

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 11th October, 2016

Place

Council House, Coventry

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2016** (Pages 5 - 12)
3. **Coventry Good Citizen Award**
To be presented by the Lord Mayor and Judge Griffith-Jones, Honorary Recorder
4. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**
5. **Petitions**
6. **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 Cabinet, 4 October 2016. The reports are attached. The relevant recommendations will be circulated separately.

7. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-20 and Efficiency Plan** (Pages 13 - 30)
8. **Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Planned Distribution of Employment Land within the Coventry & Warwickshire Market Area** (Pages 31 - 56)
9. **Local Growth Deal - Public Realm Phase 4 & Infrastructure Projects** (Pages 57 - 74)

Item(s) for Consideration

10. **Appointments of the City Council - West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership** (Pages 75 - 78)
Report of the Executive Director of Resources

Other Business

11. Question Time (Pages 79 - 82)

- (a) Written Question – Booklet 1
- (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 Abbott and seconded by Councillor N Akhtar

Coventry City Council recognises the Key objectives of the Feeding Coventry partnership project to tackle food poverty in Coventry:-

- 1) addressing emergency food needs;
- 2) increasing the understanding of the causes of food poverty;
- 3) promoting a sustainable food economy;
- 4) joining support networks which offer mentoring to achieve their goals.
- 5) developing cohesive partnerships across all organisations involved in emergency food provision, welfare and research
- 6) to provide a single simple information source for the city on the provision of food and related support.

Coventry city council supports the feeding Coventry project and calls on the government to support the feeding Britain initiative which is working on a national level to eliminate food poverty.

- 13.2 To be moved by Councillor Mayer and seconded by Councillor Ridley

“Coventry Council will write to all drivers who received the unlawful fines after driving through bus gates – designated sections of road for buses and taxis only at Park Road, Greyfriars Green and Gosford Street – between December 10, 2015 and April 21, 2016. Fines were issued because the Council failed to comply with legal signage.

The council realise motorists have been treated unfairly and have they paid a fine they should never have received. The council will now write to motorists wrongly fined to explain their right to apply for a refund and apologise for any undue stress this may have caused.”

Private Business

Nil

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Monday, 3 October 2016

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, P Akhtar, R Ali, A Andrews, R Auluck, R Bailey, S Bains, L Bigham, J Birdi, J Blundell, R Brown, K Caan, J Clifford, G Crookes, G Duggins, D Gannon, M Hammon, L Harvard (Chair), J Innes, B Kaur, L Kelly, D Kershaw, T Khan, A Khan, R Lakha, R Lancaster, M Lapsa, J Lepoidevin, A Lucas, P Male, K Maton, T Mayer, J McNicholas, C Miks, K Mulhall, J Mutton, M Mutton, J O'Boyle, G Ridley, E Ruane, T Sawdon, P Seaman, B Singh, R Singh, D Skinner, T Skipper (Deputy Chair), H Sweet, K Taylor, R Thay, C Thomas, S Walsh, D Welsh and G Williams

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Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett
024 7683 3166/3072

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Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 6 September 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor L Harvard (Chair)

Councillor F Abbott	Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor A Andrews	Councillor A Lucas
Councillor R Auluck	Councillor P Male
Councillor R Bailey	Councillor K Maton
Councillor S Bains	Councillor T Mayer
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor J Birdi	Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor R Brown	Councillor G Ridley
Councillor K Caan	Councillor E Ruane
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor P Seaman
Councillor G Crookes	Councillor B Singh
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor R Singh
Councillor D Gannon	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor J Innes	Councillor T Skipper
Councillor L Kelly	Councillor K Taylor
Councillor D Kershaw	Councillor R Thay
Councillor T Khan	Councillor C Thomas
Councillor A Khan	Councillor D Welsh
Councillor R Lakha	Councillor G Williams

Honorary Alderman Gazey

Apologies: Councillors R Ali, M Hammon, J Mutton, M Mutton, T Sawdon, H Sweet and S Walsh

Public Business

42. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 3 August 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 3 August 2016 were signed as true records.

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

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the private report headed "City Wide Public Leisure Provision" on the grounds that the report involved the likely disclosure of information defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as it contained information relating to the financial and business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that in circumstances of the case, the public interest in

maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

44. Coventry Good Citizen Award

On behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor presented Mr Michael Wileman with the Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

“Michael Wileman is a community activist who has led on numerous projects which have transformed Canley Brook and the green spaces in the area.

Michael has been instrumental in collaborating with a number of agencies to ensure the people and wildlife of Canley benefit from greener and more environmentally friendly surroundings.

Amongst his achievements are the planting of 2,000 tree saplings and 15,000 Spring bulbs, building bird and bat boxes, removing 5 tonnes of fly-tipping from Canley Brook, undertaking monthly water checks to monitor the brook, creating a social media web site to promote Canley green spaces and bringing together various community groups to volunteer their services.

Canley has benefitted greatly from Michael’s proactive approach to transforming the area. The Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood are now wildlife havens and this is thanks to Michael’s dedication and determination to improve his local environment.”

45. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

There were no correspondence or announcements from the Lord Mayor.

46. Petitions

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

- (a) Request for improvement at the junction of Hockley Lane and Church Lane – 739 signatures, presented by Councillor Lepoidevin.**
- (b) Request for Charlewood Road to be considered for a road safety scheme – 46 signatures, presented by Councillor Lancaster.**
- (c) Request for assistance in improving the safety and general appearance of Craners Road, Newham and the part of Harnall Lane East that runs from Trentham Road to Pommies Convenience Store on Swan Lane in the Hillfields are of Coventry – 39 signatures, presented by Councillor Welsh.**
- (d) Request for increase in the parking capacity of Tile Hill Station or restrict its use to Coventry residents only Monday to Friday – 12 signatures, presented by Councillors Skinner and Welsh.**

- (e) **Objection to planning application FUL/2016/1812 for the erection of three dwellings with associated parking on land at the end of Woodhill Rise, Holbrooks, Coventry – 106 signatures, presented by Councillor Clifford.**
- (f) **Request for measures to control speeding on Hawkes Mill Lane running between Browns Lane and Washbrook Lane – 99 signatures, presented by Councillor Birdi.**
- (g) **Request National Express to cease any action to stop the number 5 bus from running through the Everdon Road estate – 194 signatures, presented by Councillor Lucas.**

47. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

48. **Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2015/2016**

Further to Minute 11/16 of the Audit and Procurement Committee, the City Council considered the Audit and Procurement Annual Report 2015/16 which provided an overview of the Committee's activity during 2015/2016.

RESOLVED that the City Council receive and note the Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2015/2016.

49. **City Wide Public Leisure Provision**

Further to Minute 29/16 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which set out proposals for city wide public leisure provision.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to the meeting for consideration.

In September 2014, Coventry City Council unanimously approved investment in a new city centre destination sport and leisure facility. The Council further unanimously agreed to continue to work to explore all opportunities to enable Coventry to keep a 50m swimming pool if technically possible and within the current financial envelope available, by exploring opportunities with other stakeholders in and around the city.

Approval was now sought for the development of a new 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way, Coventry. Subject to planning approval, the meeting of conditions relating to existing planning applications on the site and the granting of consents for development at the Alan Higgs Centre, this proposed investment would form a central part of the creation of a 'Sports Village' complex at the site. The intention would therefore be to substantially enhance the facility provision of two sports, being swimming and rugby, through the development of a Community Swimming Development Hub and

a Community Rugby Development Hub, to complement wider community sporting provision and the development of a separately funded, Wasps Training Centre.

In addition approval was sought to negotiate terms for entering into a commercial lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility and to explore any benefit that could be derived from a formalised commercial partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust (CAWAT). Approval was also sought to extend the existing leases between Coventry City Council and Coventry Sports Trust in respect of the operational management of the public leisure provision that they currently manage across the city.

The aim of these proposals was to provide high quality, accessible and sustainable city-wide public sports and leisure facilities, in accordance with the objectives of the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024, the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024 and Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014-2024.

RESOLVED that the Council approves the addition of £10.5m, to the capital programme for 2016/17 towards for the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre. Within the £10.5m, £1.169m related to management and design development costs as per paragraph 5.10 of the report.

50. **Appointments to the City Council - Change in Membership of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board 1 and the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3**

The City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources which sought approval to amend appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2016 in respect of membership of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) and the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3).

RESOLVED that the City Council approves with immediate effect:

1. **The appointment of Councillor Gary Ridley as a member of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) in place of Councillor Tim Mayer and;**
2. **The appointment of Councillor Tim Mayer as a member of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3 in place of Councillor Gary Ridley.**

51. **Review of Gifts and Hospitality Section of Employees Code of Conduct**

The City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources which reviewed the gifts and hospitality section of Employee Code of Conduct.

The terms of reference of Ethics Committee includes “monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct for Employees and making appropriate recommendations to the relevant body.” Part of the Committee’s regular work programme was to monitor and review declarations of gifts and hospitality by employees.

Ethics Committee on 24 March 2016 raised concerns that the section in the Employee Code of Conduct dealing with gifts and hospitality no longer reflected common business practice and the changing role of employees, particularly senior officers. It resolved that the section of the Employee Code of Conduct, which sets out the Council's rules on gifts and hospitality for employees should be reviewed (Minute 24/15).

At its meeting on 15 July 2016, the Ethics Committee considered proposals to amend the Code of Conduct with regard to gifts and hospitality. The Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that the proposed amendments be approved, subject to consultation with the Trade Unions. The results of that consultation were set out in Section 3 of the report.

An extract from the current Employee Code of Conduct dealing with gifts and hospitality was attached at Appendix 1 of the report. Appendix 2 detailed the proposed replacement for the current guidance. This was based on gifts and hospitality guidance issued to staff by other local authorities, guidance from the government on the Bribery Act 2010 and from the Institute of Business Ethics. It was an attempt to give clear guidance to employees while at the same time recognising that some officers have a legitimate need to network with outside organisations in order to promote the interests of the Council and the City of Coventry.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1. Approves the changes to the Gifts and Hospitality section of the Code of Conduct for Employees; and**
- 2. Authorises the Executive Director of Resources to amend Section 13 of Part 4B of the Constitution (Code of Conduct for Employees) accordingly.**

52. Question Time

Councillors Innes, Maton and J Mutton provided written answers to the questions set out in the Questions Booklet and Councillors Innes and Maton provided oral responses to supplementary questions put to them at the meeting.

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 Williams	Councillor Maton	Access to high standard of education for all including those with a disability
2	Councillor Williams	Councillor Bigham	Green belt policy and the development of green belt land after 2031
3	Councillor Williams	Councillor Duggins	Election of Metro Mayor
4	Councillor Male	Councillor Maton	Sale of land at Woodlands Academy

5	Councillor Male	Councillor Innes	Financial contribution from the Environment Agency towards the improvement of flooding at the junction of Banner Lane
6	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Bigham	Guidance on holding Ward Forums
7	Councillor Crookes	Councillor Innes	Petition response regarding a bollard erected on a small piece of tarmac
8	Councillor Birdi	Councillor Bigham	Coundon Wedge and the Local Plan
9	Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Innes	Public Rights of Way – Definitive Map Modifications Order
10	Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Innes	Accident figures for new roundabout on junction of A45 and Broad Lane

53. Statements

- (a) The Leader made a statement in respect of “Progress on the Combined Authority”

Councillor Blundell responded to the Statement.

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

Councillor Lapsa responded to the Statement.

54. Debate: Syrian Refugees

Councillor A Khan moved the following Motion, which was seconded by Councillor P Akhtar

“In September 2015, the Government pledged to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020, yet huge parts of Britain have not taken in any Syrian refugees since the new government programme was announced last year. By March this year, 1602 people had been accepted under the scheme.

There is no excuse for those Councils which have taken in no Syrian refugees. The Government needs to step in and take action now if we are to meet the target of 20,000 people. At this current rate the target will not be met.

We can’t continue to allow a two-tier system among local authorities to occur with some providing support to Syrian refugees and others not doing so at all. Only 68 local authorities (17% or 1 in 6) had taken any of the 1,602; the remaining five-sixths between them had not resettled a single person.

The voluntary scheme has so far demonstrated that it is not working and it will not be able to achieve its overall aim, therefore the City Council calls upon the Prime Minister to step in and set a quota system for all local authorities”.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Blundell, seconded by Councillor Crookes and lost:

“In September 2015, the Government pledged to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020, yet huge parts of Britain have not taken in any Syrian refugees since the new government programme was announced last year. By March this year, 1602 people had been accepted under the scheme.

There is no excuse for those Councils which have taken in no Syrian refugees. The Government needs to step in and take action now if we are to meet the target of 20,000 people. At this current rate the target will not be met.

We can't continue to allow a two-tier system among local authorities to occur with some providing support to Syrian refugees and others not doing so at all. Only 68 local authorities (17% or 1 in 6) had taken any of the 1,602; the remaining five-sixths between them had not resettled a single person.”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above be adopted.

55. **City Wide Public Leisure Provision**

Further to Minute 49 above, the City Council considered a private report of the Executive Director of Place which detailed confidential aspects of proposals for the city wide public leisure provision.

RESOLVED that the City Council approves, in principle, the addition of £10.5m to the capital programme for 2016/17 onwards, towards the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre. Within the £10.5m, £1.169m related to management and design development costs as per paragraph 5.10 of the report.

(Meeting closed at 4.55 pm)

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Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)
Cabinet
Council

7th September 2016
4th October 2016
11th October 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources – Councillor J Mutton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director Resources

Ward(s) affected: All

Title:

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-20 and Efficiency Plan

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report presents a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), incorporating an Efficiency Plan for 2017-2020 for adoption by the City Council. The previous strategy was approved in December 2015. The Strategy sets out the financial planning foundations that support the Council's vision and priorities and leads to the setting of the Council's revenue and capital budgets.

The government is to commit to 4 year funding settlements to local authorities in order to encourage efficiency savings. To qualify, each local authority needs to produce an Efficiency Plan setting out how the authority intends to increase efficiency over the planning period.

Looking forward, the Council's pre-budget report will be brought to members in 29th November 2016, followed by the budget setting report in February 2017.

Local authorities will continue to face severe financial pressures for the foreseeable future in what are very uncertain times. Although the previous government policy of targeting a budget surplus by 2020 has been dropped, following the EU referendum, the downgrading of growth forecasts indicate that the severe financial pressures on public finances will continue. The fundamental factor shaping the City Council's MTFS remains that of unprecedented financial pressure leading to further significant reductions in spending levels that are likely to continue in the period up to at least 2020.

In summary, the national and local contexts that frame this Strategy include:

- A paramount need to protect the most vulnerable people in the city including children at risk, children and young people in care, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults and older people;
- Significant reductions in government resources with a fall of c£95m in the 5 years to 2016/17 and a further fall of c£25m in the next 3 years;
- Fast population growth causing greater demand or expenditure pressures in areas such as housing, social care and waste disposal;
- A move towards greater localisation of income, including business rates by 2020, and uncertainty arising from the review of the business rates system and other funding programmes;
- The increasing importance of promoting growth in the local economy;
- Upward pressure on Pension Fund contributions, in particular to fund pension past service deficits;
- The transfer of schools to Academy status putting increasing pressure on the Council's core education functions and other services that trade with the city's schools;
- More complex service delivery models across the Council driven by the need to modernise and rationalise services and work in tandem with partners and neighbouring authorities;
- Continued expectations on the Council to maintain service levels and standards across the full range of core services despite the financial challenges;
- The development of the West Midlands Combined Authority providing a source of financial support for key transformation programmes.

