Coventry City Council

Agenda

Council

Time and Date
2.00 pm on Tuesday, 3rd December, 2024

Place
Council Chamber - Council House

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2024** (Pages 5 - 12)

3. **Exclusion of the 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.

4. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**

5. **Petitions**

6. **Declarations of Interest**

Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council

7. **Climate Change Strategy 2024 - 2030** (Pages 13 - 116)

   From Cabinet, 5 November 2024

8. **University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Consultation Update and Proposed Adoption** (Pages 117 - 202)

   From Cabinet, 5 November 2024

9. **Temporary Accommodation - Lease of Caradoc Hall Coventry** (Pages 203 - 216)

   From Cabinet, 5 November 2024

10. **Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 - 2028** (Pages 217 - 258)

From the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Meeting, 25 November 2024

Item for Consideration

11. **Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings - Consultation Response** (Pages 259 - 266)

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Other Matters

12. **Question Time** (Pages 267 - 270)

(a) Written Question – Booklet 1

(b) Oral Questions to Chairs of Scrutiny Boards/Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

(c) Oral Questions to Chairs of other meetings

(d) Oral Questions to Representatives on Outside Bodies

(e) Oral Questions to Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members on any matter

13. **Statements (if any)**

14. **Debates**

(a) To be moved by Councillor P Male and seconded by Councillor M Lapsa

"This Council calls upon the Government to exempt social care service providers, here in Coventry and more widely, from increases to employers National Insurance contributions, proposed during the recent budget."

(b) To be moved by Councillor P Seaman and seconded by Councillor CE Thomas

"This Council celebrates our inspiring Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Summer programme and our great Coventry providers and organisations delivering day-to-day throughout the year. It's wonderful to hear the voices of children, young people and parents and the value they place on this valuable food and activity programme. We welcome the funding and call on the government to continue to fund future programmes."

Private Business

Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council

15. **Temporary Accommodation - Lease of Caradoc Hall Coventry** (Pages 271 - 288)

From Cabinet, 5 November 2024

(Listing Officer: J Crawshaw – Email: Jim.Crawshaw@coventry.gov.uk)

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

Monday, 25 November 2024

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

Membership: Councillors F Abbott, S Agboola, N Akhtar, P Akhtar, M Ali, R Bailey, L Bigham, J Birdi, J Blundell, R Brown, K Caan, B Christopher, G Duggins, J Gardiner, S Gray, L Harvard, G Hayre, M Heaven, P Hetherton, A Hopkins, J Innes, T Jandu, Jobbar, A Jobbar, A Kaur, L Kelly, AS Khan, T Khan, R Lakha, R Lancaster (Deputy Chair), M Lapsa, J Lepoidevin, G Lewis, G Lloyd, P Male, K Maton, J McNicholas, C Miks, B Mosterman, M Mutton (Chair), S Nazir, J O'Boyle, E M Reeves, G Ridley, E Ruane, K Sandhu, T Sawdon, P Seaman, B Singh, R Singh, R Thay, CE Thomas, D Toulson and A Tucker

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Suzanne Bennett
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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 October 2024

Present

Members: Councillor M Mutton (Chair)

Councillor F Abbott
Councillor S Agboola
Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor M Ali
Councillor R Bailey
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor J Birdi
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor B Christopher
Councillor G Duggins
Councillor S Gray
Councillor L Harvard
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor J Innes
Councillor T Jandu
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor A Kaur
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor T Khan
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor G Lewis
Councillor G Lloyd
Councillor P Male
Councillor K Maton
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor C Miks
Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor G Ridley
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor B Singh
Councillor R Singh
Councillor R Thay
Councillor CE Thomas
Councillor D Toulson
Councillor A Tucker

Honorary Alderman: D Chater, J Clifford, M Hammon, T Skipper

Apologies: Councillor J Gardiner, G Hayre, P Hetherton and J O'Boyle
Honorary Alderman H Fitzpatrick

Public Business

43. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

44. **Return of person elected as Councillor for St Michael's Ward in the City, on 10 October 2024**

The City Council noted that Councillor Sanjida Jobbar was elected as Councillor for St Michael's Ward in the City on 10 October 2024.

Councillor Jobbar was welcomed to her first meeting of the Council.

45. **Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**

1. Visit of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork

The Lord Mayor reported that she had welcomed the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress of Coventry's twin city of Cork on their recent visit. Honore Kamegni had made history by becoming the first black man to serve on Cork City Council following his election in June 2024.

2. **Death of Former Lord Mayor and Honorary Alderman Joan Wright**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Lord Mayor and Honorary Alderman Joan Wright who passed away on 18th September 2024.

Joan had been a Councillor serving the Wyken Ward for 16 years between 1986 and 2002. During this time, she had been a leading Councillor on issues relating to social services and the environment. Joan was Lord Mayor during the Millennium year of 1999-2000 and was made an Honorary Alderman in 2012.

Members paid tribute to Joan and noted that a letter of condolence had been sent to her family.

3. Death of Former Lord Mayor and Honorary Alderman Kiernan Mulhall

The Lord Mayor referred to the death of former Lord Mayor and Honorary Alderman Kieran Mulhall who passed away on 12th October 2024.

Kieran had been a Councillor for 20 years representing Radford Ward from 1998-2018. During that time, Kieran had served on many Committees and Scrutiny Boards and also served as Deputy Chair of Planning Committee. He was Lord Mayor in 2011/12 and made an Honorary Alderman in 2018.

Members paid tribute to Kieran and noted that a letter of condolence had been sent to his family.

4. **Death of Mr Ratan N Tata GBE**

The Lord Mayor referred to the death of Mr Ratan Tata GBE who passed away on 9 October 2024.

Mr Tata had been granted the Coventry Award of Merit in 2014 and was admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Coventry in September 2015 in recognition of the investment of Tata Steel into Jaguar Land Rover which enhanced and protected the status of car manufacturing in the region, the Jaguar Land Rover brand and particularly the employment of its employees and many subsidy suppliers, supported by the Warwick Manufacturing Group.

Members paid tribute to Mr Tata and noted that a letter of condolence had been sent to his family.

Following the announcements, the Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Joan, Kieran and Ratan.

46. **Petitions**

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member/City Council body:

1. **Petition requesting that the owner of the land situated at the crossroads of Villiers Street and Clements Street engage with the local community on the solution to the recurrent fly-tipping – 32 signatures, presented by Councillor K Caan.**
2. **Petition requesting double yellow lines at the junction of Park Court and Birmingham Road – 53 signatures, presented by Councillor T Jandu.**
3. **Petition requesting the Council to support its motorcycle and scooter riders by asking the Department of Transport to open a test centre in the City – 130 signatures, presented by Councillor C Thomas.**
4. **Petition objecting to the application for a phone mast on the Ponderosa – 33 signatures, presented by Councillor G Ridley.**
5. **Petition asking for the Council to make Woodlands Ward Residents road safety a priority – 59 signatures, presented by Councillor J Lepoidevin.**
6. **Petition requesting the City Council to work with the West Midlands Police, registered housing providers, Citizen Housing Midland Heart, Orbit and the Salvation Army to take concrete steps to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminal activities in Hillfields and the surrounding areas – 84 signatures, presented by Councillor S Jobbar.**

47. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

48. **Coventry Youth Justice Plan - 2023-25 Strategy - Update 2024**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Childrens Services and Education which gave notification that the Coventry Youth Justice Service (CYJS) Youth Justice Plan had been agreed and signed off by its Chair, the previous Interim Director of Childrens Services, and sought Council endorsement of the Plan. Appendices to the report provided: the Coventry Youth Justice Plan - 2023-25 Strategy – Update 2024; and an Equality Impact Assessment.

Youth Justice Services were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the principal aim being to prevent offending behaviour by children and young persons [s.37(1) Crime and Disorder Act 1998]. The Act imposed a duty on each local authority (with its statutory partners: Police, Health, and Probation) to ensure that adequate Youth Justice Services were available in the area. The key tasks of the service were:

- Management and delivery of diversion work to children at risk of entering the youth justice system and children subject to an out of court disposal, community sentences, and a secure estate sentence
- Servicing the Youth Court and Crown Courts (in terms of provision of the court team, Bail & Health Assessments, provision of Court Reports)
- Parenting services and management of Parenting Orders

- Victim services

The legislation also imposed a duty to complete and submit a Youth Justice Plan each year. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided a grant to the Service, outlined delivery expectations and oversaw performance for Services; the plan followed a YJB mandated template.

Cabinet had endorsed acceptance of the Coventry Youth Justice Plan 2023-25 Strategy (Update 2024) at their meeting on 1 October 2024 and recommend that Council endorse the Plan.

RESOLVED that the City Council endorse the Coventry Youth Justice Plan 2023-25 Strategy – Update 2024.

49. **Adult Social Care Performance - Self-Assessment and Annual Report (Local Account) 2023/24**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Adult Services and Housing, which had also been considered by Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) at their meeting on 4 September and Cabinet at their meeting on 1 October 2024. The report set out the Adult Social Care Annual Report 2023/24 (also referred to as the Local Account). This year the Annual Report mirrored the content of the Self-Assessment, highlighting some of the work being done through examples and spotlights on the support provided. It was intended that the annual report be read alongside the Self-Assessment. Appendices to the report provided: the Annual Report (Local Account) 2023/24; and the Adult Social Care Self-Assessment 2023/24.

The Self-Assessment would be updated annually and presented alongside the Annual Report and provided to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) when the Council was selected for an inspection.

The approach taken to the both the Self-Assessment and Annual Report demonstrated an open approach to successes, challenges and where the Authority could develop further in order to improve outcomes for people with care and support needs and their unpaid carers within Coventry. The Self-Assessment also provided the opportunity to present the context within which CQC would be inspecting Adult Social Care in Coventry.

The production of the 2023/24 report had drawn on the pool of feedback and information that had been gathered over the year from a range of sources including social care staff, Partnership Boards, Adult Social Care Stakeholder Group, providers, partner organisations and people who had been in contact with Adult Social Care, along with their families and carers.

Cabinet, at their meeting, had considered a briefing note detailing the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) consideration of the reports (their minute 10/24 refers) which was appended to the report and set out their recommendations for Cabinet. The Board had recommended that Cabinet accept the recommendations within the report and consider an amendment to the report under ‘Discharges for 2023/24’ to include an additional paragraph giving clarification for the hospital

discharge pathways. Cabinet had agreed the additional paragraph recommended by the Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED that the City Council receive and note the Adult Social Care Self-Assessment and Annual Report (Local Account) 2023/24.

50. **Coventry Transport Strategy Update**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Commercial which had been considered at Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) at their meeting on 26 September and Cabinet at their meeting on 1 October 2024. The report provided an update on progress achieved since the Coventry Transport Strategy was adopted, including the latest available performance information. The report also sought approval to update the Implementation Plan which accompanied the Strategy to reflect the Council's latest plans. Appendices to the report provided: the Coventry Transport Strategy Key Performance Indicators Progress Report; and the Coventry Transport Strategy Implementation Plan Update.

Cabinet, at their meeting, had received a briefing note from Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) consideration of the report (their Minute 3/24 refers), that had been circulated, setting out their recommendations for Cabinet's consideration. The Board recommended that Cabinet agree the recommendations in the report and agreed to find opportunities to promote the innovative projects being delivered to support active travel in the city, such as VLR, Ring and Ride schemes and WM On Demand.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

1) Approve the updated and amended Implementation Plan (set out in Appendix 2 to the report) which was previously approved by Council on 6 December 2022, and which accompanies the Coventry Transport Strategy.

2) Delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Commercial and Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, and the Cabinet Member for City Services, to make variations from time to time to the Coventry Transport Strategy and Implementation Plan.

51. **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which sought approval from the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and Council to proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to changes to the Contract Procedure Rules, Part 3G.

The Constitutional Advisory Panel, at its meeting on 10 September 2024, had agreed with the proposed amendments and the report had also been considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 7 October 2024.

The report also outlined minor amendments and corrections required to ensure that the Constitution was up to date.

It was noted that the proposed amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix A were to align to the forthcoming introduction of the Procurement Act 2023, the proposed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules were summarised in the report.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

(1) Approve the proposed amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules, Part 3G of the Constitution as detailed in Appendix A to the report and delegates authority to the Director of Law and Governance to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution once the Procurement Act 2023 is enacted.

(2) Note the minor amendments and corrections that will be made under delegated authority by the Director of Law and Governance to the Scheme of Functions Delegated to Employees in Part 2M of the Constitution as detailed in Paragraph 3.1 to ensure that the Constitution is up to date.

52. **Acceptance of Grant Funding - Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3**

The City Council noted a report of the Chief Executive which informed Council of a decision undertaken by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities and the Leader of the Council. The process was in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution. The decision was to accept and allocate a grant of £3,538,050 made available by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government pursuant to the grant scheme known as the Local Authority Housing Fund (3). Due to the timescales involved, this decision was reported to Council retrospectively.

53. **Acceptance of Grant Funding - Household Support Fund Phase 6**

The City Council noted a report of the Chief Executive which informed Council of a decision undertaken by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources and the Leader of the Council. The process was in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution. The decision was to accept and allocate a grant of £3,224,222.30 from the Department for Work and Pensions ("DWP") pursuant to the grant scheme known as the Household Support Fund (HSF). Due to the timescales involved, this decision was reported to Council retrospectively.

54. **Question Time**

Councillors O'Boyle, Brown and AS Khan provided written answers to the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, oral responses to supplementary questions were given at the meeting.

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:

	Questions asked by	Question put to	Subject matter
1	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Lloyd	Adding an item on the 'Procurement Process' to the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) Programme.
2	Councillor Male	Councillor Miks	West Midlands Fire Service
3	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor AS Khan	Local policing resources
4	Councillor Lapsa	Councillor N Akhtar	Consultation on the proposed relocation of Canley Library
5	Councillor Male	Councillor Duggins	Safety of the scheduled City Centre South development
6	Councillor Male	Councillor Brown	Council Tax increase
7	Councillor Christopher	Councillor Duggins	Black History Month

55. **Statements (if any)**

There were no Statements.

56. **Debate - Ikea Development**

The following debate was moved by Councillor P Male and seconded by Councillor G Ridley:

"This Council calls for reassurance that no further Council taxpayers' money will be spent on the IKEA development as a result of the collapse of ISG."

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

57. **Debate - The Renters' Reform Bill**

The following debate was moved by Councillor S Agboola and seconded by Councillor A Tucker:

"Following the Second Reading of the Renters' Reform Bill in Parliament, Coventry City Council:

- Welcomes the progress of the Bill and in particular its abolition of Section 21 "no-fault" evictions
- Notes the Local Government Association's cross-party analysis that local authorities may require additional funding in this month's Budget in order to fully enforce the Bill's provisions
- Hopes that further legislation may give local authorities greater freedom over housing policy and homelessness, as providing temporary accommodation to families now costs Coventry City Council more than £13 million per year."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor P Male, seconded by Councillor M Lapsa and lost:

After the words “Coventry City Council” in the first paragraph, delete the three bullet points and insert the following:

- Notes the progress of the Bill.
- Calls upon the Government to pause the progress of the Bill until an impact assessment has been completed and until a review of the courts has been conducted.
- Notes that the local use of self-funding, Selective Licensing, would give the local authority greater freedom over housing policy and homelessness.”

The amended Motion now to read:

“Following the Second Reading of the Renters’ Reform Bill in Parliament, Coventry City Council:

- Notes the progress of the Bill.
- Calls upon the Government to pause the progress of the Bill until an impact assessment has been completed and until a review of the courts has been conducted.
- Notes that the local use of self-funding, Selective Licensing, would give the local authority greater freedom over housing policy and homelessness.”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set above as moved by Councillor S Agboola and seconded by Councillor A Tucker, be adopted.

(Meeting closed at 4.55 pm)

Council – 3 December 2024

Recommendation from Cabinet 5 November 2024

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Present:

Cabinet Members:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair) Councillor N Akhtar Councillor L Bigham Councillor R Brown Councillor K Caan Councillor J O'Boyle Councillor P Seaman Councillor K Sandhu
Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor S Agboola Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Hayre Councillor S Nazir Councillor D Toulson
Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor P Male Councillor E Reeves Councillor G Ridley
Other Non-Voting Members	Councillor R Lakha Councillor C E Thomas

Employees: (by Service)

Chief Executive	Julie Nugent (Chief Executive)
Adult Services and Housing	P Fahy (Director of Adult Services and Housing), M Donovan
City Services and Commercial	C Styles
Policy and	

Communications	N Hart
Finance and Resources	B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources)
Law and Governance	J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), M Salmon
Regeneration and Economy	A Williams (Director of Regeneration and Economy), R Palmer
Apologies:	Councillor S Gray Councillor L Harvard Councillor P Hetherton Councillor A Jobbar Councillor G Lloyd

Public Business

31. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

34. **Climate Change Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Economy, that had been considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 31st October 2024 and would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 3rd December 2024, on the Council's Climate Change Strategy for 2024 – 2030. Appendices to the report provided the Climate Change Strategy 2024 to 2030 and the Climate Change Action Plan.

The Coventry Climate Change Strategy 2024-2030 set out how the Council planned to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change, which was central to delivery of the One Coventry Plan, and the challenges and opportunities to creating a more sustainable city through five key pathways (or themes):

- Adaptation and resilience – how we adapt to weather changes caused by climate change and create more resilience in our infrastructure, services and systems.
- Route to net zero – how we decarbonise our city including buildings, transport and industry and create a green economy
- A circular economy – how we use resources more efficiently
- Fairer green future – how we tackle inequalities and deliver a just transition
- Nature – how we address the ecological emergency, reverse the decline in nature and create a greener city

Due to unprecedented challenges with the climate and natural environment, climate change was no longer something happening in the future, impacts are being seen now - in Coventry there were over 10,500 properties at risk of flooding

and rising. Rising energy costs and energy inefficient homes meant that over 22% of households were in fuel poverty, and the rising cost of living meant 20% of the city was in food poverty. There was a global nature emergency, with the UK one of the world's most nature depleted countries. In Coventry over 20% of households lived more than 300 metres from green space.
Moving towards a green economy, and the need to ensure that local people and businesses were equipped with the right skills to access jobs and opportunities, tackling climate change could help to address these issues. It presented a huge opportunity to create positive change that could improve the quality of life, health and well-being of residents and a create a more prosperous and vibrant future city.

The Strategy went well beyond the Council, it was citywide. It had been developed with expert input from the city's independent Climate Change Board and pathway groups which was made up of over 25 public, private and third sector organisations from across Coventry. The Strategy also considered feedback to public consultation undertaken last year and was guided by Coventry's Net Zero Carbon Routemap which was produced to help better understand the city's biggest sources of emissions and where it needed to prioritise action.

There was already a tremendous amount of activity happening across the city to tackle climate change which included:

- The creation of a UK-first Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON to help decarbonise the city developing a 15 year programme which supported net zero ambitions.

- The development of Greenpower Park. With West Midlands Gigafactory as its anchor tenant, it would foster world-leading collaborations between industry, major academic institutions and stakeholders to drive the UK's ambitions in leading the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

- The pioneering of Coventry Very Light Rail, a net zero affordable battery powered tram system which would help to reduce carbon emissions and provide a comfortable hassle-free means of travel as an alternative to the car.

- Coventry would be the UK's first Electric Bus City by 2025 and has the largest number of electric car charging points outside of London, in the UK.

- The launch of a state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility 'Sherbourne Resource Park', the first of its kind in the UK, to support a growing circular economy.

- Working with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency in opening up the river Sherbourne, providing benefits to nature and local communities.

Whilst good progress had been made, it needed to go much further. The Strategy provided a foundation for how the Authority would work with partners, businesses, organisations and communities to address climate change. It recognised that the Council had a role as leader and enabler but recognised that it could not do this alone and citywide action was needed. The accompanying Climate Change Action

Plan set out the key actions that Council aimed to deliver, in partnership to help meet the significant challenges and opportunities. It was noted that whilst approval was sought for the Strategy and Action Plan, individual projects would be subject to further governance and approvals in line with the Constitution.

The work of the Climate Change Board and delivery of the Strategy was underpinned by a commitment to ensure a 'just transition'. The impacts of climate change and measures taken to address it could often affect the most vulnerable communities, the Council must ensure that it used this opportunity to prioritise action to reduce inequalities in the city and improve the quality of life for all.

Cabinet considered a briefing note detailing Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's consideration of the report (their Minute 41/24 referred), which had been circulated, setting out the areas of discussion at their meeting and their recommendation for Cabinet's consideration. The Committee recommended that Cabinet agree the recommendation in the report.

Cabinet agreed to:

1) Approve the recommendation from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee following their consideration of the report at their meeting on 31st October 2024.

2) Recommend that Council approves the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

3) Recommend that Council delegates authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to make variations from time to time to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends that Council:

1) Approves the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan; and

2) Delegates authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to make variations from time to time to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee	31 October, 2024
Cabinet	5 November, 2024
Council	3 December, 2024

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

Director approving submission of the report:
Director of Regeneration and Economy

Ward(s) affected:
All

Title:
Climate Change Strategy 2024 - 2030

Is this a key decision?
Yes

The proposals in the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will have a significant impact on wards across the whole city.

Executive summary:

The Coventry Climate Change Strategy 2024-2030 sets out how the Council plans to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change, which is central to delivery of the One Coventry Plan. The Strategy sets out the challenges and opportunities to creating a more sustainable city through five key pathways (or themes):

- **Adaptation and resilience** – how we adapt to weather changes caused by climate change and create more resilience in our infrastructure, services and systems.
- **Route to net zero** – how we decarbonise our city including buildings, transport and industry and create a green economy
- **A circular economy** – how we use resources more efficiently
- **Fairer green future** – how we tackle inequalities and deliver a just transition
- **Nature** – how we address the ecological emergency, reverse the decline in nature and create a greener city

We are facing unprecedented challenges to our climate and natural environment, climate change is no longer something happening in the future, we are seeing the impacts now - in Coventry there are over 10,500 properties at risk of flooding and rising. Rising energy costs and energy inefficient homes mean that over 22% of households are in fuel poverty, and the rising cost of living means 20% of the city is in food poverty. There is a global nature emergency, with the UK one of the world's most nature depleted countries. In Coventry over 20% of households live more than 300 metres from green space.

We are moving towards a green economy and need to ensure that local people and businesses are equipped with the right skills to access jobs and opportunities. Tackling climate change can help to address these issues and presents a huge opportunity to create positive change that can improve the quality of life, health and well-being of our residents and a create a more prosperous and vibrant future city.

The Strategy goes well beyond the Council, it is citywide. It has been developed with expert input from the city's independent Climate Change Board and pathway groups which is made up of over 25 public, private and third sector organisations from across Coventry. The Strategy also considers feedback to public consultation undertaken last year and is guided by Coventry's Net Zero Carbon Routemap which was produced to help us better understand the city's biggest sources of emissions and where we need to prioritise action.

There is already a tremendous amount of activity happening across the city to tackle climate change which includes:

- We have created a UK-first Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON to help us decarbonise our city developing a 15 year programme which supports our net zero ambitions

- We are developing Greenpower Park. With West Midlands Gigafactory as its anchor tenant, it will foster world-leading collaborations between industry, major academic institutions and stakeholders to drive the UK's ambitions in leading the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future

- We are pioneering Coventry Very Light Rail, a net zero affordable battery powered tram system which will help to reduce carbon emissions and provide a comfortable hassle-free means of travel as an alternative to the car

- Coventry will be the UK's first Electric Bus City by 2025 and we have the largest number of electric car charging points outside of London, in the UK

- We have launched a state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility 'Sherbourne Resource Park', the first of its kind in the UK, to support a growing circular economy

- We are working with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency in opening up the river Sherbourne, providing benefits to nature and local communities.

Whilst good progress has been made, we need to go much further. The Strategy provides a foundation for how we will work with partners, businesses, organisations and communities to

address climate change. It recognises that the Council has a role as leader and enabler but recognises that we can't do this alone and citywide action is needed. The accompanying Climate Change Action Plan sets out the key actions that we will aim to deliver, in partnership to help meet the significant challenges and opportunities. It should be noted that whilst approval is sought for the Strategy and Action Plan, individual projects will be subject to further governance and approvals in line with the Constitution.

The work of the Climate Change Board and delivery of the Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to ensure a 'just transition'. The impacts of climate change and measures taken to address it can often affect the most vulnerable communities, we must ensure that we use this opportunity to prioritise action to reduce inequalities in our city and improve the quality of life for all.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to consider the report and make any comments/recommendations to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 5 November, 2024

Cabinet is requested to consider any comments/recommendations received from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and recommend that Council:

(1) Approve the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan; and

(2) Delegate authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to make variations from time to time to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Council is requested to:

(1) Approve the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan; and

(2) Delegate authority to the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to make variations from time to time to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Climate Change Strategy 2024 to 2030
Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan

Background papers:

- Draft Climate Change Strategy 2023 Coventry's draft Climate Change Strategy – Coventry City Council
- Draft Climate Change Strategy Consultation Response Climate Change Strategy 2023 - 2030 consultation feedback executive summary – Coventry City Council

Other useful documents

- One Coventry Plan 2022-2030 The One Coventry Plan – Coventry City Council
  Coventry Net Zero Carbon Routemap 2023 Net Zero Carbon Route Map for Coventry – Coventry City Council
- Strategic Energy Partnership Business Plan summary 2024 SEP SBP summary
- Cabinet Report, August 2023
- Coventry Strategic Energy Partnership.pdf
- Economic Development Strategy Economic Development Strategy 2022-2027 – Coventry City Council

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee - 31 October 2024

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

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes
3 December, 2024

Report title: Climate Change Strategy 2024 – 2030

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is a key priority for the Council as set out in the One Coventry Plan. The Strategy gives a comprehensive insight into the challenges and opportunities we collectively face in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. Whilst the challenges ahead are significant, taking positive action to address them brings about real opportunity to create a better future for our city and its residents. The Climate Change Strategy is an important step for Coventry in being clear on our level of ambition, to be a leading city on the global stage, which is innovative, forward-thinking and capable of delivering meaningful change and leading the green industrial revolution. We need to be bold and rise to these challenges; we can't do this alone and the success of how we respond to this will rely on city-wide support.

1.2 Climate change has many complex challenges which must be looked at holistically to deliver meaningful and lasting chance. The Strategy breaks these down into five key areas or 'pathways':

- **Adaptation and resilience** – how we adapt to weather changes caused by climate change and create more resilience in our infrastructure, services and systems.
- **Route to net zero** – how we decarbonise our city including buildings, transport and industry and create a green economy
- **A circular economy** – how we use resources more efficiently.
- **Fairer green future** – how we ensure the transition to net zero future is fair to all
- **Nature** – how we address the ecological emergency, reverse the decline in nature and create a greener city

1.3 Coventry City Council recognised the importance of this issue well before many authorities were declaring emergencies, the Council were a founding signatory of the Global Covenant of Mayors in 2008, which set a target of achieving net zero by 2050 and the Council published its first Climate Change Strategy in the same year. In 2021 the Council signed up tothe the Covenant of Mayors revised interim target of 55-65% reduction in emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. We are committed to working towards the UK government's more recent interim target for a 68% reduction in emissions by 2030. More recently the Council are working towards how we can support government targets to tackle the ecological emergency, whereby 30% of land in the UK should be conserved and managed for nature by 2030. For Coventry, whilst we recognise the importance of targets to give focus, our focus is taking action and being innovative to tackle climate change.

1.4 It's important the Council is seen to lead from the front; we are committed to reducing the direct impact the Council has on the environment and climate change, and we have a role to lead and encourage city-wide action. It is for that reason that we helped to develop an independent Climate Change Board in 2021, where the Council in its leadership role representing the interests of its citizens brings together the

leading stakeholders in the private, public and voluntary sectors to take action on climate change and promote sustainability.

1.5 The Board is made up of more than 25 partner agencies from the public, private and third sectors. The Board is supported by five pathway groups, focusing on each of the key areas of the Strategy, expertly chaired by professionals in those areas. The Board and pathway groups share ideas and resources to develop solutions to these difficult and complex issues affecting our city and its people and have had an important role in developing this Strategy. We will also continue to engage with residents and help empower community organisations to develop projects on the ground and encourage behavioural change.

A summary of the five pathways is as follows:

1.6 **Adaptation and Resilience Pathway** we are seeing more frequent extreme weather events such as flooding, heatwaves and droughts which present major risks to our city, affecting communities, infrastructure, nature and the local economy. Over 10,500 properties in the city are at risk of flooding, and Coventry has been tabled 14th out all English towns and cities with regards to the number of neighbourhoods within the city at high risk of extreme heat. We cannot afford to ignore this, particularly as some of our most vulnerable communities are likely to be most impacted and therefore must take action to adapt to climate change and create a more resilient city. The key recommendation for this pathway is to develop a Coventry Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan, to help us better understand the city's exposure to climate risks and develop actions to mitigate risks as far as possible – this work is already well underway. Some of the actions in response to this will include measures such as increasing green and blue space across the city to increase natural resilience to heavy rainfall and provide natural shelter and cooling – this could include more green spaces in neighbourhoods, green roofs, living walls, street tree planting and work to restore and de-culvert rivers.

1.7 **Route to Net Zero Pathway** like all UK cities, Coventry is on a journey to net zero. We have reduced our carbon emissions by 48% since 2000, however the remaining 52% will be more challenging to deliver. This pathway focuses on a number of key areas for decarbonisation closely aligned to the city's Net Zero Routemap, with a focus on homes, transport and business, which are the biggest sources of emissions in our city. Some of the key actions that will help address this include retrofit of properties, electrifying the city's bus fleet and providing better walking and cycling infrastructure, developing innovative solutions such as Coventry Very Light Rail and pioneering new technologies such as drones and mobility hubs, delivering on our ambitions to be the UK's first Electric City. The route to net zero is very much underpinned by technology, innovation and behavioural change which are all essential to support our journey to net zero. The city's Strategic Energy Partnership will play a pivotal role in helping us to drive this forward at pace and scale. This pathway also focuses on identifying opportunities to create significant jobs, skills and savings for residents and businesses across the city.

1.8 **Circular Economy Pathway** waste is a significant challenge for the city, and currently accounts for 10% of emissions. Developing a circular economy means focussing on re-use, repair and recycling materials to use as a valuable commodity. This pathway

seeks to create opportunities to develop a local circular economy, which will deliver environmental, economic and social benefits across the city.

1.9 Coventry has ambitions to be a UK leader in tackling electrical and electronic waste and Greenpower Park is a huge opportunity to help deliver this, developing technologies to support the recycling of batteries and electronic waste. The city is already taking innovative steps with the Battery Industrialisation Centre, Coventry Connects digital recycling programme and the Sherbourne Materials Recycling Facility provides additional capacity that can support an increase in processing of high-quality recycled materials. Part of the work of this pathway focuses on identifying opportunities and addressing challenges of creating a more circular economy, which includes working with businesses to look at how we can make better use of commercial waste, and residents to address low recycling rates across the city.

1.10 **Nature Based Pathway** the UK is one of the most nature-depleted nations in the world. There is a vital need to reverse the national decline in biodiversity and support local nature recovery. This pathway focuses on how we can protect local habitats, alongside creating new ones. Currently 11% of land across Coventry is used for conservation purposes, against a government target of 30% by 2030. This presents a huge challenge which many other urban towns and cities also face, but also a significant opportunity to enhance green and blue spaces across the city.

1.11 In order to do this successfully we need a better understanding of the existing levels of biodiversity, which is being done through the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This will enable us to target resources and support a pipeline of opportunities and help attract investment. We need to improve conservation management to support nature recovery, and increase education, awareness and involvement of communities and explore opportunities to increase space for nature in urban areas, as well as opportunities for larger rewilding schemes.

1.12 **Fairer Green Future Pathway** The impacts of climate change and measures taken to address it can affect communities disproportionately, often impacting on the most vulnerable communities. Climate change can increase existing risks, such as vulnerability of properties to flooding and impacts of heatwaves will affect communities living in areas with less green space and trees to provide shade. Taking action on climate change can contribute to better health, well-being and quality of life for residents across the city. Our response to the climate emergency will require working with communities across the city to address existing inequalities and deliver a ‘just transition’.

1.13 Moving towards a low carbon economy will create new job opportunities but will mean a decline in sectors currently dependent upon the use of fossil fuels. It’s important that we take a proactive approach in order to avoid creating inequalities in our communities and businesses to support the transition into new jobs, which includes upskilling and training in green technologies. The pathway group have created ‘Eight Principles for ensuring a Just Transition for Coventry (listed in the Strategy) which have been adopted by the Climate Change Board members and we are keen for other organisations across the city to follow suit and get resource in place to help coordinate the city’s just transition.

1.14 The Strategy explores the role of the Council. The Council's emissions only account for 1% of the city as a total, but the organisation is taking significant steps to decarbonise its estate and fleet and to ensure that climate change and sustainability is embedded in all policy areas, from planning to procurement. The Council has an important role in terms of co-ordinating the city's approach to tackling climate change, which includes partnership working, building support and empowering citizens to take action. Key actions in the next 12 months will include training and reviewing resources to build knowledge, capacity and awareness to help us deliver against the Action Plan.

1.15 The city's Climate Change Action Plan sets out all of the planned activities and projects, many already in development or underway, or plans we aspire to deliver in response to the Climate Change Strategy, to make a real difference city wide. Whilst a large number of the actions sit with the Council, there are also initiatives that require support from partners, businesses and communities to reflect the citywide action required. The Action Plan will remain a live document and be used to monitor progress and performance to make sure that the actions being taken are delivering against our goals.

1.16 We recognise that there is a huge amount to do, and it is important to be aspirational but practical about what can be achieved. We will work hard to raise finance, engage partners and work with communities and organisations across the city to help remove barriers, identify opportunities and make this happen. We must also ensure we consider the risks and impacts of activities and take collective action to deliver a just transition as part this.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. **Option 1 – Not recommended – Do nothing** – This option is not the recommended option. The UK Government passed legislation in 2019 to committing to reducing greenhouse gases, achieving net zero, by 2050 and Coventry must help contribute towards this goal.

2.2. **Option 2 – Recommended – Approve the Climate Change Strategy 2024 - 2030** The Climate Change Strategy is the Council's direct response to the One Coventry priority 'Tackling the Causes and Consequences of Climate Change'. It is recommended that Coventry approve the Strategy to ensure the city can lead environmental change and create an improved quality of life for all by creating a greener, cleaner city.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. The Council launched its draft Climate Change Strategy in February 2023 for public consultation, which ran until early July. The consultation sought to understand the views of the people of Coventry on the pathways and key themes within them, to identify which issues are most important to people to help influence the final version of the Strategy and accompanying Climate Change Action Plan.

3.2. It was important to the Council to help make the consultation as accessible and wide reaching as possible across the city, therefore the engagement was conducted offering a range of different options for people to participate, with sessions held in person including drop ins and events, online or in meetings in their communities, alongside promotion on social media and in the press.

3.3. Data and feedback were captured via a survey on the Council's Let's Talk Platform, alongside more detailed surveys used during focused pathway group sessions, alongside email and letter correspondence. Comments were also captured from public drop-in sessions held at libraries and shopping centres, alongside events including Godiva and Motofest.

3.4. There were 1,421 people or organisations engaged in the consultation which took place face to face at various drop ins, events and focus groups, via online meetings, webinars and online surveys. Over 500 written responses were received, with over 1,856 comments from individuals and representatives of organisations providing feedback on the Strategy. We will continue involve and work with local people in our plans going forward to. raise awareness and encourage positive action to be taken.

3.5. The majority of the respondents that took part in this survey were between 35-64 years, proportionally larger than the 2021 Census figure of 36% of the Coventry population aged between 35-64 years old. Only 4.5% of respondents were aged 24 and under, again much lower than the Census figure of 15% of the population aged between 16-24 years old.

3.6. Of respondents that took part in the survey, 71.5% identify as 'White British', which is proportionally higher than Coventry's total 'White British' population of 66.6%. Responses from Asian groups which make up 16.3% of the city's total population only make up 4.3% of surveys received. This illustrates that the profile of respondents doesn't fully reflect the diversity of the city. Responses were received from all wards across the city.

3.7. The majority of respondents (81%) consider the issues around climate change and sustainability to be 'very important' or 'fairly important'. 19% of those that engaged felt it was 'not very important' or 'not important at all'. This is similar to the national picture.

3.8. Overall themes in responses included a call for the Strategy to be more ambitious and be clearer on commitments, targets and actions. Communications and engagement was also something people felt strongly about; this is a complex area and it's important that communications are clear and accessible. Community engagement is key to behaviour change, this will only be possible working with communities to find solutions and ways to empower them to take action, rather than actions being 'done to them'.

3.9. There wasn't consistent agreement over which aspects people feel are the most important when it comes to tackling climate change, which demonstrates the complexity of what it means to people and the issues they consider to be the most important. The most common responses included taking action to 'ensure a positive future for the next generation' and most responses related to the 'fairer green pathway', related to inequalities, pollution, lack of access to green space and jobs. Nature based interventions also appear to be an important aspect for local people, followed by climate

resilience. People were also keen to find ways to make recycling and reuse easier, to reduce waste.

3.10. Following the consultation process, the draft Strategy has been updated to reflect as much of the feedback as possible. This has then been reviewed by partners on the Climate Change Board and pathway groups to help shape the Strategy and Action Plan, which has involved workshops and meetings to feed into the process.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The Climate Change Strategy period is 2024-2030 and will be launched upon approval of this report. Updates related to the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be shared at future Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings as appropriate.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

5.2. This report does not request any additional resources. The Strategy has big ambitions and Coventry will need to find significant funds to deliver our vision. The cost of doing nothing will be far higher. Funding for individual projects and or the delivery of the next phase(s) will be brought back to Cabinet or Council as appropriate subject to robust business case, where such decision is required under the Council's Constitution.

5.3. The Council has been successful in attracting significant grant funding to support schemes such as domestic retrofit, electric buses, electric charging points and cycle infrastructure and will continue to work in partnership to attract funding into the city, with new opportunities coming through the WMCA Devolution Deal. We recognise that the level of investment needed isn't going to be funded solely from the public purse and are taking more innovative approaches to attracting private investment into the city, through things like our Strategic Energy Partnership to decarbonise the city, and partnership projects with organisations involved in the Climate Change Board and Pathway Group members to develop our local circular economy and developing a natural capital programme for the city to attract funding.

5.4. No additional funding is sought at this stage to support delivery. The Climate Change and Sustainability Team (10 FTEs) are funded from a mix of core budget and grant funding. Note that further funding will be required to replace existing grant funding from 2025/26 to sustain the team working to deliver this Strategy, which needs to be identified. It's proposed that the structure of the team is reviewed to ensure that the service has the right skills and capacity to deliver within available budgets.

5.5. There is an overarching risk in relation to lack of finance for resources being a barrier to delivering what we aspire to achieve. This is particularly significant in the current financial climate, however, it is incumbent on the Council to find creative and innovative ways to build capacity, which includes the Climate Change Board and

pathway groups, the Strategic Energy Partnership with EON and working more closely with community groups to help support delivery.

5.6. **Legal Implications**

5.7. Delivery of projects within the Climate Change Action Plan will help support the Council meet its legal carbon reduction targets (net zero by 2050, with an interim target of 68% by 2030).

5.8. It will also support the increasing legislative requirements for local areas around energy infrastructure, including local area energy planning, the introduction of heat networks and support for increasing the amount of homes in the city to become more energy efficient.

5.9. The Climate Change Strategy will help to inform local policy making decisions, such as the Local Plan Review which is seeking an uplift in the energy efficiency of new builds in the city, and installation of renewables where viable.

5.10. The Strategy also supports the statutory obligations on the local authority to support local nature recovery through mechanisms such as biodiversity net gain.

5.11. While the pipeline of schemes set out in the Action Plan represents the Council's current intentions, this is subject to change and each individual scheme will still be subject to public consultation and political approval, in accordance with the Council's normal governance arrangements.

6. Other implications

6.1. **How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan

6.2. The Climate Change Strategy contributes to all three core aims of the One Coventry Plan. The core focus is achieving net zero which contributes directly to tackling the causes and consequences of climate change.

- The strategy will support economic growth through the city's ambitions to lead the green industrial revolution and grow the green economy, helping to attract businesses to the city, creating new jobs and providing new skills to benefit local people and businesses. This will include safeguarding the future employment of those currently involved in fossil fuel dependent activities being phased out with reskilling. It also supports making the city more resilient to the impacts of climate change, helping our preparedness to deal with extreme weather events and reduce shocks to the local economy.

- The Strategy in accordance with the Marmot Principles will improve outcomes and tackle inequalities within our communities by focussing on people who have the lowest incomes and facing the greatest challenges these environmental changes present, such as higher fuel bills and food prices.

In addition to the above, the Climate Change Strategy will help support the Council as a partner and enabler. We will need to work in partnership to achieve the outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy.

6.3. **How is risk being managed?**

The Strategy and Action Plan are managed by the city's Climate Change and Sustainability Team, who will work closely with teams and partner organisations on the delivery of projects to ensure the risk profile of individual actions is managed robustly. The Climate Change Board and pathway groups will provide an overall assurance and monitoring role, which will include reviewing risks and opportunities. Climate Change and risks around adaptation and resilience are already captured on the Council's corporate risk register. Taking decisive action on climate change will increase preparedness and reduce the city's exposure to risks associated with climate change and moving towards a green economy.

6.4. **What is the impact on the organisation?**

There is already a dedicated Climate Change and Sustainability team who will oversee delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan, however, to deliver on our ambitions will require support from the whole organisation. The team are already working with services across the Council including Transport, Environmental Services, Energy, Estates, Education, Public Health, Procurement, Planning, Legal, Finance, Communications and Engagement and will continue to build on this. Training will be key to help build knowledge and capacity amongst staff.

The independent Climate Change Board is facilitated by the City Council in its leadership role, helping to secure commitments and lever resources through its partner organisations.

6.5. **Equalities / EIA?**

An EIA was completed on 12 June 2023. This EIA aims to ensure the strategy, and the more detailed interventions and actions that will result from its roll out (when officially adopted), eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups.

In addition to the EIA, the work being developed around creating a 'just transition' will support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan, and help to address existing inequalities and inequities in the city, including food and fuel poverty, air quality, access to green space and support with skills to access green jobs.

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

The Climate Change Strategy is the key driver for the Council to achieve net zero ambitions and tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. This document supports the One Coventry Plan and sets out the city's ambitions for the journey ahead.

6.7. **Implications for partner organisations?**

The Strategy provides a foundation for how we will work with partners, businesses, organisations and communities to address climate change. It recognises that the Council has a role as leader and enabler but recognises that we can't do this alone and citywide action is needed. The Council will need to work with other organisations, communities, residents, businesses, schools, colleges and universities to help to work towards a greener and cleaner city. This will require building on the work we are doing with existing partners through the Climate Change Board, Strategic Energy Partnership and through existing projects, and also building new partnerships to maximise opportunities for partnership working and help deliver the goals of the Strategy.

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

COVENTRY
Climate Change Strategy
2024–2030

Coventry City Council

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Foreword – by Cllr J. O'Boyle

We are facing unprecedented environmental challenges that threaten the health and prosperity of our planet. Tackling this will require changes enormous in scale and scope, encompassing how electricity is generated, how people travel, how land is used and how buildings are heated.

While the challenges are significant, this is also a major opportunity to create positive change that can improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing of our residents and create a greener, more prosperous vibrant future city.

Coventry City Council has an important role to play in addressing the causes and consequences of climate change. We must take action and be innovative to tackle climate change, support nature and build a green economy. We are also committed to create a more attractive greener city for everyone to enjoy.

This strategy is about people as well as the planet and recognises the need to address inequities where those families from the lowest incomes are facing the greatest challenges because of climate change. Coventry is committed to tackling its inequalities, which includes supporting those living in the lowest quality homes and suffering poor health, lack of access to green space, worse air quality, rising fuel costs and food prices. It's also about ensuring that the city is equipped with the right skills to ensure a just transition to a low carbon economy and that no one gets left behind.

The Council will lead and encourage city-wide action, alongside an independent Climate Change Board where we can represent the interests of residents and bring together stakeholders in the private, public and voluntary sectors to take action. These agencies have had an important role in developing this strategy. We will also continue to engage with residents and empower community organisations to develop projects and encourage behavioural change.

The sustainability and climate change agenda also provides the city with a major opportunity to become the country's leading centre for the Green Industrial Revolution, bringing new skills, jobs and investment. I am proud to spearhead this ambitious work where we are developing innovative solutions ranging from Greenpower Park to battery industrialisation, the UK's first Strategic Energy Partnership, an award-winning state-of-the-art materials recycling facility, Coventry Very Light Rail and a cycle-superhighway network.

This is just the beginning. This strategy focuses on how to create opportunities for the whole city working in partnership with others to address this spectrum of issues. We need everyone to play their part; as residents, businesses, educators and organisations, our action plan sets out what you can do to help drive positive change.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle
Cabinet Member Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change

Coventry's Independent Climate Change Board

I am proud to chair Coventry's Independent Climate Change Board, which I have done since its inception in 2021. We have seen the partnership grow from strength to strength during that short time. The board represents a huge breadth of expertise and passion for making a difference in Coventry, and a contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

We represent a diverse group of almost thirty organisations that represent industry, public bodies, charities and voluntary groups all of whom have a part to play in tackling climate change. All members of the board and the organisations they represent share the same aims with regard to harnessing the opportunities of new technologies and ways of thinking that will impact positively on the climate crisis.

The Board and its Pathway Groups have been instrumental in helping to shape Coventry's Climate Change Strategy, which is an important step for the city in its efforts to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

We will help shape the city's vision and make key recommendations for how we can improve the environment in Coventry, and play our part in the global fight against the adverse effects of climate change.

We are committed to supporting the Council to implement the Strategy and Action Plan, which will endeavour to create new opportunities for all of the city, as well as engaging all our residents and organisations.

Taking bold action will help create a better future for everyone, and the Board and Pathway Groups will continue to have a key role in ensuring its success. I am most grateful to the members of the board for their work and to the organisations they represent.

Margot James
Former Executive Chair of WMG, responsible for the strategic direction and development of WMG, at the University of Warwick.

Prior to joining WMG Margot served as Minister of State for Digital and the Creative Industries and Member of Parliament for Stourbridge.

Coventry's Climate Change Strategy is an important step for the city in its efforts to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, taking bold action will help create a better future for everyone

Tacking the climate and natural emergencies are arguably two of the biggest challenges we face as a city, and globally. The Council recognise the importance of our role as a leader in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change in Coventry, however we cannot do this alone so in November 2021 the Council led the development of an Independent Climate Change Board Chaired by Margot James, with Vice Chair Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change.

The Board will oversee implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, as well as continue to generate new ideas and opportunities, alongside establishing effective ways to engage and involve residents and organisations.

Figure 1 – The UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015)

The Board and this Strategy will deliver against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which provides a holistic approach to tackling the climate and natural emergencies. To do this we have adopted (and tweaked) the principles of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives Five Development Pathways. Pathway Groups are working as part of the Climate Change Board to identify priorities and opportunities to ensure we deliver lasting and meaningful change through the following goals which this Strategy seeks to address:

Adaptation and Resilience Pathway:
Reduce the impacts of extreme weather and climate change and enable quicker recovery through creating a more resilient city

Route to Net Zero Pathway:
Reduce carbon emissions across the city to support our transition to net zero, whilst benefiting local people and businesses through creating warmer homes, cheaper bills, cleaner air, new jobs and skills

Circular Economy Pathway:
Develop new models of production and consumption to reduce our reliance on natural resources

Nature Pathway:
Support nature recovery and create better access to green and blue space for wildlife to thrive and communities to enjoy

Fairer Green Future Pathway:
Ensuring a just transition for all

The work of the Climate Change Board and delivery of the Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to ensure a just transition. The impacts of climate change and measures taken to address it can affect communities disproportionately. All organisations represented on the Climate Change Board are committed to tackling the climate and nature emergencies in a way that helps to address existing inequalities and making sure new ones aren't created as a consequence of the action we take.
We have developed and adopted The Eight Principles for ensuring a Just Transition for Coventry:

1. We will draw on the expertise and lived experience of people living and working in affected sectors, industries, businesses and communities in planning for the future.
2. We will place our young people and the needs of more vulnerable citizens at the heart of our work toward a Just Transition.
3. We will use what we know already about the factors that impact on health and wellbeing in areas of deprivation in the city to ensure that addressing the impacts of climate change in these areas is prioritised.
4. All of our communication about the climate crisis will be clear and accessible.
5. Workers in the city will be supported in training/re-training for a greener future and the unemployed will be trained and supported to seize the job opportunities created by the newly emerging green technologies.
6. Communities will be empowered and supported to take climate and ecological action at a very local level.
7. We acknowledge that while individuals can take action, we do not all have equal power to bring about solutions.
8. We will stand in solidarity with those experiencing the worst climate and ecological impacts across the globe and recognise that our citizens are connected to and affected by these global impacts in a myriad of ways.

The organisations involved in the Board and Pathway Groups have pledged their support to helping to deliver the city's Climate Change Strategy, which are set out below:

Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
The Ultimate Business Network

West Midlands Combined Authority

West Midlands Fire Service

Living Streets

Coventry Building Society

Severn Trent
WONDERFUL ON TAP

Act On Energy
save money and the environment

E.ON

CWLEP Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership

GallifordTry

grapeVine
GROWING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Camirus

Environment Agency

Lloyds Banking Group

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS
NHS Trust

garden organic

Citizen

Coventry University

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

West Midlands Police

Coventry & Warwickshire cda

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

A HORIBA COMPANY MIRA

Coventry City Council

CU Social Enterprise

Warwick
The University of Warwick

WMG
The University of Warwick

The Council would like to formally thank all of the organisations involved for their time, expertise and continued support.

1.0 Introduction

The climate and nature emergency are the single biggest threats facing humanity, but if tackled positively provides a huge opportunity to create a better future for people and the planet

1.1 Climate change is not a problem of the future, it is happening now. Temperatures are rising faster than any time since the Ice Age, and we are experiencing more seasonal fluctuation and extreme weather events. In Coventry we have experienced a number of flood incidents this year as a result of periods of intensive rainfall which led to flooding and damage to a significant number of properties, as well as disrupting the road and bus network. Human activity, which includes our dependency on fossil fuels and natural resources is driving up food and energy bills, creating water shortages, rising insurance premiums and worsening air quality which impacts on public health. It has also had a devastating impact on our natural environment, contributing to the rapid decline of species and depletion of habitats – which has resulted in 1 in 6 species in the UK being at risk of extinction.

1.2 Over 80% of respondents to the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy consultation told us they are 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change. Many respondents told us the most important aspect of tackling climate change is to ensure a positive future for the next generation.

1.3 Whilst the challenges are significant, tackling them can bring about positive change and benefits for everyone, helping to address existing inequalities and improve the quality of life for all. This Strategy sets out just how factors such as economic growth, energy security, environmental protection and addressing climate change can be complementary and benefit us all.

1.4 There is already a huge amount happening in Coventry to tackle climate change:

- We have created a UK-first Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON to help us decarbonise our city developing a 15 year programme which supports our net zero ambitions
- We are developing Greenpower Park. With West Midlands Gigafactory as its anchor tenant, it will foster world-leading collaborations between industry, major academic institutions and other stakeholders to drive the UK's ambitions in leading the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future
- We are pioneering Coventry Very Light Rail, a net zero affordable battery powered tram system which will not only help to reduce carbon emissions but provide a comfortable hassle-free means of travel as an alternative to the car
- Coventry will be the UK's first Electric Bus City by 2025 and we have the largest number of electric car charging points outside of London
- We have launched a state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility 'Sherbourne Resource Park', the first of its kind in the UK, to support a growing circular economy
- We are working with the Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency in opening up the river Sherbourne, providing benefits to nature and local communities

1.5 Whilst good progress has been made, we need to go much further. The Strategy has been developed by the city's Climate Change team, with input from other key service areas across the Council as well as from the city's Independent Climate Change Board and pathway groups, which have given invaluable expertise to shape our collective vision for tackling climate change in Coventry. The Strategy also reflects feedback from public consultation undertaken last year. A Net Zero Routemap has been developed for Coventry, which has also played a key part in helping to develop priority areas for action.

1.6 The Strategy provides a foundation for how we will work with partners, businesses, organisations and communities to address climate change. It recognises that the Council has a role as leader and enabler but recognises that we can't do this alone and citywide action is needed. The accompanying Climate Change Action Plan sets out how the Strategy will be delivered and how success will be measured, this is intended to be a living document that will grow as new opportunities arise. Whilst the list of actions is extensive, a summary of the highest priority actions is tabled below:

Workstream/ Activity	Status	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery timescales
Adaptation & Resilience				
Coventry Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan including detailed citywide risk assessment and action plan.	**Already underway** Plan has been developed and is being finalised	Coventry City Council	Climate Change Board Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group (including Environment Agency and Severn Trent), WMCA, Defra, Met Office, Stakeholders across the city; Consultant support from CAG consulting, Sustainability West Midlands and Slingshot Solutions	**Plan to be published 2024/25**
Delivery of practical measures to support climate resilience Includes a network of sustainable urban drainage across the city, alongside green and blue space enhancements including rain gardens and river de-culverting.	**Already Underway** including Palmer Lane de-culverting and citywide sustainable urban drainage schemes	Coventry City Council	Climate Change Board Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group including Severn Trent & Environment Agency; Nature Based Pathway Group inc Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Canal and Rivers Trust; Developers; WMCA.	**2024–2030+**
Nature				
Increase the amount of land used for nature conservation in Coventry Deliver the city's Local Nature Recovery Strategy through development of a network of green space & nature-based interventions to support nature recovery and improve access to nature	**Early-stage development** Local Nature Recovery Strategy is underway, being led by WMCA, interventions are being developed alongside this	Coventry City Council	Nature Based Pathway Group including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency and Canal and Rivers Trust. Developers	**Local Nature Recovery Strategy published 2025** **Delivery of interventions 2024–2030+**
Delivery of the city's Urban Forestry Strategy, planting 360,000 trees across the city – particularly targeting areas where there is less canopy coverage, including a mixture of street trees and woodland creation.	**Already underway**	Coventry City Council	Investors, landowners, local businesses, communities and individuals	**2022–2032**

Workstream/ Activity	Status	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery timescales
Route to Net Zero				
Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) between CCC and EON, which is focusing on delivery of decarbonisation projects.	**Already underway**	Strategic Energy Partnership	Housing Associations, Electric Vehicle Charging Providers, Universities, other utility providers	**2023–2038+**
Increase citywide renewable energy generation and resilience of supply – this will require development of projects including ground-mounted solar farms, solar panels on rooftops and battery storage	**Already underway**	Council Coventry City Council	Strategic Energy Partnership, public and private sectors, businesses, residents	**2024–2030+**
Improve the energy efficiency and quality of the city's social housing stock	**Already underway** to date funding has been secured to retrofit over 2000 social homes, work ongoing to scale this	Coventry City Council & Citizen	Citizen Housing, Orbit, Midland Heart, Strategic Energy Partnership	**2022–2030+**
Support increase in retrofit of privately owned properties, including private rented below EPC C (approx. 100,000 homes)	**Already underway** Delivery of grant programmes which support retrofit measures for privately owned properties, alongside developing opportunities for green finance products to make retrofit more affordable for homeowners.	Coventry City Council	Homeowners, landlord associations, Strategic Energy Partnership, banks and building societies, universities	**2024–2030+**
Develop the city's first net zero neighbourhood which would also include wider net zero benefits (Inc. economies of scale with retrofit)	**Early development** Funding has been secured to develop initial plan	Coventry City Council	West Midlands Combined Authority, Strategic Energy Partnership, Local community	**2024–2026**
Delivery of the first Very Light Rail route in Coventry. This includes delivery of the initial city-centre based demonstrator route which will serve as a pilot, and if successful development of the first passenger route	**In development** Funding has been secured to start work on city demonstrator route in 2026	Coventry City Council	DfT, Transport for West Midlands, WMG and CVLR consortium	**2026–2030+**
Electrification of the city's bus fleet	**Already Underway** 140 Electric buses already delivered, with renewable EV charging infrastructure	Coventry City Council, National Express & Stagecoach	TfWM, DfT	**2021–2025**

Workstream/ Activity	Status	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery timescales
Continue to improve the walking and cycling infrastructure – this includes improved routes and better connectivity, cycle hire and storage and development of citywide walking and cycling improvement plan, alongside training provision	**Already Underway** Over 9km segregated cycleways delivered to date and further works underway; WM Cycle Hire scheme has expanded across city Installation of more cycle storage is continuing Cycle training for children and adults available	Coventry City Council	Transport for West Midlands, Sustrans, Beryl Bikes	**2020–2030+**
Development of mobility hubs across the city, providing secure electric charging for cars and e-bikes, with potential to power via renewable energy and supporting accessible charging solutions	**Early development** Funding secured and work underway to develop business cases for sites	Coventry City Council	Charge point providers, Transport for West Midlands	**2025–2026**
LED Upgrade – PFI Street Lighting. investing in energy efficient Street lighting LED technology, whilst giving a better quality of light and achieving a significant saving on energy consumption and carbon reduction (1200 tonnes per year).	**Early development** Business case developed Cabinet decision due 2024/25	Coventry City Council	Balfour Beatty	**2025–2027**
Commercial property energy efficiency improvements (MEES)- to find a means to enable us to make energy efficiency improvements to property that we own but do not pay the bills for	**Already underway**	Coventry City Council	Strategic Energy Partnership Charities Tenants Communities	**2024–2030+**
Develop strategy and action plan for decarbonisation of the Coventry Education Estate toward Net Zero by 2050. To meet or exceed the interim targets of 50% reduction by 2032 and 75% reduction by 2037 from a 2017 baseline.	**Already underway** Work underway to decarbonise schools using grant funding but needs to be significantly scaled up	Coventry City Council	All schools and educational institutions across Coventry, Department for Education, Strategic Energy Partnership other partners who can support with training and raising awareness	**2024–2030+**

Workstream/ Activity	Status	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery timescales
Circular Economy				
Increase household recycling through carrying out a number of targeted campaigns and behavioural change projects	**Not yet commenced**	Coventry City Council	Sherbourne Resource Park, WMCA, neighbouring authorities	**2025–2030+**
Increase the range of materials that can be recycled through household waste to boost citywide recycling rates and contribute to increasing the number of markets that recycled materials supply	**Already underway** Sherbourne Resource Park supports expanded range of recyclables & more high quality sorting	Coventry City Council	Sherbourne Resource Park, WMCA, neighbouring authorities, all households	**2023–2030+**
Coventry Connects digital recycling project involves donation of surplus digital equipment in the city which is refurbished and donated to communities and individuals to tackle digital exclusion and keep electronic waste out of landfill.	**Already underway** Over 3000 devices donated to date and external funding secured	Coventry City Council	WMG, local businesses and organisations, community organisations, voluntary organisations, charities	**2023–2025 with plans to extend**
Establishment of a construction waste re-use hub to reduce construction waste in Coventry (approx. 60% of total waste) and provide lower cost materials to traders and householders.	**Early development**	Coventry City Council	WMCA, social enterprises, construction sector	**2025–2029+**
Greenpower Park development of the West Midlands Gigafactory and UK Centre of Electrification to increase capacity and technology in battery manufacturing and recycling, providing up to 6000 local green jobs	**In development** Work ongoing to secure investors and tenants Infrastructure funding secured	Coventry City Council & Coventry Airport Ltd	Alliance group – West Midlands Combined Authority, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council, Rugby Council, Warwick Manufacturing Group at University of Warwick, Coventry University and the Manufacturing Technology Centre.	**2021–2030+**

Workstream/ Activity	Status	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery timescales
Just Transition				
Development of a Just Transition Plan for Coventry – setting out key objectives and a framework for how a just transition in the city will be delivered	**Early development**	Coventry City Council	Fairer Green Future Pathway Group, local businesses and communities	**2024–2026**
Develop a Green Skills Roadmap for Coventry, to understand green skills gaps and training requirements, alongside sectors that will need to transition to support move to net zero	**Early Development**	Coventry City Council	Partners from public and private sectors, alongside education and training providers, WMCA	**2024–2025**
Delivery of Coventry's Air Quality Action Plan – measures include infrastructure improvements, greening and active travel measures, alongside targeted campaigns to encourage behaviour change	**Already underway** Work already undertaken includes cycleways and road improvements	Coventry City Council	WMCA, Defra	**2020–2030+**
Coventry Grows Programme pilot to create a network of community growing sites across the city to support food growing and wildlife, alongside improving food security.	**Early development**	Coventry City Council	E.ON, Grapevine, local businesses, landowners, Garden Organic, Team Springboard, Food Union, Coventry Growthers, Coventry Urban Eden, Coventry Allotments, Coventry University and other community groups	**2025–2026+**
Council Action				
Developing the Climate Change Team and wider Environmental and Energy Services to ensure there is appropriate resource, expertise and capacity and co-ordination within the organisation and build external support with partners to address any gaps	**Already underway**	Coventry City Council	Climate Change Board potential for secondments between partner organisations to build knowledge and capacity; Strategic Energy Partnership has provided extra resource	**2024–2025**
Strengthen Local Planning Policy to place greater requirements and expectations upon developers for sustainable development in Coventry to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy	**Already underway**	Coventry City Council	Developers	**2025–2041**

2.0 Our Approach

Tackling climate change is an integral part of our One Coventry Plan

In 2022 the Council launched its One Coventry Plan.

Three key priority areas were identified: based on feedback from citizens on issues more important to them:

tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region

improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities

2.1 The Climate Change Strategy is the Council's response to how it will tackle the causes and consequences of climate change, but it plays a significant role in assisting the delivery of all three goals.

Increase Economic Prosperity

2.2 The UK's Climate Change Committee estimates that the UK will need to invest £1.4 trillion between 2020 to 2050 to reach net zero. Reaching net zero will require significant changes right across the economy.

2.3 The UK's green economy grew by 9% in 2022–23, in contrast to 0.1% of the economy overall. The boom in green companies supported 765,000 jobs and production of £74bn in goods and services (source: Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit and Confederation of British Industry, 2024). Green jobs are on average better paid, more productive and hotspots of activity are taking place in some of the most deprived parts of the country, helping to improve living standards. Estimates suggest that growth in the green economy could grow to between 1.4 and 2.5 million jobs in total in the UK, but investment will be needed to develop skills and maximise opportunities for local people. Taking action to create a more climate resilient city will help to safeguard areas from economic loss.

2.4 Energy security is key to supporting economic growth. More renewable, locally generated energy supply will provide more resilient and lower cost energy and help to unlock barriers to development to ensure Coventry is a city that businesses want to invest in.

Tackling Inequalities

2.5 The green economy presents a significant opportunity for local people and businesses, however we must ensure that workers in 'carbon-heavy' industries don't get left behind in the shift to green jobs and skills. We also must ensure we provide the right training and skills to help local people access new green jobs.

2.6 There are a growing number of people in Coventry are living in food and fuel poverty. It is vital that as we strive to address this in a fair and just way, helping to lift people out of poverty, we ensure that those on the lowest incomes are not made worse off by any actions taken to address climate change.

2.7 People living in deprived neighbourhoods suffer higher levels of pollution and are more likely to suffer from respiratory illnesses. An inability to afford better insulation results in fuel poverty and exacerbates health conditions as well as increasing risk of suffering a range of long-term health conditions including cardio-vascular disease,

respiratory illness, hypothermia and impacts on mental health. Over 22% of Coventry households are reported to be in fuel poverty. Retrofitting homes will directly address this, creating warmer homes and lower bills. Grant programmes target the most vulnerable households who can't afford to pay for these measures, to ensure those that most need support benefit.

2.8 20% of Coventry residents are living in food poverty. There is a rising number of food banks and lack of access to green space particularly in our most deprived areas which could be used for food growing. This is something the Strategy seeks to address through developing community growing sites, getting more out of our allotments and linking in with organisations such as the Coventry Food Network and local food banks.

2.9 A lack of accessibility to transport and digital connectivity can contribute to social exclusion. Compared to many other cities, Coventry has a higher percentage of the population that do not have access to a car. This places increasing importance on public transport, walking and cycling to give access to opportunities. Improvements to our active travel network and new fleet of electric buses will be of great benefit to those who do not have access to a car. The Council is also working with partners to recycle and donate electronic equipment and offer training to combat digital exclusion.

2.10 Coventry is a proud diverse city, made up of communities of many different ethnic backgrounds, with over 100 languages spoken. Language could act as a barrier when accessing and having an awareness of services available, so it is important that we find ways of reaching all communities, allowing people to take positive action and ensuring they have access to key services and information relating to changes we are making in the city. This includes delivering information in different formats and languages and working with community leaders and faith groups to help cascade information.

Tackling Climate Change through the Five Pathways

3.0 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Goal:
Reduce the impacts of extreme weather and climate change and enable quicker recovery through creating a more resilient city

Our Changing Weather Patterns

3.1 2023 was the world's warmest year on record and Europe is warming at twice the global rate, with record breaking temperatures in England reaching 40o C last summer which are set to become more common. The impacts of the changing climate are already being felt in many parts of the world, there has been an increase in droughts and famine, forest fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and major floods causing a significant loss of life, environmental and economic damage. Whilst we aim to limit global warming to 1.5o C, the evidence shows that we must be prepared for warming up to 4o C (UK Climate Risk Assessment).

3.2 Coventry is likely to experience warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers and more intense rainfall and storms. During the 20th century the average annual temperature for the West Midlands rose by 0.6o C, the growing season lengthened by 30 days and our summers now are 37% drier on average than they were in 1995. Figure 2 below highlights an increasing frequency of rising temperatures over the last few decades.

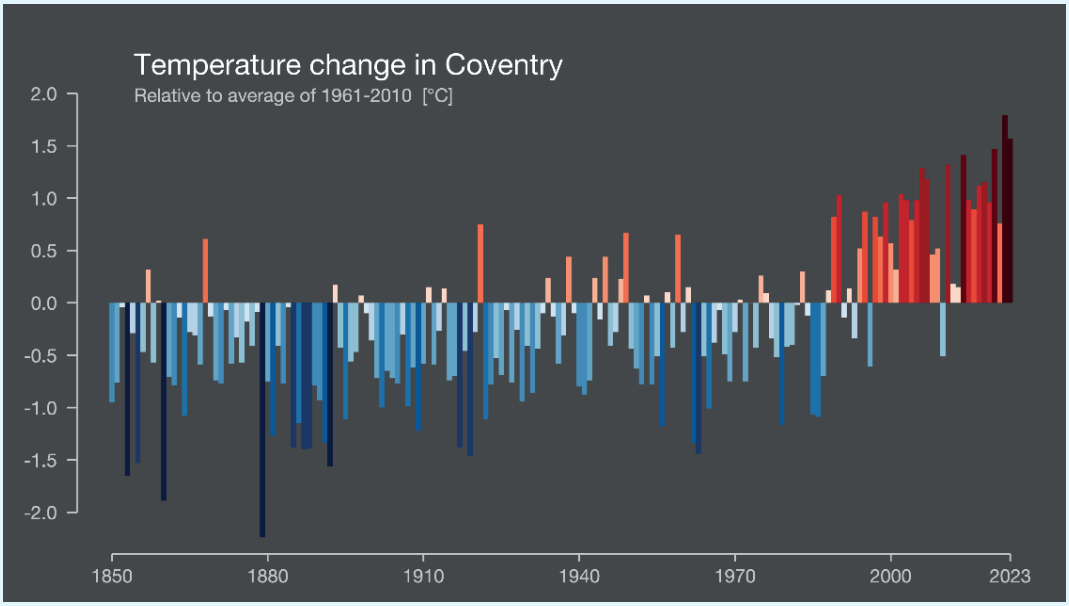


Figure 2 – How Temperature (°C) has changed in Coventry from 1850 – 2023 (Institute for Environmental Analytics, 2023)

3.3 The changes in weather patterns over the last 30 years are highlighted below. This illustrates that temperatures have risen across the whole country, and whilst some areas have become drier overall the majority of the country has become wetter.

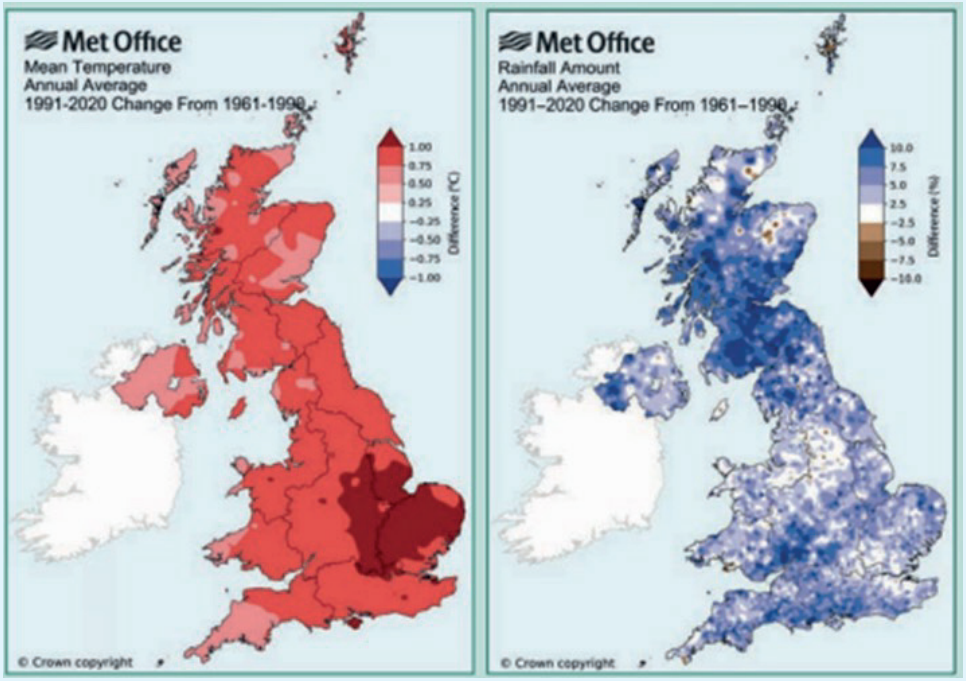


Figure 3 – UK Temperature and Rainfall Changes from 1991–2020, compared to a baseline from 1961–1990 (Met Office, 2020)

3.4 The result of these changes means that 10,560 properties in the city are currently identified at risk of flooding, which can have devastating impacts for communities and businesses and poses a risk of rising insurance premiums. 69 neighbourhoods within Coventry are considered high-risk in terms of vulnerability to periods of extreme heat, posing a serious risk to public health. We can also expect to see more storms and stronger winds, which are a risk to property and trees. We are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate extremes experienced in other parts of the world, which could cause food and water shortages and drive prices up. Closer to home, periods of drought and pressure on our water supply infrastructure could threaten our drinking water supply which could have significant public health impacts.

