



### Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

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**Time and Date**

10.00 am on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021

**Place**

This meeting will be held remotely. The meeting can be viewed live by pasting this link into your browser: [https://youtu.be/y5n7fR\\_9W3I](https://youtu.be/y5n7fR_9W3I)

Note: This meeting is not being held as a public meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972

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**Public Business****1. Apologies and Substitutions****2. Declarations of Interest****3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

(a) To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st April, 2021

(b) Matters Arising

**4. Domestic Abuse Act 2021** (Pages 9 - 54)

Briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Councillors A S Khan and P Akhtar, Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item

**5. Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21** (Pages 55 - 62)

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor N Akhtar

**6. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2021/22** (Pages 63 - 66)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

**7. Any Other Items of Public Business**

Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

## Private Business

Nil

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Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House Coventry

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

- Notes:1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Liz Knight, Democratic Services, Council House, Coventry, telephone 7697 2644, alternatively E-mail: [suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk)
- 2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Liz Knight no later than 9.00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, giving their reasons for absence and the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.
- 3) Scrutiny Board Members who have an interest in any report referred to this meeting, but who are not Members of this Committee, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon on the day before the meeting that they wish to speak on a particular item. The Member must indicate to the Chair their reason for wishing to speak and the issue(s) they wish to raise.

Membership: Councillors N Akhtar (Chair), M Ali, L Bigham, J Clifford, J Innes, J Lepoidevin, C Miks, G Ridley and R Singh

By invitation Councillors P Akhtar and AS Khan

**Suzanne Bennett/Liz Knight, Governance Services - Telephone: 024 7697 2299/2644**

**E-mail:**

**[suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk)**

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 11.00 am on**  
**Wednesday, 21 April 2021**

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)  
Councillor L Bigham  
Councillor C Miks  
Councillor K Sandhu  
Councillor R Singh  
Councillor D Skinner

Other Members: Councillor Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services  
Councillor O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and  
Regeneration  
Councillor Welsh, Cabinet Member for Housing and  
Communities

Employees: V Castree, Law and Governance  
R Back, Streetscene and Regulatory Services  
D Butler, Streetscene and Regulatory Services  
G Holmes, Law and Governance  
A Williams, Director, Business, Investment and Culture  
B Willers, Business, Investment and Culture

Apologies: Councillor Andrews  
Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Kelly  
Councillor Lloyd, Deputy Cabinet Member  
Councillor Ridley, Substitute Councillor Skinner

## **Public Business**

### **58. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bigham declared she held a position on the West Midlands Combined Authority – Transport Delivery Committee. There was no requirement for her to leave the meeting.

There were no other declarations of interest.

### **59. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

## 60. Sustainability and Climate Change - Progress to Date

Councillor O'Boyle introduced the item and emphasised that the Council was committed to tackling climate change. A new climate change strategy was being developed which would help shape the future work programme on this agenda. There were a number of projects either completed or underway in the City to support this agenda, including; Heatline, work with the Energy sector located in Coventry, more electric vehicle charging points per head in the City than anywhere else in the UK outside of London, becoming the first city with an all-electric bus fleet and the development of Very Light Rail.

Cllr Hetherington outlined that there was a range of work taking place within her City Services Portfolio on sustainability and climate change. This included looking at 15 minute cities and 20 minute neighbourhoods, ensuring recycling provision in the city centre, looking at cycling routes and electric fleet for Council vehicles.

Cllr Welsh outlined that there was a review of the Local Plan due and sustainability would form part of it.

The Committee received a presentation on Sustainability and Climate Change – Progress to date from the Head of Sustainability and Climate Change,

The presentation outlined the following points with regards to sustainability and climate change:

- Energy and Climate Change
  - The City Council had a CDP A- Rating.
  - The City was part of an innovative programme called Regional Energy Systems Operator (RESO).
  - Meetings were taking place with Western Power Distribution & Cadent to see how we could predict energy usage more accurately
  - £6m had been received from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for school and Coventry City Council buildings.
  - There was a review of Supplementary Planning Guidance Documentation in relation to energy
- Regional Energy Systems Operator (RESO)
  - This was funded by Innovate UK
  - The money was used for identifying systems design for Zero Carbon energy generation, distribution and efficient use of supply.
  - Work was underway to identify potential investors for developing infrastructure
- Transforming transport & mobility
  - An Electric Vehicle Infrastructure was being built in the City
  - The City would be the first all Electric Bus City
  - Very Light Rail was being developed
  - Active Travel would require a new infrastructure which was being implemented
- Biodiversity
  - There were a number of projects on biodiversity underway in the City including
    - Living Landscapes River Sherbourne Corridor
    - Wildlife Corridors
    - London Road Cemetery

- The Green Space Strategy was informing West Midlands Combine Authorities 5 year plan
- Addressing Environmental Inequalities
  - Plans to support this area of work included
    - Air Quality Action Plan
    - Social Value Policy
  - £2.3 million had been awarded to retrofit energy saving measures in homes to help address one element of fuel poverty.
  - Support had been provided to the City Food Network
  - Work was underway to look at employment and training opportunities through social enterprises
- Circular Zero Carbon Economy
  - Support was being given to businesses to look at ways to support them to reduce carbon usage and change the way they do business
  - Support was being provided to develop the infrastructure for green technological innovation including
    - Battery Innovation Centre
    - Gigafactory
  - Work was underway with social enterprises to encourage them to repair & re-use, use local sourcing with training & work experience.
- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
  - These would form the main plank of a strategy for the City.
- Sustainable Coventry Commission
- The 5 ICLEI Pathways for a Sustainable City
- Potential Opportunities
  - A number of potential opportunities were outlined which included
    - New supply chains with export potential – electric vehicles and Very Light Rail
    - Diversification of a localised energy supply
    - Growth of active modes of travel including pop up cycle routes, electric bicycles
    - Retrofit & residential opportunities – rebuild RSLs' capacity, Government funds
    - Incentives for electric vehicle take-up
    - Incentives for public transport use – build consumer confidence
    - Enhancement of electric vehicle charging infrastructure & energy storage
    - Opportunities for Municipal bonds, crowd funding & new funding systems
- Some of the key areas for action
  - A transition in Coventry City Council's corporate culture to set an example for others to follow
  - City of Culture provided opportunity to raise awareness and inspiring change at the community level
  - Playing a collaborative role in energy network planning and investment
  - Decarbonising buildings through priming the retrofit market and working with Developers and landlords. A key target group were registered social landlords.

