best serve the local authorities’ aspirations. Having lodged an Expression of Interest, the task is now for you to develop the detailed proposal which can be signed off by relevant Chief Executives and section 151 Officers and submitted to us by 19 October.

There is a lot of detail to be worked through in order for this deadline to be achieved. Our presumption is therefore that there is a serious intent behind the Expressions of Interest and that work is already underway on establishing the operational details which will underpin the final proposal. For this to be the case, we would expect local authorities to have undertaken some modelling of the potential financial impacts of pooling and that discussions have started on the governance arrangements, including dissolution of the pool, and the allocation of resources between pool members. Again, we are not seeking to be prescriptive here; the onus is on the members of the pool to create a model which is appropriate for them. However, it is critical that pool members satisfy themselves that they are content with the governance structure, how benefits and risk will be shared, the decision making arrangements and the dissolution process.

As you will be aware, before a designation of a pool of authorities can be made, the Department must consult such other parties as are likely to be affected by a designation
(for example, neighbouring authorities) on your pooling proposals in September, to provide them with an opportunity to highlight any perceived benefits or disadvantages to them, before final decisions on designation of your pool are taken. We envisage that this consultation will take the form of a letter sent to all of the relevant parties, which would set out the proposed membership of the pool and your consideration of the potential impacts it may have on other bodies, and invite them to send views on the proposal to the Department.

We will therefore need the following information from you as soon as possible and by no later than 10 September, to include in the consultation:

- a firm list of the pool members. The only restrictions we have set in terms of the membership of the pool are that the pool must cover the whole of the local authority area and that a local authority can only be a member of one pool. Some local authorities have been identified in more that one pool. Where this is the case the relevant local authorities must quickly decide which pool they wish to be part of.

- your consideration of the impacts the pool may have on other parties, including neighbouring authorities (and, where this has identified potential adverse impacts, any steps you have taken or will take to mitigate them). For the consultation to be effective this must provide sufficient detail for those consulted to reach an informed view on the proposal. This need not be full details of your governance arrangements – since issues such as the distribution of the resources within the pool will not impact on non-members – it should set out clearly all aspects of your proposal that may affect other bodies.

We shall then be seeking responses to the consultation no later than 28 September.

Whilst full details of your governance arrangements need not be included in the consultation, you will understand that before consulting, the Department will need to satisfy itself that you are on track to deliver a fully signed off proposal by all members of the pool by 19 October. To provide us with this reassurance, we would therefore also welcome sight of your emerging governance arrangements and the process for securing signatures from each of the councils as soon as possible and by no later than 10 September. I will of course be more than happy to discuss draft governance arrangements as you work them up over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Cowie
Dear Elizabeth,

Coventry and Warwickshire Pooling Expression of Interest

I am writing on behalf of the local authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire in response to your letter dated 13 August 2012.

Following the submission of the Expression of Interest, we have undertaken further financial modelling and held discussions about the governance arrangements most suitable to our local circumstances.

The outcome from these discussions is that the membership of our proposed pool will be the seven local authorities that comprise the geographic coverage of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The proposed member authorities are:

- Coventry City Council
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council

As outlined in our initial Expression of Interest the aim of the Pool is to maximise the retention of locally generated business rates to further support cross-boundary economic regeneration activity across the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP region and to protect against significant volatility in the level of resource of individual pool members.

Our emerging governance arrangements do not change this approach. Our first priority will be to ensure that authorities are more financially stable and face a lower risk to their core public service offer than would otherwise be the case. However, the governance arrangements also recognise that local economic growth is key, as the greater proportion of people in secure employment, the lower the demand for the
services we provide. We envisage that over time the Pool will play an important role in reinvesting the additional local financial benefits back into the local economic environment.

