

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th September, 2026

Place

Council Chamber - Council House

1. Apologies**1. Apologies****2. Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary Meetings held on 23 June 2026 (Pages 9 - 24)****3. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor****4. Petitions****5. Declarations of Interest****Matters Left for Determination by the City Council/Recommendations for the City Council****6. Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 (Pages 25 - 50)**

From the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, 24 June 2026

7. Annual Report of the Ethics Committee 2025/26 (Pages 51 - 62)

From the Ethics Committee, 25 June 2026

8. Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2025/26 (Pages 63 - 106)

From Cabinet, 7 July 2026

9. Pride in Place Programme - Governance, Accountable Body Arrangements and Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards (Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields) (Pages 107 - 132)

From Cabinet, 7 July 2026

10. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2025/26 (Pages 133 - 142)

From the Audit and Procurement Committee, 27 July 2026

Items for Consideration

11. **Community Governance Review - Allesley and Keresley** (Pages 143 - 164)

Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

12. **Flexible Voting Pilots - May 2027** (Pages 165 - 172)

Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Other matters

13. **Question Time** (Pages 173 - 184)

- (a) Written Question – Booklet 1
- (b) Oral Questions to Chairs of Scrutiny Boards/Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
- (c) Oral Questions to Chairs of other meetings
- (d) Oral Questions to Representatives on Outside Bodies
- (e) Oral Questions to Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members on any matter

14. **Statements (if any)**

15. **Debates**

- (a) To be moved by Councillor L Bigham and seconded by Councillor M Mutton on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council notes:

1. Social Care is one of the biggest issues of our time and the system is unsustainable – for patients, their families, communities and councils.
2. The Prime Minister has committed to fixing the broken social care system by finding common ground across party lines, setting out a new approach to politics based on problem-solving rather than point-scoring, and drawing a line under decades of governments leaving this issue unaddressed.
3. Baroness Louise Casey, who chairs the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, has launched the Big Conversation on Care, a new online platform giving the public the chance to share their views and help shape the future of adult social care in England, starting with what values and principles a care system should be built on.
4. The scale of the challenge is significant: there are an estimated 1.46 million adult social care workers and 4.7 million unpaid carers in England; in June 2026 an average of 13,600 people a day were medically fit to leave hospital but unable to do so, partly due to the availability of social care; and around 3,000 instances of corridor care are occurring daily as a result of pressures on hospital capacity.
5. The number of A&E attendances by people aged 65 and over has risen from 3.3 million in 2011/12 to 5.8 million in 2024/25, growth far outstripping the increase in the older population, and cuts to social care funding between 2010 and 2018 are estimated to have driven around half a million additional A&E attendances a year among people aged 65 and over.
6. In Coventry, we have recently been awarded ‘good’ from the CQC inspection, but our aim is to consistently improve. We recognise the issues and barriers inherent in the service nationally, and we are already seeking to resolve them by using innovatory measures with partners, but we welcome the opportunity for further and wider engagement.

This Council welcomes:

7. The pace and drive shown by the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care in working to bring forward its reporting timetable by a year, recognising the urgency felt by residents, carers, care workers, Unions and Local Government who cannot afford to wait for lasting reform.
8. The Prime Minister's willingness to reach across party lines, and the engagement of the opposition parties with this process, in the belief that a problem of this scale and longevity can only be solved through a settlement built to outlast any single Parliament.

This Council resolves to:

9. Promote the Big Conversation on Care to residents, staff, carers, providers, Unions and local partners, and encourage the fullest possible local participation in it.
10. Offer this Council's full support and participation in the national conversation in whatever way is most useful to the Commission and the Government — whether that is through local engagement

- (b) To be moved by Councillor M Heaven and seconded by Councillor B Mosterman on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council notes with concern that:

The Labour Government is seeking to abolish local Healthwatch organisations and remove their statutory powers.

This Council recognises that:

Healthwatch Coventry & Warwickshire plays an essential role in ensuring that the voice of the patient is heard and acted upon by both the NHS and Coventry City Council.

In his previous capacity as Mayor of Greater Manchester, the current Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Andy Burnham, wrote to the then Health Minister, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, in November 2025, noting that:

“Healthwatch plays a vital role in ensuring that the voices of our residents, particularly those who are seldom heard, are captured and acted upon. They are uniquely positioned to act as a bridge between people and the system, offering insight that is grounded in lived experience. People speak to Healthwatch because they are outside the system – they are impartial, trusted, and provide a safe space for concerns to be shared.”

This Council resolves to:

Call on the Rt Hon Andy Burnham, Prime Minister, to withdraw Clauses 64 and 65 of the Health Bill.

Work with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to maintain funding from both Coventry City Council and the ICB for an independent and local organisation to represent the voice of the patient in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Develop voluntary ‘Enter and View’ arrangements through a local protocol for NHS and local authority care providers should Clauses 64 and 65 remain in the Health Bill and the Bill be passed into law.

- (c) To be moved by Councillor E Reeves and seconded by Councillor S Gray on behalf of the Green Group

This Council Notes:

The escalating frequency and intensity of extreme weather events across the West Midlands, including repeated record-breaking temperatures, wildfires, and droughts.

The TUC heat campaign calling for the urgent modernisation of Health and Safety standards, specifically:

- A requirement for employers to introduce cooling measures when indoor temperatures exceed 24°C.
- A legal maximum working temperature of 30°C (27°C for strenuous work), above which non-essential work is paused or adapted.
- Recognition of high SPF sunscreen as standard PPE and mandatory task rescheduling during peak sun (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM).

This Council Recognises:

The work underway through the One Coventry Plan and the Coventry Climate Change Strategy to begin to address flooding, drought, and urban heat.

The practical steps already taken, such as adapting bin collection windows during the recent extreme weather and updating the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to support vulnerable residents and rough sleepers during heatwaves.

This Council Believes:

The worsening climate crisis requires permanent, institutionalised safeguards that evolve and adapt to increasingly dangerous working conditions.

Council staff deserve clear, enforceable thresholds to safeguard their health during high temperatures and drought conditions.

Coventry City Council should model best practice in workforce climate adaptation.

This Council Resolves To:

Request the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, in consultation with recognised trade unions, strengthen the enforceable items in the Working in Extreme Temperatures Policy so that it mandates:

- Trigger points for mitigating action at 24°C.
- Safe working thresholds and task re-allocation protocols for strenuous work above 27°C and general work at 30°C.
- The designation of high-SPF sunscreen as standard PPE.
- A robust framework for heat-based risk assessments that can be tailored for each council employee scenario.
- The strict enforcement and measurement of these thresholds for children in school settings, workers with additional health needs and vulnerable adults.
- The provision of lighter summer workwear for outdoor physical work
- Flexible shift patterns to avoid peak heat periods.

Investigate the availability of water for outdoor workers and residents

- (d) To be moved by Councillor J Odje and seconded by Councillor A Cole on behalf of the Reform UK Group

Council notes:

- Residents and Cllrs regularly report anti-social behaviour to the Council, Police and social landlords. It often involves persistent nuisance, intimidation, harassment, vandalism, drug-related activity and other behaviour that damages quality of life.
- Residents need to know that when they report a problem, their concerns are recorded, shared appropriately and acted upon.
- Effective action depends on closer partnership working between the Council, Police, housing providers and other relevant agencies, with clear ownership of cases and appropriate information sharing.
- Residents can lose confidence when they repeatedly report ASB but receive little or no feedback about what has been done.

Council believes:

- Residents should receive clear, timely and meaningful feedback on the progress and outcome of their ASB reports, subject to confidentiality and data protection requirements.
- No single organisation can tackle persistent ASB effectively in isolation. Stronger partnership working, information sharing and joint interventions are essential.
- Consistent recording of reports, actions and outcomes will allow the Council and its partners to identify repeat problems, hotspots and cases requiring a coordinated response.
- Residents should be able to see that their reports have resulted in appropriate action and that their concerns have been listened to.

Council resolves to:

1. Strengthen partnership working between the Council, Police, housing providers and other relevant agencies to ensure ASB reports are appropriately shared, coordinated and acted upon.
2. Establish a consistent approach to recording ASB reports, detailing the nature of the complaint, location, responsible agency, actions taken, referrals and outcomes.
3. Use ASB data and feedback from residents to identify repeat incidents and hotspots and to coordinate targeted interventions.
4. Provide regular performance reports to councillors, detailing the volume of ASB reported, partnership activity, response times and outcomes respecting confidentiality and data protection requirements.

This will build confidence with local people as they will know their reports have been heard, acted upon and followed through.

The Council further resolves that progress of these measures is reported to scrutiny within six months, including evidence of improved partnership working and resident feedback.

Friday, 28 August 2026

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett 024 7697 2302 / 2299

Membership: Councillors R Bailey (Chair), N Akhtar, P Akhtar, S Akhter, A Albert, F Beechey, L Bigham, J Blundell, L Boyle, R Brown, A Bryant, A Bullock, K Caan, D Clark, A Cole, P Cowley, W Davies, G Duggins, J Fearn, M Fogden, J Gardiner, S Gray, M Greenhalgh, M Gregory, G Hayre, M Heaven, P Hetherton, A Hopkins, J Innes, T Jewell, S Jobbar, J Jones, A Kaur, L Kelly, S Keough, AS Khan, M Lapsa, J Lepoidevin, D McCann, J McNicholas, B Mosterman, M Mutton, S Nazir, J Odje, C Phillips, P Reddy, E M Reeves, H Rehman, E Ruane, K Sandhu, R Singh, D Stainton, A Tucker and J Wells

Public Access

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

Carolyn Sinclair/Suzanne Bennett
024 7697 2302 / 2299

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council
held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 23 June 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Bailey (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor S Akhter
Councillor A Albert
Councillor F Beechey
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor L Boyle
Councillor R Brown
Councillor A Bryant
Councillor A Bullock
Councillor K Caan
Councillor D Clark
Councillor A Cole
Councillor P Cowley
Councillor W Davies
Councillor G Duggins
Councillor J Fearn
Councillor M Fogden
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor S Gray
Councillor M Greenhalgh
Councillor M Gregory
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor J Innes

Councillor T Jewell
Councillor S Jobbar
Councillor J Jones
Councillor A Kaur
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor S Keough
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor D McCann
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor J Odje
Councillor C Phillips
Councillor P Reddy
Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor H Rehman
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh
Councillor D Stainton
Councillor A Tucker
Councillor J Wells

Honorary Alderman D Batten

Apologies: Honorary Alderman M Hammon

Public Business

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Coventry City Football Club

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities recommending that, in accordance with the Section 249 of the

Local Government Act 1972, that Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on Coventry City Football Club. This was in recognition of their achievement during the 2025/26 football season, culminating in winning the Championship League title and securing promotion to the Premier League and to show the City's appreciation of this achievement, together with recognising the important role the Club has played in the life of the City since 1883.

The Freedom of the City is a rare honour given to those individuals and organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Coventry and the lives of its residents.

It is the highest honour a Local Authority could confer and it was proposed to be given to the Club in its entirety, recognising the players, management, staff, owner and the supporters and communities who have proudly stood behind the Club throughout its history.

The return to the Premier League after 25 years was a truly magnificent achievement. The Club was now on the biggest football stage in the world and bringing recognition to the City.

Beyond the sporting achievement, Premier League status represented a significant opportunity for Coventry. A wider benefit to the City and region was expected to be felt across hospitality, retail, tourism and the visitor economy, with Premier League fixtures placing Coventry on a global stage every week.

The recent sporting achievements of Coventry City Football Club would merit the award by itself, but this award recognises far more. Since 1883, the Club had been a part of Coventry. In recent years, the Club has shown incredible determination and had toiled to bring success back to the Team and the City of Coventry.

The supporters too have played their part. Their support has been unwavering and it was clear how the success of the Club has uplifted the City. Tens of thousands of Coventry residents had flocked to the Coventry Building Society Arena for home games, and the knock-on effect and feel-good factor had been seen across the City. It has been clear how much the Club means to the people of Coventry and how the Football Team has been inspired by that.

Coventry City Football Club was an integral part of the life of the City. The Honorary Freedom of the City recognised all the Club has done for Coventry and its residents, not just this year, but since 1883.

The Motion to award Honorary Freedom of the City was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins, seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor L Kelly and supported by Councillors J Gardiner, J Blundell and S Gray on behalf of the other Political Groups.

RESOLVED that the City Council unanimously:

- 1) Confers the Honorary Freedom of the City on Coventry City Football Club and agrees that the following resolution be passed:**

“That the Council of the City of Coventry, being deeply aware of the exceptional and outstanding achievements and the important role it has played in the life of the City since 1883, and being desirous of recognising the commitment and devotion of all those involved, whilst expressing appreciation, support and admiration for its achievements, does confer upon Coventry City Football Club the Honorary Freedom of the City of Coventry.”

- 2) Agrees that an Illuminated Minute under the Common Seal of the Council be presented at a suitable event on a future date for display at Coventry City Football Club as a symbolic gesture of the conferment.**

Note: Mr Doug King, owner and Executive Director of Coventry City Football Club attended the meeting and responded on behalf of the Club, expressing his thanks and appreciation for the honour.

(Meeting closed at 2.25 pm)

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday, 23 June 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Bailey (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor S Akhter
Councillor A Albert
Councillor F Beechey
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor L Boyle
Councillor R Brown
Councillor A Bryant
Councillor A Bullock
Councillor K Caan
Councillor D Clark
Councillor A Cole
Councillor P Cowley
Councillor W Davies
Councillor G Duggins
Councillor J Fearn
Councillor M Fogden
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor S Gray
Councillor M Greenhalgh
Councillor M Gregory
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor A Hopkins

Councillor J Innes
Councillor T Jewell
Councillor S Jobbar
Councillor J Jones
Councillor A Kaur
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor S Keough
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor J Odje
Councillor C Phillips
Councillor P Reddy
Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor H Rehman
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh
Councillor D Stainton
Councillor A Tucker
Councillor J Wells

Honorary Alderman: D Batten

Apologies: Honorary Alderman M Hammon

Public Business

14. Minutes of the Annual Meeting Part One and Part Two held on 21 May 2026

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Parts 1 and 2, held on 21 May 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

15. Coventry Good Citizen Award

On behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor and Her Honour Judge Montgomery KC, Honorary Recorder, presented Barry Price with the Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

“For over 10 years Barry has served Coventry through his leadership of Coventry Motorcycle Action Group.

Barry has organised numerous charity events including Christmas Toy Runs, Easter Egg Runs, pet food deliveries to animal sanctuaries and annual fundraising events. These have brought joy to children, supported young carers, and aided vulnerable animals across the region.

Through his efforts, over £100,000 has been raised for local causes, making a significant difference to communities and services throughout Coventry.

Barry also supports motorcyclists by coordinating “Biker Down” first-aid training and welcoming new riders, helping promote safety, confidence, and responsible riding. His commitment has created a vital social network for members, fostering friendships and support for those who need it most.

Barry is widely respected for the way he brings people together, strengthens his community, and works for the good of others and he is a truly deserving recipient of this Coventry Good Citizen Award.”

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

1. **Galati**

The Lord Mayor referred to the tragic drone attack on the City’s twin city of Galati on the evening of 28–29 May 2026. On behalf of the City Council, he and the Leader of the Council had written to the Mayor of Galati to express the City Council’s heartfelt condolences.

2. **Death of Harry Noble**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death Harry Noble. Harry served the City with great dedication for many years as the City Architect and Planning Officer.

Harry would be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of working with him.

3. **Death of Honorary Alderman David Skinner MBE**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Honorary Alderman David Skinner.

David was a Member of the City Council for 16 years representing Westwood Ward from 2006-2022. During that time, he served on Ward Forums, Licensing and Regulatory Committee, Planning Committee and Scrutiny Boards and represented the City Council on a number of outside bodies and charities.

He was awarded an MBE in 2020 for services to Coventry communities and was made an Honorary Alderman in 2022.

David would be warmly remembered by all who knew him and the City Council's thoughts were with his family at this difficult time.

A letter of condolence had been sent to his family on behalf of the City Council.

Members paid tribute to David and the contribution he had made to the Council and the City.

In respect of items 2 and 3 above, the Council observed a Minute's silence as a mark of respect for Harry and David.

4. **Kiel**

The Lord Mayor referred to his recent visit to the City's twin City of Kiel where he and the Lady Mayoress had attended the International Cities Forum. He reported that it had been very informative event and had been attended by delegates from Kiel's Twin and Partner Cities.

5. **King's Birthday Honours**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent announcement of King's Birthday Honours List. Six individuals connected to Coventry had been recognised:

- Sukriti Sen, Director of Children and Education Services, Coventry City Council had been awarded a CBE for services to Children's Social Care.
- Michael Akers, Founder of Mikey's Wish Foundation had been awarded an MBE for services to Special Educational Needs.
- Andrew Cooper, Managing Director of GE Verona had been awarded an MBE for services to Manufacturing and Defence.
- Annette Hay, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, De Montfort University had been awarded an MBE for services to Higher Education.
- Becki Coombe had been awarded a BEM for services to the community in Coventry and Warwickshire.
- Hitesh Mehta, Special Constable, West Midlands Police and Charity Trustee, Shree Krishna Temple had been awarded a BEM for services to Policing, to Charity and to Volunteering in Coventry.

It was also noted that Martin Reeves, former Chief Executive of Coventry City Council, had been awarded an OBE for services to Local Government.

On behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor congratulated all recipients on their Awards.

17. **Petitions**

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member, City Council body or external organisation:

1. Request that the Council resurface and provide road safety measures on Widdrington Road – 14 signatures, presented by Councillor A Hopkins.
2. Request that the Council introduce 20 mph zones on Whoberley Avenue and Maudsley Road – 38 signatures, presented by Councillor Innes.
3. Request that the Council install traffic calming measures at the Brookside Road/Wildcroft Road junction – 146 signatures, presented by Councillor P Akhtar.
4. Request that the Council introduce ‘safe play’ surfaces and a children’s playground on the grassland between Buckingham Rise and Brookside Avenue – 104 signatures, presented by Councillor J Jones.
5. Request that toilet facilities be provided for all at Coundon Hall Park – 397 signatures, presented by Councillor J Wells.
6. Request the implementation of a residents parking permit scheme in the CV1 4HU and CV 4HT area – 53 signatures, presented by Councillor S Nazir.
7. Request that the Council stop using bailiffs to collect Council Tax debt – 112 signatures, presented by Councillor S Gray.

18. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

19. **Acceptance of Grant Funding - Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4**

In accordance with Part 3F of the Constitution, the City Council received a report of the Chief Executive which set out decisions undertaken by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution and following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities and the Leader of the Council in relation to the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4.

20. **Amendment to Allocation of Executive Functions within Cabinet and Appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members**

In accordance with Paragraphs 9.4 and 9.6 of Part 2B of the Constitution, the Council received a report of the Leader of the Council informing Members of a change made in relation to the allocation of Executive Functions within Cabinet, together with the appointment of two Deputy Cabinet Members as follows:

- a) That the function of Strategic Energy Partnership had been included in the Cabinet Portfolio of Community Safety and Cohesion
- b) That Councillor P Akhtar had been appointed as the Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services
- c) That Councillor G Hayre had been appointed as the Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing

The amended allocation of Cabinet Portfolios for 2026/27 was appended to the report submitted.

21. **Exercise of Emergency Functions**

In accordance with Paragraph 4a of Part 2M of the Constitution, the City Council received a report of the Chief Executive which informed Council of a decision undertaken by the Chief Executive, in accordance with the Constitution and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins, to exercise emergency functions to approve a budget of £400k, funded from corporate contingencies, to support activities associated with the City's celebrations to mark Coventry City Football Club securing the Championship title and promotion to the Premier League.

The above decision, including the reasons for the decision taken, had been published on the City Council's website.

22. **Annual Report from the Leader to the Council on Key Decisions made under Special Urgency Provisions 2025/2026**

In accordance with Part 3B of the Constitution, the City Council received a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities on the annual submission from the Leader of Key Decision made in the previous municipal year where the Special Urgency provision had been used. The report indicated that there were no such cases during the 2025/26 municipal year.

23. **Question Time**

Councillors P Hetherton, L Kelly and J McNicholas provided written answers to the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, together with oral responses to supplementary questions at the meeting. The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:

	Questions asked by Councillor:	Question put to Councillor:	Subject matter
1	Councillor A Hopkins	Councillor J McNicholas	Coventry Pride Weekend
2	Councillor M Lapsa	Councillor J McNicholas	Illegal bike riding in parks
3	Councillor A Bullock	Councillor P Hetherton	Completion of Clifford Bridge Road cycle lane
4	Councillor D Stainton	Councillor P Hetherton	Food waste bins
5	Councillor M Fogden	Councillor L Kelly	Coventry swimming baths regeneration
6	Councillor D Clark	Councillor K Caan	Potential relocation of Triumph Boxing Club
7	Councillor J Lepoidevin	Councillor R Brown	Breakdown of income/expenditure relating to the £400k withdrawn from

			the contingency budget.
8	Councillor A Tucker	Councillor AS Khan	Assurance that Coventry Libraries will not be removing books with LGBT+ references
9	Councillor A Tucker	Councillor J McNicholas	Powers to tackle organised crime syndicates using high-street storefronts for criminal activities.
11	Councillor P Hetherton	Councillor L Kelly	Clarify checks on fire hydrants
12	Councillor F Beechey	Councillor L Kelly	Measures taken to secure the closed Belgrade Plaza NCP car park
13	Councillor A Kaur	Councillor K Caan	Advice on heatwave
14	Councillor M Gregory	Councillor J McNicholas	Fixed penalty notices

24. **Statement**

The Leader, Councillor G Duggins, made a Statement which summarised the City Council's achievements over the past year and highlighted the following:

- The Parks and Open Spaces Teams' Green Flag Award
- The Councils' Purple Flag status, recognising the City was a safe, entertaining and diverse destination after dark.
- The Department for Transport's 'green' rating – which was the highest rating for road maintenance.
- 'Digital Council of the Year' for the second year running.
- Recognition for the Council's pledge in respect of tackling anti-social behaviour
- High attendance at the recent Coventry Job Fest in Willenhall
- Adult Social Care Services' 'Good' rating by Ofsted in February 2026
- Children's Services 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted in May 2026

Councillor J Gardiner, Leader of the Reform UK Group, responded to the Statement.

Councillor J Blundell, Leader of the Conservative Group, responded to the Statement.

Councillor E Reeves, Leader of the Green Group, responded to the Statement.

The Leader made a short reply.

25. **Debate - Recent Achievements of Coventry City Council's Children's Services and Adult Social Care Services**

The following debate was moved by Councillor M Mutton and seconded by Councillor L Bigham:

“This Council notes with immense pride the recent achievements of Coventry City Council’s Children’s Services and Adult Social Care Services.

Council welcomes the decision by Ofsted to award Coventry Children’s Services an “Outstanding” rating, recognising the exceptional work carried out to safeguard, support and improve the lives of children and young people across our city.

Council also welcomes the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment which awarded Coventry’s Adult Social Care services a “Good” rating, reflecting the high-quality care, professionalism and dedication shown to vulnerable adults, older residents and families throughout Coventry.

These achievements are a testament to years of hard work, strong partnership working and a shared commitment to delivering the very best outcomes for residents.

Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- All frontline staff, social workers, care workers, support staff and managers within Children’s Services and Adult Social Care;**
- Senior officers and directors whose leadership, professionalism and vision have driven continuous improvement;**
- Cabinet Members and political leadership for their commitment, support and strategic direction;**
- Partner organisations, schools, NHS colleagues, voluntary sector organisations and all those who work collaboratively to support Coventry residents.**

Council recognises that these ratings are not simply inspection outcomes but represent real positive impacts on the lives of children, young people, vulnerable adults and families across our city.

Council further acknowledges the dedication shown by officers and staff during challenging times, including increasing demand on services, financial pressures and the lasting impacts of the pandemic and wider social inequalities.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Formally congratulate everyone involved in achieving these excellent outcomes;**
- 2. Continue supporting investment in high-quality Children’s Services and Adult Social Care;**
- 3. Ensure Coventry continues striving for excellence in protecting and supporting its residents;**

4. Request that the Chief Executive conveys the Council's appreciation and congratulations to all relevant staff and partner organisations."

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above in bold be adopted.

26. Debate - Equality, Fairness and Confidence in Policing

The following debate was moved by Councillor J Gardiner and seconded by Councillor F Beechey:

"This Council believes in the equality of all before the law. In the light of the appalling death of Henry Nowak in police custody, this council calls upon the government to take urgent steps to reform national police guidance, training and practice to enable police officers to be sceptical of claims of racism made by ethnic minorities.

As a multicultural city, Coventry's citizens want to know that if they are attacked and injured and say that they have been stabbed or cannot breathe, that a police officer will prioritise their welfare over fears that their police career could end for questioning claims of racism by an ethnic minority. All lives matter and one race is not of a higher priority than another."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor J McNicholas, seconded by Councillor AS Khan and accepted by Councillor J Gardiner thus becoming the substantive motion (in accordance with paragraph 15.1.7 of the Constitution):

"That the Motion as set out as Item 13(b) on the agenda be amended as follows:

That in the second line, after the words "this Council calls upon" delete the rest of the Motion and insert the following words:

"West Midlands Police to consider the findings of the impending investigation into Hampshire Police by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the outcomes of any national reviews of Police race guidance to address any potential matters of racism, whilst also taking into account both the Government's request that the perpetrator's 21 year sentence be reviewed as unduly lenient and the Nowak's family's sincere wish that their son's murder not be exploited for political purposes.

The Council further believes that public confidence depends upon policing being impartial, with allegations of discrimination being investigated fairly on the basis of evidence, while ensuring that officers responding to emergencies prioritise the preservation of life and public safety above all else and that every victim deserves the same protection and every suspect the same standard of justice."

The amended Motion now to read:

"This Council believes in the equality of all before the law. In the light of the appalling death of Henry Nowak in police custody, this Council calls upon West Midlands Police to consider the findings of the impending

investigation into Hampshire Police by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the outcomes of any national reviews of Police race guidance to address any potential matters of racism, whilst also taking into account both the Government's request that the perpetrator's 21 year sentence be reviewed as unduly lenient and the Nowak's family's sincere wish that their son's murder not be exploited for political purposes.

The Council further believes that public confidence depends upon policing being impartial, with allegations of discrimination being investigated fairly on the basis of evidence, while ensuring that officers responding to emergencies prioritise the preservation of life and public safety above all else and that every victim deserves the same protection and every suspect the same standard of justice."

RESOLVED that the amended Motion as set out in bold above, be adopted.

27. **Debate - St Mary's Guildhall**

The following debate was moved by Councillor M Heaven and seconded by Councillor J Blundell:

"This Council recognises that St Mary's Guildhall is one of Coventry's most important historic landmarks and believes it should be accessible to all.

Council further believes that free entry would promote civic pride, support tourism, increase city centre footfall, and help make Coventry a more welcoming city.

Therefore, Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member and relevant officers bring forward proposals for the removal of admission charges at St Mary's Guildhall and report on the financial implications and implementation of free public access."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor J Gardiner, seconded by Councillor M Lapsa and **lost**:

In the first paragraph, after the words "and believes it should be" delete the words "accessible to all" and insert the words "free for Coventry Citizens to enter."

In the second paragraph, delete the word "further" in the first line and after the words "believes that" add the word "such". After the words "civic pride" insert a full stop and then add the words "Council further suspects that free entry to all visitors could"

In the third paragraph, after the words "St Mary's Guildhall" delete the rest of the sentence and replace with the following:-

"which set out the viability of removing admission charges for Coventry residents and the viability of removing the admission charges for all other visitors including tourists. These proposals and viability reports should be

brought to Full Council when prepared, for each proposal to be voted upon by Full Council.”

