

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th December, 2016

Place

Council Chamber - Council House

Public Business**1. Apologies****2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016 (Pages 7 - 16)****3. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

4. Coventry Good Citizen Award

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

5. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**6. Petitions****7. Declarations of Interest****Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council****8. Increasing Coventry's Superfast Broadband Coverage (Pages 17 - 32)**

From the Cabinet, 1 November 2016

Report of the Executive Director of Place

It is anticipated that the following matters will be referred as Recommendations from Cabinet, 29 November 2016. In order to allow Members the maximum opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposals, the reports are attached. The relevant Recommendations will be circulated separately.

9. Boundary Commission for England Review of Parliamentary Constituencies: Consultation Response (Pages 33 - 44)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

10. **Coventry Investment Fund Investment Cathedral Lanes Phase 2** (Pages 45 - 50)

Report of the Executive Director of Place

It is anticipated that the following matter will be referred as Recommendations from Cabinet, 6 December 2016. In order to allow Members the maximum opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposals, the report is attached. The relevant Recommendations will be circulated separately.

11. **Implementing the Devolution Agreement - Mayoral Combined Authority Functions** (Pages 51 - 58)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

Items for Consideration

12. **Appointment of Named Substitute Members to the Ethics Committee** (Pages 59 - 62)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

13. **Appointments to the City Council - Changes in Membership** (Pages 63 - 66)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

14. **Question Time** (Pages 67 - 72)

(a) Written Questions – 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

15. **Statements**

16. **Debates**

- 16.1 To be moved by Councillor Maton and seconded by Councillor M Mutton:

“This Council reaffirms its belief that the purpose of the City’s schools is to provide all children and young people, irrespective of background or specific needs, with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the best life chances possible.

This Council does not believe that aim can be fulfilled through the introduction of additional academic selection in the school system. We therefore call on the Government to abandon any proposals to introduce into our education system the selection by ability and social separation of young people into different schools.

We believe there is no evidence that selection at 11 or any other age improves social mobility. This is also the clear conclusion of the Government’s Social Mobility Commission. Instead we call on the Government to:

- (1) Recognise that to improve the prospects of all our young people achieving at school in academic, vocational , artistic sport and active participation skills, there is a need for significant additional investment in schools, especially in the most challenged areas.
- (2) Accept the evidence that provision and additional funding of high-quality support in the early years of childhood development and education, is the best way to ensure children are ready for school and to close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged children and those from more affluent circumstances”.

16.2 To be moved by Councillor Ridley and seconded by Councillor Blundell:

“This Council welcomes the pledge made by the government in the Autumn Statement to create a new £1000 million digital infrastructure fund - and its commitment to achieving ‘gold standard full-fibre broadband’ that works for everyone.

Council recognises the importance of broadband connectivity in the modern age and will continue to work with government, the private sector and other partners to improve broadband connectivity for businesses and residents across the city.

Council will strive to make our city a world class technology hub and the number one destination for IT start ups and technology based companies in the UK.”

Private Business

It is anticipated that the following matter will be referred as Recommendations from Cabinet, 29 November 2016. In order to allow Members the maximum opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposals, the report is attached. The relevant Recommendations will be circulated separately.

17. **Coventry Investment Fund Investment Cathedral Lanes Phase 2** (Pages 73 - 80)

Report of the Executive Director of Place

(Listing Officer: S Weir, Tel: 024 7683 2036)

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Monday, 28 November 2016

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Usha Patel/Suzanne Bennett 024 7683 3198/3072

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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OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

Usha Patel/Suzanne Bennett
024 7683 3198/3072

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Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor L Harvard (Chair)

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

Honorary Alderman Mr Gazey

Apologies: Councillor P Akhtar, D Kershaw and A Lucas

Public Business

56. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016 were signed as a true record.

57. Coventry Good Citizen Award

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

“Lonnie is awarded the Good Citizen Award for the variety of tasks he undertakes. He is Chairman of Longford CAN and led on the forming of this group which grew out of the amalgamation of several small residents associations in Longford. In this role he works tirelessly for the benefit of local residents.

As Welfare Officer for the Bedworth Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association he arranges for local fundraisers to take part in parachute jumps with the Red Devils team. In 2014 Lonnie arranged for the Lord Mayor's Consort to undertake a tandem jump to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal. Lonnie has numerous parachute jumps to his name, many for charities such as SSAFA, but also whilst serving in the Parachute Regiment. Lonnie also visits wounded forces personnel in hospital.

Lonnie was instrumental in setting up the Airborne Forces Memorial in the War Memorial Park. Without his support this project would not have come to fruition. As a member of the Ricoh Arena Monitoring Group he attended many meetings regarding the building of the arena offering a lay persons thoughts on behalf of the local community.

In 1972 Lonnie reported that poisonous waste was being dumped locally. As a result of this a bill was rushed through Parliament regarding the disposal of toxic waste and was passed in to law in March of that year.

Lonnie does not think he does anything special but his work in the community is now being recognised for his commitment, hard work and sincerity to all; he is a real Community Champion."

58. Local Democracy Week 2016

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that it was 'Local Democracy Week' and outlined a series of events that the City Council were hosting aimed at encouraging democratic engagement, especially amongst younger people. Members were invited to drop in on any of the sessions during the course of the week.

59. Presentation of Illuminated Address

The Lord Mayor presented Councillor Michael Hammon, Lord Mayor for 2015/16, with his Illuminated Address.

60. Petitions

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

- (a) Request to stop Caludon Library from closing – 43 signatures, presented by Councillor Abbott.**
- (b) Request for pavement improvements on Greens Road – 36 signatures, presented by Councillor Williams**
- (c) Request for pavement improvements on Norman Place Road – 8 signatures, presented by Councillor Williams**
- (d) Request for parking restrictions on Hollyfast Road – 19 signatures, presented by Councillor Williams**
- (e) Request to review entry/exit to the new housing estate on the former Lyng Hall School playing fields – 197 signatures, presented by Councillor K Caan**

(f) Request for traffic calming measures on Remembrance Road – 261 signatures, presented by Councillor Lakha

61. Declarations of Interest

Although not a disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillor Ridley declared that he would be withdrawing from the meeting for the matter referred to in Minute 64 below (Local Growth Deal – Public Realm Phase 4 & Infrastructure Projects) to avoid any perception of bias in respect of his employment with Sustrans.

62. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-20 and Efficiency Plan

Further to Minute 36 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources, which presented the 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 set out the financial planning foundations that supported the Council's vision and priorities and lead to the setting of the Council's revenue and capital budgets.

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

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

Local authorities would continue to face severe financial pressures for the foreseeable future in what were very uncertain times. Although the previous government policy of targeting a budget surplus by 2020 had been dropped, following the EU referendum, the downgrading of growth forecasts indicated that the severe financial pressures on public finances would continue. The fundamental factor shaping the City Council's MTFS remained that of unprecedented financial pressure leading to further significant reductions in spending levels that were likely to continue in the period up to at least 2020. The national and local contexts that framed this Strategy were detailed in the report and represented 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 was crucial that the Council's financial strategy was both robust and flexible. This would provide the financial foundations required to ensure that Council services were fit for purpose to protect the most vulnerable as well as providing decent core services for every citizen in the city.

The City Councils strategic financial approach to the demands that it faced were detailed in the report.

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

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

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

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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

Further to Minute 39 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Place, which sought endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the planned distribution of employment land within Coventry and Warwickshire.

The MoU, attached as an appendix to the report, 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, the report only related 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 which recommended the MoU be endorsed by each of the six authorities.

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

Over the course of 2016, the MoU had been developed by all six authorities with further support from Warwickshire County Council and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Its development had been supported by an officer and member reference group of the CWHJC. It had been informed by updated evidence of economic growth forecasts and land requirements at a range of geographies across the sub region. It contained points of agreement that related to the quantum of employment land that should be distributed across the sub-region. This distribution supported 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 proposed distribution of employment land requirements to be taken forward into plan making were detailed in the report. 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 was with a view to supporting the timely progression of Local Plans (including Coventry's) and the Council's responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate.

The report also provided an update on the housing requirements MoU which confirmed that all authorities had endorsed the MoU with the exception of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council who were continuing to review their land capacity in advance of potentially signing the MoU later this year.

RESOLVED that the City Council endorses the Memorandum of Understanding, attached as an appendix to the report, relating to the planned distribution of employment land within the Coventry & Warwickshire sub-region.

64. **Local Growth Deal - Public Realm Phase 4 & Infrastructure Projects**

Further to Minute 41 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Place, which sought authorisation of a new and additional Public Realm programme of works and to enter into Local Growth Deal funding agreements.

Since 2011 the City Council had delivered over £33M public realm improvements in Coventry City Centre. Schemes such as Broadgate, Council House Square, Gosford Street and the route from Bull Yard to the railway station had transformed the city's environment, provided more green space and created 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 had 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 was set to commence shortly. Broadgate continued to host popular events, from farmers markets to concerts and exhibitions which attracted visitors into the city centre. An increasing number of the city's bars and restaurants were 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 was up 23%, well above the national average.

The Council had 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 would 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 could be delivered within the available budget, a priority order for the schemes was proposed. A pipeline of public realm schemes had been established in priority order for investment, and these were detailed in the report.

Separately, Local Growth Deal had also been awarded for infrastructure improvements to the A45/Leamington Road and A46 Stoneleigh Interchange. £0.75M had 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 had 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 would 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 was over £23M. The public realm works would help bring forward future investment in the city centre. This investment would also help strengthen the case for Coventry's City of Culture 2021 bid.

In addition, two business cases had been submitted for Local Growth Deal 3 (LGD3) funds to deliver a further package of major public realm improvements and infrastructure improvements. This included further developing and delivering schemes which had been reported to the 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 was being prepared for the next package of public realm and infrastructure projects. This development work was being funded by the Integrated Transport Block Scheme Development Fund. Bids were 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 had not been confirmed, although an announcement was anticipated in the autumn. Consequently there was an element of at-risk expenditure for business case development. This was estimated to be no more than £0.1M. It should be noted that none of this work would be abortive as it would be helpful to have 'schemes on the shelf' ready for future bidding opportunities. If unsuccessful these costs would need to be underwritten by the Highways and Transport Capital Programme. If successful, a further Cabinet report would be submitted for approval of the detail of these schemes.

