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Coventry City Council

Agenda

Cabinet

Time and Date
2.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st September 2026

Place
Committee Room 3 - Council House, Coventry

Public business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 10)

   (a) To agree the minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 7th July 2026

   (b) Matters arising

4. **One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 - March 2026)** (Pages 11 - 102)

   Report of the Director of Director of Strategy and Performance

5. **GreenPower Park Development** (Pages 103 - 114)

   Report of the Director of Economic Growth

6. **City Centre Public Space Protection Order 2026** (Pages 115 - 190)

   Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

7. **2026/27 First Quarter Financial Monitoring Report (to June 2026)** (Pages 191 - 214)

   Report of the Director of Finance and Resources

8. **Outstanding Issues**

   There are no outstanding issues

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

Private business
Nil

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

Friday, 21 August, 2026

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

Membership:
Councillors N Akhtar, L Bigham, R Brown, K Caan, G Duggins (Chair), P Hetherton, AS Khan, L Kelly (Deputy Chair), J McNicholas, M Mutton

Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:
Councillors P Akhtar, G Hayre

Non-Voting Opposition Members:
Councillors F Beechey, J Blundell, J Gardiner, E M Reeves

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 7 July 2026

Present:	
Members:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor L Kelly (Deputy Chair) Councillor L Bigham Councillor P Hetherton Councillor A S Khan Councillor J McNicholas Councillor M Mutton
Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Hayre
Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor F Beechey Councillor M Heaven (Substitute for Councillor J Blundell) Councillor S Keough (Substitute for Councillor J Gardiner) Councillor E M Reeves
Employees (by Service Area):	
Chief Executive	J Nugent (Chief Executive)
Children and Education Services	M Steele, R Sugars
Communications	C Holloway
Economic Development	S Weir (Strategic Lead, Economic Development)
Finance and Resources	B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources), T Pinks
Law, Governance and Safer Communities	J Newman (Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities), O Aremu, L Knight
Strategy and Performance	D Nuttall
Apologies:	Councillor N Akhtar, R Brown and K Caan

Public Business

6. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

7. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

8. **Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) that would also be considered at the meeting of the Audit and Procurement Committee on 27th July 2026 and the meeting of Council on 8th September 2026. The report outlined the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26, and reviewed treasury management activity and 2025/26 Prudential Indicators reported under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance. Appendices to the report provided: a detailed breakdown of Directorate Revenue Variations; Capital Programme Changes and Analysis of Rescheduling; and Prudential Indicators.

The overall financial position included the following headline items:

- An underspend of £3.2m, balanced by a contribution to earmarked reserves.
- Capital Programme expenditure of £154.3m.
- An increase in the level of available Council revenue reserves from £119m to £145m.

The Council had faced significant pressures within Adults Social Care, City Services and Regeneration and Economic Development. These financial pressures were caused by a combination of continued service demand, complexity and market conditions in social care, legacy inflation impacts and income shortfalls due largely to the economic climate.

The underlying revenue position has improved by £4.8m since Quarter 3 where an overspend of £1.6m was being forecast. The majority of the improved position relates to improvements in City Services within both Environmental Services and Highways, as well as an improved position in Property Services and Development following the recognition and removal of City Centre South demolished properties from the National Non-domestic Rates rating by the Valuation Office, and finally significant improvements realised in demand for Temporary Accommodation. These improvements were set out in section 2.1.4 in the report.

The Cabinet agreed to:

1) Approve the final balanced revenue outturn position after a contribution of £3.2m to reserves.

2) Approve the final capital expenditure and resourcing position (section 2.3 and Appendix 2 of the report), incorporating expenditure of £154.3m against a final budget of £180.9m; and £26.5m expenditure rescheduled into 2026/27.

3) Approve the outturn Prudential Indicators position in section 2.4.4 and Appendix 3 of the report.

4) Recommend that Council approves the contribution to reserves of £3.2m for the purposes described in Section 5.1 of the report.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve the contribution to reserves of £3.2m for the purposes described in Section 5.1 of the report.

9. **Pride in Place Programme - Governance, Accountable Body Arrangements and Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards (Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Performance, that sought approval for the Council to act as the accountable body in respect of the Government's Pride in Place programme.

The Government's Pride in Place programme, led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), is a long-term investment and capacity-building programme, designed to strengthen social and civic infrastructure and support renewal in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Each neighbourhood would receive up to £20m over 10 years, with funding split 63% capital and 37% revenue, in line with Government requirements.

MHCLG guidance required the programme to be community-led, with local priorities set through Neighbourhood Boards, whilst the Council acts as accountable body for the public funds and compliance.

Coventry had been selected for the programme in three of it's neighbourhoods:

- Willenhall (Phase 2, announced in September 2025)
- Tile Hill (Phase 2 extension, announced in March 2026)
- Hillfields (Phase 2 extension, announced in March 2026)

The neighbourhood boundaries were defined by the MHCLG using Middle Layer Super Output Area geographies, which were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Details of the MHCLG's requirements for the programme and for the Neighbourhood Boards were set out in the report, including:

- A requirement for Neighbourhood Boards to have an independent Chair, jointly approved by the local authority and MP.
- Coventry's Proposed Governance Model.
- Each Neighbourhood Board would be community-led, with the majority of members living or working in the neighbourhood.
- The Council's role as accountable body.
- Management of funds.
- Funding and support.
- Changes to Boundaries.
- Reporting and Accountability.

The Cabinet agreed to:

1) Approve the Council's participation as Accountable Body in the Pride in Place Programme for each of the three neighbourhoods and to accept funding of up to £2.5m per neighbourhood. This approval includes, but not limited to, the Council undertaking the roles and responsibilities allocated to it by the MHCLG as Accountable Body and the adoption of the Pride in Place Programme governance arrangements, receiving the geographical boundary for the Pride in Place Programme as determined and delegation of authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, appropriate MP and Chair of the Board to make any necessary representation to Government to amend the boundary following consultation with the newly established Neighbourhood Boards.

2) Note that in 2025/26, the following actions have been undertaken by the Council (working with the relevant MP):

   a) Receipt of £585,000 of revenue funding across the three neighbourhoods, with further payments of both capital and revenue funding to be received in subsequent years over a ten-year period in line with the Pride in Place funding profile and timelines, set out in the MHCLG Prospectus.

   b) Acceptance of the sum of £285,000 in relation to Willenhall neighbourhood under delegated authority afforded to officers under Paragraph 4.5 of Part 3F (finance Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution.

   c) Appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair for the Willenhall Neighbourhood Board with ongoing engagement to appoint members of the Neighbourhood Board.

   d) Advertisement for two Change Manager posts that will focus on ensuring that the Council can successfully fulfil its responsibilities as Accountable Body for each of the three areas.

   e) Commencement of the advertisement campaign for the appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair for the Tile Hill Neighbourhood Board and the Hillfields Neighbourhood Board. The Council Representatives for the interview panel in relation to the appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair shall be as follows:

   Tile Hill: Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
   Hillfields: Leader of the Council

3) Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to review and formally accept the subsequent Pride in Place offer / grant conditions from Government (for Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields).

4) Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance, following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities to assist in establishing three Pride in Place Neighbourhood Boards (one for each of the neighbourhoods of Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields) through assisting with the necessary selection processes to make appointments to the Board and Independent Chair position.

5) Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with Director of Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources, the appropriate MP and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Boards (once appointed) to finalise the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference and Board Membership and to make any changes to respond to Government guidance or requirements. This delegation of authority shall include making arrangements for the reasonable expenses of Board members to be covered in accordance with Government guidance and requirements (including but not limited to the Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance).

6) Delegates authority to the to the newly appointed Neighbourhood Boards; once constituted, to develop a Pride in Place Plan (which shall include public consultation with the residents of the three Neighbourhoods) to submit to Government (subject to Section 151 Officer authorisation).

7) Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with Director of Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer) and the Director of Finance and Resources to authorise spend of any Pride in Place Programme funding for the purposes of establishing the Neighbourhood Board, developing the Pride in Place Plan, programme management, technical expertise for project development and other activities in accordance with government guidance (including but not limited to the Pride in Place Programme).

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet recommends that Council approves the acceptance of the subsequent Pride in Place Programme grant funding of up to £20m per neighbourhood (being a total of up to £60m).

10. **Acceptance of the Music Hub Revenue Grant for the Strategic Area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's and Education Services, that sought approval to accept the Music Hub Revenue Grant for the strategic area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull.

On 25th June 2022, the Departments for Education (DfE) and for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) published a refreshed National Plan for Music Education: The power of music to change lives, which set out the Government's priorities until 2030 for music education. Subsequently, the Music Hubs programme changed from hosting 119 Hubs to 43 larger, more strategic Hubs in place for September 2024, managed by Arts Council England (ACE).

From September 2024, Coventry City Council has acted as the Hub Lead Organisation as part of a consortium for the region of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, including three Local Authority Music Services and 30 additional Music Hub member organisations.

The arrangements were to continue for the 2026/27 academic year, with the report containing the estimated grants and at the meeting it was reported that since publication of the report, ACE had confirmed the expected grants. The revenue grant for the Hub was £1,717,162, which included ringfenced funding for each Local Authority. It was noted that Coventry's allocation was £550,530, with £345,395 allocated to Solihull and £812,236 allocated to Warwickshire. Historically, funding levels vary only marginally year on year.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet:

1) **Approve acceptance of the revenue grant for the academic year 2026/27 from ACE of £1,717,162 and by way of such, acceptance that Coventry City Council will continue as the Music Hub Lead for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire region.**

2) **Approve the allocation of the necessary grant funds (derived from recommendation 1 above) to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council, together with such further allocations to other Hub member organisations as determined by the Music Hub Independent Board, provided that the total aggregate allocation shall not exceed the sum approved under recommendation 1, and with the allocations of £345,395 for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and £812,236 for Warwickshire County Council.**

3) **Approve entering into the necessary grant arrangements and other required legal documentation with ACE and Coventry City Council's delivery partners to deliver upon the requirements of recommendations 1 and 2.**

4) **Delegate authority to the Director of Children's and Education Services, following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, to enter into such contractual arrangements to give effect to the above recommendations.**

11. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

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

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.30 pm)

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Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee	26 August 2026
Cabinet	1 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director approving submission of the report:
Director of Strategy and Performance

Wards affected:
All wards – the report provides citywide performance information and does not propose ward-specific decisions.

Title: One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

Is this a key decision?
No – The report does not propose service changes or decisions expected to have financial implications of more than £1 million or have a significant impact on communities in 2 or more wards.

Executive summary:

The One Coventry Plan sets out the Council's vision and priorities for the city to 2030. It provides the framework for how the Council works with partners and communities to improve outcomes, tackle inequalities, support economic prosperity and respond to climate change.

This report presents the One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report from April 2025 to March 2026. It provides an assessment of progress against the Plan's priorities, using performance indicators, trend data, benchmarking and case studies to show both measurable outcomes and wider impact.

Performance is monitored against 88 indicators. Of these, 71 can currently be assessed against the previous year. Overall, 44 of the 71 indicators, or 62%, either improved or stayed the same, while 27 declined. Progress cannot currently be assessed for 17 indicators: 8 because current-year data is not yet available, 6 because there is insufficient prior-year data, mainly due to new indicators being introduced, and 3 because they are contextual indicators with no clear desired direction of travel.

The overall performance picture is mixed, with more indicators improving or staying the same than declining. Stronger progress is evident in outcomes and inequalities, and in several climate-related measures. Economic performance is more challenging, with strengths in business survival, tourism, investment income and housing pipeline, but continuing concerns around unemployment, youth unemployment, skills inequalities, economic inactivity and city centre footfall.

Cabinet is asked to approve the Annual Performance Report and identify any areas where further focus, scrutiny or corrective action is required.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:

1) Consider the Council's progress as set out in the performance report attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
2) Identify any recommendations/comments for consideration by Cabinet at their meeting on 1 September 2026.
3) Identify any areas for further scrutiny and assign responsibility for overseeing this work.

Cabinet is recommended to:

1) Consider any recommendations or comments made by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.
2) Approve the One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report 2025/26 attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3) Note the areas of strong performance, including good development at age 5, repeat referrals to Children Social Care, satisfaction of carers, homelessness, visitor trips, carbon disclosure score, condition of principal roads, fly-tipping actions, and areas requiring further focus, particularly economic inactivity, youth unemployment, deprivation, health inequalities, recycling, green space inequality and city centre footfall.
4) Agree that priority areas for improvement are reflected in in-year performance monitoring and reported through the corporate leadership dashboard.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee – 26 August 2026

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:
One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

1. Background

The One Coventry Plan sets out the strategic vision for Coventry to 2030. It describes the Council's approach to increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region, improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within communities, and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. The current Plan was last refreshed in 2022 and covers the period 2022 to 2030.

1.1. It sets out 3 overarching delivery priorities:

- Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region.
- Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities.
- Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change.

It is supported by 2 enabling priorities:

- Continued financial sustainability of the Council.
- The Council's role as a partner, enabler and leader.

1.2. The annual review provides a high-level assessment of progress against the One Coventry Plan. The number of indicators used to monitor progress has increased from 74 to 88, following a deep dive review by the Scrutiny Committee last year which recommended some additional metrics, agreed by Cabinet.

1.3. The One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report April 2025 – March 2026, appended to this report, provides an assessment of performance against these indicators. It sets out key trends, actions taken, and where possible, comparisons with previous years and benchmarking against other areas. The report also includes case studies to illustrate qualitative impacts that are not easily captured through numerical measures.

1.4. This year's performance report has been redesigned to improve clarity and impact. The 88 indicators have been organised into thematic groups linked to the One Coventry Plan priorities. These changes are intended to make performance information more relevant, accessible and easier to understand.

2. Context

2.1. Performance is now monitored against 88 indicators. Of these, 71 can currently be assessed against the previous year. Overall, 44 of the 71 indicators, or 62%, either improved or stayed the same, while 27 declined. Progress cannot currently be assessed for 17 indicators (of these 17 indicators, 5 relate to 'Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region', 3 relate to 'Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities', 8 relate to 'Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change' and 1 relates to 'Continued financial sustainability of the Council'), 8 because current-year data is not yet available, 6 because there is insufficient prior-year data, mainly due to new indicators being introduced, and 3 because they are contextual indicators with no clear desired direction of travel.

2.2. For the priority **'Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region'**, performance is mixed. There are 17 indicators for this theme, 5 of which cannot currently be assessed against the previous year. Of the remaining 12 indicators, 4, or 33%, either improved or stayed the same.

2.3. While there are strengths in business survival, visitor economy performance, investment income and housing pipeline, there are continuing concerns around unemployment, youth unemployment, economic inactivity, qualifications and city centre footfall. New business births were lower than last year, but closures fell from 1,885 to 1,370 and the 1-year business survival rate improved to 89.3%, which may indicate improving business resilience. The visitor economy reached £923 million in 2024, marking a third consecutive record year for tourism, and Coventry city centre received its first Purple Flag award, recognising it as a safe and vibrant destination. Investment income exceeded its target, and planning permission is in place for nearly 12,000 new homes over the next decade. However, city centre footfall declined during 2025/26. The estimated daily average number of visitors to Coventry city centre was 116,257, which was 5.9% lower than the previous year's figure of 123,560. This is, however, against a backdrop of City Centre South which will transform a large part of the city centre but which for this reporting period has begun with the demolition of large parts of the centre including Shelton Square, Bull Yard, City Arcade and one side of Hertford Street.

2.4. Unemployment remains higher than national and regional averages, with 14,025 working-age residents, or 5.8%, claiming unemployment-related benefits in June 2026 (up from 13,675 in June 2025), compared with 4.0% across England overall. Youth unemployment is a concern. In June 2025, youth claimants aged 18 to 24 in Coventry amounted to 2,500 and this has increased notably, by more than it has amongst other age groups, reaching 2,840 in June 2026. The number of young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training has also increased. While Coventry fares better than much of the region, the position is of national concern across the age group as a whole.

2.5. Skills levels are improving overall, with 45% of working-age residents holding higher-level qualifications by 2025, similar to the national average. This supports residents to access higher-skilled employment opportunities. However, 11% of working-age residents have no qualifications, which is nearly double the national rate.

2.6. Economic inactivity is relatively high (22.4% in 2025), partly due to a large student population and health/caring responsibilities.

2.7. For the priority '**Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities**', performance is positive overall on the available indicators, but this sits alongside significant and persistent inequalities. There are 24 indicators for this theme, 3 of which cannot currently be assessed against the previous year. Of the remaining 21 indicators, 15, or 71%, either improved or stayed the same.

2.8. The performance can be characterised by strong overall service performance within a city with persistent and deeply embedded inequalities. Children's Services achieved an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating, and Adult Social Care was rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission, reflecting high-quality practice and effective multi-agency working.

2.9. Repeat referrals to children's social care fell to 15.6%, well below the national average, and the proportion of children previously in care re-entering the system remains low at 4.5%. A holistic, preventative model of family support is now being piloted through the Family First Partnership programme to strengthen early intervention.

2.10. There are positive indicators in community safety and homelessness prevention, although wider housing pressures remain significant. Recorded crime has fallen by nearly 8%, and 52% of households at risk of homelessness were successfully supported to remain in or secure accommodation.

2.11. Fly-tipping incidents increased from 7,188 in 2024/25 to 7,880 in 2025/26, with enforcement activity also increasing from 8,814 to 9,520. This indicates continued pressure in this area, alongside a strengthened enforcement response.

2.12. Deprivation remains a major issue across the city, particularly for children and families. Coventry has 46 neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally and ranks 29th out of 296 local authorities on child poverty measures.

2.13. Key Stage 2 attainment for reading, writing and maths combined improved in 2025, from 57% to 60%. Outcomes remain below the national average of 63%, but the pace of improvement suggests progress towards narrowing the gap.

2.14. Health inequalities persist. Healthy life expectancy has declined, and there is a life expectancy gap of 11.7 years for men and 10.6 years for women between the most and least deprived areas. This contributes to increasing demand for health and care services, particularly as people age, with 51,300 residents aged 65+, including 7,300 aged 85+.

2.15. Against a backdrop of homelessness rates at 19.8 per 1,000 households, which is significantly higher than regional and national averages, the Council continues to deliver good performance in preventing (52%) and relieving homelessness (32%) for vulnerable residents and families.

2.16. Targeted investment is being directed towards addressing locally felt challenges, including the £20 million Pride in Place programme for each of Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields, alongside £102.8 million in education funding and additional investment in green spaces.

2.17. For the priority '**Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change'**, there are 25 indicators, 8 of which cannot currently be assessed against the previous year. Of the remaining 17 indicators, 11, or 65%, either improved or stayed the same.

2.18. This priority shows important progress in several climate-related areas, particularly emissions reduction activity, climate adaptation planning and community engagement. However, progress remains uneven and further action is needed on large-scale decarbonisation, biodiversity, behaviour change and climate-resilient infrastructure.

2.19. The City's Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) score improved from B to A, placing Coventry among the highest-rated cities for climate disclosure and action. Progress has been made in low-carbon infrastructure and climate disclosure. The number of electric vehicle charging points has increased to 2,602, with usage rising by over 70%, indicating increased uptake of electric vehicle infrastructure.

2.20. Coventry has been awarded a Department for Transport 'green' rating for highway maintenance, reflecting positive external assessment of highway maintenance performance.

2.21. Household recycling has improved to 34.2%, above the regional average, but remains an area for continued improvement. In addition, 98% of A roads are in good or acceptable condition, supported by highway maintenance and innovation in low-carbon materials.

2.22. There has also been investment in nature and biodiversity. 6 Tiny Forests have been planted, alongside over 1,600 trees, and nearly £380,000 of external funding has been secured for green space and conservation.

2.23. However, overall provision remains uneven for the city. Coventry has 1,997 hectares of green space, equating to 3.05 hectares per 1,000 residents, Baseline data shows that Inequality is significant at ward level, with Foleshill at 0.5 hectares per 1,000 residents compared to 6.0 in Henley. In addition, 11% of land is currently designated for biodiversity, compared with the international "30 by 30" ambition.

2.24. Carbon emissions per resident are estimated at 3.4 tonnes in 2023, lower than the UK average of 5.2 tonnes, but Coventry ranks 18th highest out of 63 UK cities, indicating further reduction is required. Air quality is generally better than many comparable areas, but pollution remains concentrated in central, traffic-heavy locations and disproportionately affects vulnerable groups.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. No consultation has been undertaken specifically for this report, which presents performance information. The indicators and priorities are drawn from the agreed One Coventry Plan and associated performance framework.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. There is no implementation timescale arising directly from approval of this report. Priority areas will be reflected in routine in-year performance monitoring.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the decision to approve this performance report. However, the performance issues described in the report, including delivery of Council priorities, external funding, demand pressures and Value for Money considerations, have a wider bearing on the Council's financial position.

5.2. Legal Implications

The Government's Local Government Transparency Code sets out the minimum data that local authorities should publish, how often it should be published and how it should be published. While there is no statutory requirement to publish this specific performance report, the Council publishes it as part of its commitment to transparency, accountability and good governance.

Publishing performance information helps the Council work with residents, communities and partners to deliver the One Coventry Plan vision, priorities, values and ways of working.

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 report sets out the progress made towards the One Coventry Plan, that is, the Council's vision and priorities. The performance management framework sets out how the Council plans and organises the resources at its disposal to achieve the vision and priorities, as set out in the Council Plan.
Performance tools are being further developed to strengthen in-year monitoring of the key contributory measures that drive progress on the One Coventry Plan metrics.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

Risks and areas of underperformance are managed through service reporting, Cabinet Member briefings and Leadership Board review of the corporate leadership dashboard.
The corporate leadership dashboard is being developed to include all One Coventry Plan and Local Outcomes Framework indicators.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

The One Coventry Plan impacts on the whole organisation. Effective performance management arrangements at all levels will help to ensure that the Council's priorities are delivered.

6.4. **Equalities / EIA?**

The Council's performance management framework and reporting arrangements must have due regard to the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This includes the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; to meet the needs of people regardless of their background; and to encourage all people to participate in public life, or in other activities where their participation is low.

Many of the key priorities set out in the One Coventry Plan are also equality objectives. In addition, a specific set of equality objectives has been agreed and progress against these is reported annually to the Cabinet Member who has portfolio responsibility for Equalities. This contributes to meeting the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

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

The Council has confirmed its commitment to addressing the issue of climate change. This report includes environmental progress measures, including air quality and carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations.

6.6. **Implications for partner organisations?**

Whilst this report reflects progress against the Council's priorities, it also includes actions and measures where the contribution of partners is essential to their delivery.

Report authors:

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Enquiries should be directed to the above persons

Contributor/ approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	27.07.26	27.07.26
Julie Fairbrother	Communications Manager	Policy and Communications	28.07.26	31.07.26
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Ewan Dewar	Head of Finance	Finance and Resources	27.07.26	30.07.26
Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	27.07.26	28.07.26
Clare Boden-Hatton	Director of Strategy and Performance	-	20.07.26	22.07.26
Councillor G Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	04.08.26	04.08.26

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Coventry City Council

ONE COVENTRY PLAN

2025/2026 Annual Performance Report

coventry.gov.uk

Contents

Foreword

“I am proud to introduce this year’s One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report. It reflects a council and a city working together, through real challenges, to deliver lasting improvements for our residents.

“This year has seen genuine successes. An ‘outstanding’ Ofsted rating for Children's Services, a ‘good’ Care Quality Commission rating for Adult Social Care Services, falling crime, record tourism, and a balanced budget delivered with prudence and care. None of this happens by chance. It is the result of hard work across our services and with our partners.

“The targets we have set ourselves within this report are deliberately ambitious targets. Coventry will not become a better, fairer, more sustainable city by aiming for what is easy. We aim for what is right, even when that means acknowledging the distance still to travel.

“I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this year’s progress, and I look forward to building on it together.”

Cllr George Duggins
Leader of Coventry City Council

Overview

What is One Coventry?

One Coventry is a values-based approach that describes how we work together with our communities and partners to improve the city and the lives of all who live, work and study here. It is a way of working that enables us to focus on the things that people value most, helping us to make the biggest possible impact on the lives of local people. Our One Coventry approach focuses on enabling people to live their best lives in a vibrant and prosperous city an ambition that can only be achieved by listening to and collaborating with, those who live, work, visit, and do business in our city, by having different conversations and building on the great things that are already happening.

What is the One Coventry Plan?

Coventry City Council's corporate plan: The One Coventry Plan 2022-2030 was informed by Coventry residents and outlines the vision and priorities for the next eight years. The plan describes the way that we bring people and organisations from across the city together, to work as one; to make the biggest positive difference to the lives of those who live work and study here. It can be read here: One Coventry Plan. The One Coventry Plan sets out the strategic vision for the city of Coventry to 2030 and our approach to increasing the economic prosperity of both the city and region by improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities; and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. These are things that the Council cannot do alone. We must continue to work in a way that ensures we maintain continued financial sustainability of the Council, as well as strengthening the Council's role as a partner, enabler, leader and as an anchor organisation in Coventry. Our refreshed plan is more focused on the needs and aspirations of our communities than ever before. We have listened to and reflected on what people have been telling us and considered the key issues facing the city.

Our plan focuses on three key delivery priorities measured against 88 Key Indicators – (1) increasing economic prosperity, (2) improving outcomes and tackling inequalities, and (3) tackling climate change – supported by an enabling priority of maintaining a financially sustainable council. Achieving these goals means working beyond what the Council can do alone: partnering as a city leader, enabler, and anchor institution to mobilize everyone's efforts. Our plan is community-focused and reflects what people told us about Coventry's needs and aspirations

How we measure progress

- We track our progress through a framework of 88 performance indicators aligned to the One Coventry Plan's priorities. This year-end report shows how we performed on each priority as of 31 March 2026, using the latest available data for each measure. We identify trends and provide key metrics, supplemented by case studies and qualitative insights, to assess progress. We also compare Coventry's performance to regional and national benchmarks for context.
- Some indicators have been refreshed since last year as we increased our total metrics from 74 to 88 to ensure continued relevance and a "deeper dive" into priority outcomes. Each metric is classified by progress (whether it improved, stayed similar, or worsened from last year) and by status (if a target was met or missed).
- Most indicators are reported annually; where this is not the case, we will clearly state how frequently the data is available. For transparent reporting, we mark where data is not yet available.
- This year 62% of the metrics we could measure had improved or remained stable, and 68% of metrics with targets were on or above target – demonstrating forward momentum across most areas. We have also grouped our 88 indicators into 20 themes under each priority, to tell a clearer performance story by topic.

Changes from last year

This year's performance report is redesigned for clarity and impact. We reorganized indicators into thematic groups aligned to the One Coventry Plan priorities, making it easier to follow. We added new measures and refreshed existing ones in response to feedback, increasing the total number of indicators (from 74 to 88) to give a fuller picture of Coventry's progress. These changes aim to make performance information more relevant and accessible to everyone

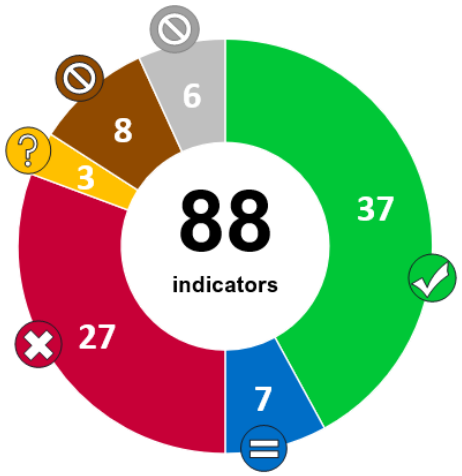
Abbreviations and symbols used

Symbol	Progress	Target status
	Improved	On-target
	Got worse	Off-target
	Similar, unchanged, or statistically insignificant	-
	Cannot say; no desirable direction of travel	No target set
	Not available or no updated data	
	Insufficient data to judge progress/status	
WMCA	West Midlands Combined Authority	
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy nearest neighbours	
TfWM	Transport for West Midlands area	
(L)	**Local or nationally determined** – each indicator is assigned this symbol to identify its status on this. Nationally determined indicators are those that are pre-defined and / or provided by external organisations	Locally determined
(N)		Nationally determined

Performance Summary-Progress, Target

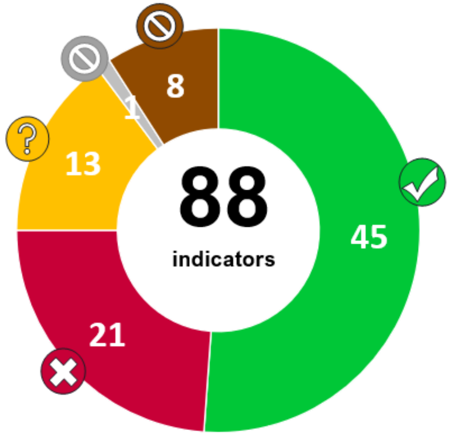
A summary of the ‘progress’

- Out of the 88 performance indicators, there are 17 for which we cannot currently report progress compared to the position last year. For 8 of these data for this year is not currently available at all. For another 6 we don’t have enough data to judge progress due to no data being available for last year, mainly because it's a new indicator, and for another 3 we cannot report on progress because they are contextual with no desirable direction of going up or down.
- Out of the remaining 71 indicators for which we can report progress – 62% (44) either improved or stayed the same. *This position may be updated as a few indicators are reporting after the first draft.*
- The charts below illustrate this ‘progress’ position for all indicators, as well as showing how this is broken down for each of the 4 priorities.



A summary of the ‘status against the target’

- Out of the 88 performance indicators, there are 22 for which we cannot currently report their status against a target. For 8 of these data for this year is not currently available at all. For another 13 a target wasn’t set, some where there isn’t necessarily a desirable direction or target, others where the indicator is new; and for another 1 there isn’t enough data yet to judge the status because the target is to improve and the indicator is new.
- Out of the remaining 66 indicators for which we can report status against target – 68% (45) are ‘On-Target’. *This position may be updated as a few indicators are reporting after the first draft.*
- For some the status against the target is effectively the same at the ‘progress’ status because the target is simply ‘to improve’, for others specific targets are set so the status may be different.



PRIORITY 1

Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region

"Develop and build on the strength of our city's economy to deliver inclusive growth, supporting businesses to innovate, grow and scale up. Capitalising on the green technological revolution to create more local jobs"

Themes

- A growing and prosperous economy
- A vibrant and attractive city centre
- Increased skills, training & pathways into employment
- Reducing poverty and improving household financial security
- Supporting housing growth to meet local needs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region

Coventry's economy continues to show resilience. Business closures fell significantly – from 1,885 to 1,370 – and the one-year business survival rate improved to 89.3%, reflecting a stronger, more confident local business environment.

Our visitor economy reached £923 million in 2024, a third consecutive record year for tourism, and Coventry city centre received its first Purple Flag award, recognising it as a safe and vibrant destination.

Investment income exceeded its target, and planning permission is in place for nearly 12,000 new homes over the next decade, supporting continued housing growth.

Unemployment remains higher than national and regional averages, and that GDP per head growth has lagged behind the national picture – challenges shaped significantly by macroeconomic conditions beyond any single council's control. Our response is targeted and deliberate while adapting to much reduced and limited funding opportunities.

A new regional High Growth Service, a Local Enterprise Support Service, and continued investment in the Job Shop, which supported over 9,000 registered customers and delivered 60,000 engagements this year.

Overall, Coventry's economic foundations are sound. Our focus now is ensuring the benefits of growth are felt by every resident across every neighbourhood.

A growing and prosperous economy

The UK economy grew modestly in 2025 (around 1.4%), with employment stable at about 75%, though unemployment has edged up. Local business output reached around £12.9 billion in 2023, and job numbers have increased, but after accounting for inflation, real growth was flat, similar to the national picture. Coventry's economy performs well overall, but the benefits are uneven. Jobs based in the city tend to be relatively well paid, yet resident wages are lower on average, as many higher-paid roles are filled by commuters. Wages have risen only slightly above inflation, so gains in real terms have been limited. Inflation has fallen from 11.1% in 2022 to around 2.8% by April 2026, but remains above the Bank of England's target, meaning the cost of living is still a challenge, particularly for lower-paid households. While Coventry's productivity is above regional averages, household incomes lag behind, showing that business success does not yet translate into shared prosperity for all residents.

A vibrant and attractive city centre

In late 2025, Coventry city centre received its first Purple Flag award, recognising it as a safe, diverse and enjoyable place for the night-time economy. This reflects partnership working between the Council, The Business Improvement District (BID), businesses and the police. The city centre population has grown rapidly, increasing by around 40% between 2011 and 2021, compared with 9% city-wide. Growth is expected to continue through the City Centre South redevelopment. This will deliver nearly 1,000 new homes (within around 1,800 planned over the next decade) and about 8,000 square metres of new retail, leisure and hospitality space. While student numbers at Coventry University have fallen since 2020, which may reduce student presence in the short term, overall the city centre is becoming more residential and active. In 2024, around 19,500 people worked in city-centre businesses, slightly fewer than in 2019. Despite this, the area's economic output rose to about £1.3 billion in 2023, up 19% since 2019, in line with growth across the city. Public views are mixed: a 2024/25 survey found 24% of visitors rated the city centre as good or very good, while 39% rated it poor or very poor. Tourism continues to strengthen, with Coventry's visitor economy worth around £923 million in 2024, showing sustained growth.

Increased skills, training & pathways into employment

Unemployment in Coventry remains higher than the national average, especially among young people. In June 2026, 14,025 working-age residents (5.8%) were claiming unemployment-related benefits, compared with 4.0% in England. This includes people who are unemployed and some in low-paid or part-time work. The figure is well above pre-pandemic levels (around 7,900 in 2019). Youth unemployment is a particular concern, with claims among 18–24 year-olds, on an increasing trend, rising to 2,840 in June 2026. Census data showed one in eight young adults not in education were unemployed in 2021, and this is likely to have worsened. Skills levels are improving overall. By 2025, 45% of working-age residents had higher-level qualifications, similar to the national average. However, 11% had no qualifications, almost double the England rate. Economic inactivity is also relatively high (22.4% in 2025), partly due to Coventry's large student population, as well as health and caring responsibilities. Reflecting these challenges, Coventry is among the most deprived 20% of local authorities for employment, with around 15% of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally. While progress is being made, continued focus on skills, training and routes into good-quality work remains essential.

Reducing poverty and improving household financial security

The Indices of Deprivation 2025 underline that Coventry is home to deprived communities and persistent deprivation. Coventry has some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England, particularly in the north, north-eastern and central parts of the city, but also in other pockets. 31% of Coventry's local neighbourhoods (LSOAs), 63 out of 203, are among the most deprived 20% in England (36 LSOAs, 18% of all, amongst most deprived 10%), while only 12% are in the least deprived 20%. Coventry ranks 48th most deprived out of 296 English local authority areas in terms of proportion of LSOAs amongst the most deprived 10% in England and 57th in terms of the average deprivation score of all LSOAs.

Despite wage growth, cost-of-living pressures remain significant, especially for lower-paid workers. The Living Wage Foundation and the Resolution Foundation have recently updated the estimate of the real living wage, at £13.45 per hour for 2025/26, and it is estimated that between 1 in 4 and 1 in 6 Coventry workers earn below this level. Financial stress remains a concern - in the 2024/25 Coventry Household Survey residents were asked how often they have been worried about money during the last few weeks. 13% of residents reported worrying about money almost all the time and 23% worried quite often.

Supporting housing growth to meet local needs

Coventry's housing stock is relatively old overall, with 63% built before 1965 compared to 51% nationally, this has implications for energy efficiency and fuel poverty and highlights the need to invest in new homes. Coventry has more terraced houses than average, making up 40% of all houses compared to 23% nationally and has a relatively large private rented sector. 70% are in the lower Council Tax bands A & B, this limits the amount of Council Tax that can be collected.

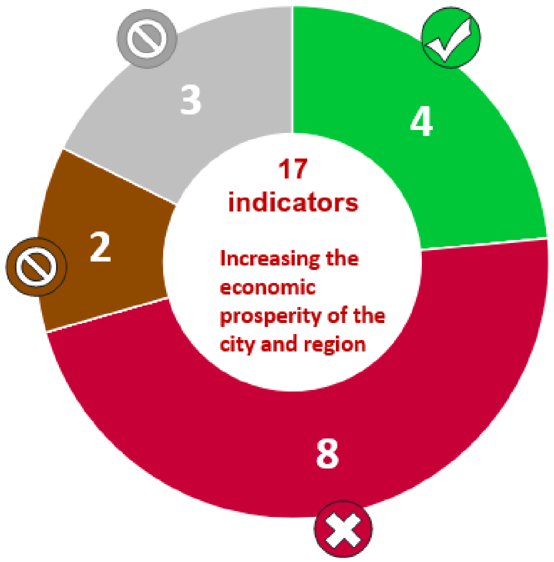
The number of houses in Coventry has been growing annually as the city's population has been increasing and Coventry City Council's Local Plan 2011 – 2031 adopted in 2017 identified a need to increase house building in Coventry – identifying a need for an average of 1,300 new homes to be built a year and since then housing building has been at about this level.

PRIORITY 1
Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region

We monitor our performance for this priority through a set of 17 performance indicators, recording their progress since last year and whether they have met their target.

Progress: Out of the 17 performance indicators, there are 5 for which we cannot currently report progress compared to the position last year. Out of the remaining 12 indicators – 33% (4) either improved or stayed the same.
Status: Out of the 12 indicators for which we can report status against target, 50% (6) are 'On-Target'.

Progress



Target status

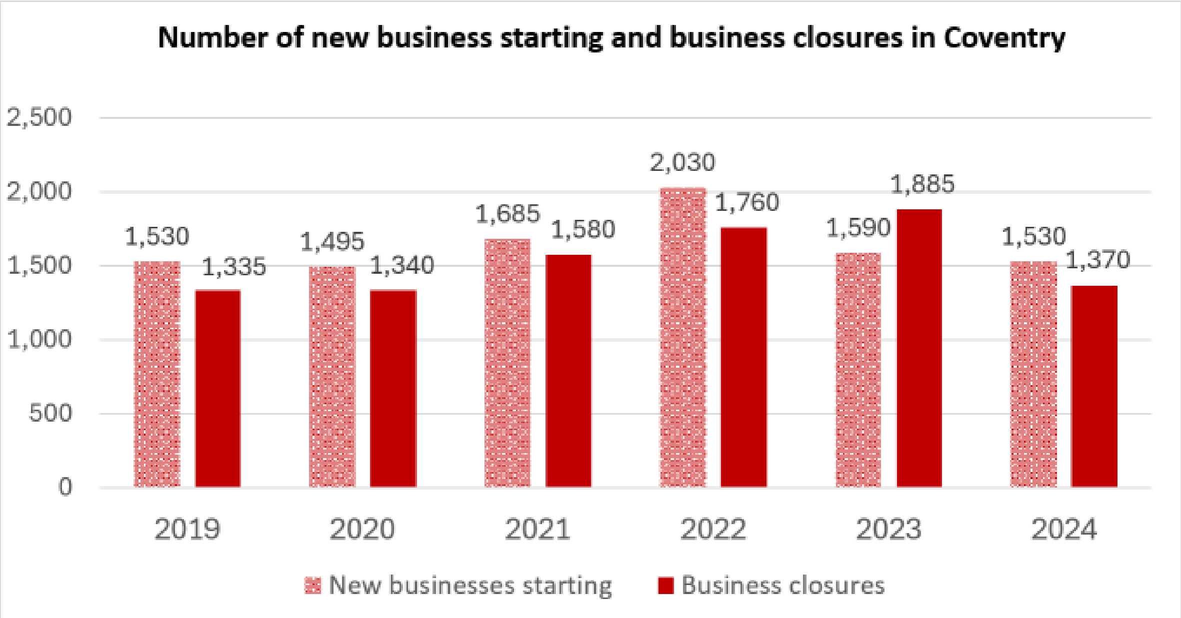
Icon & Colour	Progress	Target status
	Improved	On Target
	Got worse	Off Target
	Similar/unchanged	-
	Cannot say	No Target Set
	Insufficient data to judge progress/status	
	Not available/no updated data	

A growing and prosperous economy: Performance Reflections

Our number of start-ups decreased slightly from 1,590 businesses newly created in 2023, to 1,530 in 2024. In some cases, it will likely be due to a lower number of people wishing to start a business or in some cases people wishing to start businesses not reaching the stage of launching. There has also been a reduction in the amount of public funding being directed at start-up support (1:1 coaching and workshops) in recent years with a higher reliance on self-help information via digital platforms such as the National Business Support website – although we have consistently commissioned a start-up support service initially through its ERDF funded CW Business Support Programme and latterly the UKSPF (Shared Prosperity Fund)-funded Business Growth WM in Coventry service.

We have seen a reduction in the number of businesses closing from a relatively high 1,885 in 2023 to 1,370. With more businesses opening than closing in 2024, this shows a growing small and medium enterprise ecosystem . Of the 1,590 new enterprises created in 2023, 1,420 survived into 2024 - a 1-year survival rate of 89.3%; up from a rate of 88.4% the year before. The fall in business closures and an increase in the one-year survival rate is a positive indication of business resilience with more businesses adjusting rapidly to an uncertain economic climate, with increasing costs of doing business and lower market confidence being factors.. This also reflects the increasing strength of the local business support ecosystem complemented by the robust support offered by our teams to improve their resilience.

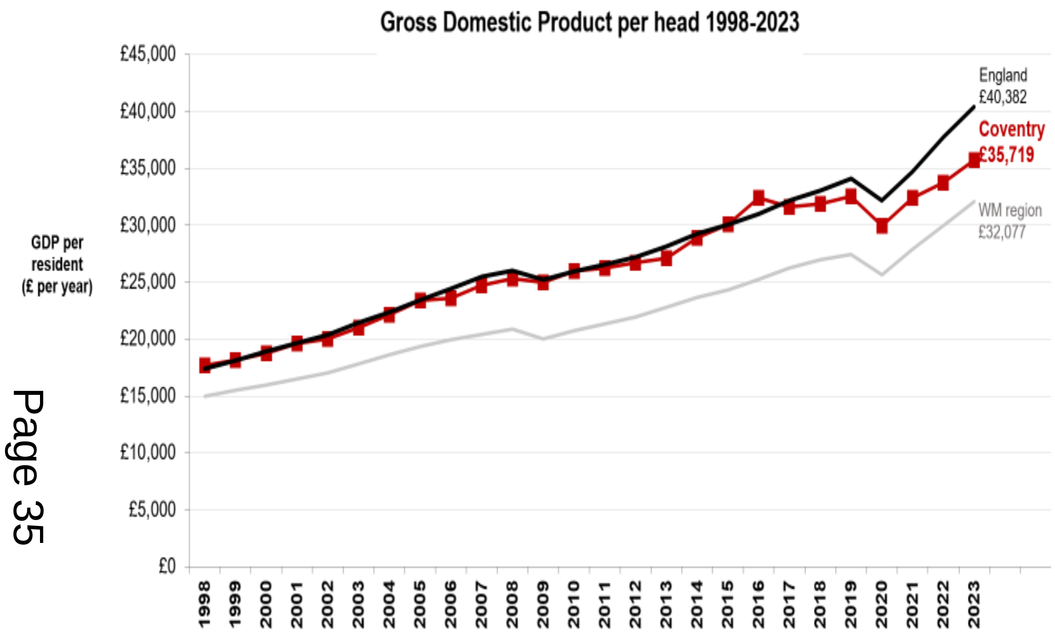
We offer support to firms through our Business Growth WM delivered through an integrated model of non-financial support and grants (engaged with 531 Coventry businesses in 2024/25) and CW Growth Hub's Account Managers. These also included the ERDF funded CW Business Support, Innovation and Green Business Programmes that were led by us and then the UKSPF-funded Business Growth in Coventry service, all entailing a mix of 1:1 non-financial business support and grants.