The proposed amended Motion now to read:

“This Council recognises that St Mary’s Guildhall is one of Coventry’s most important historic landmarks and believes it should be free for Coventry Citizens to enter.

Council believes that such free entry would promote civic pride. Council further suspects that free entry to all visitors could support tourism, increase city centre footfall and help make Coventry a more welcoming city.

Therefore, Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member and relevant officers bring forward proposals for the removal of admission charges at St Mary’s Guildhall which set out the viability of removing admission charges for Coventry residents and the viability of removing the admission charges for all other visitors including tourists. These proposals and viability reports should be brought to Full Council when prepared, for each proposal to be voted upon by Full Council.”

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above in bold be adopted.

28. **Debate - The use of Palantir Technology in Council Services**

The following debate as set out on the Council agenda was moved by Councillor M Greenhalgh with a specified alteration in accordance with Part 3A, Paragraph 14.5 of the Constitution as follows:

“that resolution number 5 at the end of the Motion as set out on the agenda be deleted and the following alternative number 5 be inserted:

5) Request a report at the Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Resources’ next Cabinet Member Meeting on the practicalities of ending the current Palantir contract at the next lawful opportunity subject to contractual requirements.”

The Motion as set out below, including the specified alteration detailed above, was seconded by Councillor E Reeves:

“This Council notes the findings of the House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee report published earlier this month, which identifies data security, vendor lock-in and technology sovereignty as critical concerns for public sector digital transformation. The report expresses particular concern about Palantir’s growing role in the UK public sector and recommends that Government exercise the break clause in the NHS Federated Data Platform contract, publish a costed exit plan, and pursue in-house or UK-based alternatives where possible.

Additionally, this Council believes that the actions of the organisation and beliefs held by the leadership of Palantir are not compatible with the

expectations of morality, integrity and accountability that befit the award of any contract for local public services. With social care and children's data being among the most sensitive information held by the Council, any party granted exposure to this data must be subject to the highest levels of scrutiny and only be considered when measured against an ethical framework consistent with the values of humanity and democracy.

Given the findings of the report and widespread public concern, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Immediately publish the findings of the Council's earlier review into the use of Palantir technology in Council Services.**
- 2. Ask officers to provide an additional briefing to all groups within council on the current and future intended usage of Palantir technologies prior to the September council meeting.**
- 3. Ask officers to examine alternative options, including in-house development, open-source tools, UK-based suppliers, public sector collaboration, and locally based trainee or apprentice-supported administrative models, with appropriate safeguarding and data protection controls.**
- 4. Require any future AI related contracts to be assessed against ethical practice, the potential for vendor lock-in and expected social value.**
- 5) Request a report at the Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Resources' next Cabinet Member Meeting on the practicalities of ending the current Palantir contract at the next lawful opportunity subject to contractual requirements."**

RESOLVED that the Motion as set out above in bold be adopted.

(Meeting closed at 8.15 pm)

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Agenda Item
Council – 8th September 2026

Recommendation from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
24th June 2026

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Present:

Members:

Councillor R Singh (Chair)
Councillor A Kaur (Deputy Chair)
Councillor F Beechey
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor H Rehman

Non-Voting Members of
the Committee:

Councillor S Gray
Councillor S Jobbar

Cabinet Member for
Community Safety and
Cohesion:

Councillor J McNicholas

Employees (by Service Area):

Law, Governance and
Safer Communities

G Holmes, E Jones, M Rose, A West

Apologies:

Councillor E Ruane

RECOMMENDATION

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, appended to which was the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025-26.

The report detailed highlights from the year, including crosscutting themes considered by the Committee as well as work undertaken by the individual Scrutiny Boards. The Constitution requires that Scrutiny report annually to inform Council of its work.

The Chair, Councillor R Singh thanked the previous Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Chair, former Councillor Lloyd for his work last year.

The Committee discussed the inclusion of additional information in the report detailing urgent decisions made during the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, where the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had been asked to agree the need for urgency such that call-in arrangements did not apply, to include those reasons for urgency.

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee agreed to accept the content of the draft Annual Report at Appendix 1 subject to the inclusion of the additional information detailing the urgent decisions.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council considers the Scrutiny Annual Report (as amended) at its meeting on 8th September, 2026.

Council

8th September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary

The Constitution requires that Scrutiny reports annually to inform Council of its work. The Annual Report sets out the work undertaken by the following bodies over the last municipal year:

- Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
- Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board
- Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board
- Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board
- Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board
- Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board

As set out in the Constitution, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and each Scrutiny Board is responsible for setting its own work programme and, in doing so, consults with relevant Cabinet Members and the Leadership Board. They also consider the wishes of those Members of the Scrutiny Board who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.

Council is asked to consider and approve the Annual Report as attached as Appendix 1.

At its meeting on 25 June 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee agreed that the Annual Report be submitted to Council with the inclusion of an additional section detailing instances where call-in did not apply on grounds of urgency. This has been included at page 7 of Appendix 1.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2025-26 (Appendix 1)
- (2) Note that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and each Scrutiny Board have an active work programme which is considered at each meeting, when all Members of the Committee/Boards can suggest items for Scrutiny.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2025-26

Other useful background papers can be found at the following web addresses:

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination considered the Annual Report at its meeting on 25 June, 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?

Yes – 8th September 2026

Report title: Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Coventry City Council operates the Executive/Scrutiny model of Governance, as established by the Local Government Act 2000.
- 1.2 The Council has five Scrutiny Boards covering all aspects of the Council, as well as a Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, which is responsible for the overall management of the Scrutiny and Overview function.
- 1.3 Scrutiny Boards have the power to investigate any matters they consider relevant to their work area and to make recommendations to the Council, the Cabinet, any Cabinet Member or any other Committee of the Council as they see fit.
- 1.4 The membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and Scrutiny Boards is determined by full Council and reflects political proportionality.
- 1.5 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and each Scrutiny Board is responsible for setting its own work programme and in doing so consults with relevant Cabinet Members and the Leadership Board. They also consider the wishes of those Members of the Scrutiny Board who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.
- 1.6 At its meeting on 25 June 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee approved the Annual Report for Council with the inclusion of an additional section detailing instances where call-in did not apply on grounds of urgency. This is included at page 7 of Appendix 1.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Constitution requires Scrutiny to report to Council on an annual basis as part of the functions of Scrutiny. Therefore, Council is recommended to:
 - (1) Approve the Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2025-26 (Appendix 1)
 - (2) Note that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and each Scrutiny Board have an active work programme which is considered at each meeting, when all Members of the Committee/Boards can suggest items for Scrutiny.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation as the Annual Report is a constitutional requirement and there are no proposals made that require consultation.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Not applicable.

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

5.1 Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The issues referred to in this report will assist the Council in complying with its obligations under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.

6 Other implications

None.

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

Scrutiny work programmes prioritise items that contribute to the One Coventry Plan and the priorities within it.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the recommendations in this report.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The role of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account and improve decision making. Scrutiny's impact is on improving existing policy, developing new policy and monitoring performance.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no direct implications for equalities as a result of these recommendations, however all scrutiny items are considered for their health inequalities impact, as well as wider equalities impacts.

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

There are no direct implications for Climate Change as a result of these recommendations, however progress on the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy is subject to regular scrutiny.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Scrutiny has powers to hold health partners and community safety partners to account, as well as require attendance and response to recommendations made. Scrutiny can also invite other organisations that deliver services to residents of Coventry, including the public, private and voluntary, social and community sectors. Several external organisations have been involved in the work of Scrutiny during 2025-26

Report author(s):**Name and job title:** Gennie Holmes, Scrutiny Co-ordinator**Directorate:** Law, Governance and Safer Communities**Contact details:** gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date document sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance & Safer Communities	15/07/26	16/07/26
Elan Jones	Scrutiny Co-ordinator	Law, Governance & Safer Communities	15/07/26	4/8/26
Adrian West	Head of Governance – Statutory Scrutiny Officer	Law, Governance & Safer Communities	15/07/26	14/8/26
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Ewan Dewar	Head of Finance	Finance	15/07/26	15/7/26
Legal: Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance & Safer Communities	Law, Governance & Safer Communities	15/07/26	15/7/26
Councillor R Singh	Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee		15/07/26	26/8/26

This report is published on the council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

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Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2025-26

Introduction by Gavin Lloyd, Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 2025-26

Over the past year, Coventry's Scrutiny Committees have continued to play an important role in how the Council is run. By asking questions, checking how services are performing, and focusing on what matters for residents, scrutiny has helped improve decisions and supported openness, accountability and ongoing improvement across the Council.

During the year, scrutiny members have looked at a wide range of issues affecting the city. This has included day-to-day council services, financial pressures, partnership working and long-term priorities. Much of this work has taken place during changing and sometimes difficult circumstances and has required members to deal with complex and sensitive issues. The careful debates, evidence-gathering and recommendations show how seriously members take their role on behalf of the communities they represent. I would like to thank the chairs and members of all Scrutiny Boards for the time, commitment and professionalism they have shown throughout the year. Their leadership and cooperative approach has helped keep scrutiny focused, fair and effective, adding real value to the Council's work and to the work of our partners.

I also want to thank our Governance and Scrutiny Officers. Their expertise and behind-the-scenes support makes scrutiny possible. They help members carry out their roles well, keep meetings and work programmes running smoothly, and maintain the high standards expected of Coventry's scrutiny function.

This report highlights some of the important work carried out over the year. It shows the continued commitment of members and officers to making scrutiny effective and meaningful and provides a strong base for the year ahead.

Gavin Lloyd

Chair of Scrutiny Coordination Committee 2025-26.

Get involved:

- Email the Scrutiny Chairs and Team via scrutiny@coventry.gov.uk
- Find meeting dates and agendas here: [Coventry City Council Meeting Papers](#)
- To engage or input towards Scrutiny's workplans, use the following link: [Coventry City Council - Scrutiny | Let's Talk Coventry](#)

Scrutiny 2025-26



Scrutiny Co-ordination (SCRUCO)



Chair: Cllr G Lloyd
Deputy: Cllr J McNicholas

Scrutiny Coordination
Policy and Leadership
Policing and Equalities
Designated Crime and Disorder Board

Finance & Corporate Services

Education & Children's Services

Business, Economy & Enterprise

Communities & Neighbourhoods

Health & Social Care

Cllr A Jobbar

Strategic Finance
Transformation
Digital Strategy
Council Resources
New Ways of
Working



Cllr Kelly

Early Help
Children & Young
People's Social Care
Schools
Adult, Higher &
Further Ed.
Libraries



Cllr R Singh

Business, Enterprise
& Employment
Inward Investment
Transportation & Air
Quality
Tourism & Marketing



Cllr Ali

Public Services
Social Enterprise
Strategy
Community & Third
Sector
Housing and
Homelessness
Arts & Heritage
Planning Policy



Cllr Miki

Health
Adult Social Care
Health Inequalities
Sport & Physical
Activity



Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Over the past 12 months, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (SCRUCO) has continued to lead and coordinate scrutiny across the Council. It has supported early scrutiny before Cabinet decisions are made, coordinated the work programmes of all Scrutiny Boards, and helped make sure the Council's plans and priorities are open, accountable and focused on residents.

This section summarises SCRUCO's main work, achievements and outcomes over the last municipal year. It focuses in particular on the One Coventry Plan Deep Dive, scrutiny of Cabinet reports before decisions were taken, and the committee's constructive working relationship with Cabinet Members.

Strategic Leadership of Scrutiny

SCRUCO has carried out its coordinating role by:

- Setting and maintaining the overarching scrutiny work programme
- Managing cross-cutting scrutiny issues
- Aligning the activity of the five Scrutiny Boards with the Council's strategic priorities
- Ensuring consistent standards, transparency and accountability across scrutiny

The committee has met regularly throughout the year. Members have also held planning sessions before meetings so they can prepare well, ask clear questions, and work effectively with officers and Cabinet Members.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny and Policy Influence

A key part of SCRUCO's work this year has been looking at Cabinet reports before decisions were made. This early scrutiny helps improve proposals and makes sure risks and impacts are properly considered. Topics included:

- Strategic plans and performance frameworks (for example, the One Strategic Plan and the Education Capital Programme)
- Housing, community safety and regulatory issues (for example, recommissioning housing-related support services)

- Climate change, transport and place-based policies (for example, Community Growing Spaces)

This approach helped the committee make practical recommendations to Cabinet, so proposals could be tested, challenged and improved before they were agreed.

One Coventry Plan Deep Dive

The One Coventry Plan Deep Dive has been one of SCRUCO's main pieces of work this year. It was set up so members could take a closer look at key performance measures, go beyond headline figures, and understand what the data means for residents.

A series of deep dive sessions were held. Members agreed recommendations, which were reported to SCRUCO and then to Cabinet.

Topics included:

- Fly-tipping and environmental enforcement
- Pavement and highway condition metrics
- Children in care and youth justice indicators
- Education, school readiness and post-16 outcomes
- Recycling performance and waste infrastructure

The deep dive work helped members to:

- Challenge the suitability and clarity of existing performance metrics
- Recommend revised or additional indicators
- Highlight where Coventry's performance differed from national trends
- Identify where earlier action, partnership working and service improvements could help

Recommendations and Outcomes

Over the past 12 months, SCRUCO has made recommendations to individual Cabinet Members and to Cabinet as a whole. These recommendations focused on:

- Making performance reports clearer and easier to understand, so scrutiny (and the public) can see what is happening and why (for example, asking for better scheduling and clearer governance information for Shareholder Reports)

- Improving joined-up working between organisations on ongoing issues (for example, fly-tipping)
- Making sure plans reflect the needs of people who may be at greater risk of disadvantage. For example, SCRUCO recommended that the City of Movement Strategy 2026–31 should consider inclusion, access to transport, funding and partner contributions, and how impact will be monitored against One Coventry Plan priorities.
- Enhancing scrutiny follow-up and monitoring of agreed actions.

The committee did not treat recommendations as one-off actions. It followed up progress through update reports and further discussions, helping to keep attention on delivery and improvement.

Engagement with Cabinet and Officers

SCRUCO's work this year has been underpinned by strong and constructive relationships with Cabinet Members and senior officers. The committee has benefited from:

- Regular attendance by Cabinet Members at scrutiny meetings
- Open, respectful and transparent engagement during questioning
- Clear responses to recommendations and requests for further information

SCRUCO would like to thank the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader for supporting scrutiny and being open to questions and challenge. Cabinet Members across all portfolios have attended SCRUCO and engaged constructively with members throughout the year.

Decisions taken as a matter of urgency where call-in should not apply

The Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is invited to meetings of Cabinet or Cabinet Member where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's or the public's interest, to agree the need for urgency. Where this happens, the matter is reported to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee. There were no urgent decisions taken where call-in did not apply during 2025-26.

Conclusion

Over the past 12 months, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee has shown the value of well-planned scrutiny in Coventry. Through coordination, detailed review of proposals, the One Coventry Plan Deep Dive and constructive work with Cabinet, SCRUCO has helped improve decision-making, accountability and outcomes for residents.

The committee starts the next year with a clear work programme and a strong commitment to continuing high-quality scrutiny for Coventry and its residents.

Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board

Update on Savings Delivery and Policy Investment Decisions in 2025-26

In March 2026, the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board reviewed an update on how budget savings and investment decisions were being delivered in 2025–26. This helped members check whether agreed savings were on track, understand any risks, and look at whether financial decision-making and oversight were strong during a difficult funding period. It also helped the Board see how limited resources were being used to support Council priorities. This work improved transparency and supported ongoing checks on value for money and the Council's financial resilience.

Pre Budget Consultation Report 2026/27



In January 2026, the Board considered the Pre-Budget Consultation Report 2026/27. This set out the main themes and investment priorities to help shape the Council's budget. Cabinet approved the report as the basis for public consultation. It drew on public feedback and performance information and gave Scrutiny an early chance to influence budget proposals before final decisions in February 2026.

The Board reviewed the proposed themes and questioned officers and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources. Topics included support for disabled people into employment, the Council Tax Support Scheme, cost-of-living pressures, and how any extra funding might be used to rebuild public trust. The Board agreed feedback to feed into the consultation, supporting a budget-setting process that is inclusive, evidence-based and transparent.

Home to School Transport



During 2025–26, the Board received an update on Home to School Transport, following the Task and Finish Group that met in the previous year. The update gave members confidence about how the Group’s findings and recommendations were being put into practice, and whether changes were leading to real improvements in the service and how it is managed.

Members noted that progress had been made since the Task and Finish Group ended, and that more improvements were still underway. This follow-up helped scrutiny keep track of a complex, high-cost statutory service, check that learning had been acted on, and support continued improvement. It also shows how scrutiny can help services improve over time, not just through one-off reviews.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board

Elective Home Education Task and Finish Group

During 2025–26, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board set up a Task and Finish Group to look at Elective Home Education (EHE). This was in response to a growing number of children being educated at home in Coventry. The review looked at why families were choosing this option, including issues such as special educational needs, anxiety and difficulties in mainstream schools. The Group focused on how the Council supports these families while still meeting its safeguarding and legal responsibilities.

Members heard from council officers and from a parent who educates their child at home. They looked closely at how the Council checks children's safety and works with other services such as social care, the police and early help teams. The Group recognised that Coventry has strong and supportive arrangements in place, particularly its safeguarding-led and relationship-based approach. However, members also noted increasing pressure on services, difficulties for older children in accessing qualifications, and concerns about the impact of proposed national changes to home education rules. Following the review, the Group made a number of recommendations. These included promoting Coventry's good practice, raising concerns about the extra demands new legislation could place on families and services, and improving access to education and qualifications for home-educated young people aged 14–16 by working more closely with further education providers. The Group also recommended further scrutiny work to look at post-14 and post-16 options for children who are educated at home.

School Attendance Task and Finish Group

During 2025–26, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board set up a Task and Finish Group to look in more detail at school attendance across the city. This work was prompted by concerns about persistent and severe absence following the pandemic. The Group aimed to understand local attendance patterns, explore the reasons why some children miss school, and look at how well schools and the Council are working together to support pupils and families to improve attendance.

Members reviewed attendance data for different age groups and pupil cohorts, including children with SEND and other vulnerable groups. They looked at both authorised and unauthorised absence and considered how early help, family support and legal interventions are currently used. The Group recognised that while attendance had improved in some areas, more targeted and coordinated support was needed, particularly to address early signs of poor attendance and issues at key transition points.

As a result of the review, the Group made recommendations to improve how data is used to identify children most at risk of severe persistent absence, so earlier and more effective support can be put in place. They also recommended a stronger focus on early intervention and the use of existing strategies to support families and pupils. To ensure continued oversight, the Board asked to receive a further update within 12 months to monitor progress and the impact of these changes.

Coombe Abbey Park and Outdoor Education

On 22 January 2026, members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board visited the Coombe Outdoor Education Service, based at Coombe Abbey Park, to see first-hand the Council's in-city outdoor education offer. The visit formed part of the Board's wider consideration of outdoor education and enrichment opportunities for children and young people in Coventry and was included in the Board's 2025–26 work programme.

During the visit, members were shown how the service uses the park and surrounding facilities to deliver a wide range of outdoor learning and practical activities for schools and groups. Members saw how sessions are designed to support learning beyond the classroom, helping children to develop confidence, teamwork, problem-solving skills and positive attitudes to physical activity and the outdoors. The visit highlighted the value of having an accessible outdoor education facility located within the city.

Members also heard about how the service works with schools to complement the curriculum and provide inclusive opportunities for children and young people with varying needs. The visit helped the Board to better understand the role the Coombe Outdoor Education Service plays in supporting children's learning, wellbeing and

engagement, and provided useful context for future scrutiny of outdoor education provision and children's enrichment services.

Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board

Site Visit – UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC)

On 4 March 2026, members of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board visited the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC). The visit helped members learn more about a major local economic asset. Members toured the site and heard how UKBIC supports battery innovation, helps move ideas from research into production, and supports skills development.

The visit improved members' understanding of how UKBIC supports economic growth, green industries and future jobs. What members learned also helped inform the Board's wider work on inclusive growth, inward investment and innovation, showing the value of learning on site.



Greenpower Park and West Midlands Investment Zone



During 2025–26, the Board received an update on Greenpower Park and the Coventry and Warwick part of the West Midlands Investment Zone, building on a briefing from March 2025. The update

covered progress on redeveloping Coventry Airport as Greenpower Park, a major battery manufacturing and clean energy site delivered through a joint venture between

Coventry City Council and the Rigby Group. Members also heard about the Coventry and Warwick Investment Zone, which aims to attract private investment and create jobs in battery and advanced manufacturing through tax incentives, planning tools and skills support.

Scrutiny of this item helped members test the plans and understand the governance, costs and benefits. Members asked about local jobs and skills, transport links, environmental impacts, power supply, infrastructure delivery, and how the three West Midlands Investment Zones fit together. They also sought assurance on how the programme will be managed and how the site will be protected in the long term. This helped improve transparency and accountability for a complex, high-profile regeneration programme.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Task & Finish Group



During 2025–26, the Board received a progress update on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Task and Finish Group. The group met during the year to support the development of the plan. It looked at the evidence, proposed routes and options, and asked questions to help make sure the plan is clear, realistic and linked to wider Council priorities such as health, climate change and accessible travel.

The group raised issues about how easy the routes are to understand, how the public is involved, and the need for inclusive consultation, including with disabled residents and organisations. Following the update, the Board recommended that: members should be involved at each stage of developing the LCWIP; a further Task and Finish Group should be set up in the next municipal year to keep oversight as the work continues; and the final LCWIP should come to Scrutiny before Cabinet makes a decision. The

Board also suggested consulting the Disability Employee Network and the Disability Equality Action Partnership and using public consultation to challenge misinformation.

Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board

CCTV in Taxis Task and Finish Group

The Board agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at whether the Council should make CCTV a requirement for licensed taxis. This followed concerns raised after a Coventry taxi driver was jailed for sexually assaulting a woman in the back of his cab in December 2022.

The group looked at a range of issues, including national laws and guidance, the current local policy, crime data, what other councils do, costs for the Council and drivers, and any impact on vulnerable people.



The group met three times, including a session focused on shaping the Council's response to a Government consultation on taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing. Following this work, the Board recommended that the Cabinet Member should: (a) formalise how taxi licence revocations made under delegated powers are reported, so the Licensing Committee is kept informed; and (b) support a formal Council response to the Government's national consultation on taxi licensing, taking account of the Task and Finish Group's findings before the closing date of 1 April 2026. A further meeting then agreed the consultation responses and made additional recommendations. These included taking the issue of mandatory CCTV to the next Taxi Forum to discuss with drivers (highlighting protection for both passengers and drivers) and considering changes to the licensing policy to make CCTV mandatory in licensed taxis.

Disposal of Collection Items

Before a Cabinet Member decision on Culture Coventry Trust's request to dispose of some collection items (in line with policy and Museum Accreditation standards), the Board held an informal workshop. This allowed members to review the detailed list in advance and ask questions about the reasons for disposal. At the public meeting on 29th January 2026, the Board supported the process set out in the briefing note and recommended that the Cabinet Member approve the proposed list, in line with the Trust's policy. The Board also asked that the same approach is used for any future disposal proposals, so members can review the detail and a wider range of views can be considered before decisions are made.



Food Waste

At its meeting on 16 March 2026, the Board received a progress report on introducing food waste collections in the city. Members heard how the extra funding had been allocated and how the changes would be communicated to residents. The Board highlighted the importance of clear, consistent information for households and recommended that the Cabinet Member ensures residents receive straightforward messages about the new service. The Board also asked for food waste collections to be added to the work programme after the rollout, including key performance information (KPIs), so progress can be tracked.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board

UHCW Performance

In December 2025, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board reviewed an update on performance at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW), at the Clinical Sciences Building.



This gave members the chance to question the Trust in public and understand what the figures were showing. The update was presented by the Chief Executive and the Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer. It used quarter-two results from the NHS National Oversight Framework (a national system for comparing NHS trusts). It also explained what the framework does and does not show, so members could understand the headlines in context alongside other information, including the Trust's Care Quality Commission rating. The discussion attracted strong interest and took place with media present (including the BBC), which made clear and open explanations especially important. Members discussed where the Trust is doing well and where there are still pressures. This included finances, waiting times, cancer testing and diagnosis, urgent care, how complaints are handled, and major changes such as the move to an Electronic Patient Record. Members also discussed whether the NHS National Oversight Framework gives a fair picture of local performance. In particular, they noted that the scores can be read like a league table, but comparisons are not always like-for-like because specialist hospitals are included alongside general hospitals such as UHCW. The Board agreed that the relevant Cabinet Member should write to the Secretary of State to raise these concerns. Overall, the item showed how scrutiny can question, seek assurance and speak up for local health services.

Emergency Services Partnership Working

In 2025–26, the Board received an update on how emergency services work together across Coventry, including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Ambulance Service. The meeting was held at Coventry Fire Station. Representatives from each organisation explained their joint working, and members watched a major incident exercise video, which showed how the services plan and respond together.



This helped members understand how joint working can speed up emergency response, improve safety, and prevent harm through community-based work. Partners also discussed how access to defibrillators can improve survival after a cardiac arrest, and that there are gaps in how many are available in public buildings. The Board noted the update and recommended that the Council should consider installing defibrillators in Council-owned public buildings, especially those that are easy to access and used by many people.



Student Wellbeing – Coventry University and Warwick University

In April 2026, the Board discussed student wellbeing and heard from Coventry University and Warwick University about the support they provide. This included mental health support, disability support, safeguarding and how students can access help. Members looked at how both universities are responding to rising demand and more complex needs, including prevention and early help, joint working with partners, and links with the NHS and public health. The discussion covered access



to support, support for neurodiverse and disabled students, social prescribing, the effects of Covid-related isolation, and the importance of clear communication and consistent academic support.

This item helped members understand how universities can support wellbeing and help prevent ill health, especially in a city with a large student population. The Board did not make formal recommendations, but members asked for future updates to include clearer information about which partners the universities work with. This will help the Board understand how joined-up the support is and what difference it is making.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Coventry is a co-optee member of the Board and has contributed throughout the year. They have attended meetings, shared their expertise, and supported members during discussions. Healthwatch also presented an update to the Board, including findings from the



NHS Survey report and the Housing with Care “Enter and Views” report. Members said this evidence was valuable because it brought direct feedback from patients and local residents, helping build a clearer picture of how services are working in practice. This independent insight supported scrutiny and highlighted areas where further improvement and wider learning may be needed.

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Ethics Committee held at 11.00 am
on Thursday, 25 June 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor A Hopkins (Chair)
 Councillor L Bigham
 Councillor W Davies
 Councillor M Heaven
 Councillor P Hetherton
 Councillor D McCann

Independent persons: S Atkinson, P Wiseman

Also in attendance: Councillors F Beechey, J Odje and E Reeves

Employees (by Directorate):

Law, Governance and J Newman (Director), G Holmes, S Manhertz, C Taylor
Safer Communities

Apologies: Councillor T Jewell
 S Atkinson, R Wills

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

3. Annual Report of the Ethics Committee 2025/26

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, regarding the tenth annual report of the Ethics Committee, setting out the work of the Committee over the last municipal year.

In particular it reported on:

- Code of Conduct Complaints
- Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council's Self-Assessment Toolkit
- Local Government and Social care Ombudsman Annual Report
- Preparations for Candidates in the May 2026 Municipal Elections

The report detailed other regular work of the Committee over the last year and set out a brief overview of work to be undertaken in the 2026/27 municipal year.

