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Agenda Item 8
Agenda Items 8-12
Council – 25 March 2025
Recommendations from
Cabinet, 18 March 2025

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 10.00 am on Tuesday, 18 March 2025

Present:

Members:

Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor R Brown
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members:

Councillor S Agboola
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor D Toulson

Non-Voting Opposition
Members:

Councillor P Male
Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor G Ridley

Other Non-Voting
Members:

Councillor R Lakha
Councillor G Lloyd

Employees (by Service Area):

Chief Executive

Julie Nugent (Chief Executive), M McGinty

Adult Services and
Housing

P Fahy (Director), J Reading

Children and Education
Services

A Coles, J Moffat, R Sugars

City Services and
Commercial

M Adams, R Back, D Pipe, J Seddon, C Styles

Finance

B Hastie (Director)

Law and Governance	J Newman (Director), J Adams, S Bennett, D Blackburn, A Chowns
Regeneration and Economy	A Williams (Director), P Deas, D Hope
In attendance:	Chief Inspector H Godhania, West Midlands Police (for Minute 75 below)

Public Business

RECOMMENDATIONS

73. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

75. **Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan 2025-2028**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which set out details of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan 2025-2028.

The report would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 25 March 2025.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were the statutory body that brought together local partners to solve shared issues around Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Drug and Alcohol misuse, and Reoffending.

CSPs were required to develop an overarching Community Safety Partnership Plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan provided an overview of the work and priority areas that fall under the responsibility of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership (CCSP).

The plan was intended to focus on those issues of most concern to residents, that caused the most harm to communities and required a coordinated approach to deliver lasting change.

The Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan had been informed by:

- the views of residents, including those who have been affected by crime and/or accessing services
- analysis of the problem, drawing on data and information from a breadth of partners
- evidence of “what works” in tackling crime and disorder
- the views of professionals and stakeholders working locally.

To help inform the Plan a 12-week public consultation had been undertaken between the 10 July 2024 and the 2 October 2024. Workshops were held by the sub-groups of the CCSP to obtain the views of professionals and stakeholders. This report was also considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the 18 December 2024. Following this, a survey was issued to Elected Members to enable them to input to the Plan. Consideration has also been given to the West Midland Police Crime Commissioner's Priorities outlined in his 2025-2028 Plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- (1) Recommend that Council approve the proposed Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan.**
- (2) Request quarterly monitoring of the Plan by the Coventry Community Safety Partnership.**
- (3) Request a yearly report to update on the progress of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan.**

Council is recommended to:

- (1) Consider the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1999 and approve the proposed Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan.**

77. West Midlands Combined Authority Grant Funding to Coventry 2025/26

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Economy in respect of the West Midlands Combined Authority Grant Funding to Coventry 2025/26.

The report would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 25 March 2025.

The West Midlands Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal (the Deal) was:

- Agreed in principle by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Mayor and Portfolio Leaders on 10 March 2023.
- Announced in the Chancellor’s Budget on 15 March 2023, and
- Adopted by Coventry City Council (the City Council) on 17 October 2023.

One of the flagship announcements within the Deal was for the West Midlands to have a Single Settlement, whereby instead of being funded through 50+ individual grants, the WMCA would be funded by a single funding settlement covering a full Spending Review period. This has since been rebranded as an “Integrated Settlement”, and this report seeks approval to accept the first rounds of funding for Coventry through the Integrated Settlement.

The Integrated Settlement covers five Pillars. It was expected that a total of £19.44m would be awarded to the City Council through the first round of funding (£10.971m of which will be revenue funding and £8.469m capital funding), although there may be potential for additional in year funds in the event of strong performance or underspends elsewhere in the region. The Integrated Settlement funding being awarded to the City Council is summarised below:

- **Pillar 1: Local Growth & Place.** The City Council was expected to be allocated £4.65m of funds (£3.761m revenue and £0.889m capital) through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/26 to deliver the City Council’s business support and grants and Job Shop “Hub & Spoke” services.

- **Pillar 2: Adult Skills & Employment Support.** The City Council expects to be awarded £6.27m of revenue funding, of which £5.52m would be from the Adult Education Budget (AEB), and up to £0.75m from the Connect to Work fund to tackle physical and mental health barriers to employment.
- **Pillar 3: Retrofit & Net Zero.** The City Council expects to be awarded £8.52m (£0.94m revenue and £7.58m capital) across two funds to improve the energy efficiency of private housing stock and the public estate. Coventry based Registered Providers would also receive a share of the region-wide budget for the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund.
- **Pillar 4: Local Transport.** For 2025/26, much of the core transport funding for the City Council would be dealt with outside the Integrated Settlement, notably the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), and recommendations to approve acceptance of Transport Capital funding are covered in the Transport Capital Programme Cabinet Report to be tabled at this same meeting. Much of the Transport funding through the Integrated Settlement (notably focusing on bus services) would be managed by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).
- **Pillar 5: Housing & Regeneration.** Continuation of WMCA's Brownfield Land & Infrastructure Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund, and Brownfield Land Release Fund. This funding would remain open for developers to apply for, it was not expected that the City Council would receive funding directly from this Pillar.