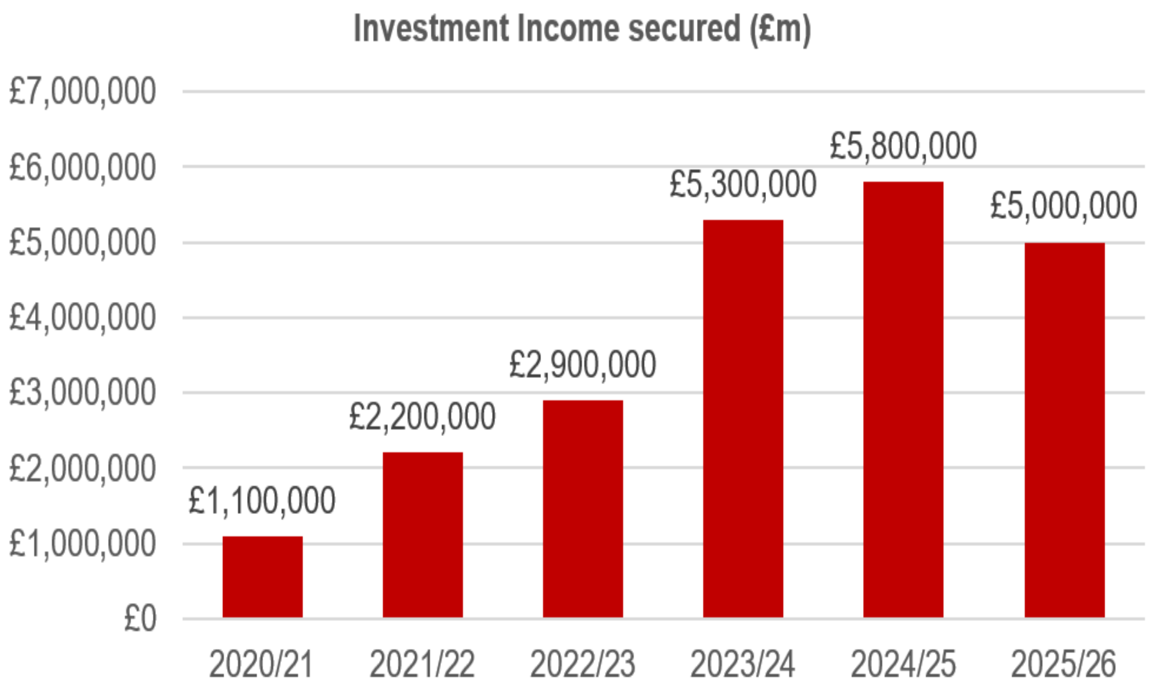


A growing and prosperous economy: Performance Reflections

Growth in the Coventry economy is measured using a local measure of 'Gross Domestic Product (GDP)' - the value created by locally based businesses, estimated to total £12.9 billion in the most recent data, for 2023; £35,719 per head when divided by Coventry's total population. The most recent data is lagged, for 2023, the update for this year's report is 2024 annual data and is due to be published by the ONS in July 2026. Trends of GDP per head in the city have generally been worse than the national average since Covid lockdowns ended in 2021. Macroeconomic factors will have influenced this trend. The region has been impacted by the rising costs of doing business and continued international trade challenges. Whilst local business support programmes (see the actions on the right) and the work of CW Growth Hub's Account Managers supported a high number of local businesses to grow during that period, there is a need for carefully targeted business support to tackle barriers to growth and productivity if levels of economic output per head are to increase and Coventry's performance is to more closely mirror the national average.

Investment income for Coventry City Council amounted to £5m in 2025/26, exceeding the target, driven by interest rates remaining higher than anticipated.





A growing and prosperous economy: Actions taken in year

CCC has contributed to a review of economic functions in the region undertaken by West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). A new business support model will be rolled out from April 2026, led by a new regional Economic Delivery Vehicle within WM Growth Company that will be focused strongly on providing more intensive support to businesses with highest growth potential, with Local Authorities responsible for supporting other types of businesses.

This will play a key role in safeguarding and enhancing the resilience of Coventry businesses. This includes the new High Growth Service to be delivered through WM Growth Company, and the new Local Enterprise Support Service being delivered through the Local Authority, where we will deliver tailored support to tackle the barriers to growth, innovation and productivity improvements faced by local businesses.

With the Integrated Settlement funding more focused in this direction, the level of resources being made available for intensive support to new business start-ups has decreased. The Authority expects to still take enquiries from individuals wishing to start a business and will be working with WM Growth Company to enhance the Business Growth WM website to ensure it has the highest possible quality self-help information and interface with the national Business Support service. We will also need to refer new enterprises to local partners that will still deliver more intensive support services in this space, including the Highlife Centre and Coventry and Warwick Universities.

The Start Up support activities delivered by CW Chamber through the CW Business Support programme and the early activities of Business Growth WM in Coventry (launched in September 2023 will have contributed to improving the number of start ups and their survival rate.

Business support programmes have supported growth and new businesses in Coventry - notably the ERDF funded CW Business Support, Innovation and Green Business Programmes and latterly the UKSPF-funded Business Growth in Coventry service, all entailing a mix of 1:1 non financial business support and grants)

Although the data has a time lag, we would expect that the new regional business support offer, delivered to act on the recommendations of the Economic Functions Review, to have a notable impact on improving economic output and business productivity. The new High Growth Service through WM Growth Company will provide more intensive support to firms with high growth potential and we would expect this support to result in new business practice, improved leadership & management, and accelerated innovations, which will likely lead to more rapid increases in business turnover and significant economic output generated. Our new Local Enterprise Support Service will also be more tailored to addressing the bespoke needs of individual businesses, and we will deliver more in-depth support to those firms

Investments are managed as per our treasury strategy although external factors such as interest rates are outside of our control.

A growing and prosperous economy - Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Birth of New Enterprises (new businesses created) - count (& rate per 10,000 residents aged 16+) (N)	1,590 (55.4 per 10,000 adults) (2023)	1,530 (51.9 per 10,000 adults) (2024)	West Midlands Region - 53.8 per 10,000 adults England - 59.1 per 10,000 adults (2024)		To increase	
Death of Enterprises (businesses closing) - count (& rate per 10,000 residents aged 16+) (N)	1,885 (65.7 per 10,000 adults) (2023)	1,370 (46.5 per 10,000 adults) (2024)	West Midlands Region - 48.6 per 10,000 adults England - 52.2 per 10,000 adults (2024)		To decrease	
Percentage of New Enterprises still operating after 12 months (1 year new business survival) (N)	88.4% (2023)	89.3% (2024)	West Midlands Region - 92.5% England - 93.4%		To increase	
Investment income secured (L)	£5.8m (2024/25)	£5m (2025/26)	N/A		£1.8m	
Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (pound per head) (N)	£35,719 (2023)	No updated data	West Midlands Region - £32,077 England - £40,382 (2023)		To increase	

A vibrant and attractive city centre Performance Reflections

Coventry city centre footfall was down this year - the headline footfall data is the estimated daily average number of visitors to Coventry city centre. Across all of 2025/26 this was 116,257 people, 5.9% lower than it was the previous year, 123,560. Coventry's trend in the last year was not as good as Wolverhampton's. In Coventry city centre Saturdays were the only day of the week with increased average daily footfall in 2025/26, up by 1% whereas it was down by 6% across all weekdays, by most on Wednesdays (-13%) and Thursdays (-8%). Overall, the average dwell time per visitor reduced in 2025/26 as well as the total visitor numbers – a similar number of visitors used the city for short periods (<30 minutes) than in 2024/25, but a notably reduced number dwelled for 6+ hours. By origin, the biggest reductions were amongst people travelling in from nearby commuter areas, people with Warwickshire and Birmingham postcodes. These additional insights may indicate that reduced numbers of workers or commuters in the city centre are a factor in reducing footfall; perhaps lower employment inside the city centre area (so fewer workers who are located in the city centre all day), and perhaps increased working from home amongst local office workers. A reduced number of university student enrolments in recent years may also be a factor. On the other hand, leisure use of the city centre may be more resilient, particularly on Saturdays.

2024 was a third consecutive record year for tourism in Coventry - it followed a refreshed marketing campaign by Destination Coventry (the local Destination Management Organisation) and built on the successes of previous years when Coventry was able to capitalise on the foundations presented by the City of Culture year and being a host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

A vibrant and attractive city centre: Actions taken in year

Destination Coventry went through a notable reset in 2024, and a new Coventry Tourism Strategy is in the process of development. A key aim will be to build on three consecutive record years of tourism, and build on a strong tourism offering. The hosting of major music events and Premier League football at the CBS Arena should further enhance the potential to further grow the visitor economy and increase dwell times and overnight stays.

A vibrant and attractive city centre-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Footfall – daily average number of individuals visiting Coventry city centre (& % change year-on-year) (L)	123,560 people (-0.5%) (2024/25) *revised*	116,257 people (-5.9%) (2025/26)	Wolverhampton city centre: 110,123 people (-1.1%) (2025/26)	✗	To increase	✗
Visitor trips (L)	11.39m visitors (2023)	11.8m visitors (2024)	N/A	✓	To increase	✓

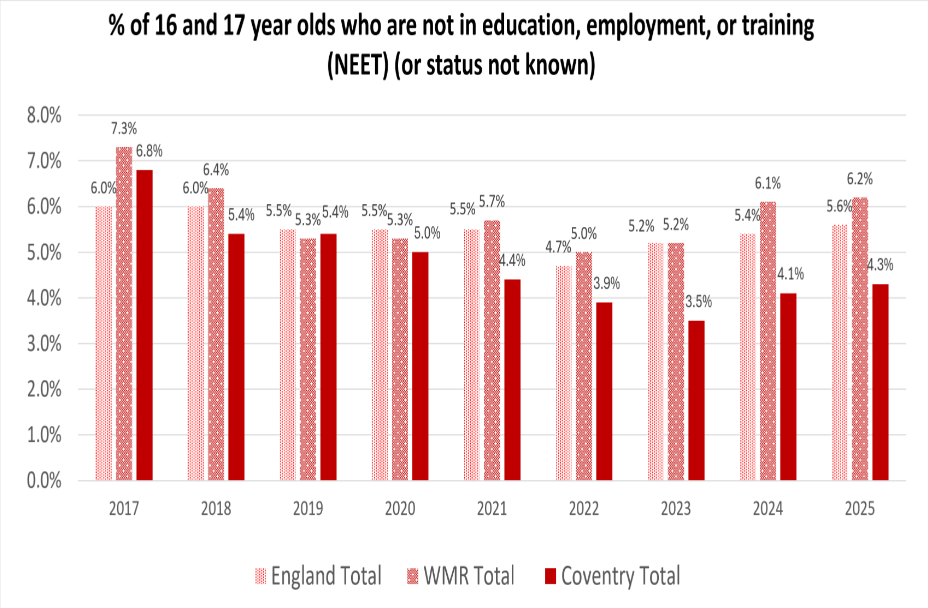
Increased skills, training & pathways into employment: Performance Reflections

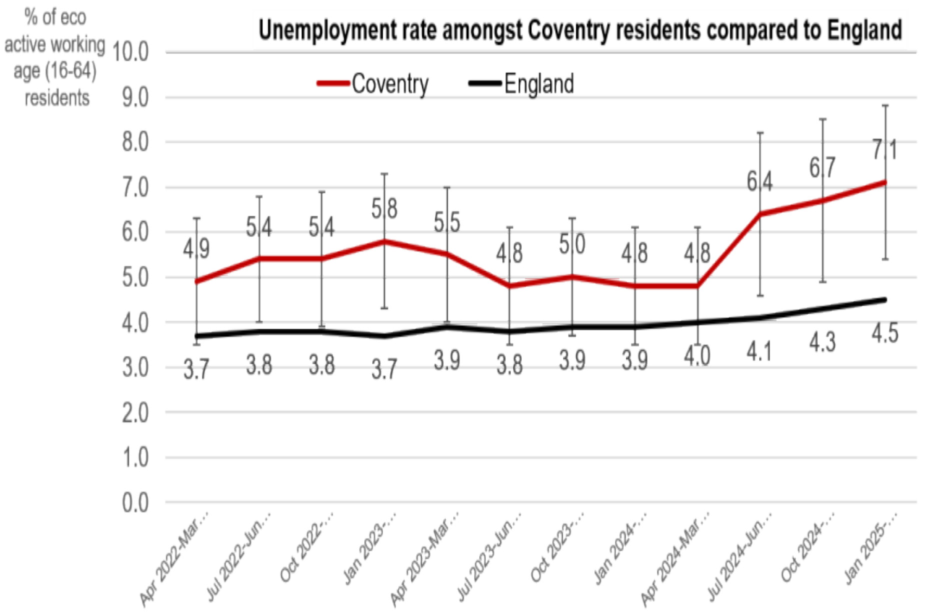
389 Coventry 16–17-year-olds were not in education, employment, or training (NEET) for 2025, a rate of 4.3%, remaining lower than the regional and national averages and the average amongst similar areas (‘statistical neighbours’). This includes young people whose status in unknown as well as those who are conformed NEET; Coventry saw a notable increase in the number confirmed as NEET in 2025, with a reduced number with an unknown status, an overall increase in NEET or unknown. Although our overall performance decreased slightly, we remain below (better than) England and the West Midlands for the 8th consecutive year.

The reduction in Job Shop customers going on to get jobs is primarily due to a 20% decrease in grant funding in 2025/26 compared with 2024/25, alongside a shift in grant focus towards residents with higher and more complex needs. Further grant reductions are anticipated from 2027/28 onwards, so future targets will need to reflect this changing funding landscape. Consideration should also be given to the value of job starts, as outcomes for higher-needs residents may reasonably be regarded as higher-value achievements. Also, wider economic factors should be considered, like a tightening labour market.

The estimated employment rate amongst all Coventry residents reduced from 75% in 2024 to 70%. However, this indictor is significantly influenced by Coventry’s high and growing economically inactive student population. As of December 2025 (the latest available data), there were approximately 19,000 economically inactive students, an increase of 5,700 since December 2024, this would reduce the employment rate, even though these people chose to study and not work. Performance is also affected by wider labour-market changes driven by economic factors that sit outside the control of the Employment, Skills and Libraries service. An estimated 14,100 Coventry residents were unemployed during January to December 2025, an unemployment rate of 7.1%; higher than the national and regional averages. Both the number unemployed in Coventry and the % unemployment rate has increased in the last recent year, which is a consequence of the stagnant economic growth, rising costs of doing business and issues such as higher interest rates choking economic demand. Businesses nationally are also reporting recruitment challenges, suggesting a shortage of available labour with the skills required by businesses with vacancies.

As the Council is now spending all its Apprenticeship Levy funding, the scheme has been put on pause. This pause will see no further increase in the amount pledged and a gradual reduction in the amount transferred as those apprentices that are being funded come to an end. Alternative arrangements for Coventry businesses to access levy funds are available via the WMCA. The situation will be reviewed next year, and should the Council still be spending all of its own levy, the transfer programme will remain paused.





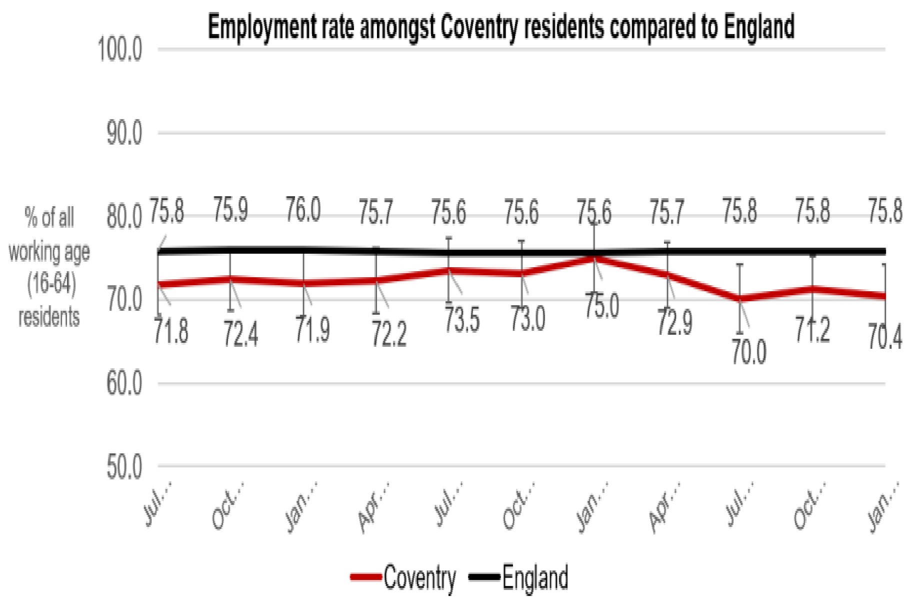
Increased skills, training & pathways into employment: Actions taken in year

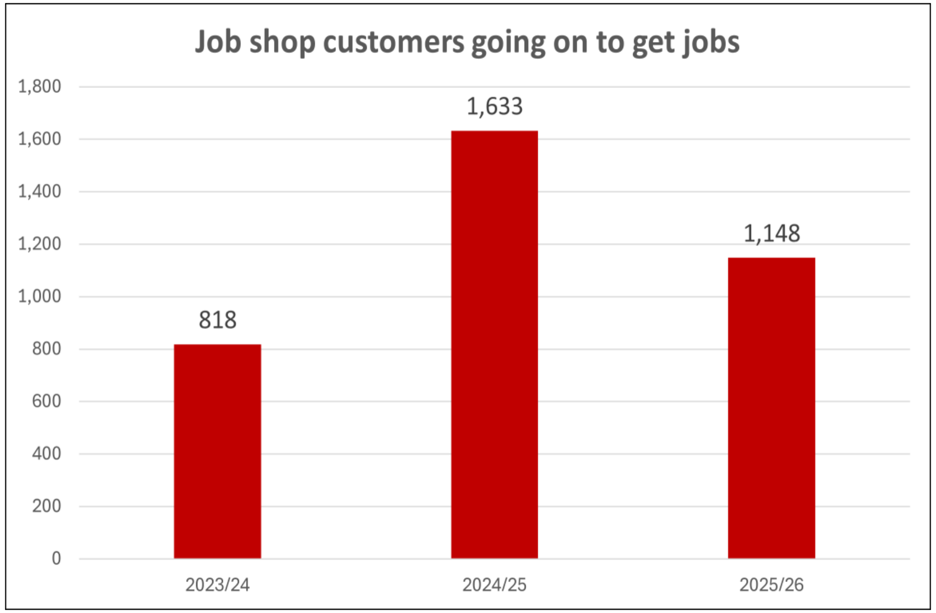
The provision of tracking and supporting the participation of 16-17 (up to 25 with an EHCP/Care Leavers) year olds into education, employment or training contract was re-procured and has been awarded to the Shaw Trust. Funding has been awarded through budget setting to support education / employment pathways for children and young people aged 14+ with a view to providing additional options for children and young particularly focussing on those who are struggling to engage with education.

The Job Shop overachieved on Grant Funding targets, stretching all Grants to support wider group of residents while targeting high impact support in Key Wards including Job Fests and the Hub and Spoke model bringing value from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), National Careers Service, Training Providers, Voluntary and Community Sector. In total 5 Job Fests have now been held across various community locations with over 1800 residents attending. The events have brought together a wide range of local employers, training providers and support services, offering live vacancies and practical advice across sectors such as business administration, hospitality and early years. Access to free training, apprenticeships and confidence-building support have also been provided. The most recent Job Fest took place at Willenhall Social Club with over 600 people attending this event and at least 33% of the attendees reporting a positive interaction including on site interviews.

Our Adult education provision is also strongly targeted, with 61% of learners from IMD 1–3 areas and 7,236 enrolments from working-age residents. Outcomes remain positive, with 52.13% progressing into employment, apprenticeships or further learning. The Job Shop continues to operate at scale, supporting over 9,000 registered customers and delivering 60,000 engagements, with 60% of users from the most deprived communities. Targeted programmes are delivering above expectations. Connect to Work has supported 293 residents, with 69 moving into employment against a target of 30. The Youth Trailblazer has provided 145 young people with subsidised work experience, with 39 progressing into paid employment. These results demonstrate that Coventry's approach is effectively reaching disadvantaged residents and supporting sustained progress into work and improved financial stability.

Whilst the unemployment rate is strongly driven by macroeconomic trends, we will expect the new regional business support model, driven strongly by the new High Growth Service and Local Enterprise Support service, to accelerate growth in business turnover and the creation of new jobs. Alongside this, we will continue to use Integrated Settlement funding and funds from the Employment Support Transition Fund to continue delivery of the Job Shop Hub & Spoke service to connect Coventry residents with employment and training opportunities and equip them with the right skills to fill new vacancies.





Increased skills, training & pathways into employment-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Percentage of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment, or training (NEET) including not knowns (N)	4.1% (NEET - 3.0% Not known - 1.1%) (2024)	4.3% (NEET - 3.6% Not Known - 0.7%) (2025)	England – 5.6% (NEET - 3.4% Not known - 2.2%) Statistical neighbours – 5.6% (NEET - 4.1% Not known - 1.5%) West Midlands region – 6.2% (NEET - 3.3% Not known - 2.9%) (2025)		Below (better than) national average and Statistical Neighbours	
Number of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment, or training (NEET) including not knowns (N)	348 (NEET - 253, Not known - 95) (2024)	398 (NEET - 330, Not known - 68) (2025)	N/A		To decrease	
Job Shop customers going on to get jobs (L)	1,633 (2024/25)	1,148 (2025/26)	N/A		To increase	
Resident employment rate (proxy for new jobs) (N)	75.0% (Jan to Dec 2024)	70.4% (Jan - Dec 2025)	West Midlands Region - 73.6% England - 75.8% (Jan - Dec 2025)		To increase	
Unemployment (model-based) (N)	4.8% (Jan to Dec 2024)	7.1% (Jan - Dec 2025)	West Midlands Region – 5.7% England – 4.5% (Jan - Dec 2025)		To decrease	
Apprenticeship levy transferred to support non-levy paying businesses (L)	£97,956 Transferred 2024/25 Total pledged - £672,487	N/A	N/A		To increase	

Outcomes for residents: Job Shop – Job Fest Customer Case Study

Jannat’s journey is a powerful example of resilience, ambition, and the impact of the right support at the right time. Originally from Bangladesh, she moved to the UK three and a half years ago with strong academic credentials, including two master’s degrees in finance. Despite this, she faced the common challenge of translating her experience into the UK job market.

Jannat’s turning point came in May 2025 after attending Job Fest in Longford, which led her to the Job Shop. There, with tailored guidance from Zoe; including CV development, interview preparation, and access to key opportunities, Jannat built the confidence, skills, and local insight needed to move forward.

Through a combination of mentoring, VR mock interviews, and hands-on volunteering, Jannat rapidly developed her communication skills and workplace confidence. By September 2025, she secured her first UK role as a Learning Support Assistant at Stoke Primary School, where she now makes a meaningful daily impact supporting children’s learning and wellbeing. Jannat is now being supported to develop her in work skills with an aim to move into teaching. Her journey highlights how targeted support, combined with determination, can unlock potential and lead to sustainable, rewarding employment.

Reducing poverty and improving household financial security: Performance Reflections

Coventry is delivering strong, coordinated action across its services and working closely with partners to support residents, reduce poverty and improve household security. Despite clear pressures, the council is targeting help where it is most needed, using shared intelligence and joint action to strengthen early intervention, improve access to support and drive better outcomes for residents. The insights that follow highlight both the scale of the challenge and the positive impact of coordinated work across the city.

Calculated using the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD 2025) from the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, combined with 2024 mid-year small area population estimates from the ONS. The IMD 2025 ranks 36 of Coventry's 203 LSOAs (local neighbourhoods) amongst the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in England, 18% of all Coventry's LSOAs. This is a new measure for this year's One Coventry annual performance report, and direct comparisons with the previous edition, the IMD 2019, are not like for like due to methodological changes; so previous values are not available.

Children - Out of an estimated 83,561 children aged 0-17 who live in Coventry in total, 19,461 live in these most deprived neighbourhoods, almost 1 in every 4 Coventry children (23.3%). Children in Coventry are much more likely to live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods than all children across England (12.9%). When comparing the 3 measures from the IMD we use in this report it is notable that children are much more likely than working age or pension age adults to live in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Working aged people - Out of an estimated 234,165 working aged people (18-64) who live in Coventry in total, 42,378 live in these most deprived neighbourhoods, 18.1% of Coventry people aged 18-64. People aged 18-64 in Coventry are much more likely to live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods than all people aged 18-64 across England (10.3%).

Pension age adults - Out of an estimated 51,300 pension aged people (65+) who live in Coventry in total, 5,860 live in these most deprived neighbourhoods, about 1 in every 9 Coventry people aged 65+ (11.4%). People aged 65+ in Coventry are much more likely to live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods than all people aged 65+ across England (6.6%).

Reducing poverty and improving household financial security:Actions taken in year

Coventry has used the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) to identify households with low financial resilience by combining national welfare analysis with local authority data. This enables the council to identify residents in areas of deprivation who may be missing out on statutory or discretionary benefits. Alongside internal analysis, LIFT has supported more targeted resident-specific campaigns that have strengthened benefit take-up and improved support for vulnerable families.

In 2024/25, Coventry supported 13,400 individual households through the Household Support Fund, providing timely access to essential help including food, energy support, clothing vouchers and other vital assistance.

In 2025/26, the council awarded 21,800 applications to 11,320 households, continuing to ensure rapid access to essential support.

- 52% (11,409 applications) primarily benefited a child, highlighting the fund's role in supporting families.
- 8% of applications came from households in supported or temporary accommodation.
- Of all the applications that were awarded, 38% were for Fuel support, followed by 23% for essentials, 19% for toiletries and 18% for food. This demonstrates how the funding is supporting families in Fuel poverty topping in wards across St Michael's, Foleshill and Upper Stoke.

Coventry's climate change and domestic decarbonisation programmes are targeted at neighbourhoods with the highest fuel poverty and child poverty. By improving the energy efficiency of the city's least efficient homes, the Council is reducing energy bills, improving living conditions, and supporting better outcomes for children in priority areas. Over 100,000 homes are EPC D or below and 18.9% of households are in fuel poverty, rising to over 40% in parts of Hillfields and Stoke. Investment is focused on wards with the greatest need, including Foleshill, St Michael's, Radford, Holbrooks, Longford, Westwood, Hillfields and Stoke (2023 fuel poverty rates).

The Government's Pride in Place Programme is a major new initiative to invest in improving some of Coventry's communities (Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields) with the highest deprivation and have suffered from persistent deprivation. Each neighbourhood will receive £20 million over a 10-year period. The programme must be community led, with funding priorities shaped and agreed by local people through Neighbourhood Boards, while the Council will act as the Accountable Body, responsible for stewardship of public funds and compliance with requirements. To date, in Willenhall the neighbourhood board chair has been recruited who represents the local faith community and is in the process of recruiting board members with the support of an external commissioned organisation who has work extensively with the residents in that area. Tile Hill and Hillfields neighbourhoods were announced later so they are only in the process of recruiting their neighbourhood board chairs from their local communities.

While not part of Pride in Place, Bell Green is also one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Coventry and has been for the last 25 years. Similarly, Hillfields has been identified as having lower life expectancy, significant health inequalities and high deprivation. Hillfields and Bell Green SWARM sessions in late 2025 and early 2026 brought together around 40 colleagues from council services and partner organisations to build a shared understanding of local need, identify community strengths and agree practical priorities. The SWARMs used data analysis and resident engagement to agree on priorities for the areas. Both areas face long-standing challenges linked to deprivation, housing, health, safety, employment, skills and the local environment, but also benefit from strong community assets and committed local partners. In Hillfields, priorities centred on improving housing conditions, safety, the living environment, education and employment, alongside strengthening engagement with diverse communities and increasing local presence. In Bell Green, partners focused on tackling entrenched deprivation through improvements to the environment, safety, health and wellbeing, supported by active community organisations and facilities such as Park Edge Community Hub. Across both areas, the SWARMs highlighted the need for stronger coordination, clearer shared priorities and a more consistent resident voice to achieve visible improvements. The sessions have created a shared foundation for place-based working, with next steps focused on maintaining momentum, aligning partner activity and delivering practical changes that improve outcomes for local communities. Attendees have committed to a range of actions, including community clean-ups, increasing the number of activities for residents, providing advice support and information in-place to residents and making more use of the green space available.

Reducing poverty and improving household financial security-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Percentage (and number) of working age adults (aged 18-64) living in neighbourhoods amongst the 10% most deprived in England (IMD 2025) (N) (data available every 4 – 6 years)	NA*	18.1% (42,378 out of 234,165) (IMD 2025)	WMCA 28.7%, England 10.3% (IMD 2025)		No target set	
Percentage (and number) of children (aged 0-17) living in neighbourhoods amongst the 10% most deprived in England (IMD 2025) (N) (data available every 4 – 6 years)	NA*	23.3% (19,461 out of 83,561) (IMD 2025)	WMCA 34.3%, England 12.9% (IMD 2025)		No target set	
Percentage (and number) of pension age adults (aged 65+) living in neighbourhoods amongst the 10% most deprived in England (IMD 2025) (N) (data available every 4 – 6 years)	NA*	11.4% (5,860 out of 51,300) (IMD 2025)	WMCA 18.8%, England 6.6% (IMD 2025)		No target set	

* This is a new measure for this year's One Coventry annual performance report, and direct comparisons with the previous edition, the IMD 2019, are not like for like due to methodological changes; so previous values are not available.

Supporting housing growth to meet local needs-Performance Reflections

The tax base continues to increase. In 2025/26, the actual number of taxable domestic properties in Coventry increased from 154,068 to 154,716. The tax base is usually expressed in terms of the number of equivalent Band D properties, net of discounts and exemptions, and represents our yield from council tax. In 2025/26, our number of band D equivalents was 90,062.6 - having increased from 87,734.0 in 2024/25. In 2025/26, the collectible income from council tax was £227 million.

The indicator figure of 116.42 for 2025/26 is an index figure, expressing the Council Tax Base compared to its level in 2009 – meaning it is now 16.42% higher now than in 2009. Being higher than the average amongst a group of similar local authority areas, the CIPFA near neighbour average of 115.31, indicates the Coventry Tax base has grown by more than average in that period– although not quite as much as the national average increase.

Planning permission is in place for an additional net 11,800 dwellings over the next 10 years.

Supporting housing growth to meet local needs-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Change in Council Tax Base (change from 2009) proxy for number of new houses in the city (N)	114.79 (2024/25)	116.42 (2025/26)	CIPFA near neighbour average- 115.31 England - 117.67 (2025/26)	✓	To increase	✓

PRIORITY 2

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities

"Focus on improving outcomes for local people and tackle inequalities to build prosperity across the city, protecting the most vulnerable and supporting and valuing the contribution of our residents"

Themes

- Children and young people achieving positive outcomes
- Cleaner, greener neighbourhoods
- Improving education and pathways for young people
- Improving health, wellbeing and independence
- Safer communities and reduced harm
- Tackling homelessness and housing vulnerability

This priority produced some of our strongest results of the year.

Coventry's Children's Services received an ‘outstanding’ rating from Ofsted – a remarkable achievement reflecting the quality of practice, leadership and multi-agency working across the city. Repeat referrals to children's social care fell to 15.6%, well below the national average, and the proportion of children previously in care re-entering the system remains low at 4.5%.

Our recent visit from CQC to assess our Adult Social Care services was acknowledge as "Good" highlighting our commitment to supporting our residents to be more independent and have a good quality of life.

was Recorded crime fell by nearly 8%, continuing a positive trend, and homelessness prevention has improved, with 52% of at-risk households successfully helped to retain or secure accommodation.

However, deprivation remains deep and persistent in parts of Coventry. Child poverty levels are above national averages and inequalities in health, education and employment outcomes are stark in some neighbourhoods.

The Pride in Place Programme – bringing £20 million over ten years to Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields – represents a significant long-term commitment to the communities that need investment most.

Progress here is real, but we measure ourselves against the lives of our most vulnerable residents, and there is more to do.

Children and young people achieving positive outcomes

Coventry's Children's Services was awarded an 'outstanding' rating by Ofsted, announced in May 2026 based on an inspection in March 2026. Coventry is home to relatively many children and Coventry's child population is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. With an estimated 83,600 children, making up 23% of Coventry's total population (England 23%). Between 2021 and 2024 this grew by estimated 9% compared to 7% growth in the total population. According to the latest school census in 2025/26, 61.1% of Coventry's school children are from a global majority group. Births increased from 3,948 in 2021 to 4,136 in 2024, following a falling trend over the previous 10 years; however, but fell again in 2025 to 3,982. Child poverty is a concern in Coventry – the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2025 is the aspect of deprivation in which Coventry ranks the worst compared to all other England areas in the Indices of Deprivation. 46 of Coventry's 203 neighbourhoods (LSOAs) are amongst the most deprived 10% in England, ranking Coventry 29th most deprived local authority out of 296 in this respect.

Cleaner, greener neighbourhoods

Coventry City Council invested additional funding for tackling fly-tipping in 2025/26, implementing new projects including targeting areas, such as Ball Hill. The Council has also won a major grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, securing nearly £1 million to transform our understanding of the city's green and blue spaces, particularly in areas with limited nature through the 'Green for All' scheme. There are aspects of the living environment in Coventry's neighbourhoods that could be improved and resident satisfaction with their local area and local green spaces is relatively low. The Community Life Survey 2024/25 found only 64% of residents were satisfied with local green and natural spaces, compared with 75% nationally. From the same survey, only 43% of Coventry residents considered their local area as attractive compared to the national average of 58%.

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities

Improving education and pathways for young people

Last year Coventry City Council was awarded £102.8 million in government education funding - the investment, will be used to "expand school capacity and build sustainable education infrastructure through to 2028**".** The number of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Coventry has continued to rise, reflecting a similar trend across England. In 2024/25, there were 14,062 pupils with SEN in Coventry, representing 22.1% of all pupils, higher than the national average of 19.6% - and an increase from 8,951 in 2015/16. School attendance rates in Coventry has declined in recent years, following national patterns. Total attendance fell from 95.2% in 2018/19 to 92.8% in 2024/25, with the sharpest drop during the 2021/22 academic year, coinciding with COVID-19 disruptions. Also, both permanent exclusions and suspensions in schools have been increasing over recent years, after a sharp rise after the end of lockdowns. As is the case nationally, there are inequalities in educational attainment of Coventry pupils. In 2025 at Key Stage 2, 45% of disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard, compared with 67% of non-disadvantaged pupils and at Key Stage 4 the average attainment 8 score of disadvantaged pupils was 34.6 compared to 48.5 amongst non-disadvantaged pupils.

Improving health, wellbeing and independence

Healthy life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health and in contrast to total life expectancy, healthy life expectancy at birth had been falling in Coventry up to 2021-23, similar to national trends. This all means that the number of residents living in good health has fallen since 2018, resulting in increased demand for health and care services. There are significant health inequalities across Coventry's neighbourhoods - Males living in less deprived areas of the city on average live 11.7 years longer than those living in the most deprived areas of Coventry; for females the gap is 10.6 years. Coventry is a 'Marmot city' - the Council and partners are committed to the approach of tackling health inequalities. There are an estimated 51,300 Coventry residents aged 65 and over (2024), more of these are female (27,700, 54%). Out of these, 7,300 are aged 85+ (up from 6,700 in 2011 and 7,100 in 2021). While the rate of growth in the population of older people is not yet as fast as the growth amongst younger age groups so in this way the overall population is not yet 'ageing' ; the total number of older residents is increasing, and this is significant for service planning. Moreover, population projections indicate that the rate of growth in older residents will increase.

Safer communities and reduced harm

While recorded crime is now falling, a reduced proportion of residents report feeling safe in Coventry's neighbourhoods. In the Coventry Household Survey 2024/25 , most Coventry residents reported feeling safe in their local area during the day, 75% - but only 39% saying they feel safe at night. These are lower percentages than previous household surveys. Total recorded crime, and violent crime specifically, have been on downward trend since 2022/23 following a significant trend of increasing crime before that. Domestic abuse remains a significant challenge. The national Crime Survey of England and Wales found that 7.8% of people aged 16+ said they had experienced any domestic abuse in the year ending March 2025. Applying this prevalence to Coventry's population indicates around 24,700 domestic abuse incidents each year in the city.

Coventry's rate of 'First Time Entrants' to the youth criminal justice system has been below the average for comparable areas ('YJS Family Group') for several years.

Tackling homelessness and housing vulnerability

Statutory homeless rates are relatively high in Coventry. They had been on an increasing trend since 2019/20, however they fell a little in 2024/25 – from a total of 3,656 Coventry households were owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2023/24, to 3,133 in 2024/25. This is a rate of 19.8 per 1,000 households compared to 12.5 for West Midlands region and 13.6 for England overall.

Housing in Coventry remains more affordable than the England average, but affordability has steadily worsened over time. Between January 2022 and March 2026 average house prices in Coventry increased by 9.9% (England 8.0%).

Private renting in Coventry has increased significantly whereas other household tenure types haven't. Average rents levels are increasing at a fast rate, faster than average wages and faster than house prices. Between January 2022 and March 2026 average rent levels in Coventry increased by 27.8% (UK 30.0% increase). The estimated average rent in March 2026 was £1,021 per month, higher than the West Midlands regional average (£964).

PRIORITY 2

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities

We monitor our performance for this priority through a set of 24 performance indicators.

Progress: Out of the 24 performance indicators, there are 3 for which we cannot currently report progress compared to the position last year. Out of the remaining 21 indicators – 71% (15) either improved or stayed the same.
Status: There are 6 indicators for which we cannot report their status against target**.** Out of the remaining 18 indicators for which we can report status against target, 67% (12) are 'On-Target'

Progress

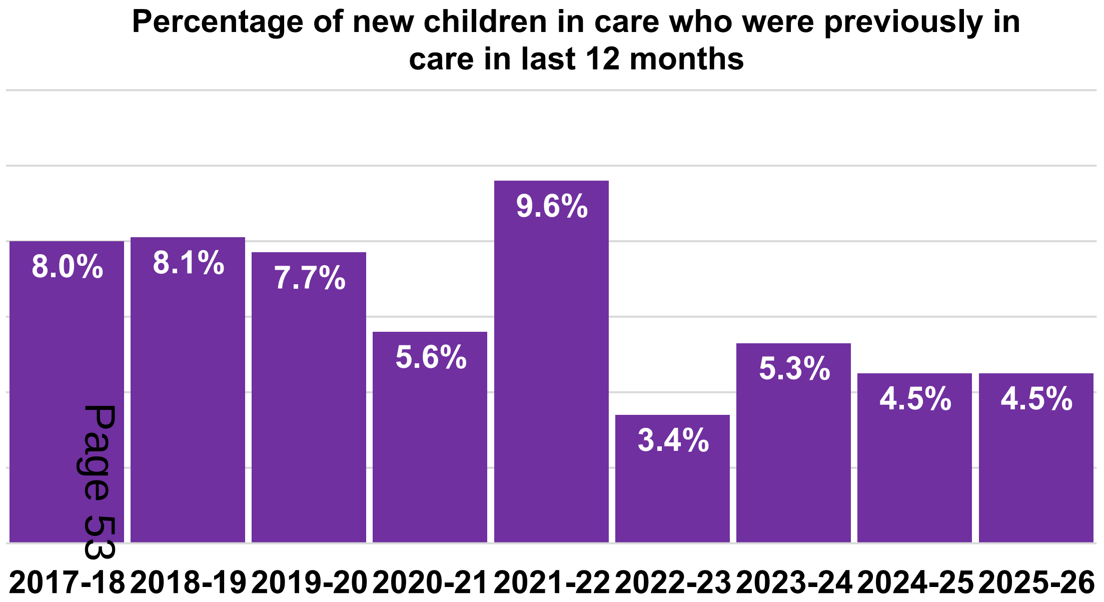
Target status

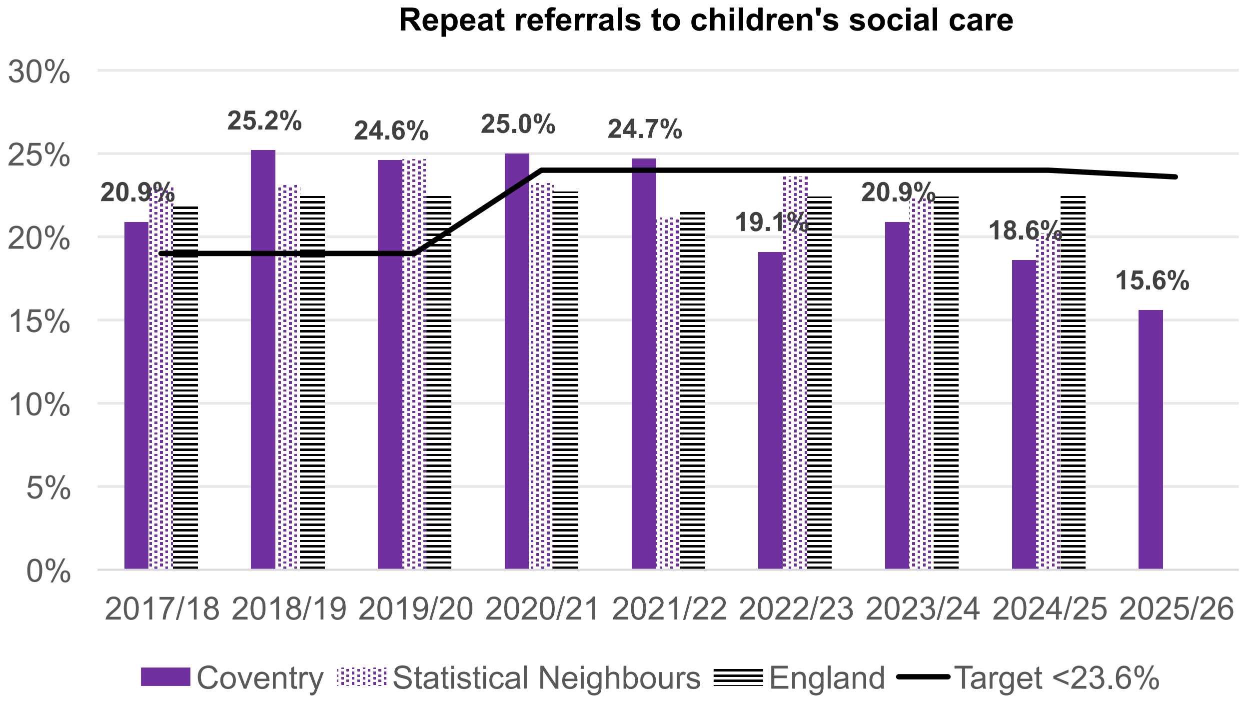
Icon & Colour	Progress	Target status
	Improved	On Target
	Got worse	Off Target
	Similar/Unchanged	-
	Cannot Say	No Target Set
	Insufficient data to judge progress/status	
	Not available/no updated data	

Children and young people achieving positive outcomes: Performance Reflections

We continue to strive and deliver support to our children across the city. There has been a net increase in numbers of children in care (excluding UASC), contributed to by some larger sibling groups entering care and a lower rate of children leaving care over this period. Although this means there has been an upturn in the rate/10,000, overall performance remains comparatively stronger than statistical neighbours. On the other hand we have seen a reduction in repeat referrals, from 18.6% to 15.6% this year. Results are not only well above target but also surpass Statistical Neighbour and England averages. This indicates that children and families within the city are benefitting from effective, high-quality support and safeguarding measures. The improvements they experience remain stable over time, reflecting robust practice and sound decision making.

