

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 15th June 2021

**Place**

Council Chamber, Council Chamber, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR.  
The meeting will be live streamed and can be viewed live by pasting this link into your browser: [www.coventry.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/webcast)

**Please note that in line with current COVID regulations, there will be limited public access to the meeting to ensure social distancing. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officer indicated at the end of the agenda.**

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**Public business**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 16)
  - (a) To agree the minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021
  - (b) Matters arising
4. **Proposed Renewal of the City-Wide Public Space Protection Order**  
(Pages 17 - 42)  
Report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services
5. **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** (Pages 43 - 56)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
6. **Outstanding Issues**  
There are no outstanding issues
7. **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  
Monday, 7 June 2021

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon, Governance Services, Email: [michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk)

### Membership

#### Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Brown, K Caan, G Duggins (Chair), P Hetheron, A S Khan (Deputy Chair), M Mutton, J O'Boyle, K Sandhu, P Seaman and D Welsh

#### Non-voting Deputy Cabinet Members:

Councillors P Akhtar, B Gittins, G Hayre and G Lloyd

#### By invitation:

Councillors P Male and G Ridley (Non-voting Opposition representatives)

### **Public Access**

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

### **Michelle Salmon**

#### **Governance Services**

**Email: [michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk)**

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**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 9 March 2021**

(This meeting was held remotely)

Present:

Cabinet Members:

- Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
- Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor R Brown
- Councillor P Hetherton
- Councillor K Maton
- Councillor M Mutton
- Councillor J O'Boyle
- Councillor P Seaman
- Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Deputy  
Cabinet Members:

- Councillor P Akhtar
- Councillor B Gittins
- Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition  
Members:

- Councillor J Blundell
- Councillor G Ridley

Other Non-Voting  
Members:

- Councillor N Akhtar
- Councillor L Bigham
- Councillor Clifford
- Councillor R Lakha
- Councillor C Miki
- Councillor R Singh

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive	M Reeves - Chief Executive
Childrens Services	J Gregg - Director of Childrens Services
Education and Skills	K Nelson - Director of Education and Skills, L Lewis, R Sugars
Finance	B Hastie - Director of Finance, P Helm, P Jennings, T Pinks, M Rennie
Law and Governance	J Newman - Director of Law and Governance, S Bennett, G Holmes
Property Services and Development	R Moon - Director of Property Services and Development, A Hunt
Streetscene and Regulatory Services	A Walster - Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services,

Apologies:

Councillor A Andrews

**Public Business****85. Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

**86. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 16 and 23 February, 2021, were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

**87. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded under Sections 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the consideration of the following private reports on the grounds that the reports involve the likely disclosure of information defined in Paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated, and that in all circumstances of the cases, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

**Paragraph(s)  
of Section 12A  
of the Act**

**Minute No.**

**Report title**

3	98	Investment in Material Recycling Facility - Update
3	99	Provision of Loan Funding to Support a Key Regeneration Priority in Friargate
3	100	Coombe Abbey Park Ltd – Shareholder Refinancing Proposal
3	101	Birmingham Airport

**88. 2021/22 Transportation and Highway Maintenance Capital Programme**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transportation and Highways which outlined an £11.1m integrated capital programme for the maintenance and enhancement of the City's highways and transport infrastructure. This programme is funded through annual government local transport funding, City Council resources, Section 106 funds, Active Travel grant and Citizen Housing Right to Buy receipts.

The report set out individual allocations and the various sources of funding in Table 4 and the specific details of each project were detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 to the report.

The basic principles for this year's maintenance and integrated transport programme are:

1. Continue the programme of rectifying damage and maintaining the City's roads, through a prioritised programme (worst first) based on the Council's Highways Asset Management Strategy.
2. Continue to invest in preventative/proactive maintenance.
3. Carry out packages of complementary schemes to support the continued growth of the city, such as road safety and traffic management schemes to complement public realm and connecting Coventry proposals.
4. Provide a programme of footway improvements funded from the Citizen Housing Group Investment Fund, as part of a £1m investment which will be delivered over the next financial year.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet:-**

- 1) Approves the 2021/22 programme of schemes marked 'A' in Table 4 of the report.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for City Services, to approve a programme of scheme development, Section 106 & Active Travel funded schemes, marked 'B' in Table 4 of the report.

**89. Strengthening Families - Family Valued Programme**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services which indicated that Family Valued is a Leeds City Council system change programme designed to spread restorative practice across children's services. A key element is the expansion of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) service to a scale not previously seen in the UK, including for families experiencing domestic violence.

There are 2 core strands to the programme;

- Awareness raising and deep dive training to embed restorative practice across social work, Children's Services and the wider workforce for children, families and communities.
- Expansion of FGCs to more families, including those affected by domestic violence and with a new model prior to Initial Child Protection Conferences.

An evaluation was undertaken 16 months into the Leeds programme which found that almost all of the Family Valued outcomes had been achieved. There were statistically significant reductions in;

- Number of looked after children
- Rate of LAC per 10,000 population
- Number of Child Protection Plans
- Number of children in need

Other outcomes were also identified at the time of the evaluation such as improvements in school attendance, number of children leaving care and returning to their families, and rates of re-referrals for domestic violence.

The Leeds Family Valued approach reflects the 'Coventry way' - children are at the centre of practice. This reflects the values of the Leeds model which places families in control and enables them to reduce dependency on specialist services, develop resilience and capacity and take the lead in decision making and ownership of their plan.

The Coventry approach encourages workers to establish a relationship-based method to working with children and families. As a Signs of Safety local authority social workers are already working to a strength based and restorative framework. Existing approaches would need to be developed further to take account of the Leeds Family Valued model.

Coventry is on a journey to good or better and is committed to achieving this. Working with and alongside Leeds Local Authority this proposal would enhance the pace of change and further improve outcomes for children in Coventry.

The cost to implement the Leeds Family Valued programme for the first two years will be met fully by the DfE Grant of £4.1m commencing 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023.

- 2021/22                £2.0m
- 2022/23                £2.1m

Cabinet noted that the report would be considered by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) at their meeting to be held on 11 March, 2021.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council accepts the grant funding of £4,062,295 from the Department for Education for the two-year period to support the change programme to spread restorative practice across Children's Services.**

## 90. **Maintained Schools Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which sought approval for the future acceptance of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant funding if bids are successful to support the delivery of energy efficiency retrofit measures on maintained schools within Coventry.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) created the PSDS to provide grants to encourage projects that help towards the UK's Net Zero and clean growth goals. The Grant Scheme is available for up to 100% of costs for

capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within public sector non-domestic buildings. The first round of funding round closed on the 11th January 2021 for projects to be delivered by the 30th September 2021. Coventry City Council were initially unsuccessful in a bid to secure funding for our schools in this round, however, the Council have subsequently been granted funds as we were on the reserve list. In Round 1, the funding normal process required acceptance of the grant to be made within 20 days of offer of a grant meaning that there is insufficient time to seek approval following confirmation of successful grants. This last-minute funding offer required acceptance within 5 days.

The Council therefore wishes to be prepared for future rounds of PSDS funding by obtaining approval to act quickly when further funding becomes available. Due the scale of the PSDS funding scheme, the future offers of funding could exceed £2.5m.

It was reported at the meeting that the Council had received notification that they had been successful in receiving grant funding, which would enable projects to commence earlier than expected.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet:-**

- 1) Approves in principle the proposal for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Works as set out in the report (“the Project”) subject to grant funding being secured to cover the cost of delivering the Project**
- 2) Approves the conclusion of any necessary procurement exercises and following completion, to award and enter into such contracts with the preferred suppliers.**
- 3) Requests that officers continue to pursue further funding opportunities that may be offered to support further decarbonisation of Coventry’s school buildings in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources.**
- 4) Recommends that the Council:-**
  - a) Approves the proposal for the Council to accept the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant funding, if successful, as the Accountable Body to support delivery of the Project.**
  - b) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance and the Director of Education and Skills, following consultation with Director of Law and Governance, to finalise the terms and conditions of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant and any other legal agreements required to facilitate delivery of the Project, and incorporate the awarded grant within the approved Capital Programme as necessary.**

91. **Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021: Acceptance of Grant and Proposed Distribution**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which indicated that the Government have extended their Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2021 to deliver free activities and food during school holidays nationwide for pupils who are entitled to benefits-related free school meals (FSM) . The Programme was previously in a pilot phase and delivered in 17 Local Authority area (not including Coventry).

