



Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Time and Date

10.00 am on Monday, 1st September, 2025

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

(a) To agree the minutes of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities meeting held on 28th July 2025

(b) Matters arising

4. **Petition e61-24/25 - Save the view of Lake View Park from Lake View Road** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Director of City Services and Commercial

To consider the above petition bearing 55 signatures. The petition is being sponsored by Councillor J Gardiner, a Sherbourne Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the Petition Organiser.

5. **Outstanding Issues**

There are no outstanding issues

6. **Any Other Business**

To consider any other items of business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

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

Thursday, 21 August 2025

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is
Lara Knight Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member), AS Khan (Cabinet Member) and J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Public Access

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

Lara Knight

Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at 9.00 am on Monday, 28 July 2025

Present:

Members: Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

Law and Governance O Remi, C Boden-Hatton, D Cahalin-Heath, L Knight,
R Masih, L Stockin

Apologies: Councillors P Akhtar and J Lepoidevin

Public Business

35. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

36. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

37. Licensing Act 2003 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy 2026 - 2031

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance, which sought approval to consult on the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031 under the Licensing Act 2003. A copy of the revised Policy was appended to the report.

It was noted that the report was also to be considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at its meeting scheduled for 5th August 2025.

The report indicated that, under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003, the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) has to be renewed every five years. The current SLP came into effect on 16th March 2021 and, therefore, a review must be completed. There is also a requirement for the Council to publish and advertise the revised SLP at least 4 weeks before it comes into effect, in this instance by 16th February 2026.

The SLP will be relevant for all licensing decisions taken by the Council as the Licensing Authority over the five year period, commencing on 16th March 2026.

The general principles of the SLP remain the same and the document is centred around the Licensing Act's four licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder; promotion of public safety; prevention of public nuisance; and protection of children from harm.

Before amending the Policy for a further five-year period, licensing authorities are required to carry out a wide consultation process. In addition to those it must consult by law, the Council has authority to include in the process any individuals or organisations it deems appropriate.

Statutory consultees include West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service, Planning, Environmental Health, Safeguarding Children Board, HM Revenue and Customs and Community Safety and Public Health.

The public consultation exercise will begin on the 12th August 2025, for an 8-week period finishing on the 7th October 2025. The consultation will include mailshots to representatives of the licensed trade, clubs and key partners; formally writing to the Chief Officers of the statutory consultees; mailshots to businesses and organisations; and wider public consultation through the City Council's website.

The report indicated that the revised SLP complies with updated guidance and regulations and has been developed with all 6 Warwickshire Licensing Authorities (Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford and Avon District Council and Warwick District Council), although each authority has adapted the Policy to suit the needs of their area and profile.

The key changes within the revised policy included to:

- Paragraph 8.11 – amended to include website links for drink spiking, violence against women and girls, serious youth violence and counter terrorism.
- Paragraphs 8.38 and 8.39 – added to include considerations relating to child exploitation.
- Paragraph 11.1 – amended to include best practice schemes.
- Section 16 – added to include environmental best practice in Licensed Premises.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considered the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy and authorised the Director of Law and Governance to carry out the consultation as detailed within the report.

38. **Annual Compliance Report 2024 - Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)**

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance, which outlined the Council's use of the Regulation of Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), which governed the acquisition and disclosure of communications data and the use of covert surveillance by local authorities.

The report indicated that the Council used powers under RIPA to support its core functions for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime where an offence may be punishable by a custodial sentence of 6 months or more or were related to the underage sale of alcohol and tobacco. There were three processes available

to local authorities under RIPA: the acquisition of communications data; directed surveillance; and covert human intelligence sources (“CHIS”).

The Act set out the procedures that the Council must follow if it wished to use directed surveillance techniques or acquire communications data in order to support core function activities (e.g., typically those undertaken by Trading Standards and Environmental Health). The information obtained as a result of such operations can later be relied upon in court proceedings providing RIPA was complied with.

The Home Office Code for Covert Surveillance and Property Interference recommended that elected members, whilst not involved in making decisions or specific authorisations for the local authority to use its powers under Part II of the Act, should review the Council's use of the legislation and provide approval to its policies. The Council adopted this approach for the oversight of the authority's use of Parts I and II of the Act.

2019 saw the implementation of Part 3 of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA). The IPA consolidated all existing powers available to law enforcement and other agencies. The legislation also ensured that the powers conveyed were fit for the fast-moving digital age and introduced the Office for Communications Data Authorisation (OCDA) which is now responsible for independently authorising all applications for communications data. This has removed the requirement for local authorities to seek judicial approval for communications data.

The Cabinet Member noted that, for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024, no applications were made for either the Use of Directed Surveillance or Covert Human Intelligence sources or the Use of Acquisitions and Disclosure of Communications Data.