We continue to have a stable position on the % of children in care who have been in care before. Being well within our targets (6%), only 4.5% of children in care have been in care previously (rolling 12 months). This trend highlights the strengths in practice and decision making as regards the right children coming into care at the right time with effective care and permanence planning in place to deliver sustained outcomes for children.



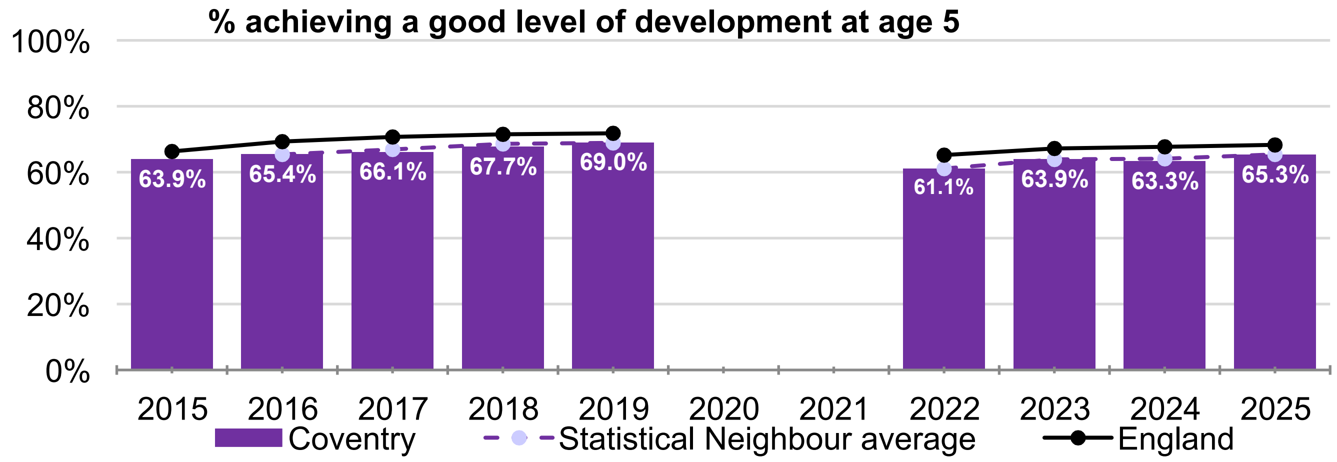


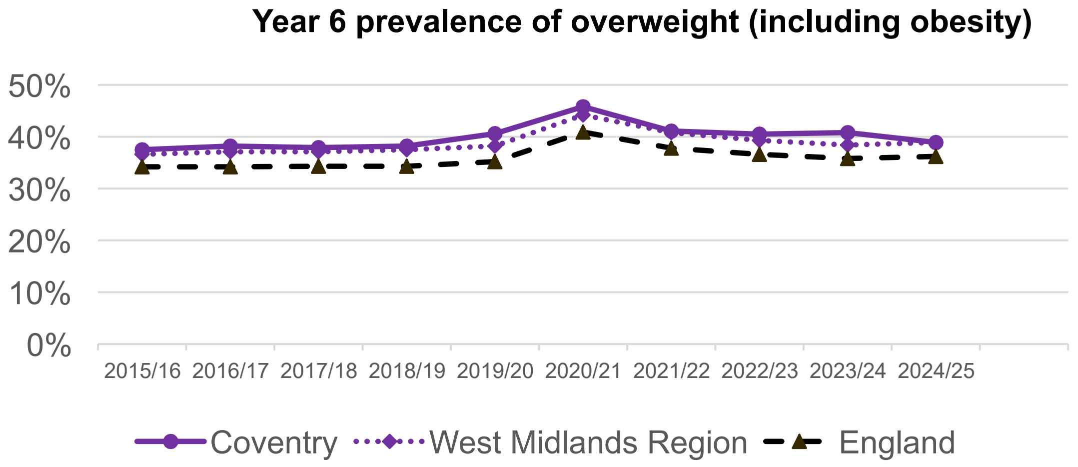
Children and young people achieving positive outcomes: Performance Reflections

65.3% of Coventry 5 year olds were assessed at being at a ‘Good level of development’ (GLD). Notwithstanding significant work in this area Coventry’s citywide GLD measure remains below national and just below statistical neighbour average in 2025. However, outcomes for 2025 improved from 2024 and at a faster rate than nationally. With the government setting new GLD targets for councils, Coventry will be aiming to reach a target of 72.3% by 2028.We have also seen a 1.9% decrease in year 6 children who are overweight (including obese). This could be attributed to an integrated Family Health and Lifestyle service embedded in local settings, the impact of Family Hubs with hyperlocal approaches, and other CYP-relevant work. A reduction from 40.8% in 2023/24 to 38.9% in 2024/25. This amounts to 1,695 Coventry year 6 children in 2024/25 down from 1,785 in 2023/24. These reducing numbers contrasts with an increase across England so, while childhood obesity rates in Coventry remain above the national average, the gap narrowed a little in 2024/25.We have also seen a marginal increase in children living in relative low-income families 'Before Housing Costs since last year.

The ‘child poverty’ indicator used the definition of 'relative low-income families 'Before Housing Costs’, and the data has been revised with new calculations, therefore counts and %s for previous years have been revised. The number of Coventry children estimated to be living in these households (where income is less than <60% of the national median) was 18,891 in 2024/25, a quarter of all Coventry children aged 0-15 – 25.5%, a small change from the year before (25.2%.) New methods this year (DWP) enabled the creation of an additional measure: 'After Housing Costs'. This measure adjusts the estimates using different income thresholds, relative low income after the effect of housing costs on the household income distribution are accounted for – this increased to 24,000 Coventry children, 32.2% of 0-15s

The 2025/26 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been Coventry’s strongest and most comprehensive year of delivery to date with 3,075 children and young people supported through Spring 2025 programme supported. The Summer 2025 programme further supported 4,274 children and young people including 1,637 children with SEND and an additional 2,387 through the Winter 2025 programme supported. In total 9,736 HAF places have been accessed. The customer services team are implementing the new crisis and resilience fund; with an emphasis on targeted support and building resilience in our most deprived families.





Children and young people achieving positive outcomes: Actions taken in year

A robust performance management review and oversight approach in the service alongside dynamic and responsive Quality Assurance activity is enabling leaders to have a deeper understanding of areas of challenge and actions needed to address. This has been complimented by a robust, and consistent senior manager decision making approach in relation to children entering care with a strong focus continues on family strengths-based practice and valuing families, of which Reunification and Family Group Decision Making is a central part. Re-referrals are an area of focus in the MASH multi-agency quality assurance program, which helps identify patterns, key themes, and areas where practice can be enhanced. This ongoing analysis ensures positive performance is achieved and children and families have meaningful outcomes .

Alongside this early years continues to be a citywide priority through the Early Years Strategy and the Best Start for Life programme. Coventry also continues to invest in the Be Active Be Healthy (BABH) service provided by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust. A Public Health review of the BABH service is currently being undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the service by comparing participants' health metrics before and after taking part in programmes, which will inform future service delivery. Through the Household support fund 17,156 individual households were supported in 2024/25, ensuring timely access to essential support including receiving food support, energy support, clothing vouchers, and other support. Of this number 12,576 (roughly 73%) of households contain one or more children.

Improvements in the area of child poverty are complex and take time. With the Government announcing the national Child Poverty Strategy in December 2025, Coventry is now aligning its local approach with the national direction of travel. Child poverty in Coventry is currently high and widespread. In 2024/25, an estimated 24,000 children aged 0–15 were living in relative low-income households after housing costs, equivalent to 32.2% of children in the city. This is above the England rate of 26% and in line with the West Midlands, the highest regional rate in the country. Longer term improvements are projected through sustained, multifactorial support. Coventry's is comparable to the average for metropolitan boroughs.

HAF uptake has increased do to developing the quality, reach and diversity of provision to offer new venues and activities. SEND and inclusion have been a focus resulting in 36% of participants being children with SEND. Food and nutrition education is received by young people alongside nutritious meals. A new booking system ASH been introduced to support efficient access to provision. Customer services team are implementing the new crisis and resilience fund; with an emphasis on targeting supporting and building resilience in our most deprived families.

A second 'auto enrolment' of Free School Meals was undertaken in 2025/26 following a successful campaign in 2024/25. As the initial campaign captured so many families we expected the follow up campaign to be less significant. However we reached in another 359 households, resulting in 478 children eligible for Free School Meals. In respect of financial support, if the families take up the FSM, this works out to an estimated saving of around £220,000 for families, plus an estimated £640,000 income for schools generated through pupil premium.

Through the LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker) Programme, the Council and partners have been able to proactively award Free School Meals through an opt-out campaign, awarding to households who had otherwise not actively claimed themselves. In 2024/25, this resulted in Free School Meals awards to an additional 752 children and an additional £0.975 million pupil premium for Coventry schools. In 2025/26, an additional 478 children have been awarded Free School Meals and additional pupil premium income of £0.64 million.

Children and young people achieving positive outcomes-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Children in Care (rate per 10,000 population under 18 & number) excluding UASC's (L)	72.6/10,000 (607) (2024/25)	77.4 /10,000 (647) (2025/26)	N/A		No target set	
Percentage of new children in care who were previously in care (rolling 12 months) (N)	4.5% (March 2025)	4.5% (March 2026)	N/A		<6%	
Repeat referrals to children's social care (N)	18.6% (March 2025)	15.6% (March 2026)	Statistical Neighbours - 20.2% England - 22.6% (2024/25)		<23.6%	
Good level of development at age 5 (N)	63.3% (2024)	65.3% (2025)	Statistical Neighbours - 65.4% England - 68.3% (2025)		Better than statistical neighbours	
Overweight or obesity among children in Year 6 (N)	40.8% (2023/24)	38.9% (2024/25)	West Midlands Region - 38.9% England - 36.2% (2024/25)		To decrease	
Percentage and number of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families (Before Housing Costs) (N)	25.2% (18,232) (2023/24)	25.5% (18,981) (2024/25 provisional)	West Midlands Region - 27.1% UK - 19.3% (2024/25 provisional)		To decrease	

Cleaner, greener neighbourhoods

Performance	Actions taken in year
Although the number of removed/partially removed fly-tipping incidents reported to DEFRA has increased, this may be due to campaigns encouraging the public to report. The number of fly-tipping referrals (incidents) increased this year, and reflected in the ‘Progress’ for this indicator, although it may be considered a positive thing that more reports are being encouraged. More waste cases investigated than previous year. This data includes both proactive and reactive work with a wider scope than pure fly-tipping referrals (e.g. hot street patrols, Duty of Care inspections, unsightly land or property and refuse cases). Not all of these cases result in enforcement action, advice and warning letters are also strategies to improve compliance going forward.	Initiatives such as Bringing the Tip to You, focusing on areas identified as hot spots, aim to reduce the number of fly-tipping cases. A restructure of the Neighbourhood Enforcement team with a targeted focus on wards is underway.

Cleaner, greener neighbourhoods-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Total number of fly-tipping referrals (incidents) (L)	7,188 (2024/25)	7,880 (2025/26)	N/A		No target set	
Total number of referrals responded to (actions) (L)	8,814 (2024/25)	9,520 (2025/26)	N/A		No target set	

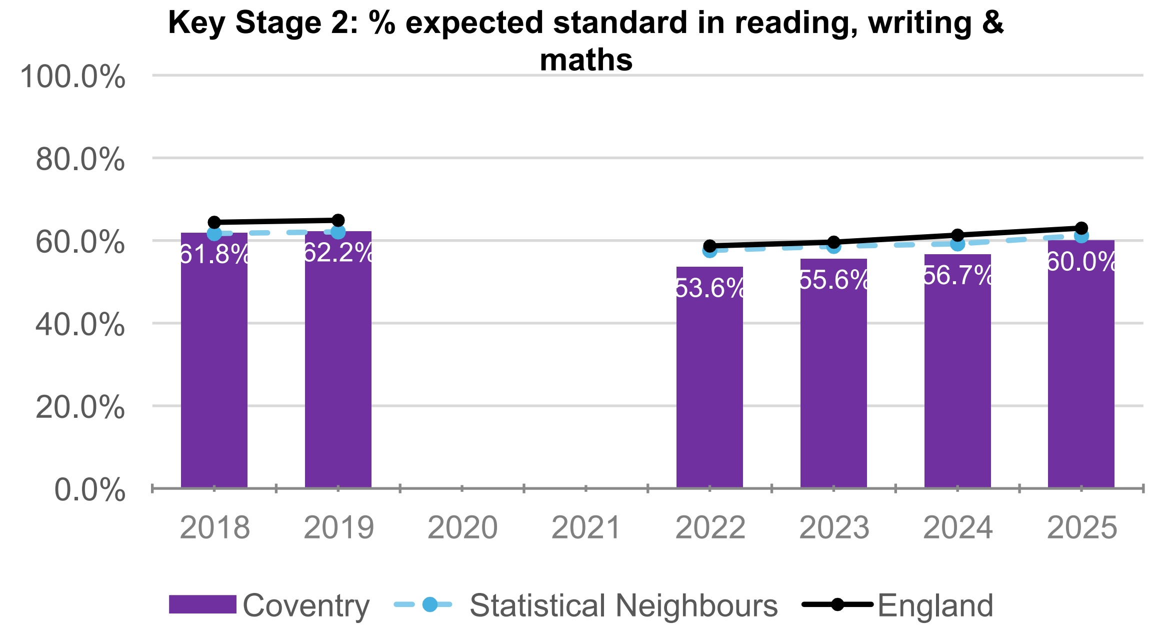
Improving education and pathways for young people: Performance Reflections

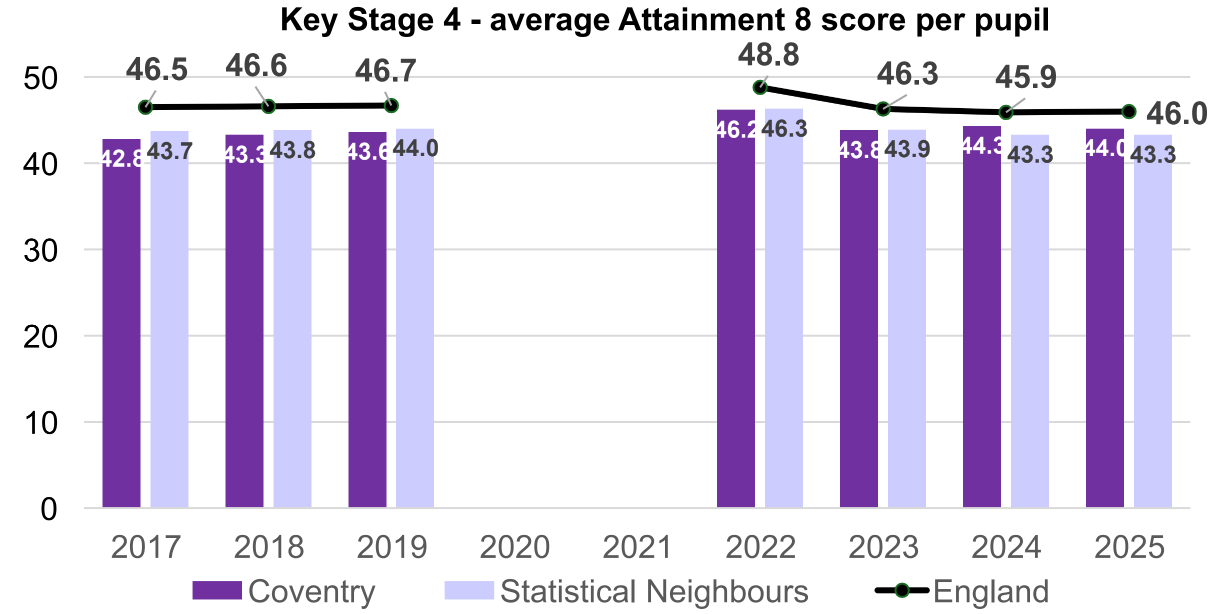
In KS2 attainment for reading, writing and maths combined, there has been an improvement in performance in Coventry in 2025 and at a faster rate than national. Outcomes remain below national, but we have maintained performance when compared with statistical neighbours. The individual attainment for each of reading, writing and maths improved.

In KS4 the Attainment 8 measure for 2025 decreased whilst national slightly increased from the previous year. This was following a significant increase in 2024. In English and Maths combined, for both the standard pass (GCSE grade 4) and strong pass (GCSE grade 5), there has been a decrease in performance in Coventry in 2025. Coventry is below national but above statistical neighbours

There will be no Progress 8 measure for the next two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) due to the lack of KS2 national assessment data from the pandemic.

23% of children in care who are school leavers up to the age of 18 were ‘NEET’, not in employment, education or training. This is a positive position, and a better position than bordering areas. This academic year we have transitioned the Post 16 cohort onto our EPEP system for consistent tracking of their employment, education or training status and education settings we have also introduced earlier careers advice into year 11 for all children in care for NEET prevention. Also, we usually record both NEETs and ‘not knowns’ rather than just the NEET figure, this is because although some LAs have low NEETs they have high “not knowns” . Coventry has zero “not knowns”.





Improving education and pathways for young people:Actions taken in year

During the year, the Coventry Education Partnership continued to bring together all schools, academies, trusts and the Local Authority to improve outcomes and aspirations for young people. This work has been underpinned by a strong moral commitment to collaboration, with partnership working across the city consistently recognised as a key strength.

The Local Authority has acted as a central facilitator, coordinating partnership activity and enabling collective action against agreed priorities, while continuing to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for education and safeguarding. Regular headteacher partnership meetings have remained a key feature of the collaborative approach. Agendas are co-produced with representative headteachers, ensuring a balance of statutory updates and the sharing of effective practice. Alongside these, the Local Authority has facilitated a range of focused forums to support delivery in priority areas, including inclusion and SEND, safeguarding, finance, Early Years and curriculum development. Engagement with academy trusts has been further strengthened to support alignment across all sectors. School-led improvement has continued through secondary collaboratives and primary networks, with funded headteachers and CEOs leading this work. These groups have aligned their activity to partnership priorities, reinforcing a strong model of school-to-school support.

Targeted improvement activity has been delivered across networks and collaboratives, including work focused on writing outcomes, adaptive provision, peer-led headteacher enquiry and improved pupil induction in response to high levels of mobility. Investment through the SEND Workforce Strategy has also strengthened workforce capability and inclusive practice. The Local Authority has continued to promote careers and aspirations, contributing to the Coventry Careers Hub and leading Primary Aspirations Week, engaging schools, employers and pupils across the city.

Improving education and pathways for young people

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Key stage 2 expected standard in reading, writing & maths (N)	57% (2024)	60% (2025)	Statistical Neighbours - 61.2% England - 63% (2025)		Better than Statistical Neighbours	
Key stage 4: attainment 8 (N)	44.3 (2024)	44.0 (2025)	Statistical Neighbours - 43.3 England - 46.0 (2025)		Better than Statistical Neighbours	
Key stage 4: progress 8 (N)	+0.01 (2024)	N/A	Statistical Neighbours - 0.14 England - 0.03 (2024)		Better than Statistical Neighbours	
Number of NEET Children in Care (L)	23% (July 2025)	23% (May 2026)	N/A		No target set	

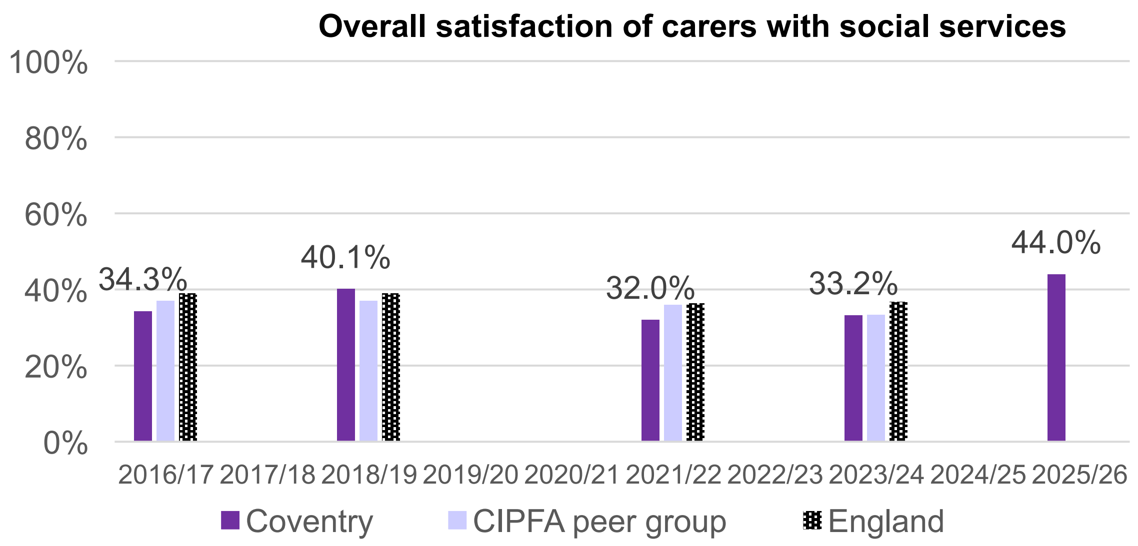
Improving health, wellbeing and independence: Performance Reflections

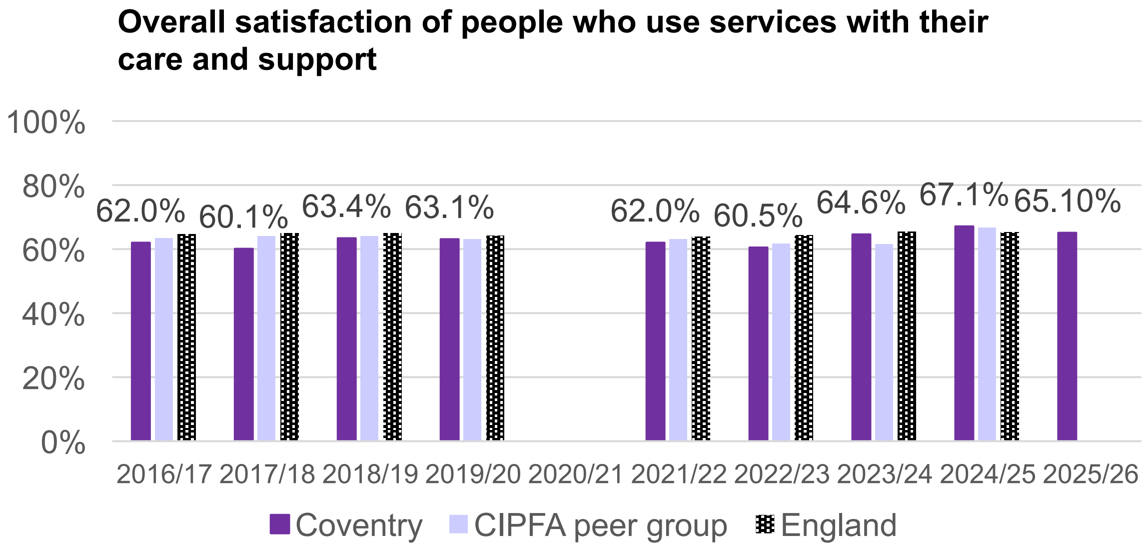
Our enablement and prevention approach is something we are very proud of and our collective work in partnership with health colleagues, Housing, Public health, and Voluntary sector ensures positive outcomes for the people we support. This is also demonstrated in our low conversion rate for people requiring ongoing care and support. Our approach provides a really great foundation to enable us to being to develop our Neighbourhood health approach for the people of Coventry.

Our performance evidences a good enablement approach, with 73.6% of people achieving their outcomes following short-term reablement, exceeding the 65.1% target, although not as good as 77.2% last year. Demand for long-term support remains stable, with rates broadly unchanged, reinforcing the impact of prevention and early intervention in limiting progression into ongoing care. Adult Social care works with people to maximise independence and reduce reliance on long term care. This includes a range of support options including provision of equipment, prevention options and short-term services. Early prevention, strong enablement pathways, use of community and preventative services with a focus on independence rather than dependency. A combination of these factors means only a proportion of people contacting us require long term care.

We also continue to seek the views of people we support as well as hear feedback from people throughout the year not just via usual surveys. We continue to engage with the community and held a number of 'ASC engagement events' throughout the year in various locations across the city. These events provides opportunities to share information relating to adult social care and what we offer. Our Carer satisfaction has improved significantly to 44%, reflecting the positive impact of enhanced support offers. While overall service user satisfaction has reduced slightly to 65.1%, it remains above target, suggesting a generally positive experience.

Life expectancy has plateaued for both males and females and remains below regional and national comparators, reinforcing the need to maintain focus on tackling health inequalities across the city. Nationally, Life Expectancy has started to plateaux and in many areas fall. This is partly the residual impact of COVID 19, but not completely and we should not necessarily expect Coventry's Life Expectancy to improve further, but instead focus on inequalities and the differences in Life Expectancy within the City.





Improving health, wellbeing and independence: Actions taken in year

Despite increased pressure on acute Hospitals, and those presenting at hospitals with high acuity as well as seasonal variations in terms of winter pressures, we continue to support people positively via enablement pathways and this is available and offered to people who are new and already known to Social care. Our market is very responsive to ensure timely discharge as well as support being available to avoid hospital admission.

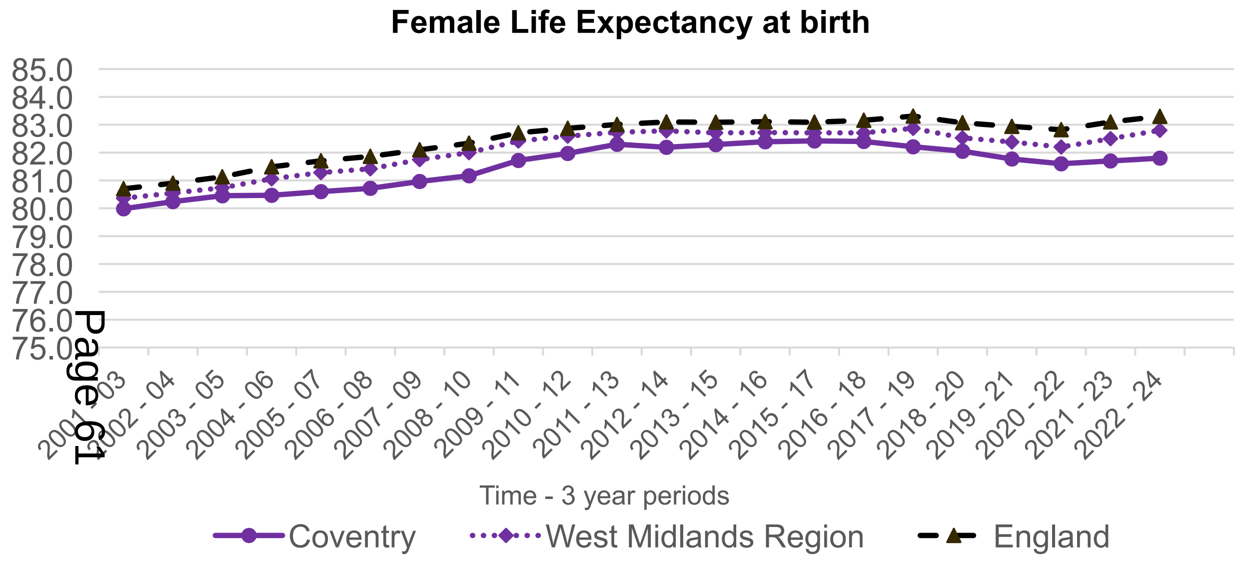
Prevention and enablement remain a key priority; however this places pressure on the workforce. Risk prioritisation tools are in place to ensure resources are targeted appropriately. working in partnership with commissioning colleagues is key to ensuring that the market is robust and has a range of options for people who require care and support, this includes voluntary sector.

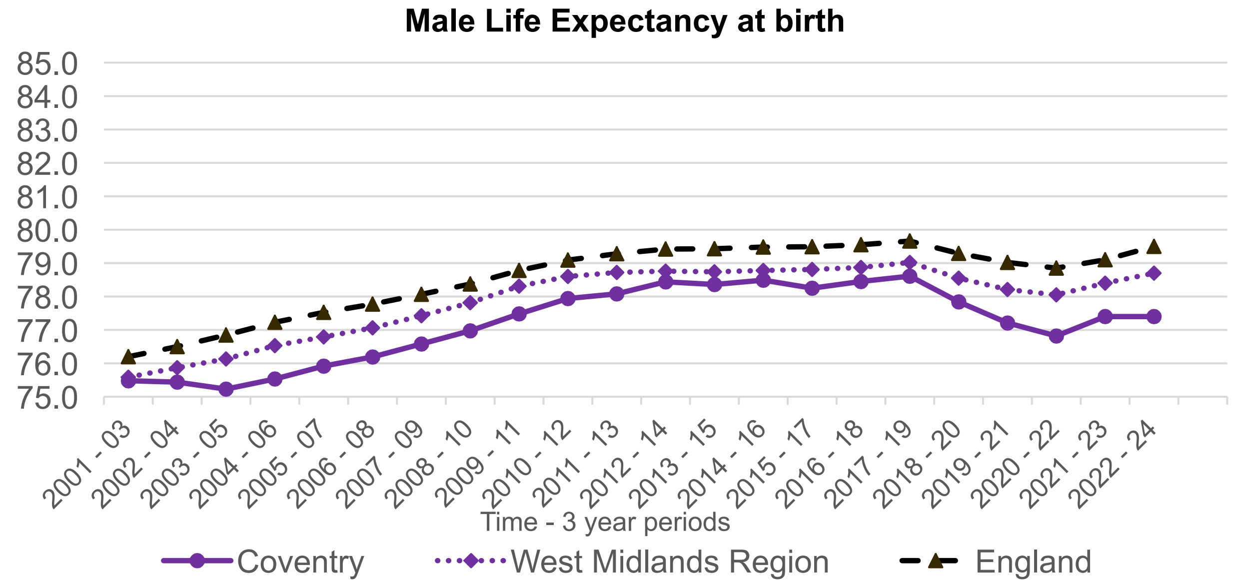
Recent additions to carers support include an online platform (Bridget) which enables Carers to complete online self assessments which directs them to support available in the community. We've also implemented 'MyTime' which support Carers to access a variety of different types of breaks, which can include Hotel stays and attendance at Sports

A New Carers strategy will be launched in 2026/27 following engagement with Carers to determine priorities and support progress.

We will continue to engage with people to seek their views on Adult social care. We have a well-established stakeholder group where we engage and co produce with people who use our services. We are also continuing to use our demographic dashboards which provides useful intelligence that allows us to identify gaps and initiate targeted approaches.

The council has recently recommitted to the Marmot approach to reducing health inequalities; working both internally and with partners to ensure that services are benefitting all residents, including our most vulnerable. Differences in Long term Enablement in the City will continue to be the focus.





Improving health, wellbeing and independence-Key Reflections

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Adult social care outcomes met through short-term reablement service (L)	77.2% (2024/25)	73.6% (2025/26)	No comparator data available this year	✗	>65.1%	✓
Adult social care service users receiving long term on-going support (L)	3,721 people (1345 per 100,000) (March 2025)	3,870 people (1355.7 per 100,000) (March 2026)	No comparator data available this year	=	<1380 per 100,000	✓
Female life expectancy at birth (N)	81.7 years (2021-2023)	81.8 years (2022-2024)	West Midlands Region - 82.8 England - 83.3 (2022-24)	=	To increase	✗
Male life expectancy at birth (N)	77.4 years (2021-2023)	77.4 years (2022-2024)	West Midlands Region - 78.7 England - 79.5 (2022-24)	=	To increase	✗
Overall satisfaction of carers with social services (N) (data available every 2 years)	33.2% (2023/24)	44% (2025/26)	West Midlands Region - 38.6% England - 36.7% (2023/24)	✓	>32%	✓
Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care support (N)	67.1% (2024/25)	65.1% (2025/26)	West Midlands Region - 66.8% England - 65.2% (2024/25)	✗	>62%	✓

Safer communities and reduced harm: Performance Reflections

Coventry Continues to work closely with key partners including the West Midlands Police to support safer communities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

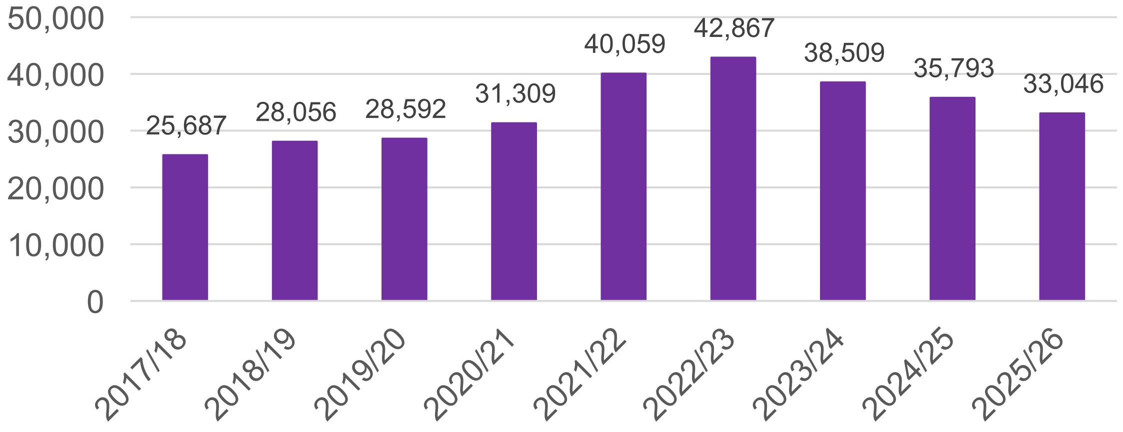
Recorded crime reduced by 7.67% during 2025/26, continuing the positive trend seen across a number of key crime categories. Reductions were recorded in domestic abuse, serious youth violence, sexual offences and knife crime, contributing to an overall reduction in crime across the city. Coventry continues to perform favourably when compared with a number of similar metropolitan areas, with the crime rate remaining below that of both Birmingham and Wolverhampton. This reflects the continued effectiveness of partnership working through the Coventry Community Safety Partnership and the delivery of targeted interventions aimed at preventing crime and reducing harm.

In Q4, Coventry Youth Justice Service (CYJS) recorded a further reduction in first time entrants (FTEs) compared with the previous two quarters, with 9 in Q3 and 20 in Q2. Overall, during 2025/26 there were 48 first time entrants, representing a reduction compared with the previous year (51). The FTE rate decreased from 151 per 100,000 to 131 per 100,000 children. Coventry YJS continues to maintain robust oversight of all first time entrant decisions. Each case is reviewed to ensure that formal outcomes are necessary, proportionate, and aligned with national expectations regarding diversion. In Q4, all three cases were assessed as appropriate, providing assurance that children are only entering the youth justice system when absolutely necessary and that opportunities for diversion remain a priority. The service continues to closely monitor first time entrant trends, using the data to understand emerging patterns and to identify potential drivers behind the year-on-year increase.

34.4% of Coventry children reoffended in the 12 months following their index outcome (July 2023 to June 2024). This is slightly above the YJS family group rate of 33.1% for the same period. This is a small increase from the previous cohort (January to December 2023), where Coventry's rate was 32.4%. The family group has also seen an increase over the same period, rising from 30.5%, so the upward trend is not unique to Coventry. While rates have gone up locally, the increase is slightly lower than the family group, which suggests Coventry is seeing similar pressures but with some relative stability. The increase in reoffending is largely linked to a smaller cohort of children with more complex needs and behaviours. This includes higher levels of vulnerability, more repeat offending, and greater overall risk. This reflects a wider shift across youth justice, where fewer children are entering the system, but those who do are more likely to have entrenched and complex needs.

Commissioned services for domestic abuse received a similar number of requests for support in 2025/25 to the previous year.

Total annual recorded crime in Coventry



Safer communities and reduced harm: Actions taken in year

A number of factors are likely to have contributed to reduction in crime, including the ongoing work of the Violence Reduction Partnership and partners to identify and support individuals at risk of involvement in serious violence, targeted outreach and early intervention activity with young people, and coordinated enforcement operations delivered with West Midlands Police and other agencies. Seasonal Home Office funded initiatives, including the Summer and Winter Safer Streets operations, have also enabled partners to undertake focused activity in hotspot locations, providing both enforcement and preventative interventions designed to reduce crime and improve community safety. While it is not possible to attribute reductions to any single intervention, the continued use of intelligence-led, multi-agency approaches has supported the reduction in crime and contributed towards safer communities across Coventry.

Coventry Youth Justice Service maintains clear oversight of all FTE decisions through case review, ensuring outcomes are necessary, proportionate, and aligned with diversion expectations; use management oversight to challenge and support decision-making, keeping a consistent approach across the service and with partners; continue working with partners, particularly police, to prioritise diversion and avoid unnecessary entry into the formal system.To address re-offending we have expanded Inspire Days and BEX group delivery to improve engagement, build identity and strengthen protective factors, leading to reduced reoffending for children with the highest needs; target mentoring and relationship-based support at the smaller cohort of children to improve sustained engagement, reduce risk and achieve a measurable reduction in reoffending rates; strengthen oversight of reoffending through regular cohort review, using data, audit and feedback to identify patterns, adapt interventions and drive a consistent reduction in repeat offending.

The commissioned services for domestic abuse support have continued to receive and respond to many requests for support across the year.

Safer communities and reduced harm-Key Reflections

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Crime (rate per 1,000 population and number of crimes) (N)	97.0 (35,793 crimes 2024/25)	89.5 (33,046 crimes 2025/26)	Wolverhampton - 91.9 (25,834 crimes) Birmingham - 114.1 (135,021 crimes) (Jan – Dec 2025)		To decrease	
First time entrants to youth justice system - rate per 100,000 young people aged 10-17 (& count) (N)	151 (51) (2024/25)	131 (48) (2025/26)	Family group average - 189 England - 147 (2025/26)		To decrease	
% of young people re-offending within 12 months of caution or conviction (N)	32.4% (Jan-Dec 2023)	34.4% (July 2023 to June 2024)	Family group average - 33.1% England - 32.0% (July 2023 to June 2024)		To decrease	
Number of people receiving commissioned support for Domestic Abuse (L)	2,560 (2024/25)	2,539 (2025/26 provisional)	N/A		No target set	

Tackling homelessness and housing vulnerability: Performance Actions taken in year

Performance

Performance has shown improvement and remains on target, reflecting effective prevention activity and early intervention. We work alongside a range of partner agencies to provide housing related support, helping families access the services they need, including commissioning P3 who work closely with families to provide support, including budgeting advice, tenancy readiness, and assistance in accessing services such as education, health, and employment.

Further progress is expected as new council initiatives are embedded, including the recruitment of additional officers dedicated to homelessness prevention, strengthening capacity and proactive support.

There has been a continued improvement in relief outcomes, with performance remaining above target. This reflects the effectiveness of current approaches to securing alternative accommodation, and ongoing service improvements are expected to help sustain and further enhance performance.

Actions taken in year

The team has been expanding our prevention offer to residents and continue to build on this in the coming year. New prevention-focused posts have been introduced to increase capacity and support earlier engagement with households at risk of homelessness.

Additional move on options have been made available by the commissioning of single persons supported accommodation, private rented schemes and also an increase in new build social homes becoming available this year.

Tackling homelessness and housing vulnerability-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
% of households at risk of homelessness successfully prevented (retained existing or secured new accommodation) (N)	50% (2024/25)	52% (2025/26)	N/A	✓	>51%	✓
% of households already homeless successfully relieved (secured alternative accommodation) (N)	24% (2024/25)	32% (2025/26)	N/A	✓	>25%	✓

Outcomes for residents: Supporting a Couple Living with Dementia Case Study

Mr and Mrs P are an older couple, both living with dementia and residing at home together. Prior to Adult Social Care involvement, health professionals were already supporting the family and had identified and diagnosed dementia in both individuals. However, due to the complexity of managing two people with progressive cognitive needs within the same household, the health team experienced increasing challenges in sustaining safe and effective support. A referral for Adult Social Care intervention was made to provide additional coordination, risk management, and holistic assessment. The case required a highly coordinated multi-disciplinary approach involving Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Community Nursing, and medical professionals.

Adult Social Care played a key role in leading on care coordination and risk management, Supporting decision-making in line with the Care Act and Mental Capacity Act and ensuring the voices, wishes, and wellbeing of both individuals remained central
Initial concerns focused on Mrs P declining care support for her husband, as she felt they could manage independently. This presented risks, particularly given both individuals' cognitive impairments.

Following Mr P's hospital admission, he was discharged to a Discharge to Assess (D2A) placement. This provided an opportunity for professionals to assess needs in a supported environment and plan for longer-term arrangements. The couple's daughters, who hold Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), were actively involved throughout. Recognising the pressures on the family, both daughters were referred to Carers Trust for independent carers' assessments, ensuring their needs were also acknowledged and supported alongside the cared-for individuals.

A Best Interests decision was made to support both individuals to remain at home together. While it was acknowledged that some risks could not be fully eliminated, the decision prioritised:

- Their strong emotional bond and relationship
- Their clearly expressed wish to remain together at home
- The importance of maintaining stability and familiarity for people living with dementia

Adult Social Care worked with partners to put in place a robust care package and monitoring arrangements to mitigate identified risks as far as possible. Mr and Mrs P were successfully reunited at home following discharge; a sustainable home care package was implemented. Risks were managed proportionately, balancing safety with quality of life. The family felt supported and involved in decision-making, carers were recognised and signposted for support. At the most recent review, care arrangements continue to work effectively, supporting positive outcomes for both individuals.