Following the presentation, Members asked a number of questions and received the following responses:

- Coventry City Council would lead from the front with the reduction of emissions by the organisation. Options for more energy efficient large vehicles were being explored. The technology was evolving all the time. New buildings had been designed to be more efficient.
- There were a number of buildings which Coventry City Council had transferred to Trusts to manage. The Council would work with them to improve these buildings energy efficiency.
- The Council had bought a number of electric taxis which taxi firms could borrow for a free trial to encourage them to purchase them.
- Dates and targets for active travel would be circulated to Members once the appropriate discussions had taken place.
- It was possible for local authorities to put a local levy on big polluters to be used to fund public transport. Nottingham had done that with a levy on parking spaces on private companies with car parks of more than 10 spaces. The money was used to subsidise the tram system. Lambeth had run a scheme around vehicle permits which encouraged people to purchase less-polluting vehicles, however there were issues around equalities for a scheme such as this.
- There had been work with Registered Social Landlords to retrofit properties. Private Landlords were more challenging to engage. There were energy elements of the Additional Licensing Scheme which could help with encouraging landlords to improve their properties. The Landlords Forum would be used to have a discussion with Landlords about this topic.
- The Council and Coventry University, who had a social enterprise unit, were working with social enterprises to encourage them to support, and benefit from, the green agenda.
- Work was underway to look at how the new Environment Bill and the impact of the work on this agenda.
- Work was planned to look at densification within poor air quality areas.
- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities was asked to include climate change issues in the review of the Local Plan.
- Work was ongoing with developers to improve tree retention and green spaces. Information would be circulated to Members on the number of trees planned for planting during the coming year.
- There was work being done with developers to secure existing mature trees as planting two for one in its place was not providing an equivalent.
- A Climate Change Strategy was under development.
- Ensuring comprehensive community engagement was discussed. The importance of engaging a wide range of demographic groups was stressed as was the need to undertake Equality Impact Assessments.
- Work was underway with leading experts in their field to develop ways to measure the impact of policy on CO2 reduction.
- Behaviour change work was underway with the Universities and Private Sector to encourage active travel.
- Members of the team were undertaking publicity work.
- There would be a paper to Cabinet in June about the work planning being done on the run up to a review of the Local Plan being triggered.

**RESOLVED** that, having considered the content of the presentation and the comments raised:-

- 1) **The Committee consider the Climate Change Strategy once it has been developed.**
- 2) **When the Local Plan is reviewed, the impact of Climate Change be taken into consideration.**
- 3) **That information on the following be circulate to Members:**
  - a. **The figures of reduction from emissions from Council buildings**
  - b. **The development of targets for active travel**
  - c. **The number of trees likely to be planted over the next year.**

61. **Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2020/2021**

The Committee considered their Work Programme for the current municipal year.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Programme 2020/21 be noted.

62. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 1.00 pm)

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Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Subject: Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee of the requirements on the Council arising from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the content of the Cabinet report Domestic Abuse Act 2021 at Appendix 1
- 2) Contribute to, support, and consider the needs assessment being undertaken to identify the need for domestic support in the area
- 3) Add the work of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to the work programme at an appropriate time
- 4) Identify any further recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member

### **3 Background and Information**

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, outlining the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and agreed the following recommendations

- i. Approve the proposal to create The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the local authority.
- ii. Approve acceptance of the grant of £849,930 in 2021/2022 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.
- iii. Note the Council's new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

- 3.2 This report is attached at Appendix 1

- 3.3 Domestic abuse is a manifestation of one-person (or persons) exerting power and control over an another with whom they share a personal connection. Domestic abuse can take many forms including, but not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes honour-based violence, forced marriage, other culturally recognised forms of abuse and a range of controlling and coercive behaviours. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also highlights economic abuse.
- 3.4 Preventing harm from Domestic Abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Corporate Plan. Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2023 outlines the city's approach to addressing domestic abuse, including honour-based violence and forced marriage.
- 3.5 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act provides, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse and delivers a number of significant changes to improve the protection of victims within the community and the criminal justice system.
- 3.6 The Act has a number of implications for the local authority, including the requirement of a new statutory board, implementation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse, a duty to produce regular needs assessments and strategies, delivery of specific minimum types of support for victims within safe accommodation, the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications and a requirement to annually report to the Secretary of State.
- 3.7 S2 Analytics have been commissioned to undertake the Coventry Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. This work commenced late April. They will also be producing 2 strategy addenda for the current Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023. The first is in response to statutory obligations with regards to support to those who are in domestic abuse accommodation. The second will focus on domestic abuse and the impact of COVID-19.
- 3.8 A number of activities will underpin this work. This includes surveys for communities and partners/practitioners, one to one discussions and focus groups. An interim report on findings should be available in July to help inform service delivery and development. The surveys are attached at Appendix 2 and 3.

#### **4 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.1 Duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 were discharged during the re-procurement of safe accommodation services in 2019, including the completion of an Equality Consultation Analysis. Moving forward, the needs of people with protected characteristics will be re-assessed as part of the needs' assessment required from the Act.

Gennie Holmes  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator  
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024 7697 1857

Cabinet

15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes - the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City.

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**Executive Summary:**

Domestic abuse is a manifestation of one-person (or persons) exerting power and control over another with whom they share a personal connection. Domestic abuse can take many forms including, but not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes honour-based violence, forced marriage, other culturally recognised forms of abuse and a range of controlling and coercive behaviours. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also highlights economic abuse.

Preventing harm from Domestic Abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Corporate Plan. Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2023 outlines the city's approach to addressing domestic abuse, including honour-based violence and forced marriage.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act provides, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse and delivers a number of significant changes to improve the protection of victims within the community and the criminal justice system.

The Act has a number of implications for the local authority, including the requirement of a new statutory board, implementation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse, a duty to produce regular needs assessments and strategies, delivery of specific minimum types of support for victims within safe accommodation, the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications and a requirement to annually report to the Secretary of State.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the proposal to create The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the local authority.
- 2) Approve acceptance of the grant of £849,930 in 2021/2022 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.
- 3) Note the Council's new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 - 2023

**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?**

No

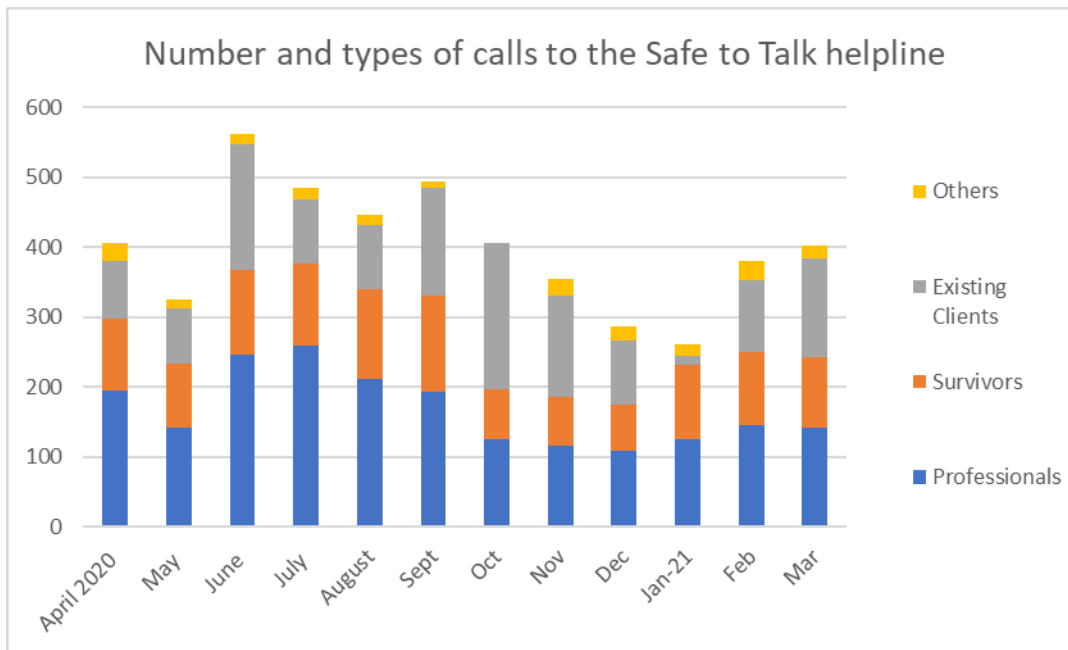
## Report title: Domestic Abuse Act 2021