Coventry has a provisional allocation of £1.5M which will be dependent on demonstrating delivery plans for the Programme and eventual delivery. The report detailed the HAF Programme, which is designed to provide healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. The HAF Programme is not a direct replacement for current arrangements. It offers more in terms of activities for disadvantaged children and young people, but it only covers 6 of the 13 holiday weeks, 4 days per week.

Although there is local flexibility in terms of how this is delivered, the Programme has some clear aims, which are:

- Healthy eating and greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- Being more active during the school holidays
- Taking part in engaging and enriching activities (with a focus on resilience, wellbeing, and wider educational attainment
- Being safe and not socially isolated
- Increased engagement with school and other local services

Local Authorities are encouraged to work with a wide range of providers in the delivery of this Programme, in recognition of the important role that community and voluntary organisations have played in the delivery of this.

Due to short timescales and uncertainty in relation to COVID 19 restrictions, for the Easter holiday food parcel/hampers, activity packs, and online activity sessions are proposed for children and young people. The Council have been working with the Coventry Food Network to deliver this, and a delivery plan will be submitted to the DfE in line with this. The ambition will be to reach 25% of benefits eligible FSM pupils.

For the Summer and Christmas holidays requirements will be mapped out and the Council will be engaging with schools, existing providers of holiday care/activities, and other relevant providers to coordinate provision. A team to deliver this project will be recruited.

The Programme recognises that approaches will need to be adapted where there are COVID restrictions in place.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**



- 1) Approves receipt of the grant allocation of up to £1.5M dependent on level of delivery
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Education and Skills, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, to deliver the Programme. The City Council will centrally co-ordinate and will award monies to relevant organisations to deliver the programme.

## 92. Investment in Material Recycling Facility - Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which indicated that in September 2019 the Council approved a report to support the procurement, financing, construction and operation of a material recycling facility (MRF) to be based in Coventry. The facility at the time was in partnership with 7 other surrounding authorities (Solihull MBC, Walsall Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council), together the Partner Councils and at such time, Stratford-on Avon District Council as a feedstock supplier council only. The respective shareholding for each Partner Council is based on the total (2018/19) tonnage of recyclable material provided by each authority – for Coventry this was 27.72% in September 2019.

The report detailed the evolution of the Project over the course of the last 18 months, including the addition of 2 further Partner Councils (with Stratford-on-Avon District Council converting its status from a feedstock supplier council into a Partner Council and the addition of Warwick District Council as a Partner Council), associated increase in facility capacity and building footprint to accommodate a technologically advanced intelligent facility. This solution will mean the Coventry MRF will be able to deliver higher purity levels of recyclate, as well as the flexibility to ensure it can react to legislation and consumer habits and the introduction of new and changing material streams. The revised annualised net savings to the Council are c£1.4m per year, which is £0.52m pa greater than contemplated within the September 2019 business case albeit with a higher capital investment requirement. A comprehensive Briefing Note, which detailed developments in the MRF industry was appended to the report.

As the procurement exercise is nearing conclusion, the report sought approval for the additional capital financing required, by way of a commercial loan, to the special purpose Company to be incorporated to operate the facility (AssetCo) which will be incorporated as Sherbourne Recycling Limited). Additional funding is required to meet the requirements detailed within the report and as summarised in the paragraph above.

A corresponding private report was also submitted to the meeting setting out the commercially confidential matters of the proposals. (Minute 98 below refers.)

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**

- 1) Approves the sum as detailed in the corresponding private report for a loan facility from the City Council for the purposes of delivering the Materials Recycling Facility.

2) **Delegates authority to the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with AssetCo. The authority under this delegation shall also include:**

- **the authority to enter into two payment guarantees on behalf of AssetCo with the Civils Contractor and the Process Contractor;**
- **the authority to incorporate AssetCo and to enter into a shareholders' agreement with AssetCo and the other Partner Councils in respect of the governance arrangements of AssetCo;**
- **the authority to enter into the Service Level Agreement with AssetCo committing the Councils' waste tonnage for 25 years; and the authority to enter into the Loan Agreement and ancillary security documents with AssetCo for a loan over a repayment period of 25 years.**

93. **Provision of Loan Funding to Support a Key Regeneration Priority in Friargate**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Property Services and Development and the Director of Finance which indicated that the Council has a long-held ambition to realise the delivery of high-quality new hotels within the city. To support the realisation of this ambition, the Council agreed in September 2019 to enter into the necessary property arrangements with Castlebridge to help bring forward a Hotel Indigo within the Friargate area of the city. The Council also agreed funding necessary for infrastructure and public realm provision around the proposed hotel site. As a result of these decisions, the Council has been able to enter into an Agreement for Lease with Castlebridge in relation to the site for the Hotel Indigo.

The report indicated that, in order to take forward the construction of the hotel, Castlebridge need to secure the necessary development financing. Their ability to do so has, unsurprisingly, been affected by the COVID-19 crisis over the past 12 months which has had a significant impact on the leisure and hospitality sector as well as all other sectors of the economy. Notwithstanding this, they have a private funding offer which, along with their own equity injection, will fund the majority of the cost of developing out the hotel.

A corresponding private report was also submitted to the meeting setting out the commercially confidential matters of the proposals. (Minute 99 below refers.)

This report therefore sought approval to enter into a repayable loan facility agreement with Castlebridge (for an amount that is set out in the private element of this report) in order to fund the development of the hotel. The terms of the loan will be finalised following a comprehensive due diligence process to ensure the Council's position is suitably protected.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet:-**

- 1) Approves the Council entering into a loan facility agreement with Castlebridge for an amount that is set out in the private elements of this report to be used solely as development finance for the delivery of the hotel in Friargate, Coventry.**
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Director of Property and Development Services, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to undertake the necessary due diligence and approve the terms of the loan funding agreement and, thereafter, enter into any associated legal agreements that are necessary to give effect to the recommendations within this report.**
- 3) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Director of Property and Development Services, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to manage the loan facility. The authority under this recommendation shall include the power to negotiate and agree subsequent variations to the terms of the loan facility.**
- 4) Recommends that Council:-**
  - a) Approves a loan for an amount that is set out in the private elements of this report to be added to the Council's Capital programme as appropriate and used to provide a loan facility agreement with Castlebridge for the delivery of the hotel in Friargate, Coventry.**

**94. Coombe Abbey Park Ltd - Shareholder Refinancing Proposal**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance which indicated that the Council has a long-standing interest in Coombe Abbey Hotel as the landlord for the property as well as being the owner of the Country Park within which the hotel is located. The Council provided financial resources in the shape of a loan to Coombe Abbey Park Limited (CAPL) in 2013 as part of re-financing the borrowing the Company had in place at the time. Subsequent to this, the Council acquired 100% of the shares in the company in 2017 to become the sole shareholder.

Following the acquisition of shares the financial performance of the business has been affected by primarily external factors. Over the last 12 months, the

hospitality sector has suffered immensely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic with mass cancellations across rooms, events and conferences. In 2020 the hotel was able to trade for only 78 days without restrictions and 115 days with some restrictions in place which has affected the ability of the business to generate revenues in line with expectations.

The Council provided a short-term loan to the business in June 2020 to support the operating costs of the business as result of the impact of Covid-19. This facility is currently due for repayment in December 2021.

In an effort to reduce operating costs under the challenging circumstances, the Company have furloughed all but 6 members of staff. However, the inability to generate revenue has meant that the business has had to defer a number of payments that would have been due to the Council, these include rent and repayments of existing loans. The Company is now in a position where they will not have sufficient cashflow to meet expenditure beyond March 2021 without further support from the Council.