We are still in the process of negotiating our detailed governance arrangements. Draft proposals, for 2013/14, covering the principles of operation of the pool, the identification of strategic priorities and approach to investment decisions, options for the use and distribution of pool resources, governance arrangements for the management of the pool and decision-making, investment procedures for cash resources, reporting requirements and processes for either dissolution of the pool, changes to membership and for an annual review of governance arrangements are in place.

These will be subject to reflection and refinement by the Chief Executives and Section 151 officers over the next three weeks before going through the formal approval processes of the individual member authorities in early October. To this end, further meetings of all pool members have been arranged, with a final sign-off meeting on 17 October 2012.

We recognise that before designation of a pool of authorities can be made, the Department will consult other parties that may be affected by our proposal. The remainder of this letter therefore provides our consideration of the impact of the Pool on neighbouring authorities. At this stage, when both the level of additional retained resource that will be generated by the Pool and the proportion of that additional resource needed to protect against increased volatility and risk to authorities core service offer is unclear, these considerations can only be very general in nature.

We believe Coventry and Warwickshire is a natural location for business growth and the Pool will enable this to be supported more effectively. Where the level of additional resources generated allow, the allocation of any benefit will be consistent with the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP’s three key ambitions for the local area of: creating an environment where it is easy for businesses to start, locate and thrive; accelerating the growth of our economy through targeted support in our key strategic sectors and tackling the skills problems by aligning supply and demand.

The long term objective of the Pool will be to improve the job density of the Pool area from 0.81 (in 2010) to a job density of 1 or above. We will seek to do this by working with the direction of travel of the market and using any resource to provide the investment in infrastructure and skills needed locally. Through this approach we see the outcomes of the Pool’s activity being consistent with the current functional economic geography of Coventry and Warwickshire.

The core of our Pool area is already very self-contained in terms of commuting (85% of people living in this area also work in the core area), labour movement, housing (with over 90% of house moves beginning and ending in the same area) and retail and leisure activity. The northern part of North Warwickshire and the north-western part of Stratford district have stronger connections in terms of commuting flows, housing markets, and retail and leisure activities with the wider Birmingham sub-region.
Beyond this the consideration of economic similarities suggests that there is a much larger “area of economic interest” that the Pool area is rooted within. This wider area of economic interest extends northwards to Leicester, eastwards to Northampton and Milton Keynes, southwards to include the upper part of Oxfordshire, the eastern part of Worcestershire, Birmingham and the southern part of Staffordshire (Tamworth and Lichfield).

Whilst the Pool area does have commuting links outside of its geographical boundaries, these are perhaps not as strong as expected given our substantial boundaries with other regions. Data from the Annual Population Survey does, however, suggest that commuting distances are increasing, meaning that the Pool area is becoming less self-contained and a little more connected to surrounding areas. In particular the sub-region is seeing stronger links between North Warwickshire and Tamworth; between Nuneaton and Bedworth and south Leicestershire and between the east of the region and Northamptonshire. Anecdotally there is also evidence of stronger links with London and the south East, with train use of lines connecting the sub-region and the south east seeing increased patronage, particularly at peak times. We would expect these trends to continue and potentially accelerate if there is rapid economic growth.

Over the past 10 years the Pool area has seen much stronger employment and business growth than the regional average and particularly has seen an increase in private sector employment. The Pool area has a strong shared presence (and historical relationship) in automotive manufacturing, along with wider high and medium technology manufacturing; business and professional services; computing (particularly software development); transport and logistics and the creative/cultural sector.

However, within the Pool area there are some significant variations which largely relate to a north-south split. The south of the Pool area is more dominated by business and professional services; knowledge intensive services and occupations and cultural and creative industries. The north of the Pool area is more dominated by manufacturing industries; transport and logistics, retail and wholesale.

There are clear similarities in terms of high concentrations of employment in business services and private sector knowledge intensive industries between the Pool area and areas to the south and east (moving south through Northamptonshire to Milton Keynes).