RESOLVED that the City 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 the 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 West Midlands Combined Authority to match fund these schemes.**

(NB: Councillor Ridley left the meeting during consideration of this item.)

65. **Appointments of the City Council - West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership**

The City Council considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources which sought approval to appoint a City Council representative to the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) were local authority-led partnerships which provided structures and forums of engagement for dealing with migration at a local, national and regional level.

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.

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (WMSMP) was 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 had 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.

Coventry City Council was requested to nominate one representative of the Authority to sit on the Board of the WMSMP with immediate effect and until the end of April 2017, after which the Partnerships Governance Arrangements, including the terms of office for future appointments, were being reviewed.

RESOLVED that the City Council appoint Councillor Mrs Bigham to the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

66. **Question Time**

Councillors Innes and A Khan provided written answers to the questions set out in the Questions Booklet together with 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 Hammon	Councillor Innes	Burial Fees – comparison with other authorities
2	Councillor Williams	Councillor Maton	Grammar Schools
3	Councillor Williams	Councillor Duggins	EU referendum
4	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Bigham	City of Culture ambassadors
5	Councillor Male	Councillor Innes	Alterations at so called 'Wing Wah Island'
6	Councillor Mayer	Councillor Innes	Bus Lanes
7	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Mutton	Reception desk in Council House
8	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Mutton	Business Rate Dispute
9	Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Maton	Bullying and harassment in schools

67. **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.

68. **Debate: Feeding Coventry Partnership Project**

The following motion was 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.”

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

69. **Debate: Bus Gates Fines**

The following motion was 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.”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above be not adopted.

(Meeting closed at 6.10 pm)

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Agenda Item 8

Council – 6th December 2016

**Agenda Item 8
Recommendation from Cabinet
1st November 2016**

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Present:

Members:

Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor A Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor F Abbott
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor K Caan
Councillor K Maton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor E Ruane

Deputy Cabinet Members

Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor C Thomas
Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Opposition
Members:

Councillor J Blundell
Councillor G Crookes

Other Members:

Councillor S Bains
Councillor R Lancaster (Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee)
Councillor S Walsh
Councillor G Williams

Employees (by Directorate):

Place

M Yardley (Executive Director), D Cockroft, L House,
A Walster, A Williams

People

G Quinton (Executive Director), L Gaulton, J Moore

Resources

C West (Executive Director), L Hughes, P Jennings, L Knight,
J Newman,

Apologies:

Councillor R Ali, J Innes and J Mutton

RECOMMENDATION

52. Increasing Coventry's Superfast Broadband Coverage

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which sought approval of proposals for investment to increase Coventry's superfast broadband coverage.

The Government expected that 20,000 new jobs and £6.4bn in Gross Value Added (GVA) would be created in the UK by 2024 as a result of investment in broadband infrastructure.

Coventry's broadband coverage currently lagged behind that of similar areas. Superfast broadband connections (over 20Mbps) were available in just 91.7% of properties in Coventry, which compared poorly to other areas and was a long way from the Government target of 95% of properties having superfast broadband by 2017. Birmingham, Derby and Leicester were in the top 40 for broadband speeds, while Coventry was 74th out of 185.

European funding was being made available to improve superfast broadband infrastructure that served small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This funding would target areas containing concentrations of SMEs, but would not serve them exclusively; residents and larger businesses would also benefit as the infrastructure in the target areas improved as a result of the project. Ultimately, the project would help the city improve its superfast broadband coverage considerably as part of its Digital Strategy, which was under development and due to be formally adopted by the end of 2016.

In order to access this funding, the Council must provide match funding. Coventry's contribution to an overall £15m package of improvement across Coventry and Warwickshire would be £2.55m, which was proposed to come from corporate capital resources. In addition to a European grant of £4.86m, Growth Deal funding of £4.3m had been requested from Government. The project would be completed by the established Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Broadband Project (CSW Broadband). A further one off investment of corporate monies was proposed to project manage on behalf of the Council for a period of 2 years up to a maximum of £150k.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. **Agree one-of corporate funding for up to £150,000 to project manage the Council's investment and work as part of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Broadband (CSW Broadband) team to secure ongoing funding into Coventry's Broadband Infrastructure.**
2. **Recommend that Council:-**
 - a) **Approve capital investment of up to £2.5m for Superfast Broadband Infrastructure to lever in both European Regional Development funding and Growth Deal funding for investment into Coventry's broadband infrastructure.**

- b) Approve the addition of £2.55m to the Corporate Capital Programme, profiled as appropriate in terms of financial year.**

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Cabinet
Council

01 November 2016
06 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Members:

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources – Councillor J Mutton
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration – Councillor J O’Boyle

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Increasing Coventry’s Superfast Broadband Coverage

Is this a key decision?

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

Executive Summary:

The Government expects that 20,000 new jobs and £6.4 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) will be created in the UK by 2024 as a result of investment in broadband infrastructure.

Coventry’s broadband coverage currently lags behind that of similar areas. Superfast broadband – connections over 20Mbps – are available in just 91.7% of properties in Coventry which compares poorly to areas and is a long way from the Government target for 95% of properties to have superfast broadband by 2017. Birmingham, Derby and Leicester are in the top 40 for Broadband speeds, while Coventry is 74th out of 185.

European funding is being made available to improve Superfast broadband infrastructure that serves small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This funding will target areas containing concentrations of SMEs, but will not serve them exclusively; residents and larger businesses will also benefit as the infrastructure in the target areas improves as a result of the project. Ultimately the project will help the city improve its Superfast broadband coverage considerably as part of its Digital Strategy which is under development will be formally adopted by the end of 2016.

In order to access this funding, the Council must provide match funding. Coventry’s contribution to an overall £15m package of improvements across Coventry and Warwickshire would be £2.55m. As well as a European grant of £4.86m, Growth Deal funding of £4.3m has been requested from Government. The project will be completed by the established Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire Broadband Project (CSW Broadband).

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Recommend that Council agree to capital investment of up to £2.55m for Superfast Broadband infrastructure to lever in both European Regional Development funding and Growth Deal funding for investment into Coventry's broadband infrastructure.
2. Agree one-off corporate funding for up to £150,000 to project manage the Council's investment and work as part of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Broadband (CSW) team to secure ongoing funding into Coventry's Broadband infrastructure.

Council is asked to:

1. Agree to capital investment of up to £2.55m for Superfast Broadband infrastructure to lever in £2.55m European Regional Development funding, £4.3m Growth Deal funding and £1.1m private sector funds for investment into Coventry's broadband infrastructure.
2. Approve the addition of £2.55m to the corporate capital programme, profiled as appropriate in terms of financial year.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other Useful Documents:

[CSW: Broadband Delivery UK Local Broadband Plan – February 2012](#)
[Coventry's Super Connected City Plan – Urban Broadband Fund \(Round 2\) – Nov 2012](#)
[Super Connected Coventry – Project Revision – March 2014](#)

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, 01 December 2016

Report title: Increasing Coventry's Superfast Broadband Coverage

1 Context (or background)

- 1.1 The digital economy is fundamentally important to the economic future of the UK and to economic development in every part of the country¹. It is essential that Coventry is able to overcome the barriers to success in the digital economy including access to Broadband infrastructure for businesses and residents. All sectors and businesses, particularly Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) must be given every encouragement and assistance to embrace technology. Coventry is currently preparing a Digital Strategy which will be considered by Council before the end of the year. Scrutiny Boards 1 and 3 have established a Digital Task and Finish Group to consider how to ensure that Coventry benefits from these opportunities.
- 1.2 Broadband is fast becoming the recognised 'fourth utility' and has moved from being a luxury commodity to being a necessity for both residents and businesses in the same way that gas, electricity and water are. Coventry has recently updated its planning guidance to recognise the importance of broadband as a utility in new developments. There is considerable demand from both residents and business for access to good quality Broadband.
- 1.3 As well as being an essential service, investment in broadband is proven to generate jobs and bring wealth to an area. In 2013, consultants SQW completed a UK Broadband Impact Study which concluded that for every £1 of public investment in broadband infrastructure £20 in net economic benefits were accrued². The UK Government anticipates that across the country, investment in superfast broadband infrastructure will generate an increase of £6.3 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA), and a net increase of 20,000 jobs by 2024. If Coventry is to feel the benefits of these increases, investment in broadband infrastructure will be necessary.
- 1.4 Government aims to improve access to broadband by driving up the number of properties where the local network has been upgraded to these standards:
- Superfast Broadband with connections speeds of 24Mbps or greater, usually achieved by running optical fibre to cabinets serving an area before copper cables connect to individual premises
 - Ultrafast Broadband which achieves connection speeds of 300Mbps or greater by providing optical fibre connections directly to individual premises.
- 1.5 The long term strategy is to implement Ultrafast Broadband to cover as much of Coventry as possible. However, Ultrafast is a great deal more expensive to achieve than Superfast as it involves laying new cable and significant civil works, and as a result many commercial such as BT and Virgin Media are cautious about committing to this.
- 1.6 A blended approach will work best in the current commercial context: enable Ultrafast for areas where fast-growing, innovative businesses are located, and implementing Superfast in mixed areas which will include more residential properties. The market will naturally drive some deployments independent of additional financial support but history has shown that without market intervention overall coverage targets will not be met.

¹ Business Innovation & Skills Committee: Inquiry into the Digital Economy

²https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257006/uk_broadband_impact_study_-_impact_report_-_nov_2013_-_final.pdf

1.7 This project presents an opportunity for Coventry to increase its Superfast Broadband coverage by targeting areas where large numbers of SMEs are based and upgrading the broadband infrastructure there. The European funding currently available requires SMEs to be principle beneficiaries, but there will be considerable benefits for residents as well. Infrastructure will be installed to serve areas with concentrations of SMEs, but residents in these areas will also be able to access better connections, and there will be an overall improvement in Coventry's broadband infrastructure which will benefit the city as a whole. Part of the project management role will be to ensure that improvements to the network are felt as widely as possible.

