



Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Time and Date

10.00 am on Wednesday, 24 June, 2026

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

Public Business**1. Apologies and Substitutions****2. Declarations of Interest****3. Minutes**

(a) To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 April 2026 (Pages 3 - 8)

(b) Matters Arising

4. Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 (Pages 9 - 28)

Briefing Note of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5. Scrutiny Management

Councillor R Singh, Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, attended the meeting of Cabinet on 9 June, 2026 for consideration of an item relating to “Approval of the Draft Local Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform Plan Setting out how Coventry Local Area Partnership will deliver the National SEND Reform”.

Councillor Singh agreed that the decision was urgent and that call in should not apply. In accordance with the Constitution, this matter is reported to inform the Committee of the reason for urgency which is:-

“The Local SEND Reform Plan had to be submitted to the Department for Education by 19 June, 2026”.

6. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2026/27 and Outstanding Issues (Pages 29 - 36)

Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

7. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

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

Private Business

Nil

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

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services - Telephone: 024 7697 2299 E-mail: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors F Beechey, J Blundell, J Gardiner, A Kaur (Deputy Chair), M Lapsa, E M Reeves, H Rehman, E Ruane and R Singh (Chair)

Non- Voting Scrutiny Board Chairs by Invitation: Councillors S Jobbar and S Gray

By invitation: Councillors G Duggins, L Kelly, J McNicholas

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>

**Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services - Telephone: 024 7697 2299
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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 9 April 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor G Lloyd (Chair)
Councillor M Ali
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor J McNicholas (Deputy Chair)
Councillor C Miks
Councillor G Ridley
Councillor R Lakha

Other Members
(By Invitation):

Councillor E Reeves
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor L Bigham

Co-optees: Mrs S Hanson
Mr G Vohra

Employees (by Service
Area):

City Services and Commercial P Bowman, M O'Connell

Digital Services P Ward, L Waller

Law and Governance A Veness, G Holmes

Apologies: Councillor G Duggins
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh Sub Cllr R Lakha
Co-optee D Jackson

Public Business

75. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests. It was noted that Councillor Reeves had an interest in the Elective Home Education Task and Finish Group, but as it was deemed not a pecuniary interest she remained in the meeting and took part in the consideration and voting.

76. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

77. **Elective Home Education Task and Finish Group**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Coordinator, that set out the work undertaken by Elective Home Education (EHE) Task & Finish Group and to outline the recommendations based on its findings.

Councillor Lynette Kelly, the chair of the board outlined how the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) had established a Task and Finish Group to examine the growing number of children and young people being electively home educated in the city, aimed at understanding the reasons behind this trend, and to review how effectively the Council and partners are supporting these families. The Board had requested that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee consider the recommendations to enable additional time for scrutiny to take place.

The group aimed to identify practical improvements, highlight gaps in policy or practice, and ensure that Coventry fulfils its statutory responsibilities while supporting positive outcomes for children.

The Task and Finish Group formed its recommendations by drawing together key evidence presented throughout its meetings. The update from the Elective Home Education (EHE) Coordinator highlighted Coventry's strong, relationship-based approach, effective safeguarding practice, and the challenges created by rising EHE numbers and the forthcoming Children's Wellbeing Bill. This context shaped the group's view that Coventry's model should be recognised nationally and that the Education Secretary should be asked to ensure proportionate expectations and provide clearer powers and a compulsory national register.

The Committee asked questions and received responses across a number of topics which, in summary, included:

- That although there was limited data and numbers in the report, this information had been presented to the Task and Finish Group for consideration when identifying findings and recommendations.
- That safe and wellness checks were not automatically carried out on families electing to educate at home unless there were child protection concerns raised. The Task and Finish group had discussed and reported the limited ability to enter homes, the circumstances under which police or social care can intervene, and how these constraints shape case management and safeguarding responses. The group also considered the step-by-step escalation process for non-responsive families, including missing education notices and attendance visits, and explored how safeguarding concerns determine whether a child remains on the home education register, as part of the T&F group work.
- Concerns that if significant numbers of children withdraw from schools, this could have an impact on surplus places.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

1. **Recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:**
 - a. **Write to the Secretary of State for Education to highlight Coventry’s effective, relationship-based home education practice and emphasise the additional burdens the new Children’s Wellbeing Bill will place on Local Authorities.**
 - b. **Engage directly with colleges on expanding 14-16 provision for EHE pupils and use influence to support establishment of Coventry-based provision.**

2. **Add a review of 14–16 and post-16 provision for EHE students, identifying gaps and opportunities to expand access to qualifications to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board work programme for 26/27.**

3. **Note and promote Coventry’s strong safeguarding approach, including effective multi-agency working, its above-minimum offer to families, and the resource implications of rising EHE numbers.**

78. Recommendations from School Attendance Task and Finish Group

The Scrutiny Coordination Committee considered a briefing note by the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, which set out the recommendations arising from the School Attendance task and finish group (T&F) of the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2).

