
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

11 February 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor Dr K Sandhu

Director approving submission of the report:

Interim Director of Planning and Performance

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Petitions Relating to the One Coventry Services' Proposals 2024/25

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

One Coventry Services is an operational change programme within the Transformation Plan 2024/25. The programme aims to deliver services differently by bringing them together in communities and builds on current approaches within family hubs, libraries and adult social care settings. The proposals set out within the Transformation Plan aim to enable increased integration of a wider range of services and deliver financial efficiencies through reducing the number of service delivery locations and thereby the costs of operating these services in terms of both property and staffing.

This report provides information on the 2 petitions which have been received in relation to the proposals during the consultation undertaken between 9 September 2024 and 4 November 2024. The outcome of the consultation process will be considered at a future meeting of Cabinet.

In line with the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition organisers/sponsors have been invited to attend the meeting to outline their concerns to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is recommended to:

- 1) Note the petitions received and consider any comments and issues raised at the meeting.
- 2) Agree that the petitions and the issues raised at the meeting are considered as part of the consultation process for One Coventry Services' proposals 2024/25.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Budget Report for 2024/25 – Cabinet and Council meetings on 20th February 2024

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

The outcome of the consultation on the One Coventry Services proposals 2024/25 will be considered by Cabinet at a future meeting on a date to be confirmed.

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petitions Relating to the One Coventry Services' Proposals 2024/25

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The One Coventry Services programme aims to deliver services differently by combining services and in doing so reduce the number of service delivery locations within communities.
- 1.2 A public consultation took place on a series of proposals between 9 September 2024 and 4 November 2024. These proposals were consulted on at an early stage of development to enable any subsequent decision to be informed by consultation feedback and to confirm the viability of delivery.
- 1.3 Two petitions have been received in relation to some of these proposals and this report outlines those petitions.

2. Petition 1 – “Save Holbrooks Library”

- 2.1 The Council received an e-petition to “Save Holbrooks Library” on 25/09/2024. This relates to the proposal to relocate Holbrooks Library Service to the Dementia Partnership Hub. The petition closed on 13/11/2024 and received 73 signatories. A paper version of this petition was submitted with 329 additional signatories. The total number of signatories was 402.

The petition reads:

“The removal of this service from this building severely impacts children, families and those with disability preventing them from accessing library services in our area. Residents of Holbrooks and surrounding areas have grave concerns regarding the proposed removal of the library from Holbrooks Community Care Association building on Holbrook Lane. This centre is accessible to all and offers children the opportunity to study after school, play, sing and dance in a warm safe space where they can learn and grow. The centre is a Sky digital hub with superfast broadband and access to Wi-Fi. There are internet laptops for jobs search and study, and it has a fantastic community room for groups in the area. The centre offers knitting and crochet clubs, history groups, miniature makers club, men's matte group, poetry and creative writing groups and digital skills sessions with advice and information services to the community. The centre also hosts a community fridge which reduces food waste and supports hungry families in the area. The library should remain on Holbrook Lane which is easily accessible and open to everyone”.

3. Petition 2 – “Save Libraries from being moved”

- 3.1 The Council also received an e-petition to “Save Libraries from being moved” on 27/09/2024. The petition closed on 13/11/2024 and received 191 signatories. This petition relates to the following proposals:

- **Bell Green Library Service**
Proposal: Relocate Bell Green Library Service (currently located at Riley Square Bell Green, Coventry CV2 1LS) to Park Edge Family Hub building (located at Orchard Nursery, Roseberry Ave, Coventry CV2 1NE).
- **Coundon Library Service and Supporting Families Team**
Proposal: Relocate Coundon Library Service (currently located on Moseley Ave, Coventry CV6 1HT) and Supporting Families Team (currently located in Radford Primary Academy Lawrence Saunders Rd, Coventry CV6 1HD) to Coundon Family Centre (located at 82 Moseley Avenue Coventry CV6 1AB).
- **Canley Library Service**
Proposal: Relocate Canley Library Service (currently located at Prior Deram Walk, Coventry CV4 8FT) to the Xcel Leisure Centre (located at Mitchell Ave, Coventry CV4 8DY).

The petition reads:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to stop proposals to move Canley, Coundon and Bell Green libraries from their purpose-built buildings and into smaller buildings. The libraries and museums Act 1964 clearly states you have a legal responsibility to provide a comprehensive and effective service for all. We believe the proposals outlined in the plans for these libraries breach that act.

Furthermore, the proposals cause the following:

- Safeguarding concerns
- Confidentiality concerns
- Health and safety concerns
- According to a leaflet that Coventry City Council sent out to every household, in April 2024, there were "753,975 visits to the 17 Coventry Libraries, including 500,000 computer uses". This shows that all 17 libraries are well used and must be retained in suitable buildings that offer a full service. Libraries are the heart of the community, safe spaces.
- Libraries should be kept in their current locations as to move them would have the following affects. Loss of footfall, loss of book stock, loss of professional staff, loss of computers and loss of services libraries currently provide.
- And in the case of Canley library being moved, we have severe safeguarding concerns.”

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The outcome of the consultation for One Coventry Services proposals will be considered by Cabinet. The petitions together with any comments raised at the Cabinet Member meeting will be presented and taken into account as part of the decision making by Cabinet. This is the recommended option.

4.2 The other option will be to “do nothing” which is not recommended.

5. Results of consultation undertaken

5.1 Seven One Coventry Services proposals were subject to an eight-week public consultation which ended on 4th November 2024.

5.2 The consultation feedback has been considered and Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed to take account of consultation findings. The outcome of this consultation and the completed Equalities Impact Assessment will also be included in the report to be considered by Cabinet.

6. Timetable for implementing this decision

6.1 The Cabinet Member is considering the petitions following the consultation period. Comprehensive analysis of all the consultation feedback has been undertaken and will be included in the report taken to Cabinet for their final approval.

6.2 Any decision taken by Cabinet relating to the One Coventry Services’ proposals will be implemented as early as possible in 2025. Due to the range and complexity of proposals identified, implementation will commence and conclude at different times in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

7. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The financial implications relating to the proposals contained in the report will be considered by Cabinet alongside the full consultation responses to the One Coventry Services’ proposals.

7.2. Legal Implications

The petitions are being considered in line with the Council’s Petition Scheme.

The Council, as the library authority has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 “to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons” for all those that live, work or study in the area.

The One Coventry Services proposals outline a number of significant changes to the way in which the Council delivers services to the population of the city, whilst continuing to comply with its statutory responsibilities.

The Council must have due regard to the public sector equality duty, and to this effect has completed an equalities impact assessment. The Council has carried out a consultation exercise to ascertain people’s views about the One Coventry Services proposal and the product of the consultation exercise including the public’s response to

it should be taken into account and carefully considered in order to inform the decision. The public's response includes the issues raised in the petitions set out within this report.

8. Other implications

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

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

The implications of the final recommendations will be contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet.

8.2. How is risk being managed?

Not applicable to this report. The implications of the recommendations will be contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet

8.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

Not applicable to this report. The implications of the recommendations will be contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet.

8.4. Equalities/EIA

An analysis of equality impacts has been completed for each of the One Coventry Services proposals. Initial Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) documents were completed prior to the public consultation. These have now been updated to take account of consultation feedback and findings. These illustrate the current understanding of the potential impact of the implementation of these proposals. An overarching EIA for the One Coventry Services proposals has also been completed. These EIAs will be included in the report which will be presented to Cabinet.

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

Not applicable to this report. The implications of the recommendations will be contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet.

8.6. Implications for partner organisations?

Not applicable to this report. The implications of the recommendations will be contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet.

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