

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 7th October, 2014

Place

Council Chamber - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September, 2014** (Pages 5 - 16)

3. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider whether to exclude the press and public for the items of private business for the reasons shown in the reports.

4. **Coventry Good Citizen Award**

To be presented by the Lord Mayor and Judge Griffith-Jones, Honorary Recorder

5. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**

6. **Petitions**

7. **Declarations of Interest**

Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council

It is anticipated that the following matters will be referred as Recommendations from the meetings indicated. In order to allow Members the maximum opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposals, the reports are attached. The relevant Recommendations will be circulated separately.

8. **Changes to the Constitution: Appointments to Appeals Committee**
(Pages 17 - 24)

From the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities), 2nd October, 2014.

9. **Coventry Investment Fund Investment into Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund** (Pages 25 - 32)

From the Cabinet, 7th October, 2014

10. **Public Realm Phase 3** (Pages 33 - 46)

From the Cabinet, 7th October, 2014

11. **Question Time**

- (a) Written Questions – There are no written questions
- (b) Oral Questions to Chairs of Scrutiny Boards/Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
- (c) Oral Questions to Chairs of other meetings
- (d) Oral Questions to Representatives on Outside Bodies
- (e) Oral Questions to Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members on any matter

12. **Statements**

13. **Debates**

13.1 To be moved by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Singh

“While wounds may need to be healed following the robust debate that preceded the referendum in Scotland, there was a noticeable success that emerged; a clear majority of the public were engaged in the political discussion that decided the future of Scotland and the United Kingdom. Notably this, for the first time, included 16 year olds. Coventry City Council wishes to lead the way nationally by calling for a widening of the franchise to include 16 year olds in all future political elections as soon as possible”

13.2 To be moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Sawdon

“Coventry City Council welcomes the result of the recent referendum held in Scotland and is pleased that the people of Scotland have decided to maintain the Union of the United Kingdom. However, in view of the fact that the devolved Parliament in Scotland will receive new and increased powers, we believe now is the time to ensure that only MPs representing a constituency in England are able to vote on matters that affect England.

We therefore urge the Government to bring forward a timetable for legislation which would ensure that the voices of millions of people living in England are heard”

Private Business

Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council

It is anticipated that the following matters will be referred as Recommendations from the meetings indicated. In order to allow Members the maximum opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposals, the reports are attached. The relevant Recommendations will be circulated separately.

14. Coventry Investment Fund Investment into Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund (Pages 47 - 54)

From the Cabinet, 7th October, 2014

(Listing Officer: G. Collins, Tele 024 7683 2446)

15. Public Realm Phase 3 (Pages 55 - 78)

From the Cabinet, 7th October, 2014

(Listing Officer, C. Knight, Tel 024 7683 4001)

16. Asset Review

From the Cabinet, 7th October, 2014 (To be circulated)

(Listing Officer: B. Hastie, Tel, 024 76 3710)

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Monday, 29 September 2014

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett 024 7683 3166/3072

Membership: Councillors F Abbott, N Akhtar, M Ali, A Andrews, M Auluck, R Bailey, S Bains, L Bigham, J Birdi, J Blundell, R Brown, K Caan, D Chater, J Clifford, G Crookes, G Duggins, C Fletcher, D Galliers, D Gannon, A Gingell, M Hammon (Deputy Chair), L Harvard, P Hetherington, D Howells, J Innes, L Kelly, D Kershaw, T Khan, A Khan, R Lakha, R Lancaster, J Lepoidevin, A Lucas, K Maton, J McNicholas, C Miks, K Mulhall, J Mutton, M Mutton, H Noonan (Chair), J O'Boyle, E Ruane, R Sandy, T Sawdon, B Singh, D Skinner, T Skipper, H Sweet, K Taylor, R Thay, S Thomas, P Townshend, S Walsh and D Welsh

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

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Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett

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Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 9 September 2014

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Noonan)
Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hammon)

Councillor Abbott	Councillor T Khan
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Lancaster
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Bains	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Maton
Councillor Birdi	Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Brown	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor Caan	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Singh
Councillor Fletcher	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Hetherton	Councillor Thay
Councillor Howells	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Innes	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Walsh
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Welsh
Councillor A Khan	

Honorary Alderman

Present:

Mr J Gazey

Apologies: Councillor Ali
Councillor Bailey
Councillor Gingell
Councillor Lepoidevin
Councillor Sawdon

Public Business

51. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2014 were signed as a true record.

52. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the private report in minute 67 headed 'City Centre Public Leisure Facility Development', on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of information defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

53. **Coventry Good Citizen Award**

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor presented Mr Martin Prue with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

Martin Prue has managed the charity, CITEE Ltd (the Churches Initiative in Training, Employment and Enterprise), for nearly 25 years, running programmes to support people experiencing unemployment, long term or short term mental health issues and other forms of disadvantage. He has consistently shown exceptional care for each person who comes to CITEE for help. He has a way of making all course members feel valued and an ability to offer hope for a better future.

In December 1989, Martin was employed to take on the challenge of launching the charity with just a feasibility study and a year's funding. He found an office and training base in Foleshill and within a month had recruited 10 long-term unemployed people for the first programme. He has continued to work with Coventry people from all walks of life, all ages and backgrounds, working with GPs, Probation, Mental Health Services, Job Centres and a range of voluntary sector organisations to meet the needs of Coventry people, providing hope and changing lives. He has successfully bid for virtually every funding pot available to the Voluntary Sector in order to keep CITEE going, while keeping the charity true to its original aims; he has battled against funding cuts and borne the brunt of constant uncertainty for the future.

Martin has helped people to turn their lives around, supported them back to work after a period of mental ill health and discover new direction for their future. He is well regarded by professional agencies in the city as a man who works with integrity, compassion and keeps the best interests of CITEE's participants at the heart of the work. His tenacity has shone through when times have been financially very tough and when new funding criteria have created huge challenges. Martin loves the work he does at CITEE, and never tires of being able to give people an opportunity to move forward, regardless of the hurdles they face.

Martin is undoubtedly a most worthy recipient of the Coventry Good Citizen Award.

54. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Raj Malhotra, who represented Lower Stoke Ward between 1987 and 1992. During his time as a Councillor, Raj served on several committees including Public Works and

Protection, Social Services, Education, Personnel and Administration and was the Vice Chair of the Environmental Services Committee between 1991/92.

Members paid tribute to the work undertaken by Raj and noted that a letter expressing the Council's sincere condolences would be sent to his family.

55. **Petitions**

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council bodies:

- (1) Request to address concerns relating to the grass verge on Halford Lane – 44 signatures – presented by Councillor Birdi.**
- (2) Objection to change of parking provision at Dorchester Way – 58 signatures – presented by Councillor Sweet.**
- (3) Request for Road and Pavement Repairs at Dial House Lane and Chiel Close – 62 signatures – supported by Councillor Lepoidevin and presented by Councillor Blundell in her absence.**
- (4) Request for road safety measures at Hockley Lane – 8 signatures – presented by Councillor Thomas.**

56. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors J and M Mutton declared disclosable pecuniary interests in the matters referred to in the following:-

Minute 59, headed "City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development"

Minute 67, headed "Debate – 50m Pool"

Minute 68, headed "City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development"

They withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of these matters.

57. **Formal Consultation in Respect of Further Staffing Reductions**

Further to Minute 39/14 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources, which set out proposals for staff reductions through a further round of Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy (ER/VR).

Since 2010 the Council had undertaken a significant savings exercise across the organisation in response to on-going reductions in Government funding. Savings were initially mainly focused on back office and support services, through reducing senior management posts and merging directorates and by identifying more efficient ways of delivering services. More recently, as back office efficiencies had become harder to find, front line services were being affected.

By 2016 Coventry would have had its government funding cut by nearly a half since 2010 and further, significant savings would be needed across services. The current estimate was that additional savings of approximately £60million a year would be needed to be implemented by 2017/18. This meant that the Council would be a smaller organisation in the future. By introducing more efficient and flexible ways of working the Council aimed to deliver better value for residents with less bureaucracy and red tape – and fewer employees.

Since 2010 the Council had undertaken three rounds of ER/VR which had directly resulted in some 1,000 staff deciding they wanted to leave the organisation and ensuring the number of compulsory redundancies had been kept to a minimum. In order to minimise the risk of future compulsory redundancies it was proposed to consult with trade unions and staff on a further reduction in posts with a view to launching a further round of ER/VR, and to remove some aspects of the earlier rounds which may have reduced take up of the offer by staff.