1.8 Coventry has already completed a number of successful projects to improve broadband speed and takeup, including a voucher scheme which helped businesses fund the cost of a new connection. Much closer links have been built with the local providers in the city including BT, Virgin and Cityfibre.

1.9 **Economic and Social Benefits of Superfast Broadband Connectivity**

1.9.1 Today computer skills and knowledge of the internet allow people to find new and better jobs, work in more flexible ways, enable inexpensive forms of communication and social interaction to community infrastructures and government services, improve access to learning opportunities and provide access to more convenient and often cheaper products and online services³.

1.9.2 Digital inequality matters because those without access and the right combination of access, skills, motivation and knowledge are missing out on important areas of the digital world. This does not just impact individuals but also on families, communities, political processes, democracy, public services and the economic and social health.

1.9.3 Research shows a clear correlation between digital exclusion and social exclusion⁴. This means that those already at a disadvantage, and arguably with the most to gain from the internet are the least likely to be making use of it and become further disadvantaged by not using it.

1.9.4 The availability and investment in Superfast Broadband infrastructure is a contributor to economic growth at several levels including:

- **Increases in productivity and enhances competitive advantage** by facilitating the adoption of more efficient business processes (e.g., marketing, inventory optimisation, and streamlining of supply chains).
- **Acceleration of innovation by introducing new consumer applications and services** (e.g., new forms of commerce and financial intermediation, Cloud computing, video-sharing platforms or social networks)
- **More efficient use of operations** by maximising their reach to labour pools, access to raw materials, and consumers, (e.g., outsourcing of services, virtual call centres.)

1.9.5 Alongside this, a glance at some of the social benefits of addressing digital exclusion through lack of access to broadband could include:

- **Improved educational attainment** (and associated increased lifetime earnings) if digital exclusion is fully addressed
- **Increased access to work** (and associated increased lifetime earnings), if digital exclusions are fully addressed
- **Household savings** from convenience and accessibility of shopping on line

³ <https://21stcenturychallenges.org/what-is-the-digital-divide/>

⁴ http://www.tinderfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/digitalinclusion_a_discussion_of_the_evidence_base_1.pdf

- **Reduced public sector transaction costs** through increased transactions on-line and opportunity to reduce demands on minor public services
- **Reduced visits to the GP** associated cost savings to the NHS via increased access to health information on-line

1.10 Gaps in Coverage following Commercial Roll-out

1.10.1 Following the commercial roll-out of superfast broadband services, there remain significant areas where there is no access to superfast broadband. This has created a new digital divide with businesses in these areas at a competitive disadvantage, and increasingly unable to compete in a global economy.

1.10.2 The Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Broadband Project (CSW Broadband) aims to bring improved broadband speeds to SMEs and households across the sub-region.

1.11 Coventry in Comparison with Other Places

1.11.1 The comparison of Broadband speeds with other surrounding areas does not represent Coventry well.

1.11.2 Birmingham, Derby and Leicester are in the top 40 for Broadband speeds. **Coventry is 74th out of 185.**

1.12 Coventry Superfast Broadband Coverage

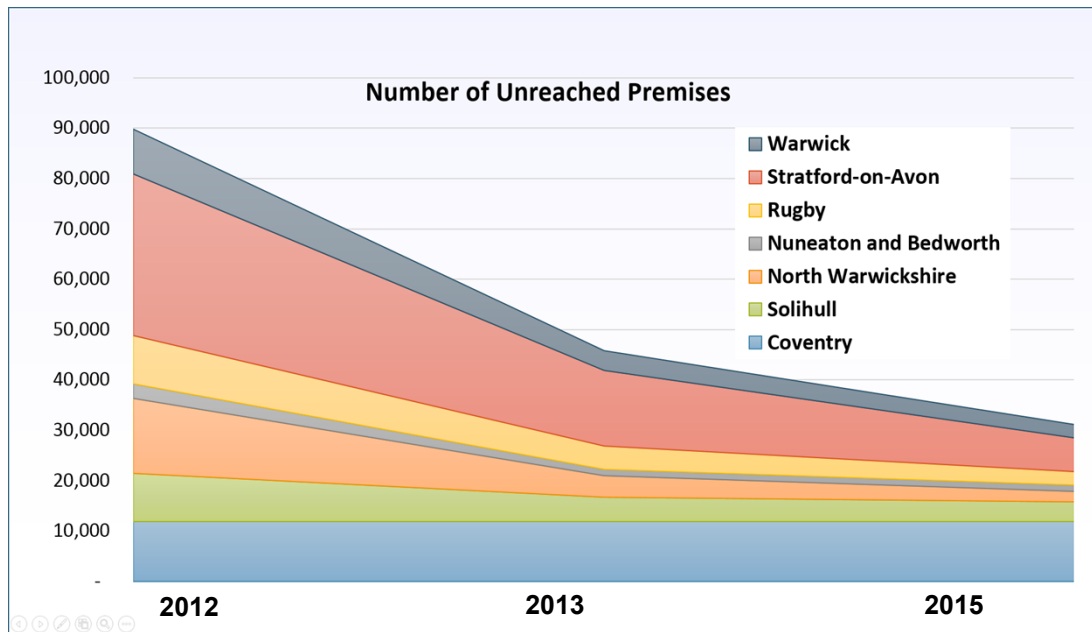
1.12.1 The Government's latest strategy for coverage across the UK targets 95% superfast broadband by 2017. CSW Broadband has set a target of 98%. However the current status for Coventry is that only 91.7% of premises have superfast broadband coverage. The importance of coverage should not be underestimated; it is significant to our Inward Investment aspirations and we are seeing other Cities market their Superfast Broadband coverage of over 98% to potential investors and developers. *Superfast is no longer a luxury it is a necessity for investors, developers and home owners.*

1.12.2 In 2012 a report produced by Analysys Mason regarding Superfast coverage within Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, indicated that based on the commercial market investment into superfast broadband, Coventry would naturally achieve 98% coverage by 2017.

1.12.3 At the time, a Government programme was offering cash for Superfast broadband infrastructure, but this was only available if local authorities provided match funding. Based on the advice suggesting that private providers would improve coverage to 98% within a relatively short period of time without the need for public intervention, the Council decided not to pursue this opportunity.

1.12.4 However Solihull and Warwickshire local authorities did take up the funding opportunities and the graph below shows how the profile of unreached premises has changed since 2012. It clearly shows the investment by neighbouring authorities and also shows that the market did not meet the demand naturally within Coventry.

Graph 1.1 – Change of Number of Unreached Premises following Local Authority and UK Government Superfast Investment



- 1.12.5 From the graph it is very clear that Coventry has remained static since 2012 at coverage of 91.7% with around 11,915 properties remaining without access to Superfast Broadband.
- 1.12.6 The current provision is currently failing to deliver the national universal service commitment of 2Mbps of premises in the City and too many are unable to access superfast broadband through the commercial roll out by the industry.
- 1.12.7 Without public sector funding, telecommunications companies would not invest in the wholesale broadband network across all areas of the City because of the limited return on investment. Consequently without public sector intervention parts of the City will increasingly become digitally divided with business losing competitive advantage and residents unable to take advantage of the financial, educational, social and health benefits of being on-line.
- 1.12.8 The public sector investment is therefore to mitigate disadvantage caused by the different level of broadband access currently in the county and allow improved access to superfast broadband and wider use of technologies and ensure Coventry has a competitive advantage in this area.

1.13 Superfast Broadband Funding Opportunities

- 1.13.1 There are currently two external funding opportunities available to support investment in Superfast Broadband. The first is a European Regional Development Fund open call for ICT projects which would bring in just over £4.5m of European funds between now and December 2018. A second opportunity is Growth Deal 3, where a further £4.3m is being sought for Coventry & Warwickshire.
- 1.13.2 To draw these funds down Coventry and Warwickshire local authorities would need to provide match funding, estimated to be in the region of £2.55m (this is based on the costs per premise on market prices). Should both local authorities contribute, when combined with the external funding, it would equate to an investment package in the region of £15m. All match funding provided by the Council will be spent on improvements to Coventry's broadband infrastructure.

- 1.13.3 As well as the public funding, a private contribution of £1.1m will be made by the broadband providers themselves. This has been calculated based on an 11% contribution to the capital costs of the work in line with previous publically funded infrastructure contracts handled by CW
- 1.13.4 The impact of this investment in superfast broadband is estimated to improve the superfast broadband coverage in Coventry to somewhere between 97-98%, covering a further 8,000 unreached premises.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The first option is the Council could choose to do nothing, and allow the commercial market to bring about improvements in the broadband network when it is profitable to do so. This option provides no guarantee that coverage will increase in the near future. The status quo would remain and the compelling figures in Graph 1.1 show that the lack of public investment in the last four years has yielded no net change in coverage across the City.
- 2.2 The second option is to invest in the already established CSW Broadband project which has a track record of using public funding in improve broadband infrastructure. An investment of £2.55m by the Council would see the superfast broadband coverage increase from 91.7% to somewhere between 97-98% coverage.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 CSW Broadband has received over 12,000 survey responses from businesses and individuals outlining the current status of their broadband connectivity.
- 3.2 The project has carried out 2 full open market reviews in 2012 and 2014 in which suppliers were invited to provide details of those areas to which they intended to extend their networks.
- 3.3 A further consultation was carried out in March 2016 to update previously received information.
- 3.4 The Federation of Small Business '*Review of Business Broadband: Call for Evidence*' suggests that evidence has demonstrated that participation in the digital economy is becoming increasingly vital to the growth potential of small businesses. A variety of factors including infrastructure availability, poor quality of service, a lack of awareness of the benefits of being online and challenges small businesses face in engaging with the market all contribute to stopping small businesses from taking full advantage. The report also sets out a range of solutions and call to action for public investment where the market is not delivering.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Should the Council confirm its investment support for Superfast Broadband, it will form part of the CSW Broadband bid for both European Regional Development Fund and CWLEP Growth Deal 3. Both outcomes are expected around the time of the Autumn Statement (23 November 2016).
- 4.2 Dependent upon the outcomes of the funding bids, the actual work will start in 2017/18 and go through until 2020/21.

