

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Lancaster (Chair)

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

Honorary Alderman J Clifford and H Fitzpatrick

Apologies: Councillor F Abbott, E Ruane and T Sawdon
Honorary Alderman M Hammon and D Skinner

Public Business

79. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2026

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

80. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

1. Recent Tragic Event in Foleshill

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent tragic event that took place in Foleshill and on behalf of the City Council, expressed deepest sympathy to all those affected.

2. Civic visit to Dresden

The Lord Mayor reported on her recent visit the City's twin city of Dresden on the 81st anniversary of the destruction of the City on 13 February 1945.

There had been a number of commemoration events, at the heart of which was the annual Human Chain. This was made by thousands of people joining hands to form a continuous ring around Dresden's inner city to remember the victims of National Socialism and war, hatred and destruction and affirm our commitment to peace and democracy.

It was a moving reminder that remembrance is a responsibility, not just a reflection on the past, to which our cities remained committed.

3. Andy Williams, Director of Regeneration and Economy

The Lord Mayor referred to the upcoming departure of Andy Williams, Director of Regeneration and Economy, who would be leaving the City Council on the 19 March after 22 years dedicated service to take up a new position at Birmingham City Council.

On behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor thanked Andy for all his hard work over the years and wished him every success in his new role.

81. Petitions

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

- 1. Requesting urgent action for pedestrian and road safety on Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry – 494 signatures, presented by Councillor M Heaven.**
- 2. Request that Baginton Fields Nature Reserve be designated as a recognised Local Nature Reserve – 108 signatures, presented by Councillor B Mosterman.**
- 3. Objection to the proposed Change of Use at 3 The Hiron, Coventry – 133 signatures, presented by Councillor R Bailey.**
- 4. Request for immediate action to address speeding and unsafe parking on Abercorn Road – 143 signatures, presented by Councillor J Innes.**
- 5. Request for double-yellow lines at the junction of Kendal Rise and Winsford Avenue – 34 signatures, presented by Councillor P Akhtar.**
- 6. Request that the concerns of residents relating to the allotment land between Tennyson Road and Wyver Crescent – 65 signatures, presented by Councillor J McNicholas.**
- 7. Request to allocate land to build a community centre for the Romanian Orthodox Community in Coventry – 856 signatures, presented by Councillor CE Thomas.**

82. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

83. **Motion without Notice**

In accordance with the Constitution, a Motion without Notice was moved by Councillor M Mutton, seconded by Councillor D Toulson, and adopted that agenda item 6 (Council Tax Setting Report 2026-27) and item 7 (Budget Report 2026-27) be considered together.

It was noted that a recorded vote would be taken in respect of all decisions relating to matters the subject of Minutes 84 (Council Tax Setting Report 2026-27) and 85 (Budget Report 2026-27), including any amendments.

84. **Council Tax Setting Report 2026-27**

Further to Minute 67 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer), that calculated the Council Tax level for 2026/27 and made appropriate recommendations to Council, consistent with the Budget Report 2026/27.

The report recommended a 3.9% increase in the City's Council Tax. Some figures and information, shaded grey in the report, were necessarily provisional due to precepts not having been confirmed at the time of publication.

The report incorporated the impact of the Council's gross expenditure and the level of income it would receive through Business Rates, grants, and fees and charges. This resulted in a Council Tax requirement, as the amount that its expenditure exceeded all other sources of income.

The report included a calculation of the Band D Council Tax that would be needed to generate this Council Tax requirement, based on the City's approved Council Tax base. The 2026/27 Band D Council Tax that was calculated through this process had increased by £82.98 from the 2025/26 level.

Each year the Government determined the maximum Council Tax increases that local authorities could set without triggering a referendum. For 2026/27, Coventry City Council's Council Tax must be below 5%, as set out in the Secretary of State's principles for 2026/27, comprising a 2% precept for expenditure on adult social care and a maximum of 3% for other expenditure. The recommendations within the Budget Report 2026/27 were based on a proposed increase in Council Tax of 3.9%, incorporating a core Council Tax rise of 2.9% and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept.