Taken together, these factors represent a combination of reducing resources, challenging underlying economic and demographic conditions, increased demand, a heightened need to improve the quality of services and new challenges represented by government reform and local structural and governance relationships. In these circumstances it is crucial that the Council's financial strategy is both robust and flexible. This will provide the financial foundations required to ensure that Council services are fit for purpose to protect the most vulnerable as well as providing decent core services for every citizen in the city.

In support of these aims, the City Councils strategic financial approach to the demands that it faces includes:

- A Council Plan focusing on economic growth, quality of life and a commitment to protecting the vulnerable, whilst delivering services with fewer resources;
- A Local Plan setting the blueprint for taking the City forward, identifying land to satisfy housing, infrastructure and developmental demand;
- Strong corporate financial planning, monitoring and project management arrangements;
- Growing the city's local income base, within the environment of increasing localisation of funding sources, including business rates;
- Managing the demand for services, through digital working and community engagement;
- A transformation programme, including the delivery of major capital investment schemes, to change the way the Council works and engages with its customers, as well as to drive economic growth and the delivery of unprecedented savings;
- Partnership working, including as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, together with voluntary organisations and other partners;
- A fundamental commitment to protecting the city's vulnerable children, adults and older people;

- Changing the relationship between the Council and its citizens reflecting the reality that the Council will provide a smaller range and lower level of services in new ways and out of far fewer locations;
- Doing things differently by considering alternative service delivery models and options for delivering service outcomes in different ways with less reliance on Council delivered services;
- A continued Workforce Strategy requiring a significantly smaller workforce working in flexible ways consistent with a modern organisation, ensuring that the Council has the talent in place necessary to deliver the challenging agenda that it faces;
- Seeking to optimise the use of pooled or new funding available to support social care and health;
- Investing in the environmental elements that support the regeneration of the city including its public realm, the city's highways network and its cultural and leisure offer to make Coventry an attractive place to live and work.

Based on the 2016/17 approved budget, the financial gap for the following 3 years is:-

	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Revised Revenue Budget Gap	10.5	24.2	35.8

The financial position will be developed further in the Pre-Budget and Budget Setting reports.

Recommendations:

- (1) Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board 1 is recommended to consider whether there are any comments/recommendations that they wish to make to Cabinet.
- (2) Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) Consider any recommendations from Scrutiny Board 1
 - (b) Agree the report and recommend that Council approve the Strategy.
- (3) Council is recommended to approve the Strategy, including the Efficiency Plan, as the basis of its medium term financial planning process.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Coventry City Council Budget Efficiency Plan to 2020

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes, with amendments made to Sections 1.2.5, 1.2.6 and 2.3.2, and Appendix 1 Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1), 7th September 2016

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

Council, 11th October 2016

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan 2017-20

1. Context (or Background)

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Strategy sets out the financial planning foundations that support the setting of the Council's revenue and capital budgets.
- 1.1.2 For the first time the Strategy incorporates the Council's Efficiency Plan (Appendix 1), which has to be provided to government as part of the arrangements through which local authorities gain access to 4 year funding settlements up to 2020.
- 1.1.3 Local authorities will continue to face severe financial pressures for the foreseeable future in what are very uncertain times. Although the previous government policy of targeting a budget surplus by 2020 has been dropped, following the EU referendum, the downgrading of growth forecasts indicate that the severe financial pressures on public finances will continue.
- 1.1.4 Resources available to Coventry have reduced significantly with a fall of c£95m over a five year period to 2016/17, whilst the most recent Settlement Funding Assessment for Coventry shows annual reductions to 2019/20 with a total further fall of £25m over the coming three years.
- 1.1.5 Within this environment of downward pressure on resources, the Council has delivered very significant savings. In broad terms the more straightforward savings have already been made and this Medium Term Financial Strategy forms part of the process to radically reassess the nature and scale of services provided.

1.2 National and Local Context

- 1.2.1 Apart from the increasing financial pressures that all public bodies face, there is a range of local national developments set out below, which impact on the City Council:-
- The development of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), of which the Council is a member, as a route to maximising investment in Coventry to drive growth and more efficiently co-ordinate services across the sub-region. The WMCA is providing financial support in 2 broad areas: City Centre South and Friargate (£150m capital) and transport/connectivity (£370m capital).
 - A local government finance environment which is being reviewed currently with a headline move towards localising 100% of business rates by 2020. This localisation, as well the uncertainty arising from the review of the business rates system, offers the prospect of authorities benefitting from growth, but with the corresponding downside risk of falling local income bases or the Government expecting localised business rates to fund a disproportionate range of new services.
 - The operation of integrated social care and health services within the Better Care Fund, now within the context of Sustainability and Transformation plans across the health sector. This area continues to operate within a very dynamic environment with expanding user numbers and increasingly complex care packages.

- The critical importance of regeneration and economic growth, particularly in the light of the planned changes to business rates. Within the regeneration arena, the next few years are likely to see significant fluidity in the range of funding streams available from European and sub-regional sources as a result of Brexit and the establishment of the Combined Authority.
- The city's rapid population growth and the consequent demographic and socio-economic trends are causing increases in demand or expenditure pressures in areas such as housing, social care and waste disposal.
- The continued difficult economic circumstances for many, affecting the number of people seeking to access local government and voluntary sector services.
- A schools sector which continues to experience greater fragmentation with the move towards free and academy schools, although the intention to force all schools to commit to becoming academies by 2022 has been dropped. This changing face of local education provision and reducing role of councils is putting more pressure on the remaining rump of local authority education services and finances.
- National pension reforms which have failed to address the long-term affordability of public sector pensions, including the local government scheme. On a national basis, many local councils are likely to face increases in employer pension costs over the coming years at a time when budgets are under severe pressure from the reduced grant settlements referred to above.

1.2.2 Coventry has significant potential for growth with two global universities, an unrivalled location, exceptional transport infrastructure links and a talent pool for employers to recruit across the region. The city has a growing population and a recent enterprise growth rate of 11%, slightly higher than regionally and nationally. However, the local economy needs to grow and, for example, the city recently ranked 47th in the UK list of shopping Centres despite being the 13th largest city by population.

1.2.3 The financial starting point for the Council's MTFs is the forecast position as at budget setting in February 2016, reflected in the table below with a budget gap rising to £36m. The Council's Pre-Budget Report which will be reported to Cabinet later this year will incorporate the revisions to this base position. These are likely to include the latest estimate of Government resources, the impact of lower financing costs due to reduced capital programme borrowing and an update on the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates resources.

	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Revenue Gap per 2016/17 Budget (Feb 2016)	10.5	24.2	35.8

The Council is part-way through a £70m programme of transformation savings including a £16m step-up in 2017/18, in addition to the budget gap set out above. Within the context of increasing demands for services, the delivery of the base programme is fundamental to the MTFs. The Council must maintain a very clear focus on identifying and developing the specific transformation approaches that will be necessary to achieve existing targets in the MTFs and ensure that all the relevant stakeholders are involved in and have an opportunity to shape these approaches.

1.2.4 The current Capital Programme approved in February 2016 per the table below, provided for a number of large investment programmes across the city including the construction of the Council's Friargate office; the City Centre Leisure Facility; Coventry Station Masterplan and the Nucleo rail project, as well as investment in school buildings and business development. The Programme will be updated as part of the 2017/18 Budget including an assessment of the sources of funding and the degree to which the Council will need to undertake borrowing to fund expenditure.

	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Capital Programme Spend	107.8	41.2	19.9

1.2.5 The Council's **reserve balances** total £69.6m as at 31st March 2016. These are being reviewed in order to assess their adequacy for current known liabilities and approved policy commitments, with the objective of releasing reserves where they can be better used to drive efficiencies and service improvement. The make-up of the Council's reserves as at 31st March 2016 was:

Reserves	Balance at 31st March 2015 £000	(Increase)/ Decrease £000	Balance at 31st March 2016 £000
General Fund Balance	(5,160)	1,336	(3,824)
Non-Schools Revenue Reserves:			
Private Finance Initiatives	(11,061)	(710)	(11,771)
Potential Loss of Business Rates Income	(7,100)	4,430	(2,670)
Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy	(5,109)	(7,391)	(12,500)
Achievement of Future Savings	(3,424)	2,532	(892)
Birmingham Airport Dividend	0	(4,400)	(4,400)
Children's Social Care	(3,000)	1,000	(2,000)
Leisure Development	(1,459)	583	(876)
Public Health	(1,402)	365	(1,037)
Health and Social Care Schemes	(1,417)	1,137	(280)
Vehicle Purchase Programme	(1,547)	1,547	0
Troubled Families	(710)	9	(701)
Insurance Fund	(2,912)	510	(2,402)
Management of Capital	(2,112)	(225)	(2,337)
Other Corporate	(2,369)	920	(1,449)
Other Directorate	(6,434)	(487)	(6,921)
Other Directorate funded by Grant	(4,478)	1,377	(3,101)
Non-Schools Revenue Reserves	(54,534)	1,197	(53,337)
Capital Reserves:			
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	0	(6,660)	(6,660)
Capital Grant Unapplied Account	(384)	(5,352)	(5,736)
Total Other Reserves	(384)	(12,012)	(12,396)
Total Reserves	(60,078)	(9,479)	(69,557)

1.2.6 Separately, balances for the Council’s local authority maintained schools stood at £25.8m at 31st March 2016

Schools Reserves	Balance at 31st March 2015	(Increase)/ Decrease	Balance at 31st March 2016
Schools (specific to individual schools)	(18,050)	(1,933)	(19,983)
Schools (for centrally retained expenditure)	(6,471)	630	(5,841)
Total Schools Reserves	(24,521)	(1,303)	(25,824)

2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

2.1 The remainder of the report contains the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is recommended that Cabinet and Council approve the Strategy subject to any comments or changes from Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board. The Strategy is structured around the following core elements:

- The Council Plan;
- Strategic Policy Assumptions within the MTFS;
- Strategic Financial Management Framework;
- The Efficiency Plan to 2020.

2.2 Council Plan

2.2.1 The MTFS rests on the principles, visions and priorities set out for the City within the Council Plan, which was revised in July 2015. In summary these are:

- Globally Connected;
- Locally Committed;
- Delivering our Priorities with Fewer Resources.

The plan is summarised in more detail in the Efficiency Plan (Appendix 1) and the full plan is available on the Council’s website or via the following link: [Coventry Council Plan - July 2015](#)

2.3 Strategic Policy Assumptions within the MTFS

2.3.1 The policy assumptions that will drive the Council’s financial strategy are set out below, and are referred to in more detail in the Efficiency Plan (Appendix 1).

The Council’s **transformation programme** is centred on the following overlapping strategies: Connecting Communities, Kickstart, incorporating Customer Journey, Workforce Strategy and Doing Things Differently. These strategies are aligned to and are being driven by an extensive rationalisation of the Council’s office accommodation, investment in new technology to support agile working and an improved customer experience including a shift towards enabling the Council’s customers to self-serve on line. A number of capital investment projects are key components of transformation. Capital projects will only go forward on the basis of a sustainable financial model.

2.3.2 In addition to this however, the Council is moving into a new phase of Budget planning that will require a fresh look at its major areas of expenditure and how it can deliver the savings required to deliver a balanced budget. This will include a policy led consideration of which services are provided and whether it is appropriate for the Council to continue to

deliver them in the same way. At the same, a line by line review of the Council's budget is being undertaken, led by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources.

2.3.3 The engagement in **partnership working** is central to the delivery of the Council Plan and the MTFS, through:-

- The Council's membership of the **West Midlands Combined Authority** providing the opportunity to maximise investment in the city and work more efficiently across the region;
- Integrated working of Health and Social Care through the Better Care Fund;
- Partnership with various stakeholders in driving economic growth;
- Engaging voluntary bodies in order to develop alternative delivery models to enable local services to be delivered at a reduced cost.

2.3.4 On a case by case basis the Council will provide commercial loan finance to key organisations, such as Coombe Abbey Hotel, to give opportunities for important local businesses to develop and flourish. The starting point for this type of arrangement is that it will be no worse than cost neutral to the Council and that it will support the regeneration of the city and/or that it will protect the Council's financial or strategic interests.

2.3.5 Through the Local Plan the Council is seeking to take the city forward by working closely with its neighbours and partners. In order to drive further growth the plan identifies land to satisfy the demand for homes, community and commercial uses, as well as addressing the need for digital connectivity and the right infrastructure. The Council will take advantage of opportunities offered by the Community Infrastructure Levy, chargeable on new developments, to support improvements in infrastructure to support growth within the city.

2.3.6 The capital programme will continue to be resourced from a number of sources including: prudential borrowing, capital receipts and grant. The Council will seek to minimise the revenue funding of capital, in particular where the capital expenditure is of a one-off nature.

2.3.7 The Council will continue to drive towards **Income Maximisation** through a number of routes:

- maintaining the Council's default position that **fees and charges** should increase annually in line with inflation;
- **generating capital receipts** where there is a clear business case for doing so by disposing of property and thereby providing funds for capital reinvestment in services, driving growth or making savings through the repayment of debt.

2.3.8 The Council is obliged to work towards ensuring that its pension liabilities within the West Midlands Pension Fund are funded. The current level of funding is at or around 68%. The Council's contributions to the pension fund have increased significantly up to 2016/17 and the current triennial review will see further upward pressure on contributions from 2017/18. The Council will work with the West Midlands Pension Fund to agree employer pension contributions that strike a balance between increasing the funding level over the long-term and being sustainable and affordable in relation to the Council's overall financial position.

2.4 Strategic Finance Management Framework

2.4.1 The Strategic Financial Management Framework encompasses the Council's strategic financial management processes and also the key financial assumptions on which the MTFS rests.

2.4.2 The **financial management processes** that underpin the MTFs are:-

- A corporate planning and monitoring process that considers capital and revenue together;
- Overall direction undertaken by Strategic Management Board (SMB);
- A framework founded on delegation and clear accountability, with budgets managed by the designated budget holder, reported through Directorate Management Teams, SMB, Cabinet and Audit and Procurement Committee;
- A drive to identify efficiencies and achievable savings to enable the Council to optimise delivery of its policy priorities;
- Strong project management approaches, including a specific focus on cost control;
- The establishment of a balanced revenue budget and capital programme over the medium term planning period.
- The **management of reserves** in a way that supports the MTFs and the Council's priorities. In particular, the City Council's approach is based on:
 - A policy that reserves are not to be used to: (i) meet on-going expenditure or (ii) fund capital expenditure other than for mostly short life asset rolling programmes or in exceptional circumstances, for capital schemes of major importance;
 - The classification of reserves as a corporate resource, with Cabinet via Strategic Management Board considering the application of budgeted amounts unspent at year end;
 - Holding reserves for a clearly identifiable purpose. This will include protecting against known or potential liabilities, at a minimum level consistent with adequate coverage of those liabilities, taking into account the overall level of risk faced by an organisation of the City Council's size.