The Council's human resources and financial strategies indicated that it needed to plan on the basis of losing a further 1,000 posts over the medium term. The report proposed that initial financial provision was made to fund up to 500 of these through ER/VR decisions over the course of the next year or so, at which point the impact of this initial phase would be reviewed.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the virement of additional resources of £7.2m as identified in section 5.1 of the report to add to existing budgets of £5.3m to fund redundancy and early retirement costs.

58. **Coventry Sports Strategy 2014 - 2024**

Further to Minute 40/14 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval for a City-wide Partnership Sports Strategy, the 'Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024'. The report and its associated appendices detailed the outcomes of the public consultation and the identified impacts of its key proposals through consideration of the Equality and Consultation Analysis for the Strategy.

The proposed Strategy's stated mission was 'To develop a more active, inclusive and vibrant Coventry through positive experiences in sport' and was structured around 8 Vision Aims and 37 Strategic Objectives, which had been refined through an extensive period of stakeholder engagement and public consultation. Included within these were objectives concerned with increasing and widening participation in sport; increasing the number of people receiving sports coaching; increasing the number of people volunteering in sport; establishing and embedding a Coventry Institute of Sport that provided early specialist support services for talented athletes; developing City Centre sports facilities that were accessible, high quality, sustainable and of significance to the Midlands (proposed through closing the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and investing in a City Centre destination facility); attracting high profile sporting events to the City; establishing a Coventry Sports Network; and harnessing the power of sport to promote community cohesion and address public health inequalities in the City.

The Council noted that, at a Joint Meeting of Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks) on 23rd July

2014 (their minutes 3/14 and 4/14 refers) three petitions were considered relating to proposals within the draft Sports Strategy 2014-2024 linked to public sports and leisure provision, as follows:

- an e-petition regarding a campaign to keep a 50m swimming pool in Coventry (containing 3,966 signatures at 23rd July 2014)
- a written petition requesting that the Council retain a 50m swimming pool in Coventry (containing 7,333 signatures at 23rd July 2014)
- an e-petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry (containing 29 signatures at 23rd July 2014)

The Cabinet Members approved reviews of specific considerations, including expressed concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues, Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City, in the Sports Strategy 2014-2024 Report and in the City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development Report.

RESOLVED that the Council endorse the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 and the mission, vision, aims and strategic objectives contained therein.

59. **City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development**

Further to Minute 41/14 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval for the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2024, the development of a new City Centre destination facility, the subsequent closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and for the Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014 - 2024.

A private report detailing the confidential financial matters of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting for consideration,

The new City Centre facility was proposed to be built on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site, resulting in the subsequent closure of the ageing Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre in Fairfax Street. The aim of these proposals was to provide high quality, sustainable sports and leisure facilities in the City Centre and create a destination facility that would complement other developments in the south side of the City Centre, such as Friargate and the proposed City Centre South development. It was anticipated that the provision of the new facility would contribute to widening and increasing participation in sport and active recreation, thereby also contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes for local people, particularly younger people and families.

The proposals further contributed to the delivery of a more coherent, consistent and sustainable public leisure offer for the people of Coventry, including the use of an investment model that recycled existing finances into both the proposed City Centre development and any future public leisure developments. The recycled savings would be realised from the closure and withdrawal of public leisure service provision from the existing Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.

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The Council further noted that, at the Cabinet meeting, the City of Coventry Swimming Club were invited to consider an asset transfer, whereby the Club would take over the running of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and associated 50m pool without on-going subsidy from the Council. Cabinet had requested that officers work with the Club to explore this opportunity and assist with securing any available grant funding to support this invitation.

RESOLVED that the Council approve the addition of £36.7m, to the Capital Programme for 2014/15 onwards for the development of a City Centre destination facility on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site.

60. **Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2013-14**

The Council considered the Annual Audit Committee Report 2013-14. The report provided an overview of the Committee's activity during the municipal year 2013-14 and outlined the breadth of coverage by the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Council receive the Audit Committee Annual Report 2013-14.

61. **New Coventry Local Plan - Delivering Sustainable Growth (2011-2031) and the Updated Local Development Scheme (2014)**

Further to Minute 49/14 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which set out the New Coventry Local Plan – Delivering Sustainable Growth (2011-2031) and the Updated Local Development Scheme 2014.

In April 2013, as a result of Planning Inspectorate recommendations, the Council withdrew a previous version of its Core Strategy from examination. This was due to issues with the Duty to Cooperate, which required the Council to work constructively with neighbouring councils. The Inspectorate recommended an

independent assessment of housing need for Coventry's wider strategic housing market area (HMA).

In November 2013 independent consultants completed work on the joint strategic housing market assessment (SHMA), which responded to the Inspectorate's recommendations and identified the objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for all six authorities within the Coventry and Warwickshire strategic housing market area.

The Joint SHMA recommended that 23,600 homes needed to be built in Coventry between 2011 and 2031 (1,180 a year). This was referred to as the 'objectively assessed need for housing' (OAN) and was an essential requirement of producing a local plan.

Since the joint SHMA was completed the Office of National Statistics (ONS) issued new population projections (May 2014). In order to understand the impact of this new data, the six Coventry and Warwickshire authorities jointly commissioned the same independent consultants to produce an Annex to the joint SHMA. This report was completed and identified a significant increase in Coventry's housing need, coupled with a significant reduction in the housing needs of Warwickshire.

The Annex recommended a revised need of 36,220 new homes in Coventry between 2011 and 2031 (1,811 a year). The overall total remained broadly consistent with an increase of around 200 homes a year for the whole of Coventry and Warwickshire compared to the original projection in the joint SHMA (2013). The study also considered housing pressures as they may arise from jobs growth anticipated by the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which would place an upward pressure on the housing needs of Coventry and Warwickshire as a whole.

As part of the study's conclusions, and in line with national guidance greater emphasis was placed on the overall needs of Coventry and Warwickshire as a whole. From the Coventry perspective it is reasonable to expect that the OAN identified in the joint SHMA would reflect a minimum requirement for Coventry up to 2031, and that the Duty to Cooperate, would form an integral part of meeting and delivering the city's housing need.

With this in mind, the Local Plan would commit the Council to continue to work alongside its Warwickshire neighbours to secure the most appropriate and sustainable locations for housing growth across the housing market area. Where need could realistically be considered to originate from the City and where appropriate, sustainable and deliverable the Council would support its Warwickshire neighbours in bringing forward land for housing and employment that sat adjacent to the city's existing boundaries. This would ensure infrastructure needs were met in full across administrative boundaries (where and as appropriate). It would also help to ensure that the planning for the areas housing needs gave consideration to the distribution issues associated with the new ONS based projections and the economic needs of Coventry and Warwickshire.

For a period of time Coventry had lost jobs and employment opportunities to other parts of the country. This was a trend that needed to be reversed to help return Coventry to the status of a 'top 10 city'. As a result of focused action and delivery by the Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership the City's decline has, in

recent years, been challenged and was now being reversed. The housing pressures outlined in the report were testimony to the growing demand from people who want to live and work in the City, and who were increasingly attracted to the area as a result of the resurgence of manufacturing industries in the sub-region, the success of the City's two world class universities and the growth in jobs across many sectors.

Appendix 1 of the report sought views and opinions on the level of housing need in Coventry, whilst setting it in the context of the City's growth aspirations and the needs of the HMA. It also placed the level of housing need in some further context in terms of the step change in housing need, the deliverability of such figures and the impact on the Duty to Cooperate. In addition to the level of housing need, the paper drew on previous rounds of consultation on the Local Plan (or Core Strategy as it was previously known) to present three scenarios relating to how housing needs could be delivered.

Scenarios 1 and 2 were presented as extreme positions, with Scenario 1 based on protecting the Green Belt and exporting a proportion of Coventry's need beyond the Green Belt into Warwickshire. Scenario 2 looked to accommodate all of the City's need within its own boundary (regardless of quantum), including on Green Belt land. Scenario 3 proposed a balanced approach based on the most sustainable options, but including some Green Belt development. This was presented as the Council's preferred approach and was considered a sustainable, deliverable and justified approach to meeting Coventry's housing needs.

Furthermore two specific policies were proposed in respect of sustainable development and the Duty to Cooperate, whilst thirteen summary chapters were also presented covering a range of other policy areas including, but not limited to, health and wellbeing, design, economic growth and infrastructure.