3.5 The impacts of climate change could affect many areas of our lives, ranging from health, infrastructure, the environment and economy and are likely to most severely impact the most vulnerable in society. This is an important consideration for the wider work the city needs to undertake to address inequalities and deliver a 'Just Transition' and will help to inform where priority action takes place.

3.6 Future projections of the impact of climate change on our weather patterns have been developed by scientists looking at concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which directly affect temperature and weather systems. The following sections explore the recent trends and projected changes to our weather systems and likely local impacts, alongside actions we can take to mitigate against them.

Rainfall and Flood Risk

3.7 The West Midlands Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies areas of flood risk for the region, the East of Coventry is shown to be a high-risk area for vulnerability to flooding and without intervention flooding incidents will increase. We know that prolonged periods of heavy rainfall are likely to become more frequent, which will put more parts of the city at risk without interventions being put in place to increase resilience.

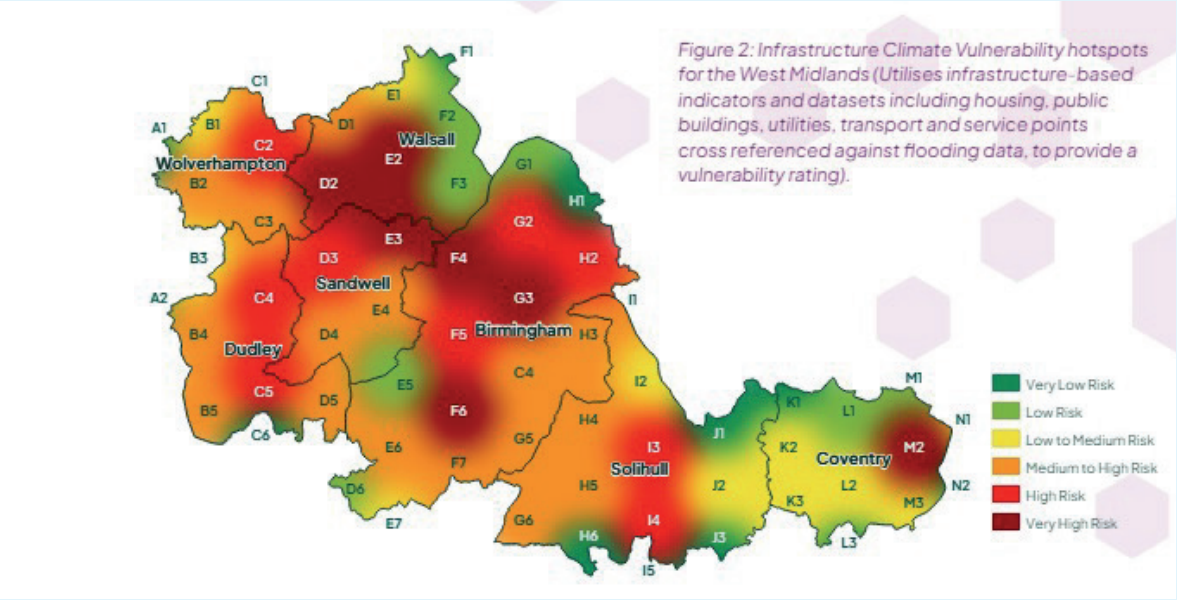


Figure 4 – Infrastructure Climate Vulnerability hotspots for the West Midlands (West Midlands Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021–2026)

3.8 There are two main types of flooding with different levels of risk and impacts attached to them. Fluvial flooding is when a river overflows onto the floodplain following periods of sustained or intense rainfall. Surface water flooding occurs when the sewer and road drainage system is unable to cope with the high volumes of water from intense or prolonged rainfall.

3.9 The two main rivers that feed Coventry, the Sherbourne and Sowe have what is described as 'flashy' catchments, meaning these show a rapid response to rainfall. Flooding incidents are likely to arise with little warning, sometimes as little as 30 minutes resulting in limited time to implement emergency measures and flood defences. Fortunately, the volumes of water involved are considerably less than long regional rivers so the flooding incident will be easier to recover from.

3.10 Coventry has an obligation to meet the goals of the Government's River basin management plans (2022) to protect and improve the quality of the water environment and to ensure consistency with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England. The city has responded to this through the Coventry Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2022).

3.11 Flooding in urban areas like Coventry has been made worse by decades of development, paving over permeable surfaces and loss of green space, removing an important source of natural filtration which slows water entering the drainage network. The Council and its partners are working to take steps to address this, which includes collaboration with Severn Trent on flow separation projects to reduce the storm water in combined sewers with the use of retrofit sustainable urban drainage systems within highways, public realm and pocket parks throughout the city to help reduce sewage spills into Coventry's rivers.

3.12 There are aspirations to create a network of new natural green spaces throughout the city to support sustainable urban drainage and climate resilience alongside boosting biodiversity. Nature-based engineering solutions such as rain gardens and bio-swales can be delivered across neighbourhoods and involve creating shallow areas of ground with soft landscaping that collect water run-off from surrounding areas. They provide a method of capturing rain and surface water and slowing down water run-off, filtering the water and utilising it to water plants and trees in the process. This reduces the strain on existing drainage infrastructure and the risk of surface water flooding by absorbing and slowing the flow of water. Detention basins are larger scale interventions that can serve as mini-wetland areas in urban environments, which are great for attracting wildlife.

Heat and Drought

3.13 The following graph illustrates the local projections for rising summer average temperature from the Meteorological Office. There is also an identified trend of more frequent and hotter summer heatwaves, which coupled as increased intensity of rainfall but overall reduced level of rain across the year presents significant risks to our city.

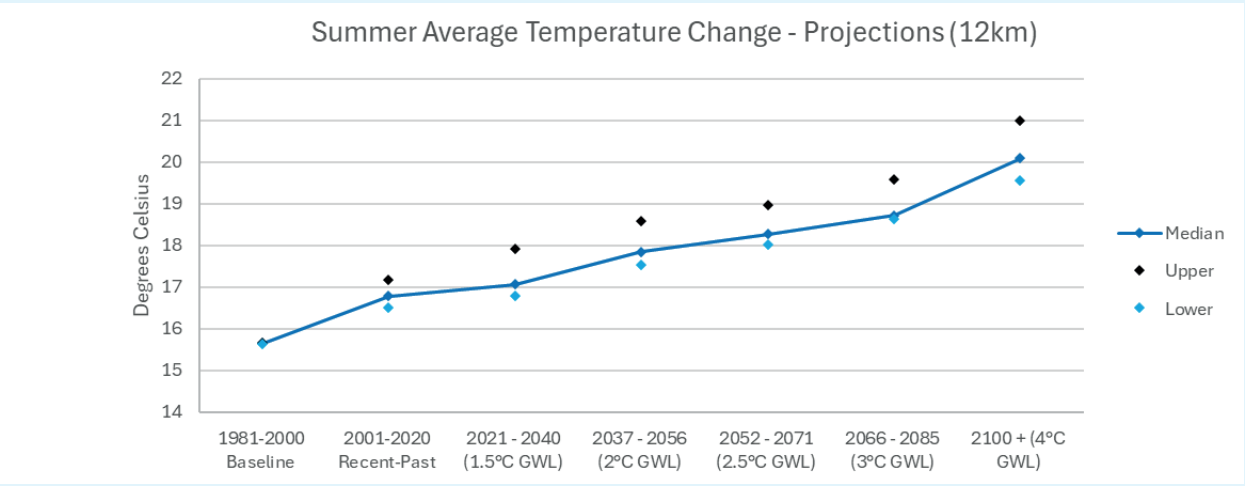


Figure 5 – Temperature change projections and ranges from 1981 to 2100 (Met Office)

3.14 We know that the density of concrete buildings and road surfaces in cities are absorbing and radiating heat creating what is referred to as an Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect where the city is considerably hotter than the surrounding countryside. The figure 6 below shows a marked difference in temperature within the city centre in comparison to the surrounding areas.

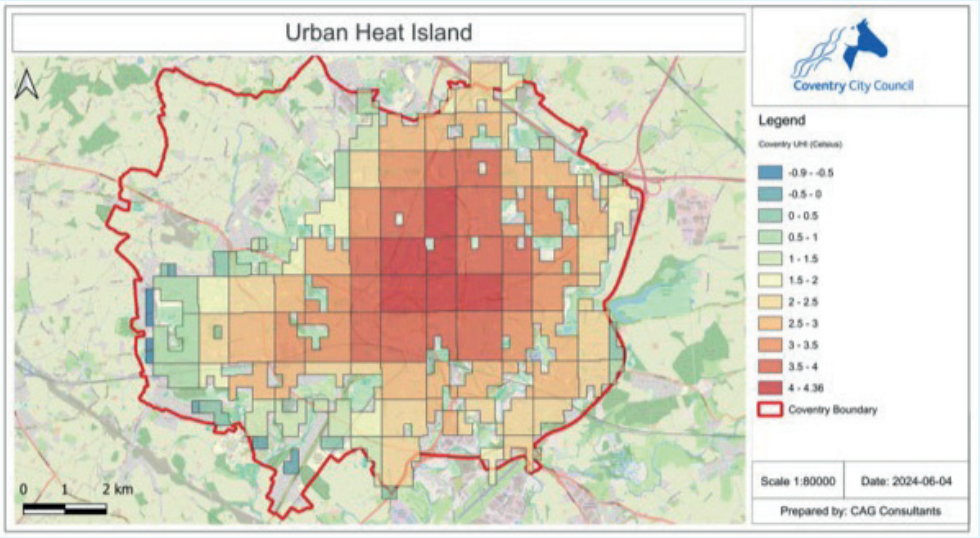


Figure 6 – Heat map of Coventry (CAG Consultants, 2024)

3.15 Coventry ranks 14th out of all English authorities for the number of neighbourhoods deemed high-risk from extreme heat. A University of Manchester Study (2022) identified 69 neighbourhoods across the city as most vulnerable to extreme heat that should be prioritised for climate change adaptation. Older people and young children fall into the most high-risk groups for heatwaves, but other factors including the amount of nearby green space, type of housing, access to health facilities and transport can also impact on the vulnerability of local communities. The health impacts of hotter periods could be exacerbated by water shortages, Coventry is in part of the country that is classed as seriously water stressed, adding to our risk exposure – particularly the impact on drinking water supply. We must involve communities in planning for climate change adaptation, prioritising those areas identified as most vulnerable to the impacts.

The role of nature in adaptation

3.16 Unpredictable seasons and extreme weather events are pushing UK wildlife out of sync, causing chaos for our natural ecosystems and contributing to wildlife decline. Prioritising nature-based interventions is important not only to create a more resilient city, but also to support nature recovery.

3.17 The use of natural vegetation and planting of trees helps to cool urban areas and reduce flood risk. This could include an ecologically sensitive approach through Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes (SUDs), with measures such as rain gardens and wetlands to hold water and slow the rate of flow into drains and sewers. This provides a natural filter that assists the improvement of water quality, reduces flood risk as well as supports habitats for wildlife. Increasing tree cover and green spaces across the city will have a significant impact in helping to create more attractive and climate resilient neighbourhoods, particularly in areas deemed most vulnerable.

3.18 We also need to consider more drought-resistant planting and tree species that can cope with hotter temperatures. This is going to be an increasingly difficult challenge, and we will need to ensure that new trees and plants are more climate resilient and consider tree pit designs and watering regimes to ensure they thrive.

3.19 Green roofs and living walls not only make buildings interesting and attractive but help to insulate buildings in winter and keep them cool in summer. Living walls can reduce the energy needed for air conditioning systems by as much as 33% as well as absorbing gaseous pollutants and buffering sound. We are already rolling these out in Coventry (figure 7) and are seeking to deliver more.

Figure 7 – Living Wall, Pepper Lane Coventry (2024)

Impacts upon infrastructure

3.20 The changing climate is impacting on our key infrastructure. Many of the city's 143,000 homes are not designed to cope with more extreme temperatures. We will need to work with communities to plan for this change and empower them to adapt their homes whenever possible. This is also a key concern for new developments, ensuring that homes are designed and built to be fit for the future which will be addressed by the Local Plan Review.

3.21 Climate change is already impacting on our transport network, with an increase in potholes and road failures as a result of extreme temperatures and heavier rainfall. To mitigate this, we need to consider the types of road surfacing used in the future which will be capable of withstanding increased temperature levels. Highways England is already adopting French standards where their road surfaces are subjected to higher surface temperatures. We are also used to seeing UK rail services impacted by extreme weather events, resulting in speed restrictions and cancellation of services. This is a key issue that Network Rail are addressing to create a more resilient rail network of the future (Climate change adaptation – Network Rail).

3.22 Extreme temperatures will put a strain on the city's digital infrastructure, which has the ability to significantly impact the delivery of essential services and business. Data Centres are normally designed to operate at upper temperatures from 35 to 38°C. They will need to be designed to adapt to cope with considerably higher temperatures.

3.23 Climate change also threatens our energy and water infrastructure, which could have big impacts on us all if outages occur. It's important that we have emergency systems in place to mitigate this. A local resilient energy supply will help to reduce our risk exposure, which could include more local renewables and energy stored in batteries to provide supply to meet demand and critical back up supply if national infrastructure fails.

Impacts upon health

3.24 Climatic impacts upon food production both locally and globally are affecting the availability and cost of fresh produce, with implications to health and wellbeing particularly for those living on lower incomes. There are particular risks around depletion of soil nutrient quality for growing as well as the working conditions for people and the safe storage of food in hotter temperatures. The need for local food production, such as community food growing initiatives will become increasingly important and to help us become more resilient as a city.

3.25 Rising temperatures will require adaptation of public buildings and workplaces to be equipped to deal with more extreme heat. This will be particularly important for more vulnerable members of the community, and require prioritisation of schools, NHS facilities and care homes. This is a chance to improve the quality of facilities across the city, as well as increase green spaces and trees, particularly for those areas identified as most at risk.

3.26 Temperature and humidity have a significant effect upon the incidence of gaseous pollutants (e.g. Nitrous Oxides and ground level Ozone) and their impact upon human health, particularly people who suffer from respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). We will need smart systems in place to alert people who have such conditions by issuing warnings when the levels of pollutants exceed

certain levels where it may be safer for them to remain indoors. This is something that could be developed as part of our Smart City approach to increase use of on-street smart sensors such as on lighting columns, to provide real-time data on air quality.

3.27 Front line staff delivering services will be key to supporting the most vulnerable and training for these staff is really important as they may need to change the way they deliver a service to respond to extreme weather events.

3.28 The Government's Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) Report in 2023 identifies projected climate change having a significantly increased risk to human health and increase vector-borne diseases (such as biting insects, mosquitos, midges, gnats, sand flies and ticks). This will result in the incidence of diseases currently known to tropical areas notably Dengue Fever and Zika Virus. This requires increased awareness amongst health practitioners and the public to look out for symptoms.

Impacts upon the Economy

3.29 On our current trajectory, the London School of Economics estimates the total cost of climate change damages to increase from the present 1.1% of GDP to 3.3% by 2050 and 7.4% by 2100.

3.30 The growing risks from climate change are likely to increase the costs of insurance premiums Insurance companies are likely to introduce certain protective measures for properties deemed at risk, all of which will in turn have a cost implication.

3.31 Climate change could impact on productivity, with people going off sick as a consequence of climate change or being delayed or prevented from getting to work as a result of disruption to transport services. This has the potential to generate significant economic losses and exacerbate the UK's existing challenges around productivity. To tackle this, we need to be more flexible in our ways of working, as well as adapting workplace environments to increase resilience.

3.32 There is a clear 'invest to save' case which will require significant investment to protect essential utilities e.g. water supply, energy and transport infrastructure from the impact of extreme climatic events or face higher costs down the line dealing with the impacts of lack of preparedness. This will require detailed planned priorities for investment, ensuring interventions respond to the short-, medium- and longer-term risks.

Planning for Climate Change Adaptation

3.33 We need to take steps to adapt to climate change and ensure communities, infrastructure and livelihoods aren't disrupted by increasingly frequent and severe shocks and prioritise action to ensure our approach involves and supports the city's most vulnerable communities in planning for their future. The Council will play a leading role in mobilising partner agencies and organisations in the development of an Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the city, alongside working with communities so that they are better prepared for events that cannot be prevented so they recover quicker. Our planning approach will aim to build back better, wherever possible.

3.34 As part of increasing our resilience we need to better understand our exposure to short, medium and long-term climate risks and identify practical measures to addressing them. We also need to be clear on the costs of being underprepared, as well as identifying the opportunities taking action presents to improve lives, deliver more robust infrastructure and help promote nature recovery.

3.35 West Midlands Combined Authority has already carried out a high-level study West Midlands Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021–2026, which gives a useful regional overview. The developing Coventry Adaptation and Resilience Plan will build a better understanding of more localised risks and will develop a detailed action plan to support the city's long-term planning approach and complement the existing City Emergency Plan.

3.36 There are also challenges around planning policy, including land management and building design for new developments, as well as consideration for how existing buildings will need to be retrofitted. This was seen as lowest priority in the feedback to the draft Climate Change Strategy which could be due to a lack of understanding of the issues and risks, particularly as much of the work on adaptation and resilience focuses on future scenarios. There is a need to raise public awareness and to work with residents, businesses and organisations, particularly those located in areas that are the most vulnerable to the impacts.

Recommendations

3.37 Adapting to climate change and making communities more resilient is crucial in order to reduce our exposure to climate risks, and protect our communities, infrastructure and natural environment, and our economy. Recommendations for key action from the Adaptation and Resilience Pathway Group are:

- In order for Coventry to become more climate resilient there is a need for physical interventions, which could include changes to building design, materials used and nature-based solutions, alongside raising awareness of the issues and risks to ensure as a city we are more prepared to deal with incidents.
- Significant investment will be needed to support the city's efforts to adapt to climate change over time. Taking timely action in priority areas will create opportunities to improve the city for all, create more attractive neighbourhoods, healthier communities, support nature recovery and protect lives and livelihoods.
- This all needs to be brought together through the development of a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan. This will be used to underpin and influence Council policy documents going forward, including the Local Plan Review, citywide risk planning forums and embedded into operational service planning.

4.0 Route to Net Zero

Goal:

Reduce carbon emissions across the city to support our transition to net zero, whilst benefiting local people and businesses through creating warmer homes, cheaper bills, cleaner air, new jobs and skills

4.1 We have reduced our carbon emissions in Coventry by 48% (compared to 2000 levels) but have a long way to go to get to net zero. This pathway explores where we need to focus our efforts to decarbonise the city, and to ensure we maximise the benefits for and with local residents and businesses, as well as encourage investment into the city.

4.2 To better inform our priority areas for reducing emissions, the Council commissioned an independent Zero Carbon Routemap for Coventry.

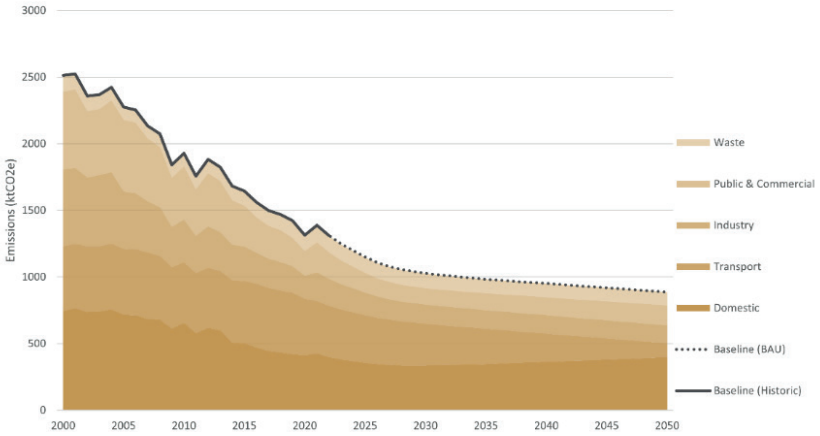


Figure 8 – Coventry's carbon footprint past, present and projected (Source: Coventry Net Zero Routemap, 2023)

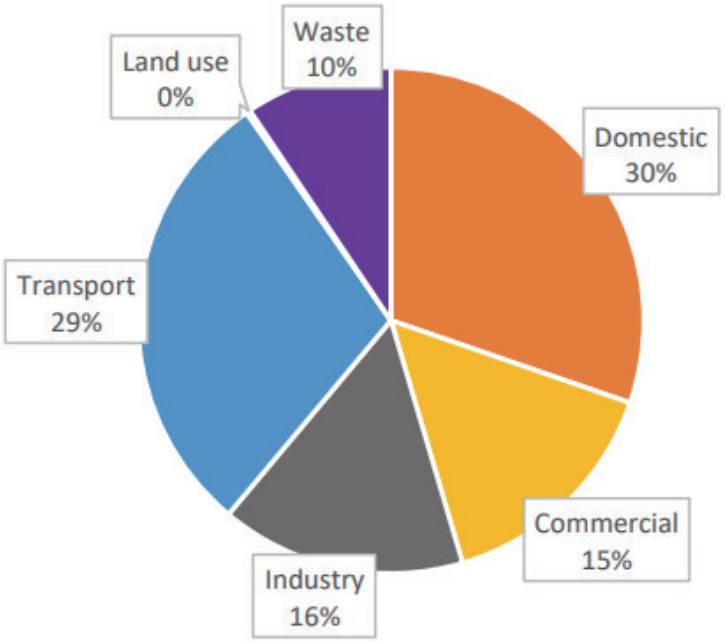


Figure 9 – Coventry's carbon footprint broken down by sector – scope 1 and 2 (Source: Coventry Net Zero Routemap, 2023)

Figure 8 shows Coventry's past, present and projected emissions. Domestic accounts for emissions from homes, whilst commercial accounts for emissions from commercial and public buildings. Figure 9 shows the current picture, broken down by sector. The Routemap tells us:

- Further reductions, assuming business as usual, will not reduce emissions in Coventry to net zero by 2050. The Routemap predicts Coventry's carbon footprint will be just 65% lower in 2050 than it was in 2000 unless action is taken.

- Homes and transport are the two biggest sources of emissions, followed by industry, commercial buildings and waste.
- An average Coventry household spends £2,813 a year on energy (inc. costs of transport based on 2023 estimates) and this is predicted to rise further.
- It estimated that citywide spend on energy in 2023 was £635m – but adopting widely available measures could save the city £327m a year and create significant new job opportunities.

Climate Action at a local, national and global level

4.3 The government's 2021 Net Zero Strategy sets out a series of policies and commitments designed to enable the UK to reach net zero by 2050. The timeline shows some of the key targets and milestones towards achieving net zero:

2008 We were a founding signatory of the Global Covenant of Mayors which set a target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

2019 The UK government passed legislation committing it to achieving 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It more recently introduced an interim target of 68% reduction by 2030. Achieving net zero will require changes that are unprecedented in their scale and scope, including changes to the way electricity is generated, how people travel, how land is used and how buildings are heated.

2021 Council leader Cllr George Duggins signed the Declaration Covenant of Mayors interim target of achieving a 55–65% reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2030

2030 We will strive for a 68% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with government targets.

2050 Government commitment for UK to 'Net Zero'. UK government passed this legislation in 2019.

4.4 We are an ambitious and innovative city, and we will use this to drive action towards achieving net zero. There is already a huge amount happening in the city to reduce carbon emissions and support the aim of achieving net zero, which includes establishing a Strategic Energy Partnership.

Strategic Energy Partnership

4.5 The Council's partnership with E.ON has been established to support the city's journey to net zero, bringing together the public and private sectors to help find new ways to deliver cleaner, greener energy and help drive the local green economy that will bring jobs and skills to the city, across four key themes as set out in the partnership Strategic Business Plan:

- clean local energy
- jobs and skills
- innovation and scale
- community benefit

4.6 Social Value is an overarching principle and commitment of the partnership to ensure that through projects we improve outcomes, tackle inequalities and increase economic prosperity. Example projects delivered in the first year include a domestic retrofit programme, roll out of more EV charges and supporting Council building decarbonisation, including schools.

4.7 A key piece of work during the partnership's first year has been the development of an energy masterplan for Coventry, which provides a strategic long term energy vision, reference point and prioritised pipeline of energy projects for the partnership to take forward. Focus will be on areas where the partnership can add most value. One of the main areas of focus will be heat decarbonisation of buildings.

4.8 There are huge potential investment opportunities in some of the larger scale projects and the related social value benefits will bring even more value into the city. Further updates on the energy masterplan, investment opportunities and related project delivery will be provided on the SEP webpages.

Homes

4.9 There are over 143,000 homes in the city, which account for approximately 30% of the city's emissions. This presents a huge opportunity to decarbonise which would lead to warmer more efficient homes, helping to reduce bills. It also provides a significant chance to grow the local economy through scaling up retrofit skills and building materials and installer supply chain capacity.

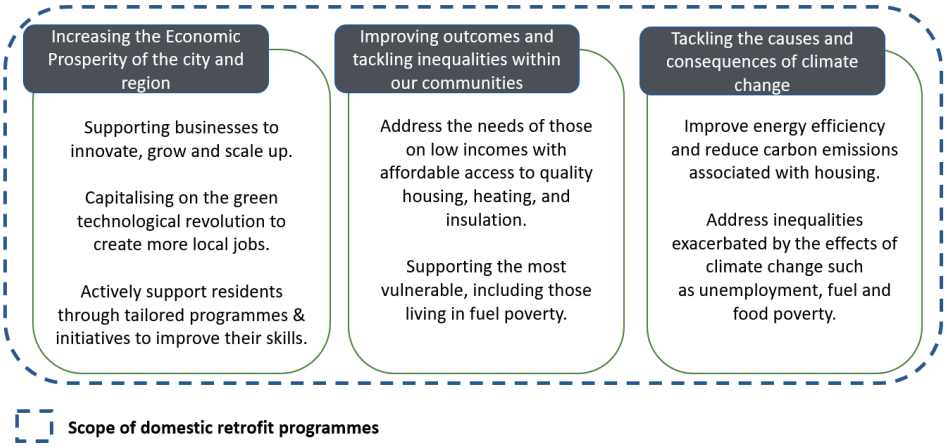


Figure 10 – Benefits of domestic retrofit on our economy, communities and climate

4.10 The Routemap identified that a business-as-usual scenario will likely only reduce housing emissions by 0.2% by 2050. We are taking a proactive approach, working with partners to explore innovative solutions to this citywide challenge and have secured over £30m since 2022 to support domestic retrofit programmes in the city.

EPC	Number of Coventry Properties
A	137
B	7,620
C	36,781
D	75,560
E	20,336
F	2,111
G	363

Figure 11 – Overview of Energy Performance of Domestic Properties in Coventry. The data is from the 'Pathways' tool (Pairty Project and Core Logic) . Pathways is an energy model of all housing in local authority areas, and built from open source EPC data, Ordnance Survey data and LiDAR topography data. The accuracy of the EPC data is often outdated, therefore these figures are more for an illustrative estimate rather than a complete and fully accurate record. The existing EPC data covers information for around 92k properties, meaning there's also a gap of approx. 50k properties that have had to be modelled.

4.11 There are a number of programmes we are working on to support retrofit of domestic properties, however this is challenging area with some key barriers to delivery. Part of the challenge is funding, the majority of households in the city aren't entitled to any grant for home energy upgrades and the outlay costs can be expensive with long payback periods. We are working to address this through exploring opportunities for green finance products and scaling programmes to make costs more affordable for householders. Another key challenge is that residents fear the works could be disruptive; even when there is grant available to cover the costs there can be a lack of take up. We are working hard to try and debunk some of these concerns to help residents know exactly what to expect when it comes to their home being retrofitted and help sell the benefits which are a reduction in bills and a warmer home, alongside cutting carbon emissions. We want to work closely with communities and involve the public in this information campaign.

A business as usual scenario includes ongoing decarbonisation of grid electricity, a continuation of the background trends that are gradually improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock in Coventry and forecast growth in housing numbers in Coventry.

4.12 We are working in partnership with Citizen Housing as part of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2. This is a fabric–first scheme, focussing on improvements to insulation, glazing etc, which will lead to the improved energy efficiency of over 2,000 Citizen properties across the city, one of the largest schemes in the country. We will continue to work with social housing providers to speed up the scale of energy efficiency improvements with the aim of improving all social housing stock to an EPC band C by 2035, and all 'fuel poor' households by 2030.
Currently the Strategic Energy Partnership is delivering the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Phase 2, improving the energy efficiency of off–gas homes across the city. We are also working to maximise investment and uptake of ECO4, an obligation placed on energy companies to invest in domestic energy efficiency.

Figure 12 – Properties retrofitted in Coventry by the Social Housing Decarbonation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2

4.13 We will also support people in privately owned and privately rented properties to improve their energy efficiency and make residents aware of programmes which they could benefit from, through our 'Home Energy and Warmth' web pages and via involving affecting communities in planning for the future. This will be with the aim of supporting those who qualify for grant funded programmes. We will also devise programmes to support those who rent privately.

4.14 The Council are also working with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to develop a Net Zero Neighbourhood (NZN) in the city. The NZN will involve working closely with the local community to address energy needs at a more local level leading to warmer homes, installation of renewables such as solar PV, more low carbon/net zero transport options, and other measures including creation of more green space and trees. This will create more attractive neighbourhoods, help to lower energy bills, reduce air pollution and make streets more resilient to climate change. The NZN aims to attract finance, which could enable us to replicate NZN's across other areas of the city.

4.15 We are committed to developing green skills in the city to help local people access new green jobs. We have established a Green Skills Subgroup, a multi–organisational public–private sector team working with business to identify skills gaps and opportunities to support the city's transition to a low carbon economy and create jobs for the future.

Case Study

Collaboration to grow skills as part of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2

Collaboration on skills has also enabled skills training in the construction sector. Using the SHDF Wave 2 multi–year funding as a catalyst, Westdale Midlands Ltd has converted their Coventry–based office and warehouse into a bespoke facility for training unemployed people from Coventry. The Academy has been in operation since April 2023 and has been a useful enabler in developing the external wall insulation(EWI) supply–chain necessary for the growing scale of work to be conducted in the coming SHDF wave. The training academy is supported by Coventry College (who run 2–week bootcamps prior to those attending the academy), Citizen housing and the Council, demonstrating real collaborative working across the city.

4.16 The Council is currently undertaking its review of the city's Local Plan, which provides the opportunity for updated policies to reduce carbon emissions from new developments. This is an important chance to set the standard for sustainable new development and promote that that new buildings in the city are built to high environmental and energy standards and won't require retrofit in the future. Recommendations for the Local Plan Review include:

- A fabric first approach, ensuring all new buildings are well insulated.
- All new homes to be powered by renewable energy where viable, which includes rooftop solar.
- We will also ensure the use of energy to create the materials in the construction of buildings is considered when balancing out refurbishments against demolition and new build, alongside exploring innovative low carbon methods of construction.

Transport

4.17 Decarbonisation of transport is another priority, accounting for 27% of emissions across the city. The Routemap identifies that under business-as-usual, transport emissions are estimated to reduce by 73% by 2050. Significant efforts are required to go further to reach net zero.

4.18 Our Transport Strategy sets out plans to bring about a fundamental change in travel behaviour. Our aim is to encourage people to travel by active travel modes and public transport wherever they can, and to use an electric vehicle if they need to travel by car. Our role is to put the infrastructure in place to make this transition as easy as possible for local people. We are doing this through introducing:

- The first all-electric bus fleet in the country, by 2025, complemented by new on-demand bus services
- Significant improvements to walking and cycling across the city, including developing a network of segregated cycle routes, supported by increased training, hire bikes and storage facilities, introducing measures to create more attractive and safer streets
- A first-of-its-kind Very Light Rail system – a new form of mass transit, similar to trams seen in other cities but with smaller, electric-powered vehicles (see figure 13)
- Better accessibility to rail, including increasing station capacity, supporting the development of new local stations and increasing the frequency of services

Figure 13 – Coventry Very Light Rail Prototype (2023)

4.19 Recognising that some journeys will still need to be made by car, the Council is also encouraging residents to switch from petrol and diesel to electric. We have installed over 2000 charge points across the city, – the largest public electric vehicle charging infrastructure outside of London. Many of the charging points are on residential streets where households don't have driveways to install private chargers. and our Electric Charging Strategy sets out a range of measures to increase EV take up, including:

- Create super charging hubs and a multi-fuel hub, service station style facilities providing rapid charging/refuelling facilities for owners of zero emission vehicles
- Encourage local businesses to switch to electric vehicles via travel planning support and rental of EV cars and vans for trial periods
- Pilot innovative methods of electric vehicle charging, including static induction (wireless) charging and dynamic charging (charging of a moving vehicle). These technologies could help to support operators of larger, higher mileage vehicles to switch to zero emission alternatives, as well as provide more accessible charging to address equalities
- Piloting new ways to help residents charge electric vehicles at home using kerbo charge gullies to safely connect home chargers to kerbs via pavements, benefitting households without driveways.

We recognise that whilst EV infrastructure is important to support an uptake in EVs, this alone won't help households who cannot afford an electric car. We need to find ways to make EVs more affordable, which will involve working with private sector providers to expand the range of car club/car sharing services available to hire, as well as boost the second-hand EV market.

Business & Industry

4.20 The third key sector highlighted within the Routemap relates to businesses and it identifies that under a business-as-usual scenario, industrial emissions will go down by just 35% by 2050.

4.21 In 2023, there were 10,335 enterprises in Coventry, the majority of which are SMEs. There are significant benefits for businesses to decarbonise, lowering bills and improving profitability and sustainability, as well as marketability.

4.22 We recognise the significant challenges for businesses to decarbonise and are committed to supporting businesses of all sizes across the city. The Council run webinars, events and podcasts for the Green Business Network of over 3,500 businesses in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub region and is now expanding the Network with new categories of business from a wider geographical area.

4.23 We are delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Decarbonisation Net Zero programme and the Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS) programme, helping small to medium sized businesses make energy and resource efficiency improvements.

4.24 We also work with businesses on travel planning to encourage active travel as well as promote the use of electric vehicles. This includes helping businesses implement EV charging points and working with them to promote commuter travel plans and car sharing schemes.

4.25 There is also opportunity to support business and industry decarbonisation through the Strategic Energy Partnership and working in partnership with key organisations such as the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub.

Energy Generation and Security

4.26 As part of the city's plan to decarbonise, we need to move towards more local renewable energy generation to reduce emissions and increase the resilience of our energy supply.

4.27 The Council owns one of the largest district heating systems in the Midlands, the Heatline network currently provides heat from waste to power council buildings and other major buildings in the city centre. There is scope to increase the buildings it supplies to maximise benefits, such as to the new City Centre South development. If we can minimise heat loss, and encourage heat exchange between neighbours, this could lower bills across homes and businesses.

4.28 The Council has been involved in a pilot programme to introduce legislation for Heat Network Zoning (HNZ) in England by no later than 2025. Zones will be designated geographic areas within which heat networks are expected to offer the lowest cost means of decarbonising heat for a significant number of buildings.

4.29 We must also continue to explore opportunities for the roll out of more renewable energy generation across existing buildings, such as rooftop solar. We need developers to include renewables as part of new buildings too and consider new ways to store energy locally through batteries to capture energy to supply local demand.

4.30 This will go a significant way to providing more clean local energy, but to meet demand it is essential that the city also secures more significant sources of renewable energy supply through measures such as solar schemes and large battery storage. These will need to be balanced with land use requirements and involve close community engagement.

The Council's Estate

4.31 Significant progress has been made towards the decarbonisation of Council buildings and since 2021, over £7m of energy projects have been funded, making Council buildings greener and costing us less to run. This has included the installation of Solar PV (see figure 14) insulation, LED lighting, air source heat pumps and battery storage, amongst other measures. Over 39% of energy used in Council buildings is from renewable sources, and in 2022–23, 16% was 'locally sourced' (district heat and solar PV).

Figure 14 – Solar panels on the roof of Central Library

4.32 The Council is currently working with Balfour Beatty on a project which will see streetlights across the city upgraded to energy efficient LED lighting, which will save 1200 tonnes of carbon every year, as well as improving lighting levels and safety, as well as reducing running costs.

4.33 As well as continuing to access funding to decarbonise its estate, the Council will work to establish ways of securing finance for independent organisations occupying Council owned buildings, this will help to reduce the energy costs for tenants and reduce carbon.

Recommendations

4.34 Whilst there are major challenges for Coventry in its decarbonisation and net zero journey, the opportunities are significant. It requires a city-wide approach with the Council, residents, community groups and businesses working together to achieve a shared vision. The Strategic Energy Partnership will have an important role to play, but so will all other organisations that operate in the city.

4.35 The city needs to be bold in its action, using innovation to try new methods and levering investment to allow delivery at scale and pace through initiatives to support the target of reducing emissions by 68% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

4.36 The key areas we need to focus our efforts, supported by recommendations of the Route to Net Zero Pathway are:

- Supporting all housing tenure types with retrofit (including able to pay, willing to pay and fuel poor)
- Encouraging active travel and modal shift across the city to create lower carbon journeys, involving local communities in planning for these changes
- Work with key organisations to support businesses in their net zero journey
- Link with universities, schools and colleges to increase uptake and delivery of green skills.
- Work with invested organisations in the development of renewable energy solutions in the city.

4.39 In order to support the delivery of practical interventions we will need to ensure a focus on communication and public involvement, promoting behaviour change and engagement with climate change projects across the city.

5.0 Circular Economy

Goal: Develop new models of production and consumption to reduce our reliance on natural resources

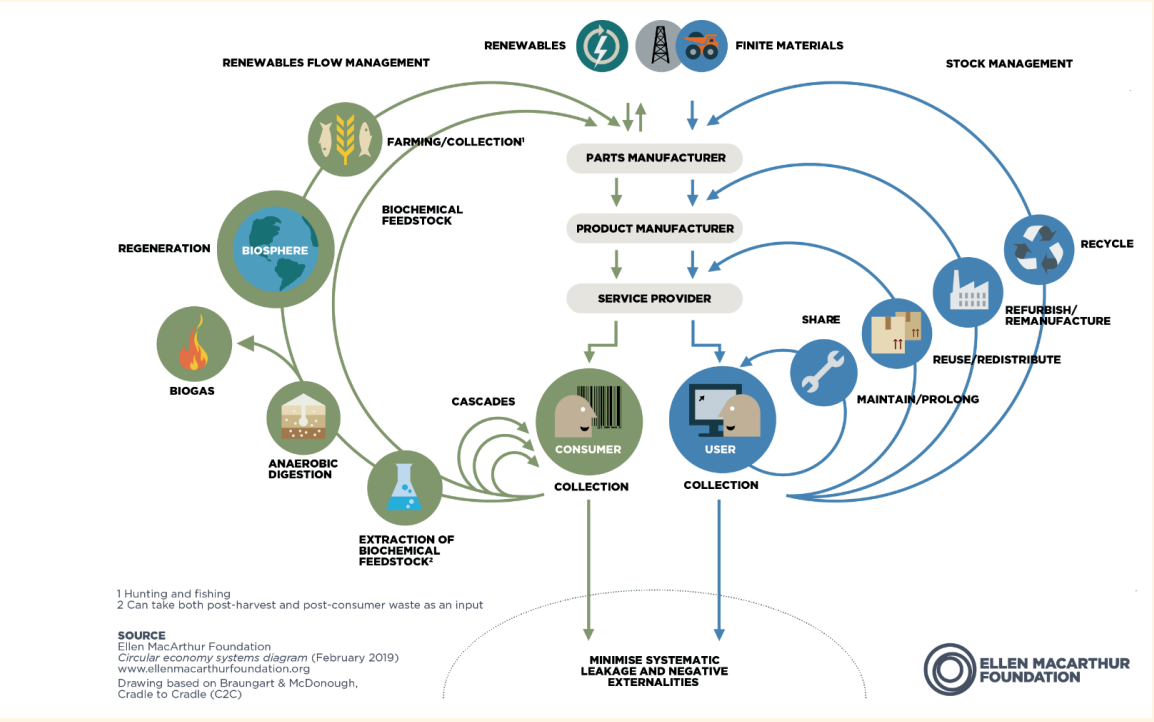


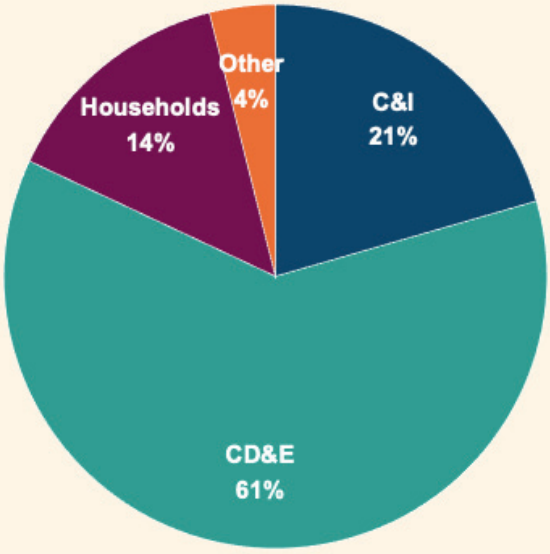
Figure 15 – Circular Economy Systems Diagram (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2019)

5.1 A circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. The circular economy tackles climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, as shown in figure 15. In our current economy, we take materials from the Earth, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste – the process is linear. In a circular economy, by contrast, we stop waste being produced in the first place.

5.2 Developing a circular economy is essential for climate change but these market changes will benefit businesses by reducing costs. A move to models involving sharing, renting and leasing as well as extending the life of products by promoting repair and re-use wherever possible will create new skills and local jobs.

5.3 Coventry has always been a centre for innovation, and we are keen to showcase new environmental technologies alongside developing new manufacturing techniques that will grow the circular economy, including:

- West Midlands Gigafactory will be located at Greenpower Park, with a focus on battery manufacturing and recycling;
- Sherbourne Resource Park, a newly opened state of the art recycling facility for household recycling;
- Finding innovative ways to re-use materials, such as recycling lighting columns as part of the proposed LED replacement scheme, reducing carbon and saving raw materials.



Key

CD&E Construction, Demolition & Excavation

C&I Commercial and Industrial

Households – domestic waste

Other – includes agricultural

Figure 16 –
Waste generated in the UK, split by source (Defra, 2020)

5.4 The UK generated 191.2 million tonnes of total waste in 2020, with England responsible for 85% (162.8 million tonnes) of the UK total. As figure 16 shows, the most significant source is from construction, demolition and excavation (61%), followed by commercial and industrial waste (21%), household waste accounting for 14% of the total, whilst the 4% other waste includes sectors such as agriculture and forestry. The re-use/recycling rates for each sector varies, but there are challenges and opportunities in terms in creating a circular economy. We must transform our current system: how we manage resources, how we make and use products, and what we do with the materials afterwards. This will create a thriving circular economy that is good for people, business and the environment.

5.5 The UK Government's Resource and Waste Strategy (2018) sets out long-term commitments and ambitions to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050, with a focus on prevention, achieved by adapting a waste hierarchy approach as shown in figure 17.

Figure 17 – Outline of the different circularity levels (Environmental Challenges, 2023)

How can we develop a circular economy in Coventry?

5.7 Coventry is uniquely placed to take a leading role in showing the UK how to develop a vibrant circular economy, as home to the world's first AI-powered Materials Recycling Facility at Sherbourne Resource Park. Opened in 2023 it uses state-of-the-art technology to process residential recycling in the most sustainable and efficient way possible. It serves eight local councils and their 1.5 million residents and is fully flexible and can respond to changes in waste patterns, policy and legislation. The use of specialist AI technology leads to higher volumes of quality materials being sold to market to support a growing circular economy, which along with the other credentials set out in figure 18 demonstrate the city is at the forefront of residential recycling facilities. This is a good example of where AI can be useful and helps to speed up processes beyond human capability. The application of AI needs to be considered more widely in the context of replacing workforce jobs as part of the work to deliver a just transition.

Figure 18 – Sherbourne Recycling summary

5.8 Waste accounts for 10% of the city's emissions. We know that household waste alone generated 122,000 tonnes of waste in 23/24 – around 10 million bins. Only 34.2% of Coventry's household waste was recycled or composted last year, compared to 43.4% (2022, Defra) nationally. The city's recycling rate is comparable with many other similar sized cities in the UK. The majority of the remaining waste incinerated for energy recovery, and a small minority sent to landfill. There is a huge chance for residents to play their part to divert waste for reuse, recycling and to create new products and generate new markets.

5.9 A typical breakdown of household waste is shown in figure 19. Many of the materials shown can either be re-used, recycled or composted.

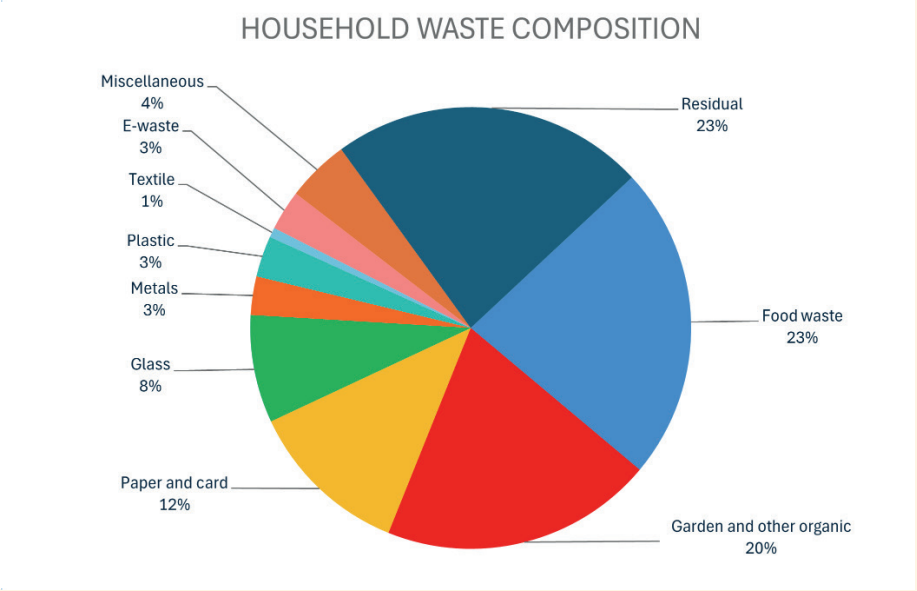


Figure 19– Breakdown of the total household waste composition in England 2022, collected by Local Authorities (Defra Statistics, 2024)

5.10 Action is needed in Coventry to increase recycling participation. The Council tries to make it as easy as possible for residents to recycle – people are not required to separate out the recyclables. But this has not translated to higher recycling rates so it's important to better understand the barriers to recycling experienced across the city and to involve the public in planning for the necessary change in behaviour.

5.11 Feedback to the consultation included requests to make recycling easier, including more clarity on what materials can be recycled or re-used and where to take it, alongside better access to household recycling facilities. People also raised the difficulty of storing recyclables in flats and high-rise apartments.

5.12 Involving communities in addressing this problem will help the Council understand the barriers to recycling and help increase the quality of recyclable materials and supply to the Materials Recycling Facility, directly helping to grow the circular economy.

Food Waste

5.13 Another important area to target is the collection of food waste. Government research on Food Waste in the UK reports that in 2021, total food waste in the UK amounted to 10.7 million tonnes. By weight, most food waste comes from households (60%), followed by farms (15%), manufacturing (13%) hospitality and food service (10%) and retail (2%). The value of the edible parts of household food waste (including waste to the sewer and home composting) in 2021 amounted to £17 billion. This is equivalent to £250 per person each year, or £1,000 for a family of four.

5.14 In Coventry just under 16% of household waste was composted last year. Government is providing funding to Local Authorities to introduce a weekly collection of food waste from households by March 2026. This will help to prevent contamination of other waste which could be usefully recycled and ensure food waste can be sent to anaerobic digestion facilities rather than landfill. This commitment is a really important step to tackle climate change as food waste releases gases including methane from its breakdown in landfill.

5.15 The volume of food waste collected in Coventry is currently low, which has been the case even before recent charges came into place for brown bin collection which potentially presents a barrier to increasing this. Evidence has shown that as people collect and separate out their food waste, they become increasingly aware of the levels of waste they produce, and they take steps to reduce their levels of waste by reducing unnecessary consumption and saving money. There are lots of resources available including cookbooks and websites with inventive recipes to use up whatever is left in the fridge, as well as cooking lessons offered at community centres. Action is also being taken by industry, with changes to packaging to help fresh food last longer switching to 'best before' and removing dates altogether on some products.

5.16 Only a small percentage of the city's household waste goes to landfill (1.8%). Like 49% of local authority waste in the UK, the majority of Coventry's non-recyclable waste is incinerated at a facility at Bar Road which was built in 1975 and serves four local authorities. It supplies heat to a number of buildings in the city via the Heatline network, including the Council estate, The Wave, Cathedral and will soon expand to provide heat to Coventry University campus. Options will need to be explored in terms of future waste management solutions in the city when the incinerator will need to be replaced (15–20 year's time), giving consideration to how this can best support the city's circular economy.

Commercial and Industrial Waste

5.17 Commercial waste provides an even greater opportunity for developing a circular economy. It is estimated that England generated 33.9 million tonnes of commercial and industrial (C&I) waste in 2021. The West Midlands Circular Economy Routemap recognises the very important role Coventry has to play, particularly in promoting the decarbonisation of the manufacturing sector, which will provide a major chance for the development of new products and services and support job creation.

5.18 Greenpower Park and the Gigafactory will grow the circular economy for battery manufacture and recycling and is expected to generate up to 6,000 new highly skilled jobs, as well as thousands more jobs in the supply chain.

5.19 Centres of Excellence in the West Midlands are carrying out research into the innovative management of waste and the potential to develop symbiotic relationships between companies, where one company's waste becomes another's raw material.

5.20 There are over 10,000 businesses in Coventry, the majority are small to medium enterprises. This is a huge untapped area of potential waste and resources that can be used more effectively to encourage a more circular approach. Figure 20 outlines the eight business cases that should compel businesses to adopt a more circular business model:

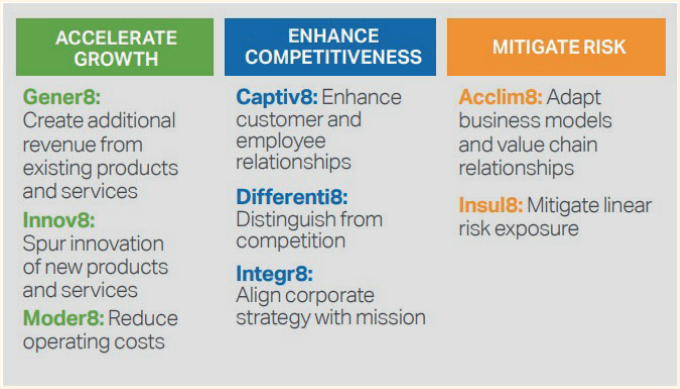


Figure 20 – 8 Business Cases for the Circular Economy (World Business Council for Sustainable Development, n.d.)

5.21 Support is needed to help local businesses develop new models and encourage more partnership working and symbiosis. There are some inspirational case studies of businesses already doing this that others can learn from. Through the Decarbonisation Net Zero programme and the Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS) programmes, the Council is helping small and medium businesses achieve more efficient use of energy, water, and waste. Business Sustain also provide support to medium and larger businesses locally and across the country.

5.22 The Council has a strong working relationship with local Universities, working to enable local businesses to access specialist support and advice supporting innovation in green technologies.

5.23 There is no specific data held on commercial waste at a city level, this is something that needs to be addressed to help develop circular economy opportunities.

Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste

5.24 The construction, demolition and excavation sector are the largest producer of waste and is growing. There is an ongoing challenge to minimise the amount of waste being generated, improve productivity and reduce the environmental impacts of waste. Construction 2025 is a joint strategy between the British government and the construction industry setting out four key goals: reducing the initial and whole life costs of construction by 33%, reducing the time from inception to completion by 50%, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment by 50%, and reducing the trade gap for construction products and materials by 50%.

5.25 There are a number of ways to we can take action to address this locally, through the design process, setting out procurement requirements to reduce construction waste at source and creating networks for re-use of surplus materials locally. We also need to explore innovative construction technologies, including modular buildings which can contribute to significant savings in waste.

Electrical Waste

5.26 The UK is responsible for 3.2% of the worlds electronic and electrical waste, often this waste can be kept in service through direct reuse or repair. The government is targeting zero e-waste to landfill by 2030. This is a particular area of interest for Coventry, where there is potential significant opportunity for business growth including Greenpower Park, which will be the first of its kind, offering an all-in-one solution for battery research, industrialisation, manufacturing, testing, recycling and electrified logistics designed to foster the UK's growing battery ecosystem.

5.27 Addressing electrical waste can also lead to wider socio-economic benefits as well as environmental as demonstrated by the #CovConnects project.

Case Study

The #CovConnects Device Bank

The project has been developed through a partnership model between the Council, Warwick Manufacturing Group and organisations across Coventry to establish a citywide initiative, whereby end-of-use devices such as laptops, smartphones and tablets are donated by local organisations to be refurbished. In turn, the devices are gifted (following an application process) to members of the community who are digitally excluded.

We recognise that we need to have a supply of digital stock, to further support closing the city's digital divide. In 2020 alone, the UK generated approximately 24.9 million discarded mobile phones, highlighting the sheer scale of electronic waste resulting from the turnover of these devices. However, we know that we need to source our digital stock in an economically and environmentally friendly manner.

This is accompanied by training to help boost digital skills, which in turns helps residents as beneficiaries to access online tools and services, improving their wellbeing and quality of life. So far, the Device Bank has benefitted over 200 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, Council and NHS services. Funding has been secured to further develop the project and build on its success.

Going forward, the project is exploring additional partnership opportunities to build the Device Bank. Other innovative ideas, such as holding more local repair cafes and digital waste amnesties, providing more opportunities and options for residents to get rid of e-waste in a socially beneficial way, are areas which #CovConnects hopes to explore more

5.28 The improper disposal of laptops and other electronics leads to the loss of valuable materials like gold, copper, and aluminium, costing the UK over £370 million annually in lost resources. Going forward, Coventry holds a longer-term ambition to become the nation's leading city for waste electrical and electronic recycling.

Further Opportunities for Growth

5.1 The Council has an important role to play in supporting the development of a more circular economy in Coventry, through its purchasing power, its energy and waste management roles and work it does with businesses and organisations across the city. There is scope to include circularity criteria in contracts for future projects, alongside embodied carbon to encourage more suppliers to adopt a more circular approach to waste and energy. This is something that could be adopted by other organisations across the city.

5.2 A great example of this innovative approach to circularity being explored is looking at recycling old street lanterns across the city as part of the LED upgrade project. Through saving carbon by avoiding producing new lamps and recycling existing, 2.5 tonnes of various materials such as porcelain, Nickel, Aluminium, Stainless Steel, Copper, non-Ferrous Alloys and plastics, can all be avoided.

5.3 There is an opportunity to use the city's waste recycling facilities as a platform to form partnerships with material manufacturers to help ensure that responsible material recycling is managed as an end-to-end process and allow emissions reductions to be calculated at each stage. Partnerships like this are potentially unique in the UK and can support local and national business, keeping jobs in the UK and providing a market for circularity of material.

5.4 Heat zone networks are due to be rolled out as part of government legislation in 2025. This will require surplus heat to be captured from identified buildings across the city to supply those with demand. This will help to bring down energy bills and reduce energy wastage and carbon emissions.

5.5 There is significant scope to increase re-use and repair hubs in the city, where resources can be donated, exchanged or mended to be kept in circulation. There are a number of charities and social enterprises across the city which address the circular economy especially for those families on limited incomes who cannot afford to buy new goods and services. This includes furniture recycling, white goods repair, toy libraries, tool stores and also advisory services like Act On Energy. Support for the development of social enterprises in this sector will address the needs of those on low incomes and keeps waste out of landfill. As part of this, we could explore how re-use and repair hubs could be developed as part of a meanwhile strategy for City Centre South.

Recommendations

5.6 Tackling waste in Coventry is essential to support the transition to net zero, as waste accounts for 10% of the city's emissions. Coventry is finding innovative new ways to tackle waste, and there are opportunities to open up more markets to support a circular economy, creating jobs, skills and new businesses to benefit local people. Key recommendations from the Circular Economy Pathway Group are:

- Corporations and businesses need to lead on reducing waste at source, through manufacturing, packaging and logistics. There is already significant support and expertise in the city to develop this to really benefit local businesses. The public sector has a role to play in ensuring that the circular economy is considered in procurement and promotes a more sustainable supply chain. Consumers can vote with their feet and opt for products with less packaging, as well as recycling and composting waste resulting in less waste going to the incinerator or landfill.
- In Coventry we need to build on and expand already existing reuse / repair / recycle projects and encourage responsibility for reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling. This must be supported by building partnerships, using local expertise, involving the public in the delivery of these initiatives and being driven by innovation to enable Coventry to provide a place for circular businesses to develop, helping to grow the local economy.
- Coventry should aspire to be the nation's leading city for electronic and electrical waste recycling, which provides an opportunity to create new markets and support business growth. Support must continue to grow digital recycling within the city to prevent electronic waste being crushed. Keeping ICT equipment in service will also help to address digital inequality, improving access to digital information needed for essential services. Greenpower Park provides a unique opportunity to scale up the city's ambitions, particularly around battery manufacturing and recycling.

6.0 Nature

Goal:
Support nature recovery and create better access to green and blue space for wildlife to thrive and communities to enjoy

6.1 Climate change is directly contributing to the global decline in nature, resulting in a nature emergency and it will be impossible to address one aspect without the other. Species extinction is occurring at 1,000 times the pre-human rate, and the UK is one of the most nature depleted nations in the world, with one in six species at risk of extinction. For Coventry, we have seen impacts on species such as hedgehogs, water voles and swifts.

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth.
It includes all animals and plants, including humans, other organisms and the habitats that support them. Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions ecosystems provide for human life.

6.2 There are vital links between nature, our health, wealth and security, which presents huge value to our economy – a recent report by Natural England (2024) estimates the UK's natural wealth is just over £1.5 trillion. This has been calculated based on the ecosystem services nature provides including fresh water, air and food, building materials, places for people to relax and mitigation of climate change. The benefits of nature are shown in figure 21 below:

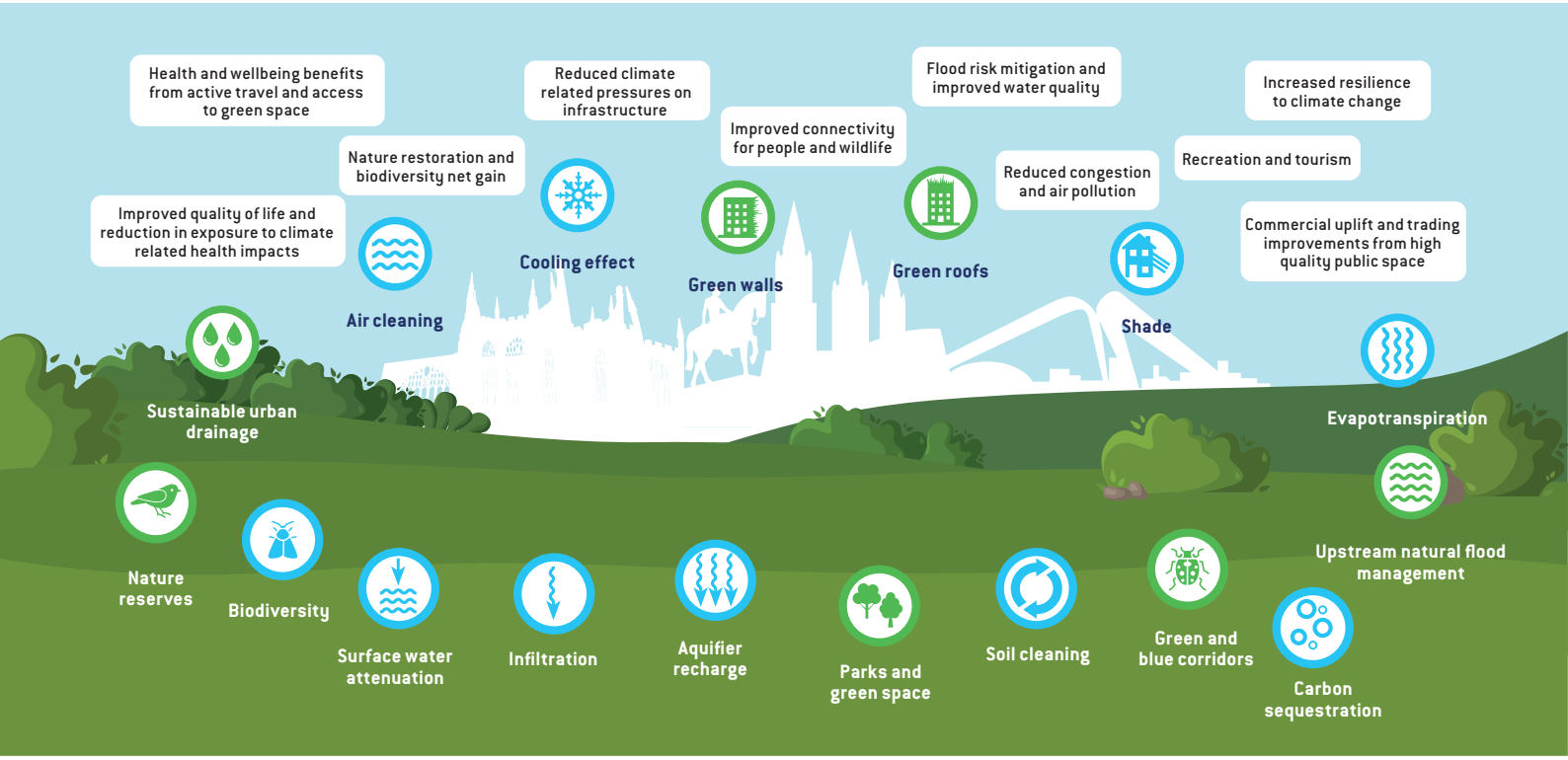


Figure 21 –The social and economic value of nature (Coventry City Council/West Midlands Local Investment in Natural Capital 2024)

6.3 However, changes in land and sea use, exploitation of natural resources, global heating, rising pollution and the spread of invasive species are all contributing to a significant decline in biodiversity. Research by Green Finance Institute and University of Oxford (2024) has found that the damage to the natural environment is slowing the UK economy and could lead to a 12% reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the future, larger than the impacts from the global financial crisis.

6.4 The UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties 15 (COP15) agreed a set of goals to halt the extinction of threatened species and reverse nature loss with the effective recovery and conservation of habitats, with a critical target being to conserve and manage 30% of land, inland waters, coasts, and oceans by 2030. This goal is referred to as '30 by 30'. For Coventry, this currently stands at around 11% and a key challenge is to identify where the extra 19% (or 1874 hectares) is going to be found, given the city's urban geography and limitations on available land. This will require a step change in current land use planning, with far more focus on integrating nature in urban areas to support nature's recovery, alongside creation of new habitats and improving the quality of existing ones.

6.5 Although the 11% baseline is low, Coventry does contain many biodiverse rich areas including seven green flag world class urban green spaces, parks and University of Warwick campus. The city also has lots of parks, woodlands, river and canal corridors, allotments, street trees and private gardens, which link together to form part of a wider network of green and blue infrastructure. There is a significant challenge for us to better understand the habitats and biodiversity that exists across the city in order to protect and enhance them, as well as identify opportunities for creating more joined up green and blue corridors across the city.

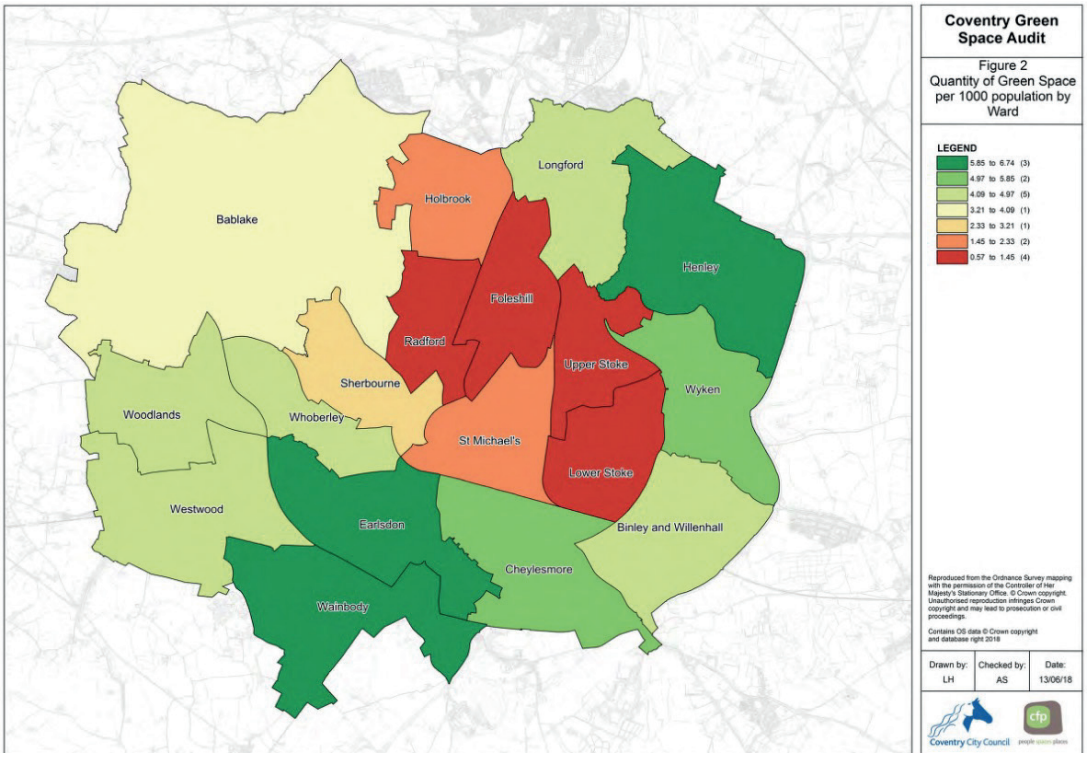


Figure 22 – Quantity of green space per 1000 population by ward, areas in hectares needed

6.6 However, there are big disparities in terms of green spaces across the city as illustrated in figure 22, with the wards highlighted in red being in some of the highest areas of green deprivation in the country. As a result, Coventry has been found to be one of the least green cities in England. An ENDS Green Cities Index 2023 survey out of 55 primary urban areas in England, ranked Coventry as the 54th greenest. This is backed up in the consultation, where local people told us they want to see better access to nature, more parks and open spaces and more trees to increase biodiversity, improve air quality and wellbeing. This presents a huge opportunity for taking citywide action.

6.7 Coventry isn't unique in terms of the extent and access to green space for a city of its size; this presents an opportunity for the UK's towns and cities to take action and finding innovative and creative ways to boost nature's recover. This will help to transform the look and feel of our city, and deliver widespread environmental, social and economic benefits. Restoring nature provides a solution to many of the challenges set out in this Strategy:

Integrating more spaces for nature and restoring habitats across Coventry will:

We need to balance enhancing existing green spaces to support nature, with introducing new ones including within urban areas that may be on smaller scales but support biodiversity alongside addressing green deprivation.

6.6 We also need to be realistic that Coventry is a densely populated urban area, with land in short supply. Whilst we will strive to deliver as much of this in the city boundary as possible, using Council-owned land and working with partners and land holders, it is likely that we will also need to explore opportunities outside the city, using Council owned land and working with neighbouring authorities and landowners.

6.7 Key challenges to tackling the nature emergency also relate to funding, skills, knowledge and resource. The benefits of investing in nature are becoming far better understood and the recent creation of a natural capital market provides huge opportunities to attract private investment to support local nature recovery, which will deliver practical interventions as well as increasing conservation management skills and capacity. Coventry needs to ensure preparedness to attract natural capital investment in local nature recovery going forwards.