Councillor Mal Mutton the Chair of the Task and Finish Group outlined how at their meeting on 27 November 2025, the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2) agreed to establish a task and finish group to look in more depth at the issues affecting school attendance. The Board requested that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee consider the recommendations to enable additional time for scrutiny to take place.

The task and finish group met twice to look in more detail at what the available data was saying about school attendance, as well as support offered to schools to encourage attendance. It was emphasised that the report contained limited numbers and raw data as this was not a focus of their research at this time.

The Committee asked questions and received responses across a number of topics which, in summary, included:

- Issues surrounding child readiness were recognised by the Council and had been covered in a previous meeting of the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board.

Following discussion officers agreed to circulate information considered by the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board on 26 March 2026 relating to school readiness to members of the board.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

1. **Recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:**

- a. **Support officers to interrogate the available data to identify groups disproportionately affected by or at risk of severe persistent absence in order to identify appropriate early interventions to support those pupils and families.**
- b. **Focus services on early intervention and transition points, maximising the opportunities and resources provided through the proposals in the 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving' white paper and other strategies such as the Belonging Approach and Best Start in Life**

2. That the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) receive a further report in 12 months' time to monitor progress on attendance data and update on the above recommendations.

79. **Parking Services Updates and Future Priorities**

The Scrutiny Coordination Committee considered a briefing note from the Parking Manager outlining on current operational arrangements, performance, and strategic priorities within Coventry City Council's Parking Services, with a particular focus on the various enforcement functions and the management of the Council operated car parks.

Officers outlined how Parking Services delivers a wide range of functions, including:

- Civil Parking Enforcement
- CCTV camera enforcement
- Car Park Management
- Resident Parking Schemes
- Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing, recovery, and appeals.

The enforcement activities referred to above operated under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and result in penalty charge notices being issued to offenders which incur fines and generate an income for the Council.

Penalty charge levels were set by Government, and the charge level was dependant on the type of offence. Fines could be reduced by 50% if paid within a discount period.

Surpluses generated from enforcement activities were ringfenced and could only be used to fund the service, highways improvements, or traffic safety schemes.

Councils were not allowed to use civil parking enforcement to raise revenue to support general funds.

The Committee, asked questions and received responses across a number of topics which, in summary, included:

- The specific details within the new legislation in relation to pavement parking

- That personnel vacancies are in part caused by the difficult conditions and confrontations with members of the public, and that the council was doing everything in its power to support officers in challenging roles.
- That repeat offenders (referred to officially as persistent evaders) are categorised when 3 or more parking offences are neither paid nor appealed, once this happened the council tows the vehicle where possible.
- That the council pays a competitive rate to its officers and is one of few councils who have an in-house service instead of out-sourcing the service, this would be maintained for the foreseeable future.
- That the council does pay similar prices to agency workers (as compared to in house) hired to fill vacancies, this has the added benefit of flexible staffing for specific events and some increased productivity.
- That increased CCTV coverage will be closely monitored and will help with workload but is limited but national legislation in terms of what the cameras can be used for.
- Cameras can't cover the whole of red route lengths but are prioritised on pinch-points to make best use of the resource.

Following discussions officers agreed clarifying legislative changes regarding pavement parking referenced in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 1. Note the actions and initiatives currently being implemented to address key parking and traffic enforcement priorities.**

80. **Offline Support for Residents**

The Scrutiny Coordination Committee considered a briefing note from the Director of Digital Services which formed a pre-policy document establishing the council's commitment to Offline Support for Residents.

Officers emphasised that full details of the proposed policy approach were set out in the pre-policy document appended to the report. (Appendix 1) The proposed purpose of this future policy is to define the Council's approach to ensuring residents have fair and dignified access to services through both digital and offline channels.

Specifically, it was suggested that the Council commit to:

- Guaranteeing alternative access routes for residents who cannot or choose not to use digital channels.
- Providing offline options that are clear, consistent, and accessible.
- Ensuring support is available for residents who require temporary or ongoing assistance.
- Promoting digital inclusion as a continuous process, aligned with resident needs and life circumstances.