At the time of writing the report the precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority had not been confirmed. The provisional figures provided in the report were based on indicative figures. The figures detailed in the recommendations below were subsequently confirmed as the final figures, at the meeting.

(1)(a)

91,413.3

being the amount at (2)(c) above divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (Average Council Tax at Band D for the City including Parish Precepts).

(e) £57,993

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. (Parish Precepts);

(f) £2,186.40

$$= (2)(d) - \frac{(2)(e)}{(1)(a)} = £2,186.40 - \frac{£57,993}{91,413.3}$$

being the amount at (2)(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(e) above by the amounts at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates. (Council Tax at Band D for the City excluding Parish Precepts);

(g)

Coventry (unparished area)	£2,186.40
Allesley	£2,226.65
Finham	£2,199.94
Keresley	£2,208.48

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (Council Taxes at Band D for the City and Parish).

h)

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Finham	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£	£
A	1,457.60	1,484.43	1,466.63	1,472.32
B	1,700.53	1,731.84	1,711.06	1,717.70

C	1,943.47	1,979.25	1,955.51	1,963.10
D	2,186.40	2,226.65	2,199.94	2,208.48
E	2,672.27	2,721.46	2,688.82	2,699.26
F	3,158.13	3,216.27	3,177.69	3,190.02
G	3,644.00	3,711.08	3,666.57	3,680.80
H	4,372.80	4,453.30	4,399.88	4,416.96

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands

- 3) Note that for the year 2026/27 the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands and West Midlands Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands	West Midlands Fire Authority
	£	£
A	163.00	56.79
B	190.17	66.26
C	217.33	75.73
D	244.50	85.19
E	298.83	104.12
F	353.17	123.05
G	407.50	141.99
H	489.00	170.38

- 4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(h) and (3) above, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, Council hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Finham	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£	£
A	1,677.39	1,704.22	1,686.42	1,692.11
B	1,956.96	1,988.27	1,967.49	1,974.13
C	2,236.53	2,272.31	2,248.57	2,256.16
D	2,516.09	2,556.34	2,529.63	2,538.17
E	3,075.22	3,124.41	3,091.77	3,102.21
F	3,634.35	3,692.49	3,653.91	3,666.24

G	4,193.49	4,260.57	4,216.06	4,230.29
H	5,032.18	5,112.68	5,059.26	5,076.34

5) Determines that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with the principles set out in the Secretary of State's report, under Sections 52ZC and 52ZD of the Act.

Note: The Councillors voting For and Against the Recommendations were as follows:

For		Against	Abstain
Councillors: S Agboola N Akhtar P Akhtar L Bigham R Brown K Caan B Christopher G Duggins S Gray L Harvard G Hayre P Hetherton A Hopkins J Innes A Jobbar S Jobbar A Kaur L Kelly AS Khan	Councillors: R Lakha G Lewis G Lloyd J McNicholas C Miks M Mutton S Nazir J O'Boyle E Reeves K Sandhu P Seaman R Singh R Thay CE Thomas D Toulson Lord Mayor	Councillors: R Bailey J Birdi J Gardiner T Jandu M Lapsa J Lepoidevin P Male B Mosterman G Ridley	
	Total: 35	Total: 9	Total: 0

For: 35
Against: 9
Abstain: 0

85. Budget Report 2026-27

Further to Minute 68 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) that followed on from the Pre-Budget Report approved by Cabinet on 16th December 2025 (Minute 44/25 referred) which has since been subject to a period of public consultation. The proposals within the report now formed the basis of the Council's final revenue and capital budget for 2026/27 incorporating the following details:

- Gross budgeted spend of £1,035.3m (£73.5m higher than 2025/26).
- Net budgeted spend of £422.9m (£126.0m higher than 2025/26) funded from Council Tax, Business Rates and Business Rates top-up of £56.5m due to the 2026/27 impact of the Fair funding redistribution.