Tackling climate change through nature

6.8 Nature-based solutions provide an important opportunity for carbon sequestration and offsetting. Restoring and creating carbon-capture habitats, is identified in the Net Zero Carbon Routemap as an increasingly important option in terms of offsetting carbon emissions, as per figure 23 below. The consultation feedback on the draft Climate Change Strategy showed that local people feel very strongly about trees and nature in the city and want to see more focus on conservation as well as creating new ones. Natural habitats ranging from trees, wetlands and wildflower meadows have multiple benefits – as well as absorbing carbon dioxide they contribute to their environment by providing the oxygen we breathe, improving air quality, provide shade and reduce temperatures, increase water filtration building resilience, preserve soil and support wildlife. Action needs to be taken now to restore habitats and create new ones, to enable them to develop and thrive to maximise carbon captured. Key to delivering this is ensuring that the right species of plants and trees are planted in the right place in order to thrive, alongside protecting and maintaining the city's existing habitats.

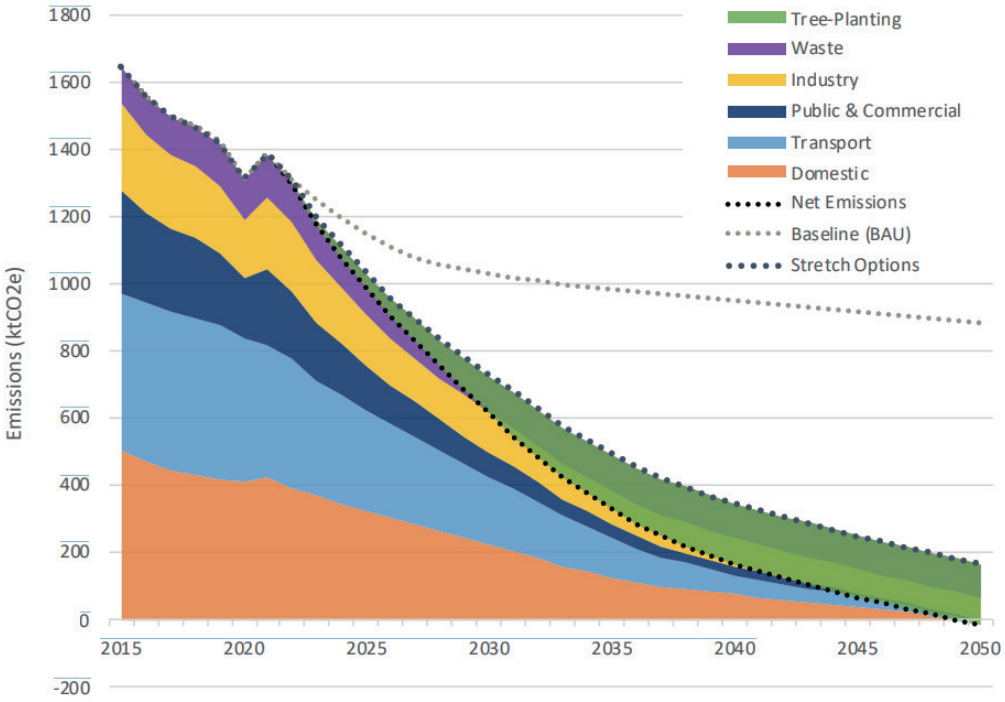


Figure 23 – Coventry's Carbon Reduction Potential; Stretch Options and Offsetting Potential (Net Zero Carbon Route Map, 2023)

The role of policy

6.9 There have been many approaches to managing and reversing biodiversity loss through global and national policies, perhaps most importantly the COP15 '30 by 30'.

6.10 The UK Environment Act's (2021) introduced a requirement for developments to contribute a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain, which became a legal requirement in February 2024. Coventry, Warwickshire, and Solihull have required biodiversity net gain for several years, as supported by Coventry's Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document. This national legislation will expand upon our work by creating a national register of sites where offsite biodiversity net gain offsetting will be directed; this will result in the creation of new natural paces in the city. Whilst it must be acknowledged that biodiversity net gain is triggered by loss of biodiversity as part of a development site and it will take time for new sites to establish, it provides a unique opportunity to improve the equitability of green space and biodiversity distribution across Coventry and help reverse current trends, particularly in areas of deprivation. We will work to find innovative ways to create Biodiversity Net Gain units to benefit enhancing our green spaces, alongside creating new ones, particularly in urban deprived areas.

6.11 The Council will explore whether our targets could be more ambitious, aiming for 20% biodiversity net gain instead of 10%. We will also consider integrating approaches more targeted at urban regeneration, such as the Urban Greening Factor and Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGST), to reduce green space deprivation and ensure everyone can access green space in a 5 minute walk from their doorstep. These ambitions should be influenced by a comprehensive baseline data set that explores issues such as the distribution of green space, habitat qualities and opportunities for new green and blue infrastructure. Opportunities for new green and blue infrastructure should emphasise creating community-led spaces, for example, urban growing areas like orchards, community gardens and outdoor education spaces. Policies and strategies should also reflect national guidance such as the Environmental Improvement Plan, Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework and DEFRA's Plan for Water.

6.12 The Environment Act 2021 also introduces Local Nature Recovery Strategies as a way to manage regional improvements in green infrastructure. In Coventry, this Strategy is led by the West Midlands Combined Authority and will build upon previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans produced by the Warwickshire, Solihull, and Coventry Local Nature Partnership. Local Nature Recovery

Strategies will agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in the locations where these priorities could be achieved.

6.13 Coventry's Local Plan 2011–2031 and its nature conservation policies must reflect the strengthened national legislation and the ever-increasing need to reverse biodiversity loss. We will pursue ambitious approaches to ecological enhancement, including mandating species-specific enhancements such as bird and bat boxes on all developments to encourage biodiversity as well as features designed to mitigate issues like flooding, pollution, and the urban heat island effect.

6.14 Coventry's Green Space Strategy 2019–2024 recognises and promotes the multi-functional nature of green spaces and aims to ensure that they are well managed and maintained, accessible and contribute to cross-cutting agendas. The revised Green Space Strategy 2025–2030 will give increased priority to enhancing and creating biodiversity in our open spaces and consider opportunities to enhance biodiversity alongside roads and cycle lanes, verges and on streets.

6.15 This is complemented by Coventry's Urban Forestry Strategy 2022–2032, which recognises the importance of urban trees and forests in serving an ecosystem services function and proposes to plant a tree for every citizen , amounting to 360,000 trees by 2032. These tree planting efforts will combine the rejuvenation and expansion of our existing woodlands to sequester carbon and create wild spaces for people and nature, with tree planting in green spaces and along streets in order to improve air quality, create shade and mitigate urban heat island effects. We will need to be innovative in our approach to increasing the number of street trees across the city, overcoming challenges around utilities and parking.

6.16 It is important that existing policies and strategies are joined up to support a robust and coordinated approach to local nature recovery, which translates to practical delivery of interventions across the city.

Planning for Nature's Recovery

6.17 To deliver at the scale required, we need to change our approach to how we use land to support local nature recovery. This will be developed via a Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan which could include areas given for habitat restoration and creation, biodiversity net gain, tree planting, rain gardens and flood management, identifying 'wildbelt' strategic locations for key links or corridors to support development of nature corridors. We are also keen to work with landowners, farmers as well as our residents and businesses to find ways of better supporting nature and developing new habitats.

6.18 We recognise that there are many competing land uses in Coventry, and this could serve as a constraint, but we need to rethink our approach to land use planning to ensure that nature recovery can co-exist with other land uses. We will explore how we can maximise opportunities to integrate nature across the city and create new habitats as part of new developments, including housing, industrial, transport and energy schemes and will seek to be innovative in our approach with an ambition to create exemplar projects for nature restoration. We will prioritise opportunities for restoring nature within the city boundary but will also explore how we can use land we own outside the city boundary to support reaching our 30% target, which could include larger re-wilding schemes.

6.19 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will provide more detailed mapping that can be used to better understand our local habitats and opportunities for habitat restoration and creation. The Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (formerly the Habitat Biodiversity Audit) surveys habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, focusing on our Local Wildlife Sites which can support this, but we will need to be supplemented with rich data from across the whole city to develop a comprehensive strategy for enhancing biodiversity and providing habitats and natural places across Coventry. This will help us identify what interventions are required to support nature recovery and be fully costed in order to inform implementation plans.

Investing in Nature

6.20 Coventry is working with the West Midlands Combined Authority as one of four national pilot programmes focusing on Local Investment in Natural Capital. Part of this work will involve production of a Natural Capital Investment Prospectus, which will require development of a natural capital pipeline for the city, identifying opportunities for investment in ecosystem services. This could help to unlock ambitious landscape-scale rewilding projects which could provide a vital source of income to the Council through biodiversity net gain, carbon sequestration, natural capital units and tourism to help fund nature recovery, which includes creation and restoration of natural habitats as well as the resources to manage sites for long term conservation. This should be combined with improved accessibility to sites to ensure the benefits are felt by all across Coventry. This could include projects along the River Sowe, or in areas such as the Meriden Gap or the Coombe Abbey to Brandon Wood corridor.

Integrating Nature across the City

6.21 To boost nature across the city, we must work to conserve existing habitats alongside creating new ones. This means enhancing our existing green and blue spaces to support more nature-rich habitats and taking an innovative approach to find new ways of embedding nature in areas deprived of green space. Greening our urban areas is important to provide connectivity to enable greater movement of wildlife throughout the city, but has much wider benefits such as helping to address flooding, pollution, and urban heat issues as well as increase an area's sense of place, community, and wellbeing.

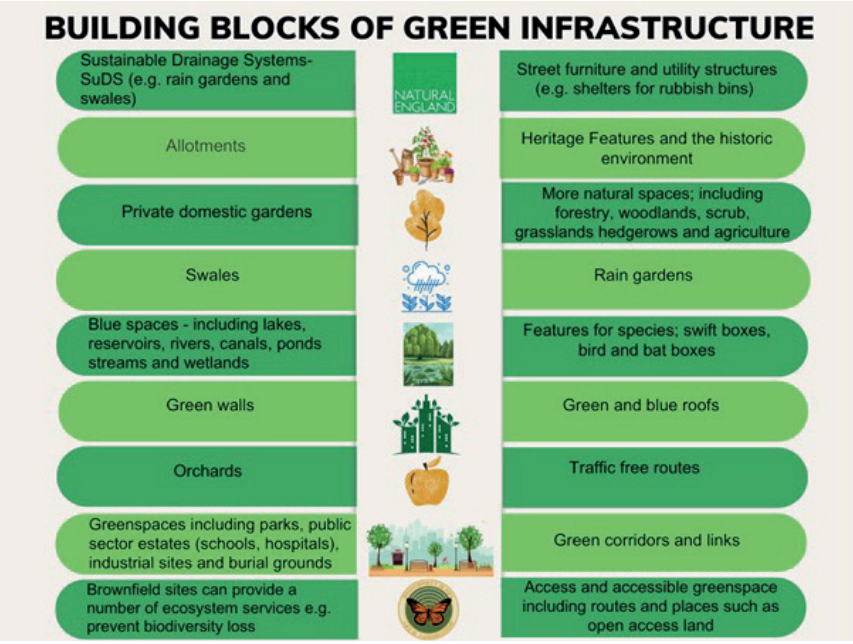


Figure 24 – Natural England Building Blocks of Green Infrastructure (2023)

6.22 Figure 24 demonstrates the different interventions that can be delivered to create green infrastructure in an urban setting, which are set out in more detail in the Natural England Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide 2023 . We will work to deliver these measures in neighbourhoods across Coventry, developing pilots and identifying new ways of working to integrate nature into the fabric of our city.

6.23 There is a need to review the way areas are managed and maintained across the city in order to maximise wildlife. We need to increase capacity and specialist training and skills development for staff and volunteers to improve standards of conservation management to benefit wildlife. The management of amenity grassland presents opportunities to change grass mowing practices to create wildflower meadows to attract more wildlife and add colour and

variety to the urban landscape. Tree planting and careful development of new wetlands in parks can provide increased habitat diversity and a more interesting landscape for people to enjoy, encouraging interactions between people and nature. The Council already has a policy to use peat-free compost, but we need to work towards reducing and removing the use of herbicides and pesticides that can be damaging to wildlife.

6.24 Coventry is fortunate to have 45 allotments across the city, which are important habitats for wildlife providing food, shelter and breeding sites. The scope to make more use of this valuable network across the city presents a huge opportunity for boosting biodiversity, climate resilience and food security, as well as an important resource to communities to support well-being. There is scope to work more closely with the city's Allotment Association to make them more accessible and generate wider benefits. This could include creating more community group plots and linking up with the Food Network and local food banks to provide fresh seasonal produce to those most in need.

6.25 Our watercourses are an extremely valuable and often overlooked resource for ecology, climate resilience, and wellbeing. We must continue to tackle waste and pollution issues while enhancing these areas by de-culverting underground watercourses such as at Palmer Lane and Abbots Lane, improving river corridor habitats, and supporting flood risk management. The £3.4m Sherbourne Valley Project, led by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with the Council and a number of other key organisations within the city could be replicated in other areas including the River Sowe, to improve water quality and flood management as well as improving access to nature for people in a deprived area.

6.26 The canal runs through the city, providing a unique green blue corridor. The Canals and River Trust is always working to improve biodiversity, whether that is through the use of coir rolls to create a soft vegetated bank, or planting fruit trees which will provide food for people and wildlife. There is an opportunity to connect Sustainable Urban Drainage to drain into the canal network and we continue to look at new ways to unlocking the potential for heating and cooling too.

Working together for nature's recovery

6.27 There are clear links between all of the themes in this Strategy. A coordinated approach which actively seeks ways to incorporate nature into all elements of our work and city planning will be vital.

6.28 To support this joined up approach, the Council have established an officer working group that captures both Green and Blue Infrastructure to ensure we are coordinated in our approach to planning and managing our green and blue space. The role of the group is to identify opportunities and develop ideas and projects to help enhance our green and blue space and maximise the benefits they generate for biodiversity, climate resilience and well-being. This work feeds into the Nature Based Pathway Group, where organisations such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Canal and River Trust, Environment Agency, Garden Organic and the city's universities are working with the Council to drive forward this agenda, projects and funding opportunities.

6.29 We have a long history of successful collaboration with organisations and communities, and we will build upon existing relationships with stakeholders to help develop projects that support local nature recovery. This includes small scale habitat protection and creation initiatives, to large scale projects such as the £3.5m River Sherbourne restoration project, led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. We also want to work with businesses and organisations looking to invest in nature, whether that's through funding in our Natural Capital Prospectus or volunteer time to support projects on the ground.

6.30 We want to increase community involvement in managing and maintaining natural green spaces, this includes Friends of Parks groups, tree wardens and other conservation volunteers, as well as allotment holders and similar third-sector groups. Their work can help promote biodiversity and build pride in the quality and beauty of our open green spaces as well as creating opportunities to grow green jobs and provide training opportunities to help support a just transition.

Supporting nature at home

6.31 Local people can help support nature at home and in their local area. This is really important to help create wildlife corridors across the city and our residential areas have a huge role to play in this. There are a number of practical measures residents can take depending on space they have available, this could range from a balcony, window box or container filled with bee and butterfly friendly plants, installing a bee hotel, bird feeders and providing water for wildlife. Measures such as swift bricks and nest boxes provide important nesting space in urban areas to support bird and bat populations. For those with more outside space they could leave long areas of grass and plant wildflowers to support habitats and create small spaces in boundaries to help wildlife to move about gardens. Those with gardens could also consider what materials are used, with grass and gravel being better for planting supporting nature and climate resilience than paved areas. There are lots of useful resources to get more ideas and inspiration here:

#TeamWilder | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Garden Organic – Discover organic growing

Recommendations

It is clear that investing in nature will deliver significant benefits to Coventry, not only boosting biodiversity but helping to tackle climate change, making the city more climate resilient, create more attractive neighbourhoods with better access to green space, benefiting our citizens and nature. The recommendations developed through the Nature Based Pathway Group are:

- To support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Plan for Coventry, a richer database needs to be developed of the city's land assets and potential nature conservation value, which includes a city-wide in-depth species and habitat survey
- In order to work towards '30 by 30', the city must focus on conserving existing habitats and creating new ones, and use natural capital as a tool to increase investment in nature and support conservation management of sites
- Develop new ways to integrate nature across the city, creating new corridors within urban areas and exploring opportunities for larger scale re-wilding projects which may involve working cross-border with other authorities and landowners, alongside partner organisations such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Improve habitats along river and canal corridors across the city, supporting initiatives to improve water quality and flood risk management
- Upskill staff and volunteers in the management of green spaces for nature, including developing training programmes which teach conservation management skills, which can be implemented in parks and areas of open space.

7.0 Fairer Green Future

Goal: Ensuring a just transition for all

7.1 Tackling the climate and nature emergencies presents a huge opportunity to address current inequities improving the quality of life for all. However, without a considered approach this could have the opposite effect. We are facing a green industrial revolution moving away from fossil fuels, and this will impact on jobs and sectors. Coventry wants to ensure a just transition, so no one is left behind. This underpins the whole Strategy.

7.2 The Green Industrial Revolution provides considerable opportunities for future employment to offset potential jobs losses and to grow the local economy. Creating good quality, skilled jobs is an important way of reducing inequities. Net zero jobs are on average better paid, more productive and hotspots of activity are taking place in some of the most deprived parts of the country, helping to improve living standards in those areas. Growing these industries locally will increase economic prosperity, in order for local people to directly benefit they need to be equipped with the right skills, for this reason training and upskilling is really important to ensure we get the local benefits as part of a just transition.

7.3 The issue of a just transition also extends to the changes we are going to need to make to our everyday lives. We will need to improve the energy efficiency of homes, move towards low carbon travel, prioritise space for nature and food growing, and create more climate resilient infrastructure as part of our holistic approach in this Strategy. These all could contribute to tackling existing inequities in the city, resulting in lower bills, improved accessibility to facilities and green space and improved physical health and mental well-being. We need to involve communities and work with them to understand barriers or there is a risk that opportunities won't be felt by everyone, and existing social injustices could widen.

7.4 Issues relating to this pathway was where most feedback was received during the consultation, showing that local people are worried about being left behind.

Planning for a Just Transition

7.5 We need to better understand what a just transition looks like for Coventry, in order to plan for one. The Fairer Green Pathway Group commissioned an independent study to examine examples of best practice in overseeing the delivery of a Just Transition approach to sustainability. The Just Transition Report highlighted the need for all of the Pathways to acknowledge and identify practical solutions to ensure that inequities are addressed and that no one is excluded or disadvantaged because of an action or recommendation when driving forward changes to address sustainability and climate change.

7.6 We need an in-depth understanding of which sectors, jobs and communities in our city are likely to be affected, alongside the opportunities new sectors will bring and develop a route map to establish how we develop green skills and jobs to match growing demand. This will include considering how we can support sectors where there are likely to be job losses with training and skills to transition to new sectors.

Figure 25 – Making Transition Plans (Just Grantham Research Institute, 2022)

7.7 The success of this will rely on involvement of affected people across the city. As figure 25 shows, it is important to involve those impacted by the necessary changes brough about by our transition to net zero in planning for the future. This will require a fully coordinated approach, with collaborative working across sectors and communities to build support and develop a plan that is deliverable.

How a Just Transition can reduce existing inequalities and inequities in Coventry

7.8 The landmark Fair Society Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review) 2010 outlined the scale of health inequalities in England and the actions required to reduce them. In response, Coventry became the first UK city to adopt Marmot City status in 2013 and set up the Coventry Marmot Partnership to strategically address inequalities. The city's environment impacts the health of our residents. Tackling the causes of climate change will help to improve environmental conditions, reduce inequity across the city, and improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for all.

7.9 It is important that we use existing research to help make evidence-based decisions and develop the evidence base in relation to the triple win of health, health equity and environmental sustainability through research collaborations with Coventry's Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC).

7.10 Transport accounts for 27% of emissions in Coventry but one in three households doesn't have access to a car, rising to one in two in more deprived areas. Although people living in more deprived areas have lower car ownership, the impact of cars and traffic in terms of noise and air pollution is worse in these areas. More positively, this also means that many households are already walking, cycling or using public transport as their main way of getting around the city – this presents an opportunity for shared knowledge and when we look at how to encourage others to consider other modes of travel over the car.

7.11 Coventry has the most electric charging points of any city outside of London, and whilst electric car use is slowly increasing, there needs to be a citywide drive to find ways to incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles and make them more affordable and accessible to residents and businesses. This could include introducing electric car clubs, supporting second hand markets to bring down costs, salary sacrifice and try before you buy schemes alongside a move to electric fleets. The Council is also seeking ways to improve access to charging points for households without a drive – which includes citywide on street charging points and a new Kerbo charging pilot using gully channels to connect chargers directly from homes to kerb.

7.12 In 2021 Coventry was named as one of 28 towns and cities in England where Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels in the atmosphere from cars and the burning of fossil fuels in wood stoves were forecast to exceed legal limits. The city has developed an Air Quality Action Plan, focusing on delivering infrastructure work which avoided the need for a charging zone which could have had a harmful impact on residents and businesses

7.13 Work is still needed to support households that use wood burning stoves, which are a significant source of local air pollution that can be harmful to health.

7.14 22.2% or nearly 31,000 of Coventry households are in fuel poverty, based on 2022 data. This figure has increased by over 2% since 2020 due to the cost-of-living crisis and energy insecurity resulting in a significant rise in bills. The impact of living in cold, damp, poorly insulated homes can be really harmful to physical health and mental well-being. This can be addressed through home retrofit, where there is often grant funding targeted at low-income households helping people out of fuel poverty which can have a huge benefit to improving overall quality of life.

7.15 The Council provides an Affordable Warmth Programme, currently working with 'Act on Energy' a locally based charity to provide advice and support to households affected by fuel poverty. A vital area of work is to ensure the most vulnerable in society are involved in planning for the future and provided with practical advice and support for accessing funding from the Council and government retrofit grants.

7.16 There has been a slow uptake in retrofit grants, highlighting a significant challenge in gaining involvement from local residents and property owners in investing in energy efficiency measures, even when at no cost to the household. Coventry's Net Zero Carbon Routemap identified that six out of the top ten most effective measures for carbon reduction related to domestic retrofit so involving communities in addressing the retrofit challenge is a top priority fand key to delivering a just transition.

7.17 Green spaces help to cool cities down, provide habitats for nature and are an important amenity for local people. Coventry has some of the highest areas of green deprivation in the country, as identified in a 2021 New Economics Foundation Study, which means that in some parts of the city people have poor or limited access to high quality green space. Action is needed to prioritise areas of the city which have the poorest access to quality green space and lowest levels of tree canopy cover and to involve local residents in planning for the greening of their areas.

7.18 Over 20% of the city is in food poverty, with a growing reliance on food banks and charities to provide support. The Council is a member of and works closely with the 'Coventry Food Network' whose Food Charter highlights the following principles for action:

1) proclaims the universal right to food
2) promotes a community food culture
3) enables food producing environments and reduces food waste
4) supports ethical business and social enterprise
5) works for food justice

Coventry Food Network

Coventry SUSTAINABLE FOOD places Network Member

7.19 Coventry was awarded Sustainable Food Places Status thanks to the number of ways it supports communities with a discounted food scheme, school holiday hunger projects, community cafés, social supermarkets, food growing projects and cooking programmes. This activity needs to be expanded particularly in deprived areas to provide more opportunities for local food growing, supplemented by training in gardening and cookery skills. This will help to provide more fresh seasonal produce to families who need it most.

Engaging and involving stakeholders

7.20 A just transition cannot be delivered without the involvement and support of those affected. The first step is people need to understand what a just transition is and what it could mean to them. We need to identify and work with affected stakeholders (which could be individuals, communities, workers, unions etc) to develop an understanding of the issues and opportunities that affect them and work collaboratively to identify action to be taken. This will require strong leadership, and the relevant skills and resource so that the Council and other stakeholders can involve the people of Coventry in planning for positive change.

Recommendations

To deliver a just transition we must acknowledge all inequalities and how the steps taken towards net zero can simultaneously increase equity across the city, ensuring no one is left behind. Whilst there are many existing challenges across the city, taking a just transition approach provides significant opportunity to address these and create a fairer, brighter future increasing quality of life for all. The Fairer Greener Pathway Group recommends:

- We need greater understanding of the sectors, industries, businesses and communities affected by the climate crisis and the city's transition to Net Zero by doing research to show us where and how we risk creating/worsening inequality and where the opportunities are for positively improving the lives of people in the city through climate action in the city.
- The drive, focus and co-ordination of efforts across the city to achieve a Just Transition for all must be ensured through adequate resourcing. This means finding the funds and/or the people with the time, capacity and skills to ensure that everyone in the city who wants to can work together to ensure a Just Transition, which should be overseen by the Council.
- The 'engagement' elements of the Coventry Climate Change Strategy must be delivered according to the 'eight principles for a just transition for Coventry'. Engagement must be with people in affected sectors, industries, businesses and communities, and must be creative and innovative in the ways that they are involved in the planning for a more sustainable future for the city.

8.0 Council Action

Changing the way we work to create a more sustainable city

8.1 Whilst the Council's carbon footprint as a proportion of the city is only 1%, the Net Zero Route map highlights the citywide picture and scale of the challenge ahead. We know that homes, transport and industry are responsible for the highest levels of carbon emissions and significant investment is needed to address this. It is not viable to expect this to be all publicly funded. However the Local Authority does have a key role as a leader to drive our response to this challenge and help develop wider opportunities and lever investment, which this section explores.

8.2 The Council has been working hard to improve its environmental credentials and reports performance annually through the globally recognised Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Reporting helps a city demonstrate how it is acting on climate change and provides data to improve these actions year-on-year. The Council achieved an A- rating in 2023 (second highest score available), indicating strong leadership and having demonstrated best practice standards across climate change adaptation and mitigation, and recognising we have set ambitious goals and made good progress towards achieving these.

8.3 In the consultation for the draft Strategy, lots of people told us that they want to see the Council taking a leadership role and be more ambitious in terms of tackling climate change. The Council's policies can shape future development as set out in the figure over page:

Cultural Change of workforce

8.4 Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is a core commitment in the Council's One Coventry Plan. In order to drive meaningful change, sustainability needs to be embedded at the heart of our working practices and become business as usual. Some recent changes include making Climate Change part of a Cabinet Member portfolio, and a Strategic Lead – Green Futures officer position has been created to help drive organisational change.

8.5 To create cultural change across the organisation, we need to ensure that staff and councillors are equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify opportunities and changes required to create more sustainable working practices. Training and development will be a key part of this and help support councillors and officers to become stronger advocates for sustainability.

8.6 The Council also has an important role identifying issues, barriers and proposing practical solutions to address and using its lobbying, campaigning and advocacy role at a regional, national and international level proposing new policies, practices, standards and frameworks which will help to build a more sustainable future.

8.7 The Council is committed to achieving more equality, diversity and inclusion in its workforce. A study commissioned by the Equality Trust, National Union of Students and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) revealed that in the UK only 3% of environmental professionals are from minority backgrounds and environment professionals are the second least diverse profession in the UK. The Climate Change and Sustainability Team will be actively exploring ways of attracting people from minority backgrounds.

Innovation and Partnerships

8.8 A key role for the Council is how we develop partnerships and empower change. This is an area that has been particularly successful for the Climate Change Board, where partnerships forged have helped drive opportunities and collaboration, and provided us with expertise to help develop our Strategy and Action Plan.

8.9 One of the biggest challenges that the Council is facing in terms of tackling climate change is capacity and resource. Whilst Coventry is fortunate to have a dedicated Climate Change team, we are limited in terms of people power, expertise and funding which is a barrier to delivering at scale and pace. However, what we do have is extensive local knowledge and assets. The Strategic Energy Partnership that the Council entered with E.ON in 2023 is a pioneering model and approach to addressing this challenge. This has effectively doubled the size of the climate change team and brings significant expertise and investment opportunities for net zero projects.

8.10 The state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) that opened in 2023 was borne out of a need to address challenges around recycling, including rising costs, changing legislation and a volatile resale market. Coventry, alongside 7 other Local Authorities collaborated to form 'Sherbourne Recycling Ltd'' to address these challenges. This innovative approach has resulted in creation of the most advanced MRF of its kind in the UK.

8.11 The Council has helped develop many other partnerships, including a 'Citywide Innovation Board' which brings together the public and private sector alongside academia to explore creative solutions to some of the city's challenges, including climate change and decarbonisation. Some of the exciting opportunities coming out of this work include exploring drone and autonomous technology, and the city is keen to trial new technologies and act as a living lab.

Driving change through Policy

8.12 The Climate Change Strategy is intended to help influence policy development by setting out the key areas we need to address to create a sustainable future city.

8.13 Perhaps the most influential policy to inform future development in Coventry is the 'Local Plan', a significant policy and land use planning document that dictates the nature of land uses and future development of buildings, infrastructure and the public realm. As part of the Local Plan Review process the Council is considering where it could place greater emphasis on specific policy areas – such as those which address a number of climate change and sustainability issues to help deliver our priorities across all five pathway areas.

8.14 It is also important that policy gap areas are addressed, such as introduction of an adaptation and resilience strategy which is a significant gap in current policy and will influence service delivery and operations. Also, we need to ensure that policies are consistent and joined up, which requires regular reviews to be undertaken to ensure that our collective policies reflect the ambitions and principles of the Climate Change Strategy and broader One Coventry Plan.

Sustainable Procurement and Social Value

8.15 The Council works with a very broad supply chain to purchase both goods and services. This is a great opportunity to encourage suppliers to take more action on climate change and sustainability, alongside social value.

8.16 The Council recently adopted a Social Value Framework and recent changes in legislation with the introduction of the National Policy Statement for national procurement under the Procurement Act (2023) strengthens the requirement to address environmental sustainability and climate change. There is opportunity to further strengthen procurement policy, ensuring that all five pathways are embedded so that suppliers support delivery of the Strategy.

Communication and Involvement

8.17 The feedback from the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy consultation contained a call for improved communication and engagement around climate change and related projects. The Council is developing an engagement plan for this, and already taking action in response to this through the publication of a new Climate Change Newsletter and more regular communications to help raise public awareness, be more transparent and build trust.

8.18 People also wanted to ensure that communications and engagement are inclusive and promote equality and diversity. This is something the Council are working hard to improve, offering materials in multiple languages and formats and supporting ways to address digital exclusion. The Council collected over 500 responses and 1855 comments and the report can be found here Climate Change Strategy 2023 – 2030 consultation feedback executive summary – Coventry City Council. Whilst the feedback received was really valuable, the demographics of the responses received show there is more engagement work to do to involve key parts of the population, particularly in relation to low response rates from younger people and ethnically diverse communities.

8.19 Consultation on the Draft Climate Change Strategy was important to help understand the views of our communities across the city and how the Council can support and involve people in making positive changes. The exercise helped us to gather feedback on the Strategy and key themes within it and to understand resident and organisations' priorities as well as highlighting any gaps.

8.20 81% of respondents to the Council's Climate Change survey are 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change. People told us the most important aspect of tackling climate change is to ensure a positive future for the next generation.

8.21 It is important for us to understand what needs to be done to win the hearts and minds of the 19% of the respondents who don't consider sustainability and climate change to be an issue of concern. A number of comments from this group reflected some cynicism, with concerns about people's freedoms being reduced, scepticism of the science, a feeling that it is too vast an issue to worry about and that individuals can't make a difference when faced with major polluting countries and corporations. Some fed back that they had bigger worries related to the cost of living. The collective impact of 'a business-as-usual approach' from the 19% (which could be higher as it's likely people who don't consider climate change an issue are less likely to respond to a consultation on this issue) could be significant on the city and its ability to address the issues facing the population.

8.22 In order to engage those that feel apathy or disagree with climate science and the need for a Climate Change Strategy, the Council will need to look at ways to identify opportunities that will benefit people, regardless of whether they consider climate change an issue or not, and work in a transparent way to build trust and buy-in to projects.

8.23 The Climate Change Strategy cannot be delivered without citywide support and involving and empowering our communities is vital to create change. There is a need to build a closer working relationship with communities and the voluntary sector working at the neighbourhood level to help drive progressive action. It's very important that people don't feel like changes are being done to them and instead they can play a positive role in influencing change and being part of the journey.

8.24 An overarching Communications and Involvement Strategy will provide a template for all projects delivered through the Climate Change Action Plan. As part of this, the Council will consider a range of different tools for improving community engagement to ensure this aligns with our Just Transition principles. Communication will be clear and accessible and we will consider a range of creative and innovative ways to engage and work closely with community and faith leaders to get a broader reach into communities. We will seek to do more targeted engagement for under-represented groups, and use community panels to explore local issues and test ideas, using the arts and culture as a tool for engagement, alongside conducting research into market segmentation to help us better understand our communities, potential barriers to involvement, and ways to overcome these.

Recommendations

The Council has a leading role to play in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. We are being bold in our approach, but there is still a lot more to do. This requires wider organisational and cultural change, with the right levels of resource and knowledge in place to support the changes we need to make to lead from the front:

- Review the structure of the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Team to ensure enough levels of resourcing, whilst increasing the equality, diversity and inclusivity of the workforce
- Develop and deliver climate change training to increase education and awareness and embed this knowledge into the delivery of services. Work across Council departments to help drive and develop policies that embed sustainability within all areas of the organisation
- Continue to be at the forefront of innovation, seeking out best practice, generating ideas, pursuing funding and research opportunities and forming consortiums and partnerships to tackle key challenges and pilot new technologies and initiatives in the city
- Build on existing partnerships and create new ones, using the Climate Change Board as a vehicle for bringing together key organisations to collectively work together to help deliver the Climate Change Strategy, monitor performance and continue to generate new ideas and opportunities
- Develop a Climate Change Communications and Involvement Strategy to be used as a template for all projects, incorporating monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure a consistent approach which is accessible and inclusive, providing opportunities for meaningful community engagement according to our Just Transition Principles.

9.0 Finance

9.1 This Strategy has big ambitions, but Coventry will need to find significant funds to deliver our vision. Part of the mix of opportunities for attracting funding and investment will include joint ventures in partnership with third parties including the private sector, local communities, higher education, private charitable trusts and foundations, which may unlock funding opportunities that the Council would otherwise be unable to access.

9.2 Green finance models are rapidly evolving, unlocking new finance and funding opportunities, and we will need to be creative and innovative in our approach to secure investment. There will be an increasing need to secure investment from the private sector and find innovative ways to raise funds. Not all projects in our action plan have yet been costed but the Net Zero Routemap provides a useful guide to the potential scale of investment required to achieve net zero by 2050.

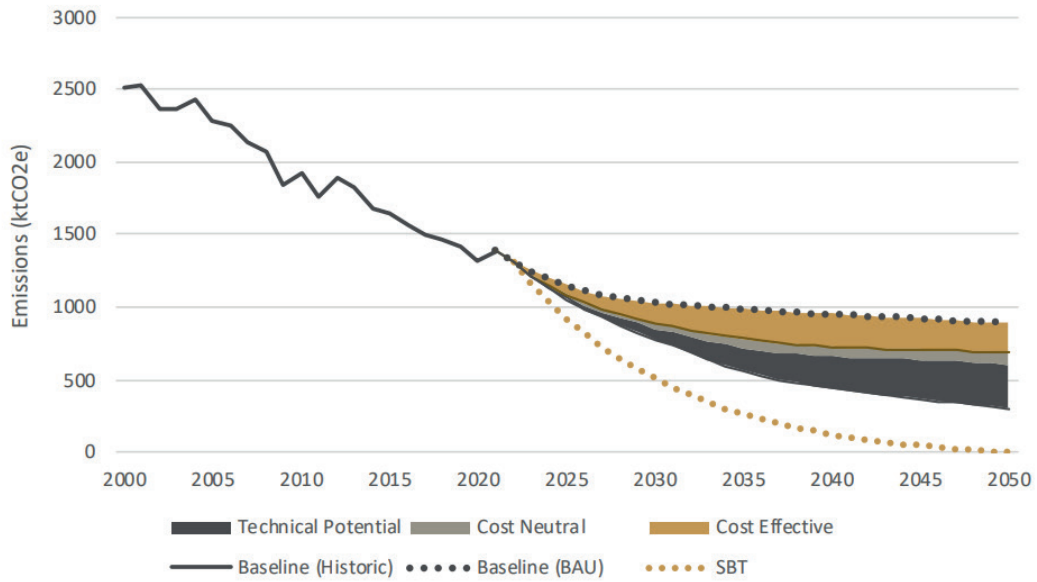


Figure 26 – Coventry's Carbon Reduction Potential Options (Net Zero Route Map, n.d.)

9.3 The Route Map independently assessed levels of investment required to achieve the necessary carbon reductions illustrated in figure 26, which are summarised below:

Option	Annual Investment Required (for 15 years)	Reduction in city's annual energy bill	Carbon reduction
Cost-effective	£53m	£114m	23%
Cost-neutral	£165m	£122m	32%
Technical potential	£654m	£185m	66%

9.4 The modelled actions illustrate that there is still a gap in reaching the 2050 target and the huge scale of investment needed. This gap will need to be addressed by future innovations and advances in technology. The introductions of taxation and financial incentives from the Government in future years may render more of the current technically viable options into more economically viable ones, especially if they create jobs and stimulate the economy. Carbon offsetting is also considered, which would require planting 44 million trees across the UK to close Coventry's gap to net zero! This illustrates that the scale of the challenge goes well beyond Coventry's boundary and will require leadership and investment in infrastructure at a national level to support the transition to net zero by 2050.

9.5 Whilst the huge investment costs are beyond any grant funding or resource the Council and city partners can access, it does demonstrate that there is an 'invest to save' case and wider benefits generated by a significant reduction in energy bills and job creation. This requires an approach to financial business case accounting which takes into account the whole lifetime costings of investments and assets, and that considers the wider economic value to the city of the investment which can't be captured in direct returns. This must be developed further to also consider the costs of environmental impacts, to reflect fully the costs of the energy and materials used and their impacts in manufacture and construction the impacts during the lifetime of a product or building's use and the final costs of re-use and/or responsible recycling/ disposal. We will be faced with choices that will need to account for the whole cost during the lifetime of an asset including an assessment of the costs of doing nothing.

9.6 The Council and partners will need to consider all environmental investment opportunities to work out not only the potential investment and levels of return, but also the delivery strategy to inform financing arrangements and benefit realisation. Opportunities may exist to reinvest financial returns from more commercially viable projects into less financially sustainable programmes to support delivery of measures where it is more difficult to attract finance.

9.7 It's vital that the Council develop collaborative partnerships to share the financial and delivery burden, such as the Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON. The Council is keen to work with partners that can bring expertise to develop commercial business opportunities to deliver the necessary services and infrastructure to support a low carbon economy and delivery of the wider Strategy.

Funding Opportunities and Options

9.8 Both government grant and private sector investment will be required to support the transition to net zero. To date, Coventry has already benefitted from securing significant investment for domestic retrofit, public sector building decarbonisation and low carbon and active travel transport initiatives, which have helped to lever in further private match investment, but the scale of investment needs to increase significantly in order to deliver the scale of change required.

9.9 Bidding for government funding is often resource intensive and fiercely competitive, with no guarantee of success. This isn't helpful for building local market confidence as limits the ability to plan longer term programmes. Through the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal, funding will be awarded via a multi-year Single Settlement which seeks to simplify current funding arrangements and give more flexibility and longevity of funding that will benefit local authorities from 2025 onwards, which will be an important source of funding for the Action Plan.

9.10 The Council is working in partnership with WMCA on a strategic approach to secure investment for Coventry's socio-economic and environmental priorities through the Single Settlement. Through this, we have identified the key areas for investment for Coventry over the next 5+ years, with key priorities including securing new investment in and accelerating the growth of green industries and ensuring a "just transition" to net zero. This will include securing investment in energy and retrofit, circular economy, adaptation and resilience and nature, as well as developing the green skills within local businesses and the local workforce.

9.11 New financial and investment models will be key to supporting the mix of funding and securing investment going forwards. Coventry is fortunate that the West Midlands Combined Authority is part of the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security's Low Carbon Accelerator Programme, which is bringing together a consortium of experts to develop blended finance models to support decarbonisation activity, which includes Net Zero Neighbourhoods.

9.12 The West Midlands Combined Authority has been selected as one of just four areas in the UK to deliver Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programmes, which link to the Government's Green Finance Strategy (2023) to support a green industrial revolution and transition to a climate resilient, nature-positive, net-zero economy. The LINC programme seeks to enable the public sector (and their third sector partners) to become more market-facing with their nature-based projects and programmes and to attract private finance. The programme will help to build capacity, develop effective governance arrangements, and capability of local leaders and partner organisations.

9.13 It's essential that the Council has the resource, capacity and capability to ensure we are innovative in our approach to seeking investment opportunities and maximise the benefits from the evolving green finance markets, as well as continue to bid into grant funding opportunities. Also, there are lots of smaller grants available for communities, so it is important that community groups are given support with funding bids and that the Council and partners highlight and signpost funding opportunities.

9.14 The Council's own Treasury Management Strategy, which sets the framework for its own borrowing and investment activity, will need to consider and accommodate the Climate Change agenda, striking an appropriate balance between financial stewardship, return on investment and environmental benefit.

9.15 Part of the mix of opportunities for attracting funding and investment will include joint ventures in partnership with third parties including the private sector, local communities, higher education, private charitable trusts and foundations, which may unlock funding opportunities that the Council would otherwise be unable to access. Also, there are lots of smaller grants available for communities, so it is important that community groups are given support with funding bids and that the Council and partners highlight and signpost funding opportunities.

10.0 Monitoring Progress

How do we know what effect we are having and whether it is working?

10.1 Data collection will be important to inform the impact of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. Some of the key targets will include:

- The current interim target for net zero from the Covenant of Mayors is a minimum 55% reduction of 1990 levels by 2030 with a UK Government target now set for a 68% reduction and a 100% reduction of 1990 levels by 2050;
- Increasing the area of green space managed to protect nature across the city from 11% working towards 30% by 2030;
- Local accessible green space of at least 2ha within 300 metres of the doorstep of residents;
- Increase tree canopy cover across the city, striving to plant 360,000 trees by 2032;
- Increase rates in recycling up to at least national average 45%, striving to aim above this.

Further targets will be developed around key areas including adaptation and resilience and the green investment, jobs and skills.

10.2 It is important that the Council are transparent around the progress we are making as a city to tackle climate change. The Climate Action plan developed alongside the Strategy sets out the practical actions that the Council, a well as our partners, businesses and communities need to take to meet net zero and create a more sustainable future city. The city's Climate Change Board will help to hold it accountable. It is a live document, which will evolve to reflect the growing programme of activity around this agenda.

10.3 Progress on tackling the causes and consequences of climate change will be reported publicly in the Council's One Coventry Performance Indicators Report, which will identify whether targets and goals have been achieved or on track to do so, as many of the actions are longer term than a year.

10.4 The Action Plan, like the Strategy is divided into the five Pathways alongside a section on Council action. The actions include existing, planned and aspirational projects, looking over the short, medium and long term. It defines the delivery lead, alongside partners, potential funding and resource requirements and gives a priority rating to identify the highest impact projects. Whilst the Council is assigned the role of project lead on many of the actions, there are a number of projects that rely on others taking a lead or supporting role in delivery, which includes individuals, communities, businesses and organisations across the city, emphasising that action is required on a citywide level.

10.5 It is also important that we consider how pathways and projects in the action plan interconnect. There will be many instances where the delivery of one action impacts upon another. It is important to understand the relationships between the five pathways, and how some actions could benefit or potentially hinder another. We will aim to ensure activities across these different areas are closely monitored and encourage cross-partner and project working. Opportunities for actions in one area may also present new opportunities for other areas of activity, we will encourage this too.

10.6 We will continue to lead with strong governance to manage the action plan, with the city's Climate Change Board and pathway groups providing an important assurance role to support delivery.

11.0 Conclusion and next steps

11.1 This Strategy gives a comprehensive insight into the challenges and opportunities we collectively face in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. Whilst the challenges ahead are significant, taking positive action to address them brings about real opportunity to create a better future for our city and its residents. This is a fantastic chance for Coventry to make its mark on the global stage as an innovative, forward-thinking city capable of delivering meaningful change and leading the green industrial revolution. Everyone has a part to play and together we can create positive and lasting change to benefit the city now, and for future generations.

11.2 The city's Climate Change Board and pathway groups will continue to provide an independent role in steering the successful delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan and governance and resources at the Council will be organised to support successful delivery.

11.3 The Council and its partners will continue to lobby regional and national governments for change and support. We will seek out best practice from around the world, be bold and innovative in our approach and listen to feedback and reflect on lessons learnt.

11.4 We recognise that there is a huge amount to do, and it is important to be aspirational but practical about what can be achieved. We will work hard to raise finance, engage partners and work with communities and organisations across the city to help remove barriers, identify opportunities. We must also ensure we consider the risks and impacts of activities and take collective action to deliver a just transition as part of this.

REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
	1. Adaptation and Resilience					
	Objective: *To create a more climate resilient city*					
AR1	Adaptation & Resilience Strategy & Plan Creation of a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy for the city, including geospatial mapping of risks and a detailed risk assessment and action plan which assesses how prepared the city is to deal with the impacts of climate change and puts in place a plan in order to create a more climate resilient city. This will give us detailed actions that will be reflected in this Action Plan to set out what activity will need to happen on the ground.	Already underway	1. Implementation of Action Plan in response to key recommendations within the Adaptation & Resilience Plan; 2. A geospatial map of climatic risk factors including a meteorological profile of the City from the Met Office; 3. Funding secured for adaptation and resilience projects	Coventry City Council (Climate Change & Sustainability Team) with consultant support from CAG Sustainability West Midlands and Slingslot Solutions & Met Office	Climate Change Board Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group, Stakeholders across the city	Plan to be published 2024/25 Recommendations and key actions to be incorporated in Action Plan with a view to developing specific projects to provide mitigation and increase resilience which will be ongoing 2024–2030+
AR2	Data analysis & reporting Establish links with other local authorities and government to gain a better understanding of local, regional and national climate change adaptation and resilience challenges and responses, benchmarking Coventry, learning from best practice. This includes participation in Defra's national Resilience and Climate Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP4) pilot authority to establish Coventry's baseline and planned activity with regards to climate change adaptation and resilience in comparison to other towns and cities across the UK, and learn best practice from other areas We will also participate in WMCA's Climate Change and Adaptation Working Group	Already underway	1. Through gathering information, data and tools that will help to inform our local Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan 2. Development of Using Defra's ARP4 reporting to benchmark Coventry's preparedness and exposure to climate risks	Coventry City Council (Climate Change & Sustainability Team)	Defra, WMCA, other local authorities	ARP 4 Report to be concluded and submitted to DEFRA By End of December 2024
AR3	Flood Prevention Measures Seek ways to secure investment in flood prevention measures to reduce vulnerability of city's homes to flooding. This includes bidding for funding and working with partners to help access investment for the city.	Already underway	1. Flood prevention investment delivered 2. Reduction in number of properties at risk of flooding, and flooding incidents of properties 3. Establish approaches which promote biodiversity using SUDs, natural vegetation, rain gardens and avoid the use of hard engineering approaches.	Coventry City Council (Highways Drainage Team)	Environment Agency, Severn Trent	2024–2030+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
AR4	Improvements to water courses River and canal improvement projects building on the success of the River Sherbourne project, which could include the River Sowe, wetland creation and restoration of other parts of the Sherbourne, including daylighting culverted parts of the river	Palmer Lane deculverting in delivery – with further schemes in early development stage	1. Number of completed schemes; 2. Investment attracted in improvement projects; 3. Number of metres of watercourse restored/improved 4. Uplift in water quality 5. Reduction in flooding events	Coventry City Council (Highways Drainage Team)	Environment Agency, Canal & Rivers Trust, Severn Trent, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	2024–2030+
AR5	SUDs Implementation of the Council's Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) Policy across Coventry to help manage surface water run off and reduce flood risk, which includes incorporation of SUDS in new developments.	Already underway	1. Number of Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes implemented 2. Investment secured for Sustainable Urban Drainage systems 3. Reduction in flood incidents 4. Reduction in nutrient levels in rivers and watercourses	Coventry City Council (Highways Drainage & Planning Teams)	Severn Trent, Environment Agency, Developers	2024–2030+
AR6	Greenspaces for cooling down the City Development of a network of Green space & nature-based interventions to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events including heatwaves and heavy rainfall.	Early stage development	1. Number of trees planted; 2. Number of rain gardens/bio-swales or detention basins delivered; 3. Increase in area of green space; 4. Investment attracted to support nature-based solutions 5. Green Roofs 6. Living walls	Coventry City Council (Climate Change, Ecology, Highways Drainage and Enironmental Services Teams)	Climate Change Board Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group inc Severn Trent, Environment Agency, Nature Based Pathway Group inc Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Canal and Rivers Trust. Developers	2024–2030+
AR7	Flood Management Strategy – further develop the city's Flood Management Strategy with Partner organisations contributing commitments with identified roles and responsibilities where appropriate.	Early stage development	A clear Strategy with an Action Plan identified resources for specific geographical location known to be at risk.	Coventry City Council (Highways Drainage & Planning Teams)	Severn Trent, Environment Agency	2024–2025
AR8	Integrating our plans with the NHS Plan The Warwickshire Healthcare Partners are working on an adaptation and resilience plan to: a) address the needs of the most vulnerable including the elderly, young infants and people with long term health conditions when extreme weather events place particular strains on the healthcare system and b) to ensure Hospital Trusts and primary care facilities and the services provided are protected from extreme weather events, notably heat waves, cold snaps or when gaseous pollution levels are high.	In development expected to complete Plan by December 2024	Better integration between the various agencies in reducing the exposure of people with specific health needs and enhancing their preparedness and resilience to the impact of extreme weather events particularly those with the most vulnerable health conditions. Reductions in the number of admissions to hospital of people with particularly vulnerable health conditions during extreme weather events	Warwickshire Healthcare Partners (NHS Hospital Trusts and NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board) & Emergency Response agencies	NHS, Coventry City Council (Public Health). Ambulance Service, Fire Service, Police	2024–2025
AR9	Explore development of smart sensors and alert systems to help communicate extreme weather and pollution risks – link to LED lighting project.	Not yet commenced	Roll out of alert system; number of people signed up to system; monitoring how system works during events and a reduction in the number of admissions to hospital during extreme weather events	Coventry City Council	Coventry University, University of Warwick, NHS, ambulance service, fire service, police	2025–2027

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
	2. Route to Net Zero					
	Objective: *To reduce the city's emissions to net zero by 2050 (working towards interim target of 68% 2030)*					
Workstream/Activity			**Measure of Success**	**Who**		**When**
Energy Generation and Decarbonisation Projects						
RNZ1	Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) – as a delivery mechanism for other actions within Route to Net Zero pathway of the Climate Change Strategy and other pathways and workstreams as appropriate. Project activity to be prioritised through the SEP energy masterplan and SEP annual business plan. Social value will be delivered against all SEP projects (links to Fairer Green Pathway)	Already underway	Number of projects delivered Carbon savings Scale of projects and programmes Innovation, including pilots projects in Coventry Local jobs and skills directly attributed to SEP projects Level of social value achieved measured by TOMs framework	Strategic Energy Partnership	Housing Associations, Electric Vehicle Charging Providers, Universities, other utility providers	2024–2038+
RNZ2	Energy security – Increase citywide renewable energy generation and resilience of supply – this will require development of projects including ground-mounted solar farms, solar panels on rooftops and battery storage	Early development	% of city's energy that comes from renewable sources, MW of renewable energy generated from new infrastructure	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, public and private sectors, developers, businesses, residents	2024–2030+
RNZ3	Heat Networks – Identify opportunities to extend the development of heat networks across the City, in line with heat network zones that have been identified across the city	Early development	MW of Available Heat Capacity MW of Connected Heat Capacity	Coventry City Council – Climate Change Team and Energy Management Services	Strategic Energy Partnership, CDEC, private and public sectors, developers	2024–2030+
RNZ4	Improve grid infrastructure – To support the deployment of electrical infrastructure projects to meet the future demands for power in the City.	Not yet commenced	Available Power Capacity meets Development Demands.	National Grid, Energy Management Services	Strategic Energy Partnership, Developers	2024–2030+
Energy Data						
RNZ5	Citywide Scope 1 and 2 reporting – Develop a citywide scheme to encourage and support all Coventry-based organisations to publicly declare annual Scope 1 and 2 emissions.	Not yet commenced	Number of Organisations Declaring Scope 1 & 2 emissions	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team and Energy Management, The Chamber	Climate Change Board	2025–2027
RNZ6	Improve citywide data and reporting – Add City Energy and Emissions reporting to Citywide Intelligence Hub using DESNZ data as minimum to support wider awareness and trending of energy consumption and emissions.	Not yet commenced	Carbon emissions to reduce year on year	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team and Energy Management	Strategic Energy Partnership	2025–2027

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
RNZ7	Development of Green Skills Hub – work with key partners to promote the development of skills and training in the construction sector including the building related trades e.g. heating engineers for the advancement in the use of the latest renewable zero carbon and more energy efficient technologies in the retrofitting of existing properties and new build developments of zero carbon homes. Ensure link in with the Green Skills sub group.	Already underway	Number of training courses available, number of apprenticeships/students that benefit from training, number of students that go on to get jobs in the sector.	Coventry City Council – Skills and Adult Education teams, Economic Development, Climate Change Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, Coventry College, Dyson, Westdale, WMCA, schools, other training providers and employers	2024–2027
Housing						
RNZ8	Improve energy efficiency of social housing stock Work with key partners such as Citizen Housing to improve the energy efficiency of the city's social housing stock. This includes the continued delivery of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2, which is to support over 2,000 properties by September 2025. Plan to build on this via Wave 3 and beyond.	Already underway	Number of homes improved with energy efficiency measures & Increase in homes to an EPC C or above. All social housing stock to be EPC Band C by 2035 and all fuel poor social housing stock to be EPC Band C by 2030	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team & Citizen	Citizen Housing, Orbit, Midland Heart, Strategic Energy Partnership	Aim for all social housing stock to be EPC C by 2035 and all 'fuel poor' social housing stock to be EPC C by 2030.
RNZ9	Deliver citywide retrofit programmes Deliver existing government funded grant programmes which support retrofit measures for privately owned properties, including both owner–occupied and private rented (e.g Home Upgrade Grant 2).	Already underway	Funding secured and homes improved. Properties increaed to EPC band C.	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team & Strategic Energy Partnership	Housing Associations	2022–2038+
RNZ10	ECO4 and GBIS Programme Work with companies and contractors to maximise uptake of ECO4 and GBIS across the city. Ensure supporting of marketing for ECO4 and signing off ECO Flex declarations to increase amount of people able to access the schemes.	Already underway	Homes supported via ECO4 / GBIS. And ECO Flex declaration signed off by the Council.	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team	E.ON, Agility Eco, other energy providers, contractors	2024–2025
RNZ11	Develop long term funding and investment and delivery models to support citywide retrofit programme Work with local government partners across the region to identify solutions to domestic retrofit and access additional funding. This includes working with West Midlands Combined Authority and Midlands Net Zero Hub, as well as working in collaboration with other local authorities across the region.	Already underway	Funding secured through WMCA devolution deal and through MNZH Other public/private investment secured	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team	West Midlands Combined Authority, Midlands Net Zero Hub, other local authorities	2024–2030+
RNZ12	Develop the city's first net zero neighbourhood which would also include wider net zero benefits (Inc. economies of scale with retrofit)	Early development	Residents engaged and homes retrofitted as part of the net zero neighbourhood.	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team	West Midlands Combined Authority, Strategic Energy Partnership, local community	2024–2027

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
RNZ13	Develop green finance initiatives for retrofit Development of programmes that are able to support those 'willing to pay' who are not eligible for the government funded fuel poverty programmes, which could include innovative finance products to enable households to install retrofit measures	Early development	Homes supported (who are not eligible for fuel poverty programmes)	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, Banks and building societies	2024–2030+
RNZ14	Retrofit of private rented homes Working with housing enforcement, letting agents, and the private sector landlords forum to promote retrofit improvements into tenanted housing stock.	Not yet commenced	Numbers of private rented sector properties where retrofit improvements are made	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team, Housing enforcement,	Private Sector Landlords, Letting Agents	2025–2030+
RNZ15	Affordable Warmth Programme Provide an affordable warmth/energy advice service to promote domestic retrofit and direct residents to the most appropriate retrofit grants for their homes as to complement Fairer Green Futures actions.	Already underway	Number of residents accessing service and number of homes treated with retrofit measures.	Coventry City Council Climate Change team	Act On Energy, Fair Green Futures Pathway Group,	Ongoing
RNZ16	Energy Saving Campaigns Raise awareness of how residents can use less energy, and what programmes could support them. We will do this by keeping an up-to-date website, and promote through a full range of marketing and promotional activity and seek innovative ways to raise awareness.	Already underway	Number of residents receiving advice	Coventry City Council Climate Change team	Strategic Energy Partnership, Act on Energy, Low Emissions Pathway Group	2024–2030+
RNZ17	Retrofit Market Segmentation Research Work with universities and organisations across the city to raise awareness of retrofit and insulation, and to ensure residents are aware how they can use less energy. Continuation of the St Augustine's School Pilot to develop a teaching pack for schools across Coventry and to establish two further school pilots with market segmentation analysis of two identified schools	Early development	1. Numbers of people engaged in campaigns and programmes. 2. Increase in uptake of households in targeted retrofit programmes	Coventry City Council Climate Change team	Low Emissions Pathway Group, Strategic Energy Partner, Coventry University, University of Warwick, Act on Energy, community groups, housing providers	2024–2026
RNZ18	Develop an exemplar new low carbon housing development in the city, which achieves EPC A or ideally passivhaus, with provision for low carbon transport and active travel, to be complemented by high quality green and blue space creation to increase biodiversity and be climate resilient.	Not yet commenced	Delivery of low carbon housing development, number of dwellings delivered with EPC A or passivhaus, active travel measures and green and blue space delivered	Private Sector	Coventry City Council, Strategic Energy Partnership	2026–2030+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
Business & 3rd sector						
RNZ19	Business Support Energy Business Advisors continue to work with businesses through the Council's Business Support Team to provide free sustainability consultancy & delivery energy efficiency audits, providing recommendations to small and medium businesses in Coventry to implement energy efficiency measures within their businesses.	Already underway	Energy audits delivered Carbon abated	Economic Development Service	Pro-Enviro, Aston University, WMG, The Chamber, Destination Coventry	By end March 2025 with plan to extend
RNZ20	Business Grants Programmes team within EDS continue delivery of funded programmes to support businesses with grants towards energy efficiency improvements. There are energy efficiency grants available from £1,000-£100,000 up to 50% intervention rate. There are two grant programmes ; UKSPF - Net Zero Grants & BEAS Energy Efficiency Grants (Both Capital grants, which can be applied for following the completion of a energy efficiency audit.	Already underway	Number of businesses supported and amount of grant provided Carbon abated	Economic Development Service	Pro-Enviro, Aston University, WMG, Birmingham City Council	By end March 2025 with plan to extend
RNZ21	The Green Business Network continues to build on success of current membership of 3500 local businesses through running seminars, training events, podcasts, webinars to further expand network and participation	Already underway	Number of Green Business Network	Economic Development Service	Pro-Enviro, Aston University, WMG, other West Midlands Local Authorities	By end March 2025 with plan to extend
RNZ22	Business Sustain Continue work of trading arm Business Sustain to provide environmental services and support to large businesses all over the UK and beyond	Already underway	Number of businesses supported	Economic Development Service (Business Sustain)	Other Local Authorities nationally	Ongoing
RNZ23	Supporting non-domestic properties To establish ways of securing finance for Non-Domestic Owner/Occupiers and Long Lease Holders to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings they occupy or meet the requirements of Heat Network Zoning.	Not yet commenced	Number of properties supported Investment secured Carbon abated	Climate Change Team, Strategic Energy Partnership, Facilities Management	Strategic Energy Partnership	2024-2030+
RNZ24	MEES To establish ways of securing finance for Commercial Property Landlords to deliver on the requirements of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards and Heat Network Zoning.	Not yet commenced	Investment secured Investment secured Carbon abated	Climate Change Team, Strategic Energy Partnership, Facilities Management	Strategic Energy Partnership	2024-2030+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
Transport						
RNZ25	Active Travel Continue to deliver significant infrastructure improvements to promote walking and cycling across the city. This will be supported by development of a local walking and cycling improvement plan to help deliver better connectivity, accessibility and to provide a focus on behavioural change promoting the benefits of cycling as a mode of transport including public health.	Already underway	% of trips made by walking and cycling; Area of infrastructure upgrades delivered (including kms cycle routes, new crossings)	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Transport for West Midlands, Active Travel England, Sustrans	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to be published by 2025, with timelines for individual schemes also set out in the Coventry Transport Strategy
RNZ26	All Electric Bus City Complete delivery of the All Electric Bus City project	Already underway	100% of buses operating in the city to be electric	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Transport for West Midlands, National Express, Stagecoach	By end of 2025
RNZ27	Public Transport Improvements Continue to deliver significant improvements to the city's public transport system – including bus and rail and more on demand services. Explore how opportunities of West Midlands bus franchising strategy can support delivering improvements in Coventry.	Already underway	% of trips made by bus, rail and on-demand	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Transport for West Midlands, bus and rail operators	Timelines for individual schemes as set out in the Coventry Transport Strategy
RNZ28	Coventry Very Light Rail Delivery of the first Very Light Rail route in Coventry. This includes delivery of the initial city-centre based demonstrator route which will serve as a pilot, and if successful development of the first passenger route	Early development	Successful pilot of CVLR demonstrator, delivery of first route, CLVR patronage	Coventry City Council Transport Team	DfT, Transport for West Midlands, WMG and CVLR consortium	Demonstrator project by 2026 Full first route to follow post 2027
RNZ29	EV Charging Network Expansion Continue to expand the city's network of publicly available electric vehicle charge points, to accelerate the transition from petrol and diesel powered vehicles	Already underway	1. Number of electric vehicles registered in Coventry 2. kWH of charge dispensed via rapid and residential charge points	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, other chargepoint providers, car dealerships, businesses	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to be published by end of 2024, with timelines for individual schemes also set out in the Coventry Transport Strategy
RNZ30	EV Charging Infrastructure at Home Deliver innovative solutions to support electric vehicle charging at home, such as using kerbside cable gullies to support on-street charging	Early development	Number of households supported on installs of electric charging infrastructure	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, other chargepoint providers	Pilot project by 2025
RNZ31	Campaigns involving communities and businesses to encourage behaviour change Take steps to encourage and incentivise residents to change their travel behaviour, including through the use of 'Mobility Credits'	Already underway	% of trips made by sustainable modes Take up of Mobility Credits	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Transport for West Midlands	Ongoing activity

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
RNZ32	EV Mobility Hubs – Local electric vehicle infrastructure programme Development of mobility hubs across the city, providing secure electric charging for cars and e-bikes, with potential to power via renewable energy where appropriate to install a solar canopy	Early development	Number of hubs delivered, usage of hubs by the public	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Charge point providers Transport for West Midlands	Initial pilots to be delivered 2025-26
RNZ33	Improve accessibility to charging infrastructure Increase opportunities for more accessible charging infrastructure for disabled car users, which includes piloting new solutions such as wireless technology and working with Motability to support drivers in the city	Early development	Number of accessible electric charging points installed, use of accessible charging points	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, other chargepoint providers, Transport for West Midlands, Motability	Initial pilots to be delivered by 2025
RNZ34	Undertake the decarbonisation of the Council Operational Fleet	Already underway	% fleet which is net zero	Coventry City Council Environmental Services	Strategic Energy Partership	2024-2027
RNZ35	To promote the use of electric vehicles by the provision of rental electric vehicles for trial periods and to promote the development of EV Charging points on business premises.	Not yet commenced	Number of trials of rental electric vehicles & Number of EV charging points on business premises	Coventry City Council Transport Team	Strategic Energy Partnership, other chargepoint providers, car dealerships, businesses	2025-2027
RNZ36	Travel Planning To support initiatives which advise and assist employers to promote commuter plans and car sharing schemes for commuting to work to reduce carbon emissions	Already underway	Number of businesses/organisations with Travel Plans	Coventry City Council – Climate Change Team, Transport Team , HR	Transport for West Midlands, Growth Hub, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Strategic Energy Partnership	Ongoing
RNZ37	Support measures to grow and promote local second hand electric vehicle market	Not yet commenced	Number of second hand electric vehicle dealerships in the city, number of secondhand electric vehicles purchased, number of households with an electric car, number of businesses using electric vans	Coventry City Council – Climate Change, Transport, Communications	Car dealerships, businesses	2025-2030+
Public Sector Estate						
RNZ38	Develop strategy and action plan for decarbonisation of the Council Operational Estate toward Net Zero by 2050. To meet or exceed the interim targets of 50% reduction by 2032 and 75% reduction by 2037 from a 2017 baseline.	Already underway	Council Operational Estate Decarbonisation Action Plan Developed and delivering on target requirements	Coventry City Council Facilities Management	Strategic Energy Partnership	50% by 2032
RNZ39	LED Upgrade – PFI Street Lighting. investing in energy efficient Street lighting LED technology, whilst giving a better quality of light and achieving a significant saving on energy consumption and carbon reduction (1200 tonnes per year).	Early development	Number of street columns replaced, carbon and energy savings, number of street lamps re-used	Coventry City Council	Balfour Beatty	2025-2027