PRIORITY 3

Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

“Focus on tackling the causes of climate change and mitigating the inevitable consequences of this, to ensure the well-being of our residents and position Coventry as a leader and pioneer of the green industrial revolution”

Themes

- Encouraging sustainable and active travel
- Expanding sustainable energy and zero-carbon technologies
- Protecting nature, biodiversity and green spaces
- Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling
- Roads and pavements

Coventry has made measurable progress on its climate commitments. Our Carbon Disclosure Project score improved from B to A, placing the city among the top-performing cities globally in tackling climate change – an independent, externally validated recognition of the quality of our approach.

EV charging points in the city grew to 2,602, with usage increasing by over 70% – a clear signal that the infrastructure is being built and that residents are using it.

Household recycling improved to 34.2%, above the regional average, and our roads remain among the best maintained in England, with 98% of A roads in good or acceptable condition.

Six Tiny Forests were planted in nature-deprived communities, over 1,600 trees were planted through biodiversity funding, and nearly £380,000 of external investment was secured for nature conservation and community green space.

But there is more to do. Some indicators – including carbon advice to businesses and funding for environmental technologies – have declined, largely due to changes in national funding streams.

Our Climate Change Strategy 2024–2030 provides the framework to sustain and accelerate progress.

Encouraging sustainable and active travel

Transport decarbonisation remains a national priority, with local authorities expected to promote cleaner transport, improve public transport, and encourage safer walking and cycling. The Bus Services Act 2025 strengthened local authority powers, enabling franchising, enhanced partnerships and improved local control of bus networks, supporting more integrated and accessible services. Coventry's delivery continues to be guided by the Coventry Transport Strategy, which sets a long-term vision for a sustainable, equitable and resilient transport system that supports economic growth and improves health outcomes. Continued investment in active travel supports reduced congestion, improved air quality and better access to opportunities for residents.

Expanding sustainable energy and zero-carbon technologies

The UK remains legally committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with local authorities recognised as key delivery partners due to their influence over buildings, transport, planning, housing and energy systems. National programmes such as the Local Net Zero Hubs, Local Net Zero Accelerator Programme, and emerging initiatives including Great British Energy continue to support investment in local renewable energy, retrofit and low-carbon infrastructure. Coventry's response is set out in the Climate Change Strategy 2024–2030, which provides a clear framework across adaptation and resilience, the route to net zero, circular economy, nature and a fairer green future. This work contributes to wider national priorities around energy security, reduced bills and warmer homes, particularly through retrofit and low-carbon technologies.

Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

Protecting nature, biodiversity and green spaces

Coventry has many green spaces covering around one fifth of the city, including several high-quality ‘Green Flag’ sites, but overall provision is relatively low and unevenly distributed. The Coventry Green Space Strategy 2019-24 identified 1,997 hectares of green space, two-thirds of which are unrestricted public spaces, across 430 sites.’ Despite this, unrestricted green space amounts to only 3.05 hectares per 1,000 residents, lower than in many neighbouring West Midlands authorities. There are large inequalities between neighbourhoods: central areas have the poorest provision - Foleshill ward with only 0.5 hectares per 1,000 residents, has more than 10 times lower coverage than the ward with the highest, Henley, at 6.0 per 1,000 residents. Coventry’s Climate Change Strategy also highlights low biodiversity, with only 11% of land conserved, against the UN target of 30%.

Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality

It is estimated that greenhouse gas emissions for the whole of Coventry, from domestic, commercial and industrial sources, amounted to 3.4 tonnes per resident in 2023 . While this is lower than the UK average of 5.2, a Centre for Cities report: Cities Outlook 2026 ranked Coventry 18th highest out of 63 UK cities.

The Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON remained central to delivery, supporting decarbonisation across Council assets, housing, schools and transport systems, while enabling innovation and green growth.

Coventry’s wider climate approach also integrates digital inclusion and circular economy outcomes. Through the #CovConnects programme, additional environmental benefits were achieved by 2025/26: over 220,000 kg CO_2 emissions saved through device reuse; more than 2,800 kg of e-waste responsibly processed; over 350 devices repaired and reused, supporting a circular economy approach.

Estimating overall levels of a number of air pollutants across the city - Coventry’s levels are lower than the average for metropolitan areas in England. Compared to the West Midlands Coventry’s overall levels are lower than Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall, similar to Solihull and Wolverhampton, and slightly higher than Dudley. Within the city, pollution is highest in central, traffic-heavy areas and disproportionately affects older people, children, pregnant women, those with existing health conditions and low-income communities.

Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

Reducing waste and increasing recycling

National waste policy is undergoing major reform, including Simpler Recycling, and the Deposit Return Scheme, designed to improve recycling consistency, reduce waste and promote producer accountability. National funding reforms also include the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), providing additional resources linked to waste management responsibilities and supporting the transition to a more circular economy. From 2026, councils will be required to collect a consistent set of recyclable materials across England, including food waste, helping eliminate confusion and improve recycling performance. Coventry's local approach is consistent with the Climate Change Strategy 2024–2030, which identifies the circular economy as a key pathway to reducing environmental impact and improving resource efficiency.

Roads and pavements

Highways maintenance has been supported by Government investment in local road networks. A £7.3 billion funding programme over the next four years, including an additional £500 million in 2025/26, reflects the importance of maintaining local roads for economic activity, public services and everyday travel. National policy continues to emphasise risk-based asset management, transparency and long-term planning, with new performance frameworks facilitating councils to demonstrate best practice and high-quality delivery. Coventry's approach aligns strongly with this national direction and has been formally recognised through a Department for Transport 'green' rating for highway maintenance. This rating reflects strong performance in road condition, capital investment and the adoption of best practice. Coventry is also leading innovation in greener highways, trialing low-carbon and recycled materials, including the use of recycled tyres and eco-friendly surfacing, contributing to reduced emissions and longer-lasting repairs.

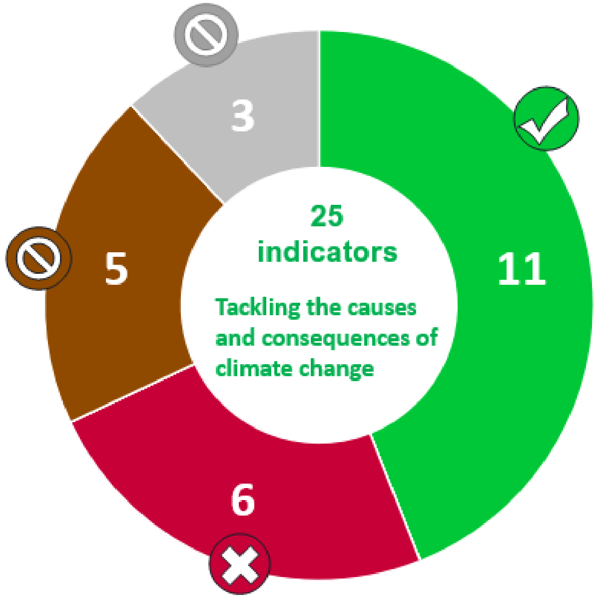
Ongoing investment in highways infrastructure supports accessibility, economic growth and climate resilience, ensuring the network remains fit for future transport developments such as electric buses, segregated cycleways and Coventry Very Light Rail.

PRIORITY 3
Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

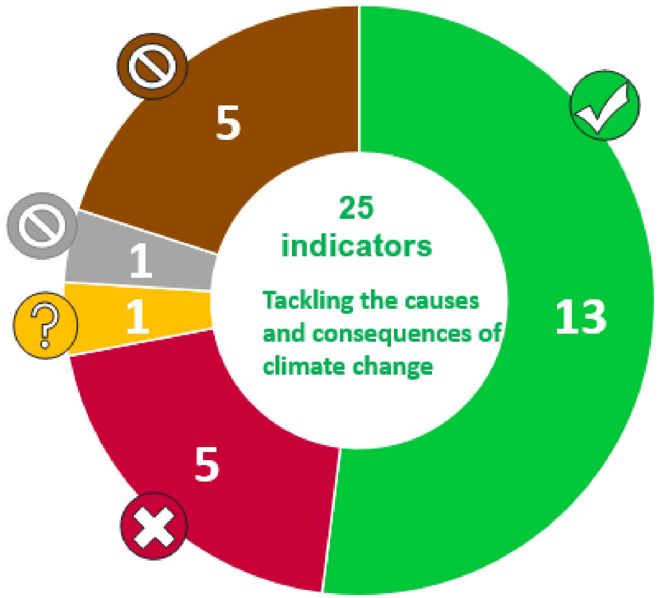
We monitor our performance for this priority through a set of 25 performance indicators.

Progress: Out of the 25 performance indicators, there are 8 for which we cannot currently report progress compared to the position last year. Out of the remaining 17 indicators – 65% (11) either improved or stayed the same.
Status: There are 7 indicators for which we cannot report their status against target**.** Out of the remaining 18 indicators for which we can report status against target, 72% (13) are 'On-Target'

Progress



Target status



Icon & Colour	Progress	Target status
	Improved	On Target
	Got worse	Off Target
	Similar/Unchanged	-
	Cannot Say	No Target Set
	Insufficient data to judge progress/status	
	Not available/no updated data	

Encouraging sustainable and active travel

Performance

The Council had initially increased our number of Electric Vehicles (EV's) in a number of areas in 2025/26, but we had a few vehicle written off in accidents and one section removed part of their vehicle fleet so numbers overall reduced. We will submit a bid of up to £1 million for depot charging infrastructure to address the challenges associated with electrification at our primary depot in Whitley. This will include exploring options to increase the site's power capacity through discussions with National Grid. If all vehicles were required to charge simultaneously, an estimated upgrade of 3.5 MVA would be required; however, the introduction of smart charging technology could reduce this requirement to approximately 700 kVA. The site currently operates on a 250 kVA connection, and we will work with National Grid to identify viable options to increase capacity. In parallel, we will review the vehicle replacement programme and develop robust cost models to demonstrate the whole life costs of transitioning from diesel to electric vehicles, actively encouraging a move away from diesel where operationally practical.

All the chargers are installed according to the programme. All chargers are operational, however, there are major issues with the rapid charger Charge Point Operators (CPOs). as there has been multiple cable thefts.

Usage of the data is showing upward trend as expected, notably that usage increase by more than the total number of chargers increased in the last year, indicators increasing use of existing chargers.

Out of Coventry residents responding to the most recent National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) resident satisfaction survey, 71% of all say that access is easy, and 69% of respondents with a disability say that access is easy - improved percentages from the previous survey.

Actions taken in year

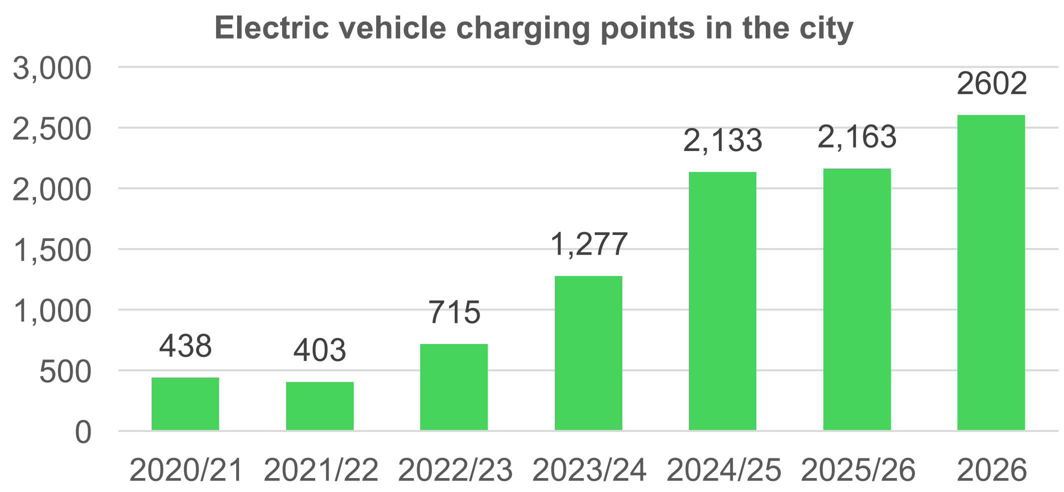
Even where grant funding has been secured to support upgrades to our charging infrastructure, it is likely that additional financial commitment will be required to accelerate the transition to an electric fleet. This will necessitate clear corporate commitment, including increases to the fleet budget and capital investment in charging infrastructure, to enable the full transition of the vehicle fleet.

Currently in contractual conversations with the Charge Point Operators (CPOs).To improve the usage of the chargers, CPOs are looking at marketing options with the Council.

A number of things are done that support the accessibility of the transport network, including: maintenance of footways, crossings, and dropped kerbs, ensure a consistent and accessible standard across the network; works (utilities, highways, developments) are coordinated to minimise obstruction and maintain accessibility during roadworks'; improvements to accessibility are aligned with wider transport strategies, including active travel, bus service enhancements, and public realm schemes.

Other initiatives this year:

- Implementation of the all-electric bus city programme
- Delivery of cycleways, School Streets and safer crossings
- Progression of Coventry Very Light Rail, including the test track introduced in 2025



Encouraging sustainable and active travel-Key Reflections

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Council vehicles that are zero carbon emission (L)	75 (Mar 2025)	72 (2026)	N/A	✖	To increase	✖
Electric vehicle charging points in the city (L)	2,133 (2024)	2,602 (2026)	N/A	✔	To increase	✔
Usage of electric vehicle charging points in the city (L)	1,096,504 kWh (2024)	1,876,614 kWh (2026)	N/A	✔	To increase	✔
Proportion of trips into/ out of central Coventry made by light vehicles (Survey) (N) (data available every 2 years)	78% (2023)	75% (2025)	TfWM - 64% (2024/25)	✔	To decrease	✔
National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) resident satisfaction surveys - accessibility: a - For Ease of Access overall b - For Ease of Access (for those with disabilities) (N)	a-69% b-58% (2024)	a-71% b-69%	England a-71% b-62% (2025/26)	✔	To increase	✔

Expanding sustainable energy and zero-carbon technologies

Performance	Actions taken in year
There are two key reasons for the decrease from the previous year in new funding for environmental technologies and management - One is that there were significant announcements for three years of sustainability funding through the Integrated Settlement in 2024/25, and we are now in the first year of scoping and delivery. - Secondly, the amount of funding that we are able to bid for on a national competitive level has been reduced as a result of more funding being directed through WMCA. We expect similar trends to continue in future years. Increased use of renewable energy and heat decarbonisation indicator was problematic to report on meaningfully as it was completely reliant on 3rd party published data that was rarely consistent and was proven to be inaccurate.	We will continue to deploy Integrated Settlement funding to enable the retrofitting of social homes and public sector buildings in Coventry and will continue to bid for national funds and work with E.ON to maximise the potential of the Strategic Energy Partnership to secure funding and investment for priority energy and environment projects.

Expanding sustainable energy and zero-carbon technologies-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
New funding for environmental technologies and management (L)	£21.5m (2024/25)	£4.4m (2025/26)	N/A		To increase	
Increased use of renewable energy and heat decarbonisation (Household Survey respondents, score out of 35 based on answers to 7 questions, high is good) (L)	23 out of 35 (2024/25)	N/A	N/A		To increase	

Protecting nature, biodiversity and green spaces

Performance

Improvements were made to 128,000m² of grassland and hedgerows across the city, plus 830m of habitat restoration along the Coventry Canal to support water vole recovery, in partnership with the Canal & River Trust and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Seven park sites were identified for targeted biodiversity enhancement, with reduced mowing enabling natural vegetation recovery, increased pollinator-friendly planting, and improved habitat quality.

Tree planting was expanded across multiple sites using a mix of whips and semi-mature trees, supporting both long-term canopy growth and immediate amenity value. Over 1,600 trees were planted through biodiversity S106 funding at a cost of £40,570.

A baseline for access to green and blue space is being established through the Council's Green for All programme. At present, access to green space is uneven across parts of Coventry, presenting a significant challenge. The city's Green Space Strategy (2019-2024) highlights that some of the inner-city wards have access to less than 0.5ha green space per 1000 people, compared to 6ha in other areas. This is the best baseline data we have at present, but we are working to improve the data sets so that they are more comprehensive, including capturing access to blue space (rivers and canals), quality of green space, biodiversity and climate resilience.

During the year, six Tiny Forests were delivered in nature-deprived areas of Coventry, each comprising approximately 600 trees. These dense native woodlands have increased tree cover, improved local biodiversity, and expanded access to nature in some of the city’s most deprived communities. The initiative also achieved strong community engagement, with schools and local groups directly involved in planting activities. In addition, progress has been made in expanding opportunities for community food growing, with four new community growing sites in development across the city. These sites will bring underused land into productive use and increase local access to green space and community-led environmental activity.

Actions taken in year

During the year, the Council secured significant external funding and established the foundations for a long-term programme to address inequalities in access to green space. This includes just under £1m from the Nature Towns and Cities Fund to deliver the three-year Green for All programme, alongside Local Authority Tree Fund support for tree planting and E.ON funding for community growing initiatives. These resources have enabled the Council to work in partnership with environmental organisations, academic institutions and community groups to build capacity, improve data, and develop a comprehensive plan to tackle unequal access to green and blue space across the city.

Through Green for All, work has begun to strengthen the evidence base, develop new policy approaches, and design practical interventions to improve connectivity to nature in urban areas. The programme sets out clear ambitions, including ensuring all residents can access quality green space within a 15-minute walk and increasing tree canopy cover so that every household can see at least three trees. Delivery planning is already underway to support these ambitions, including expanding street tree planting and launching a new community growing programme from 2026/27, enabling residents and community groups to transform underused council-owned land into community gardens.

In parallel, the Council has progressed delivery-focused initiatives, including the Coventry Grows pilot, which is converting underused land into four community growing sites, with completion planned for 2026/27. To support long-term sustainability, a new Community Growing Policy has also been developed, backed by £100,000 per year from 2026/27, ensuring ongoing investment in community-led green space provision and local environmental improvement.

Protecting nature, biodiversity and green spaces-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Total m2/km of interventions delivered to support nature (L)	N/A	128,000m2 green space and 830m improvements to blue space	N/A		To increase	
Access to Green and Blue Spaces (L)	N/A	Indicator in development	N/A		To increase	
Total investment secured to support nature conservation (public and private) (L)	N/A	£268,272.18 - LATF to deliver Tiny Forests across Coventry £35k Nature Towns and Cities Green for All Programme (Yr 1 - capacity building programme) £76,294 Coventry Grows (Supporting creation of community growing sites, sponsored by E.ON)			No target set	

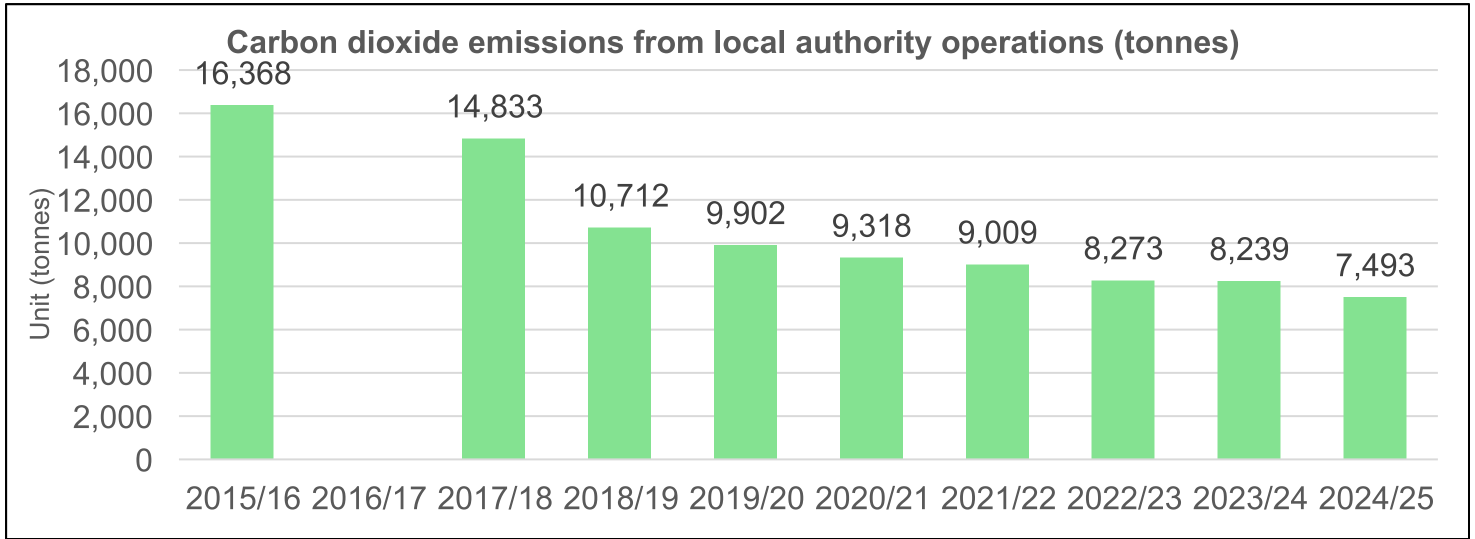
Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality: Performance Reflections

There are two key reasons for the expected drop in the number of Coventry businesses receiving advice on carbon reduction. The level of funding for these activities was cut, with UK Shared Prosperity Fund no longer funding Energy & Resource Efficiency Audits. Secondly, WMCA (in liaison with DESNZ) wanted the Business Energy Advice Service to put a stronger emphasis on supporting more energy-intensive businesses and imposed a minimum energy usage requirement of 25MWH for firms to be eligible for the scheme, which significantly reduced the pool of Coventry businesses that could potentially be supported.

Energy services have engaged 70 schools with some form of advice or support in the city. SEP have engaged 2 schools with Primary Aspirations Project, in addition to Coventry College, Sidney Stringer and Coventry Uni. The Sustainability team also worked with three schools as part of the Retrofit Rocks projects with University of Warwick. All primary schools got a copy of the Arrons book launch. Books from Coventry author Aaron Ashmore, which celebrate the city's rich heritage. 22 schools were also engaged for an adaptation and resilience plan, looking at what the schools would need to prevent overheating.

Data on Carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations is an annual figure that can not be reported on yet. It is usually available within June/July for the preceding financial year data.

Coventry's Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Score has improved from a B to an A in the latest data, which is subject to an independent assessment and provides a useful benchmarking tool against other global cities. The increase in scoring reflects the Council's Climate Change Strategy now being operational, delivery of the Action Plan underway and significant work to improve the city's response and highlight processes the team have in place. This puts Coventry in the top cohort of cities globally in terms of action being taken to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. This includes carbon reduction, climate resilience and nature recovery.



Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality: Actions taken in year

Due to ongoing funding constraints, the capacity to support a higher volume of businesses from April 2026 onwards may be more limited. However, there will likely be a new Regional Energy Service, which will continue to be more targeted towards higher energy users, and there will be a need to maximise promotion of the new service amongst business support intermediaries to ensure that those firms who most need the support take up the service, and that the service delivers stronger impacts in terms of energy cost savings, profitability and carbon reductions relative to levels of public investment.

Increase in energy service engagement was as a result of non-SLA (service level agreement) schools asking us for DECs or having support for projects. The Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) are planning to engage with all maintained schools in the coming year

Number of planning policies in line with the Global Goals for climate action is also an annual figure that can not be reported on as yet. It is usually available within June/July for the preceding financial year data.

Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Advice on carbon reduction and green measures to businesses (L)	151 (2024/25)	58 (2025/26)	N/A		To increase	
Advice on carbon reduction and green measures to schools (L)	88 (2024/25)	100 (2025/26)	N/A		To increase	
Air quality Nitrogen dioxide levels (NO_2) - number of diffusion tubes monitored where average annual concentrations exceed 40 µg/m3 (the legal limit) (L)	1 out of 75 (2024)	Data due 'June/July'	N/A		To decrease	
Carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations (N)	7,493 tonnes (-5.95%) (2024/25)	Data due 'June/July'	N/A		To decrease	
CDP carbon disclosure score (N)	B (2024/25)	A (2025/26)	N/A		A	
Number of planning policies in line with the Global Goals for climate action (N)	61% (38 out of 62) (2024/25)	Data due 'June/July'	N/A		No target set	

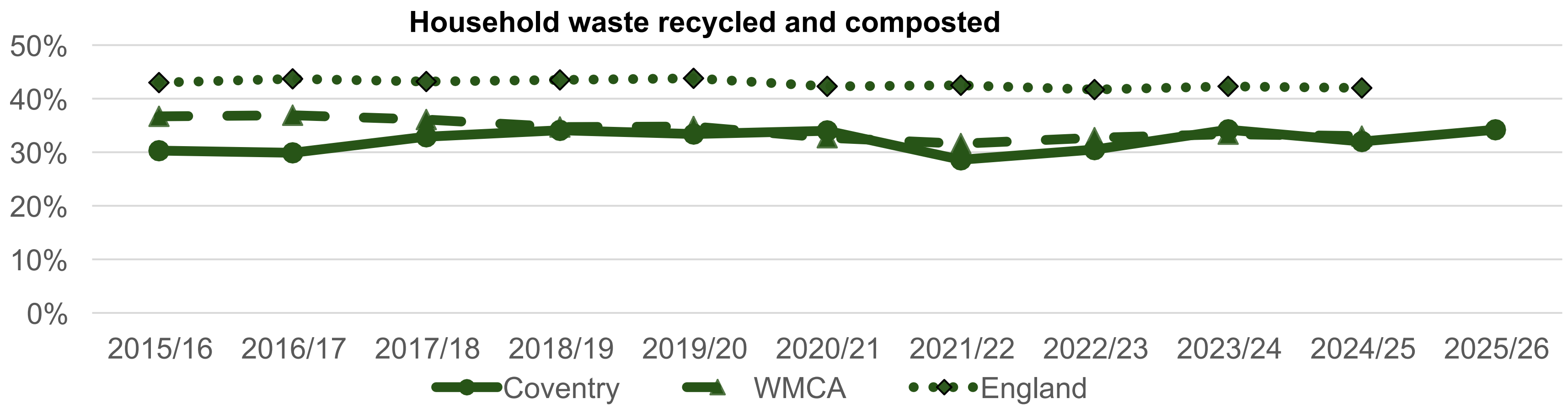
Reducing waste and increasing recycling

Performance

The new waste education team are now in place, they will be working with the recycling collection teams, comms, and residents to reduce the amount of contamination currently being put into the blue bins. Also, they will be door knocking and helping to get our new food waste service up and running. They have a plan to visit community groups to try and encourage hard to reach communities and ensure they are aware of the opportunities to recycle. This year we will also introduce “Simpler recycling” trying to encourage more residents to recycle the easier things. CCC has identified the top 5 items that cause contamination and we will be informing the public of these as we go through the year.

Actions taken in year

New literature is being designed across all recycling themes, this will include posters, vehicles signs and leaflets, all spreading the same messages and themes. The Council Communications team can support the big part of the push on this and help to present a simple consistent message across all media.



Reducing waste and increasing recycling-Key Reflections

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Household waste recycled and composted (N)	32.0% (2024/25)	34.2% (2025/26)	WMCA - 33.0% (2024/25) England - 42.0% (2024/25)		To increase	

Roads and pavements: Performance Reflections

The condition of principal (A) roads has improved due to investments in road treatments via extra budgets available from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).

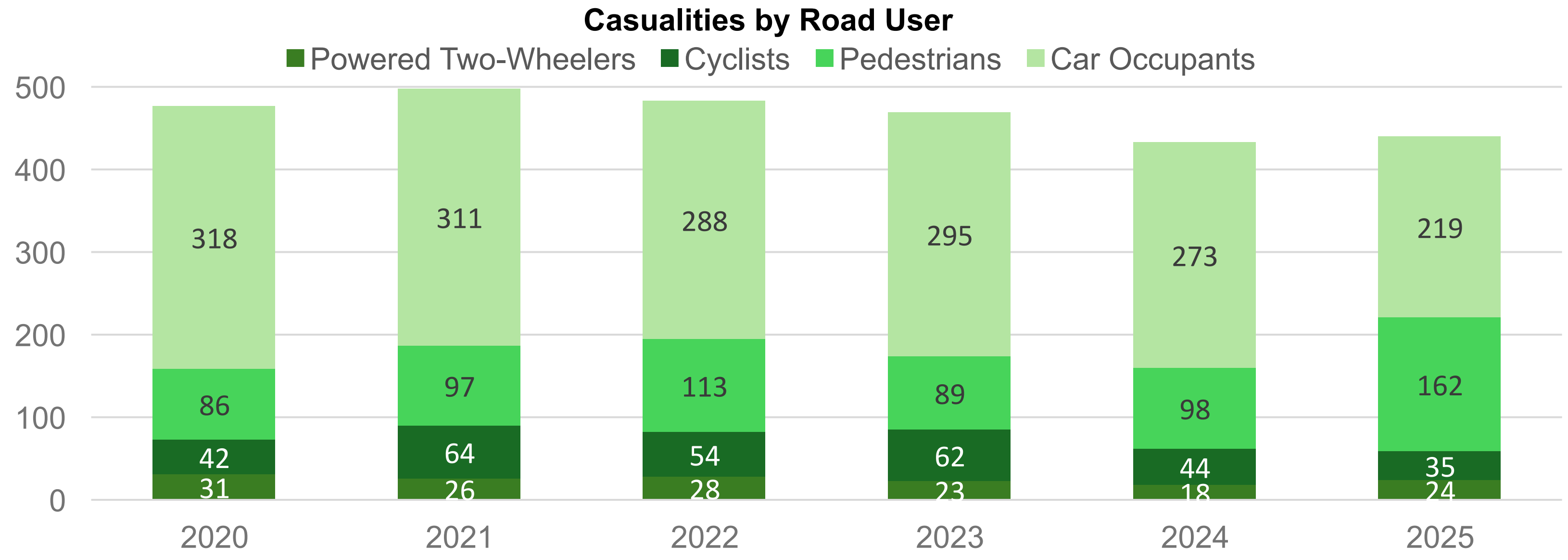
Condition of non-principal (B & C roads) has dipped by a small amount (1%), although performance remains above the national average.

Condition of unclassified roads has improved due to investments in road treatments via extra budgets available from TfWM / re-baseline and general increase in data availability.

This is the first year of improved/more accurate indicator on percentage of footway in good condition. 76% of pavements were judged as being in good condition, better than the target set at 70%. No national comparator figures available either as this is not collected by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Data on proportion of trips in/out of the city centre by light vehicles is taken from TfWM's biannual cordon count and is the combined mode share of cars, taxis and other light vehicles. The 3 % fall since 2023 has been driven by increases in the proportion of journeys made by bus (+2%) and by cycling (+1%), while the figures for rail has remained consistent

There has been a reduction in car occupant casualties of over 50 when compared with 2024, continuing a downward trend. The number of cyclist casualties has fallen by 9 since 2024, continuing a downward trend. The number of pedestrian casualties was the highest since 2018, with a notable increase in 2025. However, the longer-term trend since 2016 was downwards, so this year may be an anomaly. The number of powered two-wheeler casualties increased by 6. However, the longer-term trend remains downwards. Data on Road Casualties is provided by West Midlands Police. DfT validated data for 2025 is due to be published in October 2026, and may vary slightly to the data reported here.



Roads and pavements: Actions taken in year

Key actions, which are likely to have impacted proportion of trips in/out of the city centre by light vehicles include the rollout of the electric bus fleet and the construction of new segregated cycleways

Road safety interventions have been implemented at priority sites. These include road layout safety improvements and speed management measures such as Average Speed Enforcement and vehicle activated signs.

The expansion of the network of segregated cycleways has continued, supplemented by road safety and speed management measures on the rest of the highway network. Cycle training for adults and children has also been provided.

A programme of measures focused on improving the safety for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users is ongoing. This has included pedestrian improvements, new crossing facilities and school related initiatives such as 20mph speed limits. The programme has been supplemented by road safety interventions at priority sites, such as road layout safety improvements and speed management measures.

Roads and pavements-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Principal roads (A roads) in a good/ acceptable condition (N)	97% (2024/25)	98% (2025/26)	England - 95% (2024/25)	✓	95%	✓
Non-principal roads (B and C roads) in a good/acceptable condition (N)	98% (2024/25)	97% (2025/26)	England 93% (2024/25)	✗	95%	✓
Unclassified roads in a good/acceptable condition (N)	86% (2024/25)	87% (2025/26)	England 83% (2024/25)	✓	85%	✓
Percentage of footway in good condition – target 70% (L)	N/A	76% (2025/26)	N/A	⊘	70%	✓
Road casualties by road user type - car occupant (N)	273 / 467 58% (2024)	219 / 463 47% (2025)	TfWM 66% (2024)	✓	To decrease	✓
Road casualties by road user type – cyclist (N)	44 / 467 9% (2024)	35 / 463 8% (2025)	TfWM 7% (2024)	✓	To decrease	✓
Road casualties by road user type – pedestrian (N)	98 / 467 21% (2024)	162 / 463 35% (2025)	TfWM 20% (2024)	✗	To decrease	✗
Road casualties by road user type - powered two-wheeler (includes pillion passengers) (N)	18 / 467 4% (2024)	24 / 463 5% (2025)	TfWM 5% (2024)	✗	To decrease	✗

PRIORITY 4

Continued financial sustainability of the Council

"Ensuring the Council's financial resources are aligned with key priorities in a way that enables us to maintain a strong and sustainable financial position"

Themes

- An engaged and representative workforce
- Delivering a balanced and sustainable budget
- Improving digital access and customer service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Continued financial sustainability of the Council

Against a challenging national backdrop for local government, Coventry delivered a £3.2 million underspend in 2025/26 – improving on the previous year's position – and achieved a balanced budget for 2026/27 with a projected surplus in the two years that follow.

Savings delivery improved to 84%, up from 73% the previous year, with 65 savings projects delivering in full or above target.

Our workforce continues to grow in diversity, with BAME representation rising to 26.1% and disability disclosure increasing to 8.6%. Staff survey participation rose to 49%, reflecting improved engagement, and the Council retained its Gold Thrive Award for staff health and wellbeing. Agency spend fell by nearly £2.7 million as the workforce stabilised.

Digital access continues to improve, with 96.3% of Coventry households able to access full-fibre internet – well above the England average – and self-service transactions increasing by 4%.

Business and council tax collection rates remain below target and are areas of continued focus.

Overall, however, the Council is managing its resources responsibly, investing in its people, and maintaining the financial platform needed to deliver for residents.

An engaged and representative workforce

Workforce development continues to be shaped by national requirements under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, ensuring councils promote equality, eliminate discrimination and foster inclusive workplaces. National frameworks, including the Local Government Association Equality Framework, support councils to strengthen workforce representation, leadership, organisational culture and inclusive service delivery. Coventry's Equality Objectives 2025–2028 include a focus on improving staff representation, recruitment and retention across underrepresented groups at Coventry City Council. The Council supports staff wellbeing with continued support for mental health, physical wellbeing and flexible, inclusive working practices that enable colleagues to perform effectively. Looking ahead, ongoing challenges around recruitment, retention and skills capacity, particularly in high-demand services, will require continued focus on workforce development, inclusion and talent attraction.

Delivering a balanced and sustainable budget

Local government continues to operate in a challenging financial environment, driven by inflation, increasing demand for services, particularly in social care, alongside pressures in homelessness and SEND provision. The Local Government Finance Settlement 2025/26 confirmed approximately £69bn of funding nationally, alongside targeted grants for priority services and a commitment to introduce multi-year settlements from 2026/27, providing greater medium-term certainty. Coventry's Budget Report 2025/26 set out a significant financial programme including £961.9m gross expenditure, £171.6m capital programme. While a balanced budget was achieved for 2025/26, the medium-term financial position remains uncertain. Future funding reforms, ongoing service demand and inflationary pressures mean further efficiencies and income generation will be required to ensure continued sustainability.

Improving digital access and customer service

Digital inclusion is a growing national priority, reflected in the Government’s Digital Inclusion Action Plan (2025), which recognises digital exclusion as a barrier to employment, education and access to services.

Coventry City Council is aligned with national policy, which focuses on: Improving digital skills; Tackling device and data poverty; Making public services more accessible; Supporting locally delivered digital inclusion activity.

Coventry’s approach strongly supports the national digital inclusion agenda through the #CovConnects programme, delivering significant measurable impact for residents, communities and the environment.

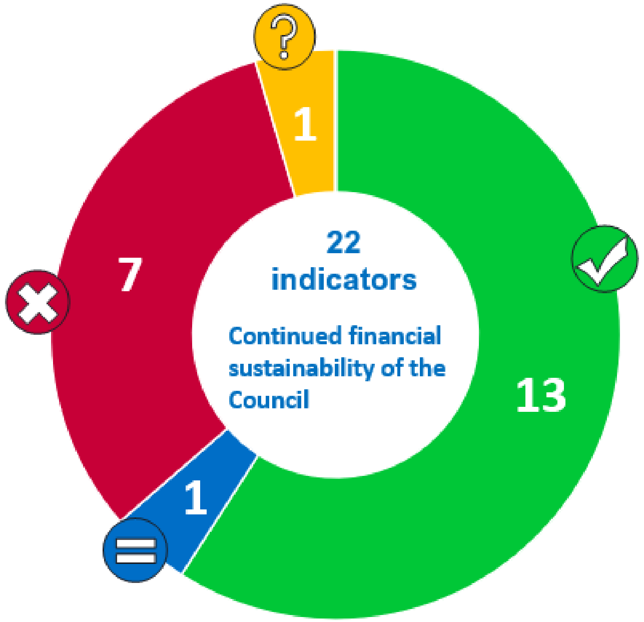
Digital services were further enhanced in 2025/26, while maintaining alternative access routes.

PRIORITY 4
Continued financial sustainability of the Council

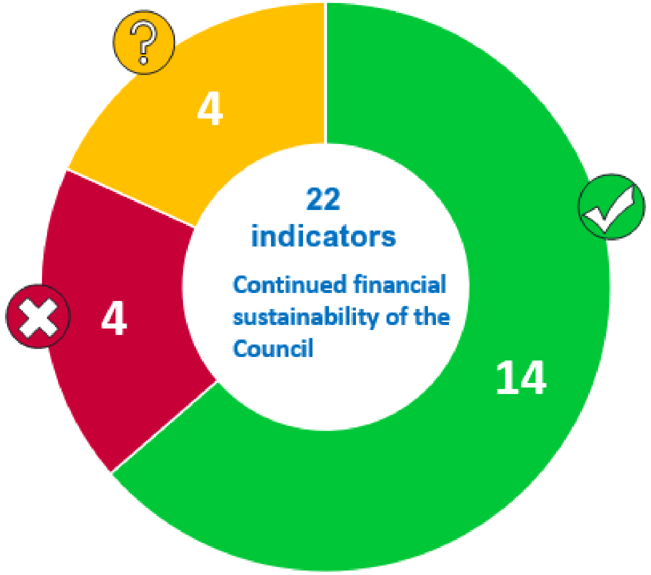
We monitor our performance for this priority through a set of 22 performance indicators.

Progress: Out of the 22 performance indicators, there is 1 for which we cannot currently report progress compared to the position last year. Out of the remaining 21 indicators – 67% (14) either improved or stayed the same.
Status: There are 4 indicators for which we cannot report their status against target**.** Out of the remaining 18 indicators for which we can report status against target, 78% (14) are 'On-Target'

Progress



Target status



Icon & Colour	Progress	Target status
	Improved	On Target
	Got worse	Off Target
	Similar/Unchanged	-
	Cannot Say	No Target Set
	Insufficient data to judge progress/status	
	Not available/no updated data	

An engaged and representative workforce: Performance Reflections

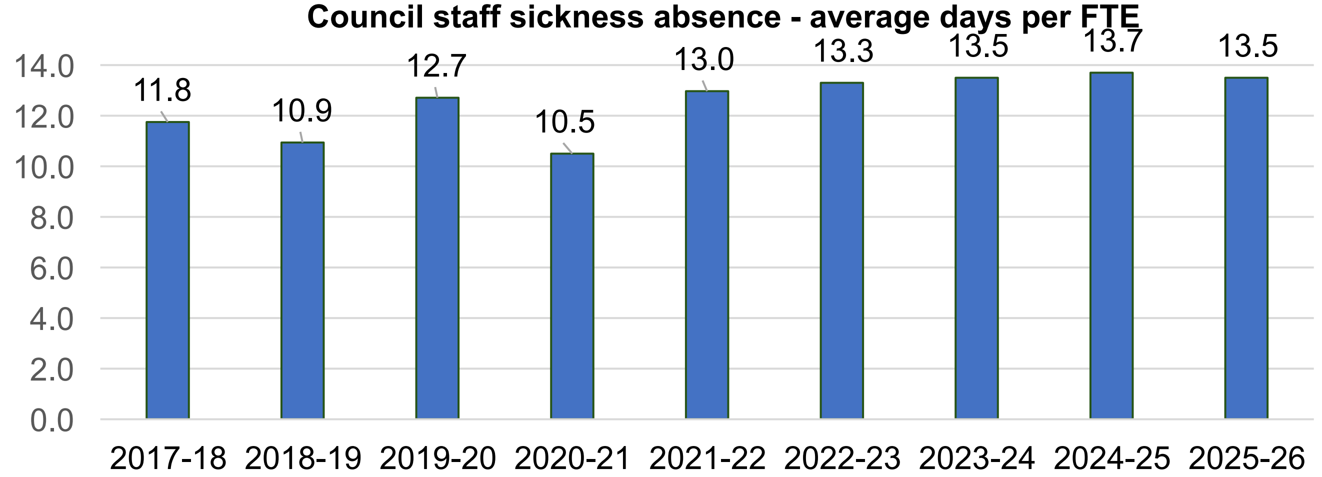
The headcount in the core Council (excluding Schools), the number of staff, has increased slightly. The workforce data (excluding Schools) shows a broadly stable position, with core headcount increasing slightly to 4,304.5 FTE, supporting service delivery. Sickness absence has improved overall, with a reduction in rolling absence to 13.5 days and short-term absence decreasing to 4.3 days, indicating positive impact from wellbeing and attendance management initiatives, although long-term absence has risen marginally and remains an area for focus. The absence figures re closely monitored throughout the year. Significant changes and decisions have been taken in relation to persistent or long-term absence cases where there is no indicated return to work or improvement - these are not reflected in the figures immediately.

The Staff Survey response rate has increased by 9% since 2023, reflecting an increase in engagement. Further progress is expected, as the organisation continues to build trust with the workforce, by ensuring consistency in practice and improving psychological safety. Gold standard of the THRIVE award for staff health and wellbeing has been achieved and the budget for reasonable adjustments has been centralised to improve the organisational response for employees. The proportion of the workforce identifying as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic increased from 24.5% in March 2025 to 26.1% in March 2026 - an increase of 1.6 percentage points, demonstrating progress towards the target of reflecting the diversity of the city. Despite this, the year-end position remains below the population benchmark (34.9%), highlighting the need for continued focus.

The proportion of the workforce declaring a disability increased from 7.00% in March 2025 to 8.6% in March 2026, a rise of 1.6 percentage points, demonstrating positive progress in disclosure and representation. However, this remains significantly below the Coventry population benchmark of 15.45%, indicating continued scope for improvement. The proportion of the workforce identifying as LGB+ decreased slightly from 3.60% in March 2025 to 3.5% in March 2026 with a reduction of 0.1 percentage points. This follows a mid-year dip to 3.3%, with some recovery by year end. Representation remains below the population benchmark of 3.76%, indicating limited overall progress. The proportion of the workforce aged 16-34 increased from 17.2% in March 2025 to 19.3% in March 2026, a rise of 2.1 percentage points, demonstrating positive progress in improving age diversity. Representation remains below the Coventry population benchmark of 29.8%, indicating further progress is required.

