

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th July, 2022

Place

Council Chamber - Council House

Public business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
 - (a) To agree the minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 12th April 2022
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider whether to exclude the press and public for the item of private business for the reasons shown in the report.
5. **Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021-22** (Pages 11 - 48)

Report of the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)
6. **Government Green Paper Consultation: 'SEND and AP Review: Right support, right place, right time'** (Pages 49 - 64)

Report of the Chief Partnerships Officer/Director of Education and Skills
7. **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Procurement** (Pages 65 - 80)

Report of the Director of Transportation and Highways
8. **Housing Assistance Policy - Disabled Facilities Grant** (Pages 81 - 112)

Report of the Director of Adult Services and Housing
9. **Approval of Accommodation-based support Grant 2022-2024: Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021** (Pages 113 - 120)

Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

10. **Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)** (Pages 121 - 128)
Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
11. **Land Disposal at Parkside, Paradise Street** (Pages 129 - 138)
Report of the Director of Property Services and Development
12. **Outstanding Issues**
There are no outstanding issues
13. **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

14. **Land Disposal at Parkside, Paradise Street** (Pages 139 - 148)
Report of the Director of Property Services and Development
(Listing Officer: A Walimia, Email: azim.walimia@coventry.gov.uk)
15. **Any other items of private business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

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

Monday, 4 July 2022

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

Membership

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Brown, K Caan, G Duggins (Chair), P Hetherton, 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, G Lloyd and S Nazir

By invitation:

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

Public Access

Any member of the public who would like to attend the meeting in person is encouraged to contact the officer below in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meeting can be found here: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

**Michelle Salmon, Governance Services,
Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk**

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Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 April 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members:

Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Member:

Councillor G Ridley

Other Non-Voting
Members:

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor J Innes
Councillor R Singh

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive

M Reeves (Chief Executive)

Business, Investment
and Culture

D Nuttall

Finance

P Jennings

Law and Governance

J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), V Castree,
M Salmon

Streetscene and
Regulatory Services

C Hickin, L Nagle

Others Present:

Police Inspector S Finney, West Midlands Police

Apologies:

Councillor J Clifford
Councillor B Gittins
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor P Male
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor Thomas

Public Business

98. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

99. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 15th March 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

100. Report of the Scrutiny Autism Task and Finish Group

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance on the work and outcomes of the Scrutiny Autism Task and Finish Group and sought consideration of their recommendations. An Appendix to the report provided the Report back of the Autism Task and Finish Group to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) at their meeting on 23rd March 2022.

At the start of the Municipal Year 2021/22, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) agreed to set up a task and finish group to look at support for autistic children and young people. This work was prompted by concerns raised regarding the wait times for assessments and diagnosis. The Task and Finish group wanted to understand the reason for the waits and what support was available during the waiting time without a diagnosis, particularly for Children and Young People.

At their meeting on 11 March 2020 the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) considered an item on the Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Pathway and Support to Children and Young People in Coventry (their minute 33/20 referred). The Chair identified that more in-depth consideration needed to be made of some of the issues and invited Members to join a Task and Finish Group. Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) were invited to join the Group due to the cross over in the remit of the two Boards regarding autism.

The report sought Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations identified by the Task and Finish Group to address issues around the assessment process and support for children and young people who were referred for an autism assessment, and their families, as well as transition into adult service, inclusion and other aspects of autism and neurodiversity.

The Cabinet thanked the officers and Members who had been involved in the work of the Task and Finish Group, in particular they recognised the work undertaken by the Chairs of the Scrutiny Boards, and asked that Cabinet's thanks to all concerned be placed on record.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agrees the following recommendations of the Autism Task and Finish Group:

- 1) That the Council work with partners to identify sustainable, long-term funding as there is currently only funding available for the first year of the All-Age Autism Strategy delivery plan.**
- 2) Ensure tackling health inequalities for autistic people is prioritised for delivery as part of the All-Age Autism Strategy implementation plan to improve physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing.**
- 3) Work with partners to accelerate and build on existing workstreams, to reduce the unacceptably long waiting times for diagnostic assessment.**
- 4) The Council and health partners work with schools, colleges and universities to ensure that all educational professionals (teachers, senior leaders, early career teachers, support staff) have a good understanding of the needs which may present for autistic and neurodiverse pupils and provide appropriate Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to ensure high quality provision at both whole class and individual intervention level.**
- 5) The Council strengthen data sharing, alongside all relevant partners, between organisations to enable evidence gathered through assessments to be used by other professionals as part of the autism assessment process, to assist and expedite diagnosis with the necessary data protection safeguards put in place.**
- 6) Support the Education and Childrens' Service Scrutiny Board undertaking a task and finish group during the 2022/23 municipal year to look at the in-depth challenges facing schools in providing support to children, young people and their families who are on the autism assessment pathway.**
- 7) Health partners review the referral process for diagnosis to simplify it and enable electronic submission of referral forms.**
- 8) Health partners to include schools in correspondence about appointments where schools were involved in the referral process. This will enable schools to support pupils and families through the diagnostic process.**
- 9) The Council work with partners to ensure information on referral and support pathways is accessible to parents, carers, young people and professionals.**
- 10) Community support services should be offered in the wider context of neurodiversity rather than limited to those with an autism diagnosis. Services should be titled and described to reflect that not all services require a diagnosis to access them.**

- 11) **The Council, with partners develop a holistic approach to support for families post diagnosis which includes emotional as well as clinical support and access to training.**
- 12) **To continue the Council's participation in the Employ Autism scheme, or the development of an inhouse equivalent and ensure there is appropriate resource for it to be delivered.**
- 13) **For the Council to lead by example and become an inclusive employer including for autism and neurodiversity.**
- 14) **Support SCRUCO including a future item on skills resilience pathways into employment for those with disabilities, including neurodiversity.**
- 15) **The Council works towards Coventry becoming a city which celebrates, supports and accepts autism and neurodiversity. This would include.**
 - a. **the introduction of more inclusive spaces and autism friendly environments throughout the City including in the City Centre, Parks and Open Spaces**
 - b. **safe spaces/low sensory stimulus areas to enable autistic people to decompression throughout the City.**
 - c. **public realm designs should include inclusive spaces including Autism friendly environments.**
- 16) **The Council resource and pursue digital opportunities including the development and rollout of a Neurodiversity Support App for Coventry.**
- 17) **Support Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board receiving an update in 6 months-time on progress towards the recommendations, particularly the impact of measures to reduce waiting times for diagnostic assessments with regular briefings to the Chair in-between.**

101. Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and Surrounding Areas

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services that sought approval to renew the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the St. Michael's Ward and surrounding areas. Appendices to the report provided: The Draft Public Space Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas; a map outlining the area covered by the PSPO; Partner Impact Statements; and St Michael's Ward Crime Statistics.

In 2019 a Public Spaces Protection Order was created for St Michael's Ward and surrounding areas. The Order was granted following public consultation that was overwhelmingly in favour of the Order being granted. The matter was also considered at the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (their minute 68/19 referred).

The original reason for the order being sought was in response to the serious instances of public place violence witnessed in the City and criminal exploitation of young people.

In the three years of the Order's operation there had been 49 breach notices issued. Breach notices allowed further assessment to decide upon the most appropriate sanction, this may be a formal warning, a referral to other agencies regarding drug or alcohol use or it may result in a fixed penalty notice or a referral to court. Most individuals were only encountered once and as such fixed penalty notices or referrals to court were not often issued.

The Police were looking to create a system of recording each interaction with the public under this power to better assess the number of interactions as well as breaches. All encounters would be recorded on body worn cameras and as such if people had a complaint regarding the use of the powers, the recordings could be assessed.

Recently there has been a downwards trend in the seriousness of incidents and the Local Authority could point to some excellent partnership work to address matters but could not discount that some reduction was as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such it was still felt that there was justification for the renewal of the Order.

The Cabinet noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had included an item on Public Space Protection Orders in place across the City in their 2022/23 Work Programme, to review data and evaluate the Orders effectiveness.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agrees to renew the Public Spaces Protection Order for the St Michael's Ward of the City and the surrounding areas.

102. **Approval of Sport England Commonwealth Active Communities Funding Awarded to Coventry City Council**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Business, Investment and Culture that sought retrospective approval for acceptance of a grant of up to £624,624.00 from Sport England as part of the Commonwealth Active Communities Fund Programme.

Coventry City Council had successfully bid to Sport England for a grant of up to £624,624.00 as part of the Commonwealth Active Communities Fund programme. The Commonwealth Active Communities Fund was awarded to four West Midlands areas in total – Coventry, Solihull, Birmingham, and the Black Country – to support the creation of a wide range of opportunities to help people get active in their local spaces as part of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games legacy.

The focus of the funding for Coventry would geographically be on the whole of the city. However, the project would focus primarily on the individuals and groups that were suffering from social isolation – a particularly acute issue in the city heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic and successive lockdowns. Through the development of the successful Active Communities funding application, the aim of the project had been focused to reach those who were most inactive and those least engaged, to create opportunities and fundamental behaviour changes that would increase activity, reduce isolation and address social and health inequalities.

'Coventry Moves' was the name of the funded project. A project oversight group had been established, on behalf of Coventry City Council in partnership with Coventry Sport & Physical Activity Strategic Board, to support delivery of the project.

The funding secured would focus on three key themed areas and would further support delivery of the International Children's Games to be hosted in Coventry in August 2022. The three areas focused on: young people's participation taking place around local parks; closing a number of streets in local communities to engage with people around sport and physical activity; and an adult social care project that would develop pilot work around 'Commonwealth care homes' that aimed to increase physical activity amongst older residents.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet retrospectively approves the acceptance of the Commonwealth Active Communities funding in the sum of £624,624.00 awarded to Coventry by Sport England.

103. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

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

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.00 pm)



Cabinet
Audit and Procurement Committee

12th July 2022
25th July 2022

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Chief Operating Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Title:
Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2021/22 and reviews treasury management activity and 2021/22 Prudential Indicators reported under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

The 2021/22 financial year has once again been affected by a range of organisational and financial impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts were somewhat reduced compared with the previous year and were subsiding markedly by the year end. By any usual measure however, the impact of Covid still features significantly in this outturn report.

The Council has managed its response to the pandemic such that it has been able to stay within the resource allocation provided by Government. For the most part this reflects an approach to setting the 2021/22 Budget (in February 2021) when the Council budgeted for continued Covid impacts on its costs and income.

The overall financial position includes the following headline items:

- A **balanced** revenue position.
- Capital Programme expenditure of **£189.5m**
- An increase in the level of available Council revenue reserves from £123m to **£140m** including Covid funding and the net underspend contribution.

Further detail includes:

- A net underspend of £4.7m within central budgets including additional unbudgeted dividends and a surplus from the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool.
- A revenue underspend of £2.5m within Housing and Homelessness due in large part to the number of households living in temporary accommodation being lower than anticipated.
- An overspend of £4.3m within Streetscene and Regulatory Services including net costs of £2.2m resulting from the ongoing refuse drivers dispute.

- An overspend of £2.4m within Children’s Services reflecting high numbers of children and high placement costs.
- Covid related costs within services estimated at £8.9m which have been funded from Government Covid resources and netted out from the outturn positions quoted.
- A contribution of £1.2m to strengthen the Council’s reserve which protects against volatility within its commercial interests.

The underlying revenue position has improved by £2.5m since Quarter 3 when an overspend of £2.5m was forecast. In particular the improved position relates to improvements within Contingency and Central budgets and Housing and Transformation which are set out in the report. The position is an indication of the prudent management of the Council’s financial position through the Covid crisis although Covid has become far less prominent in recent months as a fundamental threat to the Council’s financial position. The cost of living crisis and growing levels of inflation have not had any clear impact on this financial outturn, reported up to 31st March 2022 but these give strong cause to be cautious about the financial position of local government in the short-term. It is likely that these factors will present a stern test to the robust financial position that the Council has maintained in terms of its ability to continue to manage within its budgeted position and the extent to which it is able to fund any emergency policy responses.

As indicated above the financial impact of Covid on the budgeted Outturn position has been estimated at £8.9m. This compares with a figure of £31m in 2020/21. As previously this is not a definitive figure because in many cases the Covid impact is difficult to disentangle from other trends. Government funding provided through 2021/22 funded all of this cost although this doesn’t take account of the loss in Business Rates and Council Tax income and other losses budgeted for by the Council when it set its budget in February 2021.

The Council will carry forward c£2.4m of general Covid grant provided by Government within 2021/22. If no further significant Covid outbreaks occur, the tactical approach will be for any further budgetary variations to be treated as ‘business as usual’ and managed within the Council’s bottom line.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to approve:

1. The final balanced revenue outturn position.
2. The final capital expenditure and resourcing position (section 2.3 and Appendix 2), incorporating expenditure of £189.5m against a final budget of £223.9m; £33.9m expenditure rescheduled into 2022/23 and a net underspend £0.5m.
3. The outturn Prudential Indicators position in section 2.4.4 and Appendix 3.

Audit and Procurement Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the contents of the report and determine whether there are any issues which it wants to refer to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1	Detailed breakdown of Directorate Revenue Variations
Appendix 2	Capital Programme Changes and Analysis of Rescheduling
Appendix 3	Prudential Indicators

Other useful 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?

Yes - Audit and Procurement Committee 25th July 2022

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 This report sets out the Council’s revenue and capital outturn position for 2021/22 and performance against its Prudential Indicators for the year. The City Council set a revenue budget for the year of £243.8m and has a revised Capital Programme of £189.5m.
- 1.2 The reported figures show the Council's financial position in relation to management accounts used to monitor performance through the year. The Audit and Procurement Committee will consider separately the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Revenue Outturn

2.1.1 Table 1 below summarises the outturn position, which is balanced after funding the impact of Covid on individual services from Government grant available to the Council.

Table 1 Summary Outturn Position

	Revised Budget	Actual Spend	Total Over/ (Under) Spend	Funding For Covid Related Variance	Net Over/ (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	82.3	82.4	0.1	(0.1)	0.0
Business, Investment & Culture	5.5	7.4	1.9	(0.8)	1.1
Children and Young People	76.6	81.4	4.8	(2.4)	2.4
Contingency & Central	3.7	(1.1)	(4.7)	0.0	(4.7)
Directorate Management	1.3	1.2	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)
Education and Inclusion	16.1	16.6	0.4	(0.7)	(0.3)
Finance	5.0	5.8	0.8	(0.2)	0.6
Housing & Transformation	13.3	11.1	(2.3)	(0.2)	(2.5)
Human Resources	1.4	1.5	0.1	(0.1)	0.0
Legal & Governance	4.2	5.4	1.2	(0.6)	0.6
Project Management & Property	(4.7)	(5.5)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(1.5)
Public Health	2.4	1.7	(0.7)	0.0	(0.7)
Streetscene & Regulatory	29.8	36.5	6.8	(2.3)	4.4
Transportation & Highways	7.0	8.4	1.4	(0.8)	0.6

Total	243.8	252.8	8.9	(8.9)	0.0
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The quarter 3 position reflected an overspend of £2.5m with the key positive variations between quarter 3 and Outturn occurring within Contingency and Central Budgets (£1.7m) and Housing and Transformation (£0.7m). The reasons for these variations are included in the explanations of overall budgetary variations below.

2.1.2 Explanation of Variations

Contingency and Central (£4.7m Underspend)

Favourable budgetary variations have occurred including additional dividends from the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company (£2m), a surplus from the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool (£1.8m), unspent inflation contingency budget (£1.3m), lower than anticipated pension costs (£1.2m), additional income and savings derived from new commercialisation activities (£0.9m) and additional interest from loan arrangements within the Asset Management Revenue Account (£0.9m). This has enabled funding of early retirement pension strain and redundancy costs incurred in year (£2.3) rather than these being funded from reserves plus the final £1.2m reserve contribution within the overall outturn position.

Council Services (£4.7m Overspend)

The headline overspend of £10.5m within Children and Young People's Services is caused by: an increased number of children's placements; an increased reliance on high-cost external residential placements; and the cost of agency staffing to manage increased caseloads and growing vacancies. This has been accentuated by unit costs of the external placement market rising by 13% since the last financial year. During 2021/22, £5.7m of specific Covid funding has been used to reduce the total overspend from £10.5m to £4.8m, of which a further £2.4m is judged to be the result of Covid and eligible to be funded from Covid emergency funding. This leaves a net overspend of £2.4m. It should be noted that the additional funding for Children's Services within the 2022/23 Budget proposals reflect the view that much of the Covid impact is now expected to continue into the medium term.

The overall Streetscene and Regulatory Services overspend was £6.8m, broadly in line with the forecast position at quarter 3. The majority of this (£4m) was incurred across Waste and Fleet Services, Streetpride and Parks (£1.0m), Planning (£0.4m), Streetscene and Greenspace (£0.7m) and Environmental Services (£0.2m).

The key variations can be broken down as follows. Within Waste and Fleet, the HGV driver industrial dispute resulted in a net pressure of c£2.2m reflecting the additional collection services and waste drop sites for domestic refuse (£1.8m), and lost contract income on commercial waste collection (£0.4m), net of savings from salaries, fuel and waste disposal costs. Other Streetscene variations include domestic refuse pressure of £1m due to the acceleration of 2 additional rounds originally planned for April 2022 (£0.35m) and temporary cover arrangements required to cover higher than budgeted sickness, isolation, and accrued leave (£0.65m). A range of other income pressures were experienced across Bereavement Services, Planning, the War Memorial Park car park and Emergency Services.

The largest part of the Council-wide variations reported are as a direct result of the COVID-19 impacts across the City Council totalling £8.9m. It must be stressed that the differentiation between Covid and non-Covid costs is in some circumstances subjective but for comparison, covid financial impacts accounted for a budget variation of c£31m in 2020/21.

In addition to the Children’s and Streetscene variations above, other Covid related impacts include: provision for expected commercial property rent losses (£0.6m); reduced income from the Wave leisure facility (£0.5m) and Godiva festival (£0.2m); and additional staffing across several services reflecting staffing cover for additional Covid workload including within Legal Services (£0.5m).

Other variations which are separate from those attributable to include an overspend in Business Investment and Culture of £0.7m. This pressure is due primarily to the corporate decision to acquire the former IKEA site and redevelop into a national collections centre resulting in some unbudgeted Business Rates costs. There is also a £2.3m Housing and Transformation underspend driven mainly by lower than expected costs of £1.9m due to lower than anticipated numbers of household in temporary accommodation alongside further utilisation of grant resources.

Covid-Related Grants

The Government has announced a range of grant funding allocations to manage the financial impact of COVID-19 and deliver services to mitigate or address the effects of the pandemic. The key elements of this funding are included below. The top line below amounting to £11.3m has been made available to apply to mitigate the financial impacts described in Table 1. Most of the remaining grants have been applied as specific grant which nets off the relevant expenditure within service areas. Most of the funding not committed at this stage is available to the Council as non ring-fenced grant which can be applied to support the Council’s overall spending. This will continue to be kept under review through 2022/23 in particular in the light of continued Covid related impacts or any further Covid outbreaks.

Table 2: Covid Funding Allocations

	Grant Value	Sub-Total
	£000	£000
Funds Council Expenditure - Unallocated		
Emergency Funding	(11,314)	
Sales, Fees and Charges Income Loss	(1,002)	
		(12,316)
Funds Council Expenditure – Specific		
Covid Winter Grant Scheme/Local Support Grant/Household Support Fund	(5,437)	
Lateral Flow Test Funding	(3,072)	
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	(2,920)	

Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021	(1,338)	
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Support	(670)	
LA Practical Support Payment (Public Health)	(399)	
Welcome Back Fund (Support to High Streets)	(334)	
Business Support Grant New Burdens	(290)	
Community Vaccine Champions	(185)	
Emergency Accommodation Allocation	(130)	
		(14,775)
External Provider or Programme Spend		
Adult Social Care Infection Control and Protection Fund	(4,988)	
Workforce and Retention Fund	(2,989)	
Omicron Support Fund	(388)	
		(8,365)
Grants to Businesses and Individuals		
Restart Grants	(13,573)	
Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants	(1,878)	
Additional Restrictions Grant	(433)	
		(15,884)
Business Rates & Council Tax Collection Fund Contributions		
Retail Leisure and Hospitality Business Rates Reliefs	(19,679)	
Council Tax Hardship Fund Support Grant	(3,895)	
		(23,574)
Overall Support		(74,914)

2.2 Reserves

2.2.1 The Council's revenue reserve balance at the end of 2021/22 is £140m compared with £123m at the end of 2020/21. Resources set aside to support the Better Care Fund (delivered jointly with the Health sector) and the Council's Adult Social Care Financial Strategy have

increased by £15m although a large proportion of these can expect to be utilised over a relatively short time frame. Balances generated from capital receipts and capital grants to fund future capital projects have increased from £27m to £37m and reserve balances belonging to or earmarked to support schools have increased from £27m to £31m. The total reserve movement in 2021/22 is summarised in the table below.

Table 3 Summary of Reserve Movements in 2021/22

	1st April 2021	(Increase)/ Decrease	31st March 2022
	£000	£000	£000
<u>Council Revenue Reserves</u>			
General Fund Balance	(10,277)	0	(10,277)
Adult Social Care	(13,331)	(14,955)	(28,287)
Covid 19 Government Funding	(7,558)	(3,423)	(10,981)
Private Finance Initiatives	(10,994)	1,368	(9,626)
Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy	(9,323)	0	(9,323)
Corporate Priorities (2020/21 Outturn Underspend)	(9,225)	527	(8,698)
Potential Loss of Business Rates Income	(7,735)	0	(7,735)
Innovation and Development Fund	(5,549)	50	(5,499)
Reset and Recovery	(5,467)	0	(5,467)
Air Quality Early Measures	(4,517)	284	(4,232)
City of Culture Commonwealth Games Readiness	(4,964)	1,060	(3,904)
Management of Capital	(4,028)	618	(3,410)
Commercial Developments	(3,750)	402	(3,348)
Public Health	(1,013)	(1,456)	(2,469)
Friargate Lifecycle	(1,378)	(217)	(1,594)
Insurance Fund	(2,049)	552	(1,497)
Corporate Property Management	(1,394)	25	(1,369)
Children's Social Care Family Valued Programme	(639)	(590)	(1,229)
Adult Education Income	(1,005)	(82)	(1,086)
Other Directorate	(10,790)	(3,827)	(14,617)
Other Corporate	(7,524)	1,681	(5,843)
Total Council Revenue Reserves	(122,511)	(17,982)	(140,493)
Extra-Ordinary Item - Covid Business Rates Relief	(48,302)	29,667	(18,635)
<u>Council Capital Reserves</u>			
		0	
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	(24,736)	(6,451)	(31,187)
Capital Grant Unapplied Account	(1,828)	(3,641)	(5,469)
Total Council Capital Reserves	(26,564)	(10,092)	(36,656)

<u>School Reserves</u>			
Schools (specific to individual schools)	(22,315)	(2,750)	(25,065)
Schools (related to expenditure retained centrally)	(4,806)	(1,121)	(5,927)
Total Schools Reserves	(27,121)	(3,870)	(30,991)
Total Reserves	(224,498)	(2,278)	(226,775)

2.2.2 It should be noted that the Council's reserve balances include an extra-ordinary balance of £19m at the end of 2021/22 although this amount is much-reduced on the position 12 months ago. Government Covid Business Rates reliefs announced previously have had the effect of reducing the amount of Business Rates payable in-year causing a deficit within the Business Rates Collection Fund. Accounting rules mean that the corresponding grant (from Government) cannot be applied to the Collection Fund until 2022/23 and must be carried forward within General Fund reserves. This treatment will be common to all billing authorities across England. To ensure like for like comparisons this balance is treated as an extra-ordinary item here.

2.2.3 The key increases in the Council's revenue reserves stem from the £9m in relation to grant funding which will sustain the medium term Adult Social Care financial model and £3m in relation to Covid resources which will be used to manage the legacy impacts of the pandemic, increasing the balance to £11m.

2.2.4 In addition to these, the revenue reserve balances include £14m set aside as Funding For The Future approved within a previous Budget Report, £10m set aside as part of the Council's three long-term Private Finance Initiative models, £9m set aside to fund costs arising from early retirement and redundancy decisions, £8m to provide protection against the potential future loss of Business Rates income and £12m of revenue to support future capital projects.