2.4.3 The key financial or technical assumptions that underpin the MTFs are:

- The Council will plan for grant levels in line with those set out by government as part of the multi-year settlements for local authorities. The key assumptions in this are that the Council's Efficiency Plan is accepted by government and that there are no significant unforeseen financial changes to local or central government finances;
- As a technical assumption, Council Tax increases of just under 2% per annum plus a 2% Social Care precept will be built into the MTFs. This will be subject to political debate and decision as well as any changes at a national level;
- 1% p.a. pay awards will be assumed until 2019/20 in line with indicative Government announcements. Subsequent to its initial announcement of the 1% level, the Government has indicated that it expects this to be the average rate of increase, with particular pay settlements potentially being either above or below this. This will be kept under close review;
- Business Rate income will be assumed to be inflated broadly in line with recent CPI inflation levels but flexed each year where shorter term inflation expectations dictate.
- Planning on the basis of the underlying Council Tax-Base growing at 0.6% per annum in line with historical trends but flexed each year where shorter term expectations dictate;
- The budget for the Council's Asset Management Revenue Account will continue to be reviewed annually in detail as part of the MTFs, taking into account any impact of

changes in: the capital programme, cash-flow forecasts, the level of provision to repay debt through Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and forecast interest rates;

- Forward financial estimates will be guided by existing CPI inflation levels in line with practice adopted across a broad range of public sector areas. This will provide the financial planning benchmark for increases in fees and charges and any areas of expenditure subject to specific inflation requirements. Actual increases in fees and charges will depend upon local factors such as the need to generate sufficient income to meet the cost of trading services. The majority of non-employee based expenditure budgets will not be inflated – the assumption will be that continued procurement and commissioning work plus underlying efficiency savings and downsizing will deliver savings equivalent to the cost of inflation. A number of areas subject to external contracts are more likely to reflect inflation patterns dictated by pay inflation and this expectation will be built into Council budgets in the affected areas.
- The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy will be based on an approach that is both prudent and affordable in a way that reflects the long term nature of local authority debt and assets.

2.5 The Efficiency Plan to 2020

2.5.1 The government is offering to commit to 4 year funding settlements to local authorities in order to encourage further efficiency savings. The benefit to local authorities is that they should get greater certainty in funding, with those authorities which prefer not to have a 4 year settlement being at greater risk of future reductions in central funding. However, the multi-year commitment by government will be based on there being no significant, unforeseen financial changes to local or central government. In order to qualify, each authority needs to produce an Efficiency Plan. Although the content of the Efficiency Plan is not prescribed in detail, the plan should set out how the authority intends to increase efficiency over the planning period, how greater certainty could bring about savings and demonstrate the benefits of the settlement to the authority and community.

2.5.2 The proposed Efficiency Plan is set out in Appendix A and comprises:

- A Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP);
- Reference to the Council Plan;
- Budget and Financial Risk;
- Transformation Programme and Efficiency;
- Partnership Working;
- Organisational Structure Baseline.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No consultation has been undertaken as part of the MTFS. The implementation of the Strategy through Budget Setting and other individual projects, programmes and initiatives will be accompanied by specific consultations as appropriate.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The MTFS will underpin the proposals and approaches that will be set out in the forthcoming Pre-Budget Report and will be implemented in parallel to the proposals for setting the 2017/18 Budget.

5. Comments from the Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The main body of this report is concerned wholly with financial matters. It is important that the assumptions and principles detailed in the Strategy and the Efficiency Plan are adopted in order for the City Council to be able to deliver balanced budgets over the medium term.

Taking into account both the strategic policy and financial management assumptions set out in the report, a revised projected gap will be set out in the forthcoming Pre-Budget Report.

Moving into the 2017/18 Budget Setting process there is still a forecast gap rising to £36m in 2019/20 which is expected to rise in the years beyond that. Coventry faces the challenges and major policy choices faced by many other authorities in recent years. However, the size of the gap makes it inevitable that areas not previously considered will now need to be reviewed and some services will be delivered differently or quite possibly not at all.

5.2 Legal implications

The proposals in this report provide the foundations to allow the Council to meet its statutory obligations in relation to setting a balanced budget by mid-March each year, in accordance with Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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 Council will be faced with increasingly challenging resource constraints over the remainder of this decade. Whilst the focus is to identify savings options that are intended to have as little adverse impact as possible on services, this will not always be possible, and it is inevitable that changes will have a more marked effect on front-line services. Within these very difficult circumstances, the MTFs is closely aligned to the Council Plan priorities that are so critical to ensuring the city's success.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Inability to deliver a balanced budget is one of the Council's key corporate risks. The proposals within this report are aimed at mitigating this risk by providing a robust platform from which to deliver balanced budgets.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The Council will need to make some decisions about which are its core priorities and which services it considers that it can no longer afford. It will also need to become more flexible about the mechanisms through which it delivers its services. In addition, the Council continues to use Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy opportunities as the key mechanism by which it is able to reduce staffing levels across the Council. It is anticipated that this mechanism will continue to be used and that the Council will continue to reduce employee numbers over the course of the Strategy. However, changes to the landscape of pensions regulation are expected over the few years and these may affect the way in which Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy programmes are managed.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Equality impacts that flow from proposals within the Council's budget will be subject to assessment prior to the relevant decisions being taken. The forthcoming Pre-Budget Report will provide a further indication of how any equality issues will be managed.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No specific impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Council's financial plans will have a significant impact upon the way in which it works with its partners over the coming years. The implications of these changes will become clear as individual changes are identified.

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Director: Chris West	Executive Director Resources	Resources Directorate	10/08/16	19/08/16
Members: Cllr John Mutton	Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources		22/08/16	22/08/16

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

Coventry City Council Budget Efficiency Plan to 2020

The Efficiency Plan sits alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and should be read in conjunction with the MTFS.

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

The baseline financial position for the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Efficiency Plan is:-

Revenue Programme	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Brought Forward Gap	3.07	9.42	20.16	27.31
Savings per 2016/17 Budget	-12.80	-12.83	-13.75	-13.50
Expenditure Pressures per 2016 Budget	9.73	13.86	17.77	22.03
Final 2016/17 Budget Gap	0	10.45	24.18	35.84

The Council is part-way through a £70m programme of transformation savings including a £16m step-up in 2017/18, in addition to the budget gap set out above. Within the context of increasing demands for services, the delivery of the base programme is fundamental to the MTFS. The main expenditure pressures outlined above are in the area of Adult Social Care.

Capital Programme	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Capital Expenditure	115.69	107.78	41.20	19.85

The capital programme includes key projects to stimulate regeneration and support the Council's transformation programme.

The Council's reserves stood at £95.4m at the end of 2015/16:

Reserves	At 31 March 2016 £m
General Fund Balance	3.82
Schools Related	25.82
Other Earmarked	53.34
Capital receipts and grant	12.40
Reserves	95.38

In developing the 2017/18 budget and establishing the base position up until 2019/20, the Council will adopt a number of approaches as part of the MTFS, including:-

- A policy led consideration of which services are provided and whether it is appropriate for the Council to continue to deliver them in the same way. This work is in its very early stages and will be developed through the 2017/18 Budget Setting process;
- A line by line review of the Council's budget, led by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources;
- A review of existing reserves to identify any that are no longer required for a previously stated purpose;

- Maximising income, including from fees and charges and through the generation of capital receipts;
- Maximising economic growth in order to expand the local income base, including respect of the business rates and council tax bases;
- The strategic use of reserves on a one off basis in order to support efficiency savings and the drive for growth;
- The reduction of staffing costs through early retire/voluntary redundancy programmes.
- Seeking to maximise the value that can be driven from the Council's existing external shareholdings, tactical application of capital receipts to repay borrowing or invest in income earning assets and the alignment of Minimum Revenue Provision payments with asset usage.

Council Plan and Local Plan

The MTFP rests on the principles, visions and priorities set out within the **Council Plan**, which was revised in July 2015. In summary these are:

- Globally Connected: promoting the growth of a sustainable Coventry economy that benefits the city and making sure that residents share in the benefits;
- Locally Committed: improving the quality of life for Coventry people by working with local communities and especially for our most vulnerable residents;
- Delivering our Priorities with Fewer Resources:
 - Making the most of our assets;
 - With active citizens and strong and involved communities.

The full plan, together with reports setting out actual performance against the plan, are available on the Council's website or via the following links: [Coventry Council Plan - July 2015 & Performance Report 2015/16](#)

The **Local Plan** sets out the Council's blueprint for taking the City forward. In order to build on the growth that the city has recently achieved, the plan identifies land to satisfy the demand for more homes within the city, as well as for jobs, retail and community uses. Further objectives that support growth address the importance of strong digital connectivity and developing the right infrastructure. The full plan is available on the Council's website or via the following link: [Coventry Local Plan 2016](#)

Budget and Financial Risk

The Council faces a number of financial risks. These are summarised below and are managed through existing processes, including in year financial monitoring:

- A number of **Local Government Finance Changes** will increase the level of risk that all authorities face. The localisation of 100% business rates from 2020 will transfer risk from central to local government and the together with uncertainty surrounding programmes such as the New Homes Bonus presents the Council with both opportunities and risks going forward;
- Demand pressures in **Children's Care Services and Health and Adult Social Care**, as well as the increasing complexity of care packages continue to represent a large service and budget pressure;

- In common with many local authorities the **delivery of the base programme**, which includes significant transformation savings, as well as the on-going need to manage budgets in a complex and dynamic environment, present risks and challenges that the Council's must manage;
- Large and complex **Major Projects**, including capital investment schemes contributing to the Council's transformation programme set out below, carry a series of financial, legal, operational and reputational risks;
- The cost of **Pensions** is an increasing burden, particularly as the Council becomes smaller and interest rates remain depressed. Volatility in investment returns adds a layer of uncertainty to that burden.

The Council will manage these risks in a number of ways including, by:

- Growing the local income base, including in respect of business rates and council tax;
- Maintaining strong corporate capital and revenue planning and monitoring processes, and project management arrangements;
- Managing demand through, for example, digital working and community engagement;
- Maintaining adequate reserve balances;
- Proactively engaging with the West Midlands Pension Fund;
- Maximising funding certainty, through for example the proposed four year financial settlement;
- Maximising funding, from sources such as growth monies and other grants.

Transformation Programme

The Council's existing transformation programme is a cornerstone of the Efficiency Plan and the delivery of a balanced budgets over the 4 year term of the MTFP. The key elements of the programme are:-

- **Kickstart** provides a platform for modernising the way the Council works, in a more streamlined and efficient way. The construction of a new base for 2000 Council staff in the Friargate business district will kickstart wider economic regeneration in the area. This will allow the rationalisation and consolidation of the Council's property portfolio with the closure and disposal of a number of older buildings. The relocation of staff on one site is also central to the continued move to more flexible, agile, digital based ways of working.
- **Customer Journey** is changing the way that Council services are accessed, with decreasing dependence on face to face services except for the most vulnerable. The rolling out of digital solutions for contacting and transacting with the Council such as via My Account, together with a consolidated Customer Services Centre within the city centre will increasingly support the provision of accessible, efficient services at a reduced cost.
- **The Workforce Strategy** has already driven a series of voluntary redundancy programmes. These continue, and together with the redesign of services, have reduced staffing numbers, with full time equivalent staff levels reduced by 270 in 2015/16. The Council's management structures have also been rationalised, with fewer posts required at senior levels, consistent with services being consolidated within a smaller number of Directorates. In addition, processes changes are focusing on staff development through new training opportunities, simpler appraisal systems and a new behaviours framework.

- **Doing Things Differently**, entails changing the relationship between the Council and its citizens, so that whilst those that are able to, do more for themselves, the Council can concentrate scarce resources on the most vulnerable. Partnership working, in particular the involvement of groups across the city interested in doing more in their communities, is crucial in this respect.
- The **Connecting Communities** review focuses on changing our library, children's and youth services so they are delivered together in one place in the communities and neighbourhoods where there is most need, within the resources available. A key element of the approach is to encourage community involvement in running the services

A number of major capital investment projects are key components of the transformation programme and they will be crucial in modernising services as well as working practices, reducing the cost of services and helping drive economic growth. The major capital investment schemes include:

- The **Friargate Regeneration** District, in which the construction of a building for Council staff will help kickstart the broader development of the Business District and complement investment in the adjacent train station site. This scheme is being pursued in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA);
- The **City Centre Leisure** development, which will see the replacement of older more expensive facilities with a modern, much more extensive and more cost effective leisure offer, representing a regional destination facility;
- The **City Centre South** scheme to regenerate and revitalise a significant part of the City Centre through a multi-use development including retail, leisure, residential and hotel facilities. This scheme is being pursued in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA);
- **Transport** and infrastructure investment to improve connectivity across the city and within the region. A number of these projects are being pursued in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Partnership Working

The Council is engaged in **Partnership working** with a variety of organisations at different levels, with this being fundamental to the delivery of the Council Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy:-

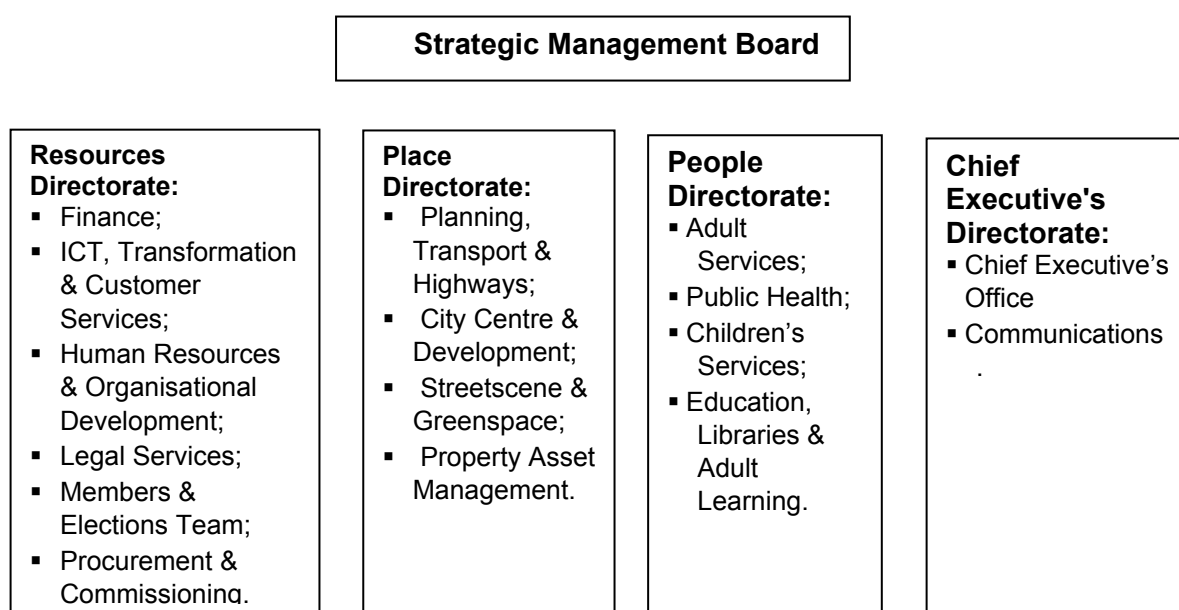
- Membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) provides the Council with the opportunity to work with its partner authorities across the region in order to maximise regeneration investment within the city and across the region, as well as more efficiently co-ordinate sub-regional services;
- The operation of a Better Care Fund pooled budget between the Council and the Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) helps the further integration of health and social care services within Coventry. In the light of the nature of the care services and their demand pressures, as well as the wider context of the CCG being in special measures and the development of local Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs), the effective working of the partnership arrangements is ever more important;
- The drive for economic growth through regeneration relies on the effective and close working with partner organisations, including the Coventry & Warwickshire LEP, neighbouring local

authorities, for example in respect of the Local Plan and key stakeholders, in delivering major projects;

- In seeking to do things differently, for example in respect of Connecting Communities, the Council is actively engaging voluntary bodies in order to develop alternative delivery models, that ensure that local services are delivered at minimum cost.