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
RNZ40	Commercial property energy efficiency improvements (MEES) – To find a means to enable us to make energy efficiency improvements to property that we own but do not pay the bills for electricity and gas and to find way to stimulate investment in other private sector property owners including examining the potential of using blockchain technology.	Already underway	% of Commercial Properties EPC B or better	Coventry City Council – Commercial Property (CPM) Energy Management Services and Climate Change team	Strategic Energy Partnership	2028 (provisional)
RNZ41	Develop strategy and action plan for decarbonisation of the Coventry Education Estate toward Net Zero by 2050. To meet or exceed the interim targets of 50% reduction by 2032 and 75% reduction by 2037 from a 2017 baseline.	Already underway	Education Estate Decarbonisation Action Plan Developed and delivering on target requirements	Coventry City Council – Education, Facilities Management	Strategic Energy Partnership	50% by 2032
RNZ42	Support the development of decarbonisation strategies of the wider Public Sector Estate towards Net Zero by 2050. To meet or exceed the interim targets of 50% reduction by 2032 and 75% reduction by 2037 from a 2017 baseline	Already underway	Public Sector Stakeholders have decarbonisation plans in place and are delivering on target requirements	Coventry City Council Climate Change and Energy Management Teams	Climate Change Board, Strategic Energy Partnership, CDEC	50% by 2032
RNZ43	Continue to source at least 15% of Council Energy Use from locally sourced renewables	Already underway	% of Energy Demand sourced from Local Renewables meets or exceeds target	Coventry City Council Energy Management	Strategic Energy Partnership, other energy providers	Ongoing
RNZ44	Aim to include Water Related Emissions to CCC Operational Estate Scope 3 Reporting	Not yet commenced	Water Related Emissions added to Operational Estate Annual Reporting	Coventry City Council Energy Management	n/a	2024
RNZ45	Scope 2 reporting To identify opportunities and methods to broaden the range of Scope 3 emissions to be reported for CCC Operational Estate and other Public Sector Estate Reporting.	Not yet commenced	Development of more robust Scope 3 reporting, which will help to inform future decarbonisation plans	Coventry City Council Energy Management		2026–2028
	3. Circular Economy					
	Objective: *To minimise waste and increase re-use and recycling of materials to create a successful local circular economy*					
Workstream/Activity			**Measure of Success**	**Who**		**When**
General						
CE1	New Waste Strategy Production of new Waste Strategy for Coventry, setting out more detail of how the city will support development of a circular economy and tackle challenges to minimise waste and boost repair, re-use and recycling including promoting behavioural change to promote recycling and re-use.	Not yet commenced	1. Formal adoption of new Waste Strategy with clear commitments to follow the waste hierarchy promoting re-use etc.	Coventry City Council	WMG, Tom White Waste, Circular Economy Pathway Group	2025–2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CE2	Waste campaigns To carry out a number of campaigns and behavioural change projects and initiatives at the Citywide and neighbourhood level to encourage an increase in recycling participation rates and greater support for re-use and repair.	Not yet commenced	1. Number of campaigns/behavioural change projects; 2. Socio demographic market segmentation Analysis of the levels of participation across the city Increase in recycling participation in target areas	Coventry City Council	Sherbourne Resource Park, WMCA, neighbouring authorities	2025-2030+
CE3	Improve data collection and reporting, including working with the private sector to collect commercial waste data which is essential to support business case development for local circular economy projects	Not yet commenced	1. Establishing a reporting mechanism for collecting citywide commercial waste data	Coventry City Council	Private sector, Defra, West Midlands Combined Authority, Local Universities	2026
Repair & Re-Use						
CE4	#Coventry Connects - electronic device bank to support communities and individuals who are digitally excluded. This involves donation of unwanted devices from local organisations, refurbishment of equipment and distribution of equipment and digital training. Programme has been running successfully over a year, there are plans to build on this through increasing donations and the amount of participants in the programme.	Already underway	1. Number of devices donated by organisations; 2. Number of devices refurbished; 3. Number of refurbished devices donated; 4. Number of people undertaking digital training; 5. Environmental benefits of diverting electronic waste from landfill (CO2 and water)	Coventry City Council	WMG, local businesses and organisations, charities, communities and individuals	2023-2025 (with plans to extend)
CE5	Development of a citywide construction waste re-use hub	Not yet commenced	1. Creation of re-use hub; 2 .Amount of materials donated; 3. Amount of materials purchased; 4. Amount of waste diverted from landfill; 5. Environmental benefits of diverting construction waste from landfill	Coventry City Council	WMCA	Develop a viable Business Plan for securing investment for a construction waste re-use hub 2025 - delivery 2026-2029
CE6	Commercial waste To develop links and new products and services with the Council's commercial waste arms length company Tom White Waste, Business Support Team and Business Sustain services, engaging new partners and building industry support.	Not yet commenced	1. Number of businesses engaged; 2. Number of new products and services delivered	Coventry City Council	Tom Whites, wide business community	2026
CE7	Develop research-led circular economy pilot/showcase initiatives with businesses to develop new markets and opportunities for management of commercial waste,	Not yet commenced	1. Number of projects piloted; 2. Reduction in commercial waste of businesses involved 3. Amount of commercial waste diverted from landfill/incineration for those businesses involved	Coventry City Council	Universities, Local businesses	2025-2030+
CE8	Develop circular economy resources To develop an online resource promoting re-use and repair with advice on how to extend the life of products combined with a media and comms strategy	Not yet commenced	1. Publication of online resource; 2. Funding secured to develop resources and tools; 3. Number of people accessing resource	Coventry City Council	WMCA	2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CE9	Promoting reuse of community resources to reduce financial pressures on families (eg furniture EMAUS)	Not yet commenced	1. Number of campaigns/behavioural change projects; 2. Number of social enterprises supported; 3. Number of new social enterprises in Coventry; 2. Increase in reuse/repair of community resources	Coventry City Council	Charities and social enterprises, voluntary sector, local businesses	2025–2030+
CE10	Increase citywide re-use and repair To develop and further enhance existing neighbourhood based and citywide re-use, hire and repair services across the city, including social enterprises.	Not yet commenced	1. Increase in uptake in people accessing services in city 2. Number of new services offering hire and repair	Coventry City Council	Communities, WMCA, other local authorities, C&W Chamber of Commerce	2026
Recycle						
CE11	Increase the range of materials that can be recycled through household waste to boost citywide recycling rates and increase supply of materials to the Materials Recycling Facility, which will contribute to increasing the number of markets that recycled materials supply	Already underway	1. Increase in range of materials recycled 2. Increase in citywide household recycling rates 3. Increase in recycled materials processed by the MRF 4. Increase in amount of recycled materials the MRF supplies to new markets	Coventry City Council	Sherbourne Resource Park, WMCA, neighbouring authorities, all households	2025
CE12	Roll out of citywide household food waste collection service	Not yet commenced	Increase in household food waste collected	Coventry City Council		2026
CE13	Develop the infrastructure for Coventry to be the nations leading city for WEEE waste recycling. Greenpower Park is an important part of this solution for battery recycling which is a long term strategy. In the Quick Win there is an opportunity for business growth in WEEE waste recycling which can build on success of the digital recycling project to support further development of a circular economy for electronic waste that can benefit local people and generate wider environmental and social benefits.	Not yet commenced	1. Tonneage of WEEE waste kept out of landfill; 2. Amount of CO2 savings from WEEE waste being diverted from landfill; 3. Number of devices donated to support digital recycling project; 4. Number of people/community groups that benefit from donations of digital devices.	Coventry City Council	WMG, local businesses and organisations, community organisations, voluntary organisations, charities	2025–2030+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
E14	Development Council procurement policy to include circularity criteria in contracts for future projects, alongside embodied carbon to encourage more suppliers to adopt a more circular approach to waste and energy. This is something that could be adopted by other organisations across the city. Criteria could include traceable recycled material content, use of low emission suppliers, evidence of design for circularity, disassembly or sustainable disposal and evidence of material minimisation and not overdesign. Embodied emissions can be calculated to demonstrate the environmental benefits of future projects that adopt a more circular approach to waste.	Not yet commenced	1. Production of new circular economy policy adopted as part of Council's procurement framework; 2. Impacts will be monitored for each contract 3. Adoption of this approach by other Coventry organisations	Coventry City Council (Climate Change and Procurement)	WMG, local organisations	End of 2025
	4. Nature Based					
	Objective: *Support nature recovery and create more accessible green and blue space for wildlife to thrive and communities to enjoy*					
Workstream/Activity			**Measure of Success**	**Who**		**When**
NB1	Development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Coventry in line with the Environment Act 2021. This is a spatial strategy which must agree priorities for nature's recovery, will map the most valuable existing areas for nature alongside specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. which will which will inform priority areas of focus and opportunities for nature recovery	Already underway	1 Completion of Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Coventry	West Midlands Combined Authority	CCC and key partners such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Canal and Rivers Trust, Severn Trent and neighbouring authorities, alongside landowners and community groups.	End of 2025
NB2	Development of a Green and Blue Plan for Coventry, based on data and supported by overarching principles for delivery which will provide a more strategic approach to land planning and unlock sites for nature, alongside improving access to green space. This will be informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and include a database of the City's land assets and their potential nature conservation value. This should begin with a city-wide, in-depth species and habitat survey, which uses up-to-date information to assess the existing state of our land and the opportunities for enhancements. This will inform decisions on land use targets, such as managing 30% of our land for nature and should prioritise addressing inequalities in green space and ecosystem service distribution.	Early development	1 Political approval of a Green and Blue Plan for Coventry; 2 Development of green and blue data base, which will be presented as an interactive map on the Council website 3 Detailed baseline habitat survey for Coventry	Coventry City Council	working with Nature-Based Pathway Group, support from WMCA as part of Local Nature Recover Strategy and wider work with 3rd sector organisations such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation (Warwickshire) etc. and the voluntary sector	End of 2025 (in line with Local Nature Recovery Strategy)

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
NB3	To develop an approach for monitoring biodiversity and habitat quality changes over time to enforce biodiversity net gain and ensure we progress in our aims to enhance green infrastructure and address inequalities in access to high-quality natural green spaces. Need to also relate to private gardens and community allotments to residents can support.	Early development	1 The production of a biodiversity progress report	Coventry City Council	working with Nature-Based Pathway Group, support from WMCA as part of Local Nature Recover Strategy and wider work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and University of Warwick/Coventry University	End of 2025 (in line with statutory reporting duty)
NB4	Produce a natural capital prospectus for Coventry, to include development of natural capital pipeline, financial models and obtain partner support, as part of WMCA's Local Investment in Natural Capital Programme	Early development	1. Development of natural capital pipeline; 2. Launch of a natural capital prospectus; 3. Investment in natural capital schemes from both public and private sectors	West Midlands Combined Authority	Coventry City Council, with support from Nature Based Pathway Group and key partners inc Natural England	Prospectus by end of 2025; Investment up to 2030
NB5	Continue development of partnership projects to improve biodiversity and create habitat across the City, building on success of Sherbourne Valley project. This could include developing a similar programme for the River Sowe Corridor, where there are aspirations to create an urban country park and better connect communities along the corridor, including UHCW and community hubs.	Already underway	1. Investment secured for new projects; 2. Number of projects delivered; 3. Increase in biodiversity	Coventry City Council	Support from Nature Based Pathway Group, Climate Change Board, key partners such as UHCW and community and voluntary groups	2024-2030+
NB6	Delivery of the city's Urban Forestry Strategy, planting 360,000 trees across the city. This should particularly target areas where there is less green space and tree coverage, and will be delivered by a mix of tree planting in green spaces and through street-trees in more urban built up areas. As part of this, the Council needs to continually review maintenance to promote retention of healthy trees and use planning policy to ensure trees aren't lost to development.	Already underway	1. Number of trees planted; 2. Increase in total number of city's trees (through planting and retention); 3. Increase of tree canopy cover from 11% towards 20% 4. Provide equity in the delivery and distribution of tree canopy cover	Coventry City Council	Investors, land owners, local businesses, communities and individuals	2032
NB7	Nature Based Research To continue to work closely with local academic experts at Coventry University and the University of Warwick to integrate best practice approaches to green infrastructure enhancements, develop funding bids and research projects	Already underway	1. Investment secured for new projects; 2. Number of projects delivered; 3. Increase in biodiversity	Coventry City Council	Coventry University, University of Warwick and other partners as appropriate	2024-2030+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
NB8	To encourage opportunities to improve water quality in Coventry in line with the requirements of The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 through methods such as deculverting, renaturalising where possible in existing water bodies and through robust influence over new development.	Already underway	1. Improvement of the quality of watercourses in the city; 2. Amount of investment in river restoration and enhancement schemes;	Coventry City Council	Support from external partners such as Severn Trent, Environment Agency, Canal and River Trust and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	2024–2030+
NB9	To implement conservation management techniques in parks and open spaces where opportunities exist to improve biodiversity and encourage community engagement in wildlife conservation activities.	Already underway	1. Number of parks and green spaces where conservation measures are implemented; 2. Number of volunteers involved in supporting conservation activities	Coventry City Council	Volunteers including community groups friends of park groups, residents and business community	2024–2026+
NB10	To create green corridors across the city to support nature, through a mix of features including street trees, green walls and roofs, bee-friendly bus stops, wildflower meadow areas within the adopted highway , rain gardens and sustainable urban drainage systems aiming to address inequalities in access to greenspace and achieve Natural England ANGST targets.	Early development	1. Number of schemes delivered across the city 2. Extent of new green space created 3. Number of schemes delivered in areas with poor access to green space 4.Uplift in areas where ANGST targets are achieved	Coventry City Council	Businesses, developers, households, Transport for West Midlands, bus operators, community groups	2024–2030+
NB11	Landscape-scale natural restoration project – To seek out landscape-scale restoration through the creation and long-term enhancement of woodlands, grasslands and river corridors, creating new nature reserves and improving existing to support the aims of managing 30% of our land for nature by 2030 in conjunction with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Larger projects are likely to involve collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and partners.	Early development	1. The implementation of a landscape scale project 2. Biodiversity Net Gain units created	Coventry City Council	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Nature Based Pathway Group, investors, neighbouring local authorities	2024–2026+
NB12	Training and Skills across CCC To engage a variety of departments across the local authority in how their actions and means of delivering services can impact biodiversity to identify opportunities for nature-based integration. This will be done through training and developing new policy guidance, alongside more sustainable procurement.	Not yet commenced	Use of TOMs framework to demonstrate value added	Coventry City Council	Nature Based Pathway Group	2025–2026+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
NB13	Community involvement To encourage and stimulate opportunities for communities to engage with ecosystem restoration and conservation activities, such as tree or bulb planting, and citizen science events like the City Nature Challenge. Biodiversity enhancement events should be highlighted through onsite interpretation, the Council website, and social media.	Already underway	1. Number of engagement and awareness campaigns; 2. Number of sign ups to campaigns; 3. Number of participants at events	Coventry City Council	Nature Based Pathway Group, Community and voluntary groups, residents and businesses	Ongoing
NB14	Training and skills – citywide To upskill existing staff and volunteers in the management of green spaces for nature, including developing training in conservation management skills, which can be implemented in parks and areas of open space in Coventry. Includes Friends of Groups in parks and other community voluntary groups.	Not yet commenced	1. Launch of training programme; 2. Number of staff and volunteers that have undertaken training; 3. Qualifications gained by participants	Coventry City Council	Support from partners such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Garden Organic	2025–2026
NB15	To promote positive and sustainable individual action, such as attracting wildlife to private gardens, growing food at home and composting. This will be done through educational materials and training opportunities.	Not yet commenced	1. Nature campaigns for targeted action; 2. Number of sign ups to campaigns;	Nature Based Pathway Group to coordinate campaigns, with organisations contributing including CCC and our Outdoor Education team, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent, Garden Organic, Canal and Rivers Trust	Led by residents and community groups, RSPB	2025–2027
NB16	Schools National Park Support schools with DfE scheme to create a national park across the country's schools estate. Project will require us to continue to work with schools on developing wildlife areas, as well as cross-curricular teaching and promoting the appreciation and understanding of biodiversity and nature-based issues.	Already underway	1. The development of a nature-based education programme; 2. Number of schools participating in programme; 3. Uplift in biodiversity achieved across the city's schools	Coventry City Council Outdoor Education team	Department for Education Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent, Garden Organic and Canal and Rivers Trust	2025–2027
NB17	Tiny Forests Delivery of a network of 'tiny forests' across Coventry, which are small but dense areas of woodland which support biodiversity	Funding preliminarily secured	Number of tiny forests delivered, number of trees planted	Coventry City Council and Earthwatch	Community and volunteer groups	2025–2028

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
B18	Ensure that new development supports nature through strengthening local planning policy via the Local Plan Review. This will build on the existing biodiveristy net gain supplementary planning guidance and ensure new developments incorporate measures to support local nature recovery e.g. inclusion of swift bricks,controlling nature of LED lighting, bat boxes, alongside wider green and blue infrastructure measures through biodiversity net gain.	Already underway	1. Adoption of revised Local Plan	Coventry City Council	Developers, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB	2025–2030+
	5. Fairer Green Future					
	Objective: *To deliver a just transition to a net zero city, ensuring that the impacts of climate change and interventions don't disproportionally impact on our most vulnerable communities*					
Workstream/Activity			**Measure of Success**	**Who**		**When**
FG1	Development of a Just Transition Plan for Coventry – setting out key objectives and a framework for how a just transition in the city will be delivered	Early development	Development of Framework; Appointment of Just Transition Lead for city and Steering Group to support activity setting an example to influence others in City & beyond	Coventry City Council	Fairer Green Future Pathway Group, local businesses and communities	2025
FG2	Develop a Green Skills Roadmap for Coventry, to understand green skills gaps and training requirements, alongside sectors that will need to transition to support move to net zero	Early Development	Development of road map and a Green Skills Strategy	Coventry City Council (Climate Change and Sustainability team, Skills Team and Green Skills Sub Group)	Partners from public and private sectors, alongside education and training providers, WMCA	2025
FGF4	Provide an affordable warmth/energy advice service targeting low income and vulnerable households in Coventry	Already underway	Number of residents accessing service. Number of residents with a vulnerability accessing service. Number of energy efficiency measures installed.	Coventry City Council (Public Health team in partnership with Climate Change and Sustainability team)	NEA	Ongoing
FG5	Raise awareness of fuel poverty; its causes and how to support residents living with its effects.	Already underway	Number of professionals trained on affordable warmth and fuel poverty issues.	Coventry City Council (Public Health team, supported by Climate Change and Sustainability team)	NEA	Ongoing
FG6	To monitor indoor air quality in properties pre and post retrofit including temperature, relative humidity and pm2.5 and pm10 to inform priority measures for addressing condensation and damp in order to enable energy efficiency improvements to be made in properties previously	Not yet commenced	Increased number of properties benefiting from retrofit activities that previously could not and improvements in health as a result of reductions in condensation damp and mould	Coventry City Council (Sustainability Team, Housing Enforcement, Public Health)	Act on Energy, University of Birmingham, Citizen Housing, Birmingham City Council	2026–2028

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
FG7	To undertake a market segmentation analysis of the city of Coventry with detailed focus groups and surveys of each market segment in order to understand perceptions and barriers to the take up of retrofit grants or commitment to secure funding for improvements by Private Sector landlords to enable retrofitting properties for households suffering from fuel poverty – overlaps with Fairer Green and Route to Net Zero Pathways – with the former focusing on community involvement and the latter on the nature of the questions asked in Focus Groups and surveys etc.	Not yet commenced	Increased uptake of grants for the benefit of tenants living in private rented and social landlord properties. Improvements in health as a consequence of affordable warmth and improved living conditions.	Coventry City Council (Sustainability Team, Public Health Team, Housing Enforcement Team)	Act on Energy, University of Warwick, Citizen Housing, Royal College of Physicians, NHS National Data Team	Dependent upon Grant application from Partnership for £2.5m over 3 years
FG8	Net-Zero Neighbourhood – develop the city's first net-zero neighbourhood – looking at access to green space, energy efficiency, CVLR etc and to establish positive relationships with community representatives and organisations to raise awareness and obtain commitment and support from local people to make the Net Zero Neighbourhood a reality. NB: The implementation of the Net Zero Programme is covered by the Route to Net Zero Pathway Group the role of this group is to support community engagement and ensure a Just Transition is implemented.	Early development	An Established Net Zero Neighbourhood with evidence of community involvement in the design and delivery of the Project	Coventry City Council (Sustainability Team with support from other Depts notably Transport and community resilience).	The Strategic Energy Partnership, the Climate Change Board's Fairer Green Pathway Group and Low Emissions Group, Act on Energy, (Hillfields NEA Group?)	2024–2027
FG9	School Climate Change Support – Development of an integrated curriculum to support secondary schools, and to look at how schools are run to link the learning to making schools an exemplar	Not yet commenced	Number of schools signing up to the Council's Sustainable Schools Programme	Coventry City Council Education, Outdoor Education, Climate Change Team	Third sector organisations with interests in environmental education etc.	2026
FG10	Schools Campaigns Work with schools to create an educational resource for schools raise awareness of children about the science of energy insulation and its importance to combating climate change, reducing fuel bills and affordable warmth with home surveys where children can act as catalysts for change development and refinement of educational materials and resources for use by Primary Schools across the City. Initial pilot at St Augustines School.	Already underway	Number of schools making use of resources and number of requests for advice and support from households as a result of the Projects	Warwick University with Coventry City Council	Act On Energy, National Energy Action (NEA), Strategic Energy Partnership	2024–2026+

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
FG11	Partnering with C&W Integrated Care Board – promotion of eco-flex for clinically vulnerable people with pharmacy practices building upon the University of Warwick's outline plan to develop automated referrals associated with repeat prescriptions for identified clinical conditions which are automatically eligible for ECOFlex	Not yet commenced	The number of residents with the identified eligible clinical conditions who receive practical advice and support and the improvements in home energy ratings as a result.	NHS Integrated Care Board with Coventry City Council	Agility Eco, Eon, ICB NHS	2025–2026
FG12	Delivery of Coventry's Air Quality Action Plan – measures include infrastructure improvements, greening and active travel measures, alongside targeted campaigns to encourage behaviour change	Already underway	Improvements in Air Quality across the city, particularly in hot spots which the Air Quality Action Plan seeks to address	Coventry City Council (Sustainability, public health, transport and environmental health)	WMCA, Defra	Ongoing
FG14	Coventry Grows Programme – pilot to create a network of community growing sites across the city to support food growing and wildlife. Includes training for groups to learn new skills around food growing, harvesting and cooking. Opportunity for social prescribing to improve the physical health and mental well-being of participants. Establishment of a local steering group to support citywide activity, showcase best practice and provide guidance and case studies. Toolkit to be produced to support community groups interested in creating a community growing site. Citywide map of potential growing sites to be developed and legal framework to be simplified to grant access to sites for community cultivation.	Early development	1. Number of community gardening sites established; 2. Amount of investment in community gardening sites; 3. Number of participants in community gardening schemes; 4. Number of volunteers attending training courses; 5. Positive social prescribing outcomes	Coventry City Council	E.ON, local businesses, landowners	2025–2026+
FG15	Making better use of our allotment network – Increase in participation in local allotments across the city – includes community plots, smaller plots which are more manageable for individuals and families, opportunities for shared plots as well as working with allotment plot holders to provide surplus local seasonal produce to food banks and the Food Network. To support this there are aspirations to create a new digital platform to increase engagement, involvement and provide support and resource library.	Not yet commenced	1. Increased participation from volunteers in city's allotment network 2. Donations of surplus produce to local networks 3. Creation of digital platform	Coventry City Council partnered with the Coventry Allotment Association.	Charities including Food Network and local food banks, community groups, individuals	2026
FG16	Support development of community woodlands	Early development	1. Number of community woodlands created 2. Participation in community woodland sites, captured through events, footfall	Coventry City Council supporting community organisations/CICs	Grapevine, voluntary groups, Outdoor Education	2025–2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
FG17	Outdoor Education space in nature– development of hub and spoke model, creating outdoor spaces and facilities which schools can use as an educational resource with associated educational materials	Already underway	Identified locations for schools to use with accessible associated teaching resources	Coventry City Council Outdoor Education team	Schools, other organisations delivering education training such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	2026–2028
FG18	Food Network – To make further progress towards 'Sustainable Food Places' Bronze Award by strengthening the connectivity between food banks and food growing initiatives across the City and the supporting the development of community food growing initiatives across the city. To explore the opportunities for social subscribing to support community food growing and gardening projects with horticultural therapy and other benefits.	Early development	The numbers of people growing food for local consumption and the Area of land devoted to community food growing.	Coventry City Council Climate Change and Sustainability, Parks, Community Resilience and adult social care	Integrated Care Board, GP's, Canals & Rivers Trust, Housing Associations,	2025–2026
FG19	To support the development of Community Supermarkets and to use them as information points to raise awareness of sustainability and opportunities to access grants and advice relating to food growing, energy efficiency, active travel, public transport etc.	Already underway	No's of people engaged in community food growing projects	Coventry City Council, Coventry Food Network.	Food Network, BiTC, Groundwork	2025–2030+
FG20	Supporting development of social enterprises as vehicles for the delivery of environmental projects, social care and support which help people on low incomes which help local communities to share and repair goods and services by identifying and nurturing potential social–entrepreneurs with interests including Skills and employment training	Not yet commenced	The number of viable community based projects and initiatives which provide services to the public	Coventry City Council	CDA	2027
FG21	City of Culture Green Legacy Projects – building on green futures theme during City of Culture, using arts and culture to engage communities on environmental issues and develop projects	Not yet commenced	Number of people engaged through culture and arts–based initiatives; number of arts–based projects with environmental theme delivered in Coventry	Coventry City Council	Culture Coventry, local creative groups and artists	2025–2030+
FG22	Air Alert and Breathe Easy App for use by residents across the City who have received diagnosis of pulmonary and respiratory health conditions which inform residents of air quality conditions with warnings on days where the pollution levels are high and present a risk and to encourage activity on the majority of days when there is not a significant risk.	Not yet commenced	Number of vulnerable residents satisfaction levels in the use of the app	Integrated Care Board with Coventry City Council	GP's, community nurses care workers etc.	2027

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
FG23	Air quality monitoring(real time) and linking to street activity, beginning with nine air quality monitors which will join a regional air quality sensor network	Already underway	PM2.5, PM10 and NOx pollutant levels measured and tracked to demonstrate stabilisation and improvements in air quality on a local and regional footprint	WMCA, Coventry City Council (Public Health, Environmental Protection)	NHS ICB	2024–2030+
FG24	Improve local air quality (indoor and outdoor) through a reduction in from domestic woodburning stoves, delivered via a behavioural change campaign.	Early stage development	Improvements in air quality at neighbourhood levels, reduction in PM2.5 levels. Residents engaged to in using alternative modes of heating or fuels (including retrofit measures) to create a warmer home.	Coventry City Council (Public Health, Environmental Protection), WMCA, WSP, Behavioural ist.	NHS ICB	2024–2025
FG25	Staff Training To develop a training programme for staff to develop their community participatory and engagement skills with the use of established effective methods for identifying needs and seeking a consensus on ways forward in addressing issues etc e.g. Future Search, guided visualisation, Planning for Real, Participatory Budgeting, citizens juries, participatory appraisal etc.	Not yet commenced	Percentage public satisfaction with CCC consultation and engagement exercises	Coventry City Council and partners linked to the Climate Change Board	Climate Change Board and its members	End of 2025
FG26	To learn from Warwickshire County Councils successful 'Food for Life' Programme in schools, early years settings, care homes and hospitals etc and seek ways of applying an equivalent for Coventry integrating dietary awareness, food growing and cookery skills etc.	Not yet commenced	Schools, Early Years and Care settings joining the Food for Life awards programme, Development of local projects to raise awareness and improve standards and skills associated with food provided within these institutions and the development of key skills relating to healthy eating cooking and food growing.	Coventry City Council (Climate Change and sustainability, education, adult social care)	Food for Life (national charity), Soil association	End of 2026
FG27	Library Service campaign The Library Service will organise special awareness raising events and activities as part of its community programme with the setting up of book sections and public information directories devoted to sustainability and climate change and promoting the services use of environmental technologies to reduce its carbon footprint.	Not yet commenced	Increase in take up and reading of books relating to sustainability and climate change across libraries. This should help lead towards behavioural change and cultural shifts e.g. increased participation rates in recycling, cycling, use of public transport etc.	Coventry City Council Library Service	NGO's and community organisations	End of 2025

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
FG28	Academic Research To work with the Universities in the development of the D School Concept bringing together academics and practitioners from a broad range of faculties and disciplines to look at real life problems and with blue sky creative design thinking problem solve and come up with potential solutions to wicked issues which impact upon sustainability and climate change (Design Thinking solutions to complex sustainability issues)	Already underway	The initiation of innovative projects which come up with creative solutions to difficult to address issues including all areas across the Strategy from Net Zero to Fairer Greener, Circular Economy etc.	Coventry City Council and Climate Change Board members	Universities, University of Warwick already engaging with putting concept into practice	End of 2027
	6. Council Actions					
Training & development						
CCC1	Mandatory staff training programme for climate change and sustainability	Not yet commenced	Launch of training modules/ course for staff / Pilot training pack with the Disabled Employee Network to ensure accessibility for all employees with disabilities. % of staff that have completed training Also engage with staff who do not have the use of English as their first language to ensure communication is accessible.	Climate Change Team to lead whole Council to participate potentially in partnership with other local authorities or professional bodies	Fast Followers Fund UK GOV	By December 2025
CCC2	Bespoke Member and Leadership training for climate change and sustainability	Not yet commenced	% of Leadership team that have completed training % of Members that have completed training	Climate Change Team to lead, all Members and Leadership Board to participate	Neighbouring authorities	By December 2025
CCC3	Create a Green Employee Network, to encourage sustainability champions, share knowledge and offer guidance and support	Early development	Launch of Green Employee Network & CC Strategy Number of staff participating in Network Number of Sustainability Champions Participation in Green Employee Network events New Climate Change Related projects implemented across departments	Climate Change Team to lead with involvement from service areas across the Council	Climate Change Board Member organisations	By March 2025
CCC4	Make taking action on Sustainability a mandatory part of the Council's performance framework, to be embedded in annual appraisal process to consider what are the core competencies and how they can best be measured across the range of activities and disciplines.	Not yet commenced	Number of staff with sustainability objectives captured in annual appraisals	Climate Change Team and Human Resources to implement, every staff member in the organisation to have a sustainability objective		By March 2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC5	Developing the Climate Change Team and wider Environmental and Energy Services to ensure there is appropriate resource, expertise and capacity and co-ordination within the organisation and build external support with partners to address any gaps	Already underway	Internal review of Council teams' structure and identify resource requirements; Implementation of any structure changes identified as required	Council Leadership Board	Climate Change Board potential for secondments between partner organisations?	By December 2025
CCC6	Increase opportunities for Equality, diversity and inclusion within the Climate Change team and wider corporate action on this agenda	Already underway	Number of apprenticeships/ placements/secondments and jobs created in the Climate Change team and across organisations and supporting activities for people with EDI characteristics	Climate Change Team and other Council Environmental and Energy Service areas	Climate Change Board potential for secondments between partner organisations?	2024-2030+
Reporting						
CCC7	Report the progress taken on the Action Plan through the Council's One Coventry Performance Framework, ensuring transparent reporting on progress of the plan	Not yet commenced	Positive progress being made against indicators as reported in the One Coventry Performance Framework	Climate Change Team and Insight Team & Climate Change Board	Climate Change Board	2025-2030
CCC8	Ensure that all Council reporting through the constitution considers environmental and climate impacts, with teams to seek guidance from the Climate Change team as required to ensure this is robust.	Already underway	Number of reports approved by constitution which have considered the environmental and climate impacts of the contents of the report	Governance Services and Climate Change Team	WMCA, Energy Capital	By March 2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC9	Carbon Disclosure Project annual reporting to compare annual progress and how Coventry compares against other cities to help us learn best practice	Already underway	To continually improve our CPD reporting data year by year (2023 score was A-) with a particular focus on establishing ways of improving the accuracy of assessing Scope ! & 2 emissions and attempting to capture Scope 3 emissions wherever possible including the use of invoice carbon footprint analysis by product type as used by private sector corporations.	Climate Change Team	SEP, Climate Change Board, University of Birmingham, University of Warwick, Coventry University, WMCA, Energy Capital	2022–2030+
CCC10	Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS) To continually improve our GDS Score and to enable Coventry as a City to benchmark its sustainability performance as a visitor and tourism destination against other Cities in the UK and across the world using an internationally recognised standard adopted by major cities worldwide. This is an independently verified internationally recognised rating system adopted by Cities across the world.	Already underway	To build upon Coventry's initial good score and to demonstrate continually improvement in creating a sustainable destination of global note by achieving increases in our GDS Score.	Coventry City Council & Destination Coventry	Businesses, The Chamber, Climate Change Board	2023–2030+
Policy and Planning						
CCC11	Strengthen Local Planning Policy to place greater requirements and expectations upon developers for sustainable development in Coventry to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, that needs to go beyond building regulations. This ranges from a) further promote energy conservation in buildings and the development and use of renewables for energy generation. b) further protect and enhance biodiversity. c) promote high quality design that promote active travel. d) ensure accessibility to public transport and active travel and minimise the need for the use of the private motor vehicle. e) further reduce the risk of flooding and minimise the opportunities for heat gain	Already underway	Uplift in environmental standards and sustainability requirements in the Local Plan following review process – Energy policies currently concerning building fabric, affiliation to heat networks and use of renewables being viability tested ahead of upcoming regulation 19 consultation, following on to submission to secretary of state (subject to council authority). Policies to also align with the City's Adaptation and Resilience Strategy & Action Plan covering mitigation of extreme weather events and measures to ensure an effective response should extreme weather events arise.	Climate Change Team and Planning Team Developers		Local Plan Review is due by 2026 Developments ongoing

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC12	Develop a city design code to help deliver the aspirations of the Local Plan Review and Climate Change Strategy, which will ensure consistent design standards applied to support more sustainable development. NPPF consultation suggests initial development of more localised design coding targeting areas of upcoming change in the City	Early development	Development of localised design codes for areas of anticipated change, expect public consultation on initial codes in 2025	Coventry City Council – Climate Change Team and Planning Team	Severn Trent, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Canals & Rivers trust, Environment Agency	2024–2027
CCC13	Development of Place Based Strategy for Coventry, taking a city wide approach to identifying key interventions and investment required over the next 5+ years	Already underway	Levels of public and private funds secured to realise priority investment projects to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth – advancing Coventry as a green future city.	Coventry City Council – Economic Development Service co-ordinating, with input from multiple Service areas, including Employment, Skills & Adult Education; Transport; Property & Development; Climate Change & Sustainability; Housing; Transformation; Public Health; and Digital Services.	Universities, Business Bodies, Colleges, Independent Training Providers, Housing Associations, E.ON (SEP), Developers, WMCA, Other West Midlands Local Authorities, Third sector bodies.	2024–2025
CCC14	Develop a pre-application service to provide expertise and advice to developers on consideration of climate change for new developments, which would fund in-house resource	Not yet commenced	1. Number of resources secured; 2. Number of developers accessing service; 3. Positive changes made to proposed development plans to include for more sustainable development features	Coventry City Council Climate Change and Planning	Developers	Jul-05
Community Involvement & Support						
CCC15	Development and implementation of a Climate Change Communications and Involvement Strategy to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan and ensure a consistent approach to how we engage with communities and help empower them to take action	Early development	Production of Strategy Number of residents, businesses and communities involved and engaged with The Strategy and associated Action plans	Climate Change Team and Communications and Engagement Team, with support from Climate Change Board Pathway Groups, particularly 'Fair Green Futures'	Institute for Public Engagement, BiTC, Climate Change Board.	2025
CCC16	Continue to deliver regular Climate Change Newsletters which people can subscribe to, for regular news and updates from the Council and our Partners	Already underway	Numbers of people accessing E.Newsletter, Levels of awareness of opportunities and initiatives, Levels of engagement in activities and events	Climate Change Team, Climate Change Board	Institute for Public Engagement, BiTC, The Chamber, Climate Change Board.	Ongoing

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC17	Support community groups with bidding for environmental funding opportunities through creation of a web page with up to date opportunities on funding calls, promotion through the newsletter and targeted communications to relevant groups to help ensure we maximise funding opportunities coming into the city to support communities to deliver positive action on climate change	Already underway	Amount of funding secured by community groups for climate projects	Climate Change Team Community Resilience Team Community Groups	WMCA, National Lottery, Heart of England Community Foundation	Ongoing
CCC18	Lobbying Working with partners which could range from community groups, the voluntary, public and private sectors to collectively lobby on particular issues to regional and national government	Not yet commenced	Number of policies changed as a result of lobbying	Coventry City Council plus partners as appropriate	Climate Change Board	Ongoing
Finance and Investment						
CCC19	Green Finance Work with Finance to develop an innovative approach to green investment, which includes looking at opportunities through the UK Infrastructure Bank and Green Finance Institute, crowdfunding models, a natural capital portfolio, opportunities to lever more private investment and reviewing salary sacrifice benefits for staff for green technologies from active travel to retrofit	Not yet commenced	Development of green investment plan for the city and green investment levered from private individuals, businesses, community organisations and charities	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team and Finance Team	Climate Change Board, Spacehive, BWB, WMCA, SEP	Green Investment Plan – by Dec 25, with activity ongoing
CCC20	Continue to explore grant funding opportunities for climate change projects, which includes public and private sector and working with partners as appropriate to develop successful funding bids. This includes reviewing capacity and resource to support this activity to maximise opportunities for securing investment.	Already underway	Amount of green investment levered into the city Number of projects and beneficiaries on the ground	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team and wider Environmental Services and Transport Teams, Finance plus external partners as appropriate	Climate Change Board, Spacehive, BWB, WMCA, SEP	Ongoing
CCC21	Pension Fund To initiate discussion with other local authorities in the WMCA area to introduce a set of sustainability criteria for the West Midlands Pension fund to ensure it supports environmentally sustainable projects and activities.	Not yet commenced although some work underway within the Fund	Amount of investment from West Midlands Pension Fund to support environmentally sustainable projects and activities	Coventry City Council Climate Change Team and Finance Team, WMCA and constituent members	WMCA, West Mids LA's	2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC22	Whole life accounting of investment To learn from other organisations which are looking at accounting methodologies which take account of the full life environmental and sustainability costs of investments and costing the long-term consequences of the environmental impacts upon the economy, environment and society. Seek to implement recommendations into Council processes for cost benefit analysis to inform financial decision making.	Already underway	Service proposals reflect true costs including all full life costs of investment other measures of success developed which reflect the broader definition of sustainability.	Coventry City Council Finance and Climate Change teams	WMCA, Energy Capital	Dec-25
CCC23	Sustainability in Treasury Management Strategy Corporate Finance Team to consider reflecting sustainability and climate change into the existing treasury management strategy which sets the framework for borrowing and investment decisions by the Council.	Not yet commenced	Updated guidance embedded sustainability	Coventry City Council Finance and Climate Change teams	UK100, PCAN	Dec-25
CCC24	Support development of private-public partnerships and ventures that support the Strategy To support the development of appropriate commercial ventures and arms-length companies which are capable of securing investments to address sustainability & climate change issues.	Already underway	Projects and initiative proposals brought forward for consideration	Coventry City Council	Tom White Waste, Business Sustain, SEP	Ongoing
CCC25	Crowdfunding and municipal bonds To consider suitable projects and initiatives (and when to apply them) which may under the right fiscal conditions have the potential to secure public support through the use of Municipal Bonds and crowdfunding.	Not yet commenced	Projects and initiative proposals brought forward for consideration	Coventry City Council	Climate Change Board member organisations	2026+
CCC26	WMCA Devo Deal and Single Settlement Continue to work closely with WMCA to ensure Coventry gets the maximum benefits from the Trailblazer Devolution Deal Settlement for Net Zero and the Environment, alongside decarbonisation of transport and green skills	Already underway	Amount of funding received from WMCA and outcomes from associated projects investment secured against	Coventry City Council	WMCA	2024-2027+
Procurement						
CCC27	Scope 1 and 2 Emissions Reporting Require supply chain to disclose annual Scope 1 & 2 emissions. Potentially do in partnership at a regional level to ensure compliance and help set standards	Not yet commenced	Receipt of annual scope 1 & 2 reports (if possible using CDP verification)	Organisations whose goods and services are procured by CCC	WMCA	2026

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC28	Sustainablility in Corporate Procurement Policy Update the Council's Central Management Framework, review Procurement Strategy and Social Value policy, and produce clear guidance on things to consider when drafting future contract specifications which addresses sustainability and climate change considerations.	Not yet commenced	Updated guidance embedded sustainability	Coventry City Council	WMCA	2026
Energy						
CCC29	Data and reporting Continue to improve the reliability and availability of energy, water and other emissions related data for use in strategic energy planning and progress reporting.	Early Development	Improvements in data quality and availability including use of LAEP as a tool	Coventry City Council Energy Management	SEP, Severn Trent, National Grid, Cadent, CDEC, Corella, WMCA, Energy Capital	Ongoing
CCC30	Developing service to support new heat network and energy regulations and standards Update Facility Management processes to meet new requirements of Heat Network Regulations, Heat Network Zoning and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards	Not yet commenced	Compliance with energy legislation, Clear pricing control mechanism in place and clear plans for future development of heat networks	Coventry City Council Facilities Management	SEP, Universities, developers, Severn Trent	2025
CCC31	Explore new Energy Market opportunities To identify and develop ways for CCC to use its assets to benefit from new Energy Market opportunities such as Flexibility Services and Renewable Energy production, battery storage and innovative solutions	Not yet commenced	Income received and Savings Delivered	Coventry City Council Energy Management	SEP, NPower, EON Next, OEMs	Ongoing
CCC32	To continue to support key Council stakeholders with utility management services includes advice and support on energy efficiency	Already underway	Number of organisations supported	Coventry City Council Energy Management	SEP, CDEC, Npower, Total Energies, Wave	Ongoing
CCC33	Continue to offer at least 2 apprenticeship or training opportunities per year in Energy, Climate Change or Sustainability related fields	Already underway	Number of Apprentices/Employees Supported	Coventry City Council Energy Management Climate Change Team	Coventry College, WMCA, Westdale, Dyson Energy & others	Ongoing
Waste						
CCC34	Increase Council recycling and composting Investigate opportunities to increase recycling facilities across all Council buildings and introduce food composting facilities	Not yet commenced	% of sites with segregated waste facilities % of sites with Food Waste facilities	Coventry City Council Facilities Management and Waste Services	WRAP, Tom White Waste, Systemslink	2026
CCC35	Green Technology Investigate potential opportunities to support end of life processing for green technology that is going to be deployed at scale across public estate (eg. ASHPs, Solar PV, EV charger, EVs)	Not yet commenced	Adopting and applying full Life Cycle Analysis for all goods and services used by the City Council	Coventry City Council Facilities Management	WMG	2026–2030+
Highways						

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
CCC36	Climate Resilient Materials – Investigate materials used in highway maintenance, with a view to ensuring they are climate resilient against periods of extreme heat and rainfall	Not yet commenced	Having established a detailed definition for a new standard of materials and method of construction for use with each category of road and path type including detailing criteria that need to be met.	Coventry City Council Highways Team	TfWM	
CCC37	Use of recycled materials Increase the amount of recycled materials used on roads and pavements across the city.	Already underway	% of recycled materials used in highway schemes	Coventry City Council Highways Team	TfWM	
Streetpride						
CCC38	Nature-friendly planting and maintenance Work with ecology and parks teams to develop more wildlife-friendly planting and maintenance regimes, seeking to rewild areas where appropriate and ensure the highest standards of conservation management are applied with a workforce that have the necessary conservation & countryside management skills. Includes phasing out of pesticides and herbicides alongside greater use of native perennials to provide continual ground cover	Already underway	Training undertaken by maintenance teams Increases in biodiversity across the city and the increasing use of land to support nature conservation Decreasing use of pesticides and herbicides and increase in use of native perennials	Coventry City Council Parks and Open Spaces, and Ecology teams, Estates and Highway Teams	Natural England, Defra Environment Agency, Canals and Rivers Trust, Severn trent, National Grid, Network Rail, TCV, Wildlife Trust, Pershore College	
Transport and Logistics						
CCC39	Staff Sustainable Travel To promote and encourage further uptake of sustainable travel for Council staff for business purposes and commuting, with promotion of active travel and cycle hire, car sharing, a number of electric pool cars for staff to hire, and incentivising public transport use, including thorough initiatives such as salary sacrifice for travel passes and electric cars.	Already underway	Increase of staff commuting to work traveling to work by means other than single occupied private (non EV) car; Increase of staff travelling for work by sustainable modes .	Coventry City Council Transport Team	TfWM	Ongoing
CCC40	Community Care Sustainable Transport To identify transport solutions for reducing the emissions from thousands of daily/weekly trips using private motor cars of domiciliary care and visiting community care health workers	Not yet commenced	A clear plan in place for the reduction in emissions from the usage of private fossil fueled motor vehicles, increasing percentage of staff using modes of transport with lower carbon emissions. Total No of trips and % of trips using zero or low carbon modes of transport	Coventry City Council Adult Social Care & Public Health	NHS, TfWM	

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
Jobs, Skills and Education						
CCC41	Promotion of environmental jobs to diverse ethnic jobseekers To work with HR, the Skills Team and Job Shop, schools, colleges and universities on the promotion of the environmental professions as a career to diverse ethnic jobseekers through positive action with the provision of work experience placements and internships where possible for environmental and sustainability related posts.	Already underway	Number of sustainability internships and apprenticeships created across the City Council	Coventry City Council, Coventry College, Coventry University, University of Warwick, University of Birmingham etc.	Universities, Coventry College, WMG	Sep-26 for finalisation of approach following pilots.
CCC42	Develop a Schools Sustainability Partnership to ensure there is a more consistent and coordinated approach to supporting schools with environmental awareness, energy efficiency throughout Coventry schools, led by the Council working closely with partner organisations	Early development	Launch of partnership; Number of schools participating in programme; Number of training/events held in schools	Coventry City Council Climate Change, Education, Outdoor Education, Sports teams	Coventry College, WMCA, Universities, SEP, Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent, E.ON, Act On Energy, Environment Agency, Living Streets, National Energy Association etc and schools across the city.	Sep-25
CCC43	Support to Schools Linked to the Sustainable Schools Partnership, to support schools where possible with educational programmes to promote awareness and understanding of all environmental and climate change issues and to encourage positive action and behaviour change with increases in the numbers of schools participating in positive initiatives such as Eco-Schools, Food for Life Schools, and Forest Schools.	Not yet commenced	Number of schools participating in environmental initiatives and programmes	Climate Change Team, Education and schools across the city.	Universities, Coventry College, WMG, & third sector organisations e.g. Eco Schools, NAEE, Food for Life etc.	Sep-25
CCC44	Launch of a Green Awards Scheme for Schools to encourage young people to participate in initiatives to increase environmental awareness and help make positive changes in their school environment, as well as at home and in their communities.	Early development	Number of awards given to children in the city	Outdoor Education Team, with support from Climate Change Team and Education Team working with schools across the city	Universities, Coventry College, WMG, & third sector organisations e.g. Eco Schools, NAEE, Food for Life etc.	Sep-25
CCC45	To add sustainability / Energy / Biodiversity related rotation to all CCC Graduate Scheme participants - providing all participants training and skills in these key areas	Not yet commenced although developed and successfully implemented as a pilot for graduate student intake	No of students going through programme and reported satisfaction levels and numbers going on to full time employment	City Council in partnership with the Colleges (Coventry & Fircroft) and Universities	Universities and Colleges, SEP and local major employers	Sep-26 for finalisation of approach following pilots.

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REF	Workstream/Activity	Project Stage	How will success be measured?	Delivery Organisation	Possible Partners	Delivery Timescales
Events						
CCC46	Greener Events To deliver more sustainable events across the city, striving to reduce the impact on the environment of events in terms of travel, consumption, power, waste and biodiversity. This includes striving to achieve accreditations where appropriate, such as 'A Green Festival' which Godiva Festival has achived a bronze status and is now working towards silver.	Already underway	Accreditation status e.g. A Greener Festival which captures carbon footprint, waste and environmental impacts; Development of sustainability framework for smaller events; number of events that are delivered using framework	Coventry City Council	Any event organisers	2024–2030+
Sports						
CCC47	Sustainable sports facilities Reduce the environmental impact of the city's sports centres, in line with Sport England's environmental sustainability strategy, Your Move (2024)	Already underway	Energy consumption, bills reduction, carbon reduction, waste reduction	Coventry City Council and CV Life	Strategic Energy Partnership	2024–2026+
Culture						
CCC48	Greener Futures Cultural Legacy work closely with the arts and culture sector to promote and support behavioural and environmental changes to address the climate crisis and encourage green activism. Arts and culture model circular economy practices and principles in production and programming that bring fun, interactive and entertaining activities to celebrate and sustain the city's green and other heritage sites.	Not yet commenced	Number of projects co-created, number of community members involved in projects; investment secured against cultural projects	Coventry City Council	Coventry Culture Strategy Partnership, Coventry Culture Works	2025–2027+

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Council – 3 December 2024

Recommendation from Cabinet 5 November 2024

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Present:

Cabinet Members:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair) Councillor N Akhtar Councillor L Bigham Councillor R Brown Councillor K Caan Councillor J O'Boyle Councillor P Seaman Councillor K Sandhu
Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor S Agboola Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Hayre Councillor S Nazir Councillor D Toulson
Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor P Male Councillor E Reeves Councillor G Ridley
Other Non-Voting Members	Councillor R Lakha Councillor C E Thomas

Employees: (by Service)

Chief Executive	Julie Nugent (Chief Executive)
Adult Services and Housing	P Fahy (Director of Adult Services and Housing), M Donovan
City Services and Commercial	C Styles
Policy and	

Communications	N Hart
Finance and Resources	B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources)
Law and Governance	J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), M Salmon
Regeneration and Economy	A Williams (Director of Regeneration and Economy), R Palmer
Apologies:	Councillor S Gray Councillor L Harvard Councillor P Hethrton Councillor A Jobbar Councillor G Lloyd

Public Business

31. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

35. **University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Consultation Update and Proposed Adoption**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services and Commercial, that would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 3rd December 2024, that sought approval of the adoption of the University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), following statutory public consultation. The SPD provided a framework for guiding the level and broad location of growth on the main University of Warwick campus as well as design principles to be considered when assessing future planning applications on the campus. Appendices to the report provided the Statement of Consultation, the Schedule of Proposed Amendments, the Amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and the Equalities Impact Assessment.

The SPD provided supplementary guidance to Policy JE1 (Overall Economy and Employment Strategy) and CO1 (New or Improved Social, Community and Leisure Premises) - of the adopted Coventry Local Plan.

The SPD could only be adopted as an SPD following statutory public consultation and then subsequent formal adoption by Cabinet and Council. Following initial approval by Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities in April 2024 (their minute 16/23 referred), a public consultation was held from Friday 24th May to 5th July 2024. It was intended that the SPD was now adopted so that it could be used to help assist with decision making on planning applications.

Cabinet agreed to recommend that Council:

1) Notes the Statement of Consultation Report attached as Appendix 1 to the report and the Schedule of Proposed Amendments attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

2) Adopts the amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends that Council:

1) Notes the Statement of Consultation Report at Appendix 1 to the report and the Schedule of Proposed Amendments at Appendix 2 to the report.

2) Adopts the amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) at Appendix 3 to the report.

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Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

Cabinet 5 November 2024
Council 3 December 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor N Akhtar

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director of City Services and Commercial

Ward(s) affected:
All Wards

Title:
University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Consultation Update and Proposed Adoption

Is this a key decision?

No – although this affect all wards of the city, the proposals are not expected to have a significant effect on communities

Executive Summary:

The purpose of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide a framework for guiding the level and broad location of growth on the main University of Warwick campus as well as design principles to be considered when assessing planning applications on the campus.

The SPD provides supplementary guidance to Policy JE1 (Overall Economy and Employment Strategy) and CO1 (New or Improved Social, Community and Leisure Premises) - of the adopted Coventry Local Plan and is intended to assist with the determination of future planning applications.

The SPD can only be adopted as SPD following statutory public consultation and then subsequent formal adoption at Cabinet and Council. Following initial Cabinet Member approval in April 2024, a public consultation was held from Friday 24th May to 5th July 2024. It is intended that the SPD is now adopted so that it can be used to help assist with decision making on planning applications.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is requested to recommend that Council:

1) Note the Statement of Consultation Report at Appendix 1 to the report and the Schedule of Proposed Amendments at Appendix 2 to the report.
2) Adopt the amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) at Appendix 3 to the report.

Council is recommended to:

1) Note the Statement of Consultation Report at Appendix 1 to the report and the Schedule of Proposed Amendments at Appendix 2 to the report.

2) Adopt the amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) at Appendix 3 to the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Statement of Consultation
Appendix 2: Schedule of Proposed Amendments
Appendix 3: Amended University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Background papers:

None.

Other useful documents

Adopted Local Plan 2017 - https://www.coventry.gov.uk/planning-policy/coventry-local-plan-2011-2031

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 – Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – 16 April 2024
https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=739&MId=13166

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 3 December 2024

Report title: University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Consultation Update and Proposed Adoption

1. **Context (or background)**

1.1 The SPD would provide supplementary planning guidance to policy JE1 of the adopted Coventry City Council Local Plan 2011-2031. Policy JE1 (Overall Economy and Employment Strategy) states that 'The Council will work positively and proactively with the business community in the city, inward investors, the City's two universities, key public sector employers, the CWLEP and neighbouring local authorities to support sustainable economic growth and job creation', part h of the policy specifically references supporting tourism and visitor related development including the campus and Warwick University, and part i of the policy supports the continued growth of the universities. Policy CO1 (New or improved social, community and leisure premises'), Part 3 states: 'Where proposals are in accordance with the approved Masterplans for Coventry University or the University of Warwick they will normally be approved subject to high quality design proposals'. There is currently no such Masterplan in place for the area.

1.2 SPD's are non-statutory documents which can be used to cover a wide range of issues giving detailed guidance on how policies or proposals in the development plan documents will be implemented. Accordingly, they can take the form of a design guide, development brief, masterplan or an issue-based document. The SPD proposed in this report will provide a more detailed masterplan framework as well as the supplementary guidance to assist with the determination of future planning applications made in relation to the University of Warwick campus.

1.3 The University's main campus straddles the administrative boundaries of Coventry and Warwick District, with the majority of the academic faculty buildings being located in Coventry and residential accommodation and sports facilities being largely located within Warwick District. It is important therefore that the SPD is also consistent with Warwick's relevant Local Plan policy. Furthermore, it should be noted that Warwick are also proposing to adopt the SPD with a report being taken to their Cabinet meeting on 17 October 2024.

1.4 The Coventry Local Plan acknowledges the important role of the University in supporting the local economy and the need for the University to be able to grow within its existing boundaries and develop as a Higher Education facility of international importance.

1.5 As the document seeks to clarify the University's plans for future development on campus and their proposed location, planning consultants Turleys were appointed by the University to lead on the drafting of the document and there has also been input from a range of other consultants. However, officers representing Warwick District Council, Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council reviewed various drafts of the SPD via a Steering Group. Specific sub-groups were also used to progress certain matters such as ecology and heritage and there was engagement with external bodies including National Highways. The comments shaped the consultation version of the Framework Masterplan SPD.

<u>Scope and content of the SPD consulted upon</u>

1.6 The SPD addresses the planning policy context (both existing and emerging) and then the current campus context by explaining existing land uses and assets. The SPD

covers the entirety of the main University campus, and so addresses land in both Warwick District and Coventry City Council areas.

1.7 The document explains that the long-term vision of the University is based on five strategic priorities: innovation; inclusion; regional leadership; internationalisation; and sustainability. The SPD seeks to give an indication of the longer-term delivery vision up to 2050, however the SPD specifies the detailed capital projects likely to be delivered by 2033.

1.8 A number of key proposals are identified up to 2033:

a) A new Social Sciences Quarter including the new Business School (within the Warwick District area – outline application W/23/0195 already approved)

b) The Science Precinct – redevelopment and refurbishment of Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) facilities on central campus and creation of a new University Green (within the Coventry City area – hybrid application PL/2023/0002402/OUTM approved 9th July 2024)

c) A new Energy Innovation Centre (within Coventry)

d) Extension of Scarman House, Post Experience Centre, including additional bedspaces (within Warwick)

e) 'Solar arrays' – two separate large scale photovoltaic installations to generate renewable energy (within Warwick).

1.9 The SPD also proposes the potential creation of an Eco-Park combining ecological, recreational and energy generation initiatives. However, this is dependent on the return of land from HS2 Ltd, the extent of which is currently unknown.

1.10 The SPD states that the University anticipates providing 1,200 net additional student bedspaces on or immediately adjoining the campus.

1.11 In consultation with the highway authorities, the University modelled the traffic generation from 31,000m^2 of new development on campus over and above the recent approval of the Social Sciences Quarter (outline application W/23/0195), as well as previous planning applications including the Capital Plan Hybrid application (OUT/2018/2115) within the Coventry area. Accounting for known projects to be pursued up to 2033, this leaves a capacity of 13,000m^2 of floorspace to allow for other projects to come forward over the period to 2033. If any projects come forward resulting in additional floorspace to the 31,000m^2 gross/13,000m^2 further net floorspace, additional modelling work would be required.

1.12 Alongside the specific proposals identified, there are a number of strategic design principles to guide future development on campus focusing on delivering higher density development in the Campus Core, providing pedestrian-focused development and active public spaces, delivering landmark design to aid wayfinding and integrating nature by connecting habitats and corridors.

1.13 The SPD breaks the campus down into 6 distinct character areas – Campus Core, Residential Fringe, Gibbet Hill, Science Park, Westwood and Green Fringe. In recognising the distinct characteristics of those areas, design principles are included to provide a framework for development proposals within those locations.

1.14 The main transport and movement strategy of the SPD focuses on reducing single occupancy trips to and from campus, maintaining accessibility through and around campus for all users (especially sustainable, non-car modes) and offering choice to incentivise behavioural change and enhance the environmental sustainability of the

campus. The University has been successful in recent years in achieving a modal shift of travel movement by implementing a number of measures to encourage walking and cycling as well as use of rail and bus and is pursuing further measures in this regard (including Demand Responsive Transport for 'last mile' journeys). The strategy also addresses the more strategic and longer-term possibilities including the potential for the campus to be served by Very Light Rail in future.

1.15 The trip generation and traffic modelling informed the proposed Framework Section 106 and associated 'Monitor and Manage' approach. The 'Monitor and Manage' approach is an alternative to the traditional 'predict and provide' approach of using past trends to determine future need (it is noted that the traditional 'predict and provide' approach is criticized in the government's recent consultation[1] on reforms to the planning system). Instead, the 'Monitor and Manage' approach allows travel behaviour to be monitored, allowing identification of necessary, and more targeted, mitigation measures to address the specific impacts from particular proposals. This was addressed in the SPD and the Framework s106 Obligations tables appended. Where development comes forward outside of the floorspace limits or for uses not assessed through the SPD, a separate Transport Assessment would be required.

1.16 The SPD also addresses other transport considerations including the A46 Strategic Link Road project, which is not considered necessary to support the quantum of growth specified within the SPD. The potential new railway station and transport interchange to serve the University and south Coventry is also addressed and whilst is currently unfunded, it remains an aspiration and a project for further investigation.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal.

2.1 Do Nothing (Not Recommended)

An alternative option is to not adopt the SPD. This is not recommended as there would remain a lack of planning guidance to assist with the determination of planning applications and it would also prevent decision making on how s106 monies could be spent via the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board and University of Warwick Transport Board.

2.2 Adopt the SPD (Recommended)

This would enable further elaboration on adopted Local Plan policy in line with its commitments. It will provide the necessary guidance and clarification to developers and applicants so that they are clear about what needs to be provided, how much and when. They will also be clear about the mitigation measures which will be required to address any issues associated with the impact of developments.

This SPD will strengthen the Council's negotiating position in seeking to ensure that the infrastructure provision and mitigation measures, which have been identified as a direct result of the proposal, is fully justified. It will also provide greater clarity in respect of the negotiation process and assist in accelerating the process of determining planning applications.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. Appendix 1 to the report provides the Statement of Consultation, including the consultation process, methods of engagement and summary of issues raised.

3.2. A total of 42 responses were received from a range of stakeholders including statutory consultees, local residents and planning agents. Specifically, responses were received from 19 local residents, 5 planning agents/developers, The Coventry Society, the Coal Authority, the Environment Agency, Guide Dogs, Historic England, Kenilworth Town Council, Natural England, the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, Transport for West Midlands, a Warwick District councillor, Warwickshire County Council (Strategic Planning & Infrastructure and Archaeology Services), Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council, and West Midlands Police.

3.3. A number of residents raised concerns regarding higher concentrations of student houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), and associated issues of antisocial behaviour, noise and litter. It should be noted that there is an Article 4 Direction in place for parts of Coventry which have removed permitted development rights for changes of use of a house or flat to a small HMO. The University predicts that 1,200 additional bedspaces are required to support the level of growth proposed up to 2033 and the SPD states that these are intended to be provided on, or immediately adjacent to, the campus. The SPD also states that there has been a downward trend in terms of the number of students residing in Leamington and this is expected to continue. No amendments are therefore proposed to the SPD, however any issues relating to noise, anti-social behaviour or refuse should be reported to the relevant authority for further investigation.

3.4. The Warwickshire County Council Strategic Planning & Infrastructure team have requested further detail in relation to the quantum and types of additional floorspace and numbers of expected staff and students that were accounted for in the modelling. They also raised some concerns in relation to the Framework s106 and 'Monitor and Manage' approach. Further discussions have taken place with WCC to better understand the concerns and they have requested additional clarity in relation to the Monitor and Manage approach. Further still, they have sought confirmation that monies will be index linked from the date of SPD adoption, and requested that the 'Framework s106' references are removed, but confirmation provided that the 'Monitor and Manage' approach is legally binding and to be progressed by a Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board. Terms of Reference have been drafted for the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board, with representation from Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council and the University of Warwick. The purpose of the group is to monitor, co-ordinate and implement the 'monitor and manage' principles and to propose recommendations as to how the s106 monies are to be spent. These recommendations are then considered by the University of Warwick Transport Board comprising senior representatives from the University, Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council for formal consideration and decision making. Corrective or preventative action at trigger points is therefore determined by the Transport Board following recommendations from the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board. This includes monitoring and expediting the obligations and requirements set out in any s106 agreements. These amendments have been carried forward into the final version of the SPD.

3.5. In terms of other transport issues raised, there was widespread support for measures to promote sustainable transport and the principal of a new railway station and transport interchange to serve the university over the longer term, albeit the delivery and funding challenges were noted.

3.6. A number of respondents requested additional clarity in relation to the Eco-park proposal and there was a specific request that the Eco-park supports, and helps extend, reconnected areas of ancient woodland like Black Waste Wood, Broadwell Wood, Whitefield Coppice, Roughknowles Wood and Crackley Wood. Whilst the University are aware of the interest in the Eco-park and are committed to its delivery, the project will be contingent on the return of land from HS2. The University note the aspirations and will give further consideration to the proposal, issuing additional detail in due course. If planning approval is required, there would of course be the option of inputting at that stage.

3.7. The Guide Dogs charity also raised concerns with the principle of shared surfaces and shared pedestrian and cycle lanes, owing to difficulties and potential dangers faced by the blind community. The concerns have been raised with the University. All parties are committed to ensure that the campus is safe and navigable by all students, staff and visitors. If shared surfaces or shared cycle lanes are proposed, they will be subject to detailed assessment and audit and all efforts will be taken to ensure that any schemes are designed and engineered in a way that does not pose risks to members of the blind community. Planning permission is likely to be required for such schemes and there would be an opportunity to input further, and suggest amendments, at that stage.

3.8. A number of technical consultees requested the addition of references to particular studies and these have been added where necessary.

3.9. A number of planning consultants submitted representations in support of 'call for sites' submissions as part of Local Plan processes, all of which were beyond the confines of the SPD area but were within broad proximity of the campus. The site allocation process is clearly outside the scope of the SPD, therefore these submissions could be considered as part of plan making processes.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The decision will be implemented as soon as practicable.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report

5.2. Legal implications

The legislation relevant to the production of SPDs is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The SPD has been produced in accordance with the relevant planning regulations and if adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document, it would become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan (https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan)

The SPD will accord with the One Coventry Plan, particularly in terms of supporting and articulating the role of the University of Warwick in increasing economic prosperity, improving outcomes and tackling inequalities in communities and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change.

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

An internal risk log has been developed and will be updated as progress is made or changes occur and will be reviewed at the monthly Plan Review meeting held between officers and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.

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

There will be a staffing and resource impact from these proposals in order to deliver upon the stated timelines, however these are anticipated to be absorbed within current staffing provision.

6.4. **Equality/ EIA**

An Equality and Impact Assessment (EqIA) was produced and was published as part of the public consultation – see Appendix 4 to the report.

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

The proposals set out in the SPD seek to deliver environmental enhancement and mitigate the effects of climate change. Any future development on the site would be required to comply with Development Plan Policies that address the natural environment and climate change. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report was also produced for the three statutory consultation bodies to review (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) and was published as part of the consultation.

6.6. **Implications for partner organisations?**

This SPD is being produced jointly with Warwick District Council and aims to further articulate policy masterplan detail for the University of Warwick.

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University of Warwick Campus Framework Masterplan SPD: Consultation Statement

September 2024

Introduction

1. The Campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared jointly by Coventry City Council, Warwick District Council and the University of Warwick with support from Warwickshire County Council.

2. It gives effect to local plan policies which guide how the campus should develop and sets out a series of capital projects likely to be delivered by 2033 within the context of a longer-term vision to 2050.

3. The University works closely with the three local authorities and engages with local communities to ensure its operations, including new development on campus, are managed to avoid or minimise potential impacts on neighbouring areas and that they contribute positively to the local economy and the environment.

4. This statement sets out the process and outcomes from the public consultation carried out for the SPD during 2024.

Town and Country Planning Regulations

5. The draft SPD was produced jointly by Coventry City and Warwick District Councils in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The relevant regulations relating to the consultation process are set out below.

    - **Regulation 12: (a)** requires the Council(s) to produce a consultation statement before adoption of the SPD. This must set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised, and how these issues were incorporated into the SPD. **(b)** requires the Council(s) to publish the documents for a minimum 4 week consultation, specify the date when responses should be received and identify the address to which responses should be sent.

    - **Regulation 35:** requires the Council(s) to make documents available by taking the following steps; make the document available at the principal offices and other places within the area that the Council(s) consider appropriate; publish the document on the Councils' websites.

The Consultation Process

6. The draft SPD was prepared between October 2023 and March 2024. This involved a steering group chaired by Council officers and serviced by the University.

7. Warwick District approved the draft SPD for consultation in March 2024 and Coventry City Council approved the consultation in April 2024.

8. The consultation period was for 6 weeks, starting on 24 May 2024 and closing on 5 July 2024.

9. The Councils complied with the legislative requirements for consulting on an SPD, as well as the requirements set out in the Councils' own adopted Statements of Community Involvement.

10. This included:

- Notification being sent to statutory consultees.
- Hard copies of the SPD being available at:
  - Coventry City Council- all libraries within the Council's area
  - Warwick District council- Council Customer Services at the Royal Pump Rooms, One Stop shops/libraries around the district and Brunswick Healthy Living Centre.
- An online version of the SPD being available on both the Coventry and Warwick District Council websites and signposted from the University of Warwick website.
- Details of the consultation being available on the Councils' websites.

11. The Councils' websites invited comments via email. The Warwick District consultation portal allowed comments to be submitted online.

12. On 4 June 2024, a public consultation event was held at the University of Warwick Main Campus for local community stakeholders.

13. Attendees were encouraged to provide written responses to the Consultation via the website.

14. In addition, councillor briefings were held with portfolio holders and ward members from Coventry City and Warwick District Councils, and portfolio holders from Warwickshire County Council.

15. A total of 42 responses were received to the consultation.

Issues Raised

16. A summary schedule of changes to the SPD text is set out at **Appendix B**.

17. Many respondents made similar points during the consultation and all the main ones are summarised in the table below, along with the responses.

Issue	Response
Net-zero aspirations	Noted that the Net Zero Carbon DPD is now adopted. The draft text of the SPD was written in accordance with the emerging DPD. The SPD text has been amended to refer to the adoption of the Net Zero Carbon DPD and SPD in May 2024. Reference to Passivhaus standard has been added to the text.

Biodiversity	Reference will be made to Warwick District Council's Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy which is considered a model for good practice for the restoration of nature.
References for the economic benefit of the University Campus	A reference to the economic benefit of the Campus has been included in the SPD text to provide context to the £1bn figure.
Highways including - impacts on the highways network - reference to existing Transport Plans - references to the A46 link road, references to peak time queuing on the Stoneleigh Road/Kenilworth Road/Gibbet Hill roundabout; - query as to whether potential future development at Westwood/Science Park has been modelled in relation to traffic - query regarding Arts Centre access; - query from TfWM regarding how routes and associated junctions can facilitate mitigation to accommodate additional trips; - query from TfWM in terms of presenting road safety statistics	Traffic modelling has been completed in accordance with a methodology agreed with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and National Highways. There is a commitment to monitor and manage transport impacts over the lifetime of the SPD, with a transport fund available to implement mitigation if required. A number of text alterations have been made to ensure references to the A46 link road are clear. Reference will be made to the Campus Travel Plan, West Midlands Local Transport Plan, and the Coventry Area Strategy. Detailed assessment of the traffic impacts of the SPD has been completed using WCC's Kenilworth and Stoneleigh Wide Area (KSWA) model, a microsimulation model developed in Paramics (computer software) by SLR on behalf of WCC. A number of scenarios have been tested in accordance with WCC's Model Use Protocol (MUP). The Gibbet Hill Road/Kenilworth Road/Stoneleigh Road Island is referenced in the modelling. The SPD's additional vehicle trips - less than two additional vehicle movements per minute - are comfortably within the typical daily variation of link flows across the local highway network. Traffic modelling has been completed in accordance with a methodology agreed with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and National Highways. There is a commitment to monitor and manage transport impacts over the lifetime of the SPD, with a transport fund available to implement mitigation if required. A number of text alterations have been made to ensure references to the A46 link road are clear. Reference will be made to the Campus Travel Plan, West Midlands Local Transport Plan, and the Coventry Area Strategy. Detailed assessment of the traffic impacts of the SPD has been completed using WCC's Kenilworth and Stoneleigh Wide Area (KSWA) model, a microsimulation model developed in Paramics (computer software) by SLR on behalf of WCC. A number of scenarios have been tested in accordance with WCC's Model Use Protocol (MUP). The Gibbet Hill Road/Kenilworth Road/Stoneleigh Road Island is referenced

in the modelling. The SPD's additional vehicle trips - less than two additional vehicle movements per minute - are comfortably within the typical daily variation of link flows across the local highway network.

As reported in the SPD and presented in the supporting Trip Generation and Modelling Assessment Technical Note, a robust approach to highway modelling has been completed, assessing the impact of the SPD on both the strategic and local road network. Agreement on the assessment methodology and conclusions of the modelling has been reached by all highway authorities.

Without the SPD, queueing at the Stoneleigh Road/Gibbet Hill Road/Kenilworth Road roundabout (Junction 50 within WCC's KSWA model) is anticipated to slightly worsen in the future years as a result of background traffic growth.

The SPD trip generation demonstrates that it will generate less than two additional vehicle trips per minute during the busiest peak hours. Given the limited impacts of the SPD, no highway mitigation is required, and the SPD would not have an unacceptable safety impact or severe residual cumulative impact on the local highway network or strategic road network. There is an ongoing commitment to monitoring and managing transport impacts over the lifetime of the SPD, with a transport fund available to implement mitigation measures should trigger points be met. Further detail on this is provided with the SPD.

The SPD trip generation and modelling is based on an additional 31,000 sqm floorspace. Any additional floorspace above this figure would be subject to further modelling. Both the Science Park and Westwood Campus are identified as "two further areas of wider change which sit outside of the SPD proposals". Consequently, they have not been included within the trip generation assessment or strategic modelling undertaken as part of the SPD.

Full details on accessing the Warwick Arts Centre are available online: https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/visit-us/getting-here/. This includes access by car, bus, train and cycle. It also provides information on parking and a link to pre-book parking.

Extensive and robust traffic modelling has been completed in accordance with a scope agreed by WCC and National Highways. The distribution of University vehicle trips is based on turning count data and mobile network data (MND), reflecting the locations of car parking across the Campus. Para. 4.14 of the 'Trip Generation and Modelling Assessment' details the assumptions that have been applied to reassigning displaced car parking demand.