5 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

	2017 / 18	2018 / 19	2019 / 20	2020 / 21	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CWLEP Growth Deal requested	0.17	0.76	2.6	0.77	4.3
Coventry	0.2	0.55	1.4	0.4	2.55
Warwickshire	0.2	0.55	1.4	0.4	2.55
ERDF	0.85	2.83	1.18	0	4.86
Private sector funds	0.19	0.26	0.62	0	1.07
TOTAL	1.61	4.95	7.2	1.57	15.33

Coventry's required contribution to the infrastructure is £2.55m, which is proposed is from corporate capital resources.

The proposal also requires a further one off investment of corporate monies to project manage on behalf of the Council for a period of 2 years up to a maximum cost of £150,000 (in total). It is intended that this role would work with CSWP to maximise infrastructure investment in Coventry.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising out of this report at this stage. As the project progresses, there may be legal implications which need to be addressed. Legal Services will be undertake a monitoring role and will be providing on-going advice on the proposed structure of the project to ensure to the extent possible that the project complies with any state aid and procurement requirement.

6 Other implications

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

6.1.1 The project will assist with the Council in meeting its strategic vision, values, objectives and areas of focus – to improve quality of life for all Coventry residents – through improved access to faster broadband and the wider use of technologies.

6.1.2 An improved network will have a positive impact on a number of areas including – improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children, young people and adults, providing the infrastructure and services that keep the City moving and working, promoting long term sustainability, finding the most efficient way of delivering accessible services which satisfy our customers, growing businesses, jobs and wages, increased equalities of opportunity, helping people to live successful lives as independently as possible and helping communities to help themselves.

6.1.3 It will also be at the core of the council's emerging Digital Strategy due for consideration by the Council before the end of the year.

6.1.4 It is aligned to the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (CWLEP) strategic economic plan where investment in superfast and ultrafast Broadband across Coventry and Warwickshire will play an integral part of the CWLEP's ambition to be recognised as a global hub for knowledge-based industries.

6.1.5 It is fully integrated into the West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Economic Plan, by investing in superfast broadband infrastructure in Coventry it will deliver against the outcomes of jobs, investment and productivity.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 A project manager would be recruited to manage the council's investment into the Broadband project. The project manager would be responsible for managing the Council's interests in the project, ensuring the targeting of the right areas for superfast broadband growth. In addition working with the CSW Team based in Warwick, the project manager would support the procurement of commercial partner(s) to deliver the actual infrastructure and provide ongoing monitoring of the project over the time period.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

6.3.1 HR Implications

To ensure successful delivery of this programme within Coventry, additional staff may be required. Some staff are already in place from other externally funded aligned projects. Any new staff will be recruited on temporary fixed term basis.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

6.4.1 Investment in Broadband technology has the potential to have a positive equalities impact as it will provide more access for different communities and neighbourhoods in Coventry. However, national research shows that older people are less likely to embrace the new technologies largely because of awareness and skills. Interestingly, this is the type of group that could significantly see benefit into older age through social contact, access to services and supporting care and health requirements. Superfast Broadband will allow Senior Citizens to reconnect with local communities.

6.4.2 The impact is expected to be positive on the younger population of the City, in particular around education, e-learning, leisure, social interaction, networking as well as developing their skills.

6.4.3 Whilst the public sector through this project can invest in the installation of the Superfast Broadband network, there will be costs of connections, purchases of equipment and monthly internet charges – this may well prove to still be a barrier for some.

6.4.4 For businesses, access to Superfast Broadband will enable competitiveness globally, providing the ability to grow, create jobs and wage levels and enhance the inward investment offer/potential of the City as well as a positive impact on economic productivity and GVA.

6.4.5 Evidence indicates that school children with use of the internet in homes and students who utilise the internet for study on a regular basis can benefit from improved attainment.

Increasingly schools, colleges and training providers making use of virtual learning networks for study – children and students need to have a good level of service to enable them to access learning resources and submit homework and assignments. The consensus is that broadband makes a positive difference to educational effectiveness and the capacity for providers to deliver effective e-learning.

6.4.6 The Superfast Broadband project will result in improved access – however, though significant this is only one and the first step to ensure people have equal access to digital opportunities. Digital exclusion is one factor next to a range of other exclusion that are often linked whether isolation, poverty, unemployment, poor housing, poor health. However, digital inclusion can help to address some of the issues of exclusion.

6.4.7 Notwithstanding any of the statements above a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) should be done on approval of the funding to ensure that any inequalities are addressed and minimised.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

6.5.1 The availability and use of faster broadband will also have some impact on the environment. Investment in Broadband is estimated to produce savings from lower car usage, through less annual community and business travel through enabling increased telework for a proportion of the workforce. And significant savings to electricity usage through broadband-using businesses shifting part of their server capacity onto (more energy-efficient) public cloud platforms.

6.5.2 Allowing for rebound effects (in particular, workers needing to heat their homes in the winter), it is estimated that faster broadband will account for about 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) savings per annum nationally.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

6.6.1 Coventry City Council's investment will impact a number of local partner organisations positively enabling access to Superfast Broadband where there currently is no or limited provision. All the local authorities within the Coventry & Warwickshire sub-region are partners in the CSW Broadband project and will realise benefits from Coventry's investment.

7 Glossary of Terms

Term	Explanation
Superfast	Connection speeds of 30Mb/s or Higher (Ofcom Definition)
Ultrafast	Connection speeds of 300Mb/s or Higher (Ofcom Definition)
Gigabit	Connection speeds of 1Gb/s or Higher
Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC)	Fibre connection to the cabinet with final connection to property in copper wire – this is usually the element covered by grant if available
Fibre to the property (FTTP)	Fibre connection directly to the property

4G/5G	4th and 5th generation mobile phone networks Connection speeds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4G up to 300Mb/sec• 5G may be up to 10Gb/sec
Public Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi that is provided free of charge for public use.
Internet of Things	A development of the Internet in which everyday objects have network connectivity,

Report authors:**Name and job title:**

Andy Williams, Resources & New Projects Manager

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:(024) 7683 3731, andy.williams@coventry.gov.uk

(All queries should be directed to the above person)

Contributor/ Approver name	Title	Directorate	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Lisa Commane	Assistant Director - ICT, Transformation and Customer Services	Resources	22/9/16	27/9/16
David Cockroft	Assistant Director – City Centre & Major Projects	Place	22/9/16	4/10/16
Rebecca Young	Economy & Jobs Manager	Place	22/9/16	28/9/16
Lee-Rose Jordan	Project Manager, Innovative Coventry	Place	14/9/16	20/9/16
Steve Weir	Programme Development Manager	Place	22/9/16	27/9/16
Richard Greenslade	ICT Technical Architect	Resources	14/9/16	20/9/16
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Resources	22/9/16	28/9/16
Karen Mihajlovic	HR Manager	Place	22/9/16	-
Approvers:				
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Legal Services Manager	Resources	22/9/16	29/09/16
Finance: Phil Helm	Finance Manager, Place	Resources	22/9/16	26/09/16
Director: Martin Yardley	Executive Director Place	Place	4/10/16	5/10/16
Members: Councillor John Mutton	Cabinet Member – Strategic Finance & Resources	-	6/10/16	6/10/16
Members: Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Cabinet Member – Jobs and Regeneration	-	6/10/16	6/10/16
Member: Councillor Richard Brown	Digital Champion	-	6/10/16	

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



Cabinet
Council

29 November 2016
6 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Boundary Commission for England Review of Parliamentary Constituencies: Consultation Response

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

In September 2016, the Boundary Commission for England published initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries and is consulting on these until Monday 5th December 2016. These proposals make changes to two of Coventry's three parliamentary constituencies, including combining two Solihull Borough wards with wards in Coventry to create a new constituency called Coventry West and Meriden.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the City Council's response to the consultation set out at Appendix 1.
- b) Recommend that Council endorse the response to the consultation set out at Appendix 1.

Council is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the City Council's response to the consultation set out at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Proposed response to the consultation

Background papers:

None

Other useful background papers:

Boundary Commission website and reports giving background information about the review and proposals

www.bce2018.org.uk/

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, although the Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel received an initial briefing on the consultation process at their meeting of 15th September 2016.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 6th December 2016

Report title: Boundary Commission for England Review of Parliamentary Constituencies:
Consultation Response

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries is being undertaken following the Government's decision to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies across the UK from 650 to 600 and equalise the number of electors in each constituency.
- 1.2 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. The BCE has the task of periodically reviewing all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011 under the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (The Act). The rules require the Commission to make recommendations for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. They involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501) and require that constituencies, apart from two specified exceptions, have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507. The West Midlands has been allocated 53 constituencies – a reduction of six from the current number.
- 1.3 At the conclusion of its review, the BCE is required to make a formal report to the Government during September 2018, recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England. This review is therefore referred to as “the 2018 Review”.
- 1.4 The Government will turn the recommendations of the BCE into draft legislation, which is then presented to Parliament. If Parliament approves the legislation, the recommended changes will be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is passed.
- 1.5 The BCE has produced a Guide to help to explain how the process for the 2018 Review will work. The Guide covers both what the law says the BCE must do as part of the process, and issues where the BCE has decided – as a matter of policy within its own discretion – to take a particular approach (see Other Useful Background Papers above).

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The framework under which the BCE is to carry out the review is set out in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Act provides that the electorate figures that are being used for the review are those that were in the version of the electoral register published on the ‘review date’. This is defined by the Act as the date two years and ten months before the review is required to report to the Government. For the 2018 Review, this means the electorate figures being used are those from the electoral registers which were published on or before 1 December 2015.
- 2.3 The Act says that the BCE may have regard to ‘local government boundaries’ in developing its proposals. These are defined and in relation to Coventry City means the ward boundaries in force on 7 May 2015.