2.2.5 In line with recent practice, analysis of these balances will be undertaken as part of a wider exercise examining the Council's financial position in 2022/23 and going forward.

2.3 Capital Outturn

2.3.1 The capital outturn position for 2021/22 is shown in summary below and in greater detail in Appendix 2:

Table 4: Capital Outturn Summary

Final Budget £m	Final Spend £m	Net Rescheduling Now Reported £m	Under- spends £m	Total Variance £m
223.3	189.5	(33.9)	(0.5)	(34.4)

The quarter 3 monitoring report to Cabinet on 15th February 2022 approved a revised capital budget of £223.9m for 2021/22. Since then there has been a net programme increase of c£0.5m giving a final budget for the year of £223.9m. Since February, a total of £33.9m net rescheduled spending has arisen within the capital programme. A scheme by scheme analysis is included in Appendix 2 and this is summarised in the table below.

Table 5: Summary of Rescheduling

Project	(Rescheduling) /Accelerated Spend £m	Explanations
Public Realm – City of Culture	(0.6)	Delays in finalising the designs for Coventry Cross and Palmer Lane now mean that both schemes will be delivered in next financial year.
Schools	(3.3)	This rescheduling has been caused by an architect going in to administration and associated design works clarifications which caused a delay on construction works. The works are continuing and spend will appear this financial year. Condition programme £0.6m additional funding award match with additional spend
Public Building Retrofit	(1.6)	The slippage relates to significant supply chain issues for example:- battery storage. Approval has been granted by the grant body to extend the programme until June 22
Battery Plant and Equipment Loan	(0.7)	This will be used for the final payments on due:- including final equipment supply contract and remaining elements of legal / professional advice required to complete project closure which will take place during 22/23.
Friargate	(5.5)	Negotiations for the hotel deal have been slow has pushed the spend into 22/23
Transportation S106 Programme	(1.0)	Revised programme timescales for specific schemes that will be part of the wider funding package for delivering the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.
Binley Road Cycle Scheme	(1.0)	A delay in carrying out public consultation than initially planned has led to a slight delayed start on site. However, the programme is now moving at pace with one section of the cycleway near completion.
Clean Bus Technology Fund	(0.7)	Funding carried forward into next year to allow more bus providers to consider the move towards electrification.
Air Quality	(1.7)	A delay in Full Business Case sign off has delayed the programme in design and carrying out public consultation. This has led to the Spon End and Junction 7 schemes commencing on site in January 2022, which is significantly later than initially programmed during budget setting 2021.
Palmer Lane De-culvertering	(0.7)	Delays in negotiating with the owner of a key piece of land for the delivery of the scheme has impacted on the final design of the scheme, causing the tenders to slip. Tenders are now due back early 2022-23.
Integrated Transport Block (ITB)	(0.9)	Rescheduling is due to Old Church Road safety schemes now completing in 2022-23, finalising City Centre Traffic strategy to be implemented and the delivery of the remaining Key Road Network programme.

Housing Infrastructure Fund – Eastern Green	(2.8)	Further delays on the starting of the works have resulted in a slippage on forecast spend. This is predominately due to the fact that the Fixed Price has not been agreed which would allow us to proceed to Part 2 of the works contract. This should now be completed mid May 2022
Whitley Depot Redevelopment	(0.4)	Programme delay to the demolition element of the works due to issues with City Fibre relocation works and staff decant to new building.
Duplex Fund (Loan)	(1.1)	The Duplex Fund saw lower than forecast take up, largely due to COVID-19 pandemic. Uptake for the scheme has greatly increased in the last few months with a number of applications being processed, the loan funding will be drawdown done by CWRT in due course.
Coventry Station Masterplan	(1.5)	The scheme is now operational and the small element of retention will be paid in 22/23
Whitley South Infrastructure	1.7	The scheme is now operational and the small element of retention has been accounted for in 21/22
Lenton Lane Cemetery	(0.3)	Delays to works completed during the winter period due to bad weather, which had a negative impact on ground conditions i.e. it was so wet, the site was a quagmire, so works could not be progressed.
Getting Building Fund – 3 rd Party Projects	(1.4)	The Commonwealth Economic Legacy Capital project at CBS Arena has been subject to delay predominantly caused by supply chain issues with materials arriving to site 6-8 weeks later than anticipated. The impact of Covid-19 also slowed progress on site in Q4 21/22 due to high absence within the workforce. The completion of works has been rescheduled from March 2022 to June 2022.
Acquisition Costs Temporary Accommodation (Homeless)	(0.4)	This relative small level of funding remaining out of the wider £6m scheme will be utilised to finish of the refurbishment of the temporary properties purchased
Disabled facility Grants	(0.4)	Slower take up of grants than anticipated
Electric Vehicle First	(0.4)	The lead-times, due to manufacturer supply chain issues, have meant we have not been able to get vehicles here earlier than we would have liked. As most vehicles come from over seas, the delays have been unprecedented.
Coombe Loan	(1.0)	No loan take up
City of Culture	(4.6)	The Charterhouse Scheme was previously brought to a halt due to major cost overruns, which significantly impacted on scheduled programme dates, with Practical Completion expected to be achieved in October / November 2022. The Albany Theatre design phase has

		been completed and the construction contract has been awarded. The main works will start on site in July.
MRF (Loan)	(1.8)	The loan drawdowns are based on the expected payments to be made to contractors for the coming month based on the programme provided as part of the contract award. Payments would only be made , following receipt of the payment certificates from the Owner's Engineer to confirm that certain milestones have been achieved which are linked to the programme. There has been work to date completed but not certified due to the agreed evidence to support achievement of the milestone not being provided in time. This has resulted in slippage to the original payment profile. This will likely be rectified in 2022/23. There has also been some slippage due to changes to the programme based on the availability of key materials. Ongoing conversations are taking place with both contractors to understand the impact this may have on the overall timeline.
Other	(1.8)	Smaller schemes
TOTAL	(33.9)	

Table 6: Over and Underspends in the Capital Programme

Project	Over/ (Under)spend	Explanations
Kickstart Office	(0.2)	Friargate 1 – scheme complete small underspend
Various	(0.3)	Various scheme two main ones includes £0.1m small underspend with the vehicle programme, £0.1m public realm works fo the wave underbudget all other items are <£50k
Total	(0.5)	

2.3.2 The 2021/22 programme continued to maintain a significant investment in the city's transport and public infrastructure, including schemes aligned to city readiness for the City of Culture year, schemes demonstrating an increasing engagement with environmental initiatives and a range of other projects showing the Council's desire to make Coventry an attractive place to live, work and do business:

- £30m has been spent on transport and highways infrastructure across a range of both major and minor schemes. These included works to deliver the A46 Stoneleigh Junction due for completion 2022-23, further research and development investment in Very Light Rail, the delivery of Swanswell Viaduct phase 2 and schemes to improve and maintain the city's highways via the highways investment and Integrated Transport Block programmes.

- A further £5.9m has been invested in UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC) in 2021/22 with the majority of the £18m loan from the WMCA having been drawn down in the year alongside the grant from Innovate UK which is funding the majority of the project. This new research facility on the outskirts of Coventry will play a key national role in the emerging battery industry and is now operational.
- Further programme spend of £18.7m has been made in 2021/22 on the Coventry Station Masterplan Plan which is fundamentally remodelling Coventry Rail Station. The new facilities became operational at the beginning of the year.
- Public Realm works amounting to nearly £9.5m have been undertaken across the city centre which has been substantially remodelled to coincide with the City of Culture celebrations.
- There have been works totalling £30.4m across the schools property estate as part of the One Coventry Strategic Plan. There is an increasing focus now on providing additional capacity in secondary schools across the city to meet the growing numbers amongst the secondary intake.
- City of Culture capital programme spend of £8.5m has occurred in the year updating a range of Coventry's cultural capital assets, building a legacy for the city following the City of Culture year. Works will still continue on two major schemes Charterhouse and the Albany Theatre into 2022/23 will see the programme come to an end.
- Collection Centre the costs for the acquisition of the building incurred in 2021/22 moved the project forward to its next phase
- External grants have been utilised to allow nearly £5m across a range of greener travel options including the cycle schemes, clean bus and electric vehicle technology and charging points.
- £8m of grant funding for the investment in Climate Change related project has been invested in 21/22 covering activities around solar, green home grant and decarbonisation project, the investment continues into 2022/23.
- Material Recycling Facility investment this year of £5.3m, the majority of which is a loan facility to Shebourne Recycling Limited towards the Council's contribution to the creation of the facility
- A range of smaller scale but not insignificant schemes have advanced including the redevelopment of Whitley Depot which is now open, the purchase of more homes to provide homelessness provision, improved facilities at Lenton's Lane Cemetery and continued investment in Disabled Facilities Grants.

2.3.3 The funding in respect of this capital expenditure of £189.9m is summarised in Table 7 below
The Programme has been resourced c80% from capital grants.

	Funding the Programme £m	Available Resources £m	Resources Carried Forward £m
Prudential Borrowing	27.8	27.8	0
Grants and Other Contributions	151.6	169.3	(17.7)
Revenue Contributions	6.1	6.1	0
Capital Receipts	3.0	26.0	(23.0)
Capital of Management Reserve	0.7	4.1	(3.4)
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	0.3	0.3	0
Total Resourcing	189.5	242.6	(44.1)

2.4 Treasury Management Activity

2.4.1 The continuing economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, together with the war in Ukraine, higher inflation, and higher interest rates were major issues over the period. Base Interest Rate was 0.10% at the beginning of the period but increased to 0.75% by the end of the period. The current market forecasts predict the base rate will continue to rise to 2.5% to counteract the effects of inflation

Long Term (Capital) Borrowing

The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) is the main source of loan finance for funding local authority capital investment. In August 2021 HM Treasury significantly revised guidance for the PWLB lending facility with more details and 12 examples of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB loans. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Under the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 approved by Cabinet on 23 February 2021 it was agreed the Council will not buy investment assets primarily for yield.

Interest rates for local authority borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for 2021/22 have varied within the following ranges:

Table 8: PWLB Interest Rates

PWLB Loan Duration (standard rates)	Minimum in 2021/22	Maximum in 2021/22	Average in 2021/22
5 year	1.25%	2.57%	1.65%
20 year	1.89%	2.96%	2.29%
50 year	1.45%	2.69%	2.05%

With short-term interest rates remaining much lower than long-term rates, it has been more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources or to use short-term borrowing instead. By doing so, the Council has reduced net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduced overall treasury risk. The Council has not needed to undertake any short-term borrowing in 2021/22.

2.4.2 At outturn, the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which indicates the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, has increased by £10.1m:-

Table 9: 2021/22 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

	£m
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 st April 2021	503.2
Borrowing required to finance 2021/22 Capital Programme	27.8
PFI & Finance Leases liabilities	(2.9)
Donated Assets	0.0
Provision to Repay Debt (Minimum Revenue Provision)	(13.1)
Provision to Repay Debt (Capital Receipts Set Aside)	0.0
Repayment of Transferred Debt	(1.7)
Reduction of Provision and other restatements	0.0
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 st April 2022	513.3

Within 2021/22, the movements in long-term borrowing and other liabilities were:-

Table 10: Long Term Liabilities (debt outstanding)

Source of Borrowing	Balance at 31st March 2021 £m	Repaid in Year £m	Raised in Year £m	Balance at 31st March 2022 £m
PWLB	190.4	0	0	190.4
LOBO's	38.0	0	0	38.0
Stock Issue	12.0	0	0	12.0
West Midlands Combined Authority	18.0	0	0.0	18.0
Other	0.4	0	0	0.4
sub total ~ long term borrowing	258.8	0	0.0	258.8
Other Local Authority Debt	10.1	(1.7)	0	8.4
PFI & Finance Leasing Liabilities	62.8	(2.9)	0	59.9
Total	331.7	(4.6)	0.0	327.1

This long term borrowing is repayable over the following periods:-

Table 11: Long Term Borrowing Maturity Profile (excluding PFI & transferred debt)

Period	Long Term Borrowing

	£m
Under 12 Months	15.9
1 – 2 years	7.2
2 – 5 years	44.5
5 – 10 years	7.5
Over 10 years	183.7
Total	258.8

In line with CIPFA Treasury Management Code requirements, Lenders Option, Borrowers Option Loans (LOBOs) with banks are included in the maturity profile based on the earliest date on which the lender can require repayment. The Council has £38m of such loans, £10m of which the lender can effectively require to be paid at annual intervals, and £28m at 5 yearly intervals.

Short-Term Borrowing and Investments

2.4.3 The Treasury Management Team acts on a daily basis to manage the City Council's day to day cash-flow, by borrowing or investing for short periods. By holding short term investments, such as money in call accounts, authorities help ensure that they have an adequate source of liquid funds. All previous short-term borrowings (£54.0m) were fully repaid by the end of quarter 1 2021/22. During the year the Council held significant short-term investments, as set out in Table 12. The average short-term investment rate in 2021/22 was 0.53%.

Table 12: In House Investments at 31st March 2022

	At 30 th June 2021 £m	At 30 th Sept 2021 £m	At 31 st Dec 2021 £m	At 31 st Mar 2022 £m
Banks and Building Societies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local Authorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Money Market Funds	57.5	39.1	21.2	18.3
Corporate Bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
HM Treasury	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0
Total	57.5	39.1	21.2	37.3

Pooled Investments

In addition to the above in-house investments, a mix of Collective Investment Schemes or “pooled funds” is used, where investment is in the form of sterling fund units and not specific individual investments with financial institutions or organisations. These funds are highly liquid, as cash can be withdrawn within two to four days, and short average duration of the intrinsic investments. These investments include Certificates of Deposits, Commercial Paper, Corporate Bonds, Floating Rate Notes, Call Account Deposits, Property and Equities. However, they are designed to be held for longer durations allowing any short-term fluctuations in return due to volatility to be smoothed out.

In order to manage credit risk these investments are spread across a number of funds as highlighted in the table below:

Table 13: External, Pooled Investments as at 31st March 2022

	Date Invested	Cost £m	Value £m	Annualised Return from Investment %
CCLA LAMIT Property Fund	Nov 2013	12.0	14.16	3.90%
M&G Optimal Income Fund	Aug 2018	1.5	1.45	2.14%
M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund	Aug 2018	3.0	2.88	2.75%
M&G UK Income Distribution Fund	Aug 2018	3.0	2.89	4.35%
Investec Diversified Income Fund	Aug 2018	4.5	4.24	3.52%
Schroder Income Maximiser	Aug 2018	4.5	3.79	5.35%
Threadneedle Strategic Bond Fund	Aug 2018	1.5	1.51	2.29%
Total		30.0	30.92	4.01%

Credit risk remains central to local authority investment management and the Council's risk is managed in line with the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by Cabinet as part of the budget setting report at the meeting of 22 February 2022. Central to this is the assessment of credit quality based on a number of factors including credit ratings, credit default swaps (insurance cost) and sovereign support mechanisms. Limits are set to manage exposure to individual institutions or groups. Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisors, Arlingclose. Whilst the fears of systemic banking failures may have receded, the development of "bail-in" make it almost certain that unsecured and corporate investors would suffer losses in the event of a bank default.

As at 31st March 2022 the accumulated surplus on the capital value of these pooled funds is £0.92m (£1.1m deficit at the end of 2020/21). Five of the seven funds show a deficit in capital value. There remains an expectation that the full value will be recovered over the medium term - the period over which this type of investment should always be managed. Current accounting rules allow any 'losses' to be held on the Council's balance sheet and not counted as a revenue loss although this is due to change in April 2023. These investments will continue to be monitored closely.

Summary Prudential Indicators

2.4.4 The Local Government Act 2003 and associated CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes set the framework for the local government capital finance system. Authorities are able to borrow whatever sums they see fit to support their capital programmes, subject to them being able to afford the revenue costs. The framework requires that authorities set and monitor against a number of prudential and treasury indicators relating to capital, treasury management and revenue issues. These indicators are designed to ensure that borrowing entered into for capital purposes was affordable, sustainable and prudent. The purpose of the indicators is to support decision making and financial management, rather than illustrate comparative performance.

The indicators, together with explanatory notes and the relevant figures are included in **Appendix 3**. This highlights that the Council's activities are within the amounts set as Performance Indicators for 2021/22. Specific points to note on the ratios are:

- The Upper Limit on Variable Interest Rate Exposures (indicator 9) sets a maximum amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investments) that can be at variable interest rates. At 31st March 2022 the value is -£50.4m (minus) compared to +£96.2m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting the fact that the Council has more variable rate investments than variable rate borrowings at the current time.
- The Upper Limit on Fixed Interest Rate Exposures (indicator 9) sets a maximum amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investments) that can be at fixed interest rates. At 31st March 2022 the value is £239.5m compared to £481.1m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting that a significant proportion of the Council's investment balance is at a fixed interest rate.

Commercial Investment Strategy

2.4.5 The Council's Commercial Investment strategy is designed to ensure there are strong risk management arrangements and that the level of commercial investments held in the form of shares, commercial property and loans to external organisations, is proportionate to the size of the Council. In doing this the strategy includes specific limits for the total cumulative investment through loans and shares.

In order to manage risk, the Council has limits for investing in shares and service loans, with total limit of £103m in 2021/22.

As at the end of 2021/22, the council had cumulatively invested £94m in commercial assets with this rising to £111.3m when commitments to make potential payments of £17.3m are taken into account.

	As at 31 st March 2022				
	Limit	Actual	Committed	Total	Variation
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Shares	50.0	52.1	0.0	52.1	2.1
Loans	53.0	41.9	17.3	59.2	6.2
	103.0	94.0	17.3	111.3	8.3

The £111.3m exceeds the total limit set by the Council in February 2021 by £8.3m, due to the reclassification of the Council's £18m commitment to the UKBIC development scheme as an investment, with this reclassification having been determined after the limits had been set. In other respects the Council's commercial investments reflect the position anticipated when the Strategy was set in February 2021 (note that the corresponding limit for 2022/23 is £123m).

The Council's investment in commercial assets is proportionate:

- with commercial income totalling £23.4m in 2021/22 (£19.1m in 2020/21) equivalent to c3.4% of the Council's budgeted net service expenditure of £679.3m in 2021/22). The level

of commercial income reflects significant additional dividends from the Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company.

- With commercial assets valued at £453m (26% of the Councils total asset base of c£1,776m). This is not the amount invested by the Council, for example through past capital programmes, as it includes revaluations over time. In addition, many assets classified by the Council as commercial have significant service dimensions, including economic development aspects, thereby contributing more broadly to the provision of services.
- with a Capital Financing Requirement of £513m representing the Council's underlying need to borrow, at 29% of the Council's total asset base.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

There is no implementation timetable as this is a financial monitoring report.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

The final revenue outturn picture for 2021/22 is balanced after a year-end contribution of £1.2m to reserve balance designed to protect against future financial risk. This is a fundamentally favourable financial outturn position in particular following two years marked by significant disruption and additional costs incurred as a result of COVID-19.

Although the Covid-19 crisis continued to have a profound effect on society in 2021/22 the impact on the Council's finances was less than it was in 2020/21. The Council has been able to manage these additional costs within the resources provided by Government although this was due in part to the Council making local provision for some Covid costs and income-loss. Although uncertainty remains about the future course of the pandemic, current experience is not leading the Council to plan financially for any additional impact in 2022/23 beyond that incorporated in Budget Setting.

The Council has continued to have to assess the wider Covid impact on the city and the need to support its citizens in a robust and proportionate manner. Once again in 2021/22 Council has done this prudently, targeting support at the areas that most need it and taking care not to commit resources in an unsustainable way. This has enabled a balance of resources to be maintained to provide the Council with a sound financial footing as it enters 2022/23 which should help to enable the Council to respond in the event of further outbreaks or legacy impacts. Care has been taken to use maximum flexibility to best match specific Covid grants funding streams to costs incurred locally. This has minimised the amount that has been subject to claw-back and enabled more general grant resources to be held back as a flexible resource for future use.

The Council's strong financial planning approach has taken account of the risk of volatility across a range of budgets such as those in Children's Services where demand pressures have caused large financial overspends across recent years. In 2021/22, the level of demand and the increase in costs for this area have continued to exceed the Council's budgetary provision, a position which has been replicated for other councils across the country. Although for much of this there has been an assessment that Covid has been the cause of

expenditure incurred in the year (which has been offset by grant) it is likely that expenditure patterns are moving towards a new normal which the Council's ongoing budget will need to bear. Further funding has been provided by the Council as part of its 2022/23 budget although it remains to be seen whether this will be sufficient, especially given the inflationary pressures currently being experienced across the economy.

Several areas within corporate budgets including dividends, inflation contingencies, superannuation and the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool yield can be subject to volatility and were budgeted for on a prudent basis in 2021/22. The outturn position towards the favourable end of the range of reasonable expected outcomes has enabled the Council to absorb overspent budgets elsewhere within the bottom line and protect the Council's reserve balances set aside to fund one-off expenditure. Several of these favourable financial outturns have occurred in areas that have been subject to affirmative Council decisions in recent years.

The financial outturn cannot disguise the fact that the Council faces some significant financial challenges ahead and for the first time in several decades, there is likely to be a marked inflationary impact on expenditure in 2022/23. The Council will be able to draw upon a robust financial position which includes some provision for inflation but these are limited and will not be sufficient beyond the current year. The starting position for the Council's 2023/24 Budget is a gap of £17m although it is reasonable to expect that the impact of inflation will increase this.

Given that the Council has absorbed some significant Covid impacts both within the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund and via some budgeted impacts on income streams, the Council will manage those non ring-fenced Covid grant resources set aside in reserves to manage its wider Budget position going forward. In addition, it is clear when scanning the wider local government landscape that there is a degree of risk built into local government finances with some high profile financial failures often linked to ambitious local plans with scope to deliver financial returns. The Council is itself involved in a range of commercial ventures, company structures and external loan financing arrangements and is committed to ensuring that it maintains a high degree of self-awareness of its position. High standards of due diligence, good governance and monitoring arrangements and the maintenance of a broad mix of activities to guard against a concentration of risk are all vital factors to protect the Council's financial position. Further though, it is important for the Council to maintain contingency balances to protect against the risk of financial failure in one or more key areas.

The overall level of reserve balances is distorted by the Covid related Business Rates reserve although at a lower level than 2020/21. Other than this the increase in Council revenue reserves is largely the result of temporary funding to support social care expenditure that can be expected to absorb these resources over the short to medium term. With the exception of the Council's General Fund balance all reserves have been set aside to deliver specific projects or risks. Given the size of the Council's ambitions defined by its Capital Programme, its transformation programme and its financial involvements that extend beyond traditional local authority service provision it is entirely appropriate for the Council to support this in the form of balances to pump prime such areas and provide some financial risk mitigation. Nevertheless, the Council remains firmly within a 'mid-table' position with the most recent CIPFA Resilience Index in relation to the level of its reserve balances. Insofar as the Council has been able to place itself in a strong financial position it is worth emphasising that rather than being a matter of internal concern only, these circumstances provide the best basis for the Council to improve services for residents and invest in the city and its communities.

The level of expenditure across a broad number and type of capital schemes has once again demonstrated the Council's appetite to embark on ambitious and innovative projects and its success in attracting grant funding to do this. Although the Programme has, not surprisingly, dipped below the very high levels experienced over the previous two years is nevertheless still high in a historical context and has been 80% funded from external grant. The programme's coverage of projects affecting the city centre skyline, enhancing transport infrastructure, improving the profile of the city and providing support to local economic development continues to be a key part of the Council's approach as part of a continuing approach to make the city more attractive to investors and visitors, to increase the provision of jobs locally and improve the economic well-being of citizens.

Although the Council has undertaken some borrowing this has been undertaken on a short-term basis at this stage, taking advantage of relatively low interest rates available from other local authorities. In other areas the Council continues to undertake prudent treasury activity and pursue commercial activity that is ambitious but proportionate to the size of its asset base and overall budget.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications in relation to this report.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

This report provides an account of the overall financial performance of the Council compared with its original Budget. The Council also monitors the quality and level of service provided to the citizens of Coventry and the key objectives of the Council Plan.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The need to deliver a stable and balanced financial position in the short and medium term is a key corporate risk for the local authority and is reflected in the corporate risk register. Budgetary control and monitoring processes are paramount to managing this risk and this report is a key part of the process.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The revenue and capital outturn position reported here demonstrates that the Council continues to undertake sound overall financial management. This will continue to be very important in the light of the current inflationary risks and the continued uncertainty with regard to the level of funding available to local government.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No specific impact.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) Climate Change and the Environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

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

Appendix 1 Revenue Variations

Appendix 1 details directorate forecast variances.