### 1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is a manifestation of one-person (or persons) exerting power and control over another with whom they share a personal connection.
- 1.2 Preventing harm from domestic abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Corporate Plan. The Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023 outlines Coventry's approach to addressing domestic abuse which includes honour-based violence and forced marriage. The harm associated with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also recognised in the Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy with a workstream specifically dedicated to this.
- 1.3 In 2019/20, there were 29.7 domestic abuse related incidents and crimes in the West Midlands Police area per 1,000 population (source: Office for National Statistics). This has risen by 26% since 2015/16 and is above the national average of 28 incidents and crimes per 1,000 population. The under-reporting of domestic abuse is well documented and the actual level of victimisation in the city will be higher.
- 1.4 The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on domestic abuse victimisation. Control measures put in place to limit infection have also reduced the time and space for victims to seek help, has been used as a tool for further abusive behaviours and placed a number of additional pressures on families and individuals. Other measures – such as legislation to protect people from being evicted from their homes under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and changes to court proceedings which has lengthened the wait for civil and criminal hearings – have meant that different parts of the local system have experienced differing trends of victimisation and demand.

Overall, levels of reported domestic abuse increased significantly during the first lockdown in May and June 2020 and have remained broadly stable at this higher level. Police, commissioned services and Children's Services all reflect higher levels of demand and an increase in the level of case complexity and risk.

- 1.5 During 2018 and 2019 the average number of monthly reports involving domestic abuse to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was 328. Between April 2020 and March 2021 this rose to a monthly average of 415 reports per month, peaking in December 2020. The numbers of adult safeguarding concerns related to domestic abuse also increased in 2020 but from a much lower base.
- 1.6 Police report that while acquisitive and other crimes are falling, domestic abuse continues to show heightened incidents – data up to the beginning of December 2020 has shown that reporting has increased by 45% compared to the previous year.
- 1.7 Calls to the local Safe to Talk helpline have fluctuated significantly throughout the year, reflecting the changes in freedom and ability for victims to seek help and concerns from professionals and other third parties like neighbours during the various periods of heighten restrictions over the course of the pandemic. On average, calls to the helpline are about 20% higher than in the period prior to the pandemic. The chart below shows how the number and sources of calls to the Safe to Talk helpline have fluctuated since April 2021.



1.8 Similarly, demand on specialist domestic abuse services has also fluctuated significantly during the course of the pandemic, reflecting victims' ability to access support. Referrals to Coventry Haven's community outreach support (providing safety planning and other community-based support for people not involved in civil or criminal court proceedings) peaked in August 2020 with 134 referrals in one month, but fell to an average of 56 referrals during December 2020 to March 2021, during the most recent lockdown periods and increased significantly following the relaxation of social restrictions; it should also be noted that annual trends also show a reduction in victims accessing support in the week running up to the Christmas and New Year period.

1.9 During the pandemic, the City Council has invested additional resources in schemes to protect victims, including:

- creating 7 additional temporary units of specialist accommodation for 12 months from July 2020
- safeguarding 17 units of accommodation within the voluntary and community sector
- temporarily continuing 13 further units of accommodation previously funded using short term government grant otherwise due to close in March 2021
- employing 3 additional domestic abuse specialists to be co-located with the police and provide an immediate response to victims for a 2-year pilot
- employing a 0.5FTE worker to create and support a new network of domestic abuse leads within frontline services.

1.10 The creation of the Domestic Abuse Act was first announced in 2017 and includes a wide range of provisions and responsibilities to protect victims and children. It received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021.

1.11 In summary, key aspects of the Act includes:

- (i) Creation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse. This adopts a broad definition of domestic abuse which includes a range of forms of abusive behaviour between two people, both aged 16 or above, who have a "personal connection". A personal connection includes relationships including former partners and family members, those

who are or have been married/engaged (whether terminated or not), or in civil partnership/entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether terminated or not), intimate relationships, parental relationship in relation to the same child, relatives and carers. Children who “see, hear or experience the effects of” domestic abuse, and are related to the two people, are specifically covered under the new definition.

- (ii) Creation of new orders including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPN) and Orders (DAPO). These new orders will replace Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders and can be applied for by police, victims, family members and friends and other third parties including local authorities. Parliament’s expectations are that DAPOs will be the ‘go-to’ protective order for most forms of domestic abuse.
- (iii) Placing the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – ‘Claire’s Law’ - onto a statutory footing to improve consistency of the scheme across the country and increase the number of applications. The scheme provides victims with information on partners’ previous abusive or violent offending.
- (iv) Provision of added protective measures for victims in court hearings, for example prohibiting cross examination of alleged victims by the alleged perpetrator in many situations, and also not expecting the alleged victim from cross examining the alleged perpetrator from cross examining the other party in many civil and family court hearings. There will be funding provided by the Secretary of State to allow for the provision of an advocate to enable cross examination of the alleged victim on behalf of the alleged perpetrator in such cases.
- (v) Creation of new offences. Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation and threats to disclose private sexual photographs and films will be become criminal offences.
- (vi) Changes to existing homelessness legislation (Housing Act 1996) to make victims a priority regardless of any vulnerability. Victims will no longer need to prove they are vulnerable as result of their abuse in order to access accommodation secured by the local authority where they are homeless.
- (vii) Creation of lifetime tenancies for victims.
- (viii) Creation of a register for serial and serious perpetrators that would be managed through Multi agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), and the extended use of polygraph testing for domestic abuse perpetrators.
- (ix) A requirement on local authorities to conduct regular needs assessments and publish a strategy for victims in safe accommodation.
- (x) A requirement on local authorities to provide a range of support for victims in safe accommodation. This includes counselling, therapeutic support for children, support to resolve immigration issues.
- (xi) A requirement for local authorities to appoint and coordinate a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to oversee the needs assessment, strategy and local action. The local authority will be required to provide the Secretary of State with an annual report detailing its response to new duties covered by the Act.
- (xii) Provision of anyone subject to immigration control who is a victim of domestic abuse with a route to apply for limited leave to remain for at least six months to allow for immigration proceedings to be considered.

### **Impact on the local authority**

1.12 The Act introduces a number of new duties and a range of implications for local authorities; below is a summary of the implications in relation to (i) safe accommodation strategic planning, (ii) safe accommodation provision and support for victims, and (iii) prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications.

1.13 Overall, the clarification of the definition of domestic abuse and added protection for victims intended by the Act are expected to increase reporting and demand on services. The inclusion of statutory prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications and provision of temporary leave to remain of migrants reporting domestic

violence is also expected to increase demand on homelessness, migrant and domestic abuse services.

- 1.14 Awareness among frontline staff of the new provisions of the Act is of high importance in order for practitioners to make appropriate use of new powers. A webinar for local practitioners was recently held in conjunction with Legal Services and further training and awareness measures will be implemented as guidance is issued by The Government.
- 1.15 The Government has provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £849,930 in 2021/22 to “fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation”. To account for the time to complete the needs assessment and to cushion any impact of lower resources being received beyond 2021/22 (dependent upon the new burden assessment), spend from the grant is planned to be committed for the period up to end of September 2022 where possible. No funding has been provided beyond 2021/22 and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) state that any further funding would be confirmed as part of The Governments Comprehensive Spending Review. The Government is currently considering the need for additional new duties funding to support the expected increase in demand on local authorities’ general housing services.
- 1.16 The Act requires local authorities to conduct a needs assessment by August 2021; due to limited timescales and the one-year settlement, it is proposed that the 2021/22 grant is dispersed by investing in additional services on a short term basis, with any further years funding informed by the needs assessment and directed by the resultant strategy. In the absence of gaps identified by the needs’ assessment, it is proposed that the residual grant amount will be used to learn from and upscale the initial additional investment.