CAPL have requested that existing arrangements in place be refinanced and spread over a longer term to enable to Company to operate through any lingering impact of the pandemic, and to enable them to improve their financial position back to being profitable. Council officers have considered this request and carried out appropriate due diligence with CAPL Board and management to determine both the short and medium-term affordability.

A corresponding private report was also submitted to the meeting setting out the commercially confidential matters of the proposals. (Minute 100 below refers.)

The private report details the financial arrangements proposed, which in summary are seeking approval for a further facility to meet the costs of operation and refinance existing debt to make on going repayments manageable for the business.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:**

- 1) Approves the use of its powers under the Localism Act 2011 to provide a Loan up to sum detailed in the corresponding private report, to Coombe Abbey Park Limited (CAPL) on commercial terms as detailed in the corresponding private report.**
- 2) Approves CAPL as the authority to set up two company subsidiaries to help support the business plan as further set out in paragraph in 2.15 of the report.**
- 3) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with CAPL. The authority under this delegation shall also include the power to enter into the necessary legal agreements and subsequently the power to negotiate and agree any such**

**variations as is deemed necessary to the terms of the loan facility and ancillary security documents.**

**95. Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

**96. Birmingham Airport**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance which indicated that Birmingham Airport makes a very significant contribution to the regional economy, with a direct and indirect contribution to growth and employment. In recent years, the Council has received a significant return from its investment in Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited ("BAHL"). In both 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Council received over £1.6m income from its investment.

2020/21 has been a challenging year due to the uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic for both BAHL and the Airline sector across the UK and globally and has led to the worst decline in traffic and income in BAHL's history. For BAHL the priority has been to maintain sufficient liquidity levels to support the airport into the future as a key strategic regeneration catalyst, whilst ensuring that it is ready to return to full capacity as soon as travel restrictions are lifted.

The report sought approval for the Council to provide Shareholder support of up to £5.7m in loans if required. Together, the 7 West Midland Authorities ("Authorities") own 49% of BAHL, and vote in one block at meetings. The Council overall owns 5.79% of BAHL's total ordinary shares and £1.8m of preference shares which pay a fixed dividend of 6.31%. Further detail of the current structure of BAHL was set out in an Appendix to the report.

A corresponding private report was also submitted to the meeting setting out the commercially confidential matters of the proposals. (Minute 101 below refers.)

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**

- 1) Approves a loan facility to Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited on commercial market terms up to the value of £5.7m.**
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with BAHL. The authority under this delegation shall also include:**
  - the power to enter into the relevant legal agreements and associated documents necessary to complete the transaction with BAHL; and**
  - (in relation to the management of the loan facility) the power to negotiate and agree variations to the terms of the loan facility.**

**97. Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

**Private Business**

**98. Investment in Materials Recycling Facility - Update**

Further to Minute 92 above, the Cabinet considered a private report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which sets out the commercially sensitive aspects of delivering the Materials Recycling Facility.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**

- 1) Approves the addition of the sum as detailed in the report to the Councils approved capital programme to reflect an increase in the proposed loan facility from the City Council for the purposes of delivering the Materials Recycling Facility.**
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with AssetCo. The authority under this delegation shall also include:**
  - the authority to enter into two payment guarantees on behalf of AssetCo with the Civils Contractor and the Process Contractor;**
  - the authority to incorporate AssetCo and to enter into a shareholders' agreement with AssetCo and the other Partner Councils in respect of the governance arrangements of AssetCo;**
  - the authority to enter into the Service Level Agreement with AssetCo committing the Councils' waste tonnage for 25 years; and the authority to enter into the Loan Agreement and ancillary security documents with AssetCo for a loan as detailed in the report over a repayment period of 25 years.**

**99. Provision of Loan Funding to Support a Key Regeneration Priority in Friargate**

Further to Minute 93 above, the Cabinet considered a joint private report of the Director of Property Services and the Director of Finance which sets out the

commercially sensitive aspects of the provision of loan funding to fund the development of a hotel in Friargate.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet :-**

- 1) Approves the Council entering into a loan facility agreement with Castlebridge for up to the amount as detailed in the report to be used solely as development finance for the delivery of the hotel in Friargate, Coventry.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Director of Property and Development Services, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to undertake the necessary due diligence and approve the terms of the loan funding agreement and, thereafter, enter into any associated legal agreements that are necessary to give effect to the recommendations within this report.
- 3) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Director of Property and Development Services, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to manage the loan facility. The authority under this recommendation shall include the power to negotiate and agree subsequent variations to the terms of the loan facility.
- 4) Recommends that Council:
  - a) Approves a loan as detailed in the report to be added to the Council's Capital Programme as appropriate and used to provide a loan facility agreement with Castlebridge for the delivery of the hotel in Friargate, Coventry.

**100. Coombe Abbey Park Ltd - Shareholder Refinancing Proposal**

Further to Minute 94 above, the Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the commercially sensitive aspects of the refinancing proposals relating to Coombe Abbey Park Limited.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**

- 1) Approves the use of its powers under the Localism Act 2011 to provide a Loan up to the sum as detailed in the report to Coombe Abbey Park Limited (CAPL) on the commercial terms as detailed in the report.

- 2) Approves CAPL as the authority to set up two company subsidiaries to help support the business plan as further set out in the report.
- 3) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with CAPL. The authority under this delegation shall also include the power to enter into the necessary legal agreements and subsequently the power to negotiate and agree any such variations as is deemed necessary to the terms of the loan facility and ancillary security documents.

101. **Birmingham Airport**

Further to Minute 96 above, the Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the commercially sensitive aspects of providing Shareholder support to Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-**

- 1) Approves a loan facility to Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited on commercial market terms up to the value of £5.7m.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with BAML. The authority under this delegation shall also include:
  - the power to enter into the relevant legal agreements and associated documents necessary to complete the transaction with BAML; and
  - (in relation to the management of the loan facility) the power to negotiate and agree variations to the terms of the loan facility.

102. **Any Other Items of Urgent Private Business**

There were no other items of urgent private business.

(Meeting closed at 2.45pm)



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Cabinet

15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor AS Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:** Proposed Renewal of the City-Wide Public Space Protection Order

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes – this Order significantly affects residents or businesses in 2 or more electoral wards of the city

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**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks permission to renew the Dog related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that was last approved in 2018.

The Order is required to assist with the enforcement of dog fouling offences, but also to specify: where dogs should be kept on leads, where dogs are prohibited, the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person and enabling officers to request that a dog be put on a lead if problems are ensuing.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order for a further three years, and to make this order effective on the day before the existing order is due to expire, this will be 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1 - Proposed Draft Order.

Appendix 2 – Maps of the relevant areas

Appendix 3 – Impact Statements

**Background papers:**

None

**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: Proposed Renewal of the City-Wide Public Space Protection Order**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The renewal of the City-Wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), provides for the continued use of powers to address matters pertaining to the control and management of dogs in the City and with a particular focus within parks in the City.
- 1.2 The order in its current format was devised following extensive consultation and collaboration with a number of stakeholders in the City, a number of which have provided impact statements (Appendix 3 to the report)
- 1.3 The Council believes that the order is currently working very well, is fit for purpose and enables people to enjoy parks and public spaces whilst providing clear guidance as to when it is and isn't appropriate to allow dogs to exercise off leads or when they need to be under the direct control of their owner.
- 1.4 There is a high level of compliance with the order, this can be seen by reference to the relatively low levels of enforcement Council officers have had to use, this is referred to in the Impact Statement from the Pest Control and Animal Welfare manager, Phil Hibberd in Appendix 3 to the report.