Budget variations have been analysed between those that are subject to a centralised forecast and those that are managed at service level (termed “Budget Holder Forecasts” for the purposes of this report). The centralised budget areas relate to salary costs – the Council applies strict control over recruitment such that managers are not able to recruit to vacant posts without first going through rigorous processes. In this sense managers have to work within the existing establishment structure and salary budgets are controlled centrally rather than at this local level. The centralised forecast under-spend shown below is principally the effect of unfilled vacancies.

	Revised Budget	Actual Spend	Centralised Variance	Budget Holder Variance	Total Over/ (Under) Spend	Funding For Covid Related Variance	Net Over/ (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	82.3	82.4	(0.6)	0.6	0.1	(0.1)	0.0
Business, Investment & Culture	5.5	7.4	0.4	1.5	1.9	(0.8)	1.1
Children and Young People	76.6	81.4	(3.0)	7.8	4.8	(2.4)	2.4
Contingency & Central	3.7	(1.1)	0.0	(4.7)	(4.7)	0.0	(4.7)
Directorate Management	1.3	1.2	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)
Education and Inclusion	16.1	16.6	0.0	0.5	0.4	(0.7)	(0.3)
Finance	5.0	5.8	(0.2)	0.9	0.8	(0.2)	0.6
Housing & Transformation	13.3	11.1	0.1	(2.3)	(2.3)	(0.2)	(2.5)
Human Resources	1.4	1.5	0.0	0.2	0.1	(0.1)	0.0
Legal & Governance	4.2	5.4	0.1	1.1	1.2	(0.6)	0.6
Project Management & Property	(4.7)	(5.5)	0.4	(1.1)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(1.5)
Public Health	2.4	1.7	0.0	(0.7)	(0.7)	0.0	(0.7)
Streetscene & Regulatory	29.8	36.5	0.0	6.8	6.8	(2.3)	4.4
Transportation & Highways	7.0	8.4	(0.3)	1.7	1.4	(0.8)	0.6
Total	243.8	252.8	(3.1)	12.2	8.9	(8.9)	0.0

The figures in this table may be subject to small rounding differences to the main report and the rest of the appendix.

	Centralised Variance Explanation	£m
	These are underspends against a combination of salary budgets and turnover savings target. They result from vacancies across Council services although the level of vacancies has been reducing. Some of these vacancies will be covered from agency and overtime to ensure services can be maintained. These costs are included within the service positions described below.	(3.1)
Total Centralised Variance		(3.1)

Budget Holder Variance

The Budget Holder variances explained below are reported excluding the impact of Covid. For example, Adult Social Care is reporting a net nil Budget Holder variance excluding the Covid impact

Service Area	Reporting Area	Explanation	£M
Public Health	Public Health - Migration	This underspend relates to the holding of migration grant income centrally which is funding costs of other services across the Council.	(0.7)
Public Health			(0.7)
Education and Skills	Education Improvement & Standards	The underspend is largely a result of a reduction in liability for historic pension costs, as no new costs are incurred, partially offset by an overspend on the cost of the Education Trade Union Facilities Time agreement. The variances were forecast throughout the year, and work is underway to review these areas in the 22/23 financial year.	(0.1)
Education and Skills	SEND & Specialist Services	The second half of the spring term presented challenges for SEN Transport, as a direct consequence of the impact of Covid infection on the availability of centrally employed drivers and escorts. Consequently, some in-house routes were unable to operate, requiring alternative arrangements to be made at additional cost. This included spot purchasing of taxis and the reimbursement of costs incurred by schools and parents in order to secure school attendance. In addition, anticipated savings secured through e-auction were not delivered because some contractors did not accept the contract award, leading to the finalisation of higher cost bids. It was anticipated that continuing increases in demand in Educational Psychology for statutory assessment would require an increased use of agency staff. However, a paid overtime agreement, unfilled staff vacancy and reductions in travel costs contributed to an overall reduction in forecast outturn.	0.1
Education and Skills	Education Entitlement	The underspend is largely a result of a reduced cost on school bus passes. The number of pupils eligible for bus passes is based on statutory criteria and policy. A new online system introduced by the bus companies now means that where passes are not used charges are not incurred, and this information has only been available in the final quarter of the financial year. Further work is underway for the 22/23 financial year to understand the further impact of this, as it is anticipated that the pandemic may have had an impact on levels of usage. There was also an underspend on the interpreter service as a result of increased activity and subsequent over-recovery of income.	(0.2)
Education and Skills			(0.2)
Children and Young People's Services	Children's Services Management Team	Net impact deminimus	(0.3)
Children and Young People's Services	Commissioning, QA and Performance	The overspend is largely linked to a shortfall of £0.1m in the Safeguarding training income target. Opportunities to increase income in this area are currently being progressed as part of the commercialisation programme and new training packages have been developed. Additional pressure has been felt across the service due to vacancies and the use of agency staff to cover.	0.3

Children and Young People's Services	Help & Protection	<p>The most significant challenge to this budget is staffing, leading to high use of agency staff to cover vacancies. The use of covid grants has mitigated much of this overspend in 21/22. There is ongoing development work which aligns with Coventry's recruitment and retention strategy to address these staffing challenges which are seen both regionally and nationally.</p> <p>There has also been £0.5m overspend on legal costs. The increase in legal costs is linked to considerable demand within the courts and care proceedings taking significantly longer to conclude. The complexity of children and families interventions have risen resulting in more demand upon legal services. There is work underway to review children requiring legal interventions and engagement with the judiciary and CAFCASS to streamline proceedings and concluded within the 26 week timeframe.</p> <p>The 174K overspend on S17 budget is due to financial support to children and families for accommodation, including both children and families who are being financially supported in temporary accommodation and young mothers in supported accommodation. There is development work with multi agency partners and accommodation providers to renegotiating rents and secure permanent housing, which has seen a reduction in this expenditure. This work incorporates the children and families we are financially supporting due to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) which has a further 111K overspend.</p>	2.8
Children and Young People's Services	LAC & Care Leavers	<p>There is a £6.1m pressure on Children Looked After placements due to a combination of market price increases, the number of children being looked after and increased use in high cost residential placements due to placement sufficiency issues in both the internal and external fostering market. Some of this has been offset by direct COVID grant bringing the overspend remaining within children placements down to £2.6m. There has been a reduction in the number of children within supported accommodation because of a positive increase in staying put arrangements with foster carers promoting permanence and stability for our young people, however this does place additional sufficiency burdens on the fostering market.</p> <p>There is an overspend of £0.7m within Special Guardianship Allowances arising from an increase in activity within this area, promoting permanence for young people. This has been addressed in the budget setting plans for 22/23.</p> <p>There is an overspend within LAC & Permanency Team of £0.7m due to recruitment pressure resulting in increased agency staff and professional fees.</p> <p>There has been a £0.5m overspend in looked after transport, due to an increase in placements made away from a child's school.</p> <p>These pressures are partly offset by an underspend in Residence Orders and an increase in the rate paid for unaccompanied asylum seeking children from central government.</p>	2.6
Children and Young People's Services			5.4

Adult Social Care	Strategic Commissioning (Adults)	£0.2m underspend relates to Carers budgets. Work is underway to enhance the support offer to carers for the next 12 months. £0.3m underspend relates to transport as a result of reduced demand for day opportunities. £0.3m underspend relates to New Homes for Old PFI due to additional client fee income and reduced costs.	(0.8)
Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care Director	The overspend represents an increase in provision for bad debt, partially offset by the use of iBCF and other resources to manage the overall Adult Social Care financial position.	0.3
Adult Social Care	Internally Provided Services	Underspend due to additional client fee and grant income.	(0.2)
Adult Social Care	Partnerships and Social Care Operational	There remains significant pressures in Deprivation of Liberty Assessment demand leading to additional assessment costs (£0.2m). The Initial Contact and Promoting Independence Team and Community Discharge Team have also seen increasing demand alongside staff turnover. Ensuring statutory need is met has been essential and has resulted in additional agency costs in both areas, which has been partly offset by centralised underspends due to staff vacancies.	0.4
Adult Social Care	Localities and Social Care Operational	Overspend of £0.15m due to salary savings target. With the introduction of CQC oversight regime from April 2023 and social care financial reforms from Oct 2023 leading towards a future increase in assessments and reviews, this is not an area where capacity can be reduced. Overspends relating to additional agency costs have been offset by centralised underspends due to staff vacancies. The use of agency is essential at the moment due to the high number of vacancies but this will reduce as permanent staff are recruited, assuming that demand levels remain consistent.	0.2
Adult Social Care	Community Purchasing Mental Health	see below - £722,869 combined Overspend for Community Purchasing (Mental Health and Other).	2.1
Adult Social Care	Community Purchasing Other	Spend continues to increase due to the demand for, and cost of, packages for both new and existing service users. Demand for mental health services and Older People care in particular continues to show increasing activity trends. Whilst Adult Social Care services continue to experience increasing complexity of service users our work with providers and service users has enabled a reduction in the cost of some high value placements. This has helped to reduce the impact of increased demand across other parts of the service. This work will continue into the new financial year, however increasing activity trends are likely to continue adding further pressure to the 22/23 budget.	(1.4)
Adult Social Care			0.6
Business Investment & Culture	Sports, Culture, Destination & Bus Relationships	Unfunded costs of c£1m for using the collection centre on an interim basis as part of the corporate project to develop the building into a cultural hub. In addition, £540k relates to not receiving any profit or rent from the Wave in 21/22 whilst it was still impacted by the pandemic. Legal agreements will be in place for 22/23 onwards which should deliver expected income levels moving forward	0.7

Business Investment & Culture			0.7
Housing & Transformation	Customer and Business Services	<p>Much of the underspend within the area relates to the overall impact of the pandemic. Some of the more transactional elements of the service such as postage, stationery and supporting administration have experienced lower demand than at normal times however we are starting to see a shift back towards to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>In response to the pandemic a Community Support function was created to support with food, fuel and other essential provision which has been funded by Central Government through a variety of grants resulting in an underspend in the service area. The level of previously unexposed demand of this type and the ongoing financial challenges that many people are facing remains a concern particularly in the event of the withdrawal of the grant which is currently in place until September 2022.</p>	(0.2)
Housing & Transformation	Procurement	A one-off credit from a backdated procurement rebate circa £100k in addition to an improved performance from early payment system circa £45k	(0.2)
Housing & Transformation	Housing and Homelessness	Although the service has seen a steady demand for temporary accommodation the numbers have decreased rather than increasing. It had been anticipated that the number of households in TA would increase throughout the year, however this only started to materialise in the last quarter of the year. A number of positive prevention and relief outcomes has also led to lower TA costs.	(2.0)
Housing & Transformation			(2.4)
Human Resources	HR and Workforce Development Management	This relates to delays in achievement of savings target. Work to address the remainder of the savings target, which increases by a further £150K in 2022/23, continues	0.3
Human Resources	Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Services	This relates to over-achievement of external income. This is used to off-set income shortfalls in other parts of HR. Work is on-going to clarify the extent to which this income level is on-going and how external contracts can be managed alongside the core service for staff.	(0.1)
Human Resources	Other Variances Less than 100K		(0.1)
Human Resources			0.1
Finance & Corporate Services	Revenues and Benefits	<p>This variation is primarily due to a £0.8m pressure relating to a technical reclassification of expenditure from the 2019/20 subsidy claim following the certification process.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a net Housing Benefit subsidy pressure of £0.5m caused by an increase in the volume and price of supported accommodation, for which the Council only receives partial subsidy payments if the provider is not a registered social landlord.</p>	0.9
Finance & Corporate Services	Other Variances Less than 100K		(0.2)

Finance & Corporate Services			0.7
Legal & Governance Services	Legal Services	This pressure is caused by a significantly increased workload for Childrens care proceedings, c£450k of which is as a direct result of the pandemic, and an underlying pressure of £200k. In addition, a further pressure of £350k reflects the cost of agency staff to cover vacancies and other additional resource requirements. There are also pandemic related pressures in Coroners and Registrars of £180k due to additional costs incurred and lost income.	0.5
Legal & Governance Services			0.5
Transportation & Highways	Parking	The car parking income budget for 21/22 was adjusted to reflect an expected downturn. However, actual parking income improved significantly during the latter part of the year following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions such that original expectations were exceeded.	(0.5)
Transportation & Highways	Highways	This deficit is primarily due to an under recovery of income relating to highway operational staff due to sickness and strike action, together with cost pressures in reactive maintenance in order to address priority highway and footway defects, and delayed achievement of some small MTFS savings targets	0.6
Transportation & Highways	TH Management & Support	This largely relates to the cost of scheme development work to progress options for the Council to deliver renewable (solar) energy projects	0.2
Transportation & Highways	Transport and Innovation	This reflects the recruitment of additional Highways Development Management agency staff resources, brought in to support major planning applications and to provide cover for vacancies due to the inability to recruit	0.4
Transportation & Highways	Infrastructure Delivery	Vacancies/maternity in capital/grant funded posts have resulted in variances in income and compensatory underspends in salaries.	0.2
Transportation & Highways			0.9
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	Planning Services	The variance relates to underachievement of planning application fee income. This in year downturn reflects the national picture, however current indications are that this is improving as we move into 2022/23.	0.2
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	Streetpride & Parks	This variation is a combination of lower Bereavement Services income of c£105k due to a reduction in death rates, and a shortfall in car parking income primarily at the War Memorial Park of c£355k due to the vast majority of users not staying beyond the 3 hour free period. Additionally, spend pressures were incurred in Streetpride relating to vehicles (unavoidable damage) and Overtime/Agency staff (vacancy cover) totalling £183k	0.7
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	Waste & Fleet Services	This variation largely relates to the direct impact of the refuse driver strike or strike mitigation costs in both the domestic (£2.8m) and commercial (£0.4m) waste services. The Commercial Waste variation is entirely as a result of strike action which has had the impact of an inability to service contracts causing an underrecovery in income	3.1

		<p>of c£1.9m, offset by cost reductions of salaries and waste disposal costs not incurred of c£1.5m.</p> <p>In domestic refuse, during the final quarter of 2021/22, additional costs have been incurred relating to the refuse driver industrial dispute. These costs include the provision of waste 'drop' sites of £0.8m and kerbside collections of £1.6m. These have been partly offset by reduced costs of salaries (£0.3m), fuel (£0.1m) and waste disposal costs (£0.3m) due to reduced CA site costs as a result of the waste drop sites. In addition, costs have been incurred throughout the year to cover ongoing high levels of sickness in the service, together with leave brought forward of almost £1m.</p> <p>Other variations relate to the Passenger Transport Service of £0.1m where additional cost of covering sickness and income reductions due to fewer routes has caused a £0.1m pressure.</p>	
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	SSGS Management & Support	Additional cost of salaries and professional fees.	0.2
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	Environmental Services	"Most of this variation relates to Emergency Services Unit where agency & overtime costs of c£94k have been incurred to cover higher than usual levels off sickness, and income has reduced by c£50k due largely to reduced uptake of call handling, CCTV and Alarm Monitoring services. In addition, reduced footfall in the city centre over the course of the year has resulted in fewer FPN's being issued by the street enforcement team of c£44k. "	0.2
Streetscene & Regulatory Services			4.4
Project Management and Property Services	Commercial Property and Development	Corporately, the Council has been making gradual provision for the fall out of commercial portfolio rental income as the City Centre South (CCS) scheme comes closer to implementation. The overall surplus here is due to the service outperforming rental income target expectations within the CCS boundary by £778k, together with some one-off income of £160k for dilapidatons in respect of the wider portfolio. However, there are a number of portfolio rent debts outstanding for the covid 19 related lockdown periods for which doubtful debt provision of £600k has been made which reduce the net surplus	(0.8)
Project Management and Property Services	Facilities & Property Services	This surplus largely represents strong trading surpluses in the Repair and maintenance and building work management functions as a result of additional project works, together with reduced costs of operational properties resulting from lower utilisation.	(1.0)
Project Management and Property Services	Other Variances Less that 100K		(0.1)

Project Management and Property Services			(1.9)
Contingency & Central Budgets	Corporate Finance	Favourable variations include additional dividends from the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company (£2m), a surplus from the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool (£1.8m), unspent inflation contingency budget (£1.3m), lower than anticipated pension costs (£1.2m), additional income and savings from new commercialisation activities (£0.9m) and additional interest within the Asset Management Revenue Account (£0.9m). This has enabled funding of early retirement pension strain and redundancy costs incurred in year (£2.3) rather than these being funded from reserves plus the final £1.2m reserve contribution within the overall outturn position.	(4.7)
Total Budget Holder Forecast Variances - Contingency & Central Budgets			(4.7)

Appendix 2 Capital Programme Change and Analysis of Rescheduling

SCHEME	APPROVED CHANGES £m	(RESCHEDULING)/ ACCELERATED SPEND £m	(UNDERSPEND)/ OVERSPEND £m	EXPLANATION
Coventry South Package	(0.3)			Technical adjustment to realign with revised programme assumptions as part of the delivery of the wider City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.
Public Realm 5 - City of Culture	(0.7)	(0.6)		Delays in finalising the designs for Coventry Cross and Palmer Lane now mean that both schemes will be delivered in next financial year.
ESIF - Business Support	0.4			Due to the business dealing with aftermath of COVID, short staffed etc, the claiming of the capital grant was less than forecasted, we will still get the claim in, within the timescale of the programme.
ESIF - Low Carbon	(0.3)			Due to the business dealing with aftermath of COVID, short staffed etc, the claiming of the capital grant was less than forecasted, we will still get the claim in, within the timescale of the programme.
Basic Need - Schools		(3.9)		This underspend was caused by an architect going in to administration and associated design works clarifications which caused a delay on construction works. The works are continuing and spend will appear this financial year.
Public Building Retrofit	0.4	(1.6)		£0.4m of match funding has been included in this year end position for the Schools element of this programme. The slippage relates to significant supply chain issues for example:- battery storage. Approval has been granted by the grant body to extend the programme until June 22
Ricoh Arena Renewal (GBF)		(1.4)		The Commonwealth Economic Legacy Capital project at CBS Arena has been subject to delay predominantly caused by supply chain issues with materials arriving to site 6-8 weeks later than anticipated. The impact of Covid-19 also slowed progress on site in Q4 21/22 due to high absence within the workforce. The completion of works has been rescheduled from March 2022 to June 2022.

Kickstart Office			(0.2)	Scheme complete
Battery Plant and Equipment Loan		(0.7)		This will be used for the final payments due:- including final equipment supply contract and remaining elements of legal / professional advice required to complete project closure which will take place during 22/23.
Friargate		(5.5)		Negotiations for the hotel deal have been slow has pushed the spend into 22/23
Transportation S106 programme		(1.0)		Revised programme timescales for specific schemes that will be part of the wider funding package for delivering the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.
Integrated Transport Block Programme		(0.9)		Rescheduling is due to Old Church Road safety schemes now completing in 2022-23, finalising City Centre Traffic strategy to be implemented and the delivery of the remaining Key Road Network programme.
Coventry Station Masterplan		(1.5)		The scheme is now operational and the small element of retention will be paid in 22/23
Whitley South Infrastructure - Facility A and B (Roxhill)		1.7		The scheme is now operational and the small element of retention will be paid in 22/23
Housing Infrastructure Fund - Eastern Green		(2.8)		Further delays on the starting of the works have resulted in a slippage on forecast spend. This is predominately due to the fact that the Fixed Price has not been agreed which would allow us to proceed to Part 2 of the works contract. This should now be completed mid May 2022
Binley Road Cycle Scheme		(1.0)		A delay in carrying out public consultation than initially planned has led to a slight delayed start on site. However, the programme is now moving at pace with one section of the cycleway near completion.
Electric Fleet First Project		(0.4)		When we initially forecast the spend for each vehicle we hadn't factored in that we would be eligible for a government rebate, ranging from £3,000 up to £8,000 per vehicle. we got this credited back from nearly 70 vehicles so it has worked out to be quite a bit back for us. The lead-times, due to manufacturer supply chain issues, have meant we have not been able to get vehicles here earlier than we would have liked. As most vehicles come from over seas, the delays have been unprecedented. We still intend to spend the rest of this

				within the financial year and I will be putting in orders for these very soon.
Clean Bus Technology Fund		(0.7)		Funding carried forward into next year to allow more bus providers to consider the move towards electrification.
Air Quality		(1.7)		A delay in Full Business Case sign off has delayed the programme in design and carrying out public consultation. This has led to the Spon End and Junction 7 schemes commencing on site in January 2022, which is significantly later than initially programmed during budget setting 2021.
Palmer Lane De-culvertering		(0.7)		Delays in negotiating with the owner of a key piece of land for the delivery of the scheme has impacted on the final design of the scheme, causing the tenders to slip. Tenders are now due back early 2022-23.
Lenton Lane Cemetary - Phase 2		(0.3)		The main and biggest variance is £274k, which is against the main contractor. The explanation for this is that there was a delay to works completed during the winter period due to bad weather, which had a negative impact on ground conditions i.e. it was so wet, the site was a quagmire, so works could not be progressed.
Condition - Schools		0.6		This overspend was due to successfully receiving funding towards a number of condition schemes which required match funding but was not announced within forecasting timeframe.
Whitley Depot Redevelopmnet		(0.4)		Programme delay to the demolition element of the works due to issues with City Fibre relocation works and staff decant to new building.
Duplex Fund (loan)		(1.1)		The Duplex Fund saw lower than forecast take up, largely due to COVID-19 pandemic. Uptake for the scheme has greatly increased in the last few months with a number of applications being processed, the loan funding will be drawdown done by CWRT in due course.
Disabled Facilities Grants		(0.4)		Small slippage due to slow take up of grants
Coombe Loan		(1.0)		Facility not taken up
UK City of Culture 20/21		(2.2)		The Charterhouse Scheme was previously brought to a halt due to major cost overruns, which significantly impacted on scheduled programme dates. Following a NLHF committee in March 2022, Historic Coventry Trust (HCT) were awarded £1,767,310 additional grant support in order to enable successful completion of the Charterhouse Scheme. Messenger Construction, who are the main Contractor, are now planning to recommence site

				works, with Practical Completion expected to be achieved in October / November 2022. This has inevitably resulted in financial slippage in to the 2022/23 financial year.
Albany Theatre		(2.4)		The Albany Theatre has always been an addition to the programme and as such as been classed as a 'Legacy Project', The design phase has been completed and the construction contract has been awarded. The main works will start on site in July.
MRF Development Costs (loan)		(1.8)		The loan drawdowns are based on the expected payments to be made to contractors for the coming month based on the programme provided as part of the contract award. Payments would only be made , following receipt of the payment certificates from the Owner's Engineer to confirm that certain milestones have been achieved which are linked to the programme. There has been work to date completed but not certified due to the agreed evidence to support achievement of the milestone not being provided in time. This has resulted in slippage to the original payment profile. This will likely be rectified in 2022/23. There has also been some slippage due to changes to the programme based on the availability of key materials. Ongoing conversations are taking place with both contractors to understand the impact this may have on the overall timeline.
Acquistion Costs Temporary Accomodation (Homeless) Phase 2		(0.4)		This relatively small level of funding remaining out of the wider £6m scheme will be utilised to finish of the refurbishment of the temporary properties purchased
Interest Capitalisation	1.4			This is in respect to the accounting policy referring to the prudential borrowing costs associated with schemes: Whitley South, Coventry Station Masterplan and New Collection Centre. Borrowing costs, in the form of interest expenses, are capitalised where the asset in question is a qualifying asset and takes a substantial period of time to bring into operation. Borrowing costs will only be capitalised on schemes for which expenditure is incurred over a period or more than 12 months, until the asset is operationally complete, and where a material level of capital expenditure is resourced by borrowing.
Individual schemes less than £250k threshold	(0.4)	(1.8)	(0.3)	

TOTAL CHANGES	0.6	(33.8)	(0.5)	
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Summary Prudential Indicators

	Per Treasury Management Strategy 21/22 £000's	Actual 21/22 £000's
1 Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream:		
(a) General Fund financing costs	35,639	31,949
(b) General Fund net revenue stream	243,765	243,765
General Fund Percentage	14.62%	13.11%
2 Gross Debt & Forecast Capital Financing Requirement		
Gross debt including PFI liabilities	361,277	329,882
Capital Financing Requirement (forecast end of 23/24)	498,279	498,279
Gross Debt to Net Debt:		
Gross debt including PFI liabilities	361,277	329,882
less investments	-70,000	-80,880
less transferred debt reimbursed by others	-24,293	-24,293
Net Debt	266,984	224,708
3 Capital Expenditure (Note this excludes leasing)		
General Fund	220,406	189,467
4 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)		
Capital Financing Requirement	529,540	513,343
Capital Financing Requirement excluding transferred debt	529,540	489,050
5 Authorised limit for external debt		
Authorised limit for borrowing	481,092	481,092
+ authorised limit for other long term liabilities	68,448	68,448
= authorised limit for debt	549,540	549,540
6 Operational boundary for external debt		
Operational boundary for borrowing	461,092	461,092
+ Operational boundary for other long term liabilities	68,448	68,448
= Operational boundary for external debt	529,540	529,540
7 Actual external debt		
actual borrowing at 31 March 2022		258,877
+ PFI & Finance Leasing liabilities at 31 March 2022		59,943
+ transferred debt liabilities at 31 March 2022		24,293
= actual gross external debt at 31 March 2022		343,113
8 CIPFA Treasury Management Code – has the authority adopted the code?		Yes

9 Interest rate exposures		
Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposures	481,092	239,469
Variable Rate		
Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposures	96,218	-50,410
10 Maturity structure of borrowing - limits	upper limit	actual
under 12 months	50%	6.5%
12 months to within 24 months	20%	3.5%
24 months to within 5 years	30%	18.4%
5 years to within 10 years	30%	2.8%
10 years & above	100%	68.8%
Investments longer than 364 days: upper limit		
11 limit	30,000	0

Prudential Indicators

The Cipfa Code imposes on the Council clear governance procedures for setting and revising of prudential indicators and describes the matters to which a Council will 'have regard' when doing so. This is designed to deliver accountability in taking capital financing, borrowing and treasury management decisions.