### **Safe Accommodation and Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board**

- 1.17 The Act requires local authorities to provide safe accommodation for victims – dedicated specialist accommodation which meets specific domestic abuse quality standards – and a range of specialist support for victims in safe accommodation. ‘Sanctuary schemes’, whereby victims are helped to remain in their own home by providing extra domestic security and support, are included within the definition of safe accommodation.
- 1.18 Services to support victims of domestic abuse were procured in 2019 and awarded to:
- Coventry Haven (in partnership with Panahghar and Relate): for community-based support to victims and children; and for a perpetrator service. This contract includes ‘sanctuary scheme’ provision.
  - Valley House: for accommodation-based support to victims
- 1.19 There are currently 109 units of specialist domestic abuse accommodation in Coventry (74 commissioned by the City Council and 35 charitably funded) and commissioned capacity for 100 victims to access sanctuary scheme provision. This provides capacity to support approximately 250 - 300 victims per annum. The table below outlines the different Safe Accommodation scheme available within the city:

<b>Type of Safe Accommodation</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Description</b>
Specialist accommodation	54 units	Mainstream CCC contracted provision
Specialist accommodation	13 units	Funded via MHCGL grant until 31 March 2021, provision extended to 30 September 2021 using COVID relief monies



Specialist accommodation	7 units	Funded to 30 July 2021 using COVID relief monies
'Sanctuary scheme' provision	100 victims	Mainstream CCC contracted provision
Specialist accommodation	35 units	Non-commissioned specialist accommodation provided by 2 different VSC organisations

- 1.20 The Act requires local authorities to conduct a needs assessment for accommodation-based support each year and publish a strategy to direct commissioning and decommissioning decisions for safe accommodation. A needs assessment, currently being compiled, will inform the production of two addendums to the existing Domestic Abuse Strategy. The first addendum will focus on the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act and the second will provide a strategic approach to the experience of, and lessons learned during, the COVID pandemic.
- 1.21 Local authorities are required to establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the Council. The purpose of this new statutory board is to provide advice to the local authority in relation to domestic abuse - as a minimum to provide advice on its duties to:
- assess the need for domestic abuse support in its area
  - prepare and publish a strategy to provide support
  - monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
  - consider the local authority's annual report to the new national Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- 1.22 Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are expected to include a broad range of representative partners. The Act sets out statutory membership and must include people representing local authorities, victims and their children, domestic abuse charities or voluntary organisations, health care providers and the police or other criminal justice agencies. The Board will be chaired by Councillor P Akhtar, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities.
- 1.23 An interim Board has been established and met on 17 May 2021 to consider membership and consult on current proposals. Particular attention will be given to ensure that victims' and children's voices are represented in Board discussions.

### **Safe Accommodation Provision and support for victims**

- 1.24 Safe accommodation is an important protective measure for victims of domestic abuse, including their children. The accepted minimum standard of specialist domestic abuse accommodation provision requires European countries to have a minimum of one family space of specialist accommodation per 10,000 head of population. There are currently 109 units of accommodation in Coventry, equivalent to one space per 3,400 head of population. The number of units of accommodation commissioned by the City Council is considerably higher than most areas in the region.
- 1.25 While the Act does not specify how much safe accommodation should be provided, it does require the local authority to assess the level of need annually. The Act also requires all victims in safe accommodation to have access to:
- advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);

- domestic abuse prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation;
- specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice;
- children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy;
- housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and
- counselling and therapy for both adults and children.

1.26 The Act amends immigration rules and allows victims to apply to be given leave to remain for at least 6 months, during which time permanent status can be determined. Anyone granted leave to remain by virtue of the provision in the Domestic Abuse Act will have recourse to public funds and access to specialist accommodation and support services.

1.27 Guidance provided by MHCLG advocates the provision of the Whole Housing Approach (WHA), which aims to improve the housing options and outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse so that they can achieve stable housing, live safely and overcome the abuse and its harmful impacts. The WHA advocates increasing tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate.

1.28 Gaps in provision created by the new duties will initially be addressed by investing a proportion of the new duties grant outlined in paragraph 1.16 with a financial commitment for 12-18 months. Further short-term investment will be made following the completion of the needs’ assessment. Initial investment will include:

Increasing capacity of safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the funding of 13 units of accommodation previous funded by a MHCLG grant to 30 September 2022. This will maintain the number of commissioned units at 67 until 2022/23</li> <li>• Enhancement of the existing sanctuary scheme support.</li> </ul>
Support move-on from specialist accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing ‘flexible funding’, a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily to enable victim/survivors to achieve safe and stable housing. This in line with the WHA.</li> </ul>
Improve specialist support for victims and children in safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing additional counselling and therapy for children and adults affected by domestic abuse</li> <li>• Providing additional specialist support for victims with insecure immigration status.</li> </ul>
Improve coordination for victims and children with complex needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating specialist support embedded into the local authority.</li> </ul>

1.29 Follow the completion of the needs’ assessment, strategy and clarification of future funding from the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review, a longer-term investment plan will be developed to ensure the duties of the Act are met. Full evaluation of services to measure delivery of quality outcomes will be part of the commissioning process.

## **Prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications**

- 1.30 The Act amends existing homelessness legislation (the Housing Act 1996) by extending priority need to all eligible victims who are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse. This change removes the requirement for victims of domestic abuse to demonstrate vulnerability in order to attain priority need and clarifies the remit of people affected by this change with the new statutory definition of domestic abuse.
- 1.31 Currently single (and childless) victims who are made homeless as a result of domestic abuse and who don't have priority need for other reasons have an assessment of whether they are vulnerable due to domestic abuse. If not considered vulnerable, local authorities may continue to try and relieve their homelessness or end the duty towards them. Under the new legislation, single (and childless) victims who are made homeless due to domestic abuse will receive automatic priority need without any assessment of whether or not they are vulnerable.
- 1.32 The overall ambition of the Domestic Abuse Act is to increase the confidence of victims to seek support in the knowledge that agencies will meet their needs and it is anticipated that this will increase the number of victims presenting as homeless and increase the demand for temporary and move on accommodation.
- 1.33 As noted in paragraph 1.29, it is proposed that 13 units of specialist domestic abuse accommodation – currently funded under temporary funding arrangements – will be continued to be commissioned to help alleviate the demand on housing services and meet victims' needs.
- 1.34 The change to the homelessness duty is due to commence in the summer, with further guidance expected to be released by The Government in the coming month.
- 1.35 The Government has stated a new burdens assessment will be conducted to determine if local authorities will incur any additional costs as a result of this change; with funding allocations to be announced in the spring.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 A number of arrangements have been considered for the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. Considered options have included creating a new forum in entirety and considerations of working arrangements with other statutory boards. Legal advice is that as a statutory board of the local authority the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board needs to report to Cabinet with links to other Boards.
- 2.2 The options for carrying out the needs' assessment and strategy for accommodation-based support were considered within the context of the current needs' assessment and strategy. The current needs assessment and strategy are due for refresh in 2023, this will be a significant piece of work. Because of the short timescales for implementing the requirements of the Act, a specific needs assessment for accommodation-based support and an addendum to the strategy were agreed to be the most cost-effective and timely options.
- 2.3 Procurement of services with Warwickshire was considered. The short-term nature of funding does not suit this; although it may be an option for longer term arrangements for specialist support in Safe Accommodation. This will be determined following the needs assessment and outlined in the strategy addendum. There are already mutual arrangements in place with Warwickshire for accommodation provision where needed.