RESOLVED that the Ethics Committee:-

- 1) Approve the Annual Report of the Committee; and**
- 2) Recommend that Council notes the Annual Report and considers whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.**

Ethics Committee
Council

25 June 2026
8 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

N/A - Ethics Committee

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Annual Report of Ethics Committee 2025-26

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary

This report forms the tenth annual report of the Ethics Committee, setting out the work of the Committee over the last municipal year. In particular, it reports on:

- Code of Conduct Complaints
- Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council’s Self-Assessment Toolkit
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
- Preparations for Candidates in the May 2026 Municipal Elections

The report also details other, regular work of the Committee over the last year and sets out a brief overview of work to be undertaken in the 2026/27 municipal year. The Committee is asked to approve the report and recommend to Council that it notes the report and considers whether there is any work that it would wish the Committee to undertake.

Recommendations:**The Ethics Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) Approve the Annual Report of the Committee; and
- 2) Recommend that Council notes the Annual Report and considers whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

Council is recommended to :-

- 1) Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee; and
- 2) Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Other useful background papers can be found at the following web addresses:

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?

No.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – Date tbc

Report title: Annual Report of Ethics Committee 2025/26

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a duty to:

- Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Members and co-opted members; and
- When discharging its duty, adopt a voluntary code dealing with the conduct that is expected of Members and co-opted Member of the authority when they are acting in their capacity as Members (that is, in an official capacity).

1.2 Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 also requires a relevant authority to have arrangements in place to deal with complaints that its Members' code of conduct has been breached, including arrangements for:

- Complaints to be investigated.
- Decisions on allegations to be made.

1.3 The Council's Ethics Committee was established in 2012 following the introduction of the new duties and responsibilities regarding ethical conduct in the Localism Act 2011. The Council as a whole has a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members of the authority. The Ethics Committee, through its work, assists in discharging this statutory duty.

1.4 The terms of reference of Ethics Committee also include:

- (a) Making recommendations to the Council on the appointment of "independent persons" under the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Approving and revising the Complaints Protocol which will set out the detailed procedures for considering complaints made against Elected and Co-opted Members under the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members;
- (c) Considering complaints made against Elected and Co-opted Members under the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members in accordance with Complaints Protocol;
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members and making appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;
- (e) At the request of the Member or Co-opted Member concerned, reviewing any decision of the Monitoring Officer not to grant a dispensation in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011;

- (f) Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct for Employees and making appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;
- (g) Considering complaints made against Elected Members of Finham Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council and Allesley Parish Council under the relevant Parish Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Members in accordance with the City Council's Complaints Protocol; and
- (h) Considering any other matters which are relevant to the ethical governance of the Council, its Members or Employees.

1.5 The Committee approves a work programme for each year which includes regular reports as well as one off pieces of work. At its meeting in March 2017, the Committee agreed that in future it would submit an annual report to Council setting out the work that it has accomplished in the past year. This report comprises the tenth Annual Report of the Ethics Committee.

2. The Annual Report and Recommended Proposal

2.1 About the Committee

In the municipal year 2025/26 Ethics Committee comprised 6 Councillors. The membership of the Committee was Cllr S Nazir (Chair), Cllr N Akhtar, Cllr L Bigham, Cllr J Gardiner, Cllr P Hetherton, Cllr E M Reeves. There were 3 named substitutes: Cllr S Gray; Cllr G Lloyd; Cllr M Mutton. It is regrettable that Members of the Conservative Group decided not to take up their allocated place and be a part of the Committee. The Independent Persons were Steven Atkinson, Ruth Wills and Peter Wiseman. The Committee held 4 scheduled meetings in 2025/26 (in June 2025, September 2025, January 2026 and March 2026).

2.2 Code of Conduct Complaints

All Members and Co-opted Members agree to abide by the Members' Code of Conduct upon their election.

The Council received a total of 10 new complaints against 13 Councillors in the municipal year 2025/26. Out of the 10 complaints received by the Monitoring Officer, 1 related to Finham Parish Council, 1 related to Allesley Parish Council and the remaining 8 related to Members of the City Council.

The Finham Parish Council complaint was made about 2 Councillors. It was escalated to Stage 2, upon which it was not upheld.

The Allesley Parish Council complaint was in relation to 2 Councillors and was dealt with at Stage 1 with no further action recommended

For the City Council, one complaint could not be investigated as the Councillor was not acting in their capacity as a Councillor, in the circumstances which gave rise to the complaint.

There were 2 complaints which were concluded at Stage 1 after each being reviewed by an Independent Person after which it was determined that there was no breach of the Code and 1 where no further action was taken.

4 complaints remain at Stage 1.

None of these complaints were Councillor on Councillor.

2.3 Local Code of Corporate Governance

The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out the way in which the City Council will satisfy the principles of good governance. It details the City Council's action plan for achieving these principles. The development of the Local Code is upon recommendation by CIPFA/Solace Framework to Local Authorities to maintain a Local Code to assist in achieving good governance.

The Local Code was first introduced in 2017 and is reviewed regularly as a means of best practice. It is considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee. It was updated in 2025 and considered by the Ethics Committee in the September of that year, where the legal requirement to undertake an annual review was noted.

2.4 Update on the Local Government Association Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council's Self Assessment and Tool kit

The Local Government Association (LGA) produced a toolkit with the aim of helping local authorities in tackling and mitigating the impact and risks of abuse and intimidation that councillors may encounter as part of their role, supporting them to be safe.

The Committee has regularly received progress updates on the work being undertaken including the most recent update in March 2025. Since then, efforts have continued to support Councillors. The Committee were informed of changes and work in progress including training on personal safety and awareness, links and signposting on the intranet for advice and the plans to provide a Councillor-led approach to delivering the actions and outcomes identified in the self-assessment to further aid progress and the creation of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The Committee noted the progress undertaken by the LGA and supported the proposed approach.

2.5 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report

In January 2026, the Committee considered the Complaints to the Local Government and Social Ombudsman (LGSCO) report for the year 2024/25. With the LGSCO being the final stage for Local Authority complaints, it issues an annual letter which sets out information regarding complaints received concerning the Local Authority such as the number of complaints and any patterns of complaints.

2.6 Preparations for Candidates in the May 2026 Municipal Elections

A report on Prospective Councillor Information was considered by the Committee which sought to address the concerns previously raised by the Committee regarding newly elected Councillors and the extent to which they understand and are prepared for their role before standing.

The Committee heard about the work being undertaken by officers to support new Councillors including an induction, training and the publishing of a 'Becoming a Councillor' booklet.

In March 2026, upon consideration of the report, the Committee made suggestions regarding the booklet including a list of useful skills, a glossary, information of the potential time commitment required and the variety of ways in which ward duties can be undertaken. Although the booklet had already been produced, the suggestions were able to be considered for use on the City Council's website or incorporated into candidate briefing sessions

2.7 Other Work

The Committee received updates on Members Training and Development Review 2025/26. The Elected Members Training and Development Strategy was refreshed during 2026 and the final version of the strategy was considered by Ethics committee ahead of Council on 24th March 2026. The terms of reference were amended to include an Annual Report on Elected Members training to Ethics Committee, in addition to any other information requested. The Committee also regularly monitored the Ethics Committee Work Programme throughout the year.

2.8 Work Programme for 2026/27

In addition to regular reports on Code of Conduct complaints, updates from the Monitoring Officer, and Officer and Member gifts and hospitality this year, among other things, the Committee will look at work in the following:

- Update on the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities
- Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
- Review of work on the New Member Induction Programme and Prospective Councillor Information

The Committee will also maintain a watching brief on any legislative changes arising from the Ethics and Integrity Commission and any recommendations.

2.9 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) Approve the Annual Report of the Committee; and

- (2) Recommend that Council notes the Annual Report and to consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

Council is recommended to:

- 3) Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee; and
- 4) Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1** There has been no consultation as there is no proposal to implement at this stage which would require a consultation.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Not applicable.

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

None.

5.1 Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The issues referred to in this report will assist the Council in complying with its obligations under section 27 (duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct) and section 28 (codes of conduct) of the Localism Act 2011.

6 Other implications

None.

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

Not applicable.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

No direct impact at this stage.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

6.4.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.4.2 The Code of Conduct and the Council's arrangements adhere with national guidance and fully comply with the public-sector equality duty.

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

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None at this stage.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:** Shanita Manhertz, Trainee Solicitor**Directorate:** Law, Governance and Safer Communities**Contact details:** 024 7697 2350; Shanita.Manhertz@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date document sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Gennie Holmes	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator	Governance and Scrutiny	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Governance: Adrian West	Head of Governance Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Councillor A Hopkins	Chair of Ethics Committee		12/06/2026	15/06/2026

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Agenda Item 8 Agenda Item Council – 8th September 2026 Recommendation from Cabinet 7th July 2026
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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 AS Khan
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor M Mutton

Non-Voting	Deputy	Councillor P Akhtar
Cabinet Members:		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 and Governance	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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

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Cabinet
Audit and Procurement Committee
Council

7th July 2026
27th July 2026
8th 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)

Ward(s) affected: All

Title:

Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26

Is this a key decision?

Yes - The report deals with financial matters in excess of £1.0m including specific new recommendations to allocate resources within the outturn position.

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26, and reviews treasury management activity and 2025/26 Prudential Indicators reported under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

The overall financial position includes 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 has faced significant pressures within Adults Social Care, City Services and Regeneration & Economic Development. These financial pressures are being caused by a combination of continued service demand, complexity & 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 & Highways, as well as an improved position in Property Services and Development following the recognition and removal of the City Centre South demolished properties from the National Non-domestic Rates (NNDR) rating list by the Valuation Office, and finally significant improvements realised in demand for Temporary Accommodation. These improvements are set out in section 2.1.4 in the report.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to approve:

1. The final balanced revenue outturn position after a contribution of £3.2m to reserves.
2. 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 £180.8m; £26.5m expenditure rescheduled into 2026/27.
3. The outturn Prudential Indicators position in section 2.4.4 and Appendix 3 of the report.

Cabinet is requested to recommend that Council: -

4. Approves the contribution to reserves of £3.2m for the purposes described in Section 5.1 of the report.

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the contribution to reserves of £3.2m for the purposes described in Section 5.1 of the report.

Audit and Procurement Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the contents of the report and determine whether there are any issues which it wants to refer to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1	Detailed breakdown of Directorate Revenue Variations
Appendix 2	Capital Programme Changes and Analysis of Rescheduling
Appendix 3	Prudential Indicators

Other useful background papers:

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 27th July 2026

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 14th July 2026

Report title: Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 This report sets out the Council's revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26 and performance against its Prudential Indicators for the year. The City Council set a revenue budget for the year of £296.7m and has a revised Capital Programme of £180.8m.
- 1.2 The reported figures show the Council's financial position in relation to management accounts used to monitor performance through the year. The Audit and Procurement Committee will consider separately the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal.

2.1 Revenue Outturn

- 2.1.1 Table 1 below summarises the outturn position for each division and the required contribution to reserves to achieve a balanced position for the Council.

Table 1 Summary Outturn Position

Quarter 3 Forecast Variance		Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Outturn Variance over/(under) spend	Movement from Q3 worse/ (better)
£m		£m	£m	£m	£m
3.8	Adult Services & Housing	145.9	148.0	2.1	(1.7)
(0.7)	Children and Education	123.3	121.8	(1.5)	(0.8)
2.1	City Services	38.9	39.0	0.1	(2.0)
(8.6)	Contingency & Central Budgets	(47.9)	(55.5)	(7.6)	1.0
0.2	Digital Services	0.6	0.5	(0.1)	(0.3)
1.3	Finance & Resources	13.3	14.3	1.0	(0.3)
0.2	Legal & Governance Services	11.5	11.7	0.2	0.0
0.2	People and Organisational Development	3.0	3.9	0.9	0.7
(0.3)	Planning and Performance	7.0	6.5	(0.5)	(0.2)
0.0	Policy and Communication	0.4	0.3	(0.1)	(0.1)
2.2	Property Services and Development	(10.8)	(10.3)	0.5	(1.7)
(0.5)	Public Health	1.4	0.9	(0.5)	0.0
1.7	Regeneration and Economic Development	10.1	12.4	2.3	0.6
1.6	SUBTOTAL	296.7	293.5	(3.2)	(4.8)
	Contribution to reserves			3.2	
1.6	TOTAL	296.7	293.5	0.0	

2.1.2 Explanation of variations

The final outturn position has shifted from a forecast £1.6m overspend at quarter 3 to an underspend of £3.2m at the end of the financial year.

2.1.3 Movement from quarter 3 forecast

Most services have improved or maintained their quarter 3 position. The most significant favourable movement since quarter 3 reporting are in:

City Services (£2.0m improvement)

The Directorate reported a £2.1m overspend at quarter 3, driven by pressures of £2.2m within Environmental Services, partially offset by a £0.1m underspend in Highways. While some of these pressures remain, the Directorate has made significant progress in improving its financial position and is now forecasting a reduced overspend of £0.1m. This represents a substantial achievement.

The improved position has been supported by strong performance within the Highways division, which is now forecasting a £1m underspend. This has been achieved through increased income from car parking, enhanced enforcement activity, improved recovery rates and significant savings in energy costs within the street lighting service.

Environmental Services continues to report a pressure, now forecast at £1m, an improvement since Quarter 3. This reduced pressure reflects lower forecast costs, savings arising from delays in recruitment and reduced running costs, alongside increased uptake of the Garden Waste service.

Property Services and Development (£1.7m improvement)

The residual holding costs for the City Centre South project, forecast at quarter 3 included the costs for void National Non-Domestic rates (NNDR). The Valuation Office have now recognised that properties are either or demolished and have been removed from the rating list the cost reduction over time has now been realised.

Adult Services and Housing (£1.7m improvement)

The directorate reported a forecast a £3.8m overspend at Quarter 3, at outturn this position has improved by £1.7m mainly due to improvements in the Housing and Homelessness division. The previous forecast for Temporary Accommodation (TA) was based on best available data, recognising that demand for TA is subject to several external variables. In previous quarters the numbers of families seeking support for TA had begun to plateau but there was no indication as to whether this could be relied upon as a changed position or if we were to expect a surge in demand as a result. This improved position continued and there has since been a genuine reduction in the number of families requiring support which, alongside some unplanned variation in costs compared with the model for forecasting TA expenditure, has resulted in an overall improvement of £1m. The other main improvement relates to a £0.4m higher level of income in Housing than previously forecast.

2.1.4 Final Outturn Position

An explanation of the major variances contributing to the final outturn position are discussed below:

Regeneration and Economic Development (£2.3m overspend)

Planning Services continues to experience financial pressures circa £1.2m driven by than lower than expected planning fee income against an ambitious income target. Additionally, cultural and commercial operations have underperformed against expectations circa £1.1m overall.

Further contributing to the current overspend are higher-than-anticipated costs associated with the repair and replacement of traffic signal assets, which are essential to maintain safe and reliable operation following incidents. Combined with reduced fee income, these factors have placed additional strain on the division's budget.

Adult Services & Housing (£2.1m overspend)

There is a £6.6m pressure in Adult Social Care (ASC) due to the costs of purchasing packages of care for adults and older people, which is partially offset by increased client fee income of £1.6m. Growth in costs for packages of care reflects sustained and emerging pressures across several areas. Primary drivers are the higher costs of new packages of care and rising costs of support post annual review, the higher needs and associated costs of cases in Mental Health, growth in residential & nursing care partly due to pressure from individuals exiting other funding arrangements such as Continuing Healthcare, and pressure in Learning Disabilities with a greater number of cases requiring intensive 1:1 support to manage needs safely within community settings. The service continues to scrutinise all areas of authorisation to ensure value for money while maintaining safe and effective care.

These ASC pressures are being offset at a directorate level by an underspend in Housing and Homelessness of £2.9m which is mainly due to an increase in grant funding for 25/26 of £1.9m, although this has been partly eroded by a pressure against the target for delivering additional Temporary Accommodation provision due to delays in opening some projects of £0.8m. There is also an underspend on the costs of delivering Temporary Accommodation of £0.4m following a reduction in the number of families requiring support. Other underspends include staffing and other expenses at £0.9m as well as additional income above the amount budgeted of £0.4m.

Finance and Resources (£1.0m overspend)

The majority of the £1.0m overspend relates to the Revenue and Benefits service where we are experiencing several demand-led pressures including higher transaction fees for receiving card payments, increasing cost of providing support to care leavers and the level of provision made for bad debt. The most significant cost pressure the Revenue and Benefits service relates to the provision of housing benefit for people in supported accommodation – for which the Council is only partly reimbursed by Government.

Childrens and Education (£1.5m underspend)

There is an overspend of £2.8m against homes for children in care. This is attributed to the overall number of children in residential care being lower than our financial

planning assumptions, however a greater proportion were accommodated in more costly external spot placements which offset the benefit of reduced activity. Alongside this, the level of external financial contributions towards care packages for children with disabilities and complex needs was lower than budgeted. There was an overspend of £0.4m against the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) budget due to there being an increased number of families who required support.

These overspends were more than offset by underspends elsewhere across the division. Social work case holding teams underspent by £1m due to reduced levels of agency staff and overall demand. Section 17 budgets underspent by £0.7m due to reduced expenditure on assessments and temporary accommodation. Family Hubs and Early Help underspent by £0.9m due to staffing vacancies and utilisation of grant funding where appropriate. The remaining £0.9m balance is a combination of other smaller variances across the service.

Contingency and Central (£7.6m Underspend)

There is a £7.0m surplus forecast on Asset Management Revenue Account. £3.4m of this relates to increases in expected income from both Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company (CWSDC) and Birmingham Airport dividend income, above that assumed in the base budget. Positive cash balances in the final quarter and higher interest rates contributed to reductions in forecast Interest on Borrowing as well increases in Interest Income on cash balances creating a net underspend on Treasury Management activities of £3.6m

Other favourable variances totalling £2.1m in Central Budgets, include contingencies held in lieu of National Insurance impact, inflation on contracts and levies. This is being offset by an adverse variance of £1.5m, which is due to a forecast underachievement of 2025/26 One Coventry Programme.

2.2 Reserves

2.2.1 The Council's revenue reserve balance at the end of 2025/26 is £145m compared with £119m at the end of 2024/25. Adult Social Care resources represent the largest in year increase and a new reserve was set up relating to a change in accounting treatment for funds related to Adopting Highways. Resources set aside to support the Business Rates Income Smoothing Reserve, Housing Enforcement Licencing Fees Reserves, and Childrens Services Contingency Fund and Management of Capital account for the majority of the remaining increase.

2.2.2 The £3.2m relating to the 2025/26 underspend has been transferred into the Financial Risk Contingency to support the council's resilience for future financial shocks, increasing this reserve to £16.8m.

2.2.3 Balances generated from capital receipts and capital grants to fund future capital projects have increased from £48m to £80m. The majority of this increase relates to £23m being held for Education Capital Basic Needs Programme and £28m held in the Capital Programme for City Centre South planned works.

2.2.4 And reserve balances belonging to or earmarked to support schools have reduced from £40m to £38m. The total reserve movement in 2025/26 is summarised in the table below.

Table 3 Summary of Reserve Movements in 2025/26

	1st Apr 2025 £000	(Increase)/ Decrease £000	31st Mar 2026 £000
<u>Council Revenue Reserves</u>			
General Fund Balance	(10,277)	0	(10,277)
Adult Social Care	(14,768)	(7,279)	(22,047)
Financial Risk Contingency	(13,268)	(3,553)	(16,821)
Commercial, Reset & Innovation	(12,204)	9	(12,195)
Business Rates Income Reserve	(9,189)	(2,759)	(11,948)
Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy	(7,241)	(1,192)	(8,433)
Management of Capital	(6,365)	(960)	(7,325)
Public Health	(4,557)	(952)	(5,508)
Adopted Highways	0	(4,375)	(4,375)
Refugee Resettlement Programme	(3,618)	(453)	(4,071)
Private Finance Initiatives	(4,137)	85	(4,052)
Enforcement Licence Fees	(908)	(1,011)	(1,919)
Childrens Services Contingency Fund	(444)	(1,116)	(1,561)
Friargate One Lifecycle Costs	(1,594)	115	(1,480)
ICT Replacement Programme	(1,225)	(88)	(1,313)
Insurance Fund	(780)	(468)	(1,248)
CRSTS Revenue Capacity Funding	(432)	(808)	(1,239)
Homes for Ukraine	(1,196)	14	(1,183)
Other Directorate	(18,960)	226	(18,732)
Other Corporate	(8,235)	(755)	(8,990)
Total Council Revenue Reserves	(119,397)	(25,320)	(144,718)
<u>Council Capital Reserves</u>			
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	(15,167)	10,424	(4,743)
Capital Grant Unapplied Account	(32,607)	(42,186)	(74,793)
Total Council Capital Reserves	(47,774)	(31,762)	(79,536)
<u>Schools & Central DSG Reserves</u>			
Schools (specific to individual schools)	(23,896)	1,718	(22,178)
Central DSG Reserve	(16,130)	190	(15,940)
Total Schools & Central DSG Reserves	(40,026)	1,908	(38,118)
Total Reserves	(207,197)	(55,174)	(262,372)

2.2.5 Adult Social Care resources represent the largest area of balances. These are overwhelmingly funded through ring-fenced grant and health sector resources for the delivery of jointly managed pooled budget arrangements with Health. In addition to these, the revenue reserve balances include £12m set aside as Commercial, Reset & Innovation approved previously, £12m is set aside for the Business Rates Income smoothing reserve, £8m is set aside to fund costs arising from early retirement and redundancy decisions and another £7m is set aside for Management of Capital which represents planned Revenue contribution to the Capital Programme.

2.2.6 A new reserve created for Adopted Highways (£4.3m) relates to a change in the recognised accounting treatment of service funds previously held as creditors. Recent reviews of the agreements surrounding S38 and S278 Highway adoptions has removed the risk that the Council will be required to return these funds and therefore they are required to be recognised as reserves not creditors.

2.2.7 In line with existing practice, analysis of these balances will be undertaken as part of a wider exercise examining the Council's financial position in 2026/27 and going forward.

2.2.8 The Council's central dedicated schools grant (DSG) reserve balance at the end of 2025/26 is £15.9m compared with £16.1m at the end of 2024/25. In 2025/26 there was an overspend of £1.2m against the High Needs Block which primarily funds educational provision for children and young people with SEND. There was an underspend of £0.8m against the Early Years Block which funds childcare for children aged 9 months to 4 years. This is primarily because January 2026 activity levels were lower compared to those used by the DfE to calculate our indicative funding allocation. Our 2025/26 allocation will be adjusted retrospectively in July 2026 to account for this, meaning the impact will be felt as a cash reduction in 2026/27. This cash reduction will be applied against our DSG reserve balance.

2.3 Capital Outturn

2.3.1 The capital outturn position for 2025/26 is shown in summary below and in greater detail in Appendix 2 to the report:

Table 4: Capital Outturn Summary

Final Budget £m	Final Spend £m	Net Rescheduling Now Reported £m
180.8	154.3	(26.5)

The quarter 3 monitoring report to Cabinet on 10th February 2026 approved a revised capital budget of £173.9m for 2025/26. Since then, there has been a net programme increase of £6.9m giving a final budget for the year of £180.8m. Since February, a total of £26.5m net rescheduled spending has arisen within the capital programme. A scheme-by-scheme analysis is included in Appendix 2. A summary of key schemes is in the table below.

Table 5: Summary of Rescheduling

Project	(Rescheduling) /Accelerated Spend £m	Explanations
Coventry Very Light Rail (CRSTS Programme)	(5.2)	The rescheduling is largely due to, detailed design programme adjustments, delay to conclusion of installation contract due to design adjustments and revised methodology for the CVLR vehicle programme.
City Centre South	(3.0)	Predominately, the movement on City Centre South reflects some changes to the profile of demolition spend compared to earlier forecasts, slipping spend from 2025/26 to Q1 2026/27. Demolition on the scheme has now almost completed with only a few buildings remaining to be demolished as at 31st March 2026 and the project remains on course to commence the construction phase in early 2026/27.
Highways, Local Network Improvement Plan and Coventry South Transport Packages (CRSTS Programme)	(7.5)	The rescheduling is primarily due to a delay in design and delivery following land negotiations, scheme sequencing challenges and design refinements after public engagement and consultation for the Coventry South transport packages being delivered around London Road. The remaining rescheduling is due to timing and delivery uncertainties and extended public engagement.
Woodlands School (Education Programme)	(2.1)	Woodlands project programme has recently been rescheduled because of changes to phasing and delivery of works. This is mainly due to detailed window and door designs which required additional planning approvals.
Residential Children's Homes Strategy 2023-2026	(0.6)	Despite CCC efforts, there were delays in acquiring land to build the Children with Disabilities 2 home on. When land conversations were picked back up, it was decided to pause on the delivery of the home to allow for a comprehensive review informed by an updated analysis of need. This ensures that future accommodation provision is closely aligned with the current and emerging needs of children and young people in Coventry, which will support a sustainable strategy and help to futureproof both service delivery and the effective use of Council resources.
New Collection Centre - City Centre Cultural Gateway	(5.8)	The City Centre Cultural Gateway is a large and complex regeneration scheme and is now firmly within its main construction phase. While overall progress on site remains positive, the project has encountered several challenges during the financial year, primarily arising from changes to building

		regulations and the need to determine the most appropriate compliance approach. These issues have resulted in some programme delay and have prevented certain planned works from being completed within the original timeframe, leading to the current financial slippage. The Project Team remains confident that efficiencies and programme recovery can be achieved, and that the scheme will be completed by the end of the year.
Family Temporary Accommodation - Local Authority Housing Fund	(0.6)	The reported rescheduling relates to the capital LAHF3 programme for the acquisition of temporary accommodation. This reflects an underspend on the programme and will be reprofiled into 2026/27 and aligned with the next phase of delivery under the LAHF4 programme and for continued investment in temporary accommodation provision.
Other	(1.7)	Smaller schemes combined
TOTAL	(26.5)	

2.3.2 The 2025/26 programme continued to maintain a significant investment in the city's transport and public infrastructure, including schemes demonstrating an increasing engagement with environmental initiatives and a range of other projects showing the Council's desire to make Coventry an attractive place to live, work and do business:

- £27.4m has been spent on transport and highways infrastructure across a range of both major and minor schemes. This has included completion of segregated cycling facilities on London Road, between the junction with Humber Road/Allard Way (the 'ASDA roundabout') and the junction with Abbey Road as part of the CRSTS funded Coventry South Transport packages. The remaining packages of the London Road corridor will be completed in 2026-27. Ongoing infrastructure schemes to improve and maintain the city's highways via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for Highways Maintenance and our Local Network Improvement Plan continue to be delivered.
- A further £16.6m has been spent on City Centre South, this has predominantly been on demolition, which is now almost complete with only a few buildings remaining to be demolished.
- Further programme spend of £4m has been made in 2025/26 on the fit-out costs of several floors at Two Friargate.
- £6.2m further expenditure of the £21m infrastructure project to prepare the Coventry airport site for development as part of the West Midlands Investment Zone, which will focus on advanced manufacturing.