The legal sex profile of the workforce has shifted slightly, with female representation decreasing from 68.1% to 67.4% and male representation increasing from 31.9% to 32.6% between March 2025 and March 2026.

This reflects a marginal movement towards a more balanced sex profile. Agency spend has decreased because of recent initiatives by the recruitment team to stabilise the workforce. This has included supporting managers to adopt more proactive attraction and recruitment strategies. Targeted efforts to transition individuals from agency contracts to CCC contracts have further contributed to reducing overall spend



An engaged and representative workforce : Actions taken in year

To support diversifying the workforce, a number of initiatives have taken place across 2025/26, including the expansion of the Inclusive Interview panels initiative and Wezesha, a positive action programme designed to support, develop and retain global majority colleagues. The recruitment team is actively working to promote the Council as an employer of choice across the city through various initiatives, including recruitment fairs and digital channels such as Indeed and LinkedIn with specific reference to welcoming applications from underrepresented groups in our job adverts.

Programmes like Elevate, a positive action programme designed to support, develop and retain LGBTQ+ colleagues and Aspire designed to support, develop and retain colleagues with disabilities and long-term health conditions have been launched.

Regular webinars designed to help colleagues understand & fairly apply reasonable adjustments are offered by Occupational Health and all Council line managers are required to attend Disability Inclusion training to create a disability confident culture. The training was introduced at the end of 2023 following the Calibre positive action programme, as part of a phased, targeted rollout. Given the scale of our workforce (900+ line managers) and limited Learning & Development budget and capacity (with no dedicated Diversity & Inclusion resource), delivery has been spread over multiple years, with sessions capped at 25 participants. Uptake to date (34%) therefore reflects delivery capacity rather than engagement.

Over the past year, sessions were prioritised for Care, Health & Housing, Children's Services, and Customer Service teams to improve completion rates and target areas of greatest need, with progress reported to the Chief Executive and the D&I Board.

In 2026, the Apprenticeship team moved to a structured recruitment window approach for apprentices, which supports a clear, consistent recruitment experience for all applicants and more time to recruit, helping us attract better applicants. Further training is also taking place locally and corporately to assist in the managing of sickness absence. Managers are making more difficult decisions in relation to long term or persistent absence cases; the policy has been updated to allow for easier escalation - this will be implemented from June – August 2026.

Work is currently underway to finalise the corporate Staff Survey Action Plan, which will help to embed the culture change required across the Council, in relation to the 4 key themes: Trust, Fairness, Change and Communication, with the implementation of the new agency provider, WM Temps/Opus, in June, this will further support our efforts to reduce spend. The focus will be on embedding workforce planning and talent management strategies, alongside proactively managing and minimising off-contract arrangements to avoid inflated agency costs.

An engaged and representative workforce-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Core employee headcount (full-time equivalents, fte) (L)	4195 (Mar 2025)	4304.5 (Mar 2026)	N/A		No target set	
Council staff sickness absence (rolling twelve-month period) (N)	13.7 days per fte (Mar 2025)	13.5 days per fte (Mar 2026)	N/A		To decrease	
Long Term Sickness absence (L)	9.0 days per fte (Mar 2025)	9.2 days per fte (Mar 2026)	N/A		To decrease	
Short Term Sickness Absence (L)	4.7 days per fte (Mar 2025)	4.3 days per fte (Mar 2026)	N/A		To decrease	
Participation in the staff survey (L) (data available every 2 years)	2,173 (40%) (Oct 2023)	2,359 (49%) (Oct 2025)	N/A		To increase	
Spend on agency staff (L)	£9,556,560 (2024/25)	£6,896,543 (2025/26)	N/A		To decrease	
Maintain the Gold standard of the Thrive Award for staff health & wellbeing (N)	Gold	Gold maintained	N/A		Gold	

An engaged and representative workforce -Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
% of workforce aged 16-34 (compared to Coventry population aged 16-67) (L)	17.2% (Mar 2025)	19.3% (Mar 2026)	29.8% (Coventry Census 2021)		To be more representative of the city	
Legal sex profile of workforce (compared to Coventry population aged 16- 67) (L)	F - 68.1% M - 31.9% (Mar 2025)	F - 67.4% M - 32.6% (Mar 2026)	F - 49.7% M - 50.3% (Coventry Census 2021)		To be more representative of the city	
% of workforce that is Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (compared to Coventry population aged 16- 67) (L)	24.5% (Mar 2025)	26.1% (Mar 2026)	34.9% (Coventry Census 2021)		To be more representative of the city	
% workforce declaring a disability (compared to Coventry population aged 16-67) (L)	7.00% (Mar 2025)	8.6% (Mar 2026)	15.45% (Coventry Census 2021)		To be more representative of the city	
% workforce from LGBT+ community (compared to Coventry LGBT+ population aged 16-64) (L)	3.60% (Mar 2025)	3.5% (Mar 2026)	3.76% (Coventry Census 2021)		To be more representative of the city	

Delivering a balanced and sustainable budget: Performance Reflections

Prudent financial management alongside additional income have contributed to an improved balance budget position. A revised Government funding settlement has led to additional resources enabling additional investment in services and balanced position.£26.13m of savings were made in 2025/26 against a target of £31.11m, a delivery of 84%.4 projects delivered no savings and 13 had partial delivery. 65 delivered full or excess delivery. It is aimed to achieve 100% of the savings identified, so this could be the target for the indicator, but the current target for this report is to improve the total and % of savings delivered compared to last year, and this was achieved.

The business rates tax base declined in quarter 4 as we see the impact of City Centre South (CCS) redevelopment. Business rates total rateable value represents the valuation of all commercial properties in the city assigned by the Valuation Office Agency and provides the basis for the business rates tax base.

The decline in the in year Business Rates collection rate in 2025/26 was largely attributable to several large assessments going uncollected due to business failure. The wider local trading conditions for businesses continue to create a challenging collection environment for business rates.

In terms of collection of business rate arrears, in 2025/26 a 50.1% reduction n business rates prior year balances was achieved, slightly lower than the 52.6% reduction seen in 2024/25. Business rates arrears at the start of the year were £12.4 million and reduced to £6.2 million by the end of March.

Council Tax collection remains challenging amidst ongoing cost of living challenges and high levels of population transience in the city.

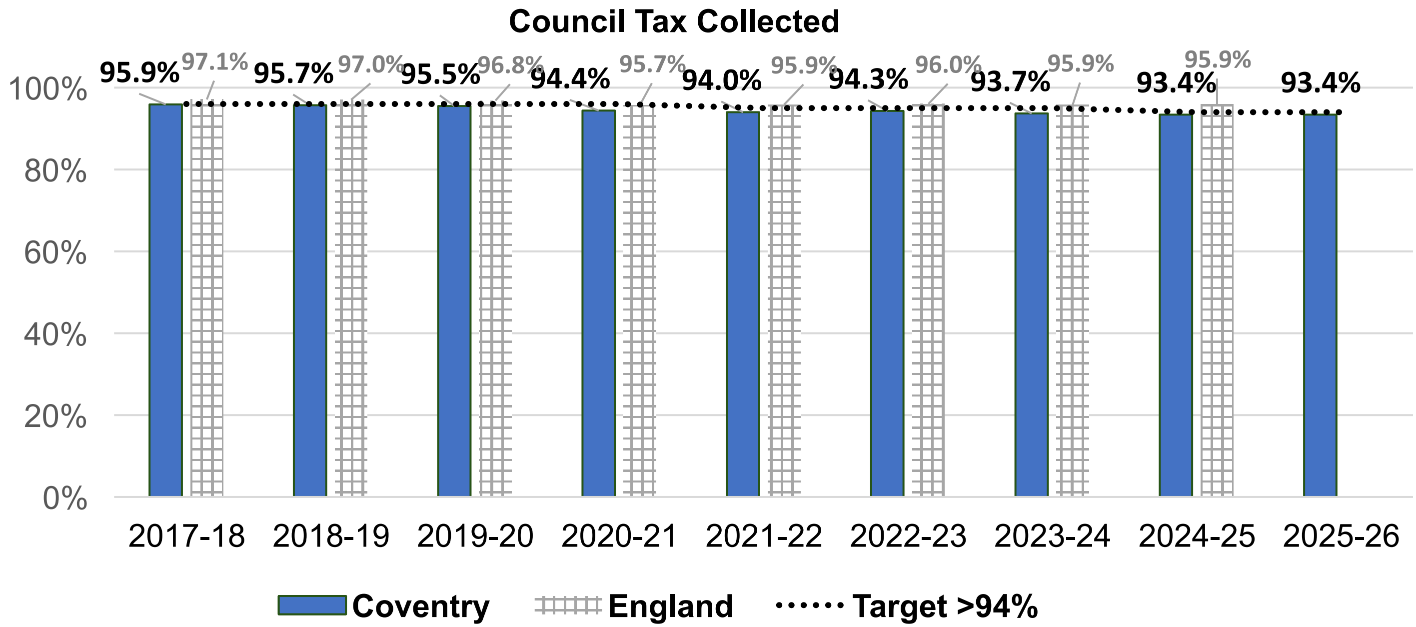
Collection of prior year council tax balances reduced from 25.1% in 2024/25 as the Council took steps to write off a significant amount of aged debt. £6.9 million of arrears were collected in 2025/26 compared with £7.4 million in the previous year.

Actions taken in year

The City Centre South (CCS) redevelopment will ultimately result in new and increased ratable units for both domestic and business taxation.

We continue to utilise all available recovery and enforcement remedies in the collection of business rates and continue to bill Council Tax quickly by automating up to 90 per cent of all changes in liability and continue to adopt quick and robust enforcement measures

We continue to utilise all available recovery and enforcement remedies in the collection of council tax.



Delivering a balanced and sustainable budget-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Balanced budget position in year (L)	£1.8m underspend (2024/25)	£3.2m underspend	N/A	✓	To improve	✓
Savings targets met (L)	73% delivered £22.18m out of £30.38m (2024/25)	84% delivery £26.13m out of £31.11m	N/A	✓	To improve	✓
Sustainable medium term financial position (L)	Balanced budget 2024/25 – future years show a deficit	Balanced budget for 26/27 and surplus position for following 2 years	N/A	✓	Sustainable	✓
Business Rates - total rateable value (N)	£341m (2024/25)	£336m (2025/26)	N/A	✗	No target set	?
Business Rates - collection rate (N)	94.3% (2024/25)	93.23% (2025/26)	WMCA - 95.6% (2024/25) England - 97.3% (2024/25)	✗	≥ 97%	✗
Business Rates arrears - % reduction in business rates prior year balances in year (N)	52.6% (2024/25)	50.1% (2025/26)	WMCA - 36.2% England - 39.3% (2024/25)	✗	No target set	?
Council Tax - collection rate (N)	93.4% (2024/25)	93.39% (2025/26)	WMCA - 93.1% (2024/25) England - 95.9% (2024/25)	✗	≥ 94%	✗
Council Tax - collection rate on prior year balances (arrears) (N)	25.1% (2024/25)	21.3% (2025/26)	WMCA - 19.2% (2024/25) England - 17.3% (2024/25)	✗	No target set	?

Improving digital access and customer service

Performance	Actions taken in year
A minor increase in households capable of receiving a full fibre internet connection and Coventry remains above the figure for England which has risen to 79%. [Figures from Ofcom Connected Nations November 2025].As a baseline 99.8% of Coventry households can access good quality fixed internet connectivity, which is defined by the UK government as a data service that provides fixed download speeds of at least 10Mbit/s and upload speeds of at least 1Mbit/s. This data shows Coventry to have comparatively very good rates of access to good quality internet, in terms of the percentage of properties that *could* access it, but this doesn't mean all do access good internet and it doesn't fully protect against digital exclusion Transactions progressed online, a 4% increase on last year	Work continues to both make services available on-line and at the same time to ensure that they are more user friendly and simpler to use. Coventry's 14 council-run and 3 community-run libraries help to tackle digital exclusion by providing free WiFi and access to a total of 204 PCs and devices as well as study space and provision of free SIM cards via Good Things Foundation data gifting .For year 2025-2026 there were a total of 321,893 ICT hours (total number of PC and WiFi hours accessed across libraries) made up of 702,497 individual customer sessions. 4311 - SIM cards were also provided to residents during this period. Since its inception the #CovConnects programme has also achieved strong outcomes in tacking digital exclusion, across access, engagement and partnership delivery : - Over 6,000 digital devices distributed through the Device Bank - More than 15,000 residents supported, improving access to services, education and employment - Over 200 delivery partners engaged, with more than 70 returning for additional support, demonstrating sustained demand across the city Access to connectivity and digital support is strengthened through: - A network of 133 digital inclusion hubs - The distribution of 16,500+ National Databank SIM cards, supporting residents to access data and connectivity - Provision of Mi-Fi devices and data-enabled SIMs to enable safe and flexible online access

Improving digital access and customer service-Key Indicators

Metric	Previous (2024/25)	Current (2025/26)	Comparator	Progress	Target	Status against target
Households with access to full fibre internet (N)	95.7% (2024)	96.3% (2025)	England 79% (November 2025)		To increase	
Number of transactions completed through self-service channels (L)	570,077 (2024/25)	592,866 (2025/26)	N/A		To increase	

Outcomes for our city:#CovConnects Device Bank – Case Study

Carers Trust Heart of England are a charity that supports and improves the lives of all age carers across Coventry and Warwickshire. Via the #CovConnects Device Bank and wrap-around partner support, Carers Trust have provided carers with ongoing devices including laptops and smartphones, connectivity and digital skills training, empowering carers to feel confident whilst navigating the digital world .They have said the key meaningful uses for them have included people accessing an online community for support, engaging with health and wellbeing support and for the Young Carers to complete homework. Collaborating with Carers Trust has meant that both Young and Adult Carers have been able to get connected and grow their digital confidence. Adult Carers are now able to apply for jobs and connect socially. Young Carers can complete their homework without worrying about data limits, helping to reduce school sanctions and improve academic performance. After receiving a laptop, Kevin* is now able to learn the skills that he felt were never going to be possible, it has given him the opportunity to learn how to access the internet and keep in touch with family and friends that don't live locally.

***"Providing devices and connectivity has been a game-changer. It's not just about technology; it's about giving carers the tools to thrive."* – Jodie, Carers Trust**

Shaw Trust is a leading employment charity. Each year they support hundreds of thousands of people to achieve their full potential. Shaw Trust's Device Bank journey with #CovConnects has meant supporting young NEET Coventry residents to access digital devices and learn new digital skills, empowering them to use the devices for personal growth. Applying for college courses, conducting job searches and completing functional skills training have been some of the key meaningful uses for these devices. With their new refurbished devices, young residents in Coventry have been able to engage in many different activities that have developed their confidence in navigating the digital world. From completing short courses such as first aid training and online safety, to connecting with others via social media, the devices have gone a long way in helping the young residents to take the vital next steps in their lives. A young resident who received a laptop completed their functional maths qualification and has gone on to start an apprenticeship.

***"One young person said to me, 'I feel normal now.' That was really humbling."* – Shaw Trust team member**

Thank You to Our Partners and Communities

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our partners, voluntary and community sector organisations, businesses, and residents for their continued support in delivering the One Coventry Plan over the past year. This year's progress reflects the strength of our collective effort. The One Coventry approach is rooted in collaboration, and it is through strong and effective partnerships that we have been able to respond to challenges, deliver services, and improve outcomes for our residents.

Across all priorities, from supporting residents through the cost-of-living pressures, to driving inclusive economic growth, improving outcomes for children and young people, and leading the city's response to climate change, the contribution of our partners has been vital. We have continued to work together in a way that reflects our shared values, taking time to listen, engage and respond to the needs of our communities.

This collective commitment has enabled us to build more integrated, responsive services, strengthen community capacity, and make a meaningful difference to people's lives across the city. Partnership working remains at the heart of our success. Whether through system leadership across children's services, joint approaches to tackling inequalities, or collaboration with health partners, schools, the voluntary sector and wider stakeholders, we have demonstrated what can be achieved when we work together with a shared purpose. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening these relationships further. Together, we will continue to build a city that is more prosperous, inclusive and resilient, ensuring that residents are supported to access opportunities and live the lives they want to lead.

Thank you for your continued commitment, collaboration and shared ambition for Coventry.

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Coventry City Council

Agenda Item 4

Briefing note

To: Cabinet

From: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 1 September 2026

Subject: One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

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1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 To inform Cabinet of comments and recommendations from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee following consideration of a report on the One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026).

2 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to

1) Agree the recommendations in the report
2) Improve the layout and presentation of the report to make the information provided more accessible.
3) That performance measures are identified specifically for active travel, as part of an item to be considered by the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3).

3 Information and Background

3.1 At their meeting on 26 August 20206, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report on the One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 – March 2026).

3.2 Members questioned the Cabinet Member and officers, and received responses:

- The readability of the report, ensuring that accessible font size and spacing was used, so that the report can be read both online and in hard copy.
- That an all-members seminar would be held where officers and Cabinet Members can be asked more detailed questions on performance.

3.3 The committee also identified the following for referral to the appropriate scrutiny board:

- That fly-tipping, including the education programme and the Bring the Tip to You programme be considered by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4).

- That the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) consider the active travel performance as part of the item on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- That the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) consider community involvement in Pride in Place

Gennie Holmes
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Law, Governance and Safer Communities
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Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

Cabinet 1 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change - Councillor Dr L Kelly

Director approving submission of the report:
Interim Director for Economic Growth

Wards affected:
All

Title:
GreenPower Park Development

Is this a key decision?
Yes - the proposal relates to a major employment site which will benefit residents across the city.

Executive summary:

This report seeks Cabinet approval for Coventry City Council to contribute up to £1m towards the preparation and submission of a new planning application for GreenPower Park, the former Coventry Airport site. This will enable the Council to capitalise on the opportunity presented by the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan, which proposes the site's release from the Green Belt and its allocation as a Strategic Employment Site, consistent with the aspiration of the West Midlands Investment Zone.

GreenPower Park already benefits from planning permission for battery manufacturing and associated uses; however, this consent limits the range of occupiers that can be attracted to the site. A new planning permission would enable a broader range of advanced manufacturing, engineering, research and development, innovation and ancillary employment uses, increasing the site's attractiveness to investors while retaining the ability to deliver a gigafactory. This will align with the objectives of the Council, its joint venture partner and the West Midlands Investment Zone maximising opportunities for investment, job creation and economic growth.

This report seeks approval for a further Council contribution, matched by GreenPower Park Limited (formerly Coventry Airport Limited), to fund planning, technical, environmental, legal and commercial work associated with the new planning application. The Council's contribution (50% of the total costs with remainder coming from GreenPower Park Limited) will be funded corporately in advance of anticipated future capital receipts generated from land disposals, with disposal proceeds shared equally between the joint venture partners.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to

1) Approve the submission of a hybrid planning application for the development of GreenPower Park, located at the former Coventry Airport site and shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

2) Approve expenditure of up to £1m (as a 50% share) funded corporately in advance of future capital receipts to be used towards the preparation and the submission of the hybrid planning application for the GreenPower Park site based on the site's designation as a major employment site in the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

3) Delegate authority to the Interim Director of Economic Growth to take all such actions as is deemed necessary and incidental for the submission of the planning application including the procurement and award of contracts relating to the design team and associated consultants.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – GreenPower Park – Site Plan

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Entering into a Joint Venture Arrangement to Promote a Strategic Land Opportunity – CCC Cabinet Report, February 2021.
West Midlands Gigafactory – CCC Cabinet Member Report, June 2022
West Midlands Gigafactory – CCC Cabinet Member Report, July 2023
West Midlands Investment Zone - CCC Cabinet Report, March 2024.

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: GreenPower Park Development

1. Context (or background)

1.1. Coventry City Council (CCC) owns the freehold of the former Coventry Airport, a 125Ha site which is on the edge of the city in the Warwick District municipal area. As the site is leased to Coventry Airport Limited, CCC entered into a joint venture with the company in 2021 to jointly develop the site for battery manufacturing. This resulted in outline planning permission being secured in 2022 for up to 5.7 million square feet of development. Both development costs for the site, and proceeds for any land sales are shared 50:50 between the joint venture partners.

1.2. To date, CCC has committed a total of £2.25m to the site, which has been matched by Coventry Airport Ltd.

1.3. Runway operations at Coventry Airport ceased in June 2026.

1.4. The site is now marketed as GreenPower Park, and in 2024 it became part of the West Midlands Investment Zone (WMIZ), which will provide tax incentives for investment in the site, and is also providing £23m in grant funding to facilitate bringing the site up to development ready status by delivering the first phase of the power infrastructure works, whilst also completing designs for utility and civil engineering works. The main power work is due to be completed in 2027 and will provide an initial 30MVA of power for the site, increasing to 50MVA after 2030.

1.5. The WMIZ aims to develop the advanced manufacturing sector in the region, and the associated tax incentives and other funding are available for businesses in that sector.

1.6. GreenPower Park is an integral site in the Coventry & Warwick Investment Zone (CWIZ) which is part of the wider WMIZ and is seen as a prime site to attract Advanced Manufacturing and ancillary uses to the Coventry area and create thousands of new, high-quality jobs.

1.7. Despite planning permission for the proposed Gigafactory at GreenPower Park being granted in 2022, the site remains within the Green Belt. The original application therefore relied on "very special circumstances", based on the strategic importance of securing large-scale battery manufacturing capacity to support the transition to electric vehicles and protect the automotive sector, which supports an estimated 82,000 jobs across the West Midlands.

1.8. The current planning permission is restricted to battery manufacturing and associated uses, including recycling. This limits the ability to accommodate wider advanced manufacturing opportunities, including vehicle manufacturing, which align with the ambitions of the West Midlands Investment Zone.

1.9. The emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan proposes removing GreenPower Park from the Green Belt and designating it as a Strategic Employment Site to support advanced manufacturing, engineering, research and development, and innovation activities. This creates an opportunity to secure a broader planning permission that maximises the site's potential, supports investment and aligns with the objectives of the West Midlands Investment Zone.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. **Option 1 – Do Nothing (Not Recommended):** One option is to continue marketing GreenPower Park on the basis of the existing planning permission, which is restricted to battery manufacturing and associated uses. This option would not incur the additional cost of preparing and submitting a new planning application. The electricity infrastructure upgrade, funded through the WMIZ, would continue as planned and is expected to be completed in 2027.

While this approach would ensure that the site remains available for battery manufacturing, it would not enable other forms of advanced manufacturing to be accommodated. Consequently, the site would not fully support the wider objectives of the WMIZ or maximise its market attractiveness. For these reasons, this option is not recommended.

2.2. **Option 2 – Prepare a New Planning Application for GreenPower Park (Recommended Option):** This option involves the preparation and submission of a new hybrid planning application to secure a broader planning permission reflecting the site's proposed designation within the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan (see Section 2.9).

If approved, the application would enable a significantly wider range of advanced manufacturing, engineering, research and development, and ancillary employment uses to be accommodated on the site. This would align the planning framework with the objectives of the WMIZ, maximise the site's attractiveness to investors, and increase the potential for high-quality job creation and financial returns from the Council's landholding.

Importantly, pursuing this option would not prevent the delivery of a large-scale battery manufacturing facility. The existing outline planning permission would remain extant, allowing battery manufacturing to proceed should an appropriate investor commit to the site. The proposed application would therefore broaden, rather than replace, the site's development opportunities by increasing the range of potential occupiers while retaining the ability to deliver a gigafactory. This is the recommended option.

2.3. The GreenPower Park site currently benefits from outline planning permission for approximately 5.7 million square feet of development, comprising battery manufacturing, associated recycling facilities, together with supporting research and development and supply chain uses. This outline permission was granted by Warwick District Council in 2022 and as outlined above, was justified by the existence of very special circumstances that outweighed the site's Green Belt designation.

2.4. Subsequent reserved matters applications, including those relating to development plots, building parameters, site infrastructure and the primary electricity substation, were approved by Warwick District Council during late 2025 and early 2026.

2.5. The proposed planning application would retain the majority of the approved masterplan, including the overall site layout, development parcels, access arrangements, site levels, building height parameters, and the landscaping and surface water attenuation network. Retaining these approved elements is intended to minimise the scope of the new application and focus consideration primarily on the principle of allowing a broader range of employment uses, rather than revisiting detailed technical matters that have already been assessed and approved.

2.6. Securing this broader planning permission would enhance the strategic value of GreenPower Park, improve its marketability to a wider range of advanced manufacturing occupiers, and support the continued growth of the region's advanced manufacturing and engineering sector in line with the ambitions of the West Midlands Investment Zone.

2.7. The total cost of planning work for the GreenPower Park site to date, and the additional funding proposed in the report can be summarised as follows:

CCC contribution to date	£1.25m
CAL contribution to date	£1.25m
WMIZ funding for Reserved Matters	£1.635m
CCC additional contribution	£1.0m
CAL additional contribution	£1.0m

2.8. The additional funding requested in this report will be used to fund preparation and submission of the new planning application and to fund the necessary technical, environmental, transport, utilities, master planning, pre-and post-planning consultations, and legal, commercial and occupier related support activities.

2.9. On 24th July 2026 a joint Committee of Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council approved for public consultation the ‘South Warwickshire Local Plan (Regulation 19)’ document within which the Coventry Airport site is addressed under Policy COV.2. It states:

“This site is to be released from the Green Belt and allocated as a strategic site of sub-regional and regional significance to support the growth of the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector and associated innovation activities. This strategic focus reflects the Plan’s evidence and the site’s inclusion as part of the West Midlands Investment Zone.

The site provides a particular opportunity to support growth in battery manufacturing for electric vehicles, the wider battery lifecycle and associated supply chain, broader advanced manufacturing and engineering uses and innovation activities, including scalable space for research and development, incubation and associated business support. It can also deliver warehousing and logistics space.

Appropriate uses are considered to be those that fall within the E(g), B2 and B8 use classes. However, to retain and protect the site’s strategic focus on supporting economic activities associated with advanced manufacturing and battery production:

- at least 60% of the E(g) and B-class floorspace on the site should be developed for industrial or R&D uses, comprising use classes E(g)(ii), E(g)(iii) and B2;

- development of B8 floorspace will not exceed 40% of the total employment floorspace on the site. Development of XL B8 units of over 32,500 sq.m will not be supported unless they are ancillary to or associated with a manufacturing use.

- applications for development should include a marketing strategy illustrating how the site will target investment in battery production, advanced manufacturing and engineering and associated innovation activities;

- The provision of everyday services which are ancillary to and support the business use will also be acceptable in principle. The scale of such uses should be justified and limited to serving the employment land at this location.

The site should be brought forward in a comprehensive manner."

2.10. The South Warwickshire Local Plan consultation runs from 21st July 2026 to 8th September 2026. The live consultation paper can be found here: https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk. The relevant policy (COV.2) can be found on pages 414-416.

2.11. It is therefore possible for a new planning application of the site to be considered in the context of its allocation as a strategic employment site and release from the greenbelt.

2.12. This presents an opportunity to secure a planning permission that will allow a wider range of advanced manufacturing occupiers to be accommodated on the site and maximise the benefits of the Investment Zone, and the capital receipts from land disposals.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. Formal public consultation will be undertaken in preparation for the submission of the new planning application to Warwick District Council.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The outline planning application will be submitted for consideration by Warwick District Council during October 2026. It is currently anticipated that the planning approval will be completed by May/June 2027. This would allow for the first buildings to be completed on the site during 2028, subject to commitment from occupiers.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1. Financial Implications

The Joint Venture (JV) arrangement between the Council and GreenPower Park Ltd (formerly Coventry Airport Limited) operates on a 50:50 basis, with both parties contributing equally to costs incurred in securing planning permission and undertaking approved activities to support site marketing and future development.

To date, the Council has approved total funding of £2.25m for the project, of which £1.25m has been spent on completed planning activities. The remaining £1.0m being used to fund approved activity, including technical support, marketing, battery sector expertise, and associated Council delivery activity. All Council contributions have been matched by GreenPower Park Ltd.

The recommended option of this report requires the Council to incur further costs of up to £1.0m as a 50% share of the costs specified earlier in the report as being required to ready the site for disposal. If approved, these costs would be funded corporately in advance of an anticipated capital receipt following the disposal.

Eventual disposal proceeds would be shared on a 50:50 basis with CAL.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has provided a £23m grant for power supply upgrade works. This funding is fully allocated to the capital project and is not available to cover the additional planning costs set out in this report.

5.2. Legal Implications

By virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has power to do anything that individuals with capacity generally may do, subject to any relevant legal limitations. Under the Council's Constitution, approval by Cabinet is necessary in order to comply with our financial procedure rules due to the value and source of the funding.

Any procurement activity undertaken by the Council will be in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules and procurement regulations (where applicable).

The price to be achieved under any future disposal will need to reflect the best price the Council could reasonably be expected to achieve in order to satisfy the Council's obligation to achieve best value pursuant to S123 of Local Government Act 1972 and these provisions are reflected in the joint venture arrangement between the partners.

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 proposals in this report will contribute to the One Coventry Plan's ambition of improving the economic prosperity of the city and region by creating jobs in the advanced manufacturing sector. The availability of the Investment Zone incentives on the GreenPower Park site will make it highly attractive to companies seeking locations for expansion or establishment of new ventures. In addition, the Investment Zone's ability to retain business rates and re-invest it into projects which further develop the sector will ensure that more of the benefits of this work stay in the city and the region. The WMIZ funding for regional supply chain, grant programme and skills programme will provide new opportunities for Coventry residents and businesses in this sector which is crucially important to the local economy.

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

Risks associated with delivery of the project are reported to the Council's GreenPower Park Capital Board which provides oversight for the work happening on the site including the WMIZ funded power supply upgrade works. This board includes senior representation from CCC Finance and CCC Legal Services and reviews a risk register used to monitor the risks associated with the grant funded power supply upgrade works.

In addition, the GreenPower Park Joint Venture Board meets regularly to review the joint work in bringing the site forward including the associated risks. CCC is represented on the board by the Director of Property Services and Development and the Interim Director of Economic Growth.

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

Preparation of the new planning application for GreenPower Park will be completed by the Joint Venture, and this will require input from CCC staff in Property Services and Development, the Economic Development Service and Legal Services. This work will not require the appointment of additional CCC staff to complete the work.

Although the main approval process for the new planning application will be completed by Warwick District Council as the relevant Local Planning Authority, CCC will also need to approve elements of the application because the site borders onto the city. This will require work from CCC Planning and the CCC Highways team, but again this is business as usual.

6.4. **Equalities / EIA?**

An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared in support of the West Midlands Investment Zone was attached to the report approved by Cabinet in March 2024 - https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s59804/West Midlands Investment Zone - Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment.pdf. Development of the GreenPower Park site as outlined in this report will further the aims of the Coventry and Warwick Investment Zone as a whole, and the equalities impact work prepared for that report is relevant here.

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

The proposed revised planning application will align GreenPower Park with climate change and environmental objectives by enabling the delivery of a sustainable advanced manufacturing development.

The application will address key environmental considerations, including energy efficiency, sustainable construction, biodiversity net gain, sustainable drainage, transport impacts and the integration of green infrastructure. Appropriate environmental assessments and mitigation measures will be incorporated through the planning process.

6.6. **Implications for partner organisations?**

The GreenPower Park site is in the Warwick District Council municipal area, therefore the decision on whether to grant the planning application proposed in this report will be handled by them as Local Planning Authority.

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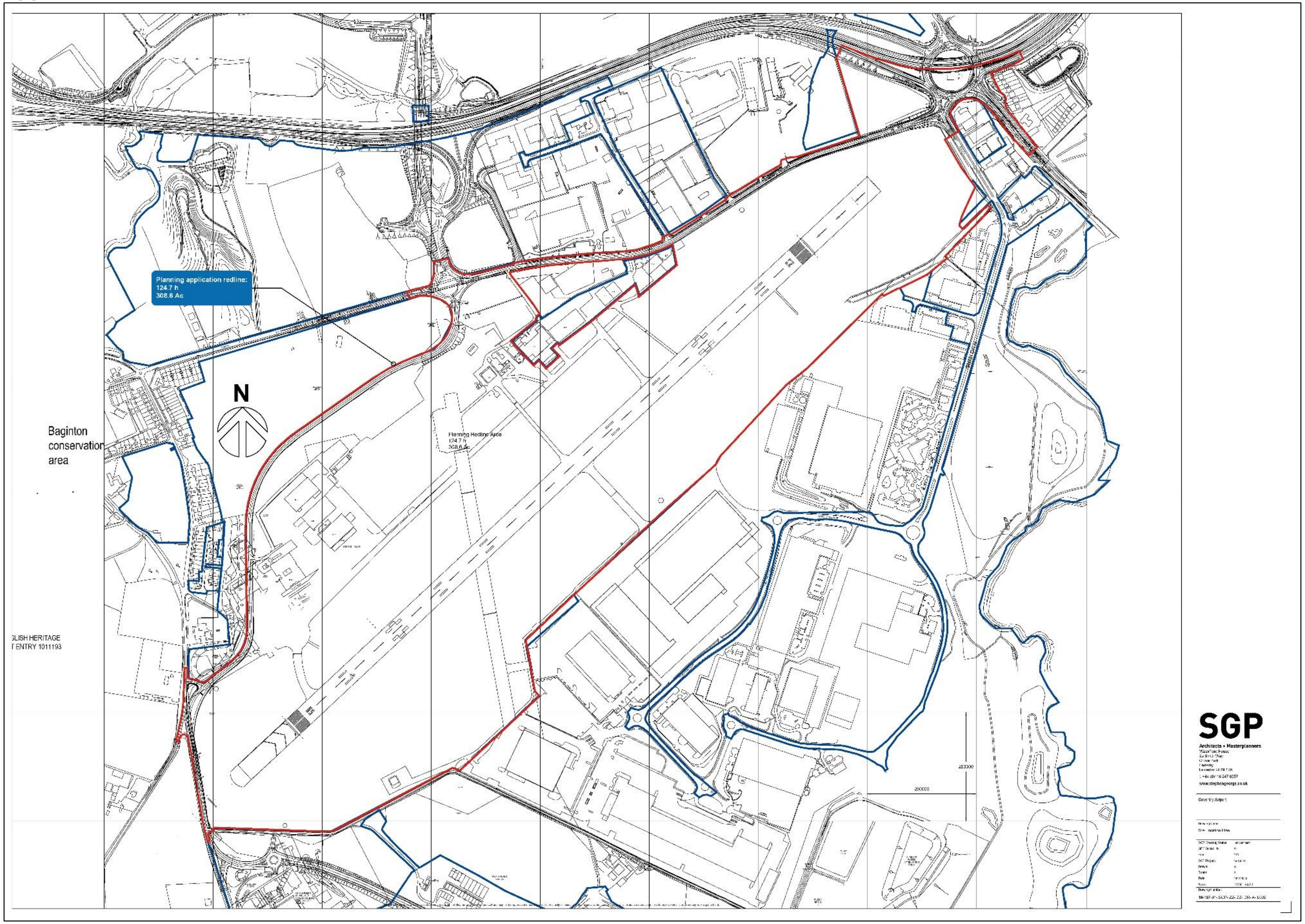
Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	03/08/2026	03/08/2026
Aimee Proctor	Finance Manager	Finance and Resources	23/07/2026	29/07/2026
Julie Fairbrother	Communications Manager	Policy and Communications	23/07/2026	03/08/2026
Richard Moon	Director of Property Services and Development	-	05/08/2026	05/08/2026
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Resources	Finance and Resources	23/07/2026	06/08/2026
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	23/07/2026	03/08/2026
Steve Weir	Interim Director of Economic Growth	-	07/08/2026	07/08/2026
Councillor Dr L Kelly	Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change	-	07/08/2026	10/08/2026

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

Appendix 1: GreenPower Park - Site Plan



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Coventry City Council

Public report
Cabinet

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee — 26th August 2026
Cabinet — 1st September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion – Councillor J McNicholas

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward affected:
St Michaels

Title: City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

Is this a key decision?
No

Executive Summary:

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a legal tool designed to address anti-social behaviour in specific public areas. It allows local authorities to restrict or prohibit certain activities to improve community safety and quality of life.

The City Centre PSPO has been in place for a number of years and remains an important tool in helping partners tackle anti-social behaviour and issues that impact on the quality of life of those using the city centre. The current Order covers a range of measures, including busking, cycling and behaviours that can cause nuisance, alarm or distress. As the existing Order expires in November 2026, this report proposes a new City Centre PSPO for a further three-year period. The proposed Order retains a number of existing provisions whilst introducing updates to reflect current issues, consultation feedback and operational experience.

The Council can only make or amend a PSPO when it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public place have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area and are persistent, continuing and unreasonable. The Council must also be satisfied that any restrictions imposed are justified.

The Council has the power to make a PSPO following consultation with the Police, other relevant bodies and the public. As part of the development of the proposed replacement Order, a public consultation took place during June and July 2026 and generated 884 responses. Overall support for renewal of the PSPO was high, with 85% of respondents in favour, 8% not in favour and 7% unsure. Detailed consultation findings are set out in Appendix 3a of the report.

Following public consultation, a new City Centre PSPO is proposed for a further three-year period and includes the following:

- Prohibitions focused on conduct that causes harassment, alarm or distress.
- Provisions regulating the use of amplification equipment.
- Controls on temporary structures, including gazebos and stalls.
- Provisions relating to busking, cycling, e-bikes and e-scooters.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:

1) Consider the report and submit any comments and/or Recommendations to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 1st September 2026.

Cabinet is recommended to:

1) Note the consultation outcome (Appendix 3a of the report) and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 4 of the report).

2) Consider any comments and/or Recommendations received from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee following their consideration of this matter at their meeting on 26 August 2026.

3) Consider and approve a new City Centre PSPO (Appendix 1 of the report).

4) Delegate authority to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities to bring the Order into effect from 21st November 2026.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1	City Centre (2026) Public Spaces Protection Order for Coventry
Appendix 1a	City Centre PSPO Master map
Appendix 1b	Map showing designated pedestrian area.
Appendix 2	Code of Conduct for Performers

Appendix 3a Summary of Public Consultation Undertaken.
Appendix 3b Formal Responses to Public Consultation Undertaken.
Appendix 3c Results of Observed Compliance for e-bikes.
Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment

Background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee – 26th August 2026

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

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

1 Introduction

1.1 The current City Centre PSPO was introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address behaviours occurring within the city centre that were having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those who live in, work in, or visit the area.

1.2 While the Order has provided a useful enforcement framework, operational experience, partnership working and evolving guidance indicate that aspects of the current provisions could be updated to better reflect current best practice. There is a need to ensure that restrictions remain focused on behaviours that cause harassment, alarm or distress, and that they are proportionate, enforceable and legally robust.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1 – Do not implement the PSPO Order 2026 (Not Recommended)

2.1 This option is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's ability to address the ongoing issues affecting the quality of life for those who live, work and visit the city centre. An investment of further wardens has been made by Coventry City Council and will be realised in September 2026. This additional resource will play a key role in guarding and protecting the public spaces in the city centre and this Order will give them additional tools to do so. The Order creates an additional layer of protection which can also be used by policing colleagues, creating a multi-agency approach for the benefit of those affected by anti-social behaviour. Without this option the Council's capability would be severely reduced.

Option 2 – Implement the PSPO Order 2026 (Recommended)

2.2 The proposed new Order provides an opportunity not only to update the current provisions, but also to modernise the overall approach and ensure it remains effective in addressing current and emerging issues within the city centre.

2.3 The evidence gathered through day-to-day operational activity, partner feedback and the recent public consultation demonstrates that many of the issues which led to the original PSPO remain present within the city centre. Whilst some behaviours have changed over time, concerns regarding harassment, noise nuisance, obstruction and unsafe use of cycles continue to be reported. The proposed Order has therefore been updated to reflect current issues whilst ensuring restrictions remain proportionate and enforceable.

2.4 The proposed Order retains a number of existing provisions that continue to be effective, whilst introducing a revised approach to certain behaviours and new measures to address issues that have become more prominent in recent years.

2.5 Existing provisions relating to busking, cycling, skateboarding, and the use of e-bikes and e-scooters are retained, with minor refinements to ensure clarity and enforceability.

2.6 The proposed Order introduces new provisions to address the use of amplification equipment and the erection of temporary structures such as gazebos and stalls, both of which have been identified as sources of complaint and disruption within the city centre.

2.7 A further change within the proposed Order is the move away from activity-based prohibitions, such as blanket restrictions on begging or unauthorised collections, towards a behaviour-based framework. Under this approach, the focus is placed on conduct that results in harassment, alarm, or distress, rather than the mere act of requesting money or being present within the city centre.

Behaviour-Based Approach to Requests for Money or Donations

2.8 The proposed Order focuses on conduct that amounts to aggressive, pressuring, or harassing requests for money or donations. This includes behaviours such as persistently following individuals after a refusal, intentionally obstructing a person's path, using threatening or intimidating language, or continuing to make requests after being asked to stop.

2.9 Importantly, the proposed provision makes clear that it does not apply to individuals who are merely sitting, standing, or present within the city centre, nor to those who are passively requesting assistance where no harmful behaviour is evident.

Amplification Equipment

2.10 The proposed Order introduces a new prohibition on the use of amplification equipment within the city centre unless authorised by Coventry City Council. This measure has been developed in response to a growing number of complaints from both businesses and members of the public regarding the use of amplified sound.

2.11 These complaints relate to excessive noise levels, disruption to commercial premises, and incidents where the use of amplification has contributed to an environment that is perceived as intimidating or distressing. In some cases, amplification has been used in conjunction with other activities that compound its impact, including the establishment of temporary structures and prolonged occupation of busy pedestrian areas.

2.12 The proposed prohibition provides a clear and enforceable mechanism to manage these issues, while retaining the ability for the Council to grant permission for appropriate and organised activities where necessary.

Temporary Structures

2.13 In parallel with the controls on amplification, the proposed Order includes a prohibition on the erection or placement of temporary structures, such as gazebos, canopies, stalls, and display stands, without prior authorisation from the Council.

2.14 Operational experience indicates that such structures are frequently used in conjunction with activities that generate complaints, particularly where they obstruct pedestrian routes or contribute to congestion within the city centre. This can create difficulties for individuals navigating the area, including those with mobility needs, and can lead to wider concerns about safety and accessibility.

2.15 The proposed provision also includes a requirement for individuals to comply with any direction given by an authorised officer to remove a structure. This ensures that officers have a practical and immediate means of addressing issues where they arise.

Retained Provisions

2.16 The proposed Order retains a number of existing provisions that continue to be necessary and effective. These include controls relating to busking and street performance, which remain subject to the Coventry City Centre Code of Conduct for Performers.

