

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Singh (Chair)
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor T Jandu
Councillor R Lakha (substitute for A Kaur)
Councillor G Lewis
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor B Singh

Other Members: Councillors J O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change)

Employees (by Service Area):

Law and Governance G Holmes, T Robinson

Regeneration and Economy J Norton, S Weir

Apologies: Councillor A Kaur and P Hetherton (Cabinet Member for City Services)

Public Business

33. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

34. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February, 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

35. Greenpower Park and West Midlands Investment Zone

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Regeneration and Economy which provided an update on the Greenpower Park development and the wider Coventry & Warwick Investment Zone. The report was a further update to that provided to the Board on 12 March 2025.

During the officers' summary of the note, they highlighted that Coventry City Council (CCC) owns the freehold of Coventry Airport, a 125 hectare (Ha) site in

Warwick District. In 2021, the Council formed a joint venture with Coventry Airport Limited, which has a long leasehold over the site in-order to promote the site as the location for a battery gigafactory. The site is being marketed as Greenpower Park.

Planning approval for a total of 530,000m² of development on the site for battery manufacturing and associated uses such as battery recycling, Research & Development (R&D), supply chain and HQ functions was agreed in January of 2022, which once developed could lead to the creation of 6000 jobs.

The investment zone is one of eight in the UK, specifically focusing on battery manufacturing, utilising tax reliefs, planning mechanisms and innovation, skills and business support to create private sector growth and quality jobs. Greenpower Park, together with adjacent sites at SEGRO Park Coventry, Whitley South and Whitley East are collectively known as the Coventry & Warwick Investment Zone (CWIZ) - a site map was attached at appendix 1 to the briefing note.

The Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, Councillor J O'Boyle, further elaborated on the benefits on the investment zone and the Council's partnership working with the Rigby Group to make it an attractive investment opportunity for international businesses.

The Board made comments, sought assurances and asked questions on a number of issues including:

- The relationship between the 3 West Midlands investment zones: Coventry (battery manufacturing), Birmingham (life sciences), and Wolverhampton (green construction).
- The benefit of the investment zone to local residents – prioritising local residents for employment and companies working with the Council to fast-track recruitment to hundreds of positions quickly.
 - Investors benefitting from the already advanced automotive supply chain infrastructure in the region.
- The potential of Chinese investment.
- The timescales and route provision of the VLR (Very Light Rail) line to provide public transport to Greenpower Park and alternate bus routes in the meantime.
- Governance arrangements – WMCA (West Midlands Combined Authority) Investment Zone Board, WMCA Oversight and Scrutiny Board, alongside regular progress updates back to Scrutiny Board 3.
- Coventry Airport ceasing operations in June 2026.
- The investment supplied by the Rigby Group and the potential to see s.106 money from developers.
- How power supply to the site, and power creation, would be provided by renewable energy.
- Freehold and leasehold arrangements in partnership with the Rigby Group.
- The key development constraints on the investment zone – planning permission and tax incentives specifically for battery manufacturing.
 - Legal arrangements in place to prevent other developments such as data centres or housing.

- Midland Air Museum remaining on site with the potential to benefit from the development.
- 50% of the site being allocated as greenspace especially on the outside barrier to off-set development.
- Power supply being solely for the site alone.
- Traffic disruptions in Lower Stoke around Humber Rd and London Rd.

RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board considers the content of the briefing note.

36. Progress Update - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Task & Finish Group

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Task and Finish Group and its recommendations.

The Group was established to develop an understanding of the evidence, issues and options informing the LCWIP and provide constructive input to ensure that the emerging strategy was robust, accessible, and aligned with wider council priorities including health, climate change and inclusive mobility.

The Board made comments and asked questions regarding the work of the task and finish group:

- Whether the infrastructure plan included the routes.
- Cycleway proposals around Coundon Wedge Rd.
- The use of consultations to stop the spread of misinformation.
- Involving groups such as the Disability Employee Network (DEN) and the Disability Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) in future consultations.

RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board:

- 1) Recommends that the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change ensure that Members are engaged at each stage of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) development process, ensuring ongoing oversight and input throughout the programme.**
- 2) Ensures that a Task and Finish Group is established in the next municipal year to provide continued oversight and scrutiny of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan as it progresses.**
- 3) Ensures that the final Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is submitted to the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board for consideration prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval.**

With the following additional recommendations:

- 4) Consults the DEN (Disability Employee Network) and DEAP (Disability Equality Action Partnership) on updates to the plan.**

5) That the public consultation is used to challenge misconceptions about the programme.

37. Work Programme 2025/26

The Scrutiny Board noted the Work Programme and thanked Members for their participation this municipal year.

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

(Meeting closed at 3.35 pm)