	The models are highly dynamic and complex, particularly given that there are areas of congestion across nearby parts of the modelled network in the 2029 and 2037 scenarios. Therefore, in the future the distribution of traffic around the University may alter to avoid delay elsewhere on the network. WCC, CCC and NH all agree that no highways mitigation is necessary to facilitate the SPD. Consequently, there is consensus that the local highway network can accommodate forecast additional trips. That said, funding from the Monitor and Manage Transport Fund could be made available, subject to agreement between all parties, towards highways mitigation if absolutely necessary. The University takes safety across the Campus very seriously and is constantly seeking ways to improve safety by all modes. Monitoring of collisions is an evolving and continuous process and taking a snapshot of collisions for inclusion with a 10-year SPD is not considered appropriate. Detailed collision analysis was provided within the recent Transport Assessments that supported the WSS and STEM applications. Ensuring improvements in safety will be a key consideration of the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board.
Delivery of University Station	Delivery of the station is subject to a number of engineering and financial challenges being overcome, including providing significant rail capacity upgrades between Coventry and Kenilworth. Whilst the station is referenced in the SPD as an ambition, ultimately delivery will be contingent on the South Warwickshire Local Plan and a delivery programme that is facilitated by the DfT, Network Rail, rail operators, Warwickshire County Council's Transport team and any other key stakeholders. The elements referenced in the representation are therefore considered to be beyond the scope of the SPD.
Public transport – buses and pollution caused by buses; potential impact of Wellesbourne shuttle bus	The University contribute financially towards two early morning bus services with National Express which serve the campus. Monitoring of student addresses demonstrates that there has been a reduction in the number of students who live in and travel to the campus from Leamington Spa. Notwithstanding this, Warwickshire County Council have recently secured funding from the Department for Transport to roll out zero emissions buses across the County. In addition, the University are committed to monitoring and managing transport

	impacts, including public transport over the lifetime of the SPD. Students make up only a proportion of total bus users. It is not the role of the SPD to address wider transport/public transport issues in Leamington. No text changes to the SPD are proposed in this regard. The proposed shuttle service forming part of the Transport Obligations for the Main Campus SPD is not intended to replace existing public bus services.
Archaeological potential	Plan 21 and the supporting text has been changed to align with the assessment of Warwickshire's County Archaeologist. This is in relation to the area around Cryfield House Farm and Cryfield Grange Farm which is now identified as high potential. Until the South Warwickshire Local Plan is adopted, policies HE1-HE4 of the adopted Local Plan provide the policy basis for considering archaeology and heritage matters as part of the assessment of a planning application. Heritage and conservation officers have contributed to the document and comments received will be duly considered.
Heritage significance	Minor edits to the text in response to Historic England's comments on the assessment of the impact on the significance of a heritage asset in line with local and national policy and guidance.
Future Eco Park	As noted within the draft SPD, any land use (including energy generating uses) would be assessed against the relevant green belt policy. Plans for the Eco Park are at a very early stage. The potential for how the Eco Park could assist in the reconnection of ancient woodlands will be considered as plans develop.
Flood Risk	Hydraulic Modelling has been undertaken to assess the surface water flood risk. This has concluded that although surface water flooding is still present across part of the Campus, it is not as severe or frequent than identified on the Environmental Agency's online map. Future development on the Campus should therefore refer to the Hydraulic Modelling as a baseline model for the assessment of surface water flooding across the Campus. Additional text has been added to the SPD following the update to the Hydraulic Model.
Projected student population growth and student	The SPD notes that the current ratio of on/immediately adjacent to campus student accommodation to students is

accommodation (on and off campus)	expected to be maintained. Any planning applications for purpose built student accommodation by the University or third parties would be assessed against relevant national and local adopted policy at the time of submission. The University will monitor the provision of student accommodation by third parties immediately adjacent to campus. Coventry City Council are in the process of undertaking a study of student accommodation across their jurisdiction. This will feed in to policies in the revised Coventry Local Plan and help inform the South Warwickshire Local Plan.
Impacts of students to residents of Leamington Spa and Kenilworth	The University of Warwick is committed to working closely with its neighbours for the wider benefit of the community. In liaison with Warwick District Council, the University part funds a Student Housing Officer in Leamington Spa to manage any issues arising regarding students in the town. A financial contribution is also made by the University to Warwick District Council related to waste management. Warwick District Council currently has an Article 4 Direction in place for parts of Leamington which has removed permitted development rights for changes of use from a house or flat to a small HMO. Since 2017, Policy H6 provides the current policy basis for determining applications for housing in multiple occupation and student accommodation. This includes certain restrictions (e.g. HMOs not exceeding 10% of total dwelling units within a 100m radius of the proposal, no continuous frontage of 3 or more HMOs etc). The policy will be reconsidered as part of the Local Plan Review/South Warwickshire Local Plan process. The SPD is supplementing policy MS1 of the Local Plan. As of 18th January 2024, Houses in Multiple Occupation became licensable. Further information is available at https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20163/private_housing/179/houses_in_multiple_occupation . Furthermore, HMO standards regarding noise and antisocial behaviour are set out in the Council's HMO Landlords Guide. Any concerns in relation to the management and protection of listed buildings should be reported to the Council's Conservation Officer for further investigation in the first instance. Listed buildings are designated by Historic England but locally listed buildings and designated by Councils. Noise and any other environmental health complaints should be reported to the Council's Environmental Health team for further investigation. Serious incidents should be reported to the police if people feel threatened or where people are breaking the law.

	Contributions from the University towards policing in Leamington are not considered to meet the legal tests for planning obligations as set out in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (i.e. necessary, directly related to the development and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development). However, the suggestion has been passed on to the University for further consideration. No amendments are proposed to the text of the draft SPD.
Shared spaces and street furniture – implications for the those with visual impairments	Edits made to Design Principle 3 and Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy text with regards to public realm and accessibility.
NHS Integrated Care Board – request for commitment to delivery of health centre, or potential s106 contributions	The University remain in discussions with the NHS regarding the potential for a new health centre on campus to serve the student population, to replace the existing Health Centre on Health Centre Road.
Pedestrian access from Charter Avenue	There are no current proposals to implement a pedestrian access from Charter Avenue, however, this is something which the University will review, through liaison with the local community.

UoW SPD proposed amendments to text – September 2024.

1. This note sets out the proposed amendments to the draft SPD text following receipt of comments made through the public consultation process.

Location in document/page/plan number	Details of changes proposed	Comments	Proposed text amendments (amended text in italics)
Page 3	Amend text to refer to consultation process and adoption	Text updated for review	*A public consultation on the draft SPD was launched by both local authorities between Friday 24 May 2024 and Friday 5 July 2024.* *All feedback has been reviewed and where appropriate, amendments to the SPD have been made*.
Page 5	Amend text to refer to Net Zero Carbon DPD as adopted	Text updated for review	*Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since produced a Net-zero Carbon DPD which has been through Examination in Public, the DPD was adopted on 24th May 2024. The objectives of the DPD are to minimise carbon emissions from new buildings and to support national and local carbon reduction targets. Alongside the DPD sits the Net Zero Carbon SPD which sets out further advice and guidance to applicants and relevant stakeholders on how to comply with the DPD policies. The SPD* was also

			adopted by the Council on 24th May 2024.
Page 7	Footnote to be added to provide context to £1 billion economic impact figure	Requested from Andrew Todd. Footnote to be added if publicly available document.	Footnote added referencing the following University website- Our impact (warwick.ac.uk)
Page 8	Amend text for SP4 to refer to safe and secure environment	Text updated for review	*To create an accessible, inclusive, safe, secure and people focused environment.*
Page 9	Amend text to refer to Net Zero Carbon DPD as adopted	Text updated for review	*This is in line with national and local policies including the adopted Net Zero Carbon DPD and SPD.*
Page 11	Amend text to refer to all users of shared spaces	Text updated	*Where opportunities arise as part of new development and can safely accommodate all users, the pedestrian environment will be further enhanced through consideration of shared surfaces, downgrading of road space, environmental improvements, including sensitively designed and located street furniture and potential closures (refer to Plan 16)*
Page 13	Amend text to state that any proposals for energy generating uses in the Eco Park would be assessed against Green Belt policy at the time of submission	Text updated for review	*Potentially energy generating uses (proposals for any such uses to be addressed against relevant Green Belt policy at the time of submission).*

Page 14	Amend text so it states 11 projects not 10 for consistency with list of projects.	Text updated for review	There are a further *11* potential projects…
Page 17	Green Fringe – EA have requested that text be added to refer to any development in the Green Fringe be a minimum of 8m from the top of the bank of watercourses.	BDP have advised this is acceptable	Green Fringe text to be amended to state that "*Any proposals within the Green Fringe should be set a minimum distance of 8m from the top bank of any watercourse*"
Page 18	Add in reference to the Local Transport Plan and Coventry Area Strategy. Amend 'moves' to 'modes' in two locations	Text updated for review	New section called '*Other Considerations'* to be added with the following additional text ***West Midlands Local Transport Plan 5*** *The University endorses TfWM's Local Transport Plan (LTP) 5 which sets out policies to promote safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within the region. The statutory policy has a vision "for creating safe, reliable and affordable connections for everyone that are healthy, sustainable and efficient to create great places where generations will thrive". This is to be achieved through implementing a range of plans and strategies with the overarching aims to reduce single occupancy car*

			usage and promote public transport and active travel. ***Coventry Area Strategy*** *As set out in TfWM's LTP Core Strategy, an Area Strategy for Coventry is being developed in partnership between TfWM and CCC to apply and tailor principles and policies from the LTP to the local area. The University will work with TfWM and CCC to identify transport interventions for neighbourhoods around the campus and along key transport corridors to support the transport and movement objectives of this SPD.* ***Campus Travel Plan*** – the following text to be added on page 18 after *"…viable non-car alternatives for campus users to consider."* *"This is embedded within the University's Travel Plan which was subject to a comprehensive review and refresh in 2024, supported by extensive surveys and to be monitored biennially against ambitious targets."* ***Future Transport Zone -*** page 18 text to be amended so that it reads as follows*:* *"A close collaboration with local and regional authorities has seen the*

			campus as a testbed for new and emerging transport technologies. For example, the Future Transport Zone partnership between the University and TfWM brought showcase project to campus such as e-scooters, car clubs and demand-responsive services which has brought about significant progress in transport innovation." Links to these documents to be added at bottom of page.
Page 19	University of Warwick Station – add text to refer to financial challenges which need to be overcome before the station can be developed	Text updated for review	*Delivery of the station would be subject to a number of engineering and financial challenges being overcome, including providing significant rail capacity upgrades between Coventry and Kenilworth*.
Page 19	Add in reference to Campus travel plan	Reference added to Page 18	
Page 20	Amend text to consideration of the needs of all users in the design of enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes. Amend text to refer to new cycle parking being appropriately designed	Text amended	*New and enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes will be designed in accordance with local guidance and the Government's National Design Guide, 'Local Transport Note 1/20 – Cycle Infrastructure Design' (LTN 1/20) and 'Active Design Guidance, taking into consideration the needs of all users.*

			To accommodate the expected uplift in active travel up to 2033 and beyond, adequate, appropriately designed cycle parking….
Page 21	Add in reference to Future Transport Zone	Reference added to Page 18	No need to add additional reference to FTZ on page 19 as covered on Page 18.
Page 21	Add in reference to Park Mark for car parks.	Text updated for review	*The University will endorse the principles of 'Park Mark' which sets out guidance to achieve safe, legible parking environments*. Suggested note to add link to Park Mark Guidance at bottom of page.
Page 23	Additional concluding paragraph added at the end of the Trip Generation and Traffic Modelling section	Additional text added	*The conclusions of the traffic modelling demonstrate that additional University vehicle trips are less than two vehicles per minute during the busiest peak hours, which is not a material change. The modelled highway network in WCC's KSWA model is highly sensitive and there are high growth assumptions up to 2037 without the SPD. Consequently, with the addition of a small number of University vehicle trips as a result of the SPD, there is some additional queueing and longer journey times in some locations. Given the limited impacts of the SPD, it is agreed*

			with CCC, WCC and NH that no highway mitigation is required and the SPD would not have an unacceptable safety impact or severe residual cumulative impact on the local highway network or strategic road network.
Page 23	Amendments to text to change terminology used in reference to Section 106. Additional text added	Additional text added	*A legal mechanism to support this SPD with 'Monitor and Manage' elements which set out a framework of agreed mitigations in response to changes in travel behaviour will be progressed, binding members of the Monitor and Manage Board.* *This will allow individual planning applications to come forward within the parameters set by the SPD, without the need for these to be subject to standalone traffic modelling and detailed assessments.* *The proposed content of the legal mechanism is provided at Appendix 1*
Page 25	Add in reference to EV charging on campus	Proposed text amendments included in accompanying draft SPD. Parvez / George to confirm agreement.	*Continue to lead on the conception and development of future transport infrastructure (including provision of EV charging facilities where appropriate), so that...*

Page 26	Add in reference to Passivhaus	Text amended	Additional bullet point added as follows: *Aspire to Passivhaus standard where possible and appropriate*.
Page 26	Additional text suggested by EA to be added	BDP have reviewed and agree with proposed text changes by EA	Under 'Water', add text in italics to the following bullet point "*undertake comprehensive flood risk assessments to ensure our future buildings are not at risk of flooding and do not exacerbate flood risks elsewhere, and explore and implements opportunities to reduce flood risk where possible*"
Page 27	Add in reference to Biodiversity Action Programme	Footnote added	Footnote added to refer to WDC Biodiversity Action Programme and Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan. Hyperlinks provided.
Page 32	Potentially add in any reference to updated hydraulic model which BDP advise; also any text changes they advise are required in response to EA comments	Amended /additional text agreed with BDP.	Amend third para of last column to read " *The Westwood Brook Hydraulic model has been updated to reflect modern modelling standards and current climatic conditions to inform the flood extents within the campus in line with*

			Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority requirements. The new hydraulic model includes local enhancements of watercourse connectivity within the campus and updated hydraulic rainfall estimates to generate a revised set of flood risk outlines. The updated model demonstrates that surface water flooding has reduced compared to national mapping due to the representation of culvert connectivity through the campus. *Any future development within the campus should refer to the updated hydraulic model report as the baseline for the assessment of surface water flooding across the campus*.
Page 33	Add in additional text as recommended by EA in relation to SuDs	BDP have reviewed EA text and advised it is appropriate to be added	After 'engineering requirements' add in the following text "*Where infiltration SuDS are to be used for surface run-off from roads, car parking and public or amenity areas, they should:*

			• *be suitably designed* • *meet Governments non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems – these standards should be used in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance* • *use a SuDS management treatment train –use drainage components in series to achieve a robust surface water management system that does not pose an unacceptable risk of pollution to groundwater* *The design of infiltration SuDS schemes and of their treatment stages needs to be appropriate to the sensitivity of the location and subject to a relevant risk assessment, considering the types of pollutants likely to be discharged, design volumes and the dilution and attenuation properties of the aquifer*.
Page 35	Slight amendment to text to refer to significance	Updated text from Turley heritage.	*Where development is proposed which may impact on the significance of the heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting,*

			proposals should seek to preserve the significance of the heritage asset in line with adopted national and local policy and guidance.
Page 35	Amendment to plan 21 to amend archaeological potential around Cryfield Grange to be high rather than medium		Plan updated in line with AOC's comments: new plan here to be inputted into final SPD: 05. Drawings once all comments issued.
Page 36	Add in text here re appropriate level of field investigation to be undertaken	Text updated for review	*The extent of assessment will depend upon the level of potential of the site under consideration and appropriate level of field investigation,*
Page 37	Add in text here to refer to the fact that referencing the transport contributions do not preclude other potential s106 contributions being sought from future development.	Text updated for review	*This does not preclude other non-transport obligations being sought from future development where consistent with the guidance in this SPD.*
Page 38	Text changes in relation to terminology used. Updates made to Section 1 and 2 to reflect Planning Permission now granted and Section 106 Agreements signed for Social Sciences and STEM applications.	Text updated for review	Text now corresponds with confirmed contributions in STEM Section 106 Agreement.

Page 39	Terminology amended ; additional information regarding Monitor and Manage sub board added to footnote	Text amended for review	

Supplementary Planning Document

Draft Campus Framework Masterplan

Coventry City Council

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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Introduction

University of Warwick location

The University of Warwick main campus is situated on the edge of Coventry, partly within the city boundary and partly within Warwick District and the county of Warwickshire.

The University works closely with the three local authorities and engages with local communities to ensure its operations, including new development on campus, are managed to avoid or minimise potential impacts on neighbouring areas and that they contribute positively to the local economy and the environment.

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by Coventry City Council and Warwick District Council in conjunction with the University of Warwick and Warwickshire County Council to give effect to their local plan policies which guide how the campus should develop. It is a Framework Masterplan setting out a series of capital projects likely to be delivered by 2033 within the context of a longer-term vision to 2050.

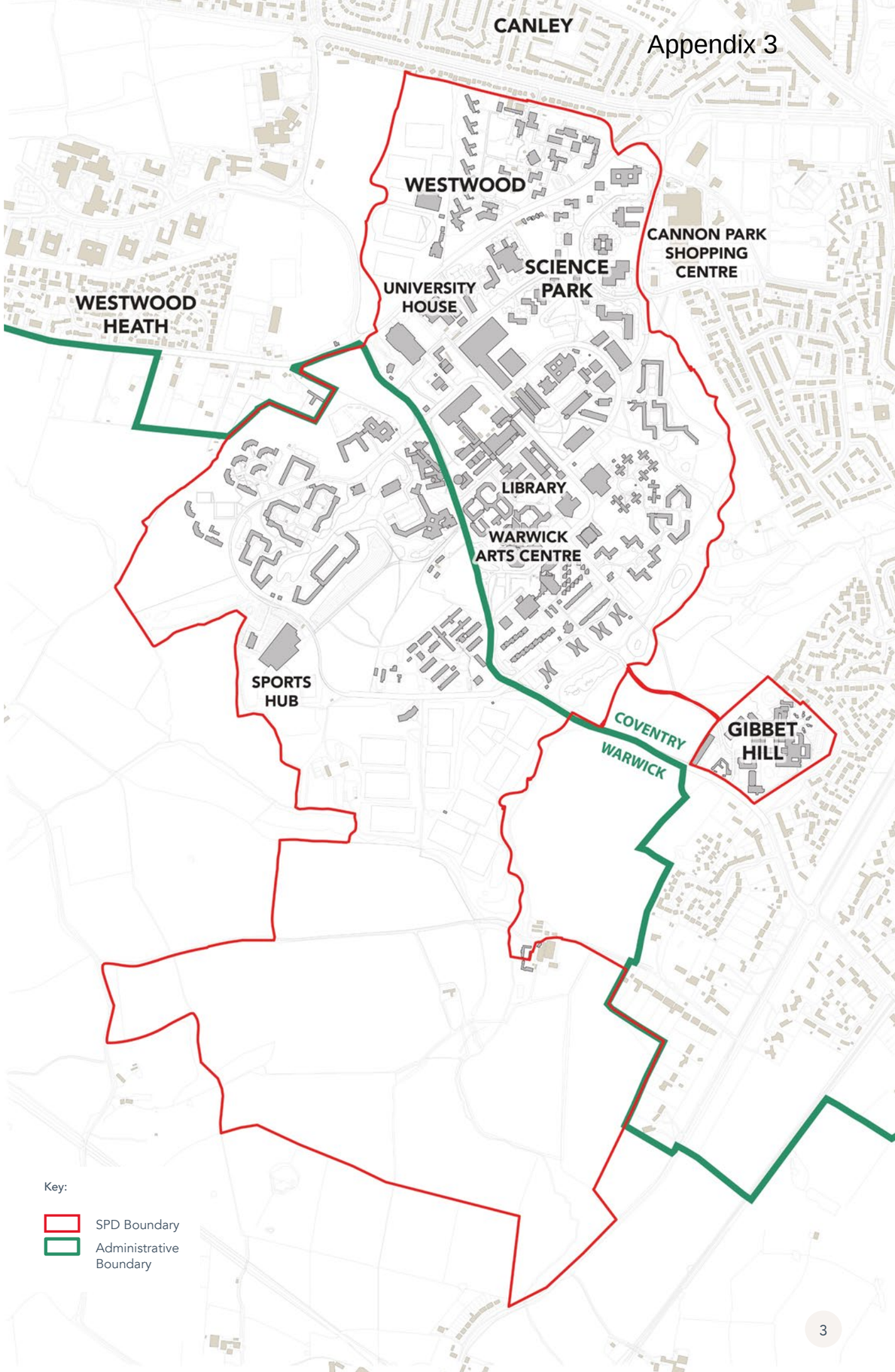
It incorporates several campus-wide strategies including a new Transport and Movement Strategy, which provides an agreed methodology for assessing the impact of new development. A legal mechanism will be agreed between relevant parties to commit to potential mitigations that can be drawn down should the 'monitor and manage' approach require them as projects come forward.

The SPD covers the University's landholdings on the edge of Coventry, including the main campus and its sports fields to the south as far as the line of HS2. This includes the University of Warwick Science Park, which is operated by a separate management company. Not all of this land is active University campus.

The SPD covers a ten-year period to 2033 and reflects the local plan policies in the adopted Coventry Local Plan 2011-2031 and the Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029. When these plans are reviewed, the SPD may need to be reviewed in the context of any new or updated Local Plans.

A public consultation on the draft SPD was launched by both local authorities between Friday 24 May 2024 and Friday 5 July 2024.

All feedback has been reviewed and where appropriate, amendments to the SPD have been made.



PLAN 01: SPD BOUNDARY

Planning Context

From 1965 to now

The University of Warwick was founded in 1965 and has had approved masterplans throughout its history, most recently the 2009 Masterplan Outline Planning Permission and the 2018 Capital Plan Hybrid Permission, which have guided recent developments on campus such as the Lord Bhattacharyya Building, Oculus, the Slate, the Sports Hub, Cryfield Village, the IBRB at Gibbet Hill, the Warwick Arts Centre extension, the new Faculty of Arts Building, along with two new multi-storey car parks at Lynchgate and Kirby Corner.

These permissions were accompanied by a Section 106 Agreement which ensured appropriate mitigation of traffic impacts, support for public transport and management of car parking on campus.

The next phase of development is now underway, with plans for a new Social Sciences Quarter including new buildings for the Business School and Economics, and a multi-phase refresh of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) facilities around a new Science and Engineering Precinct in the heart of campus. There is also greater focus on energy efficiency as the University moves towards Net Zero and a less car-dependent movement strategy is being implemented. Recent events have accelerated changes to the way the staff and student body use the campus, with more flexible working and blended learning. These changes are reflected in the University's current thinking about how it develops the campus.

National Automotive Innovation Centre, University of Warwick.
Photo credit: Nick Dimbleby

PHOTO 01: Lord Bhattacharyya Building

PHOTO 02: Oculus

PHOTO 03: The Slate

PHOTO 04: The Sports Hub

PHOTO 05: Cryfield Village

PHOTO 06: The IBRB at Gibbet Hill

FCB Studios, Faculty of the Arts Building, University of Warwick.
Photo credit: HuftonCrow

PHOTO 07: The new Faculty of Arts Building

PHOTO 08: New multi-storey car park at Lynchgate

PHOTO 09: Warwick Arts Centre extension

Planning Policy

The campus sits across two local authority areas – Coventry and Warwick District, with the main academic part of campus in Coventry and the more residential and recreational areas within Warwickshire.

All of the built part of campus was removed from the Green Belt in 2017 but the sports fields and countryside to the south remains in Green Belt.

The adopted local plans for the campus are:

- The Coventry Local Plan 2011-31, adopted in 2017[1]
- The Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029, adopted in 2017[2]

Coventry Local Plan

The planning policy context for the north eastern extent of the campus is established in the Coventry Local Plan, adopted in December 2017.

The key policy within the Coventry Local Plan of relevance to this SPD is **JE1 Overall Economy and Employment Strategy**. This policy confirms that the council will work in partnership with the City's universities to promote and support innovation. The policy objective being to maximise the economic development and community benefits associated with the continued growth of the universities.

This masterplan has therefore, in part, been produced in the context of Policy JE1 of the Coventry Local Plan.

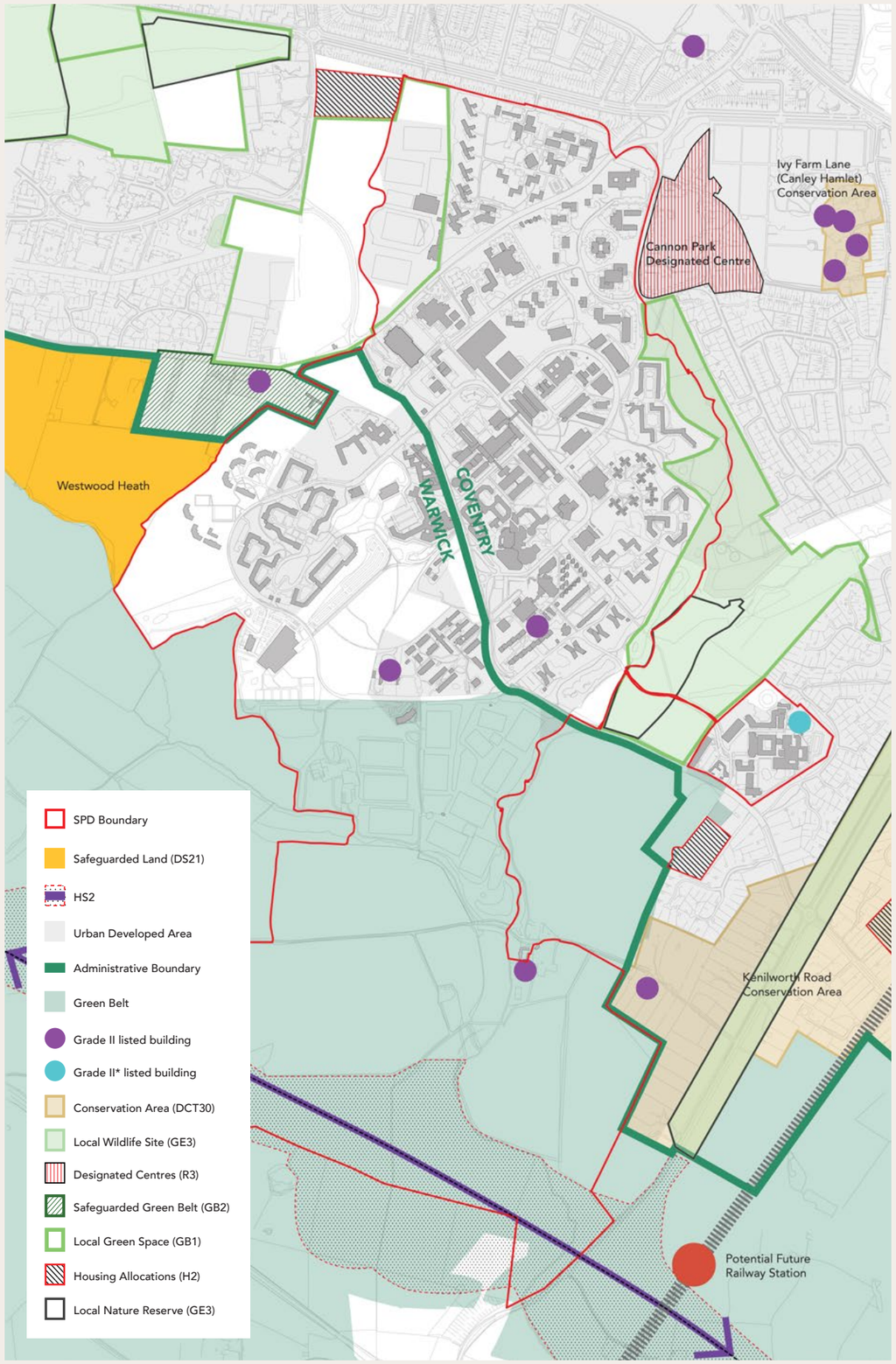
Other relevant policies within the Coventry Local Plan include:

- **DS3 Sustainable Development Policy** which confirms the Council will take a positive approach to development that reflects the presumption of sustainable development contained within the NPPF.
- **CO1 New or Improved social community and leisure premises** states in part 3 that proposals that are in accordance with the approved masterplan will normally be approved subject to high quality design proposals.

1 Coventry Local Plan 2011-2031: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/planning-policy/coventry-local-plan-2011-2031

2 Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029: https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20410/local_plan

PLAN 02: PLANNING POLICY



Warwick District Local Plan

The planning policy context for the south western extent of the campus is established in the Warwick District Local Plan, adopted September 2017.

The main policy within the Warwick District Local Plan of relevance to this SPD is **Policy MS1 University of Warwick**. The policy states that development at the University will be permitted in line with an approved Masterplan or Development Brief as agreed with the relevant LPAs. The masterplan should set out how proposals will contribute to the University delivering a world-class education campus including the range of uses associated with that. Furthermore, the policy sets out the objectives which any Masterplan should incorporate. These include:

- Identifying the physical and economic context for development;
- Identifying the development principles that will underpin future development proposals;
- Identifying the location of developments, and demonstrating the mitigation of any potential adverse impacts; and
- Identifying how the proposals support the vitality of the local and/or sub-regional economy.

Other relevant policies within the Warwick District Local Plan include:

- **DS5 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development** which states the Council will take a positive approach towards development proposals that reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF.

Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since produced a Net-zero Carbon DPD which has been through Examination in Public. Following the Main Modifications consultation in July 2023, the DPD was adopted on 15th May 2024. The objectives of the DPD are to minimise carbon emissions from new buildings and to support national and local carbon reduction targets. Alongside the DPD sits the Net Zero Carbon SPD which sets out further advice and guidance to applicants and relevant stakeholders on how to comply with the DPD policies. The SPD was also adopted by the Council as of 15th May 2024.

The campus is not covered by any Neighbourhood Plans, however the Burton Green Neighbourhood Plan (made March 2022) abuts the campus on the west.[3]

Other relevant planning policies and SPDs are incorporated throughout the several strategies forming this SPD.

3 https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/7254/burton_green_ndp_made_version_march_2022

Emerging policy

South Warwickshire Local Plan

In January 2021, Warwick District Council commenced a review of its Local Plan in collaboration with Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the South Warwickshire area. The Plan will set out the long-term spatial strategy on issues such as housing, employment, infrastructure and climate change for both districts up to 2050. Both councils recently undertook an Issues and Options Consultation as well as a Call for Sites from January to March 2023 and previous to this a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation in May-June 2021. The South Warwickshire Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in 2027, therefore it holds limited to no weight in the development of this SPD as there are no draft policies to assess against. As part of the review, Warwick District Council is working with the City and County Councils as well as the University of Warwick on a masterplanning study of the North of Kenilworth South of Coventry area.

Coventry Local Plan Review

Coventry City Council is currently in the process of producing an updated Local Plan and recently undertook an Issues and Options Consultation between July and September 2023. As there are no draft policies to assess against, and the Council anticipates adopting the updated plan in late 2025/ early 2026, the Local Plan Review holds limited to no weight in the development of this SPD.

When this SPD is reviewed, this will be done in the context of any updated Local Plans for both Coventry and Warwick Districts.

Warwickshire County Council

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) act as the Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority for Warwickshire and are statutory consultees on all planning applications within Warwick District. Officers representing Warwickshire County Council have been involved in the preparation of this SPD.

The Campus

A UK top 10 institution

The University of Warwick is a world leading and UK top 10 institution with over 25,000 students and 5,500 members of staff, generating an economic impact of in excess of £1bn[1] with significant benefits for the West Midlands region and its economy. It occupies a main campus set in nearly 300 hectares on the edge of Coventry and the Warwickshire countryside.

The campus plays a significant role in south-west Coventry, with the renowned Arts Centre and recently completed Sports and Wellness Hub providing community benefits. The campus is accessible to local people and there are routes which cross the area including the Sustrans cycle route to Kenilworth providing connections to the countryside.

In previous masterplans the campus has been divided into a series of 'character areas' including Central Campus East and West (either side of Gibbet Hill Road), Westwood (north of Kirby Corner Road) and Gibbet Hill (close to Kenilworth Road). The University has refreshed its internal masterplan during 2023, based on their emerging Vision for the campus by 2050. The internal masterplan takes a slightly different approach which the SPD reflects:

1. Core Campus: The masterplan seeks to concentrate new academic development within the core of the campus (defined in DP1 on page 12). Over time, the aim is to change the character of the public realm in this area so it is less dominated by cars and more pedestrian-focussed.
    - This includes Gibbet Hill which is home to Warwick's Medical School and Life Sciences faculty and sits slightly apart from main campus separated by Tocil Woods.
2. Periphery: around the core campus, to the south and east, are areas of primarily student residential housing which are different in character, less dense and set in most part within a mature landscape setting.
    - To the north is the Westwood campus which comprises a mix of academic, conference, sports and residential accommodation that is likely to see change in the medium to long term; and the Science Park, which is wholly owned by the University and is operated by a separate management company.
3. Green Fringe: The area to the south of the campus sits within designated Green Belt and is characterised by sports pitches and agricultural land, part of which is affected by the construction of HS2.

Beyond the campus, the surrounding neighbourhoods include residential suburbs on the edge of Coventry - Cannon Park, including the shopping centre which also serves the University community, Canley and Westwood Heath, the area around Moreall Meadows and Kenilworth Road, and Burton Green, which is predominately in Warwick District. To the south, beyond the HS2 route, is the town of Kenilworth.

[1] https://warwick.ac.uk/about/regional/ourimpact/

PLAN 03: EXISTING CAMPUS

The University's Vision

Strategic principles

The University has five strategic priorities as an institution:

- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Regional Leadership
- Internationalisation
- Sustainability

See: https://warwick.ac.uk/about/strategy

Strategic Principles

Translating these into a set of strategic principles for the development of the campus, the University's long-term ambitions are:

SP1:

To transform regional connectivity to campus.

SP2:

To create a flexible framework for innovation and other development opportunities within the campus and beyond.

SP3:

To form a vibrant learning, working, and living community.

SP4:

To create an accessible, inclusive, safe, secure and people focused environment.

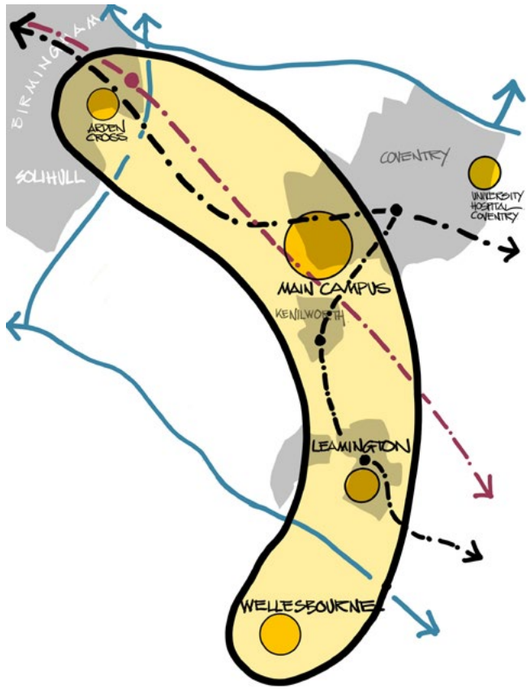
SP5:

To shape a distinctive University of Warwick identity that has a 'cosmopolitan in the countryside' feel.

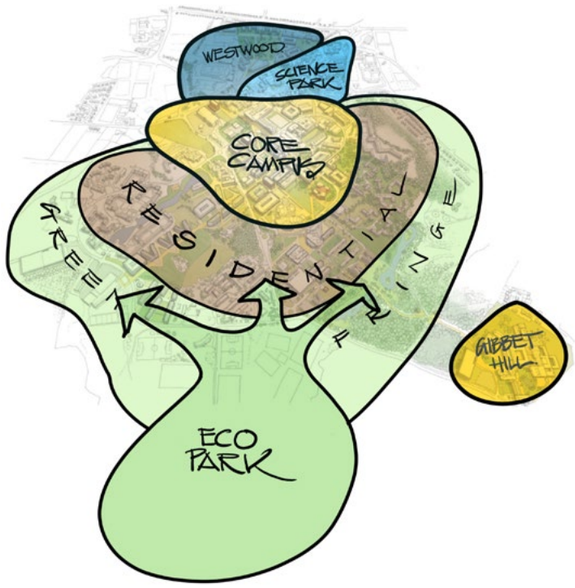
SP6:

To deliver a SMART[1], sustainable and low energy campus.

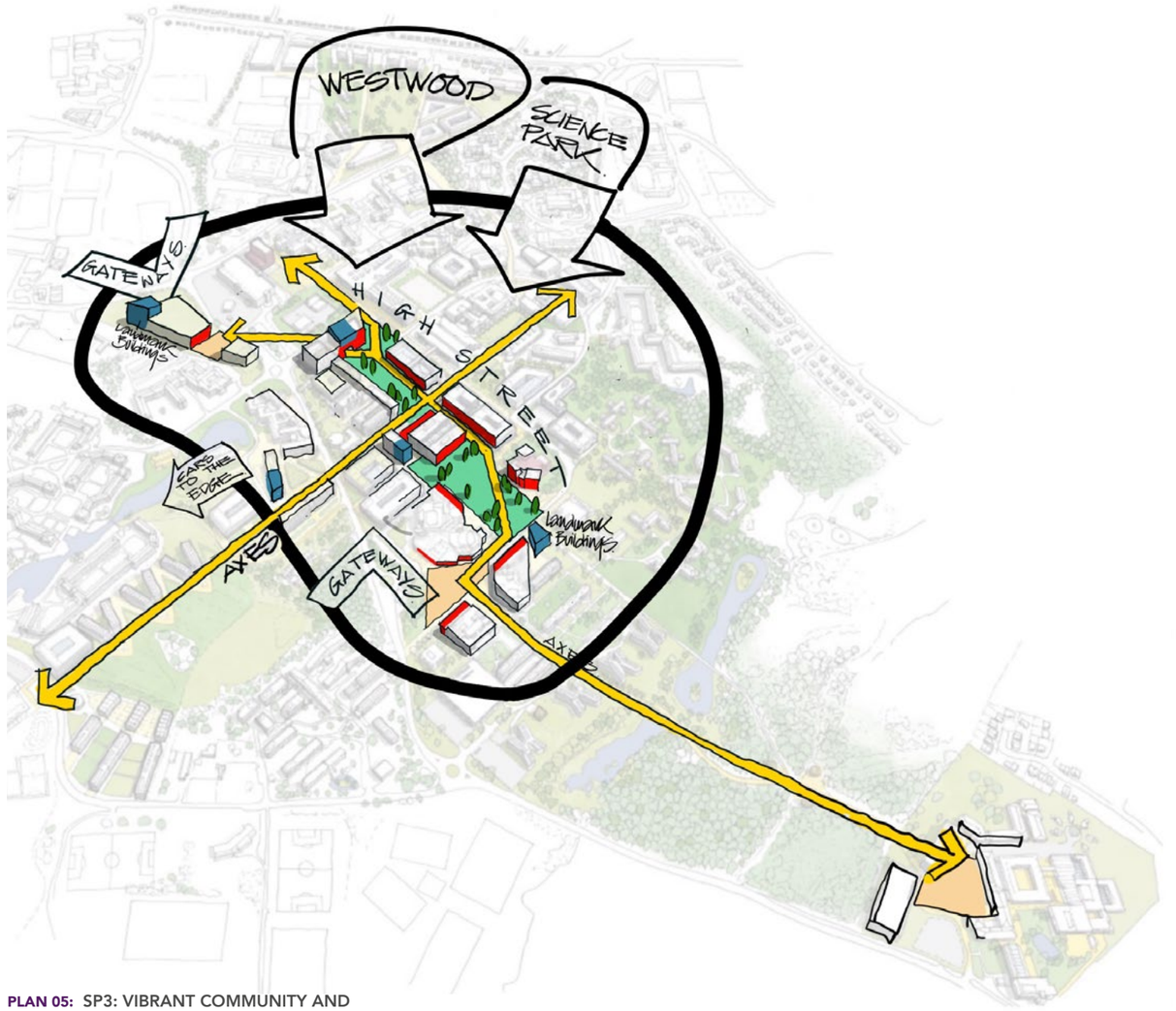
1 The University aims to create a digitally connected campus for more efficient operations and a better user experience by integrating technology and data at the heart of campus design.



PLAN 04: SP1: REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND SP2: INNOVATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



PLAN 06: SP5:COSMOPOLITAN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND SP6: SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS



PLAN 05: SP3: VIBRANT COMMUNITY AND SP4: ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

The University's main campus on the south-west edge of Coventry is the focus for its activities in the region, which also extend to the Stratford-upon-Avon Innovation Campus at Wellesbourne in Stratford, University Hospital Coventry, and potentially a new healthcare presence at Arden Cross in Solihull. To support continued innovation and effective working across its locations, the University will work with partners to secure improved regional connectivity including new transport investment in the long term, seeking to enhance local accessibility and mitigate any impacts on surrounding communities.

The University's vision for the main campus is to be 'cosmopolitan in the countryside'. This refers to the academic life of the University, and both the scale and quality of design of new buildings within the context of the natural greenspaces and wider countryside setting of the campus. These are important contributors to the character of campus and, through concentrating new development in the core with new landmark buildings, the creation of new vistas and public spaces, it will foster a more distinctive sense of place and better legibility for those visiting campus.

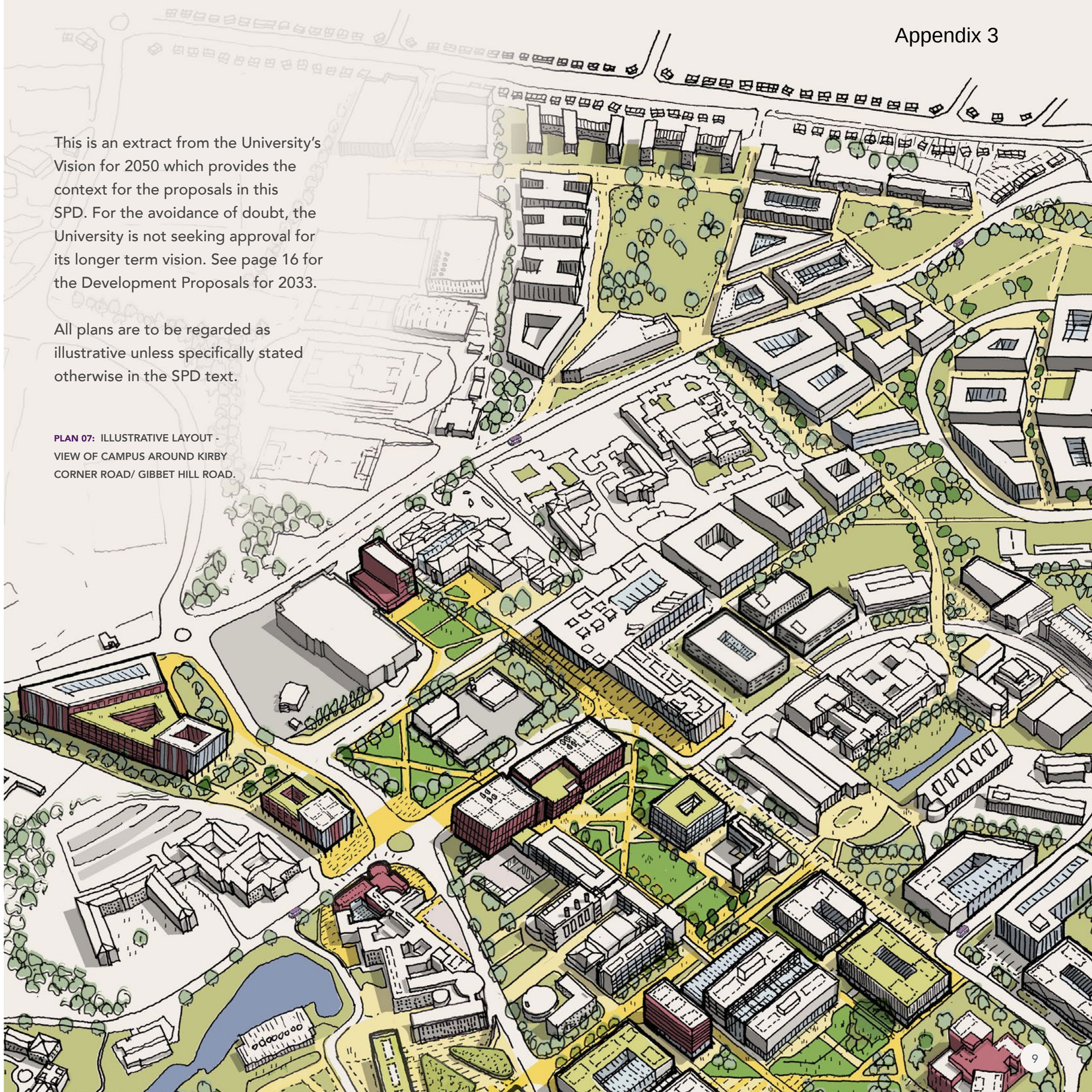
Development in the short to medium term (to 2033) will in the main be within the core campus, creating the first of two new University Greens and developing a 'high street' supported by two strong axes linking to the periphery of campus and surrounding communities to the west and north. This is to be part of an extensive pedestrian and cycle network, the aim being to bring the activity of the University out into the open rather than hidden within buildings, with more active ground floor uses and active public spaces.

The University is already implementing a new transport and movement strategy which has seen some car parking removed from the centre of campus and provided around the edge – at Kirby Corner and Lynchgate. This process will continue with further changes to parking when opportunities arise (within the existing maximum cap) and the provision of mobility hubs around campus to further support active travel.

The overarching ambition is to achieve Net Zero carbon from direct emissions and energy by 2030 and through indirect emissions by 2050. This is in line with national and local policies including the adopted Net Zero Carbon DPD and SPD. It will include radical change to energy efficiency and on-site generation, designing in sustainability to new buildings and retrofits, delivering biodiversity net gain on campus, and developing our climate change resilience.

This is an extract from the University's Vision for 2050 which provides the context for the proposals in this SPD. For the avoidance of doubt, the University is not seeking approval for its longer term vision. See page 16 for the Development Proposals for 2033.

All plans are to be regarded as illustrative unless specifically stated otherwise in the SPD text.



PLAN 07: ILLUSTRATIVE LAYOUT - VIEW OF CAMPUS AROUND KIRBY CORNER ROAD/ GIBBET HILL ROAD.

Design Principles

Guiding future development

To deliver on these strategic principles, the University has developed six key Design Principles to guide future development on campus. These are:

DP1:
Campus Core and Periphery

DP2:
Axes and Hubs

DP3:
Pedestrian-Focussed

DP4:
Active Public Spaces

DP5:
Landmark Design

DP6:
Integrating Nature

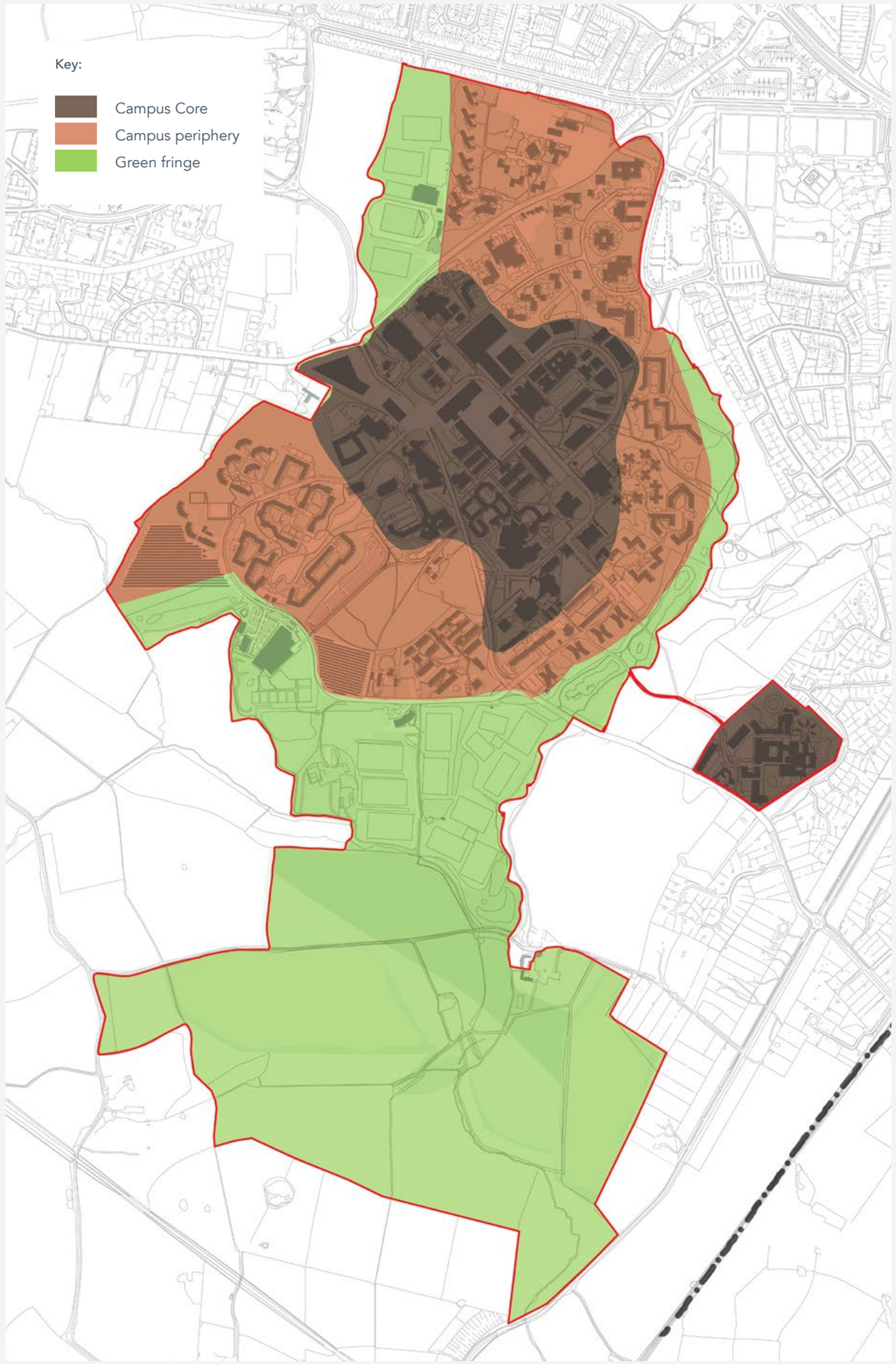
DP1: Campus Core and Periphery

A. Primarily academic uses will be concentrated within the core campus as defined on Plan 08, including Gibbet Hill.

B. Higher density development and taller buildings will be permitted in the Core Campus, subject to the application of other design principles (and relevant local policies) to ensure high quality.

C. The Campus Periphery will generally not be appropriate for higher density development, particularly in close proximity to sensitive greenspace or neighbouring residential areas.

PLAN 08: CAMPUS CORE AND PERIPHERY

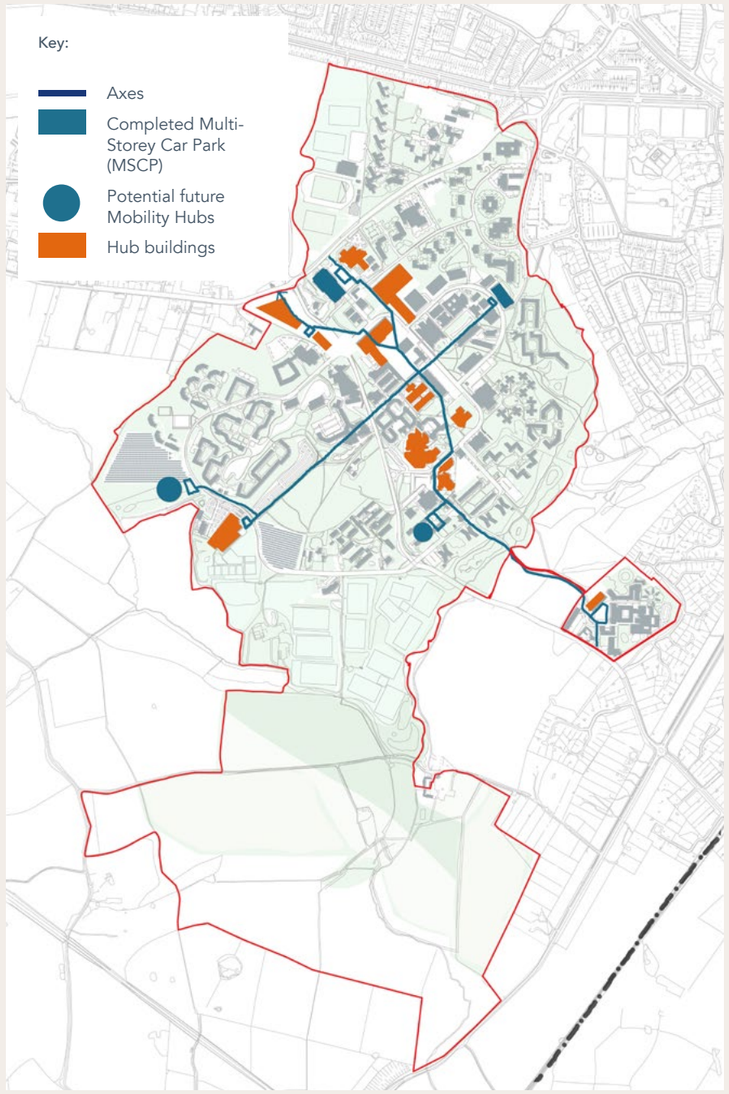


DP2: Axes and Hubs

A. The focus of activity and movement around campus will be on two primary axes – one from University House to Gibbet Hill and the other from Academic Square to the Sports Hub.

B. These will connect a series of buildings, active public spaces and future mobility hubs (refer to page 22). where key University activities are based, and which provide access to a variety of travel options.

C. Car parking will be progressively removed from the core campus and, if replaced, this will be around the periphery (refer to Plan 15 on Transport and Movement).



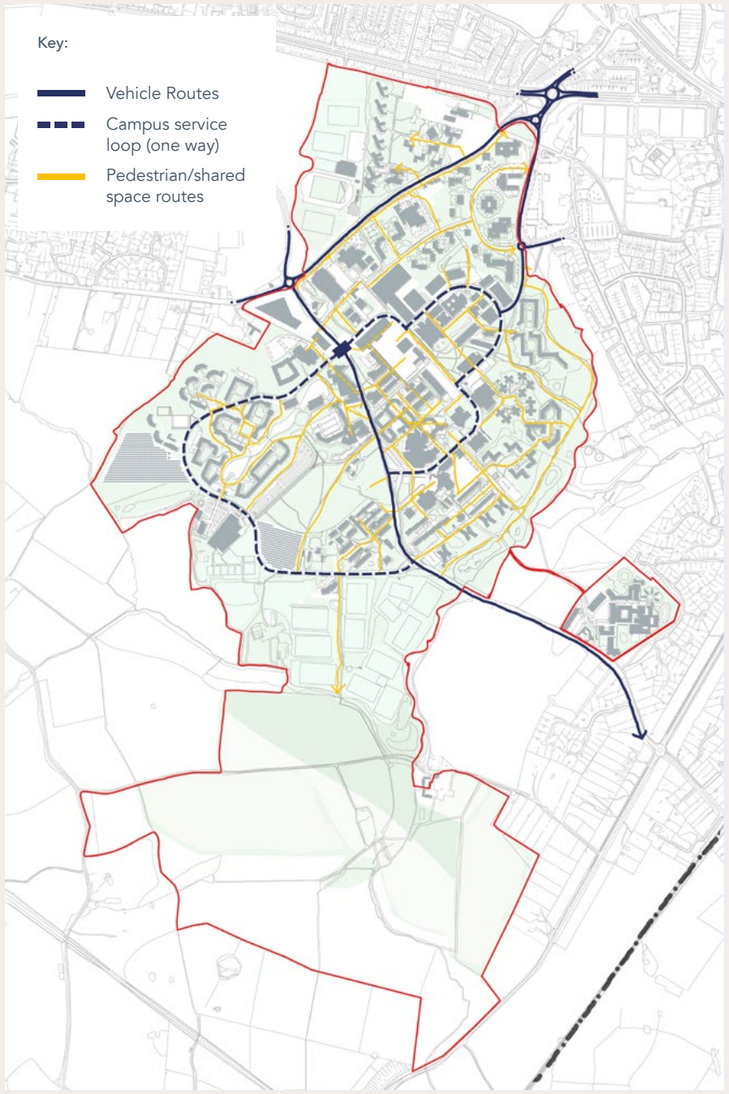
PLAN 09: AXES AND HUBS

DP3: Pedestrian-Focussed

A. To transform the campus with a more pedestrian-focussed public realm, the University will create a one-way circulatory route to minimise traffic within the core campus whilst maintaining access to service yards, for blue badge parking and emergency services.

B. This will be supported by an extensive pedestrian and cycle network which will be expanded over time, supplemented by effective wayfinding additional detail on cycling measures is provided at page 20.

C. Where opportunities arise as part of new development, and can safely accommodate all users, the pedestrian environment will be further enhanced through consideration of the use of shared surfaces, downgrading of road space, environmental improvements including sensitively designed and located street furniture and potential closures (refer to Plan 16).



PLAN 10: PEDESTRIAN FOCUSSED

DP4: Active Public Spaces

A. To support a more pedestrian-focussed campus around the primary axes and hubs, the University will create more active public spaces for users of campus to enjoy a greater sense of community, including formal squares and greenspaces.

B. New developments will incorporate and/or support active public spaces including, where suitable, active frontages within buildings for small scale ancillary retail, study areas, informal meeting space or other community uses.

C. As part of the Science and Engineering Precinct development, a new University Green will be created between University Road and Library Road at the junction of the two primary axes.

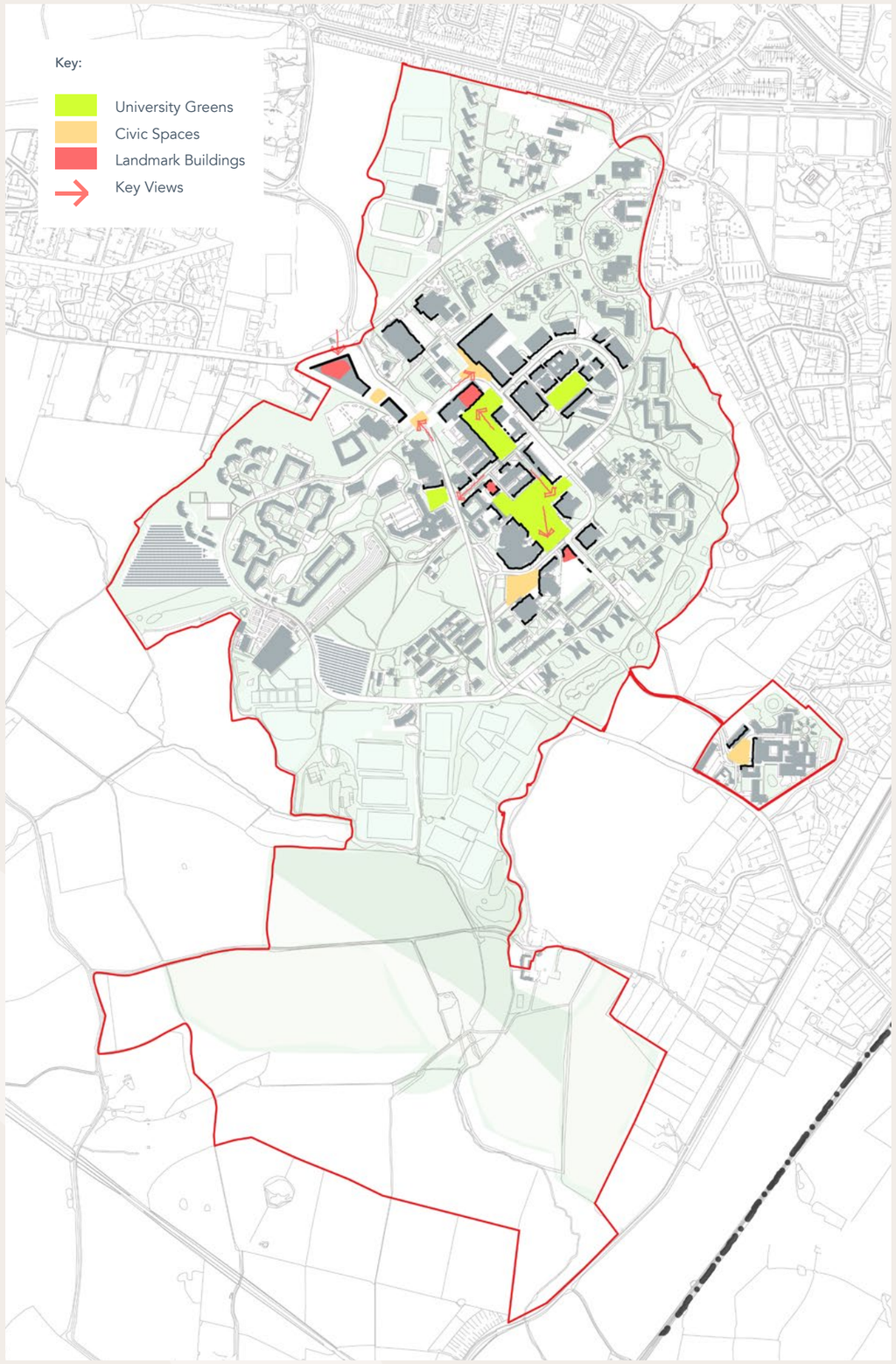
DP5: Landmark Design

A. The design of new and refurbished buildings will reflect the character and modern vernacular of the University campus, differentiating scale and design between the Core and Periphery

B. Buildings in locations indicated on Plan 11 will be designed to provide landmarks and visual markers at the end of views within the campus to contribute to a sense of place and clear identity.

C. Materials will be selected to provide the right balance between coherence and contrast so that buildings fit harmoniously with their surroundings, but also have emphasis and interest where necessary.

PLAN 11: ACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES



DP6: Integrating Nature

A. The formal and informal landscapes of the campus contribute to its character and should, wherever possible, be incorporated into and enhanced by new development.

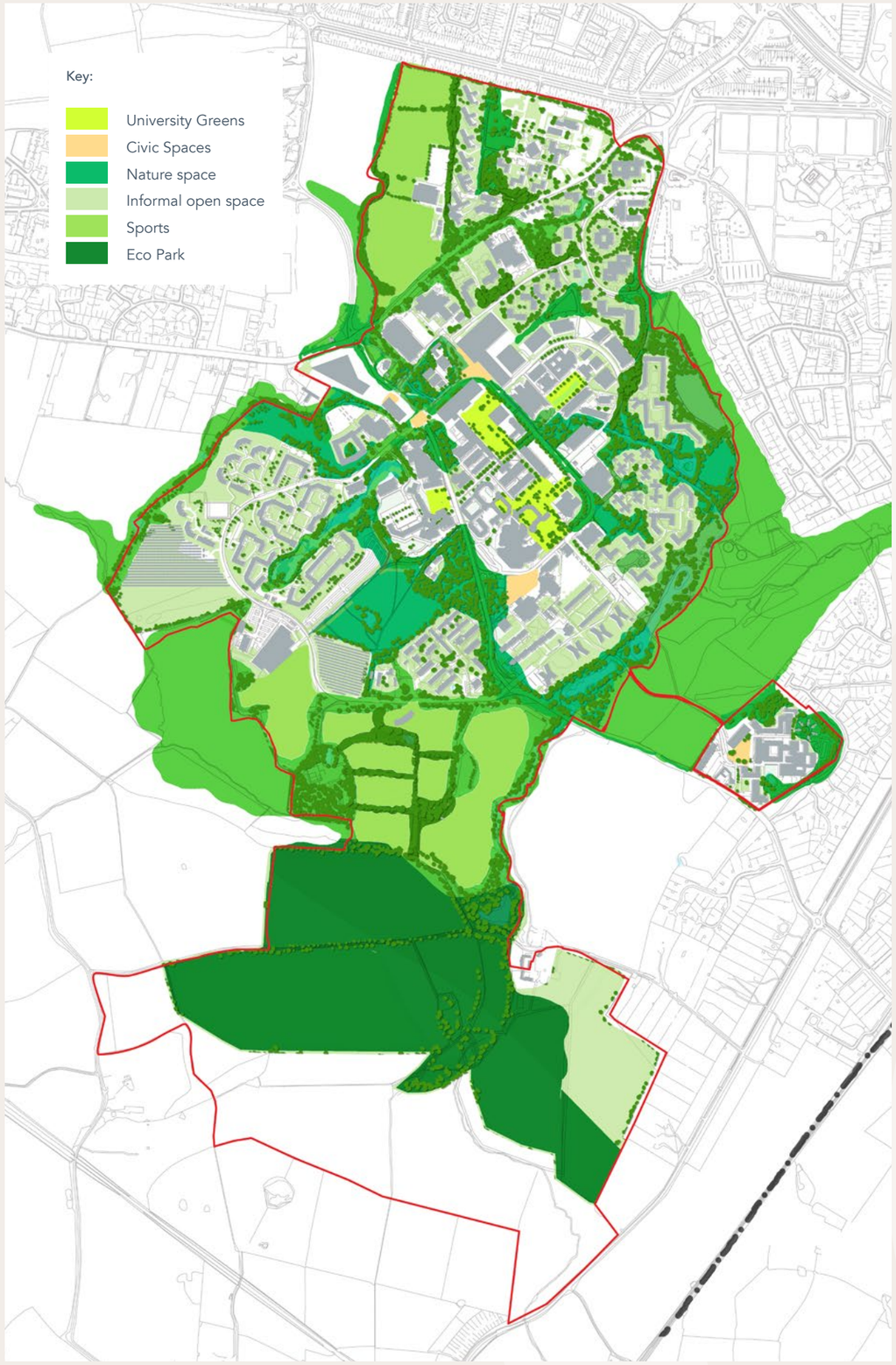
B. This will include a 'layered'[1] approach to green and blue infrastructure to ensure the integration of nature and the creation of connected habitats and ecological corridors such as green roofs, green walls and rain gardens.

C. Outside of the core campus, this will take a more informal and naturalistic approach to enhance biodiversity (see section on Ecology and Biodiversity).

D. Tree planting will be designed to add structure to the public realm and contribute to the identity and character of spaces and routes.

E. Subject to the return of land from HS2 and decisions about future infrastructure, the University will create an 'Eco-Park' in the south of campus comprising ecological, recreational and potentially energy generating uses (proposals for any such uses to be addressed against relevant Green Belt policy at the time of submission).

PLAN 12: INTEGRATING NATURE



1 A 'layered' approach to landscape means a 3-dimensional combination of planting types and habitat features, such as an upper layer of roof gardens, green walls and trees, alongside a middle layer of hedgerows and shrubs, and a lower layer which may include a diverse mix of species and planting types, for example perennial planting, raingardens, wildflower grassland and bulb planting within grass. The intent being to create species diversity and a more connected environment for wildlife.

Development Proposals to 2033

Areas of Change

This SPD covers the next ten years to 2033, reflecting the University's Capital Plan for future investment in new buildings and infrastructure. These arise from the longer term vision to 2050 set out earlier. There are five specific projects, two of which are already in the planning process. These are:

1. The Social Science Quarter including new Business School and repurposing of existing Social Sciences buildings
2. The Science and Engineering Precinct - redevelopment and refurbishment of STEM facilities in central campus and creation of a new University Green
3. New Energy Innovation Centre
4. Extension of Scarman House, Post Experience Centre, including additional bedspaces
5. Solar arrays – large-scale photovoltaic installations to generate renewable energy.

In addition, the University anticipates providing 1,200 net additional student bedspaces on or close to campus, either through direct development or in conjunction with private developers (what is known as Purpose Built Student Accommodation).

In conjunction with the highway authorities, the University has modelled the traffic generation from 31,000 sq.m. of new academic development over and above the recent approval of the social sciences quarter, which used up floorspace previously approved in 2018. This includes the above projects and makes an allowance for a further net 13,000 sq.m. of academic floorspace to allow for other projects to come forward over the period to 2033.

There are a further 11 potential projects which may come forward before 2033. The University has yet to make final decisions and therefore the SPD identifies these as areas of likely future development. They could be for academic, residential or other purposes related to the University. Should one or more of these projects come forward, they would be considered against the remaining capacity in floorspace terms and the Design Principles set out above.

The areas of likely future development are:

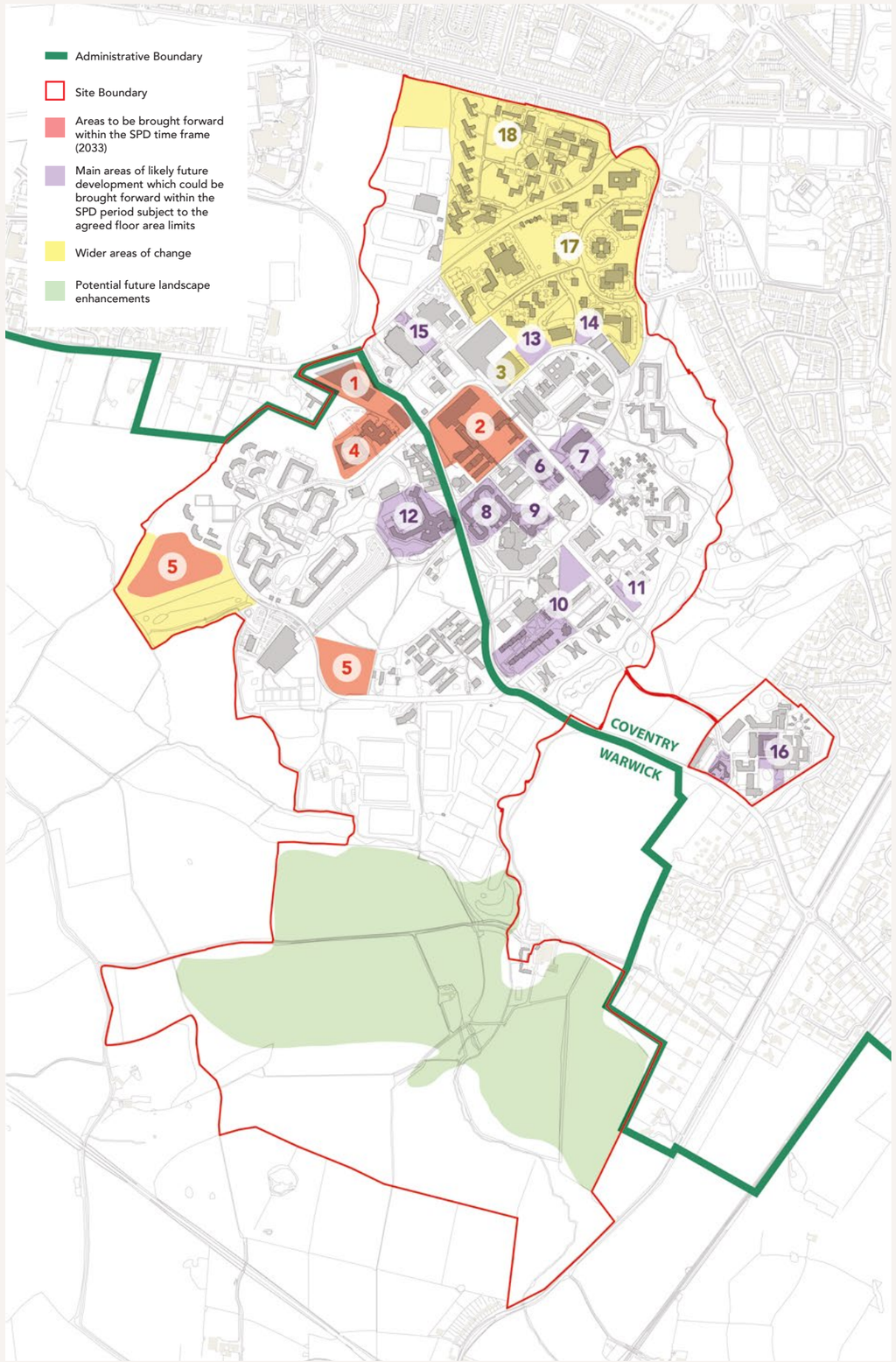
6. Humanities Building – part vacated since completion of the new Faculty of Arts
7. Sports Centre – in temporary use for examinations since completion of the new Sports Hub
8. Social Sciences block off Library Road – to be replaced by new Social Sciences Quarter
9. Senate House – may become surplus to requirements as administrative needs change
10. Whitefields and Rootes residences potential for redevelopment
11. Health Centre – dependent upon replacement elsewhere on campus
12. Radcliffe House – potential for redevelopment of MBA Training Centre
13. Land to rear of Lord Bhattacharya Building
14. Site adjoining Degree Apprenticeship Centre
15. Surface car park between Kirby Corner car park and University House
16. Gibbet Hill – older buildings in central block, retaining the farmhouse

There are two further areas of wider change which sit outside of the SPD proposals.