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

- 2.1 Allow the current PSPO to expire. The Council could decide to let the order lapse, and then address any issues that may then occur in a reactive manner and in a localised fashion. This isn't recommended, we believe it would cause confusion and could lead to dog owners and other greenspace users coming into conflict and disagreements. It could also lead to inconsistencies as different officers may have differing views as to what is acceptable.
- 2.2 Renew the existing order. The Council could renew the existing PSPO under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to control the management of dogs in parks and greenspaces. As the current order has been working well we cannot point to direct evidence as to how things would worsen if the order was not renewed, however, the legislation only requires us to be satisfied that without controls it is "likely" that issues would occur if the controls were not in place. We would therefore, recommend that these powers are renewed in the proposed new order.
- 2.3 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:
  - (1) Approve the renewal of the PSPO for a further three years, and to make this order effective on the day before the existing order is due to expire, this will be 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **3 Proposed Consultation**

- 3.1 The existing order, drafted in 2018 was widely consulted, including seeking the views of the public and key stakeholders via a full consultation, which was strongly in favour of the order in its current format.
- 3.2 The legislation covering PSPO's states that where an order is being reviewed, and there are no changes to the original order it is only necessary to seek the views of key partners.

The key partners consulted were:

West Midlands Police  
Representative groups for dogs and dog owners  
Vets  
“Friends of” groups for parks  
Street Pride who manages our parks and greenspaces

These can be found in Appendix 3 to the report

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

- 4.1 Once approved the order will be implemented one day prior to the expiry of the existing order. The order can be implemented and operational immediately.

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

##### **5.1 Financial implications**

The costs of enforcing this legislation will be met from within existing resources.

##### **5.2 Legal implications**

Under sections 59-75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, local authorities have powers to make PSPOs.

The Council can only make a PSPO when it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out in a public place have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area and are persistent, continuing and unreasonable. The Council would also need to be satisfied that the restrictions imposed were justified.

Should anyone object to the granting of a PSPO they would have to make a High Court application within 6 weeks of the order being granted.

For that appeal to be successful they would have to show that the Council did not have the power to make the order, as the issue covered has not been demonstrated, usually by empirical evidence, to be a significant enough issue to justify the restriction. The other grounds for the appeal would be to demonstrate that the consultation process was inadequate.

PSPOs can only apply to public places. This means any place to which the public, or and sections of the public, on payment or otherwise, have access to as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

The Council must comply with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 by publishing the extended order on its website and by erecting notices on or near the affected land sufficient to draw the attention of the public to the fact that the order has been extended and the effect of this.

The Council will decide whether it is appropriate to issue a fixed penalty notice for any breach of the PSPO witnessed by an enforcing officer. In line with other PSPOs in Coventry, any Fixed Penalty Notice for non-compliance with a PSPO will be set at £100 reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days. If the Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid, court proceedings can be initiated to prosecute for the offence of failing to comply with the PSPO

where the maximum fine is currently £1000 (level 3 on the standard scale). Following conviction, the Council could apply for a Criminal Behaviour Order which can contain both prohibitions and positive requirements.

## **6 Other implications**

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

#### **Crime and Disorder**

This Order is intrinsic to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working in the city.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Officers from several agencies continue to monitor the area.

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

None

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

N/A

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

The purpose of taking action to address adverse behaviours in the city should increase usage of public spaces for legitimate purposes, in an attempt to improve the environment and wellbeing of the community.

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

The multi-agency action plan outlines the individual and collective commitments from agencies to respond to the issues raised.

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

Liam Nagle  
Community Safety Officer

**Service:**

Streetscene and Regulatory Services

**Tel and email contact:**

Tel: 024 7683 2063

Email: [Liam.Nagle@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Liam.Nagle@coventry.gov.uk)

Enquiries should be directed to the above person

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Streetscene and Regulatory Services	20/05/21	21/05/21
Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride, Greenspaces	Streetscene and Regulatory Services	20/05/21	21/05/21
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	20/05/21	21/05/21
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)</b>				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Finance	20/05/21	21/05/21
Gill Carter	Senior Solicitor, Legal Services	Law and Governance	20/05/21	26/05/21
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead of Regulation	Streetscene and Regulatory Services	20/05/21	26/05/21
Karen Mihajlovic	Senior Human Resources Advisor	Human Resources	20/05/21	26/05/21
Andrew Walster	Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services	-	20/05/21	21/05/21
Gail Quinton	Deputy Chief Executive	-	20/05/21	21/05/21
Councillor A S Khan	Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities	-	20/05/21	21/05/21

This report is published on the Council's website: [www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)

**Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014**  
**s.59-75 Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)**

The Council of the City of Coventry ("the Council") hereby makes the following Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) under s.59-75 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014:

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covers five areas of dog control:

- A. Dog fouling of land
- B. Dogs on leads
- C. Dogs on leads by direction
- D. Dogs exclusion
- E. Dogs (specified maximum)

**A. Dog fouling of land**

1. This relates to the offence of fouling of land by dogs. The public health implications of dog foul are well documented.
2. If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this order applies, and the person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless;
  - a. he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - b. the owner, occupier, or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so;
3. This Order applies to land described in the Schedule A below, being land in the area of the Council.
4. For the purpose of this article:
  - a. placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for this purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land;
  - b. being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces, shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;

**Schedule A: Dog fouling of land**

Land Designated by Description

1. Any land, which is open to the air, and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
2. Any land which is covered is to be treated as land which is "open to the air" if it is open on at least one side.

## **B. Dogs on leads**

1. Dogs whilst not on a lead and poorly supervised, or startled, have a greater potential to cause road traffic accidents, or to cause injury to pedestrians and other dogs. The restrictions in this Order are designed to facilitate a sharing of our public spaces, whilst recognising that dogs do need to be exercised off lead.
2. A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if at any time, they fail to keep their dog on a lead not longer than 2.0 metres, unless:
  - a. he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
  - b. the owner, occupier, or other person, or other authority having control of the land has given consent (generally or specifically);
3. This part of the Order applies to land described in the Schedule B below being land in the area of the Council.

## **Schedule B: Dogs on leads**

### Land Designated by Description

1. A highway, carriageway, cycle lane, footway or footpath, maintainable at the public expense, or any grass verge managed by the local authority and which is adjacent to the carriageway or footway of a highway, including gutters and adjoining footpaths;
2. clearly specified and signed areas in the city's parks;
3. all churchyards and graveyards, including green burial areas;
4. all car park areas shopping centres and precincts that are:
  - a. open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and
  - b. areas to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment), irrespective of ownership
5. all sports grounds, fields, parks, and pitches, which are maintained by the local authority and are not subject to 'Dog Exclusion', but only when in use for officiated sporting matches;

## **C. Dogs on leads by direction**

1. In parts of the City where dogs are permitted off leads, a minority of irresponsible dog owners allow their dogs to cause damage to property, and cause problems for pedestrians and other dog owners. This part of the Order is designed to enable authorised Council Officers to direct that the owner put their dog on a lead.
2. A person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if at any time, on land to which this Part applies, they fail to comply with a direction given them by an authorised officer of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length, unless:
  - a. he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - b. the owner, occupier, or other person or authority having control of the land, has given consent (generally or specifically);



3. For the purposes of this request an authorised officer of the Council may only direct a person to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent either a nuisance, or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or the worrying of other animals on designated land to which this order applies.
4. This Part of the Order applies to land described in Schedule C below being land in the area of the Council.

### **Schedule C: Dogs on leads by direction**

#### Land Designated by Description

1. Any land within the City boundaries, which is open to the air, and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
2. Any land which is covered is to be treated as land which is "open to the air" if it is open on at least one side.

### **D. Dogs exclusion**

1. There are specific parts of the City from which dogs should be excluded for their safety and that of pedestrians, and for public health and aesthetic reasons. This part of the Order states the relatively few places from where dogs will be excluded.
2. A person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if at any time he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or remain on, any land specified in the Order, unless;
  - a. he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - b. the owner, occupier, or other person or authority having control of the land, has given consent (generally or specifically);
3. This Part of the Order applies to the land described in Schedule D below being land in the area of the Council.