Accompanying this stage of the new Local Plan was an update of the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS was a mandatory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and set out what the Council would produce to set its new planning policies and when they would be produced. The previous LDS was published in 2012 in relation to the now withdrawn Core Strategy.

The LDS contained three separate documents planned for development. These include the Local Plan, the City Centre Area Action Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy. All were projected to be adopted by summer 2016.

Councillor Blundell proposed an amendment to Recommendation 1, which was seconded by Councillor Birdi. The amendment proposed that Recommendation 1 should read "That the Council Note the New Local Plan – Delivering Sustainable Growth (2011-2031)" document and authorise a period of seven weeks public engagement beginning on Friday 12th September 2014 and ending on Friday 31st October 2014, after which it be brought back to Council for further consideration. The proposed amendment was lost.

RESOLVED that the Council:

1. **Approve the “New Local Plan – Delivering Sustainable Growth (2011-2031)” document and authorise a period of seven weeks public engagement beginning on Friday 12th September 2014 and ending on Friday 31st October 2014.**
2. **Endorse the updated Local Development Scheme (2014) as the timetable by which Coventry’s new Local Plan and supporting documents will be prepared.**

62. The Coventry and Warwickshire First Wave Growth Deal

Further to Minute 52/14 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval for the Council to act as the Accountable Body for the Coventry and Warwickshire First Wave Growth Deal.

Coventry and Warwickshire had been successful in negotiating and securing a Growth Deal with central Government of £74.6m to support economic growth within the area. By 2021 at least 1,000 jobs will be created and 1,000 homes built.

The deal was focussed on four key areas of new infrastructure that would improve connections and tackle congestion and support housing and employment sites; driving innovation in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering; supporting businesses to flourish; and growing local skills and talent.

The Growth Deal would be due to start in April 2014 and the current process was about mobilisation and pre-delivery activity.

As part of the process of developing the Strategic Economic Plan, the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, in discussions with the local authorities, identified Coventry City Council as the local authority with the demonstrable track record and expertise in managing external funding. Therefore, the Council was being asked to take on the role of Accountable Body for the Growth Deal.

RESOLVED that authority be given for the City Council to act as the Accountable Body and guarantor for the Coventry and Warwickshire First Wave Growth Deal.

63. Appointments of the City Council - Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board

The Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources, which sought approval to amend the appointments made at the Annual meeting of the Council in June 2014 to the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board (which acts as the Cabinet Advisory Panel for Looked After Children).

It was proposed that Councillor Chater (Deputy Cabinet Member (Education)) be appointed to the Board with immediate effect.

RESOLVED that the Council appoints Councillor Chater (Deputy Cabinet Member (Education)) to the Corporate Parenting Board (which acts as the Cabinet Advisory Panel for Looked After Children).

64. Question Time

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:

No	Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
1	Councillor Birdi	Councillor Kershaw	Hollyfast Primary School Expansion and Use of Hollyfast Lane.
2	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Lancaster	Skateboarders in the City Centre.
3	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Townshend	Travellers in Wainbody Ward and current position at Siskin Drive Travellers Site.

65. Statement

The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People), Councillor Ruane, made a statement in respect of the “Children’s Services Improvement Plan”.

Councillor Blundell responded to the statement.

66. Debate – City of Sanctuary

Councillor A Khan moved the following amended motion, which was seconded by Councillor Chater:

“Since 2010, Coventry has been known as a City of Sanctuary and with that, the City acknowledges that it recognises the plight of asylum seekers forced to flee their home countries.

Many asylum seekers, in exercising their human right of free speech in their own countries, have received death threats, suffered beatings and threats to their family members, forcing them to abandon their homes, their country and all their possessions. Here in Britain, if their asylum cases are refused by the Home Office, they lose all financial support and accommodation. Current laws also prevent them from working. This leaves them in a cycle of deprivation and poverty that is currently impossible to break. Many are forced into homelessness on the street. The destitution of the refused asylum seekers places increased pressure on the charities and communities that meet their most basic human needs.

The recent Children’s Society report into support for asylum seekers found widespread evidence of destitution, its negative impact on children and of the need

to reform the asylum support system if it is to have regard to the safety and well-being of children.

The Council welcomes the initiatives of the 11 City Councils that have passed a motion on destitution in the UK, highlighting the concerns for refused asylum seekers and the lack of support and facilities. Coventry, as the City of Peace and Reconciliation is complemented by the assertion that we are a City of Sanctuary but for this proud declaration to be meaningful and worthy of its fine words, we must act to improve this situation with the following actions:

1. The Leader to write, on behalf of the City Council, to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs expressing concern about the Government policy that forces refused asylum seekers into destitution while they continue to fight for a safe haven from persecution.
2. The City Council should work closely with the voluntary sector through a designated Officer to provide help, support and advice to applicants and enable a co-ordinated response to be easily available to those in need at this vulnerable time of their lives.
3. The Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs seeking a change of policy allowing local authorities to assist refused asylum seekers in danger of destitution and to provide equal emergency provision to refused asylum seekers as they would to any other homeless person.
4. The City Council should request the Home Office to ensure that it continues to provide financial support and accommodation until a safe return is negotiated or an individual leaves the UK or leave to remain is granted, and to provide good quality legal advice at all stages of the asylum process.
5. The City Council should write to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs making clear its concern about the plight of refused asylum seekers who may have to leave the UK while they continue to state their case for a safe haven from persecution.
6. The City Council agrees to produce a report highlighting all existing support available in Coventry, including housing, training, education and legal advice open to vulnerable asylum applicants.
7. The Leader of the City Council calls on all Coventry MPs to support the content of this Motion, to raise the matter in the House of Commons and support a change in current laws regarding asylum applications by removing restrictions on local authorities in the support they can provide to destitute asylum seekers.
8. The City Council to join the national campaign “Still Human, Still Here” (a coalition of about 70 organisations, including several City Councils, Church of England and Catholic Archbishop Conferences, Amnesty International and the Red Cross, who are proposing practical solutions to end the destitution of refused asylum seekers in the UK).

9. The City Council agrees to seek further support for this Motion and actions via the Local Government Association and to encourage other Councils in the UK to follow suit.”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above be unanimously adopted.

67. **Debate – 50m Pool**

Councillor Taylor moved the following amended Motion which was seconded by Councillor Skinner:

“We, the City Council, acknowledge the petition of 11,213 people to retain a nationally renowned facility, that being our 50m pool, and notwithstanding the decision to go ahead and build a new destination facility, will still continue to work actively with the City of Coventry Swimming Club amongst others, and in doing so this will have a positive impact on Coventry’s status and not prejudice our Olympic legacy.

The Council will continue to work, to explore all opportunities to enable Coventry to keep its 50m pool if technically possibly and within the current financial envelop available by exploring opportunities with other stakeholders in and around the city”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above be unanimously adopted.

68. **City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development**

Further to Minute 44/14 of the Cabinet and Minute 59 above, the Council considered a private report of the Executive Director, Place, which contained the confidential financial aspects of the proposals for the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2024, the development of a new City Centre destination facility, the subsequent closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and for the Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014 - 2024.

RESOLVED that the Council approve the addition of £36.7m, to the Capital Programme for 2014/15 onwards for the development of a City Centre destination facility on the existing Christchurch House and Spire House site.

(Meeting closed at 5.30 pm)



Public report
Cabinet Member Report
Council Report

Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities)

2 October 2014

Council

7 October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities), Councillor Philip Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Resources

Ward(s) affected:

N/A

Title:

Change to the Constitution: Appointment to Appeals Committee

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Appeals Committee has responsibility for the determination of appeals against any decision made by or on behalf of the Council where there is a statutory right of appeal. Some appeals, such as school admission appeals, are excluded from its terms of reference. In practice most, if not all, appeals heard are by employees although occasionally there is an appeal in connection with social services home care charges. Membership of the Committee is drawn on an ad hoc basis from a pool of members who have received relevant training.

At present, the Appeals Committee Procedure Rules at part 3J of the Constitution do not allow Cabinet Members to sit on the Committee. This report recommends that the Constitution should be amended to permit Cabinet Members to sit on the Committee provided that they have received appropriate training. The ability to do this would be restricted to appeals by employees only and there is no proposal to extend membership to non-employee appeal hearings such as care charge appeals. It is also proposed that the operation of the new arrangements should be reviewed in the next municipal year to ensure that they are delivering the anticipated improvements.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member

- (1) To recommend to Council that paragraph 1 of Part 3J of the Constitution is amended to remove the prohibition on Cabinet Members sitting on the Appeals Committee in

connection with appeals by employees only, subject to their receiving appropriate training beforehand; and.