Organisational Structure:

The way the Council is organised continues to be modernised in order provide a cost effective structure that is fit for purpose. Management structures have been slimmed down and the directorate structure reshaped to ensure that services are provided in the most effective and efficient way. The base structure is set out below:





Cabinet
Council

4th October 2016
11th October 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Community Development – Councillor L Bigham

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards could be affected indirectly due to the on-going development of the Local Plan.

Title:

Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Planned Distribution of Employment Land within the Coventry & Warwickshire Market Area

Is this a key decision?

Yes - The proposals within the report could have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards.

Executive Summary:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached at Appendix 1 was presented to the Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (CWHJC) at its meeting on 21st July 2016. For the avoidance of doubt however the report only relates to the six local authorities of Coventry and Warwickshire (Coventry City, Rugby Borough, Warwick District, North Warwickshire Borough, Stratford on Avon District and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough). The MOU was accompanied by a covering report (also part of Appendix 1) which recommended the MOU be endorsed by each of the six authorities

The MOU seeks to ensure the current employment land requirements of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region are planned for in full during the current round of Local Plans. In doing so it primarily responds to the fact that Coventry City is unable to accommodate its full employment land requirements within its own boundaries. In this respect it is similar to the housing requirements MOU which was agreed at the Joint Committee in September 2015 and endorsed by the City Council in January 2016. It is also a vital component of the city's ability to demonstrate its responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate are satisfied in relation to the delivery of employment land.

The MoU has been jointly developed over the course of 2016 by all six authorities with further support from Warwickshire County Council and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). Its development has been supported by an

officer and member reference group of the CWHJC. It has been informed by updated evidence of economic growth forecasts and land requirements at a range of geographies across the sub region. It contains points of agreement that relate to the quantum of employment land that should be distributed across the sub-region. This distribution supports both demographic and workforce growth, market signals and demand as well as considering commuting flows between the six authorities and opportunities to combat deprivation.

The MoU therefore proposes the following distribution of employment land requirements to be taken forward into plan making.

	Employment Land Requirement (gross hectares)	Redistribution from Coventry (gross hectares)	Minimum Local Plan Employment Provision (gross hectares)
Coventry	369	-	128
North Warwickshire	58	0	58
Nuneaton & Bedworth	87	26	113
Rugby	99	98	197
Stratford-on-Avon	35	0	35
Warwick	66	117	183
Total	714	241	714

The MOU was supported by all relevant Members of the CWHJC.

As part of this agreement, the CWHJC sought a formal commitment from each of the individual Local Authorities represented to formally endorse the MOU by the end of October 2016. This is with a view to supporting the timely progression of Local Plans (including our own) and the Council’s responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate. This report requests such endorsement.

Lastly the report also provides an update on the housing requirements MOU. This update confirms that all authorities have endorsed the MOU with the exception of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council who are continuing to review their land capacity in advance of potentially signing the MOU later this year.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is requested to:

- (1) Recommend that the Council endorses the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the planned distribution of employment land within the Coventry & Warwickshire sub-region attached at Appendix 1.

The Council is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the planned distribution of employment land within the Coventry & Warwickshire sub-region attached at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Report to the Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (CWHJC) – 21st July 2016 including the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

- The report to the Shadow Economic Prosperity Board and accompanying appendices are also available via the following web link:
https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20086/partnerships/265/coventry_warwickshire_and_hinckley_and_bosworth_joint_committee_for_economic_growth_and_prosperity
- The Cabinet Report which considered the Housing Requirements MOU is available via the following web link:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/19616/lp12_coventry_city_council_cabinet_council_report_-_jan_2016_-_candw_mou
- The Council's emerging Local Plan is available via the following web link:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/19583/lp1_coventry_local_plan_publication_draft_2016
- The Council's Employment Land Review and other employment based evidence documents can be accessed via the following web link:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/4086/coventry_local_plan_2016_examination_library_jobs_and_employment

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 – 11th October 2016

Report title: Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Planned Distribution of Employment Land within the Coventry & Warwickshire Market Area

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Appendix 1 is a copy of the report and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) considered by the Coventry and Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (CWHJC) at its meeting held on 21st July 2016. Although the (CWHJC) includes the Local Authority area of Hinckley and Bosworth, the report only relates to the six authorities within Coventry and Warwickshire, which make up the sub-region for the purpose of this report.
- 1.2 The report responds to the principal issue of Coventry City being unable to accommodate its full employment land requirement within its own boundaries. As such, the report sets out a robust, justified and transparent process for redistributing employment land provision from the city to enable each authority to appropriately plan for this requirement in full.
- 1.3 This is a vital component of the city's ability to demonstrate its responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate. National planning guidance requires Local Authorities to meet their development needs in full within their own boundaries. Where this cannot be achieved alternative plans need to be put in place with neighbouring authorities (through the Duty to Cooperate) to ensure those needs are planned for positively. This relates to all strategic matters including housing and employment land and provides the basis for this MOU.
- 1.4 In view of the significance of this matter, it was accepted that all the constituent authorities should be asked to formally endorse the MOU. This is clearly set out in recommendation 2 of Appendix 1.

- 1.5 The recommendations presented to the (CWHJC) were set out as follows:

Recommendation 1: Agree the Employment Land Memorandum of Understanding (ELMOU) set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendation 2: Agree that each of the six Local Plan Authorities within Coventry and Warwickshire will seek to formally endorse the ELMOU by end of October 2016.

Recommendation 3: Note the position update with regard to the Housing Memorandum of Understanding as set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 below.

- 1.6 With regards to Recommendation 1 of the CWHJC report the MoU has been jointly developed over the course of 2016 by all six authorities with further support from Warwickshire County Council and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). Its development has been supported by an officer and member reference group of the CWHJC, which has met regularly since February 2016.
- 1.7 The first part of developing the MOU was to consider all available evidence. This was informed by updated economic growth forecasts and land requirements at a range of geographies across the sub region. This has included Local Authority studies and sub-regional studies undertaken by the CWLEP. It also had regard to market demand work undertaken by the West Midlands Combined Authority. Not only did this work inform the MOU, it also underpinned the city's draft Local Plan. The key areas of evidence can be summarised as follows:
 - **Coventry and Warwickshire Employment Land Requirement:** The sum of each District's most recent employment land study suggests the overall quantum of employment land required in Coventry and Warwickshire between 2011 and 2031 is

714 (gross) hectares. This broadly aligns with the Coventry and Warwickshire Employment Land Use Study (CBRE 2015) which suggested up to 660 hectares for Coventry and Warwickshire. With regards the Coventry Employment Land Review and supporting evidence this suggested an employment land requirement of 369ha for the city. This reflects the city's significant population growth projections, which specifically highlights growth within the working age population. This therefore triggers labour growth and greater need for jobs. It also provides an opportunity for the delivery of additional high quality employment land across Coventry and Warwickshire in locations that are attractive to the market and better positioned to support jobs and economic growth of the city.

- **Evidence regarding the Distribution of the Requirement:** The employment land studies undertaken by each District provide the basis for how this requirement should be distributed between the six local authorities. Details of this are set out in column A of Table 2 (below) and within Table 1 of the MOU. This confirms that Coventry's employment land requirement equates to 369ha (gross) between 2011 and 2031.
- **Availability of Employment Land to meet the Requirement:** Assessments of land availability indicate that Coventry is unable to meet its employment land requirement in full within the City boundary and that as a result 241ha requires redistributing to neighbouring authorities.

1.8 Having established the employment land requirements of the sub-region and the unmet need arising from Coventry the MOU then needed to consider the process for redistributing this land requirement to other authorities in the most justified, appropriate and sustainable way. This was undertaken through a range of stages which are detailed in part 4 of Appendix 1, but can be summarised as follows:

- a) **Consideration of sustainability principles** – this mirrored the high level spatial analysis undertaken for the housing redistribution approach and recognised the benefits that could be generated by focusing development in areas that were well connected and easily accessed to and from the city.
- b) **Commuting Flows** – this considered the commuting flows between Coventry and each of the Warwickshire Districts. It utilised the same commuting flows that informed the housing distribution agreed in 2015 and were informed by national census data.
- c) **Alignment with the Housing MOU (2015)** – this took account of both the commuting and migration flows that informed the housing redistribution methodology. This allowed consideration to be given to where homes would be built in the future and the opportunities that may exist to align housing and employment delivery. This is with a view to supporting sustainable communities, minimising the need to travel and promoting sustainable modes of transport. An appendix to the Employment Land MOU itself highlights the statistical process that was followed in this respect. In short it calculated a hectare of employment land per house and applied this to the total level of housing redistributed to each Warwickshire authority.
- d) **Market Signals** – National guidance requires employment provisions to take account of market demand and interest as well as market behaviour that may not be picked up in current trend based projections (otherwise known as market signals). The evidence from market signals currently points towards a number of key factors which include:
 - Pressures for B8 uses close to the trunk road network and particularly the motorway network to the north and east of the sub-region;
 - Pressures for B2 uses, particularly associated with the automotive sector, in the central and southern parts of the sub-region;

- Concerns about a lack of “oven ready” sites for expansion and relocation of businesses across the sub-region;
 - Importance of close links to both universities;
 - A lack of high quality office space which is being combatted by Friargate proposals; and
 - The draw of JLR and demand for sites to support close supply chain location etc.
- e) **Unemployment and Urban Regeneration** – Sub regional evidence had suggested that new employment and job opportunities should be focused in areas of higher deprivation to help promote urban regeneration, enhance access to employment opportunities and combat deprivation characteristics. Evidence has shown Coventry to be the most deprived area within the sub-region and as such opportunities to locate new employment land provision within or in close proximity to the city boundary should be maximised. Such an approach also mirrors the aims of the CWLEP’s Strategic Economic Plan.
- f) **Existing completions, commitments and proposed allocations** - since the commencement of the plan period in 2011 there has been a range of development activity across the sub-region. This needs to be considered as it helps to evidence market interest and site deliverability. The Table below highlights three key examples of schemes that are actively progressing on the city’s boundary and which will contribute towards the city’s employment land needs.

Table 1

Site	Area	Progress
Ansty Park	41 ha	12ha is now complete with 29ha either under construction or not started
ProLogis Ryton	57 ha	30ha is now complete with 27ha either under construction or not started
Land in the vicinity of Coventry Airport	117 ha	Site is proposed for allocation within the Warwick DC Local Plan. Part of this site has recently been granted planning permission for Whitley South
Total	215 ha	

1.9 The table below highlights the final proposed redistribution of employment land across Coventry and Warwickshire. It shows that the city’s unmet need will be delivered within the three authorities that share the strongest commuting relationship with the city and where opportunities to bring forward employment land in close proximity to the city boundary clearly exist.

Table 2

	A. Employment Land Requirement (gross hectares)	B. Redistribution from Coventry (gross hectares)	C. Minimum Local Plan Employment Provision (gross hectares)
Coventry	369	-	128
North Warwickshire	58	0	58
Nuneaton & Bedworth	87	26	113
Rugby	99	98	197
Stratford-on-Avon	35	0	35
Warwick	66	117	183
Total	714	241	714

- 1.10 Recommendation 2 of the CWHJC report seeks the formal commitment from each of the individual Local Authorities represented to formally endorse the MOU by the end of October 2016. This is with a view to supporting the timely progression of Local Plans (including our own) and the Council's responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate. This report requests such endorsement.
- 1.11 Recommendation 3 of the CWHJC report is associated with an update on the housing requirement MOU. This update confirms that with the exception of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) all authorities have endorsed the MOU and are committed to delivering Local Plans that align with it. In the case of NBBC, they have committed to reviewing their evidence base and review their land capacity as part of the on-going review of the Borough Plan. An updated position is expected in the autumn and it is hoped the MOU could be signed later this year.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are only 2 realistic options considered available in relation to this report.
- 2.2 The first is to refuse to endorse the recommendations of the CWHJC (at Appendix 1). This option would cause significant issues in relation to the Duty to Cooperate and mean an alternative approach would need to be investigated for meeting the employment land requirements of Coventry and Warwickshire. Under such circumstances the examination of Coventry's Local Plan could be suspended and endure significant delays whilst matters were resolved. This raises further risk of unplanned developments within the city boundary and would delay the delivery of new employment land (and homes) to meet the city's development needs in the most sustainable way. It would also introduce notable risks around the Council's ability to discharge its Duty to Cooperate responsibilities with its Warwickshire neighbours in relation to other strategic issues. This option is not recommended.
- 2.3 The second option is recommended through this report and would see the CWHJC MOU endorsed by the City Council. This provides a solid and transparent platform from which to plan for new employment land across Coventry and Warwickshire in the coming years. Endorsement of the MOU at Appendix 1 will help enable the Council to fulfil its obligations in relation to the Duty to Cooperate and to meet the employment land requirements of the sub-region, as required by national planning policy.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The report at Appendix 1 has been developed in order to support the continued progression of Local Plans across Coventry and Warwickshire. It builds upon the Housing Requirements MOU approved by the CWHJC in September 2015 and by this Council in January 2016 and is intended to give greater certainty over strategic employment land issues. As part of the Coventry Local Plan process there is no requirement to consult on this MOU as the implications for Coventry are reflective of the policy basis set out in the Council's Submission Draft Local Plan (submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2016)
- 3.2 Notwithstanding, It has been presented to the CWHJC at its July 2016 meeting, which is a publicly accessible arena and the MOU will form part of the papers made available to support the on-going examination of the Coventry Local Plan. As such, this MOU will be subject to consideration and scrutiny by the independent Planning Inspector overseeing the city's Local Plan examination. It will also be subject to wider consultation activity across Warwickshire as part of forthcoming engagement for Plans in Rugby Borough, North Warwickshire Borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Subject to approval by Cabinet and Council, this MOU will provide a firm basis from which to continue the development of Local Plans in Coventry and Warwickshire. It will be submitted to the independent Inspector overseeing the public examination of the Coventry Local Plan with immediate effect and will help to demonstrate that the city is working positively and proactively with its neighbours to meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate and the employment land needs of the sub-region. On this basis, Coventry City Council would hope to have an adopted Local Plan by June 2017.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There would be financial benefit to the Council through the increase in business rates generated as a result of the growth within the Coventry boundary identified in this report. Whilst such growth will place pressure on key services and longer term maintenance programmes, it will allow the Council a degree of financial flexibility to spread the cost over a larger number of properties. Growth related to employment land outside of Coventry would not necessarily generate business rates as it would depend on any pooling arrangements in place at the time.

It should also be noted that any employment land development will require planning permission which could attract a s106 and/or CIL contribution from developers, which could be required to offset the additional pressures placed on the Council through development.

5.2 Legal implications

Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as introduced by the Localism Act 2011), associated regulations, the National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) and paragraphs 178-181 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) set out the requirements in relation to the Duty to Cooperate. In order to progress a sound Local Plan Coventry must discharge its responsibilities with regards this 'duty', which relates to strategic aspects of planning, of which employment land delivery is included.