### **Schedule D: Dogs exclusion**

#### Land Designated by Description

1. children's play areas (which are clearly signed);
2. multi-use games areas (which are clearly signed);
3. sport and recreational facilities i.e. courts and pitches (which are enclosed and clearly signed);
4. sensitive nature areas, or specific horticultural areas within parks (which are enclosed and clearly signed)

#### **E. Dogs (specified maximum)**

1. There has been an increase in the number of persons and businesses walking numbers of dogs together, and some of these have exercised poor control over these dogs. This has caused problems for other dog owners and has also resulted in dog foul not being picked up. This part of the Order seeks to place limits on the number of dogs which may be walked together to enable greater control.
2. A person shall be guilty of an offence if they take on to any land in respect of which this Order applies more than the maximum number of dogs specified in point 3 of this Order, unless;
  - a. they have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - b. the owner, occupier, or other person or authority having control of the land, has given consent (generally or specifically);
3. On land to which this Order applies, the maximum number of dogs which a person may take onto that land is six.
4. This Part of the Order applies to land described in Schedule E below being land in the area of the Council.

#### **Schedule E: Dogs (specified maximum)**

Land Designated by Description within the City of Coventry

1. Any land within the City boundaries, which is open to the air, and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
2. Any land which is covered is to be treated as land which is "open to the air" if it is open on at least one side.

#### **General Point**

For the purpose of parts A, B, C, and D of this Public Space Protection Order:

1. Nothing in this Public Space Protection Order applies to a person who:
  - a. is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or "severely sight impaired", or "sight impaired" under the Care Act 2014; or
  - b. has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination, or ability to lift, carry, or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a "prescribed charity" and upon which he relies for assistance;
  - c. each of the following is a "prescribed charity"
    - i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
    - ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281)
    - iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)
    - iv) Hearing dogs for deaf people (registered charity number 293358)

- v) Any charity created subsequent to this Order, which covers the issues detailed in point 1.b. above.

- 3. For the purpose of this article, a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

### **Offences under this Public Space Protection Order**

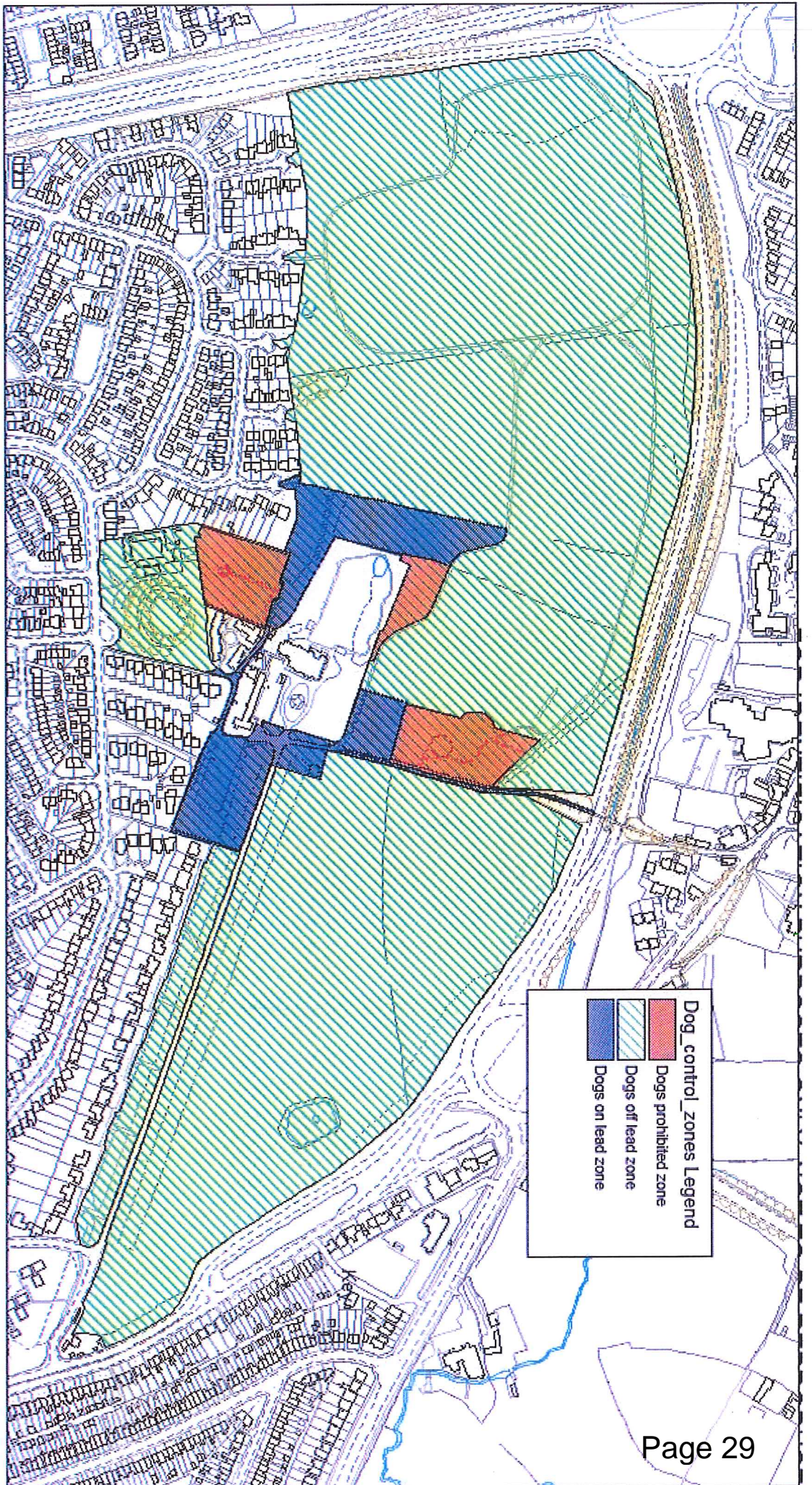
A person who is guilty of an offence shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale

A Fixed Penalty Notice of £100.00 will be issued to offenders to be paid within 20 days (reduced to £60.00 if paid within 14 days) which would discharge any liability to conviction for an offence under Section 67(1) of the Act.

This order may be cited as 'The Public Space Protection Order (Coventry DogControl)' and shall come into force on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and remain in force for a period of three years

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**Dog\_control\_zones Legend**