- (2) To review the operation of the new arrangements in the next municipal year to ensure that they are delivering the anticipated improvements.

Council

Approve the amendment of paragraph 1 of Part 3J of the Constitution to remove the prohibition on Cabinet sitting on the Appeals Committee in connection with appeals by employees only, subject to their receiving appropriate training beforehand.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Part 3J of the Constitution (Appeals Committee Procedure Rules)

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes, 7 October 2014

Report title: Change to the Constitution: Appointment to Appeals Committee

1. Context

- 1.1 The Appeals Committee has responsibility for the determination of appeals against any decision made by or on behalf of the Council where there is a statutory right of appeal. Some appeals, such as school admission appeals, are excluded from its terms of reference. In practice, most of the business of the Committee relates to employee appeals although occasionally there is an appeal in connection with social services home care charges. Membership of the Committee is drawn on an ad hoc basis from a pool of members who have received relevant training. A total of 24 councillors have been trained and are therefore eligible to hear appeals.
- 1.2 At present, the Appeals Committee Procedure Rules at part 3J of the Constitution do not allow Cabinet Members to sit on the Committee. While certain aspects of employment matters may not be the responsibility of the Cabinet, Cabinet Members may lawfully participate on a committee determining an employee appeal.
- 1.3 The limited pool of councillors qualified and available to hear appeals means that it is sometimes difficult to find enough councillors for a hearing. This can lead to delays in hearing appeals. It is suggested that allowing Cabinet Members to participate in appeals (subject to carrying out the relevant training) will increase the number of potential committee members and so allow hearings to be arranged more quickly. It is increasing becoming difficult to arrange appeal hearing dates due to the lack of availability of panel members. In order to plan for forthcoming appeals with certainty and efficiency this matter there is an urgency for this matter to be determined as quickly as possible. Therefore the Constitutional Advisory Panel is not considering this report in the first instance.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are two options to consider. The first is to do nothing. This is not recommended as the current unsatisfactory situation with regard to finding sufficient councillors to form a Committee would continue. It is not efficient and unfair to the employee(s) concerned to wait any longer than is necessary.
- 2.2 The recommended option is to amend paragraph 1 of Part 3J of the Constitution to remove the prohibition on Cabinet Members sitting on the Appeals Committee. The removal of the prohibition is proposed in connection with appeals by employees only. The current position with regard to non-employee appeals, such as social services home care charges appeals would remain unchanged. Part 3J (Appeals Committee Procedure Rules) is attached as an Appendix to this report and the suggested amendment is shown.
- 2.3 It is recommended that if the proposals are agreed, they should be reviewed in the next municipal year to ensure that the new arrangements are delivering the anticipated improvements.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation on this proposal.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 If approved, the change to the Constitution will be implemented immediately.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal implications

While certain matters relating to staff and terms and conditions of employment are not by law to be the responsibility of the Cabinet, there is no legal restriction on Cabinet Members being member of Appeals Committee.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The Constitution sets out the governance arrangements of the Council and it is important for the good governance of the Council that these are fit for purpose and are flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report authors:

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Resources

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Shokat Lal	Assistant Director HR and Workforce Services	Resources	17/09/2014	17/09/2014
Names of approvers: (officers and members)				
Finance: Carolyn Prince	Lead Accountant	Resources		
Legal: Christine Forde	Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services	Resources	17/09/2014	17/09/2014
Member: Councillor Philip Townshend	Cabinet Member		23/09/2014	24/09/2014

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PART 3J: APPEALS COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES

1. An Appeals Committee will consist of Councillors ~~who are not Cabinet Members and~~ who have been trained in hearing appeals. Members who are Cabinet members may sit on an Appeals Committee which has been convened to hear appeals by employees but not on Appeals Committees dealing with other types of appeal.
2. The membership of each Appeals Committee and any Statutory Review Board will comprise the appropriate number of members as selected by the Executive Director, Resources on an ad hoc basis from a Panel of Councillors who have had training in determining appeals and any statutory or other requirements for review boards.
3. The Chair of an Appeals Committee or a Statutory Review Board will be appointed by the Committee or Review Board at the start of each meeting.
4. Each Appeals Committee will comprise three Councillors (subject to any statutory requirements to the contrary) and all three Councillors will be required to be present to consider the appeal.
5. No Councillor who has had any previous knowledge or dealings with the matter which is the subject of an appeal will be eligible to serve on an Appeals Committee that considers that matter. In relation to an Appeals Committee dealing with an employment dispute, no Councillor who is a trade union official, employee or other office holder shall be permitted to be a Member of the Committee.
6. Appeals Committees are subject to the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 3B.
7. Appeals Committees are the subject of the proportionality requirements set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Executive Director, Resources in selecting membership of any Appeal Committee or statutory review board will ensure that the membership properly reflects the political make-up of the Council.
8. Decisions of the Appeals Committees are not the subject of call-in.
9. The Executive Director, Resources or his or her representative will attend all meetings to advise and record proceedings.
10. Appeals Committees dealing with employment appeals or trade union disputes will have in attendance the relevant Senior Human Resources Manager or his or her nominee to advise as appropriate.

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A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it refers to the identity, financial and business affairs of an organisation and the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Council under a particular contract for the supply of goods or services.

Cabinet
Council

7th October 2014
7th October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) – Councillor K Maton

Directors Approving Submission of the Report:

Executive Director, Place
Executive Director, Resources

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Coventry Investment Fund Investment into Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund

Is this a key decision?

Yes – investment over £5m and potential to impact businesses in multiple Wards of the City

Executive Summary:

The Coventry Investment Fund (CIF) has been put in place to invest in real growth opportunities and grow Coventry's business rates. Investment is envisaged right the way through from manufacturing businesses to retail businesses, leisure services and road improvements and include the development of the Council's commercial property portfolio, with a view to getting the best return possible from its assets.

Finance Birmingham recently launched a £56m mezzanine based business support loan programme in the West Midlands. Finance Birmingham has approached the City Council for investment in the mezzanine fund with an offer to match any contribution the Council will make up to the value of £5m, so for a £5million investment by the Council a further £5m would be added through the Fund. Finance Birmingham does not require any resources from the Council until 2015/2016 at the earliest and would effectively be the managing agent for the Council for its investment, but will not take any management fee from the Council. The investment by the council will be ring fenced for businesses within Coventry.

The allocation of £5m would enable projects to progress in the City that would not otherwise be able to in addition to generating substantial returns on investment.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- (1) Recommend that the Council approves the investment of £5m of the Coventry Investment Fund in the Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund.
- (2) Recommend that the Council approves that investment decisions involving the use of the Coventry Investment Fund allocated to the Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund be delegated to the Investment Committee of Finance Birmingham.
- (3) Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Resources and the Council Solicitor as appropriate, in consultation with the Chair of the Cabinet Committee – Coventry Investment Fund, to complete the funding documentation and such other ancillary documentation as is deemed necessary.

Council is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the investment of £5m of the Coventry Investment Fund in the Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund.
- (2) Approve that investment decisions involving the use of the Coventry Investment Fund allocated to the Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund be delegated to the Investment Committee of Finance Birmingham.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background Papers

None

Other Useful Documents:

[Growing Business Rates through creating the Coventry Investment Fund Council 3rd December 2013 - www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings)