17. University of Warwick Science Park – consideration may be given to selective redevelopment at higher density which will need to be considered on its merits.
18. Westwood campus – over the medium to long term, there will be further change at Westwood campus and consideration will be given to a comprehensive masterplan for potentially mixed use development which again would need to be considered on its merits.

In the south-west corner of campus, land will be retained to accommodate a new route from the potential transport corridor and which would create a new gateway into campus.

PLAN 13: AREAS OF POTENTIAL CHANGE



Ecopark

To the south of campus, within the area designated as Green Belt, the University will continue to explore the creation of an Eco-Park dependent on the return of land from HS2 Ltd and any other infrastructure requirements. The Ecopark concept foresees landscape enhancement to create an accessible resource for the University and local communities including ecological assets, open recreational areas and renewable energy generation, consistent with Green Belt policy whilst remaining compliant with local and national planning policy.

Sports

The provision of open space and facilities for outdoor sport and recreation helps underpin people's quality of life and a sense of belonging within a community. The University's ongoing desire is for the campus to have modern, equitable, well-maintained and accessible open spaces, sports, leisure, and recreational facilities, to enable the University to enrich lives through active living and enable students to fulfil their potential through sport. This will be particularly important in circumstances where new campus developments or services are creating demand for additional or enhanced facilities.

The University currently has a mix of sports facilities on campus ranging from older buildings and amenities through to sector leading sports facilities.

The University attracts a growing population of dual-career and performance sports student athletes, which means there is a need to consider the quality and longevity of the campus's specialist sports facilities. In addition, the University aspires to create a campus where physical activity is the norm and consider that there is opportunity to create accessible routes through and around campus which are safe for cycling, running and walking all year round.

Residential Accommodation

The University of Warwick currently provides accommodation for c7500 students on campus (as of February 2024). The University's aspiration is to continue to investigate the increase of its stock of student accommodation and renew existing accommodation, with a view to ensuring that at least the current ratio of on/ immediately adjacent to campus accommodation to students is maintained.

The number of students attending the University is expected to grow by the year 2033. The University's aspiration is to increase the number of student bed spaces serving the University by c1200 by 2033, either within or immediately adjoining the campus.

There are a number of locations within the SPD boundary where student residences could be considered, creating accommodation which is of high-quality set within the University campus. However, the exact amount and locations are not yet determined. Any proposals for new student accommodation would be guided by the design principles and other criteria as set out in this SPD and in the adopted Local Plans.

Students attending the University also live in a variety of other accommodation, including purpose-built student housing (PBSA) provided by private developers. Should the private sector deliver student bedspaces adjacent to the campus, in line with Local Plan policies, the University will likely reflect this in its ambitions for its own provision on the campus itself.

The provision of student accommodation either within or immediately adjacent to the campus supports students to walk and cycle to and within the campus, consistent with the University's mobility strategy, which is explained further in the Transport and Movement section of this SPD.

All first-year students are able to live on campus if they desire. Beyond the first year, students typically move off-site, except those in accessible units who can stay throughout their studies.

From data compiled in February 2023, the spread of term-time student residences in Coventry and Warwick District is roughly as follows:

- On Campus 7,500
- PBSAs on the collar of campus 2,300
- Coventry (excluding PBSAs on the collar of campus) 10,000
- Kenilworth 400
- Leamington Spa 4,300
- Warwick 200

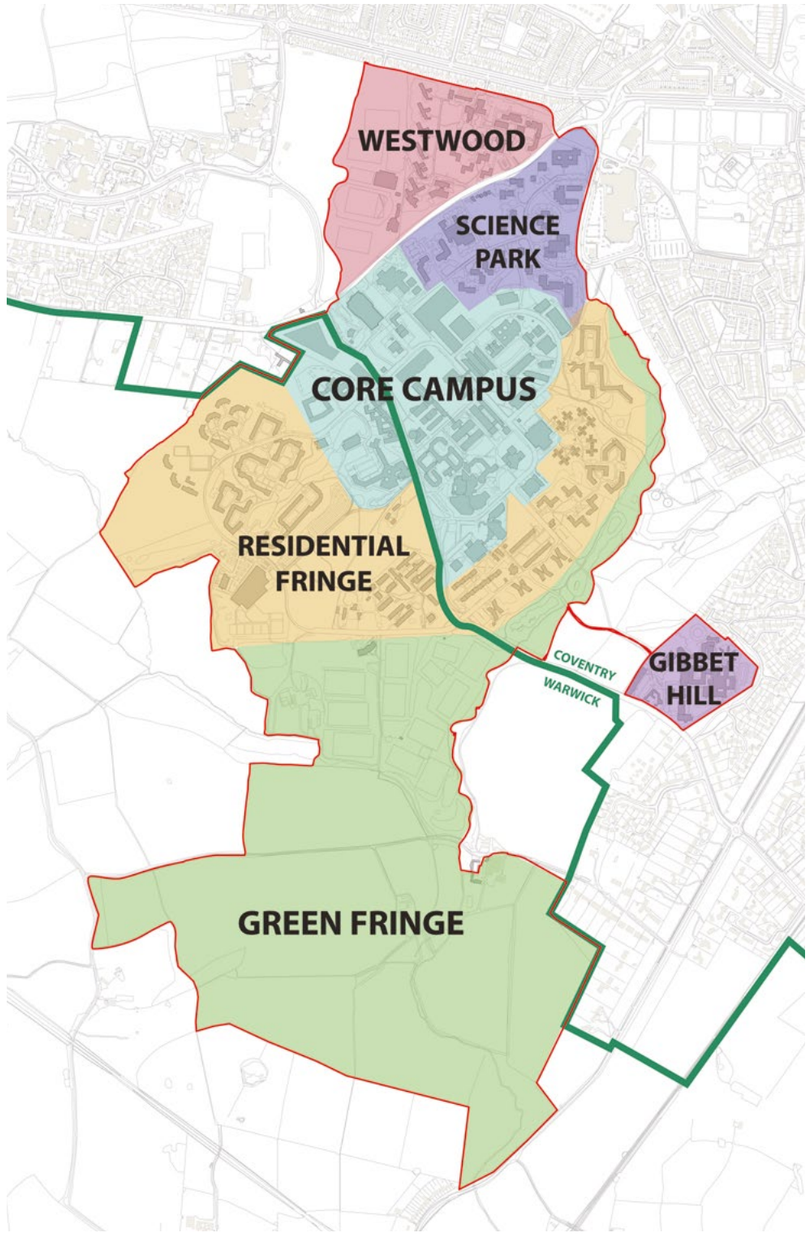
These figures are approximate, reflecting a snapshot of enrolment data.

Recent enrolment and bus usage data shows a notable decrease in students living in Leamington Spa compared to previous years and an increase in Coventry city centre and in PBSAs on the collar of campus. This reflects the availability of PBSA and students' evolving accommodation preferences.

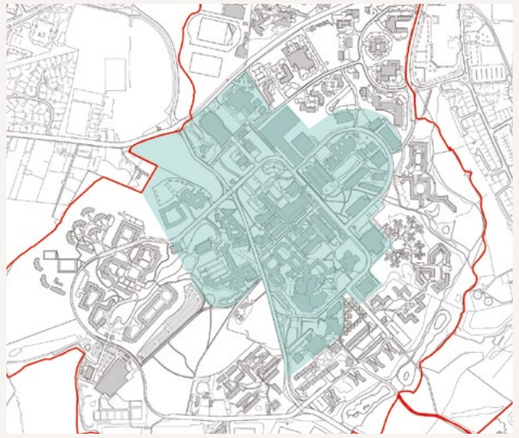
Character Areas

Strategic and design principles

To assist in applying the strategic and design principles across campus, this SPD describes the character of six areas shown on Plan 14 and provides guidance on the future development of each should other proposals come forward within the period to 2033. These reflect the long term vision for the campus to ensure consistency of approach.



PLAN 14: CHARACTER AREAS

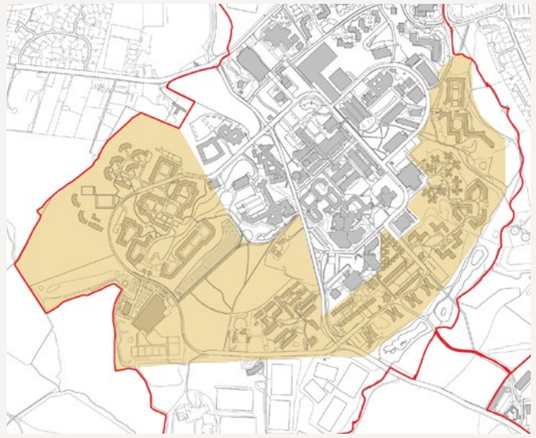


Campus Core

As set out in DP1, the majority of academic and teaching buildings are located in the campus core identified on plan 11. There have been some significant developments within this area over recent years including the Faculty of Arts Building which was shortlisted for the Stirling Prize in 2023. Over the period to 2033, two major new building clusters will be completed – the Science Precinct and Social Sciences Quarter – alongside the formation of a new University Green. This is part of a strategy to increase the density of the campus core whilst not compromising the quality of public spaces.

The aim is for the campus core to become more pedestrian friendly with one of the primary axes diverted through the heart of campus to create a pedestrian 'High Street' with active ground floors overlooking lively public spaces (see DP2 and DP4). In addition, vehicle traffic will be minimised through the campus core with improved opportunities for active travel and more shared-space environments (see DP3).

The mix of uses in the campus core will include primarily academic and teaching space, with student facilities and some student residential accommodation, more food and drink facilities, places for public engagement, innovation and what are called 'collision' and dwell spaces to help to maintain a sense of vibrancy at different times of the day. There is scope for higher-density and taller buildings within the campus core with locations for a number of landmark buildings to assist in legibility (see DP5).



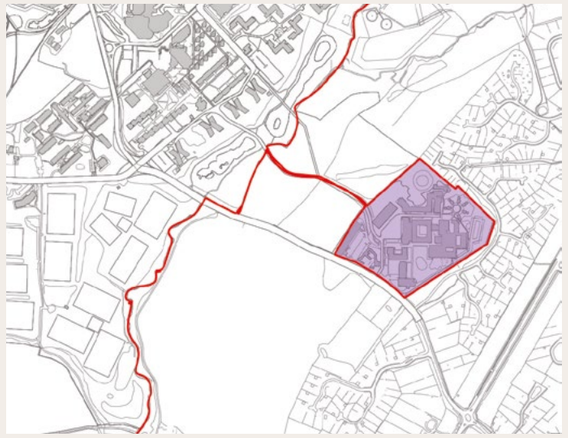
Residential Fringe

The residential fringe describes the south and east of the built-up area of campus which has a very different character. They are lower density, more domestic in scale and set within a mature landscape, in most cases bordering greenspace. Any new development will respect and enhance this character.

Development will be landscape-led, with buildings sitting within a preserved and enhanced mature landscape. However, a contemporary approach to architecture will be encouraged. The character and scale of any new buildings can vary between locations close to the campus core and the edges of campus. For example, the recent Cryfield development is sensitively designed across a range of heights to suit the landscape setting and respect mature trees.

The existing landscape character across this area will be maintained and existing trees protected. New and existing landscape will be managed to increase biodiversity (see DP6) and any new development will incorporate natural drainage features to achieve a greenfield runoff rate.

New residential accommodation will be designed to minimise car access and will include no new parking other than blue badge. Access will be via the one-way circulatory route around the campus (see DP3) to allow servicing, access to blue badge parking and emergency services. This may be accompanied by Very Light Transport (VLT) to service residents and pedestrian and cycle routes will be enhanced where possible.

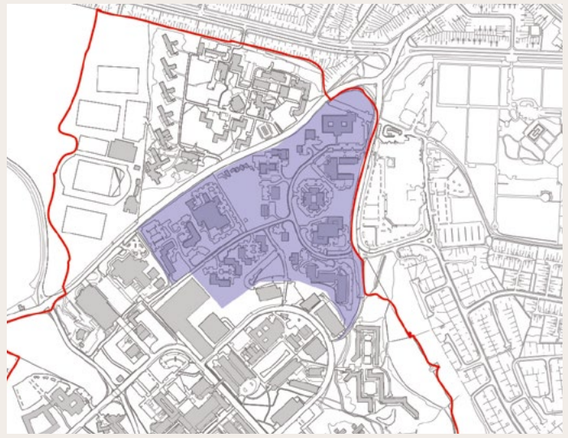


Gibbet Hill

Gibbet Hill is part of the campus core because it houses Warwick's Medical School, Biomedical and Life Sciences Buildings although it sits slightly apart from main campus, separated by Tocil Wood. It includes the recently completed Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building.

The vision for Gibbet Hill is to enhance the connection to main campus and consolidate the existing building stock, with better connectivity between buildings and public realm, the opportunity to provide new amenity space for students and potential opportunities to incorporate SUDs into the hard landscaping. A gateway feature such as a sculpture or a green entrance could mark the access from the road.

Any development at Gibbet Hill will be in the spirit of the contemporary architecture on campus whilst sensitively responding to heritage assets, namely the Grade II* Listed Houses for Visiting Mathematicians, and the pre-existing Gibbet Hill Farmhouse. Any new buildings will be more modest in scale than the rest of the Campus Core and will respect surrounding residential neighbourhoods.



Science Park

The Science Park is owned by the University and operated by a separate company. It is situated on the northern edge of campus adjoining Cannon Park District Centre. It is characterised by low density buildings in landscaped grounds providing accommodation for research and development businesses. It is one of the earliest Science Parks in the country.

There is scope for modernisation and intensification at the Science Park in future which may include development on surface level car parks and some redevelopment. It will continue to be focussed on business and research activities related to the University, not primarily academic or residential use.

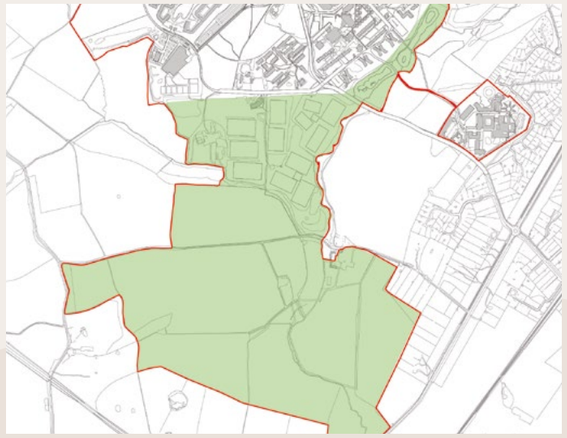
Given the difference in uses, car parking at the Science Park is treated separately from the rest of campus and would be subject to separate traffic assessment.

Westwood

The Westwood Campus was formerly the Coventry College of Education on a site across Kirby Corner Road, adjoining the residential suburb of Canley. It has had a mix of academic, conference, residential and sports uses, including the University Tennis Centre and running track.

As some of these uses are rationalised, the University is considering options for the future of the built-up part of Westwood and some redevelopment may come forward within the period to 2033. Uses are likely to include student accommodation, general housing and business/research uses linked to the Science Park but there are no firm plans.

Any development at Westwood will be more domestic in scale than the campus core, particularly around the edges of the site, to respond appropriately to neighbouring residential areas. Development will respect the landscape features and setting of the site.



Green Fringe

The green fringe includes all those parts of the University's landholdings where no significant built development is anticipated, including the Tocil Wood Nature Reserve which wraps around the eastern side of main campus. The bulk of this area lies south of Leighfield Road, which sits within the Green Belt as defined in the Warwick District Local Plan and is characterised by sports pitches to the north of Cryfield Grange Road and agricultural land to the south. A significant strip of land is impacted by HS2.

The University has an ambition to create an Eco Park in this area, providing recreational opportunities for the campus and local communities by increasing accessibility for walking and cycling, improving biodiversity (see DP6) and potentially generating renewable energy to support the Net Zero Carbon strategy. Existing trees and habitats will be retained and enhanced.

Any proposals within the Green Fringe should be set a minimum distance of 8m from the top bank of any watercourse.

Supporting Strategies

One of the main reasons for producing an SPD is to ensure that future developments come forward within the scope of campus wide strategies on:

- Transport and Movement
- Sustainability and Energy
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Flood Risk and Drainage
- Heritage and Archaeology

Transport and Movement

Key relevant planning policy:

The NPPF notes that Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stage of plan making and development proposals so that

a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;

b) opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated;

c) opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;

d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and

e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.

Coventry Local Plan

AC1- Accessible Transport Network

states that development proposals which generate additional trips on the transport network should promote a choice of transport modes, consider the accessibility needs of all residents and visitors, support the delivery of new and improved high quality public transport, and actively support the integration of future intelligent mobility infrastructure.

AC2- Road Network

aims to mitigate and manage any traffic growth generated by proposed development. The primary focus of the policy is on demand management measures including promoting sustainable modes of transport, and secondly on the delivery of appropriate highway capacity interventions.

AC3- Demand Management

sets out the Council's expectations for assessments, reports and parking standards for the validation of proposed development applications.

AC4- Walking and Cycling

states that development proposals should incorporate safe and convenient access to walking and cycling routes.

AC5- Bus and Rapid Transit

sets out the expectation for major development proposals to incorporate safe and convenient access to the existing bus network.

The **Air Quality SPD** adopted by Coventry City Council in 2019, provides guidance for development proposals and is relevant to Transport. The SPD states that consideration must be given to the air quality impacts associated with proposed development and that mitigation should be incorporated from an early design stage.

Warwick District Local Plan

TR1- Access and Choice

states that the Council will only permit development where it provides safe, suitable and attractive access routes for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles, refuse vehicles and other users of motor vehicles.

TR2- Traffic Generation

sets out development Council's expectation that all large-scale development that will result in significant traffic movements will be supported by a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan where relevant.

TR3- Parking

aims to control and manage the expectations of parking provision of proposed developments.

TR4- Safeguarding for Transport Infrastructure

sets out land within the District safeguarded from development. These include the land required for High Speed Rail 2 and areas of search for park and ride.

The **Air Quality and Planning SPD** adopted by Warwick District Council in 2019 is broadly similar to the Coventry Air Quality SPD and provides guidance on local air quality, and the level of proposed mitigation required to make any scheme acceptable.

The **Warwick District Council Parking Standards** sets out the expected amount of vehicle and cycle parking to be provided for all types of development, and guidance and design principles for its integration into development proposals.

Other Considerations

West Midlands Local Transport Plan 5

The University endorses TfWM's Local Transport Plan (LTP) 5 which sets out policies to promote safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within the region. The statutory policy has a vision "for creating safe, reliable and affordable connections for everyone that are healthy, sustainable and efficient to create great places where generations will thrive". This is to be achieved through implementing a range of plans and strategies with the overarching aims to reduce single occupancy car usage and promote public transport and active travel.

Coventry Area Strategy

As set out in TfWM's LTP Core Strategy, an Area Strategy for Coventry is being developed in partnership between TfWM and CCC to apply and tailor principles and policies from the LTP to the local area. The University will work with TfWM and CCC to identify transport interventions for neighbourhoods around the campus and along key transport corridors to support the transport and movement objectives of this SPD.

Transport and Movement Strategy

The University's goal is to reduce indirect carbon emissions generated through all forms of transport and mobility to achieve net zero by 2050. To achieve this, the University will continue to work closely with its communities as it introduces, tests and champions greener, cleaner forms of transport.

The University identified transport and mobility as a key strategic workstream in 2018 and have been taking positive steps since then to tackle the way its community collectively chooses to travel and move goods. A close collaboration with local and regional authorities has seen the campus as a testbed for new and emerging transport technologies. For example, the Future Transport Zone partnership between the University and TfWM brought showcase project to campus such as e-scooters, car clubs, demand-responsive services which has brought about significant progress in transport innovation.

The overarching aim has been, and will continue to be, to reduce the single occupancy private vehicle usage whilst providing viable non-car alternatives for campus users to consider. This is embedded within the University's Travel Plan which was subject to a comprehensive review and refresh in 2024, supported by extensive surveys and to be monitored biennially against ambitious targets.

When originally conceived, one of the major benefits of the campus' semi-rural location was its accessibility by car, away from the congestion and transport issues of many cities. But nearly 60 years on, the growth of the University and of car ownership has resulted in peak hour congestion on local roads, which not only impacts on campus users who travel by car but also those traveling by bus; resulting in travel delays and capacity constraints.

Over the last five years the University has taken extensive steps to reduce car dependency and promote sustainable travel options for campus users. These targeted sustainable transport interventions have been further complimented and supported by the notable changes to travel behaviours since Covid-19.

In response to Covid-19 lockdowns the University successfully implemented blended learning (for students) and remote working (for staff). This, alongside the implementation of sustainable transport measures, new mobility trials, an updated parking policy and increased parking charges, has resulted in the following as evidenced by the 2022 and 2023 travel survey and other monitoring data collected by the University:

- Significantly fewer staff and students travelling to campus on a regular basis
- Greater proportion of staff and students travelling to/from campus outside of the peak periods
- More staff and students travelling by non-car modes when visiting the campus

There are significant long-term (post 2033) regional and sub-regional transport investments which will actively influence movement surrounding the campus on both macro and micro scales including:

HS2 and UK Central Developments

The proposed High Speed 2 (HS2) rail route will run to the south-west of the campus, providing connections between Birmingham International and London. As a result of this investment, the West Coast Main Line (WCML) will be upgraded and is expected to provide benefits to the campus through enhanced services at Tile Hill and Canley stations. HS2 is expected to be operational between 2029 and 2033 and the WCML upgrade will be undertaken in parallel. A new HS2 station along with Birmingham International Airport, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham Business Park, and Jaguar Land Rover are the core components of UK Central. UK Central is being promoted by Solihull MBC and WMCA as a major development opportunity with the potential to deliver 4,000 homes and 77,500 new jobs.

University of Warwick Station[1]

Kenilworth station, located between Coventry and Leamington Spa, was opened in May 2018 and provides improved connectivity to Coventry city centre for local residents. The Coventry Local Plan includes an aspiration to provide a second (University of Warwick) station north of Kenilworth and closer to the University near the King's Hill development site. Delivery of the station would be subject to a number of engineering and financial challenges being overcome, including providing significant rail capacity upgrades between Coventry and Kenilworth.

1 WCC's Warwickshire Rail Strategy (2019): https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/communities/draft-warwickshire-rail-strategy-2019-2034/supporting_documents/WRIS%20DRAFT%20for%20consultation%20201934%20FINAL.pdf

WMRE Rail Investment Strategy (2022): https://wmre.org.uk/our-strategies/west-midlands-rail-investment-strategy/

Very Light Rail (VLR)

Very Light Rail (VLR) is a research and development project delivering an affordable light rail system in Coventry. CCC has developed an outline business case for a preferred north-east route linking the city to Walsgrave Hospital. This has enabled CCC to secure funding to support a demonstration track in Dudley to facilitate the necessary legislative sign off on use of the new technology and progress the project through to implementation and operation.

A46 Link Road

Warwickshire County Council developed a proposal for an A46 Link Road as part of a multimodal transport corridor that passed to the south of campus but was unable to demonstrate a viable case. Nonetheless, despite changes in travel behaviour, there are still critical local road congestion issues and insufficient provision for alternative modes of transport (active and public transport infrastructure) in the wider area. Consequently, there may still be a need for this to be addressed in the future both to support the University's continued success and, subject to the Local Plan Review, other development in the surrounding area. In line with our plan to be net zero on scope 3 emissions (p24), the travel hierarchy (Appendix 1, Section 4), and delivery of our eco park (page 15), our preference would be that active and public transport infrastructure would be strongly prioritised. However, this will be a matter for the Local Plan Reviews to consider and determine and the University's plans would respond accordingly.

The transport movement and connectivity strategy of this SPD is in accordance with the following themes:

- Reduce single occupancy vehicle trips to and from campus
- Maintain accessibility through and around campus for all users especially sustainable, non-car modes
- Support more efficient, legible and comfortable movement on campus
- Engage and incentivise behavioural change to support mobility transformation
- Offer choice and variety to all users in order to replace dependency on the private car
- Support the development of innovative and integrated future mobility solutions
- Develop sustainable transport to enhance the environmental sustainability of the campus

These major themes will continue to incorporate two key areas in order to achieve measurable and tangible modal shift:

- *"Here and Now"* – what the University can, within its control, proactively initiate to help make key evolvement in the mobility and connectivity infrastructure across all transport modes in and around campus
- The *"Strategic Regional Infrastructure"* investments – working closely with transport authorities to help and support the strategic value of the Transport Corridor to the University and the region, VLR connecting Coventry to the campus area and future mobility corridors such as the cycleway connecting Leamington to Kenilworth.

Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy

Traffic congestion, vehicle speeds, parked vehicles, and vehicle-centric spaces currently create hostile and severed streets for people walking, cycling, scooting and wheeling. This undermines the campus experience through unsafe, poor quality, disconnected and non-inclusive spaces.

The approach of this SPD is to aim to reduce non-essential vehicle use on roads within the heart of the campus and the relocation of car parks to the periphery over time will free up more space for pedestrians and cyclists. The campus will offer a much better environment with more cohesive, permeable, legible, direct, safe and accessible pedestrian and cycle routes across the campus that are guided by distinctive and inclusive wayfinding and placemaking principles.

New and enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes will be designed in accordance with local guidance and the Government's National Design Guide, 'Local Transport Note 1/20 – Cycle Infrastructure Design' (LTN 1/20) and 'Active Design Guidance', taking into consideration the needs of all users. Opportunities to downgrade Gibbet Hill Road and reduce vehicle dominance will be a priority should alternative access solutions emerge as part of the Local Plan Review.

Interactive online maps and apps will work alongside printed signage across the campus to help with accessibility. Arrival will be better announced at campus entrances with strong gateway buildings, landscaping and artwork.

Enhanced pedestrian routes and green spaces will encourage more people to walk around campus and engage with their surroundings, leading to casual encounters and interactions, and better occupation and animation of space. Nature will be embedded into the heart of the campus and noise pollution will decrease with less vehicular activity, creating a calmer, healthier environment to improve wellbeing.

The University will continue to regularly monitor utilisation of the more than 3,500 cycle parking space across the campus to ensure sufficient provision is located where it is in highest demand.

To accommodate the expected uplift in active travel up to 2033 and beyond, adequate secure, appropriately designed cycle parking and supporting facilities (e.g., showers, lockers, changing rooms, drying rooms) will be provided as part of new developments at least in accordance with adopted local policy.

As part of delivering the SPD, the University is developing a wayfinding strategy that will enhance both on campus movements and connections to key destinations such as transport hubs and nearby urban centres. This will be achieved with intelligent positioning of buildings, creation of "landmark" developments and markers, and immersive technology. Consideration of lighting provision and CCTV form part of this programme to improve both legibility and personal safety through campus.

The University will explore, alongside Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council, how an equivalent scheme to the West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme might be delivered in Kenilworth and Leamington to offer the benefits of such a scheme to staff and students living in these areas.

The University will expand and adapt its softer measures to support cycling such as mechanisms to resell and maintain cycles, safety and proficiency training. It will evolve its Cycle to Work scheme to help eligible staff purchase e-bikes and mobility assisted cycles.

Promoting Wider Pedestrian and Cycle Connections

The University in recent years has contributed toward cycleway improvement schemes at both Lynchgate Road and Kirby Corner Road as well the implementation of traffic calming measures at Cannon Hill to improve road safety. The University will continue to work with CCC, WCC, TfWM and their partners such as Sustrans, to deliver new and improved active travel connections to Coventry city centre, Kenilworth, Leamington, Canley and Tile Hill stations.

To support this the University has completed a 'Cycling Improvement Study' and 'Pedestrian Improvement Study' as required by Section 106 Obligations attached to the planning permission for the Social Sciences Quarter. As well as including comprehensive reviews of the walking and cycling networks within the campus, the Cycling Study will focus on gaps and missing links between the campus and student/staff residential locations, public transport interchanges and existing/proposed cycleways. Of particular focus is the consideration of improving connections to Kenilworth Road and Kings Hill to support active travel movement linking to areas of identified growth and key cycle corridors. The Pedestrian Study has adopted a tighter geographical focus on infrastructure gaps on, and in the immediate vicinity of, campus (e.g., missing footways/dropped kerbs/tactile paving, poor lighting).

Public Transport and Shared Mobility

Public transport and shared mobility will be crucial mechanisms in driving modal shift and creating a more sustainable, pleasant campus. Removing non-essential vehicle trips from the heart of the campus will enable priority access along University-owned roads to the benefit of those using sustainable modes such as electric buses, scooting and cycling. Re-allocation of road space, where appropriate to better support bus access will make bus journeys more reliable and attractive to users, whilst continued collaboration with TfWM to support sustainable journeys through incentives, discounts and advice will help drive travel behaviour change further.

The University supports the ongoing replacement of diesel buses with electric buses across the region. Furthermore, it will continue to work with local bus operators and authorities to help make public transport more desirable to those accessing the campus from key connections such as Coventry rail station. This will be based on the following themes:

- dynamically adapting capacity to accommodate changing demand
- aligning bus and rail timetables to provide efficient onward travel
- making public transport travel cost effective for staff and students
- creating University-based bus services that connect staff and students better, also supporting the wider community
- evolving the University service to create a service that is on-demand and complement fixed services
- create a simple, low-cost and seamless environment for all users with one mode of payment for these services

Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) combines the cost effectiveness of bus travel with the convenience of personal mobility services such as private hire and taxis. The University will continue to support TfWM's West Midlands Bus On Demand service and consider how similar services might enable last-mile transport across the campus and connect with local areas in the future.

Such services will:

- Complements fixed network services to reach areas where other options are limited
- Complements fixed network services in terms of seamless connectivity when using multiple modes to travel
- Support the campus's mobility hubs by connecting these to the heart of the campus where private vehicle access will be restricted
- Support special events when demand for transport services increases to help support existing provision

The University will continue to support the delivery of a VLR route between Coventry city centre to the University, which could also connect with existing and proposed mobility hubs and peripheral parking. The University will work closely with CCC to promote a dedicated VLR link to the main campus and will continue to collaborate with TFWM on new innovative transport solutions for the region.

A shift in modal share towards shared mobility will require a wholesale review of the University Interchange to establish whether it can accommodate the anticipated increase in public transport demand. Working with local authorities, and within the design parameters set out in this SPD, the University Interchange will become an expanded gateway to the campus and visually highlight the area as the most convenient method to get to the centre of the University.

The University currently has four car club vehicles (two electric, two hybrid), operated and maintained by Enterprise Car Club, which are available free of charge for business travel only. The University will explore how this scheme could be expanded to reduce business and other private car travel and ownership by staff and students.

Car Parking Strategy

Through previous masterplans, planning applications and associated Section 106 Agreements, a 'cap' on the number of parking spaces to be provided on campus has been agreed, assessed and mitigated.

Pre-Covid, parking utilisation was typically above 90% during term-time weekdays. However, parking surveys show that utilisation since the lifting of pandemic restrictions and the University's implementation of blending learning/remote working has consistently been around 40%. During the busiest term-time weekday periods there are over 3,000 parking spaces vacant across the campus.

The University has implemented significant changes to the parking tariffs by moving to daily charging to reduce vehicle traffic on campus to enable measures to encourage active travel.

Furthermore, all car parks have become "cashless" and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) has been introduced to all car parks to create a systems-based permitting/charging structure.

The SPD proposes no change to the parking cap, and over time the University will continue to move car parking towards the periphery of the campus, whilst ensuring essential accessible parking supports existing buildings and new developments. The University will endorse the principles of 'Park Mark' which sets out guidance to achieve safe, legible parking environments. https://parkmark.co.uk/

The University regularly monitors utilisation of its electric vehicle charging infrastructure and, in light of high utilisation, is currently expanding provision across existing car parks. New car parks will ensure adequate provision of electric vehicle charging.

Delivery, Servicing and Waste Strategy

Servicing and deliveries are a large generator of vehicle movements on campus. They also contribute to the large number of vehicles parked across the campus, particularly within the core while specialist University or independent tradespeople undertake their work.

The STEM application proposes to consolidate delivery and servicing activity primarily in a new servicing area accessed from Gibbet Hill Road, with activity relocated from existing piecemeal servicing areas across the STEM site.

The University will continue to apply principles of remodelling, reducing, rerouting and retiming of delivery and servicing activity across the campus. This will serve to reduce road danger, noise and emissions from such activity.

The University's aspiration is to deliver this strategy through implementation of a hub and spoke servicing network with a new consolidation centre on the campus periphery which would allow for a large proportion of campus deliveries to be processed the 'last mile' being completed by smaller electric vehicles or cargo bikes to reduce the number of large motor vehicle movements in the heart of the campus. There will be exceptions to this approach for, for example, time sensitive or servicing of critical or highly sensitive scientific instruments and manufacturing equipment.

Mobility Hubs

The University has a number of mobility hubs around the campus providing access to shared, publicly accessible transport such as e-scooters and e-bikes, alongside cycle parking and other sustainable transport provision. In the future, these hubs will act as designated stops for campus micro transit to provide for longer trips and connections to local destinations.

Mobility hubs will continue to provide interchange and integration between existing and emerging modes across the campus, alongside real-time travel information and, for examples, parcel lockers.

Beyond 2033, as campus car parking is moved towards the periphery of the campus, the new car parks will act as mobility hubs to provide convenient access for onward travel around the campus. A series of smaller mobility hubs will be dispersed around campus and no more than five minutes' walk from any building.

Approach to traffic modelling

The approach to trip generation and traffic modelling, which has been completed using WCC's Kenilworth and Stoneleigh Wide Area (KSWA) model, has been subject to extensive scoping discussions with the transport authorities.

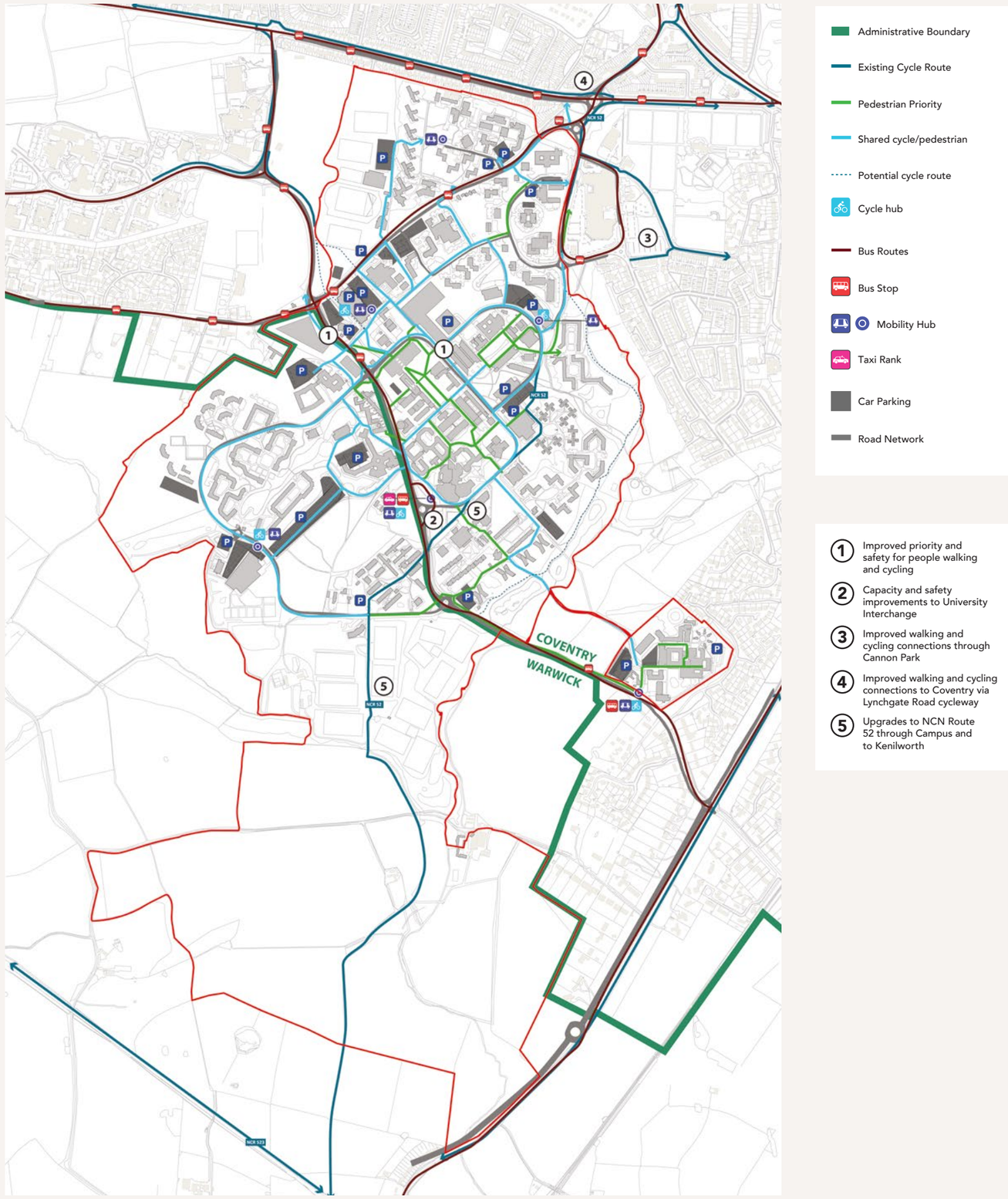
The detailed methodology and modelling results are summarised on the following page. The full modelling assessment report is available to review as supporting information on the consultation website.

Trip Generation and Traffic Modelling

The proposed development comprising the SPD is summarised in Table 1. These include the:

- Outline permission for Warwick Social Sciences (WSS) for up to 32,000 sqm GIA Use Class F1(a). As agreed with the local authorities, this utilised 19,457 sqm residual floorspace from the Capital Plan Hybrid (CPH) permission (ref: OUT/2018/2115 alongside a commitment by the University in the associated section 106 Agreement, to vacate 12,600 sqm within an Existing Social Sciences Building elsewhere on Main Campus.
- The hybrid application for the Science and Engineering Precinct (STEM) (ref: PL/2023/0002402/OUTM pending determination) for up to a net additional 17,946 sqm GIA Use Class F1(a)

PLAN 15: TRANSPORT ROUTES AND CONNECTIONS



To provide additional robustness and flexibility above the expected maximum floorspace, the SPD trip generation and modelling is based on an additional 31,000 sqm GIA Use Class F1(a) floorspace, 7,196 sqm above the actual expected additional floorspace of 23,804 sqm.

Table 1: SPD additional floorspace (sqm) calculation

Proposed Works	Use Class F1(a) GIA sqm
Demolition / Vacant	38,093
New Build / Refurbish	81,354
Net Additional SPD	**+43,261**
CPH Residual	-19,457
Actual Additional SPD	23,804

Trip generation for the academic floorspace is based on a first principles approach considering maximum building occupancies for the proposed new and refurbished buildings including WSS and the Science and Engineering Precinct. These buildings will comprise a blend of general teaching, specialist teaching, research labs and workplaces. Bespoke trip rates for undergraduates, postgraduates and staff have been derived and mode shares are based on the University's 2023 travel survey. The methodology has been agreed in principle by CCC, WCC and NH as part of detailed stakeholder engagement.

Alongside academic floorspace, the SPD proposes up to 1,200 student bedspaces – a 16% increase from the existing 7,487 bedspaces. Additional bedspaces enable students to walk or cycle across the campus rather than make external trips from outside the campus on the local transport networks, which provides significant benefits to capacity and congestion.

In order to consider a robust worst-case scenario, as part of the traffic modelling additional bedspaces (which will reduce external trips due to internalisation) will not be incorporated. Several scenarios have been modelled and assessed. The worst-case scenario assesses the SPD's additional trips in a 2037 future year with associated committed development and background traffic growth. The local highway network has areas of congestion and delay prior to inclusion of the SPD, with modest increases in traffic having disproportionate impacts. However, the SPD would not materially alter queueing or delay across the local or strategic road networks. The full 'SPD Trip Generation and Modelling Assessment' report is available to review as supporting information on the consultation website.

The quantum of development provides an upper limit of 31,000 sqm GIA for academic floorspace against which future applications can be considered. Where applications fall within the floorspace limit, there should be no need for additional traffic impact assessment. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the quantum of additional bedspaces that have been constructed to offset any additional floorspace above 31,000 sqm GIA.

The Monitor and Manage approach[2] and legal mechanism will provide the basis for identifying any mitigation measures considered necessary to address the specific impacts of any proposal being considered by the local planning and highway authorities. Where development comes forward outside of these floorspace limits or for uses not assessed through the SPD (for instance, proposals on the Science Park), a separate Transport Assessment should be scoped and submitted with any planning application following the principles set out in the Monitor and Manage approach.

The conclusions of the traffic modelling demonstrate that additional University vehicle trips are less than two vehicles per minute during the busiest peak hours, which is not a material change. The modelled highway network in WCC's KSWA model is highly sensitive and there are high growth assumptions up to 2037 without the SPD. Consequently, with the addition of a small number of University vehicle trips as a result of the SPD, there is some additional queueing and longer journey times in some locations. Given the limited impacts of the SPD, it is agreed with CCC, WCC and NH that no highway mitigation is required and the SPD would not have an unacceptable safety impact or severe residual cumulative impact on the local highway network or strategic road network.

2 A Monitor and Manage approach builds on a change in attitude to the issue of travel and movement. It seeks to stop using past traffic trends to determine the future need for infrastructure, as this maintains the status quo by perpetuating dependence on cars. This enables more positive transport planning and helps implement a hierarchy of users by considering walking, cycling and public transport upfront and supporting net zero ambitions. A fundamental part of this approach is the need to monitor travel behaviour over time and manage the implementation of targeted transport interventions to support sustainable travel.

Monitor and Manage Approach

Over recent years, planning permissions on the University campus have been subject to Section 106 Legal Agreements which have obligated the University to either undertake physical works or make considerable financial contributions relative to transport works. These are summarised below:

- Travel survey of staff and students on a biennial basis for a five-year period with mode share targets for staff and students
- Regular traffic surveys to monitor whether vehicle trips to/from the University during peak periods exceed 16% growth from a 2018 baseline, with a £300,000 remedial payment required to be paid if this is exceeded – surveys in 2022 showed that morning peak period (07:00-10:00) trips reduced by 17% and evening peak period (16:00-19:00) trips reduced by 2%
- Traffic Regulation Order Contribution: £50,000 utilised by CCC for the traffic calming scheme on Cannon Hill Road
- Cycleway Contribution: £100,000 for Lynchgate Road and £50,000 for Kirby Corner Road, with the former paid and implemented by CCC
- Traffic Calming Contribution: £100,000 was paid to CCC in July 2021 for the traffic calming scheme at Cannon Hill Road which was implemented in 2023
- Highways Contribution: £650,000 was paid to WDC in July 2021 towards the Stoneleigh Road/A46 junction improvement
- Shuttle Bus: Bus service 14, subsidised by the University for two years from September 2020, was implemented in partnership with National Express Buses and now operates as a commercially viable service without subsidy from the University.
- A 'Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board' has been set up comprising representatives from the University, CCC, WCC, WDC, TfWM and NH. This group will monitor, review, co-ordinate and implement the monitor and manage set of principles in relation to all future University development activities, the SPD and associated S106 obligations. The sub board also discusses and manages transport issues and takes opportunities to foster collaboration and sharing of information to improve transport and travel within the local vicinity and encourage positive sustainable transport shifts.

A legal mechanism to support this SPD with 'Monitor and Manage' elements which set out a framework of agreed mitigations in response to changes in travel behavior will be progressed, binding members of the Monitor and Manage Board.

This will allow individual planning applications to come forward within the parameters set by the SPD, without the need for these to be subject to standalone traffic modelling and detailed assessments.

The proposed content of the legal mechanism is provided at Appendix 1

Sustainability and Energy Strategy

Key relevant planning policy:

The NPPF notes that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in tackling climate change and it should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

Coventry Local plan

EM1 Planning for Climate Change Adaption

states that the Council will require all development to be designed to be resilient to, and adapt to the future impact of climate change. Adaptation measures include mitigation against rising temperatures, maximising water efficiency, and minimising risk to flooding.

EM3 Renewable Energy Generation

supports development proposals for renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies, and their incorporation within development proposals.

The **Energy SPD** aims to support the implementation of Policy EM2 Building Standards which states that development should be designed and constructed to the relevant building standards and meet the carbon reduction targets.

Warwick District Local Plan:

CC1 Planning for Climate Change Adaption

states development proposals will need to be designed to be resilient and adaptive to the future impacts of climate change.

CC2 Planning for Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Generation

states that new low carbon and renewable energy technologies will be supported in principle subject to set criteria including being designed to minimise the impact on adjacent land uses and local residential amenity.

CC3 Building Standards and other Sustainability Requirements

states that all non-residential development over 1000 sq.m are required to achieve a minimum BREEAM standard 'very good' unless it can be demonstrated that it is financially unviable.

Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since adopted (May 2024) a **Net-zero Carbon DPD**. The Council concluded the Main Modifications consultation in July 2023. The objectives of the DPD are to minimise carbon emissions from new buildings and to support national and local carbon reduction targets. The DPD aims to achieve net zero operational regulated carbon emissions by sequentially implementing an energy hierarchy. This hierarchy seeks to firstly reduce energy demand (by improving the building fabric); then incorporating or utilising zero or low carbon energy sources; and as a last resort, where there are residual operational carbon emissions, there will be carbon offsetting requirements.

Alongside the DPD sits the Net Zero Carbon SPD which sets out further advice and guidance to applicants and relevant stakeholders on how to comply with the DPD policies. The SPD has recently been subject to a statutory consultation in October - November 2023.

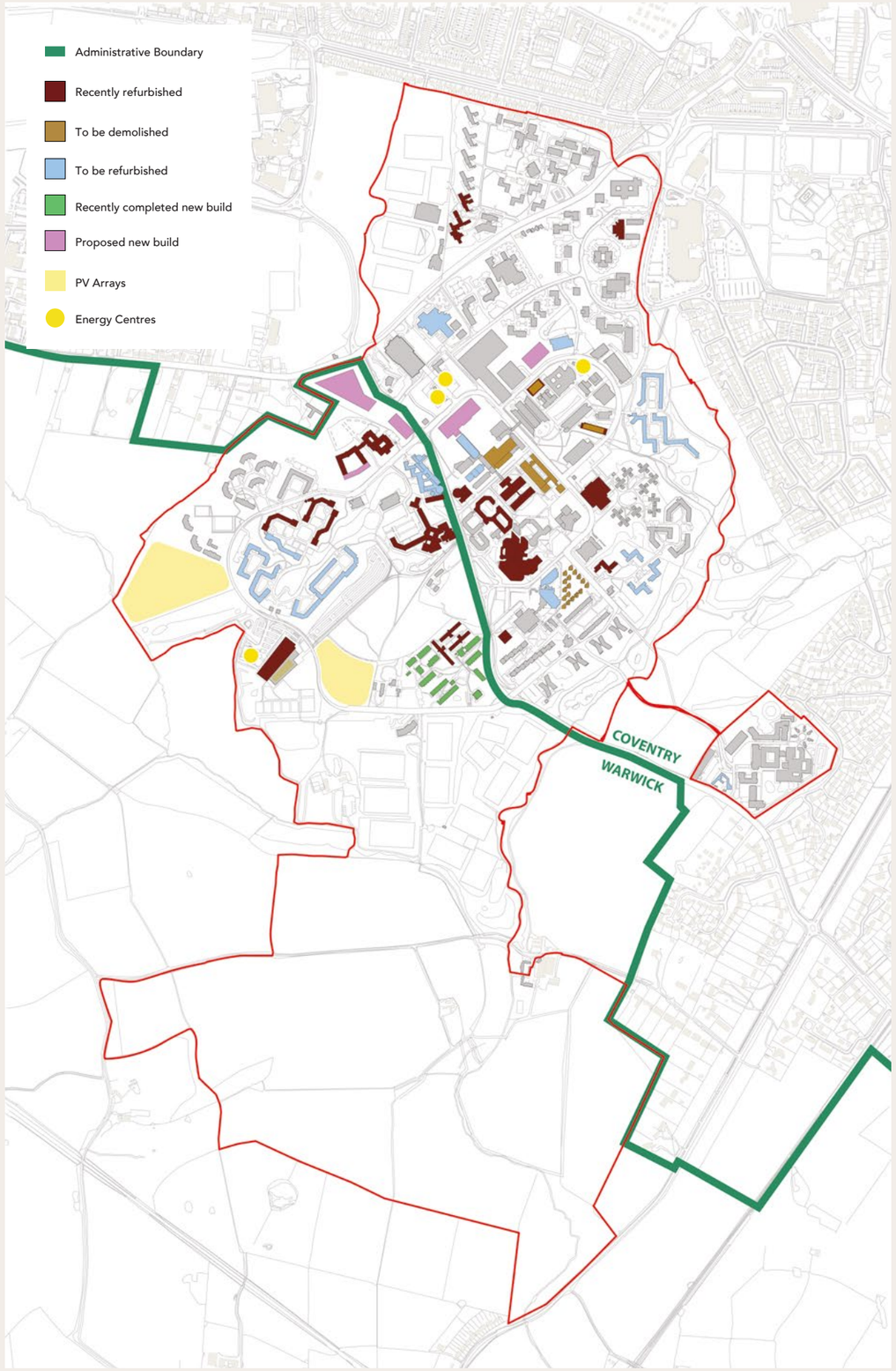
Overarching University ambition – Net Zero targets

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are fundamental to the University's vision to build a better world while addressing the urgent challenges posed by the Climate Emergency. Therefore, the University is committed to reframing the thinking behind decision making, strategic goals and organisation to set a clear pathway to a more sustainable future. The University's current approach ***"the Way to Sustainable"*** reflects the collective journey of continuous improvement and the important elements of curiosity, learning, engagement, collaborative planning, and action needed to achieve the most effective outcomes.

The University seeks to ensure that every member of the Warwick community, partners, and networks work together to find ways to be more sustainable through achieving the right balance between providing clear leadership, enabling cooperation, and listening to others. The University seeks to inspire and be inspired, take a practical approach to problem-solving, be prepared to be always listen and learn, be willing to tackle the wicked problems together, and to continuously evolve by doing so.

As part of the University's Climate Emergency Declaration, a commitment has been made to reach net zero carbon from direct emissions, and the energy purchased, by 2030 (Scope 1 and 2 emissions). To achieve this, carbon efficiency needs to be increased drastically in order to change to a reduction pathway. The University commits to achieving net zero for all direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3) by 2050, and the success of this will mean acting differently now.

PLAN 16: SUSTAINABILITY PARAMETER PLANS



Reuse/refurbishment

In line with the University's goals on net zero carbon, the University has a hierarchy of decision making and will look to prioritise the re use and refurbishment of existing buildings first, with buildings only being considered for demolition if they are in poor condition or not viable for reuse and demolition or if partial demolition opens up further strategic opportunities.

The University has developed a set of standards which apply to all new construction projects on the Campus, reflecting the University's 'low energy, low maintenance' strategy. This is known as 'The Warwick Standard'. The Warwick Standard provides clear leadership and sets the benchmark for how development is constructed at the University, setting out mandatory design standards which align with the masterplan for the campus. This ensures that all projects are developed and built with uniformly high standards of design which align to the University's strategic goals.

Approach to achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions

The University is embedding sustainability into all operations to ensure that they can operate resiliently at net zero, or beyond, by 2050 from direct and indirect emissions. In doing so, the University seeks to inspire its community, increasing collaboration with stakeholders and supply chain partners to inform and improve operations.

As such, number of Sustainable Operations have been identified in respect of Transport and Mobility, Energy, Campus construction, maintenance, and repair, ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain, reducing waste and water.

Transport and Mobility

Goal:

Reduce indirect carbon emissions generated through all forms of transport and mobility to achieve net zero by 2050. If we are going to achieve this, we need to work closely with our communities as we introduce, test, learn and champion greener, cleaner forms of transport.

Actions:

- continue to use our campus as a real-time living lab that enables us to better understand and address the needs of commuters
- accelerate plans to transform the campus transport infrastructure by improving our services, offering more greener, cleaner transport options, whilst continuing to provide better connectivity across our region
- change our policies to emphasise the need to use cleaner, greener forms of travel when travelling on University business
- continue to lead on the conception and development of future transport infrastructure (including provision of EV charging facilities where appropriate), so that we are well placed to enable and accommodate the predicted growth of the University, and our region, whilst also achieving our sustainability target.

Energy

Goal:

Our overall goal is to get to net zero carbon from the energy we use by 2030

Actions:

- transition away from fossil fuel gas supplies for on campus operations by 2030
- continue to source green electricity from the National Grid which we have done since 2020
- reduce our reliance on the grid, by selfgenerating renewable energy on campus where viable
- lead the way in creating low carbon energy networks on campus, utilising the existing energy infrastructure combined with viable emerging technologies to create an exemplar future energy network
- improve the utilisation of space across campus, where appropriate and realistically possible, through the adoption of technology and hybrid styles of working developed during the pandemic
- actively seek partnerships with organisations to assist in this transition.

Campus Construction, Maintenance and Repair

Goal:

We have aspired to high levels of building quality and performance since 2015, targeting BREEAM 'Excellent' and EPC A standards, well exceeding regulatory building standards. Our mission is to ensure that our new construction projects across our campuses are net zero carbon developments, and to build and refurbish our stock in an environmentally responsible manner, considering the whole life cycle carbon emissions from our real estate.

Actions:

- continue to ensure that all of our new construction projects are net zero carbon developments; we have already implemented a policy to assess the embodied carbon of our new buildings, enabling informed investment decisions to be made
- aspire to Passivhaus standard where possible and appropriate
- evaluate our options to provide new space and facilities on a whole life carbon basis, including opportunities to repurpose existing building where appropriate
- refurbish and improve our pre-2015 real estate, where we need to maintain rather than rebuild, via viable thermal improvements, green energy generation and intelligent operational controls
- improve building controls and space management systems to heat and cool spaces that we use in an efficient way
- implement sector-leading environmental building performance standards for new builds and refurbishments.

Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain

Goal:

Our goal is to enhance campus biodiversity, targeting the mandatory requirement for 10% net gain compared with pre-development.

Actions:

- allocate a large proportion of our land holding (over 120 acres) on the main campus to re-wilding and parkland for amenity, education and, to assist our transition to renewable energy
- safeguard and enhance existing ecological assets
- encourage people (staff, students, and our local community) to engage with the natural environment through education and research.

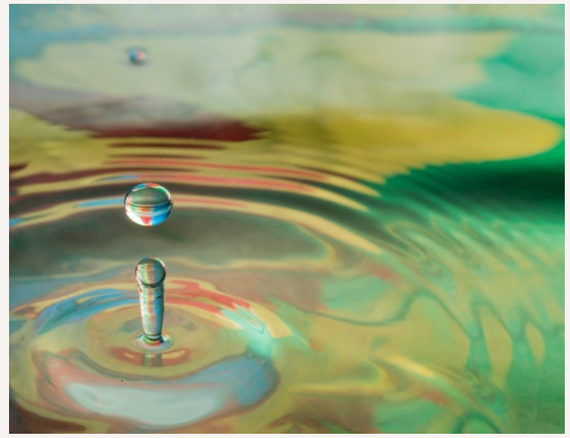
Reducing Waste

Goal:

To reduce the total volume of waste produced by Warwick and, if that's not possible, reuse and recycle.

Actions:

- reduce waste being produced in the first place. We will support initiatives that stop waste being created - for example the Warwick Cup scheme, the second-hand bike shop pop-up and the arrivals pop-up shops
- reuse waste that is produced. For example, we will continue to donate a significant amount of 'clean waste' left at the end of the academic year to charity, working with both the compliance and community engagement teams
- recycle as much waste as possible. We are already conducting an infrastructure review (containers, accessibility, collection), and a communications review to encourage more recycling behaviours. We will also improve our processes to segregate new waste streams (cardboard, cables, duvets and bedlinen, and coffee grounds), and we will build on our existing food waste collection activities
- recover waste. We will secure access to a waste to energy plant to dispose of our waste, so that we continue to ensure we send 0% to landfill. We will divert waste from landfill using dedicated material recycling facilities for large items that are not accepted at incinerator resulting in zero waste to landfill.



Water

Goal:

Reduce total campus water consumption, in the interest of reducing carbon associated with water treatment but also to ensure that we preserve this valuable resource.

Actions:

- undertake continual monitoring and targeting to support our water usage plans
- assess a suitable and alternative targeting mechanism based on possible future campus populations
- continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our drainage systems through our ISO14001 Environmental Standard
- undertake comprehensive flood risk assessments to ensure our future buildings are not at risk of flooding and do not exacerbate flood risks elsewhere, and explore and implements opportunities to reduce flood risk where possible.

Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy

Key relevant planning policy:

The NPPF describes how planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment including by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.

Coventry Local Plan

GE1 Green Infrastructure

states that existing GI will be protected and used as a way of adapting to climate change. New development would be expected to make provision of GI and maintain the quality and quantity of existing GI.

GE3 Biodiversity, Geological, Landscape and Archaeological Conservation

aims to protect and enhance SSSIs, LNRs, ancient woodlands and local wildlife and geological sites. This includes the expectation that development proposals will lead to a net BNG, protect or enhance biodiversity assets and secure long term management, avoid negative impacts on existing biodiversity and preserve species that are legally protected.

GE4 Tree Protection

states that development proposals will be positively considered where there is no unacceptable loss of or damage to existing trees or woodlands. The policy also expects removed trees to be replaced with new trees, and for retained trees to be sympathetically incorporated into the overall design. Furthermore, trees that are subject to 'protection' will not be removed without justification.

EM1 Planning for Climate Change Adaption

states that all development will be required to be designed to be resilient to climate change through adaptation measures. For ecology these include optimising the use of multi-functional GI and where appropriate BI.

The **Biodiversity Net Gain SPD** provides additional guidance on the objectives of Policy GE3, which include facilitating a net BNG, protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets and their long term management, and preserving species which are legally protected, in decline or rare within Coventry.

The **Trees and Developer Guidance SPD** establishes the Council's expected standards for development proposals with regards to existing trees. This includes retaining and incorporating high quality existing trees within proposed development schemes which will be adhered where possible and appropriate across the SPD area.

Warwick District Local Plan

CC1 Planning for Climate Change Adaption

states that all development is required to be designed to be resilient to, and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. This will include optimising the use of multi-functional GI for urban cooling.

NE1 Green Infrastructure

aims to protect, enhance and restore the district's GI assets on a sub-regional to a local and neighbourhood scale.

NE2 Protecting designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets

confirms that the Council will protect designated areas and species of national and local importance for biodiversity and geodiversity. The policy goes on to states that all proposals likely to impact these sites/ species will be subject to an ecological assessment.

NE3 Biodiversity

sets out the Council's expectation that development proposals will protect, enhance and/or restore habitat biodiversity.

Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy

The Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy is based upon the following objectives:

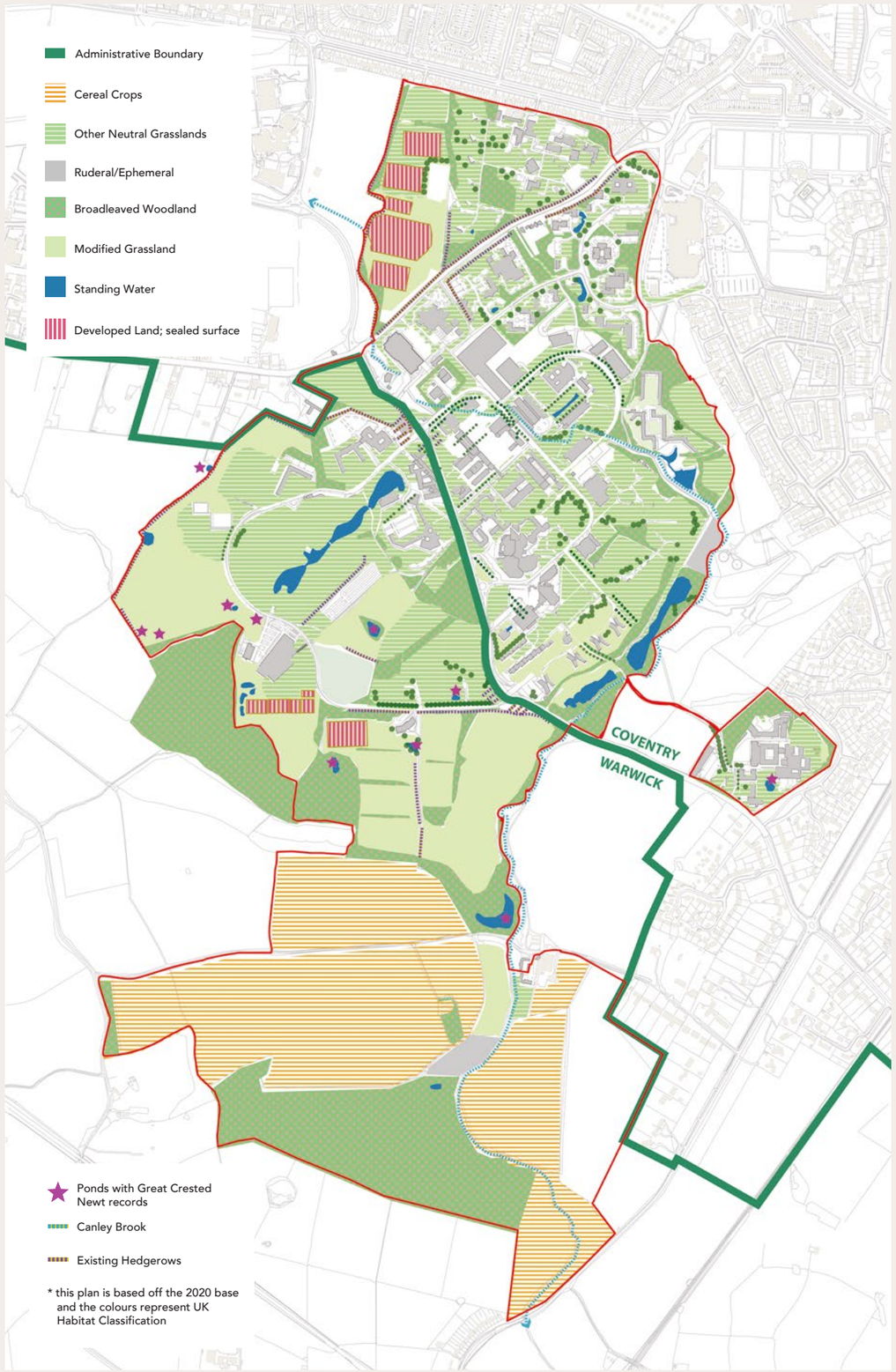
- Safeguard existing ecological sites
- Enhance campus biodiversity
- Sustain and enhance the Great Crested Newt (GCN) population
- Encourage site users to engage with the natural environment

It is based upon an understanding of the Baseline ecological conditions within the SPD boundary. These are identified on Plan 17.

The University is committed to conserving and improving the habitats and species which form the campus's natural assets, and to developing campus biodiversity holistically and not as isolated resources. The SPD boundary contains a wealth of habitats including woodland, mature trees, hedgerows, lakes, ponds, brooks, meadows and open farmland. The University acknowledges the multiple benefits of the environment for health, well-being, food production, climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration.

Other relevant documents and strategies to be considered in relation to biodiversity on campus are: WDC Biodiversity Action Programme www.warwickdc.gov.uk/biodiversity
Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

PLAN 17: BASELINE ECOLOGY PLAN



The University is committed to maximising the ecological value of its estate.

Its commitment to enhancing biodiversity is demonstrated by the numerous habitat creation and management projects that have taken place in recent years including:

- Restoring a large pond through desilting, revetment creation and marginal planting
- Taking part in No Mow May with areas left unmown throughout the summer months
- Wildflower area creation within residences as well as recently laid wildflower turf
- Hedgerow planting to create wildlife corridors; and
- Planting of 900 whips from the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Biodiversity enhancements which have taken place on campus between 2020 and 2023 are shown on Plan 19.This plan also identities locations where enhancements have been undertaken as part of planning permission approvals.

In addition to these projects, we have also started a programme of species monitoring and mapping data on GIS. For example, as part of the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative, for which we have achieved the silver award and are working towards gold, we have undertaken hedgehog surveys for the past two years and the surveys have been initiated this year with support from local groups and staff for small mammals, moths, pond health, and birds.

Principle of 'banking'

The approach to habitat creation and enhancement has the potential to create an opportunity for biodiversity gains to be accounted and used to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts of a particular project. Prior to any habitat creation and / or enhancement work outside a built project boundary, a detailed ecological assessment will be undertaken to determine the necessary baseline information and a site-specific ecological management plan produced so that the creation and/ or enhancement can be calculated and used to off-set onsite biodiversity losses. A baseline biodiversity assessment will be undertaken to establish the Biodiversity Net Gain measurement following the proposed interventions.

Great Crested Newts

Great Crested Newts are protected under European and UK Law, a species of principal importance in England and a Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan species. A desktop study undertaken by the University show records of 9 ponds within the SPD boundary in which Great Crested Newt have been identified. These are shown on Plan 18.

The ponds which between them support a regionally significant great crested newt population, are all situated along a horizontal belt as shown on Plan 18 surrounded by grassland, hedgerow and woodland habitats which provide cover, food and dispersal routes for the species.

To safeguard the University's GCN population, future development on campus should be focussed away from known GCN ponds and valuable GCN habitat. If impact on GCN habitat is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation measures to be agreed with the relevant Local Authority will be provided.