- £6.6m Active Travel spend to support walking, cycling, and sustainable transport infrastructure has included the delivery of Canley Ford cycleway extension along the A45 and the continuation of Binley Cycleway along Clifford Bridge Road that will complete in Quarter 1 of 2026-27.
- There have been works totalling £21.6m across the school's property estate as part of the One Coventry Strategic Plan. There has been an increasing focus now on providing additional capacity in secondary schools across the city to meet the growing numbers amongst the secondary in-take.
- A further £14.6m spend has been incurred on the continued delivery of Woodlands School, the programme is scheduled to complete in 2026-27.
- Continued grant funding investment in Climate Change has resulted in £0.8m Mayoral Renewable funding in delivering Solar PV on Sidney Stringer MAT and Coventry College buildings using the Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) contract. This process has enabled larger Solar PV schemes to be delivered compared to what each organisation could have delivered independently. Climate change grant investment continues into 2026/27
- The council continues to deliver the Local Authority Housing Programme (LAHF) as it increases the Temporary Accommodation capacity across the city. This year has seen a further £5.4m expenditure in purchasing accommodation.
- The City Centre Cultural Gateway is a large and complex regeneration scheme, and this financial year has progressed to the main construction phase incurring expenditure of £21.1m. The programme will continue into 2026-27.
- A range of smaller scale but not insignificant schemes have advanced including investment in the Councils Information Communication Technology (ICT) and continued investment in Disabled Facilities Grants.

2.3.3 The funding in respect of this capital expenditure of £154.3m is summarised in Table 7 below. Approximately 61% of the programme has been resourced from capital grants.

Table 7: Capital Funding

	Funding the Programme £m	Available Resources £m	Resources Carried Forward £m
Prudential Borrowing	34.9	34.9	0
Grants and Other Contributions	93.7	166.2	(72.5)
Revenue Contributions	2.9	2.9	0
Capital Receipts	16.0	20.7	(4.7)
Management of Capital Reserve	2.3	9.6	(7.3)
IFRS 16 Leases	2.5	2.5	0
Donated Assets	2.0	2.0	0
Total Resourcing	154.3	238.8	(84.5)

2.4 Treasury Management Activity

2.4.1 Global economic factors over the last 18 months have impacted significantly the operating environment for treasury activity. Political uncertainty continued in Qtr. 4 as the war in the Middle East remains unresolved and continues to disrupt energy supply. CPI was 2.6% in March 2025, moving into 2025/26 saw it rise to its peak in July – September at 3.8%. Since September it had started to fall to 3.2% in November still well above the Bank of England's 2% target, but since then, we saw an increase to 3.4% in December dropping to 3.0% in January and February seeing it raise again in March to 3.3%

The UK economy expanded by 0.4% in Q4 2025/26. This follows a revised growth of 0.2 in Qtr. 3 (revised by the Office of National Statistics). Services output rose by 0.8%, following a 0.2% increase in Qtr. 3. Services output is estimated to be 1.4% higher compared with the same quarter a year ago. The largest positive contributor to growth was wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles subsector, which grew by 2.0%. This was driven by growth of 3.1% in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and a growth of 1.6% in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles

At the beginning of the financial year the bank base rate was 4.5%, since then there have been 0.25bpts cuts in May (4.25%), August (4.0%) and December (3.75%) where it remained at the year end. However, due to political volatility and disruption in transportation and supply of energy, raising its price and pushing up household's motor fuel costs bills; with an expectation that utility bills will raise as well, there is an expectation that base rate will raise although the BOE Monetary Policy Committee is keeping a very close eye on this.

2.4.2 Long Term (Capital) Borrowing

The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) is 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 providing twelve

detailed examples of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB loans. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Under the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 approved by Cabinet on 23 February 2021 it was agreed the Council will not buy investment assets primarily for yield.

Interest rates for local authority borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for 2025/26 have varied within the following ranges:

Table 8: PWLB Interest Rates

PWLB Loan Duration (standard rates)	Minimum Qtr. 4 2025/26	Maximum Qtr. 4 2025/26	Average Qtr. 4 2025/26	As at 31/03/2026 2025/26
5-year	3.59	4.53	3.87	4.33
20-year	4.78	5.44	5.01	5.30
50-year	4.68	5.31	4.88	5.15

Rather than take out any long-term borrowing to cover capital projects it has been more cost effective to use either internal resources (cash balances) or to use short-term borrowing. By doing so, the Council has reduced net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduced overall treasury risk, however this is not sustainable on an ongoing basis.

2.4.3 At outturn, the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which indicates the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, has increased by £11.8m from £522.8m at 1st April 2025 to £534.6m at 1st April 2026.

2.4.4 This increase is mainly due to an increased level of capital programme funded from Prudential borrowing (£34.9m of the £37.3m). The remainder is IFRS16 leases and PFI related spend.

Table 9: 2025/26 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

	£m
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 st April 2025	522.8
Borrowing required to finance 2025/26 Capital Programme	37.3
PFI & Finance Leases liabilities	(6.2)
Provision to Repay Debt (Minimum Revenue Provision)	(16.9)
Provision to Repay Debt (Capital Receipts Set Aside)	0.0
Repayment of Transferred Debt	(2.4)
Reduction of Provision and other restatements	0.0
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 st April 2026	534.6

Table 10: Treasury Management Debt Summary

Source of Borrowing	Balance at 31st March 2025 £m	Repaid in Year £m	Raised in Year £m	Balance at 31st March 2026 £m
Long term borrowing				
- PWLB	180.7	0	0	180.7
- LOBO's	38.0	(10.0)	0	28.0
- West Midlands Combined Authority	18.0	0	0	18.0
- Other	0.4	0	0	0.4
Short term borrowing	20.0	(20.0)	0	0.0
Total borrowing	257.1	(30.0)	0	227.1
Other Local Authority Debt	2.4	(2.4)	0	0
PFI & Finance Leasing Liabilities	63.5	(6.2)	2.5	60.0
Total	323.0	(39.0)	2.5	287.1

This long-term borrowing is repayable over the following periods:

Table 11: Borrowing Maturity Profile (excluding PFI & transferred debt)

Period	Borrowing £m
Under 12 Months	0.4
1 < 2 years	0
2 < 5 years	28.0
5 < 10 years	75.0
> 10 years	123.7
Total	227.1

In line with CIPFA Treasury Management Code requirements, Lenders Option, Borrowers Option Loans (LOBOs) with banks are included in the maturity profile based on the earliest date on which the lender can require repayment. The Council had £38m of such loans, £10m of which the lender can effectively require to be paid at annual intervals, and £28m at 5 yearly intervals. These have been included in the above table as per their next renewal date which was May 2025. In May the lender proposed significant increases in the borrowing rate which was well above the prevailing PWLB rates it was decided that the Council would repay £10m of LOBOs, and there has not been a need to replace this borrowing in 2025/26.

Investments

2.4.5 The Treasury Management Team acts daily to manage the City Council's day-to-day cash-flow, by borrowing or investing for short periods. By holding short term investments, such as money in call accounts, authorities help ensure that they have an adequate source of liquid funds. During the year, the Council held

short-term investments, as set out in Table 12. The average short-term investment rate of return in 2025/26 was 4.19%.

Table 12: In House Investments at 31st March 2026

	01/04/25 £m	30/06/25 £m	30/09/25 £m	31/12/25 £m	31/03/26 £m
Banks and Building Societies	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local Authorities	22.5	41.5	10.8	45.0	0.0
Money Market Funds	18.7	24.6	39.0	6.8	62.9
Corporate Bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
HM Treasury	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	43.7	66.1	49.80	51.80	62.9

Pooled Investments

In addition to the above in-house investments, a mix of Collective Investment Schemes or “pooled funds” are used, where investment is in the form of sterling fund units and not specific individual investments with financial institutions or organisations. These funds are highly liquid, as cash can be withdrawn within two to four days, and short average duration of the intrinsic investments. These investments include Certificates of Deposits, Commercial Paper, Corporate Bonds, Floating Rate Notes, Call Account Deposits, Property and Equities. However, they are designed to be held for longer durations allowing any short-term fluctuations in return due to volatility to be smoothed out.

To manage credit risk these investments are spread across several funds as highlighted in the table below:

Table 13: External, Pooled Investments as at 31st March 2026

	Date Invested	Cost £m	Value £m	Annualised Return from Investment %
CCLA LAMIT Property Fund	Nov 2013	12.0	11.6	4.67%
Threadneedle Strategic Bond Fund	Aug 2018	1.5	1.4	4.49%
M&G Optimal Income Fund	Aug 2018	1.5	1.4	4.87%
M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund	Aug 2018	3.0	2.6	5.13%
M&G UK Income Distribution Fund	Aug 2018	3.0	3.1	5.68%
Ninety-One (Investec) Diversified Income Fund	Aug 2018	4.5	4.0	4.87%
Schroder Income Maximiser	Aug 2018	4.5	4.2	7.62%
Total		30.0	28.3	5.26%

Credit risk remains central to local authority investment management and the Council’s risk is managed in line with the Treasury Management Strategy,

approved by Cabinet as part of the budget setting report at the meeting of 24th February 2026. Central to this is the assessment of credit quality based on several factors including credit ratings, credit default swaps (insurance cost) and sovereign support mechanisms. Limits are set to manage exposure to individual institutions or groups. Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisors, MUFG previously Arlingclose.

Pooled funds provided an income return of £1.45m over the year although as at 31st March 2026 the accumulated deficit on their capital value was £1.7m (£2.4m deficit at the end of 2025/26). All seven funds show a deficit in capital value which is reflective of the current property and financial markets. There remains an expectation that the full value 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. These investments will continue to be monitored closely.

Summary Prudential Indicators

2.4.6 The Local Government Act 2003 and associated CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes set the framework for the local government capital finance system. Authorities can borrow whatever sums they see fit to support their capital programmes, subject to them being able to afford the revenue costs. The framework requires that authorities set and monitor against prudential and treasury 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 explanatory notes and the relevant figures are included in Appendix 3 to the report. This highlights that the Council's activities are within the amounts set as Performance Indicators for 2025/26. 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 31st March 2026 the value is -£102.4m (minus) compared to +£102.7m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting the fact that the Council has significantly 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 31st March 2026 the value is £286.8m compared to £513.6m within the Treasury Management Strategy, reflecting that a significant proportion of the Council's investment balance is at a fixed interest rate.

Commercial Investment Strategy

2.4.7 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, is proportionate to the size of the Council. In doing this the strategy includes specific limits for the total cumulative investment through loans and shares.

To manage risk, the Council has limits for investing in shares and service loans, with total limit of £115m in 2025/26.

As at the end of 2025/26, the Council had cumulatively invested £80.1m in shares and service loans with this rising to £0.3m when commitments to make potential payments of £0.2m are taken into account.

	As at 31 st March 2026				
	Limit	Actual	Committed	Total	Variation
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Shares	55.0	52.1	0.0	52.1	(2.9)
Loans	60.0	33.5	0.2	33.7	(26.3)
	115.0	80.1	0.2	80.3	(34.7)

The total of £80.1m is within the limit of £115m set for the 2025/26

The Council's investment in commercial assets is proportionate:

- with commercial income totalling approximately £29.2m in 2025/26 (£27.7m in 2024/25) equivalent to c10.0% of the Council's budgeted net service expenditure of £298.7 in 2025/26
- with commercial assets valued at £484m (23.1% of the Councils total asset base of c£2,099). This is not the amount invested by the Council, for example through past capital programmes, as it includes revaluations over time. In addition, many assets classified by the Council as commercial have significant service dimensions, including economic development aspects, thereby contributing more broadly to the provision of services.
- with a Capital Financing Requirement of £534.6m representing the Council's underlying need to borrow, at 25.5% of the Council's total asset base.

2.5 Commercial Investment Performance

Dividends received from Commercial Investments during 2025/26 are shown in the table below. No dividends have been declared at this point for 2025-26 by

Tom White Waste or Coombe Abbey Park Limited. Additional dividends were received from both Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited (BAH) and The Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Ltd (CSWDC) in the final quarter.

Company	2025/26 Budgeted Dividend £000	2025/26 Actual Dividend £000	Variance from Budget £000
The Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Ltd (CSWDC)	7,075	9,167	2,092
Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited (BAH)	1,600	2,913	1,313
Tom White Waste Limited	0	0	0
Coombe Abbey Park Limited	0	0	0
Total Dividends	8,675	12,079	3,404

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision.

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

- 5.1.1 The final revenue outturn position for 2025/26 has been balanced by a year-end contribution of £3.2m to earmarked reserve balances. This is a significant favourable movement from the Quarter 3 Forecast monitoring position and is mainly attributable to improvements in City Services within both Environmental Services & Highways, as well as an improved position in Property Services and Development following the recognition and removal of the City Centre South demolished properties from the NNDR rating list by the Valuation Office, and finally significant improvements realised in demand for Temporary Accommodation.
- 5.1.2 Notwithstanding this positive closing position, external factors continue to contribute to underlying pressures including the persistence of inflation continuing to impact cost. There are intractable on-going issues including those relating to children's and adults social care, which are common to many councils across the country whilst the Council also managed local time-limited pressures in the year.
- 5.1.4 A wide range of service challenges are reported in Appendix 1 which, reflect ongoing financial difficulties, emphasising that despite the positive resourcing

position received from the Local Government Settlement, it is necessary to continue to identify and adopt approaches that help the Council to manage its short-term pressures, whilst at the same time supporting the outlook for 2026/27 and medium-term financial position, following through on management actions to embed efficiencies.

5.1.6 The Council's Leadership Team have worked proactively together to mitigate the underlying pressures, which have been realised within this outturn by:

- Robust challenge and review of forecasts
- Continuation of Recruitment controls
- Alternative funding opportunities from grants

5.1.7 Continued efforts from both officers and portfolio holders are needed in order to minimise the impact of service pressure into 2026/27.

5.1.8 In addition to these operational actions the Council has taken proactive steps previously to maintain a strong balance sheet position, including robust reserve balances, which have enabled it to manage the adverse budget variations encountered in recent years. It will be vital for the Council to continue to ensure that it maintains a prudent approach going forward in order to mitigate against potential future shocks. This, together with the above gives sufficient assurance that the Director of Finance and Resources does not need to take any extra-ordinary action to respond to the financial position either in respect of 2025/26 or future years.

5.1.9 In setting the Council's budget and corporate objectives for 2026/27, the additional resources identified for Coventry in the Local Government Finance Settlement provided the Council with the opportunity to provide for additional policy investments for key priority areas. It remains imperative that the full programme of savings agreed within the 2024/25 and 2025/26 budget setting processes continue to be closely monitored by the Councils' Leadership Board as well as the impact of the policy investments agreed for 2026/27.

5.1.11 Several areas within corporate budgets including dividends, investment interest, superannuation and the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool yield, can be subject to volatility and were budgeted for on a prudent basis in 2025/26. The outturn position on these items was favourable against the range of reasonable expected outcomes, and this has enabled the Council to absorb overspent budgets elsewhere within the bottom line. Several of these favourable financial outturns have occurred in areas that have been subject to affirmative Council decisions in recent years such as dividends and investment income.

5.1.12 The local government sector has witnessed risks materialise in recent years within other local authorities, in the form of some high-profile financial failures often linked to ambitious local plans with scope to deliver financial returns. The Council is itself involved in a range of commercial ventures, company structures and external loan financing arrangements and is committed to ensuring that it maintains a high degree of self-awareness of its position. High

standards of due diligence, good governance and monitoring arrangements and the maintenance of a broad mix of activities to guard against a concentration of risk are all vital factors to protect the Council's financial position. The Council continues to be bold with its aspirations for the city and maintains a measured appetite for risk to achieve this. It is important for the Council to maintain contingency balances to protect against the risk of financial failure in one or more key areas.

5.1.13 With the exception of the Council's General Fund balance all reserves have been set aside to deliver specific projects or risks. Given the size of the Council's ambitions defined by its Capital Programme, its transformation programme and its financial involvements that extend beyond traditional local authority service provision it is entirely appropriate for the Council to support this in the form of balances to pump prime such areas and provide some financial risk mitigation. Nevertheless, the Council has a 'mid-table' position in the CIPFA Resilience Index in relation to the level of its reserve balances. This has enabled the Council to place itself in a strong financial position as well as providing the best basis for the Council to improve services for residents and invest in the city and its communities.

5.1.14 The level of expenditure across a broad number and type of capital schemes has once again demonstrated the Council's appetite to embark on ambitious and innovative projects and its success in attracting grant funding to do this, with 61% funded from external grant. The programme's coverage of projects includes the city centre south, enhancing transport infrastructure, improving the profile of the city, and providing support to local economic development, and a range of projects dealing with the issues of housing.

5.1.15 The Council undertook some short-term borrowing at the end of 2024/25, this was undertaken on a short-term basis, taking advantage of relatively low interest rates available and was repaid in full in May 2025. In other areas the Council continues to undertake prudent treasury activity and pursue commercial activity that is ambitious but proportionate to the size of its asset base and overall budget.

5.2 Legal implications

5.2.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make such arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.

5.2.2 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council's Chief Financial Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates made and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. This is included throughout the report.

5.2.3 The Cabinet also has a responsibility to keep under review the budget of the Council and any other matter having substantial implications for the financial resources of the Council.

5.2.4 The Council must ensure sufficient flexibility to avoid going into deficit at any point during the financial year.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the One Coventry Plan?

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

This report provides an account of the overall financial performance of the Council compared with its original Budget. The Council also monitors the quality and level of service provided to the citizens of Coventry and the key objectives of the One Coventry Plan.

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. Budgetary control and monitoring processes are paramount to managing this risk and this report is a key part of the process.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The revenue and capital outturn position reported here demonstrates that the Council continues to undertake sound overall financial management. This will continue to be important in the light of the current budgetary risks and the continued uncertainty with regard to the level of funding available to local government.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No specific impact.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) Climate Change and the Environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

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

Appendix 1 - Revenue Variations

Appendix 1 details directorate forecast variances.

Budget variations have been analysed between those that are subject to a centralised forecast and those that are managed at service level (termed “Budget Holder Forecasts” 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 must work within the existing establishment structure, and salary budgets are controlled centrally rather than at this local level. The centralised forecast underspend shown below is principally the effect of unfilled vacancies.

	Revised Budget	Actual Spend	Centralised Variance	Budget Holder Variance	Total Over/ (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services and Housing	145.9	148.0	(2.1)	4.2	2.1
Children and Education	123.3	121.8	(3.3)	1.8	(1.5)
City Services	38.9	39.0	(1.7)	1.8	0.1
Contingency and Central Budgets	(47.9)	(55.5)	0.0	(7.6)	(7.6)
Digital Services	0.6	0.5	0.1	(0.2)	(0.1)
Finance and Resources	13.3	14.3	(0.3)	1.3	1.0
Legal & Governance Services	11.5	11.7	(0.6)	0.8	0.2
People and Organisation Development	3.0	3.9	(0.1)	1.0	0.9
Planning and Performance	7.0	6.5	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.5)
Policy and Communication	0.4	0.3	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)
Property Services and Development	(10.8)	(10.3)	(0.4)	0.9	0.5
Public Health	1.4	0.9	0.0	(0.5)	(0.5)
Regeneration and Economy and Development	10.1	12.4	0.4	1.9	2.3
TOTAL	296.7	293.5	(8.4)	5.2	(3.2)

n.b. The figures in this table may be subject to small rounding differences to the main report and the rest of the appendix

Centralised Variance Explanation	£m
These are underspends against a combination of salary budgets and turnover savings target. They result from vacancies across Council services. Turnover has remained consistent across the Council, however areas such as Adults & Childrens Services remain high, due to the national and regional Social Worker retention issues. Some of these vacancies will be covered by agency and overtime to ensure services can be maintained. These costs are included within the service positions described below.	(8.4)
Total Centralised Variance	(8.4)

Service Area Variances

Service Area	Reporting Area	Explanation	£m
Adult Social Care	Strategic Commissioning (Adults)	This underspend is predominantly due to additional Private Finance Initiative client fee income above budget £0.9m, also reduced transport costs £0.2m	(1.1)
Adult Social Care	Internally Provided Services	This variance is primarily due to an over-achievement of social care fee income and salary underspends arising from vacancies, partially offset by overspends on overtime, agency, and casual staffing costs.	(0.4)
Adult Social Care	Localities and Social Care Operational	The underspend is due to savings arising from staffing vacancies £0.9m which are partially offset by agency and professional fee costs £0.7m	(0.2)
Adult Social Care	Community Purchasing Mental Health and Other	The overall care package outturn was a £6.6m overspend against budget, with Mental Health accounting for £4.7m and Community Purchasing Other £1.9m. Throughout this year, Adult Social Care has faced persistent and evolving pressures across several areas of care provision, echoing challenges seen in previous quarters. The most significant driver continues to be the rising costs of new care packages, as those commissioned have generally been more expensive than those concluded, leading to increased expenditure. In Mental Health, the complexity and intensity of support required by individuals both in the community and following discharge from long-stay hospital or secure units have contributed to ongoing financial pressures, rather than an increase in the number of people supported. Supported living arrangements for individuals with learning disabilities have also seen heightened demand, with a greater number of cases necessitating intensive one-to-one support. This essential provision, while vital for safe community management, has resulted in higher costs. Additionally, growth in residential and nursing care placements has exceeded expectations this year. This is partly due to individuals moving	6.6

		out of other funding arrangements, which has a downstream impact on Adult Social Care budgets. Another notable factor has been the increased costs associated with post-annual review support and improved review performance has led to higher costs. Budget pressures have been minimised through scrutinising all areas of authorisation to ensure we deliver value for money while upholding appropriate standards of care and safeguarding.	
Adult Social Care	Mental Health Operational	Overheads charged on the S75 agreement amounting to £145k is the underlying reason for this underspend but is partly reduced by overspends arising from agency staff, casual pay and other smaller non-pay budgets totalling £37k.	(0.1)
Adult Social Care	Housing and Homelessness	The underspend is mainly due to a £1.9m increase in Homeless Prevention Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to reflect the increased demand on homeless services nationally that is reflected in Coventry. This has been partially offset by delays in projects opening costing £0.8m including Ribbon Court and the single homelessness accommodation programme (SHAP) project which are both being progressed by external housing providers. There is also a £0.4M underspend on the costs of delivering Temporary Accommodation following a reduction in the number of families requiring support. Other underspends include staffing and other expenses of £0.8M as well as £0.4M additional income above the amount budgeted.	(2.7)
TOTAL Adult Services & Housing			2.1
Children's Services	Children's Services Management Team	This underspend is primarily due to the cost of social worker recruitment and retention initiatives being lower than anticipated when the budget was set.	(0.1)

Children's Services	Corporate Parenting and Sufficiency	There was a overspend on homes for children in care. The overall number of children in residential care was lower than our financial planning assumptions, however a greater proportion were accommodated in more costly external spot placements which offset the benefit of reduced activity. Alongside this, the level of external financial contributions towards care packages for children with disabilities and complex needs was lower than budgeted.	2.6
Children's Services	Help & Protection	Social work case holding teams underspent by £1m due to reduced levels of agency staff and overall demand. Section 17 budgets underspent by £0.7m due to reduced expenditure on assessments and temporary accommodation. Family Hubs and Early Help underspent by £0.9m due to staffing vacancies and utilisation of grant funding where appropriate. These were offset in part by a £0.4m overspend against the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) budget due to there being an increased number of families who required support. The remainder of £0.3m is a combination of underspends across other parts of the service.	(2.5)
Children's Services	Children in Care, Children with Disabilities & Care Leavers	The Care Leavers budget underspent by £0.4m, this is in line with last year and is an area of budget that has been reviewed moving forwards. In addition, there were underspends of £0.5m, primarily due to staffing, across the Children in Care and Through Care services. The Children's Disability budget underspent by £0.3m. This is because of lower than anticipated costs on short breaks and more internal and external financial contributions towards the cost of short breaks than budgeted. The balance of £0.2m reflects underspends across various other parts of the service.	(1.4)
Children's Services	Safeguarding Practice and Workforce	There was an overspend of £0.2m primarily linked to safeguarding training income which was below the budgeted target and agency costs relating to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) function.	0.2

Education Services	SEND & Specialist Services	This is a combination of small underspends across the service, primarily against home to school transport.	(0.1)
Education Services	Education Improvement & Standards	An underspend of circa £0.3m across historic pension costs and the data team was partly offset by an overspend of £0.1m across Schools Trade Union. Historic pension costs expenditure will continue to reduce over time as there are no new commitments against this. The overspend position on Schools Trade Union is linked to inflation and lower amounts of de-delegated funding.	(0.2)
TOTAL Childrens and Education			(1.5)
Highways	Parking	This represents an over-recovery of income mostly due to additional car park income particularly in the last quarter of the year.	(0.5)
Highways	Traffic	There has been a reduction in the cost of energy as well as a decrease in the use of energy following the commencement of LED Street Lighting and Traffic Signal equipment upgrades.	(1.1)
Highways	Highways	This is a combination of under recovery of income/non achievement of historic savings targets (Surface Water Management) and a net loss of income due to vacancies in the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO).	0.6
Environmental Services	Street pride & Parks	The reduction in the death rate coupled with the cost-of-living crisis has had an impact on the level of income achievable by Bereavement Services. Activity levels have also fallen across the Parks and income (including car parks) has reduced as a result.	1.1
TOTAL City Services			0.1
Contingency & Central Budgets	Contingency & Central Budgets	Favourable variances totalling £2.1m in Central Budgets, include contingencies held in lieu of National Insurance impact, inflation on contracts and levies. This is being offset by an adverse variance of £1.5m, which is due to a forecast underachievement of 2025/26 One Coventry Programme.	(0.6)
Contingency & Central Budgets	Treasury Management	The Asset Management Revenue Account (AMRA) delivered a £7.0m surplus. £3.4m of this relates to increases in expected income from both Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company (CWSDC) and	(7.0)

		Birmingham Airport dividend income, above that assumed in the base budget. Positive cash balances in the final quarter and higher interest rates contributed to reductions in forecast Interest on Borrowing as well increases in Interest Income on cash balances creating a net underspend on Treasury Management activities of £3.6m	
TOTAL Contingency & Central Budgets			(7.6)
Digital Services	Other Variances Less than 100K		(0.1)
TOTAL Digital Services			(0.1)
Finance & Resources	Revenues and Benefits	In addition to pressures related to an increase in the cost of card payment fees incurred when the Council receives payments, an increase in the cost of providing support to care leavers and an increase in the provision for bad debt, uncontrollable increased costs of partially subsidised accommodation have caused further budget pressures within the housing benefits subsidy service.	1.2
Finance & Resources	Other Variances Less than 100K		(0.2)
TOTAL FINANCE & Resources			1.0
Legal and Governance Services	Legal Services	Legal Services agency staff costs reduced to £292k in 25-26 compared to previous year were fully funded by vacancy savings. However, the Service has a vacancy target of £350k and this has resulted in the overall adverse variance.	0.1
Legal and Governance Services	Elections	A one-off household mailing exercise costing c.£100k was undertaken to inform residents of boundary changes and updated voting arrangements, alongside an additional £25k of postage costs to contact electors about expiring postal votes, send reminders and issue cancellations. These costs reflect legislative changes and proactive steps to support voter awareness ahead of the May local elections. The remaining £75k reflects a few smaller overspends across the service.	0.2
Legal and Governance Services	Procurement	Prompt payment rebates have increased and outperformed targets in 25-26. Vacancies in the area were being held whilst the service undergoes a structure review to maximise these opportunities.	(0.1)