The Committee asked questions and received responses across a number of topics which, in summary, included:

- That a policy on this matter was important to ensure equity of access to services.
- That the opportunity for scrutiny to be involved at an early point of developing a strategy was welcomed.
- Concerns that the use of parking apps could potentially become the exclusive method of payment for parking.
- That cash or card should always be an option for financial transactions.
- That the language used and understood by AI chat bots wasn't always user friendly.
- That it was important to support those who do want to access digital routes and need assistance or skills to do so, but to also recognise that there are service users who can't or don't want to use digital methods.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 1. Note the details of the pre-policy document appended to the report. (Appendix 1)**
- 2. Note that the relevant political governance and associated briefings will take place as this moves towards being endorsed for adoption as a formal council policy.**
- 3. Recommend that the Cabinet Member for Adult Services build within the policy that there will be no public facing, online-only method of payment for Council Services**

81. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2025/2026

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance that provided information regarding the Committee's Work Programme and Outstanding Issues for 2025/26. The Committee noted that would be the last meeting of the municipal year, the chair thanked officers and board members for their good work.

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes the Work Programme attached as an appendix to the report.

82. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 4:07pm)



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 24 June 2026

Subject: Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To present the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025-26 to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and recommend that it be submitted to Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- 1) Accept the content of the draft report at Appendix 1
 - 2) Recommend that Council consider the Scrutiny Annual Report at its next available meeting

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Scrutiny report annually to inform Council of its work. The draft report for 2025-26 can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 If approved, the report will be submitted to the next Council meeting.

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Annual report 2025-26

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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 Co-ordination 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](#)

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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



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 Miks

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.

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.

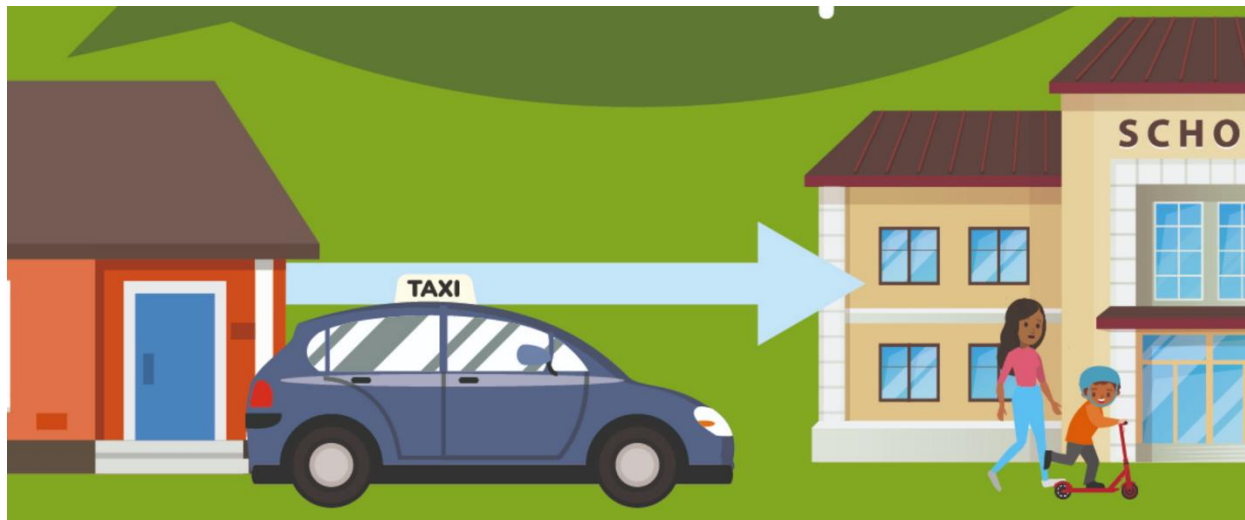
Pre Budget Consultation Report 2026/27



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

Briefing note

To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 24th June 2026

Subject: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2026-27

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide committee members an opportunity to discuss potential items for the work programme 2026-27

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1
 - 2) Identify and agree any additional items for the work programme 2026-27

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The work programme provides a schedule of items for meetings over the coming municipal year. The draft work programme for Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for 2026-27 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Scrutiny work programmes are working documents and will adapt and change over the year to react to Members' requirements. Any item agreed at this meeting does not preclude any future amendments to the work programme.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 There is no impact on health inequalities for these recommendations, but Members may want to consider how identified work programme items may impact on health inequalities.

Appendix 1: SCRUCO Work Programme 2026-27

Gennie Holmes
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Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

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|---|
| 24 June 2026 |
| Scrutiny Annual Report 25/26 Scruco Work Programme 2026-27 |
| 26 August 2026 |
| Cabinet Member Priorities Local Ombudsman Complaints Report City Centre PSPO (Cabinet Report) |
| 16 September 2026 7 October 2026 12 November 2026 16 December 2026 13 January 2027 10 February 2027 11 March 2027 7 April 2027 2026-27 |
| Domestic Abuse Climate Change Offender Management WMCA Integrated Settlement Sherbourne Recycling Plant – possible visit AI - Progress Child Poverty - Systemic Approach The Coventry Skills and Employment Board PSPO reviews – 2027-28 One Coventry Plan KPI's Communications Reputation and Insight Change (Transformation) Programme update Youth Justice |