The WMCA would be the Accountable Body for the Integrated Settlement, and for each Pillar, it would be bound by outcome indicators, to be agreed with Government. The funding this Council was seeking acceptance for is being passported to the City Council, and in awarding this money, WMCA would pass delivery risk to the City Council through formal legal Grant Aid Agreements.

The report indicated that, the City Council and other Constituent Authorities had challenged WMCA on the amount of funding that was being topsliced and retained for regional management and coordination functions. Should further funding become available as a result of reduction in WMCA central topslicing, this report requests delegated authority to accept such additional funding.

On top of the UKSPF funding, the City Council was also expecting to receive up to £2.5m in 2025/26 (£0.8m revenue and £1.7m capital) from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) funded Business Energy Assessment Service (BEAS).

This report requested authority to accept WMCA's expected allocation to Coventry City Council of up to £19.44m of Integrated Settlement and Business Energy Assessment Service money of up to £2.5m to deliver these activities, together with delegated authority to enter into funding agreements with funders and thereafter back-to-back contracts with delivery partners, where necessary, to complete this work.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend that Council:

- (1) Approve the acceptance of up to £21.94m made up of the following WMCA's Integrated Settlement Funding allocation for 2025/26 to Coventry from WMCA for up to £19.44m, split between £10.971m of revenue funding and £8.469m of capital funding, and Business Energy Assessment Service Funding allocation for 2025/26 to Coventry from Department for Energy Security & Net Zero for up to £2.5m split between £0.8m of revenue funding and £1.7m of capital funding with the capital funding element set out above being added to the City Council's Capital Programme.**
- (2) Grant delegated authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economy, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Law and Governance, and the relevant Cabinet Member(s), to undertake all necessary due diligence in relation to the funding allocation including:**
 - a) Securing any match funding requirement; and**
 - b) Entering into the appropriate funding agreements with the relevant funding body.**
- (3) Grant delegated authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economy, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Law and Governance and the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to enter into back-to-back contracts with delivery partners as deemed necessary to bring into effect the recommendations set out in this report.**
- (4) Grant delegated authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economy, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Law and Governance and the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to:**
 - a) Accept any additional funding which is made available to Coventry through the Integrated Settlement during 2025/26 and subsequent years 2026/27 and 2027/28, and**
 - b) Undertake all necessary due diligence in relation to any of the additional funding made available, including the authority to enter into funding agreements with the WMCA, and entry into back-to-back contracts with partners as deemed necessary.**

78. Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge 2024 - Outcome of Progress Review

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive setting out the outcome of the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge 2024.

The report had been considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination at their meeting on 6 March 2025 and would also be considered at Council at their meeting on 25 March 2025.

The Local Government Association (LGA) was the national voice of local government, working with Councils to support, promote, and improve local government. The LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge offer was effective and well regarded by the sector and provides robust, strategic and credible challenge and support to Councils.

It was expected that all Councils receive a Corporate Peer Challenge at least every five years covering core areas and any specific areas requested by the Council. Coventry City Council's second Corporate Peer Challenge took place from 15th to 18th January 2024.

The visit focused on five core themes (local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance and culture, financial planning and management, and capacity for improvement). These areas are critical to Councils' performance and improvement.

The Peer Team were asked to provide feedback on the organisation's corporate capacity and plans for service transformation, recognising the opportunity to receive some external challenge and feedback on future delivery plans.

At the time of the Corporate Peer Challenge in January, the Peer Team recognised that Coventry was an ambitious place that was on the up, with examples of innovation and a willingness to embrace change, whilst not forgetting its heritage. The Peer Team also noted that the Council was well-run, with strong officer and political leadership.

Following the Peer Challenge, the Council reflected on the Peer Team's findings in order to determine its response to the recommendations that were made.

All Corporate Peer Challenges now include a progress review which takes place approximately 10 months after the original Peer Challenge visit. This review provides space for a Council's senior leadership to report to the Peer Team on the progress made against the key recommendations, discuss early impact or learning and receive feedback on the implementation of the action plan.

The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge progress report is provided as an appendix to this report (Appendix A). This report provides a detailed response on findings, including a number of observations and suggestions within the main section of the report.

Overall, the Peer Team were impressed at the level of progress made by Coventry City Council since the Corporate Peer Challenge. Work has been undertaken to respond to the recommendations including actions which were already underway prior to the original Peer Challenge and the Peer Team acknowledged the structured approach for making improvements and changes to achieve the Peer Team's recommendations.