TOTAL Legal and Governance Services			0.2
People and Organisation Development	HR and Workforce Development Management	During the financial year, the Council invested in an organisational culture change programme for leaders and managers from Directors to grade 8s, so some 500 plus staff, to enhance skills and improve performance. The programme costs have used more than the training budget because of the extent of the numbers needing to attend to generate change.	0.3
People and Organisation Development	Employment Services	To implement the payroll restructure vacancies have been held in posts that were at risk, resulting in an underspend during the financial year. The vacant posts are being actively recruited.	(0.1)
People and Organisation Development	Employment Policy & Practice	The unfunded Council Job Evaluation team continues to drive the overspend in the People Directorate.	0.1
People and Organisation Development	Facilities & Property Services	Facilities Management is experiencing budgetary pressure due to increased income and savings targets set for the financial year, alongside a reduction in the planned maintenance budget. Additional cost pressures continue to arise from maintaining the vacant Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre on Fairfax Street. At One Friargate, periods of vacant floor space have also negatively impacted rental income and although these areas are now occupied, any untenanted periods create a dual financial pressure through both lost rental income and increased Council liabilities for business rates and service charges.	0.6
TOTAL People and Organisation Development			0.9
Planning and Performance	Customer and Business Services	The wider service has continued to actively manage vacancies of £0.5m while future staffing models are determined. Alongside this, within the Digital Print and Mail service, postal use has seen a reduction and income collection rates have increased of £0.2m	(0.7)
Planning and Performance	Libraries, Advice, Health & Information Services	Libraries overspend relates principally to under delivery of staffing management of vacancy targets £0.1m and anticipated income across Public Libraries and the	0.2

		School Library Service of £0.05m. Additionally, an unexpected £0.07m ICT equipment replacement cost this financial year because of worldwide support for Windows 10 ending. We expect to deliver related underspends on ICT for the next two financial years creating a longer-term balanced budget position.	
TOTAL Planning and Performance			(0.5)
Policy and Communication	Corporate Communications	During the 2025–26 financial year the Corporate Communications service underwent a significant organisational restructure, and this resulted in several established posts being vacant for part of the year. Recruitment to these roles is ongoing. The temporary vacancies reduced staffing expenditure during the period and were a key contributory factor to the service's overall underspend for the year.	(0.1)
TOTAL Policy and Communication			(0.1)
Property Services and Development	Commercial Property and Development	The variance is caused by ongoing revenue and cost pressures from Coventry Market and void properties in challenging sectors (such as suburban office locations).	0.3
Property Services and Development	PSD Management & Support	Variance relates to unachievable income target for this year, but service plan demonstrates an improved position from next year.	0.2
TOTAL Property Services and Development			0.5
Public Health	Public Health - Migration	This represents an underspend on Our Coventry Programme contract and overheads due to utilisation of other grant funding.	(0.5)
TOTAL Public Health			(0.5)
Regeneration and Economy Development	Culture, Sports & Events	The deficit principally arises from a shortfall in commercial income for 2025/26. However, this was partially mitigated by external grant funding being secured.	0.7
Regeneration and Economy Development	Economic Development service (EDS)	EDS (Economic Development service) has generated surplus by maximisation of grant income to the service and earnings from delivery of contract programmes to external partners.	(0.2)

Regeneration and Economy Development	Regeneration & Economy Management Support	Variance predominantly relates to a shortfall against the income target for sponsorship and commercial activity. £98k was achieved against a target of £375k, leaving a shortfall of £277k.	0.3
Regeneration and Economy Development	Green Futures	The main source of pressure is costs attributed to Brandon Wood Golf Course, which includes business rates, maintenance and security costs. Work is ongoing to develop the project, including investment plan for generating income from biodiversity net gain.	0.1
Transport Policy and Innovation	Transport Policy	The forecast variance reflects higher energy costs for operating traffic signals and Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) systems, unplanned expenditure on urgent repairs following road traffic collisions, and lower-than-expected income from external works and development-related activities. Alternative funding options and internal resource adjustments have been explored to reduce the overall impact.	0.2
Development Management Services	Planning Services	Majority of the deficit is due to the ambitious income target not realised as planning applications have fallen. The reduction in the number of applications is broadly in line with national trends. Also, part of the deficit relates to the local plan examination. There is a national requirement to keep plans up to date and regularly reviewed. There is no national funding for this. A mitigation plan is in place to address the issues in future years.	1.2
TOTAL Regeneration and Economy Development			2.3
Total Outturn Variances			(4.1)

Appendix 2 - Capital Programme Change and Analysis of Rescheduling

SCHEME AND EXPLANATION	APPROVED CHANGES £m	(RESCHEDULING) / ACCELERATED SPEND £m
<u>A46 Link Road</u> Feasibility study and modelling work for the A46 Link Road is currently paused pending progression of the South Warwickshire Local Plan review through the issues and options phase – this will identify any potential land use changes that will need to be considered when identifying modelling scenarios and Link Road options.		-0.4
<u>Coventry Very Light Rail</u> The rescheduling is largely due to: 1. Detailed Design Programme adjustments 2. Delay to conclusion of Installation contract further to point 3. Revised methodology for the CVLR vehicle programme.		-5.2
<u>City Centre Regeneration</u> Predominately, the movement on City Centre South reflects some changes to the profile of demolition spend compared to earlier forecasts, slipping spend from 2025/26 to Q1 2026/27. Demolition on the scheme has now almost completed with only a few buildings remaining to be demolished as at 31st March 2026 and the project remains on course to commence the construction phase in early 2026/27.		-3.0
<u>Friargate</u> It was previously anticipated that additional fit out costs of a further floor at Two Friargate would be required towards the end of the financial year. This is now expected to take place during 2026/27, and forecast spend has slipped into this financial year accordingly.		-0.7
<u>Highways Maintenance & Investment (Citizen Housing Programme)</u> Works to support the Citizen Housing programme around St Michael's are currently still in design phase and awaiting the contractor to programme the work, this will be delivered in the 2026/27 programme.		-0.7
<u>Local Network Improvement Plan</u> The rescheduling reflects the reprofiling of funding at quarter 3 to support accelerated programme delivery. Due to timing and delivery uncertainties, including extended public engagement, not all schemes progressed as forecast. The remaining £0.4m will be		-0.4

carried forward to the next financial year to support continued delivery of planned improvements.		
<u>London Road (Gigafactory) – CRSTS</u>		
The rescheduling is primarily due to a delays in design and delivery following land negotiations, scheme sequencing challenges and design refinements after public engagement and consultation.		-6.0
<u>Vehicle & Plant Replacement</u>		
Some vehicles that were on the schedule to be replaced in 2025/26 were revaluated and will be replaced in 2026/27 instead		-0.7
<u>Education Programme - Basic Need</u>		
Appointment of design team and development of project has progressed quicker than anticipated at three secondary school expansion projects – the three schools being Westwood, Cardinal Wiseman and President Kennedy Secondary school.		0.5
<u>Education Programme - Woodlands School</u>		
Woodlands project programme has recently been rescheduled because of changes to phasing and delivery of works. This is mainly due to detailed window/door designs which required additional planning approvals.		-2.1
<u>Residential Children's Homes Strategy 2023-2026</u>		
Despite CCC efforts, there were delays in acquiring land to build the Children with Disabilities 2 home on. When land conversations were picked back up, it was decided to pause on the delivery of the home to allow for a comprehensive review informed by an updated analysis of need. This ensures that future accommodation provision is closely aligned with the current and emerging needs of children and young people in Coventry, which will support a sustainable strategy and help to futureproof both service delivery and the effective use of Council resources.		-0.6
<u>Disabled Facilities Grant</u>		
Forecasted spend for Citizen lower than expected as unable to meet commitment of work planned within the financial year. Reduced spend on main DFG attributed to both vacancies in the team and the reintroduction of financial mean testing.		-0.4
<u>New Collection Centre - City Centre Cultural Gateway</u>		
The City Centre Cultural Gateway is a large and complex regeneration scheme and is now firmly within its main construction phase. While overall progress on site remains positive, the project has encountered several challenges during the financial year,		-5.8

primarily arising from changes to building regulations and the need to determine the most appropriate compliance approach. These issues have resulted in some programme delay and have prevented certain planned works from being completed within the original timeframe, leading to the current financial slippage. The Project Team remains confident that efficiencies and programme recovery can be achieved, and that the scheme will be completed by the end of the year.		
<u>Provision of Temporary Accommodation for Families - LAHF Phase 3</u> The reported rescheduling relates to the capital LAHF3 programme for the acquisition of temporary accommodation. This reflects an underspend on the programme and will be reprofiled into 2026/27 and aligned with the next phase of delivery under the LAHF4 programme and for continued investment in temporary accommodation provision.		-0.6
<u>Air Quality</u> Demolition of the buildings on the ex-Godiva Carpets site on Spon End. The site was bought by CCC as part of the 'Air Quality' project to improve traffic flows in that area. The vacant site is now required for either reuse or the construction of a car park associated with the scheme.	0.3	
<u>Radford Community Centre</u> Capital works required ahead of the 25 year lease agreement by Radford Community Association Ltd for Jubilee Crescent Community Centre.	0.8	
<u>Interest Capitalisation</u> This is in respect to the accounting policy referring to the prudential borrowing costs associated with the New Collection Centre scheme. Borrowing costs, in the form of interest expenses, are capitalised where the asset in question is a qualifying asset and takes a substantial period to bring into operation. Borrowing costs will only be capitalised on schemes for which expenditure is incurred over a period or more than 12 months, until the asset is operationally complete, and where a material level of capital expenditure is resourced by borrowing.	0.7	
<u>Donated Assets</u> Technical capital adjustment: donated assets (PFI streetlighting and heritage assets) are funded by donated asset income as required by the Code.	2.1	

<u>IFRS 16 Leases</u> The implementation of the accounting standard IFRS 16 from the 1st April 2024 requires the recognition of right of use (ROU) assets on the balance sheet for leased assets. The standard also impacts on the balance sheet entries for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes. ROU assets are recognised through the Council's capital programme, but this has no impact on resourcing and, as such, was not included in the capital programme at the start of the year.	2.5	
Schemes below £250k threshold	0.5	-0.4
TOTALS	6.9	-26.5

Appendix 3

<u>Summary Prudential Indicators</u>	Per Treasury Management Strategy	Actual
	25/26 £000's	25/26 £000's
1 Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream:		
(a) General Fund financing costs	41,182	41,560
(b) General Fund net revenue stream	289,741	288,741
General Fund Percentage	14.21%	14.34%
2 Gross Debt & Forecast Capital Financing Requirement		
Gross debt including PFI liabilities	322,406	287,129
Capital Financing Requirement (forecast end of 25/26)	571,519	534,641
Gross Debt to Net Debt:		
Gross debt including PFI liabilities	322,406	287,129
less investments	-50,000	-78,956
less transferred debt reimbursed by others	-2,437	0
Net Debt	269,969	208,174
3 Capital Expenditure (Note this excludes leasing)		
General Fund	171,587	154,279
4 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)		
Capital Financing Requirement	571,519	534,641
Capital Financing Requirement excluding transferred debt	569,082	534,641
5 Authorised limit for external debt		
Authorised limit for borrowing	513,550	513,550
+ authorised limit for other long-term liabilities	77,968	77,968
= authorised limit for debt	591,519	591,519
6 Operational boundary for external debt		
Operational boundary for borrowing	493,550	493,550
+ Operational boundary for other long-term liabilities	77,988	77,988
= Operational boundary for external debt	571,519	571,519

7 Actual external debt (prior year)

actual borrowing at 31 March 2025

+ PFI & Finance Leasing liabilities at 31 March 2025

+ transferred debt liabilities at 31 March 2025

= actual gross external debt at 31 March 2025

257,070

63,484

2,437

322,990

8 Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice

Adopted

Adopted

9 Interest rate exposures

Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposures

513,550

286,778

Variable Rate

Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposures

102,710

-102,407

10 Maturity structure of borrowing - limits

under 12 months

12 months to within 24 months

24 months to within 5 years

5 years to within 10 years

10 years & above

Upper Limit

50%

0%

20%

0%

30%

0%

30%

24%

100%

76%

11 Investments longer than 364 days: upper limit

30,000

0

Prudential Indicators

The CIPFA Code imposes on the Council clear governance procedures for setting and revising of prudential indicators and describes the matters to which a Council will 'have regard' when doing so. This is designed to deliver accountability in taking capital financing, borrowing and treasury management decisions.

The Prudential Indicators required by the CIPFA Code are designed to support and record local decision making and not as comparative performance indicators.

There are eleven indicators shown on the previous page, and these are outlined below:

Revenue Related Prudential Indicators

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, excluding investment income.

Capital and Treasury Management Related Prudential Indicators

Gross Debt and Capital Financing Requirement (Indicator 2):

The Council needs to be certain that gross external borrowing does not, except in the short

term, exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the next three financial years. The CFR is defined as the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purpose, i.e. it is borrowing requirement. The CFR is the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions from revenue.

Capital Expenditure (Indicator 3):

This indicator is an estimation of the Council's future capital expenditure levels, and these underpin the calculation of the other prudential indicators. Estimates of capital expenditure are a significant source of risk and uncertainty, and it is important that these estimates are continually monitored and the impact on other prudential indicators (particularly those relating to affordability) are assessed regularly.

Capital Financing Requirement (Indicator 4):

As outlined in Indicator 2 above, the CFR represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.

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.

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.

Actual External Debt (Indicator 7):

This indicator identifies the actual debt at the end of the previous financial year as recognised with the Statement of Accounts.

Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code (indicator 8):

This indicator is acknowledgement that the Council has adopted the CIPFA's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice*.

Interest Rate Exposures for Borrowing (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.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing – 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.

Investments Longer than 364 days: Upper Limit (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.

All these prudential limits need to be approved by full Council but can be revised during the financial year. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, a further report will be brought to Cabinet, requesting the approval of full Council for the changes required.

**Agenda Item
Council – 8th September 2026**

**Recommendation from Cabinet
7th July 2026**

**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 AS Khan
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor M Mutton

Non-Voting Deputy Councillor P Akhtar
Cabinet Members: 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 and Governance	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

RECOMMENDATION

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 its 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:

1. **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).**

Cabinet
Council

7 July 2026
8 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Members:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities - Councillor N Akhtar

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Strategy and Performance

Ward(s) affected:

Binley and Willenhall, St Michael's, Tile Hill and Canley

Title:

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

Is this a key decision?

Yes - The proposals involve financial implications more than £1m per annum and are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City.

Executive summary:

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 will receive up to £20 million over 10 years, with funding split 63% capital and 37% revenue in line with Government requirements.

MHCLG guidance requires the programme to be community-led, with local priorities set through Neighbourhood Boards, while the City Council acts as Accountable Body for public funds and compliance.

Coventry has been selected for the programme in three 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)

Neighbourhood boundaries are defined by MHCLG using Middle Layer Super Output Area geographies and are set out in Appendix 1.

This report seeks Cabinet approval for:

- The Council to act as Accountable Body for Pride in Place across Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields;
- The governance framework and delegations required by MHCLG guidance;
- The establishment of a Neighbourhood Board for each area and the appointment of an independent Chair for each Board, working with the relevant MPs and the Council; and
- The use of revenue funding to support governance, programme planning, engagement, communications, plan development, monitoring and evaluation.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended 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 £2.5 million pounds per neighbourhood. This approval includes (but not limited to) the Council undertaking the roles and responsibilities allocated to it by 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).

Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:

1. Approve the acceptance of the subsequent Pride in Place Programme grant funding of up to £20 million pounds per neighbourhood (being a total of up to £60 million pounds).

Council is recommended to

1. Approve the acceptance of the subsequent Pride in Place Programme grant funding of up to £20 million pounds per neighbourhood (being a total of up to £60 million pounds).

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Pride in Place Programme Proposed Geographical Boundaries

Background papers:

Pride in Place Programme Prospectus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus>

[Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Pride in Place Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-strategy/pride-in-place-strategy>

Pride in Place Programme FAQ: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-faq/pride-in-place-programme-faq>

Other useful documents

None.

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

No.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes. 14 July 2026.

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

1. Context (or background)

Background to the Pride in Place Programme

- 1.1 The Pride in Place Programme is a flagship government initiative aimed at delivering long-term neighbourhood renewal, by reviving areas that have been traditionally overlooked and to create stronger communities and thriving places. A key enabler of the programme is to transfer influence and control to communities, rather than prescribing projects centrally.
- 1.2 For each area to achieve this, MHCLG's guidance requires:
 - The creation of a Neighbourhood Board for each neighbourhood
 - An independent Chair, jointly approved by the local authority and MP
 - A 10-year vision supported by a phased investment plan
 - Local authorities to act as Accountable Bodies, particularly in the early years of the programme.
- 1.3 While Neighbourhood Boards set local priorities, legal accountability for the use of public funds remains with the local authority, in particular for:
 - Financial propriety and value for money
 - Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty
 - The Procurement Act 2023 and the Subsidy Control Act 2022
 - Managing Public Money principles and Nolan Principles of Public Life.
- 1.4 This long-term funding is intended to give communities greater influence over the future of their neighbourhoods. Each area will be led by a Neighbourhood Board, with community engagement and participation expected throughout. The Pride in Place Programme is designed to be:
 - Community-led
 - Flexible
 - Long-term
 - Supportive
- 1.5 MHCLG has identified a set of indicative interventions to guide Boards on the types of activity they may choose to deliver, while allowing flexibility to respond to local need. These cover: regeneration, high streets and heritage; housing; work, productivity and skills; cohesion; community power; health and wellbeing; transport; safety and security; and education and opportunity.

Coventry's Proposed Governance Model

- 1.6 Coventry will adopt a place-based but consistent governance approach, establishing:
- Three distinct Neighbourhood Boards (one per area)
 - A common Terms of Reference template aligned with MHCLG guidance
 - A single Accountable Body assurance framework within the Council.
- 1.7 Each Neighbourhood Board will:
- Be **community-led**, with a majority of members living or working in the neighbourhood (minimum 51%)
 - Include the relevant MP and at least one ward councillor
 - Represent a broad mix of residents, community groups, faith groups, businesses, youth and anchor institutions.
 - Have at least eight voting members plus Police, Housing, NHS and appropriate representatives having non-voting Board place.
- 1.8 Board membership should bring together residents, local businesses, grassroots campaigners, workplace representatives, faith groups and community leaders with strong local connections. The final membership must be approved by the local authority and the local MP.
- 1.9 The new prospectus sets out an expectation that each Board must transition towards a community-led model of delivery by year three of the programme.
- 1.10 Appropriate governance arrangements and technical support for the Board will need to be put in place, including documented decision-making processes, meeting papers and minutes, and a code of conduct based on the Nolan Principles.
- 1.11 In line with MHCLG expectations and best practice elsewhere:
- Board members will not be remunerated
 - Chairs may be paid a nominal amount to enable them to undertake the role where income would be a barrier
 - Reasonable expenses will be met
 - Conflicts of interest and code of conduct transparency requirements will mirror Council standards.

Role of the Council as Accountable Body

- 1.12 Neighbourhood Boards will lead decisions on priorities, with the Council acting as the Accountable Body for the funding. The Council will:
- Ensure that funds are distributed fairly and effectively
 - Ensure funds are managed in line with the Nolan Principles, the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty, and Managing Public Money principles,
 - Hold and manage Pride in Place funding
 - Put in place appropriate governance, assurance and audit arrangements
 - Ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, Procurement Act 2023 and any other applicable financial regulations as applicable
 - Provide 6 monthly updates and annual assurance to MHCLG via the Section 151 Officer.
- 1.13 The Council's role is enabling rather than directive. It will support Neighbourhood Boards with governance advice, community engagement expertise, communications, programme planning, data and insights, and technical support, while ensuring that decision-making remains genuinely community-led.
- 1.14 The prospectus indicates that, from year 3, some areas may move towards community-led delivery models, depending on local circumstances. Unless otherwise agreed by MHCLG, the Council will remain the Accountable Body and may delegate delivery responsibility, where appropriate, to community organisations.
- 1.15 Appointment of Independent Chairs**
- 1.16 The Chairs must be independent, not be an elected representative (MP or Cllr), have standing, credibility or leadership within the local community, be appointed jointly by the Council and the MP, be approved by Government as part of governance assurance, and lead the Board and act as public face of the programme.
- 1.17 There is expected to be an appointment process, which should be open, require expressions of interest to be made, and that a joint shortlisting and selection process takes place between Council and MP. As stated in the report, the appointment process for the Willenhall Neighbourhood Chair has already been undertaken with an appointment already in place. The appointment for the Neighbourhood Chair for Tile Hill and Hillfields is currently ongoing and the Council Representatives on the interview panel will be as follows:

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

- 1.18 We're expected to conduct the necessary due diligence, determine/record any possible conflicts of interest, ensure political impartiality, and ensure community credibility.
- 1.19 The Chair of each area is responsible for proposing the initial Board membership to the Council and MP for approval. Where agreement isn't possible, Government will be expected to intervene.

Management of Funds

- 1.20 The Council should:
- Work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board and local MP to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding
 - Develop mechanisms that will empower the Neighbourhood Board in realising their role and driving forward a community-led vision for change
 - Facilitate the development of a place's Plan and its delivery while recognising the role of the Neighbourhood Board as the decision-making forum
- 1.21 This may include providing advice and support on legal duties (for example, impact assessments), supporting meaningful community engagement, or helping Board members navigate those requirements with which they may be less familiar, in the spirit of true partnership working. Together the Neighbourhood Board, local MP and local authority should ensure that:
- The appropriate capacity and capability are in place throughout the programme period to ensure that funds are distributed effectively in the local area
 - Residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in programme design and decision-making to ensure delivery reflects the priorities of local people and helps build capacity within the community
 - Monitoring and evaluation are undertaken according to published guidance.

Funding and Support

- 1.22 The programme provides up to £20 million per neighbourhood over 10 years, split between two funding streams: 63% capital and 37% revenue. Capital funding will support physical assets and infrastructure, such as estate improvements and the refurbishment of community spaces. Revenue funding will support delivery, including capacity building, staffing and community engagement.

Changes to Boundaries

- 1.23 The prospectus allows Boards to 'define the neighbourhood' by proposing changes to their boundaries, subject to MHCLG agreement. Any changes must remain consistent with the aims of the programme and be supported by evidence of community backing. Proposals to amend the default boundary must be submitted to MHCLG by the following dates:
- Willenhall 17 July 2026
 - Tile Hill 28 August 2026
 - Willenhall 28 August 2026.
- 1.24 Examples of instances where this may be appropriate include where a key community asset sits just outside of the default boundary, or it might exclude a key street which is understood by local communities as being part of the same neighbourhood. Including these assets would be an appropriate rationale for amending the boundary. Boards should not submit requests to remove areas from the boundary unless they can evidence a clear error in its inclusion.

Reporting and Accountability

- 1.25 As the accountable body, the Council is responsible for providing updates to MHCLG and maintaining public transparency. 6-monthly updates must be provided to MHCLG and made publicly available. These include:
- Each pre-delivery activity completed to date (e.g., capacity building, engagement) and a high-level breakdown of cost.
 - Each new pre-delivery activity planned for the next 6-month period and its projected cost.
 - Each programme project and activity completed, including a description, targeted interventions, and costs broken down by capital and revenue.
 - Each new programme being undertaken in the next 6-month period and project costs.
 - Any changes to Neighbourhood Board membership.
- 1.26 A full 12-monthly return is required detailing total programme delivery and pre delivery spend for the financial year, broken down by capital and revenue and progress metrics, such as jobs created or green space improved.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are three options available to the Council, which are to not engage with the Pride in Place Programme, to participate but without having the Accountable Body role, or to participate as Accountable Body which is the role government instructs Local Authorities to play in the Programme Prospectus.

2.2 Not engaging in the Pride in Place programme

This option would not be realistic or beneficial for the Council or for local communities in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields. It would be likely to delay, and could jeopardise, each area's access to its £20 million allocation, given the Council's role in supporting Board recruitment, the development of Pride in Place Plans and associated Investment Plans, and the establishment of the financial planning and governance arrangements required for a publicly funded programme of this scale. It would also affect the development of projects capable of meeting government requirements. This option is therefore not recommended.

2.3 Participate in the Pride in Place programme but without having the Accountable Body role

The MHCLG Programme Prospectus makes clear that local authorities are expected to act as Accountable Body at the start of the programme in each area. Although the programme is expected to move towards community-led delivery from year 3, local authority capacity will be critical in the early stages, particularly in establishing Neighbourhood Boards, supporting the development of compliant Pride in Place Plans, and putting in place the necessary financial and legal oversight. The Council also has a strong track record of acting as Accountable Body for major publicly funded economic, social development and regeneration programmes. This option is therefore not recommended.

2.4 Participate in the Pride in Place programme as Accountable Body

This is the recommended option because it aligns with the expectations set out in the Pride in Place Programme Prospectus. It will enable the three communities to access the available funding, ensure that Neighbourhood Boards are established and Pride in Place Plans are submitted within the Government's deadlines, and provide the political, strategic and governance oversight needed to keep delivery on track. It will also ensure that spend and activity comply with programme requirements.

3 **Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The Pride in Place Programme is a UK government initiative and areas for the Programme were selected by government using a methodology detailed within the Programme Prospectus. There was no consultation or engagement with the Council or local residents prior to the announcement of Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields being included in the Programme.
- 3.2 Community engagement and consultation to inform the focus of the Pride in Place Plans and where the funding should be directed is a core requirement of the Pride in Place Programme in each area. Although the Prospectus indicates

that it is the Neighbourhood Chair and Board's responsibility to drive such activities in each area, the Local Authority is responsible for supporting them to do this effectively. The delegations recommended in this paper will allow the Council to perform this function, working closely with the three Local MPs.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The three areas have all been awarded £20 million of Pride in Place funding over a ten-year period up to 2035/36.

4.2 In the Pride in Place Programme Prospectus, MHCLG has stipulated a series of deadlines that all neighbourhoods awarded Pride in Place Programme funds need to achieve such as:

- Neighbourhood Board membership to be confirmed and submission of any requests to adjust their default area boundaries by 17th July 2026 for Willenhall and 28th August 2026 for Tile Hill and Hillfields. The Independent Chairs need to be appointed before these dates, as it is their responsibility to lead on recruiting and appointing the other Board members.
- Pride in Place Plans need to be submitted by 30th November 2026 for Willenhall and 27th February 2027 for Tile Hill and Hillfields. MHCLG will then issue a Memorandum of Understanding to the Accountable Body once each Plan has been approved by Government. There is an expectation from Government that these Plans will be informed and shaped by engagement and consultation with the local community, and this will need to take place prior to development and submission of the Plans.

4.3 The Programme will also be broken down into three Investment Periods for each area, which will inform financial planning:

- Investment Period 1 (4 years): 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 financial years
- Investment Period 2 (3 years): 2030/2031 – 2032/2033 financial years
- Investment Period 3 (3 years): 2033/2034 – 2035/2036 financial years

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

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 The report seeks authority to accept the Council to be Accountable Body of up to £60 million of Pride in Place Programme funding for Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields for the purposes set out in section 1 of the report. In each case, it constitutes the allocation for these neighbourhoods from a national allocation for the Pride in Place Programme, which is profiled annually in the MHCLG

Prospectus funding is split 63% c£12.4m towards Capital and 37% c£7.2m of revenue expenditure

- 5.1.2 As part of revenue funding within this £60 million, some of the funding can be used for Councils to undertake work to meet their Accountable Body duties, support community-led development, facilitate the necessary range of community engagement activities that are stipulated in the Prospectus, develop Pride in Place Plans for each area that are compliant with MHCLG requirements, and to provide the necessary technical expertise for project development and other activities in accordance with government guidance. The Council as Accountable Body will work with the MP and neighbourhood board to ensure expenditure complies with appropriate accounting standards, including the correct application of capital revenue funding classifications.
- 5.1.3 As part of this, there will also be a need for ongoing officer time commitments relating to governance, assurance and monitoring and reporting, and given the need to support three Neighbourhood Boards simultaneously (which will include but not limited to the work of the two new Change Manager posts), we will need to ensure that such time commitments are sustainable and proportionate. The Council will therefore work with the three Neighbourhood Boards to determine the level of Council Officer input that will be required to undertake these activities, and therefore the quantum of Pride in Place revenue funding that the Council will require to cover the costs of these activities.