- 2.4 Options for longer term investment cannot yet be considered. There is no national commitment of funding beyond 2021/22. The needs assessment, strategy addendum and evaluation of delivery of services this year will help to inform longer term needs.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The needs assessment will include consultation with victims and partner agencies and will be used to inform the development of the addendums to the strategy. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is required as a vehicle for consultation on needs, the strategic direction, the local authority's new duties and commissioning intentions.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will be implemented with immediate effect, an interim Board was held on 17 May 2021 because of the short timescales required by the Bill.

### **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance**

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

The Government has provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £849,930 in 2021/22 for the purpose of and the expectation that the Council start to prepare and fulfil the relevant functions under the duty.

No funding has been provided beyond 2021/22 and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government state that any further funding would be confirmed as part of the Governments Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Grant terms do not include a requirement for spend to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and as per paragraphs 1.16 and 1.29 above the plan is to commit the grant over the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to reflect time for the needs assessment to be completed as well as further commissioning activity.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is a statutory board of the Council with requirements to deliver specified elements of the Domestic Abuse Act.

It is an expectation in the Act that the members of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board must include the following:

- a) a representative of the relevant local authority;
- b) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of local authorities for areas within its area;
- c) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of victims of domestic abuse;
- d) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of children of domestic abuse victims;
- e) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area;
- f) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area;

- g) at least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area.

The further specifics of the Act, and further details as to the responsibilities under the Act will be provided in forthcoming Statutory Guidance and Statutory Regulations.

## 6. Other implications

### 6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?

The services support the One Coventry Corporate Plan's vision to help to make communities safer, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and protect our most vulnerable people by keeping children and adults safe from harm and improving services for people experiencing domestic abuse.

### 6.2 How is risk being managed?

During its writing and progression through Parliament, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has been subject to a number of significant amendments. An officer group has worked to understand the implications and impact of the Act and ensure that risks are managed. Key risks are:

- **Absence of future funding:** No 'additional burden' funding has been confirmed beyond 2021/22. The needs assessment in consultation with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, will determine commissioning arrangements from 2022/23 onwards.
- **Increase in demand:** It is anticipated that the Act will increase and widen reporting of domestic abuse and increase demand on a range of services including specialist accommodation-based and community-based domestic abuse services, criminal justice agencies, social care, safeguarding and homelessness provision. Two initiatives which may support secondary prevention have been commissioned by the City Council (see paragraph 1.10) to help reduce the number of victims reaching crisis. The impact of these will be evaluated during 2021/22. The broader statutory definition of domestic abuse may increase the nature of victims who approach agencies for support; again, the impact of this will be monitored through existing forums and the new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Domestic abuse is a significant issue for many functions of the City Council, including Adult's and Children's Services, Safeguarding, Housing and Community Safety. Domestic abuse is priority for the Council and is featured within the One Coventry Corporate Plan.

The key impacts of the Act on the local authority are outlined in the paper and include a range of new duties and the likelihood of increasing demand on a number of services as a result of improved confidence for victims to come forward and report.

### 6.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 were discharged during the re-procurement of safe accommodation services in 2019, including the completion of an Equality Consultation Analysis. Moving forward, the needs of people with protected characteristics will be re-assessed as part of the needs' assessment required from the Act.

## **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

There are no implications.

## **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

As outlined in the paper, the Act has a number of significant impacts on partner agencies, including the police, courts and other criminal justice agencies, legal aid agency, education, social care, housing and health services.

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# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

## Coventry Domestic Abuse Practitioner Survey

We are carrying out a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment to understand the needs of people who have experienced domestic abuse in Coventry.

Coventry City Council and its partners would like your help to try and improve domestic abuse provision in the borough. By receiving your feedback, we will be able to improve our response and target our resources more effectively.

The assessment will be used to help develop services across the city that better meet the needs of people who have experienced domestic abuse.

The deadline for responses is **30/06/2021**

The information collected in this survey will be used by Coventry City Council officers to help improve our services. We may share the results of the survey. All information produced will be anonymised. More information on how we handle personal information and your rights under the data protection legislation can be found in our [Privacy Notice](#).

### General domestic abuse response in Coventry

We are going to ask you about your opinion on how much of a priority a number of key areas are to the domestic abuse response in Coventry.

**Support for victims** - On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Provide advocacy support (e.g develop safety plans , liaise with other services)						
Prevention advice to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe(including online) and to prevent re-victimisation						
Counselling and therapy						

**Services designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics**- On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Faith services						
Translators and Interpreters within BAME - led refuges						
Immigration advice						
Interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing						
Dedicated support for LGBTQ+						

**Services designed specifically for victims with unique and/ or complex needs**- On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

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Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Mental health advice and support						
Drug and alcohol advice and support						
Signposting						

What is working well in these service areas?

What could be improved in these service areas?

Please add any additional information below

**Criminal Justice Response** - On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Support to attend court hearings						
Advice / support on family law matters						
Advice / support on immigration law matters						
Advice / support on court orders on how to protect yourself						

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

Advice / support on other legal matters						
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What is working well in this service area?

What could be improved in this service area?

Please add any additional information below

**Housing and Accommodation** - On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Extra security for survivor's own home						
Advice / support on finding new home						
Temporary or refuge accommodation						

What is working well in this service area?

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What could be improved in this service area?

Please add any additional information below

**Response for children and young people** - On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Emotional support for children						
Trauma support for children						
Advice on local schools						
Information on the impacts of domestic abuse on children						
Play Therapy						
Child Advocacy						
Counselling						

What is working well in this service area?

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What could be improved in this service area?

Please add any additional information below

**Health services response** - On a scale of 1 to 5, are services meeting needs in the following areas?

Questions	1 - Not meeting need at all	2	3	4	5 - Fully meeting need	Don't know
Advice / support on managing health issues						
Advice on local GP's and Dentists						
Advice / support on managing mental wellbeing issues						

What is working well in this service area?

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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What could be improved in this service area?

Please add any additional information below

In your view, where are the gaps in domestic abuse provision in Coventry? Please expand on your answer

Were you able to easily find information on what support is available for domestic abuse?

(Choose all that apply)

Yes

No

If you answered yes to the previous question, where did you find it? If you answered no, do you have any suggestions for improvement?

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## Your Service

Here, we would like you to focus on what is working well and what are the challenges in your service in relation to meeting the needs of those with domestic abuse needs.

When working with clients/ service users in your organisation/ service, what is working well?

When working with clients/ service users in your organisation/ service, what are the main challenges? (This could be in relation to work with survivors, or other agencies and systems).

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## About You

To help us develop our services we would like to know a little bit about you and your situation. All information collected here is confidential.

What service/ organisation do you work for?

What is your job title? (if you don't want to give your job title, please write down the service area you work in)

How much of your working time is related to those who have experienced domestic abuse?