2.17 The proposed Order retains the provisions governing the use of pedal cycles, skateboards, and manual scooters. The requirement for such activities to be undertaken in a careful and considerate manner, and for individuals to dismount when directed by an authorised officer, continues to provide a proportionate mechanism for managing risk and preventing nuisance.

2.18 Similarly, the prohibition on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters within the restricted area is retained, with appropriate exemptions for mobility use and allowances for individuals to push such bikes through the area.

3 Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Public consultation was undertaken in the form of a survey which ran from 22nd June to 26th July 2026. Council officers undertook surveys in the city centre and there was an online survey.

3.2 The consultation generated 884 responses from residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Whilst views differed on some of the proposed measures, the overall response provides strong support for the proposed new Order that would retain a proportionate framework to address behaviours that negatively impact the experience of those who live in, work in, and visit the city centre.

3.3 The result of the consultation is detailed in Appendix 3a of the report. In summary:

- 87% of respondents supported the proposed changes to begging and street collections.
- 84% of the respondents agreed with banning amplification other than for authorised events and proportionate use in any protest or demonstration.
- 77% of respondents agreed with the proposed measure to ban temporary structures in the City Centre. This relates to Gazebos and similar.
- 85% are in favour of the other measures proposed as part of the Order, including the restriction of e-bikes/e-scooters, pedal cycles, busking and similar.

3.4 There were a number of themes that ran throughout the consultation and in response to different questions when people raised objections to the proposals.

3.5 Some people disagreed with the creation of an Order at all and felt that public spaces should not be places where rules and conditions are imposed on people.

3.6 Some respondents expressed concerns that the proposed measures could affect the ability to protest, demonstrate or express political or religious views. The proposed Order is not intended to restrict these activities. Instead, it seeks to manage the use of amplification equipment in a proportionate way that balances these rights with the interests of others using the city centre.

3.7 Authorised events will be permitted to use amplification equipment. Other requests, including those relating to protests and demonstrations, will be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure any use of amplification is proportionate and appropriate to the activity taking place. Details of the application process, including a dedicated email address, will be published on the Council's website.

3.8 It is recognised that some political stalls, demonstrations and similar activities may require the use of a table or display stand. Nothing in the proposed Order is intended to prevent lawful protest, political campaigning, trade union activity, faith activity or civic awareness raising conducted peacefully. Where amplification equipment or temporary structures are required, authorisation may be sought from the Council. Permission will normally be granted provided any table or similar structure is of a reasonable size and does not obstruct pedestrians. Details of the application process, including a dedicated email address, will be published on the Council's website.

3.9 The Council has carefully considered these concerns when developing the proposed Order. The intention is not to prevent lawful protest, faith activity, campaigning, busking or charitable activity. Rather, the focus is on addressing behaviours that have a detrimental impact on others and ensuring activities within the city centre can take place in a safe, proportionate and well-managed way.

3.10 A number of formal responses were received as part of the consultation process (Appendix 3b of the report). These responses have been carefully considered and have helped inform the final proposals set out within this report.

3.11 Responses were similar to the public consultation, some in support, some against and most asking that we take a pragmatic approach to different groups that may need or request amplification. A Response from Guide Dogs for the blind highlighted the benefit of restricting the number of temporary structures in the city centre and other considerations as outlined in the Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 4 of the report).

3.12 Consultation also took place with key stakeholders, including West Midlands Police, Coventry Business Improvement District and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Overall, stakeholders were supportive of the proposed approach. It is a requirement of granting a PSPO that it can be shown that it is needed and proportionate to a given issue. Statements and responses from specific organisations and their support for the renewal is an important consideration.

3.13 Alongside the consultation, a three-day observation exercise was carried out to assess compliance with the requirement for e-bike users to dismount when entering the restricted pedestrian zone. The exercise was undertaken remotely using CCTV, providing an accurate reflection of current compliance levels. The findings are summarised in Appendix 3c of the report.

3.14 Compliance with the requirement for e-bike riders to dismount within the pedestrian zone was low, with only around 23% of observed riders complying with the restriction. Whilst this indicates that some riders are dismounting, the assessment demonstrates that non-compliance remains and that the issue continues to be present within the city centre. The findings therefore provide evidence to support the continued inclusion of this restriction within the proposed Order.

3.15 Whilst the evidence supports the continued need for restrictions on e-bikes within the pedestrian zone, officers have also considered whether a different approach may be appropriate for council-authorised shared cycle hire schemes.

3.16 Since the introduction of the Council-authorised shared cycle hire scheme, officers have identified significant use of these bicycles within the city centre pedestrianised area. A monitoring exercise undertaken over a three-day period recorded more than seventy-nine shared hire bicycles passing through the restricted zone. Unlike privately operated electric bicycles, the shared hire bicycles are subject to geofencing technology that disables electric assistance within the pedestrianised area, meaning that riders must pedal the bicycle in the same manner as a conventional cycle whilst within the restricted area.

3.17 The Council recognises the importance of encouraging sustainable and active travel and considers that the managed nature of the scheme, together with the geofencing arrangements, materially reduces the concerns that originally led to restrictions on the use of e-bikes within the city centre. The available evidence does not currently indicate that these bicycles are generating a disproportionate number of complaints, incidents, or enforcement concerns. In addition, prohibiting the use of shared hire bicycles within the restricted area may create significant operational and enforcement challenges, particularly where users have legitimately hired bicycles without appreciating that they are classified as electrically assisted pedal cycles. On balance, the Council considers that a limited exemption for Council-authorised shared cycle hire schemes operating approved geofencing controls may provide a proportionate means of supporting sustainable travel whilst maintaining public safety within the city centre.

4 Public Engagement and awareness of changes.

4.1 A communications plan will be in place to reinforce the message to buskers, preachers, and anyone else that may currently be using amplification or erecting unauthorised temporary structures such as gazebos in the city centre should the renewal be granted. We will be using an approach of “Engage, Educate and, if necessary, Enforce.”

4.2 Public signage is regularly reviewed and updated as appropriate, and the Order will be publicised in accordance with the Act and the Regulations.

4.3 If the proposed Order is made, during the initial weeks of its operation, it is intended to focus on engagement and raising awareness of the new measures. Enforcement will only be used where there are non-engagement and repetition of prohibited activities.

4.4 The Council will publish the new Order on its website, and it will be communicated widely via the erection of notices across the city centre, a press release, social media and on the Council's website.

4.5 Attention will be given to groups most likely to be affected by the changes, including buskers, faith groups, campaigners, and operators who may seek permission to use amplification equipment or temporary structures. This will help ensure expectations are clear from the outset and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary enforcement action.

5 Enforcement Activity

5.1 Enforcement will be a key element of the PSPO and as such ensuring the right approach is essential. Therefore, a multi-agency engagement, intervention and enforcement approach to support the Order, if approved, has been agreed with partners.

There are a number of enforcement options ranging from a warning, and/or issuing FPNs, to prosecution where the FPN is not paid or it is not considered appropriate to issue a FPN. Where a person believes to have breached the PSPO refuses to give his/her name and address then they may be prosecuted and on conviction fined up to level 3 fine on the standard scale, currently £1000.

The recruitment of six additional Community Wardens, including a supervisor provides a significant opportunity to increase visibility, engagement and enforcement activity within the city centre. The PSPO will be a key tool in supporting this work and improving compliance with expected standards of behaviour.

5.2 In addition, there have been improvements to the communications between the Council and Police, with shared teams channels, documents and similar so all agencies are aware of enforcement activity against known individuals that cause problems in the city centre. This should make it easier to track people and escalate enforcement as necessary, whilst always being aware to offer support for any vulnerabilities.

5.3 The engagement and enforcement activity will be monitored through the fortnightly city centre partnership meeting attended by the Police, BID and the City Council. Furthermore, PSPOs will be added to the Council's monthly City Tasking meeting that reports to the Coventry Community Safety Partnership. This will provide data that can evidence the effectiveness of the PSPOs in the city and enforcement activity.

6 **Timetable for implementing this decision**

6.1 If approved, the City Centre PSPO will take effect on 21st November 2026 as set out in the table below:

Milestone	Date to be completed
Report to Scrutiny Coordination Committee	26th August 2026
Report to Cabinet	1st September 2026
Publish new City Centre PSPO	2nd November 2026
City Centre PSPO comes into force	21st November 2026
Publicity and Engagement period	7th December 2026

6.2 It is proposed that a two-week period of education and publicising of the amendment be put in place to support and encourage behaviour change and compliance for the new measures. This two-week period would provide a pragmatic risk-based approach to enforcement, with the priority being education and support in most cases, but officers reserve the right to enforce as needed.

6.3 A PSPO is valid for a period of three years, and can be rescinded, amended, or extended at any point during that period. Any amendment or extension will need to follow the consultation and approval process again.

7 **Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

7.1 **Financial implications**

Signage, stencils and materials to inform the public of the new proposed measures are expected to cost less than £1000 and will be met from existing budgets.

No additional resource will be required to implement the proposed amended PSPO. Any additional income generated by the introduction of a PSPO is expected to be minimal and will contribute towards Council resources.

7.2 **Legal implications**

Under sections 59-75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, local authorities have powers to make PSPOs.

The Council can only make a PSPO when it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out in a public place have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area and are persistent, continuing, and unreasonable. The Council would also need to be satisfied that the restrictions imposed were justified.

Should anyone object to the granting of a PSPO they would have to make a High Court application within 6 weeks of the Order being granted.

For that appeal to be successful they would have to show that the Council did not have the power to make the Order, as the issue covered has not been demonstrated, usually by empirical evidence, to be a significant enough issue to justify the restriction. The other grounds for the appeal would be to demonstrate that the consultation process was inadequate.

PSPOs can only apply to public places. This means any place to which the public, or and sections of the public, on payment or otherwise, have access to as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

The Council will decide whether it is appropriate to issue a fixed penalty notice for any breach of the PSPO witnessed by an enforcing officer. In line with other PSPOs in Coventry, any FPN for non-compliance with a PSPO will be set at £100 reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days. If the FPN is not paid, court proceedings can be initiated to prosecute for the offence of failing to comply with the PSPO where the maximum fine is currently £1000 (level 3 on the standard scale). Following conviction, the Council could apply for a Criminal Behaviour Order which can contain both prohibitions and positive requirements.

Regulation 2 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/2591) requires publication on the Council's website and by notices.

8 **Other implications**

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

Crime and Disorder
Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the work of the Community Safety Team and Strategic Assessment work.

8.2 **How is risk being managed?**

The principal risk is that public confidence in the Order could be undermined if restrictions are not applied consistently or enforcement activity is insufficient. This risk will be mitigated through increased city centre resources, joint working with partners, ongoing monitoring and regular review of enforcement activity.

8.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

8.4 **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equality Impact Assessment to ensure no minority group is unduly disadvantaged by the implementation of any amended Order has been conducted (Appendix 4 of the report).

Consultation responses highlighted concerns around accessibility, including the impact of noise, temporary structures and unsafe cycling on disabled people, older residents and those with mobility or sensory impairments. The proposed Order seeks to address these issues while ensuring reasonable exemptions remain available where appropriate.

The Order, if approved will not apply to authorised shared cycle hire schemes operating approved geofencing controls within the city centre and mobility scooters, or to a person who is using an E bike or E scooter as a mobility aid in circumstances where it is not reasonably practicable for that person to dismount and push.

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

The purpose of taking action is to address adverse behaviours in the city centre, to improve the environment and wellbeing of the community. It is recognised that cycling is an environmentally friendly format of travel and should be encouraged and Coventry continues to support and encourage active forms of transport including cycling.

8.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**

Powers granted will also be available to West Midlands Police and the BID, subject to officers being trained/qualified.

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Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law Governance and Safer Communities	6/08/2026	07/08/2026
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Ewan Dewer	Head of Finance	Finance and Resources	06/08/2026	07/08/2026
Faye Cartwright	Regulatory Lawyer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	06/08/2026	06/08/2026
Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Community Safety	-	06/08/2026	06/08/2026
Councillor J McNicholas	Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion	-	10/08/2026	10/08/2026

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COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014, SECTION 59 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (CITY CENTRE) 2026

This Order is made by Coventry City Council ("the Council") under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Section 59 ("the Act").

This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order (City Centre) and comes into force on 21 November 2026. This Order will have effect for a period of 3 years, until 21 November 2029.

1. This Order relates to the public space within the area edged in red on the plan of Coventry City Centre which appears at Appendix 1a, being public space in the Council's area to which the Act applies (“the Restricted Area”).

2. This Order also relates to the public space within the area edged in purple on the plan of Coventry City Centre which appears at Appendix 1b, being public space in the Council's area to which the Act applies (“the E-bike/E-Scooter Restricted Area”).

3. The Council is satisfied that the two conditions below have been met, in that:

   (a) activities carried on in the Restricted Area as described below have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that these activities will be carried on in the public place and they will have such an effect;
   (b) the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.

BY THIS ORDER

4. The effect of the Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in the Restricted Area at all times, unless specifically stated:

A. Engaging in any conduct that amounts to aggressive, pressuring, or harassing requests for money or donations

No person shall engage in behaviour within the Restricted Area that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any other person. Without limiting the above, such behaviour includes but is not limited to the following examples:

(i) Persistent following of a person after a refusal of a request
(ii) Intentionally obstructing a person’s path
(iii) Using threatening, abusive, offensive or intimidating language or behaviour
(iv) Accosting a person in a manner that impedes their movement
(v) Continuing to make a request for money or goods after being clearly asked to stop

Exemption:

For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition does not apply to merely sitting, standing, or being present in the Restricted Area, nor to passively request assistance, where no harmful behaviour occurs.

B. Use of Amplification Equipment

Within the area shown as the City Centre Restricted Area on the enclosed map, a person must not, unless authorised by Coventry City Council, use amplification equipment. For the purposes of this prohibition, amplification equipment includes but is not limited to:

(i) Loudspeakers
(ii) Speakers
(iii) Microphones
(iv) Megaphones
(v) Loudhailers
(vi) Amplifiers
(vii) or any similar device designed to increase the volume of sound.

Exemption:

This prohibition does not apply where written authorisation has been granted by Coventry City Council. Authorisation may include (but is not limited to):

(i) organised events
(ii) authorised performances
(iii) council-approved promotional activity
(iv) other activities approved by the local authority.

Nothing in this Order is intended to prevent or restrict lawful protest, political campaigning, trade union activity, faith activity, or civic awareness-raising conducted peacefully. Where any such activity involves the use of amplification equipment or the erection, placing or maintenance of temporary structures, written authorisation may be required under Sections B and C.

C. Temporary structures

Within the area shown as the City Centre Restricted Area on the enclosed map, a person must not, unless authorised by Coventry City Council, erect, place or maintain any temporary structure unless authorised by Coventry City Council.

For the purposes of this prohibition, a temporary structure includes but is not limited to:

(i) gazebos
(ii) canopies
(iii) stalls
(iv) display stands
(v) or any similar structure designed to facilitate trading, promotion or gathering.

Any person directed by an authorised officer to remove a temporary structure must comply with that request. Failure to comply will leave them liable to enforcement.

Exemption:

This prohibition does not apply where written authorisation has been granted by Coventry City Council. Authorisation may include (but is not limited to):

(i) organised events
(ii) authorised markets
(iii) council-approved promotional activity
(iv) permitted demonstrations or gatherings
(v) activities authorised by the local authority.

D. Buskers and Street Performers

Any person is prohibited from performing contrary to the 'Coventry City Centre Code of Conduct for Performers' (see Appendix 2).

E. Pedal cycles, Skateboarding and manual scooters

Any person riding a pedal cycle, skateboarding or riding a manual scooter within the Restricted Area must do so in a careful and considerate manner and must dismount if requested to do so by an authorised officer when continuing to ride would cause a danger to the public or cause harassment, alarm or distress. Failure to comply will leave them liable to enforcement.

F. E-bikes and E-scooters outside the E-bike/E-Scooter Restricted Area

Any person riding, operating or otherwise using an E-bike or E-scooter outside of the (E-bike/E-Scooter) Restricted Area but within the wider Restricted Area shown edged red on the map at Appendix 1a (City Centre PSPO Map) must do so in a careful and considerate manner and must dismount if requested to do so by an authorised officer when continuing to ride would cause a danger to the public or cause harassment, alarm or distress. Failure to comply will leave them liable to enforcement.

G. E-bikes and E-scooters within the E-bike/E-Scooter restricted Area

No person shall ride, operate or otherwise use an E-bike or E-scooter within the E-bike/E-Scooter Restricted Area shown on the map shown edged in purple at Appendix 1b. A person may, however, dismount and push or walk alongside an E-bike or E-scooter through the E-bike/E-Scooter Restricted Area.

This prohibition does not apply where the use is expressly authorised in writing by Coventry City Council, or where the E-bike or E-scooter is supplied under a hire scheme operated by or on behalf of Coventry City Council and/or Transport for West Midlands and used in accordance with the terms of that scheme.

Exemption:

This prohibition does not apply to mobility scooters, or to a person who is using an E-bike or E-scooter as a mobility aid in circumstances where it is not reasonably practicable for that person to dismount and push; any device used under this exemption must be operated carefully and considerately at all times.

OFFENCES UNDER THIS PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

a. A person who is guilty of an offence shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

b. A Fixed Penalty Notice of £100.00 will be issued to offenders (reduced to £60.00 if paid within 14 days) which would discharge any liability to conviction for an offence under Section 67(1) of the Act.

APPEALS:

Any challenge to this Order must be made at the High Court by an interested person within six (6) weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the right to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of the Order on two grounds:

1) that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or
2) that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made, the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the Order pending the Court's decision, in part or in whole. The High Court can uphold, quash, or vary the Order.

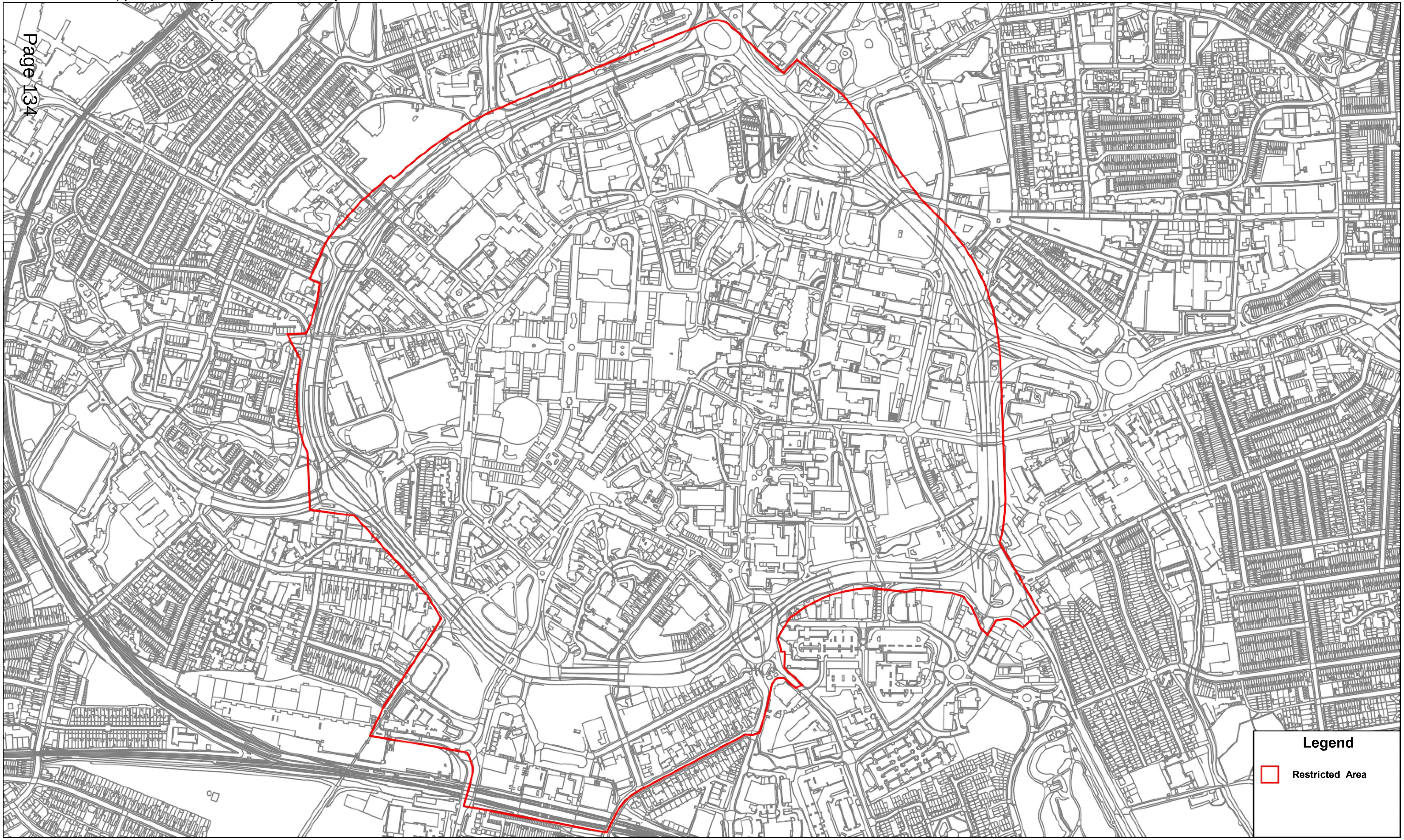
…………………………………………………… **JULIE NEWMAN, Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

Made under the Common Seal of Coventry City Council on this day of 2026

The Common Seal of the Council of the City
of Coventry was hereunto affixed to this
Order in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

Appendix 1a City Centre PSPO Map



PLACE DIRECTORATE
STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE TEAM
FLOOR 9, CIVIC CENTRE 4
MUCH PARK STREET
COVENTRY CV1 2PY
024 7683 2755

City Centre - PSPO

Drawn By: NH
Scale : NTS
Date: 02/02/2017

Martin Yardley - Executive Director, Place
Richard Moon - Assistant Director, Project Management & Property Services

For Identification purposes only

Appendix 1b - Pedestrianised Area

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Appendix 2 – Code of Conduct for Performers (effective November 21st 2026)

Coventry city centre code of conduct for performers

We recognise the role which buskers and performers they can play in improving the Streetscene and driving footfall which is to everyone's benefit.

Equally, we also recognise that in order to coexist and complement each other, there needs to be common courtesy between performers and businesses. In order to do this there are some basic rules that need to be observed.

In the first instance, we ask that any affected businesses speak to the performer to explain that they are adversely affecting their business; usually a small adjustment or slight relocation will resolve matters. If this cannot be amicably resolved, businesses should request support via the **Shopwatch radio system or call 08085 834333.**

Rules

1. a person must not, unless authorised by Coventry City Council, use amplification equipment. For the purposes of this prohibition, amplification equipment includes but is not limited to:

   Loudspeakers, Speakers, Microphones, Megaphones, Loudhailers, Amplifiers or any similar device designed to increase the volume of sound.

2. Exemption:

   This prohibition does not apply where written authorisation has been granted by Coventry City Council. Authorisation may include (but is not limited to):

   organised events, authorised performances, council-approved promotional activity.other activities approved by the local authority.

3. Volume levels must be relative and considerate. A simple test would be the volume is too loud if a standard conversation cannot be held in a nearby shop. Equally, if the volume can clearly be heard 50 metres away it is likely to be too loud and performers must modify their performance.
4. There is no limit on the number of performers, however they must not cause any obstruction on the public highway. Wheelchairs, pushchairs and similar must be able to easily get past and performers should be mindful of positioning themselves in any pinch-points where this is likely to be an issue.
5. Performers can select a pitch anywhere in the City Centre as long as it is public land.
6. The maximum length of time a performer can spend in a single location is 90 minutes, and they are not to return to the same location in the same day. This is to be fair to all and prevent a location being monopolised by anyone.
7. Performers may sell their own CDs and similar without the need for a trading permit, but there must be a sign making it clear that they are inviting donations for these goods. It is reasonable to suggest a minimum donation.
8. Any performer that is in a location where there is a pre-arranged event or booking must leave if requested to, or at least relocate accordingly. As much prior notice as possible will be given.
9. Street performers such as living statues, jugglers and similar must have their own public liability insurance of at least £5m.

Appendix 3a – Summary of Public Consultation

City Centre PSPO Renewal 2026

Coventry City Council

coventry.gov.uk

Executive Summary

- The consultation asked for views on renewing the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a further three years, until 21 November 2029, and on proposed updates covering street begging and charity collections, amplification equipment and temporary structures.
- A total of 884 survey responses were received during the four-week consultation period from 22 June to 26 July 2026, including 48 face-to-face responses collected in the city centre.
- Most responses were from members of the public, and responses were received from all Coventry wards.
- Overall support for renewal of the PSPO was high, with 85% of respondents in favour, 8% not in favour and 7% not sure.
- There was strong support for each of the proposed changes: 87% supported the proposal on street begging and charity collections, 84% supported the proposal on amplification equipment, and 77% supported the proposal on temporary structures.
- Supportive comments focused mainly on making the city centre feel safer, more welcoming, more accessible and better managed, particularly for older people, disabled people, families, workers and visitors.
- Common issues raised included aggressive or persistent approaches, loud amplified sound, obstruction from temporary structures, and the need to improve the overall city centre experience.
- A key cross-cutting theme was enforcement. Many respondents supported the PSPO but felt it would only be effective if backed by visible officers, clear signage, consistent action and simple ways for the public to report breaches.
- Those against or unsure were generally not opposed to tackling nuisance, safety risks or anti-social behaviour. Their concerns centred on avoiding overly broad restrictions, protecting lawful protest, faith activity, busking, charity work and civic campaigning, and ensuring clear, fair and proportionate decision-making.
- Respondents also highlighted the importance of tackling root causes, particularly homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental health needs, alongside any enforcement approach.
- The findings suggest broad public support for renewing and updating the PSPO, provided the final approach is clearly worded, proportionate, consistently enforced and supported by accessible permission processes and appropriate support for vulnerable people.

Background

Coventry City Council asked for people's views on whether the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) should continue for another three years, until 21 November 2029.

The current order helps manage behaviour in the city centre. It covers things like street begging, unlicensed street trading, handing out leaflets without permission, unauthorised charity collections, and busking or street performances that do not follow the city centre rules. It also restricts cycling, e-bikes and e-scooters in the protected area and allows officers to ask people to get off bikes, skateboards or scooters.

We are proposing to update some of the existing rules, so they are clearer and easier to enforce. The main change is to focus on behaviour that is aggressive, intimidating or causes nuisance, rather than simply someone being present in the city centre.

A new rule would restrict the use of loudspeakers, microphones, megaphones and other amplification equipment unless written permission has been given by the Council. Additionally a new rule would restrict temporary structures such as gazebos, stalls, canopies and display stands unless they have been authorised by the Council.

Methodology

An online consultation was carried out for 4 weeks from 22 June until 26 July 2026.

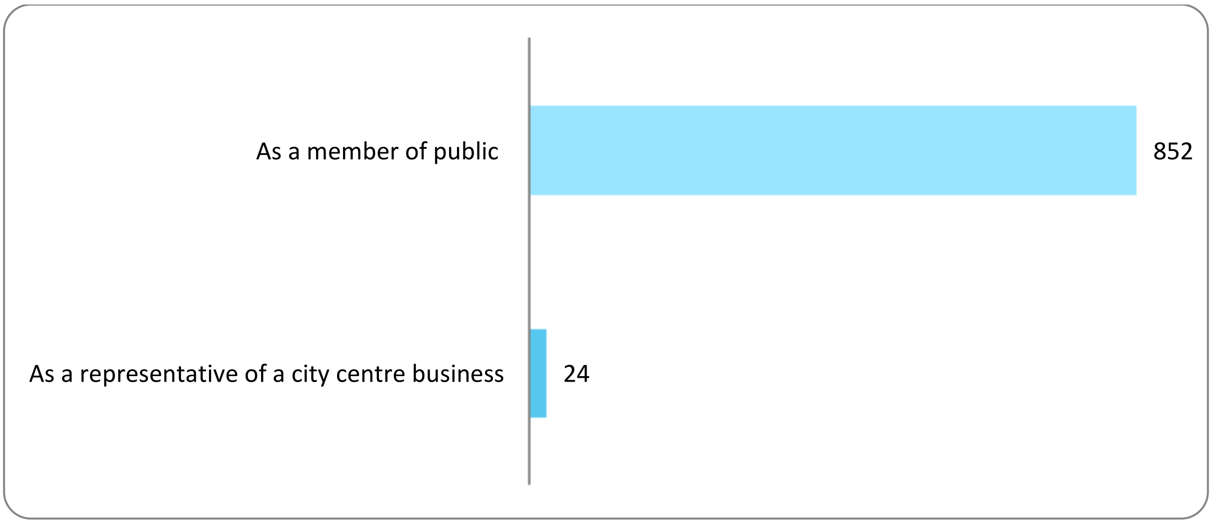
In addition, Officers walked around the city centre, and asked people face to face to fill in the survey directly onto electronic tablets.

Response Rate

884 survey responses were received. 48 of which were face to face.

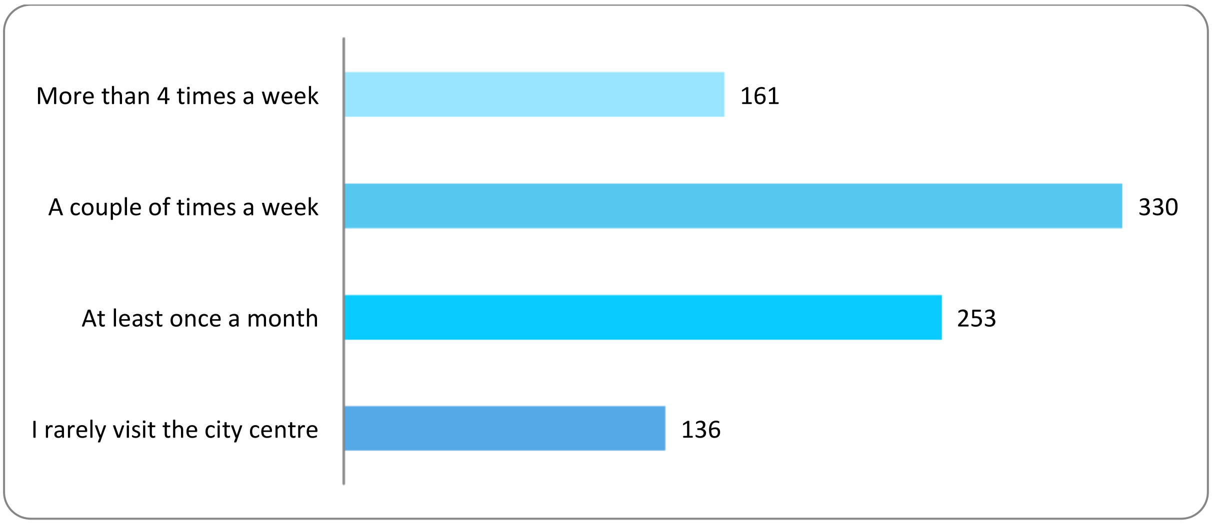
Survey Findings

How are you responding to this consultation?



97% of responses were from members of the public.

How often do you tend to visit the city centre?



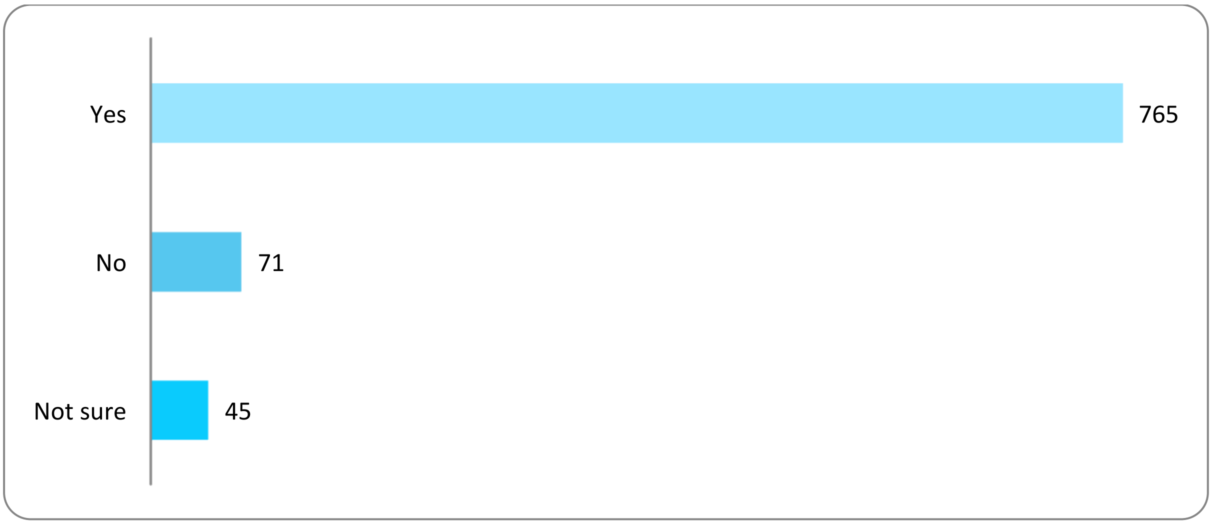
Answers varied to this question, the majority of respondents visiting the city centre a couple of times a week at 38%.

Has the current city centre PSPO improved your experience of using the city centre?

	Number	%
Yes	175	20%
No	347	39%
Not sure	359	41%

1 in 5 respondents believe that the current PSPO has improved the city centre (20%), the majority of respondents are unsure (41%) or do not believe that the PSPO has improved the city centre (39%).

Street begging and charity collections



87% of respondents are in favour of this proposal, 8% are not in favour and 5% are unsure.

Respondents were asked to give reasons for their answer.

Comments in Support of the Proposal

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned one comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Feeling unsafe, intimidated or harassed	175	The strongest theme was that aggressive begging, repeated approaches, being followed, blocked or pressured made people feel unsafe or	*"No one should feel intimidated or scared when all they want to do*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
		uncomfortable. Respondents often linked this to visiting alone, with children, or as an older or vulnerable person.	*is go about their business."*
Persistent begging, charity collectors and street sellers not taking "no" for an answer	120	Many respondents supported action where people continue asking after being refused, step into someone's path, follow them, or make people feel guilty for not giving money or signing up to a cause.	*"No should be enough."*
Impact on city centre visits and perceptions	95	Respondents said harassment, begging and anti-social behaviour put them off visiting the city centre, made shopping or working there unpleasant, and harmed the city's reputation as a welcoming place.	*"One of the reasons I don't visit the city centre is constant persistent harassment of people asking for donations or begging for money."*
Support for a balanced and proportionate approach	70	A common view was that the proposal was reasonable because it targeted aggressive, intimidating or obstructive behaviour rather than people who are simply present, sitting quietly or asking peacefully for help.	*"It's behaviour, not simply presence, which is problematic."*
Need for clearer or stronger enforcement	60	Some respondents supported the proposal but questioned whether it would work without visible enforcement, clearer reporting routes, more patrols, or better action from police, security or council officers.	*"Rules are useless without enforcement."*
Wider anti-social behaviour and city centre environment	55	Although the question focused on begging and collections, many respondents also mentioned alcohol, drugs, rough sleeping, e-bikes, scooters, loud speakers, preachers, litter and general decline in the city centre.	*"The city centre in general is no longer a welcoming venue."*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Concern for older, disabled, female, young or vulnerable visitors	45	Several respondents highlighted that older people, disabled people, women, children and people visiting alone can feel particularly vulnerable when approached, followed, pressured or blocked.	*"As an old woman I am in favour of the Council doing all in its power to curb aggression and harassment."*
Support for people in genuine need	40	Some respondents were sympathetic to people who are homeless or in need and felt they should be offered help and support, while still agreeing that aggressive or intimidating behaviour should be addressed.	*"It is important to be able to tackle harassment without criminalising being destitute."*

Those that are in support of this proposal most commonly referred to feeling unsafe, intimidated or harassed in the city centre, particularly when people are followed, blocked, approached repeatedly or pressured after saying no. Many respondents supported the proposal because they felt it would make the city centre feel safer, more welcoming and easier to visit. Several also stressed that the focus should be on behaviour rather than homelessness itself, with passive begging or peaceful charity activity treated differently from aggressive or pressurised approaches.

Comments against or not sure about the proposal.

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned one comment may cover multiple themes.

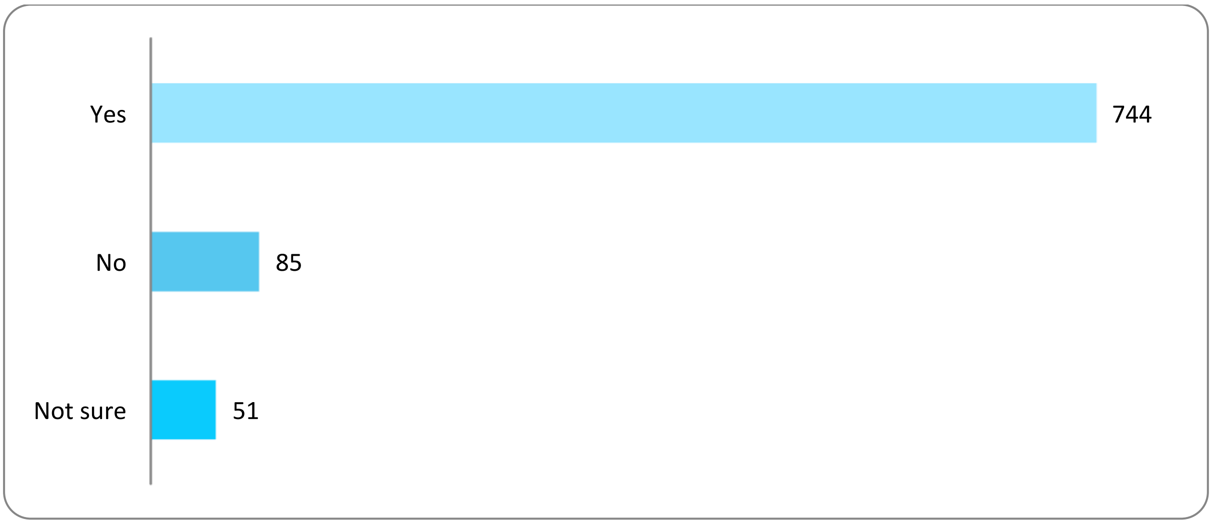
Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Proposal does not go far enough on begging	32	The most common concern was that the proposed rule still allows passive begging. Respondents said asking quietly, sitting near shops or cash machines, or being visibly present in doorways could still feel intimidating and harm the city centre's appearance.	*"I think all begging should be stopped, including passive."*
Concern about freedom of speech, protest	26	Many respondents were concerned that restrictions on handing out materials, stalls, gazebos or amplified sound	*"There is no good reason for polite and respectful raising of*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
and civic campaigning		could limit lawful protest, political campaigning, religious expression, trade union activity or community awareness raising.	*public issues to be restricted."*
Need to tackle root causes and support homeless people	20	Several comments argued that enforcement alone would not address homelessness, poverty, addiction or mental health needs. Respondents called for accommodation, support services, social housing and help into employment.	*"Build more social houses for homeless people and provide good jobs, then, there should be less homelessness in Coventry."*
Wording is unclear, subjective or open to misuse	18	Respondents felt terms such as harassment, alarm, distress, intimidation or offensive language could be interpreted too broadly. Some wanted clearer definitions of what would and would not be covered to prevent inconsistent or discriminatory enforcement.	*"The wording needs to be much clearer about what is permitted and what is not permitted."*
Concerns about enforcement and effectiveness	15	Some comments questioned whether the current or proposed order would make any difference without more visible enforcement, police presence, proactive patrols and clearer action against existing issues.	*"Order has no effect."*
Some respondents have not experienced the problem	9	A smaller number said they had not personally experienced the behaviours described or did not see them as a significant current problem in the city centre.	*"I have never seen this in the city centre and walk through the city multiple times a week."*
Wider city centre safety, cleanliness and anti-social behaviour	8	Some respondents used the question to raise broader concerns about crime, e-bikes, scooters, street drinking, loudspeakers, cleanliness, empty shops and	*"I feel totally unsafe and I am constantly watching over my shoulder."*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
		the general condition of the city centre.	

Overall, these comments show two main areas of concern. Some respondents felt the proposal was not strong enough because they wanted all forms of begging or visible rough sleeping addressed. Others were concerned that the wording could be too broad and might restrict democratic activity, peaceful campaigning, faith activity, charity work or freedom of expression. A further theme was that the Council should focus more on support, housing and the root causes of homelessness alongside any enforcement approach.

Amplification Equipment



84% of respondents are in favour of this proposal, 10% are not in favour and 6% are unsure.

Comments in support of the proposal

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Excessive noise and noise pollution	185	The strongest theme was that amplified sound is too loud, intrusive and unpleasant. Respondents described it as noise pollution that makes it hard	*"The use of loudspeakers in public spaces such as streets and city centres should be kept to a minimum, as*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
		to shop, relax, talk, work or enjoy the city centre.	*excessive noise can disturb residents, visitors, and local businesses."*
Religious preaching through loudspeakers	150	Many respondents specifically mentioned street preachers using microphones, megaphones or speakers. Comments said this felt intrusive, intimidating, offensive or unwanted, particularly where religious messages were loud, repetitive or distressing.	*"I don't want to hear religious preaching over amplifiers which is common in the city centre."*
Impact on city centre experience and visits	100	Respondents said amplified sound makes the city centre less welcoming and puts people off visiting, sitting outside, shopping, eating out or spending time in areas such as Broadgate and the Upper Precinct.	*"Because of the noise I try to spend as little time in the city centre as possible."*
Support for permission, licensing or volume controls	85	Many comments supported allowing amplification only where permission has been granted, with limits on volume, location, timings or the number of performers or groups operating at one time.	*"There should be an enforced decibel level, so that the city centre does not become excessively noisy."*
Multiple competing sound sources	65	Respondents frequently described several preachers, buskers or performers operating close together, creating overlapping sound, confusion and a "cacophony" that made the city centre feel chaotic.	*"Sometimes you have 3 or 4 different speakers going off… it spoils your experience."*
Sensory, health and	55	Several respondents highlighted the impact of loud amplified sound on neurodivergent people,	*"As a person with autism, I find that the noise caused by the use of amplifiers*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
accessibility impacts		people with autism, hearing loss, tinnitus or hearing aids, as well as children, older people and people who find loud noise overwhelming.	*makes the city centre less accessible to me."*
Impact on businesses and workers	35	Some respondents, including city centre workers and businesses, said amplified sound affects staff, customers and shop environments, particularly where noise continues for long periods near workplaces or cafés.	*"I really pity anyone that has to work near these people."*
Busking can be positive if controlled	30	Some respondents distinguished between enjoyable busking or organised performances and poor-quality or overly loud amplified music. Many supported buskers where they are licensed, kept to a reasonable volume and do not dominate the space.	*"A bit of acoustic music is nice."*

Overall, comments in support of the amplification proposal focused on the impact of loud and repeated amplified sound on people's enjoyment of the city centre. The most common concerns were noise pollution, intrusive religious preaching, multiple competing sound sources, and the effect on people with sensory sensitivities or hearing difficulties. Many respondents supported a permission-based approach, provided it is clearly enforced and allows appropriate events or good-quality performances at reasonable volume.