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 7th October 2014

CIF Investment into Finance Birmingham Mezzanine Fund

1. Context

- 1.1 Finance Birmingham recently launched a £56m mezzanine based business support loan programme in the West Midlands. The fund is presently open to businesses in Coventry due to £7m of Regional Growth Fund which forms part of the overall package. However when that money is allocated Coventry companies will not be able to apply unless Coventry contributes towards the Fund. Finance Birmingham has approached the City Council with an offer to engage in the fund.
- 1.2 Mezzanine Finance is a hybrid of debt and equity financing that is typically used to finance the expansion of existing companies. In certain circumstances it may give the lender the rights to convert the loan into an ownership or equity interest in the company if it is not paid back in time and in full. In terms of security it generally ranks lower than senior lenders such as banks.
- 1.3 Finance Birmingham (FB) was set up by Birmingham City Council as a public-private partnership, using private-sector experts to lead the provision of funding solutions for growing businesses in the Birmingham area. It has been created to provide a channel of funding, filling the gap left by risk-averse high street banks. It provides funding streams targeting small and medium-sized business market across all industry sectors.
- 1.4 Finance Birmingham would like to bring on board LEPs or Councils to be able to offer the funding to a greater number of businesses. The Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership has already set aside up to £3m of its future European Funding allocation as part of its business support programme which will also be matched making its overall value £6m. It will be available to businesses across the LEP area but would have to operate within the strict confines of European programme eligibility rules.
- 1.5 As the RGF funding is required to be spent within 2014/15, the fund has a year 1 budget of £14m consisting of £7m RGF and £7m matched funding. Crucially, this is not restricted to contributing LEPs and thus Coventry businesses can apply for this funding. From years 2 onwards the funding will only be available to areas whose LEPs or Councils who have invested. FB has confirmed that if Coventry invests £5m this would be ring fenced to Coventry and attract £5m of match funding resulting in £10m being available for Coventry investments only, protecting any investment the CIF may choose to make. Birmingham City Council (BCC) is the Accountable Body for FB and as such all loans will be between BCC and applicants – it would be made very clear on all projects that they are made possible by the investment of Coventry City Council. Coventry would not be required to put any monies into the fund until individual projects are approved. As such the amount of money invested in FB will rise over time until it hits the £5m maximum.
- 1.6 In terms of loan rates FB says typically these are likely to start at a 12% interest rate plus up to 25% redemption premiums on repayment. FB has a strong track record in fund management, has experienced staff from banking/equity/corporate finance and has already passed due diligence with the pension fund and regional growth fund. The loans can include flexible repayment plans including interest and capital repayment holidays for up to 3/4 years. The fund is presently expected to have a nine year life and there would be no Coventry drawdown until 2015. No management fees would be payable by the City Council.
- 1.7 Investment Managers make recommendations to an independent Investment Committee and the Assistant Director (City Centre and Development Services) would be invited to join the Board, where majority decisions apply. All decisions to invest are referred onto the Accountable Body for sign off and completion of legal documentation. Established

investment criteria are used by Investment Managers and this is documented in the FB Investment Manual which takes risk into account. Finance Birmingham reports to the pension fund on a quarterly basis and would provide reports to the Council on the same basis.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Options Available

2.2 Invest an element of CIF funding in the mezzanine fund which would be match funded for the same amount. It is prudent for the CIF to have a range of investments within its portfolio. This presents an opportunity to take loan funds to the market by a tried and tested loan fund manager with strong expertise. Coventry would see double its investment coming back into the local economy. By investing in this fund Coventry not only has another financial instrument to offer local businesses, it can also build up an evidence base in testing the demand from local businesses for these types of finances. It provides a strong commercial arm to the CIF Programme.

2.3 Do not invest in the scheme. The Council does not have the complete technical ability nor systems in place to offer this type of scheme currently. The costs in putting the infrastructure in place would be prohibitively high at this point in time for such a small amount of funding. Not investing in this fund will mean Coventry losing out on the opportunity to double its investment pot for Coventry Businesses to access.

2.4 Recommended Proposal

2.5 To invest £5m of CIF in the Finance Birmingham mezzanine fund.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Finance Birmingham has looked into the market demand for mezzanine funding. Blue Sky Consultancy specialises in accountancy, corporate finance and due diligence. In its report on 'Collaboration on Financial Engineering Instruments under the EU 2014-20 Structural Funding Budget Programme' it examined the unmet demand for business investment. It identified that 21% of SMEs that sought finance in 2010 are unable to obtain any finance from any source. Further the report explains how the manufacturing and construction industries are particularly affected.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Finance Birmingham will not be drawing down any money until 2015/16 as it already has Regional Growth Fund to match the pension funds until that time. Finances will only be drawn down from the council as individual investments are identified in Coventry and approved by the committee. As such, the council contribution will build up over time.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 The proposal outlined would provide an investment of up to £5m from the CIF allocation of £50m of which £8.5m has already been allocated to other projects. This investment would result in up to £10m being available for businesses in Coventry through the match funding. This is in addition to the £7m that businesses in Coventry can access in 2014/15.

5.1.2 The investments made by Finance Birmingham will be in the form of a loan provided on commercial terms. In terms of loan rates typically these are likely to start at a 12% interest rate up to potentially 25%. The predicted returns will contribute towards achieving existing ABC targets. . Furthermore, the Council will only make the investment as and when it has been approved.

5.2 Legal implications

5.2.1 The Council will use its general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011(the Act) as power to make commercial loans, in this instance via Finance Birmingham’s Accountable Body. Section 2 of the Act provides that where the power of competence is conferred on the Council to do something it confers power to do it in any way whatever including for or otherwise than for the benefit of the Council, its area or persons resident in its area.

5.2.2 Finance Birmingham has taken independent legal advice on State Aid issues and loans will be State Aid compliant. FB will be notifying the Commission of the programme under the provisions for the newly updated General Block Exemption Regulations

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

6.1.1. The investment of Coventry Investment Fund into individual projects via Finance Birmingham will contribute significantly to the council’s vision as set out in the Coventry Plan. It will support the priority of being globally connected through supporting businesses to grow, creating infrastructure, developing the city centre and raising the profile of Coventry. It will support sustainable growth within the local economy as well as providing local employment opportunities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 The following table shows the key risks associated with the proposal as well as the actions to mitigate and reduce those risks to the council:

Risk	Mitigating Action
The mezzanine fund is not taken up by businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear marketing strategy by Finance Birmingham • Strong promotion by the Council’s business investment team and via the Local Enterprise Partnership
Finance Birmingham is unable to act quickly enough to take advantage of an investment opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FB has strong governance and due diligence conducted on a timely basis whilst ensuring rigour and appropriateness • Investment Board membership at the right level and frequency of meetings
Return on investment is not delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk cannot be completely eliminated but can be minimised by Finance Birmingham by use of investment criteria, due diligence and monitoring process.

Reputational damage as a result of bad investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and transparent governance process with Coventry represented on the Board. • Due diligence and monitoring process put in place.
Finance Birmingham's capability to deliver the fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FB has passed due diligence from RGF and match funding providers. • FB already manages £345m of funding approved by the government for the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) • FB has provided extensive information including CVs of key staff and the Investment Committee members, anonymised version of its existing loan book, its investment manual and procedures as part of its due diligence process with the council.
State Aid Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FB has provided copies of its state aid notification and will re-notify under the new regulations (all providers of state aid across Europe will have to re-notify)

6.2.2 The progress of the fund will be managed as part of the Coventry Investment Fund processes. It will be monitored on a regular basis by the CIF Management Team chaired by the Assistant Director (City Centre and Development Services) and reported to the Cabinet Committee – Coventry Investment Fund.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

6.3.1. There will be no direct impact on staffing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

6.4.1 The Coventry Investment Fund is open to all businesses and investments within the Coventry Area and a number of businesses in the Warwickshire area that benefit the residents of Coventry. No equality impact assessment is required as the recommendations do not constitute a change in service or policy.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

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Place and Resources

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Sarfraz Nawaz	Finance Manager	Resources	26/8/14	28/8/14
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	7/8/14	11/8/14
Approvers for submission (officers and Members):				
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Sarfraz Nawaz	Finance Manager	Resources	26/8/14	28/8/14
Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	28/8/14	1/9/14
Councillor K Maton	Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)	-	1/9/14	8/9/14

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A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it refers to the identity, financial and business affairs of an organisation and the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Council under a particular contract for the supply of goods or services.

Cabinet
Council

7 October 2014
7 October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Public Services) – Councillor Lancaster

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Public Realm Phase 3

Is this a key decision?

Yes as it has the potential to affect all wards within the City and expenditure is in excess of £1m

Executive Summary:

Coventry's very successful programme of public realm improvements in the city centre has attracted significant further funding totalling £18.8m, which includes £7.5m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant, £5m Growth Deal, £3.6m private sector investment, £0.642m Growing Places funding and £0.164m from Centro.

Including previously approved resources, this will provide £18.8m for a third phase of public realm improvements. Phase 3 will include improvements at 5 strategic locations in the city centre:

- Gosford Street and Coventry University campus
- Belgrade Plaza
- Junction One and pedestrian link to the Canal Basin
- Broadgate/Hertford Street
- Lidice Place

These schemes will complete the 'medieval-cross' of improvements as originally set out in Coventry City Centre Public Realm report to Cabinet in October 2012 to connect major development sites, visitor attractions and shopping areas. Once completed the routes between

the Friargate/Railway Station and the Canal Basin and Far Gosford Street to Spon Street will have been transformed and will complete an important element of the Council's ambitious programme to transform the city centre and make Coventry great again.

