

Public Document Pack



Coventry City Council

Documents tabled at Meeting:

- Recommendations from Cabinet 12 October 2021
- 12a – Booklet 1a – Answers to Written Questions



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Agenda Annex
Agenda Item 9
Council – 18th October 2021
Recommendation from Cabinet
12th October 2021

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor AS Khan(Deputy Chair)
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor G Ridley
Councillor P Male

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillors N Akhtar
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor C Thomas

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive M Reeves

Adult Services P Fahy (Director of Adult Services), A Errington

Children J Gregg (Director of Children), N Jeffreys

Education and Skills K Nelson (Director of Education and Skills), R Sugars,
C Webb

Finance B Hastie (Director of Finance)

Legal and Governance J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), S Bennett,
L Knight

Property Services and
Development R Moon (Director of Property Services and Development),
L Hobbs

Transportation and Highways C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),
J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor L Bigham
 Councillor B Gittins
 Councillor R Lakha

RECOMMENDATIONS

32. **Coventry City Council's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan - 2021-23 (Youth Justice Plan)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services, which sought Council endorsement of the Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan for 2021-23, which was appended to the report.

The report indicated that Youth Offending Teams were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The functions assigned to the Youth Offending Service include the duty upon the local authority, under the Children Act 1989, to take all reasonable steps to encourage children not to commit offences. The Crime and Disorder Act imposed a duty on each local authority, acting in cooperation with its Statutory Partners (Police, Health and Probation), to ensure that all Youth Justice services are available in their area to such an extent as is appropriate for the area. The key tasks of the service were set out in the report.

The Crime and Disorder Act also imposed a duty to complete and submit a Youth Justice Plan each year, which provides an overview of CYOS achievements against key indicators, plans and target and identifies the key strategic priorities for the next 12-24 months. The plan also demonstrates, in line with the Youth Justice Board grant requirements, the continued delivery of statutory responsibilities as described in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CYOS has submitted its plan which demonstrates the delivery of the statutory functions and the methods for achieving this to the Youth Justice Board. The Plan outlined specific areas including:

- Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements
- Resources and Services
- Performances and Priorities
- Responding to the Pandemic and Recovery from Covid 19
- Challenges, risks and opportunities
- Improvement and Business Plan.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that the Council endorse the Youth Justice Strategy and Plan 2021/2023.

Agenda Item 10
Council – 18th October 2021
Recommendation from Cabinet
12th October 2021

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

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Councillor D Welsh

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Members: Councillor G Ridley
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C Webb,

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Development R Moon (Director of Property Services and Development),
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Transportation and Highways C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),
J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor L Bigham
Councillor B Gittins
Councillor R Lakha

RECOMMENDATIONS

29. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P Akhtar declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the matters referred to in Minute 34, headed 'Coventry Transport Strategy' and Minute 35, headed 'Coventry Very Light Rail'. He withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of these matters.

35. **Coventry Very Light Rail**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transportation and Highways, which provided a progress update on Coventry Very Light Rail, a flagship project for the Council.

The Coventry Strategic Transport Investment Strategy 'Connecting Coventry', approved by Council in January 2017, aims to maximise the economic potential of the city through investment in transport infrastructure to support growth and jobs. It set out an ambitious £620m programme over the next ten years to improve the resilience of the road network, ensuring connectivity to job opportunities, expansion of railway capacity, including Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) and linking key development opportunities and employment sites.

A progress report in March 2018 provided an update on how the strategy had progressed and sought further approvals to take forward the schemes in the Strategy to delivery.

The report now submitted provides a further update on Coventry's Transport Strategy and outlined the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement submission recently approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for submission to Government. This made provision for securing funding for the CVLR project for the 2022-27 period, subject to Government approval.