The Prudential Indicators required by the Cipfa Code are designed to support and record local decision making and not as comparative performance indicators.

There are eleven indicators shown on the previous page, and these are outlined below:

Revenue Related Prudential Indicators

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (indicator 1):

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet borrowing costs.

Capital and Treasury Management Related Prudential Indicators

Gross Debt and Capital Financing Requirement (Indicator 2):

The Council needs to be certain that gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the next three financial years. The CFR is defined as the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purpose, i.e. it's borrowing requirement. The CFR is the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions from revenue.

Capital Expenditure (Indicator 3):

This indicator is an estimation of the Council's future capital expenditure levels and these underpin the calculation of the other prudential indicators. Estimates of capital expenditure are a significant source of risk and uncertainty and it is important that these estimates are continually monitored and the impact on other prudential indicators (particularly those relating to affordability) are assessed regularly.

Capital Financing Requirement (Indicator 4):

As outlined in Indicator 2 above, the CFR represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.

Authorised Limit for External Debt (Indicator 5):

This statutory limit sets the maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e. excluding investments) for the Council. Borrowing at this level could be afforded in the short term but is not sustainable. The Authorised limit has been set on the estimated debt with sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for unexpected cash movements.

Operational Boundary for External Debt (Indicator 6):

This indicator refers to the means by which the Council manages its external debt to ensure it remains within the statutory Authorised Limit. It differs from the authorised limit as it is based on the most likely scenario in terms of capital spend and financing during the year. It is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short times during the year.

Actual External Debt (Indicator 7):

This indicator identifies the actual debt at the end of the previous financial year as recognised with the Statement of Accounts.

Adoption of the Cipfa Treasury Management Code (indicator 8):

This indicator is acknowledgement that the Council has adopted the Cipfa's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice*.

Interest Rate Exposures for Borrowing (Indicator 9):

These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates.

The Upper Limit for variable rate exposure has been set to ensure that the Council is not exposed to interest rate rises which could impact negatively on the overall financial position.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing – Limits (Indicator 10):

This indicator highlights the existence of any large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates and is designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period, thereby managing the effects of refinancing risks.

The maturity of borrowing is determined by reference to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment.

Investments Longer than 364 days: Upper Limit (Indicator 11):

This indicator sets an upper limit for the level of investment that may be fixed for a period greater than 364 days. This limit is set to contain exposure to credit and liquidity risk.

All these prudential limits need to be approved by full Council but can be revised during the financial year. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, a further report will be brought to Cabinet, requesting the approval of full Council for the changes required.



Public report
Cabinet

Cabinet

12 July 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor K Sandhu

Director approving submission of the report:

Chief Partnerships Officer/ Director of Education and Skills

Ward(s) affected:

All wards

Title: Government Green Paper Consultation: ‘SEND and AP Review: Right support, right place, right time’

Is this a key decision?

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive summary:

In 2015, following a four-year period of consultation and testing through regional pathfinder programmes, the Government implemented substantial statutory changes to the Education, Health and Care system for identifying, assessing and making suitable provision for children and young people aged 0 to 25. The changes were set out in parts 3 of The Children and Families Act (2014), supporting regulations and a revised SEND Code of Practice.

Seven years on, it is widely recognised that the reforms have failed to deliver the intended outcomes and a further radical review is required. In 2019, The House of Commons Education Select Committee conducted an in-depth system enquiry. The committee in its report, concluded that “the 2014 SEND reforms were the right ones, but implementation had gone badly, avoidably wrong”

The Government has subsequently completed a review and published a consultation of the SEND and Alternative Provision system in England. The review sits within a context of systemic national failure. The Green paper ‘Right help, right place, right time’, is open to public consultation until 22nd July 2022. The proposals based on high level aspirations, are far reaching. If implemented they will have significant implications for local authority infrastructures, operational delivery, partnerships and accountabilities. The DfE confirms that the consultation response will influence the programme of change moving forward.

Recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet endorse the Council's proposed response to the consultation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and approve submission.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendix is attached to the report:

Appendix 1 - Proposed Consultation Response

Background papers:

SEND Review: Right support Right place Right time – government consultation on the SEND and alternative provision system in England

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063620/SEND_review_right_support_right_place_right_time_accessible.pdf

Other useful documents

[Support and Aspiration Green-Paper SEN. 2011](#)

[House of Commons Select Committee enquiry: Special Educational Needs and Disability 2019](#)

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Government Green Paper Consultation: 'SEND and AP Review: Right support, right place, right time'

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The inclusive educational rights of children with SEN (Special Educational Needs) were formally recognised in statute in 1981, with the introduction of Statements of Special Education Needs. These set out a child's difficulties, the support they required and named the appropriate school to meet their identified needs. This system remained in place until the implementation of parts 3 of The Children and Families Act (2014). The Act sought to extend the rights of children and young people to integrated education, health and care support from birth up to 25; and replaced Statements of SEN with Education Health and Care Plans.
- 1.2. The implementation programme was complex and placed significant additional burdens on LAs, which were not fully funded.
- 1.3. As part of the accountability framework, Ofsted were commissioned to complete a single five-year cycle of Local Area SEND Inspections, to monitor the progress of implementation and the

effectiveness of the reforms. Whilst the inspection framework did not include a formal judgement over 50% of local areas (80% in the final year of inspection) were required to produce a written statement of action to address significant weaknesses.

- 1.4. Over the last seven years demands on the system have significantly increased year on year. This is evidenced though an unprecedented increase in EHC Plans, which has in turn generated inflationary pressures across all systems and partnerships.
- 1.5. In response to the apparent failure of the national system, the House of Commons Education Select Committee conducted an in-depth enquiry. In its published findings, the Committee concluded that “the 2014 SEND reforms were the right ones, but implementation had gone badly, avoidably wrong” This conclusion is supported by LAs nationally. In summary, it is widely accepted that the current system is broken and not fit for purpose. Change is therefore required.
- 1.6. The Government within its Green Paper sets out the rationale for change, identifying three key challenges:
 - *Outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision are poor*
 - *Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people and their families*
 - *Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people and families” (pages 9 and 10)*
- 1.7. Whilst the Green Paper does not provide any detail on how the proposals will be realised, it does offer some recognition that changes will be delivered sensitively and in partnership.
- 1.8. The consultation sets out a series of proposals, some of which (but not all) are included in the 22 consultation questions set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. Do not respond to this consultation

This option will mean that the City Council loses the opportunity to have its views on the proposals for change being considered or taken into account. Consequently, it will not be able to influence the immediate outcome or contribute to the future shape of the new system. This option is not recommended.

2.2. Endorse the Council’s proposed response to the consultation in Appendix 1 and approve it’s submission.

This option will ensure that the Council’s views on the proposals contained in the Green Paper consultation are received and considered as part of the Government’s rationale for change. It will also enable officers to contribute to the series of webinars and reference groups currently underway, sharing local experience and learning.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. Not applicable

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. If the recommendations set out in this report are approved, the Council’s response will be submitted in advance of the closing deadline at 11:45 pm on 22nd July 2022

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

Over recent years, significant pressures on high needs budgets nationally, has resulted in many local authorities accruing multi-million pound deficits in their Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Over the last two years, this has triggered a significant Department for Education intervention (Safety Valve Intervention programme) enabling 14 LAs to secure additional funding. It is estimated that the total accumulated high needs deficit across LAs in England is circa £2.3bn.

Within this context, Coventry City Council's expenditure has remained within its overall high needs budget. Whilst this situation remains fragile, the Council's position is supported by a number of factors including a continuum of high quality in-City specialist provision; and an increase in the DSG through the national funding formula. However, this is against a backdrop of a significant increase in demand over the last 7 years (introduction of the reforms) of 56%, resulting in a corresponding increase in costs. The impact of the pandemic has further exacerbated demand. If demand pressures continue, there is a risk that expenditure will exceed budget over the medium term.

As part of the DfE's national financial intervention programme, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has put in place a temporary statutory override to ring-fence DSG deficits from councils' wider financial position in their statutory accounts. This ring-fence is due to end after the accounts for the financial year 2022-23, at which point authorities will need to demonstrate their ability to cover DSG deficits from their available reserves. It is therefore crucial that Local Authorities are able to keep the high needs systems in a sustainable position.

Changes to national policy and legislation form a key part in enabling financial sustainability. Whilst there is a commitment from the Government to calculate the cost of additional burdens, there is no guarantee that an additional allocation will be sufficient to cover the actual cost of change and implementation. For example, a definition change that extends participation rates up to age 25 entitlement as set up "*Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development to Social, Emotional and Mental Health*" and does not identify any corresponding additional resource will place additional strain on budgets. Further consideration will need to be given to future financial implications additional thematic consultations are rolled out.

5.2. Legal Implications

The Government proposes to review the national system for supporting children and young people aged 0 to 25, with special educational needs and disabilities. Accordingly, there are no legal implications at this stage.

The consultation on proposed reform closes on 22 July 2022. If the LA does not respond to the consultation by that date, it will lose the opportunity to have its views on the proposals for changes being considered or taken into account.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The effectiveness of support, entitlement and opportunity for children and young people with additional needs (SEND) is centric to realising many of the council's core aims for this vulnerable group, who with the right support can make a substantial and positive contribution to the prosperity of the City; by being enabled to maximise their personal agency and independency and secure positive routes to meaningful employment. Strong identification, assessment and support systems, provide the scaffolding children and young people need to be safe, achieve and have the confidence and aspiration to make a positive contribution to their community and the city overall.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

There are no foreseeable associated risks to the Council with responding to this consultation.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

There is no immediate impact on the organisation. However, if the proposed statutory amendments are implemented, they will have a significant impact across the breadth of Education Services, Childrens Social Care, Adults Social Care and Health partners. This has the potential to impact on operational delivery models and commissioning activity throughout the implementation timescale, which is likely to be staged over a period to 2030.

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

This is a public consultation process open to all. The Government has made provision to support disability access. Officers in Coventry are facilitating a parent event to further assist access and enable a wider community voice to be heard.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

None

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

What is the impact on partner, communities, Compact, organisations / voluntary organisations, community safety issues, local neighbourhoods etc.? If none, say so. Please keep to one paragraph.

Report author(s):

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Christopher Whiteley	Finance Manager	Finance	13/06/22	13/06/22
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law and Governance	13/06/22	13/06/22
Names of approvers for submission (Officers and Members):				
Barry Hastie	Chief Operating Officer, Finance and Corporate Services	Finance and Corporate Resources	13/06/22	13/06/22
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement Services	Law and Governance	13/06/22	13/06/22
Kirston Nelson	Chief Partnerships Officer/Director of Education and Skills	-	13/06/22	20/06/22
Councillor K Sandhu	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	-	13/06/22	14/06/22

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

Appendix 1

Coventry City Council proposed draft response to the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper: 'SEND Review Right Support, right Place, Right time.'

Question 1: What key factors should be considered, when developing national standards to ensure they deliver improved outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEND and their families? This includes how this applies across education, health and care in a 0-25 system. (see Chapter 2, paragraphs 4-6).

It is acknowledged that the current system is broken and not fit for purpose. However, it must also be acknowledged that there are many examples of best practice across the Country that should be exemplified and preserved. We therefore welcome the assurance that standards will be developed with LAs, to ensure operational experience of the systems enable any barriers to implementation to be foreseen and avoided. The Green paper issued in 2011, Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability [Support and Aspiration Green-Paper SEN. 2011](#) set out a range of successful strategies that were highly acclaimed by parents, this includes Early Support and Achievement for All. Investing training across schools and the wider workforce enabled professionals to hold partnership conversations with families that built relationships and empowered choices. For example, Lyng Hall (page 64) was used by the DfE as a case study, exemplifying best practice, serving as an example today of embedded cultural change. However, disinvestment in programmes such as Achievement for All has meant that the required cycle of cultural change has not been sustained across the system because of changes in leadership and the general workforce. It is therefore important that any review of the current system reflects the learning from the past. Changing the rules will not in itself change practice, although a set of measurable standards (rule book) may prove useful as guidance. Behavioural changes are driven by culture and strong leadership. Support and aspiration laid out a blue-print that put the child and family at the centre, co-production was centric alongside preparation for adulthood. These principles should be revisited, not reinvented.

Question 2: How should we develop the proposal for new local SEND partnerships to oversee the effective development of local inclusion plans whilst avoiding placing unnecessary burdens or duplicating current partnerships? (see Chapter 2: paragraphs 6-12).

The role and governance of the statutory local SEND partnership needs to be clearly defined in terms of its accountability. It could drive strategy, policy and/or operational practice depending on existing local arrangements. It might operate as a commissioning group and/or scrutinise performance. However, if one of the implicit aims of the Green Paper is to secure a more inclusive system, the opportunity to socialise an enabling language should not be missed. The term SEND originated 45 years ago, replacing descriptors such as mal-adjusted. The categorisation has significantly grown in breadth, building on a deficit model that 'labels' children and young people and is no longer fit for purpose. A reset that positively promotes inclusion may positively influence the required change in culture, by revisiting barriers to learning and promoting achievement for all. This approach could bring sufficiency duties in line with mainstream, ensuring that children and young people requiring specialist provision were planned for alongside their non-SEN peers. Assurance could be secured through an evidence based outcomes framework, which local areas could report against. This approach would inform the terms of reference and distribute responsibilities accordingly and could be intertwined with local partnership

governance systems. Consideration should therefore be given to Inclusion Partnerships developing and overseeing the Inclusion Plan, which focuses on barriers to learning for all thereby superseding SEND Boards.

Question 3: What factors would enable local authorities to successfully commission provision for low-incidence high-cost need, and further education, across local authority boundaries? (See chapter 2: paragraph 10).

The term high cost 'low prevalence' needs, requires definition and quantification. Our experience is that traditional low incidence needs, that historically required external specialist placements such as sensory impairment have now been absorbed into local authority provision. For example, there is no longer a demand for the West Midlands regional provision for MSI (multi-sensory impairment). Statutory systems already enable placements across LA boundaries. All specialist placements are funded in accordance with the host authorities funding bands, observing EFSA rules. If local areas are not adhering to that requirement and it is causing frustration for receiving schools, the school should challenge them with EFSA support.

A decision to place a child in a high cost external placement, is not made lightly. Most LAs would resist using a residential provision for educational purposes only. In order to secure a day placement, that protects a child's right to a family life within a reasonable travelling distance, time and cost, is highly likely to restrict the geographical reach to sub-regional provisions. Currently, local areas do have to identify highly specialist placements for a small cohort of children and young people, with complex learning disability and associated challenging behaviours. This group includes those whose needs meet the continuing care framework, where the school and/or home placement is at breaking point and the child's needs are not being met. Often these placements require a residential component. The range of providers in this market space is very limited, following a significant number of closures post adverse OfSTED inspection. High quality providers are consistently 'full' leaving schools with RI judgements commanding high fee levels.

It is true that these placements may be better delivered through a publicly funded provider (regional free school) to secure improvements in quality and outcomes and therefore value for money. However, it should not be assumed that this would have a significant impact on the public purse.

In terms of the broader sufficiency challenges in respect of ASC and SEMH, any approach that has the potential to reduce dependence on independent sector placements across a broader area and enable young people to be educated closer to home is welcomed. The West Midlands has the infrastructure to deliver this, through the ADCS regional commissioning group but would require capital investment to secure appropriate premises.

Question 4: What components of the EHCP should we consider reviewing or amending as we move to a standardised and digitised version? (See chapter 2 paragraphs 15 - 23).

It is critical that any changes to the current processes learn from the chaos, created by the unnecessary burden of churning existing Statements of SEN into EHC Plans that began in 2015. This blanket requirement served as a barrier to progress, paralysing the capacity of professionals to focus on whole system redesign, training and cultural engagement. This was against a backdrop of significant additional demands being placed on education settings; and capacity gaps in Educational Psychology, health therapies and social care disability teams. Data capture also proved challenging as providers were given little lead-in time to redesign data bases, resulting in parallel record keeping, much of which was manual. Consequently, if we apply that learning, any significant over-haul should as

promised within the Green paper, be subject to a cost benefit analysis and be introduced sensitively over-time. It is noted that the format of the current EHC Plan template is set out in statutory regulations making clear what must be included in sections A to K. In Coventry, the actual layout of the template and logo was co-designed locally with families, carers and young people. The plan offers families the choice of including photographs and other personal elements. It is therefore difficult to understand the rationale for change, although the clarification of single agencies responsibilities would be warmly welcomed, for example clarity on the responsibility to fund and deliver any speech and language therapy that has been specified and quantified.

We are concerned that a centrally designed EHCP retained in electronic form does not discriminate against parents who are not IT literate, do not speak English, experience literacy difficulties or digital poverty. It is therefore essential that this proposal is considered against a thorough Equality Impact Assessment that secures entitlement of access for all. Many LAs already offer a level of digitalisation referred to as 'a portal' that fulfils this function for those that want it. The underpinning database draws child information from across the wider system, which means it will be very difficult to disaggregate.

Clarification of a timescale for the completion of the annual review process would be very much welcomed. We would ask that this takes into account the time required for a school to produce and submit the outcomes of the annual review meeting.

Streamlining the assessment process to avoid duplication, embrace the 'tell us once approach' and ensure intervention is proportional to need, would be very much welcomed especially in relation to social care assessments, which many families make clear that they do not want and do not need. It has therefore become a bureaucratic burden that adds little value.

Question 5: How can parents and local authorities most effectively work together to produce a tailored list of placements that is appropriate for their child, and gives parents confidence in the EHCP process? (See chapter 2: paragraphs 24-28).

We welcome a statutory change to the current requirement for LAs to provide a full indiscriminate list of all independent and non-maintained special schools, alongside all publicly funded mainstream and special schools and provisions in the local area. Parents have made it clear that they do not want this, instead they require a list of schools that would be suitable for the assessed needs of their child. Many LAs already provide the information in this way, if the statutory requirement was amended accordingly, LAs would in partnership with parents be enabled to produce this list; and the matter would be settled.

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our overall approach to strengthen redress, including through national standards and mandatory mediation? (See chapter 2 paragraphs 29-32).

Agree

Question 7: Do you consider the current remedies available to the SEND Tribunal for disabled children who have been discriminated against by schools effective in putting children and young people's education back on track? Please give a reason for your answer with examples, if possible. (See chapter 2: paragraphs 33-34).

It is evident that very few claims of disability discrimination are lodged against a responsible body (this applies to all education providers, not just schools). In our very limited local experience of two cases in a 5 year period, the Tribunal process was elongated and subject to postponements, hearing cancellation and administrative errors. Therefore, to be effective the Tribunal must be more accessible to families, better scrutinise claims and

ensure hearings are held in a timely way. Current formal remedies include an apology, training and changes/reviews of systems and policies. We believe that these remain effective outcomes. However, the impact of the process itself, which includes receiving and responding to a claim of discrimination, coupled with the significant burden of preparation; and the financial and emotional cost of attending the hearing, will also have an effective impact on learning, organisational culture and behaviours, which cannot be underestimated.

Question 8: What steps should be taken to strengthen early years practice with regard to conducting the two-year-old progress check and integration with the Healthy Child Programme review? (See chapter 3: paragraphs 3-5)

Increasing expertise in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), has the potential to increase identification of children with additional needs, which is welcomed. However, early years settings face significant challenges in staff turnover, which is exacerbated by relatively low pay in an increasingly competitive market. We suggest that settings will therefore need to be incentivised to prioritise any investment in training. Narrowing training to only 5000 SENCOs, may be beneficial for some children, but not all. We therefore need to increase any ambition to ensure equitable access to services for all children. Otherwise, the 'postcode lottery' will perpetuate. This could be secured through a funded quality standards framework, which would enable EYFS leaders to develop staff through locally available training, coaching and mentoring.

Question 9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should introduce a new mandatory SENCO NPQ to replace the NASENCO? (See chapter 3: paragraphs 21-24)

Neither agree nor disagree

Question 10: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should strengthen the mandatory SENCO training requirement by requiring that headteachers must be satisfied that the SENCO is in the process of obtaining the relevant qualification when taking on the role? (See chapter 3: paragraphs 21-24).

Disagree

Whilst we agree that SENCOs should be suitably qualified and experienced, have gravitas and be on the senior leadership of the school, the post of SENCO is difficult to fill. Demanding that an applicant is already in the process of qualification, may have the unintended consequence of dissuading candidates with high potential from applying. It is a fact that many SENCOs are appointed from within their existing school structure. We suggest that the post may be more attractive if it is advertised with a commitment from the employer to sponsor professional training including study time and an expectation on the candidate that they will commit to undertaking the training at the next available admission point. If new courses run throughout the year, allowing three entry points at the beginning of a term, candidates could be enrolled as part of the recruitment process. This approach would create a maximum one-term gap between appointment and commencement of training. It is also important that the cost of training is affordable, given the current challenges on school budgets.

Question 11: To what extent do you agree or disagree that both specialist and mixed MATs should be allowed to coexist in the fully trust-led future? This would allow current local authority maintained special schools and alternative provision settings to join either type of MAT.(see chapter 3: paragraphs 39-40).

Neither agree nor disagree

Question 12: What more can be done by employers, providers and government to ensure that those young people with SEND can access, participate in and be supported to achieve an apprenticeship, including through access routes like Traineeships? (see chapter 3: paragraphs 44 – 51).

Raising aspirations for young people with additional needs in adulthood, requires a partnership that not only involves employers, providers and the Government, but families too. If a young person is regarded as vulnerable and has experienced high levels of protection and support through the school system, it is sometimes difficult to enable parents to see a positive future, that offers meaningful employment. Pathways to further education, training and employment are too often seen as a risk that a family does not have the confidence to take. Academic progression therefore needs to become an explicit expectation of post 16 and FE courses; and when a course is completed young people should be supported to take the next steps and move on. The SEND system invests much in creating demand for EHC Plans but invests too little in promoting progression into adulthood before the age of 25. Supported internships are invaluable in developing confidence and growth, often leading to meaningful employment; but too few young people access the opportunity. Employment pathways need to have more prominence in the SEND Code of Practice, supported by clarity on what progression means in determining the value of continuing further education pathways for an extended period of time. Progress must therefore be explicitly defined in the new Code of Practice.