The public realm improvements have been instrumental in attracting significant interest in the leasehold of Cathedral Lanes shopping centre to create a new restaurant/bar quarter. In addition, many targets from the original public realm programme for the attraction of new businesses and the creation of new jobs have been exceeded. The 2013 Coventry City Centre Survey reported some encouraging results compared to previous years, with an increase in visitor spend, an 8% rise in the number of people visiting the city centre in the evening, and also a rise in the number of people that stated visiting city centre events has increased their use of the city centre. 59% of those questioned were in agreement that the public realm Phase One works had improved the city centre.

Subject to approval, the works will be delivered between autumn 2014 and spring 2016. The ERDF funding has been allocated against Gosford Street, Belgrade Plaza and the Canal Basin public realm improvement schemes. Spend and delivery of these projects will need to have been made by 31st December 2015. There is more flexibility regarding the Growing Places, Growth Deal and CIF funding timescales. The Growth Deal money available is £2m for 2015/16 and a further £3m for 2016/17 so expenditure will be accelerated under the capital programme, subject to formal award of the funding.

The Public Realm Programme has been designated a West Midlands 'sink fund' by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This is a fantastic opportunity, as means that if other projects in the region underspend and grant becomes available, there is an opportunity for further funding to be awarded to Public Realm Phase 3.

Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to recommend to Council to:

1. Authorise the new programme of works for Public Realm Phase 3 totalling £18.8m to be added to the approved capital programme for 14/15 and 15/16, utilising £7.5M ERDF to part fund Gosford Street, Belgrade Plaza and the Canal Basin Junction One public realm improvements.
2. Subject to funding agreement and conditions, authorise the accelerated expenditure of £5m Growth Deal grant to part-fund the public realm programme, £2m will be made available in 2015/16 and a further £3m in 2016/17 but will all be spent in 15/16 and cashflowed by the capital programme.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with Cabinet Members (Public Services) and (Business, Enterprise and Employment) to agree the detailed works for schemes in Coventry city centre Public Realm Phase 3 as set out in Appendix A and their implementation.
4. Authorise the City Council to act as guarantor and delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place in conjunction with the Executive Director, Resources to enter into grant aid agreements with DCLG on ERDF terms and conditions for the £7.5M ERDF awarded, and any further funding that becomes available from DCLG as part of the 'sink fund'.

Council are asked to:

1. Authorise the new programme of works for Public Realm Phase 3 totalling £18.8m to be added to the approved capital programme for 2014/15 and 2015/16, utilising £7.5M ERDF to part fund Gosford Street, Belgrade Plaza and the Canal Basin Junction One public realm improvements.

2. Subject to funding agreement, authorise the accelerated expenditure of £5m Growth Deal grant to be used as match funding for Belgrade Junction, Canal Basin and Lidice Place, £2m will be made available in 2015/16 and a further £3m in 2016/17.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place, in conjunction with Cabinet Members (Public Services) and (Business, Enterprise and Employment) to agree the detailed works for schemes in Coventry city centre Public Realm Phase 3 as set out in Appendix A and their implementation.
4. Authorise the City Council to act as guarantor and delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place in conjunction with the Executive Director, Resources to enter into grant aid agreements with DCLG on ERDF terms and conditions for the £7.5M ERDF awarded, and any further funding that becomes available from DCLG as part of the 'sink fund'.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Plan showing location of Phase 3 schemes
Appendix B – Descriptions of new and enhanced schemes

Background Papers:

None

Other Useful Documents:

1. The Coventry & Warwickshire First Wave Growth Deal – Council Report of 9th September 2014
2. Belgrade Plaza Development – Cabinet Report of 22nd July 2014
3. ERDF Open Call for Projects - Council Report of 29th June 2014
4. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2 Update – Council Report of 23rd July 2013
([Click Here to Access Council Report](#))
5. European Development Fund Accountable Body Report – Cabinet Report of 16th April 2013
([Click Here to Access Council Report](#))
6. Strategic Alignment of Regional Growth Fund Round 3, Growing Places and LEP Core Funding with Coventry City Council as the Accountable Body – Council Report 23rd February 2013
7. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2 – Council Report of 23rd October 2012
([Click Here to Access Council Report](#))

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes, 7 October 2014

1 Context (or background)

- 1.1 The background to the Coventry 2012 Public Realm Project was covered in a report to Cabinet on January 21st 2011. Phase 1 was completed in Summer 2012 and the success of these works led to Phase 2 being approved by Cabinet on October 9th 2012, and a revised programme subsequently approved July 9th 2013.
- 1.2 Phases 1 and 2 of the Public Realm programme have been extremely successful to date, with the programme having already regenerated almost 9.5 hectares of brownfield land within Coventry city centre, and levered in more than £8.5 million of additional public sector funding.
- 1.3 Completed schemes under Phase 2 to date include a second entrance to Pool Meadow, improvements to Little Park Street/New Union Street Junction, Spon Street, additional Phase 1 paving works on Gosford Street and Trinity Street. High Street and Council House Square are almost complete, subject to surfacing and installation of street furniture. Gosford Gate works are underway, and programmed for completion in December 2014.
- 1.4 A number of opportunities have arisen since the revised second phase of public realm works was approved. These are:-
- The invitation to bid for further ERDF and award of £7.5m additional funding to date, with an opportunity to be awarded further funding before June 2015 as the project has been allocated as a 'sink fund' for the West Midlands ERDF funding programme by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This means that if other projects in the region underspend, further ERDF grant may be awarded to Public Realm Phase 3 between now and the end of 2015.
 - Coventry University committing funding for improvements on Gosford Street and around their campus;
 - Additional private investment in public realm, from Deeley and Barberry
 - Growing Places funding of £642,000 has been awarded for Broadgate/Hertford Street;
 - £1.8m Coventry Investment Fund (CIF) previously approved to be allocated as match funding against the public realm programme;
 - £5m Growth Deal (Strategic Economic Plan - SEP) grant offer to the Council for improving city centre access, which we can utilise to fund public realm projects which meet the grant criteria, subject to funding agreement.
- 1.5 The additional ERDF needs to be drawn down by December 2015, which enables us to extend the public realm programme for another year to deliver the Gosford Street, Belgrade Plaza and Canal Basin schemes.
- 1.6 The primary purpose of this investment is to promote the regeneration of the city centre and further improve accessibility to employment, retail and tourist attractions, alongside attracting inward investment to create jobs. The extension programme will complete the missing links between the enhanced routes along the alignment of the medieval Coventry cross referred to in previous Public Realm reports to create a more holistically attractive city centre environment.

1.7 Details of all five schemes can be found in appendices A and B. The schemes are summarised below:

- The Belgrade Plaza and Lidice Place schemes will much improve accessibility to the retail and leisure facilities in the west of the city centre.
- In the north the Junction 1/Canal Basin scheme will improve the capacity of Junction One of the ring road and create a new high quality public realm environment linking the city centre and Barberry site to the Canal Basin. This will support a number of development sites in this area.
- Public realm improvements to the Broadgate/Hertford St junction will include laying of high quality granite paving extending the enhanced Broadgate scheme into Hertford Street
- To the east the Gosford Street scheme will improve the setting of the University campus and links to Far Gosford Street and Whitefriars Monastery. This will support the continuing growth of the University and encourage people to visit the newly regenerated Far Gosford St. Works for the Gosford Gate scheme currently underway will be extended up to the Gosford Street scheme boundary to complete public realm improvements along this key route.

1.8 The enhancements will further improve disabled access in the city centre, and support the Council's aspiration to become an Age Friendly City. Narrowing of roads and removal of traffic signals should help enforce slower speeds, improve traffic flow and help to reduce accident rates.

1.9 Procurement options for the delivery of the works are currently being explored. It is likely an existing OJEU compliant framework will be utilised for Gosford Street, Canal Basin and Belgrade Plaza. The DLO will deliver Lidice Place, part of the public realm works at Broadgate/Hertford Street and possibly some enabling works on the other schemes. Professional services will be procured using the West Midlands Highway Alliance Framework Shared Professional Services Contract. Procurement Board approved the procurement strategy for the works in May 2014. All works will be procured to meet EU procurement requirements.