The NPPF is clear that the employment land requirements of the sub-region (and respective constituent authority parts) must be met. Where needs cannot be met within an authority's administrative boundaries then they must engage through the Duty to Cooperate to ensure they can be met within other authority areas. Only where certain constraints exist and cannot be overcome can an authority justify need not being planned for. It is considered that the work undertaken across Coventry and Warwickshire to date, and the proposals made in Appendix 1 represent clear evidence of continued efforts of all represented authorities to discharge this responsibility. This reflects the city's lack of developable land options and helps to ensure that the 'duty', especially in relation to employment land provision is being met. The development of the MoU will subsequently be of significant benefit at the Council's Local Plan examination and will help ensure the city can demonstrate its full employment land requirements are being planned for.

The Council's responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate do not end here however. The Council will need to continue active, constructive and on-going cooperation with its neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders in order to ensure appropriate plans are put in place in relation to wider development needs, infrastructure and Green Belt policy. Plans will also need to ensure that all reasonable alternative development options have been considered.

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)?

- A prosperous Coventry: The delivery of new employment land within and around Coventry will help to support the growth of the city's economy and attract investment to the sub-region.
- Citizens living longer, healthier, independent lives: Striking a balance between providing new homes and jobs as well as protecting the most sensitive and highest value green spaces will help to make Coventry a healthier city, encouraging better quality employment provisions and built environment. It will also make provisions for more accessible job opportunities across all parts of the city.
- Making Coventry an attractive and enjoyable place to be: Striking a balance between providing new homes and jobs as well as protecting the most sensitive and highest value green spaces will help to make Coventry an attractive and enjoyable place to be.
- Providing a good choice of housing: The provision of good quality employment land will support inward investment into Coventry and support the wider needs of a growing population and workforce through the provision of more jobs. This will support the wider delivery of new homes.
- Making places and services easily accessible: The location of new employment land provisions will be planned alongside new infrastructure (including new and existing homes). This will help to ensure it is well integrated into existing communities. This will help to ensure improved accessibility to key services and facilities.
- Encouraging a creative, active and vibrant city: Investment in new employment land will support investment in new jobs and economic growth. In turn this will help support improvements to the city centre through a holistic planning process. New development will also help to ensure that new and existing services are viable and accessible.
- Developing a more equal city with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods: The delivery of this level of employment land within and adjacent to the city will represent a step change in delivery for Coventry. This will help to ensure that more people will have greater access to new jobs, leisure provisions and community facilities.
- Improving the environment and tackling climate change: The work undertaken to examine employment land provisions across Coventry and Warwickshire thus far has given consideration to protecting the most sensitive and highest value green spaces. Delivering new employment land across Coventry will, in practical terms, bring about improvements to areas in need of investment, and will protect the most valuable and sensitive areas of green space from inappropriate development.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

When considering work under the Duty to Cooperate there is always a degree of risk

The preparation of this MoU and engagement with the CWHJC has sought to limit the risk associated with both the MOU at Appendix 1 and the support that it provides for employment land delivery and plan making across Coventry and Warwickshire.

The main risk associated with this stage of the Duty to Cooperate process remains that NBBC have not yet fully confirmed their ability to accommodate the 26ha allocated to the Borough. Although an in principle acceptance has been given and the MOU agreed, the MOU does contain a caveat (at Table 2 for example) that links Nuneaton and Bedworth's commitment to further review through their Plan making process. Depending on the outcomes of this work this could result in a need to review the MOU in the 2017.

It is acknowledged that this risk could have impacts on the future of employment land delivery across Coventry and Warwickshire, although it is important to note that the relative proportion is small. Should a need to review the MOU arise however it will be reported back to Council.

There is additional risk around how Local Plans are able to respond to changes in employment land needs, especially as needs grow and the economy of the sub-region becomes increasingly more attractive. The City Council will however work with the CWLEP and its neighbouring authorities to ensure its assessment of employment land needs, jobs growth and market demand remains up to date. This may trigger a need for targeted review of the Local Plan employment policies. If this happens it will be presented to Council.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

No direct impact.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

An equalities and consultation analysis is not considered necessary for this paper. Appropriate work and engagement has been undertaken however as part of the Local Plan.

Notwithstanding, the level of employment land to be delivered in and around Coventry is expected to generate significant economic and social benefits to the city. This will be promoted by urban regeneration and the redevelopment of land currently sitting vacant and derelict. The delivery of new employment land will also support additional opportunities for job creation and the delivery of new infrastructure.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

At this point, there are expected to be some environmental impacts brought about by the level of employment land outlined in this report and the likely need to release land from the Green Belt to meet the development needs of the city and its neighbours. This has previously been outlined in the draft Local Plan that was considered by Council in September 2014 and January 2016. The development of the Local Plan to date has included a commitment to protect the city's highest value and most sensitive green spaces. This commitment remains unchanged by this report.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications for partner organisations that cannot be mitigated or managed through the supporting work that has already been undertaken and will be prepared by the Council as it moves towards adoption of its new Local Plan.

There will however be potential implications for the Council's neighbouring authorities as part of the Duty to Cooperate. The extent of these impacts will largely depend upon the outcome of new evidence associated with capacity, and any subsequent changes to the distribution of employment land. This is however expected to be managed by the respective authorities as they prepare their own Local Plans. These impacts are however

expected to be minimised through the on-going development of a shared and consistent evidence base and will be considered through an active, constructive and on-going process as part of the Duty to Cooperate.

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Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee

21st July 2016

**Coventry and Warwickshire
Employment Land Memorandum of Understanding**

1 Summary and Recommendations

1.1 This report seeks agreement to an Employment Land Memorandum of Understanding. Specifically it seeks to ensure that the employment land needs of Coventry and Warwickshire are met in full including addressing an identified shortfall of employment land provision arising in Coventry

1.2 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- a) Agree the Employment Land Memorandum of Understanding (ELMOU) set out in Appendix 1.
- b) Agree that each of the six Local Plan Authorities within Coventry and Warwickshire will seek to formally endorse the ELMOU by end of October 2016
- c) Note the position update with regard to the Housing Memorandum of Understanding as set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 below

2 Introduction

2.1 This report explains the C&W Employment Land MOU and the process undertaken to arrive at the agreed distribution. Broadly, that process has the following three parts:

- Review of evidence;
- Assessment of redistribution options;
- Develop redistribution method.

3 Conclusions from review of evidence

3.1 Local and sub-regional level evidence has informed the MOU. Each of these documents are available for review. The main findings are briefly summarised below:

- a) **Coventry and Warwickshire Employment Land Requirement:** The sum of each District's most recent employment land study suggests the overall quantum of employment land required in Coventry and Warwickshire between 2011 and 2031 is 714 (gross) hectares. This broadly aligns with the Coventry

and Warwickshire Employment Land Use Study (CBRE 2015) which suggested up to 660 hectares for Coventry and Warwickshire.

b) Evidence regarding the Distribution of the Requirement: The employment land studies undertaken by each District provide the basis for how this requirement should be distributed between the six local authorities. Details of this are set out in Table 1 of the Points of Agreement within the draft MOU.

c) Availability of Employment Land to meet the Requirement: Assessments of land availability indicate that the five Warwickshire authorities can meet their local employment land requirements within their areas. However, the evidence indicates that Coventry is unable to meet its employment land requirement in full within the City boundary and that the shortfall is 241 hectares.

4 Approach to redistributing the shortfall in requirement:

4.1 To support the Points of Agreement, the resulting shortfall of 241 gross hectares needs to be redistributed from Coventry to the Warwickshire authorities in a justified and appropriate way. The approach taken is as described below.

4.2 Stage 1: Assessment of Redistribution Options:

4.2.1 In preparing the Housing MOU in 2015, the Coventry and Warwickshire authorities undertook a high level assessment of the sustainability impacts of six broad options for the redistribution of Coventry's Housing shortfall. This work concluded that locations close to, or with good accessibility to, the City should be preferred to other options (such as dispersal or new settlements).

4.2.2 In line with the NPPF (for instance paragraphs 17 and 34), it is suggested that the assessment undertaken for the Housing MOU also applies to the redistribution of employment land.

4.2.3 In addition, an employment land redistribution approach which aligns with the approach taken to housing land redistribution will help to support sustainable communities, minimisation of the need to travel and sustainable modes of transport. It is therefore proposed that the employment land redistribution from Coventry to Warwickshire should in the first instance, be based on evidence relating to:

- Commuting flows; and
- The redistribution of housing as set out in the Housing MOU

4.2.4 However, the NPPF also requires that unemployment and regeneration is addressed and that market signals are taken in to account. Evidence regarding these, therefore needs to be used to make appropriate adjustments.

4.2.5 It should also be remembered that the plan period during which the evidence referred to above applied commenced in 2011. It is therefore necessary to consider any relevant employment completions, commitments and proposed allocations since that date before a final redistribution can be agreed.

4.3 Stage 2: Applying Commuting Flows

4.3.1 The starting point for considering the redistribution should reflect commuting flows between Coventry and each of the Warwickshire Districts. These commuting flows informed the housing distribution agreed in 2015 but are considered to be more relevant when considering employment distribution given the movements they report.

4.3.2 The 2011 census indicates that the two-way commuting flows between Coventry and Warwickshire occur according to the following percentages:

- North Warwickshire BC: 6%
- Nuneaton and Bedworth BC: 33%
- Rugby BC: 18%
- Stratford-on-Avon DC: 8%
- Warwick DC: 35%

4.3.3 Table A below shows the indicative quantum of employment land redistributed to each District if commuting patterns are applied to a shortfall of 241 gross hectares:

Table A

Authority	Percentage of Coventry to Warwickshire Commuting (two way)	Indicative employment land redistribution
North Warwickshire	6%	15 ha
Nuneaton and Bedworth	33%	80 ha
Rugby	18%	43 ha
Stratford	8%	19 ha
Warwick	35%	84 ha
Total	100%	241

4.4 Stage 3: Cross reference with the Housing MOU

4.4.1 The approach set out in stage 2 applies a redistribution based on existing commuting patterns. It does not therefore take account of the proposed redistribution of housing from Coventry to Warwickshire as set out the 2015 Housing MOU. This redistribution may well alter commuting flows in future.

4.4.2 Appendix 1 sets out a methodology that aligns employment land redistribution with the proposed housing redistribution set out in the 2015 MOU. The appendix also sets out the outcomes of that methodology.

4.4.3 Table B below shows the indicative quantum of employment land redistributed to each District if alignment with the Housing MOU is applied to a shortfall of 241 hectares:

Table B

Authority	Indicative employment land
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	redistribution
North Warwickshire	10 ha
Nuneaton and Bedworth	71 ha
Rugby	45 ha
Stratford	10 ha
Warwick	105 ha
Total	241 ha

4.4.4 It can be noted that the indicative redistribution above is similar to that resulting from stage 2. That is in part because commuting data informed the distribution applied to housing as part of the MOU. Both stage 2 and stage 3 indicate a distribution that would see the majority of the shortfall accommodated in Warwick District, Rugby Borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

4.5 Stage 4: Taking account of further considerations

4.5.1 The indicative quantum set out in Tables A and B above needs to be adjusted to take account of market signals and unemployment and urban regeneration as required by Planning Practice Guidance.

4.5.2 Market Signals: The Local Enterprise Partnership collates evidence regarding market signals. Whilst the signals provide a constantly evolving picture, the evidence from market signals currently points towards a number of key factors which could impact on the redistribution. These factors are:

- Pressures for B8 uses close to the trunk road network and particularly the motorway network to the north and east of the sub-region;
- Pressures for B2 uses, particularly associated with the automotive sector, in the central and southern parts of the sub-region;
- Concerns about a lack of “oven ready” sites for expansion and relocation of businesses across the sub-region.
- Importance of close links to both universities
- A lack of high quality office space which is being combatted by Friargate proposals
- The draw of JLR and demand for sites to support close supply chain location etc

4.5.3 However, the signatories of the Employment Land MOU recognise that more work needs to be done to collate data and monitoring market signals on an ongoing basis. The MOU therefore includes a clause to ensure that processes and responsibilities are put in place to strengthen this part of the evidence base. Processes to collate this information are already in place though through the Coventry and Warwickshire Monitoring group, supported by the LEP and Warwickshire Observatory.

4.5.4 Unemployment and Urban Regeneration: The Atkins Report (2014) analyses which parts of the sub-region have the greatest needs for employment and suggests that the areas of greatest need should be those meeting the following criteria:

- Areas that have seen significant population growth over the past 10 years and are projected to see further growth in the future;

- Areas with high levels of unemployment; and
- Areas with high levels of deprivation.

4.5.5 In terms of population, Coventry is the sub-region's main urban centre accounting for approximately 37% of the sub-region's total population. Its population grew by 22,400 people between 2003 and 2012 (latest available data), accounting for 40% of the sub-region's population growth over that period. Coventry is expected to continue to be the focus of population growth, with CWLEP's Strategic Economic Plan stating that half of the sub-region's 80,000 population increase will take place in Coventry.

4.5.6 In terms of unemployment, the latest available data for the period April 2013 to March 2014 show that Nuneaton and Bedworth had the highest unemployment rate in the sub-region but all other local authorities had unemployment rates below the England average of 7.3%. Examining the unemployment rate trends over the period 2006-2014 though, Coventry had the highest average unemployment rate in the sub-region (8.1%), followed by Nuneaton and Bedworth (7.7%) and North Warwickshire (6.9%).

4.5.7 According to the English Indices of Deprivation, Coventry and Nuneaton and Bedworth are the only local authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire that are ranked among the 50% most deprived in England. Coventry in particular is ranked 53rd out of 326 local authorities in England and is therefore in the 20% most deprived.

4.5.8 The Atkins Report therefore concludes that the consideration of population growth, unemployment rates and deprivation levels suggests that the greatest areas of need in Coventry and Warwickshire are Coventry, Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire. Coventry in particular has a rapidly growing population, and relatively high levels of deprivation, making it an area that would clearly benefit from further employment creation and regeneration.

4.5.9 Based on the above and in line with CWLEP's Strategic Economic Plan it is considered that the areas around Coventry and to the north of the LEP area would particularly benefit from the provision of new employment opportunities and developments that would contribute to local regeneration objectives. These local economic needs should be considered in the event of strategic employment sites being formally adopted as part of the Local Plan process.

4.6 Stage 5: Drawing conclusions on redistribution

4.6.1 Drawing together data from stages 2, 3 and 4 the following table sets out the conclusions on the redistribution of Coventry's Employment Land shortfall:

- Warwick, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby have the strongest commuting relationships with Coventry;
- The redistribution of housing from Coventry is focused strongly in Warwick, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby;
- Warwick, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby provide locations which are consistent with the emerging market signals;
- Locations close to the City within Warwick, Rugby and in particular locations towards the northern edge of the City and around Nuneaton

and Bedworth will help to support the regeneration and address unemployment

- Stratford and North Warwickshire have weaker commuting relationships with Coventry and are less well placed to support regeneration of deprived areas.
- Although market signal suggests the North Warwickshire is well placed to support B8 uses and Stratford District is well placed to support growth in B2 uses, their relative remoteness from the City means they are not the preferred locations for these uses when considering a redistribution of Coventry's need. Further the three authorities immediately adjacent to the urban area of the City also have the potential to provide suitable locations for these uses.