- 2.4 The Act requires there to be a fixed number of 600 constituencies for the whole of the UK. Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK, the Act provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated, based on the electorate figures as at the review date. The number of constituencies allocated to England for the 2018 Review is 501 (two of these are reserved for the Isle of Wight). The BCE has subsequently distributed the remaining 499 constituencies between the regions used for the European Parliament elections using the formula. The West Midlands region has been allocated 53 constituencies.
- 2.5 The BCE states that in formulating its initial proposals it exercises its own judgement and does not consult the major Parliamentary political parties, local authorities or any other interested groups or people. In doing this the proposals are formed by the BCE from a position of independence and impartiality and are not influenced by any particular viewpoint or opinion.
- 2.6 The Act sets out the rules relevant to the detailed development of proposals for individual constituencies. One of the rules provides that apart from four specified exceptions every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the 'UK electoral quota'. The UK electoral quota for the 2018 review is, to the nearest whole number, 74,769.
- 2.7 Accordingly, every constituency in England must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.
- 2.8 The rules provides for a number of other factors that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2018 review. Specifically
- Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - Local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015;
 - Boundaries of existing constituencies; and
 - Any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.
- 2.9 The BCE also sets out the factors that it will not consider as part of its review.
- 2.10 The BCE emphasises very strongly that existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties should not and do not enter into considerations during a review.
- 2.11 The local government boundaries are those that existed on 7 May 2015 and new boundaries will not be taken into account.
- 2.12 The BCE is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral registers at the 'review date'. It is not able to take into account any under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed in some areas.
- 2.13 However, the BCE does not take the view that it is obliged to shut its eyes entirely to growth (or decline) that has occurred since the review date, which it may be aware of from the annual updates of electorate figures it receives, or that it is satisfied is likely to occur. Such a factor may be taken into account in choosing between two or more competing options for the same area that satisfy the statutory rules.

- 2.14 The BCE states that the electorate of the City of Coventry is too small to continue to be allocated three whole constituencies. It proposes:
- that the existing Coventry North East constituency be left unchanged;
 - that an altered constituency of Coventry South be made up of four wards in the current Coventry South constituency (Binley and Willenhall, Cheylesmore, Earlsdon and St Michaels) plus three wards currently in Coventry North West (Radford, Sherbourne and Whoberley);
 - a new constituency of Coventry West and Meriden made up of Bablake, Holbrook and Woodlands wards (currently in Coventry North West), Wainbody and Westwood wards (currently in Coventry South) and the Solihull Borough wards of Knowle and Meriden.

2.15 The constituencies proposed in the review are:

Coventry North East		72,135
Foleshill	Coventry	10,419
Henley	Coventry	12,310
Longford	Coventry	12,538
Lower Stoke	Coventry	13,029
Upper Stoke	Coventry	11,520
Wyken	Coventry	12,319

Coventry South		77,914
Binley and Willenhall	Coventry	11,588
Cheylesmore	Coventry	11,308
Earlsdon	Coventry	11,604
Radford	Coventry	11,633
Sherbourne	Coventry	11,136
St. Michael's	Coventry	9,766
Whoberley	Coventry	10,879

Coventry West and Meriden		77,586
Bablake	Coventry	12,376
Holbrook	Coventry	11,536
Wainbody	Coventry	10,670
Westwood	Coventry	12,244
Woodlands	Coventry	13,156
Knowle	Solihull	8,183
Meriden	Solihull	9,421

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Any person or organisation is able to contribute directly to the consultation process being run by the BCE. The Council has not carried out any further consultation in preparing this response.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The closing date for the consultation is Monday 5th December 2016. In order to meet this deadline, the Council's response as agreed by Cabinet on 29th November 2016 will be forwarded to the Boundary Commission for England with a cover explaining that it is to be considered at Council on 6th December 2016 and that notification of the outcome of that meeting will be given.
- 4.2 The BCE is required to consider all written representations made to it within a statutory 12 week period commencing with publication of the initial proposals.
- 4.3 There will be a secondary consultation period following the initial 12 week consultation on the BCE's initial proposals and all representations received for each region together with the records of the public hearings will be published on its website. There will then be a further four week period during which people can submit to the BCE written comments on those representations it received during the initial consultation period.
- 4.4 Following consideration of the representations, the BCE will prepare a report recommending whether and if so how the initial proposals for that region should be revised in the light of those representations. The BCE will then publish a report for each region stating whether or not revisions have been made to the initial proposals for that region. If the proposals are revised there will then be a further eight week period for written representations to be made.
- 4.5 Publication of any representations received during this period will take place alongside the publication of the final report.
- 4.6 The BCE will take into consideration any written representations made in the eight week consultation period about the revised proposals, and makes its final decisions about whether further modifications need to be made in light of those representations.
- 4.7 Once the BCE has decided on its final recommendations it will submit a formal report to the Government and this will conclude the review process. The Government must then lay the final report before Parliament where it has to be debated and approved (or rejected) by both Houses. The final Order will come in to effect at the next General Election after the legislation is made.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications
There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this consultation response.
- 5.2 Legal implications
The BCE boundary review process, of which this consultation is a part, is governed by the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 and the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 Act.) There are no legal implications to the Council arising from this consultation response.

6. Other implications

No other implications are identified at this stage as this is only a response to a consultation. Should any final proposals introduce changes to parliamentary constituencies in Coventry which combine wards with any other Council, then the Returning Officers will manage this through their usual election planning arrangements.

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)?

Not applicable

6.2 How is risk being managed?

No risks are identified as part of this consultation response.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

No impacts are identified as part of this consultation response.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance in relation to this consultation response.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Adrian West
Members and Elections Team Manager

Directorate:

Resources

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 2286
Email: adrian.west@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors: (Officers and Members)				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Resources	16/11/16	17/11/16
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	16/11/16	17/11/16
Liz Read	Electoral Services Manager	Resources	16/11/16	17/11/16
Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the City Council	-	16/11/16	18/11/16
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Paul Jennings	Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)	Resources	16/11/16	17/11/16
Carol Bradford	Corporate Governance Lawyer	Resources	16/11/16	17/11/17
Chris West	Executive Director of Resources	Resources	16/11/16	18/11/16
Councillor A Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	16/11/16	18/11/16

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

**Boundary Commission for England:
Initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries in the West Midlands**

13 September – 5 December 2016 Consultation

Response from Coventry City Council

Contextual Comments:

While noting the legislative framework under which the Boundary Commission for England is carrying out this review, the Council does not agree with the reduction in the number of Members of Parliament from 650 to 600. Instead of putting time and resources into reducing the number of elected representatives, reform should be focussed on reducing the over 800 members of the House of Lords, especially as this is the only upper house of any two chambered parliament to be larger than its lower house.

The Council remains concerned at the extent of under-registration and that the electorate figures on which these proposals are based significantly understate the eligible electorate. This is further compounded by the lack of any consideration of the projected population growth for Coventry which is significant both for the city alone and when compared to other areas.

Response to the Proposals:

Coventry City Council does not agree with the proposals for the West Midlands as they affect the City of Coventry for a number of reasons.

The consultation documents sets out the rules that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies which include geographical considerations and any local ties that would be broken by changes. In particular it is *“seeking evidence and intelligence of how our proposals reflect or break local community ties”*. The addition of the wards of Meriden and Knowle to the city of Coventry does not reflect any geographical factors, particularly shape and accessibility, and does not reflect local ties.

It is widely understood that that the electorate at 1st December is understated and that the registration associated with the referendum means that later registers more accurately reflect those eligible to vote. The total number of parliamentary electors in the city at 1st May 2016 was 217,714 which brings the electorate within 5% of the target of 74,769 electors per constituency.

Furthermore, Coventry is a fast growing city and is expected to grow at a significantly higher rate than the rest of the West Midlands. The Office of National Statistics projects that Coventry's population will grow at a rate of 9.72% during the period 2014 to 2020. This is almost double the rate of increase projected for any other of the West Midlands local authority areas and significantly above the average growth projection for the whole West Midlands region of 3.64%. See Table 1 below.

If the growth factor is applied to the electorate as at 1 December 2015, the potential number of parliamentary electors in the city of Coventry alone by 2020 (the point at which the first elections could be held based on the new constituencies) could total 230,446. This is 102.7% of the target figure for the new constituencies. This would mean that Coventry could comfortably retain three whole parliamentary constituencies.

If the relevant growth factor is also applied to the two Solihull wards incorporated in the BCE proposals for Coventry, by 2020 the electorate in the new constituencies could be 79,147 (Coventry North East), 85,487 (Coventry South) and 83,974 (Coventry West and Meriden). In all three cases this would mean that the electorate would exceed the 105% threshold and the new proposals would be out of date by the time they were first used. As a result, there is a real risk that electors in Coventry could be under represented. This data is shown at table 2.

Background information to the BCE consultation is very clear in stating that it “does not take the view that it is obliged to shut its eyes entirely to growth (or decline) that has occurred since the review date, which it may be aware of from the annual updates of electorate figures it receives, or that it is satisfied is likely to occur. Such a factor may be taken into account in choosing between two or more competing options for the same area that satisfy the statutory rules.” We think that the exceptional rate of population growth in Coventry should be considered as a factor and new proposals considered.