Question 13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that this new vision for alternative provision will result in improved outcomes for children and young people? (see chapter 4: paragraphs 8 - 11).

Disagree

The vision set out in paragraphs 8 to 11 reflects current practice in many local areas. We agree that a continuum of provision is required for young people presenting with social emotional and behavioural challenges. However, the continuum should be just that, it should not be fragmented and any design must be all age. Our experience of the administration of supported transfers, fair access protocols, work related learning (independent AP providers) and LA PRUs, is that placements need to be personalised to meet the needs of the individual child. This can mean securing geographical distance from peers. Strong partnership working with a range of agencies including education settings, social care, police, YOS and health are instrumental to safeguarding children at the point of placement. The range of interventions described in the proposal therefore needs to be carefully coordinated to ensure that APs can deliver high quality teaching and learning for those on their roll without their expertise being diluted through a labyrinth of outreach offers.

Question 14: What needs to be in place in order to distribute existing funding more effectively to alternative provision schools, to ensure they have the financial stability required to deliver our vision for more early intervention and re-integration? (See chapter 4: paragraphs 12 - 15).

If high quality AP provision is to be available to all, the current system will need to be expanded to enable earlier access by both age and stage. A range of models for primary age pupils could be developed within the existing inclusive environments of mainstream schools. However, the legal framework which protects children from attending unregistered

provisions will need to enable MATs and LAs to create new integrated provisions, that serve local areas/communities without a presumption of new free schools being created. Units within a school that serve a local area can be highly effective, but also restrictive in terms of the limited statutory permitted hours of attendance, if the child is not on the roll of that school. We therefore advise that the whilst the current definition of 'substantial' education needs to be clarified, restricting this to 18.5 hours as proposed within the Green paper for publicly funded provisions, creates an unhelpful barrier to meeting the needs of very vulnerable children, who require access a period of high quality intensive support. Regulation could simply include enveloping all education delivery on a school site within the OfSTED framework for the provider. It therefore follows that any publicly funded provider could operate on a commissioned placement basis to secure parity. Funding streams would logically require any pupil led funding to continue to contribute to the overall cost of provision. It will be important not to incentivise schools to direct pupils to AP, the system will need threshold criteria.

Question 15: To what extent do you agree or disagree that introducing a bespoke alternative provision performance framework, based on these 5 outcomes, will improve the quality of alternative provision? (see chapter 4: paragraphs 12 – 15)

Strongly disagree

The assertions set out in the Green paper in relation to the perceived failings of the AP sector are not recognised by Coventry, including the fragility of funding mechanisms. The maintained provisions are secured, with admission being governed by the LAs strong partnership of schools. The creation of a single AP delivery model would potentially dissolve existing services and structures. We would argue that the system can (and does) develop behaviour pathways that offer flexibility and personalisation without significant structural reform. School to school support is a strong and effective strategy to support the challenges children and young people are currently facing, which has been compounded by the impact of Covid. Personalisation requires a range of positive pathways and interventions to meet individual need. It is not necessarily beneficial to bring young people with complex emotional needs into a single setting. Early intervention begins with an understanding of a child's back story and it is from there that appropriate support can be developed to include a multi-disciplinary/agency response, that often involves direct work with the family. The success of an AP model that focuses on outreach, early intervention and lowers thresholds for admission would be at risk if it became over-whelmed with referrals. It is also important to bear in mind, that the decision to remove a child from their community school who has not been permanently excluded from school, to attend an AP, ultimately rests with the parents.

Question 16: To what extent do you agree or disagree that a statutory framework for pupil movements will improve oversight and transparency of placements into and out of alternative provision? (See chapter 4: paragraphs 22 – 26).

Strongly agree

Question 17: What are the key metrics we should capture and use to measure local and national performance? Please explain why you have selected these. (See chapter 5: paragraph 14 – 20).

The key metrics outlined in Chapter 4, paragraph 16 would provide a secure outcomes framework to measure the impact of the SEND system. However, whilst quantitative measures can identify areas for further investigation it needs to be balanced against any

known context. An opportunity to provide a contextual narrative would therefore aid understanding.

Question 18: How can we best develop a national framework for funding bands and tariffs to achieve our objectives and mitigate unintended consequences and risks? (see chapter 5: paragraph 27- 32).

It is important to recognise that the spiralling cost of SEND is a symptom of a complex system, that cannot be solely attributed to poor financial decision making, or failures in strategic planning. The current system has inbuilt incentives to inflate demand and because of the personalisation of each programme against assessed needs, packages of support require careful brokerage beyond the determination of a placement. We therefore welcome clarity on the expectation of funding responsibilities and contributions for continuing care; joint placements and therapy provision including; speech, occupational and physio therapies

The paper recognised that many LAs have developed in partnership with schools, SEND specialists and families a framework that reflects both the local funding context and local thresholds of need. In Coventry this includes a trigger to increase the notional element of the budget to reflect disproportional growth in SEN, thereby negating any perverse financial incentives for schools to identify and support children with additional needs. Any proposed national system will need to have the sophistication and flexibility to mirror this. Transitional processes will need to be introduced with caution over time, to ensure financial systems in place across the range of providers are not destabilised. Sophisticated modelling and testing of funding models will be essential to avoid foreseeable chaos. Failure to do this would result in a high risk of system destabilisation, which would in turn have a direct and immediate impact on the quality and sustainability of the plethora of child support structures in place. In terms of mitigation of risks we advise the primary objective must remain focused on securing positive outcomes for the child, 'form should therefore follow function' enabling financial systems to be built around the delivery model, not vice versa. This is because it is critical that the pupil led funding element reflects the assessed needs of the individual child, within the environment they are educated. It therefore follows that funding bands should differentiate between mainstream and specialist settings, to reflect economies of scale and secure value for money. The essence of the reforms, which the review continues to endorse makes clear that processes must be child centred, personalised and that blanket policies cannot be legally applied

Question 19: How can the National SEND Delivery Board work most effectively with local partnerships to ensure the proposals are implemented successfully? (See chapter 6: paragraph 6 – 7).

Applying the learning from the previous reforms, should enable the National SEND Delivery Board to understand the importance of 'staying connected'. A two-way feedback loop that ensures local areas have a voice and are enabled to positively contribute to any implementation plans, would be welcomed. It is important that systems are not imposed and that a culture of co-design and co-production are systemically deployed. This will help to minimise any unintended consequences, to the much needed review.

Question 20: What will make the biggest difference to successful implementation of these proposals? What do you see as the barriers to and enablers of success? (See chapter 6: paragraphs 8 – 14).

It is important that there is coherence across all education reforms and that the drive for education excellence properly acknowledges all barriers to learning, not only those that can

be attributed to good teaching and learning. The spirit, intent and expected outcomes within the white paper does not fully acknowledge or provide an opportunity to celebrate the talents and success of children and young people, who cannot cognitively meet the expected national standards in reading, writing and mathematics. This is wrong. A system built on openness, trust and fairness has to include opportunities for all. Otherwise, the perverse incentive for placing pupils with significant additional needs into the special school sector will continue. Inclusive schools should be aspirational but deserve to be rewarded for the progress their children make, not penalised for achievement gaps that children do not have the cognitive capability to bridge, this is discriminatory.

It is widely acknowledged that many of the 2014 SEND reforms set out in the 2011 Green paper 'Support and Aspiration' were the right ones and that implementation has gone badly and avoidably wrong in some local areas, but not all. However, much of the potential to fail was embedded at the point the Code of Practice was compiled, which we would argue may have been overly influenced by professional stakeholder's self-interests. Consequently, expectations were raised to an unrealistic level, there was a statutory failure to make partners equally accountable and adversarial processes were exacerbated through the formal extension of dispute resolution.

Success this time is pivotal on expectations and entitlements being explicitly set out and partner responsibilities underpinned by statutory requirements. The criteria for entering and exiting the system must be clear and the Tribunal must observe and be accountable to those thresholds, if the year on year growth demand is to be controlled.

Time must be invested in ensuring any proposals endorsed and implemented do reflect system capacity in accordance with their proportional impact. Implementation should not be overloaded with initiatives that do not make a positive and significant difference. The measurement of additional burdens on the system must reflect the true cost of implementation, this cannot be achieved from existing resources. Any demand on a specific specialism must consider workforce availability e.g. offering additional training places for Educational Psychologists is welcomed, but it must be recognised that increased capacity into the system will not be realised for 5 years. The paper commits to managing the market for external placements, this should be extended to include the costs of consultants across the field of education, health and social care. For example, Education Psychologists are currently able to demand £1000k a day to produce virtual assessments, as part of the statutory process. Whilst this is an unacceptable use of the public purse, some LAs are left with no choice other than to commission privately elements of both assessment and provision, because professionals are moving into the lucrative area of private practice.

Question 21: What support do local systems and delivery partners need to successfully transition and deliver the new national system? (See chapter 6 paragraphs 8 – 14).

Before a new national system can be safely implemented, it needs to be designed, tested and reviewed. Local areas must be fully engaged in that design and current best practice must be recognised and shared. The current system is rich in learning and offers a bedrock for realistic feedback, on what will (does) work and what may not, because it can see the interconnections across the whole system from an informed and experiential perspective. We know that imposition of a new operational system, that was not based on full engagement and is not carefully planned and resourced, will not succeed. Indeed there is a

risk that it may introduce further stress, into an already broken system compounding current problems.

The overall change programme across education, social care and health is ambitious and will create exceptional capacity challenges across both National and Local Government Departments. Joined up thinking and collaboration across this broad horizon will be a critical factor to success. Defensive decision making that serves to move responsibilities from one agency to another, will not be helpful. An example is speech therapy. A speech therapist is a health professional, trained within the NHS. Arbitrary discrimination between what is a health or an education need, can create adversarial relationships in terms of where financial responsibility lies and who must commission a service. This is an example of disjointed silo planning which must be minimised – the Integrated Care Boards must offer a solution to this type of dilemma.

When this is in place, local areas will need to secure strong and sustainable leadership, supported by strong regional collaborative partnerships. This will secure an environment that promotes the sharing of ideas and resources, avoid 'reinventing the wheel' and harness the talent, skills and experience of the wider partnership including young people, parents and carers, The current ADCS regional structures working in partnership with the Regional Boards could provide a conduit for this. The alternative would be 150 local areas at different stages of a journey having to separately harness the capacity to deliver change in relative isolation. Local areas experience of delivery partners has been mixed. It is essential that a delivery partner adds real value and coordination over and above the expertise already available. For delivery partners to have credibility, Local Areas should be part of the commissioning function. Finally, the timeline for implementation must be realistic and ordered.

Question 22: Is there anything else you would like to say about the proposals in the green paper

Further related consultations

Annual reviews, amendment to timescales

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability-division/reviews-of-education-health-and-care-plans/consultation/subpage.2022-06-09.1567230234/>

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Public report Cabinet

Cabinet

12 July 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services- Councillor P Hetherton

Cabinet Members for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change - Councillor J O'Boyle

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Transportation and Highways

Ward(s) affected:

City-wide

Title:

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Procurement

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals within the report have financial implications in excess of £1m and significantly impacts on all wards in the city

Executive summary:

This report seeks approval to make three separate bid submissions to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for up to £5.5m from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund and the Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS). If successful, these bids could deliver a further 500 on street residential chargepoints along with 2 charging hubs that will include rapid chargers, solar panels and battery storage. The LEVI Pilot project proposals are shown in Appendix 1.

This investment will enable the city to significantly enhance charging facilities in the city and maintain our position as the best city in the UK in which to own an electric vehicle. The Council has already successfully received £2.8 million funding from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) between 2019 and 2022 under the Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme title leading to a network of 403 chargers, operational to date with 308 being operational by December 2022, which will take the total to 711 chargers with 949 charging bays, the largest of any city outside of London.

The promotion of electric vehicles is a key element of our strategy to decarbonise transport to tackle the causes of climate change and to improve air quality. The city is also home to many cutting-edge automotive companies and innovative organisations like the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre; therefore, the promotion of electrification of transport will support economic growth.

Approval is also sought to procure a further electric vehicle charge point supplier who will provide higher rated charge points, solar panels, and battery storage services as well as additional on street chargers given the council's current contracts have reached their maximum expenditure.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to submit a bid to OZEV for up to £2m LEVI Pilot funding and if successful become the accountable body and enter into relevant funding and legal agreements;
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to submit a bid to OZEV for up to £2m LEVI full funding and if successful become the accountable body and enter into relevant funding and legal agreements;
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways and Director of Law and Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to submit a bid to OZEV for up to £1.5m ORCS funding and if successful become the accountable body and enter into relevant funding and legal agreements;
- 4) Delegate authority to the Director Transport and Highways, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change to approve charging point locations across the City;
- 5) Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to procure a contract over a potential contract term of up to 25 year period, which includes mechanism regarding revenue sharing between the two parties;
- 6) Authorise the City Solicitor to undertake the necessary due diligence and entry into the contract(s) with the successful service provider/private consortium;
- 7) If the Bids are successful, agree that the schemes are added into the 5-year capital programme through the quarterly financial monitoring cycle;

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - LEVI Pilot Scheme

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy - [Click Here](#)

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Procurement

1. Context (or background)

1.1. On 25th March 2022, the Government published their Electric Vehicle Infrastructure strategy with a backing of £450M funding. This included:

1.1.1. The local electric vehicle infrastructure (LEVI) scheme: this is intended to encourage large scale, ambitious and commercially sustainable projects that leverage significant private sector investment. It is the intention that the LEVI will support a transition towards local chargepoint provision secured on a commercial basis without public funding. To test the design of the new scheme, OZEV have launched a £10 million pilot competition which they anticipate will fund between 3 and 8 projects. Following the pilot, the scheme will be shaped based upon this for funding applications for a later increased funding pot. The Council intends to apply for both the pilot and follow up LEVI funding.

1.1.2. OZEV have also confirmed another round Onstreet Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) funding of £20M presenting the Council with an opportunity to submit new applications for the supply, install and maintenance of residential charge points in Coventry City. The Council has already successfully benefitted from ORCS funding.

1.2. The Council fully intends to make separate bids for each of the 3 funding streams: LEVI pilot; full LEVI and ORCS. Applications for the pilot can be made in June 2022 with the ORCS and full LEVI due to open over the 2023/4 and 2024/5 financial years.

1.3. The Council has spent up to the financial limit of its current chargepoint contracts and therefore needs to re-procure a new contract/s to enable the delivery of all 3 funding streams (if successful).

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 In terms of bidding, the options considered are:

- a) to do nothing
- b) submit applications to OZEV for further funding to increase the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Schemes network in the city.

2.2 The recommended option is to bid for the maximum amount available in order to maintain the city's status as the best city in which to own an electric car. This is important to ensure we tackle the causes of climate change as well as improving air quality in Coventry and supporting local manufacturers and innovators.

2.3 The proposals will see chargepoints installed on highway and on Council land including solar panels, battery storage facility and provisions for multi modal services.

2.4 It is expected that the private sector (the supplier) will be investing a large percentage of the project costs. Therefore, the contract would be with a single supplier whom the client could build a relationship with, which would allow the supplier to build a greater understanding of the Council and City. Through this delivery, the supplier would have the opportunity to give a greater input into potential future initiatives including the Council's main LEVI funding bid. It would also support the Council's funding bid by having a procured supplier and contract in place, giving confidence in the Council's ability to deliver its bids.

2.5 The funding will require the awarded supplier to make a part funded investment into each of the schemes, with each potentially differing in their percentages. The amount to be invested

will depend upon the scheme and amount of funding the Council can secure from its bids. It is anticipated that the supplier will require and expect a reasonable contract term under the contract that allows them to re-coup their investment and enable a return for that investment.

- 2.6 All 3 schemes will not start simultaneously due to different windows for the funding bids. It is anticipated they will be delivered:

Year 1 of contract – LEVI pilot
Year 2-3 of contract – ORCS
Year 3-4 of contract – LEVI full fund

- 2.7 Due to the potential size of the LEVI funding (both pilot and follow up), the funded expenditure through this contract if successfully obtained would be the largest the Council has made to date. As the funding is part funded by the supplier, the size of the project from the expenditure will require a larger commitment from the suppliers in term of investment, increasing the need for a longer term to allow for the return of the investment and a reasonable return to justify the supplier's significant investment.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. The LEVI proposals have been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders. See Appendix 1 for details.
- 3.2. It is proposed to carry out consultation with external stakeholders in the coming months once we are successful in securing the funding from OZEV for LEVI and ORCS.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The proposal is to submit applications over the three financial years, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.
- 4.2. The proposal to deliver the three streams of works is as follows:
- 4.2.1. Year 1 of contract – LEVI pilot
- 4.2.2. Year 2-3 of contract – ORCS project and
- 4.2.3. Year 3-4 of contract – LEVI full fund

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

- 5.1.1. A total of three to five bids are proposed for submission over a three-year period to the total value of circa £5.5m across the three funding streams. If these bids are successful, they will be added to the 5-year capital programme and delivered over the next 3 to 4 years using external funding (grant plus private sector funding) with no match funding required from CCC.
- 5.1.2. For charge points installed on the highway there are one-off costs to the Council related to advertising any traffic regulation orders and undertaking consultation with city constituents. It is proposed that these costs are funded from existing CRSTS Local

Network Improvement Plan grant budgets (formerly known as the Integrated Transport Programme).

5.1.3. There are no on-going cost implications for the Council with regards to the operating costs of the assets as the supplier will be responsible for the running costs of the assets within the contract, which will include EV charge points, solar panels, battery storage and provision of multi-modal services.

5.1.4. There are two on-going financial implications for the Council:

5.1.4.1. There is potentially a reduction in car park income due to the part closure of Warwick Street Car-park (page 4 in Appendix 1 to the report). This is expected to be less than £10k per year.

5.1.4.2. The Council could however benefit from income received through a revenue share arrangement or p/kWh tariff. The figures for this will become known once the contract is awarded to a supplier but are expected to exceed the above income loss

5.1.5. It is intended that any resulting net benefit that the Council receives from revenue shares is reinvested in EV charging schemes.

5.2. Legal Implications

5.2.1. Law and Governance should be fully involved at every stage of the tender submission, consultation and proposed tender exercise and will be on hand and available to assist and advice on any legal issues that may arise.

5.2.2. Furthermore, the procurement referred to in this report will be carried out pursuant to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the relevant requirements of the Procurement Regulations.

5.2.3 On the highway, Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be required on the parking and spaces per EV rapid charger. Once the locations have been finalised, a TRO will be advertised in relation to these spaces. This will trigger a statutory 21-day objection period. If objections are received, they will be subject to a further report to the Cabinet Member for City Services.

5.2.4 Any EV charge units located on Council owned land will be subject to a lease agreement being drawn up by the Council's Property Management Services supported by Law and Governance.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

It is considered that the proposals support the Council Plan objective to create an attractive, greener city by making it easier for people to use electric vehicles within the city, thereby reducing vehicle emissions, improving the environment, and tackling climate change, and supporting the delivery of the Local Air Quality Action Plan for Coventry.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

Risk is being managed through the project governance.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

At this stage a Equality Impact Assessment is not required to be completed. However, if the bid is successful a Equality Impact Assessment will undertake to assess the impact of change of services on Coventry Residents. By undertaking the Equality Impact Assessment, Coventry City Council will ensure the new service does not discriminate against any protected group, where possible and promotes quality of opportunity.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

The intention of implementing these chargepoints is that once they are installed and operational, residents will have confidence to purchase or lease electric cars as they will be able to charge near their homes. As electric vehicle uptake increases, the (anticipated) reduced levels of CO2 and NO2 emissions should result in improvements to local air quality. This would support the Coventry Local Air Quality Plan which was approved by the Council's Cabinet in July 2020.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):
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Councillor J O'Boyle	Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change	-	13.06.22	14.06.22
Councillor P Hetheron	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	13.06.22	17.06.22

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



Appendix 1

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot Project

In partnership with Commercial Charge Point Operator

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Gilbert Richards Centre

LAT LONG: 52.40050356084795, -1.527458571419133
MAP LINK: <https://goo.gl/maps/oPGQRv6iMrw1k5689>

AC chargers

- 16 7 kW recharging bollards
- 6 e-bikes docking station (10 kW)

Key:

-  Car Recharging Bollards
-  e-Bike Docking Station
-  New Gate



This car park is closed during the night time. The proposal is to install 16 x 7 kW charging bollards and make them accessible to the nearby residents (up to 10mins walking distance) who do not have off street parking facility.

Coundon Family centre



82 Moseley Avenue CV6 1AB

LAT LONG: 52.416428421311636, -1.5274571360688263
MAP LINK: <https://goo.gl/maps/Cr5Pa5StoRzZknJV9>

AC chargers

- 42 7 kW recharging bollards
- 4 x solar panels canopies generation: 115 kWp (installed peak) c. 91,396 kWh p.a.
- 1 x battery storage facility



- Key:
-  Solar Canopy
 -  Battery

This car park is closed during the night time. The proposal is to install 42 x 7 kW charging bollards and make them accessible to the nearby residents (up to 10mins walking distance) who do not have off street parking facility. Battery will allow for a smaller grid connection.

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Warwick St Car Park

LAT LON: 52.398820592041034, -1.5335299025678497
MAP LINK: <https://goo.gl/maps/ZHqeZFcW4Awg5JYV9>

AC/DC chargers

- 15 7 kW recharging bollards
- 2 x 25 kW DC recharging units (2 x advertising screens on Earlsdon Street)
- 6 x e-bikes with docking station
- 6 x e-scooters* with docking station
- 3 x e-mopeds with docking station
- 3 x e-car club cars with 2 x 7 kW & 1 x 25kW recharging bollards
- 3 x solar panels canopies generation: 50 kWp (installed peak) c. 39,738 kWh pa.
- 1 x battery storage facility

Key:

-  Solar Canopy
-  Battery
-  Car Club Car
-  e-Scooter Docking Station*
-  e-Bike & e-Moped Docking Station
-  Advertising Screen



The proposal is to install 15 x 7 kW charging bollards and make them accessible to the nearby residents (up to 10mins walking distance) who do not have off street parking facility. Battery will allow for a smaller grid connection.