4.6.2 Table C below summarises a redistribution resulting from stages 1-5:

Table C

Authority	Indicative Redistribution – Commuting Flows	Indicative Redistribution – Housing MOU	Market Signals	Regeneration and Unemployment	Conclusion
North Warwickshire	15 ha	10 ha	No adjustment	Low impact – downward adjustment	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	80 ha	71 ha	No adjustment	High impact – upwards adjustment	91 ha
Rugby	43 ha	45 ha	No adjustment	Medium impact - No adjustment	45 ha
Stratford	19 ha	10 ha	No adjustment	Low impact – downward adjustment	0
Warwick	84 ha	105 ha	No adjustment	Medium impact - No adjustment	105 ha
Total	241 ha	241 ha			241

4.7 Stage 6: Existing completions, commitments and proposed allocations

4.7.1 As stated, completions since the commencement of the plan period in 2011 need to be considered as do current commitments, proposed allocations and associated live applications as these help to evidence market interest and site deliverability.

4.7.2 Two sites of sub-regional significance in Rugby Borough have been brought forward since 2011, with substantial completions already recorded. These sites at Ansty Park and ProLogis Ryton were always intended to meet employment land needs beyond that required specifically for Rugby Borough. Given the close proximity of both sites to Coventry there has been an informal agreement that these sites can contribute to the City's employment land requirements. This is referenced within the adopted planning policy of Rugby Borough Council, the Employment Land Reviews for Coventry and Rugby and was also recognised in the RSS revision prior to its abolition. Monitoring has been carried out with this in mind. These two sites should therefore be considered to be providing for Coventry's Employment Land requirements.

4.7.3 A further site of sub-regional significance in the vicinity of Coventry Airport is proposed for an employment allocation within the Warwick District Local Plan. Except for a small proportion, this site provides for sub-regional employment land needs rather than the needs of Warwick District. Subject to the adoption of the Warwick's Local Plan, this site will also contribute to Coventry's employment land requirements.

4.7.4 These three sites therefore have the potential to contribute to the redistribution of Coventry's employment shortfall as follows:

Table D

Site	Area
Ansty Park	41 ha
ProLogis Ryton	57 ha
Land in the vicinity of Coventry Airport	117 ha
Total	215 ha

4.7.5 Table E below contains adjustments to table C above that reflect these completions and commitments.

Table E: Adjustments for Existing completions, commitments and proposed allocations

Authority	Proposed Redistribution	Existing completions, commitments and proposed allocations	Balance
North Warwickshire	0	0	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	91 ha	0	-91ha
Rugby	45ha	98ha	+43ha
Stratford	0	0	0
Warwick	105ha	117ha	+12 ha
Total	241ha	215ha	-26 ha

4.7.6 Taking existing completions, commitments and proposed allocations in to account suggests an under-provision in Nuneaton and Bedworth and an over-provision in Rugby Borough. However, given that Ansty Park lies close to the boundary with Nuneaton and Bedworth and ProLogis Ryton, is well connected via the trunk road network, this imbalance is not considered significant, particularly when administrative boundaries are removed from the picture.

4.7.7 It is therefore proposed that previous agreements about the role of these sites in making provision over and above local need, is now formalised in the ELMOU as being an important part of the redistribution of employment land to meet Coventry's needs. This approach is consistent with the emerging evidence.

4.7.8 There remains a balance of 26 hectares of Coventry’s shortfall, which needs to be accommodated within Warwickshire. The evidence presented above suggests that this should be met within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

4.8 Stage 7: Testing proposed redistribution against availability of suitable employment land sites

4.8.1 The final stage is to test whether there is capacity within Nuneaton and Bedworth to meet the remaining shortfall. In assessing potential capacity, it is also important to consider whether any potential sites will meet market demands and are deliverable and viable.

4.8.2 NBBC have completed an Employment Land Review which has identified potential capacity within the Borough to meet both the local employment land need and the additional requirement of 26 hectares. However, further assessment work is still being undertaken before this can be confirmed. This will be completed in the Autumn. The ELMOU recognises this uncertainty by including a review clause (8.2) in the event that it is demonstrated through the Plan making process that the proposed distribution cannot be delivered.

5 Proposed distribution of employment land across Coventry and Warwickshire

	Employment Land Requirement (gross hectares)	Redistribution from Coventry (gross hectares)	Minimum Local Plan Employment Provision (gross hectares)
Coventry	369	-	128
North Warwickshire	58	0	58
Nuneaton & Bedworth	87	26	113
Rugby	99	98	197
Stratford-on-Avon	35	0	35
Warwick	66	117	183
Total	714	241	714

6. Housing Memorandum of Understanding Update

6.1 Nuneaton and Bedworth BC were unable to sign the Housing MOU at the end of 2015 as the Council’s evidence base did not indicate that there was sufficient capacity to accommodate the level of growth identified through the redistribution methodology. The Council did however commit to reviewing the evidence. This work is ongoing and Nuneaton and Bedworth BC will be able to review their position on the MOU in the Autumn once the work is complete.

6.2 With regard to the other Councils in the HMA, all have formally endorsed the agreement and all are committed to delivering Local Plans that align with it.

The contact officer for this report is Dave Barber (01926 456065)

Appendix 1 to Joint Committee Paper



Memorandum of Understanding relating to Employment Land Requirements and Distribution within the Coventry & Warwickshire

1 PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM

1.1 The Memorandum is agreed by the following Councils:

- Coventry City Council
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Warwick District Council
- Stratford–on-Avon District Council
- Warwickshire CC

2 PURPOSE

2.1 This Employment Land Memorandum of Understating (ELMOU) sets out the agreed position of the Local Authorities within Coventry and Warwickshire with the support of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership with regard to:

- The employment land requirements of each local authority area within the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region
- The redistribution of employment land requirements required to address the shortfall in supply within Coventry City
- A commitment to meet the employment land requirements of each local authority area within the sub-region.

2.2 The ELMOU seeks to ensure that the employment land requirements of Coventry and Warwickshire are met.

2.3 The ELMOU should be read in conjunction with the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing MOU agreed in 2015/16.

2.4 In particular the ELMOU seeks to ensure that the employment land needs of Coventry City are met. There is clear evidence Coventry City Council is unable to meet its full employment requirement within the City boundary. As a result the five

Borough/District Councils within Warwickshire have collaborated with the City Council and the CWLEP to ensure sufficient employment land is provided to meet both the City's needs and the needs of the Housing Market Area as a whole.

3 POINTS OF AGREEMENT

3.1 The parties agree that the employment land requirements of each local authority area within the Coventry and Warwickshire HMA are as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Employment Land Requirements 2011-2031 (by local authority area)

	Total Employment Land Requirements (gross Hectares)
Coventry	369
North Warwickshire	58
Nuneaton & Bedworth	87
Rugby	99
Stratford-on-Avon	35
Warwick	66
Total	714

3.2 The parties agree that (allowing for flexibility in supply over and above minimum need and replacement provision to support housing delivery) Coventry City Council is unable to meet its employment land requirement in full within the City boundary and that the shortfall in employment land supply is approximately 241 hectares.

3.3 Table 2 below shows the agreed position of the parties with regard to the redistribution of Coventry's employment land requirements

Table 2: Redistribution of Coventry's unmet employment land requirements 2011-2031 (by Local authority area)

	Redistribution of employment land from Coventry (gross hectares)	Notes
North Warwickshire	0	
Nuneaton & Bedworth	26	To be confirmed through Plan making process
Rugby	98	Completions at Ansty Park and ProLogis Ryton
Stratford-on-Avon	0	
Warwick	117	Proposed allocation at Land adjacent to Coventry Airport
Total	241	

3.4 Reflecting points 1, 2 and 3 above, the parties agree that the minimum employment land provision within each local authority area is as set out in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Minimum employment land provision 2011-2031 (by local authority area)

	Employment Land Requirement (gross hectares)	Redistribution from Coventry (gross hectares)	Minimum Local Plan Employment Provision (gross hectares)
Coventry	369	-	128
North Warwickshire	58	0	58
Nuneaton & Bedworth	87	26	113
Rugby	99	98	197
Stratford-on-Avon	35	0	35
Warwick	66	117	183
Total	714	241	714

3.5 Each local planning authority will prepare a Local Plan that provides for the minimum employment land requirement set out in table 3 above. In the event that it is demonstrated through the Plan making process that the distribution set out in tables 2 and 3 above cannot be delivered, this MOU will be reviewed so that the overall employment land requirement is met within the C&W area.

3.6 In partnership with the C&W LEP and WCC the local planning authorities commit to the on-going development of their evidence base and monitoring of market signals and intelligence to help manage and maintain appropriate employment land provisions across the sub-region.

3.7 Each local authority is committed to ongoing cooperation and engagement by both officers and members in relation to delivery of employment land for the C&W area.

4 LIMITATIONS

4.1 For the avoidance of doubt, this Memorandum shall not fetter the discretion of any of the Councils in the determination of any planning application, or in the exercise of any of their statutory powers and duties, or in their response to consultations, and is not intended to be legally binding but shows clear commitment and intent to meeting the full employment land requirements of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region.

5 LIAISON

5.1 Member level representatives of the Local Authorities through the Joint Committee (or appropriate replacement body) will meet as a minimum yearly or more frequently when appropriate, in order to:

- Manage duty to cooperate responsibilities in relation to employment land;
- maintain and update the memorandum, as necessary; and
- Monitor the preparation of Local Plans across the six authorities and discuss strategic issues emerging from them.

6 TIMESCALE

6.1 The Memorandum of Understanding is intended to run up to 2031 to align with the timescale of the evidence.

7 MONITORING

7.1 Annual monitoring will be carried out to ensure that the delivery of employment land is maintained throughout the sub-region. This will be overseen by the C&W monitoring group and will include data regarding permissions, completions, land availability and any market signals information provided by the C&W LEP.

8 REVIEW

8.1 The document will be reviewed in the event that as a result of co-operation with a local authority outside the sub-region, additional employment related development is to be accommodated within Coventry and Warwickshire at a level that materially affects the overall distribution of development in the sub-region (having regard to appropriate and justified alignment between housing and employment provision).

8.2 The document will also be reviewed no less than every three years but also if significant new evidence emerges that renders this MOU out of date.

**Signed on behalf of Coventry City Council
Councillor George Duggins**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of North Warwickshire Borough Council
Councillor David Humphreys**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Dennis Harvey**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Warwickshire County Council
Councillor Isobel Seccombe**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Rugby Borough Council
Councillor Michael Stokes**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Warwick District Council
Councillor Andrew Mobbs**

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Councillor Chris Saint**

Date:

LPA and approach	Total Homes Redistributed from Coventry through		
	Aligning population and economic growth	Further redistribution from Coventry	Total
Coventry City	-3,800	-14,000	-17,800
Rugby Borough	0	2,800	2,800
Warwick District	0	6,640	6,640
Stratford on Avon District	2,020	0	2,020
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough	1,460	4,020	5,480
North Warwickshire Borough	320	540	860
Totals	0	0	0

Total Redistribution of employment land aligned to housing redistribution
-241.00
37.91
89.90
27.35
74.20
11.64
0

Figures Rounded for MOU
-241.00
38.00
90.00
27.50
74.00
11.50
0

To reflect requirements	
Coventry total employment land requirement =	369
Coventry employment land capacity alongside 25,000 homes	128
unmet proportion of requirement	241
unmet housing need	17800
constrained supply equivalent - employment land per home	0.013539326



Public report Cabinet Report

Cabinet
Council

4 October 2016
11 October 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor Innes
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration – Councillor O’Boyle

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director for Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Local Growth Deal - Public Realm Phase 4 & Infrastructure Projects

Is this a key decision?

Yes expenditure is in excess of £1m

Executive Summary:

Since 2011 the Council has delivered over £33M public realm improvements in Coventry City Centre. Schemes such as Broadgate, Council House Square, Gosford St and the route from Bull Yard to the railway station have transformed the city’s environment, providing more green space and creating a more attractive city for residents, businesses and visitors to enjoy. Phase 3 of the public realm improvements was completed earlier this year, using European Regional Development Fund and Local Growth Deal grant, along with some private investment to deliver improvements including to the route between Coventry University campus and the city centre, Far Gosford Street, Lidice Place, Belgrade Plaza and Whittle Arch.

The impact of this work has been significant, attracting developers to invest in the city such as Shearers Property Group who cited the improvements to Broadgate as part of the reason they took the decision to invest to transform Cathedral Lanes into a vibrant restaurant quarter, with plans for further investment for phase 2 which is set to commence shortly Broadgate continues to host popular events, from farmers markets to concerts and exhibitions which attract visitors into the city centre. An increasing number of the city’s bars and restaurants are taking the opportunity to provide more outdoor seating areas to enable people to sit out and enjoy the newly improved urban and green spaces. Footfall in the City Centre during the evening is up 23%, well above the national average.

The Council has successfully secured £1.9M Local Growth Deal funds from Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) to deliver Phase 4 of city centre public realm improvements. The investment will focus on delivery of high quality schemes as per previous schemes in the city centre within the funding available.

To ensure that the public realm programme can be delivered within the available budget, this report proposes a priority order for the schemes. A pipeline of public realm schemes has been established in priority order for investment:

- Transformation of Greyfriars Lane, Pepper Lane and relocation of the Coventry Cross to help unlock phase 2 of the Cathedral Lanes redevelopment and improve links to the Cathedral, through the creation of high quality attractive route;
- Improvements to the public realm in Fairfax Street;
- Funding to undertake feasibility studies for improvements at J4 and J5 of the ring road;
- Introduction of more public art into the city centre, including the reinstatement of local pieces in locations to be decided;
- Improvements to West Orchards Car Park Access, which will be match funded by West Orchards.

And if funding allows:

- Work to improve city centre coach parking facilities;
- Improvements to the cobbles in Cuckoo Lane, following on from the previous Hill Top improvements;
- Enhance the area on Corporation Street opposite the Student Village building through installing new paving to match with previous public realm works in this area;
- Improvements to city centre cycle infrastructure to improve consistency of routes;
- Enhancements to the pedestrian access in Greyfriars Green to complement the new pedestrian boulevard.

Separately, Local Growth Deal has also been awarded for infrastructure improvements to the A45/Leamington Road and A46 Stoneleigh Interchange. £0.75M has been awarded to the A45/Leamington Road to reduce road traffic congestion during peak periods and improve safety for all road users at the busy road junction on the A45 Kenpas Highway at its junction with the B4113 Leamington Road and B4113 St Martin's Road. A further £1.1M has been awarded for scheme development for the A46 Stoneleigh Interchange improvement. The scheme, being led by delivery partner Warwickshire County Council with support from Warwick District Council will improve access to the University of Warwick and the adjoining science and business parks, as well as provide a basis to access a number of proposed major developments in the area including HS2.

Taken with the investment reported in the Highways and Transport Capital Programme reports, the total additional investment in the city for 2016/17 is over £23M. The public realm works will help bring forward future investment in the city centre. This investment will also help strengthen the case for Coventry's City of Culture 2021 bid.