1.10 All external funding requires there to be an accountable body and the City Council will take on this role to act as guarantor for all funding streams that make up the resource package for the programme extension. The works will be delivered by the same internal team currently managing the delivery of the Phase 2 programme who are highly experienced in administering grant funding. The team will also seek further support from Finance and technical assistance from Resources and New Projects to ensure that robust management processes are in place to avoid the risk of claw-back of grant.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 **Option 1 - The City Council approves using ERDF for Gosford Street, Belgrade Plaza and the Canal Basin and approves the use of SEP to be used as match funding to enable Broadgate and Lidice Place to be delivered** - The City Council has acted as lead applicant or accountable body for many European-funded projects since 1984 when the area first became eligible for such funding. In essence it means being responsible for monitoring spend, submitting grant claims to DCLG for eligible expenditure and demonstrating that the grant has been spent in achieving the outputs of the project. By taking on this role, the City Council will administer a further £7.5m ERDF grant, along with £5m SEP funds and £0.642m Growing Places as well as managing the other public sector and private sector resources which make up the funding package. It is recommended this option is approved to maximise funds available to deliver the full programme of public realm improvements to maximise impact. It is not known what funds may become available for public realm post 2015, therefore this is a last opportunity to

utilise a significant package of grant funding to further enhance the city centre and complete the programme of works started at part of the Coventry 2012 initiative.

Option 2 - Proceed without Growth Deal funds - Without utilising SEP grant the ability to deliver all of the projects proposed will be diminished and Phase 3 would have to be scaled back in terms of the number of schemes to be delivered and quality and extent of the improvements. The Council would also lose flexibility to fund any non-ERDF schemes beyond the end of December 2015.

Option 3 - Proceed without any of the external funding package - If the Public Realm work were to be funded entirely by City Council funding, the overall impact of the works undertaken would be diminished and it would only be feasible for statutory duty works to be funded such as maintenance of footpaths and highways. With increasing pressure on the Council's capital programme an opportunity would be missed to improve the public realm environment of the city centre and attract inward investment.

2.2 Recommended Proposal

It is recommended that the Council moves forward with Option 1.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The New Jobs Strategy 2014 - 2017 is the Council's proposal for taking forward the economy of the city in the light of the changed circumstances experienced over recent years. ERDF matched against core funds for these projects is aligned to delivering the Jobs Strategy and the priorities of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) set out in their 4-year strategy based on the Local Economic Assessment and feedback from local businesses which include:

- Creating New Jobs
- Creating business growth
- Removing barriers to growth

3.2 The development of the ERDF projects has been completed with LEP partners and reflects the CWLEP's priorities most in need of public investment.

3.3 The CWLEP has undertaken a consultation exercise with local business to determine the priorities it should focus on. The proposals and projects within this report fully align to the proposed CWLEP Strategic Economic Plan and the new European Structural Investment Fund Strategy.

3.4 Consultation with Access Groups has been ongoing throughout the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2, and will continue for the development of the additional schemes. All schemes incorporate trees and grass wherever practical in response to repeated calls for more greenery in the city centre.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Additional funding was awarded 14th July 2014 and planning and design are underway on all projects.

4.2 All ERDF spend must take place by 30 November 2015 in order for submitting a final grant claim by 31 December 2015.

- 4.3 SEP funding must be defrayed by March 31st 2017; however it is currently anticipated that all expenditure will be defrayed by spring 2016.

5 Comments from Executive Director Resources

5.1 Financial implications

- 5.1.1 The report proposes the addition of a new programme of capital works for a further round of Public Realm (Phase 3) totalling £18.8m. No additional corporate resources are required to enable this programme. The contribution being made is just over 10% showing a significant level of financial leverage into the City. The ERDF will enable us to temporarily capitalise a number of revenue funded posts.
- 5.1.2 The Council are proposing to be the accountable body for all of the ERDF projects listed in Appendix A. Whilst this is not unusual, the financial implications to the Council should be clearly understood. We have entered into a legally binding ERDF contract with Department for Communities and Local Government and therefore are obliged to ensure that the projects are delivered compliantly within ERDF rules or face financial penalty, which could result in withdrawal of a proportion or all of the grant awarded. There is minimal risk of this occurring. For risk management refer to section 6.3.
- 5.1.3 The Council's financial contribution indicated in the above table is from existing approved resources, £1.8m of which relates to the use of Coventry Investment Fund (CIF) monies, approved by Cabinet in July 2013. The remainder relates to the use of revenue budgeted salary as further match funding.
- 5.1.4 The Growth Deal funding conditions will mean that £2m will be allocated to the Council in 2015/16 and a further £3m in 2016/17, therefore accelerated spend is required under the Capital programme as it is forecast that the total grant will be spent by spring 2016.
- 5.1.5 In the event that any of the above resources are not successfully secured, the proposed works will need to be scaled down to match available resources.

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2.1 The Council will act as the accountable body for the ERDF projects on the terms of the EU and DCLG requirements. The Council will be issued with a grant offer containing terms and conditions. It is anticipated that based on other grant funding agreements entered into by the Council there will be provisions relating to repayment/clawback of the grant to DCLG in certain circumstances, the risk of such will be managed in accordance with 6.3.
- 5.2.2 Planning consent will be required for Broadgate, Belgrade and Gosford Street Schemes. The City Council will be the applicant under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 5.2.3 The public realm schemes will be delivered under the Council's general highway improvement/traffic management powers under the Highways Act 1980 except in relation to any new or amended formal pedestrian crossings/traffic regulation orders/traffic-calming measures which will be implemented following a separate statutory notice/objection process under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

6.1.1 The City Council's New **Jobs Strategy 2014-17** highlights the importance of creating jobs which the city needs. All project extensions will support job creation within Coventry and be aligned with the following two objectives of the strategy:

- Secure job opportunities through investment – businesses and investors continue to recognise Coventry as the right place for them to invest and grow
- Help people get jobs – pursuing prosperity so that in Coventry everyone who wants a job will have the opportunity to secure one that matches their skills.

6.1.2 All these schemes will indirectly or directly provide jobs across the city and sub-region. The Jobs Strategy specifically acknowledges the importance of public realm improvements in creating new jobs in the city centre. Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the ambitions for "a prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents". One of its long-term outcomes is accelerating economic growth for the city and creating a more diverse range of businesses and employment.

6.1.3 The proposed extensions to the current Public Realm programme are closely aligned with one of the **CWLEPs core objectives**, which is to develop Strategic Infrastructure. It is also aligned with the CWLEP's Inward Investment objective, particularly as improved public realm will help to open up new employment sites (most notably the Friargate and City Centre South sites), and provide compelling reasons for companies to locate into the region.

6.1.4 The CWLEP recognises the importance of a successful Coventry city centre to the sub-region as a whole in its strategy. The proposed extension of the Public Realm Phase 2 is closely aligned with the "Unlocking Growth Potential" theme of the Coventry and Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), specifically by unlocking the potential for development on key new city centre employment sites.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 Arrangements are in place within the Place Directorate to deliver the accountable body role ensuring that procedures are in place to manage risk. There is a governance structure in place for the public realm programme whereby risks are managed by project team level and reported to strategic board. There is a separate project board to manage shared risks between Coventry University and the Council for the Gosford Street project. Regular risk workshops are undertaken on all projects to ensure active monitoring and management.

6.2.2 The financial risk associated with the ERDF sits with the Council. However the risk of claw back by DCLG and/or the EU is minimal so long as the expenditure is defrayed against eligible activity and in the permitted timeframe. This risk will be mitigated by the implementation of strict procedures for the project management of ERDF-funded work and ensuring that the risks for the two outside projects are devolved appropriately to the partner organisations. The Council maintain close liaison with our monitoring officer in DCLG, and ensure that funding contracts awarded by the Council for the completion of infrastructure works place risk on the organisations which complete the works.

