



Coventry City Council

Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 4 November, 2021

Place

DR 1 and 2 Council House, Coventry

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council guidelines in relation to Covid, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officer indicated at the end of the agenda.

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
 - a) To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July, 2021
 - b) Any matters arising
4. **Housing and Homelessness Services Update** (Pages 7 - 10)
Briefing Note of the Head and Housing and Homelessness
5. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2021/22** (Pages 11 - 14)
Report of the Director of Law and Governance
6. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

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

Wednesday, 27 October 2021

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett Tel: 024 7697 2299 Email: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors R Auluck, R Bailey, L Bigham (Chair), M Heaven, A Hopkins, J Mutton, S Nazir, R Thay, S Walsh

By invitation: Councillor D Welsh

Public Access

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<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

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Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 8 July 2021

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

Present:

Members of the Board: Councillor L Bigham (Chair)
 Councillor R Auluck
 Councillor R Bailey
 Councillor M Heaven
 Councillor A Hopkins
 Councillor J Mutton
 Councillor S Nazir
 Councillor R Thay

Other Members (invited): Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities)
 Councillor P Hetherton (Cabinet Member City Services)
 Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities)
 Councillor Lloyd (Deputy Cabinet Member City Services)
 Councillor Welsh (Cabinet Member Housing and Communities)

Employees (by Service):

Law and Governance V Castree, G Holmes

Streetscene and Regulatory Services A Walster, (Director), D Butler, C Eggington, C Hickin, M McHugh,

Apologies: Councillor S Walsh

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th March 2021 were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

3. Fly Tipping in Coventry

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note on Fly-tipping in Coventry. The Cabinet Member for City Services, Councillor Hetherton, introduced the item and focussed on the preventative work and thanked the community activists who had worked hard to clear their neighbourhoods. The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Cllr AS Khan also added that the challenge would be to educate people on how to dispose of their rubbish correctly, balanced with high profile enforcement. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Welsh explained that private landlords can be held accountable through licensing conditions, to make sure their tenants have information and sufficient bins to deal with their rubbish effectively.

The briefing note provided information on the challenges around waste disposal and fly tipping over recent years and that the COVID-19 epidemic had significantly changed the landscape of waste disposal and the ability to challenge adverse behaviour. Recorded fly tipping within the City had increased by 54% to 10,765 in 2020/21.

Data tables included in the briefing note showed recorded fly-tipping by Ward in 2020/2, with Foleshill, St. Michael's, Upper Stoke and Lower Stoke being the four highest wards in the city.

The Scrutiny Board noted that whilst it was early days, 2021/22 by comparison had provided more of a settled environment for waste disposal services, education of residents in waste matters and enforcement activities. There had been pleasing reductions evident in the worst affected wards.

Examination of waste type data showed that the vast majority of fly tipping in the city was classified as 'domestic'. It was apparent that commercial/business waste formed a relatively small part of the problem.

The increase in fly tipping throughout the past year was also accompanied by increased levels of enforcement. The Street Enforcement Service investigated all reports that were referred to it and carried out formal action as appropriate, which was hampered by the inability to carryout formal interviews under caution due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers and the Cabinet Members and received responses on the following issues:

- The reported figures included all incidents that were cleared up, not just those reported by members of the public.
- There are not huge numbers of repeat offenders, the reasons are mainly due to ignorance, laziness, or the thought that they could get away with it.
- There are concessions available for the bulky lift service and the reduced cost period would be extended for a bit longer. There would also be an additional "mop-up" round of waste collection to empty contaminated bins, so they were not left on the street. This would be alongside education, door knocking and pictorial leaflets to break the waste continuum.
- Additional teams had been established with the additional resource allocated. 90 tonnes of rubbish had been removed from roads and work was continuing. There was also funding available to support community

clear ups. 60 groups across the city had been supported, including skips for the rubbish.

- Enforcement action for rented properties is targeted at the landlord as this is the most effective way of getting the issue addressed. Landlords were responsible for providing information about rubbish disposal to their tenants.
- Commercial waste, as well as DIY waste had seen a small spike was not a significant issue compared with household waste.
- The issue of dumped cannabis plants was dealt with alongside police action.
- The street champion scheme can support areas where residents are afraid to come forward due to reprisals and officers would work with Members in those wards where that was a particular issue.
- Involving the community must be balanced between responsibility for keeping their areas clean, but the Council's work. The benefits for involving the community went wider than just a cleaner locality but had a positive impact on community cohesion.
- Littering from food outlets was dealt with through enforcement and those outlets with a late-night refreshment licence would be covered as part of the licence conditions.
- The Cabinet Member for City Services was considering a Day of Action for Council employees to work with people in areas where the rubbish is.