In addition two business cases have been submitted for Local Growth Deal 3 (LGD3) funds to deliver a further package of major public realm improvements and infrastructure improvements, which include further developing and delivering schemes which have been reported to Cabinet previously including de-culverting of the River Sherbourne at Palmer Lane and improvements to a number of ring road junctions to improve connectivity between the city centre and outer ring road.

A strategic outline business case is being prepared for the next package of public realm and infrastructure projects. This development work is being funded by the Integrated Transport Block Scheme Development Fund. Bids are being submitted to the West Midlands Combined Authority for Devolution Deal funding and Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership for Local Growth Deal funding.

The Growth Deal 3 funding announcement timescale has not been confirmed, although an announcement is anticipated in the autumn. Consequently there is an element of at-risk expenditure for business case development. This is estimated to be no more than £0.1M. It should be noted that none of this work will be abortive as it will be helpful to have 'schemes on the shelf' ready for future bidding opportunities. If unsuccessful these costs would need to be underwritten by Highways and Transport Capital Programme. If successful, a further cabinet report will be submitted for approval of the detail of these schemes.

Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Grant permission to enter into Local Growth Deal funding agreements for:
 - a) £1.9M to deliver Public Realm Phase 4;
 - b) £0.75M for A45/Leamington Road; and
 - c) £1.1M A46 Stoneleigh Interchange scheme, including £0.6M contribution from the Department for Transport
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, following consultation with Cabinet Members for City Services and Jobs and Regeneration, to agree the detailed works for schemes in Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 4, as set out in Table 5.1 and their prioritisation for implementation.
3. Grant permission to enter into future Local Growth Deal 3 funding agreements if bids are successful for public realm city centre and infrastructure improvements and approve the submission of Strategic Outline Business Case to the WMCA to match fund these schemes.
4. Recommend that Council:-
 - a) Authorise the new and additional programme of works, as set out in Table 5.1, for Public Realm Phase 4 totalling £1.9M, A45/Leamington Road £0.75M and A46 Stoneleigh Interchange scheme £1.1M to be added to the approved capital programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as per the priority order set out in this report.
 - b) Grant permission to enter into Local Growth Deal funding agreements if bids are successful for public realm city centre infrastructure improvements and approve the submission of Strategic Outline Business Case to the WMCA to match fund these schemes.

Council are asked to:

1. Authorise the new and additional programme of works, as set out in Table 5.1, for Public Realm Phase 4 totalling £1.9M, A45/Leamington Road £0.75M and A46 Stoneleigh Interchange scheme £1.1M to be added to the approved capital programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as per the priority order set out in this report.
2. Grant permission to enter into Local Growth Deal funding agreements if bids are successful for public realm city centre and infrastructure improvements and approve the submission of Strategic Outline Business Case to the WMCA to match fund these schemes.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Plan showing location of Phase 4 schemes

Appendix B – Plans of proposed Phase 4 schemes

Background Papers:

None

Other Useful Documents:

1. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 1 – Council report of 28th January 2011
2. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2 – Council Report of 23rd October 2012
3. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2 Update – Council Report of 23rd July 2013
4. The Coventry Warwickshire First Wave Growth Deal – Council report of 9th September 2014
5. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 3 – Council Report of 7th October 2014
6. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Open Call for Extension to Projects – Council report of 17th March 2015
7. Public Realm 3a – Council Report of 17th March 2015

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, 11th October 2016

Report title: Public Realm Phase 4

1 Context (or background)

- 1.1 The background to the original Coventry Public Realm Project was covered in a report to Cabinet on 21st January 2011. Phase 1 was completed in summer 2012; the success of these works led to Phase 2 being approved by Cabinet on 9th October 2012, with a revised programme subsequently approved 9th July 2013, and Phase 3 being approved on 7th October 2014, with a revised programme (Phase 3a) approved in March 2015 following the award of additional ERDF funding. The previous reports included approval to undertake works at Greyfriars Lane, which are planned to now commence in October 2016.
- 1.2 Phase 3a is now complete, which includes improvements to Belgrade Plaza, Lidice Place, and Whittle Arch. The work has achieved several national and regional awards and is in the running for a number of others. The success of previous phases of public realm also led Coventry University to contribute funding towards improvements to Gosford Street and their campus, which was successfully delivered in partnership at the end of 2015.
- 1.3 The Public Realm programme has been extremely successful to date, with the programme having already regenerated over 16.5 hectares of brownfield land within Coventry city centre, and levered in more than £31.7 million of additional public sector funding and £2.3 million private sector investment.
- 1.4 Public realm has already attracted £5M Growth Deal funds to date, which were used to match fund ERDF grant to deliver the Phase 3a programme.
- 1.5 It is proposed that £0.1M is used from the funding allocation to fund works to complete the Public Realm Phase 3a programme, which includes finishing off works at Far Gosford Street, Belgrade Junction and Lidice which the ERDF funding and programme timescales did not allow for.
- 1.6 Public Realm Phase 4 comprises the following schemes in priority order:
 - Greyfriars Lane: further to the proposals set out in the March 2015 Report, the scheme will improve the link between Salt Lane Car Park and High Street and Pepper Lane. The high quality design will tie in with the previously regenerated High Street in terms of materials, and will include the installation of trees and Carnaby Street-style suspended catenary lighting to create an attractive and vibrant route.
 - Pepper Lane: currently hosts an unattractive service yard; the scheme would see this frontage improved by creating a visual barrier through attractive fencing and planting to the service area which would provide a far more pleasant vista to enable outdoor seating at ground level and balconies on first floor level of Cathedral Lanes. Alterations to the highway are proposed to raise the carriageway to create a level pleasant space for pedestrians and vehicles, while the surface will be treated with the same high quality materials palette as the adjacent High Street.
 - Coventry Cross: there is an aspiration to open up space in Cuckoo Lane with its magnificent vista of both the Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church by relocating the Coventry Cross Monument to nearby Cross Cheaping. The Cross takes up a lot of space and currently acts as a constraint for extension of the developments in the area. Opening up this land to an alternative use for restaurants and bars in this area

will help support the restaurant quarter and city's night time economy and make better use of this prime location for the people of Coventry and visitors to enjoy.

- Fairfax Street Phase 2: improvements were carried out at Whittle Arch and part of Fairfax Street in 2015 as part of the Public Realm Phase 3a. This scheme will address the public realm in adjacent area to the scheme on Fairfax Street, improving access to the Cathedral and Transport Museum for visitors by removing the taxis and bus bay to create a wider footway to allow for restaurants and cafes to provide outdoor seating to create a more cosmopolitan feel to this bustling part of the city centre. High quality materials will be used and trees planted to create a far more attractive public space.
- Scheme Development – The city has aspirations to undertake some major infrastructure works to transform Junctions 4 and 5 of the ring road to unlock development space and improve walking routes to the city centre. To facilitate these projects extensive feasibility studies are required utilising professional engineering consultancy services. These sites are instrumental to unlock development land particularly for Coventry University and the Whitefriars Monastery at J4 and the Techno Park at J5.
- Public Art Trail – Coventry has a rich cultural heritage which is currently not promoted as widely as it could be to attract visitors to the city centre. Public art adds another dimension of attractiveness to a city from a cultural perspective, post-war there was a lot of public art installed in the city centre which has since declined. The Council wish to see some of the original public art re-instated and better promote the city's heritage. It is proposed to refurbish and reinstate some of the city's most loved sculptures, locations to be determined.
- West Orchards car park access – improvements to the car park access for to create a more attractive and accessible setting for visitors. Note this will be match funded by West Orchards.
- Coach Parking Improvements – Coventry has a significant number of visitors that come via coach to the city every year. The main coach park is White Street in the north near the Cathedral. However there is a need for more drop off and pick up points around the city centre close to other attractions such as the Belgrade Plaza, Spon Street and The Herbert to encourage visitors to explore more of the city centre. Work will include creating new coach bays and improved signage. If the city becomes the 'City of Culture' it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in visitor numbers.
- Cuckoo Lane: the cobbled streets of Cuckoo Lane and Hay Lane are key routes to Cathedral Quarter and are currently in a bad state of repair; the scheme would repair and replace cobbles as necessary to complete the recent improvement to the Hill Top area. Works comprise carefully lifting existing cobbles, constructing a concrete supporting layer and relaying the cobbles with new mortar surround in Pepper Lane and Cuckoo Lane.
- Corporation Street paving – much of Corporation Street has been transformed under the Belgrade Plaza scheme which was delivered under the City Centre Access scheme. However, there is one section of paving which remains in poor condition opposite the AXA building, which is a key route to the Transport museum. The scheme will upgrade the paving using high quality materials to complete the link on this important city centre route.

- City Centre Cycle Improvements – the Cycle Coventry project has delivered over £7m cycle route improvements around Coventry. The project has now ended, however the works have left a number of missing links at key strategic city centre locations which require interventions to create consistent high quality routes connecting across the city centre. The Council's partner Sustrans has undertaken an extensive survey and have come up with a mixture of low and high cost interventions at 15 city centre locations. The interventions all relate to the public realm, and include items such as improved signage, installation of dropped kerbs and removal of street clutter.
 - Greyfriars Green/Warwick Row Link – this scheme involves realignment of the main footway from the railway station to city centre from Warwick Road via Greyfriars Green through to Warwick Row, to complement the Friargate pedestrian boulevard and create a more direct route. At present the footway isn't on the desire lane, resulting in pedestrians walking over the landscaped area which is not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and is damaging the recently improved green space. The new footway would be high quality paving to complement the Friargate boulevard.
- 1.7 More details about these schemes can be found in appendices A and B. Greyfriars Lane, and Pepper Lane have been designed, the rest will follow as part of the Phase 4 programme.
- 1.8 Overall, this additional investment will support job creation and promote the regeneration of the city centre and further improve accessibility to employment, retail and tourist attractions. Increasing the city's public art offer will add another dimension to help strengthen the case for Coventry's City of Culture 2021 bid. Improved walking routes, cycling and coach facilities will enhance connectivity in the city centre and provide a more attractive visitor experience.
- 1.9 The objective of the A45/Leamington Road scheme is to reduce road traffic congestion during peak periods and improve safety for all road users at the busy road junction on the A45 Kenpas Highway at its junction with the B4113 Leamington Road and B4113 St Martin's Road. The £0.75M will fund scheme design and delivery. As part of the proposals signalised crossing points will be introduced, improving accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists and better managing traffic flows. The scheme will build on significant recent and committed investment along the A45/A46 corridor, including Toll Bar and recent junction capacity schemes at Kenilworth Road, Sir Henry Parkes Road and Broad Lane.
- 1.10 The A45 Leamington Road scheme will directly support major economic investment and growth planned in the South Coventry area.
- 1.11 The A46 Stoneleigh Interchange improvement entails the construction of a second bridge over the A46 and the creation of a full roundabout to provide increased capacity. This will complement the 'pinch point' scheme implemented last year around the University of Warwick and will significantly improve access to the University and the adjoining science and business parks. This scheme will also provide basis for accessing a number of proposed major developments in the area. The £1.1M Local Growth Deal and Department for Transport contribution will fund scheme development of Phase 1 which will include a full compliant business case to the Department for Transport; as this scheme lies just outside the city boundary the lead body is Warwickshire County Council.

1.12 Procurement options for the delivery of the works have been considered, it is proposed for public realm and A45/Leamington Road improvements to use the City Council's own direct labour force (DLO), supported by the Coventry City Council's Civil Engineering Framework contract for all schemes. The Warwickshire Highways Maintenance Contract may be used for the cobble works in Cuckoo Lane. Professional services will be procured using the West Midlands Highway Alliance professional services contract, which includes scheme development for the A46 project. All works will be procured to meet public procurement and EU State Aid requirements.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 **Option 1 – (Preferred) The City Council approves using Local Growth Deal for the schemes as set out in paragraph 1.6, with schemes to be implemented in accordance with the priority order set out in 1.6 dependent on the availability of funding** - The Council has acted as lead applicant or accountable body for many grant-funded projects. In essence it means being responsible for monitoring spend, submitting grant claims to CWLEP 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 £3.79M Growth Deal grant. It is recommended this option is approved to maximise funds available to deliver the full programme of public realm and infrastructure improvements to maximise impact. It is not known what funds may become available for public realm in the future, therefore it's important to continue the success of the programme to further enhance the city centre which started as part of the Coventry 2012 initiative.

Option 2 - (Default position) Proceed without any of the Local Growth Deal external funding package - If the works were to be funded entirely by existing resources within the capital programme there is no provision for any works to be undertaken this financial year and a review would be required to determine available resources for future years, which would result in possibly only the top one or two projects being delivered, Greyfriars Lane and Pepper Lane. Delaying the timing of the project could have an adverse impact on the development timescales for the continued redevelopment of Cathedral Lanes, as the public realm is essential for unlocking Pepper Lane.

2.2 Recommended Proposal

It is recommended that the Council moves forward with Option 1. The programme will be delivered in priority order within the resources available and contingency applied as set out in section 5 of the report.

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. Growth Deal matched against core funds for these projects is aligned to delivering the Jobs Strategy and the priorities of the 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 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.

3.3 Consultation with Access Groups has been ongoing throughout the delivery of Public Realm Phases 1 to 3a, and will continue for the development of Phase 4. All schemes incorporate trees and grass wherever practical in response to repeated calls for more greenery in the city centre. Consultation with access groups will also take place for the A45/Leamington Road and A46 Stoneleigh Interchange improvement schemes.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The Local Growth Deal schemes must be completed by 31st March 2018. Work has commenced on Greyfriars Lane, and the works have been phased to minimise disruption. Design work is taking place in priority order of the projects and the DLO have planned this work in their programme. An announcement is expected regarding the Growth Deal 3 bid in autumn 2016 and will be reported to Cabinet and a further cabinet report will follow.

4.2 All Growth Deal spend must be defrayed by the end of March 2018 in order to submit a final grant claim. Therefore works are to be completed by end January 2018 to enable time for final payments to be made.

5 Comments from Executive Director Resources

5.1 Financial implications

Public Realm phase 4 improvements will be funded from the £1.9m Local Growth Deal Unlocking Sites pot, which the Council has secured through Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). A further private contribution from West Orchards will fund the improvements to car park access. The programme will be delivered in priority order to ensure that we remain within our available budget.

The first call on the Local Growth Deal funds will be £0.1m to complete the public realm phase 3a programme. This will be followed by delivering Greyfriars Lane and Pepper Lane, which are the first prioritised schemes

Also secured through CWLEP to deliver infrastructure improvements is £0.75m for A45/Leamington Road and £1.1m for A46 Stoneleigh Interchange. Note that £0.6M of the A46 Stoneleigh Interchange funding is directly from the Department for Transport but is classed as Growth Deal. Table 5.1 below shows Public Realm phase 4 programme in priority order, as well as the 2 infrastructure improvement projects:

Table 5.1 – Public Realm Phase 4 Programme in Priority Order & Infrastructure Projects

SCHEME	PRIORITY ORDER	GROWTH DEAL £m	PRIVATE CON'T £m	TOTAL BUDGET £m
Public Realm Phase 3a		0.1		0.1
Greyfriars Lane	1	0.5		0.5
Pepper Lane	2	0.5		0.5
Coventry Cross	3	0.2		0.2
Fairfax Street Phase 2	4	0.3		0.3
Scheme Development J4 & J5	5	0.16		0.16
Public Art	6	0.1		0.1
West Orchard Car Park Access*	7	0.04	0.04	0.08
Coach Parking	8			
Cuckoo Lane Cobbles	9			
Corporation Street Phase 2	10			
Cycle Improvements	11			
Greyfriars Green Warwick Row Link	12			
PUBLIC REALM SUB-TOTAL		1.9	0.04	1.94
A45 / Leamington Road		0.75		0.75
A46 Stoneleigh Interchange		1.1		1.1
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUB-TOTAL		1.75	0.0	1.85
TOTAL		3.75	0.04	3.79

* includes £41k private contribution from West Orchards towards the scheme.