Questions	1 - None of my time	2	3	4	5 - All of my time
On a scale of 1 - 5 (5 being all of your time)					



# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

The information collected in this survey will be used by Coventry City Council officers to help improve our services. We may share the results of the survey. All information produced will be anonymised. More information on how we handle personal information and your rights under the data protection legislation can be found in our [Privacy Notice](#).

### Experience of Domestic Abuse

In this survey, we would like you to think about a time when you or someone you know accessed domestic abuse services as a result of experiencing domestic abuse.

Have you or anyone you know ever experienced domestic abuse?

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## Support from a domestic abuse support service

Here, we would like you to think about a time when you or someone you know received support from a domestic abuse support service.

This could have been via a helpline, web chat, online search, or a support group.

Have you or anyone you know ever used a domestic abuse support service? (e.g Valley House, Coventry Haven or Panahghar)

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## Support from a domestic abuse service in Coventry

If you or someone you know received support from a service within Coventry, we would like to know a bit more about their experiences of services.

Have you or anyone you know ever used a domestic abuse support service? (please select all that apply)

Questions	In Coventry	Outside of Coventry
Yes, in the last year		
Yes, between 1 and 5 years ago		
Yes, longer than 5 years ago		
No, I have not received support from a domestic abuse service		

If you or anyone you know has used domestic abuse services in Coventry, please indicate how you received support. Additionally, please rate your experience of the service.

Questions	Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Not Used
Helpline						
Web chat						
Safe to Talk website						
Support group						

Please use the space below to tell us about your positive experiences of services in Coventry. Please tell us which service you are describing, things that went well, and things that you found helpful

Please use the space below to tell us about your negative experiences of services in Coventry. Please tell us which service you are describing, and things that you think could have been improved.

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Thinking about the support that you or the person you are answering questions about received, was the support relating to the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM** (e.g. family law, court hearings, immigration law)

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No

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In relation to the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**, please indicate what support you received. Additionally, please rate your experience of the service you received.

Questions	Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Not Used
Support to attend court hearings						
Advice/support on family law matters						
Advice/support on court orders to protect yourself						
Advice/support on other legal matters						

Please add any additional information below:

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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Thinking about the support that you or the person you are answering questions about received, was the support relating to **HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION?**

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

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In relation to **HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION**, please indicate what support you received. Additionally, please rate your experience of the service you received.

Questions	Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Not Used
Extra security for your own home						
Advice/ support on finding a new home						
Temporary or refuge accomodation						

Please add any additional information below:

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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Thinking about the support that you or the person you are answering questions about received, was the support relating to your **CHILDREN**?

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No



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In relation to your **CHILDREN**, please indicate what support you received. Additionally, please rate your experience of the service you received.

Questions	Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Not Used
Support for your children						
Advice on local schools						
Information on the impacts of domestic abuse on children						

Please add any additional information below:

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Thinking about the support that you or the person you are answering questions about received, was the support relating to **HEALTH**?

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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In relation to your **HEALTH**, please indicate what support you received. Additionally, please rate your experience of the service you received.

Questions	Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Not Used
Advice/support on managing your health						
Advice on local GP's and Dentist						
Advice/support on managing your mental health and wellbeing						

Please add any additional information below:

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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Please briefly describe the support that you or the person you are answering questions about received.

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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## Did you move home following a domestic abuse incident?

Here, we would like to know more about your needs relating to you or someone you know's accommodation following a domestic abuse incident.

After a domestic abuse incident, did you or the person you are answering questions about move home?

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

Let's Talk Coventry

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What accommodation did you or the person you are answering questions about move to following a domestic abuse incident?

(Choose any one option)

- Domestic Abuse Accommodation (e.g. Valley House, Haven)
- Accommodation via the Coventry City Council Housing Team
- Other (please specify)

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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Following a domestic abuse incident did you or the person you are answering questions about move to another accommodation that was not specialist domestic abuse accommodation? e.g. Temporary accommodation, friends/relatives home/ or receive support to stay in your own home

(Choose any one option)

- Yes  
 No

Was there anything that could have been done to help you or the person you are answering questions about remain in your own home? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- More support regarding how to stay safe in your own home  
 More support regarding benefits  
 More support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing  
 More support regarding your children  
 More support regarding your physical health  
 More support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse  
 More support regarding employment  
 More support regarding legal advice  
 More support with English

What stopped you or the person that you are answering questions about moving to specialist domestic abuse provision? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location  
 Issues relating to size of accommodation  
 Issues relating to male only accommodation  
 Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups  
 Issues relating to housing pets  
 Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation  
 Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities  
 Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs  
 Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs  
 Other (please specify)

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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Why did you or the person you are answering questions about move to domestic abuse accommodation following a domestic abuse incident?

Were there any issues to you or the person you are answering questions about accessing domestic abuse accommodation? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location
- Issues relating to size of accommodation
- Issues relating to male only accommodation
- Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups
- Issues relating to housing pets
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs
- Other (please specify)

Was there anything that could have been done to help you or the person you are answering questions about remain in your own home? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- More support regarding how to stay safe in your own home
- More support regarding benefits
- More support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing
- More support regarding your children
- More support regarding your physical health
- More support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse
- More support regarding employment
- More support regarding legal advice
- More support with English
- Other (please specify)



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After a domestic abuse incident, did you or the person you are answering questions about remain in your own home?

(Choose any one option)

Yes

No

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Did you or the person you are answering questions about want to move to specialist domestic abuse provision?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No

What stopped you or the person that you are answering questions about moving to specialist domestic abuse provision? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location
- Issues relating to size of accommodation
- Issues relating to male only accommodation
- Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups
- Issues relating to housing pets
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs

What aided you or the person you are answering questions about to remain in your/ their own home? (please select all that apply)

(Choose all that apply)

- Support regarding how to stay safe in your own home
- Support regarding benefits
- Support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Support regarding your children
- Support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse
- Support regarding employment
- Support regarding legal advice
- Support with English
- Other (please specify)

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

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## About You

To help us develop our services we would like to know a little bit about you and your situation. All information collected here is confidential.

If you are answering about someone else, please provide details of the person who experienced domestic abuse.

### What age group are you in?

(Choose any one option)

- Under 16
- 16-17
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

### Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

(Choose any one option)

- White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White Irish
- White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White Roma
- Other White Background
- Mixed White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed White and Black African
- Mixed White and Asian
- Other Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Background
- Asian or Asian British Indian
- Asian or Asian British Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British Chinese
- Other Asian Background
- Black or Black British African
- Black or Black British Caribbean
- Other/Black/African/Caribbean background
- Arab
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

### How would you describe yourself?

(Choose any one option)

- Female

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

## Let's Talk Coventry

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- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self describe (please give details below)

Please add the first part of your postcode. (e.g. CV1)

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

(Choose any one option)

- Bisexual
- Homosexual/ Gay/ Lesbian
- Heterosexual/ Straight
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

Do you currently have children under 18?

(Choose any one option)

- No, I don't have children under 18
- Yes, I have children under 18 living with me
- Yes, I have children under 18 but they do not live with me
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

If you completed this on behalf of someone who does not speak English, please indicate the language they speak below.