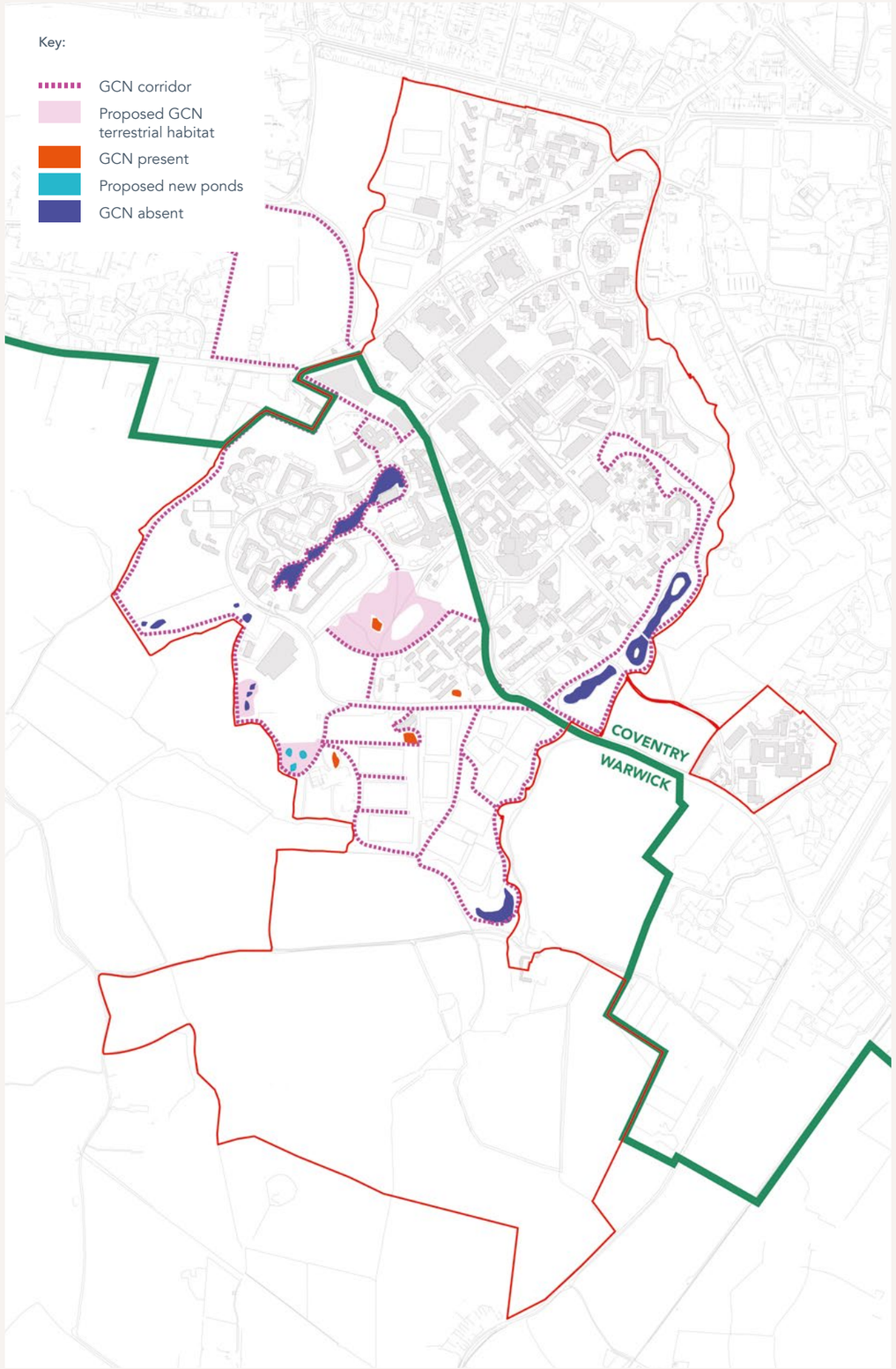
The campus provides opportunities for the GCN habitat to be enhanced. In line with the enhancement strategy, the University will continue to monitor GCN's across the campus to measure the success of the GCN site conservation and enhancement measures and to inform future development.

Biodiversity Net Gain – principle of campus wide approach

It is noted that Biodiversity Net gain is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

The University's Way to Sustainable Strategy commits to achieving a 10% biodiversity net gain on campus with an overarching aim that the delivery of projects will result in biodiversity being in a better state than before. We will work to ensure a minimum of 10% is achieved for all projects regardless of their size. When identifying and implementing projects to enhance the campus for biodiversity we will be informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and in its absence, the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The University will work with partners to develop the campus to support priority habitats and species where possible, and in turn to support nature's recovery.

PLAN 18: BIODIVERSITY - GREAT CRESTED NEWTS PLAN



The University will prioritise the following habitats from the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- @ Built Environment (revision in progress 2021)
- @ Field Margins (updated November2021)
- @ Hedgerows (updated November 2021)
- @ Lakes and Reservoirs (updated 2021)
- @ Ponds (revised March 2022)
- @ Reed beds (updated March 2022)
- @ Rivers and Streams (updated February 2018)
- @ Roadside Verges (updated August 2021)
- @ Traditional Orchards (updated November 2021)
- @ Woodland (updated November 2021)

The University will prioritise the following species from the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- @ Barn owl (updated April 2022)
- @ Bats (revised March 2022)
- @ Farmland Birds (updated August 2021)
- @ Great Crested Newt (revised March 2022)
- @ Hedgehog (updated 2021)
- @ Rare Bumblebees (updated December 2021)
- @ Song Thrush (updated 2021)
- @ Scarce Arable Plants (updated December 2021)
- @ Water Vole (updated December 2021)

Approach to delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain

The University is in a unique position in that they have extensive landholdings making up the wider campus as included within the SPD boundary. It is therefore appropriate that a hierarchy approach is created in this SPD to manage the appropriate delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.
The approach is set out below:

1. Utilisation of enhancements already banked subject to satisfactory justification that such enhancement have not been double counted
2. Provision of mitigation to achieve 10% net gain within the application site
3. If (1) and (2) are not possible, or can only be partly achieved, provision of mitigation to achieve 10% net gain within the administrative area in which the application is located
4. If (1), (2) and (3) are not possible, provision of mitigation to achieve 10% net gain elsewhere within the SPD boundary
5. If no suitable land is available within the SPD boundary, provision of mitigation will be made on other University landholdings.
6. Off site mitigation by way of financial contributions to BNG initiatives locally within the administrative areas of Coventry City Council or Warwick District Council (to be agreed by both local authorities).

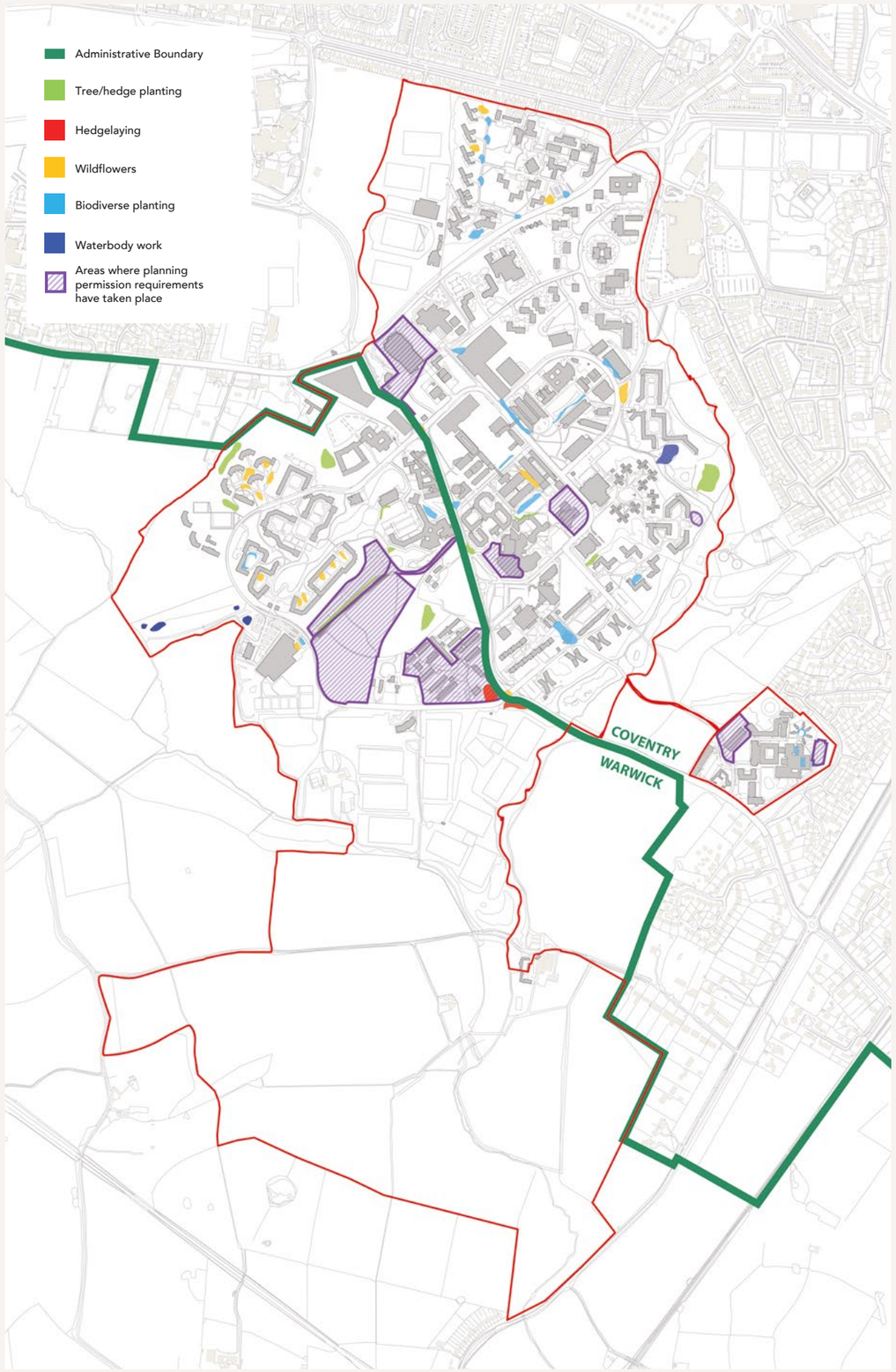
Future Campus Ecology and Biodiversity Enhancements

Introduction

Future enhancements for ecology and biodiversity will be addressed through the creation of an 'ecopark' to the south of the campus; proposed habitat creation and wildlife enriched interventions within existing areas of the campus; and proposed biodiverse planting alongside new developments. The ecology and biodiversity enhancements should be chosen to support species noted within the Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), including farmland birds, hedgehog, great crested newt, bats, small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. Specific ecological interventions will be guided the LBAP, and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies once they are published.

The key habitats and biodiverse features which will be considered for future enhancements comprise of the following:

PLAN 19: ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS



Broadleaf Woodland:

Native woodland tree saplings of local provenance will be planted in groups to strengthen existing woodland belts and copses, in order to strengthen ecological corridors and provide refuge for wildlife. Proposed new pockets and linear plantations of woodland tree species will be located in quieter areas and boundaries of the site where they can establish as mature trees, and connect with existing woodland features, strengthening existing habitat present within and adjacent to the campus. Native understory planting should be introduced beneath larger copses of new tree planting. Saplings will be spaced a approximately 2.5m, and species will include both canopy and understory varieties.

Proposed individual trees:

Individual specimen trees, groups of trees and linear street tree planting will enhance the public realm and amenity areas of the campus. Species will include flowering and fruiting varieties to provide a food source for wildlife, and a diversity of species to enhance visual amenity.

Hedgerows:

New hedges will provide a habitat for a variety of species as the dense branches and foliage provide cover and refuge, and berries will provide a food supply for a variety of wildlife. The hedgerows create sheltered movement corridors for wildlife across the site and into the wider landscape. New hedgerow planting will comprise a variety of woody species with herb-rich hedge margins to maximise the variety of wildlife they will support, such as hedgehogs. The new hedgerows will be positioned to provide new migratory routes and strengthen those that already exist, both along the boundary and within the campus.

Wildflower meadow (semi-improved grassland / neutral grassland):

New native wildflower meadows will be created within the site to benefit invertebrates, small mammals and birds. Areas of existing enriched grassland which support low floral diversity will be managed to remediate the enrichment through annual mowing and supplementary seeding to accelerate the creation of a diverse flora akin to a more neutral sward. Floral meadows containing a combination of native and non-native nectar-rich flowers will be used to enhance the central campus amenity spaces and green space margins. Fields margins will be managed to enhance their biodiversity value, sown with native species to provide seed for wild birds or with wildflowers or agricultural legumes to provide pollen and nectar resources for invertebrates. The current species poor roadside verges will be managed to provide a more diverse flora. The management will involve annual cutting with supplementary wildflower seeding and plug planting. ‘No-mow’ grass verges will increase species diversity. Care will be taken to avoid invasive species and those which are susceptible to diseases such as Phytophthora, Acute Oak decline, and bleeding canker. Plants will be UK grown where possible, and will be sourced from nurseries that are part of the ‘Plant Healthy’ scheme.

Water course / water bodies:

In order to improve the diversity of water bodies / wildlife ponds, the marginal habitats will be enhanced with a mix of plant species which will provide cover and sources of nectar. The marginal habitat and species diversity will be enhanced using seeding supplemented with plug planting or through the installation of pre-planted coir mats to provide instant vegetation to the margins. Further naturalisation of the Canley brook would create more permeability for species which depend on linear water features. Planting to reinforce the existing bankside vegetation and create more structure and diversity would also provide benefits for other small mammals, birds and invertebrates within the site.

Biodiverse swales and rain gardens:

New developments are to prioritise the use of surface water attenuation / surface water attenuation (SuDS), to create vegetated swales and rain gardens. Planted swales will promote infiltration and reduce run off rates and volumes. A variety of plant species, both native and non-native, will be introduced for visual interest and to provide a valuable wildlife habitat.

Biodiverse Planting:

New biodiverse planting within residential areas central campus will support wildlife, boost biodiversity and create seasonal longevity. Plant selection will prioritise a rich source of nectar for beneficial insects, birds and small mammals, including species with spring blossom and berries. British native species will be supported by nectar-rich ornamental species, to extend the flowering season and create a planting matrix which will be easily manageable, with seed heads retained during winter. Spring flowering bulbs will enhance areas of amenity grass. Within residential areas of the site will include the introduction of bio-diverse edibles / herb beds.

Building biodiversity into Architecture:

The provision of green roofs and walls, biodiverse landscapes and nesting / roosting boxes will provide refuge and foraging habitats for a range of species, whilst creating stepping stones for wildlife to migrate across the site. Architectural green infrastructure including green and blue roofs, green walls, bird and bat boxes in building infrastructure will furthermore enhance the built environment. These features will be considered retrofitted to existing buildings where appropriate, and for new builds.

Artificial Refugia:

Strategic positioning of bird and bat boxes and hibernaculars within existing trees, semi-improved grassland, woodland, field and water margins, will increase the diversity of fauna within the site. Types of hibernacular could include, but not limited to, insect ‘hotels’, hedgehog homes, artificial bat roosts and bird boxes.

Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy

Key relevant planning policy:

The NPPF states that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate.

Coventry Local Plan

EM1 Planning for climate change adaption

states that all development will be required to be designed to be resilient to climate change through adaptation measures. For flood risk and drainage, this means optimising the use of multi-functional GI for local flood risk management, minimising vulnerability to flood risk by location of development in low flood risk areas and including mitigation measures.

EM4 Flood Risk Management

states that all development proposals will be assessed in respect of the level of flood risk form all sources. Development will need to provide a minimum standard to flood defence and resilience and not increase flood risk on site or elsewhere to reduce overall flood risk.

EM5 Sustainable Drainage Systems

aims to ensure all development apply SuDS to ensure surface water runoff is managed as close to its source as possible.

Warwick District Local Plan

CC1 Planning for Climate Change Adaption

states that all development is required to be designed to be resilient to, and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. This will include optimising the use of multi-functional GI for local flood risk management and minimising the vulnerability to flood risk by locating development in areas of low flood risk.

FW1 Reducing Flood Risk

aims to ensure development is located in areas of low flood risk, and ensuring all new development is resilient to surface water, fluvial and pluvial flooding.

FW2 Sustainable Drainage

states that all major developments must incorporate SuDS that provide biodiversity, water quality and amenity benefits. The policy also states that all new development sites will discharge at QBAR greenfield run-off rate, including an allowance for climate change.

Baseline conditions / drainage model

The majority of the SPD boundary is identified as falling within Flood Zone 1 of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Map for Planning. This is recognised as the area with the lowest risk of flooding. Part of the southern area, at Tocil Wood, lies within Flood Zone 3 – the Canley Brook floodplain. Notably the existing flood risk map for planning only includes large catchments as such water courses are not modelled and separate modelling is being undertaken by the University.

The campus benefits from its rural location with a relatively large amount of green space and differing ecological habitats. A large number of the ecological features on site are also provided as part of the water management strategy.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are the main flood mitigation strategy in use within the campus. There are many existing SuDS features on site including ponds, swales and filter trenches. These features can be re-used and improved to accommodate additional surface water runoff, with additional SuDs features added to the campus.

Water and Surface Water Network

The surface water network can be split into two main sub-catchments:

- Westwood Brook Sub-Catchment
- Whitefield Coppice Sub-Catchment

Both sub-catchments ultimately drain to the south of the University and into the Canley Brook. The Canley Brook flows between the Central Campus and Gibbet Hill Campus in a south westerly direction before discharging further downstream into the Finham Brook. Canley Brook is a designated main river by the Environment Agency. There is also a smaller sub-catchment located on Gibbet Hill.

Westwood Brook Sub-Catchment

The Westwood Brook flows from the north to the southeast through the sub-catchment either through a series of culverts or via open channel flow.

The majority of the University's built environment is in this sub-catchment, therefore there are a number of outfalls that discharge directly into the Westwood Brook. Further north at the Westwood Campus, surface water is discharged via the Severn Trent public network into a tributary of Westwood Brook. More recent buildings have individual attenuation structures to control the volume and rates of discharge.

The existing surface water network draining into the Lakeside and Heronbank ponds flow across to the Westwood Brook sub-catchment and discharges into the Westwood Brook via a surface water pumping station located in front of the Engineering Block on University Road.

There are ponds located adjacent to Tocil Wood. It is noted that these are aesthetic and not considered to be used for surface water attenuation as they are located within the Canley Brook floodplain.

Whitefield Coppice Sub-Catchment

This sub-catchment is mostly drained by a small watercourse to the east of Whitefield Coppice, which as previously noted drains into the Canley Brook.

The Lakeside and Heronbank ponds are only partly used for the attenuation of surface water runoff from some of the Lakeside residences. The remainder of the Lakeside residences and Heronbank are attenuated in four below ground detention tanks, with two of these being pumped into the ponds. As previously noted, all flows from the ponds eventually drain to the surface water pumping station in the Westwood Brook sub-catchment before discharging into the Westwood Brook.

There is a small natural pond behind the Heronbank buildings on the Hill Top site. It is not used for attenuating surface water runoff. The location of the pond suggests there is a potential flood risk for the Heronbank buildings during extreme storm events resulting from surface water shedding from the elevated Hill Top site.

Flood Risk

A study of the EA's online flood map, 'Risk of Flooding from Surface Water', suggests that the majority of the SPD boundary lies in a very low risk area with some medium and high-risk areas across the campus.

The majority of the University's built environment is located in the Westwood Brook sub-catchment and therefore it is important to understand the potential flood risk from the Westwood Brook. A detailed hydraulic analysis was undertaken in 2007 and updated in 2013 so that the 1 in 100-year floodplain for the Westwood Brook could be determined. The results of the analysis confirmed that no buildings were impacted by Westwood Brook up to the 1 in 100 year plus 20% climate change event.

The Westwood Brook Hydraulic model has been updated to reflect modern modelling standards and current climatic conditions to inform the flood extents within the campus in line with Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority requirements.

The Westwood Brook Hydraulic model has been updated to reflect modern modelling standards and current climatic conditions to inform the flood extents within the campus in line with Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority requirements. The new hydraulic model includes local enhancements of watercourse connectivity within the campus and updated hydraulic rainfall estimates to generate a revised set of flood risk outlines. The updated model demonstrates that surface water flooding has reduced compared to national mapping due to the representation of culvert connectivity through the campus.

Any future development within the campus should refer to the updated hydraulic model report as the baseline for the assessment of surface water flooding across the campus.

There are no concerns about floodplain encroachment for the Whitefield Coppice sub-catchment, as the sub-catchment is topographically elevated above any such constraint.

The discharge of surface water from a new development will take into consideration the drainage hierarchy with infiltration being the preferred option and discharge to a combined sewer being the least favourable.

SUDS should be incorporated into the design of new development to manage and control runoff unless there are practical reasons for not doing so. Consideration should be given to the use of source control features as part of a treatment train to improve water quality prior to disposal off-site. A Flood route exceedance plan should also be provided to show how flooding could be managed in the event of a blockage or a storm that exceeds the design event of the infrastructure.

Sequential/Exception test

New developments should be located in areas at low risk of surface water and fluvial flooding. In areas where this cannot be achieved, suitable evidence will need to be provided to demonstrate that there are no other alternative sites within the University of Warwick campus that are suitable for the development. Any residential development to be located in a high-risk flood area will also need to pass an Exceptions Test. If required, both a Sequential Test and Exceptions Test will need to be submitted at the planning stage to support the FRA.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)

Future development within the SPD campus will prioritise the use of SuDs. The overarching aim is to reduce run off rates and where possible deal with surface water as close to its source and incorporate biodiversity into schemes. The landscape context of the SuDs will be taken into account as well as the engineering requirements.

Where infiltration SuDS are to be used for surface run-off from roads, car parking and public or amenity areas, they should:

- be suitably designed
- meet Governments non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems – these standards should be used in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance
- use a SuDS management treatment train –use drainage components in series to achieve a robust surface water management system that does not pose an unacceptable risk of pollution to groundwater

The design of infiltration SuDS schemes and of their treatment stages needs to be appropriate to the sensitivity of the location and subject to a relevant risk assessment, considering the types of pollutants likely to be discharged, design volumes and the dilution and attenuation properties of the aquifer.

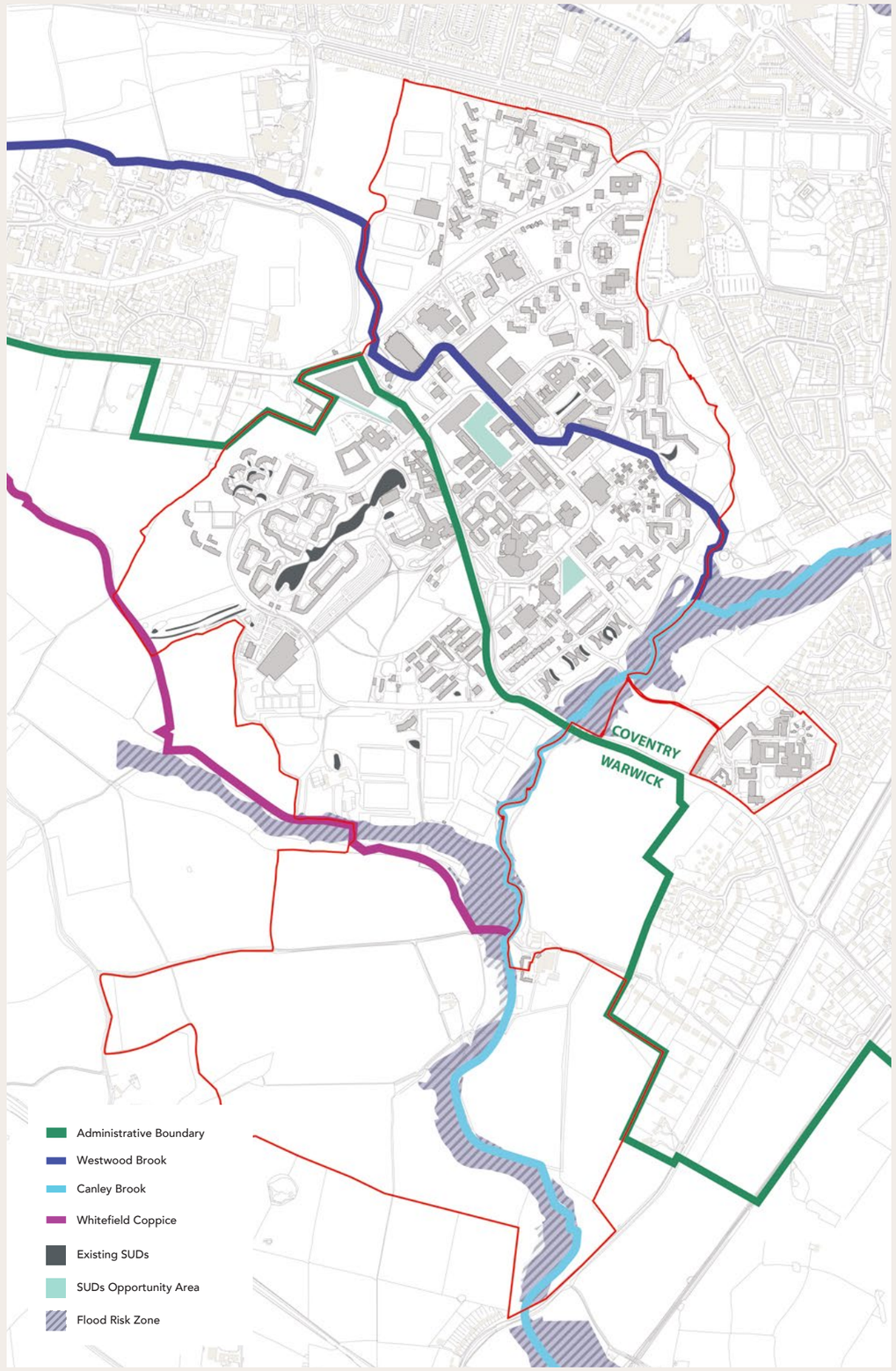
When considering the use of SuDs, development within the SPD boundary will use the following list of potential options in order of priority, depending on the appropriateness of each feature for the specific development.

Suds Method	Description	Potential Locations
Green & Blue Roof	Vegetated or hardstanding roof designed to store water, which can be used for irrigation, cooling water or non-potable use within the building.	Proposed flat roofs could be designed with this feature if structural capacity, extra loadings and waterproofing are taken into consideration within the design.
Rainwater Harvesting	Rainwater from roofs and hard surfaces can be stored and reused.	Rainwater storage tanks can be located either underground, indoors on roofs or adjacent to buildings, depending on site size and access requirements.
Permeable Paving	Surfaces can be either porous or permeable. Rainwater infiltrates through the surface and into underlying layers where it is temporarily stored before either infiltrating into the ground or discharge through the drainage system.	Permeable paving can be located within proposed hard landscaping areas, especially in public realm areas.
Swales	Shallow, broad and vegetated channels designed to store and/or convey runoff and remove pollutants. Check dams and berms can also be installed along the flow path to promote settling and infiltration.	Swales may be utilised within the narrow, landscaped areas of the proposed plan to slow down and convey rainwater runoff.
Filter Drains/strips	Shallow excavations filled with gravel to create temporary storage of runoff used to filter and convey rainwater.	Due to ifs linear feature, filter drains are well suited to manage runoff from roads, car parks and other impermeable areas in verges or within landscaped areas in public realm areas.
Infiltration Basin	Vegetated depressions designed to store runoff on the surface and infiltrate it gradually into the ground.	Can be incorporated into large open areas of soft landscaping.
Rain Garden	Relatively small depressions in the ground that act as infiltration points for roof water and other 'clean' surface water runoff (low contamination levels).	Can be implemented in private curtilage for managing runoff from single properties, in small shared public spaces, on car park islands, roundabouts, footpaths, traffic calming and pedestrian zones.
Detention Basin	Surface storage basins are normally dry and provide flow control through attenuation of stormwater runoff.	Can be incorporated into large open areas of soft landscaping.
Retention Pond	Retention ponds provide stormwater attenuation and treatment.	Can be incorporated into large open areas of soft landscaping.
Geocellular Storage Systems	Geocellular systems can be used to control and manage surface water runoff.	The modular systems mean that they can be tailored to suit specification requirements of any site.

Management and Maintenance

The University monitors and manages its current drainage system, working to the aim of ensuring it is robust, resilient and sustainable. In addition to several existing SuDs intervention across the campus, through the development of the Eco Park project there are emerging ideas exploring the opportunity to utilise land parcels to both support wetland habitat creation and natural management of water. Also, the University has an experienced grounds and gardens maintenance team for whom the monitoring, management and maintenance of our existing SuDs features is a key task that they undertake, as these features are an active part of the University landscape. The team are supplemented by specialist external contract support, where required.

PLAN 20: DRAINAGE PLAN



Heritage and Archaeology Strategy

Key National and Local legislation and Policy

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 sets out the following duties for the decision maker in determining applications for listed building consent and planning permission affecting statutory listed buildings and/or their setting:

"S.66 (1) In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses."

The NPPF requires that planning should "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations." with Chapter 16 outlining guidance regarding conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Local Plan Policy

Warwick District Local Plan

Policy HE1: Designated Heritage Assets and their setting

Development will not be permitted if it would lead to substantial harm to or total loss of the significance of a designated heritage asset, unless it is demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or it is demonstrated that all of the following apply:

a) The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and

b) No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found that will enable its conservation; and

c) Conservation by grant funding or charitable or public ownership is not possible; and

d) The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

Where development would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

- Experience of the asset;
- An asset's associative relationships with other heritage assets. It is identified that views which contribute more to understanding the significance of a heritage asset include the following:
- Those where the composition within the view was a fundamental aspect of the design or function of the heritage asset
- Those where town- or village-scape reveals views with unplanned or unintended beauty
- Those with historic or cultural associations.

Coventry Local Plan

Policy HE2: Conservation and Heritage Assets

1. In order to help sustain the historic character, sense of place, environmental quality and local distinctiveness of Coventry, development proposals will be supported where they conserve and, where appropriate, enhance those aspects of the historic environment which are recognised as being of special historic, archaeological, architectural, artistic, landscape or townscape significance. These Heritage Assets include:

a. Listed Buildings and Locally Listed buildings;

b. Conservation Areas;

c. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites;

d. Registered Parks and Gardens; and

e. Other places, spaces, structures and features which may not be formally designated but are recognised as significant elements of Coventry's heritage and are positively identified on the Coventry Historic Environment Record.

2. Proposals likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset or its setting should demonstrate an understanding of such significance using currently available evidence.

3. Development proposals involving heritage assets in general and listed buildings in particular, should acknowledge the significance of the existing building and the area by means of their siting, massing, form, scale, materials and detail.

4. The sympathetic and creative re-use of heritage assets will be encouraged, especially for heritage that is considered to be at risk, so long as it is not damaging to the significance of the heritage asset. The embodied energy present in historic buildings contributes to sustainability.

5. The Council will use its statutory powers to secure the preservation of buildings and other heritage assets that are deemed to be at risk by the national and local heritage at risk registers.

6. Demolition or destruction of heritage assets will be resisted; proposals to demolish a heritage asset will therefore need substantial justification. The greater the damage to the significance of the asset, the greater the justification required and the public benefit needed to outweigh such damage.

7. All proposals should aim to sustain and reinforce the special character and conserve the following distinctive historic elements of Coventry:

a. The surviving buildings, defences and street plan of the medieval city centre and its suburbs;

b. The surviving pre-industrial settlements and landscape features which have been subsumed by the expansion of the city such as Walsgrave, Canley, Binley, Brownshill Green, Coundon Green, Little Heath (Spring Road), Stivichall Croft and Lower Eastern Green (at Dial House Lane);

c. The wider Arden rural environment on the fringe of the city comprising field-systems, ancient woodlands and commons which developed over centuries; interspersed with a mix of settlements, farmsteads and smallholdings;

d. Buildings associated with the city's industrial heritage; ribbon weaving, watch making, cycle making, motor car manufacturing, brick making, coal mining, synthetic textiles, munitions, aeronautical engineering, canals and railways;

e. The Victorian and Edwardian suburbs such as Earlsdon and Stoke;

f. Designed landscapes, including historic parks and gardens (both registered and locally listed), historic cemeteries, churchyards and public parks;

g. The significant elements of Coventry's ground-breaking post-war reconstruction including its plan, built form, public art works and public spaces; and

h. Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest Prehistoric human habitation to the modern industrial period.

8. Where material change to a heritage asset has been agreed, recording and interpretation should be undertaken to document and understand the asset's archaeological, architectural or historic significance. The scope of the recording should be proportionate to the asset's significance and the impact of the development on the asset. The information and understanding gained should be made publicly available, as a minimum through the Coventry Historic Environment Record.

Baseline heritage conditions

There are a number of built heritage assets within or immediately adjacent to the SPD boundary. These are identified on the Heritage Asset Plan and are summarised below:

Houses For Visiting Mathematicians

3B Series 1 Sculpture

Within the SPD boundary

- Houses For Visiting Mathematicians. Grade II*. North East of the Warwick Medical School, Gibbet Hill. **(1)**
- 3B Series 1 Sculpture. Grade II. Located within the courtyard of the Rootes Residential Building **(4)**
- Cryfield Farmhouse, Gibbet Hill Road. Grade II. **(3)**

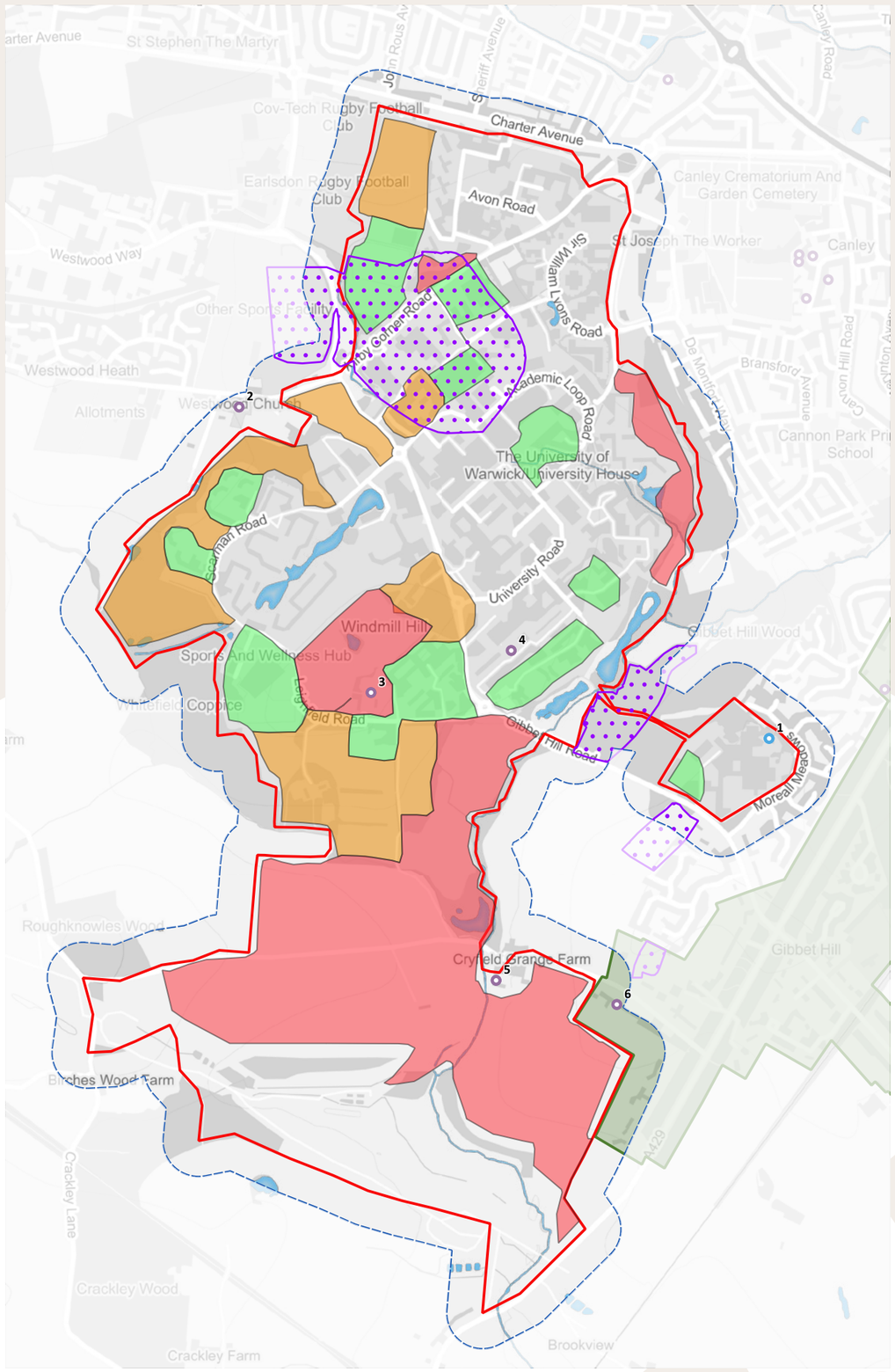
Adjacent to the SPD boundary

- Cryfield Grange Farmhouse, Cryfield Grange Road. Grade II **(5)**
- Church of St John the Baptist, Westwood Heath Road. Grade II **(2)**
- South Winds, Cryfield Grange Road. Grade II **(6)**
- Kenilworth Road Conservation Area

The information about heritage assets and the desk based assessments have been used in the considerations which have led to the development proposals and design guidelines set out in this SPD. In accordance with heritage best practice, additional heritage surveys relative to specific planning applications may be required to inform future decision making.

Where development is proposed which may impact on the significance of Heritage Assets, including any contribution made by their setting, proposals should seek to preserve the significance of the heritage asset, in line with adopted national and local policy and guidance.

PLAN 21: HERITAGE ASSETS PLAN



Archaeology

The Campus has been subject to a considerable amount of archaeological fieldwork connected with planning applications and construction activity over recent years. To inform this SPD, a comprehensive Archaeological Desk Based Assessment has been undertaken. Information from this Assessment is included on the Heritage Asset Plan (Plan 21)

The DBA has identified a number of archaeological 'events' and non designated assets across the site. These attest to a wide range of evidence of human activity and settlement of the land within the site from the prehistoric period onwards. There is also a legacy of previous archaeological investigations which have been prompted by previous development and work undertaken by Dr Stephen Hill, former University Archaeologist.

The Archaeological DBA has established that the archaeological potential of the campus varies by period and location. The Heritage Asset Plan identifies areas within the SPD boundary with high, medium and low archaeological potential. This information has been used to inform the development principles as set out in this SPD and will be used to guide future development within the SPD boundary.

National planning policies and planning guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC 2023) and its accompanying Planning Practice Guide (MCHLG 2016, updated November 2023, historic environment section published 2014, updated July 2019), as well as relevant local planning policies, require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the possible impacts upon heritage assets by a Proposed Development and avoid, minimise or offset any such impacts as appropriate

Future development will be required to assess the potential for construction works to directly or indirectly impact on below ground remains. The extent of assessment and appropriate level of field investigation will depend upon the level of potential of the site under consideration with engagement with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological advisers informing the assessment strategy. The level of mitigation proposed will be informed by the results of the investigations and in consultation with the relevant advisers.

Faculty of Arts building - photo credit Hufton + Crow

Delivery and **Implementation**

This SPD covers the period to 2033 which reflects the University's ten year Capital Plan. This is informed by a longer term vision to 2050 although this is not for approval as it extends well into the next plan period. However, this sets the direction of travel for the University in seeking to consolidate the campus within its existing boundaries, reinvigorate and transform the core of campus into a more pedestrian friendly and vibrant place, whilst celebrating and enhancing the wonderful landscape setting of the University on the edge of the Warwickshire countryside.

The SPD provides guidance on the location and design principles to be applied to a series of development proposals in the period to 2033, including known projects like the Social Sciences Quarter and Science and Engineering Precinct, as well as other areas of likely future development.

The Strategic Principles (SP1-6) and Design Principles (DP1-6) will be applied to each development which comes forward for planning approval in either Coventry City or Warwick District areas.

The quantum of development assessed in traffic generation terms provides an upper limit for academic floorspace against which future applications can be considered. Where it falls within these floorspace limits, there should be no need for additional traffic impact assessment. The Monitor and Manage approach and associated legal mechanism will provide the basis for identifying any mitigation measures considered necessary to address the specific impacts of any proposal being considered by the local planning and highway authorities. Where development comes forward outside of these floorspace limits or for uses not assessed through the SPD (for instance, proposals on the Science Park), a separate Transport Assessment should be scoped and submitted with any planning application following the principles set out in the Monitor and Manage approach. This does not preclude other non-transport obligations being sought from future development where consistent with the guidance in this SPD.

Each development brought forward in accordance with this SPD should also deliver a proportionate level of provision or mitigation in respect of the relevant supporting strategies.

The University is unable to commit to specific phasing, other than its current intentions to bring forward the first phases of the Social Science Quarter and Science Precinct over the next five years. Given that all anticipated development is effectively infill and/or intensification of uses within the existing built campus, it is not considered that any phasing or triggers are necessary other than those in respect of transport mitigations set out at Appendix 1.

FCB Studios_Faculty of the Arts Building_University of Warwick_ photo credit HuftonCrow

Appendix 1
Transport Obligations

University of Warwick Transport Obligations – Committed, Proposed and SPD Framework

Section 1
Committed Social Sciences Quarter Transport S106 Obligations

Committed transport S106 obligations related to the Social Sciences Quarter planning permission ref. W23/0195 that forms part of the University's SPD 2033 and was granted permission in August 2024.

Committed Obligation	Details	Implementation
Gibbet Hill Road	Sum of £50,000 towards the extension of the low-speed zone on Gibbet Hill Road through Kirby Corner to the junction of Mitchell Avenue with Westwood Way	Contribution to be paid prior to first occupation of the Development
Cannon Park Road	Sum of £25,000 to be applied towards speed reduction measures on Canon Park Road	Contribution to be paid prior to the commencement of the Development
Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT)	Sum of £200,000 to be applied towards supporting Digital Demand Responsive Transport for two years and exploring extending the DRT zone to cover the student population	£100,000 prior to first occupation of the Development and £100,000 within one year of the date of first occupation of the Development
Bus Service Contribution: Leamington Spa	Sum of £50,000 to be applied towards the enhancement of the bus service passenger environment in Leamington Spa which shall include design fees for the provision of the Leamington Transport Hub where the bus service serving the University terminates in Leamington town centre	Contribution to be paid prior to the commencement of the Development
Walking Improvement Study	Area study defined by existing pedestrian movement patterns which will review and consider current pedestrian infrastructure at the University of Warwick main campus and its integration with the surrounding local highway network in order to identify potential pedestrian improvement opportunities	Prior to submission of a Reserved Matters Application Note: Study commenced by the University
Cycling Improvement Study	Area study defined by existing cycle movement patterns which will review and consider current cycle infrastructure at the University of Warwick main campus and its integration with the surrounding local highway network in order to identify potential cycle improvement opportunities	Prior to submission of a Reserved Matters Application Note: Study commenced by the University

Section 2
Science & Engineering Precinct (STEM) Transport S106 Obligations

Transport S106 obligations related to the Science & Engineering Precinct (STEM) planning permission ref. PL/2023/0002402/OUTM that was granted permission in July 2024 and that forms part of the University's SPD 2033.

Draft Obligation	Details	Implementation
Westwwod Way Cycle Way Scheme	Sum of £171,000 towards the delivery of and works relating to the Westwood Way Cycleway Scheme	Contribution to be paid prior to the commencement of the Enabling Works.
Coventry-Kenilworth Cycleway study	Sum of £20,000 towards the study by CCC into a segregated cycleway from Coventry city centre to Kenilworth via the A429	Study commenced by CCC
Shared Mobility Network Study	Shared Mobility Network Study to include preliminary review of University of Warwick bus interchange layout	Study to be commenced by the University prior to commencement of the Enabling Works
Lord Bhattacharyya Way/ Academic Loop Road junction	Creation of a pedestrian and cycling priority raised table/crossing	To be commenced by the University prior to first occupation of the Development
Academic Loop Road	Extension of the segregated mobility lane from University Road along Academic Loop Road to its junction with Lord Bhattacharyya Way	To be commenced by the University prior to commencement of the Enabling Works
Milburn Hill Road	Introduction of traffic calming measures on Sir William Lyons Road through to Kirby Corner Road, via Milburn Hill Road	To be commenced by the University with permission from CCC prior to first occupation of the Development

Section 3
Non-Mitigation Sustainable Transport Contributions

The University is committed to working collaboratively with both CCC and WCC to make positive contributions to improving sustainable travel to/from and within the University.

Separate to any required mitigation associated with the Social Sciences Quarter, Science & Engineering Precinct (STEM) and the Monitor and Manage commitments, the University will provide the following financial support to enhance sustainable transport in the region.

Sustainable Transport Intervention	Details	Implementation
Annual Travel Survey	Staff and student travel surveys conducted on an annual basis by the University	To be completed by the University
Biennial Traffic Survey	Traffic surveys on surrounding local highway network every two years	To be completed by the University
Support pedestrian and cycle improvements at Gibbet Hill Road / Scarman Road / Lord Bhattacharyya Way Roundabout	Following opening of both Social Sciences Quarter and STEM, review operation of Gibbet Hill Road / Scarman Road / Lord Bhattacharyya Way Roundabout	Sum of up to £100,000 towards a design study and modelling to improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure at the Gibbet Hill Road / Scarman Road / Lord Bhattacharyya Way Roundabout and a sum of up to £1,000,000 towards implementation
Support improvements to local cycle network (Coventry-Kenilworth Cycleway design and implementation)	To increase cycle use to/from the campus, by monitoring cycle mode share and postcode catchment data	Sum of up to £1,000,000 towards the implementation by CCC of a cycleway from Coventry city centre to Kenilworth
Support improvements to walking, cycling and shared mobility (public transport, digital demand responsive transit, taxi, etc.) in the vicinity of main campus and associated transport corridors/hubs	Support the implementation of improvements identified within the Walking Improvement Study, Cycling Improvement Study and Shared Mobility Network Study (the Studies)	Sum of up to £1,000,000 towards the implementation of walking, cycling and shared mobility improvements as defined by the University and the Studies
Support improved bus, coach and taxi access to the campus	Optimise bus interchange layout to improve capacity and access	Sum of up to £500,000 towards a design study, modelling and implementation of bus interchange enhancements at main campus
Reduce vehicle traffic on Gibbet Hill Road	Review and comment on business case updates for A46 Link Road	Sum of up to £10,000 to support business case review for A46 Link Road in the vicinity of the University as well as sharing of data
Promote delivery of Very Light Rail scheme to main campus	Support implementation of Very Light Rail preferred route and promote dedicated University route from Coventry city centre	Sum of up to £10,000 towards the business case and implementation by CCC of a Very Light Rail route from Coventry city centre to the University

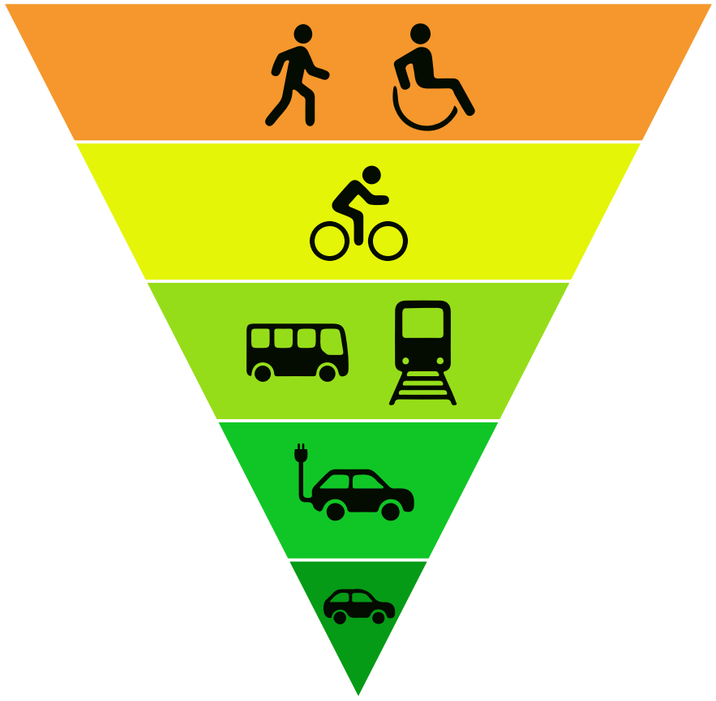
Section 4
Monitor and Manage Approach and Governance

A series of transport-related monitor and manage obligations have been agreed with and will be reviewed by the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board [1].

The University has committed a sum of up to £2,000,000 (index linked) to a Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for the duration of the SPD to 2033. This can be drawn down from should trigger points be met and mitigation required. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis and in agreement with all parties at the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board.

An option to utilise the Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to support improving sustainable transport opportunities as a proactive and flexible approach, separately from the trigger point obligations, will be at the discretion of the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board.

The Monitor and Manage Transport Fund should be prioritised based on the transport modal hierarchy with mitigation focused towards the most sustainable and lowest carbon travel modes.



As and when new proposals come forward as part of the SPD, the Monitor and Management Obligations can be used as the basis for determining appropriate S106 mitigation to support the planning process.

1 The Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board to include representatives from CCC, WDC, WCC, UoW, TfWM and NH, will monitor, review, co-ordinate and implement the agreed monitor and manage set of principles in relation to all future University development activities, the SPD and any associated s106 obligations. The Sub Board will be tied to a legally binding governance process to allocate appropriate funding agreed by all parties. The Sub Board will also discuss and manage transport issues and take opportunities to foster collaboration and sharing of information to improve transport and travel within the local vicinity of the university campus and encourage positive sustainable transport shifts.

Highways

Monitor and Manage Obligation	Monitoring and Trigger	Manage
Car parking utilisation monitoring	Monitor car park usage and occupancy for five years, from first occupation off Social Sciences Quarter or STEM, using ANPR data on a monthly basis If utilisation exceeds 90% occupancy at peak periods for three consecutive months, further mitigation is required	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for mitigation to include package of measures: • Overspill parking monitoring in defined locations • Financial contribution towards review and consultation of amendments or introduction of parking controls on public highway • Implement further sustainable travel initiatives and incentives • Disincentivise car usage
Review University-related traffic to/from Campus at peak periods for duration of the SPD on a biennial basis to ensure 16% peak period uplift from 2018 baseline is not reached	Biennial traffic surveys (Oct/Nov) at fixed locations to monitor University-related traffic over time, to be supplemented with evidence base from annual travel survey and Vivacity sensors	If 16% peak period University-generated traffic growth is exceeded, use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for mitigation to include sustainable transport measures

Active Travel – Walking

Monitor and Manage Obligation	Monitoring and Trigger	Manage
Support and promote increased walking by students and staff	Use results from the Walking Improvement Study to prioritise opportunities for improvements to the walking environment to, from and within the Campus	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to implement walking-related improvements to be agreed by the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board
Review University-related traffic to/from Campus at peak periods for duration of the SPD on a biennial basis to ensure 16% peak period uplift from 2018 baseline is not reached	Biennial traffic surveys (Oct/Nov) at fixed locations to monitor University-related traffic over time, to be supplemented with evidence base from annual travel survey and Vivacity sensors	If walking mode share drops below target, use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for mitigation to include optional package of measures to be considered as one-off interventions or through a series of consequential actions: • Implement further active travel initiatives and/or incentives • Consider further implementation of improvements as part of the Walking Improvement Study

Active Travel – Cycling

Monitor and Manage Obligation	Monitoring and Trigger	Manage
Support and promote increased cycling by students and staff	Use results from the Cycle Improvement Study to prioritise opportunities for improvements to the walking environment to, from and within the Campus	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to implement cycling-related improvements to be agreed by the Monitor and Manage Transport Sub Board
	Cycle training support for staff and students in partnership with local authority partners and engagement programmes	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to implement a structured programme of cycle training for staff and students of all abilities – repeated annually
	Monitor cycle parking utilisation across the Campus	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to provide more cycle parking at popular locations
Ensure cycle mode share for staff and students increases and does not fall below 8% for staff, 5% for undergraduates and 7% for postgraduates	Monitor cycle mode share through annual travel survey and Vivacity sensors	If cycle mode share drops below target, use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for mitigation to include optional package of measures to be considered as one-off interventions or a series of consequential actions: • Implement further active travel initiatives and/or incentives • Provide more cycle parking and/or supporting facilities in response to feedback from annual travel survey • Consider further implementation of improvements recommended within the Cycling Improvement Study

Sustainable Travel – Bus Services

Monitor and Manage Obligation	Monitoring and Trigger	Manage
Review existing bus service patronage and occupancy levels and customer experience on services to/from the Campus based on where staff and student demand is highest. Consideration of off campus public transport infrastructure specifically where it is connected to the University	Work with local authority partners and operators to determine service gaps and support delivery of enhanced services and customer experience in areas of high demand	Use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund to support bus routes serving the University, with KPIs and monitoring of any funded improvements
Promote bus use and ensure bus mode share for staff and students does not fall below 10% for staff, 35% for undergraduates and 35% for postgraduates (subject to a consistent level of bus service availability, reliability and affordability)	Monitor bus mode share through annual travel survey	If bus mode share drops below target, use Monitor and Manage Transport Fund for mitigation to include optional package of measures to be considered as one-off interventions or a series of consequential actions: • Enhanced performance agreement from operators • Discounted ticketing for staff and students • Funding to support delivery of enhanced services

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Coventry City Council

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

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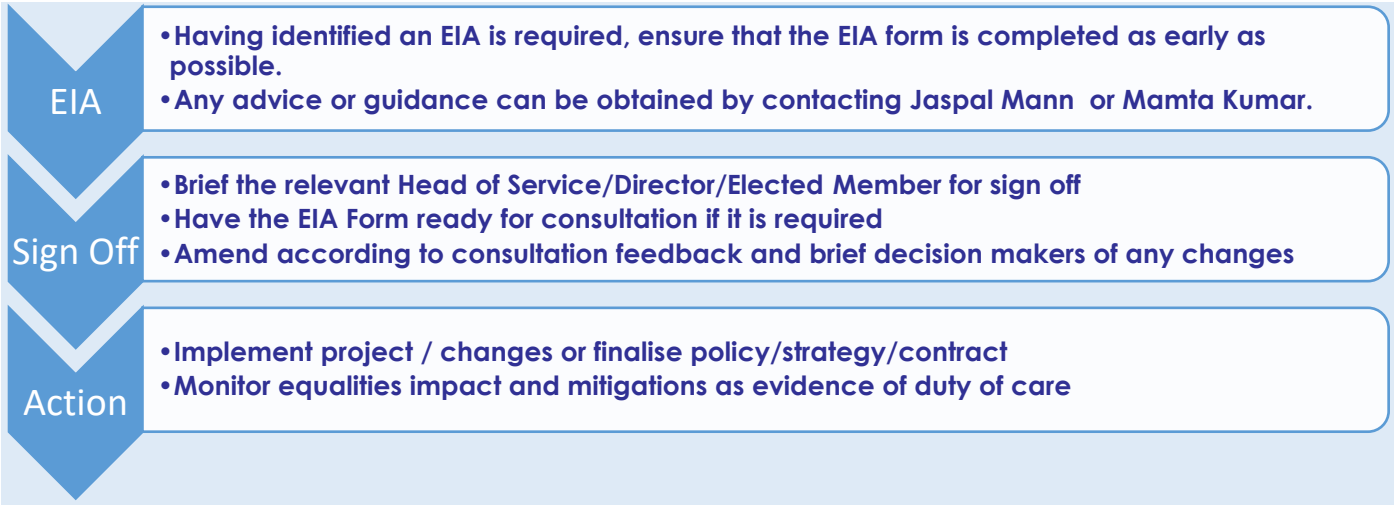
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Title of EIA		EIA University of Warwick Campus Development Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document
EIA Author	Name	Clare Eggington
	Position	Planning Policy Manager
	Date of completion	May 2024
Head of Service	Name	Chris Styles
	Position	Head of Planning Policy & Environment
Cabinet Member	Name	Cllr David Welsh
	Portfolio	Housing & Communities



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

Coventry City Council

☒Other project *(please give details)*

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

The University of Warwick Campus Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adds further detail to the Local Plan which was adopted on 6th December 2017 and for which EIA was undertaken. SPDs do not introduce new policy but provide further detail and guidance to enable the delivery of adopted policies. The SPD sets out further detail to support the existing policies in the Coventry Local Plan, in particular Policy JE1 'Overall Economy and Employment Strategy' which confirms that the council will work in partnership with the City's universities to promote and support innovation, the policy objective being to maximise the economic development and community benefits associated with the continued growth of the universities, and Policy CO1 Part 3 which confirms that proposals for new or improved social, community and leisure premises which accord with an approved masterplan for the campus will be approved subject to high quality design. The SPD sets the guiding principles for future development within the University of Warwick Campus and provides strategies for matters relating to transport, ecology, sustainability, heritage and drainage.

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 an analysis of the equalities data your service holds. This could include surveys, complaints, compliments, management information and customer profiles. *(Please refer to Diversity Guide)*
- Where possible compare your data to local data using
  - Facts about Coventry
  - Census 2011
  - Census 2021

Coventry City Council

- JSNA

The Local Plan was independently examined by a Planning Inspector to ensure that its policies were robust and formulated using appropriate evidence before it could be sound and capable of adoption. Further detail on the Local Plan and the evidence base can be found here https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan

This SPD expands upon adopted Local Plan Policy JE1 'Overall Economy and Employment Strategy, and Policy C01 Part 3. It provides a development framework masterplan for the campus which will guide future development.

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)

Any impact on the Council workforce should be included under question 5.0 – **not below*

Protected Characteristic	**Impact type** P, N, PN	**Nature of impact and any mitigations required**
Age 0-18	**P**	Whilst those aged 0-18 would generally not be directly involved in the planning process, many will live in communities adjacent to the University campus and visit the facilities on campus such as the Warwick Arts Centre. The SPD will guide future development on the campus to ensure it is of high quality.
Age 19-64	**P**	The University has c25,000 students and c5,500 members of staff, the large majority of whom fall within the 19-64 age bracket. Many staff also live within the local area. The SPD will provide guidance for future development on the campus to continue the University's world leading reputation, ensuring that new development is of a high quality and creates a safe, welcoming and accessible campus.
Age 65+	**P**	Those in Coventry's population falling into this age bracket may live in the residential areas immediately adjoining the campus, and are likely to visit the campus facilities including Warwick Arts Centre. The SPD will provide guidance for future development on the

		campus to continue the University's world leading reputation, ensuring that new development is of a high quality and creates a safe, welcoming and accessible campus.
Disability	**P**	The SPD will provide guidance for future development on the campus to continue the University's world leading reputation, ensuring that new development is of a high quality and creates a safe, welcoming and accessible campus.
Gender reassignment	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Pregnancy and maternity	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Race (Including: colour, nationality, citizenship ethnic or national origins)	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Religion and belief	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Sex	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.
Sexual orientation	**P**	The SPD is intended to ensure that the university and its campus is more inclusive for all therefore positive impacts are anticipated.

SECTION 3 – HEALTH INEQUALITIES - See the health inequalities pre EIA guidance sheet for this section.

3	**Further information on heath inequalities is available on the Intranet**

3.1 Please tell us how the proposal you are submitting this EIA form will reduce health inequalities:
Please include which Marmot Principles this work covers.

The University of Warwick Campus Development Framework Masterplan SPD supplements the policies of the adopted Local Plan which was subject to Health Impact Assessment. The Health and Wellbeing chapter of the Local plan, which includes Policy HW1, requires Health Impact Assessments for particular types scale of development where there could be significant impacts. See https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan This was supplemented by a Health Imp Assessment SPD which provided further detail and guidance including that in relation to affordable housing.

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See https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/28900/health_impact_assessment_ Policy HW1 requires all major development proposals to complete a HIA and th explanatory text encourages the use of the toolkit for smaller developments tha those covered by the policy. The University of Warwick SPD does not seek permission for development and therefore, future development on the campus be required to complete HIA in line with adopted Local Plan policy, where required.

3.2 What information do you have to show you are going to reduce health inequalities:

The Health Impact Assessment SPD referred to above sets out a number of considerations and potential health impacts to consider in the design of new development.
Whilst the University of Warwick SPD itself does not seek permission for new development, it sets the context for future development of the University campus The following are therefore of relevance:

• Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure (including primary secondary, higher and special needs education) – The University is a key provision of higher education in the region, with many students living in the local area. Improving facilities through development on the campus will help maintain the provision of high quality higher education facilities in the Coventry area.

• Access to open space and nature – the University campus contains extensive open space and the approach taken in the SPD is to concentrate new academic development within the built up core of the campus. The formal and informal landscapes of the campus contribute to its character and the SPD focus is for these to be incorporated and enhanced by new development. The majority of the open spaces on campus are open and accessible to all.

• Accessibility and Active Travel – The SPD sets out the University's approach Transport and mobility and the measures that are already in place and propose to improve and enhance accessibility for all, to, from and within the campus. The University's overarching aim, and this is embedded in the draft SPD, is to reduce single occupancy private vehicle usage whilst providing viable non car alternative for campus users to consider.

• Minimising the use of resources – The SPD sets out the University's approach Sustainability and sets the approach towards a hierarchy of decision making with the reuse and refurbishment of buildings being the highest priority. All development projects have to conform to 'The Warwick Standard which reflects the University's 'low energy, low maintenance ' strategy.

• Climate Change – The SPD notes that as part of their Climate Change Emergency Declaration, the University has made a commitment to reach net zero carbon from direct emissions and energy purchased by 2030. The approach to promotion of sustainable transport and the measures the University are taking to

achieve this are also set out in the SPD.
3.3 Who/which groups of people might face the biggest health inequalities for your work and why:
This was considered through the Local Plan (the 'parent document'), this document provides the detail to ensure the Local Plan policies can be delivered effectively. The SPD elaborates on adopted Local Plan Policy JE1 'Overall Economy and Employment Strategy, and Policy C01 Part 3. It provides a development framework masterplan for the campus which will guide future development.
3.4. What can be done to improve health equity for the groups of people you have identified?
Please see above answers: the SPD aims to ensure that the university is more inclusive and the SPD will set the context for future development.

SECTION 4 - DIGITAL EXCLUSION INEQUALITIES

Please consider the digital exclusion information in the supporting document prior to completing this section.

4.1 **Starting point:**
Thinking of the main aims of your work area that this EIA is for; does your work area impact digital inequalities or exacerbate? Y/N

- Does your work assume service users have digital access and skills?
- Do outcomes vary across groups, for example digitally excluded people benefit the least compared to those who have digital skills and access?
- Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be.

This SPD expands existing Local Plan policy and is aimed at ensuring that the university is more accessible as set out earlier in this document. In line with statutory requirements the SPD will need to be consulted on in line with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement which ensures a range of ways of participating which do not just rely on digital process.

See: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/planning-policy/coventry-local-plan-2011-2031/8

4.2 **4.1 Reducing digital exclusion inequalities**

Coventry City Council

Where are the opportunities for your area to reduce digital exclusion inequalities and embed supports/interventions as part of your work?

See Above.

5.0 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	

Ethnicity:

Religion:

Any other	
Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Jewish	

Coventry City Council

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

Muslim	
No religion	
Sikh	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual	
LGBT+	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

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

6.1	**Action Planning**	
Issue Identified	**Planned Action**	**Timeframe**
Monitor and evaluation	Planning applications made within the SPD boundary will be assessed against the SPD once adopted.	

7.0 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 ☒

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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 ☐

Email completed EIA to equality@coventry.gov.uk

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Council – 3 December 2024

Recommendation from Cabinet 5 November 2024

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Present:

Cabinet Members:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair) Councillor N Akhtar Councillor L Bigham Councillor R Brown Councillor K Caan Councillor J O'Boyle Councillor P Seaman Councillor K Sandhu
Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor S Agboola Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Hayre Councillor S Nazir Councillor D Toulson
Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor P Male Councillor E Reeves Councillor G Ridley
Other Non-Voting Members	Councillor R Lakha Councillor C E Thomas

Employees: (by Service)

Chief Executive	Julie Nugent (Chief Executive)
Adult Services and Housing	P Fahy (Director of Adult Services and Housing), M Donovan
City Services and Commercial	C Styles

Policy and Communications	N Hart
Finance and Resources	B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources)
Law and Governance	J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), M Salmon
Regeneration and Economy	A Williams (Director of Regeneration and Economy), R Palmer
Apologies:	Councillor S Gray Councillor L Harvard Councillor P Hetherton Councillor A Jobbar Councillor G Lloyd

Public Business

31. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

36. **Temporary Accommodation - Lease Renewal of Caradoc Hall, Coventry**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult Services and Housing, that had been considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 31st October 2024 and would also be considered at Council at their meeting on 3rd December 2024, that sought approval to enter into a new lease for Caradoc Hall, for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (Minute 39 below referred).

The Housing Act 1996 (as amended) placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide Temporary Accommodation (TA) to homeless households who were eligible and had a priority need.

Nationally the number of households living in temporary accommodation had increased significantly over the last 3 years and as of 31st March 2024 the Government's quarterly publications showed this was the highest recorded figure ever. Coventry had also seen an increase in demand with 1329 households living in temporary accommodation as at the 23 September 2024.

The Housing and Homelessness Service had taken steps to reduce the cost of temporary accommodation against a background of increasing demand, increasing private sector rents and the cost-of-living crisis.

The report set out the options to enter into a new lease for Caradoc Hall for 10 years. As part of the proposed lease agreement the managing agent would commit to a refurbishment of the 103 flats in line with a condition survey agreed with the Council as a well as continued improvements to the building such as replacement of the lifts. The length of the lease term reflected the current demand and included a break clause for the Council to terminate the lease arrangement after five years.

Cabinet considered a briefing note detailing Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's consideration of the report at their meeting on 31st October 2024 (their Minutes 42/24 and 45/24 referred), which had been circulated, setting out the areas of discussion at their meeting and their recommendation for Cabinet's consideration. The Committee recommended that Cabinet agree the recommendation in the report.

Cabinet agreed to recommend that Council:

1) Approves the recommendation from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee following their consideration of the report at their meeting on 31st October 2024.

2) Subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report (Minute 39 below refers), recommends that Council:

    a) Approves the proposal to enter into a new lease for 103 properties within Caradoc Hall for a period of no more than 10 years for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

    b) Approves the annual costs, as detailed in the corresponding private report, for the Caradoc Hall lease over 10 years and for this to form part of the finance revenue budget for the next ten years.

    c) Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance, and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to undertake the necessary due diligence and agree the detailed terms of the new 10-year lease agreement of Caradoc Hall with the landlord.

    d) Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to vary the lease from time to time.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend that, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report, Council:

1) Approves the proposal to enter into a new lease for 103 properties within Caradoc Hall for a period of no more than 10 years for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

2) **Approves the annual costs as detailed in the corresponding private report for the Caradoc Hall lease over 10 years and for this to form part of the finance revenue budget for the next ten years.**

3) **Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to undertake the necessary due diligence and agree the detailed terms of the new 10-year lease agreement of Caradoc Hall with the landlord.**

4) **Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to vary the lease from time to time.**

Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

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 identity, 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.

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee	31 October, 2024
Cabinet	5 November 2024
Council	3 December 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member Housing & Communities - Cllr N Akhtar

Director approving submission of the report:
Director of Adults and Housing

Ward(s) affected:
All

Title: Temporary Accommodation – Lease of Caradoc Hall Coventry

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Is this a key decision?

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

Executive summary:

The Housing Act 1996 (as amended) places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide Temporary Accommodation (TA) to homeless households who are eligible and have a priority need.

Nationally the number of households living in temporary accommodation has increased significantly over the last 3 years and as of the 31 March 2024 the Governments quarterly publications show this is the highest recorded figure ever. Coventry has also seen an increase in demand with 1329 households living in temporary accommodation as at the 23 September 2024.

The Housing & Homelessness service has taken steps to reduce the cost of temporary accommodation against a background of increasing demand, increasing private sector rents and the cost-of-living crisis.

This report sets out the options to enter into a new lease for Caradoc Hall for 10 years.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to consider the report and make any comments/recommendations to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 5 November, 2024

Cabinet is requested to consider any comments/recommendations received from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and to recommend that Council, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report,:

1) Approves the proposal to enter into a new lease for 103 properties within Caradoc Hall for a period of no more than 10 years for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

2) Approves the annual costs, as detailed in the corresponding private report, for the Caradoc Hall lease over 10 years and for this to form part of the finance revenue budget for the next ten years.

3) Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to undertake the necessary due diligence and agree the detailed terms of the new 10-year lease agreement of Caradoc Hall with the landlord.

4) Delegates authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to vary the lease from time to time.

Council is recommended, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report, to:

1) Approve the proposal to enter into a new lease for 103 properties within Caradoc Hall for a period of no more than 10 years for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

2) Approve the annual costs as detailed in the corresponding private report for the Caradoc Hall lease over 10 years and for this to form part of the finance revenue budget for the next ten years.

3) Delegate authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to undertake the necessary due diligence and agree the detailed terms of the new 10-year lease agreement of Caradoc Hall with the landlord.

4) Delegate authority to the Director of Adults and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, to vary the lease from time to time.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

Cabinet report - Options to improve the quality but reduce the cost of temporary accommodation (public report) – 27 November 2018

Other useful documents

Homeless Reduction Act 2017
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents

Housing & Homeless Strategy 2019-2024
https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s43018/Adoption%20of%20Housing%20Homelessness%20Strategy%202019-24%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee – 31 October 2024

If yes, which Scrutiny Board and date:

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

Yes / No
If yes, which Committee(s) / body(ies) and date:

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 3 December 2024

Report Title: Temporary Accommodation – Lease of Caradoc Hall

1. Context (or background)

1.1. Following a national trend the Council has seen a significant increase in the demand for temporary accommodation with the number of families in temporary accommodation increasing by 34% since Aug 2023 and 102% since Aug 2022.

1.2. The Housing & Homeless Service have implemented several different accommodation options leading to a diverse temporary accommodation portfolio including lease agreements with private providers, provision through Registered Providers and the purchasing of properties. The results being that despite increases in temporary accommodation the Council has very few families in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation in comparison to similar sized Councils. As of the 30 September 2024 there were 1326 households in temporary accommodation with 938 being families with dependent children, even with these significant numbers there are no families in B&B and only 19 single people. B&B does not typically have cooking facilities and is often the most expensive temporary accommodation option alongside being the most inappropriate form of temporary accommodation, particularly for families with dependent children.

1.3. The lease of Caradoc Hall will allow the Council to secure the use of the building for 10 years. The length of the lease term reflects the current demand and includes a break clause for the Council to terminate the lease arrangement after five years.

1.4. As part of the proposed lease agreement the managing agent will commit to a refurbishment of the 103 flats in line with a condition survey agreed with the Council as a well as continued improvements to the building such as replacement of the lifts.