- Dogs prohibited zone
- Dogs off lead zone
- Dogs on lead zone

**Drawing Title:**  
**Allesley Park**  
**Dog Control Zones**



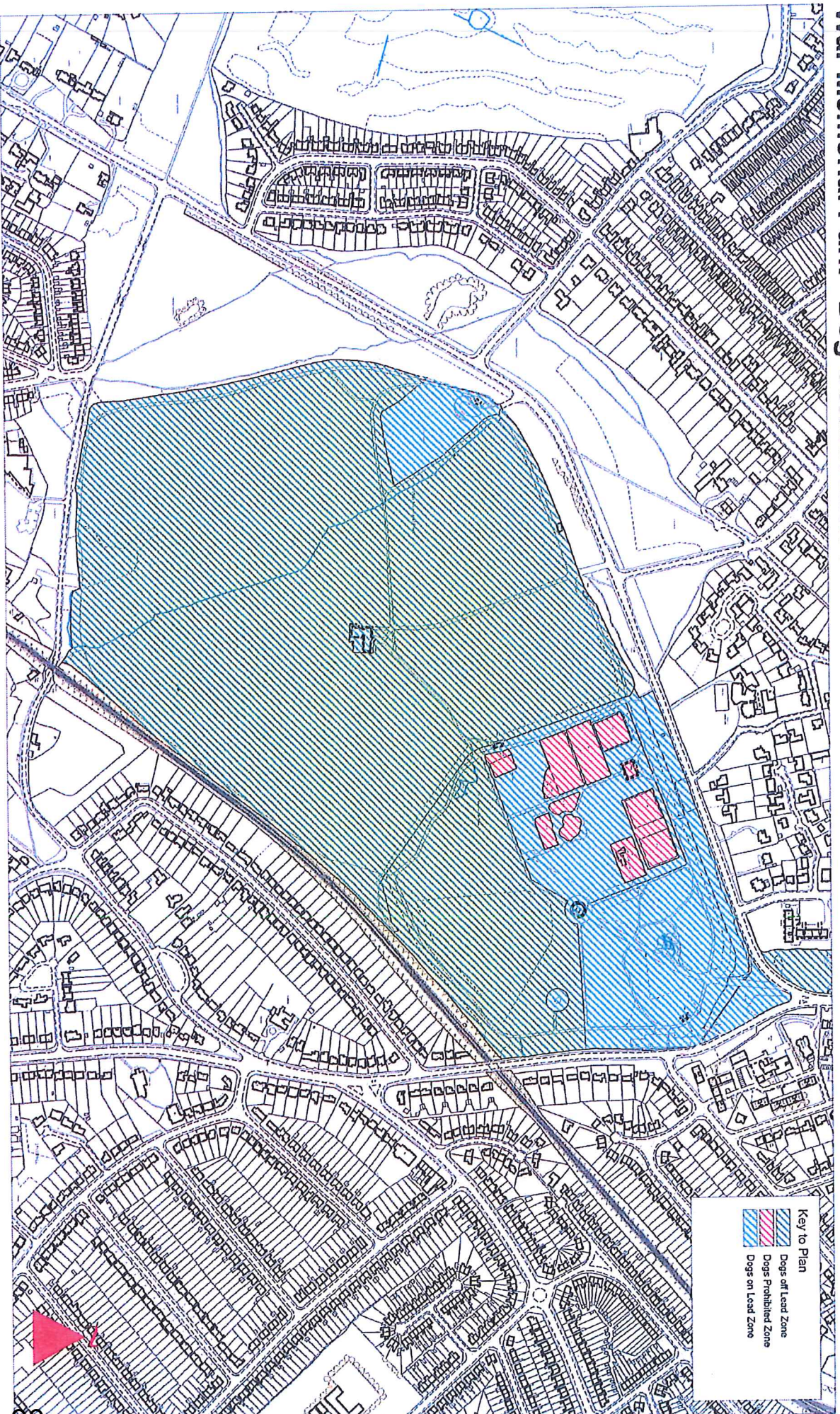
Scale: NTS

Prepared by Mark Yates, Parks Services, 02476 832349

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 Additional information by Parks Development  
 Date: Production Date: 18 May 2012