- A Council Tax Requirement of £199.9m (£10.4m or 6% higher than 2025/26), reflecting a City Council Tax increase of 3.95% detailed in the separate Council Tax Setting report on today's agenda.
- A number of new expenditure pressures, policy investments and technical savings proposals.
- A Capital Strategy including a Capital Programme of £165.9m including expenditure funded by Prudential Borrowing of £33.9m.
- An updated Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, and a Commercial Investments Strategy.
- Amendments to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

The financial position in this Budget Report was based on the Final 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement published on 9th February 2026. This settlement was a result of the implementation of the Fair Funding systems, Council Tax equalisation and Business Rates reset. This settlement included a multi (three) year settlement which took the Authority through to the end of the current CSR (comprehensive spending review) period of March 2029.

This 3-year settlement enabled a much better medium-term view of the Council's finances from a resource perspective. The Government would reserve the right to review allocations each year, but indicative allocations would allow Councils to plan more effectively. Demographic pressures were still expected to continue to increase as cost-of-living issues continued to affect individuals' experience and expectations of when local authorities and Government would intervene to protect them. The next 3 years would continue therefore to create a very challenging environment in which the City Council would need to ensure Government funding together with local taxation decisions were sufficient to cover existing cost and emerging pressures including inflation.

In response the additional resources received by Coventry in the Final settlement and in conjunction with the consultation responses, final proposals within the Budget Report proposed a Council Tax increase of 3.95%. This incorporated a 2.95% Council Tax increase plus a further 1% Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept. The precept was to enable councils including Coventry to manage increases in the costs of care. In total, the rise in Council Tax bills would be the equivalent of around £1.48 a week for a typical Coventry household including the expected rises in the precepts for Police and Fire.

At the point of the pre-budget stage, reported to Cabinet in December 2025, the 2026/27 settlement and the impact of the Fair Funding review were not known. However, sector intelligence indicated that the local impact would be positive such that no new savings proposals would be required for 2026/27, and financial headroom could potentially be available such that some form of policy investment might be possible.

On this basis, Cabinet approved a consultation process which sought views on investment options across 7 key Strategic themes. Proposals within this 2026/27 Budget report have been categorised into these themes. Table 2 in Section 2.2 to the report summarised the resourcing position, expected pressures and technical savings, together with policy proposals for which approval was sought by Council.

The detail of these proposals was set out in Appendix 2 to the report. The proposals provided the Council with a balanced budget for 2026/27 as well as headroom to make strategic policy decisions that would support and enhance the city in future years. The Council's current medium term bottom line incorporated a combination of future inflationary and service pressures and the fall-out of some specific grant resources. Some of the future pressure and income assumptions were estimated at this stage.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) included as Appendix 1 to the report, set out the financial planning foundations that supported the setting of the Council's revenue and capital budgets, including the policy assumptions and financial management framework that underpinned the strategy. The purpose of the MTFS was to describe the environment within which the Council operated and bring together resource and cost projections to explain how the Council planned to use resources and manage costs pressures whilst focussed on its key strategic priorities over the medium term.

The recommended Capital Programme proposals were a key part of the Council's approach and amounted to £165.9m in 2026/27. The proposals reflected the Council's ambitions for the city and included: extensive highways infrastructure works including specific schemes relating to continued delivery of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Programme that included London Road corridor transport packages, the construction and operation of The Coventry Very Light Rail 800m long twin-track 'City Centre Demonstrator (CCD)' from the main Coventry Rail Station to the Coventry University Technology Park; the continuation of City Centre Cultural Gateway; continued implementation of the City Centre South redevelopment; and the completion of Woodlands School. Over the next 5 years the Capital Programme was estimated at a total of £437m as part of on-going investment delivered by and through the City Council.

The report also detailed the annual Treasury Management Strategy, incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and the Commercial Investment Strategy. These covered the management of the Council's treasury and wider commercial investments, cash balances and borrowing requirements. These strategies and other relevant sections of the report reflected the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code for Capital Finance, as well as statutory guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Investments.