1.5. Caradoc Hall is a residential building and as of 23 January 2023, the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 made it a requirement in law to provide information to fire and rescue services to assist them in planning for and responding to a fire in their building, Caradoc Hall has complied with these regulations. A high-rise residential building is defined as a building containing two or more sets of domestic premises that is at least 18 metres tall or has at least seven storeys. The Housing & Homeless service has comissioned independent fire safety inspections quarterly with high levels of compliance by the provider. The building has a sprinkler system installed as part of the initial lease, smoke detectors and linked fire panel.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. **Option 1 – Recommended** – Enter into a new lease of Caradoc Hall for a term of 10 years

2.2. The lease of Caradoc Hall would cover 103 self-contained flats currently leased within the building. The landlord via appointed managing agents will provide onsite housing officers, caretakers, repairs and maintenance, as well as out of hours security provision throughout the night and weekends.

2.3. Having access to 103 properties within Caradoc Hall which are available only to the Council means that we have guaranteed access to a substantial number of smaller family properties providing value for money for the Council.

2.4. **Option 2 – Not recommended** – Do not enter into a lease at Caradoc Hall

2.5. The Council would lose the use of Caradoc Hall as temporary accommodation and therefore would have to rely on more expensive options including utilising bed and breakfast accommodation or other private sector accommodation. Entering into a long-term agreement will ensure that 103 properties would be available for the sole use of the Council for a 10-year period.

2.6. The financial pressure will increase as the cost of bed and breakfast and nightly let properties are more expensive and therefore there is a risk that this will lead to a significant overspend.

2.7. The Council is proud that although the number of families living in temporary accommodation has increased significantly the number of families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation remains low. Bed and breakfast is recognised as being the least suitable temporary accommodation option and it is illegal for Local Authorities to place families in this type of accommodation for over 6 weeks.

2.8. **Option 3 – Not recommended** – to purchase/acquire Caradoc Hall through capital investment.

2.9. The owners have indicated they are not willing to consider selling the freehold of Caradoc Hall. They purchased the building as a long-term investment.

2.10. The option to purchase temporary accommodation is financially beneficial to the Council, 56 family properties have been acquired to date, however the property size which gives maximum savings are three bed or above, Caradoc consists of studios, one beds and one two bed flat.

2.11. The service will also be seeking to purchase a further 24 houses for temporary accommodation utilising funding previously approved by Cabinet and a grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (MHCLG)

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. There has been no specific consultation in respect of this proposal. However general feedback from families who require temporary accommodation is that suitability, quality and security of being able to use the accommodation for the period required is important. Through approving the recommendations, the Council improves its ability to deliver this.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The lease agreement negotiations have commenced, and a draft lease agreement is being negotiated .

4.2. The service will undertake an inspection of each flat at Caradoc Hall to consist of:

a) A condition survey of the current standard of each flat

b) A survey of furniture and white goods within each flat to be completed by mid-October.

c) An assessment of the fire safety at Caradoc Hall in conjunction with Council colleagues, fire safety consultants Ligtas and a joint health and safety inspection including all relevant compliance documentation and procedures.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance

Finance Implications

5.1. The Council has a legal obligation to provide temporary accommodation for homelessness households in priority need, with a local connection who have not made themselves intentionally homeless. The proposed lease of Caradoc Hall seeks to procure temporary accommodation which is cost effective and suitable accommodation. If the Council, based on current activity levels was required to use alternative nightly temporary accommodation this would equate to a higher net cost over the life of the contract, therefore, the ten-year contract represents value for money for the Council.

5.2. An option to break the lease exists for the Council at the end of year 5 which will be activated if following a financial viability review the contract is not cost effective and / or providing suitable accommodation. The financial information is detailed in the corresponding private report.

5.3. The delegation to vary the lease from time to time will be considered by finance as to whether there is budget approval for doing so, any variations will then be reported back as part of the budget on an annual basis

Legal Implications

5.4. The Council also has a general power to enter into leases under the powers of general competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and sections 111 and 120 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.5. The 103 units within Caradoc Hall will be leased and used for temporary accommodation only. Allocation of individuals and units will be managed in-house by the Housing and Homelessness team, in the same way as officers place customers in other temporary accommodation.

5.6. The legal agreement in place will be between the landlord and the Council. Homeless households will sign an agreement when they move into the building which details the health & safety and the standards both the landlord and the Council require the property to be kept in whilst they are there and details of any property inspections and checks that may take place.

5.7. These arrangements are not subject to the Procurement Regulations 2015 as it is property transaction in which the Council is entering into. As a result, the Procurement Regulations 2015 are not applicable in this case.

5.8. Officers in Legal Services will finalise the 10-year lease in respect of Caradoc Hall once the final heads of terms are agreed between the parties.

5.9. The Housing Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) sets out that local housing authorities owe specific housing duties to those within their district who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness. In order to discharge these duties, the Council must provide housing accommodation to such persons in accordance with Part VII of the 1996 Act. Under section 195 of the 1996 Act, if the local housing authority are satisfied that a person is threatened with homelessness and eligible for assistance, they must take reasonable steps to prevent them from becoming homeless.

5.10. Section 206(1) of the 1996 Act sets out that a local housing authority may discharge their functions under Part VII. Section 206(1)(a) sets out that the Council may fulfil their homelessness duties under the 1996 Act by *securing* that accommodation *provided by them* is made available for the relevant homeless person.

5.11. No housing revenue account is required as the property will be held under a lease that is for a term no longer than 10 years as per the Housing Revenue Account (Exclusion of Leases) Direction 1997.

6. Other implications

6.1. Should the Council not take on the lease for Caradoc Hall, the developer could seek another partner to occupy the building to recover the investment made in the building.

6.2. The impact on nearby schools and nurseries, GP surgeries should be minimal, as the children would continue to attend any educational establishment they were previously attending. Where tenants may not be Coventry residents, such as if they have left previous accommodation due to domestic violence or other such circumstances, there may be a small impact on local schools and nurseries.

6.3. **How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan

The proposal will contribute to the Plan's Vision **- Working together to improve our city and the lives of those who live, work and study here**" The three delivery priorities: Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities; Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions; Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. The two enabling priorities: Continued financial sustainability of the Council; Council's role as a partner, enabler and leader

This will directly contribute to the Council Plan, vision and commitment to improve the quality of life for Coventry people, protecting our most vulnerable residents through helping people who become homeless.

6.4. **How is risk being managed?**

6.5. There is a risk that occupancy levels are not maintained, this will be mitigated by performance monitoring, housing management and contract management. There is a high demand for this accommodation, the team have an excellent track record of maintaining high occupancy levels. Caradoc Hall has an average occupancy level of 97%.

6.6. Risk of changes to building/fire regulations during the lease term will change, this happened with the Fire Safety Regulations 2022. Officers are confident that changes will be implemented and managed by the provider.

6.7. There will be an onsite presence in the form of Housing Officer/ Maintenance Officer available 24/7, to support and deal with any incidences at Caradoc Hall.

6.8. **What is the impact on the organisation?**

This proposal will continue the availability at Caradoc Hall to meet the needs of households who require temporary accommodation as well as our ability to discharge our legal duties under the Housing Act.

6.9. **Equalities / EIA?**

No Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for this project, the commissioning of the lease means the building is already in use and there will be no changes to use or occupancy. Homeless households will undertake a Housing Assessment and have a Personal Housing Plan (which details reasonable steps to be taken by the applicant and by the Council to prevent or relieve homelessness) and this must take into account the applicant's individual circumstances. This will include any considerations due to protected characteristics which may determine what is 'reasonable' and the type of accommodation which would be deemed 'suitable' in order to discharge the statutory duties. The allocation of households to

the accommodation in this paper will be based on the current processes and will consider whether this type of accommodation would be suitable for the household. Any decisions made will have due regard to the public sector equality duty.

6.10. Households placed in temporary accommodation are based on the homelessness duties owned and their specific housing need of the household. Due to the nature of the proposals these schemes will only have an impact on families. It is not anticipated there will be any particular impact on any group based on age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.11. All households affected will have a Personal Housing Plan which must take into account the applicant's individual circumstances including due regard to the public sector equality duty.

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

No additional impact on climate change and the environment as properties currently utilised.

6.13. **Implications for partner organisations?**

No additional impact on the community or partner agencies. Caradoc Hall is currently utilised as temporary accommodation

Report author(s):
Name Martin Donovan
Title Housing & Homeless lead

Service Area: Housing & Homeless service

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	**Title**	**Service Area**	**Date doc sent out**	**Date response received or approved**
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	10/10/24	10/10/24
Jim Crawshaw	Head of Housing & Homelessness	Housing & Homelessness	28/8/24	29/08/24
Julie Sprayson	Deputy Team Leader –Place Team	Legal Services	30/08/24	17/09/24
Paul Whitmore	Lead Accountant	Finance	30/08/24	26/09/24
Other Members				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance	Finance	03/10/24	14/10/24
Legal: Gurbinder Singh Sangha	Major Projects Commercial Lawyer	Law and Governance	03/10/24	14/10/24
Director: Peter Fahy	Director of Adults and Housing	Adults and Housing	26/09/24	01/10/24
Members: Cllr Naeem Akhtar	Cabinet Member Housing & Communities		11/10/24	14/10/24

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Council – 3 December 2024

Recommendation from Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities
25 November 2024

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at 9.00 am on Monday, 25 November 2024

Present:

Members: Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Service Area):

Law and Governance: S Bennett, D Cahalin-Heath, F Cartwright, R Masih, A Wright

Public Business

11. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

13. **Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 - 2028**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an update on the outcome of the six-week consultation undertaken on the review of the Council's Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 and to recommend a revised policy for the period 2025-2028. The Draft Gambling Policy, Consultation responses and the local area profile were appended to the report. The report had been considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at their meeting on 19 November 2024 (their Minute 13/24 refers) and would also be considered by Council at their meeting on 3 December 2024.

The Gambling Act 2005 required each Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a Gambling Policy Statement of Principles. The policy sets out how the licensing authority intends to approach its licensing responsibilities and how it intended to promote the three licensing objectives.

The current Gambling Policy came into effect on 3 January 2022, to cover a period up to 31 January 2025. The policy must be renewed every three years and be subject to a full consultation process.

The report advised Members of the consultation process that had taken place and outlined the comments received and amendments made to the Council's draft Gambling Policy.

There were no major changes to the policy except some minor wording amendments. The general principles of the Gambling Policy Statement of Principles remained the same and the document was still centred around the Gambling Act's three licensing objectives, namely:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Following public consultation, the revised draft Gambling Policy Statement of Principles was now ready to be recommended for adoption to take effect from 31 January 2025.

The Cabinet Member noted that the report had been considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at their meeting on 19 November 2024 and that the Committee had recommended that the Cabinet Member explore ways to increase future responses to consultations and writes to the Government asking them to consider reducing gambling premises in certain areas to avoid saturation.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

(a) Notes the results of the consultation and proposed changes to the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025-2028.

(b) Requests officers to look at the steps that could be taken to increase response rates to consultations.

(c) Agrees to write to the Government requesting that consideration be given to reducing the number of gambling premises in certain areas to avoid saturation.

(d) Recommends that the City Council adopts the Gambling Policy Statement of Principles as attached at Appendix A of the report.

Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet Member Report

Licensing & Regulatory Committee	19th November 2024
Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities	25th November 2024
Full Council	3rd December 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor AS Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:
All

Title:
Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 - 2028

Is this a key decision?
No

Although the matters within the report affect all wards in the city, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant.

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the outcome of the six-week consultation undertaken on the review of the Council's Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 and to recommend for approval, a revised policy for the period 2025 – 2028.

Recommendations:

Licensing & Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the results of the consultation, and the proposed changes on the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025 – 2028 and notify the Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities of its comments.

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the results of the consultation, and the proposed changes on the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025 – 2028 and any comments from the Licensing & Regulatory Committee.

2. Recommend to Council that it adopts the Gambling Policy Statement of Principles attached as Appendix A of the report.

Council is recommended to:

1. Adopt the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles attached as Appendix A of the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A - Revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 - 2028 (shaded paragraphs illustrate the amendments to the document).

Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses and changes to the policy.

Appendix C – Local Area Profile & risk assessments.

Other useful background papers:

Gambling Act 2005

Gambling Act 2005 Guidance to Licensing Authorities

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
Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities – 1st August 2024 & 25th November 2024
Licensing & Regulatory Committee – 6th August 2024 & 19th November 2024

Will this report go to Council?
Yes
3rd December 2024

Page 3 onwards
Report title: Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles

1. Context (or background)

1.1 The Gambling Act 2005 requires each Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a Gambling Policy Statement of Principles. The policy sets out how the licensing authority intends to approach its licensing responsibilities and how it intends to promote the three licensing objectives.

1.2 The current Gambling Policy came into effect on 3rd January 2022, to cover a period up to 31st January 2025.

1.3 This policy must be renewed every three years and be subject to a full consultation process.

1.4 Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities on 1st August 2024 and Licensing & Regulatory Committee on 6th August 2024, considered a report on the draft revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles and authorised the Director of Law & Governance to consult on its contents.

1.5 This report advises Members of the consultation that has taken place and outlines the comments received and amendments made to the Council's draft Gambling Policy.

1.6 There are no major changes to the policy except some minor wording amendments. The general principles of the Gambling Policy Statement of Principles remain the same and the document is still centered around the Gambling Act's three licensing objectives, namely:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

1.7 Following public consultation, the revised draft Gambling Policy Statement of Principles is now ready to be recommended for adoption to take effect from 31st January 2025 (Appendix A).

Key Changes to the Revised Gambling Policy

1.8 There are no proposed significant changes to the policy, only minor amendments and additions. These can be shown highlighted in yellow in the draft revised policy.

1.9 The Gambling Commission have confirmed the following changes to Gambling Regulations have been made:

- Improving consumer choice on direct marketing;
- strengthening age verification in premises;
- amending and introducing new requirements on remote game design, remote gambling (financial vulnerability checks and financial risk assessments).

1.10 The changes that directly affect land based gambling include strengthening age verification in premises. Section 7 in the Gambling Policy relates to the criteria that premises are required to meet to protect children & young persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal.

2.1 The Licensing & Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

Consider the results of the consultation on the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025 – 2028 and notify the Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities of its comments (Appendix B).

2.2 The Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the results of the consultation of the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025 – 2028 and any comments from the Licensing & Regulatory Committee.
2. Recommend to Council that it adopts the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles for the period 2025 – 2028.

2.3 Council is recommended to:

1. Adopt the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028 (Appendix A).

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The public consultation ended on 20th September 2024 and included the following elements:

- Mail shots to operators;
- Notification to the responsible authorities;
- Mail shots to trade organisations and religious organisations;
- Wider public consultation through the city council's website.

3.2 All statutory consultees have received a letter with a link to the revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025 – 2025 on the Council's website. The consultation was made available from 9th August 2024 – 20th September 2024. The link was sent to all licensed businesses, Responsible Authorities, resident associations and other public consultees as set out in the policy inviting them to comment.

3.3 Three responses have been received to the consultation and this is summarised in Appendix B. After considering the comments it is proposed that the following amendments be made:

- Paragraph 11 Provisional Statements has been added;
- Paragraph 19 Adult Gaming Centre has been added;
- Paragraph 30, has been amended to include the Regulators Code.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision.

4.1 The revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles must be published by 3rd January 2025 and commence from 31st January 2025, allowing the Council to continue to carry out any function in respect of individual applications made under the authority of the Gambling Act 2005.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Director of Law & Governance.

5.1 **Financial implications**

The financial implications associated with the recommendation are limited to the employee costs associated with undertaking the consultation exercise and any costs involved in publishing the Gambling Policy Statement of Principles.

5.2 **Legal implications**

The Council will not be able to undertake its role as a Licensing Authority after the 31st January 2025 unless it has approved and published its revised Gambling Policy Statement of Principles. The policy must be reviewed every three years, or more often if appropriate.

The licensing function is carried out by the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee and officers exercising delegated powers. The one exception is the approval of the policy, which must be approved by Full Council.

The Council is required to have regard to any current Government Guidance when carrying out any licensing functions under the Gambling Act 2005 including its Gambling Policy Statement of Principles.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the One Coventry Plan?

Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder is a licensing objective where the Gambling Commission takes a leading role. The Commission investigates the suitability of applicants to hold an operators or personal licence. An operator's licence is required to be held prior to being able to apply for a premises licence through the licensing authority. Licensing authorities may consider the locations of premises in the context if this objective. There are strong links between the administration of the licensing process and the role of the Community Safety Partnership and West Midlands Police. The Gambling Policy provides information about proposed enforcement protocols with the police and other enforcement authorities. As a Responsible Authority, the Police have been a key consultee.

One of the licensing objectives is 'Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling'. Applicants are required to show how they will address this objective in their risk assessment when making applications. The Coventry Safeguarding Children Board is a Responsible Authority consulted when applications are made. They have been made aware of the policy review and have been consulted.

This aligns with the One Coventry Plan and the following delivery priorities:

- Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities
- Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions

6.2 How is risk being managed?

If the Gambling Policy is not renewed in the above timeframe, the City Council will not legally be able to perform its function under the Act. The consultation process and committee dates have been planned to ensure that the policy is in place at the required time.

The Gambling Policy Statement of Principles will inform decisions taken by the licensing authority that will have an impact on the interests of private individuals and businesses. The policy reflects the need to respect the relevant rights given by the Human Rights Act.

Decisions of the licensing authority are open to challenge through the Magistrates Court and beyond. The Gambling Policy Statement of Principles is designed to ensure our compliance with legislation and statutory guidance, minimising the risk of legal challenge.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?
The adoption of the policy should have no impact on the organisation. There is no human resource, financial or ICT implications.

6.4 Equalities / EIA
The Gambling Policy makes links to the Council's Equality and Diversity Policies and an Equalities Assessment exists for licensing activities. This has been reviewed and updated as part of the consultation process.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment
None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?
The Gambling Policy contributes towards the work of the Community Safety Partnership and specifically with the work of the police.

6.7 Human Rights Act Implications
None

Report author(s):
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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Tom Robinson/Carolyn Sinclair	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	31/10/24	31/10/24
Debbie Cahalin-Heath	Strategic Manager - Regulation & Communities	Regulatory Services	20/10/24	24/10/24
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead - Regulation & Communities	Regulatory Services	25/10/24	28/10/24
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Amy Wright	Regulatory Lawyer	Law and Governance	31/10/24	31/10/24
Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	31/10/24	31/10/24
Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	Law & Governance	01/11/24	04/11/24
Cllr A S Khan	Elected Member	Cabinet Member for Policing &	01/11/24	06/11/24

		Equalities		

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Appendix A

Gambling Act 2005

Gambling Policy Statement of Principles 2025/2028

1. Introduction

1.1 Coventry City Council, as the Licensing Authority (referred to in this Statement as the Authority), makes this Statement of Principles in pursuance of its powers and duties under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (referred to in this Statement as "the Act") and sets out the Authority's approach in dealing with its responsibilities under the Act.

1.2 Coventry is a city situated in the West Midlands with a population of 345,300 inhabitants. It is mainly urban but includes significant areas that are semi-rural.

1.3 List of Consultees

The Authority has consulted the following on the content of this Statement of Principles:-

- Responsible Authorities;
- Holders of existing licences, permits and registrations;
- Councillors and Parish Councils and MP's;
- Representatives of businesses;
- Representatives of persons carrying on gambling businesses in Coventry;
- Local bodies representing vulnerable persons; and
- Departments within the Council with an interest in the licensing of gambling.

1.4 In preparing this statement, the Authority has had regard to the provisions of the Act, the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, Regulations made by the Secretary of State and responses to its consultations.

2. Gambling Act 2005

2.1 The Act specifies licensing objectives which are central to the regulatory regime, these are:-

- **preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;**
- **ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and**
- **protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.**

2.2 In carrying out the licensing function under the Act the Authority will aim to permit the use of premises for gambling as long as it is considered to be :-

- **in accordance with any relevant Codes of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission;**
- **in accordance with any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission; and**
- **in accordance with this Statement of Principles; and reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.**

2.3 The Act provides for 3 categories of licence:

- operating licences;
- personal licences; and
- premises licences.

2.4 The Authority will be responsible for issuing premises licences. The Gambling

Commission will be responsible for issuing operating and personal licences.

2.5 This statement will come into force on 31st January 2025 and will have effect until 30th January 2028 being kept under review and revised or amended as required following consultation.

3. Authorised Activities

3.1 'Gambling' is defined in the Act as either gaming, betting, or taking part in a lottery.

- gaming means playing a game of chance for a prize;
- betting means making or accepting a bet on the outcome of a race, competition, or any other event, the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring, or whether anything is true or not; and
- a lottery is where persons are required to pay in order to take part in an arrangement, during the course of which one or more prizes are allocated by a process which relies wholly on chance.

3.2 The main functions of the Authority are to:

- licence premises for gambling activities;
- grant permits for gambling and gaming machines in clubs;
- regulate gaming and gaming machines in alcohol licensed premises;
- grant permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines;
- grant permits for prize gaming;
- consider notices given for the temporary use of premises for gaming;
- receive occasional use notices for betting at tracks; and
- register small society's lotteries.

3.3 The following activities are not authorised by the Authority:

- Spread betting is regulated by the Financial Services Authority;
- Remote Gambling is dealt with by the Gambling Commission; and
- The National Lottery (regulated by the Gambling Commission).

4. General Statement of Principles

4.1 The Authority recognises the wide variety of premises which will require a licence or a permit. These include casinos, betting shops, bingo halls, pubs, clubs, amusement arcades and racing tracks.

4.2 In carrying out its licensing functions the Authority will have regard to guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

4.3 The Authority will not seek to use the Act to resolve matters more readily dealt with under other legislation. This statement of principles will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes wherever possible. In considering applications and taking enforcement action, under the Gambling Act the Authority will have regard to the provisions of the Human Rights Act.

4.4 To ensure the licensing objectives are met the Authority will establish a close working relationship with the police, the Gambling Commission and other responsible authorities.

4.5 Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, this Authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities. However, the overriding principle is that each application and the circumstances prevailing at each premises will be considered on their own individual merits.

5. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder; being associated with crime and disorder or being used to support crime

5.1 The Gambling Commission will play a leading role in preventing gambling from being a source of crime and will maintain rigorous licensing procedures that aim to prevent criminals from providing facilities for gambling or being associated with providing such facilities.

5.2 When applying to this Authority for a premises licence the applicant will have to hold an operating licence from the Commission before a licence can be issued so the Council will not be concerned with the suitability of the applicant. Where concerns about a person's suitability arise the Council will bring those concerns to the attention of the Commission. The Authority will have to be satisfied that the premises will not adversely affect the licensing objective and is compliant with the Commissions Guidance, codes of practice and this gambling policy.

5.3 The Authority will expect the applicant to have a good understanding of the local area in which they either operate or intend to operate. The applicant will have to provide evidence that they meet the criteria set out in the policy and local area profile and demonstrate that in operating the premises they will be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. Operators need to be aware of how the operation of their premises may impact on this objective. The Council will expect the applicants to provide details as to their crime prevention measures and any risk assessments that they have carried out.

5.4 To prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime, the Authority will apply the following criteria and take into account the following considerations, where relevant, in determining applications and reviews.

Criteria:

Whether the premises make or will make a contribution to the levels of crime and disorder and whether the applicant has demonstrated that he has, or intends to, implement sufficient controls to prevent the premises being a source of, and/or associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime, if the application is granted.

Considerations:

- Where an area is known for high levels of crime the Council will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there, and whether additional conditions may be necessary, such as the provision of CCTV, minimum levels of staffing and licensed door supervisors;

- Whether there is a history of crime or disorder associated with the premises or its use by those involved in crime to associate or dispose of the proceeds of crime;

- Whether the layout, lighting and fitting out of the premises have been designed so as to minimise conflict and opportunities for crime and disorder;

- Whether sufficient management measures are proposed or are in place to prevent the premises being a source of, or associated with crime or disorder, or used to support crime either as a place of association or to avoid being apprehended;

- The Authority will also consider the location of the premises in the context of this licensing objective and applicants must have regard to the local area profile. If an application is received in relation to premises that are in an area noted for particular problems with organised crime or a premises that have previously been a focus for antisocial behaviour, the Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that they have sufficient measures in place to prevent or deter people involved from using their premises and will also consider conditions being put on the licence to be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and

- Whilst issues of nuisance are not included specifically in the gambling objectives and cannot be addressed via the Act, the Council may consider, when making decisions on the applications for premises licences, that extreme instances of public nuisance and/or persistent public nuisance may constitute disorder and/or crime for the purposes of this objective.

6. Ensure Gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

6.1 Generally the Commission would not expect Licensing Authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business, and therefore subject to the operating licence, or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual and therefore subject to the personal licence.

6.2 In relation to the licensing of tracks (a track is a site where racing or other sporting events take place) the Authority's role will be different from other premises in that track operators will not necessarily have an operating licence. In those circumstances the premises licence may need to contain conditions to ensure that the environment in which betting takes place is suitable.

Criteria:

Whether the premises will operate measures that will ensure that the gambling activity is conducted in a fair and open way.

Considerations:

- Whether the layout, lighting and fitting out of the premises have been designed so as to ensure gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;

- Whether sufficient management measures are proposed or are in place to ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;

- Whether the management and operation of the premises is open and transparent;

- Whether the operators of the premises have been or will be fully cooperative with enforcement agencies; and

- Whether the Commission's Codes of Practice have been complied with.

7. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

7.1 The Gambling Commission's Guidance states that one of the aims of this objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as restricting advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at or are, particularly attractive to children).

7.2 The Act and Gambling Commission Guidance does not define the term “vulnerable” but the Commission states that for regulatory purposes it assumes “vulnerable” persons” to include:

- people who gamble more than they want to;
- people who are gambling beyond their means; or
- people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability, or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs.

This is the definition the Authority will use in its consideration of applications.

7.3 This Authority will pay particular attention to any codes of practice, which the Gambling Commission issues in relation to specific premises such as casinos. It will consider this licensing objective on a case-by-case basis, and where necessary add conditions to be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

7.4 To protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, the Authority will apply the following criteria and take into account the following considerations, where relevant, in determining applications and reviews.

Criteria:

Whether there are appropriate measures in place to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Considerations:

- Whether the operator has a specific training programme for staff to ensure that they are able to identify children and vulnerable people and take appropriate action to promote this objective to exclude them from the premises or parts of the premises;

- If the premises is an adult only environment, whether the operator has taken effective measures to implement an appropriate proof of age scheme to ensure that no one under the age of 18 is admitted to the premises or restricted areas;

- Whether there is provision for self-barring schemes and provision of information leaflets/helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare;

- Whether the layout, lighting and fitting out of the premises have been designed so as to not attract children and other vulnerable persons who might be harmed or exploited by gambling;

- Whether sufficient management measures are proposed or are in place to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;

- Whether any promotional material associated with the premises could encourage the use of the premises by children or young people; and

- The Authority will also consider the location of the premises in the context of this licensing objective and applicants must have regard to the local area profile (which outlines examples of sensitive areas). If an application for a gambling premises is received for a location within a sensitive area or in close proximity to what are considered to be sensitive areas the Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that they have sufficient and suitable control measures in place to be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

8. Premises Licences

8.1 Section 150 of the Act permits the issue of premises licences authorising the provision of facilities at the following:

- casino premises;
- bingo premises;
- betting premises, including tracks and premises used by betting intermediaries;
- adult gaming centres; and
- family entertainment centres.

8.2 Premises can be 'any place' but the Act prevents more than one premises licence applying to any one place. A single building could be subject to more than one premises licence provided they are for different parts of the building and those parts can be genuinely regarded as being different 'premises'.

8.3 A particular requirement might be for entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences to be separate and identifiable so that the separation of the premises is not compromised and that people are not allowed to 'drift' accidentally into a gambling area.

8.4 Where the Authority has concerns about the use of premises for gambling it will seek to address this through licence conditions wherever possible.

8.5 Other than an application for a betting premises licence in respect of a track, the Authority is not able to issue a premises licence unless the applicant holds the relevant operating licence from the Gambling Commission.

8.6 When considering applications for premises licences the Authority will not take into consideration either the expected 'demand' for facilities or the likelihood of planning permission being granted.

8.7 The Authority will maintain a register of premises licences issued and will ensure that the register is open for public inspection at all reasonable times. This can be viewed at:
http://licensing.coventry.gov.uk/MVM/Online/EGov/License_Registers/Registers_Criteria.aspx

9. Location

9.1 This Authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises either at a citywide or more local scale. However, it considers that the location of gambling premises can be a major factor on the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Authority will pay particular attention to the suitability of a location for gambling activity in terms of the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder.

9.2 A local area profile has been drawn up and operators are required to take into account any sensitive locations within close proximity to proposed gambling premises and provide the Authority with details of how they propose to mitigate and monitor any risks. Applications will not be granted in sensitive locations unless the relevant criteria have been met. Examples of sensitive areas and locations are detailed in the local area profile and can be found at: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/36700/local-area-profile-2022

9.3 Applicants will have to clearly show that they have considered the profile and the potential impact of their proposed business on the licensing objectives and provide information on how they plan to reduce or remove any likely adverse impact on them. The supporting information may contain the following information:

- how the premises will restrict access to children, young people or other vulnerable persons;
- whether a proof of age scheme is being used;
- will the appropriate number of security staff be employed at appropriate times;
- will opening times be set so that the premises are not open during school start and finish times; and
- what procedures and staff training are in place to identify vulnerable persons such as problem gamblers, those unable to make an informed or balanced decision about gambling due to, for example, misuse of drink or drugs, mental health problems, a learning disability etc.

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

9.4 The Authority will consider proposals for new gambling premises that are in close proximity to hostels or other accommodation or centres catering for vulnerable people, including those with mental health issues or learning disabilities, and those with problem gambling, alcohol or drug abuse problems, as very likely to adversely affect the gambling objectives.

9.5 It should be noted that the profile does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its own merits, but the onus will be upon the applicant to show how the potential concerns can be overcome.

10. Gambling Activity

10.1 The gambling activity of each premises licence type is specified on the premises licence when it is issued. The Authority will take decisions in accordance with the Commission's guidance and codes of practice on gambling activity and will have regard to the advice which it issues from time to time. Applicants are expected to operate premises in line with the Commission's Guidance and conditions on their operators licence. The Council will monitor the operation of premises and report any potential breach of operating licence conditions to the Commission. Applications for new premises licences, or to vary an existing licence, will be expected to be clear that the premises are intended to be used for the gambling activity proposed.

It should be noted that the Act does not permit a premises to be licensed for more than one gambling activity.

11. Provisional Statements

11.1 Developers may wish to apply to this authority for provisional statements before entering a contract to buy or lease property or land to judge whether a development is worth taking forward in light of the need to obtain a premises licence. There is no need for the applicant to hold an operating licence in order to apply for a provisional statement.

S204 of the Gambling Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that they:

- expect to be constructed;
- expect to be altered; or –
- expect to acquire a right to occupy.

The process for considering an application for a provisional statement is the same as that for a premises licence application. The applicant is obliged to give notice of the application in the same way as applying for a premises licence. Responsible authorities and interested parties may make representations and there are rights of appeal.

In contrast to the premises licence application, the applicant does not have to hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission (except in the case of a track) and they do not have to have a right to occupy the premises in respect of which their provisional application is made.

The holder of a provisional statement may then apply for a premises licence once the premises are constructed, altered or acquired. The licensing authority will be constrained in the matters it can consider when determining the premises licence application, and in terms of representations about premises licence applications that follow the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless:

- they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage
- they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

  - which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional statement stage;

  - which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances; or

  - where the premises has not been constructed in accordance with the plan submitted with the application. This must be a substantial change to the plan and this licensing authority notes that it can discuss any concerns it has with the applicant before making a decision.

12. Responsible Authorities

12.1 These are generally public bodies that must be notified of all applications and who are entitled to make representations to the Authority if they are relevant to the licensing

objectives.

12.2 Section 157 of the Act identifies the bodies that are to be treated as responsible authorities. In relation to the Authority's area, these are:

i. the Authority itself;
ii. the Gambling Commission;
iii. the Chief Officer of Police/Chief Constable for the area in which the premises is wholly or partially situated;
iv. the Fire and Rescue Authority for the same area;
v. the Local Planning Authority for the same area;
vi. an authority with functions in relation to pollution of the environment or harm to human health;
vii. a body designated in writing by the Authority as competent to advise about the protection of children from harm (see paragraphs 11.3 and 11.4 set out below);
viii. HM Revenue & Customs; and
ix. any other person prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State.

Section 211(4) provides that in relation to a vessel, but no other premises, responsible authorities also include navigation authorities within the meaning of section 221(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991 that have statutory functions in relation to the waters where the vessel is usually moored or berthed or any waters where it is proposed to be navigated at a time when it is to be used for licensable activities.

12.3 The Authority is required to set out the principles to be applied in exercising its powers to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise about the protection of children from harm. The principles applied in designating such a body are:

- the body must be responsible for covering the whole of the Authority's area; and
- the body should be answerable to democratically elected persons rather than any particular vested interest groups etc.

12.4 The designated body for Coventry City Council is the Safeguarding Children Board. Details of this and all other responsible authorities are available at: www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/1616/gambling_law_information_leaflet.

13. Interested Parties

13.1 Interested parties can make representations about licence applications or apply for a review of an existing licence based on the principles detailed in section 2 of this policy statement.

An interested party is someone who:

a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities;

b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities; or
c) represents persons in either of the two groups above.

13.2 Factors that the Authority will apply to determine whether a person is an interested party include (please note this list is not exhaustive):

13.3 Interested parties could include trade associations and trade unions, and residents' and tenants' associations. This Authority will not however generally view these bodies as interested parties unless they have a member who can be classed as an interested person under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 e.g. lives sufficiently close to the premises or has business interests likely to be affected by the activities being applied for.

13.4 Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MP's. No specific evidence of being asked to represent an interested person will be required as long as the Councillor/MP represents the ward likely to be affected. Other than these persons, this authority will require written evidence that a person 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

13.5 Each case will be decided upon its merits. This authority will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities.

13.6 Individuals are encouraged to approach their local Councillor(s) to represent their interests; individuals should however be mindful that where a conflict of interest exists it may be the case that their local Councillor(s) is unable to assist them.

13.7 It should be noted that, unlike the Licensing Act, the Gambling Act does not include as a specific licensing objective the prevention of public nuisance. There is however other relevant legislation which deals with public nuisance.

14 Representations

14.1 The Authority is obliged to consider representations from 'responsible authorities' and 'interested parties' and must determine whether or not representations are admissible. A representation is inadmissible if not made by a responsible authority or an interested party.

14.2 The only representations likely to be relevant are those that relate to the licensing objectives, or that raise issues under this statement or the Commissions guidance or codes of practice. The Authority must determine the relevance of the representation.

14.3 Any concerns that responsible authorities have in relation to their own functions cannot be taken into account if they are not relevant to the application for a premises licence and the licensing objectives.

14.4 The Authority may, in certain circumstances, consider a representation to be either frivolous or vexatious. This will generally be a matter of fact given the circumstances of each individual case but before coming to a decision the Authority may consider the following:

- who is making the representation and whether there is a history of making representations that are not relevant;
- whether it raises a 'relevant' issue or not; or

- whether it raises issues specifically relevant to the premise which is the subject of the application.

15 Conditions of Licence

15.1 All Gambling Act premises licences are subject to mandatory and default conditions and these conditions are usually sufficient to ensure operation that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. Additional conditions will only be imposed where there is evidence in the circumstances of a particular case that these conditions need to be supplemented. Conditions imposed by the Authority may be general in nature by applying to all licences, or those of a particular type, or they may be specific to a particular licence.

15.2 The Authority will not generally impose conditions that limit the use of premises for gambling unless it is deemed to be necessary as a result of the requirement to act in accordance with the Gambling Commission's guidance, any codes of practice issued by the Commission, this Statement of Principles or in a way that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

15.3 Any conditions imposed by the Authority will be proportionate to the circumstances they are intended to address. In particular, the Authority will ensure that any conditions are:

- relevant to the need to make the premises suitable as a gambling facility;
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises;
- reasonable in all other respects; and
- decided on a case by case basis.

15.4 The Authority will not consider imposing conditions:

- which make it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition imposed by the Gambling Commission;
- relating to gaming machine categories, numbers or method of operation;
- which specify that membership of a club or other body is required; or
- in relation to stakes, fees, winnings or prizes.

16 Casinos

16.1 The Authority has already considered its position under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 regarding the application for a casino and has not passed a 'no casino' resolution.

17 Betting Machines in Betting Premises

17.1 The Authority is aware of its power to restrict the number of betting machines (self-service betting terminals (SSBT's)), their nature and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. (It is important to make the distinction between gaming machines where the licence holder of a betting licence may make available for use up to four gaming machines of categories B, C or D).

17.2 In the event that the Authority considers whether to impose such a condition on any particular licence it may, among other things, take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person to person

transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines.

18 Bingo

18.1 Licensing authorities will need to satisfy themselves that bingo can be played in any bingo premises for which they issue a premises licence. This will be a relevant consideration where the operator of an existing premises applies to vary their licence to exclude an area of the existing premises from its ambit and then applies for a new premises licence, or multiple licence, for that or those excluded areas.

18.2 Section 172(7) of the Act provides that the holder of bingo premises licences may make available for use a number of category B gaming machines for use on the premises.

18.3 This Authority also notes the Commissions guidance in the unusual circumstances in which the splitting of pre-existing premises into two adjacent premises might be permitted. It is not permissible for all of the gaming machines to which each of the licenses brings an entitlement to be grouped together within one of the licensed premises.

18.4 The playing of bingo specifically in alcohol-licensed premises, clubs and miners welfare institutes is permissible under the exempt gaming provisions without the premises needing to obtain a bingo operating licence. Where the level of bingo played in these premises however reaches a certain threshold, it will no longer be authorised by these rules, and a bingo operating licence will have to be obtained from the Commission.

18.5 The holder of a bingo operating licence will be able to provide any type of bingo game including cash and prize bingo.

18.6 Commercial bingo halls will require a bingo premises licence from the Authority.

18.7 Children and young people are allowed into bingo premises; however they are not permitted to participate in the bingo and if category B or C machines are made available for use these must be separated from areas where children and young people are allowed, the Authority will ensure that:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises separate from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- only adults are admitted to the area where the machines are located;
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- the area where the machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by staff of the operator or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to, and inside any such area there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.

19 Adult Gaming Centres

19.1 This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. The Licensing Authority will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives. However, appropriate measures/licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age scheme
- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances/machine areas

- Location of entrance
- Physical security measures on the premises
- Physical separation of areas
- Self-exclusion schemes
- Notices & signage displayed externally stating access to the premises is restricted to persons 18 years of age and over
- Notice specifying opening hours
- Members of staff appropriately trained
- Reporting of any suspicious activity o the premises
- Display of posters & information leaflets for organisations set up to assist people wishing to seek help and advice regarding gambling related issues such as GamCare

This is not a mandatory, or exhaustive list, and is merely indicative of example measures

20 Tracks

20.1 Only one premises licence can be issued for any particular premises at any time unless the premise is a 'track'. A track is a site where races or other sporting events take place.

20.2 Track operators are not required to hold an 'operators licence' granted by the Gambling Commission. Therefore, premises licences for tracks, issued by the Council are likely to contain requirements for premises licence holders about their responsibilities in relation to the proper conduct of betting. Indeed, track operators will have an important role to play, for example in ensuring that betting areas are properly administered and supervised.

20.3 Although there will, primarily be a betting premises licence for the track there may be a number of subsidiary licences authorising other gambling activities to take place. Unlike betting offices, a betting premises licence in respect of a track does not give an automatic entitlement to use gaming machines.

20.4 When considering whether to exercise its power to restrict the number of betting machines at a track the Council will consider the circumstances of each individual application and, among other things will consider the potential space for the number of machines requested, the ability of track staff to supervise the machines, especially if they are scattered around the site, and the ability of the track operator to prevent children and young persons and vulnerable people betting on the machines.

21 Temporary Use Notices

21.1 Temporary Use Notices (TUN) allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling. Premises that might be suitable for a TUN, according to the Gambling Commission, would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues.

21.2 The Authority can only accept a TUN from a person or company holding a relevant operating licence.

21.3 Regulations prescribed by the Secretary of State provide that TUNs can only be used to permit the provision of facilities for equal chance gaming where the gaming is intended to produce a single winner, for example games such as backgammon, cribbage, bingo and poker.

21.4 There are a number of statutory limits for TUNs (see Gambling Commission

Guidance, which can be viewed at: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-licensing-authorities/GLA/Part-14-Temporary-use-notices.asp). This includes the definition of “premises" and, "a set of premises”. In the Act "premises" is defined as including "any place". In considering whether a place falls within the definition of "a set of premises", licensing authorities will need to look at, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises.

21.5 The Authority expects to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises, as recommended in the Gambling Commission Guidance.

22 Occasional Use Notices

22.1 The Authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The Authority will need to consider the definition of a ‘track’ and whether the applicant is permitted to avail themselves of the notice.

23 Gaming Machines

23.1 A machine is not a gaming machine if the winning of a prize is determined purely by the player’s skill. However, any element of ‘chance’ imparted by the action of the machine would cause it to be a gaming machine.

23.2 The Authority is aware of its power to restrict the number of gaming machines in certain circumstances. In the event that the Authority considers whether to impose such a restriction on any particular permit it may, among other things, take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children, young persons or by vulnerable persons.

23.3 The Authority will be unable to issue premises licences to authorise gaming machines in certain types of premises. These generally will be premises to which children and vulnerable people will have unrestricted access and would include take- away premises, taxi offices, supermarkets etc.

24 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) Gaming Machine Permits

24.1 Where a premise does not hold a Premises Licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the Authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use.

24.2 The Gambling Act 2005 states that a Authority may "prepare a statement of principles that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit” and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under Section 25. The Gambling Commission's Guidance also states, “that in their three year licensing policy statement, licensing authorities may include a statement of principles that they propose to apply when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits and licensing authorities will want to give weight to child protection issues”.

24.3 Guidance also indicates that an application for a permit may be granted only if the Authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an unlicensed FEC, and if the Chief Officer of Police has been consulted on the application, licensing authorities may wish to consider asking applications to demonstrate:

- A full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is

permissible in unlicensed FECs;
- That the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in the Act); and
- That staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

24.4 It should be noted that an Authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

24.5 This Authority has adopted a Statement of Principles that is available at: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/27580/statement_of_principles_for_unlicensed_entertainment_centres Potential applicants / other interested persons are advised to read the Statement of Principles before applying to the Authority for a permit.

24.6 With regard to renewals of these permits, an Authority may refuse an application for renewal of a permit only on the grounds that an authorised local authority officer has been refused access to the premises without reasonable excuse, or that renewal would not be reasonably consistent with pursuit of the licensing objectives.

25 (Alcohol) Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits

25.1 There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the Authority. The Authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the Authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with);
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.

25.2 If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the Authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and "*such matters as they think relevant*."

This Authority considers that "such matters" will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the Authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. Measures which will satisfy the Authority that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also help. As regards the protection of vulnerable persons applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

25.3 It is recognised that some alcohol-licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for the use of gaming machines in their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would need to be applied for and dealt with as an Adult Gaming Centre premises licence.

25.4 It should be noted that the Authority can decide to grant the permit application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied

for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

25.5 It should also be noted that the holder of a permit must comply with the Gaming Machines in Alcohol Licensed Premises Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine(s).

26 Prize Gaming Permits

26.1 The Gambling Act 2005 states that an Authority may "prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule" which "may, in particular, specify matters that the Authority proposes to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit".

26.2 This Authority has adopted a Statement of Principles that is available at: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/23/alcohol_and_entertainment_licensing/428/gambling_licences/3 Potential applicants / other interested persons are advised to read the Statement of Principles before applying to the Authority for a licence or permit.

26.3 In making its decision on an application for this permit the Authority does not need to but may have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

26.4 It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but the Authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

27 Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits

27.1 Members' Clubs and Miners' Welfare Institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Club Gaming Machines Permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in regulations. A Club Gaming Machine Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

27.2 Members' clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted "wholly or mainly" for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is permitted by separate regulations. It is anticipated that this will cover bridge and whist clubs, which will replicate the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members' club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men's clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.

27.3 Authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or Commercial Club or Miners' Welfare Institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;

- the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the Police.

27.4 It should be noted that there is a 'fast-track' procedure available for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. The Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authority's states: "Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the Police, and the grounds upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced" and "The grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- that a Club Gaming Permit or Club Machine Permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

27.5 There are statutory conditions on Club Gaming Permits that no child uses a category B or C machine on the premises and that the holder complies with any relevant provision of a code of practice about the location and operation of gaming machines.

28 Lotteries

28.1 In carrying out its functions in relation to Lotteries, the Authority will have regard to the Act, any guidance issued by the Commission from time to time and any Regulations issued by the Secretary of State.

28.2 The Act makes it illegal to promote lotteries unless they are licensed or within an exempt category. One such exemption relates to registered small society lotteries and the Authority is responsible for registering small society lotteries, which are promoted by non-commercial organisations that are established for:

- charitable purposes;
- for the purpose of enabling participation in, or of supporting, sport, athletics or a cultural activity; or
- for any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain.

29 Exchange of Information

29.1 The principle that the Authority will apply in respect of the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission and those bodies listed in Schedule 6 of the Act is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 which includes the provision that the General Data Protection Regulations will not be contravened. The Authority will also have regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on this matter when it is published, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

30 Enforcement

30.1 The Authority will liaise with the Gambling Commission and other enforcing authorities on enforcement issues and will look to carry out joint inspections. The targeting of resources towards high-risk premises and activities that require greater attention will provide a more efficient deployment of the Authority's officers and other officers that

are commonly engaged in enforcing gambling law and inspection of licensed premises. A lighter touch will apply in respect of low risk premises, which are well run.

30.2 The Authority's approach to enforcement will be based on identified risk and will take into account:

- relevant codes of practice including the Regulators Code;
- guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- the licensing objectives; and
- the principles set out in this statement of gambling policy.

30.3 In general, action will only be taken in accordance with the principles of the Regulatory Compliance Code, Licensing Authority Enforcement Policy and the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. To this end the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained.

30.4 The Authority will also be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities & the Regulators' Code and will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects

30.5 In accordance with the Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities the Council will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes as far as possible.

30.6 The main enforcement and compliance role for this Authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the Premises Licences and other permissions, which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the operator and personal licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the Authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission.

31 The Licensing Process

31.1 The powers of the Council as a Licensing Authority under the Act may be carried out by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, by a Sub-Committee or, instead, by one or more Council officers acting under delegated authority. The Council has adopted the following scheme of delegation and can be viewed at:
https://www.coventry.gov.uk/constitution
https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s60244/Part%202%20-%20Scheme%20of%20Delegation%20April%202024.pdf

31.2 Application forms will be in the format prescribed by regulations. The form will need to contain information that describes the gambling activities to be provided, the operational procedures, hours, nature of the location, needs of the local community, etc. Most importantly, the applicant will have to detail the steps that will be taken to promote the three licensing objectives. Applicants should carry out a risk assessment before they apply for a premises licence or to vary a premises licence. The Authority will expect the local risk assessment (or a copy thereof) to be available at the premises for inspection by any authorised officer.

31.3 Applicants are encouraged to fully consult the Police and other responsible authorities well in advance of submitting their applications. Application forms and guidance leaflets will be available at: www.coventry.gov.uk/info/23/alcohol_and_entertainment_licensing/428/gambling_licences/1. Most applications will require additional documentation and a fee to be included with the form. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.

31.4 The Act requires the Authority to maintain a register of premises licences issued. The register must be available at any reasonable time to the public, who can request copies of the entries. The register will be located at: www.coventry.gov.uk/info/23/alcohol_and_entertainment_licensing/416/alcohol_and_entertainment_licences

Effective date of reviewed policy: 31st January 2025 Valid until 30th January 2028

Appendix B

Responses to Coventry City Council Statement of Gambling Policy Consultation

9th August 2024 – 20th September 2024

1. Background

1.1 The public consultation on the draft Statement of Gambling Policy took place for 6 weeks from 9th August 2024 – 20th September 2024.

1.2 The consultation was extensive and included a range of statutory consultees, stakeholders and local communities.

1.3 Three responses were received during the consultation period.

1.4 All consultees were asked for comments on the draft policy, which have been organised into themes and are presented below.

Respondent	Feedback/Comments/Amendments	Action
Luxury Leisure & Talarius Ltd	Dear Team **Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Principles Consultation** Thank you for the opportunity to make comments in relation to the above consultation. On behalf of Luxury Leisure and Talarius Ltd, we make the following points in relation to the consultation draft ('the Draft'):- 1. As the Authority will appreciate, in matters of regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) it is subject to the **Regulators' Code**. That code imposes a number of obligations on the Authority, including one that it should carry out its activities in a way that it supports those it regulates to comply and grow. Additionally under the Code, when designing and reviewing policies, the Authority must under other things understand and minimise the negative economic impact of its regulatory activities and regulate and minimise the costs of compliance of those it regulates. Further, the Authority should take an evidence-based approach in determining priority risks and recognise the compliance record of those it regulates. We cannot see reference to the Code and suggest that the Draft be amended to include a reference to it as outlined. 2. While other types of premises licences and permits are dealt with at paras 15 - 26, we cannot see mention of Adult Gaming Centres and suggest that is included. 3. We cannot see reference to the availability of provisional statements and suggest that it is also included, noting of course that it is an optional process for applicants (not compulsory) when premises have yet to be fully constructed or finished.	**Noted and Policy amended-** Included in Paragraph 30.2 and 30.4. **Noted and Policy amended –** Added Paragraph 19. **Noted and Policy amended** – added Paragraph 11.

	We hope that you find the above few points helpful and would be happy to talk through any of the points of answer any questions you might have	
Coventry Quakers	<u>Statement on Gambling Licensing for Coventry City Council from Coventry Quakers</u> Dear Licensing Team at Coventry City Council, The following is a contribution from Coventry Quakers outlining our spiritual response to, and hopes for action to curb, the harms and risks inherent in gambling. We do not have capacity to respond in a detailed way to all specified sections of the gambling licensing policy but wish to give an overview of our general position and some policy suggestions in light of this. We trust that you will implement local licensing for gambling in ways that aim to minimise the social and individual harms it poses, whilst fulfilling your responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005, legislation which sadly seemed to usher in more deregulation and make it harder for Local Authorities to refuse new licenses for gambling businesses. We hope you will do everything within your power to prevent the growth of 'problem-gambling.' As we see it, gambling can refer, but is not limited to, gaming, betting and lottery and includes such things as raffles, scratchcards and competitions. Quakers' objection to gambling stems from how it: • Confers gain at the expense of another's loss. • Works against equality and spiritual connectedness to others. • Encourages an unsatisfying stress on material wealth. QAAD (Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs) which also considers gambling, submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee assessing the impact of the Gambling Act 2005 and these three points above were taken from Paragraph Two of the	**Noted but no action required for the Policy** – Already addressed in paragraph 7 and paragraph 2.2. Matters raised are addressed by Gambling Commissions Licensing Conditions and Codes of Practice which Licensing Authorities must have regard to when

	Introduction (before 1. Foreword and Executive Summary). The submission makes multiple valid points with which Coventry Quakers are in sympathy and recommended actions we agree with and would like to see implemented. (https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmcumeds/421/421we15.htm) accessed 13/09/2024 Quakers' Advices and Queries No. 39 states, "Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information. *Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance.*" (italics added for emphasis) (https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/1-02/) accessed 13/09/2024 Individual Quakers and informal discussions among Friends have highlighted how gambling encourages a fantasy mindset of 'getting something for nothing' (when one hears the odds are more in favour of someone being stung to death by wasps than winning the lottery). It pushes hopes of a lavish, leisurely lifestyle upon often disadvantaged and working-class people -who are simply desperate to escape insecurity, poverty and overwork. It is a misallocation of resources which enriches a minority of profiteers in the gambling industry, in a society in which simultaneously many people's basic needs go unmet, and it could be characterised as a tax on those lacking education in statistics and probability. Considering this, outside of the licensing policy purview we would urge you to go further in exercising any powers at your disposal as a Local Authority to: • Prohibit the advertising of gambling locally on billboards, bus-stops or similar, or if it cannot be prohibited entirely within the wording of current laws, be as discerning as possible as to the location of advertising and gambling premises within the city, particularly in areas that are considered deprived using the standard indices of multiple deprivation. • Introduce discussion of gambling as a social issue and the dangers of addiction within the PSHE curriculum for young people in school. • Increase support for those experiencing gambling addiction and their families.	determining applications and are also conditions of Operating Licences issued by the Gambling Commission.

	• Commission local research in Coventry or otherwise access the research of others/disaggregated national research into the prevalence of gambling addiction and problem gambling to have accurate data in this regard, if not already available. • Consider the relative power and wealth of gambling companies responding to this consultation. Individual capital and shareholders who benefit financially from the industry are not likely to be residents of Coventry. We hope you will more readily listen to and amplify the voices and needs of ordinary local residents and communities when weighing responses and assessing how to proceed. Thank you for your time and work on responses to this consultation	

Public Health	Section 7 - We would like to see a reference to gambling harm and harm reduction measures in this part of the policy. We would like to ensure that premises are displaying signposting to support for problem and safer gambling in their premises. The West Midlands Gambling Harms Clinic supports people affected by problem gambling in the Midlands. We can facilitate an introduction with them. Real-time surveillance data of suspected suicides for Coventry and Warwickshire has identified individuals are at greater risk of suicide immediately after losing large sums of money in gambling venues. Would it be possible for staff to be trained in suicide intervention for when a person appears in immediate distress? Free training is available. Additionally, it would be good if venues could have signposting to suicide support for people who have reached crisis point or may be experiencing distress. We would like to see included within the considerations a reference to the number of alcohol licensed premises near to the potential gambling premises as part of the application, to help strengthen the protection of people who may be unable to make informed or balanced decisions due to alcohol use. We would like to see the applicant provide mitigations proportionate to their proximity to these locations. If a premises is serving alcohol, this also needs to be considered. Section 9 – Location If possible, we would like to see 9.3 be mandatory (but not exhaustive) wherever the premises is located. These are important factors that all gambling premises need to consider to keep vulnerable people, and people at risk of problem gambling safe. We would also like to see proximity to alcohol licensed premises included in the considerations, and proportionate mitigations provided by the premises.	**Noted but no change to the Policy. Already addressed in Para 2.2.** Gambling premises must adhere to social responsibility codes in accordance with their Operators Licences issued by the Gambling Commission. We can work in partnership with Public Health at a local level to raise awareness and provide training. **Noted but no change to the Policy** Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. The sensitive premises in the local area will differ according to the location

		of each individual premises. The requirement for a Local Area Risk Assessment (LARA) is mandatory. Representations can be made within the 28 days if the LARA is not considered to be sufficient. The location of alcohol premises in each area may be too onerous and some Gambling premises can hold their own alcohol licences and the management of these will be subject to Licensing Act 2003 and Licensing Policy requirements.

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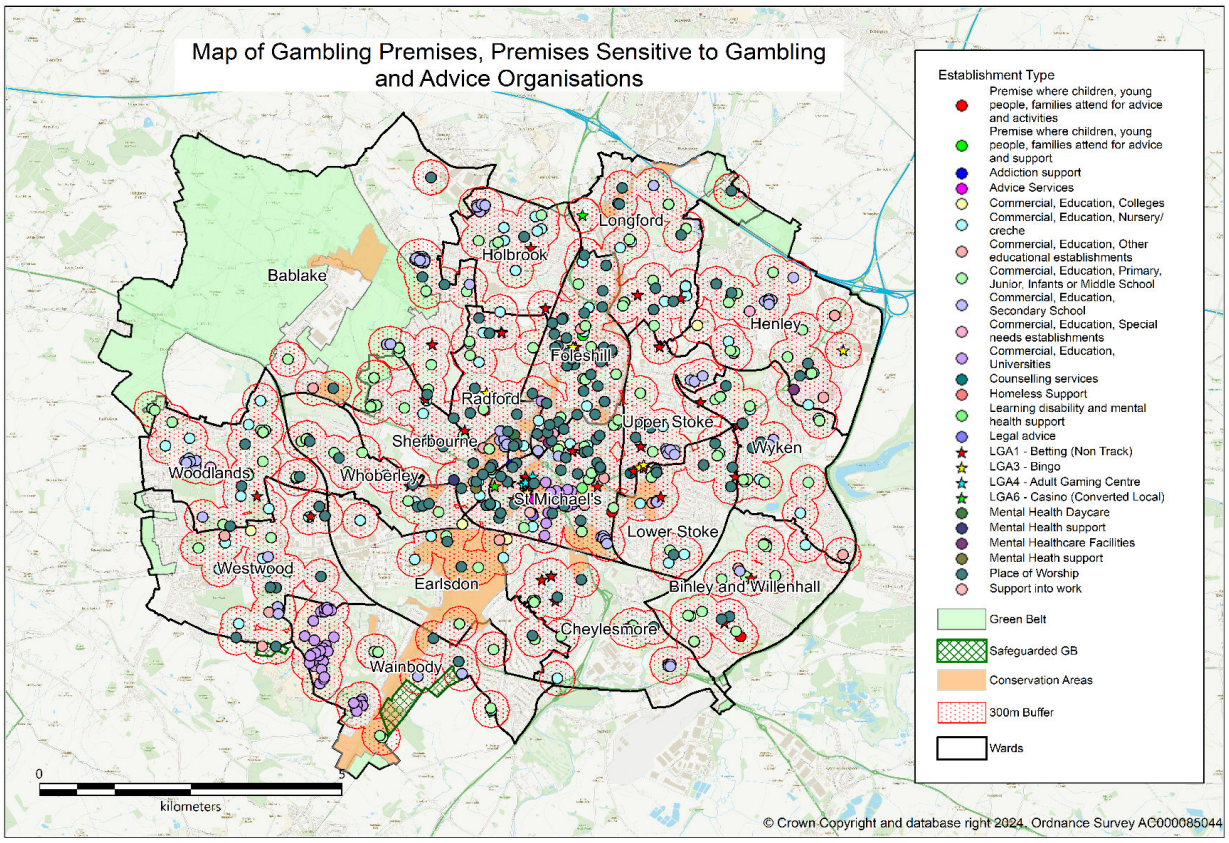
Coventry City Council

LOCAL AREA PROFILE &

RISK ASSESSMENTS



The Gambling Commission's social responsibility code within the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice, require gambling operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises and to have policies, procedures and control measures in place to mitigate the risks. This provision came into force on 6th April 2016. Coventry City Council has produced this guidance to assist gambling operators in undertaking and preparing their local (premises) risk assessment.

The plan provides details of the location that the Licensing Authority consider are sensitive premises, and this should be considered by licensees along with relevant matters identified in the Licensing Authority's Statement of Gambling Policy when assessing and making their risk assessments.

The Licensing Authority considers the following as examples of sensitive premises (although this list is not exhaustive):

- Educational facilities in the local area
- Community centres
- Any vulnerable group or venues relating to those vulnerable groups: i.e.
    - Homeless or rough sleeper shelters and care/support facilities
    - Hospitals, mental health or gambling care providers
    - Alcohol or drug support facilities
- Religious Establishments

If an operator intends to apply for a new premises licence or a variation to a premises licence then a local risk assessment must be carried out. The assessment should be based on how the premises are proposed to operate and will need to identify the risk factors associated with the local area in which the premises are located. These factors are risks that relate to the potential impact a gambling premises and the risks its operation may have on the licensing objectives, considerations for operators are also identified in the Licensing Authority Gambling Policy.

Operators are required to review their local risk assessment if significant changes in local circumstances occur. The following lists sets out some examples of what the Licensing Authority considers to be significant changes in local circumstances:

- Any substantial building development or conversion of existing premises in the local area which may increase the number of vulnerable persons in the area;
- Educational facilities increase in the local area. This may occur as a result of the construction of a new school/college or where a significant change is made to an existing establishment;
- Any vulnerable group identified by the Licensing Authority or venues relating to those vulnerable groups are opened in proximity to gambling premises (e.g. additional homeless hostels or gambling or mental health care/support facilities are opened in the local area); and
- The deprivation levels of the area.

When preparing an application to vary the premises licence the operator must undertake a review of the local risk assessment and update it if necessary. Operators submitting a variation application to the Licensing Authority should provide a copy of the reviewed local risk assessment when submitting the application.

An operator will need to consider risks in relation to how the premises will be or is run. Identification of risks associated with these elements will be dependent on the type of premises and the local area. Elements to be considered include:

- How the gambling operation will relate to how the operator conducts its business;
- What gambling products it provides in the premises;
- The facilities to enable gambling within the premises;
- The staffing levels within the premises;
- The level and requirement for staff training;
- Whether loyalty or account cards are used or not;
- The policies and procedures it has in place in relation to regulatory requirements of the Act or to comply with the LCCP;
- The security and crime prevention arrangements it has in place;

- How it advertises locally and on the premises;
- The marketing material within the premises; and
- The display and provision of information, etc.

The design and layout of the premises is a key consideration as this could have a significant impact on the risk to the licensing objectives. The design of the premises is an important factor when considering local risks. Premises which are located within an area which has a high number of children and young people present throughout the day may identify that the standard external design is not appropriate. Control measures to mitigate the risk of attracting children to gambling or gaining access to restricted premises will need to be considered.

Risks to be considered may include:

- Whether the premises allows a direct line of sight of gaming machines from the cashier counter;
- Whether the premises is sufficiently covered by CCTV to enable the identification of offenders;
- Whether the premises windows are screened or covered to obscure the interior of the premises;
- What age verification policies are in place; and
- Provision of magnetic door locks.

Operators will be expected to identify the local risk factors surrounding the premises, which will differ from location to location. The Licensing Authority will consider the assessment and assess the risks identified and the measures implemented to mitigate those risks when a completed assessment is provided with a new application or with a variation application. Some control measures identified in the assessment may be put forward as conditions to be attached to the licence to address any significant local concerns.

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Coventry City Council

Public report
Council

Council **3 December 2024**

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities: Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:
Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:
All

Title:

Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings – Consultation Response

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Is this a key decision?

No – The Council's Constitution states that Government consultations which are high profile or a particular matter of public importance will be decided by Council

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Executive summary:

The Government is consulting on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England.

The consultation seeks views on how flexibility might be increased in a way which balances the principle that significant in-person engagement at local authority meetings remains vitally important while recognising that there will sometimes be a need to accommodate Members' requirements to attend council meetings remotely. Views are also being sought on the possible introduction of proxy voting for occasions when an Elected Member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely, for example during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the Council's proposed response to the consultation set out in the Appendix (to be circulated prior to the meeting).

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance to finalise and thereafter submit the Council's response to the consultation.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices will be attached to the report:
Appendix 1 – Proposed Council response to the consultation (to be circulated)

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings

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?

Yes: 3 December 2024

Report title: Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings – Consultation Response

1. Context (or background)

1.1. Legislation requires that specific local authority meetings be held in person. In April 2020 in response to the Covid pandemic, the Government introduced temporary regulations that allowed meetings to take place remotely until 7 May 2021. Since the lapse of these temporary provisions, there has been significant debate among local authorities about the benefits of being able to hold some meetings remotely with many organisations, including the Local Government Association calling for Councils to be given the freedom and flexibility to choose for themselves whether and when to allow virtual attendance at their meetings.

1.2. This consultation seeks views on whether and how permanent arrangements could be introduced to allow remote and hybrid attendance at local authority meetings in England. It also seeks views on proxy voting for which there is no current provision.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. The Government has stated its intention to reset the relationship between central and local Government as partners in delivering better outcomes for communities. It has identified a key element of this approach as supporting the sector to modernise post democratic engagement, raise standards and widen the range of candidates standing for Council by removing unnecessary barriers. Government has launched a consultation which runs until 19 December 2024 seeking views on the detail and practical implications of how holding remote meetings and allowing proxy voting might help contribute to these aims to inform policy development.

2.2. In its foreword to the consultation, the Government states that the attendance of Elected Members at local authority meetings is a core part of the democratic process at the local level and is integral to Members carrying out their functions effectively. In addition to the value of Members coming together to debate and discuss the issues which impact the lives of the people they represent; it is also important that local residents have the opportunity to engage directly with the people they have elected to take key decisions on their behalf.

2.3. At the same time, the Government recognises that there are circumstances in which it may not always be possible for Members to attend Council meetings in person. It is with this in mind that the Government intends to amend the law to introduce provisions for remote attendance at local authority meetings.

2.4. The Government's intent is that this increased flexibility will strike the balance between the principle that significant in-person engagement remains vitally

important, and a recognition that there will sometimes be a need to accommodate Members' requirements to attend Council meetings remotely. The Government hopes that this will encourage a wider diversity of people willing and able to stand and actively participate in local democracy by creating improved conditions where meetings are accessible and inclusive.

2.5. In addition, Government is seeking views on the possible introduction of proxy voting for those occasions when an Elected Member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely, for example during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

2.6. **Coventry's experience**

2.6.1. Like other local authorities, Coventry experienced remote and hybrid meetings from April 2020 to May 2021 when temporary regulations were put in place which removed the requirement for in person meetings at the start of the Covid pandemic.

2.6.2. This allowed Councillors to continue to take decisions in line with the provisions of the Constitution at a time of national emergency, rather than relying on alternative emergency arrangements provided for in Coventry's constitution. It also allowed Councillors with Covid to continue to participate in decision-making. This also enabled members of the public to continue to speak at relevant meetings.

2.6.3. The arrangements required to support remote and hybrid meetings needed careful planning and detailed processes and procedures to be put in place. The resources required to support the meetings by governance, administrative and IT officers was greater than that for servicing in person meetings, especially at meetings where members of the public were also able to speak such as the Planning Committee. It relied on software, hardware, internet connections and power all working for everyone involved to be able to participate effectively, which for the vast majority of time they did.

2.6.4. Chairs of meetings commented that at times it was harder to manage meetings remotely as it was more difficult to "read the room" and many Councillors commented that some meetings such as full Council, where detailed questions and debates take place, were not as effective.

2.6.5. All meetings were broadcast in order to meet accessibility requirements and the Council was able to monitor the number of views, which were higher than the number of people who normally attended meetings in person.

2.8 Options considered

2.8.1 The Council could decide not to respond to the consultation. This would mean it has had no opportunity to influence any proposals. This option is not recommended.

2.8.2 The Council could contribute to the consultation to help inform any proposals. This is the recommended option.

Results of consultation undertaken

2.7. This report is a response to a national consultation.

3. Timetable for implementing this decision

3.1. The consultation closes on 19 December 2024. The appendix will be circulated prior to the Council meeting on 3 December, 2024.

4. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance

4.1. Financial Implications
There are no decisions arising from this report. The proposed response recommends that the practical implications of enabling hybrid or remote meetings on local government arrangements should be considered including the increased resource implications with such new burdens.

4.2. Legal Implications
The consultation seeks views on amendment to the current legislation to permit online and virtual meetings.

This is due to the fact that Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act, which governs most formal meetings in local government, makes no explicit provision for remote or hybrid meetings or proxy voting.

5. Other implications

5.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

Should the measures proposed in the consultation be introduced, the Government's stated aims of the proposals include widening the diversity of people willing and able to stand and actively participate in local democracy by creating improved conditions where meetings are accessible and inclusive as well as enabling Councillors to participate during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

5.2. How is risk being managed?

Should the measures proposed in the consultation be introduced, the Council would need to introduce appropriate procedures and measures to enable decision-making to operate effectively within the new legislation.

5.3. **What is the impact on the organisation?**

Should the measures proposed in the consultation be introduced, the proposed consultation response highlights the need for the resource implications to be addressed.

5.4. **Equalities / EIA?**

The Government has not carried out an impact assessment at this point but if any policy changes are made following the consultation they will be subject to appropriate assessment.

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

None

5.6. **Implications for partner organisations?**

None

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Other Members				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	19/11/24	19/11/24
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law and Governance	19/11/24	25/11/24
Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	-	19/11/24	21/11/24
Members: Name	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Cllr AS Khan	-	22/11/24	25/11/24

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

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Council Meeting

3 December 2024

Booklet 1

Written Questions

1.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the likely impact to the City Council of the recently proposed increases to the minimum wage in relation to both its own employees and our service providers?"

2.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the likely impact to the City Council of the recently proposed increases to employers National Insurance contributions in relation to both its own employees and our service providers?"

3.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much the Big Wheel will cost the City Council this year and in future years?"

4.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor B Mosterman** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can the Cabinet Member provide a schedule with a yearly planning overview of the sweeping of streets & pavements in Coventry for all wards from the last three years?

It seems that there is no regular sweeping of streets in the city, only when one requests the service is done.

Drains are clogging up and causing floods. With more heavy rainfall we need to cope with the water flood and have all gullies always open to ensure safe streets for all and emergency vehicles to pass through without problems. Thank you"

5.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor G Duggins, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can the Leader tell this chamber what representations he has made to the Home Office regarding the recent siting of asylum seekers at a hotel in Coventry?"

6.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor E Reeves** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Given the strength of feeling that has been shown by the protest in support of the keeping the trees on Clifford Bridge Road has the council seriously considered an off-road option perhaps going via the south end of Bridgeacre Gardens, around the back of the houses and allotments and then on to the roundabout."

7.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor E Reeves** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Given the recent news that Pension credit applications now have such a long backlog that many will not be approved until after the winter what support is the council putting in place for those pensioners who may be eligible for pension credit and are worrying about how they will heat their homes this winter made worse by the energy cap rising again on the first of January.

Furthermore, how will any extra support for pensioners effect financial support for others who are struggling with the cost of living."

8.	**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor S Gray** **TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

TEXT OF QUESTION:
"Can planning committee or planners stipulate that roads in a new estate must be adopted? If not, why not?

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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