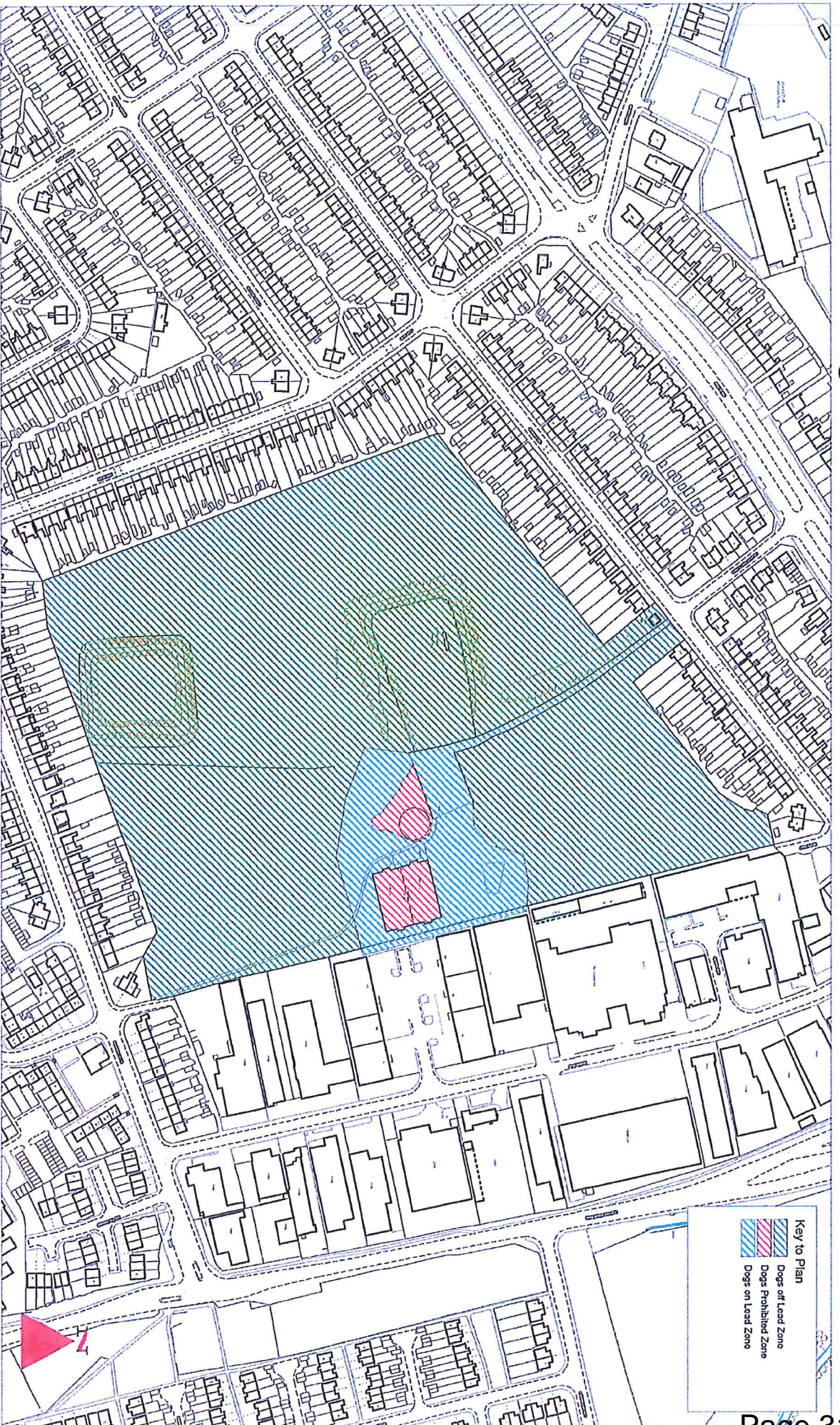


# War Memorial Park - Dog Control Zones



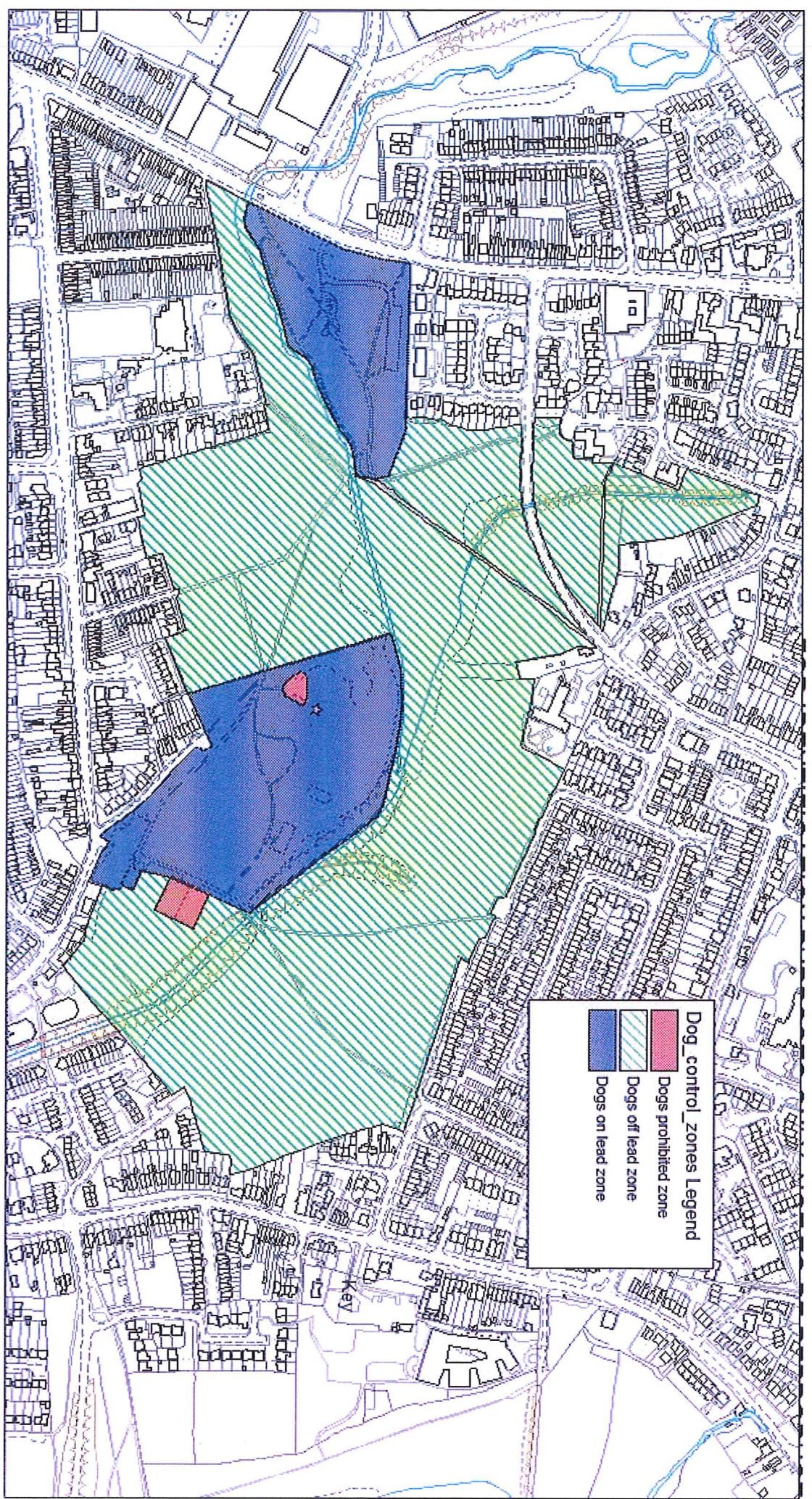


# Caludon Castle Park - Dog Control Zones








**Drawing Title:**  
Longford Park  
Dog Control Zones



**Dog\_control\_zones Legend**

-  Dogs prohibited zone
-  Dogs on lead zone
-  Dogs off lead zone

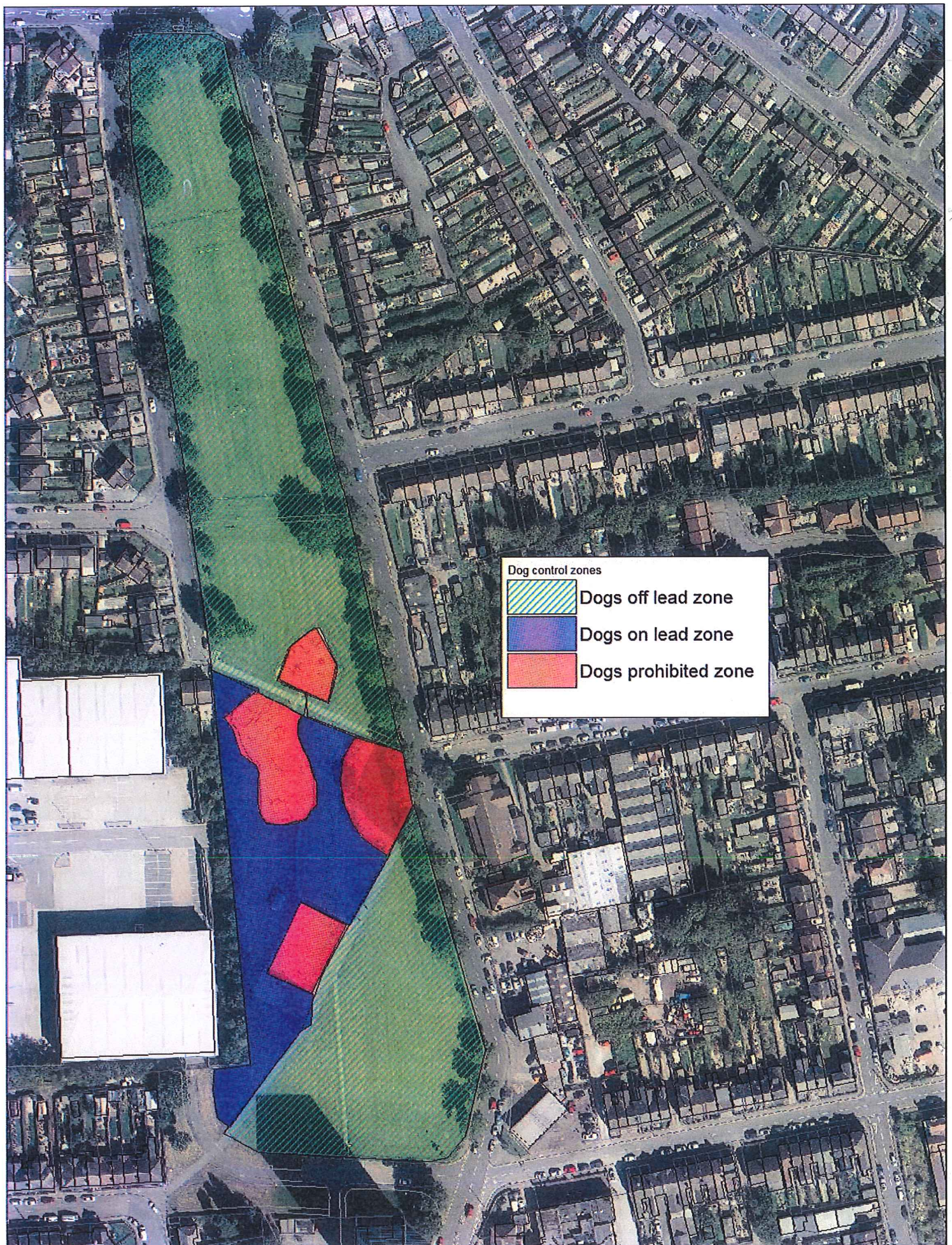


Scale: NTS

Prepared by Mark Yates, Parks Services, 02476 832349

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All additional information by Parks Development  
Plan Production Date: 29 May 2012







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### **Appendix 3 – Impact Statements**

My name is PC Nicholas Mansell, I am the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator for Coventry.

Part of my role involves working with partner agencies to address existing and emerging issues within the City to keep people safe and to make the city a better place to live.

I have reviewed the statistics involving incidents with dogs in the City over the past 12 months and the figures can be found below ;

Month	Reported incidents	Month	Reported incidents
April 2020	10	November 2020	10
May 2020	7	December 2020	9
June 2020	10	January 2021	12
July 2020	15	February 2021	8
August 2020	11	March 2021	11
September 2020	11	April 2021	2
October 2020	10		

These figures are for the entire City and do not distinguish between parks, green spaces or domestic settings. The majority of the reports we receive about dogs relate to dogs at specific properties and people expressing concern about the dogs behaviour towards others, incessant barking or similar.

We do not consider the City to have any significant issues with dogs. Officers that patrol parks and similar rarely have any dog related issues to deal with and they work closely with Council officers from animal welfare when appropriate to do so.

Whilst we cannot attribute the fact we do not have significant issues in parks and public spaces with dogs to the existence of the order, we do believe the clarity and guidance it offers owners in knowing what is expected of them is beneficial to the city and as such, on behalf of West Midlands Police, I support the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order.

My name is Graham Hood and I am employed by Coventry City Council as the head of Streetpride and Greenspaces. This means I am responsible for the management of all parks and significant pieces of public greenspace where people might walk their dogs.

It is essential that all public greenspaces are places that people can enjoy themselves which means it is important that we respect the rights of all users. That means people should be free to enjoy public spaces without being fearful of the actions of others, this could potentially include any dogs that are not under the control of their owners or dogs being allowed to foul without their owners picking up their waste.

The existing Public Spaces Protection Order provides some clarity and flexibility which allows my officers to make dog owners aware of the behaviours that are expected of them and also allows us to specify when there are particular spaces where it is not appropriate to allow dogs to run around off the lead, such as the area in the War Memorial Park adjacent to the War Memorial itself and the children's playground.

We do not have a significant number of reports made to us in relation to the actions of dogs in parks and on greenspaces which leads me to believe that people are aware of the order, they observe it and the order works. I believe the order is fit for purpose and I support the renewal of the existing order.