The CVLR project is supported by Transport for West Midlands and has gained national and global interest. Appendix 1 of the report outlined the VLR vision, progress to date, next steps and evidence of progress. It was proposed that delivery of a City Centre CVLR Demonstrator be brought forward to showcase the City's position as a world class centre for innovation. The CVLR team will explore the viability of delivering the infrastructure required to operate a city demonstrator between the Railway Station and Pool Meadow. The report also outlined capital investment by the Council of up to £3.2m required to deliver the first route, the funding opportunities currently identified, together with the project's funding

requirements for the 2021/22 financial year. This investment is essential in 2021/22 to deliver the following activities:

- Enable progression of the business and commercial case for the first route.
- Enable the procurement of the Outline Design Concept and Operations and Maintenance input for the first route.
- Progression of the track workstream to enable Test Track facilities of the new track design to be procured and constructed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that Council:

- 1. Approve the allocation of up to £3.2m corporate reserves to the CVLR programme activities to maintain programme which is working towards a delivery of a first route for Coventry at the earliest opportunity.**
- 2. Subject to approval of recommendation 1 above, delegate authority to the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to determine the final allocation from corporate resources once the outcome of funding bids are known.**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to finalise and negotiate the terms of, and enter into, the relevant legal agreements as well as any associated documents deemed necessary pursuant to the procurements in relation to the CVLR activities.**

Agenda Item 11
Council – 18th October 2021
Recommendation from Cabinet
12th October 2021

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

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Councillor P Seaman
Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor G Ridley
Councillor P Male

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillors N Akhtar
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Councillor C Thomas

Employees (by Service):

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C Webb

Finance B Hastie (Director of Finance)

Legal and Governance J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), S Bennett,
L Knight

Property Services and
Development R Moon (Director of Property Services and Development),
L Hobbs

Transportation and Highways C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),
J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor L Bigham
Councillor B Gittins
Councillor R Lakha

RECOMMENDATIONS

37. **SEND Proposal for the Use of the Woodlands Site**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out the next steps in the SEND proposal for the use of the Woodlands school site.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (Minute 41 below refers).

The report indicated that Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a statutory duty on councils to ensure that there are sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education for all. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure.

This means that local authorities have to provide a continuum of provision to meet a continuum of need. Whilst Coventry has relatively few specialist provisions delivered in the form of resourced centres / units in mainstream schools, it does have a good range of special school provision. Consequently, very few Coventry children have to attend schools outside of the City, which is a position that needs to be maintained.

However, the recent evidenced growth in need, specifically in the area of complex communication (autism spectrum conditions) and social emotional and mental health (SEMH), has placed a level of demand on the special school system that exceeds supply. School age Education, Health and Care Plans have increased from 2,145 in January 2020 to 2,344 in January 2021, demonstrating a 26% growth across a 5-year period.

On 30th October 2018, the Cabinet approved in principle the refurbishing of the existing Woodlands School site to provide a new home for the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools and the potential subsequent relocation of the Woodfields schools to the Woodlands site. It was agreed that a further report be submitted containing a full detailed feasibility study. Approval of this feasibility study would enable education to proceed with a more detailed examination of the costings and look at the funding sources available.

Following an Ofsted inspection at Woodfield School in March 2020, which resulted in a grading of 'Inadequate', Woodfield School is required to academise. The

Governing Body of the school has made a successful application to the Secretary of State for an Academy Order under the Academies Act 2010. Following the West Midlands Headteacher Board in October 2020, it was agreed that Woodfield School will join the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (Sidney Stringer MAT) as a convertor academy and thereafter will cease to be maintained by the Local Authority. The Council, in conjunction with the Department for Education, Woodfield School and Sidney Stringer MAT are working towards a target conversion date of 1st April 2022, subject to leases being agreed and all other agreements in place. The conversion is also dependent upon significant progress being made on this project.

The move to the Woodlands site allows both Woodfield primary and secondary phases to benefit from shared working practices, provision of more efficient and improved facilities and a purpose designed building. It would also allow Woodfield School to increase the number of pupils. In addition, the refurbishment of the Woodlands site would potentially allow a continuation and expansion of the community sporting provision that has been successfully provided at the site for many years.