Table 1: ONS Population Projections, West Midlands

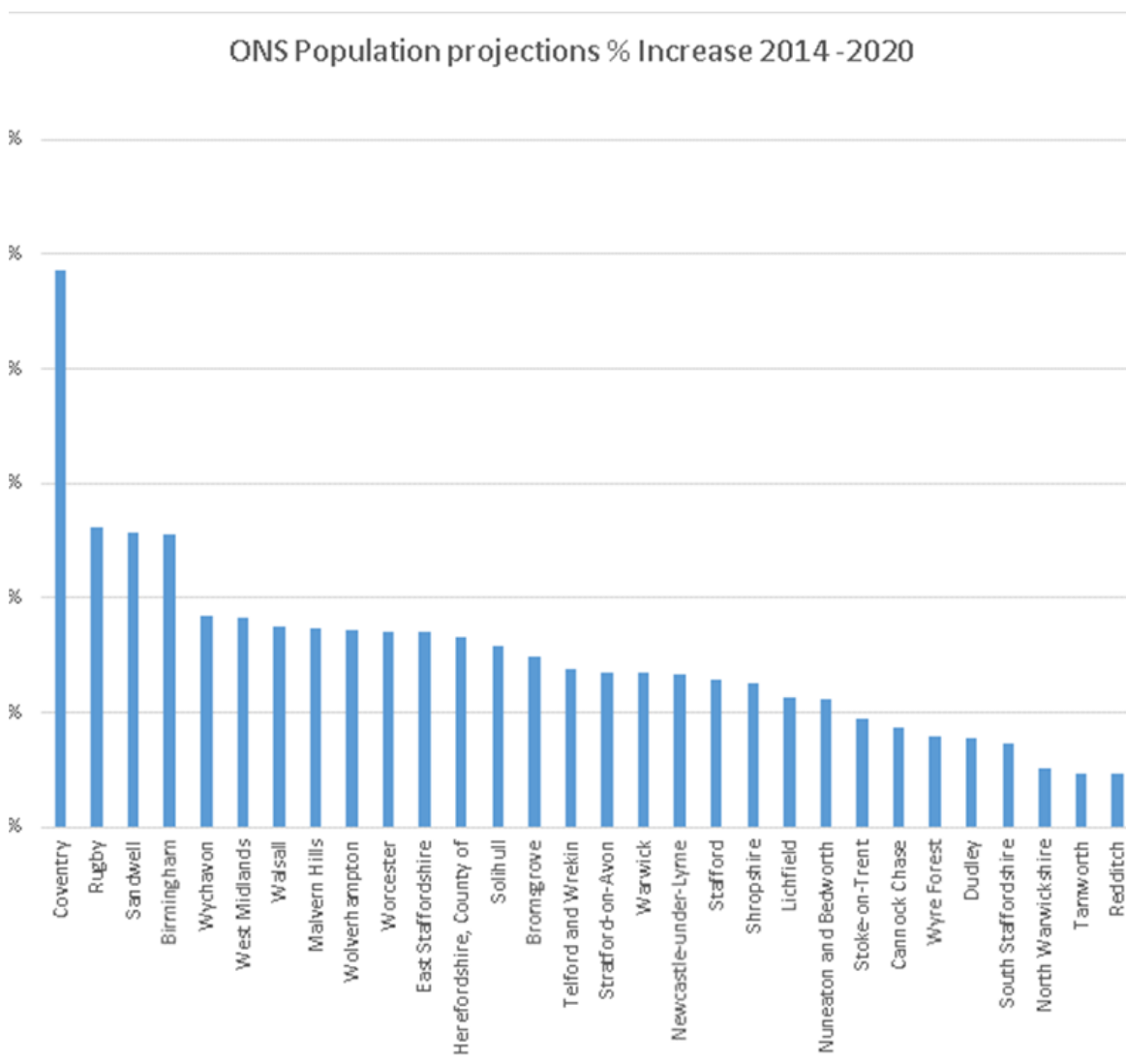


Table 2: Potential Impact of ONS Population Projections on electorate of the City of Coventry

Ward	Proposed Boundary Commission Constituency	Electorate as at 1 December 2015 - As used for Boundary Commission Review	ONS 2014 population estimate 18+	Electorate for proposed Boundary Commission Constituency	Population Estimate 18+ for proposed Boundary Commission Constituency	2014-2020 Population Projection growth factor applied to 1 December 2015 Electorate from Coventry 9.72% Solihull 3.17%	Impact of growth factor on proposed constituency	Parliamentary Electors as at 1/05/16	% Change since 01-12-15
Foleshill	Coventry NE	10,419	14,515	72,135	88,284	11,432	79,147	10,942	5%
Henley	Coventry NE	12,310	14,223			13,507		12,891	5%
Longford	Coventry NE	12,538	14,822			13,757		12,965	3%
Lower Stoke	Coventry NE	13,029	15,923			14,295		13,843	6%
Upper Stoke	Coventry NE	11,520	15,191			12,640		11,974	4%
Wyken	Coventry NE	12,319	13,610			13,516		12,782	4%
Binley & Willenhall	Coventry S	11,588	13,110	77,914	106,391	12,714	85,487	12,083	4%
Cheylesmore	Coventry S	11,308	13,810			12,407		11,775	4%
Earlsdon	Coventry S	11,604	13,029			12,732		12,011	4%
Radford	Coventry S	11,633	15,430			12,764		12,188	5%
Sherbourne	Coventry S	11,136	14,118			12,218		11,588	4%
St. Michael's	Coventry S	9,766	22,887			10,715		11,013	13%
Whoberley	Coventry S	10,879	14,007			11,936		11,392	5%
Bablake	Coventry W & Meriden	12,376	12,982	77,586	91,625	13,579	83,974	12,750	3%
Holbrook	Coventry W & Meriden	11,536	13,301			12,657		12,182	6%
Wainbody	Coventry W & Meriden	10,670	13,004			11,707		9,975	-7%
Westwood	Coventry W & Meriden	12,244	15,240			13,434		12,680	4%
Woodlands	Coventry W & Meriden	13,156	14,103			14,435		13,643	4%
Knowle	Coventry W & Meriden	8,183	12,121			8,442			
Meriden	Coventry W & Meriden	9,421	10,874			9,720			

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Public report Cabinet Report

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

**Cabinet
Council**

29 November 2016
6 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources – Councillor J Mutton
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration – Councillor J O'Boyle

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place
Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

St. Michael's

Title:

Coventry Investment Fund Investment Cathedral Lanes Phase 2

Is this a key decision?

Yes – The proposals within the report will result in financial implications in excess of £1m.

Executive Summary:

In 2014, the Council awarded a Coventry Investment Fund (CIF) loan to Shearer Property Group (SPG) who own Cathedral Lanes shopping centre. The loan award made SPG's plans to redevelop the centre as a leisure scheme and open several new restaurants commercially viable. The first phase of the scheme has been very successful, and has formed a key part of the Council's overall plans for regeneration of the city centre.

This report seeks retrospective approval for a new loan facility to support the second phase of development. It was necessary to enter into the loan agreement in advance of Cabinet and Council approval to allow SPG to meet the deadline for renegotiation of their Senior Loan. This was done in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finances and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration who agreed on the basis that a retrospective report was produced.

SPG now wish to proceed with the second phase of the redevelopment which will include more new restaurants, and bring with it further regeneration benefits and increases in business rates. The loan will be made on appropriate commercial terms and will be subject to usual Council controls on such lending.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- (1) Recommend that Council retrospectively approves the variation to the previous loan agreement granted to Shearer Property Group in September 2014 in relation to the refurbishment of Cathedral Lanes,
- (2) Recommend that Council delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to manage the new revolving loan facility. The authority under this recommendation shall include the power to negotiate and agree variations to the terms of the new revolving loan facility.

Council is requested to:

- (1) Retrospectively approve the variation to the previous loan agreement granted to Shearer Property Group in September 2014 in relation to the refurbishment of Cathedral Lanes,
- (2) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to manage the new revolving loan facility. The authority under this recommendation shall include the power to negotiate and agree variations to the terms of the new revolving loan facility.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Background papers

None

Other useful documents:

Growing Business Rates through creating the Coventry Investment Fund
Council 3rd December 2013 [Report](#)

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes - 6 December 2016.

Report title: Coventry Investment Fund Investment Cathedral Lanes Phase 2

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Cathedral Lanes is a 60,000 sq. ft. retail premises situated in a prime location in Coventry City Centre between the shopping core and the Cultural and Heritage Quarter. It was built in the 1980s and comprises 13 retail units over two floors around a glass atrium, including an anchor store, Wilko. In September 2014, the property was acquired by Shearer Property Group (SPG). A loan from Coventry Investment Fund (CIF) was entered into with SPG (the Existing Loan Facility) in September 2014 which assisted SPG with completion of the first phase and made the project commercially viable for SPG. The new owners successfully completed the first phase of the project to convert the shopping centre into a leisure orientated scheme, with Cosy Club, Las Iguanas and Wagamamas opening in 2015.
- 1.2 The CIF support for the development was very successful. When the loan became available to SPG it demonstrated the development's viability to the market, and almost immediately the company was able to secure borrowing from the private market to support the project. Using a publically funded intervention like CIF to attract private investment in a project is an example of best practice in public financing.
- 1.3 Following the success of the first phase, both in terms of CIF financing and the regeneration benefits of opening the new restaurants, the Council wish to ensure that phase 2 is also completed. The Council used this as an opportunity to negotiate terms which ensured the Councils funds were secured and also helped to support the construction of phase two of Cathedral lane. Phase two of Cathedral lanes will provide additional restaurants and bars which will increase business rates and the number of jobs. A total of 37,000 square feet of restaurant space will be created in phase 2.
- 1.4 The new loan facility will be managed as a revolving facility, meaning that SPG can re-borrow any sum repaid during the term of the loan. This provides maximum flexibility for the Council's support to the development, whilst maintaining the usual controls that exist over a loan arrangement.
- 1.5 The new revolving facility will retain the same value and interest rate as the Existing Loan Facility. The outstanding balance and interest rate of the Existing Facility Loan totalling just was repaid to the Council as part of the new refinancing arrangements.
- 1.6 The benefits to the Council in varying the Existing Loan Facility was:
 - Early repayment of the existing loan which was outstanding together with interest
 - If SPG drawdown on the new loan they will immediately pay an arrangement fee.
 - The period of the loan is extended, therefore if SPG borrow the money the interest charged will apply for a longer period which as a result potentially brings in additional income; and
 - Supporting SPG will help complete phase 2 of Cathedral Lanes and deliver additional business rates and jobs, which was difficult for SPG under their previous loan arrangements.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Decline the request for refinancing.

The Council could have chosen to decline the request to refinance the loan. SPG would have access to a borrowing over a shorter period because the term of the original loan only runs until three years from the completion date of the purchase of Cathedral Lanes which was completed in late 2014. A much smaller amount of loan support would be available for the next phase of the projects because the current facility does not revolve, so any funds already drawn down and repaid are unavailable to SPG. In turn, this could cause problems with the senior creditor which may be unable to support the project in the absence of the new Council loan facility. This would put a successful city centre regeneration project at risk so this option has not been chosen.