RESOLVED that the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

1) Note the content of the briefing note: and

2) Establish a Members Task and Finish Group (the membership to be determined) to:

- **Explore with officers the reasons why fly tipping occurs**
- **Determine what further measures can be taken to improve the situation**

4. Local Development Scheme

The Scrutiny Board considered a report on the Local Development Scheme, which would be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 13 July, 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, Councillor Welsh introduced the report explaining that it was a legal requirement that a local planning authority must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is a project plan setting out the timetable for the preparation of Development Plan documents. The report updated the previous LDS which was published in 2015. There would also be additional detailed Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) which could be considered by scrutiny, particularly the one on affordable housing.

The Scrutiny Board questioned the Cabinet Member and officers and received the following information:

- SPD's cannot change the numbers or ratios of affordable housing in the Local Plan but can amplify and maximise. Numbers will be considered as part of the review of the Local Plan.
- "Affordable Housing" is a required terms with a specific definition

- The Council had a commitment to social and affordable housing but there was a limit to what the Council can do within the framework it has.
- The Tall Building SPD is very specific and applies to the City Centre to protect the views zones of the spires.
- 2021 Census data would be available from May 2022 in draft form which should be able to use for comparisons with projections.
- The communities themselves are responsible for neighbourhood plans. The Council's statutory duties relate to the consultation stage where the Council would act as a consultee and to arrange the referendum, but it is the community's responsibility to lead on it.

RESOLVED that the content of the Local Development Scheme be noted and that Cabinet be requested to note that the Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board supports the Local Development Scheme.

5. **Work Programme 2021-22 and Outstanding Issues**

The Board considered the Work Programme 2021-22 and requested the following issues be considered as future items.

- Residents Parking Schemes
- Housing Development Infrastructure
- Christmas Waste Review – to include contingency planning and prioritisation of streets
- 20 mile an hour city - linked with Average Speed Camera item
- Update on the PFI lighting scheme and saving we were making
- Flood risk management – December
- Pavements and pathways – November
- Impact of VLR and Utilities on Highways
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Feedback on the Hot Street Pilot

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

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.50 am)



Briefing note

To: The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 4 November, 2021

Subject: Housing and Homelessness Services Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Board 4 on the progress of the Housing & Homelessness Service and the key initiatives that have been implemented
- 1.2 To discuss the key Housing issues that have arose due to Covid 19
- 1.3 To provide information regarding the plans for ensuring there is an appropriate supply of affordable accommodation in Coventry to meet housing needs

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board is recommended to:
 1. Note the information contained within this report; and
 2. Identify any further recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The Council approved its Housing and Homelessness Strategy (2019-2024) in March 2019 and is the core strategy the drives the service forward. The strategy has four key areas of focus:
 - Preventing homelessness & supporting homeless households
 - Support for people and communities
 - Improving existing homes
 - Housing development
- 3.2 The Housing and Homelessness Service has undergone a significant transformation over the previous 2.5 years with a number of initiatives/projects being worked on with the intention of:
 - Reducing the financial burden on the Authority whilst providing better quality temporary accommodation options
 - Increasing the number of households where homelessness is prevented or relieved and therefore decreasing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
 - Increasing the number of properties available to households in exceptional housing need that are either ant social/affordable rents or at the Local Housing Allowance rates if in the private rented sector

3.3 Statutory Homeless Service improvements and progress

The table below sets out a number of projects/improvements that have been implemented over the previous 2 years and the outcomes these have achieved.

Project	Progress	Next steps
Re-commissioning of Homelessness Support Services	All contracts were mobilised and in place by the target date of April 2020.	Monitoring the outcomes and working with providers to ensure continuous improvements
Operational data	All Data and reporting across the service has been improved and is now being used to drive improvements.	Continue to use data to drive performance including forecasting future demand
Implement Homefinder Allocations Scheme	The new Homefinder allocations scheme went live on the 13 th September 2021 following procurement and implementation of a new IT system for the service	To continue to ensure households previously on the scheme re-register and monitor the delivery of the new scheme
Rough Sleeping team	The team are continuing to work with rough sleepers to secure accommodation and additional funding has been secured to provide a range of different accommodation options. Change into Action (CIA) has been launched as an alternative giving scheme	Continue to promote the Change into Action scheme including more ways for the public to donate Planning for winter provision has commenced
Rough Sleeper Strategy	The city's rough sleeping strategy was approved in December 2020. Obviously there has been significant changes and learning following the Covid 19 pandemic.	The strategy is being reviewed during October 2021 and a new action plan co-created with experts by experience and partner organisations.
Reduce cost of expensive Temporary Accommodation	Households have been consistently moved from more expensive accommodation to higher quality and lower priced accommodation over the past 2 years. The service delivered a significant underspend in 2020/21.	The Accommodation team will continue to review costs and ensure best value for money. We will be seeking to undertake a Private Sector Leasing scheme to deliver TA from the summer of 2022. We also continue to consider alternative TA options which deliver good quality accommodation alongside financial savings.
Eliminate use of B&Bs for families	No families have been placed in B&B accommodation for 2 years (except in an emergency and then moved the following working day).	Maintain this achievement amidst an increase in families approaching as homeless
Eliminate use of B&Bs for single people	The service has worked hard to reduce significantly the number of single people in B&B accommodation and it is only used in emergencies or if there is no other option on the day they approach as homeless.	Maintain this achievement and continue to purchase HMOs
Alternative TA for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Walsh House Project completed Caradoc – Project completed Refurbished properties through Citizen – Project completed 	Monitor take-up and ensure 90% plus occupancy across the schemes