In summary, during the progress review, the Peer Team:

- heard more examples of improvement and success, which was gratifying;
- saw that the Council was showing a confidence to make adjustments to its improvement journey where this was necessary, for example in reconsidering its approach to transformation;
- also heard again of the strong and visible leadership provided by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive;
- noted that the Council continues to be financially well managed but is facing similar demand and inflation pressures as other Councils and there is a strong recognition that the Council's use of reserve to balance the accounts is not sustainable and that it must continue to work to ensure meaningful service and organisational transformation.

More detailed feedback was provided under six key themes which includes acknowledgment of the progress made and some suggestions for continued improvement.

These areas were described in the 'Progress Review - Feedback' section of the LGA's progress review report (see Appendix A to the report) and a summary of these findings can be found from section 1.14 in the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- 1) Support the work to deliver the actions which respond to the recommendations made by the Peer Team.**
- 2) Note the comments made by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in relation to the outcome of the Peer Challenge.**
- 3) Recommend that Council note the content of the Peer Team's progress review report and support the work to deliver the actions which respond to the recommendations made by the Peer Team.**

80. Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Development Plan Document (DPD) Adoption

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services and Commercial on the Homes in Multiple Occupation Development Plan Document Adoption. The report would also be considered at the meeting of Council on 25 March 2025.

Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) can provide important accommodation for a range of people including those entering the housing market. However, they can also bring significant disruption to settled neighbourhoods. In order to ensure that HMOs can only come forward in ways that integrate with existing neighbourhoods a Development Plan Document (DPD) has been prepared. As background, the DPD and accompanying Sustainability Scoping/Appraisal were consulted upon between 20 September and 15 November 2022 at the Regulation 18 stage and between 27 March and 15 May 2023 at the Regulation 19 stage. These consultations were undertaken in the formulation of the DPD which was then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2023, with hearings held January 2024 and subsequent Main Modifications consultation held between 10 June and 22 July 2024.

The report provided an update on the Main Modifications consultation and the published Inspector's Report, in which the Inspector concluded, through independent Examination, that the HMO DPD was 'sound' and had been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements subject to her recommendations (main modifications). The report therefore sought agreement to adopt the Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Development Plan Document (DPD). If adopted, it would become part of the Development Plan for the city.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend that Council:

- 1. Notes the Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Homes in Multiple Occupation Development Plan Document (Appendix 1), and specifically that she has concluded that subject to her main modifications, the Plan meets the tests of soundness and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and thus is 'capable of adoption'.**
- 2. Adopts the Homes in Multiple Occupation Development Plan Document (Appendix 2), in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which will be the Plan submitted on 25 August 2023 as amended by the schedule of Main Modifications (Appendix 3) and Additional Modifications (Appendix 4).**
- 3. Notes that the Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix 5), Sustainability Appraisal report (Appendix 6), Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (Appendix 7) and draft Adoption Statement (Appendix 8) will be published as soon as reasonably practicable after 25 March 2025 in accordance with Regulations 17 and 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended).**
- 4. Delegates authority to the Strategic Lead – Planning, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to make further minor modifications to the Plan prior to final publication, where these modifications are confined to the correction of typographical errors, amendments to policy or paragraph reference numbers and consequential cross referencing, where appropriate.**

84. Re-commissioning of Long-Term Home Support

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult Services and Housing in respect of the re-commissioning of long-term home support.

The report would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 25 March 2025.

The Council had a statutory duty under the Care Act (2014) to provide care and support to adults whose needs meet the eligibility criteria detailed in this legislation. This includes wellbeing and prevention duties that prevent the need for more intensive forms of care and support. Home support was commonly referred to as domiciliary care or home care and the terms were used interchangeably. Home support was regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and can

cover a wide range of activities, including (but not limited to) the provision of personal care such as assistance with washing/bathing, getting dressed, going to the toilet as well as support with medication, nutrition, and hydration. These services were delivered in the person's home and seek to support people to remain in the community and promote independence as much as possible. Being supported in their own homes was the preference for most people requiring care and support rather than more intensive forms of care. Home support was often supplemented by the use of technology to enable people to remain supported at home.

Home support could also extend to reablement services (help to regain or retain skills and confidence) for people leaving hospital or seeking care and support for the first time. Reablement services sought to delay or reduce the need for ongoing care and support. These services were not the subject of this re-commissioning as services were tendered with new contracts commencing in May 2024, however those people going on to require ongoing support to live at home would benefit from the revised commissioning arrangements

The current re-commissioning is, therefore, restricted to Long Term Home Support Services (LTHS) with current contractual arrangements which were due to expire in December 2025.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends that Council delegate authority to the Director of Adult Services and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance, to undertake the tendering of long-term home support services (including the power to enter into any necessary legal agreements required to facilitate entering into the contracts for a period up to 8 years).

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