The existing Woodlands buildings are of a 1950's vintage and are Grade II listed. As such, significant investment is required to allow them to be used as a modern SEND school. The DfE transferred the building across to the Council in September 2017. The condition report highlighted a sum required for the upkeep and maintenance costs and many of the buildings have remained vacant since the Woodlands Academy closure.

The Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the outcome of the feasibility study report (as identified in the corresponding private report) and the consultation set out in Appendices 3 and 4.
2. Approve the commencement of a competitive procurement process to appoint the design team and the building contractor to enable the delivery of the capital refurbishment works required on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.
3. Subject to acting within approved budgets, delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to undertake the necessary due diligence including but not limited to the award of contracts to successful tenderers and entry into all necessary legal agreements.
4. Note that where the costs of delivering the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools to the Woodlands Site exceeds the approved budget limit ("the Shortfall Gap") a further report will be presented to Cabinet and Council for the approval of the Shortfall Gap prior to award of the contract to the successful building contractor.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:

- 1. Approve the capital budget for the delivery of the capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools in the sum identified in the corresponding private report.**
- 2. Approve that the Council capital programme is adjusted to facilitate the recommendation set out in 1. Above.**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance to refine and manage the financial projections within the capital budget associated with the delivery of capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.**

Agenda Item 15
Council – 18th October 2021
Recommendation from Cabinet
12th October 2021

Coventry City Council
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Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
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Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor P Akhtar
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Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor G Ridley
Councillor P Male

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillors N Akhtar
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor C Thomas

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 J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor L Bigham
 Councillor B Gittins
 Councillor R Lakha

RECOMMENDATIONS

31. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agrees to exclude the press and public under Sections 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the private report in Minute 41 below headed ‘SEND Proposals for the Use of the Woodlands Site’ on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of information contained in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as it contains information relating to the financial affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

41. SEND Proposal for the Use of the Woodlands Site

Further to Minute 37 above, the Cabinet considered a private report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out commercially confidential matters relating to the next steps in the SEND proposal for the use of the Woodlands school site.

The Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the outcome of the feasibility study report in Appendix 1 and the consultation in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.
2. Approve the commencement of a competitive procurement process to appoint the design team and the building contractor to enable the delivery of the capital refurbishment works required on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.
3. Subject to acting within approved budgets, delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to undertake the necessary due diligence including, but not limited to, the award of contracts to successful tenderers and entry into all necessary legal agreements.
4. Note that where the cost of delivery the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools to the Woodlands Site exceeds the approved budget limit (“the Shortfall Gap”), a further report will be presented

to Cabinet and / or Council for the approval of the Shortfall Gap prior to the award of the contract to the successful building contractor.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:

- 1. Approve a capital budget for the delivery of the capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools in the sum set out in the report.**
- 2. Approve that the Council capital programme is adjusted to facilitate the recommendation set out in 1. above**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance to refine and manage the financial projections within the capital budget associated with the delivery of capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools.**

Council Meeting

18 October 2021

Booklet 1

Answers to Written Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor R Simpson

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Will the Cabinet Member provide the number of cyclists who are predicted to use the Coundon Cycleway in its first year of operation from the Council’s models?”

ANSWER:

Using the Government’s Propensity to Cycle model, it is estimated that 4% of trips along the Coundon Road corridor would be made by bike with some cycle infrastructure in place. This would give an annual figure of around 90,000 cycle trips on the cycleway.

Notes: The Propensity to Cycle Model is the standard model developed by DfT to allow estimates of potential cycle use to be made based on demographic information on the make-up of local populations. Where higher standard cycle infrastructure has been put in place, such as that being built at Coundon, the estimates produced using the Propensity to Cycle Model have generally been shown to be lower than the actual use of the route