* Subject to legalisation







Leicester Row Car Park

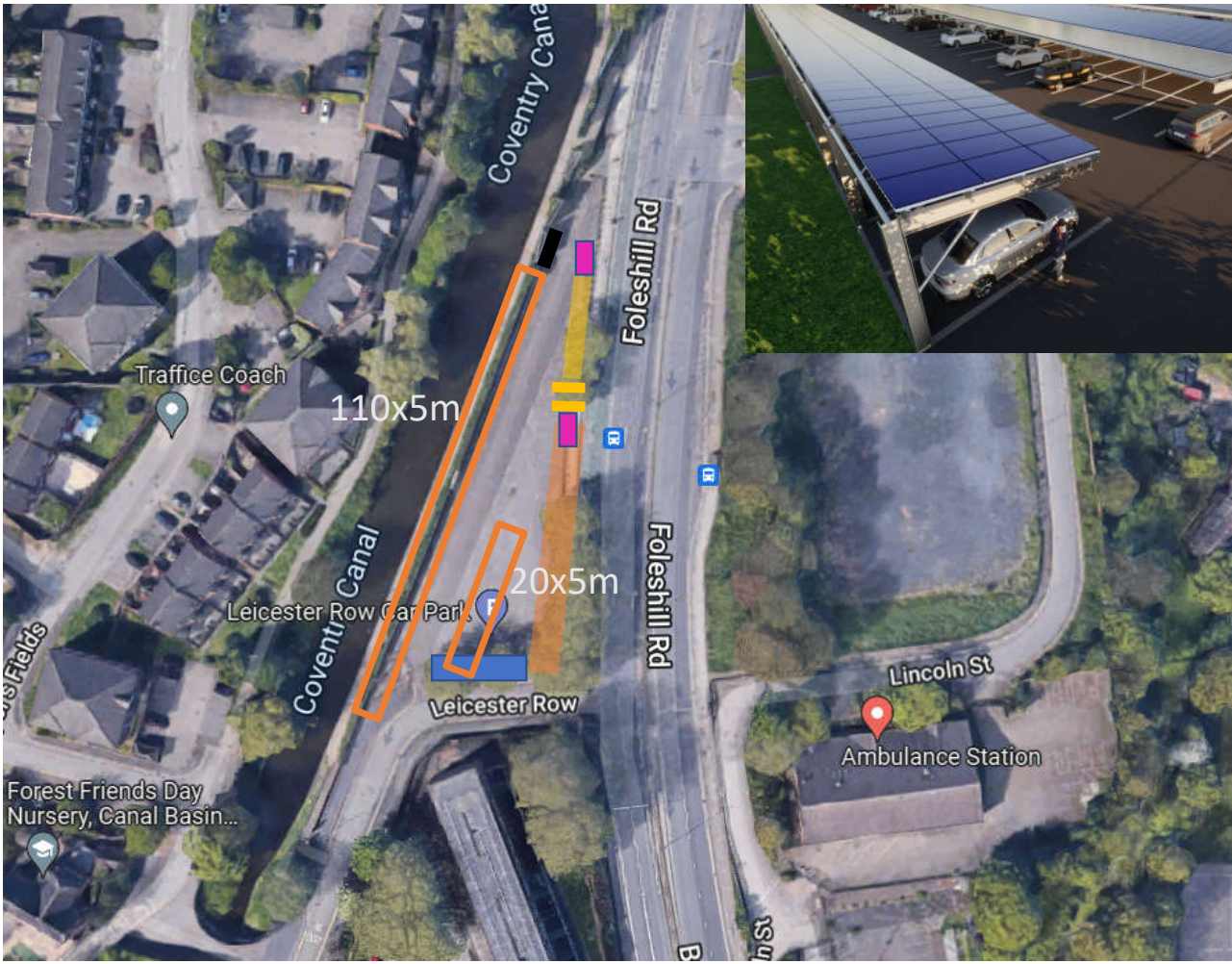
LAT LONG: 52.41482329663968, -1.509999106397645
 MAP LINK: <https://goo.gl/maps/CSwRF33phstDwdfBA>

AC/DC chargers

- 30 x 7 kW recharging bollards
- 1 x 50 kW DC recharging unit
- 2 x 25 kW DC recharging units (2 x advertising screens on Foleshill Road)
- 6 x e-bikes with docking station
- 10 x e-scooters* with docking station
- 3 x e-mopeds with docking station
- 2 x e-car club cars with 7 kW recharging bollards
- 2 x solar panels canopies generation: 206kWp (installed peak) c. 163,719 kWh p.a.
- 1 x battery storage facility

Key:

-  Solar Canopy and Car Recharging Bollards
-  Car Club Car
-  Battery
-  e-Scooter Docking Station*
-  e-Bike & e-Moped Docking Station
-  Advertising Screens & 25 kW DC Units



The proposal is to install 30 x 7 kW charging bollards and make them accessible to the nearby residents (upto 10mins walking distance) who do not have off street parking facility. Battery will allow for a smaller grid connection. * Subject to legalisation

Accessibility solution on Various Streets

Wireless DC charging pads

- 13 x 11 kW wireless recharging pads

There are 13 streets within the City Centre ring road which hosts disabled parking bays. The proposal is to install 11 kW DC wireless recharging pad in one disabled bay in each street making charging infrastructure more accessible.

Street name
Bayley Lane x 1
Cuckoo Lane x 1
Corporation Street x 1
Greyfriars Lane x 1
Hill Street x 1
Little Park Street x 1
Priory St x 1
Queen Victoria Rd x 1
Rover Road x 1
St Mary's St x 1
Trinity St x 1
Warwick Lane x 1
Whitefriars St x 1



Appendix 1

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot Project

In partnership with Commercial Charge Point Operator

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Cabinet
2022

12 July

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member Adult Services – Councillor M Mutton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Adult Services and Housing

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals involve financial implications in excess of £1m per annum and are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses two or more electoral wards in the City.

Executive Summary:

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) are available to disabled people when works to adapt their home are judged necessary and appropriate to meet their needs and when it is reasonable and practicable to carry them out having regard to the age and condition of the dwelling.

This report seeks to update and supersede the City Council Housing Assistance Policy which focused on discretionary support for those in fuel poverty to include more flexible use of DFGs.

By updating the policy, the areas where discretionary funding can be provided will be expanded and will enable more flexible arrangements that are currently not possible under a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant and will enable the City Council to support more people in more flexible ways and will further support our policy objective of enabling people to remain at home through promoting independence.

The discretionary ability that adopting this policy allows include:

- Removal of financial assessment where the grant does not exceed £6000
- The ability to 'top-up' the grant where the value exceeds £30000
- Assistance to meet the client's assessed contribution
- The provision of at home safely scheme
- Discretionary use of DFG for heating and insulation
- Assistance to move to a more suitable home
- Funding for respite care while work required to provide an adaptation is carried out

The application of the above will be on a case-by-case basis but adopting the updated Housing Assistance Policy enables a greater level of flexibility to use DFGs to support people to remain in their own homes or move to a more suitable home.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Approve the adoption of the draft Housing Assistance Policy - Disabled Facilities Grant attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2) Approve that minor revisions to the Housing Assistance Policy attached at Appendix 1 of this report, including any amendments to the financial limits which are capable of being funded from within existing corporate resources, can be made by the Director of Adult Services and Housing, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, from time to time when needed.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Housing Assistance Policy - Disabled Facilities Grant (mandatory and discretionary) 2022 – 2024

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) delivery: guidance for local authorities in England. 28 March 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-facilities-grant-dfg-delivery-guidance-for-local-authorities-in-england/disabled-facilities-grant-dfg-delivery-guidance-for-local-authorities-in-england>
- Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/53/contents>
- Housing Assistance Policy for the Keeping Coventry Warm Scheme. 19th March 2021. <https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s49737/Housing%20Assistance%20Policy%20for%20the%20Keeping%20Coventry%20Warm%20Scheme.pdf>

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: Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant

1. Context (or background)

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) are available to disabled people when works to adapt their home are considered necessary and appropriate to meet their needs and enable them to continue living at home, when it is reasonable and practicable to carry them out having regard to the age and condition of the property. DFGs are generally subject to a test of resources which means that the applicant's income and savings have to be assessed.

There is both a mandatory and discretionary element to DFGs.

Mandatory DFG's are provided to people with disabilities to adapt their environment to enable them to live as independently as possible. To access a DFG involves a test of finances which can, and does, limit individuals' ability to access the grant. Depending on savings or income, people can be awarded anything from 100% of the grant to 0%. The grant limit is currently set by government at £30k which in some cases is not sufficient to cover the cost of such major adaptations that may be required, and families struggle to source the additional funding. This can leave people struggling in their environment because they have been excluded from the grant or do not have sufficient funds for their contribution and therefore the adaptations cannot be afforded. This can have a negative impact on their physical ability and mental wellbeing. It can also have a negative impact on other council resources used to fund adult social care as the person often then needs support from a carer (usually through a contracted care provider) to help them continue to live at home.

People with disabilities who are able to remain in work are negatively impacted by the DFG test of resources. The test assumes that if an individual, or their partner, has a regular income there is the capacity to fund a loan to pay for their adaptation and therefore they are not eligible for grant aid. The test does not take into account any current outgoings a person has and that often people do not have disposable income to pay for a loan.

All local authorities must operate the mandatory scheme as a minimum.

The Regulatory Reform Order (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO) gave local housing authorities the power to adopt discretionary policies with regards to housing interventions to promote independent living and wellbeing. However, the Council must first adopt a Housing Assistance Policy before a discretionary grant assistance can be deployed through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

Although the ability to apply discretionary grant assistance through an RRO is long standing the assurance of having sufficient resources has not matched this. In 2016 only 53% of local authorities had an RRO policy compared with over 85% now.

Through now adopting the Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant Housing Assistance Policy, this will enable more flexible use of the grant allocation which will enable the City Council to support more people to remain living independently at home.

On average 400 referrals are received each year for DFG of which 15% do not progress, or are delayed progressing, due to the financial assessment. Whilst some of those people will have the financial resources to fund their adaptation there will be a high proportion who genuinely will not be able to. There will also be a cohort of people who do not approach the council for support currently because they are aware they may not pass the financial assessment. Whilst we cannot fund adaptations retrospectively, on publication of the HAP those with an unmet need will be encouraged to contact us to establish if we can now support them.

The aims of the Policy are set out below and within the policy document (Appendix 1 to the report).

- To improve the lives of people with disabilities by enabling access and movement around their own home with the use of adaptations.
- To allow more effective use of the Better Care Fund, cutting out bureaucracy and contributing to the aims of the fund, particularly by reducing hospital admissions and allowing early hospital discharges.
- To enable vulnerable and disabled citizens to live with dignity within their homes, and improve their health and wellbeing, by ensuring their accommodation meets their needs.
- To provide grants to ensure that people with disabilities have access to essential facilities and provide safety in the home.
- To provide advice, information and support regarding the adaptation of properties to meet accessibility needs and provide a framework of assistance to vulnerable groups.
- To support those who are not eligible for standard DFG assistance.

The discretionary ability that adopting this policy allows include:

- Removal of financial assessment where the grant does not exceed £6000 – this increases the point at which individuals may be required to make a contribution from the mandatory £1000 level
- The ability to ‘top-up’ the grant where the value exceeds £30000 – this will enable more significant adaptations to be funded
- Assistance to meet the clients assessed contribution – where individuals are unable to make their assessed contribution the council will have the discretionary ability to support with this
- The provision of at home safety scheme – this enables minor works to improve safety at home
- Discretionary use of DFG for heating and insulation – this improves our ability to reduce the impact of fuel poverty for people with disabilities who are at risk of the health impacts of the cold
- Assistance to move to a more suitable home – this enables the council to support the costs of people with disabilities moving to a more suitable home
Funding for respite care while work required to provide an adaptation is carried out – for some people there are additional health impacts associated with remaining at home whilst an adaptation is completed. This element will enable respite support to be provided away from the home while the work is completed.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Option One – Recommended Option

Adopt the Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant

It is recommended that the City Council adopts the proposed policy in order to extend our DFG provision beyond the mandatory scheme. The policy gives the Council the authority to provide discretionary grants relating to individuals that improves their ability to live independently and/or safely in their home.

2.2 Option Two – Not Recommended

Continue to provide Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants

The Council could continue to provide DFGs at the mandatory level only and this is permissible and acceptable. This option is not recommended as it does not enable the City Council to make full use of the range of options it has available to support more people through the flexibilities available through the discretionary scheme.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No specific consultation was undertaken on the proposals contained within this report. As the proposals extend our DFG provisions, so provide an enhancement to the current service offering the impact is a positive one. Should the policy be approved then the provisions will be applied on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the individual seeking support. The policy document and explanatory notes have been reviewed by Foundations (the national body for home improvement agencies in England.) They have been appointed by the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities to oversee the national network of agencies delivering DFG.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Implementation of the Policy will start from the date of approval.
- 4.2 All flexible DFG works are discretionary and may be withdrawn by the Council at any time. The decision to award any flexible DFG work, or services is completely at the discretion of the Council.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

In 2015 the Government announced a spending programme through the Better Care Fund (a pooled health and social care budget) which increased DFG allocation, initially up to 2020 but this has continued beyond that date.

The Disabled Facilities Grant allocation for 2022/23 is £4.182m.

It is expected that the financial impact of introducing the discretionary DFG Housing Assistance Policy can be accommodated within the current allocated resources. The financial implications of the policy will be monitored as part of the existing quarterly budgetary control process. The policy will be subject to review in the case of predicted financial overspends or reductions in future grant allocations.

5.2 Legal implications

This policy makes use of the powers provided under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 to offer an extension of the national mandatory DFG scheme under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 for disabled people of all ages in Coventry.

The policy also provides structure and clarity to meeting needs which may fall outside the mandatory DFG and allows for recovery or recoument of those costs in appropriate situations.

Should the Housing Assistance Policy be adopted, the Council is required to give public notice that it has been adopted, and to make it available for public inspection, free of charge, at the Council House at all reasonable times. Furthermore, copies of it must be made available by post on request and any reasonable charges applicable to this must be made clear.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The policy supports Coventry City Council's Vision for 2016-2024 in the following ways:

- Improving the quality of people's lives in Coventry and focussing on improving health and wellbeing and supporting people to live independent lives.
- Helping people to maintain their independence and supporting them when they need help.
- Enabling people to exercise choice and control in their daily lives.
- Helping support people facing multiple and complex needs.
- Putting local people and their needs at the heart of the customer journey.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There are no specific risks associated with adopting the Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant. Should the financial position in respect of DFGs change to the point where it was appropriate to revert to the mandatory scheme only, then the Housing Assistant Policy can be withdrawn at the discretion of the council.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, known as the Public Sector Equality Duty, requires the Council to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people.

When making policy, delivering services or otherwise exercising its functions the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and have regard to the age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation of the citizens concerned.

This policy will not negatively impact on individuals as it treats individuals fairly, regardless of age, sex, gender, disability and sexual orientation.

A copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

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

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Housing Assistance Policy

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

2022 - 2024

Version	V2 draft
Lead Author	Sheila Stirling
Designation	Service Manager: Therapy and Enablement Services
Head of Service	Sally Caren - Head of Adult Social Care and Support
Target Audience	Members of the public. Staff responsible for administration of DFG
Approved By	
Approval Date	
Review Date	

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Version Control Sheet

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment / changes
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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enable the provision of mandatory and discretionary grant assistance for eligible Coventry residents to enable them to live safely and independently in their home. This will ensure people's homes are safe, adequately heated and can help people relocate to alternative accommodation if their current home is not able to meet their needs. It will enable additional help in the form of flexible Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) arrangements to be provided that would not be possible under a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant.

The assistance will be provided through the Disabled Facilities Grants under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (the 1996 Act) as amended by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (the RRO). The RRO and ODPM Circular 05/2003 require that the Council must first adopt a Housing Assistance Policy before the discretionary grant assistance can be deployed using DFG funding.

Coventry City Council plan to give notice of the Housing Assistance Policy by publishing an article in Citivision. Citivision is a magazine delivered to the residents of Coventry with news, views and features about the work of the Council. Information will also be shared in community venues across the city such as GP surgeries and libraries.

The Housing Assistance Policy will be available on the Council's website <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/>. It will also be available at the Council House free of charge during opening hours. Furthermore, copies are available by post on request.

2 Policy Context

The cost of adapting your home can be very expensive and many people worry about what sort of adaptations may be appropriate as well as whom to employ to ensure they will be done properly. If you have a disability, there may be a grant available from Coventry City Council called a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). This grant is available to help you make necessary adaptations to enable you to stay independent in your own home. Provided you meet the financial criteria of the grant, and you require certain essential adaptations to help you remain independent in your own home, the council may be able to assist you.

This policy makes use of the powers provided under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 to offer an extension of the national mandatory DFG scheme under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 for disabled people of all ages in Coventry.

These powers enable local housing authorities to offer their own, locally tailored financial assistance. The assistance must provide at least the same level of assistance as that offered by the existing mandatory DFG, but the assistance available under this policy enables the provision of more flexible services to better meet the needs of some of Coventry's disabled residents and their families.

3 Aims of the Policy

The policy supports Coventry City Council's Vision for 2016-2024 in the following ways:

- Improving the quality of people's lives in Coventry and focussing on improving health and wellbeing and supporting people to live independent lives.
- Helping people to maintain their independence and supporting them when they need help.

- Enabling people to exercise choice and control in their daily lives.
- Helping support people facing multiple and complex needs.
- Putting local people and their needs at the heart of the customer journey.
- Supporting those experiencing fuel poverty.
- Improving the lives of people with disabilities by enabling access and movement around their own home with the use of adaptations.
- Allowing more effective use of the Better Care Fund, cutting out bureaucracy and contributing to the aims of the fund, particularly by reducing hospital admissions and allowing early hospital discharges.
- Enhancing the health and well-being of disabled and vulnerable residents because it is often compromised due to their homes not meeting their specific needs, and this can impact on their ability to live with dignity within their homes.
- Providing advice, information and support regarding the adaptation of properties to meet accessibility needs and provide a framework of assistance to vulnerable groups.
- Treating individuals fairly, regardless of age, sex, gender, disability and sexual orientation and to protect their rights under data protection and human rights legislation.

4 Legal Context

Housing Assistance may be offered in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 with the underlying legislation governing the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) covered by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act. This enables the council to use its discretionary powers to make better use of its limited resources.

The Housing Act 2004 introduced the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) as a way of measuring Decent Homes and imposed a duty upon the council to act where Category 1 hazards as identified under HHSRS are present in a dwelling.

In 2006 the Department for Local Government and Communities published the standard for Decent Homes determining that a property must meet the current statutory minimum standard for housing, it must be in a reasonable state of repair, it must have reasonably modern facilities and services and it must provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996: Part 1 as amended by the Disabled Facilities Grant Order 2008 states that the local authority has a statutory duty to provide adaptations to homes for disabled people. Funding for these adaptations is provided through DFG.

The Care Act 2014 states that local authorities must provide or arrange services, resources or facilities that maximise independence.

In 2015 the Government announced a spending programme through the Better Care Fund (a pooled health and social care budget) which significantly increased DFG allocation to Housing Authorities, initially leading up to 2020 but this has continued beyond that date and is forecast to continue. In providing the additional DFG funding the government has encouraged a more integrated approach to improve outcomes across health, social care and housing using a more joined up approach to working.

This additional funding provides an opportunity for housing authorities to determine new housing assistance policies to introduce a wider range of discretionary assistance designed to meet the needs of disabled, older, and vulnerable local residents. The Policy was amended in August 2017 to reflect this.

A customer defined by the 1996 Act as a person with a disability, is eligible for assistance. Disabilities include substantial impairments in:

- sight, hearing, or speech
- any 'mental disorder or impairment'

- Registerable under the National Assistance Act 1948 (Adults)
- A disabled child under Part III of the Children Act 1989

DFGs are mandatory grants which are available to eligible disabled people for works which are necessary and appropriate to meet their needs, and when it is considered reasonable and practicable to carry out the works when having regard to the age or condition of the dwelling or building.

5 How to apply for a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant or a discretionary type of assistance

5.1 Referral process

To be eligible for an application for a DFG, the City Council's Occupational Therapy (OT) department will undertake an assessment of the applicant's needs. In circumstances where the adaptations are specialist / very complex, a trusted assessment will be accepted from an OT employed by health or Social Care. All recommendations are processed by the City Council OT department. To progress the application, evidence must be available which demonstrates that the need for the adaptation is necessary and appropriate, and the Adaptations Team must be satisfied that the proposed adaptation is reasonable and practicable.

- **Necessary and Appropriate**
This is within the remit of the therapist. The therapist must be able to demonstrate that there is no other way to meet the customer's needs other than the provision of a DFG. For example, if a customer can maintain their personal hygiene with provision of minor equipment, to then request a bathroom adaptation would not be necessary and appropriate.
- **Reasonable and Practicable**
If the therapist can demonstrate that it is necessary and appropriate for a customer to apply for a DFG, a referral is made to the Adaptations Team. The Adaptations Team will then determine whether it is reasonable and practicable to proceed with the application. For example, the therapist may request a ramp for someone, but if the ramp physically will not fit in the garden, then it is not reasonable and practicable to apply for a DFG because the property is structurally not suited to adaptations.

There are situations where these conditions cannot be met, and therefore the provisions of the RRO may be utilised to provide the needed flexibility to the traditional DFG arrangement to the benefit of some of Coventry's disabled residents. To apply for a DFG, the customer (or their representative) must refer to Adult Social Care Direct:



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

Usually, a Contact Assessment Worker will contact the applicant to gather more information regarding the circumstances. The customer may then be signposted to other Services that can meet their needs, or an assessment with a therapist will be arranged. The therapist will work with the customer to establish how best their needs can be met; the least intrusive and most cost-effective options will be explored first, escalating in complexity until a suitable solution is reached. If it is determined that a DFG is the necessary and appropriate solution, the case is passed to the

Adaptations Team who then work with the customer and the therapist to provide an adaptation that is reasonable and practicable.

5.2 Application for the grant

Grant funding in most cases is means tested. Only the income and savings / capital of the applicant and their partner are considered. Evidence of any income and benefits the applicant receives is required including pay slips, pensions, disability benefits, etc. as well as evidence of any capital and savings. The applicant should provide the National Insurance numbers of all the adults living in the property and also needs to know who holds the deeds of the property (for proof of ownership purposes).

Following a means test, depending on the applicant's financial status an award from 0% to 100% of the costs of the adaptations that have been assessed as meeting the needs could be awarded. If a contribution is needed, the applicant needs to confirm that they are prepared to fund this before the case is progressed any further. The contribution is paid directly to the contractor when the work is completed.

If in receipt of income related benefits (for example Income Support, Guarantee Pension Credit) there is no means test for the grant. Applications on behalf of a child are not subject to a means test.

There is a notional means testing facility on the Council's website

https://myaccount.coventry.gov.uk/service/Notional_assessment



An application will only be considered complete or valid when the council or appointed agent has all the information necessary to make a decision on the application.

5.3 Working with contractors

In delivering the grant approved work, the council act as agents on behalf of the applicant. An officer will coordinate the works, providing plans, seek quotes applying for any planning permission and act as a liaison between the applicant and contractor.

The Council has a list of approved contractors that we can secure the services of for the applicant. If the applicant wishes to appoint their own contractor, the contractor will need £5 million Public Liability Insurance and be a member of an SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) organisation. If the applicant selects their own contractor, the applicant needs to be satisfied that the contractor is capable of carrying out the type of work which has been recommended.

In all cases, the contract for the work is between the applicant and the contractor.

6 **Purposes for which the Disabled Facilities Grant may be given**

6.1 **Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**

These grants are mandatory under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and are subject to a statutory test of resources (means test) required to establish whether the applicant is financially able to contribute towards the costs of the eligible scheme.

Disabled Facilities Grants are awarded to enable applicants to have access to and around their homes, or to use essential facilities within the home to enable them to live safely and independently. Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants can only be given for the purposes set out in the Act.

- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to and from the dwelling.
- Making the dwelling safe for the disabled occupant and other persons residing with him.
- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to a room used or usable as the principal family room.
- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room used or usable for sleeping.
- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a lavatory, or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility.
- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a bath or shower (or both), or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility;
- Facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a wash-hand basin, or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility.
- Facilitating the preparation and cooking of food by the disabled occupant.
- Improving any heating system in the dwelling to meet the needs of the disabled occupant or, if there is no existing heating system or any such system is unsuitable for use by the disabled occupant, providing a heating system suitable to meet his needs.
- Facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of a source of power, light or heat by altering the position of one or more means of access to or control of that source or by providing additional means of control.
- Facilitating access and movement by the disabled occupant around the dwelling in order to enable him to care for a person who is normally resident and is in need of such care.
- Facilitating safe access to and from a garden by a disabled occupant.

Ongoing maintenance and repair of adaptations and equipment provided under the grant will become the responsibility of the applicant or landlord as relevant.

Whilst it is recognised that a Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory grant, it is the Council's intention where possible to investigate all housing options that might meet the needs of the applicant in the most cost effective and suitable way before awarding a Disabled Facilities Grant. This could include moving to a more suitable and / or adapted accommodation that may be available to the applicant.

The maximum amount of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant is currently £30,000 set by statute. Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant for costs above £30,000 will not be made available except upon the agreement of the council, in accordance with this policy under the Discretionary top up for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant, and where justified to be the most satisfactory course of action in the circumstances or to have arisen through reasonable and unforeseeable additional works or costs.

The council / appointed agent will endeavour to determine all valid applications within two weeks of receipt unless further information is required to enable that decision. Where additional information or other factors necessitate further investigation of options, the council will determine the application at the earliest opportunity within the statutory timescale of 6 months.

Eligible Applicants

- Any applicant registered or capable of being registered under the Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act 1970 who requires adaptations to be provided.
- Any disabled person, as described by Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, s.100. Applicants can be property owners or tenants, or some landlords may apply on behalf of tenants.