Was there anything that could have been done to help you or the person you are answering questions about remain in your own home?  
(please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- More support regarding how to stay safe in your own home
- More support regarding benefits
- More support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing
- More support regarding your children
- More support regarding your physical health
- More support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse
- More support regarding employment
- More support regarding legal advice
- More support with English
- Other (please specify)

What stopped you or the person that you are answering questions about moving to specialist domestic abuse provision? (please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location
- Issues relating to size of accommodation
- Issues relating to male only accommodation
- Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups (?)
- Issues relating to housing pets
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities

# Coventry Domestic Abuse Survey

## Let's Talk Coventry

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- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs
- Other (please specify)

Were there any issues to you or the person you are answering questions about accessing domestic abuse accommodation? (please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location
- Issues relating to size of accommodation
- Issues relating to male only accommodation
- Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups
- Issues relating to housing pets
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs
- Other (please specify)

Was there anything that could have been done to help you or the person you are answering questions about remain in your own home? (please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- More support regarding how to stay safe in your own home
- More support regarding benefits
- More support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing
- More support regarding your children
- More support regarding your physical health
- More support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse
- More support regarding employment
- More support regarding legal advice
- More support with English
- Other (please specify)

What stopped you or the person that you are answering questions about moving to specialist domestic abuse provision? (please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- Issues relating to the accommodation location
- Issues relating to size of accommodation
- Issues relating to male only accommodation
- Issues relating to the availability of accommodation for specific ethnic groups
- Issues relating to housing pets
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with disabilities
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with mental health needs
- Delays in the availability of suitable accommodation for those with drug/ alcohol needs

What aided you or the person you are answering questions about to remain in your/ their own home? (please select all that apply)

(Choose any one option)

- Support regarding how to stay safe in your own home
- Support regarding benefits
- Support regarding your mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Support regarding your children
- Support regarding your physical health
- Support regarding drug/ alcohol misuse
- Support regarding employment
- Support regarding legal advice
- Support with English
- Other (please specify)

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Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Subject: Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To present the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21 to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and recommend that it be submitted to Council.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- 1) Accept the content of the draft report at Appendix 1
  - 2) Recommend that Council consider the Scrutiny Annual Report at its next available meeting

### **3 Background and Information**

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Scrutiny report annually to inform Council of its work. The draft report for 2020-21 can be found at Appendix 1.

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[gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk)  
024 7697 1857

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# SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

## Introduction by Cllr Naeem Akhtar, Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

2020 turned out to be a year like no other. The global pandemic has impacted on everyone and our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19.

I would like to thank Cllr Brown for his leadership as Chair of SCRUCO at the beginning of the municipal year and welcome Cllr Bigham who was appointed in November as the Chair of Communities and Neighborhoods Scrutiny Board.

All of the Scrutiny Board Chairs have worked hard to ensure scrutiny continued throughout the pandemic. This followed an initial pause to take stock and temporarily reshaped scrutiny to ensure our approach was timely and proportionate. A full schedule of meetings started in September and work programmes reflected the challenges facing the City and flexed to allow scrutiny of emerging priorities.

During this year, for the first time, Council meetings were held virtually. Members stepped up to this challenge admirably. Virtual meetings enabled scrutiny to reach a larger audience and allowed people to watch the recorded meetings back at leisure. We have had great engagement from our partners throughout the year, despite the added pressures COVID has put on them.

Looking forward to 2021/22, the Scrutiny Boards will focus on the City's reset and recovery from COVID-19 as well as items of interest to public including fly-tipping, mental health, domestic abuse and the legacy of City of Culture.

Scrutiny is a part of the Council's democratic structure led by non-executive Councillors. It works to the common aim of improving services for the local community and is involved in the following:

- Policy review and development: Helping to shape the way public services are delivered.
- Scrutinising decisions: Is the right action being taken? Are services working effectively?
- External scrutiny: Examining services that impact upon the local community.

Scrutiny does not make decisions; it uses evidence to make recommendations to the Cabinet to request change.

## Get involved:

Suggests topics for scrutiny here:

Email the Scrutiny Chairs and Team via [scrutiny@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@coventry.gov.uk)

Follow us on twitter @covscrutiny

Find meeting dates and agendas here:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx>

Watch meetings from 2020/21 here:

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/131/meetings/3618/public\\_meetings\\_available\\_to\\_watch\\_online/3](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/131/meetings/3618/public_meetings_available_to_watch_online/3)

## Scrutiny during 2020/21

At the start of the 2020/21 municipal year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was taken to suspend a full scrutiny programme and for Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to temporarily take the lead on all scrutiny activity, focussing on work programme items which were timely and proportionate. From September 2020, a full scrutiny programme was reinstated with all 6 Boards resuming their meetings and work programmes.



### Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee



**Chair: Cllr N Akhtar**  
**Deputy: Cllr Kelly**

Scrutiny Coordination and cross cutting items  
Policy and Leadership  
Policing and Equalities  
Designated Crime and Disorder Board  
City of Culture 2021

[Scrutinised the portfolios of the Cabinet Members for Policy and Leadership; Policing and Equalities]

<b>Finance and Corporate Services</b>	<b>Education and Children's Services</b>	<b>Business, Economy and Enterprise</b>	<b>Communities and Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>Health and Social Care</b>
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**Chair:**  
**Cllr R Singh**

Strategic Finance  
Council Resources  
Procurement & Social Value  
Workforce



[Portfolio:  
Strategic Finance  
and Resources]

**Chair:**  
**Cllr Sandhu**

Children & Young People's Social Care  
Schools  
Adult, Higher & Further Education  
Libraries  
Skills & Employability



[Portfolios:  
Children & Young People;  
Education & Skills]

**Chair:**  
**Cllr Miks**

Business, Enterprise & Employment  
Inward Investment  
Transportation  
Sustainability & Climate Change  
Digital Strategy



[Portfolio: Jobs and  
Regeneration;

**Chair:**  
**Cllr Bigham**

City Services  
Social Enterprise Strategy  
Community and Third Sector  
Housing and Homelessness



[Portfolios: City Services;  
Housing and Communities]

**Chair:**  
**Cllr Clifford**

Health  
Adult Social Care  
Health Inequalities  
Sustainability and Transformation Plans  
Sport & Physical Activity



[Portfolios:  
Adult Services;  
Public Health and Sport]

# Key Scrutiny Activity 2020/2021

## COVID-19 Response

Scrutiny Co-ordination and the five Boards all considered the impact of COVID on the City, it's people, the organisation and partners.

This work included items on the Council's reset and recovery approach, the approach to COVID Enforcement, the support being provided to communities, NHS reset and recovery of non-COVID health services. The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) focussed on the impact on schools and children's services, particularly vulnerable children and families. The Board also considered how new ways of working were supporting the continuation of support to children and young people. The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) monitored the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of the city's major capital projects, including Friargate, the station and the improvements in the city centre. The Communities and Neighborhoods (4) also considered the increase in fly-tipping due to the lockdown and the steps being taken not only to target perpetrators but also to change behavior to reduce fly-tipping. Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) considered the evolving impact of COVID on the Council's financial position and considered the mitigations implemented to protect the Council's finances as well as what grants were available to businesses, individuals and the Council to support them through the pandemic.



In an unprecedented year, scrutiny members sought assurance that the Council was supporting our communities in an incredibly challenging time. The pace of change meant the Boards adapted to new ways of working too including virtual scrutiny meetings and receiving information at short notice.

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) also considered the support that had been provided to small businesses throughout the pandemic, scrutinising the effectiveness of the distribution of grants available. The Cabinet Member and officers assured the Board that the council had worked

hard and had been successful in supporting businesses, including the distribution of grants, furlough and the quick pace of change in government guidance.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) received updates from health partners throughout the year on the impact of COVID on NHS services and in particular, progress on restore non-COVID services in December. The pressures on the NHS were well understood but Members stressed their concerns that vital diagnostics and treatments were delayed. Concerns were also raised about the ability of Mental Health services to meet demand as restrictions eased.