Discharge Homeless Duty into the PRS policy and Let's Rent Coventry.	Let's Rent Coventry scheme, to incentivise private landlords to make properties available for homeless households, has been launched and 56 families have been rehoused permanently.	Let's Rent delivered its target and financial savings. The size of the team will be increased in order to deliver additional properties
Temporary Accommodation charging policy	Project completed. Charging policy has been in place since May 2020 and expected collection targets have been exceeded	Continue to monitor income collection and assess any impact on individuals
Temporary Supported Accommodation	Proposal developed for new Council-owned Hostel buildings and Houses of Multiple Occupation for single homeless people. Eleven have been purchased providing 76 rooms for single homeless people	Continue purchasing in line with Cabinet approval. Monitor use of the properties and ensure 90% plus occupancy and effective management
Housing Advisers Programme	Successful bid for LGA money to fund research and development to increase the number of affordable permanent homes in the city. Meetings held with Cabinet Member, senior Elected Members and Senior Officers to discuss options before the forum options appraisal and business case.	Options and discussion undertaken with Political Cabinet. Options appraisals being developed
Cornerstone Contracts	Secured Cabinet & Council approval in March 2020 for 2 contracts with Cornerstone Partnership 1. To provide 78 units of temporary accommodation for 2 years 2. Provide a total of 103 PRS properties over a 2-year period	All temporary accommodation properties provided and utilised. 48 PRS properties have been let at Local Housing Allowance rates to households in temporary accommodation. Continue to monitor

3.4 Covid 19 impacts

There have been some significant impacts on Housing and Homelessness as a result of Covid 19, nationally, including:

- An increase in the number of reported ASB incidents being reported to Social landlords
- Some delays in lower level repairs being completed by landlords
- Been an increase in people seeking alternative housing due to their current accommodation being unsuitable
- Although evictions were delayed during the pandemic these have now started to increase particularly from the Private sector
- Positive work with tenants to ensure that arrears levels have remained relatively low, though some RP's have experienced an increase in arrears

3.5 Increasing Affordable Housing

The council works with Registered providers & other organisations/landlords in the city in order to ensure that there is appropriate levels of accommodation built in the city to meet the needs of residents. This includes the following:

- Working with Citizen on regeneration projects across the city including The Spirit Quarters, Spon End and Wyken
- Ensuring the delivery of affordable housing through s106.

- Planning Policy and Housing have developed a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will help deliver best outcomes for affordable housing provision from planning applications.
- Working with and supporting all Registered Providers in the City to increase the amount and appropriateness of affordable housing.
- Joint Venture with Citizen Housing regarding adjoining land interests has delivered 152 units (72 units St Margaret's Road/Gerald Avenue/14 units Stretton Avenue/36 units Almond Tree Avenue/ 30 units at Ebbw Vale * HWC flats) and the promotion of infill/ garage sites within their portfolio, which has recently identified 205 possible affordable homes
- Planning permission secured for 15 units on a council owned site at Cheltenham Croft which will be 100% affordable provision
- Working with the LGA in order to develop and implement initiatives to increase the level of affordable accommodation in the city
- Promoting large-scale sites through the planning system to secure residential planning permission including – Elm fields Farm (going to committee 30th September), Allard Way (planning permission approved for 125 units) and Browns Lane (consultation for 350 units has just commenced until the 10th October)
- Working with Community led organisations to bring forward community housing schemes in the city
- Increase the capacity of the Let's Rent Coventry rent guarantee scheme which secures PRS properties at the Local Housing Allowance rates on a minimum of a 12-month tenancy

3.6 Future pressures

The service is likely to see an increase in demand from both families and single people as we move through 2021 and 2022. These increases are likely due to the following

- The delay on evictions has ended and we are beginning to see an increase in the number of families approaching as homeless
- With the likelihood of a recession and therefore unemployment increasing more households will struggle financially to meet their housing costs, whether this is rented or mortgage payments, and many will end up homeless
- During previous financial downturns there has been an adverse impact on young people living at home who are evicted by their parents/guardians due to pressures on the family.
- It is likely we will see an increase in homelessness across all groups and therefore an increase of people living in temporary accommodation and an increase in rough sleepers