In terms of the cultural sector employment there is a closer relationship between the south of the Pool area and northern Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. The transport and logistics sector, as you would expect, is based around the strategic motorway network and so there is a relationship between the north of the sub-region and surrounding areas to the north and east along the M1 (particularly), M42/A42 and A38 corridors.

In terms of manufacturing generally and high and medium–high technology manufacturing more specifically there is a much less discernible relationship between
the Pool area and surrounding areas. The significant concentrations of high and medium-high manufacturing include the core of the Pool area but extend northwards up to Leicester, eastwards to Northampton, westwards to Birmingham and the A38 corridor into Worcestershire and north westwards up the M6 corridor into Staffordshire. The main concentrations of manufacturing employment in the Pool area are largely located on the eastern and northern sides perhaps suggesting slightly stronger links to the north and east midlands area.

The Pool area is well located on the strategic transport network and is therefore well connected. In terms of links to major areas of employment and business activity (generally urban areas), the Pool Area is well linked to Leicester (M69); Northampton and Milton Keynes (M1); Banbury and Oxford and the wider southeast (M40) and Birmingham (M6, M40 and M42).

We believe that the Pool and the investment in economic growth as a result of retaining additional business rate resources locally is possible with no perverse incentives for neighbouring authorities. They are also accessible and buoyant areas with the potential to grow. The focus of investment will be on delivering high value added employment and business solutions which serve a much broader labour market and supply chains across the region and also deep into adjacent areas. The principles of collaboration and shared strategies, efforts and good practice to support mutual ambitions of economic growth apply equally to other parties and neighbouring authorities as to the individual members of the Pool.

Yours

Virginia Rennie
Group Accountant
Warwickshire County Council
Review of Inward Investment

Task Group Meeting – 24 September 2012

Briefing Paper

1. Introduction

At the first meeting of the task group on 3 September 2012 it was agreed that this subsequent meeting would include:

- feedback from the Head of Resources on the outcome of the most recent discussions on pooling; and
- an overview from Dave Hill (Strategic Economic Development Team Manager at Warwickshire County Council and member of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership inward investment focus group) of the CWLEP medium to long-term plans for economic growth and inward investment, as well as the County's approach to inward investment and ways in which this can be influenced and supported at the borough level.

It was also agreed that the task group would prepare a list of questions to be put to consultees and experts as part of the evidence gathering process.

The task group reviewed the one page strategy following the introductory presentations, and a revised version is included with the agenda papers for consideration at this meeting. The main changes included clarification of the specific focus of the review and amendments to the list of consultees.

The task group also asked for the links to key background documents to be sent electronically to members of the group, and this information has been circulated separately.

2. Consultation

2.1 Consultees

In addition to the representative from Warwickshire County Council and CWLEP who is attending this meeting, the following individuals and organisations have been identified by the task group as expert witnesses:

- Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce – Rugby Branch
- Federation of Small Businesses Rugby Branch
- Coventry and Warwickshire Institute of Directors
- Local commercial agents
- Rugby BID / Town Centre Company
2.2 Evidence gathering

A key task for this meeting is to decide how best to consult with those listed above, and to confirm the questions and key lines of enquiry to pursue with them.

The group may wish to consider using a select committee approach to gather evidence. This could take the form of witnesses being invited in turn to submit evidence and answer questions at a meeting of the task group. Alternatively a roundtable discussion could be facilitated amongst expert witnesses at a meeting of the task group. Whichever approach is chosen, it would also be beneficial to invite participants to submit written evidence, as a starting point for discussion, before the meeting.

2.3 Key lines of enquiry

The following are offered as some suggested questions to explore with expert witnesses. This is intended as a starting point for discussion by the task group.

**Encouraging inward investment and support for businesses**

- Why do you think businesses choose to locate in Rugby borough?
- What deters business from locating in Rugby borough?
- How effective is the council’s current activity to support economic development and inward investment?
- What more could the council and its partners do to encourage inward investment and support existing businesses based in the borough?
- How much of a priority should this be for the council in the context of reduced public spending?
- Should the council encourage any form of inward investment or seek to encourage a balanced profile of businesses?
- Does our local workforce match the skills needs of local businesses and potential new businesses? If not, what could be done to address this?