2.2 Consider undertaking the project directly

Another possible option examined at the outset of the project was for the Council to purchase Cathedral Lanes and complete the project without the involvement of a private developer. However, this was not pursued because it would have been a great deal more costly in terms of public finance to acquire the entire shopping centre when compared to providing financial support to cover the viability gap for a private partner. SPG now owns Cathedral Lanes and has shown that it can work successfully with the Council, so this option has been discounted.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No consultation of this proposal is required as it relates to a variation of a commercial arrangement between the Council and its existing development partner. However, the next phase of refurbishment work will go through consultation as part of the planning process.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 This is a retrospective report.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 The proposal seeks to vary the terms of an existing loan facility provided to SPG to enable them to successfully complete Phase 2 of the Cathedral Lanes redevelopment.

The revised loan facility permits SPG, subject to a fixed one off draw down arrangement fee, to draw down tranches of money up to the maximum value of the loan, accruing interest at a fixed rate. Interest would be payable in a lump sum on redemption of the balance. The facility has also been extended.

The facility will ensure that SPG can vary the terms of their senior debt, which will in turn make phase 2 of the scheme financially viable and thus more deliverable. Delivery of the scheme will in turn result in an estimated net uplift in business rates of approximately £429,000 per year once complete

5.2 Legal implications

5.2.1. There are various statutory powers available to the Council when considering to make a loan, they are:

- The Council has a specific power to invest under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003; and
- The Council also has a general power to make investments/and or a grant under the powers of general competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.2.2. The current proposed transaction is for a “commercial purpose” for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011. Therefore the transaction does not need to be carried out through a trading company.

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)?

Further investment into Cathedral Lanes will contribute significantly to the council’s vision as set out in the Coventry Plan. It will support the priority of being globally connected through supporting businesses to grow, creating infrastructure, and raising the profile of Coventry. It will support sustainable growth within the local economy as well as providing local employment opportunities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Officers from the Place and Resources directorates will monitor the progress of the project and will have the ability to intervene in line with conditions in the loan agreement.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

There will be no direct impact on staffing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

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

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The refurbishment will complement the significant on-going investment the council is making in the upgrading of the built environment in the city centre.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications for partner organisations.

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

David Cockroft
Assistance Director of City Centre and Development Services

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 02476 833964
Email: david.cockroft@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	24/10/2016	02/11/2016
Stephen Weir	Programme Development Manager	Place	29/09/2016	29/09/2016
Julie Fairbrother	Communications Officers	Place	24/10/2016	24/10/2016
Oluremi Aremu	Major Projects Lead Commercial Lawyer	Resources	29/09/2016	20/10/2016
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Phil Helm	Finance Manager (Place Directorate)	Resources	25/10/2016	25/10/2016
Gurbinder Sangha	Major Projects Commercial Lawyer	Resources	29/09/2016	20/10/2016
Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	26/10/16	26/10/16
Councillor J Mutton	Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources	-	08/11/16	08/11/16
Councillor J O'Boyle	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration	-	08/11/16	08/11/16

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Cabinet
Council

6 December 2016
6 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Members:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected:

City-wide

Title:

Implementing the Devolution Agreement - Mayoral Combined Authority Functions

Is this a key decision?

Yes

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek the consent of the City Council for the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 to be laid in Parliament. This Order details the further functions required by the Combined Authority, in order to deliver the devolution deal.

A Combined Authority is a statutory body that facilitates the collaboration and joint working between local authorities to drive economic prosperity for the area. On the 17th June 2016 the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was established, Coventry being one of the seven constituent members.

Negotiations with Government have continued to ensure that the WMCA creates the right economic development incentives for the people of Coventry. The original "Devolution Deal" was the basis of this agreement and underpinned the first stage of devolution.

The original Devolution Deal stipulated that the Chair of the WMCA would be a newly, directly elected Mayor. A subsequent "Mayoral Election Order" was made in September 2016 providing for the Election of a Mayor for the WMCA on 4 May 2017.

In conjunction with the "Mayoral Election Order" a draft scheme was prepared which was subject of public consultation. The scheme dealt with the proposed functions and

powers of the WMCA and the Mayor in line with the Devolution Deal. Following consultation the scheme was submitted from the WMCA to the Secretary of State to form the basis of a third Order, the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016. It is this draft Order that now comes before Council for consent prior to it being approved by the WMCA Board and subsequently laid before Parliament.

Final drafting amendments to the Order are still being undertaken by central government as part of the ongoing discussions. As a result appendix 3 and 4 are not appended to this report but are to follow in advance of the Cabinet and Council meetings.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the outcome of the consultation undertaken by the West Midlands Combined Authority in respect of the Mayoral WMCA “functions” scheme.
2. Provide consent to the draft Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 to be laid in Parliament.
3. Delegate approval of any minor drafting amendments of the Order (“Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016”) to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader.
4. Seek confirmation of the City Council to resolution 2 and 3 above.

Council is recommended to:

5. Note the outcome of the consultation undertaken by the West Midlands Combined Authority in respect of the Mayoral WMCA “functions” scheme.
6. Provide consent to the draft Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 to be laid in Parliament.
7. Delegate approval of any minor drafting amendments of the Order (“Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016”) to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council.

List of Appendices (web links to documents as indicated)

Appendix 1 Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Functions scheme

[Mayoral WMCA Scheme](#)

Appendix 2 Consultation response in respect of the Mayoral WMCA scheme

[link](#)

Appendix 3 Draft Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016

(to follow)

Appendix 4 Scheme and Powers Matrix

(to follow)

Background papers

None

Other useful documents:

[The West Midlands Devolution Agreement](#)

Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/1/contents/enacted/data.htm>

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/contents>

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 - 6 December, 2016

Report title: Implementing the Devolution Agreement - Mayoral Combined Authority Functions

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The development of the government's devolution agenda created the opportunity for the West Midlands Combined Authority to negotiate and subsequently agree a devolution agreement. A period of clarification was then carried out on the agreement, which was then ratified by the seven constituent councils throughout February and March 2016, including the City of Coventry.
- 1.2 The devolution agreement is the first step for the West Midlands in securing the powers, resources and independence needed to drive economic growth, public service reform and deliver real outcomes for local people in terms of jobs, homes, better transport and better public services. It will open up potential investment funds totalling £8bn and increase confidence in the local area so that further private sector investment can be leveraged. It sits alongside the Midlands Engine project, a partnership with government covering the whole West and East Midlands, including the Midlands Connect initiative to take forward east-west transport investment.
- 1.3 The key focus areas of the first devolution agreement are:
- Finance - including £36.5 million per annum of government revenue funding for 30 years, to support a locally controlled investment fund
 - Governance - including the election of a Mayor for the West Midlands metropolitan area in May 2017
 - Transport
 - HS2 growth
 - More and better homes
 - Skills & employment
 - Supporting and attracting business & innovation
 - Public service reform
- 1.4 Following the ratification of the devolution agreement, the next stage was to establish the position of the Mayor, a prerequisite to the devolution agreement. The Mayoral 'elections' Order, to create the position of the Mayor, was approved by Council in May 2016. The 'Scheme' detailing the proposed Mayoral WMCA functions was also approved for consultation.

- 1.5 It is a requirement that a public consultation be undertaken in most cases where additional functions are to be conferred upon a Combined Authority. Therefore the functions required by a Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver the devolution agreement, were detailed in a Scheme and consulted upon.
- 1.6 The consultation was carried out from 4th July – 21st August 2016 to seek views from the public and stakeholders on the additional functions proposed to be conferred on the WMCA, in order to deliver the devolution agreement. Following the consultation, a summary of responses was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The summary report is at appendix 2.
- 1.7 Following consideration of the consultation, the Secretary of State has indicated that he is satisfied that the statutory tests have been met and no further consultation is required.
- 1.8 The Department for Communities and Local Government have prepared a Draft Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016, based on the Scheme and in consultation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and the relevant government departments. It is this Order that is being presented to Cabinet and Council for consideration.
- 1.9 If approved by the seven Constituent Councils and the Combined Authority, the Order will be laid in Parliament for approval to allow for the identified functions to be transferred to the Combined Authority. It should be noted that not all aspects of the West Midlands devolution agreement require legislative change to implement. The functions outlined within the Order are those that require legislative or regulatory change before they can be exercised by the WMCA or Mayor.

2. Key Areas of Note within the Order

- 2.1 The key areas to note from the Order are highlighted in the Matrix at appendix (to follow) which outlines the functions and powers sought by WMCA in the Scheme and how they have subsequently been adopted into the draft Order.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Council is recommended to continue its journey towards becoming an instrumental member of WMCA by consenting to the draft Order that the Secretary of State intends to lay before Parliament to allow for the functions provided for in the Order to be exercisable as functions of the Mayoral WMCA.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Oct – Dec 2016	The Mayoral Combined Authority Order presented to Constituent Councils and Combined Authority for approval and consent to lay in Parliament.
Jan – Mar 2017	Functions incorporated into Combined Authority's governance and constitutional arrangements
May 2017	First Mayoral election.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

Discussions around funding are still taking place with central government and the financial implications will be provided as a separate supplemental report prior to Cabinet and Council meeting.

5.2 Legal implications

Council is being asked to consent to the Order that will see functions vested to the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority under s.105 Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (as amended). The process that has been followed to create this Order is by the WMCA making of a proposal to the Secretary of State by submission of the scheme. A draft order has been prepared by the Secretary of State having considered the scheme, consultation outcome and statutory "tests".

The 2016 Act makes provision for conferring additional functions on Combined Authorities "*the principle that powers should be devolved to Combined Authorities or the most appropriate local level except where those powers can more effectively be exercised by central government.*" Therefore the 2016 Act has amended the 2009 Act so that a Combined Authority is no longer restricted to the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development, regeneration and transport.

Following the making of the Order the constitution of the WMCA will need to be amended to take into consideration the new functions and governance arrangements. Material amendments to the WMCA constitution require a unanimous vote of all Members of the WMCA appointed by the constituent authorities present and voting.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard)?