Comments against or not sure about the proposal

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

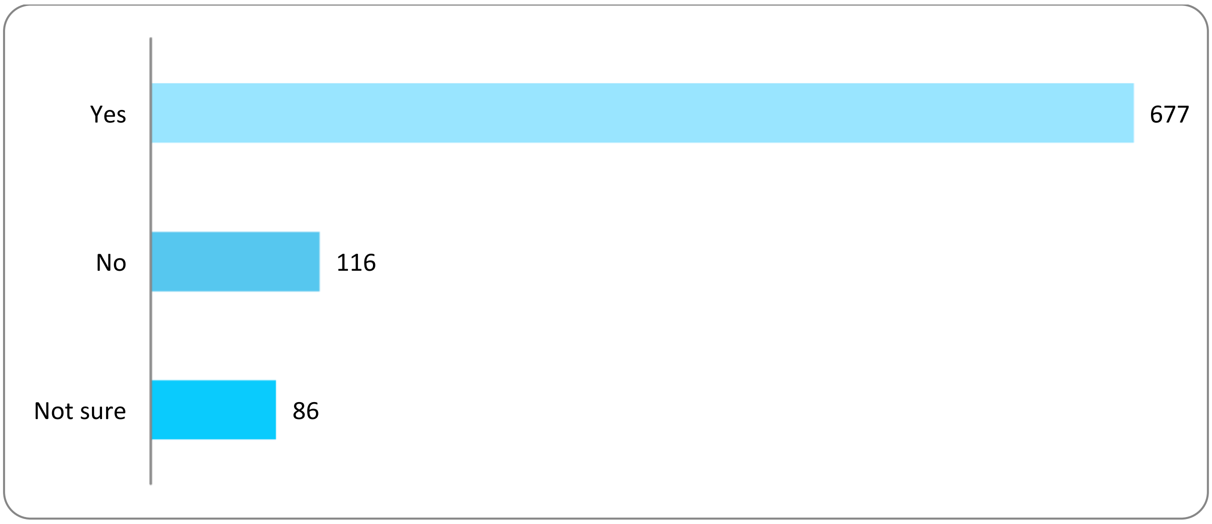
Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Freedom of speech, protest and	34	The strongest concern was that requiring Council permission could restrict	*"This could be used to restrict both the*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
democratic expression		lawful protest, political campaigning, religious expression, public debate or the ability of people and groups to make themselves heard in public spaces.	*right to protest and freedom of worship."*
Concern about too much Council discretion or unclear permission process	22	Respondents questioned who would decide what is allowed, what criteria would be used, how easy permission would be to obtain, and whether the process could be inconsistent, subjective, costly or slow.	*"Who within the council will decide if someone can use these devices and what criteria will be used?"*
Support for buskers, musicians and street performers	21	Many comments said buskers, musicians and street performers add atmosphere, culture and vibrancy to the city centre and should not be discouraged by a blanket restriction.	*"I enjoy all the street performers, and would not want to see these restricted, they add character to the city."*
Preference for volume limits rather than a ban	19	Some respondents accepted that excessive noise should be managed but preferred clear decibel limits, time limits, spacing between performers or enforcement against actual nuisance rather than requiring permission for all amplification.	*"A specific dB limit should be provided, so that amplification can be used where appropriate."*
Concern about impact on faith groups and the Salvation Army	12	Several respondents, particularly those referring to Christian groups or the Salvation Army, felt responsible use of microphones for music, announcements or open-air ministry should be allowed and not treated the same as intrusive noise.	*"A restriction on using a sound system would render our communication less effective so we would wish to be exempt from this."*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Public spaces should remain lively and expressive	10	Some respondents felt sound, performance, music and public speech contribute to a lively city centre and help avoid public spaces feeling bland, over-controlled or sterile.	*"A lively public space is good."*
Target nuisance behaviour rather than responsible users	9	Some comments argued that the Council should publish guidelines, monitor behaviour and act against those who are excessively loud or disruptive, rather than placing hurdles in front of responsible performers, campaigners or community groups.	*"Publish guidelines and punish the bad actors who don't adhere to them."*

Overall, those against or unsure about the amplification proposal were not generally arguing for unlimited noise. The main concern was that a permission-based approach could be too broad and might restrict free speech, protest, faith activity, busking or civic participation. Many respondents favoured a more targeted approach based on clear volume limits, duration, location and enforcement against actual nuisance, while protecting responsible performers and community groups.

Temporary Structures



77% of respondents are in favour of this proposal, 13% are not in favour and 10% are not sure.

Comments in support of the proposal

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Obstruction, access and pedestrian movement	105	The strongest theme was that gazebos, stalls, signs, tables and other temporary structures can block walkways, reduce space and make it harder for people to move freely around the city centre.	*"They get in the way and block paths, someone who's disabled might struggle getting around due to this."*
Safety, hazards and risk management	80	Many respondents supported permission requirements because temporary structures may be unsafe, cause trip hazards, blow over, obstruct visibility, or require risk assessments and checks before being erected.	*"Temporary structures can be a H & S hazard."*
Untidy appearance, clutter and impact on city image	75	Respondents frequently said temporary structures make the city centre look messy, shabby, cluttered or less welcoming, particularly where they detract from recent investment, public spaces, fountains or landmarks.	*"They make the City Centre look shoddy, which is a shame after the millions spent bringing it to the present very high standard."*
Need for permission, regulation and enforcement	70	A common view was that anyone wishing to put up a structure in a public space should seek Council permission first, with clear rules, permits and the ability to remove unauthorised structures promptly.	*"People should get permission for anything they do in the city centre."*
Protecting disabled, elderly, visually	45	Several respondents highlighted the effect of clutter and obstacles on	*"All of the items are obstructions to the*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
impaired people and families		disabled people, older people, wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and blind or partially sighted visitors.	*partially sighted and the elderly."*
Concerns about unauthorised traders, scams or unsafe goods	38	Some respondents felt regulation would help ensure stalls, displays or traders are legitimate, authorised and safe, and would deter counterfeit goods, unlicensed trading or misleading activity.	*"By having to apply for permission means unlicensed traders will not be able to trade."*
Religious, political or promotional stands causing nuisance	35	Many comments referred to religious, promotional, charity, energy supplier or political stands as intrusive, pressurising or out of keeping with a relaxing shopping environment.	*"There is a time and place for all these things: a visit to the city centre should be relaxing, not feel like attendance at a political rally, religious ceremony or constant harassment to donate money."*
Support for authorised events or legitimate uses	20	Some respondents supported the proposal while recognising that authorised events, markets, charities, pop-ups or community uses can be positive if properly managed and located.	*"Properly organised this can be a good thing for the City Centre."*

Overall, comments in support of the temporary structures proposal focused on keeping the city centre safe, accessible, tidy and well managed. The main concerns were obstruction of walkways, risks to disabled or visually impaired people, health and safety, visual clutter, and the need to ensure that stalls, gazebos and displays are legitimate, authorised and properly controlled. Many respondents supported permission being required, while still allowing appropriate events, markets or community activity where they are well organised.

Comments against or not sure about the proposal

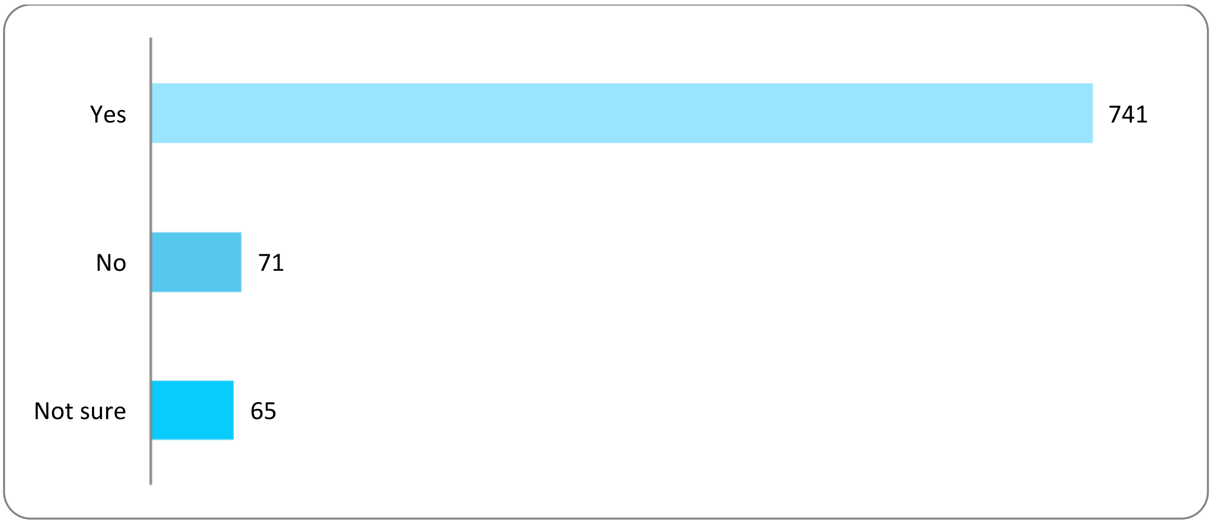
The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Freedom of speech, protest and civic activity	28	The strongest theme was concern that restricting stalls, gazebos or display tables could limit lawful protest, political campaigning, religious activity, charity work, trade union activity and public awareness raising.	*"There is no good reason for polite and respectful raising of public issues through a stall to be restricted."*
Structures are not a problem if they do not obstruct	24	Many respondents said temporary structures are acceptable where they are small, supervised, temporary and do not block walkways, entrances or pedestrian movement.	*"If a temporary structure is not obstructive, I don't see a problem."*
Concern about broad, vague or bureaucratic controls	22	Respondents felt the proposal was too broad or unclear, with insufficient detail on what structures would need permission, how decisions would be made, whether fees would apply, and how quickly permission could be obtained.	*"The proposal is too vague. Specific structures requiring permission should be defined."*
Positive contribution to city vibrancy and community life	20	Some comments said stalls, displays and small structures can make the city centre feel active, varied and connected, helping people find out about local causes, events, businesses and community groups.	*"I think it's good for groups to be able to show what they are doing and get support from the public."*
Preference for targeted rules rather than a blanket permission requirement	17	Several respondents supported action where structures cause obstruction, safety risks or nuisance, but preferred guidance, size limits or action based on actual harm rather than a broad permission requirement.	*"Something could be proposed such as stalls must not restrict access or unduly hinder right of way."*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Concern about barriers for charities, small groups and local causes	15	Some respondents were concerned that added bureaucracy, delays or fees could make it harder for charities, small community groups, rights groups, faith groups or micro-businesses to operate in the city centre.	*"It could hinder genuine registered charities."*
Not seen as a significant current problem	14	A smaller group said they had not noticed temporary structures causing problems, were unsure why the proposal was needed, or felt existing laws already covered obstruction and nuisance.	*"I haven't really noticed this being a problem."*

Overall, those against or unsure about the temporary structures proposal were generally not objecting to action against obstruction, unsafe structures or nuisance. Their main concern was that a broad permission-based approach could create unnecessary bureaucracy, limit public campaigning or community activity, and give the Council too much discretion. Many respondents favoured a more targeted approach based on clear criteria such as size, location, safety, obstruction and duration, with a simple and accessible permission process where needed.

Would you be in favour of the proposed renewal of the PSPO, until 2029? Including retaining the other current prohibitions on Ebikes, Peddle Cycles and Busking?)



85% of respondents are in favour of the proposed renewal of the PSPO, 8% are not in favour of the renewal and 7% are not sure.

Comments in support of the renewal of the PSPO

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Need for stronger, visible enforcement	150	The strongest theme was that respondents support renewal but feel it will only work if rules are actively enforced, with visible officers, patrols, fines, confiscation or other consequences for breaches.	*"No point in having rules that are ignored."*
E-bikes, e-scooters and pedal cycles as a safety risk	135	Many respondents highlighted the danger of e-bikes, e-scooters, delivery bikes and pedal cycles being ridden through pedestrian areas, often at speed, silently or without regard for pedestrians.	*"E-bikes and scooters etc are dangerous in pedestrianised areas."*
Making the city centre safer and more welcoming	80	Respondents supported the PSPO renewal because they felt it would help make the city centre safer, cleaner, calmer and more pleasant for shoppers, families, older people, workers and visitors.	*"This will make the city centre safer, much more enjoyable and create a healthy place to be."*
Current restrictions are not working well enough	65	A frequent view was that the existing PSPO is not being implemented consistently, with many people still seeing cycling, e-bikes, scooters, street drinking, rough sleeping, begging or loud preaching continuing in restricted areas.	*"The current PSPO is ineffective as there are too few officers to enforce it."*
Impact on vulnerable pedestrians	45	Several comments stressed that older people, disabled people, people with hearing or visual impairments, wheelchair users, children and families are particularly	*"Bikes etc are a hazard particularly for those with visual and hearing impairments and physical limitations."*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
		affected by fast-moving bikes, scooters and other hazards.	
Broader anti-social behaviour and city centre decline	40	Although the question focused on PSPO renewal, many respondents also raised wider concerns about street drinking, drug use, groups congregating, shoplifting, litter, rough sleeping, cleanliness and feeling unsafe.	*"City Centre should be clean and feel safe to encourage people to visit and shop."*
Need to include or extend restrictions	35	Some respondents wanted the order extended to cover more areas or behaviours, including e-scooters, illegal e-bikes, pavement cycling, skateboards, face coverings, rough sleeping, street drinking, littering or nearby locations outside the current zone.	*"Please include electric scooters too."*
Support for busking if managed separately	25	Some respondents supported the wider PSPO renewal but did not want all busking banned. They felt good-quality, acoustic or licensed busking can add atmosphere if managed separately from disruptive noise or begging.	*"Busking creates atmosphere in the city centre and attracts shoppers when done well."*

Overall, comments in support of renewing the PSPO focused strongly on safety and enforcement. Respondents most often referred to e-bikes, e-scooters, delivery riders and pedal cycles being used dangerously in pedestrian areas, and many felt the current rules are not being enforced visibly or consistently enough. There was broad support for continuing and strengthening the PSPO, but many comments stressed that it must be backed by clear signage, visible officers, stronger sanctions and practical ways for the public to report breaches.

Comments against or not sure about the renewal of the PSPO

The table below shows the themes by the number of times mentioned. One comment may cover multiple themes.

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
Support for busking and street performance	32	The most common concern was that busking should not be grouped with e-bikes or anti-social behaviour. Respondents said good busking brings life, culture and atmosphere to the city centre and should be managed rather than prohibited.	*"Busking is a cultural asset and should be allowed."*
Target illegal or dangerous e-bikes rather than all cycling	28	Many respondents distinguished between legal pedal cycles or legal e-bikes and illegal high-powered electric motorbikes or dangerous delivery riders. They felt existing traffic laws should be enforced rather than introducing broad restrictions.	*"The bikes that cause problems are actually electric motorbikes. No PSPO or other new laws are needed."*
Concerns about freedom of expression and public space	24	Some respondents felt the PSPO could restrict freedom of expression, protest, religious activity, campaigning or ordinary use of public space. They were concerned the proposals could go beyond tackling genuinely harmful behaviour.	*"Public space belongs to the public, not just to businesses and customers."*
Current rules are ineffective or unenforced	22	A common reason for being unsure was that existing restrictions are not enforced, particularly around e-bikes and scooters. Respondents questioned the value of renewal if the Council and police do not have resources or powers to act consistently.	*"I would say yes, but the last one was not enforced, so another waste of time."*
Need for exceptions for disabled cyclists and mobility needs	12	Several comments raised concern that cycling restrictions could negatively affect disabled people, older people or those who use legal e-bikes as mobility aids. Respondents wanted clearer	*"I truly wish there was a way for people like me, who use an e-bike as a form of mobility*

Theme	Number (approx.)	Summary of comments	Illustrative quote
		wording and reasonable adjustments.	*assistance, to apply for an exemption."*
Concern about discouraging sustainable transport	11	Some respondents felt cycling and e-bikes support active travel, public transport connections and environmental goals. They suggested safer routes, cycle parking and better separation from pedestrians instead of broad prohibitions.	*"The council should be focused on increasing, not criminalising, bicycle travel in the city centre."*
Question combines separate issues	9	Respondents said they were unsure because the question combined e-bikes, pedal cycles and busking. Many supported restrictions on dangerous riding but opposed restrictions on busking or wanted each issue considered separately.	*"I've put not sure for this because I support half the list but not the other."*

Overall, those against or unsure about renewal were not generally dismissing safety concerns. Many supported action on dangerous e-bikes, scooters or anti-social behaviour, but were concerned that the renewal grouped together very different issues. The strongest reservations related to protecting busking and cultural activity, avoiding unnecessary restrictions on responsible cyclists or disabled e-bike users, and ensuring that any rules focus on genuinely dangerous or disruptive behaviour rather than ordinary, positive use of public space.

Profile of Respondents

Wards	Numbers
Bablake	37
Binley and Willenhall	31
Cheylesmore	44
Earlsdon	76
Foleshill	13
Henley	32
Holbrook	33
Longford	25
Lower Stoke	43
Radford	41
Sherbourne	41
St Michael's	64
Upper Stoke	27
Wainbody	46
Westwood (Tile Hill and Canley)	32
Whoberley	57
Woodlands	40
Wyken	26
Out of Area	24
Not full postcodes	147

Responses were received from all wards.

How would you describe yourself?	Number
Male	414
Female	417
In another way	7
Prefer not to say	30

What age are you?	Number
16-24	25
25-34	87
35-44	122
45-54	127
54-64`	202
65-74	176
75+	101
Prefer not to say	30

Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?	Number
Asian/Asian British	41
Black/African/Caribbean British	14
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group	16
White	709
Prefer not to say	71
Other (please specify)	19

Those that stated other were Arab, Jewish, Greek and British

Do you consider yourself to be disabled or have a long term health condition?	Number
Yes	226
No	574
Prefer not to say	67

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Appendix 3b – Consultation Responses

I am Inspector 20634 Maria Perrin of the West Midlands Police, currently stationed at Coventry Central Police Station. I am the neighbourhood sector Inspector responsible for St Micheals ward.

The PSPO's are an important part of this framework that gives partners the ability to challenge behaviour that is not necessarily covered by other laws.
The City Centre PSPO that is due for renewal has a very important element for police and can provide an additional tactical power to arrest a person in breach of the order.
The changes suggested are relevant to the anti-social behaviour experienced in the city, including aggressive begging, the use of amplification equipment used by individuals in some cases to cause harassment, alarm and distress to others. Enforcement of e-bikes remains vital to ensuring the safety of visitors into the City and effective use of the PSPO will help tackle a key issue raised by communities in Coventry.
West Midlands Police see the value to community safety within this PSPO renewal and fully support this process.

Thank you

My name is (Redacted) and I own Battery Connection which is a business based close to the Precinct Fountain. I have been based here for 29 years.

My business depends on the City Centre being somewhere people choose to visit and they will not do so if the City Centre is not an inviting, enjoyable place to visit. I need to be able to have a normal discussion with my customers without the need for either of us to shout over the various buskers or preachers loud speakers.

Over the years I have definitely noticed a difference in the City Centre. Whist the pandemic had an effect on all Cities there are aspects of Coventry City Centre that need addressing.
Any proposal to bring in measures or controls don't mean very much if there are not enough officers to enforce it. I have been very disappointed with the frequency and visibility of officers in the City Centre. This needs to be addressed.

Since Birmingham City Centre brought in their amplification ban there has been a marked change in Coventry. There is no doubt there has been an influx of singers, preachers and others that rely on amplification & can be heard up to 50M-60M away.

The lack of officers enforcing and people putting up their own volumes to counter others mean there have been many times I have struggled to hear customers, and it has been damaging to my business & annoying to everyone.

At weekends the area around the fountain is very busy with various religious groups that all seem to have their own gazebos, desks & loudspeakers set up. This makes the area very crowded and causes some people to avoid the area because they don't want to be bothered by the groups or they find it hard to get past as the walkway is obstructed.

If I wanted to set up a gazebo or desk next to my business, I would quickly be stopped or charged a significant sum. These groups appear to do just what they want totally unchallenged.

As mentioned, I feel it needs to be stressed that any proposed measures need to have sufficient officers to ensure the rules are kept, but I do support the new proposals to ban amplification and temporary structures such as gazebos in the City Centre.

Coventry Trades Union Council

Established 1889

"UNITY IS STRENGTH"

Councillor John McNicholas,
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion
Coventry City Council,
Council House,
Earl Street,
Coventry,
CV1 5RR.

Dear Councillor McNicholas,

Public Space Protection Order – City Centre 2026

I am writing on behalf of Coventry Trade Union Council (CTUC) regarding the current round of consultation on the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the City Centre.

I am aware that the City Council are inviting comments on the PSPO City Centre via its community consultation survey.

However, at the recent CTUC delegate's meeting it was agreed that a letter would be sent to you expressing our concern about two aspects of the changes proposed in the PSPO for the city centre.

This is related to the new rule restricting the use of loudspeakers, microphones, megaphones and other amplification equipment and the new rule restricting temporary structures such as gazebos, stalls, canopies and display stands. CTUC understands these will only be permitted if written permission has been given by the Council.

The trades council believes it fully understood and sympathises with the reasons for these change. In particular, members recognised that some use of public address equipment causes discomfort and annoyance. Shop workers and others have explained that the incessant use of such equipment for prolonged periods of time proves both an irritant and a nuisance. It affects working conditions and discourages people to visit the city centre.

However, organisations like our own and other trade union and campaigning organisations make use of such equipment and stalls on an occasional basis to promote democratic activities and education. This includes issues related to civil liberties and community concerns.

Coventry has a long tradition of supporting democratic expression and our fear is that this long established right will be curtailed or even prevented. We are sure this is not the City Council's intention.

Therefore, we resolved to request the City Council revises the proposed new rules to exclude occasional and time limited political activities in the interests of local democracy.

While recognising the importance of creating a comfortable and pleasant city centre, we are calling upon the City Council to take account of democratic activities and civil liberty related events which rarely, if ever, create the kind of environment the PSPO aims to prevent.

We would welcome your support on this matter and look forward to the City Council taking such activity into account when considering and passing its PSPO in 2026.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely.

In solidarity

Phil Street – Secretary- Coventry Trade Union Council

Coventry BID support the PSPO for Renewal

Coventry BID supports the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Coventry City Centre.

We work closely with businesses across the city centre, and anti-social behaviour continues to be one of their biggest concerns. While education and engagement are always the first approach, they do not work in every situation. There are times when officers need the legal powers to deal with people whose behaviour continues to cause problems for businesses, staff, visitors and other members of the public.

The PSPO gives officers the ability to deal with issues such as aggressive begging, dangerous cycling and the misuse of e-bikes and e-scooters, unauthorised structures and behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress. Without these powers, it is much harder to deal with repeat offenders and protect the city centre.

The BID supports the Council's approach of using education and engagement first, with enforcement only when it is necessary. Having these powers available gives officers another option when other methods have not been successful.

We believe renewing the PSPO will help keep Coventry city centre a safer and more welcoming place for businesses, workers, residents and visitors.

Kind Regards

Joanne Glover

Chief Executive

Coventry BID Limited
Holt Court (Rear) First Floor
16 Warwick Row
Coventry CV1 1EJ

Good afternoon,

I am writing in relation to the open consultation on renewing and updating the Coventry City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Guide Dogs welcomes steps to tackle illegal and antisocial e-scooter riding, including pavement riding. E-scooters operate silently, making it impossible for a person with sight loss to identify and avoid them.
A collision between an e-scooter rider and a pedestrian has the potential to cause serious injury to both parties. Even a near miss with an e-scooter can rob a person with sight loss of the confidence to go out independently.

Because e-scooters are unregulated, the models on our streets can be extremely powerful and fast. This is a particular concern in areas where pedestrians and e-scooter riders share space. We welcome steps to police and prevent antisocial e-scooter riding, including steps to reduce potential collisions. While it is positive to ensure that e-scooter riders dismount in the City Centre, the use of privately owned e-scooters on public land remains illegal and we would encourage Coventry City Council to work closely with West Midlands Police and call for stronger police enforcement against antisocial e-scooter riding.

Kindest regards

Jessica Luke
Policy and Campaigns Manager (Midlands and East)
Guide Dogs

This is a response from Hillfields Church Coventry to the consultation by Coventry City Council for the renewal and amendments to the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering Coventry city centre.

Hillfields Church Coventry has served the people of Coventry for over 150 years. We are based in the Hillfields area close to the city centre with church buildings in Lower Ford Street (since 1857) and in Waterloo Street. We are actively involved in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and in serving people of all faiths and of none.

We have an interest in the proposed revisions to the PSPO in the city centre because we have people who participate in city centre outreach. Sometimes this involves giving out leaflets and having conversations, sometimes street preaching too, sometimes the distribution of New Testaments (for example, when welcoming new students to the city). We do not do any fundraising in the city centre and we do not sign people up for anything involving fundraising.

We agree with the apparent intentions of the proposed PSPO which are to improve the experience of everyone who uses or works within the city centre. As a church, we certainly represent far more people visiting the city centre for shopping or recreation or work than visiting to engage in outreach. However, we believe that some of the proposed restrictions are unnecessary and will have a detrimental rather than a beneficial effect.

We have no feedback to offer on the changes intended to avoid criminalising homeless people.

We have no feedback to offer on the proposed changes in respect of bikes, skateboards and scooters.

We do not use voice or music amplification and we can see the benefits of the proposed restrictions to amplification so far as it does not restrict freedom of speech.

We believe that spreading the ideas and message of Christianity is a great blessing to the people of our city. We think that these activities should face less restriction than commercial activities or charity fundraising or begging or performing / busking. We would want this lesser restriction to include the free spreading of religious or political ideas that we disagree with. We believe that the promotion of free speech, by the Council, will lead to a happier and healthier society. We have commented further in our appendix, below.

We believe that the proposed restriction on structures is excessive and overly bureaucratic. We believe that outreach using suitable small structures (such as a table or preaching board or sketching board) can create an enhanced experience for the public for the following reasons. Having a structure tends to make the group more readily recognised, allowing people who are interested to be drawn towards us. Having a structure encourages a group to give more thought to where they stand (avoiding inconvenience to others) rather than wandering around. Having a structure enhances accountability, as the group are likely to be identifiable. If a size limit is necessary, then we would be content with a footprint of 1.5 metres by 1.2 metres. We have made additional comments in our appendix, below.

We believe that some of the wording in the proposed PSPO is ambiguous, leading to uncertainty about its intended meaning. This should be corrected in such a way as to encourage these positive activities in our city centre. We have explained the difficulty in our appendix, below.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact us

Yours sincerely,

Hillfields Church Coventry

Appendix

The Council's proposed text includes as follows.

> **A. Engaging in any conduct that amounts to aggressive, pressuring, or harassing**
> **requests for money or donations**
> No person shall engage in behaviour within the Restricted Area that causes, or is likely to

> cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any other person. Without limiting the above, such behaviour includes but is not limited to the following examples:
> (i) Persistent following of a person after a refusal of a request
> (ii) Intentionally obstructing a person's path
> (iii) Using threatening, abusive, offensive or intimidating language or behaviour
> (iv) Accosting a person in a manner that impedes their movement
> (v) Continuing to make a request for money or goods after being clearly asked to stop
> **Exemption:**
> For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition does not apply to merely sitting, standing, or being present in the Restricted Area, nor to passively request assistance, where no harmful behaviour occurs.

This Section A of the proposed text seems confused and/or misleading in that the title refers to fundraising or commercial activity or begging whereas the text seems like it could be applied much more widely. It is also drafted poorly leading to ambiguity. For example, if I step towards someone and pleasantly offer them a leaflet, could I be accused of "obstructing a person's path" or "impeding their movement"? **We would be happy if it were made clear that the scope is limited to commercial or fundraising activities or begging.**

The Council's proposed text includes as follows.

> **C. Temporary structures**
> Within the area shown as the City Centre Restricted Area on the enclosed map, a person must not, unless authorised by Coventry City Council, erect, place or maintain any temporary structure unless authorised by Coventry City Council.
> For the purposes of this prohibition, a temporary structure includes but is not limited to:
> (i) gazebos
> (ii) canopies
> (iii) stalls
> (iv) display stands
> (v) or any similar structure designed to facilitate trading, promotion or gathering.
> Any person directed by an authorised officer to remove a temporary structure must comply with that request. Failure to comply will leave them liable to enforcement.
> **Exemption:**
> This prohibition does not apply where written authorisation has been granted by Coventry
> City Council. Authorisation may include (but is not limited to):
> (i) organised events
> (ii) authorised markets
> (iii) council-approved promotional activity
> (iv) permitted demonstrations or gatherings
> (v) activities authorised by the local authority.

This Section C of the proposed text seems excessively restrictive in banning all structures (or unnecessarily bureaucratic if repeated applications must be made and processed). No account is taken of the benefits of having a small structure (see main text, above). Your Equality Impact Assessment refers to "outsized tables that can obstruct pedestrians, wheelchair users and similar". It also refers to "The removal of items such as gazebos and large tables…". There is no justification given for the prohibition of small tables, preaching boards or sketching boards.

These have been used extensively, across the UK, over many years without causing a detriment to the safe enjoyment of city centres. **If there is a need to exclude larger structures then it should be limited to structures with a footprint larger than 1.5 metres x 1.2 metres.**

D. Buskers and Street Performers
Any person is prohibited from performing contrary to the 'Coventry City Centre Code of
Conduct for Performers' (see Appendix 2).

It should be made clear that our outreach (with no products for sale and no fundraising) are not considered to be "performing".

The Council's Equality Impact Assessment records "NI" for No Impact under religion. If our concerns are addressed then this would seem correct. If our concerns are not addressed there will be a detrimental impact on the small minority of people who are active in sharing their Christian faith in the city centre.

END

Coventry City Centre PSPO - Proposed Renewal and Changes 2026
Response from the Campaign for Freedom in Everyday Life
The Campaign for Freedom in Everyday Life (formerly the Manifesto Club) has worked for over a decade on PSPOs and other anti-social behaviour powers, with a particular concern for their effect on ordinary public life:
campaigners, street performers, people who beg, and religious and political groups.
We have one point of support and four of concern.

1. We welcome the refocusing of the begging provision onto aggressive behaviour.
Limiting the restriction to conduct that is genuinely aggressive or pressurising - following someone after a refusal, obstructing their path, persisting after being asked to stop - and expressly exempting people who are
merely sitting, standing or passively asking for help, is the right approach. Placing that exemption on the face of the order, rather than leaving it to enforcement discretion, is good practice, and we welcome it. This

is also consistent with the statutory guidance and the Act itself, under which a restriction may only address activities that have a detrimental effect on quality of life and are both persistent and unreasonable, a test that
a quiet request for money does not meet.
We would raise one drafting point. The second part of this provision, behaviour "likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress" with "offensive... language" given as an example, is considerably wider than aggressive
begging, and risks catching speech that merely offends a listener. This could mean that it is illegal for a homeless person to swear, or the fact that they have offended someone means that they can no longer engage in
non-intrusive begging. We would encourage the Council to anchor the provision to genuine aggression and intimidation, and to drop "offensive" as a threshold, which is vague and has proved difficult to enforce fairly
wherever it has been adopted.

2. We strongly oppose the requirement of Council authorisation for amplification.
As drafted, no one may use a loudspeaker, microphone or megaphone in the city centre unless the Council has given written authorisation, and the categories listed for authorisation are all Council-organised or
Council-approved activity (organised events, authorised performances, council-approved promotional activity). There is no exemption for a lone campaigner, street preacher or trade unionist who wishes to address the
public. The practical effect is that the Council decides who may be heard in Coventry city centre. That is a serious interference with free expression, and it is not what this power is for (indeed, the legislation requires
consideration of convention rights for free expression before drafting of any PSPO).
We have seen this order play out in Leicester, whose city-centre PSPO contains an almost identical requirement of prior authorisation for amplification and stalls. In practice, campaigners found they were unable to
obtain permission, dozens of religious groups were issued warning notices, and the order operated as an effective ban on political and religious speech in the centre. We wrote to the Mayor of Leicester to say that the
order was drawn so widely as to restrict ordinary democratic campaigning, and campaigners there are now considering a legal challenge on human rights grounds. Coventry should not adopt the same model. If there is
a genuine problem with excessive volume, it should be met with a targeted noise-nuisance provision, not a prior-permission regime covering all amplified speech.

3. We strongly oppose the requirement of Council authorisation for stalls and temporary structures.
The same objection applies, and here it is most acute, because the low-key street stall is the basic equipment of democratic campaigning: the table provides a place to put a petition, literature or a banner. One
Leicester campaigner said that campaigning without a stall would be like "campaigning with one hand tied behind my back". The provision as drafted catches "any similar structure designed to facilitate trading,
promotion or gathering", which plainly includes campaign tables, and the only route to lawful use is Council authorisation. Even the exemption for "permitted demonstrations or gatherings" still requires them to be
permitted. Requiring prior permission means that only those the Council has approved may campaign in the city centre, and it hands officers discretion over which causes appear on the streets, which includes the

possibility for bias given that some of these causes may be critical of the Council itself.
Leicester shows what this means in practice. A pensioner there was fined £100 for putting up an "unauthorised" campaign table against council cuts; she refused to pay, and she had so much public support that the
Council was forced to back down and decline to prosecute. This is the predictable result of an authorisation regime, and it carries real legal risk: using a PSPO to require permission for tables, flags and banners engages
the rights to free expression and assembly under Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

4. We object to the legal enforcement of the buskers' performance code.
We object to making the buskers' performance code a legal obligation. Good will between buskers and the council is better maintained with informal codes, which suggest reasonable modes of performance, but
without the threats of sanctions and criminal records or fines. The current wording means that in theory a busker would be guilty of an offence if they played a set for 95 minutes, or if their music could be heard 51
meters away. The elements in the busking code are better acting as guides for thoughtful conduct rather than as criminal lines in the sand.
In addition, the draft prohibits performing contrary to the Council's Code of Conduct for Performers. That code still requires every busker to "undertake a risk assessment of your performance to ensure it does not
encourage the spread of coronavirus." This is a leftover from the pandemic and is now plainly out of date. The effect is that a street performer who has not carried out a coronavirus risk assessment of their act would be
committing a criminal offence, liable to a fixed penalty notice. That is an absurd result, and it shows the danger of creating a criminal prohibition by cross-reference to a separate document that has not been kept current.

5. We oppose the power to require cyclists and skateboarders to dismount on an officer's judgment.
The draft requires anyone cycling, skateboarding or riding a manual scooter to dismount if an authorised officer asks them to, where the officer judges that continuing "would cause a danger to the public or cause
harassment, alarm or distress", with failure to comply exposing them to enforcement. This makes a criminal matter turn entirely on the on-the-spot judgment of a single officer, against no defined standard and with no independent check. Someone riding carefully and considerately, which the same clause requires of them, could still be ordered to stop simply because an officer forms the view that they might cause alarm, and they commit an offence if they disagree. This places too much discretion in one person's hands, and it invites arbitrary and inconsistent enforcement. If cycling is genuinely causing danger in particular areas, the order
should identify those areas and that conduct precisely, rather than leaving it to officers to decide case by case.

A constructive alternative to amplification/table stalls elements.
We would urge the Council not to adopt an outright authorisation model, but to treat public campaigning as a free-speech right subject only to genuine limits of obstruction, safety and noise nuisance. We have published detailed guidance for councils on how to do this: allowing stalls, leafleting, banners and campaign tables as of right, without prior application or fee, provided they do not block pedestrian flow and keep noise reasonable; no fees for political or religious stalls; and no vetting of the content of literature.

A number of councils already take this approach - Birmingham, for example, states that protests, vigils and political campaigning do not need the Local Authority's permission. The guidance is here, and we would be glad to discuss it with the Council: https://freedomineverydaylife.org/guidance-for-councils-how-to-keep-your-publicsquares-open/
We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these points.
Yours faithfully,
Josie Appleton
Director, Campaign for Freedom in Everyday Life

Created by:	**Clarke, Andrew**
Created date:	**Mon, Jul 27 2026 14:47**
Details	27/07/2026, I Spoke to Stephen Brown from the Musicians Union in response to his email. On behalf of the MU, SB understands that there can be some annoyance from buskers, particularly uncooperative ones. The MU has a code of practice for Buskers that many of their professional buskers sign up to. SB is concerned primarily with the amplification ban as it has restricted busking in many other locations where a PSPO is in place. SB was pleased to hear that we are looking into an approvals scheme and has some suggestions that he would like us to consider. I have advised that we are certainly looking into this and are actively seeking to allow continued busking, just balancing it with it's impacts, so we would be very grateful to hear any suggestions that he may have. SB will submit these via email and I have provided my direct email address and asked him to email both me and the CS address.

Re Consultation on the Proposed Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection (PSPO) – Coventry City Centre

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2026 to The Christian Institute, inviting us to contribute towards your PSPO consultation. We are very pleased to be asked, given our concern about the potential impact of such matters on responsible street evangelism.

I believe you may be aware of The Christian Institute's Street Preacher's Charter which seeks to help both street preachers and the authorities to understand the complex laws surrounding free speech in the public square. The Foreword to the Charter was written by Lord Macdonald of River Glaven KC, former Director for Public Prosecutions, who is also currently conducting a review of public order legislation on behalf of the Home Secretary.

In order to familiarise ourselves with issues you face in central Coventry, we researched online videos and articles regarding conduct within your city centre. We also sought Open Air Mission's ("OAM") thoughts on the current situation. OAM are a responsible Christian evangelistic charity who have peacefully operated for six years in central Coventry. We have sympathy with your efforts to reduce noise levels and create order within the city centre. We would be grateful if you could consider the following constructive comments.

Part A – anti-social conduct relating to requests for money

This part states

> "*No person shall engage in behaviour within the Restricted Area that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any other person...such behaviour includes but is not limited to...(iii) Using threatening, abusive, offensive or intimidating language or behaviour*".
>
> [underlining added]

Whilst we assume that behaviour caught within part A relates solely to persons making monetary requests, it would be helpful to make this clear in the text of the prohibition (and not just in the title). For example, a BBC article on 17 June 2026 reported that Coventry council "*wants to renew the order and make changes to tackle any behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress*" [underlining added]. As the BBC have not picked up that Section A relates to monetary requests, it stands to reason that others may also fail to do so.

Section 4A of The Public Order Act 1986 states "*A person is guilty of an offence if, with intent to cause a person harassment, alarm or distress, he (a) uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour...thereby causing that or another person harassment, alarm or distress*". Section 5, which is designed to be a less serious offence, states "*A person is guilty of an offence if he (a) uses threatening or abusive words or behaviour, or* *disorderly behaviour…within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby"*. I mention this because both offences clearly have a robust threshold. It is not sufficient under either offence that the behaviour causes or is likely to case harassment, alarm or distress. More is required, including intention. However, the proposed wording of part A requires nothing more than that the behaviour causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. What follows is simply a list of behaviours which may constitute harassment, alarm or distress. A mere prohibition not to cause alarm, for example, is highly unlikely to be compliant with the free speech requirements of Article 10 ECHR.

More worryingly, if part A of the draft PSPO makes *'offensive'* language (see limb (iii)) an offence, it sets the bar for offending even *lower* than Section 4A and 5 of the Public Order Act. That is concerning because both UK law and the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are clear that there is no right merely not to be 'offended'. Consequently, if Section A of the PSPO was misapplied to *general* conduct and behaviour within Coventry city centre, people could incorrectly believe that they had a right not to be offended. This would not align with the law regarding freedom of expression.

Obviously, our concerns in these respects falls away if part A makes clear that the prohibition relates only to conduct making requests for money or donations.

Part C – Temporary structures

We concur with your wish to ensure the city centre is orderly and tidy by preventing the proliferation of larger items such as gazebos and stalls. However, a blanket ban could cause unintended consequences for legitimate activities carried out by charities or churches. We appreciate the need for consistency in approach and with this in mind, we wondered if you could avoid the pitfall of challenges over what you do and don't allow by setting a simple *de minimis* size limit. If set at the right level, it will permit legitimate small scale activity (where authorisation would not be required), but restrict anything over the limit.

Our preference would be that size limits are published within the PSPO, perhaps with a requirement that public liability insurance is held. But if this is unacceptable, we wondered if the council could hold a separate policy document indicating the measurements/criteria for when authorisation will not be unreasonably refused (subject to public liability insurance etc.)

OAM – which has been operating on the streets in towns and cities across the UK for 170 years - has operated peacefully in central Coventry without the use of amplification for many years. They do this by using a non-intrusive display board with a height of 1.95m and width of 1m. They also use a small folding table. OAM has public liability insurance and conduct risk assessments on their equipment. Given the longstanding nature and orderly conduct of OAM's activity, we would ask that consideration is given to their needs. The display board is vital to the work they do and its footprint is no larger than a buskers musical case for collecting coins - something not debarred under the PSPO. Needing to get authorisation for such a small board/table in every town and city across the country would be a huge administrative burden for this charity.

Part D - Buskers and Street Performers

Clearly, street preachers are not buskers and we would not consider them to be Street Performers. Buskers and Street Performers are engaged in the arts and giving a creative performance. In contrast, street preachers are communicating information, and their activities fall under the protections in Articles 9 and 10 of the ECHR. Given this, it would be helpful if you could somehow make clear that street preachers are not considered to be street performers for the purposes of the code.

Once again, we very much appreciate being asked to contribute to this consultation.

Kind regards

Sam Webster
Solicitor Advocate | The Christian Institute

Coventry City
Community
Church

The Salvation Army, Coventry City Corps

Response to the Consultation on the Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

20 July 2026

The Salvation Army welcomes the opportunity to respond to Coventry City Council's consultation on the proposed renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order for Coventry city centre.

As both a Christian church and a registered charity, we support the Council's objective of maintaining a city centre that is safe, welcoming and accessible for everyone. We recognise the need for appropriate powers to address behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress and welcome the Council's stated intention that the renewed PSPO should be behaviour-based, proportionate, enforceable and legally robust.

Our comments relate specifically to those aspects of the proposed Order concerning amplification equipment and public activities within the city centre.

The Salvation Army has served Coventry for over one hundred and forty-eight years and has enjoyed the Freedom of the City since 14 October 1943. Alongside our extensive practical and pastoral work across the city, our Christian ministry has always included a modest public presence through occasional open-air meetings, collecting days and seasonal carol singing.

These activities are undertaken peacefully and respectfully. Their purpose is not to create nuisance but to make ourselves publicly available to members of the community through music, Christian witness, conversation and prayer for those who wish to engage.

We recognise that inappropriate or excessive use of amplification can become a public nuisance and support the Council's intention to address behaviour that has a detrimental impact on others.

We would, however, encourage the Council to ensure that:

- any authorisation process for amplification equipment is clear, proportionate and accessible to community, charitable and faith-based organisations;
- decisions continue to be based upon the impact of an activity rather than its viewpoint or purpose;
- the implementation of the Order maintains a clear distinction between behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress and peaceful public engagement undertaken responsibly;
- the Council continues its positive practice of engagement and dialogue with organisations using the city centre for legitimate charitable, community and faith-based purposes.