Qualifying Criteria

- A referral from the Community Occupational Therapist (COT) via Social Services or a Trusted Assessor confirming that the works are 'necessary and appropriate' is required. This referral will recommend works.
- Entitlement to a Disabled Facilities Grant is mandatory but before approval the council must be satisfied that the relevant works are both necessary and appropriate for the disabled person, and additionally that it is 'reasonable and practicable' to carry out the works.
- A permanent and legal residence, or long-term in the case of fostering, including dwellings, mobile homes, caravans, and houseboats. Second or holiday homes will not be considered for assistance.

Conditions

- Works must qualify as described in s23 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (as amended).
- Works must be recommended by a Community Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor and be necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled applicant.
- The works must be reasonable and practicable to carry out having regard to the age and condition of the dwelling or building.
- The applicant will be subject to a financial assessment of resources except where i) the applicant (relevant person(s)) is in receipt of one or more of the following means tested benefits; Housing Benefit, Income Support, Guaranteed Pension Credit, Income-based Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Working/Child Tax Credit where income is less than set threshold, Universal Credit ii) The application is in respect of a disabled child. Proof of title is required.
- The landlord's consent to the works is required where applicable.
- Conditions relating to the recovery of equipment in specified circumstances are applied.
- The council will use its powers to place a local land charge against the property where the Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant exceeds £5000. The charge may be up to a maximum of £10,000 and repayment of the sum on charge is required where the adapted property is sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of within a 10-year period from completion of the work.
- In the case of a Disabled Facilities Grant where a 10 year conditional repayment obligation exists and the recipient intends to dispose of the property by sale, assignment, transfer or otherwise within the 10 year period, the charge must be repaid, unless the council, having considered:
 - i) the extent to which the recipient of the assistance would suffer financial hardship were he / she to be required to repay all or some of the grant or charge.
 - ii) whether the disposal of the property is to enable the recipient to take up employment, or to change the location of his / her employment.
 - iii) whether the disposal is made for reasons connected with the physical or mental health or well-being of the recipient of the assistance or of the disabled occupant of the property; and
 - iv) whether the disposal is made to enable the recipient of the assistance to live with, or near, any person who is disabled or infirm and in need of care, which the recipient of the assistance is intending to provide, or who is intending to provide care of which the recipient of the assistance is in need of by reason of disability or infirmity, is satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances to waiver or reduce the repayable sum.

6.2 Discretionary Assistance

Discretionary grants are subject to available funding and management approval. There is no right of appeal to a decision about a discretionary grant.

6.2.1 Threshold for Financial Assessment

The council has removed the financial assessment for DFGs where the cost of the approved grant does not exceed £6,000.

Raising the threshold for financial assessment will reduce the amount of time taken to process low-level adaptations applications and support more vulnerable people in the community.

Eligible applicants

- Applicants who meet the criteria for mandatory DFG.

Qualifying Criteria

- A financial assessment for grant aid is not undertaken where the total works completed are not expected to cost more than £6000.

Conditions

- To be used for low-level one-off adaptations such as a ramp or a shower adaptation. If work estimates suggest a cost higher than £6000, a financial assessment will be undertaken for the full award of the grant.
- Whilst the works are in progress and unforeseen costs are incurred which brings the total cost of the works over £6k, a financial assessment will be undertaken on the costs in excess of £6k only
- If there is a likelihood that additional costs will be required during the completion of works, these must be accounted for at the planning stage. If works are likely to exceed £6000 then a financial assessment on the full grant will be undertaken.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- £6,000 (before a DFG application must be made)

6.2.2 Discretionary Top-up Grant

The Council has agreed to use discretionary powers to provide, in eligible cases, a top-up award in addition to the £30,000 mandatory grant for more complex cases where the work required can exceed the maximum mandatory grant award.

This is subject to senior management approval. Grants up to £10k will be considered at the DFG approval panel.

Eligible applicants

- Applicants who meet the criteria for mandatory DFG.

Qualifying Criteria

- This discretionary element can only be accessed where the full £30,000 of mandatory grant has been utilised.
- Applicants do not have the financial resources to fund works over the maximum grant.
- This grant can only be used for works identified as necessary and appropriate by the OT.

Conditions

- Discretionary grants will only be considered when there is a significant risk to the applicant should the complete works assessed as necessary and appropriate not be completed.
- In cases where the adaptations are for a child, the parents / guardians may be subject to a financial assessment to determine ability to fund additional costs on top of mandatory grant.

- The discretionary element will be registered as a land charge on the property on owner occupied properties and, in the event the property is sold within a 10-year period, the Council requires full repayment. Please note this is separate to the £10,000 recoverable DFG which expires at 10 years from certification of works completion.
- The availability of the top-up grant is at the discretion of the Council and subject to availability of funding.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- £10,000

6.2.3 Assistance with assessed contribution following a means test.

The Council is aware that in some cases there may be difficulty for the applicant paying the assessed contribution. In such cases applicants will be able to complete a financial statement detailing their income and outgoings, and at the discretion of the Council the contribution may be reduced or rescinded if appropriate. Assistance will be awarded on an individual basis and is aimed at preventing applicants facing hardship to receive appropriate adaptations to their home.

This is subject to senior management approval. Grants up to £10k will be considered at the DFG approval panel. Grants over £10k and up to the maximum £30k will be considered at panel chaired by Head of Service.

Eligible applicants

- Those eligible for Mandatory DFG assistance but where payment of their means tested assessed contribution would demonstrably result in financial hardship applicants who meet the criteria for mandatory DFG.

Qualifying Criteria

- The OT report to demonstrate that all the identified necessary and appropriate adaptations required if not carried out will have a significant impact on the applicant's safety in their home or a severe risk to their health.
- Essential assessed works cannot be completed because the applicant cannot afford the assessed contribution.

Conditions

- Only works assessed as necessary and appropriate will be provided.
- Evidence of financial hardship to be provided (e.g., proof of inability to obtain funds from high street loan or proof of incomings / outgoings / lack of savings etc.)
- The discretionary element will be registered as a land charge on the property on owner occupied properties and, in the event the property is sold within a 10-year period, the Council requires full repayment.
- Evidence that not completing the adaptations could result in increased costs to the Social Care Budget.
- Cannot be used with other discretionary grants.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- £30,000

6.2.4 At home Safely Scheme

This scheme makes provision for minor works to be undertaken at an individual's property to enable them to live independently and safely in their home.

This can also be used to support with hospital discharge arrangements or avoidance admission. A priority service is available for these cases to ensure timely installation.

Works can include:

- Grab rails
- Stair rails

- Tap alterations
- Lighting for visual impairment
- Deep Clean
- Dementia friendly design

This list is not exhaustive and each case outside of this range will be referred to the Council's Occupational Therapy service for consideration.

This scheme is for owner occupiers and tenants.

Eligible applicants

- Those with a physical or mental impairment, where the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

Qualifying Criteria

- Assessment and recommendation by a Health or Social Care professional.

Conditions

- Work requests which are deemed as maintenance or repair issues are not allowed. This would be the responsibility of the resident.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- £1,000

6.2.5 Insulation and Heating Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant

Fuel poverty is a significant problem for some Coventry households, and many low income, vulnerable and disabled individuals are affected. Enabling low income and vulnerable households to stay warm at reasonable cost is a priority for the Council. Insulation and heating assistance provided through this grant is expected to improve the health and wellbeing of households and to reduce hospital admissions as well as pressures on other health and social care services.

Eligible Applicants

- A person living with a disability or a person who is in hospital and is due to be discharged home, or who faces possible admission / re-admission to hospital in the future. The applicant must also be vulnerable to the health impacts of the cold.
- Owner occupiers or private tenants living in a domestic property situated in Coventry and must live in their home as their only main residence.

Qualifying Criteria

- Applicants who have received a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant.
- Applicants who meet the vulnerability, income, benefit and savings criteria.

Conditions

- Works to be approved by the Council's commissioned agent and their contractors as practical, appropriate, and necessary.
- Works will need to be completed in conformity with PAS2035 standards and planning / building / party wall regulations where required.
- A Leaseholder must have a minimum period of 3 years remaining on their lease at the time of applying for assistance.
- Private landlords may be required to make financial contribution to the works and will need to provide evidence of an energy performance certificate and gas / electric safety certificates.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- Grants over £10,000 will need to be approved by the Council's Public Health Team.

6.2.6 Relocation Grant

In cases where the Council deem that it is not reasonable and practicable to adapt an applicant's current home to meet their needs; if the landlord withholds permission or where there are significant challenges to adapting the current home then a grant may be awarded at the Council's discretion to assist the applicant to move to a more suitable home. This includes situations where moving to a more suitable property would demonstrate savings to the wider public purse (for example more cost effective to adapt a different property) and has clear benefits to the applicant.

This is subject to senior management approval. Applications will be considered at the DFG approval panel.

Eligible applicants

- Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for mandatory DFG
- Applicants where the assessed adaptations cannot be completed either property because it is unreasonable or practicable to do so or where the landlord refuses permission to adapt.
- Applicants who's calculated contribution may be unaffordable and moving / buying is a better financial solution.

Qualifying Criteria

- Legal and house move costs associated with moving home.

Conditions

- The OT will assess the new property and confirm the new property is suitable or could be made suitable with adaptations, to meet the needs of the disabled person.
- Funding will not be given towards the purchase price of an alternative property
- Help to move is available to homeowners and tenants
- The applicant must be a permanent resident of Coventry.
- Evidence of financial hardship to be provided (e.g., proof of inability to obtain funds from high street loan or proof of incomings / outgoings / lack of savings etc.)
- Mandatory DFG to a maximum of £30k is available for adaptations but only in the local area. If moving outside of the City applicants will need to consult with that authority.
- A maximum of one application will be considered in any 5-year period.

Level of Maximum Assistance

- £5,000

6.2.7 Necessary respite whilst work is being undertaken.

In circumstances where the disabled person would be at risk whilst adaptation work is being undertaken, the Council will fund their placement in respite care.

Eligible applicants

- Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for mandatory DFG

Qualifying Criteria

- The applicant unable to remain in property for all or parts of the adaptations work. This could be because of a significant health problem or significant risk to the applicant.

Conditions

- Where it is not evident, supporting documentation from the OT or a health professional may be required to determine risk to the individual to remain in the property for the duration of the works.
- Care will be provided at the level of the current care arrangement for the time necessary to complete the parts of work which would prove a risk to the person. This is not necessarily the entire duration of the time taken to complete the work.
- Due to the time sensitive nature of arranging alternative accommodation, options for placement may be limited

- Due to individual need it is not possible to determine a value. Payment will be made directly to the provider

7 Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed within two years of its adoption to consider which flexible DFG works arrangements will continue. All flexible DFG works are discretionary and may be withdrawn by the Council at any time. The decision to award any flexible DFG work or services is completely at the discretion of the Council.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Title of EIA		Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant
EIA Author	Name	Sheila Stirling
	Position	Service Manager
	Date of completion	03.02.22
Head of Service	Name	Sally Caren
	Position	Head of Adult Social Care and Support
Cabinet Member	Name	Cllr M Mutton
	Portfolio	Adult Services

EIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having identified an EIA is required, ensure that the EIA form is completed as early as possible. • Any advice or guidance can be obtained by contacting Jaspal Mann (Equalities), Mamta Kumar (Equalities), Alicia Philips (Health Inequalities) and Pooja Ahluwalia (Health Inequalities).
Sign Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief the relevant Head of Service/Director/Elected Member for sign off • Have the EIA Form ready for consultation if it is required • Amend according to consultation feedback and brief decision makers of any changes
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement project / changes or finalise policy/strategy/contract • Monitor equalities impact and mitigations as evidence of duty of care

PLEASE REFER TO [EIA GUIDANCE](#) FOR ADVICE ON COMPLETING THIS FORM

SECTION 1 – Context & Background

1.1 Please tick one of the following options:

This EIA is being carried out on:

- New policy / strategy
- New service
- Review of policy / strategy
- Review of service
- Commissioning
- Other project (*please give details*)



1.2 In summary, what is the background to this EIA?

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) are provided to people with disability who need adaptations to their homes to enable them to continue living safely and independently. These are mandatory grants the Council is required to provide under the provisions of the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (HGCRA 1996).

The Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 05/2003 require that the Council must first adopt a Housing Assistance Policy before a discretionary grant assistance can be deployed through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

The policy will enable the provision of discretionary grant assistance for eligible Coventry households by providing additional help in the form of flexible Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) arrangements. Flexible arrangements are currently not possible under a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant. These powers enable local housing authorities to offer their own, locally tailored financial assistance. The assistance available under the Housing Assistance Policy – Disabled Facilities Grant enables the provision of more flexible services to better meet the needs of some of Coventry's disabled residents and their families.

1.3 Who are the main stakeholders involved? Who will be affected?

Coventry's disabled residents who are eligible for mandatory DFG.

1.4 Who will be responsible for implementing the findings of this EIA?

Sally Caren- Head of Adult Social Care and Support

SECTION 2 – Consideration of Impact

Refer to guidance note for more detailed advice on completing this section.

In order to ensure that we do not discriminate in the way our activities are designed, developed and delivered, we must look at our duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between two persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not



- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

2.1 Baseline data and information

Please include a summary of data analysis below, using both your own service level management information and also drawing comparisons with local data where necessary (go to <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/factsaboutcoventry>)

The current DFG arrangements are restricted to people who are disabled or frail and subject to a complex financial assessment based on income which will determine the contribution towards a grant. This may disadvantage people who are vulnerable e.g. children (because of the cost of adaptations that may exceed the grant). Parents and Carers may need to top up the grant in order to fund the completion of works. This can lead to young people not being able to access the DFG as parents can't afford the top up. Also those who become disabled as a result of accident or injury who find themselves on a limited income however the financial assessment would deem them in some circumstances as able to afford their own adaptations. It is anticipated that should the Housing assistance Policy be adopted the vulnerable groups mentioned above would have increased access to discretionary grant funding.

The DFG is available to all disabled residents of Coventry regardless of gender, ethnicity and age and all groups as defined by the Equalities Act 2010.

In 2020-21 377 citizens received a Disabled Facilities Grant. Of these 7% were aged under 18, 35% were aged 18-64 and 58% were aged 65+. Of these 67% were White British, 7% Indian, 4% White Irish, 3% Pakistani, 2% Caribbean, 2% other Asian, 1% African, 1% Bangladeshi 1% other Black background, 6% not yet obtained, 2% refused, 1% other White background and 1% other ethnic group.

As a result of the financial assessment on average 12.5% of referrals do not proceed. This data does not capture the number of disabled people, who after receiving information or advice on the financial assessment, chose not to approach the service for support

DFG Referrals received		
Year	Qty	Cancelled due to financial assessment
2018/19	415	51
2019/20	446	47
2020/21	377	55

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



2.2 On the basis of evidence, complete the table below to show what the potential impact is for each of the protected groups.

- Positive impact (P),
- Negative impact (N)
- Both positive and negative impacts (PN)
- No impact (NI)
- Insufficient data (ID)

**Any impact on the Council workforce should be included under question 2.6 – not below*

Protected Characteristic	Impact type P, N, PN, NI or ID	Nature of impact and any mitigations required
Age 0-18	P	Positive Impact. The child would be enabled to live within the home environment with suitable adaptations that would meet their disability need
Age 19-64	P	Positive Impact. Enables the adult to live at home in a suitably adapted environment that meets their disability needs.
Age 65+	P	Positive Impact. Enables the adult to live at home in a suitably adapted environment that meets their disability needs.
Disability	P	Positive Impact. Enables the individual to live at home in a suitably adapted environment that meets their disability needs. Additional resources may be made available should the Housing Assistance Policy be adopted increasing the number of disabled people accessing the grant.
Gender reassignment	NI	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	NI	
Pregnancy and maternity	NI	
Race (Including: colour, nationality,	NI	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



citizenship ethnic or national origins)		
Religion and belief	NI	
Sex	NI	
Sexual orientation	NI	

HEALTH INEQUALITIES

2.3	<p>Health inequalities (HI) are unjust differences in health and wellbeing between different groups of people which arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and result in stark differences in how long we live and how many years we live in good health.</p> <p>Many issues can have an impact: income, unemployment, work conditions, education and skills, our living situation, individual characteristics and experiences, such as age, gender, disability and ethnicity</p> <p>A wide range of services can make a difference to reducing health inequalities. Whether you work with children and young people, design roads or infrastructure, support people into employment or deal with welfare benefits – policy decisions and strategies can help to reduce health inequalities</p> <p>Please answer the questions below to help identify if the area of work will have any impact on health inequalities, positive or negative.</p> <p>If you need assistance in completing this section please contact: Alicia Philips or Pooja Ahluwalia in Public Health for more information. More details and worked examples can be found at https://coventrycc.sharepoint.com/Info/Pages/What-is-an-Equality-Impact-Assessment-(EIA).aspx</p>	
Question	Issues to consider	
2.3a What HIs exist in relation to your work / plan / strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore existing data sources on the distribution of health across different population groups (<i>examples of where to find data to be included in support materials</i>) Consider protected characteristics and different dimensions of HI such as socio-economic status or geographical deprivation 	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



	<p>Response: Disabled people living in properties which are unsuitable for their needs are more likely to experience a deterioration in their physical functional ability or mental well being. This will also have a negative impact on their independence and increases the likelihood of requiring statutory services and potentially placing pressure on carers wellbeing.</p> <p>According to the ONS Census data and Coventry's Headline Statistics, as of 2011, there were 56, 247 people with a limiting long term health problem or disability. That equates to 17.7% of residents. This client group may benefit from the implementation of the Housing Assistance Policy.</p>
<p>2.3b How might your work affect HI (positively or negatively).</p> <p>How might your work address the needs of different groups that share protected characteristics</p>	<p>Consider and answer below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Think about whether outcomes vary across groups and who benefits the most and least, for example, the outcome for a woman on a low income may be different to the outcome for a woman a high income ● Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be
	<p>Response: Having access to a Housing Assistance Policy increases the opportunity for disabled residents of Coventry to access adaptations for their property and live as independently as possible.</p> <p>There are no known unintended consequences of adopting a Housing Assistance Policy.</p> <p>a. Potential outcomes impact on specific socially excluded or vulnerable groups eg. people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers, young people leaving care, members of the armed forces community.</p> <p>The Housing Assistance Policy is focused on disabled residents of Coventry being enabled access to adaptations for their property in order for them to live as independently as possible. There are no known detrimental impacts on specific socially excluded or vulnerable groups eg. people experiencing homelessness,</p>

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



prison leavers, young people leaving care, members of the armed forces community.

2.4 Next steps - What specific actions will you take to address the potential equality impacts and health inequalities identified above?

Adoption of the Housing Assistance Policy will address the inequalities described above relating to disabled individuals being enabled to access adaptations to live as independently as possible.

2.5 How will you monitor and evaluate the effect of this work?

Equalities information and impact on individuals who would access the DFG will be collected and evaluated yearly

2.6 Will there be any potential impacts on Council staff from protected groups?

No

You should only include the following data if this area of work will potentially have an impact on Council staff. This can be obtained from: Nicole.Powell@coventry.gov.uk

Headcount:

Sex:

Female	
Male	

Age:

16-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65+	

Disability:

Disabled	
Not Disabled	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Ethnicity:

White	
Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual	
LGBT+	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Religion:

Any other	
Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Jewish	
Muslim	
No religion	
Sikh	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

3.0 Completion Statement

As the appropriate Head of Service for this area, I confirm that the potential equality impact is as follows:

- No impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Positive impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups

4.0 Approval

Signed: Head of Adult Social Care and Supprt Sally Caren	Date: 22/06/22
Name of Director: Pete Fahy	Date sent to Director: 15/06/2022
Name of Lead Elected Member: Councillor M Mutton	Date sent to Councillor: 15/06/2022

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Email completed EIA to equality@coventry.gov.uk

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Cabinet

12th July 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Approval of Accommodation-based support Grant 2022 -2024: Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Is this a key decision?

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

Executive summary:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduced several new duties and a range of implications for local authorities including safe accommodation strategic planning, safe accommodation provision and support for victims, and the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications.

Coventry City Council has been provided a grant of £852,283 in 2022/23 to continue 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 and further grant funding is due 2023/24.

Due to the time required for the acceptance of the grant award expiring prior to the date of this meeting, the Council constitution in paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F permits the relevant Director (in this case being the Director of Public Health) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair to accept the grant and thereafter to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Note the acceptance of the grant of £852,283 in 2022/2023 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: and

- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, to approve further grant due for 2023/24 up to a maximum of £2.5 million pound.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2023
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment
Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy refresh addendum

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

Yes:

Domestic Abuse - A Briefing Note and Presentation was considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 30 June 2021
Domestic Abuse – Safe and Supported Accommodation - was considered by Communities and Partnerships Scrutiny Board in March 2022
Domestic Abuse Strategy – An update was considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 22 June 2022

Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has oversight of the grant award and commissioning plans. These were outlined in a closed session at the Board on 25 April 2022

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Approval of Accommodation-based support Grant 2022 -2024: Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

1. Context (or background)

Following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act on 29th April 2021, in June 2021 Cabinet previously:

1. Approved the proposal to create The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the local authority.
2. Approved 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. Noted the Council’s new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Following this, a full needs assessment was undertaken, the Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan was refreshed and extended to 2025 and additional specialist Domestic Abuse services were commissioned. Cabinet approved the refreshed strategy and action plan in November 2021. The newly commissioned services to support victims and children living in relevant, safe accommodation were in response to needs identified in the needs assessment and were required to ensure the Council complies with its new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The details of the newly commissioned services in response to the needs assessment are below:

<p>Family support worker (FSW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 x FSW at Valley House and project costs • 2 x FSW at Haven and Panahghar 	<p>Supporting 150 parents (and 250 children) in specialist accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Positive Parenting Programmes and other parenting support • Assess child’s needs and focus on school attendance, child development and therapeutic issues • Complete Early Help assessments • Liaison with universal services and facilitate development activities with external agencies where appropriate • Consult with children to ensure their voices are heard within the Partnership
<p>Counselling / emotional support for children and young people in safe accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x 0.8WTE (2x30 hrs) WISH Practitioners 	<p>Supporting 100+ children and young people in safe accommodation with counselling and emotional support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2-1 support for children including domestic abuse awareness, equality and respect in relationships and safety • Delivery of You, Me and Mum and joint sessions between child and parent • Facilitate access for other specialist counselling • Advocating for children • Aftercare

<p>Mental health support and counselling for adult victims, specialist provision from Coventry and Warwickshire Mind</p>	<p>Supporting 180 victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102 victims receiving (trauma informed) counselling • 78 victims supported with lower level needs via engaging with community assets • Professional advice around mental health
<p>Coordination of legal support for victims with insecure migration status or no recourse to public funds (NRPF), specialist provision from Panahghar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x ethnic minority groups immigration specialist practitioner (regulated immigration adviser – level 2 Office of Immigration Services Commissioner to be able to practice as a Solicitor) 	<p>Supporting 50 victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destitution Domestic Violence concessions applied within 24 hrs • direct immigration advice across various visa forms, plus divorce advice • coordinate network of solicitors who have legal aid contracts or offer pro bona work <p>Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice and training to partners agencies • immigration surgeries
<p>Extend capacity for additional 100 clients pa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x specific support workers worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase sanctuary scheme capacity from 100 to 200 premises secured per year enabling 100 additional households to access the additional support provided by the WISH service and Coventry and Warwickshire Mind.
<p>Discretionary fund held by LA and dispersed via commissioned services from individual applications</p>	<p>Supporting clients in various ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved re-settlement / move on of victims (200 people @ £200 pp) • Support people with assets to access supported accommodated (e.g. where Housing Benefit cannot be claimed) • Meeting legal fees for immigration cases which where pro-bono / legal aid work cannot be sourced • Potential to support interpreting costs

The grant also funds a domestic abuse programme manager to co-ordinate delivery of the strategy and action plan across the partnership.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

This grant is specifically provided to support the Council's new duties to support victims in safe accommodation as laid out within the Act.