Name of Author Jim Crawshaw
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Agenda Item 5

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2021-22

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Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

Last updated 22/10/21

8th July 2021
Local Development Scheme Fly-tipping – Establishment of a Task and Finish Group
23rd September 2021
Postponed
4th November 2021
Housing and Homelessness Services Update i) Impact of Covid-19 ii) Supply of affordable accommodation
2nd December 2021
Flood risk management and drainage update report Update on Housing Licensing Schemes and Enforcement
15th December 2021
Open Spaces SPD
3rd February 2022
Hot Streets Pilot Review Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report
31st March 2022
-
Possible items for 2021-22
Waste Collections including plans for Christmas 2021 Supplementary Planning Documents- consultation Housing Development Infrastructure Housing support for women experiencing multiple disadvantage Pavements and Pathways – Progress Report Residents Parking Scheme Traffic Lights in the City Electric Vehicle Charging City Centre Parking Impact of VLR on utilities under highways and footpaths Street Light PFI

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
8th July 2021	Local Development Scheme		David Butler Cllr Welsh
	Fly-tipping – Establishment of a Task and Finish Group	To include a further progress report following the meeting on 19 March 2021 – including use of wording on signage	Craig Hickin Cllr AS Khan
23rd September 2021	Postponed		
4th November 2021	Housing and Homelessness Services Update i) Impact of Covid-19 ii) Supply of affordable accommodation	To invite main social housing providers in to discuss plans for what is going to be developed and delivered over next 12-18 months. How it meets city's needs in terms of supply. To consider what impact Covid has had on housing – in terms of ASB, evictions and what can be done to support residents	Jim Crawshaw Cllr Welsh Housing Providers
2nd December 2021	Flood risk management and drainage update report	An annual update on the flood risk management programme	Cllr Hetherton Neal Thomas
	Update on Housing Licensing Schemes and Enforcement	To look in more detail on the implementation and enforcement of the HMO licensing scheme	Cllr Welsh/ Davina Blackburn/ Adrian Chowns
Wednesday 15th December 2021	Open Spaces SPD	For SB4 to contribute to the consultation	Cllr Welsh David Butler
3rd February 2022	Hot Streets Pilot Review	To consider the impact of the Hot Streets pilot.	Cllr Hetherton Craig Hickin
	Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report	To consider the recommendations from the T&F group on Fly-tipping	Cllr Hetherton, Cllr AS Khan Craig Hickin, Martin McHugh
31st March 2022	-		

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
Possible items for 2021-22	Waste Collections including plans for Christmas 2021	Item to be brought when timely to look at plans for the Christmas Waste collection as requested by the Board at their meeting in February 2021	Andrew Walster/ Sara Elliot Cllr Hetherton
	Supplementary Planning Documents- consultation	SB4 to contribute to the consultation process for any SDP's that are proposed.	Cllr Welsh David Butler
	Housing Development Infrastructure	To look at proposals for planned housing developments and infrastructure. Specifically, to look at the timetabling of these developments and associated roads and infrastructure which will be required to support population growth and movement. To seek assurances that infrastructure will be in place before homes are occupied.	Cllr Welsh Andrew Walster/ David Butler
	Housing support for women experiencing multiple disadvantage	To look at housing support for vulnerable women in the City with multiple complex needs.	Cllr Welsh Jim Crawshaw
	Pavements and Pathways – Progress Report	Using the Cabinet Report with additional detail on how the locations were identified.	Cllr Hetherton Neil Cowper
	Residents Parking Scheme	A report considering the changes suggested to meet the income target set in the MTFs. To look at the potential repercussions of introducing changes where there are none currently.	Cllr Hetherton Paul Bowman
	Traffic Lights in the City	To receive an update on the traffic light replacement programme, with a particular focus on the use of sensors to improve traffic flow. Including pedestrian priority on lights.	Cllr Hetherton Ben Gray
	Electric Vehicle Charging	A review of the installation and usage of electric vehicle charging points across the city, including for disability scooters.	Cllr O'Boyle/ Hetherton Colin Knight Shamala Evans

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	City Centre Parking	To bring the Cabinet Report planned for Spring/Summer 2021 to SB4 to consider changes to city centre car parks	Cllr Hetherton Paul Bowman
	Impact of VLR on utilities under highways and footpaths	Members requested a report on how the installation of the VLR track would take account of utilities including fibre beneath the highways and footpaths. To be considered once a route had been confirmed	Rachel Goodyer Nicola Small Cllr Hetherton
	Street Light PFI	A briefing note has been requested for circulation.	Cllr Hetherton/ Rachel Goodyear