Three amendments were moved, seconded and lost in relation to this Minute and Minute 84 above, details of which are contained in the Appendices to the Minutes.

RESOLVED that Council:

- 1) Approves the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in Appendix 1 to the report, as the basis of its medium-term financial planning process.**
- 2) Approves the Budget proposals in Appendix 2 to the report, after due consideration of the consultation responses set out in Appendix 7 to the report and the Equality Impact Assessment set out in Appendix 10 to 31 to the report.**

- 3) Approves the total gross 2026/27 revenue budget of £1,035.3m in Table 1 of the report and Appendix 3 to the report, established in line with a 3.9% City Council Tax increase and the Council Tax Requirement recommended in the Council Tax Setting Report 2026/27.
- 4) Notes the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) comments confirming the adequacy of reserves and robustness of the budget in Section 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 of the report.
- 5) Approves the Capital Strategy incorporating the Capital Programme of £165.9m for 2026/27 and the forward commitments arising from this programme totalling £437m between 2026/27 to 2030/31 detailed in Section 2.3 of the report and Appendix 4 to the report.
- 6) Approves the addition to the Capital Programme of a new Capital Scheme for the delivery of Temporary Accommodation and Resettlement properties at a total cost of £9.2m. Funded from the acceptance of the capital grant of £4.9m from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) specifically for the delivery of the Local Authority Housing Fund tranche 4 (LAHF) Scheme; £1.2m funded from capital receipts; and £3.1m revenue funding as part of the proposed policy priorities in this report: Increasing Family Temporary Accommodation provisions in Appendix 2 (lines 38 and 39) to the report and detailed in Section 2.3.4 of the report.
- 7) Approves the award of a £2.3m capital grant from the Temporary Accommodation Programme (Recommendation 6) above) to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) to deliver 19 properties for resettlement and delegate authority to the Director of Care, Health and Housing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to undertake such action as is deemed necessary to bring into effect this recommendation as referenced in Section 2.3.4 of the report.
- 8) Approves the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2026/27 in Section 2.4 of the report and the Prudential Indicators and limits described and detailed in Appendix 6 to the report, the Commercial Investment Strategy for 2026/27 in Section 2.5 of the report and Appendix 5 to the report, and the Commercial Investment Indicators detailed in Appendix 6 to the report.
- 9) Approves amendments to the Council Tax Support Scheme following the 6-week consultation period, as detailed in Section 2.6 of the report and Appendix 9 to the report, and in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as substituted by the 2012 Act).

The Councillors voting for and against the Recommendations as detailed in the report were as follows:

For		Against	Abstain
<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	
S Agboola	R Lakha	R Bailey	
N Akhtar	G Lewis	J Birdi	
P Akhtar	G Lloyd	J Gardiner	
L Bigham	J McNicholas	T Jandu	
R Brown	C Miks	M Lapsa	
K Caan	M Mutton	J Lepoidevin	
B Christopher	S Nazir	P Male	
G Duggins	J O'Boyle	B Mosterman	
S Gray	E Reeves	G Ridley	
L Harvard	K Sandhu		
G Hayre	P Seaman		
P Hetherton	R Singh		
A Hopkins	R Thay		
J Innes	C E Thomas		
A Jobbar	D Toulson		
S Jobbar	Lord Mayor		
A Kaur			
L Kelly			
AS Khan			
	Total: 35	Total: 9	Total: 0

For: 35
Against: 9
Abstain: 0

Note:

In relation to Minutes 84 and 85 above, the following amendments were moved, seconded and lost. Details of the amendments together with the named votes for those amendments can be found in the Appendices to these Minutes:

- 1) Appendix 1 - Moved by Councillor P Male, seconded by Councillor G Ridley.
- 2) Appendix 2 - Moved by Councillor S Gray, seconded by Councillor E Reeves.
- 3) Appendix 3 - Moved by Councillor J Gardiner, seconded by Councillor M Lapsa.

86. **Statements (if any)**

There were no statements.

(Meeting closed at 6.30 pm)