- 6.2.3 The Council has a good track record for maintaining and achieving significant financial controls and well established procedures for handling public funds and these will be applied to the ERDF projects in order to ensure that the best possible value is achieved for the EU's investment in the schemes. Therefore the view of officers is that risk of clawback for each scheme is minimal.
- 6.2.4 The Council has already put in place an External Funding Board, chaired by the Assistant Director Financial Management, with officers from both Place and Resources, whose role is to ensure that the Council satisfactorily carries out its legal responsibilities and manages the risks to the Council in holding these types of funds. The group sits alongside partnership decision making and strategy groups such as the CWLEP Board where investment policy is determined and spend proposals are approved.
- 6.2.5 The City Council's Resources & New Projects (RNP) Team is highly experience in dealing with external funding and will ensure that suitable monitoring and governance arrangements are in place.
- 6.2.6 The programme manager for the works is responsible for managing compliance with the funding requirements such as publicity, procurement and for monitoring progress including making grant claims to DCLG. The highly experienced Planning, Transport & Highways division who have already successfully delivered Public Realm Phase 1 and parts of Phase 2 will continue to implement any successful public realm schemes.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

6.3.1 HR Implications

- 6.3.2 To ensure successful delivery of these large projects and the Council's ability to provide an adequate accountable body function, additional staff resources may be required and will be recruited through the council's authorised recruitment protocols. Staff are already in place for the existing ERDF-funded projects and they may be able to continue to carry out this function and take on the new projects.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

- 6.4.1 Each of the infrastructure projects will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment as part of project development and impact. The proposals will make movement around the city centre easier for everyone. This is because of the removal of unnecessary street furniture and measures to reduce the dominance of vehicular traffic. However, access by car for those that need it will be maintained. Discussions with the Access Groups and representative organizations are underway to ensure that the design of Belgrade and other areas properly reflects access needs. There have been regular meetings with the Access Development Group and the Coventry and Warwickshire Access Committee to review the impact of Phase 1 and 2 schemes and to consider the design of further schemes. In particular, the Council has been working closely with the Guide Dogs Association.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

- 6.5.1 The large scale infrastructure projects will have an impact on the environment in the city centre. Introducing more capacity at Junction 1 of the ring road and removal of traffic lights at Belgrade Plaza junction will result in freer flowing traffic, which will have a positive impact on air quality. We will also be introducing more green spaces and trees into the city centre.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

6.6.1 Private sector developers and Coventry University stand to benefit from the proposed Public Realm Phase 3 programme. The proposed Gosford Street public realm improvements would significantly improve pedestrian access to Coventry University. In addition, the public realm activities at the Canal Basin, Belgrade Plaza and Broadgate/Hertford Street would increase the attractiveness of these sites to private sector developers, and is likely to bring new employment land forward for development (again, this is reflected by the fact private sector developers have committed to provide some of their own resources to develop the first two sites in question).

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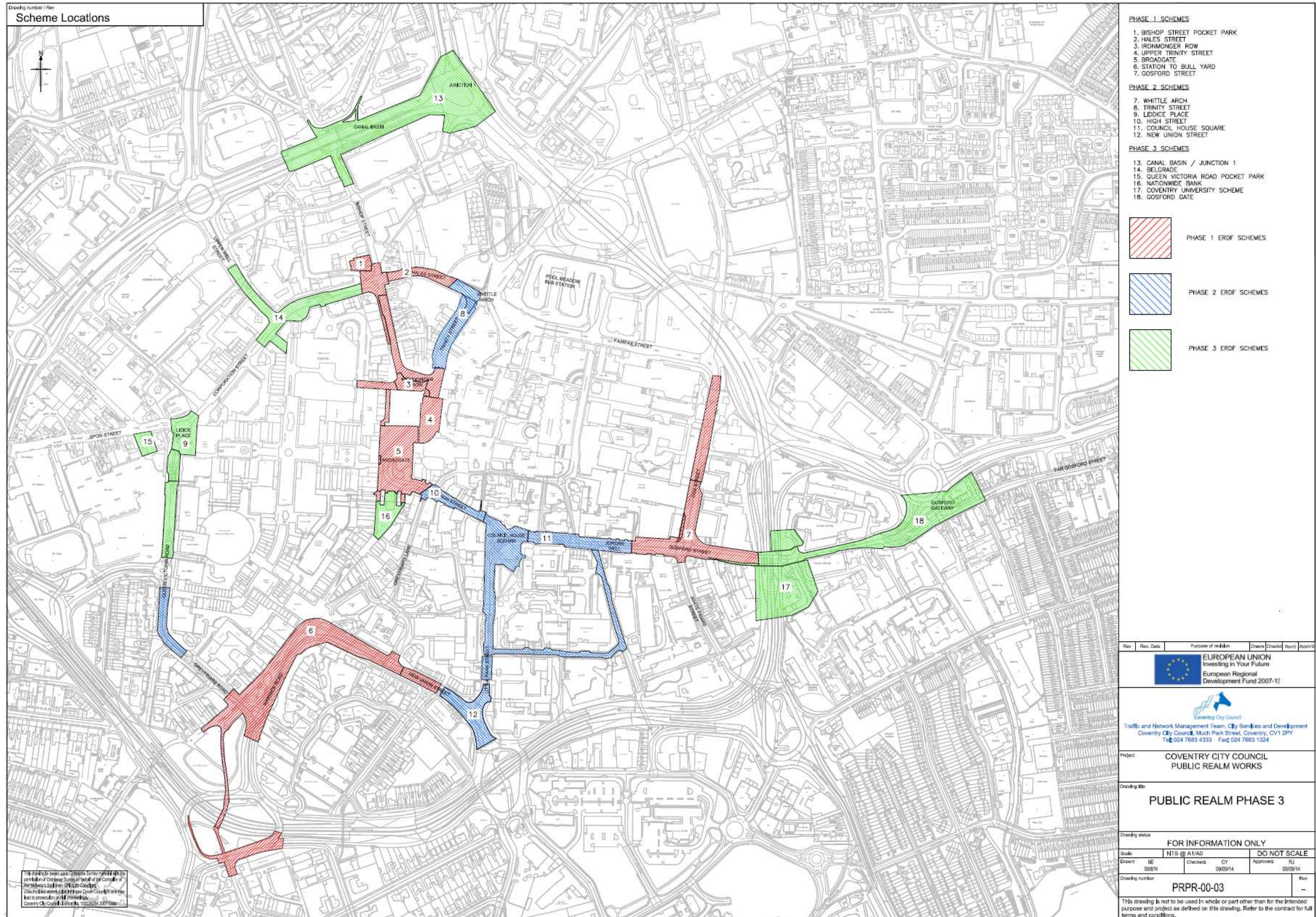
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APPENDIX A - Plan showing location of Phase 3 schemes



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APPENDIX B – Descriptions of new and enhanced schemes

The proposed Public Realm Phase 3 programme schemes are as follows:

- **Gosford St/University** – following on from the success of the Gosford Street/Cox Street junction scheme and further investment in Gosford Gate, Coventry University have committed match funding to transform the area between the Ring Road and the William Morris Building and underneath the flyover to create a campus fit for a modern successful University. This will complete the innovative and successful work started by the City Council three years ago to transform the streetscape and create a high quality pedestrian link between Broadgate and Far Gosford Street. High quality landscaping, paving and lighting will be delivered to improve the setting of the iconic new University buildings and to open up access to Whitefriars Monastery. The scheme also includes for some additional works for the previously approved Gosford Gate scheme to fully complete this key arterial route into the city centre.
- **Canal Basin / Bishop Street** –The existing footbridge will be demolished, and replaced by a new at grade pedestrian crossing integrated with a reconfigured Junction 1 (Foleshill Road) which will improve capacity traffic flow. This scheme will complete a high quality pedestrian route linking Broadgate to the canal basin and will also provide a key link in the Cycle Coventry network. This link will also provide a stimulus for the Bishopgate development and link to the new development on the site of the old Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.
- **Broadgate /Hertford Street** - This project will significantly improve the public realm connecting Hertford Street and Broadgate, by installing high quality granite and will further improves the pedestrian route from the rail station to the city centre, complementing the improvement works underway at Junction 6 and the pedestrian boulevard.
- **Belgrade Plaza** – the public highway around Belgrade Plaza will be reconfigured to complement the existing landscaped area to create an attractive public space. The scheme will follow the successful design principles used elsewhere in the city centre, including the removal of the traffic lights. Centro have pledged £164k towards a new city centre wayfinding scheme. This will include new totems erected around the city centre to provide information to visitors regarding popular and lesser known tourist attractions, and make it easier to travel around the city through improved information on transport options, including walking and cycle routes and public transport.
- **Lidice Place and Spon Street**- The scheme will improve pedestrian linkages between the Lower Precinct and Spon Street. This project offers additionality from current approved scheme through the use of higher quality materials to mirror the standard of other public realm improvement schemes in the city centre, as well as increased scope through the creation of a new multi-functional events space to enable local traders to hold events and markets. The existing signalised pedestrian crossing adjacent to the City Arcade Entrance will be removed and replaced with a zebra crossing and narrowed carriageway. At the junction of Croft Road and Queen Victoria Road a pseudo roundabout will be constructed to aid in traffic movements. Additional car park spaces will be created adjacent to the City Arcade entrance. The works are proposed to be split into packages to enable phased delivery so should any of the other public realm schemes require additional funds this project can be scaled back accordingly.

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