The public realm figures above include £0.3m contingency amongst priority order 1-7. If this contingency is not utilised this will enable budget to be released to deliver schemes 8-12, this will be reviewed throughout the programme.

5.2 Legal implications

Wayleaves will be required to install lighting on buildings on Greyfriars Lane and Pepper Lane.

Planning will be required to relocate the Coventry Cross statue in Cross Cheaping.

The public realm and infrastructure 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 Plan?

6.1.1 The 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 and A46 and A45 improvements 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 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. Public Realm Phase 4 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 and A45 Leamington Road programme whereby risks are managed by project team level and reported to project board. There is also a separate governance arrangement in place between Coventry and Warwickshire to manage the A46 Stoneleigh Interchange scheme. Regular risk workshops are undertaken on all projects to ensure active monitoring and management.

6.2.2 The financial risk associated with Local Growth Deal sits with the Council as accountable body. However the risk of claw back 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 Growth Deal-funded work.

- 6.2.3 The City Council's Resources & New Projects (RNP) Team oversee all CWLEP Local Growth Deal that comes into the Council beyond just public realm. They are experienced in dealing with external funding and will ensure that suitable monitoring and governance arrangements are in place at a programme level and appropriately align to the CWLEP's governance structure.
- 6.2.4 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 CWLEP. The highly experienced Transport & Highways division who have already successfully delivered previous phases of public realm improvements will continue to implement the 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 from the previous public realm projects and can 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 public realm 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 organisations are underway to ensure that the design of Greyfriars Lane 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 to 3 schemes and to consider the design of further schemes. In particular, the Council has worked closely with the Guide Dogs Association providing funding to help the re-training of guide dogs in the new city centre.
- 6.4.2 Introduction of signals will improve accessibility at the A45 Leamington Road. Access Groups will be consulted during the design of the scheme.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

- 6.5.1 The projects will have a positive impact on the environment in the city centre. More green spaces and trees will be introduced into the city centre. Improvements to cycle infrastructure will encourage more sustainable travel. The projects will improve the quality of pedestrian routes in the city centre, and encourage travel by foot. The proposed improvements for the A45 Leamington Road will reduce congestion, and also improve accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

- 6.6.1 The public realm activities at Greyfriars Lane and Pepper Lane will increase the attractiveness of adjacent sites to private sector developers, and is likely to bring new employment land forward for development. This is reflected by the fact that Shearers Property Group, the developers of Cathedral Lanes are working with the Council to ensure that the public realm works delivered complement their proposed refurbishment and expansion plans for redevelopment of the shopping centre. The improvements to Greyfriars Lane will improve a key strategic link between the city centre and proposed new Leisure Destination on the site of the current Christchurch and Spire House buildings, as well as City Centre South. The public art improvements will involve a number of local partners, including Coventry University and the team involved in the City of Culture 2021 bid.
- 6.6.2 West Orchards have proposed a scheme to improve their car park access and will work with the City Council to deliver improvements, including providing match funding towards the scheme.
- 6.6.3 Due to the A46 Stoneleigh Interchange scheme location being just outside the city boundary, Warwickshire County Council will lead the delivery of the project, working closely with Warwick District Council.
- 6.6.4 Longer term, the works proposed as part of the Growth Deal business case included improvements to ring road junctions which will increase the attractiveness of these sites to private sector developers through unlocking development land and improving connectivity, and is likely to bring new employment land forward for development. The Environment Agency are very interested in the proposals to de-culver the River Sherbourne, and if successful, further de-culverting works could take place in the future to open up the river along Fairfax Street and create a river quarter which would complement future development in this area.

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Director: Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	24/08/2016	24/08/2016
Councillor Jane Innes	Cabinet Member (City Services)		13/09/2016	14/09/2016
Members: Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Cabinet Member (Jobs and Regeneration)		13/09/2016	14/09/2016

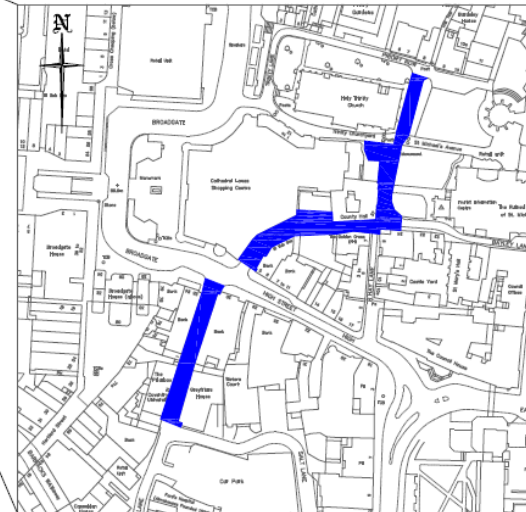
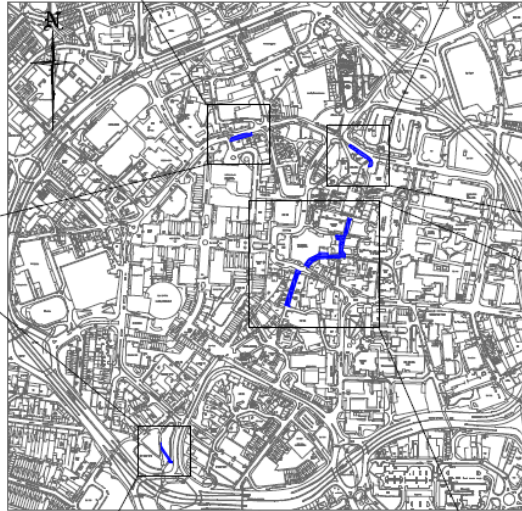
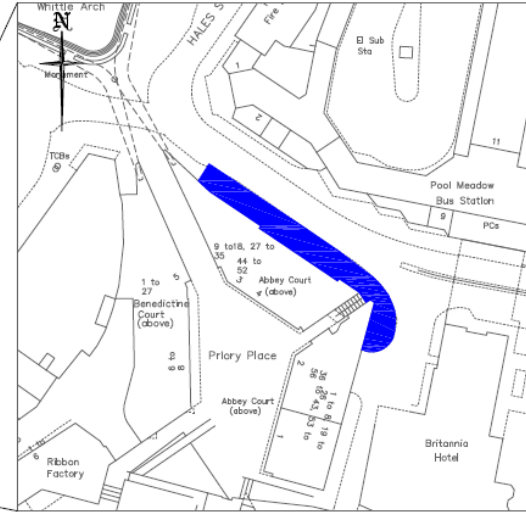
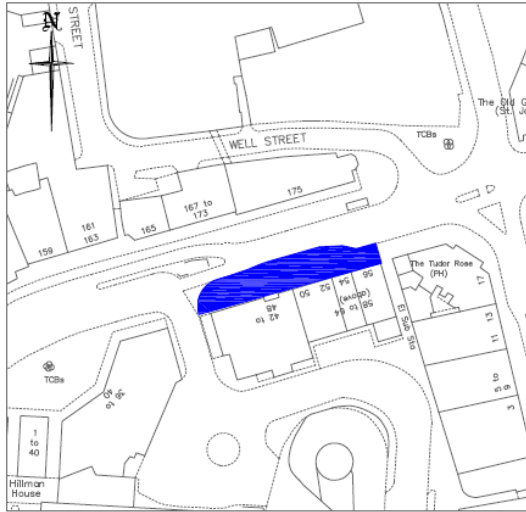
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Appendix A – Public Realm Phase 4 Overview



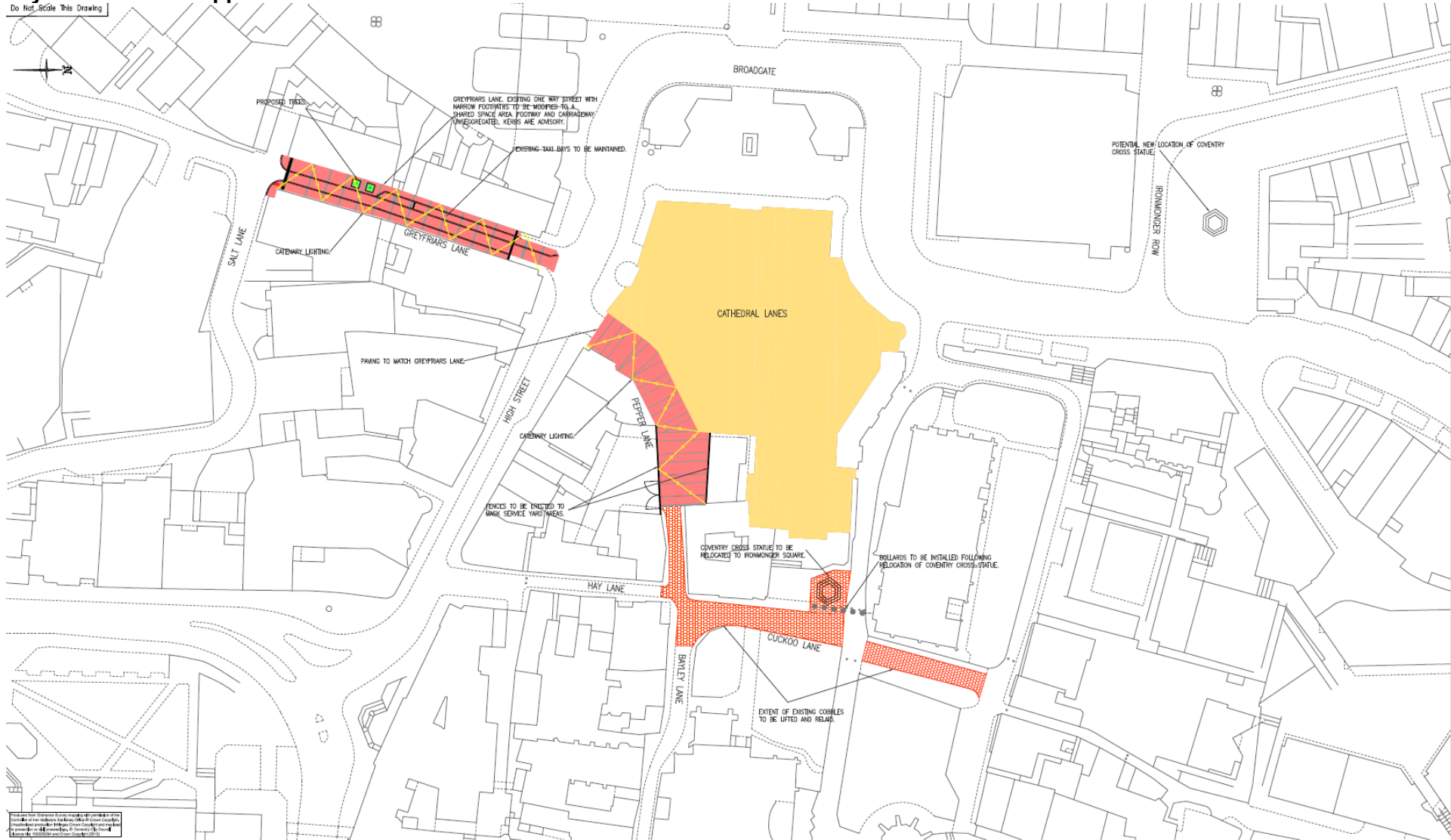
PUBLIC REALM PHASE 4 PROPOSED WORKS



 PROPOSED AREA OF PHASE 4 PUBLIC REALM WORKS.

APPENDIX B - Proposed Phase 4 schemes

1) Greyfriars Lane & Pepper Lane



2) Fairfax Street

Do Not Scale This Drawing



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Public report

Council

11 October 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Executive Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

Not Applicable

Title:

Appointments of the City Council - West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to appoint a City Council representative to the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

Recommendations:

That the City Council appoints Councillor Mrs Bigham to the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

List of Appendices included:

None

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 – 11th October 2016

Report title: Appointments of the City Council – West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) are local authority-led partnerships which provide structures and forums of engagement for dealing with migration at a local, national and regional level.
- 1.2. SMPs bring together senior representatives from Local Government, Home Office, national government, statutory, voluntary and community and private sectors. These unique cross-sector partnerships with political oversight, support, discuss and represent national and local needs to ensure that migration is managed to benefit all in the UK.
- 1.3 The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (WMSMP) is one of twelve Migration Partnerships across the UK that were established following the introduction of a regional dispersal policy in 1999 for people seeking asylum. Since then the West Midlands Partnership has developed in response to changes in dispersal and migrant patterns, numbers and policy requirements. In 2007, the core activities of the partnerships were broadened to cover the wider migration agenda and their impacts on local areas. This included economic migration and consideration of how the region could benefit.
- 1.4 Coventry City Council is requested to nominate one representative of the Authority to sit on the Board of the WMSMP with immediate effect and until end April 2017, after which the Partnerships Governance Arrangements, including the terms of office for future appointments, are being reviewed.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the City Council be represented on the Board by the appointment of Councillor Mrs Bigham.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The appointment will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting.

5. Comments from the Executive Director of Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications

Not applicable

- 5.2 Legal implications

Not applicable

6. Other implications

Not applicable

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Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council	-	31/08/16	02/09/16

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Council Meeting

11 October 2016

Booklet 1

Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Bailey</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Innes , Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
	<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“It was reported in in the Coventry Telegraph in January this year (14th), that Coventry City Council intended to employ an officer whose duty was to clamp down on drivers who illegally cross pavements to park their cars on front gardens and in some cases, cause damage to those same pavements. Currently, some drivers do this and avoid paying for dropped kerbs to be installed outside their property.</p> <p>In the report, it was stated that Coventry City Council had already signed off for the creation of a 'Vehicle Crossing officer'. Has anyone been employed yet and if so, how long have they been working and has any resident yet been fined?”</p>

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Bailey</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor A Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities</p>
	<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“It was reported in the Coventry Telegraph, June 2007(6th) that in October 2006, Coventry as a whole had been declared an alcohol-free zone, instead of just the city centre. In the same paper for 21st January 2015, it listed 20 things the city has given the World. Item 7 states 'The UK's first street drinking ban was put into place in Coventry in 1988, declaring Coventry City Centre an alcohol-free zone. It proved so successful that it was extended to the whole of Coventry'.</p> <p>This may be the case, but when trying to deal with drunks in Quinton Park, there seems to be confusion as the Police informed us it was in place, but Council officers could not confirm this to be the case and the webmaster couldn't find any reference on the council website. Because of our questions, a form has since been added onto the website for reporting alcohol issues in public areas.</p> <p>Could we please have clarification to confirm that this ban is still in place today for the whole city and where we can find out more on the Coventry City Council website?”</p>

3.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Williams</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Innes , Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
	<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“Would the Cabinet Member provide the following information: 1) Across all the payment machines in our car-parks, what percentage of transactions during this financial year are made with plastic cards and what percentage are cash? 2) During this same period across all the payment machines, how many £5 notes were used?”</p>

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