The Salvation Army values its longstanding partnership with Coventry City Council and remains committed to working collaboratively to ensure that Coventry city centre is both welcoming and vibrant for all who live, work and visit the city.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and would be pleased to engage further with Council officers should that be helpful during the implementation of the renewed PSPO.

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Appendix 3C - Results of observed compliance for ebikes

Summary

Automatically updates from the Observation Log.

Key measures	
Total e-bike movements recorded	878
Dismounted through control area	194
Rode through control area	665
Unsure / unable to determine	15
Dismount compliance rate	**22.6%**

Breakdown by day

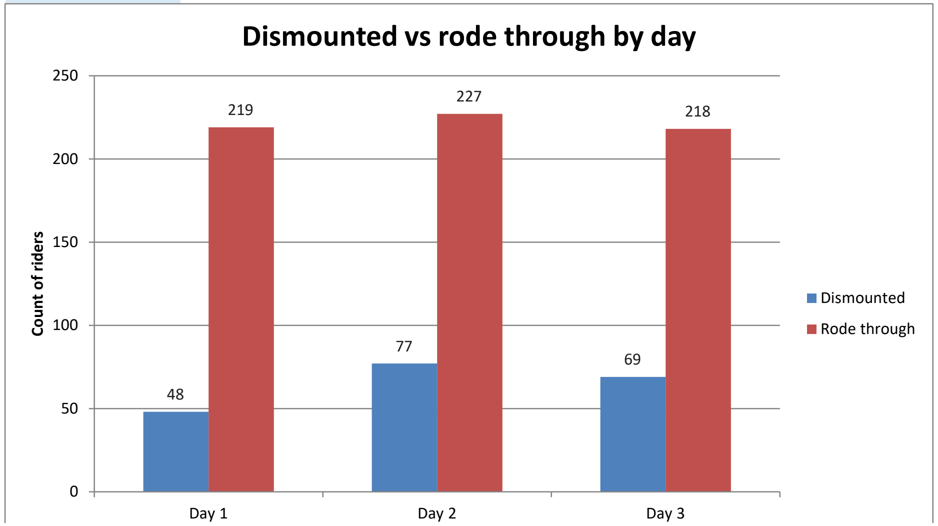
Day	Dismounted	Rode through	Unsure	Compliance rate
Day 1	48	219	6	**18.0%**
Day 2	77	227	9	**25.3%**
Day 3	69	218	0	**24.0%**

Insight notes / flags

Bottom line	Compliance is low overall: 194 of 859 classified movements dismounted, giving a 22.6% dismount compliance rate. Rode-through movements dominate the review.
Main issue	665 riders rode through the control area versus 194 who dismounted — about 3.4 rode-throughs for every dismount.
Peak risk window	18:00–20:00 recorded 275 riders, 31.3% of all movements, with only 11.6% compliance; this is the clearest enforcement / signage priority.
Best period	12:00–15:59 performed better than the rest of the day: 104 dismounted vs 211 rode through, about 33.0% compliance.
Day pattern	Day 2 had the strongest compliance at 25.3%; Day 1 was weakest at 18.0%, so the issue is persistent across the review rather than isolated to one day.
Direction/location	Inbound and outbound flows are almost identical: 434 in and 435 out, both around 22–23% compliance. The issue is not direction-specific.

Breakdown by hour

Hour starting	Dismounted	Rode through	Unsure	Compliance rate
8	0	7	4	**0.0%**
9	1	17	3	**5.6%**
10	2	19	0	**9.5%**
11	13	38	2	**25.5%**
12	28	46	0	**37.8%**
13	17	51	0	**25.0%**
14	29	52	0	**35.8%**
15	30	62	3	**32.6%**
16	26	69	2	**27.4%**
17	16	57	1	**21.9%**
18	13	104	0	**11.1%**
19	19	139	0	**12.0%**



Review day

Appendix 4

Equality Impact Assessment

EIA-837692288 - Renewal of City Centre public Spaces Protection Order 2026

Details

Title	City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026
Author	Liam Nagle (Community Safety Officer)
Head of Service	Davina Blackburn (Strategic Lead - Regulation and Communities)
Cabinet Member	Cllr John McNicholas (Communities and Cohesion)
Director	Julie Newman (Law, Governance and Safer Communities)

Context and background

EIA carried out on	Review of policy or strategy
Background	This EIA is reviewing the proposed renewal to the Public Spaces Protection Order that currently applies to the City Centre. The current order runs for 3 years and is due to expire in November. We are currently applying to request the right to consult with the public. Should we consult and matters progress as anticipated then we are proposing to make changes to make amplification within the City Centre (other that authorised events) unlawful. We will also be stopping groups campaigning in the City Centre from bringing in structures such as gazebos and outsized tables that can obstruct pedestrians, wheelchair users and similar. It should be noted that the current PSPO already has conditions relating to Ebikes, pedal Cycles and Escooters, they will also be included in the renewal, if approved We believe this will make the City Centre a more pleasant place to visit, people will find it easier to relax, any people with limited hearing will benefit as will pedestrians and particularly wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs

Stakeholders	West Midlands Police Coventry BID Coventry City Council: Community Safety Licensing Highways Public Realm Legal Services Planning Disabilities Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) Wheels for Well Being Respondents to the consultation
Responsibility	Community Safety team and key partners, both internal and external to CCC

Consideration of impact

Baseline data and information	2021 Census data shows us that: 14% of the city are aged 65+ Approximately 20% of the city identify themselves as being disabled and limited to some regard, whether a little or a lot In conversations with the Disability Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) they have made several challenges, including personal testimony, regarding many individuals suffering near misses in the city centre as well as anecdotal evidence of people they know have suffered injuries There was a public consultation related to the proposed amendments that has just been completed. Approximately 1000 people responded and over 80% stated that they felt the actions of cyclists in the city centre made the city centre less safe for pedestrians The restricted area is shown on the attached map

Marmot Principles

3.	Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

5.	Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
8.	Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity

Protected groups - Impact on Coventry Residents and Visitors

Age 0-18	Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian safety will be improved, particularly for very young children who are likely to be unaware of their surroundings and more at risk and unable to take evasive action from a bicycle/e-scooter ridden at speed (Positive). Very young people in prams and pushchairs will be safer as there will be less obstacles for parents to navigate (positive) Young people who wish to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised areas will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle or taking an alternative route.
Age 19-64	Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian Safety will be improved from the risk of a collision with a bicycle/e-scooter (Positive). People wishing to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised areas will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle/escooter or taking an alternative route.
Age 65+	Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian Safety will be improved from the risk of a collision with a bicycle/escooter(Positive). People wishing to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised area will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle or taking an alternative route.

Disability	Positive impact - People with visual impairments will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than a sighted pedestrian(Positive). People with mobility issues will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than someone with full mobility (Positive). People with hearing loss will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than someone with full hearing (Positive) Evidence collated by the RNIB have identified concerns that escooters could have on the safety, confidence and independence of blind and partially sighted people. People with hearing loss will benefit from a lack of amplification in the street scene which should make it easier to hear others (positive) The removal of items such as gazebos and large tables should decrease the likelihood of people bumping into them or squeezing flows of pedestrians into narrow spaces that increases the likelihood of collisions (positive)
Gender reassignment	No impact -
Marriage and civil partnership	No impact -
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive impact - Benefits for people using prams and pushchairs for improved access and reduced obstacles
Race	No impact -
Religion and belief	No impact -
Sex	No impact -
Sexual orientation	No impact -

Additional groups

Care experienced	No impact -
Armed forces	No impact -
Socio economic groups	No impact -

Next steps

Inequality	Action	Owner	Timescale
Monitor and evaluation	The operation of Public Space Protection Orders in the city generally is subject to oversight from Scrutiny Committee. The Disability Equality Action Partnership is an umbrella organisation that looks at disability and equality based issues across the City and has been in regular dialogue with key officers regarding this and other matters and will continue to do so.		

Impact on Council staff

Will there be an impact?	No

Completion statement

Potential equality impact	Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups

Agenda Item 6

Briefing note

To: Cabinet

From: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 1 September 2026

Subject: City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

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1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 To inform Cabinet of comments and recommendations from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee following consideration of a report on City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

1) Approve the new City Centre PSPO.
2) Agree an additional separate public consultation on the removal of face coverings while riding e-bikes and e-scooters.
3) Include the removal of face coverings as part of the consultation on the renewal of the city-wide PSPO.

3 Information and Background

3.1 At their meeting on 26 August 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report on the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

3.2 Members questioned the Cabinet Member and officers, and received responses on the following areas:

- The practicalities of additional consultation on the removal of face-coverings whilst rising e-bikes and e-scooters.
- The issue of collecting data on face coverings, including police powers for stop and search and the criteria to do so.
- That officers will liaise with colleagues in Nuneaton and Bedworth to learn from their experiences of removal of face coverings as part of a PSPO.
- The increase in wardens which will enable more enforcement of the new PSOP compared to the previous, as well as better performance data.
- The process for requesting licenses for amplification for events in the city centre, ensuring that it is a quick and easy process.

- That the Busking Code of Conduct was being refreshed and could consider locations and timeslots to better manage distribution.
- That the location of gazebos and other furniture does not cause issues for accessibility.

Gennie Holmes
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Public report
Cabinet

Cabinet — 1st September 2026
Audit and Procurement Committee — 21st September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources - Councillor R Brown

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Wards affected:
All

Title:
2026/27 First Quarter Financial Monitoring Report (to June 2026)

Is this a key decision?
No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the forecast outturn position for revenue and capital expenditure and the Council's treasury management activity as at the end of June 2026. The net revenue forecast position after management action is for spend in 2026/27 of **£3.8m under budget**. Although not wholly comparable, at the same point in 2025/26, there was also a projected overspend of £1.6m.

The overall position is favourable, but it includes significant underlying pressures across service areas including Children's and Adult Social Care. Other smaller overspends include Economic Growth, City Services and Property Services and Development. The Council will continue to maintain strong financial discipline and the Leadership Team will work proactively to manage and mitigate the underlying pressures identified in the report.

The Council's capital spending is projected to be £198.2m and includes major schemes progressing across the city. The size of the programme and the nature of the projects within it continue to be fundamental to the Council's role within the city. The programme remains largely funded by external grants and contributions, although inflationary and wider market pressures continue to affect capital schemes. These will be monitored through established capital governance arrangements.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1) Approve the Council's first quarter revenue monitoring position.

2) Approve the revised forecast capital outturn position for the year of £198.2m incorporating: £26.5m rescheduling from 2025/26 outturn, £4.0m net increase in spending relating to approved/technical changes and £1.8m of net programme acceleration of expenditure from future years.

Audit and Procurement Committee is recommended to:

1) Consider the proposals in the report and forward any recommendations to the Cabinet.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Revenue Position: Detailed Service Breakdown of Forecast Outturn Position
Appendix 2 - Capital Programme: Analysis of Budget/Technical Changes
Appendix 3 - Capital Programme: Analysis of Programme Acceleration/(Rescheduling)
Appendix 4 - Prudential Indicators

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

Yes - Audit and Procurement Committee, 21st September 2026

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:
2026/27 First Quarter Financial Monitoring Report (to June 2026)

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Cabinet approved the City Council's revenue budget of £422.9m on the 24th February 2026 and a Capital Programme of £165.9m. This is the first quarterly monitoring report for 2026/27. The purpose is to advise Cabinet of the forecast outturn position for revenue and capital expenditure, recommending any action required, and to also report on the Council's treasury management activity.

1.2 The current 2026/27 revenue forecast is for net expenditure to be **£3.8m under budget** (after management action). The reported forecast at the same point in 2025/26 was an overspend of £1.6m which reflected pressures relating primarily to adult social care activity and price. 2026/27 capital spend is projected to be £198.2m.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 This is a budget monitoring report and as such there are no options.

Table 1 Revenue Position - The revenue budgets and forecast positions are shown below, analysed by service area.

Service Area	Revised Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Total Over/ (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services and Housing	161.7	162.1	0.4
Children's and Education	126.7	130.9	4.2
City Services	45.0	45.2	0.2
Contingency & Central Budgets	53.3	44.2	(9.1)
Digital Services	0.4	0.4	0.0
Economic Growth	4.8	5.5	0.7
Finance and Resources	13.5	13.2	(0.3)
Law, Governance and Safer Communities	12.7	12.7	0.0
People and Organisation Development	2.4	2.4	0.0
Policy and Communication	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0
Property Services and Development	(11.0)	(10.8)	0.2
Public Health	(0.9)	(0.9)	0.0
Strategy and Performance	14.5	14.4	(0.1)
Total	**422.9**	**419.1**	**(3.8)**

2.2 The key forecast variances within service areas are highlighted below. Further details of variances within all service areas are provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Directorates

Children's and Education Services - £4.2m overspend

Division	Variance
Corporate Parenting and Sufficiency	5.7
Children in Care, Children with Disabilities & Care Leavers	0.1
Help & Protection	(1.5)
Other variances less than £100K	(0.1)
TOTAL Children's and Education	**4.2**

The £4.2m overspend is mainly driven by pressures within Corporate Parenting relating to homes for children in care, where numbers have increased above financial planning assumptions. The most significant impact relates to greater use of residential care and more costly external spot placements, alongside lower than expected external contributions towards care packages for children with disabilities and complex needs. This is partly offset by underspends elsewhere, most notably within Family Hubs and Early Help due to staffing vacancies and the use of grant funding where appropriate.

Economic Growth - £0.7m overspend

Division	Variance
Planning Services	0.7
Transport policy	0.1
Economic Development service	(0.1)
TOTAL Economic Growth	**0.7**

The £0.7m overspend is largely due to a £0.5m income shortfall within Planning Services, reflecting reduced planning application volumes and limited scope for fee increases. A further pressure of around £0.2m has been identified in relation to Local Plan costs, although the service is actively seeking opportunities to minimise this impact.

Adult Services & Housing - £0.4m overspend

Division	Variance
Community Purchasing – Adult Social Care	5.2
Internally Provided Services	0.3
Localities and Social Care Operational	(0.1)
Strategic Commissioning (Adults)	(0.1)
Enablement & Therapy Services	(0.3)
Safeguarding, Practice Development & Mental Capacity	(0.3)
Housing and Homelessness	(4.5)
Other variances less than £100K	0.2
TOTAL Adult Services & Housing	**0.4**

Whilst the £0.4m overspend represents a broadly balanced overall position, significant underlying pressures remain in Adult Social Care. Community Purchasing is forecasting a £5m overspend, mainly due to ongoing pressures in the cost of care packages, including Section 117 aftercare, support for individuals with autism and complex needs, learning disability placements requiring intensive support, and rising home care demand for older adults. These pressures are being largely offset by a £4.5m underspend in Housing and Homelessness, mainly due to a sustained reduction in Temporary Accommodation demand, which has fallen by around 14% since November 2025.

City Services - £0.2m overspend

Division	Variance
Highways	0.8
Street pride & Parks	0.5
Waste & Fleet Services	0.6
Traffic	(0.6)
Parking	(1.1)
TOTAL City Services	**0.2**

The £0.2m overspend reflects a mixed position across City Services, with pressures in some areas being largely offset by favourable variances elsewhere. Highways is reporting pressures from repairs, maintenance and gully cleansing, although these are partly offset by reduced street lighting energy costs and additional parking and enforcement income. Pressures are being forecast within Parks and Open Spaces due to income shortfalls, alongside Waste and Fleet pressures linked to the delayed Food Waste Programme, Persistent Organic Pollutants disposal costs, and contracted landfill costs. These pressures are offset in part by underspends within Traffic and Parking.

Corporate

Underspends supporting the overspend position are primarily within Contingency and Central Budgets:

Contingency and Central – £9.1m underspend

Division	Variance
Contingency & Central Budgets	(3.7)
Treasury Management	(5.4)
TOTAL Contingency & Central Budgets	**(9.1)**

The £9.1m underspend is mainly due to a favourable £5.4m Treasury Management position, reflecting positive cash balances, higher interest assumptions and reduced forecast borrowing costs alongside increased investment income. The remaining £3.7m underspend within Contingency and Central Budgets includes favourable variances from additional business rates grant and income and contingencies held for inflation and pay awards. These underspends are partly offset by the forecast underachievement of savings targets within the One Coventry programme and senior management savings.

2.3 Capital

The quarter 1 2026/27 capital outturn forecast is £198.2m compared with the original programme reported to Cabinet in February 2026 of £165.9m. Table 3 below updates the budget at quarter 1 to take account of a £26.5m increase in the base programme (net rescheduling from 2025/26), £4.0m of new approved/technical changes and £1.8m of programme acceleration from future years.

The resources available section of Table 3 explains how the Capital Programme will be funded in 2026/27. It shows 74.2% of the programme is funded by external grant monies, whilst 20.1% is funded from borrowing. The programme also includes funding from capital receipts of £5.2m.

Table 3 – Movement in the Capital Budget

CAPITAL BUDGET 2026/27 MOVEMENT	Qtr 1 Reporting £m
February 2026 Approved Programme	165.9
Net rescheduling of expenditure from 2025/26	26.5
Revised Programme	192.4
Approved / Technical Changes (see Appendix 2)	4.0
“Net” acceleration from future years (See Appendix 3)	1.8
Revised Estimated Outturn 2026/27	**198.2**

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:	Qtr 1 Reporting £m
Prudential Borrowing (Specific & Gap Funding)	39.7
Grants and Contributions	147.2
Capital Receipts	5.2
Revenue Contributions and Capital Reserve	6.1
Total Resources Available	**198.2**

The inflationary pressures affecting the Council’s revenue budget are also present within capital schemes, although the way in which these take effect can differ due to the way expenditure is incurred. All existing and future schemes are required to be delivered within existing agreed contractual sums and will continue to be monitored and managed within the available resources.

2.4 Treasury Management

External Context

The first quarter of the financial year has continued to experience some market volatility as the war in Iran continues to disrupt the transportation and supply of energy, raising its price and pushing up households’ motor fuel costs as well as utility bills. There were signs that the economy was starting to falter with a 0.1% fall in real GDP in April.

UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) remained stable at 2.8% in both April and May, dropping to 2.6% in June, below expectations of a rise to 3.0% despite the anticipated pass-through of higher energy prices to consumers. While this suggests that underlying inflationary pressures remain relatively contained, inflation continues to exceed the Bank of England's 2% target, indicating that price stability has not yet been fully restored. Meanwhile, Core CPI, which excludes more volatile components such as energy and food, edged up from 2.5% to 2.6%, pointing to some persistence in underlying price pressures.

The 10-year gilt yield remained volatile during the quarter, reflecting geopolitical tensions in Iran, and fluctuated between 4.69% and 5.18%. It closed the quarter at 4.76% before easing to 4.70% in June. Gilt performance was further supported by the Bank of England's decision to maintain rates at 3.75%, providing reassurance on the fiscal outlook amid the change in Prime Minister. While the full inflationary impact of the Iran conflict has yet to emerge, we believe weaker labour market conditions and subdued economic growth will limit any second-round inflationary effects.

Long-Term (Capital) Borrowing

The net long-term borrowing requirement for the 2026/27 Capital Programme is £22.5m, considering borrowing set out in Section 2.3 above (total £39.7m), less amounts to be set aside to repay debt, including non-PFI-related Minimum Revenue Provision (£17.2m). In the current interest rate climate, the Council has no immediate plans to take any further new long-term borrowing although this will continue to be kept under review.

The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) remains the main source of loan finance for funding local authority capital investment. In August 2021 HM Treasury significantly revised guidance for the PWLB lending facility. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access PWLB funds except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Under the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 approved by Cabinet on 24th February 2026 it was agreed the Council will not purchase investment assets primarily for yield.

Interest rates for local authority borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) between 1st April and 30 June 2026 have varied within the following percentage ranges:

PWLB Loan Duration (maturity loan)	Minimum 2026/27 to Q1	Maximum 2026/27 to Q1	As at the End of Q1
5 year	4.08%	4.52%	4.11%
10 year	4.54%	5.01%	4.59%
20 year	5.09%	5.57%	5.16%
50 year	4.96%	5.42%	5.05%

The PWLB allows qualifying authorities, including the City Council, to borrow at 0.2% below the standard rates set out above. This “certainty rate” initiative provides a small reduction in the cost of future borrowing.

Regular monitoring continues to ensure identification of any opportunities to reschedule debt by early repayment of more expensive existing loans replaced with less expensive new loans. The premiums payable on early redemption usually outweigh any potential savings. There has been no movement in borrowings during the first quarter.

Short-Term (Temporary) Borrowing and Investments
The Council’s Treasury Management Team acts daily to manage the City Council’s day-to-day cash-flow, by borrowing or investing for short periods. Holding short-term investments, such as money in call accounts, ensures the Council has access to an adequate source of liquid funds.

Returns provided by the Council’s short-term investments yielded an average interest rate of 4.80% in the first quarter. This rate of return reflects low risk investments for short to medium durations with UK banks, Money Market Funds, Certificates of Deposit, other Local Authorities, Registered Providers, and companies in the form of corporate bonds.

Although the level of investments varies from day to day with movements in the Council’s cash-flow, investments held by the City Council identified as a snapshot at the reporting stages were: -

	As at 31st March 2026 **£m**	**As at 30th June 2026** **£m**
Banks and Building Societies	0.0	0.0
Local Authorities	0.0	55.0
Money Market Funds	62.9	51.9
Corporate Bonds	0.0	0.0
HM Treasury	0.0	0.0
Total	**62.9**	**106.9**

External Investments
In addition to the in-house investments outlined above, the Council also invests in a range of Collective Investment Schemes, commonly referred to as "pooled funds". These investments are held as sterling-denominated fund units rather than as direct investments in individual financial institutions or organisations. The pooled funds are generally AAA-rated, highly liquid, with funds typically accessible within two to four days, and have a relatively short average duration. The underlying assets may include Certificates of Deposit, Commercial Paper, Corporate Bonds, Floating Rate Notes, Call Account Deposits, Property and Equities. While these investments can experience short-term fluctuations in value due to market volatility, they are intended to be held over longer periods, allowing returns to stabilise over time. To further

diversify and manage risk, investments are spread across several fund managers, including CCLA, Schroders, Ninety-one, Columbia Threadneedle and M&G Investments.

Returns provided by the Council's pooled funds yielded an average interest rate of 7.63% over the last 12 months. At 30 June 2026 the combined capital value of the pooled funds was £28.6m (£28.3m 31 March 2026), against an original investment of £30m (a deficit of £1.4m). All seven pooled funds show a deficit value but returns remain strong. Although the world economy has shown volatility over the last 12-18 months, the value of the funds is recovering. The property market still hasn't bottomed out, but the CCLA fund is being actively managed to provide good returns. There remains an expectation that the full value for each pooled fund will be recovered over the medium term - the period over which this type of investment should always be managed. Current accounting rules allow any 'losses' to be held on the Council's balance sheet and not counted as a revenue loss. The performance and valuation of these investments will continue to be closely monitored as part of the Council's treasury management activities.

Prudential Indicators and the Prudential Code
Under the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance authorities are free to borrow, subject to them being able to afford the revenue costs. The framework requires that authorities set and monitor against Prudential Indicators relating to capital, treasury management and revenue issues. These indicators are designed to ensure that borrowing for capital purposes is affordable, sustainable and prudent. The purpose of the indicators is to support decision making and financial management, rather than illustrate comparative performance.

The indicators, together with the relevant figures as at 30 June 2026 are included in **Appendix 4** to the report. This highlights that the City Council's activities are within the amounts set as Performance Indicators for 2026/27. Specific points to note on the ratios are:

- The Upper Limit on Variable Interest Rate Exposures (indicator 9) sets a maximum amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investments) that can be at variable interest rates. At 30 June 2026 the value is -£82.1m (minus) compared to £102.7m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting the fact that the Council has more variable rate investments than variable rate borrowings at the current time.

- The Upper Limit on Fixed Interest Rate Exposures (indicator 9) sets a maximum amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investments) that can be at fixed interest rates. At 30 June 2026 the value is £226.7m compared to £508.7m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting both the level of actual borrowing and that a significant proportion of the Council's investment balance is at a fixed interest rate.

2.5 **Commercial Investment Strategy – Loans and Shares**

The Council's Commercial Investment Strategy is designed to ensure there are strong risk management arrangements and that the level of commercial investments held in the form of shares, commercial property and loans to external organisations, are proportionate to the size of the Council. In doing this the Strategy includes specific limits for the total cumulative investment through loans and shares. The total combined limit for 2026/27 is £100m, against which there are £81.9m of existing commitments: -

	Limit	Actual 30th June 2026	Committed and Planned 2026/27	Total	Headroom
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Shares	55.0	46.6	0.0	46.6	8.4
Loans	45.0	35.1	0.2	35.3	9.7
	100.0	**81.7**	**0.2**	**81.9**	**18.1**

The committed or planned total of £0.2m is for the balance of a loan facility to Coombe Abbey Park Ltd which may not necessarily be taken up, although the Council is committed to provide the loan funds if requested.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 None

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

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

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1 **Financial implications**

Revenue
The net quarter 1 forecast position is a **£3.8m revenue underspend** after management action, compared with a net revenue budget of £422.9m. Although not wholly comparable, this represents an improved position compared with the £1.6m overspend reported at the same point in 2025/26 and is in part a reflection of the decisions made during budget setting to support areas with intractable ongoing issues.

The overall position includes significant underlying service pressures, most notably within Children's and Education Services, Adult Social Care, Economic Growth and City Services. These pressures are being driven by a combination of increased demand and complexity of need, particularly in care services, income shortfalls linked to the wider economic climate, recruitment and agency staffing pressures, as well as inflationary and market-related cost pressures.

Management Action
Whilst the overall quarter 1 position is favourable, the Council continues to face significant underlying demand and cost pressures in several key service areas. It will therefore remain important to maintain strong financial discipline and ensure that services continue to manage pressures within available resources wherever possible.

The Council's Leadership Team will continue to work proactively to mitigate financial pressures through:

- robust challenge and review of forecasts;
- continued control over recruitment and agency staffing;
- active management of demand-led budgets;
- review of savings delivery and alternative mitigation plans where required;
- maximising external funding and grant opportunities; and
- continued monitoring of income assumptions and delivery of management action.

At this stage, the Director of Finance and Resources does not consider that any extraordinary action is required in response to the 2026/27 quarter 1 position. However, the underlying pressures identified in this report will continue to be closely monitored, given the Council's need to maintain financial resilience over the medium term.

Capital
The Council's Capital Programme continues to include a range of strategically important schemes across the city and remains largely funded by grants.

The Programme includes major investment in areas such as schools, highways, Very Light Rail, disabled facilities grant (DfG), City Centre South and delivery of the City Centre Cultural Gateway development.

Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators
The Council's treasury management activity remains within the approved Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators. The Council has no immediate plans to take out further long-term borrowing, although this position will continue to be reviewed in consideration of capital financing requirements and market conditions.

Short-term investment returns remain positive, reflecting the interest rate environment, and the Council continues to manage its cash balances in accordance with the principles of security, liquidity and yield. Prudential Indicators as at 30 June 2026 demonstrate that borrowing and investment activity remains within the limits approved for 2026/27.

5.2 **Legal implications**

There are no legal implications arising at this stage.

The Council has a statutory obligation to maintain a balanced budget and the monitoring process enables Cabinet to remain aware of issues and understand the actions being taken to maintain a balanced budget.

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 Council monitors the quality and level of service provided to the citizens of Coventry and the key objectives of the One Coventry Plan. As far as possible it will try to deliver better value for money and maintain services in line with its corporate priorities whilst balancing this against the need to manage with fewer resources.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The need to deliver a stable and balanced financial position in the short and medium term is a key corporate risk for the local authority and is reflected in the corporate risk register. Good financial discipline through budgetary monitoring continues to be paramount in managing this risk and this report is a key part of the process.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

It remains important for the Council to ensure that strict budget management continues to the year-end. Any resources available at year-end will be managed to ensure the Council's financial resilience or used to fund future spending priorities.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No current policy changes have been proposed but the possibility remains that the Council may need to consider changes to existing services through the year. If this is the case, the Council's equality impact process will be used to evaluate the potential equalities impact of any proposed changes.

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

There is no impact at this stage, although climate change and the environmental impact of the Council's decisions are likely to feature more strongly in the future.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

No impact.

Report author:

Name and job title:
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Appendix 1

Revenue Position: Detailed Service Breakdown of Forecast Outturn Position

Table 1 below shows budget variations analysed between those that are subject to a centralised forecast variance and those that are managed at service level (termed "Budget Holder Variance" for the purposes of this report). The Centralised budget areas relate to salary costs – the Council applies strict control over recruitment such that managers are not able to recruit to vacant posts without first going through rigorous processes. In this sense managers have to work within the existing establishment structure, and salary budgets are not controlled at this local level. The Centralised salaries and Overheads underspend of £10.4m shown below is principally the effect of unfilled vacancies, often offset by agency staff costs shown within the budget holder variance.

Table 1

	Revised Budget	Forecast Spend	Centralised Variance	Budget Holder Variance	Total Over/ (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services and Housing	161.7	162.1	(2.0)	2.4	0.4
Children's and Education	126.7	130.9	(3.7)	7.9	4.2
City Services	45.0	45.2	(1.7)	1.9	0.2
Contingency & Central Budgets	53.3	44.2	0.0	(9.1)	(9.1)
Digital Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	(0.4)	0.0
Economic Growth	4.8	5.5	(1.4)	2.1	0.7
Finance and Resources	13.5	13.2	(0.6)	0.3	(0.3)
Law, Governance and Safer Communities	12.7	12.7	(0.7)	0.7	0.0
People and Organisation Development	2.4	2.4	(0.2)	0.2	0.0
Policy and Communication	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property Services and Development	(11.0)	(10.8)	(0.4)	0.6	0.2
Public Health	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.1)	0.1	0.0
Strategy and Performance	14.5	14.4	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
TOTAL	**422.9**	**419.1**	**(10.4)**	**6.6**	**(3.8)**

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

Table 2: Service Area Variances

Service Area	**Reporting Area**	**Explanation**	**£m**
Adult Social Care	Strategic Commissioning (Adults)	There is a Private Finance Initiative unitary charge pressure of £100k; this has been offset by an over achievement of social care fee income against budget of £245k.	**(0.1)**
Adult Social Care	Enablement & Therapy Services	The underspend is primarily attributable to an Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) underspend of £142k, salary underspends arising from vacancies of £59k, and telecare fee income exceeding the budget by £50k. In addition, other smaller budget underspends total £20k	**(0.3)**

Adult Social Care	Internally Provided Services	The overspend is primarily driven by casual pay, overtime, and agency staffing costs incurred to maintain front-line shift cover, totalling £932k, reflecting ongoing recruitment challenges. This is further increased by other smaller budget overspends of £11k. These overspends are partially offset by salary underspends arising from vacancies, totalling £620k, resulting in a net overspend of approximately £323k.	**0.3**
Adult Social Care	Safeguarding, Practice Development & Mental Capacity	The underspend relates to continued reduced Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard assessments and exit from the external agency contract £186k which is above the £100k medium term financial strategy saving along with staffing vacancies that are pending recruitment £76k. There is also smaller budget underspends of £15k.	**(0.3)**
Adult Social Care	Localities and Social Care Operational	The underspend is due to intermittent Team Leader vacancies in the Learning Disabilities team totalling £110k. Reducing this is small budget overspends amounting to £8k.	**(0.1)**
Adult Social Care	Community Purchasing	We continue to experience ongoing and increasing pressures across several areas of care, with the main causes of the quarter 1 overspend broadly in line with those reported last year. In mental health services, the primary pressure relates to the cost of support packages for individuals entitled to Section 117 aftercare. These costs are rising mainly due to the growing complexity of need, particularly for people moving from long-stay hospitals or secure settings into the community, rather than an increase in overall numbers. We are also seeing more individuals with autism and complex needs who require highly tailored and intensive support which comes at a higher cost. In learning disability services, pressures remain within supported living. More individuals now require one-to-one support to live safely in the community, which is increasing costs. Demand for home care for older adults has also increased this quarter. Although there has been a small reduction in nursing and residential	**5.2**

		placements, overall spending has still risen. We are continuing to strengthen oversight of care package approvals to ensure value for money, while maintaining high standards of care and safeguarding. We are also making greater use of short-term enablement services and digital solutions to support people effectively.	
Housing	Housing and Homelessness	The service has seen a decrease in demand for temporary accommodation since November 2025 resulting in a £3.6m forecast underspend. The remainder is due to staffing underspends of £0.3m and £0.6m grant funding utilisation.	**(4.5)**
Adult Social Care and Housing	Other variances less than 100K		**0.2**
TOTAL Adult Services & Housing			**0.4**
Children's Services	Corporate Parenting and Sufficiency	There is a £6.0m forecast overspend on homes for children in care. Over the first quarter of the financial year there has been an increase in the number of children in care which is now higher than our financial planning assumptions. From a financial perspective the most significant is the increase in the overall number of children in residential care, resulting in greater use of more costly external spot placements. Alongside this, the level of external financial contributions towards care packages for children with disabilities and complex needs is forecast to be lower than budgeted.	5.7
Children's Services	Help & Protection	Family Hubs and Early Help are forecasting to underspend by £0.7m due to staffing vacancies and utilisation of grant funding where appropriate. In addition to this there are several other smaller underspends across the service, primarily linked to staffing, which collectively total £0.6m. There is a forecast underspend of £0.2m against the no recourse to public funds budget (NRPF). Additional budget was provided for NRPF in 2026/27 in response to increased demand, but costs are currently forecast to be lower than originally projected.	(1.5)

Children's Services	Children in Care, Children with Disabilities & Care Leavers	There is a forecast overspend of £0.5m in the Children's Disability Team, due to an increase in both demand and prices for short breaks & direct payments. This is offset in part by £0.4m underspends across the service including £0.3m across the Children in Care and Through Care services, primarily due to staffing.	0.1
Children and Education Services	Other variances less than 100K		(0.1)
TOTAL Children's and Education			**4.2**
Highways	Parking	Early indications show that Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) volumes have increased, likely because of the introduction of new CCTV enforcement cameras. In addition, car park income has exceeded budgeted levels, contributing to the overall favourable variance.	(1.1)
Highways	Traffic	This underspend is predominantly due to savings on energy because of a combination of lower tariffs and lower usage.	(0.6)
Highways	Highways	Grant funding bids have been submitted but have not yet been approved, and if these bids are unsuccessful, the service will experience a shortfall in grant income. In addition, vacancies within the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) teams are reducing the service's capacity to generate income, placing further pressure on the income budget.	0.8
Environmental Services	Street pride & Parks	Car Park income of Coombe and War Memorial Park (WMP) is down mostly due to reduced number of visitors. Income from Events and Activities across all parks is also expected to be lower than budgeted.	0.5
Environmental Services	Waste & Fleet Services	This pressure is mostly due to pressures in the Waste Disposal Account: Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's); Food Waste savings; an increase in void tonnage at the Landfill site and increased costs at the Civic Amenity (CA) Site. These are partly offset by increased Garden Waste	0.6

		income and miscellaneous variations in other areas.	
TOTAL City Services			**0.2**
Contingency & Central Budgets	Contingency & Central Budgets	This net underspend of £3.7m is made up of favourable variances totalling £7.2m, include additional business rates grant income and contingencies held in lieu of inflation and pay award announcements. These are being offset by adverse variances totalling £3.5m relating to forecast underachievement of savings targets against both the One Coventry programme and senior management savings.	(3.7)
Contingency & Central Budgets	Treasury Management	The Asset Management Revenue Account (AMRA) has a £5.4m surplus forecast relating to positive cash balances in the final quarter 2025-26 and higher interest rates than assumed at budget setting contributing to reductions in forecast interest on borrowing as well increases in interest income on cash balances.	(5.4)
TOTAL Contingency & Central Budgets			**(9.1)**
Digital Services	Other variances less than 100K		0.0
TOTAL Digital Services			**0.0**
Development Management Services	Planning Services	Planning overspend is mainly due to £0.5m unachievable income target for planning development as application volume is lower than expected and limit to price increase, also potentially the cost for Local Plan pressure could be around £0.2m although service is looking into ways to control the costs.	0.7
Economic Growth	Economic Development service (EDS)	Potential surplus budget in EDS (Economic Development Services) is mainly due to restructuring of service delivery to maximise external funding whilst generating sufficient fees and income from various contract delivery to cover all relevant costs.	(0.1)
Transport policy	Other variances less than 100K		0.1
TOTAL Economic Growth			**0.7**
Finance & Resources	Revenues and Benefits	A pressure of £1 million has been forecast due to the cost of providing housing benefit exceeding the amount reimbursed to the Council by the Department for Work and	(0.1)

		Pensions through the housing benefit subsidy regime.	
Finance & Resources	Other variances less than 100K		(0.2)
TOTAL FINANCE & Resources			**(0.3)**
Legal and Governance Services	Legal Services	Despite numerous market engagement exercises, recruitment challenges to recruit into vacant lawyer roles within the Education, Corporate and Commercial and Planning Teams has resulted in Legal Services being forced to utilise agency staff to ensure that services continue to meet statutory deadlines. However, the Service has a vacancy target of £390k and this has resulted in the overall adverse budget variance.	0.3
Legal and Governance Services	Regulatory Services	Significant progress has been made in implementing the service enhancements approved through the 2026/27 budget, with key management, supervisory and frontline posts already appointed across Environmental Health, Neighbourhood Enforcement, Community Safety and Environmental Enforcement (Noise), and further recruitment campaigns at advanced stages. The implementation programme has been deliberately phased to ensure appropriate leadership, supervision and operational arrangements are established before new staff commence, with most remaining appointments expected during summer and early autumn 2026. As a result, temporary staffing vacancies are generating a forecast underspend against the approved budget; however, this reflects planned recruitment and implementation timescales rather than any reduction in service delivery. Full implementation remains on track during 2026/27, and the underspend is expected to reduce as recruitment is completed and employees take up post.	(0.3)
Legal and Governance Services	Democratic Services	Agency is required in the Information Governance team to address the backlog of work because of increased subject access requests. The Council has a statutory duty to resolve these requests within the prescribed timeframes.	0.1

Legal and Governance Services	Other variances less than 100K		(0.1)
TOTAL Law, Governance and Safer Communities			**0.0**
People and Organisation Development	Employment Services	Income overperformance and vacancies are delivering savings in Employment Services. The vacant posts are being actively recruited.	(0.3)
People and Organisation Development	Facilities & Property Services	Facilities Management is experiencing budgetary pressures due to the continued costs of maintaining the vacant Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre on Fairfax Street, plus increased security costs and business rate charges at One Friargate.	0.3
TOTAL People and Organisation Development			**0.0**
Policy and Communication	Corporate Communications		0.0
TOTAL Policy and Communication			**0.0**
Property Services and Development	PSD Management & Support	Mainly due to £122k delay in delivering savings target and a £29k turnover shortfall.	0.2
TOTAL Property Services and Development			**0.2**
Public Health	Other variances less than 100K		0.0
TOTAL Public Health			**0.0**
Strategy and Performance	Customer and Business Services	Mainly due to additional internal income £0.2M partially offset by an increase in postage spend. Also, lower-than-budgeted expenditure on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and Council Support Grants (CSG) of £0.3m has further contributed to the favourable variance.	(0.5)
Strategy and Performance	Culture and Events	This pressure is mainly a result of lower than planned income from St Mary's Guildhall. The service is working with the external provider trying to improve the position.	0.2
Strategy and Performance	Performance and Insight	Staffing overspends due to full establishment.	0.2
TOTAL Strategy and Performance			**(0.1)**
Total Outturn Variances			**(3.8)**

Appendix 2

Capital Programme Approved / Technical Changes

SCHEME	EXPLANATION	£m
Highways Investment	Live Labs 2 grant award from West Midlands Combined Authority for resurfacing trials as part of the decarbonising roads project.	0.9
Education Condition Programme	At the time of budget setting the grant award for 2026/27 was yet to be confirmed. The increase ensures correct reflection in the capital programme of the condition grant to be received from the Department for Education.	2.3
Miscellaneous	Schemes below £250k reporting threshold	0.8
TOTAL APPROVED / TECHNICAL CHANGES		**4.0**

Appendix 3

Capital Programme: Analysis of Programme Acceleration/(Rescheduling)

SCHEME	EXPLANATION	£m
West Midlands Investment Zone	This forecast reflects the most recent information provided by the contractors. The four-month acceleration of the programme arises from a contract amendment allowing works to be brought forward and aligned with the cycleway works, avoiding the need to excavate the same route twice and minimising disruption to the public.	1.5
Playzones	The delivery of the MUGA (multi-use games area) Playzones is ahead of schedule, and it is now expected that all works will be completed before 31st March 2027.	1.0
Miscellaneous	Schemes below £250k reporting threshold	(0.7)
TOTAL ACCELERATION		**1.8**

Appendix 4

Prudential Indicators

Indicator	per Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27	As at 30 June 2026
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (Indicator 1), This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet borrowing costs.	9.50%	10.26%
Gross Borrowing should not, except in the short-term, exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2023 plus the estimates of any additional CFR in the next 3 years (Indicator 2), illustrating that, over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowing less investments) will only be for capital purposes. The CFR is defined as the Council's underlying need to borrow, after taking account of other resources available to fund the capital programme and is the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions from revenue.	Estimate / limit of £552.6m	£342.1m Gross borrowing within the limit.
Authorised Limit for External Debt (Indicator 5)*,* This statutory limit sets the maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e. excluding investments) for the Council. Borrowing at this level could be afforded in the short-term but is not sustainable. The Authorised limit has been set on the estimated debt with sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for unexpected cash movements.	£572.6m	£342.1m is less than the authorised limit.
Operational Boundary for External Debt (Indicator 6*)*, This indicator refers to the means by which the Council manages its external debt to ensure it remains within the statutory Authorised Limit. It differs from the authorised limit as it is based on the most likely scenario in terms of capital spend and financing during the year. It is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short times during the year.	£552.6m	£342.1m is less than the operational boundary.
Upper Limit on Fixed Rate Interest Rate Exposures (Indicator 9), These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates. The Upper Limit for variable rate exposure has been set to ensure that the Council is not exposed to interest rate rises which could impact negatively on the overall financial position.	£508.7m	£226.7m
Upper Limit on Variable Rate Interest Rate Exposures (Indicator 9*)*, as above highlighting interest rate exposure risk.	£101.7m	-£82.1m
Maturity Structure Limits (Indicator 10*),* This indicator highlights the existence of any large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates and is designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period, thereby managing the effects of refinancing risks.		

The maturity of borrowing is determined by reference to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment. < 12 months 12 months – 24 months 24 months – 5 years 5 years – 10 years 10 years +	 0% to 50% 0% to 20% 0% to 30% 0% to 30% 40% to 100%	 0% 0% 12% 33% 55%
Investments Longer than 364 Days (Indicator 11), This indicator sets an upper limit for the level of investment that may be fixed for a period greater than 364 days. This limit is set to contain exposure to credit and liquidity risk.	£30m	£0.0m