It is proposed that the grant continues to fund the services detailed above and to extend the eligibility of these services to households that are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse and who are provided temporary accommodation until the housing duty can be discharged through provision of settled accommodation. To support this, it is proposed that the grant also funds an Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) to work within the Council's Housing function, an extension of the WISH provision for children and young people and part-funds a specialist post within Change Grow Live (CGL) for victims requiring support with substance misuse issues. Appropriate contract monitoring and evaluation will be developed to assess the effectiveness of the new provision.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. A full needs assessment was undertaken in 2021 by an independent agency and included consultation with victims and partner agencies. This informed the development of the addendum to the strategy and the commissioning of the new services. The needs assessment was published in October 2021. A working group continues to meet, as part of the strategy, to ensure that both adult and child victim of domestic abuse are consulted with appropriately and their voices heard. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board meets regularly and oversees the strategic direction, the local authority's new duties and commissioning intentions and evaluation of services.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The implementation of the refreshed strategy and action plan has already taken effect. This matter currently relates to the New Burdens Grant funding for 2022 – 2024.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

The Government has provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £852,283 in 2022/23 for the Council to fulfil the relevant functions under the duty and it is expected that similar funding will be provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2023/24. Funding of this grant, as with other similar grants such as the Public Health Grant, for 2023/24 is subject to Treasury approval.

5.2. Legal Implications

This grant is provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant covers revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the statutory duty (within the Domestic Abuse Act) on Tier 1 Local Authorities, relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation and other statutory duties.

The proposals in this report ensures that the Council will be able to meet the statutory responsibilities imposed by Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, relating to the provision of support for all victims of domestic abuse and their children.

The Council's constitution requires formal Cabinet approval prior to agreeing to receive external grants in excess of £500,000. If no time to go to Cabinet, the decision can be taken by the relevant Cabinet Member (or the Leader in their absence) in consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Chair; if no time to go to Cabinet Member, the decision can be taken by the relevant Director in consultation with relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair, to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

Acceptance of the grant will support the One Coventry Plan 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?

Governance is provided by the statutory Local Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which is responsible for supporting Coventry City Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None at this time.

6.4. Equalities / 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. A further EIA was completed in October 2021 following the completion of the needs assessment and strategy addendum.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

No Implications.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

The majority of the funding will be dispersed through existing commissioned providers including specialist domestic abuse services who work with a range of partner organisations.

Report authors:

Jayne Ross
Domestic Abuse Programme Delivery Manager

Paul Hargrave
Public Health Commissioner

Rachel Chapman
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Service:

Public Health and Wellbeing

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Enquiries should be directed to Jayne Ross

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Jim Crawshaw	Head of Housing and Homelessness	Adult Services and Housing	17/06/22	17/6/22
Ewan Dewar	Finance Manager	Finance	17/06/22	17/6/22
Abbie Box	Public Health Programme Officer	Public Health and Wellbeing	17/06/22	17/6/22
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	09/06/2022	09/06/22
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)				
Allison Duggal	Director of Public Health and Wellbeing	-	6/06/22	06/06/22
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement Services	Law and Governance	17/06/22	20/06/22
Barry Hastie	Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 officer)/Director of Finance	-	17/06/22	21/06/22
John Gregg	Director of Children's Services	-	17/06/22	17/06/22
Andrew Walster	Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services	-	17/06/22	17/06/22
Sally Caren - on behalf of Pete Fahy, Director of Adults Services and Housing	Head of Adult Social Care and Support	-	17/06/22	20/06/22
Councillor A S Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	10/06/22	10/06/22
Councillor M Ali	Chair of Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)	-	20/06/22	21/06/22

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Cabinet

12th July 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary

The government's new 10-year drug and alcohol strategy 'From Harm to Hope' sets out an ambition to address substance misuse by breaking drug supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs. A new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) is being issued to Local Authorities to enhance the delivery of treatment and recovery systems.

The City Council has been notified that it will be awarded a grant of up to £505,000 for 2022-23, with an indicative increase in the grant for 2023-24, and 2024-25.

Due to the time required for the acceptance of the grant award expiring prior to the date of this meeting, the Council constitution in paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F permits the relevant Director (in this case being the Director of Public Health) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair to accept the grant and thereafter to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Note the acceptance of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant in the sum of £505,210 in 2022-23; and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, following consultation with Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, to approve subsequent annual awards in financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 up to a maximum of £2.5 million pound in each financial year.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

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: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)

1. Background – The National Drug Strategy and additional funding

- 1.1 A new national policy paper 'From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives' was released 6th December 2021 as a government response to the independent review carried out by Dame Carol Black during July 2021. The strategy sets out a national and local focus on three strategic priorities:
 - Breaking drug supply chains
 - Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system
 - Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs
- 1.2 The strategy includes a strong focus on treatment for alcohol misuse alongside support for people affected by the misuse of illegal drugs.
- 1.3 Chapter 5 of the strategy 'Setting up for success: partnerships and accountability' states that local government and delivery partners are the foundation of this strategy in establishing local priorities and devising ways of working to address challenges quickly and effectively.
- 1.4 The strategy recognises a long-term approach is required to be successful; the 10-year plan is an evidence-based approach to address the demand for, and supply of, drugs. In addition to drugs the strategy specifically includes alcohol misuse, treatment and recovery. It aims to 'turn the tide' on drug crime, reduce the harm drugs and alcohol cause to individuals and society, and save lives for this and future generations. The national strategy is underpinned by nearly £900 million of additional investment over the next three years taking the total cross-government funding to more than £3 billion. It sets out national and local system reform, with a set of ambitious outcomes and goals to which government and local partners will be held accountable for delivery.
- 1.5 Within this additional funding is £780 million (the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant - SSMTRG) which will be provided to local authorities over three years to invest in drug and alcohol treatment.
- 1.6 A new national set of standards and outcomes expected in the summer will provide the structure and oversight to ensure consistently high-quality services and that funding is prioritised around the commitments in this strategy. Effective multi-agency partnerships will be at the core of delivery of this comprehensive treatment and recovery system, alongside tough and effective drug enforcement and prevention.
- 1.7 The Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant provides the funding to support and deliver on the following priorities:
 - Improved system coordination and commissioning
 - Enhanced harm reduction provision
 - Increased treatment capacity
 - Increased integration and improved care pathways between the criminal justice settings, and drug treatment
 - Enhancing treatment quality
 - Residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification
 - Better and more integrated responses to physical and mental health issues
 - Enhanced recovery support
 - Other interventions which meet the aims and targets set in the drug strategy
 - Expanding the competency and size of the workforce

- 1.8 The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) will increase year-on-year in 2023/24 and 2024/5. As with other government grants, Treasury sign off is required each year.
- 1.9 In 2021/22, Public Health England (now the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities) issued local areas with a one-off grant -- the Universal Drug Treatment Grant – to invest in local treatment and recovery systems. The priorities for investment of this grant were to reduce drug related deaths and reduce drug-related offending. Coventry's allocation was invested in various projects including:
- creating a dedicated criminal justice team within CGL (Coventry's commissioned adult drug and alcohol treatment service) and employing a substance misuse worker embedded in the Caludon Centre
 - employing an additional worker within Positive Choices (Coventry's commissioned Young People's risky behaviour service) to focus on supporting individuals engaged in County Lines activity
 - employing a worker within the Housing and Homelessness team of the City Council to coordinate the multiagency Vulnerable Persons Forum
 - introducing the use of long-acting opiate substitute therapy
 - distributing additional naloxone (an intervention to reverse the effects of opiate overdose)
 - providing additional residential rehabilitation placements
- 1.10 It is intended that the initial priorities for the SSMTRG award in 2022/23 is used to:
- continue and expand activity initially funded by the Universal Drug Treatment grant in 2021/22, with minor amendments
 - increase quality within drug treatment services by reducing caseloads and increasing capacity for specific interventions such as groupwork and additional support for people affected by domestic violence and drug or alcohol misuse
- 1.11 In 2023/4 and 2024/5 it is anticipated that investment will increasingly focus on increasing the number of treatment places for people misusing drugs or alcohol.

Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board

- 1.12 The national drug strategy requires local areas to establish multi agency partnership boards to be established. A Coventry Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board has been created to build upon the work of the previous drug and alcohol steering group and bring together all the relevant organisations and key individuals to have proactive oversight of the implementation of all three of the strategy's priorities.
- 1.13 The Board will ensure that local organisations work together to improve provision and outcomes for the population of Coventry who are negatively affected by drugs and alcohol. The chairing arrangements for the Board are currently being finalised, the Board will meet quarterly.

Needs assessment review

- 1.14 A comprehensive needs assessment will be carried out to inform the development of a local strategy and action plan for Coventry, and for future commissioning. The needs assessment is expected to be completed by the autumn of 2022.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The value of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, SSMTRG Treatment Grant is such that the Constitution requires formal approval prior to acceptance.
- 2.2 The Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) sets the priorities it expects the grant to be used for. A detailed proposal has been developed and submitted for Coventry in line with these priorities.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

Timescales for completion of the initial bid for the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant meant there was limited opportunity to consult widely.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) confirmed Coventry's SSMTRG allocations on 13th April 2022. Coventry's proposed use of the grant was submitted to OHID on 11th May 2022 and has now been approved. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been issued confirming the full grant conditions. The MoU will take effect from 1st April 2022 to ensure continuity of services currently in place.

5 Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) anirector of Finance and Director of Law and Governance

Financial implications

The SSMTRG Grant offer is valued at £505,210 for the 2022/2023 financial year. Allocations for the remaining 2 years will be confirmed at a later stage. The grant conditions require the grant to be spent in year and any amounts underspent may be subject to clawback.

Legal implications

The SSMTRG will be issued as a section 31 grant.

The Council's constitution requires formal Cabinet approval prior to agreeing to receive external grants in excess of £500,000. If no time to go to Cabinet, the decision can be taken by the relevant Cabinet Member (or the Leader in their absence) in consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Chair; if no time to go to Cabinet Member, the decision can be taken by the relevant Director in consultation with relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair, to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

The public health team (with support from Law and Governance) will monitor provision to ensure that the grant conditions are met, and outcomes delivered.

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The services support the One Coventry Plan's vision to help to make communities safer, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, reduce health inequalities and protect our most vulnerable people.

How is risk being managed?

Public Health and commissioners will work closely with oversight from the partnership board to understand and mitigate risks in relation to the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant.

6.2 What is the impact on the organisation?

The grant provides additional capacity within drug and alcohol treatment services. Activity delivered under the grant may identify additional needs requiring further social care support.

6.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The provision is targeted at supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. A needs assessment is being conducted to ensure equality of access to treatment services.

6.4 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

There are no implications.

6.5 Implications for partner organisations?

CGL Coventry is commissioned to deliver drug and alcohol services by the City Council and operates closely with a wide range of partners including primary and secondary healthcare providers, homelessness services and social care services.

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A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet

12th July 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change - Councillor J O'Boyle

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Property Services and Development

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels

Title:

Land Disposal at Parkside, Paradise Street

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals involve financial implications in excess of £1m

Executive Summary:

In June 2020, the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change approved the grant of a long leasehold interest of Parkside Paradise Street to Rainier Developments Ltd (RDL), together with the re-provision of Newgate Court industrial units. This report outlines proposed changes required to the development and lease terms to facilitate the revised scheme on land at Parkside / Paradise Street.

Due diligence work commissioned by RDL prior to submission of a planning application included an archaeological evaluation of the site. This confirmed the extent of the City Wall, already known to run through the site but in addition has uncovered significant additional remains. These additional constraints and additional development costs have led RDL to redesign the scheme. This has resulted in fewer proposed residential units and no longer enables the re-provision of the Newgate Court industrial units.

To protect the Council's financial position, any land not proposed to be developed will be restricted to open space or surface car parking. Therefore, if in the future it becomes economic to develop these areas of land the Council will receive further value from the site.

A financial review of the revised scheme has also indicated to RDL that in order to assist with funding the delivery of the development, the investment funding market is seeking to remove the ground rent element payable to the Council of the original proposal and replace with an initial capital premium instead.

Subsequently as a result of these new findings RDL have advised that they are unable to progress on the previously agreed terms, however, they are prepared to proceed and deliver a scheme based on their revised offer outlined below:

- Two residential blocks totalling 335 units (25% allocated as affordable housing). This is a reduction from 494 units across three blocks.
- Premium payment for a new long ground lease with a peppercorn rent. New 4,000 sqft of ground floor retail space for a convenience store at the base of the residential tower block with the Council to retain income offsetting the loss from the industrial units. This is a change from the previous terms, moving from an annual ground rent to a 'one-off' capital premium payment.
- 999-year lease has been requested instead of the previous 250 years. (In response to proposed government legislations and funding requirements).

The revised scheme and proposed uses concur with the Parkside area policy of the City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), which supports residential development in principle as part of the wider 'London Road Gateway'. The scheme will look to retain the historic findings within the new development to preserve and protect the medieval link and connection with Coventry as a city with deep historic history. Notwithstanding this, the final scheme that will be delivered will be subject to the Planning application and decision-making process. If this results in material scheme changes then the terms of the disposal may need to be revisited in due course to take these changes into account.

This report seeks approval for the revised baseline terms enabling the long leasehold disposal of the land to RDL, subject to Planning Approval.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the grant of a long leasehold interest of Parkside Paradise Street on the terms outlined in this report and as shown shaded in Appendix 1 to the report to Rainier Developments Ltd.
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Property Services and Development, following consultation with the Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to agree the final terms of the lease, make any subsequent variations to these terms, enter into any necessary easements/wayleaves and complete the necessary legal documentation.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Land at Parkside, Paradise Street

Other useful 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: Land Disposal at Parkside, Paradise Street

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Following a review of the Council's land holdings by Property Services, the sites at Parkside Paradise Street and Newgate Court Industrial Estate had been identified for regeneration.
- 1.2 The identified two sites are a mix of non-operational assets (land at Paradise Street) and an operational asset (Newgate Court Industrial Estate) which equate to approx. 1.417 acres / 0.5732 Hectares. The sites are shown in Appendix 1 to the report. They are situated adjacent to Junction 4 Ring Road (London Road) and close to Coventry University Technology Park and the University Campus. The subsequent development of these sites will improve and regenerate the area from its current use.
- 1.3 The Council sought expressions of interest from the market in January 2020 and following the selection process the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change approved and selected Rainier Development Ltd (RDL) as preferred partner in June 2020. The deal was based on re-provision of Newgate Court Industrial Estate within the site, with the Council retaining the income and a ground rent income per annum from the residential units.

Scheduled Ancient Monument and Archaeological findings

- 1.4 In October 2021, RDL carried out investigative works and an archaeological survey of the medieval city wall which is buried underground between the Newgate Court Industrial Estate and the vacant Council owned derelict site. This is designated and listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) (List ID 1002979).
- 1.5 The Council was aware of the approximate length and area of the historic wall but had not carried out its own investigations prior to the survey conducted by the developer. Historic England advises that historic walls such as these should be retained, preserved or restored within any development scheme if possible. These survey findings concluded that the boundary wall is larger in size than originally thought, as it crosses horizontally to the southwest of Paradise Street. The medieval wall is undoubtedly a constraint to the development of this site though it is difficult to pre-judge the planning application process and be definitive about the scale of that constraint. Based on their own expert advice, RDL have come to the view that a 5-metre buffer zone from the centre of the wall must be preserved thus making a proportion of land 'undevelopable'. In addition, the archaeological investigations also found remains of medieval items inside the wall. To protect and maintain the historical findings, RDL have concluded that a section of land will need to remain open, accessible and preserved, resulting additional parts of the site being sterilised for development.
- 1.6 Following archaeological investigations, RDL advised the site is a heavily constrained development. In the view of RDL, these archaeological constraints have reduced the developable area by approximately 50% and therefore a redesign of their previous scheme (see below) was necessary. It should be noted that RDL are currently in pre-application discussions with the City Council's planning department and therefore absolute conclusions about the scale of the developable area are not yet possible. Furthermore, it is the view of Council planning officers that the scale of the undevelopable (constrained) areas of this site may be reduced as detailed design progresses.

Previous Revised Scheme

- Previous Revised Scheme: RDL pays the full relocation cost of and re-provides all 8 industrial units
- 494 residential flats including 25% (148) affordable

- Residential ground rent reduced from 2.5% down to 1.7% of gross income.
- Council still retains the income of Newgate Court
- 250 Year Lease

1.7 The proposed revised scheme now seeks to provide a minimum of the following:

- 335 residential flats of which 84 (25%) to be affordable homes (Subject to satisfactory planning).
- 999 Year Lease - (The Council's final position on the length of the lease term will be informed by legislative requirements relating to housing and any funding requirements of the developer).
- Capital payment for long ground lease with a peppercorn rent, rather than share of income
- 4,000 sqft of ground floor retail space within the affordable housing block tower to be retained by the Council.

The proposed revised scheme will result in the loss of the existing industrial units in Newgate Court but it is important to note that a relocation process has been agreed with the tenants and vacant possession can be readily secured to ensure the redevelopment of the site. The projected income from the retail space is in line and above with the rental income from the loss of the Newgate Court.

- 1.8 RDL have provided their revised development scheme and appraisal which has been independently reviewed by a property consultant, acting for the Council, to ensure and confirm the revised values still meet 'best consideration' under S123 of the Local Govt Act 1972.
- 1.9 RDL have provided supporting documentary evidence from their development and funding advisors on the current market funding for Private Rented Sector residential schemes. It concluded that is more likely to be able to fund the proposed scheme if the Council did not seek a ground rent but rather accept a capital payment up front. The Council's advisors have considered this position in light of the information provided and their own experience and have agreed that the development is less likely to be able to be funded and delivered unless structured with a capital payment.
- 1.10 The revised scheme set out in para 1.7 above represents a "baseline" position for the terms of the disposal of the Council's interest. The scheme requires Planning Consent and if the application and decision-making process results in material changes to the scheme then the terms of the disposal will be revisited.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1. To accept the proposed revised offer from RDL on the basis of premium payment on a long ground lease.

- 2.1 Whilst the Council is not obligated to accept any offer submitted, the proposed offer being presented by RDL and set out in this report is considered to be 'best consideration', which has been the subject of an independent valuation assessment prior to any Development Agreement being entered into. The offer is in line with and meets the Council's objectives of retaining income from the development site. To protect the Council's position over the land currently undevelopable due to the archaeology and economic constraints, officers will restrict the use of this part of the site. If in the future the position changes and it can be developed the Council could benefit financially.
- 2.2 Given the Council's economic development and regeneration ambitions for the city and its residents together with the importance of providing a diverse housing offer, this proposed

development will contribute towards the creation of a new community looking to work in the city and live in its vibrant city centre. Not undertaking this disposal would forgo the current timely opportunity to add to the delivery of the Council's objectives for the city centre.

- 2.3 Notwithstanding the above, the uncertainties around the planning process (in particular the scale of the developable vs undevelopable land) should be taken account of. There remains potential that the final permissible development scheme for this site may significantly change and this potential has been accounted for in the wording of the recommendation.

Option 2. To retain status quo and not proceed with proposals for redevelopment

- 2.4 If the Council does not accept the proposed revised offer from RDL, the Council would continue to generate income from Newgate Court Industrial Estate. If the Council wanted to see redevelopment come forward, it would likely need to undertake a new expressions of interest process and go back to the market for options for redevelopment. This process will take time and proposals will reflect market conditions at that point in time.

- 2.5 Based on the available options, the recommendation is to Proceed with Option 1 and accept the offer from RDL for the following reasons:

- 2.5.1 Coventry City Council's Local Plan identifies a strong requirement to provide additional private residential accommodation across the city. Proceeding with RDL will (Subject to planning consent) deliver 335 private residential units (including 25% affordable housing) which will help contribute to a key corporate priority as well as a positive social outcome for local people. In addition, it will receive a premium payment from the residential development scheme and income from the retail/commercial space, helping bring economic benefits to the Council.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

Ward Councillors will be notified and invited for comments.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Subject to Cabinet approval and necessary planning consents, it is anticipated the development will start on site in spring/summer 2024 and be completed in autumn 2026.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)

- 5.1 Financial implications

The recommended decision will result in the Council generating a capital receipt and an income for the retail unit, whilst retaining the ability to deliver 335 private residential units and the ability to apply a better strategic fit. This proposed offer has been valued independently on behalf of the Council and considered to achieve best value.

Other than officers time, there is no additional cost, or net loss of income as result of this arrangement. The annual income is largely in line with what was collected previously from the Newgate Court Industrial Units. The capital receipt will contribute to corporate capital resources and be managed through the Council's Treasury management strategy.

6. Comments from the Director of Law and Governance

6.2 Legal implications

The Local Government Act 1972, section 111(1) empowers a local authority to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. This enables the Council as part of its asset management strategy to acquire and/or dispose of assets meeting relevant statutory requirements.

Section 123(2) of the 1972 Act enables the Council to dispose of land or property for the best consideration reasonably obtainable. An independent valuation has been obtained which supports this transaction as meeting this legal duty.

Acting on the recommendations is within the Council's powers as set out in the above statutory provisions.

7. Other implications

7.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

The premium payment and rental income from retail space will contribute towards corporate resources whilst the long lease disposal of the site will enable their development and support urban regeneration.

7.2 How is risk being managed?

The risks have been identified as per paragraph 2.3 of the report with the loss of potential generated income.

7.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Resource Implications

The impact to the organisation will be minimal.

Property Implications

The proposal to proceed with a PRS scheme will dispose of land at Parkside that does not serve any strategic use and therefore surplus to requirements and contribute towards corporate financial targets. The Council will continue to retain income from the retail space.

7.4 Equalities / EIA

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as the proposal concerns the land for redevelopment and no Council led services will be impacted.

7.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

The impact will be positive as the site will be redeveloped and utilised in a more efficient manner than it currently is.

7.6 Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications for any partner organisations.

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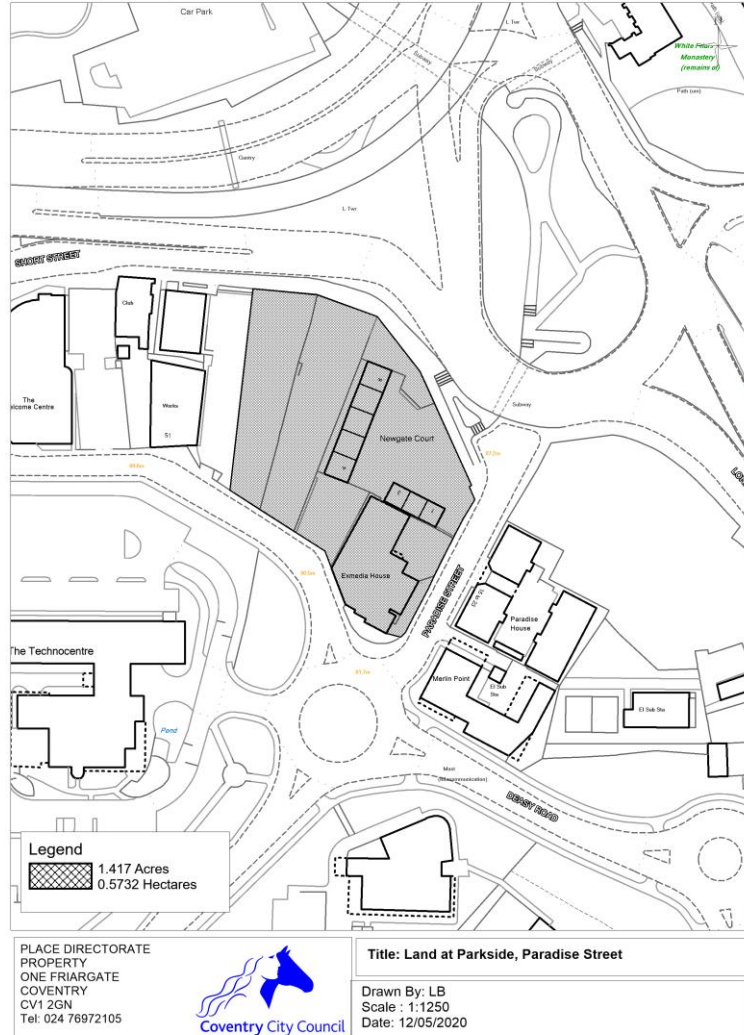
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Councillor J O'Boyle	Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change	-	20/06/2022	22/06/2022

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Appendix 1 - Parkside, Paradise Street, Newgate Court Industrial Estate – Whole Site

The land is managed, maintained and part of Property portfolio.



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

Document is Restricted

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