**Business rates**

- What is your view of the council’s current discretionary business rate relief policy?
- Do you have any comments about our business rate collection arrangements or our effectiveness in ensuring business properties are correctly valued?
2.4 Survey questions

It was suggested at the last meeting that the Federation of Small Businesses might be requested to use the SurveyMonkey online consultation tool to gather feedback from a wider ranges of local businesses. Simple questions for such a survey might include:

- Why did you choose Rugby borough as the location for your business?
- What is the best thing about Rugby borough as a location for your business?
- What would you change about Rugby as a location for your business?
- What could Rugby Borough Council do to better support small businesses in the borough and encourage new ones?
- What other support do you need as a small business in this area?

The task group may wish to consider extending this survey more widely – potentially sending it to other representative organisations in advance of the select committee meeting and promoting it through the council’s website and social media.

3. Next steps

Following the presentations to this meeting and discussion about the initial evidence gathering arrangements, the task group will need review the revised one page strategy and consider what further work is required to achieve the intended outcomes for the review. This will include consideration of documentary evidence and comparative data on inward investment in other local authority areas.

Debbie Dawson, Scrutiny Officer
17 September 2012
What is the broad topic area?
Inward Investment

What is the specific topic area?
The review will focus on the council’s policy in relation to the retention of business rates by local authorities, which is being proposed in the first phase of the Local Government Resource Review. It will consider:

- how the council might retain current business and encourage economic growth in the borough
- the council’s policy for providing relief to businesses in support of inward investment and spending income any earned from growth in local business rates;
- what other income sources there might be to support economic growth.

Inward investment is about encouraging businesses to relocate and invest in the area. Local authorities can support local economic growth through the planning system, investment in local infrastructure, ensuring access to education and training, building strong relationships with businesses and through the way they exercise their regulatory powers in relation to local businesses. These are all areas the review may wish to consider in the context of encouraging economic growth in the borough to maximise income.

What is the ambition of the review?
Rugby will have a clear policy in relation to the retention of business rates and be successful in supporting economic growth to maximise the new income opportunities. Rugby will be effectively marketed as an attractive location for businesses and the Council will work well with partners to attract more businesses to the borough.

How well do we perform at the moment?
The task group will begin by considering:
- number of companies in the borough
- an analysis of the borough’s rateable value tax base, and recent trends
- comparative performance data against other Warwickshire authorities on inward investment
- details of recent planning decisions relating to new businesses
- evidence and comparative data on inward investment in other local authority areas.

Supporting documents for the task group to consider include:

Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy (chapter 8) – specifically land allocations for commercial uses
Economic Development Action Plan
Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership 5-year Strategy
Warwickshire Investment Partnership Annual Report 2010/11
The Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets

Who shall we consult about the current service and about how we can improve it?
Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Inward Investment task group lead)
Warwickshire Investment Partnership (arm of Warwickshire County Council)
Chamber of Commerce
Federation of Small Businesses
Coventry and Warwickshire Institute of Directors
Local commercial agents
Rugby BID / Town Centre Company
Warwickshire County Council work-based learning and apprenticeship team
Warwickshire College
Economy, Development and Culture Portfolio Holder

What other help do we need?
Support from the Head of Resources, Economic Development Officer, Revenues Manager and the Forward Planning team.

The task group will need to understand the Government’s proposals for business rate retention in the Local Government Resource Review.

The review may also make use of any relevant evidence gathered as part of Warwickshire County Council’s recent scrutiny review (August 2011) on supporting the local economy, and take into account the findings of Rugby Borough Council’s review of the town centre economy (2010).

How long should it take?
The review will commence in September 2012 and conclude by the end of January 2013.

What will be the outcome?
Recommendations to Cabinet on measures to support local businesses and encourage local economic growth.