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 The information in this report aligns to the government guidance in the government's Pride in Place prospectus, funding guidance and the governance and boundary guidance. This includes guidance on appointment of the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board and the make-up and recruitment of the Board.
- 5.2.2 Whilst the Council does not have a statutory duty or responsibility to support or deliver the Pride in Place Programme, section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in their area.
- 5.2.3 The Council will also wish to note those parts of the guidance which emphasize the key importance of the Council's role as accountable body. The [guidance](#) states that "*the relevant local authority in each place will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles*". This guidance goes on to state that "*accountable bodies may need to recover funding from project deliverers where subsidy control or state aid law has not*

been complied with" and "work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding".

- 5.2.4 The role of an Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme will require the Council to (and ensure that the Boards) comply with existing legal duties to:
- Administer public funds lawfully
 - Ensure the Boards' compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Procurement Act 2023 (and related subsidy control and procurement laws and regulations).
 - Uphold equality and human rights duties
 - Maintain transparent decision-making and audit trails.
- 5.2.5 Where any grant funding are to be spent on supplies, works or services, the Council will need to ensure such commissioning activity is in accordance with its Contract Procedure Rules and any relevant national procurement legislation. In the award of any grant or the passporting of grant funding, it will be for the Council to consider the Subsidy Control regime and to comply with relevant provisions. The guidance expressly notes the risk that grant awards may amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, and where external advice is considered likely to be needed to support this, this will be obtained to protect the Council's interest.
- 5.2.6 In all of this, it will be incumbent on the Council to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the obligations imposed on it by the MCHLG in the grant arrangements it specifies. The Council will be required to meet the objectives, terms and conditions and milestones of the funding imposed by the funding authority. This includes any requirement to keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns.
- 5.2.7 As work progresses on the Pride in Place project, the information governance team will be informed to ensure that we are complying with data protection rules.
- 5.2.8 Delegations in this report are designed to ensure compliance with MHCLG guidance while enabling timely delivery.

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

- 6.1.1 The City Council acting as Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programmes in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields will help to deliver the objectives of the One Coventry Plan. The overarching ambition is to improve local areas which will support addressing inequalities- they key tennent of the One Coventry Plan.

6.1.2 Improving Outcomes and Tackling Inequalities Within our Communities.

The Pride in Place Programme has been targeted at areas characterised by high levels of deprivation that are facing significant economic and social challenges, many of which have been overlooked by previous regeneration funds. As such, the tackling inequalities is integral to the ethos of the programme.

6.1.3 Increasing the Economic Prosperity of the City and Region. One of the core objectives of the Pride in Place Programme is to create thriving places. This could be in the form of physical improvements that would make the areas more attractive to do business or boost footfall, or to deliver projects that create more opportunities to connect local residents with jobs or training. Pride in Place activities could therefore act as a catalyst for improving economic prosperity of residents within the three target neighbourhoods.

6.1.4 Tackle the Causes and Consequences of Climate Change. The list of activities that could be covered through Pride in Place funding include those that are pertinent to energy, the environment, green and blue space, and nature. The City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure that the Pride in Place Plans and Investment Plans have a positive impact on improving sustainability within the three target neighbourhoods.

6.1.5 Continued Financial Sustainability of the Council. As well as our expectation that some of the revenue funding will enable the City Council to deliver the Accountable Body function, the Pride in Place Programme has potential to finance the delivery of enhanced services in the three target neighbourhoods (although this will be influenced by the focus of the Pride in Place Plans produced by the three Neighbourhood Boards).

6.1.6 Council's Role as a Partner, Leader and Enabler. The City Council undertaking the role of Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields will showcase the Council's role as a leader, facilitator and enabler, not least in how it will support the three Neighbourhood Boards in engaging with the local communities and draw in the input of key stakeholder bodies to populate the Pride in Place Plans. By supporting the Neighbourhood Boards with legal and financial compliance, it will also showcase the Council's role as a leader.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 Coventry City Council has a long track record of co-ordinating and delivering publicly funded economic and social development and regeneration programmes, and the risks associated with acting as the Accountable Body for this type of work are well understood. For example, there is a need for robust financial monitoring and management, and to ensure that all programme spend, outcomes and impacts are captured and fully evidenced, in line with audit

requirements. Risks of this kind are mitigated by ensuring that sufficient programme management resource is available to enforce adherence to the funder's rules, and to support the Neighbourhood Board and Project Leads to ensure they are delivering eligible spend and producing outcomes on time and to budget.

- 6.2.2 As Accountable Body, the Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the Boards comply with the Nolan Principles, Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equity Duty, Managing Public Money Principles, and legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control and procurement.

6.2.2.1 Subsidy Control.

Failure to comply with subsidy control requirements, shall be the responsibility of the Council. For example, if funding is passed on in a non-compliant manner, the Council may need to recover funding from project deliverers.

6.2.2.2 Public procurement regulations.

The Council will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant procurement legislations and regulations.

- 6.2.3 In order to mitigate any associated risks, the Council shall work closely with Boards to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for the use and passporting of funding in compliance with the appropriate legislative requirements.

- 6.2.4 There is a risk of time, given government's clear deadlines for having Neighbourhood Boards in place and Pride in Place Plans submitted. We will therefore ensure that sufficient programme co-ordination capacity is in place, as well as capacity and expertise to support community engagement activities, and thematic expertise to support project development.

- 6.2.5 There will also be a need to ensure that expectations within target communities are managed, as well as key political stakeholders such as the MPs and local Councillors. We will therefore use the full range of expertise across relevant service areas to effectively engage the community, support the Neighbourhood Board and local community to develop fundable proposals, support the Neighbourhood Board to communicate Programme progress and impacts to the local community, and ensure that the expectations set out in the MHCLG Prospectus are being complied with during both the programme design and delivery stages.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The principal impact on the organisation will be that we expect some capacity funding to cover posts within the Council for Programme Co-ordination activities (including both delivering the Accountable Body function and supporting the Neighbourhood Board with community engagement. Successfully bidding for UKSPF funding for these programmes will provide funding crucial to retaining highly skilled staff currently working on projects which are due to come an end later this year. There are no impacts on ICT or accommodation. Given that 63% of the funding is capital, we do expect some spend to focus on creating or improving physical assets or infrastructure, but it would only become clear in developing the Neighbourhood Plans on whether Council assets could be impacted, and if this were the case, we would engage appropriate legal and (depending on the nature of the project) other thematic expertise.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

- 6.4.1 We will develop Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA) for all three Pride in Place Plans as part of the submissions to government to ensure that the focus of the Plans and key investments are impacting positively on the full range of the local community. The City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure that Pride in Place activities will be compliant with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.4.2 To help ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is entrenched in the Pride in Place Programme in all three areas from the outset, the City Council will support the Local MPs and Neighbourhood Board Chairs to ensure that Board Member recruitment will be inclusive and designed to reflect the diversity of the communities in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields, and that community consultation and engagement activities secure participation from the full range of the local communities.

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

- 6.5.1 The Pride in Place Programme can support interventions across a wide range of thematic areas, which include energy, the environment, green and blue spaces, and nature. As a cross-cutting principle, the City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure Pride in Place Programme activities have a positive impact on sustainability and tackling the causes of climate change. Where the Neighbourhood Boards and local communities wish to develop specific projects in these thematic areas, the City Council will provide specialist officer support to ensure that they have the strongest possible impact.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

- 6.6.1 Because the ethos of the Pride in Place Programme is to be community-led, we would expect multiple local public sector partners and community and voluntary organisations that are actively working in these areas and have worked in

partnership with the City Council to be involved in community engagement activities in actively shaping the three Pride in Place Plans. Depending on the thematic focus of activities within the three Plans, we would also expect some of these partners to be actively leading projects and potentially receiving Pride in Places funds to deliver the required activities.

Report author(s):

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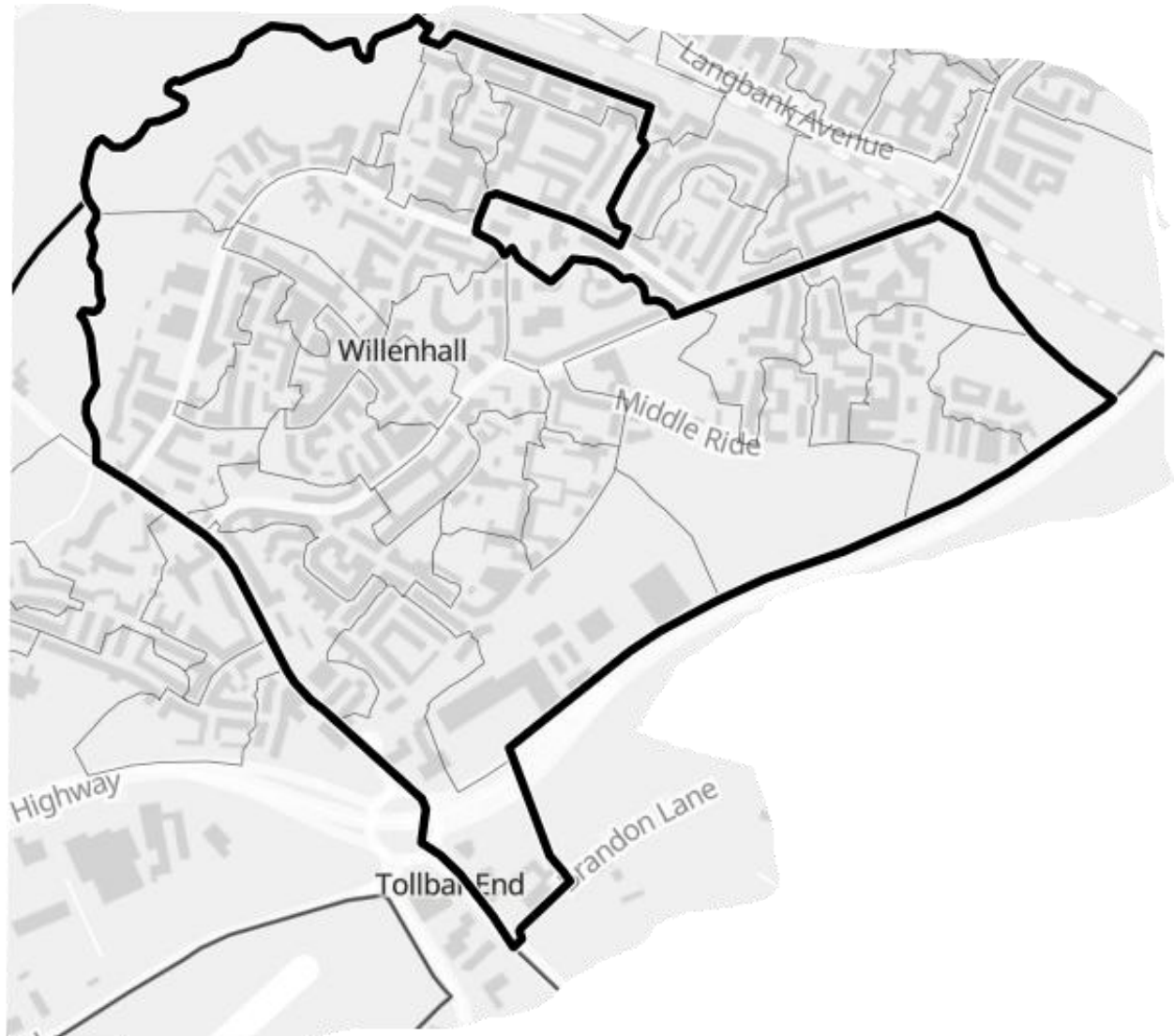
Enquiries should be directed to the above persons

Contributor/ approver name (officers and members)	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
David Hope	Business Development Manager	Economic Development	7/4/2026	29/5/2026
Maxine Shakespeare	Change Manager	Transformation	7/4/2026	29/5/2026
Helen Williamson	Finance Manager	Finance	20/5/2026	4/6/2026
Christian Hunt	Corporate and Commercial Lawyer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	20/5/2026	10/6/2026
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/6/2026	10/6/2026
Approvers:				
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/6/2026	11/6/2026
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Resources (S151 Officer)	Finance	11/6/2026	12/6/2026
Clare Boden-Hatton	Director of Strategy and Performance	Strategy and Performance	11/6/2026	12/6/2026
Councillor N Akhtar	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	-	12/6/2026	26/6/2026

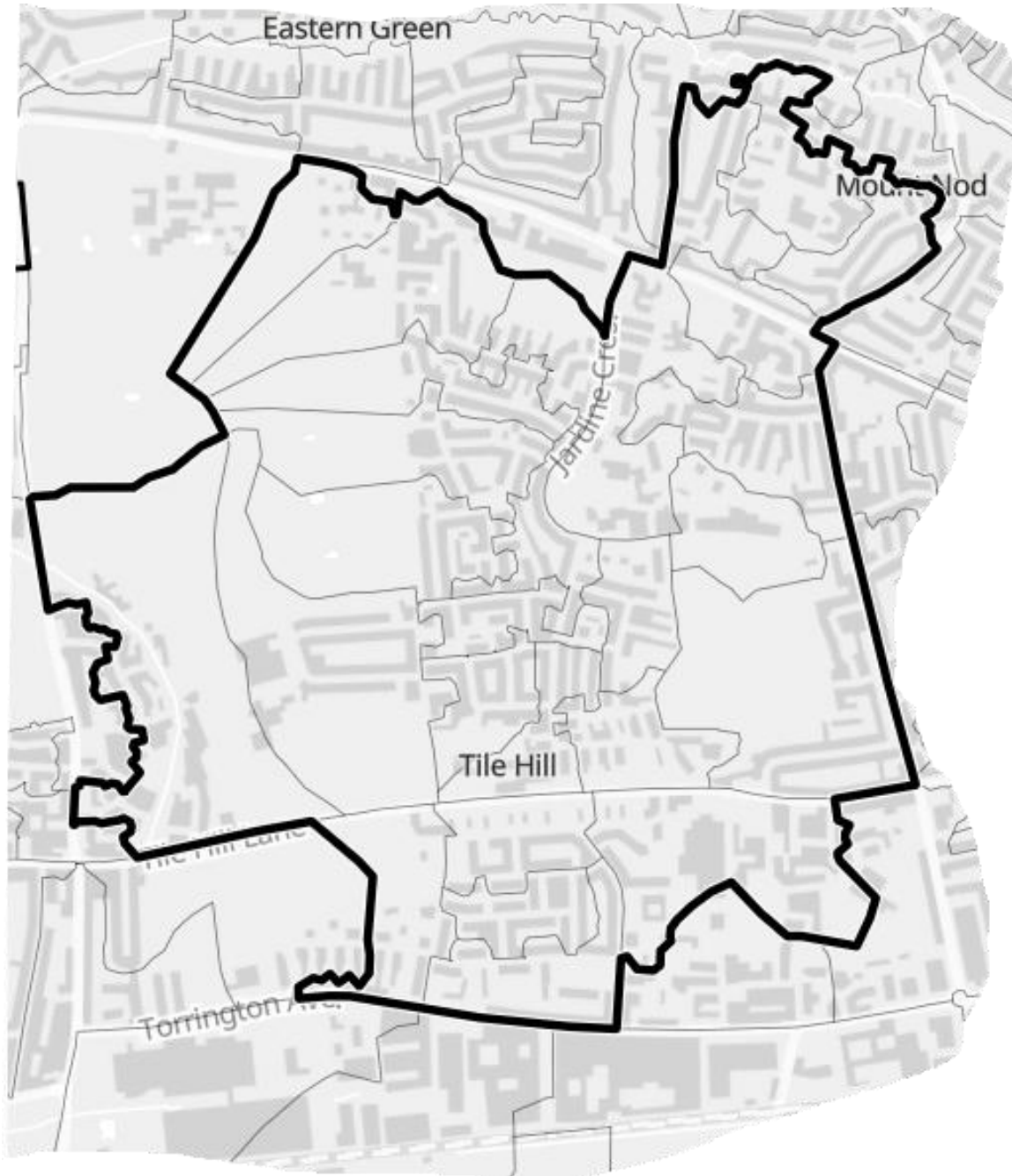
This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

Pride in Place Programme Proposed Geographical Boundaries

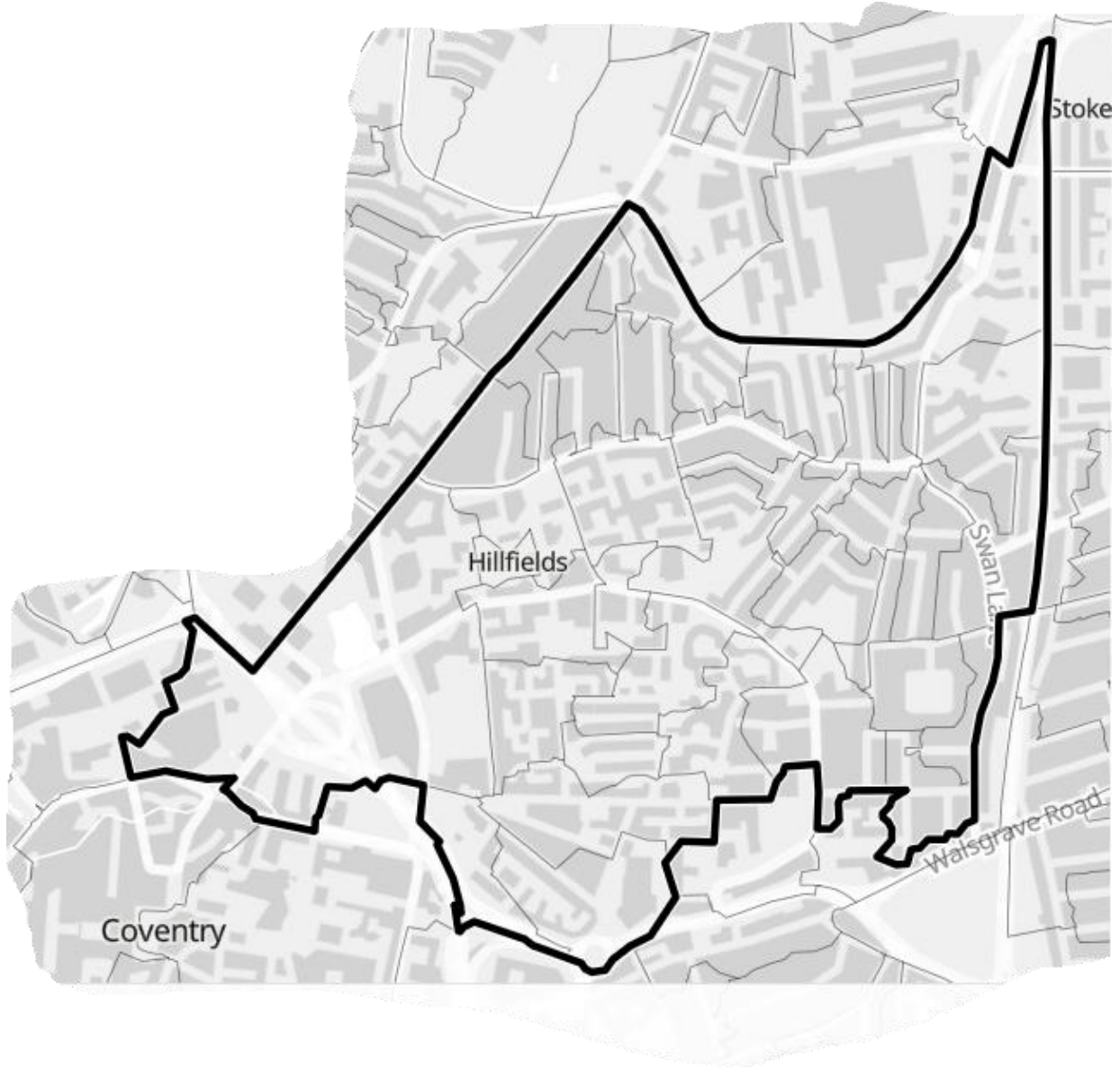
Willenhall



Tile Hill



Hillfields



Agenda Item 10
Agenda Item
Council – 8th September 2026
Recommendation from Audit
and Procurement Committee
27th July 2026

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Procurement Committee held at
2.00 pm on Monday, 27 July 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor S Nazir (Chair)
Councillor A Bryant
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor C Phillips
Councillor H Rehman
Councillor K Sandhu (Deputy Chair)

Other Members: Councillor F Beechey

Employees (by Directorate):

Finance and Resources B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources), S Kinsell,
K Tyler, H Williamson

Law, Governance and Safer Communities L Knight

People and Facilities S Chilton (Director of People and Facilities), N Powell

Apologies: Councillor R Brown

RECOMMENDATION

13. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2025-26

The Audit and Procurement Committee considered its Annual Report to Council that provided an overview of its activity during 2025/2026. The report would be submitted to Council at its meeting on 8th September 2026.

The report included an introduction by the Chair, Councillor S Nazir, who was appointed to the Committee in May 2026. The report indicated that the Audit and Procurement Committee was a key component of the Council's governance framework, supporting good governance and strong public financial management. Over the last year, the Committee had continued to discharge its key responsibility effectively, namely providing independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the Council's financial reporting and governance processes. The report demonstrated

the vital role carried out by the Committee and the contribution that it made to the Council's overall governance arrangements.

The Committee received a range of routine reports based on the clearly defined expectations of services / functions that reported to it, e.g. internal / external audit and financial management. It also received ad-hoc reports which focussed on either a specific concern or developments that impacted directly on the Committee.

The report detailed the Committee's activity in 2025/26 in the following areas: Governance; Financial Management and Accounting; External Audit; Internal Audit; Fraud and Error; Procurement and Salaries. Reports considered during this period which were linked to risk management, internal control and governance, included: Whistleblowing Annual Report 2024/25; Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Annual Compliance Report; Complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2024/25; Corporate Risk Register; Information Governance Annual Report 2024/25; and Coventry Municipal Holdings Group Accounts.

The report also detailed priorities for the Committee for 2026/27 which included:

- Ensuring there are adequate opportunities for the training and development of Councillors on the Committee;
- The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure the timetable for the publication of the 2025/26 unaudited and audited Statement of Accounts is met and work on rebuilding audit assurance is appropriately progressed.

RESOLVED that, the Audit and Procurement Committee recommends that Council considers the Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2025/26 at their meeting on 8th September 2026.

(Meeting closed at 2.50 pm)

Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2025-26

To be considered at the City Council meeting
on the 8th September 2026

Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2025-26

Introduction by Chair of Audit and Procurement Committee

In May 2026, the Council appointed me as the new Chair of the Audit and Procurement Committee.

I am pleased to present this report which outlines the Committee's work over the municipal year 2025-26.

The Audit and Procurement Committee is a key component of the Council's governance framework, supporting good governance and strong public financial management. Over the last year, the Committee has continued to discharge its key responsibility effectively, namely providing independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the Council's financial reporting and governance processes. The Committee has provided oversight of key matters such as the Annual Governance Statement, Internal Audit activity and actions to ensure the regulatory deadlines for the publication of the Council's accounts have been met. Alongside this, the Committee has considered additional information which provides assurance over the governance arrangements for procurement activity.

I am looking forward to building on the good work done in 2025-26 and ensuring that the Committee continues to make a positive contribution to the overall governance arrangements within the Council. In terms of priorities for 2026-27 these include ensuring that:

- There are adequate opportunities for the training and development of councillors on the Committee.
- The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure the timetable for the publication of the 2025-26 unaudited and audited Statement of Accounts is met and work on rebuilding audit assurance is appropriately progressed.

I hope that this Annual Report helps to demonstrate to Coventry residents and the Council's other stakeholders the vital role that is carried out by the Audit and Procurement Committee and the contribution that it makes to the Council's overall governance arrangements.



**Councillor Shakila Nazir
Chair, Audit and Procurement
Committee**

1 Activity of the Council's Audit and Procurement Committee

During 2025-26, the Council's Audit and Procurement Committee met on six occasions. Meetings were held in June, July, September and November 2025, as well as in February and March 2026.

The Committee receives a range of:

- Routine reports based on the clearly defined expectations of services / functions that report to the Audit and Procurement Committee, e.g. internal / external audit and financial management.
- Ad-hoc reports which focus on either a specific concern or developments that impact directly on the Committee.

The details of the reports considered in 2025-26 are expanded upon below.

1.1 **Governance** – The Committee received the following reports linked to the Council's governance arrangements:

- The Council's Local Code of Governance was considered by the Committee in September 2025. The Local Code sets out the Council's specific arrangements for putting the principles of good governance into practice. It draws on examples provided in the "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" published by CIPFA / Solace but also reflect systems and processes which are specific to the Council. The Committee satisfied itself that the Local Code accurately represents the Council's governance arrangements and noted the legal requirement to produce an Annual Governance Statement.
- As part of the Annual Accounts process for 2024-25, the Chief Internal Auditor co-ordinated the development of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. The draft Statement was considered by the Committee in June 2025. The Statement provides assurance that the Council's governance arrangements have been fit for purpose during the year, based on an assessment using a range of sources. As well as highlighting a number of ongoing governance issues that remain a focus for the Council, the Statement also acknowledged the following new governance issues identified from the work undertaken to produce the Statement; improving performance management, implementation of the new Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector, identifying opportunities to strengthen the Council's formal risk management approach, and work to continue embedding new leadership behaviours.

1.2 **Financial Management and Accounting** – In February 2026, the Committee received the final statement of accounts for 2024-25 alongside the External Auditor's Audit Findings report. As a result of the audit findings a number of relatively minor changes were made to the draft accounts. Following assurances received by the Committee in relation to these

matters, the accounts were approved for publication. Additionally, the following reports were received in year:

- The revenue and capital outturn position for 2024-25 was considered in July 2025. The report showed the Council's financial position in relation to management accounts used to monitor performance through the year.
- Quarterly monitoring reports of the Council's performance against its revenue and capital budgets during 2025-26 were considered in September 2025, February 2026 and March 2026.
- A treasury management activity update was considered in November 2025. The report highlighted investment activity carried out by the Council and provided assurance that the Council was managing investments in accordance with its Investment Strategy.

1.3 External Audit - The following reports were received from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton in 2024-25:

- External Audit Plan 2024-25 and related audit reports. These reports were considered in September 2025. The Audit Plan and risk assessment provided details of the planned scope and timings of the audit of the Council's accounts for 2024-25. Alongside this, the 2024-25 IT audit findings report was presented. This related to the audit work completed on the Council's IT controls which are relevant to the financial statements. Although some areas for improvement were identified, no significant deficiencies in IT controls were highlighted.
- Auditor's Annual Report 2024-25. This report was considered in November 2025 and detailed the external auditors judgements on the Council's value for money arrangements. Although some areas for improvement were identified, no key recommendations were made.
- Audit Findings Report 2024-25 and independent Auditor's report, including disclaimer of opinion. This report was considered in February 2026 and detailed the findings of the audit of the financial statements. Whilst some audit work was completed, the results of which were detailed, the reports explained that it was not possible to conclude the work by the statutory backstop date of the 27th February 2026 and therefore a disclaimer of opinion was issued. The statutory backstop dates reflect legislation passed by Government to address the backlog in completion of local authority accounts.
- External Audit Plan 2025-26. This report was considered in March 2026. The Audit Plan and risk assessment provided details of the planned scope and timings of the audit of the Council's accounts for 2025-26, and the 2025-26 review of key IT controls. The Audit Plan reflects the continued application of the backstop arrangements and the objective of rebuilding audit assurance following the prior period disclaimers.