#### City of Culture

City of Culture is an exciting opportunity for Coventry. The pandemic has delayed the start until May 2021. Scrutiny have looked at the revised plans, considered the ever-evolving impact of COVID and changing restrictions on the programme. Members wanted to ensure that City of Culture provided opportunities for all our communities to participate in the events and that there were apprenticeship opportunities available.

The Communities and Neighborhoods Scrutiny Board (4) considered in detail the plans to clean up the city, noting the planned steps being taken, including the establishment of a Cov Clean Streets Team, increased enforcement and a half price bulky waste collection service. Members requested that the Council's webpage be streamlined to make it easier for members of the public to find the information they need.

#### New Ways of Working

Several Boards considered the impact of lockdown and the acceleration of implementing new more flexible ways of working, particularly the impact of working from home and virtual meetings for Members, Officers and the Public. Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) considered the Digital First project worked to improve the online customer offer and webchats had been developed; the impact of evolving Public Health guidance on the re-utilisation of Council Buildings for service delivery and staff and how these changes would be communicated and the benefits of flexible working including productivity and work/life balance. Members also considered the digital offer which enabled them to work virtually including a casework tool to support their constituents.

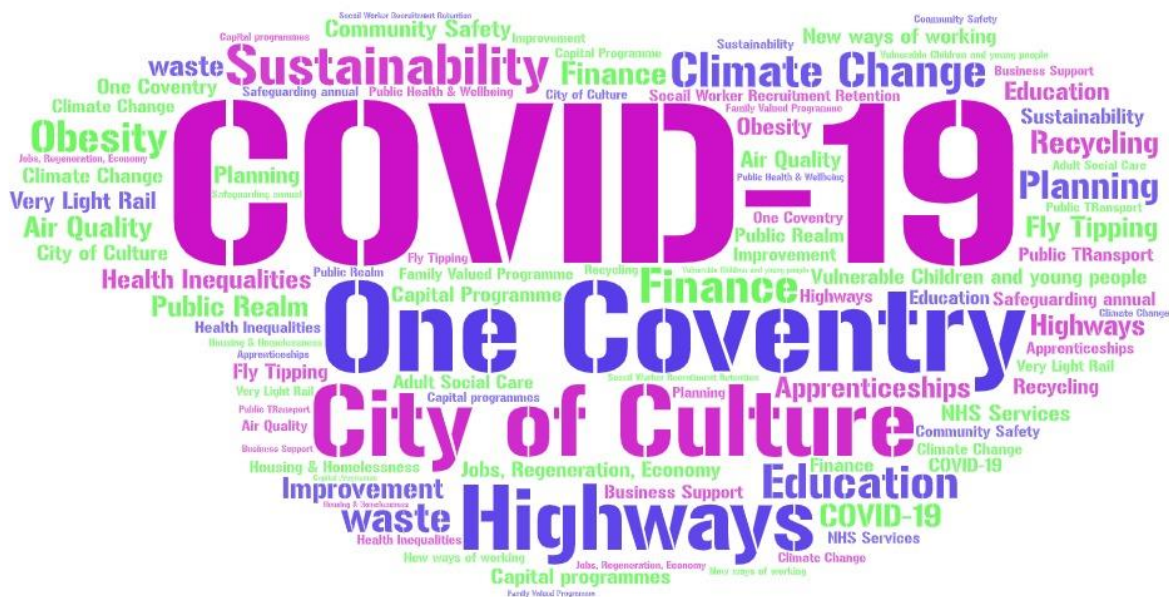
#### Sustainability and Climate Change

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered sustainability and climate change throughout the year and the theme fed through into the work of other boards too who were mindful to consider it when discussing their items. Members considered key areas of activity on this agenda including energy and climate change; transforming transport and mobility, protecting biodiversity, addressing environmental inequalities and its impact on society and creating partnerships for change. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee heard how the Council were investing in sustainability and climate change through the introduction of a dedicated team. With the new team in place, work was underway within the Council and with partners, both locally and internationally, to reduce the impact of the City on Climate Change.

## Call-in: War Memorial Parking Charges

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a call-in on the decision to introduce parking charges at War Memorial Park. Members of the Committee carefully considered the decision and the information provided, questioning the Cabinet Member, ward Councillors and officers. The Committee agreed to uphold the decision of the Cabinet Member, with the additional recommendation that the post implementation review be extended beyond the national lockdown period, and the review report include impact on displacement parking, blue badge holders and use of alternative transport and climate change. The Committee also requested that the report be submitted to a future scrutiny meeting.

## Scrutiny Topics covered



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Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
Domestic Abuse Act Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b>
One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report One Coventry Plan 2022-2026
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>
City of Culture 2021 Legacy
<b>6<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>
-
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>
-
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>
-
<b>12<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>
-
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>
-
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>
-
<b>6<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>
-
<b>Items for 2021-22</b>
Impact of Brexit on the City Digital Skills Report back of Introduction of Parking Charges at War Memorial Park Restructuring Coventry City Council Subsidiaries Alcohol Related Issues Youth Violence/Criminal Exploitation of Young People Community Safety Strategic Assessment
-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>	Domestic Abuse Act	To update following commissioning of services and focus on provision during the Covid-19 pandemic	Cllr AS Khan/ Cllr P Akhtar Liz Gaulton
	Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21	To consider the draft Annual Report before it is presented to Council.	Cllr N Akhtar/ Adrian West
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b>	One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report	To be reviewed by SCRUCO prior to submission to Cabinet on 30 August 2021. The data within the plan may help inform the work programmes of the Scrutiny Boards.	Cllr Duggins/ Liz Gaulton/ Si Chun Lam
	One Coventry Plan 2022-2026	To scrutinise and contribute to the refresh of the One Coventry Plan.	Cllr Duggins/ David Ashmore/ Michelle McGinty
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>	City of Culture 2021 Legacy	To report on the lasting legacy of the City of Culture including impact on wider jobs and skills as well as capital and cultural assets. To include an update on public art installations and cross partnership digital communications.	Cllr Duggins/ David Nuttall
<b>6<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	-		
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	-		
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	-		
<b>12<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	-		



SCRUCO Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	-		
16th March 2022	-		
6th April 2022	-		
<b>Items for 2021-22</b>	Impact of Brexit on the City	To update SCRUCO on the impacts of Brexit and support, particularly to businesses, of new regulations.	Cllr O'Boyle/ Andy Williams/ Steve Weir
	Digital Skills	To look in more detail how steps being taken to improve digital skills, to narrow the digital gap and to ensure there are sufficient skills in the job market to meet future demand	Cllr Hetherton Cllr Maton Cllr Lloyd
	Report back of Introduction of Parking Charges at War Memorial Park	Monitoring and review should include: - Impact on displacement parking the use of alternative modes of transport and the impacts on climate change and the impact of the introduction of charges on blue badge holders	Cllr A S Khan Andrew Walster
	Restructuring Coventry City Council Subsidiaries	To consider a Cabinet Report for due in 2021	Andrew Walster Cllr Duggins

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Alcohol Related Issues		
	Youth Violence/Criminal Exploitation of Young People		
	Community Safety Strategic Assessment		