The aim of setting up the West Midlands Combined Authority is to promote economic growth and improve the provision of transport. This is in line with the Council's aim to be a top ten city and to deliver prosperity and social justice by ensuring that local

people, including those who are most disadvantaged, are able to benefit from that growth.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Combined Authority will be a statutory organisation and its members would be required to manage the risks associated with its activities.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The Combined Authority and the development of the devolution deal will use the time and resources of Councillors and senior officers. A Combined Authority will not replace the Council and its responsibilities and services will remain the same.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

An initial equalities analysis was carried out in respect of the “Scheme” upon which the draft Order is based. Any project/programmes resulting from the authority provided by the Order are subject to individual equalities analysis.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None identified at this stage.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Partnership working is key for successful delivery of the Devolution Deal.

Report author(s):
Julie Newman
Name and job title:
Legal Services Manager (People)
Directorate:
Resources
Tel and email contact:
02476 831587

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Jaspal Mann	Equalities Officer	Chief Executives	27.10.16	28.11.16
Suzanne Bennett Lara Knight	Governance Services	Resources	27.10.16	28.11.16
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Barrie Hastie	Assistant Director	Resources	27.10.16	28.11.16
Chris West	Executive Director	Resources	27.10.16	28.11.16
Martin Reeves	Chief Executive	Chief Executives	27.10.16	28.11.16
Councillor Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	28.11.16	28.11.16

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Public report

Council

Council

6 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Appointment of Named Substitute Members to the Ethics Committee

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to appoint named substitute members to the Ethics Committee, to act whenever a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting.

Recommendations:

That the City Council approves with immediate effect:

1. The appointment of Councillor M Mutton as a named substitute to the Ethics Committee (Labour Group)
2. The appointment of Councillor R Bailey as named substitute to the Ethics Committee (Conservative Group)
3. That the Legal Services Manager (Place and Regulatory) be delegated authority to amend the composition of the Ethics Committee in the Constitution to reflect the appointment of named substitute members.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Other useful background papers:

The City Council's Constitution

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 – 6 December, 2016

Report title: Appointments to the Ethics Committee

1. Context (or background)

At the Annual Meeting of the City Council, 5 members (4 from the Labour Group and 1 from the Conservative Group) were appointed to the Ethics Committee.

Due to the small membership of this Committee, in line with arrangements that already exist for the Audit and Procurement Committee, it is proposed to appoint named substitute members to the Ethics Committee to act whenever a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

It is proposed that the City Council with immediate effect approve:-

1. The appointment of Councillor M Mutton as a named substitute to the Ethics Committee (Labour Group)
2. The appointment of Councillor R Bailey as named substitute to the Ethics Committee (Conservative Group)
3. That the Legal Services Manager (Place and Regulatory) be delegated authority to amend the composition of the Ethics Committee in the Constitution to reflect the appointment of named substitute members.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Both Groups have been consulted and have indicated their support for the proposal.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, the appointments will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting (6 December, 2016).

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications

Not applicable

- 5.2 Legal implications

A Committee may only deal with business if it is quorate. Having named substitute members will reduce the risk of the committee being inquorate and unable to transact its business.

6. Other implications

Not applicable

Report author:

Name and job title:

Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Co-ordinator

Directorate:

Resources Directorate

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 3072

E-mail: Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Adrian West	Members & Elections Team Manager	Resources	23/11/16	23/11/16
Helen Lynch	Place and Regulatory Team Manager	Resources	23/11/16	23/11/16
Carol Bradford	Corporate Governance Lawyer	Resources	23/11/16	23/11/16
Paul Jennings	Finance Manager	Resources	23/11/16	23/11/16
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Elected Members)				
Chris West	Executive Director	Resources	23/11/16	23/11/16
Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council	-	23/11/16	23/11/16
Councillor J Blundell	Leader of the Conservative Group	-	23/11/16	23/11/16

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Public report

Council

Council

6 December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Appointments to the City Council – Changes in Membership

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to amend appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2016 in respect of the membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

The report also provides for information details of a revision to a Shadow Cabinet Member appointment.

Recommendations:

That the City Council approves with immediate effect the appointment of:-

- (1) Councillor T Sawdon as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor J Lepoidevin
- (2) Councillor G Ridley as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor A Andrews

List of Appendices included:

None.

Other useful background papers:

Minutes from the meeting of the City Council held on 19 May 2016

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 – 6 December, 2016

Report title: Appointments to the City Council - Changes in Membership

1. Context (or background)

At the Annual Meeting of the City Council on 19 May 2016, appointments were made to City Council bodies. At the request of the Conservative Group, changes are proposed to the membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee as detailed in paragraph 2 below.

In addition, although not part of the formal appointment process, the Conservative Group indicate which of their Members will act as “Shadow Cabinet Members” during the year. For information only, the following change to these roles has been notified to the Executive Director of Resources:-

Councillor Lepoidevin will act as Shadow Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources in place of Councillor Sawdon

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

It is proposed that the City Council approves with immediate effect the appointment of:-

- (1) Councillor T Sawdon as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor J Lepoidevin
- (2) Councillor G Ridley as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor A Andrews

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 Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

Not applicable

5.2 Legal implications

Not applicable

6. Other implications

Not applicable

Report author:**Name and job title:**

Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Co-ordinator

Directorate:

Resources Directorate

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 3072

E-mail: Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Adrian West	Members & Elections Team Manager	Resources	24/11/16	24/11/16
Helen Lynch	Place and Regulatory Team Manager	Resources	24/11/16	24/11/16
Carol Bradford	Corporate Governance Lawyer	Resources	24/11/16	24/11/16
Paul Jennings	Finance Manager	Resources	24/11/16	24/11/16
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Elected Members)				
Chris West	Executive Director	Resources	24/11/16	24/11/16
Councillor J Blundell	Leader of the Conservative Group	-	24/11/16	24/11/16

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Council Meeting

6 December, 2016

Booklet 1

Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor D Skinner</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J Innes , Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“Following the debate on full Council on Tuesday 11 October, could Cllr Innes please update us on the situation over bus gate fines? Is she satisfied that the Council is doing all that it should? How much money has now been refunded to those drivers who, because of an unexpected technicality, were wrongly fined? How much remains in the Council coffers?”</p>	

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“Is the Cabinet Member aware of any Council Tax arrears that have been written off, or are in the process of being written off, in the last year as a result of the legal process being followed incorrectly?”</p>	

3.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Mayer</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J Innes , Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION: see attached</p>	

4.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Williams

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Maton , Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Would the Cabinet Member provide the following information: 1) Across all primary schools in the City, for the school years starting Sept 2014 & Sept 2015, how many children who started Reception class were born in June, July or August? 2) During those same school years, how many children started Reception class halfway through the school year.”

5.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Williams

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Brown, Chair of Planning Committee

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Would the Chair of the Planning Committee please tell me how many times the recording of Planning Committee has been requested between 1st January 2014 and 29th November 2016.”

Text for Question 3:

I refer to Warwick Road bus gate.

In figure 15-13 of the Traffic Signs Manual P140 it shows that a white line should be placed across the entrance to a Bus Gate, it also shows that a no entry sign diagram 616 should be placed on the other entrance. The diagram below shows a compliant bus gate used throughout the country for ease of understanding. It is understood that a special sign has been agreed to show that it is a bus gate in Coventry's case.

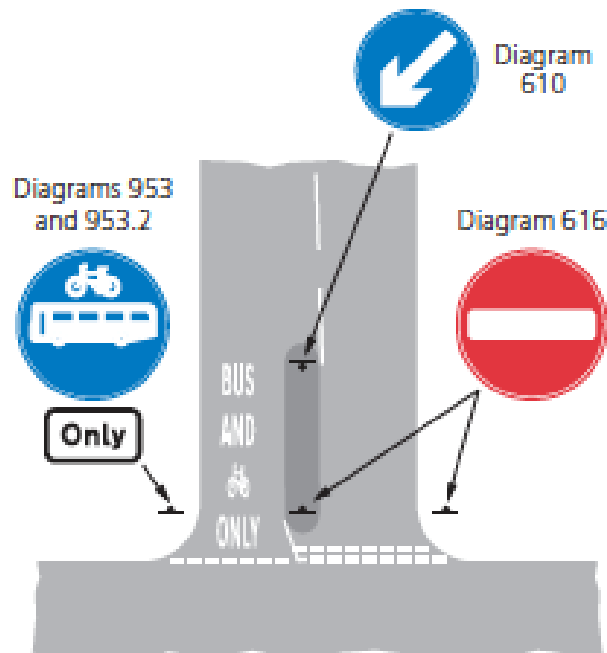


Figure 15-13 One-way bus gate on a two-way road

People travelling along Warwick Road from the station into town can go around the Warwick Road roundabout and end up in the bus gate without having any signage to tell them about the gate until they are about to enter it. My personal view is that this could lead to people backing on to a roundabout, or stopping suddenly both of which could be considered dangerous. I cite figure 15.7 of the same manual which shows that signage should be used to tell motorists that they are travelling down a contraflow bus lane.

Can the Cabinet Member for City Services please explain
Why there is no white line across the entrance to the bus gate?

Why there is not a no entry signage resulting in an appearance of the traffic being able to enter the other side of the road?

Why there is not full signage available to vehicles travelling into town who decide to return along the road they used to enter town?

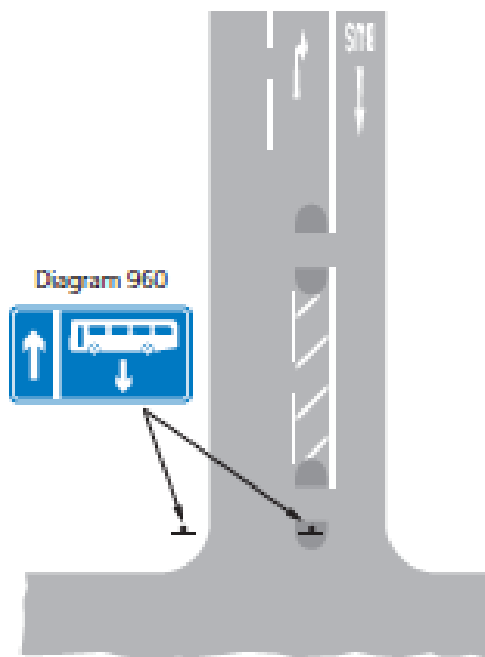


Figure 15-7 Example of signs indicating contra-flow bus lane to other drivers

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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