1.4 **Internal Audit** – In June 2025, the Audit and Procurement Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Report. This report had two main purposes:

- To summarise the Council's Internal Audit activity for the period April 2024 to March 2025, against the agreed Internal Audit Plan for the same period. This highlighted the Internal Audit Service had delivered 89% of the agreed work plan by the 31st March 2025, against a target of 90%.
- To provide the Committee with the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Coventry City Council's risk management, internal control and governance arrangements. Based on the work of Internal Audit in 2024-25, the Chief Internal Auditor concluded that 'reasonable' assurance could be provided that there was generally an effective and adequate framework of governance, risk management and internal control in place to help the organisation meet its objectives.

Other Internal Audit reports considered during the year include:

- Internal Audit Plan for 2025-26 and Internal Audit Strategy 2025-28 – This report considered the outcome of the Internal Audit planning process and provided the Committee as a key stakeholder of the Internal Audit Service, the opportunity to comment on the scope and coverage outlined in the plan, which was approved by the Committee. The Committee also approved the Internal Audit Strategy 2025-28, which is a requirement of the new professional standards for Internal Audit and sets out the vision, strategic objectives and supporting initiatives for the Internal Audit Service.
- Progress reports on Internal Audit work – Monitoring reports were received in February 2026 and March 2026. These reports provided updates on the performance of the Service, along with a summary of the key findings from a sample of audit reviews carried out in the relevant periods. In considering these reports, the Committee agreed with the focus of improvements identified and the timescales agreed for implementation.
- Internal Audit Professional Standards update – In November 2025, the Committee received an update on the new professional standards for Internal Audit. This included the essential conditions relating to the Committee for governing the Internal Audit function, including approval of a new set of performance objectives for the Service.
- Recommendation Tracking Report – In March 2026, a report on action taken by service areas in implementing agreed audit recommendations was presented. This highlighted the levels of compliance with the implementation of agreed actions and the approach undertaken by Internal Audit to follow up recommendations. In the period January

2025 to January 2026, 61% of the recommendations followed up had been implemented.

1.5 Fraud and Error- The following fraud reports were considered in 2025-26:

- Annual Fraud and Error Report - This report was considered by the Committee in September 2025 and summarised the Council's response to anti-fraud and error activity for the financial year 2024-25. This included:
 - Work to assist in the administration of the debt recovery process of business support grants paid fraudulently or in error.
 - A summary of the work undertaken in relation to the National Fraud Initiative, a data matching exercise led by the Cabinet Office. In 2024-25, the work was focused on collating and submitting the datasets for the next exercise.
 - A summary of the work undertaken in relation to corporate fraud investigations during the year.
- Half Yearly Fraud and Error Update - A report was received in February 2026 which provided an up-date on anti-fraud and error activity in 2025-26. This included delivery of fraud awareness sessions to employees.

1.6 Procurement – Reports relating to procurement were received in September 2025 and March 2026. This area is considered under the private part of the agenda and are progress reports summarising procurement activity considered by the Procurement Board and Panels in the relevant period, as well as providing details of savings made. The reports also provided assurance around the effectiveness of governance arrangements for Procurement Board and Panels and details of exceptions to Contract Procedure Rules which had been granted. The Committee in considering these reports noted the content of reports and sought assurance around specific activity highlighted.

1.7 Salaries – Within its terms of reference, the Committee is responsible for determining any salary or severance package for an employee of the Council (except the Chief Executive) of £100k or over. The Committee received reports in September 2025 and November 2025 linked to the discharge of this function.

1.8 Other - The Audit and Procurement Committee also supports the Council in considering other areas linked to risk management, internal control and governance and in 2025-26, this included the following:

- Whistleblowing Annual Report 2024-25 – This report provided a summary of the concerns raised under the Council's Whistleblowing Policy during the year and the Council's response to the issues. Of the ten whistleblowing disclosures received, in one case, management action was taken to make improvements and in one case, a disciplinary

investigation was instigated. In the remaining eight cases, the matter was not substantiated / further action was not required.

- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Annual Compliance Report – This report focused on providing oversight of the Council's compliance with this Act. There were no directed surveillance applications granted during the year and no reported instances of the Council having misused its powers under the Act.
- Complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2024-25 - This report provided information regarding the number and outcome of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaints received and investigated during 2024-25 along with outlining the actions taken by the Council where a complaint was upheld by the Ombudsman. Of the 101 complaints, 22 were investigated and 17 were upheld. No formal reports of maladministration were issued by the Ombudsman.
- Corporate Risk Register– The Committee received reports relating to the Corporate Risk Register in September 2025 and March 2026. The reports provide details of the current Corporate Risk Register with an overview of the changes since the last Register was considered and details of the controls in place to address identified risks. The Committee noted the Risk Registers having satisfied themselves that risks are being identified and managed.
- Information Governance Annual Report 2024-25 – This report considered the Council's performance in relation to handling requests for information, managing data protection security incidents and completing data protection training, as well as highlighting the outcome of internal reviews carried out by the Council and complaints considered by the Information Commissioners Office. The Council completed 87% of FOI requests on time and 71% of Subject Access Requests. Three Information Commissioners Office complaints were received during the year and three security incidents were reported to the Information Commissioners Office.
- Coventry Municipal Holdings– This report provided assurance that the Council's trading entities have adhered to the requirements under the Group Governance Agreement and confirmed that the accounts for all active companies for the year ending 31st March 2025 had received unqualified audit opinions.

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Public report Council

Council

8 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member Community Safety and Cohesion – Councillor J McNicholas

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

Woodlands and Tile Hill and Canley

Title:

Community Governance Review – Allesley and Keresley

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

The Council has received a valid petition under Section 83(2), Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act).

The Council must now respond to the petition and undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR).

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process that allows a Council to review and, where appropriate, change parish boundaries, parish council arrangements and other community governance structures to ensure they continue to reflect local identities and support effective and convenient local government. The review involves public consultation and is conducted in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The petition requests that the Council:

“Change the Allesley Parish Council boundary to remove the built-up areas of Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownhill Green from the parish.”

Council is asked to note the receipt of a valid petition and the duty to undertake a Community Governance Review and to approve the terms of reference.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended:-

1. To approve that a Community Governance Review (CGR) be undertaken for Allesley and Keresley Parishes in line with the proposed terms of reference attached to the report at Appendix 2.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion the Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel and relevant Ward Councillors, to agree the draft recommendations after the initial consultation has been concluded.
3. To note that further consultation will then be carried out prior to the final recommendations being prepared and submitted to Council for approval.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – The petition wording and maps

Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review

Background papers:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Community Governance Review guidance - [Community governance reviews: guidance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/community-governance-reviews)

Association of Electoral Administrators – Community Governance Review guidance

Other useful documents

None.

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 – A report on this matter was considered by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion meeting on 23 July 2026.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 8 September 2026

Report title: Community Governance Review – Allesley and Keresley

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 83(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, a valid petition has been received requesting that a Community Governance Review (CGR) be conducted in relation to Allesley Parish. This is a completely separate legal process to the Council's Petition Scheme.
- 1.2 The Council must now respond to the petition and undertake a CGR.
- 1.3 The petition requests that the Council:

“Change the Allesley Parish Council boundary to remove the built-up areas of Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownhill Green from the parish.”

- 1.4 Under the 2007 Act, the Council has a duty to keep the community governance arrangements in place in the area under review. The Government's guidance suggests that a Council should do every 10-15 years.
- 1.5 This would require reviewing the arrangements for existing Parish Councils and exploring whether there is adequate community governance in the unparished areas of the City.
- 1.6 Coventry City Council has not undertaken a full review of community governance since the 2007 Act was implemented.
- 1.7 In response to the petition, the Council must now undertake a CGR, with terms of reference that consider the matters raised in the petition. This is a matter reserved for Full Council.
- 1.8 It should also be noted that the Council may choose to widen the terms of reference to consider other matters, such as:
 - Consider the impact of any changes on neighbouring areas. The petition requests that certain areas are removed from the Allesley Parish Council area (as outlined in the map at Appendix 1). This would leave unparished areas in between the Allesley and Keresley Parish Council areas. The CGR could consider whether this is what the residents want or is there an alternative, for example moving those areas into the Keresley Parish Council area with the rest of Tamworth Road.
 - Reviewing all parish council arrangements in the city. This would consider the boundaries, number of Councillors and other arrangements for Allesley Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council and Finham Parish Council.
 - Carrying out a review covering the whole city. This would include the options above and whether any new Parish Councils or other forums should be created.
- 1.9 A consultation exercise must be carried out, with particular attention to those residents potentially affected by the outcomes of the CGR. This would specifically be aimed at residents within the Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownhill Green areas, as

well as the residents in the rest of the Parish Council area. However, any consultation would need to be open to all Coventry residents.

- 1.10 As outlined above, this consultation could also specifically include residents of the adjacent Keresley Parish Council, given the potential knock-on impact on Keresley.
- 1.11 In accordance with the legislation, the Council must complete this CGR within 12 months of receiving the petition. The petition was received on 17 February 2026.
- 1.12 The terms of reference and timetable for the CGR are subject of this report. There will be at least one round of consultation to seek views and then a further round of consultation based on the Council's draft proposals. These would then inform the final decision, to be made by Council.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Option 1 – To carry out a CGR which only responds to the direct request made in the petition, that the named areas should be removed from the Allesley Parish Council area. This is not recommended due to the potential knock-on impact on Keresley.
- 2.2. Option 2 – The review could consider the CGR for all three parish councils in the city. This is not recommended as Finham Parish Council has only been in existence for 10 years.
- 2.3. Option 3 – To conduct a CGR covering the parishes of Allesley and Keresley, as the proposal will potentially have a knock-on impact on Keresley. This is the recommended option.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. The receipt of the petition under the 2007 Act puts the Council under a statutory duty to undertake a CGR and as such no consultation is required in relation to the recommendations in this report.
- 3.2. Following approval by Council there will then be a consultation which will take place for a period of 4 weeks.
- 3.3. Once the consultation has closed the responses will be collated and analysed and the Council will need to consider its draft recommendations for the any changes, this will determine if there needs to be a further consultation exercise. It is proposed that authority be delegated to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion the Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel and relevant Ward Councillors to agree the draft recommendations after the initial consultation has been concluded.
- 3.4. If there are any changes proposed, then draft recommendations will be prepared and a further consultation will be carried out prior to the final recommendations being prepared and approved by Council.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The timetable for the CGR is detailed below:

Description	Dates
Terms of Reference agreed by Council	8 September 2026
Initial Consultation commences	9 September 2026
Initial Consultation finishes	9 October 2026
Draft recommendations	w/c 12 October 2026
	19 October 2026
Consultation with Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion and Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel (with relevant ward Councillors also invited)	w/c 26 October 2026
Consultation on draft recommendations commences	9 November 2026
Consultation on draft recommendations finishes	10 December 2026
Review consultation responses and prepared final recommendations	w/c 13 December
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion report published	23 December 2026
Council Agenda published	4 January 2027
Cabinet Member for Community Safety Meeting	7 January 2027
Council Meeting	12 January 2027
Order Made	TBC
Register of Electors republished	1 February 2027
Parish Elections	6 May 2027

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

5.1. Financial Implications

5.2. The financial implications to the Council of completing a community governance review relate to the cost of the consultation exercises which will be met from within existing resources.

5.3. If any Parish Council footprints were to be changed following the review, then this would have a direct impact on the number of properties paying the relevant Parish Council precept and could therefore impact on the local Parish Council's finances. The amount of Council Tax received for services provided by the Council would be unaffected.

5.4. Legal Implications

- 5.5. The Council is legally required to respond to the petition for a CGR. The CGR will be undertaken in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and supplementary guidance. This is due to the fact that the Council is obliged to undertake a review which has been requisitioned following the submission of a valid petition.

6. Other implications

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

- 6.2. Ensuring that a community governance review is conducted enables residents to consider if their area reflects local identities and supports effective and convenient local government. It contributes to the enabling priority of the Council's role as a partner, enabler and leader.

6.3. How is risk being managed?

There is no ongoing risk.

6.4. What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.5. Equalities / EIA?

This decision does not impact on Equalities.

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

Not applicable.

6.7. Implications for partner organisations?

The CGR will impact on the Parish Councils affected by the review. They will be included in all consultation exercises and have the opportunity to submit their views.

Report author(s):

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	14/08/26	14/08/26
Other Members				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Ewan Dewar	Head of Finance (Deputy s151)	Finance	14/08/26	14/08/26
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal & Procurement Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	14/08/26	26/08/26
Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	-	14/08/26	17/08/26
Members: Cllr John McNicholas	Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion	-	26/08/26	26/08/26

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

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Wording of Petition and Maps

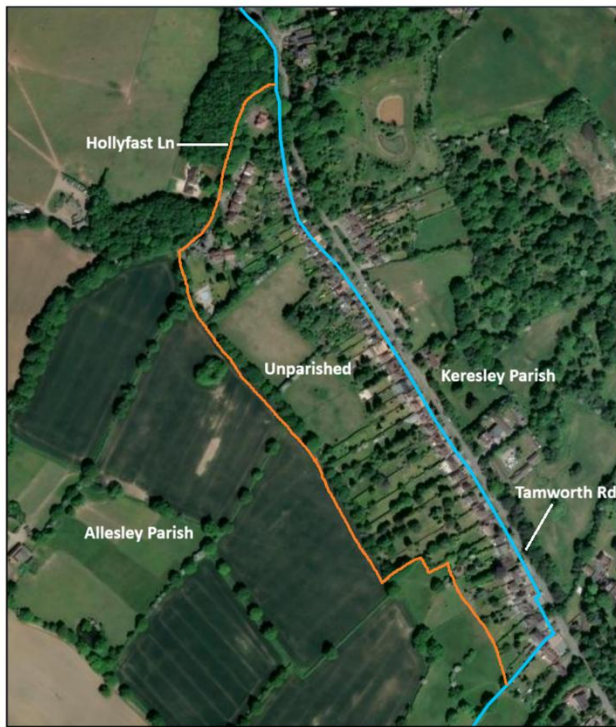
The petition requests that the Council:

“Change the Allesley Parish Council boundary to remove the built-up areas of Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownshill Green from the parish.”

The maps below and accompanying commentary were submitted by the petitioners to explain the areas that they were concerned about and what they wished to happen as part of the review.



Map source: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/coventry



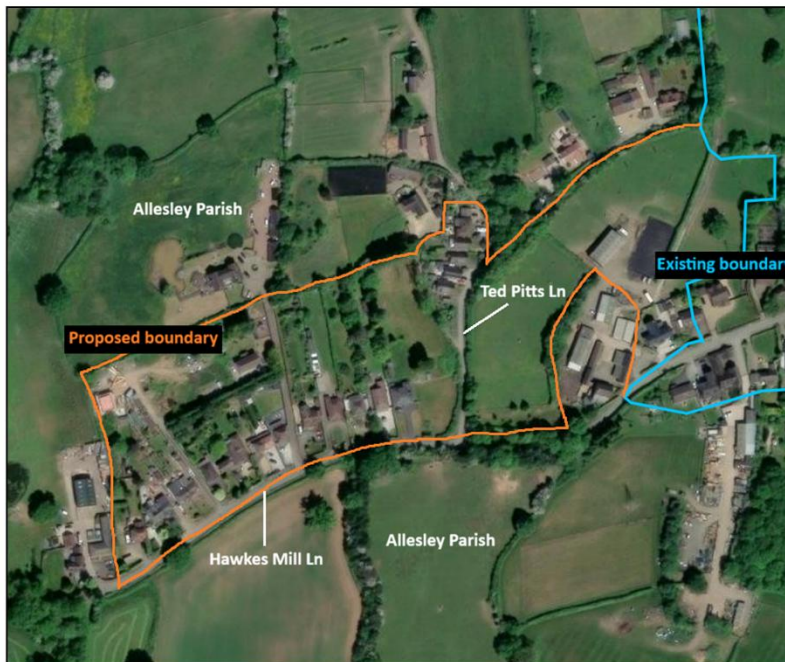
Brownhill Green **(Tamworth Road)**

Boundary to be redrawn around properties on Tamworth Road and Hollyfast Lane as shown by **orange** line.

Blue line indicates existing parish boundary.

We recommend this part becomes **unparished**.

Map source: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/coventry

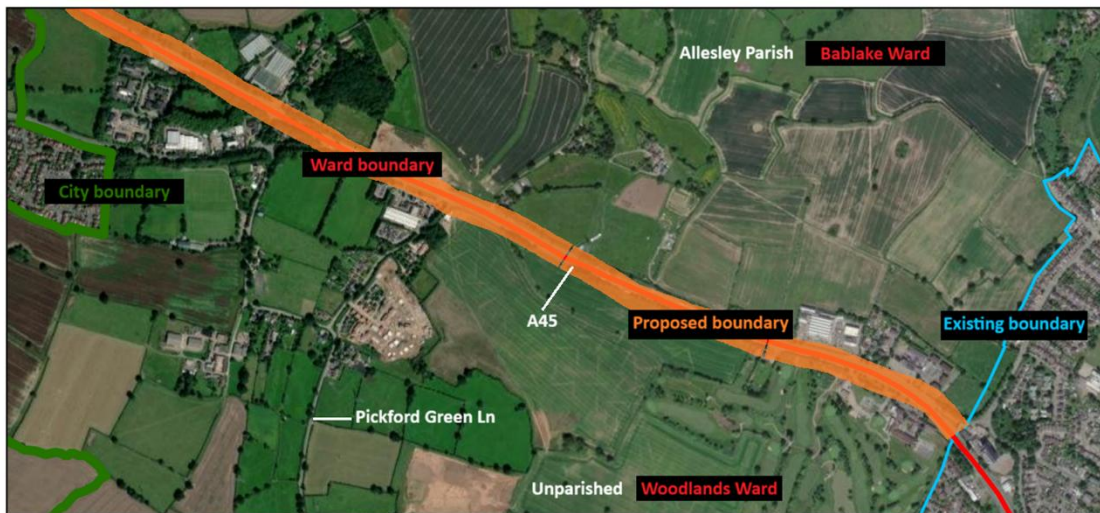


Brownhill Green **(Hawkes End)**

Boundary to be redrawn around properties on Hawkes Mill Lane and Ted Pitts Lane as shown by **orange** line.

Blue line indicates existing parish boundary.

Map source: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/coventry



Pickford Green & Eastern Green

Boundary to be redrawn along A45 as shown by **orange** line.

Blue line indicates existing parish boundary. **Red** line indicates ward boundary. **Green** line indicates city boundary.

We recommend Pickford Green & Eastern Green (south of A45) become **unparished**.

Map source: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/coventry

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Community Governance Review

Parishes of Allesley and Keresley

Terms of Reference

Community Governance Review – Parishes of Allesley and Keresley

Introduction

Coventry City Council has received a valid petition from local electors requesting a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Allesley Parish.

The petition proposes that the built-up areas of Pickford Green & Eastern Green, Brownshill Green (Hawkes End), Brownshill Green (Browns Lane) and Brownshill Green (Tamworth Road) be removed from Allesley Parish.

One of the areas in the petition is adjacent to Keresley parish (Tamworth Road) and as the Council has not conducted a CGR in the last 10-15 years as required by the guidance which we have to have regard to, so the CGR has been extended to the area to include Keresley parish.

The Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Legal Framework

In undertaking this review the Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended)
- the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

What is a Community Governance Review (CGR)?

A CGR is a review of the whole or part of the City area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- Constituting, retaining or dissolving parish councils
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and

- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping

Reason for the Community Governance review?

The reasons for the review are:

- As a result of a valid petition which asks Coventry City Council to change the Allesley Parish Council boundary to remove the built-up areas of Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownhill Green from the parish.
- The petition area is adjacent to Keresley parish and therefore may have some implications for this parish.
- Also as a significant period has elapsed since the last review.
- There is also some large scale new developments in these two parishes which can be considered as part of the review. The Council will take account of committed residential development and forecast electorate growth when considering future governance arrangements, to ensure recommendations remain effective beyond the immediate review period.

Considerations of a Community Governance Review

Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to consider the need to secure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- b) effective and convenient.

In doing so the review will take into account:

- a) the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- b) the size, population and boundaries of the local community.

The review cannot take into account the external boundaries of the City or the City ward boundaries it only extends to parishes.

In conducting the review, the Council will have due regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and will seek to ensure that all sectors of the community have an opportunity to participate in the review process.

Scope of this Review

Coventry City Council has resolved to undertake a CGR to consider the requests in the petition and to establish if the electoral arrangements for both Allesley and Keresley parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate.

This review seeks to ascertain the most appropriate boundary alignment and

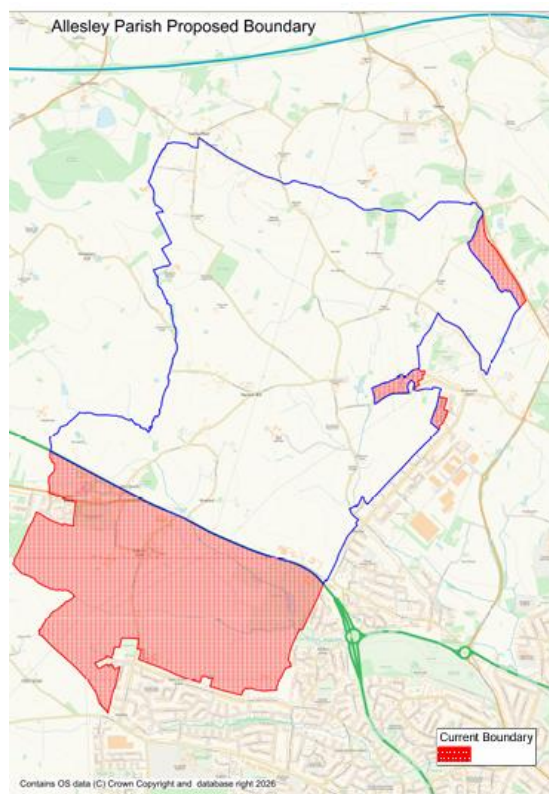
governance arrangements for the parishes.

The current electorate and property numbers, as of 1st August 2026, for the parishes are below together with maps of the current parish boundaries.

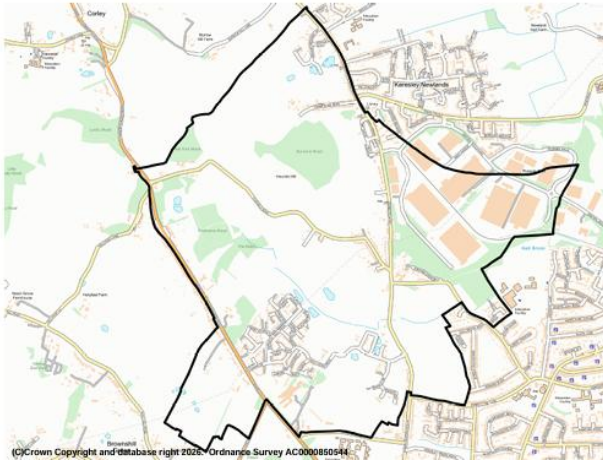
Parish	Electorate	Properties
Allesley	1137	1363
Keresley	1839	2524

In conducting this review, the Council will consider the electorate forecasts for the next five years based on the planned large developments within the Parishes.

Allesley Parish Map (4 areas in red are the subject of the petition)



Keresley Parish Map



Who will undertake the community governance review?

The review will be carried out by Coventry City Council.

The review will be overseen by the Council, with all formal decisions required by the legislation being made by the Council in line with the Council's constitution.

The review will comply with the legislative and procedural requirements set out in the 2007 Act, as well as statutory guidance. This includes guidance produced jointly by The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and issued under section 100 of the 2007 Act. This review will follow the approach set out in these Terms of Reference, including the following indicative timetable

Timetable for review

Date	Action
8 September 2026	Council to approve Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review
9 September – 9 October 2026	Formal initial Community Governance Review consultation – with residents and other consultees as noted below
w/c 12 October 2026	Consideration of responses and drafting of recommendations
9 November – 10 December 2026	Further public consultation on Draft Recommendations
w/c 13 December 2026	Formulation of final recommendations
12 January 2027	Final recommendations to be considered by Full Council
February 2027	Reorganisation Order made
May 2027	Parish council elections to be held under any new arrangements that may be decided.

This document is being published on our website at: www.coventry.gov.uk and a printed copy may be viewed at the Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR during normal business hours.

Consultation

The Council has now drawn up and now publishes this Terms of Reference document. This document lays out the aims of the review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies that the Council considers important in the review.

In coming to its recommendations in a Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult with local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review and to take representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the LGPIHA 2007.

The Council will consult in an appropriate manner within the review area ensuring

that those affected are given the opportunity to respond. In accordance with the LGPIHA 2007, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account and consultees will be informed of the outcome of the Review.

The Council will consider all the representations and then publish draft proposals and the reasons behind them. There will then be a further period of time for people to comment on the draft proposals before the final proposals are agreed.

Before publishing final recommendations, in line with legislative requirements, the Council will take full account of the views of local people. The Council will comply with legislative requirements by,

- a) consulting local government electors for the area under review;
- b) publish information on the Council's website;
- c) consult any other person or body which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review
- d) inform Allesley Parish and Keresley Parish Councils
- e) inform relevant City Councillors;
- f) take into account any representations received in connection with the review.
- g) the Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

When taking account of written representations the Council is bound to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review is:

- a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area;
- b) effective and convenient.

In order to ensure that this review is conducted transparently, as soon as practicable the Council will publish its recommendations and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

This will consist of two phases of consultation. The first seeks the initial views in relation to the petition proposals and to establish if the electoral arrangements for both Allesley and Keresley parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate. and desires of local residents, groups and stakeholders, and will form the basis of the draft recommendations. The second phase will seek views upon those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.

Consultation and awareness raising will consist of various communication methods, such as leaflet drops, media posts (digital and printed), and each will explain how residents and stakeholders can submit their views.

The present structure of parishes and their electoral

arrangements in the review area

Present structure of parish governance in the area

Currently Allesley Parish Council consists of polling districts Ag, Ac and Sc. Ag and Ac are in Bablake Ward and Sc is in Woodlands Ward, this is following the Local Government Boundary Review (LGBR) which was implemented at the elections in May 2026. Prior to that all of Allesley Parish was in Bablake Ward. Keresley Parish Council is within the Bablake Ward and consists of one polling district Ae. The remainder of Bablake Ward and Woodlands Ward are unparished.

1. Allesley Parish Council are set to have 8 Councillors following the LGBR, 2 for Allesley Ward and 6 for Eastern Green Ward, serving an electorate of 1,137. This equates to a ratio of 142 electors to one Councillor, the LGBCE based their recommendation on the forecasted electorate as at 2029. This is due to developments in the Eastern Green area which are either under construction or not yet started.
2. Keresley Parish Council currently has five elected Councillors, serving an electorate of 1,839. This equates to a ratio of 368 electors to one Councillor.

The value of local councils

Local parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at a local level and we want to ensure that local governance in the area of the existing Council continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it.

Parish councils have a key role to play in representing the views and promoting the needs of the borough's local communities and neighbourhoods and every opportunity should be afforded to them to express such views to the new unitary authority prior to any decisions taken which might affect local circumstances.

Other (non-parish) forms of community governance

The Council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance. There may be other arrangements for community representation or community engagement in an area, including area committees, neighbourhood management programmes, tenant management organisations, area or community forums, residents' and tenants' associations or community associations, which may be more appropriate to some areas than parish councils.

The Council will be mindful of such other forms of community governance in its consideration of whether parish governance is most appropriate. However, the Council also notes that what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government with directly elected representatives, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possessing specific powers for which they are democratically accountable.