My Name is Phil Hibberd I am employed by Coventry City Council as the Pest Control and Dog Enforcement Manager.

My job means I manage a number of officers that are responsible for enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order, along with police colleagues. The majority of our role is to raise awareness amongst dog owners and members of the community when we are made aware of issues.

On the whole, dog behaviour within parks is very good, parks are usually busy locations with lots of people around, including other dog owners and as such it is largely self-regulating once we make people aware of the rules, which are set out in the order.

We find the majority of our enforcement and awareness raising is elsewhere in the City, in suburbs and built up areas where people may report increased amounts of dog fouling or they may report a particular owner that is regularly seen not clearing their dogs waste or allowing them continually to run off the lead in an inappropriate manner.

Our enforcement statistics are as follows for the duration of the existing order ;

- Dog Fouling – 37 fixed penalty notices issued
- Dogs (not) on Leads – 7 fixed penalty notices issued
- Too many dogs being walked at the same time – 1 warning letter sent

Whilst some may believe that the figures should be higher, we believe we strike the right balance between enforcement where appropriate and awareness raising, whilst ensuring our priority of keeping people and animals safe.

Without the order I believe it would make the job of my team significantly more difficult and would increase pressure on Police colleagues as the powers immediately available to my officers, and therefore the implied authority that gives them to do their job and to command the respect of dog owners would be diminished.

I support the renewal of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order.

Thank you for contacting the Friends of the War Memorial Park with regard to the renewal of the PSPO Dog Control Order for Coventry.

The matter was discussed at the General meeting of the Friends last night (12<sup>th</sup> May 2021) and the Friends agreed that the Order is operating satisfactorily within the War Memorial Park and that they support its renewal.

Kind regards,

Sue

Sue Konrad

Membership Secretary

Friends of the War Memorial Park

When the PSPO was initially drafted, many dog owners had serious concerns about what was being proposed. We therefore formed the Dogs in Coventry Group, in order to jointly express our concerns to the Council. This resulted in an amendment and we have since been able to work constructively with the Council (in particular Phil Hibberd and Craig Hickin) to hopefully make the implementation a positive one for the whole community.

I too share your view that the PSPO has generally worked. Over the last few days I have spoken with a number of other dog owners who are broadly in agreement too.

There has been one issue that I am aware of that several people have also brought up again - it relates to the management of the area around the Visitor Centre in the War Memorial Park. In the spring of 2019, the Council started making some improvements to the area in front of the cafe. The works continued until the end of the year, with a short break in August, so lasting for around 8 months. Many of the regular customers visit that cafe with their dogs and the constrained access forced people accessing the cafe to mingle with the dog fraternity more closely than normal. Because the works lasted for such a long period, this inevitably resulted in some disagreements and minor incidents. Until the access constraint which resulted from the Council's works, there had not really been any issue in the cafe area with dogs. The Council's response was to enforce the dogs on leads policy around the cafe aggressively, often catching out the regular users who were normal, decent people and therefore easy targets. This in turn resulted in a lot of bad feeling and I can assure you that the support for the Council's policies relating to dogs and the Council generally took a significant dip.

I think that the incident demonstrates the need for proportionality and common sense. The recent Covid lock-downs constrained people's ability to meet, exercise and socialise in their normal way. The city's parks became an outlet for many people's needs, and the parks became not just used but abused by the influx of those who would normally not have visited them. The park staff did a fantastic job in maintaining the parks in those circumstances, but the Covid situation was another demonstration of how insensitive over-control and reduction of space available for exercise increases problems in shared spaces. On the other hand, the Covid lock-downs did confirm to many both the mental and physical benefits of dog ownership.

With respect to the situation around the Visitor Centre, the general opinion of dog owners seems to be that it would be better served by not having the area designated as a 'dogs on leads' area, but by having a greater dog warden presence to help educate the few less socially minded dog owners. The request for more dog warden presence at weekends was particularly emphasised by one of the owners who had been fined earlier. So if I could recommend a change to the PSPO, that would be it - remove the dogs on leads area around the Visitor Centre in the War Memorial Park, but provide more dog warden presence at weekends.

Apart from that one issue that I am aware of and would recommend a change on, I support the renewal of the PSPO in its current form.

May I also take the opportunity to thank Craig and Phil for their positive attitude and support.

With best wishes

Mike Konrad (Dogs in Coventry)

(author note – please be aware that the point raised above regarding the War Memorial Park is being monitored to see if it is a long term issue or is just COVID or construction related. If felt appropriate local rules may be amended or if needed will return to amend the order itself)



From my point of view, I think the Dog Control Order (PSPO) is generally working. I still come across the odd owner who just thinks they are special and therefore don't have to put their dog on a lead in the lead-restricted areas of War Memorial Park. However, I think if the signage is re-painted on the pavements regularly, so that it's really obvious and can't be ignored, that does help. You cannot expect everyone to comply, but the DCO does act as a deterrent.

I do now fear that with all the "lockdown" puppies acquired last year, we may have a ticking timebomb of poor behaviour waiting to happen. These puppies will soon be turning adolescent, and the combination of inexperienced owners for whom the novelty of dog ownership may have worn off, along with the distraction of other activities as lockdown restrictions ease, is a concern. There's no quick or simple way of dealing with canine behavioural issues, which are complex and multifactorial. However, at least the existing DCO provides a framework for the authorities to take to task the owners of those dogs with poor behaviour, if they are failing to address it.

Overall, therefore, I am happy to express support for the renewal on the current basis.

Kind regards

Elly Pittaway BVSc MRCVS

Veterinary Surgeon & Director

Broad Lane Vets Ltd

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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

---

**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?**

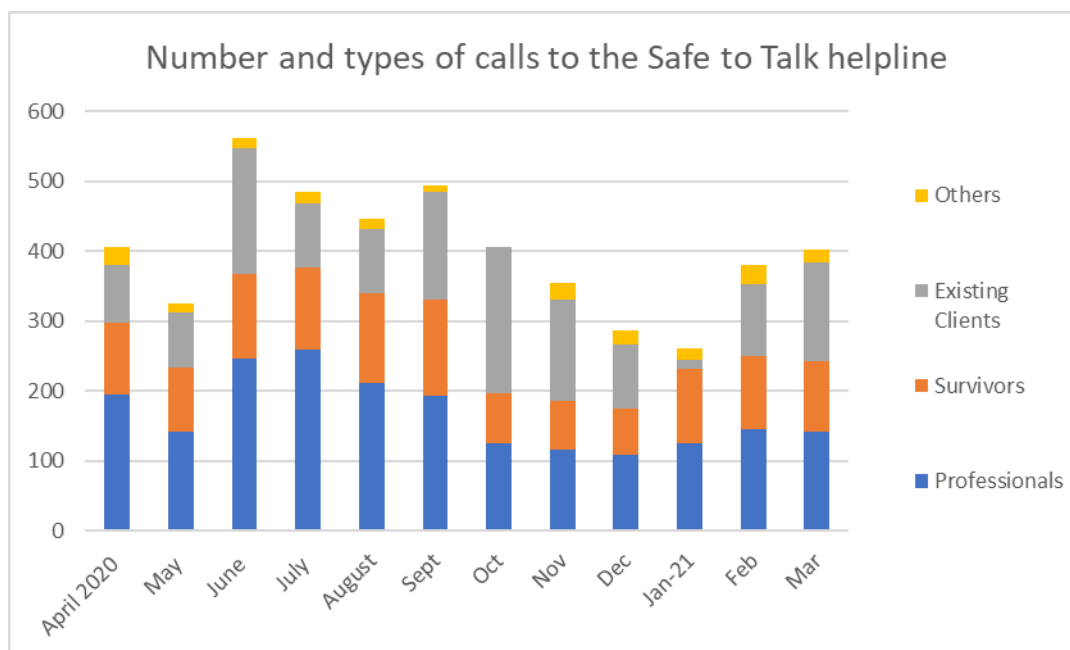
No

## **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. The number of victims accessing help has been lower during the 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 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:

Type of Safe Accommodation	Capacity	Description
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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