| Date | Title | Detail | Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 24 June 2026 | Scrutiny Annual Report 25/26 | To agree the scrutiny annual report for 2025-26 for presentation to Council | Scrutiny Coordinator |
| | ScrucO Work Programme 2026-27 | To consider items for the work programme for coming municipal year | |
| 26 August 2026 | Cabinet Member Priorities | Written Briefing Note of priorities to be circulated to the Board ahead of the meeting | |
| | Local Ombudsman Complaints Report | Following from the previous meeting - Officers to provide case studies outlining the types of complaints that result in financial remedy payments, including real examples (appropriately anonymised) that illustrate why a payment was made and how the level of redress was determined. Also the national guidance as reference. | Adrian LeCras CM - Policy and Leadership |
| | City Centre PSPO (Cabinet Report) | To consider the Cabinet Report with the renewal of the City Centre PSPO plus additional prohibitions | CM - Community Safety and Cohesion Davina Blackburn |
| 16 September 2026 | | | |
| | | | |
| 7 October 2026 | | | |
| | | | |
| 12 November 2026 | | | |
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SCRUCO Work Programme 2026-27

| Date | Title | Detail | Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 16 December 2026 | | | |
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| | | | |
| 13 January 2027 | | | |
| | | | |
| 10 February 2027 | | | |
| | | | |
| 11 March 2027 | | | |
| | | | |
| 7 April 2027 | | | |
| | | | |
| 2026-27 | Domestic Abuse | A regular update item on the progress of delivery on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy – to include government policy and funding announcement | CM - Policing and Equalities J Ross |
| | Climate Change | To consider what the Council is doing to protect the city from the impact of climate change, including partners involved in the delivery and represented on the Climate Change Board, including Resilience and Adaptation, SEP and flood risk by ward. EV Charging points accessibility. | CM - Jobs Regen & Climate Change Colin Knight Rhian Palmer Bret Willers |
| | Offender Management | Following an item on Local Policing Update at their meeting 21 st February 24 the committee agreed to consider a further item on Offender Management | CM - Policing & Equalities Davina Blackburn |

| Date | Title | Detail | Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| | WMCA Integrated Settlement | To look in more detail at the work that will be delivered through the integrated settlement from the devolution deal | CM - Policy & Leadership Kim Mawby etc. |
| | Sherbourne Recycling Plant – possible visit | To scrutinise the delivery of the recycling plant, as majority shareholders. | CM - City Services Mark Adams |
| | AI - Progress | A progress update on recommendations made at the meeting on 6 March 2025 | CM - Strat Finance & Resources/ City Services Paul Ward |
| | Child Poverty - Systemic Approach | To undertake a piece of work on the systemic approach to child poverty, ensuring cross-partner collaboration and consideration of generational worklessness and private sector involvement. Recommended as part of the OCP Deep Dive sessions. Links with the Marmot City framework and One Coventry Programme | CM - Children & YP S Sen, A Duggal |
| | The Coventry Skills and Employment Board | Following a meeting with SB3 on the Progress Made Against Coventry Economic Development and Skills Strategies and Coventry & Warwickshire Economic Plan on 26 th November 25 | CM - Education & Skills Steve Weir |
| | PSPO reviews – 2027-28 | To be considered by scrutiny as part of the 3-year review A further update on the on the actions taken in relation to the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order be submitted to the Committee in 6-months' time (May/June 2026) – including alternative routes for e-bike food deliveries | CM - Policing & Equalities Davina Blackburn |
| | One Coventry Plan KPI's | To not only review performance in the One Coventry Plan but to delegate KPI's to all scrutiny boards for consideration. Also to consider progress on identifying KPI's in other strategies/documents such as the CIPFA Code and aligning them. | Cabinet C Boden-Haton |
| | Communications Reputation and Insight | To provide progress on issues raised at the meeting on 25 September 2025 – | CM - Policy & Leadership |

| Date | Title | Detail | Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer |
|------|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardising community engagement across the council • Update on policy and public affairs • Review of the Council's website • Digital Exclusion Policy | C Holloway C Boden-Hatton |
| | Change (Transformation) Programme update | An update on progress following the item in November 2025 | CM - Strat Finance & Resources C Boden-Hatton |
| | Youth Justice | A scrutiny session with the police and relevant partners to examine the impact of changes in police approach to knife crime, including the effectiveness of criminalisation versus diversion and early intervention, and invite Simon Foster (PCC) to attend. As part of the OCP Deep Dive sessions to better understand police investigation and prosecution policies. To bring police representatives session to discuss decision-making processes, trends in types of offences, and reoffending rates. To include more detailed data on offence types and outcomes. | CM - Policing & Equalities PCC Simon Foster S Sen C Heeley |

Work Programme Decision Flow Chart