Parish boundaries

The Council considers that 'natural' settlements, or settlements as they are defined in the Local Development Framework, should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries. The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes should where possible either reflect the 'no-man's land' between communities represented by areas of low population or by identifiable physical barriers. These physical barriers might include natural boundaries such as rivers or man-made features such as railways or roads. In the event of emparishment the council will endeavour to select boundaries that are, and are likely to remain, easily identifiable as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

Electoral arrangements and councillor representation

An important part of the Review will be to consider the 'Electoral Arrangements' and this will cover how a council is constituted for any parish established by this review, comprising the following:

- The ordinary year in which elections are held;
- The number of Councillors to be elected to the council;
- The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing Councillors;
- The number and boundaries of any such wards;
- The number of Councillors to be elected for any such wards; and
- The name of any such wards.

The Local Government Act 1972 states that ordinary election of Parish Councillors shall take place every fourth year. However, parish elections may be held in other years to coincide with the cycle for the principal Council, so that the costs of elections can be shared. If the Review finds that it will be appropriate to hold an

election for Parish Councillors, for a newly formed parish, at an earlier date than the next scheduled ordinary elections, the terms of office of any newly elected Parish Councillors will be so reduced as to enable the electoral cycle to revert to the normal cycle in the area at the next ordinary elections.

The number of Parish Councillors for each parish council must not be less than five. There is no maximum number and there are no rules relating to the allocation of Councillors. There are, however, guidelines produced both by the National Association of Local Councils and by the Aston Business School and the Council will be mindful of these during the review. The Government's guidance is that "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities."

Consequential Matters

A Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property;
- The setting of precepts for new parishes;
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

In these matters the Council will be guided by the 2007 Act and the Regulations that have been issued under it, including the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

Regulations regarding the transfer of property, rights and liabilities require that any apportionments shall use the population of the area as estimated by the Proper Officer of the Council as an appropriate proportion. The Regulations regarding the establishment of a precept for a new parish require the Council to calculate the first anticipated precept for a newly constituted parish council and for the amount of that precept to be included in the Reorganisation Order.

How to contact us

If you would like to say how you view potential future arrangements under these Terms of Reference, please respond to the online consultations on the Coventry City Council website:

The survey will also be available in other formats, please email electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 3034



Public Report Council

Council

8 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member Community Safety and Cohesion – Councillor J McNicholas

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Flexible Voting Pilots – May 2027

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

The Government's manifesto committed to encouraging greater participation in our democracy through modernising the voting experience. To support this the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has invited local authorities to apply to take part in Flexible Voting Pilots at elections in May 2027. The programme is intended to gather further evidence about voter behaviour, accessibility and operational delivery before wider decisions are made on future electoral reform.

The 2027 programme follows four pilot schemes delivered during the May 2026 local elections. The preferred models for 2027 are early in-person voting and voting hubs, although authorities may propose alternative approaches with additional justification.

The pilots may offer opportunities to improve convenience, accessibility and inclusion for electors, while supporting evidence-based service design. Participating authorities must be able to demonstrate robust governance, operational capacity, risk management, evaluation arrangements and financial record keeping. Government funding will be available for

approved pilots, with the final amount depending on the nature and scale of the proposed pilot.

This report asks Council to consider whether Coventry City Council should submit an application to participate in the 2027 programme. This opportunity would present Coventry with a chance to be involved in modernisation pilots using digital innovation to advance accessibility and inclusive participation. The application deadline for submitting an application to participate is 15 September 2026.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Note the Government invitation to apply to participate in Flexible Voting Pilots at the May 2027 elections.
2. Approve that Coventry City Council should submit an application to participate in the 2027 Flexible Voting Pilots programme for early in person voting and on the day voting hub(s) as outlined in paragraph 2.4 of this report.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer (following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion and Leaders of all Political Groups), to finalise and submit the application by the stated deadline.
4. Subject to the receipt of Ministerial approval of Coventry being selected to participate in the 2027 Flexible Voting Pilots programme, delegate authority to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities to approve the terms for the pilot and the funding arrangements and to finalise the arrangements and enter into any required legal agreements.
4. Note that, if the application is approved, a further implementation plan will be developed covering delivery, consultation, communications, risk, evaluation and financial management, this will be monitored by the Electoral Strategy Board which meets regularly from October to June for each election.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Prospectus Flexible Voting Pilots 2027

Electoral Commission Report – 2026 Flexible voting pilots evaluation - [2026 flexible voting pilots evaluation | Electoral Commission](#)

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

No

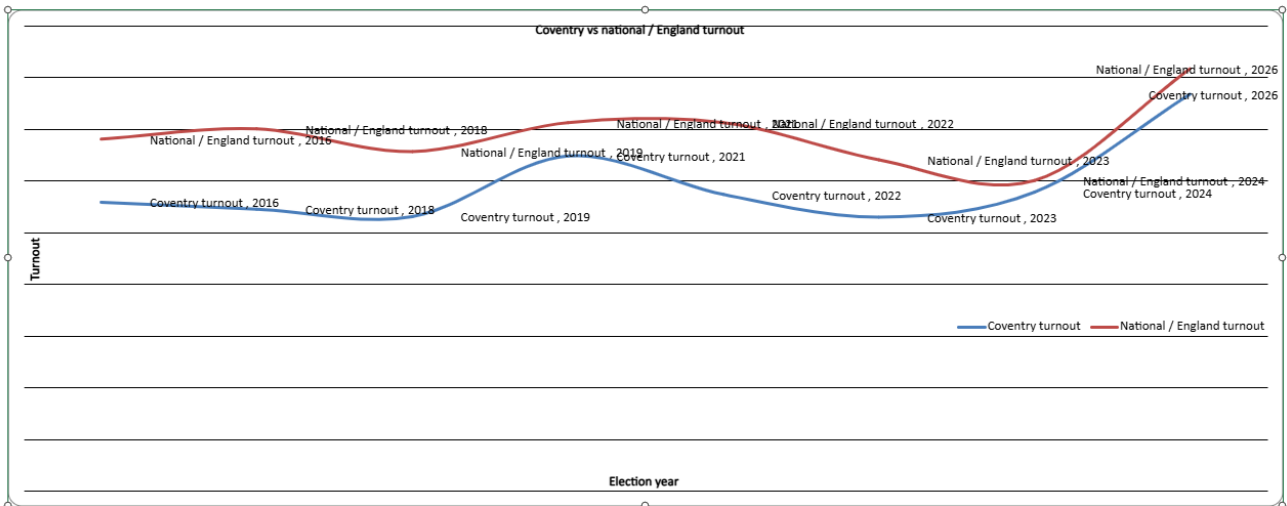
Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 8 September, 2026

Report title: Flexible Voting Pilots 2027

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The Government has invited local authorities to apply to take part in Flexible Voting Pilots at elections in May 2027. The stated purpose is to strengthen the evidence base on voter behaviour, accessibility and operational delivery before wider decisions are made about future electoral reform. The programme follows four English pilot schemes delivered in May 2026, covering early in-person voting and voting hubs.
- 1.2. It is the duty of the Returning Officer & Electoral Registration Officer to promote voter registration, democratic engagement and improve turnout at all elections. This has been done in a number of ways in Coventry, through communications campaigns, elector mailings and continuously working on our democratic engagement strategy. However, we know we need to do more. Over the last decade, turnout has generally been below the wider England or national election comparator in Coventry as detailed in the table below. There therefore remains scope to consider whether additional voting options could support participation, particularly where barriers relate to convenience, accessibility or awareness.



- 1.3. The terms, success criteria and evaluation of the pilots will be decided by MHCLG in consultation with the Returning Officer. However, it is likely that the two key aims of the pilot will be to evaluate:
- a) The success and cost of digitalisation of polling stations (this does not extend to online voting or counting just polling station registers) and real time communication with a central voting hub; and
 - b) The success of convenience and accessibility enhancements.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Option 1 – Not to apply to do a flexible voting pilot. The Council would not participate in the 2027 Flexible Voting Pilots programme. This would avoid additional operational complexity but would mean Coventry does not contribute local evidence to the national pilot program. There would also be a lost opportunity to potentially increase

voter turnout and affording Coventry residents of more opportunities to participate and for greater accessibility.

- 2.2. Option 2 – Apply for early in person voting only. Electors would be able to vote before polling day at designated venues and times. This could provide more flexibility for electors there would be careful consideration on the location of venues, staffing, ballot paper security, storage and election processes.
- 2.3. Option 3 – Apply for an on the day voting hub model only. Electors would be able to vote at a voting hub which would be situated in a central location, rather than only at their allocated station on polling day. This could improve convenience, particularly in a high-footfall location, it will require resilient real-time electoral management arrangements, ICT, staff training and contingencies.
- 2.4. Option 4 – Apply for early in person voting and an on the day voting hub(s). Electors would be able to vote before polling day at designated venues and times and at a voting hub which would be situated in a central location, rather than only at their allocated station on polling day. This could improve flexibility and convenience for electors, particularly in a high-footfall location, it will require careful consideration on location of venues, staffing, ballot paper security, storage, resilient real-time electoral management arrangements, ICT, staff training and contingencies.
- 2.5. The recommended proposal is option 4 as this will give the opportunity to test both of the preferred models in the 2027 pilots and help inform any future changes.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. No public consultation has been undertaken at this stage. The current decision is whether to submit an application to the Government pilot programme. Political Groups have been briefed. If the Council submits an application and it is approved, further engagement and communications will be developed with Members, electors, polling station staff, accessibility stakeholders, suppliers and other relevant partners as part of the implementation plan.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The time table is detailed below:

Milestone	Indicative timing
Council decision on whether to proceed with an application	8 September 2026
Submission of application	By the stated deadline of 15 September 2026
Government consideration of applications and confirmation of approved pilots	End of October 2026
Detailed implementation planning, procurement and communications	Following any approval
Delivery of pilot	May 2027 elections
Evaluation, expenditure evidence and lessons learned	Following the election

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

5.1. Financial Implications

5.2. Government funding will be available to support approved pilots through grants and a justification led process. The precise level of funding would depend on the nature and scale of the proposed pilot. Participating authorities would be expected to keep detailed records of expenditure, provide information on pilot costs, support value-for-money assessment and submit evidence of expenditure following the election.

5.3. The pilot would therefore operate at nil cost to Coventry City Council, but there are also potential resource benefits of participating in the trial, as knowledge, software enhancements and hardware would potentially be secured for the Council for future use. Similarly additional funds would be available for a communications plan, which would supplement work to boost engagement generally and key messages ahead of May 2027.

5.4. The pilot will require procurement of software and hardware elements which will be done through the council's procurement rules utilising existing arrangements with electoral print and software suppliers.

5.5. Legal Implications

5.6. If approved, the Council is required to collaborate with MHCLG officers to draft bespoke Statutory Orders for Coventry. These Orders modify the existing legislation to permit the specific change being piloted and must reflect the exact nature of the innovation for the pilot to be legally compliant. It is intended that the Statutory Orders will be in place and signed by January 2027. The regulations providing for electoral administration pilots and governing how they operate are set out in the Representation of the People Act 2000, section 101. The statutory criteria for the Electoral Commission's evaluation of the pilots are also set out in the same section.

6. Other implications

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

6.2. The proposal supports the One Coventry Plan vision of working together to improve the city and the lives of those who live, work and study here. A flexible voting pilot could support improved outcomes and help tackle inequalities by testing whether more convenient or accessible voting arrangements reduce barriers to participation. It may also support the Council's role as a partner, enabler and leader by contributing local evidence to national electoral reform work.

6.3. How is risk being managed?

- 6.4. Key risks include operational capacity, venue availability, ICT resilience, ballot paper security, staff training, voter communications, contingency planning and delivery alongside business-as-usual election activities. These risks would be managed through a detailed project plan, risk register, governance arrangements, supplier engagement, testing, staff training and clear escalation routes.
- 6.5. **What is the impact on the organisation?**
- 6.6. Participation would create additional work for Electoral Services and supporting services, including ICT, procurement, communications, finance and legal. The scale of the impact would depend on the pilot model approved. If an application is successful, the implementation plan will identify staffing, training, technology, accommodation, supplier and communications requirements.
- 6.7. **Equalities / EIA?**
- 6.8. The pilots are intended to support electors who may face barriers to participation, including disabled voters and communities less likely to engage. An Equality Impact Assessment screening should be completed if the Council proceeds, with particular consideration given to disabled voters, older people, young people, people with caring responsibilities, people with limited digital access, and residents who may be less likely to engage with traditional polling arrangements.
- 6.9. **Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?**
- 6.10. No significant climate change or environmental implications have been identified at this stage.
- 6.11. **Implications for partner organisations?**
- 6.12. Participation would involve working with MHCLG, independent evaluators, the Electoral Commission where relevant, venues, electoral management system suppliers, ICT providers and local accessibility or community partners. The implementation plan would set out partner roles and engagement requirements.

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Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	-	14/08/26	17/08/26
Members: Cllr John McNicholas	Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion	-	26/08/26	26/08/26

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Council Meeting

8 September 2026

Booklet 1

Answers to Written Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J McNicholas, Cabinet Member for
Community Safety and Cohesion**

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Can the Cabinet Member inform me of the number of HMO properties in each of the following areas of Tile Hill and Canley that have valid HMO licenses?

Answers below in bold

- 2 - 74 Charter Avenue

36 licensed HMOs

- 223 - 261 Sir Henry Parkes Road (on the Centenary Road side)

7 licensed HMOs

- 190 - 264 Sir Henry Parkes Road (opposite side of the road, up to Canley Fire Station)

26 licensed HMOs

- 1 - 66 Centenary Road

17 licensed HMOs

- 153 - 183 Fletchamstead Highway

11 licensed HMOs

Local residents are concerned at the number of HMO's and the effectiveness of any enforcement / checks as it seems some properties are being extended without local residents being informed.

How many properties have been extended since the original HMO licenses were issued in each of these locations?”

Answer:

All licensed HMOs are subject to a programme of inspection throughout the life of their licence. Typically, this includes:

1. An inspection on application before a licence is granted, enabling the Council to assess the suitability, condition and management of the property and apply appropriate licence conditions.
2. A further inspection to check compliance with licence conditions.
3. An inspection before the licence is renewed.

In addition, inspections may be carried out in response to complaints or intelligence received by the Council.

The HMO licensing regime regulates the management, safety and standards of HMOs. It does not control whether a property can be extended or altered. Matters relating to extensions, alterations and development are considered through the planning and building control process and are subject to the

relevant legislation and consultation requirements. Some extensions may be undertaken through permitted development rights and therefore do not require a planning application.

Planning records show that, within the locations identified, there have been 28 planning applications relating to extensions at licensed HMOs and a further 27 Lawful Development Certificates or Prior Approvals.

2.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Woodlands Ward Greenspace maintenance has deteriorated significantly over the last two years, with the current year being the worst that I have known in my seventeen years as a ward councillor. Residents in Woodlands ward will be among the highest council taxpayers in the city and deserve a much better service than they currently receive.

Answers in bold

Can the Cabinet Member explain why?

An investigation into the concerns raised has been undertaken. It was found that some areas identified as poorly maintained were not Council-owned land and had been removed from maintenance maps while ownership issues were being resolved. Issues identified on Council-managed land have been addressed directly and remedies put in place. Some concerns also related to third-party landowners and reinstatement works following utility excavations. Concerns related to grass cutting are being considered alongside a citywide review of funding for grounds maintenance activities.

What measures will be undertaken to improve the service going forward.

Additional inspections are being undertaken, and acceptable standards have been discussed with teams, along with additional training.

During this hot summer we have seen an increase in wildfires across the country which puts some areas in Coventry at risk of wildfires. Allesley Green has a vast area of greenspace that has been allowed grow significantly, in addition to one side of the estate backs on to the Windmill Village golf course. How many areas in the city do we have that are in a similar position?

There are currently 44 Low Mow sites across the city which are intentionally managed with reduced cutting frequencies to support biodiversity and improve habitats for pollinators and wildlife.

What measures will be taken to reduce the risk of wildfires to protect residents and their properties?”

We recognise the increased wildfire risk during periods of hot, dry weather and are identifying mitigation measures. These include reviewing

the location of existing sites to ensure that the risks associated with the changing weather conditions are understood. Regularly cut firebreaks adjacent to homes, roads and footpaths, and targeted mowing of higher-risk areas is being implemented along with regular monitoring of sites during prolonged periods of hot dry weather.

3. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Blundell**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Could the Cabinet Member please supply the number of missed bin collection (those not collected on the due day) there have been over the past 3 and 6 months and what provision is made for collection of such. Also, how many communications have the council received over the past 3 months and 6 months regarding missed bin collections.”

Answer:

Between March and August 2026 (last 6 months), the Council received 6,103 reports of missed bins. Of these, 4,035 reports were received during June, July and August. During the same six-month period, the service was scheduled to collect approximately 4.22 million bins (4,221,224). The reported missed bins therefore represent around 0.14% of all scheduled collections.

Reports increased during the June, July and August alongside periods of extreme hot weather, which affected working conditions, placed additional pressure on collection operations and contributed to service delays. Access issues and other operational challenges also affect the Council’s ability to complete some collections on their scheduled day. These figures only represent missed bins reported to the Council, so the actual number of delayed or incomplete collections may have been higher.

4. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Reddy**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor L Kelly, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“With around 2.15 million electric cars now running on UK roads (July 2026), how will we manage the increasing number of EV batteries reaching end of life, potentially generating up to 100,000 ton of battery waste every year?

Could we give consider to the proposed Coventry gigafactory at Greenpower Park by integrating EV battery recycling, reuse and remanufacturing into the facility?

This is a great opportunity which can turn an environmental challenge into a major industrial opportunity—creating jobs, recovering critical materials, strengthening the UK supply chain, and positioning Coventry as a national and international leader in the circular battery economy.”

Answer:

The planning permission for Greenpower Park is for battery manufacturing with associated recycling facilities and this would allow us to accommodate recycling, reuse and remanufacturing of batteries on the site.

A new planning application is being prepared that will allow a broader range of advanced manufacturing activities at Greenpower, but this will not prevent battery manufacturing with associated recycling from coming forward.

Battery manufacturers will be keen to co-locate with recycling facilities, or to establish their own in order to minimise waste and maximise the value of the raw materials used in their manufacturing processes, and the work that we have done so far with Greenpower Park puts us in a good position to make the most of these opportunities and create good quality jobs for Coventry people.

5.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Reddy

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“At the June 2026 Council meeting, it was confirmed that evening parking charges have generated £596,044 in income since their introduction in November 2023. It was also subsequently reported that no information was available to explain the increase in evening parking transactions recorded in February and April 2025.

Answers in bold

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

1. Whether the Council has undertaken any assessment of the economic impact of evening parking charges on Coventry city centre businesses, particularly restaurants, cafés, hospitality venues and other businesses’ that rely on the evening economy.

A specific impact assessment has not been undertaken to evaluate the effect of evening parking charges on businesses; available city centre performance indicators do not suggest that the introduction of nighttime parking charges has resulted in a decline in activity.

2. Whether any analysis has been carried out comparing the additional income generated by evening parking charges with any impacts on city centre footfall, business activity, trade levels or business closures.

Parking income is monitored on an ongoing basis. However, our monitoring considers all parking income and activity rather than assessing evening parking income separately from income generated during other periods of the day.

3. What business engagement, consultation, surveys, footfall data or economic evidence has been used to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy.

The introduction of standard evening parking charges was approved by Cabinet in November 2023 due to the prevailing financial climate at that time and was not subject to wider business engagement or consultation.

It should be noted that the car park charging structure is consistent with other towns and cities across the region.

4. Whether the Council has now identified the reasons for the significant increases in evening parking income and transactions during February and April 2025, and if so, what those reasons were.

At this stage, the fluctuations in parking income recorded during February and April 2025 cannot be attributed to a specific cause, as they may have been influenced by a range of prevailing factors at the time, including weather conditions, local events and attractions, and the availability of parking spaces.

5. If no economic impact assessment has been undertaken, whether the Cabinet Member will commit to carrying out a review of the effect of evening parking charges on Coventry's evening and night-time economy."

It is acknowledged that a range of economic factors, including inflationary pressures and increases in parking charges, may influence the nighttime economy. However, these factors should not be considered in isolation. The performance of the nighttime economy is affected by a variety of additional considerations, including the quality and availability of leisure and entertainment opportunities, levels of consumer confidence, perceptions of safety, and access to public transport, and any assessment should adopt a holistic approach, taking account of the full range of contributing factors rather than focusing on individual influences in isolation.

It is recommended that parking charges form part of the Council's annual review of fees and charges. The outcome of this review should be used to inform the budget-setting process for 2027/28.

It should be noted that city centre performance indicators do not suggest that the introduction of nighttime parking charges has resulted in a decline in activity. The most recent data shows that:

- **Coventry city centre footfall increased by 16.8% compared with June 2025.**
- **Footfall between January and July 2025 was 6.4% higher than during the same period in 2024.**
- **July 2025 footfall was 5.1% higher than in July 2024.**

6.	QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services
	TEXT OF QUESTION: “Given the continuing problem of fly-tipping across Coventry, what assessment has the Council made of whether the mandatory booking system at the Household Recycling and Reuse Centre creates unnecessary barriers for residents wishing to dispose of their waste responsibly, and will the Cabinet Member review whether the booking requirement remains necessary?” Answer: The Council has not identified any evidence that the tip booking system has increased levels of fly-tipping in Coventry. The system helps manage demand and ensure residents can access the site safely and efficiently, with appointments generally readily available. The booking system helps ensure that the site remains available for Coventry residents. By verifying residency and managing demand, it reduces the risk of significant use by people from outside the city, helping to protect capacity, control costs and maintain access for Coventry residents at the cities only site. The Council recognises that some residents may face barriers in accessing the site. To help address this, the Bringing the Tip to You service is trialling an alternative way for residents to responsibly dispose of bulky household items within areas that experience high levels of fly tipping and other environmental antisocial behaviour. Data relating to fly-tipping, Bringing the Tip to You and use of the Tip is closely monitored. At present, there is no evidence to suggest that the booking system is contributing to fly-tipping levels in Coventry. The Council will continue to monitor both fly-tipping trends and usage of the site to ensure the arrangements remain effective and meet the needs of residents.

7.	QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J McNicholas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion
	TEXT OF QUESTION: “How many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Coventry during 2025/26, how many resulted in the person responsible being identified, and how many resulted in fixed penalty notices, prosecutions or other enforcement action?” “What was the total cost to the Council of investigating, clearing and disposing of fly-tipped waste during 2025/26, and how does this compare with each of the previous three financial years?”

Answer:

In 2025/26, activity included 1,044 written warnings, 929 formal notices, 139 FPNs, 117 duty-of-care inspections and 4 prosecutions

The costs of investigating, clearing and disposing of fly-tipped waste are incurred across multiple service areas and two Directorates.

Fly-tipping enforcement, investigation and associated environmental crime activity are undertaken as part of the wider Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, which delivers a range of statutory enforcement functions across the city.

The actual expenditure of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service was:

Financial Year	Actual Expenditure (£m)
2023/24	1.592
2024/25	1.360
2025/26	1.473

As Neighbourhood Enforcement officers undertake a wide range of duties, including environmental crime enforcement, littering, waste-related investigations and other regulatory functions, it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the proportion of these costs attributable solely to fly-tipping investigations, clearance and disposal without undertaking a detailed manual analysis. Consequently, the Council does not hold a verified figure for the total annual cost of fly-tipping activity alone.

8.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“How many enquiries and requests for treatment of rat infestations has the Council received during 2024/25 and so far in 2026/27, and how does this compare with previous years?”

What is the current number of outstanding cases awaiting treatment, what is the average waiting time for an appointment, and what measures is the Council taking to reduce the backlog and ensure residents experiencing rat infestations receive timely treatment?”

Answer:

Numbers relating to enquiries and requests for rat treatments are not separately recorded. Where an enquiry leads to a treatment being undertaken the numbers are shown below.

Rat treatments undertaken over the last 5 years.

Year	Treatments Undertaken
2022 / 23 (full year)	2457

2023/ 24 (full year)	2518
2024 / 25*	-
2025 /26 (full year)	2054
2026 / 27 (Apr to July)	556

* Please note that the figure for 2024/25 has been omitted due to the implementation of a new data recording system during that period, which means the relevant data is not available.

The current number of outstanding cases waiting for treatment is 437 with the average waiting time to receive a pest control treatment currently being 12 weeks.

Waiting times for pest control services fluctuate significantly throughout the year due to seasonal variations in demand. Requests typically increase during warmer months when pest activity is higher, which can lead to longer response times.

A review of the service was undertaken to identify measures required to protect and enhance the free pest control services provided to residents in the face of increasing demand, while also strengthening the commercial activities that generate income to help support and sustain the service.

As a result, additional funding has been allocated to the service and recruitment is underway to increase staffing levels, strengthen operational capacity and resilience, and improve response times for residents.

9.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor A Albert

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Following the reported loss of a substantial number of ICT assets, considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee on 2 February 2026, will the Cabinet Member please provide the following information:

- How the differing reported figures of approximately 210, 300 and up to 500 missing laptops can be reconciled?
- The verified number and value of these devices lost or remaining unaccounted for?
- How the loss, insurance recovery, reported £100,000 excess and any unrecovered balance were recorded in the Council's accounts?
- Evidence that the strengthened ICT asset-management controls are operating effectively.

Answer:

As reported to Audit and Procurement Committee in February 2026, a Page 181 was raised in 2022 that a number of laptops had been misappropriated. The

matter was reported to the police, and they undertook a criminal investigation which resulted in a prosecution. The prosecution was concluded in July 2025 and the individual pleaded guilty to the theft of 210 laptops. Further information regarding the investigation into the incident and reconciliation of assets is retained by the police. Separately, the Council received a payout of £190k from its insurers. Following the incident, Digital Services took immediate steps to strengthen the controls in place to manage the risk of theft and have worked closely with Internal Audit to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place. More recently, the Service have implemented a specific software package to provide a robust solution to managing digital assets.

10. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Can the Cabinet Member give us a breakdown by type of the total number of items of IT equipment/electronic including phones that have gone missing within the last 5 years.

What was the value cost of these missing items?

Answer:

Since April 2022, the number of Council devices reported lost or stolen by employees / councillors and not recovered were:

Laptops	36
Mobile Phones	85
Tablets	6

It is not possible to calculate a value for these devices.

11. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Can the Cabinet Member explain the procedure for seeking to recover council tax instalments that have just become overdue?

Answer:

If a council tax instalment is missed, a resident is issued with a reminder notice 7 days after the missed instalment. The reminder notice asks the resident to pay the defaulted sum within a further 7 days. If the account is not brought up to date within 7 days, the resident loses the right to pay by instalments and the full annual balance becomes payable. At this point, the resident is issued with a

court summons and the Council seeks a liability order from the Magistrates Court. The liability order provides further enforcement options in the event that payment is not forthcoming.

Council tax collection and enforcement is subject to annual review by the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (SB1) and biennial reviews by internal audit.

12.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor C Phillips

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Please could the Cabinet Member answer the following questions regarding the pilot scheme "Bringing the Tip to You"

- Have any agency workers been utilised to deliver the pilot scheme since its commencement?
- If agency workers have been used, what has been the total cost to the council of agency workers?
- What is the total number of hours worked by agency workers?
- What percentage of the total labour hours worked on the pilot have been undertaken by agency workers, compared with employed Council Staff?"

Answer:

As the Bringing the Tip to You service was initially introduced as a 12-month pilot, the additional workforce required to operate the service has been provided through temporary agency staff. This has allowed the Council to deliver the trial without creating permanent staffing commitments while demand, performance and future service requirements are evaluated.

The exact costs and total hours worked by agency staff on this project are not readily available. Agency workers recruited to deliver the service are paid per hour for the work undertaken and all costs are covered by the funding allocated to the project.

Staff work an average of 35 hours per week and are paid only for the hours they actually work.

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