The Cabinet Member was advised that the report had also been considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee at their meeting on 21st July 2025. Whilst the Committee did not make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for consideration, they had requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of information on work that had taken place across the authority through the use of other powers and that officers review the outcome of prosecution and enforcement work, for example relating to fraudulent trading activity, or the underage sale of alcohol or tobacco, to determine where this should be reported. In addition, they requested that information on the use of RIPA powers for the period January 2025 to July 2025 be circulated. It was confirmed that this request was being progressed with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- 1. Notes the comments made by the Audit and Procurement Committee.**
- 2. Approves the report as a formal record of the Council's use and compliance with RIPA.**

39. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

40. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 9.35 am)



Public report Cabinet

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

1st September 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cllr AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of City Services & Commercial

Ward(s) affected:

Sherbourne

Title:

Petition – Save the view of Lake View Park from Lake View Road

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

A petition supported by 55 signatures was submitted by a number of local residents who are asking for greater consultation on the planting of new trees that affect the view of Lake View Park from the properties that face the park. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition the Council to consult with residents on Lake View Road on the location and number of new trees to be planted at Lake View Park. Residents in other parts of the city have been consulted on the location of new trees as part of Trees for Cities funding, to ensure that the new trees are welcomed and are a best use of the resource.

The new trees were funded by the government grant called the Urban Tree Challenge Fund which, provided sufficient resources for the council to plant 36 semi mature trees on this park.

The Parks Service team worked with the Urban Forestry team to find the best location for the trees on this site and the open northern side of the park was considered the best option, because they would provide shading for a future path that is proposed and awaiting funding.

Due to resourcing problems, the Urban Forestry team overlooked the need to notify the local residents of this change. Residents in similar locations where trees were being planted did receive notification of trees being planted.

The trees are being planted to help the city council achieve its goals as set out in the Urban Forestry Strategy. The main aim is to plant 360,000 trees to help fight the effects of climate change.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Note the concerns raised in the petition.
2. Approve the retention of the trees as they have been planted, noting that the council will manage the trees to maximise the future benefits that they can provide.
3. Request that officers improve the method of notification to ensure that all future planting projects are known to all local residents in advance of planting works.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Urban Forestry Strategy – See link below

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/heritage-ecology-trees/coventry-urban-forestry-strategy-2022-2032>

Climate Change Strategy – See link below

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-strategy>

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Save the view of Lake View Park from Lake View Road

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. A petition supported by 55 signatures was submitted by a number of local residents who are asking for greater consultation on the planting of new trees that affect the view of Lake View Park from the properties that face the park. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition the Council to consult with residents on Lake View Road on the location and number of new trees to be planted at Lake View Park. Residents in other parts of the city have been consulted on the location of new trees as part of Trees for Cities funding, to ensure that the new trees are welcomed and are a best use of the resource.

- 1.2. The new trees were funded by the government grant called the Urban Tree Challenge Fund which, provided sufficient resources for the council to plant 36 semi mature trees on this park.
- 1.3. The Parks Service team worked with the Urban Forestry team to find the best location for the trees on this site and the open northern side of the park was considered the best option, because they would provide shading for a future path that is proposed and awaiting funding.
- 1.4. Due to resourcing problems, the Urban Forestry team overlooked the need to notify the local residents of this change. Residents in similar locations where trees were being planted did receive notification of trees being planted.
- 1.5. The trees are being planted to help the city council achieve its goals as set out in the Urban Forestry Strategy. The main aim is to plant 360,000 trees to help fight the effects of climate change.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Option 1 – Remove all trees to restore the view of the park. This should be rejected because of the value the trees will provide in shading, amenity and ecosystem services for the benefit of all who live in Coventry. The city is known as one of the most green deprived cities in the UK and providing trees for future benefits is a key action in the adopted Urban Forestry Strategy. Lake View Park is within an area identified as having moderate level of green deprivation. Furthermore, there is no legal right to a view, with regard to trees.
- 2.2. Option 2 – Note the content of the petition and retain the trees as they are planted and manage them to maximise the future benefits that they can provide. Also improve the method of notification to ensure that **all** future planting projects are known to all local residents in advance of future planting works. This is the recommended option.

The trees have been planted approximately 40m away and 4 metres lower than the properties on Lake View Road and they are spaced 10 metres apart to provide space for growth. The trees will grow and develop over a long period estimated to be 30 to 40 years. Their ultimate heights are expected to be approximately 10 metres plus and therefore the impact on the view of the park is progressive over an extended time.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. Notification letters were sent to all residents once the Urban Forestry Team realised that this location had been overlooked. The letters were received by residents at the same time as the trees were being planted along with changes to the site being undertaken by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust as part of the Sherbourne Valley project.
- 3.2. The oversight was due to a specific in-service pressure that are now not present. Changes within the Parks & Openspaces team have already provided resources to allow all future tree planting projects will be consulted with local residents appropriately, to make sure everyone knows of the changes.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

As the trees have already been planted, this is not applicable.

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

5.1. Financial Implications

None

5.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report. This report is being considered in line with the councils' petition scheme.

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 decision will contribute to the following one Coventry Plan –

Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change – Nature based Development. To promote biodiversity and the natural heritage and greenspace across the city. Protecting and developing existing and new biodiversity and habitats for current and future generations.

Links to the Urban Forestry Strategy and Climate Change Strategy have been included within this report.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

There is no ongoing risk.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

This decision does not impact on Equalities

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

The removal of these trees would be counterproductive to meeting the challenges of climate change and does not provide anything positive for all the residents.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

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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:				
Lara Knight	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	27/5/25	15/7/25
Other Members				

Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby		Finance	27/5/25	17/6/25
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal & Procurement Services	Law and Governance	17/06/25	08/07/25
Mark Adams	Director	-	8/7/25	16/07/25
Members: Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities	-	16/7/25	21/07/25

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