

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at
2.00 pm on Thursday, 21 August 2025

Present:

Members:

- Councillor G Lloyd (Chair)
- Councillor M Ali
- Councillor A Jobbar
- Councillor L Kelly
- Councillor R Lakha (Substitute for Councillor R Singh)
- Councillor J Lepoidevin
- Councillor J McNicholas (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor G Ridley
- Councillor CE Thomas (Substitute for Councillor C Miks)

Other Members: Councillor E M Reeves (by Invitation)

Employees (by Service Area):

Chief Executive	J Nugent (Chief Executive)
Finance and Resources	B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources)
Law and Governance	J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), G Holmes, L Knight
Planning and Performance	C Boden-Hatton (Director of Planning and Performance)
Apologies:	Councillors G Duggins, AS Khan, C Miks, R Singh

Public Business

13. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

14. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 July, 2025

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

With regard to Minute 9, headed “Coventry Protocol for Addressing Adult Modern Slavery”, Members were advised that a copy of the report produced by the Human Trafficking Foundation had been circulated and that recommendations made to the Cabinet had all been accepted.

15. **One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2024 - March 2025)**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report of the Director of Planning and Performance, which set out performance against the One Coventry Plan for the period April 2024 to March 2025.

The report was also due to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting scheduled for 26th August 2025.

The Committee noted that the One Coventry Plan sets out the strategic vision for the City of Coventry to 2030 and the Council's approach to increasing the economic prosperity of both the city and region by improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities; and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. The current Plan, last refreshed in 2022, covers the period from 2022-2030.

The Plan sets out three delivery priorities:

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

And two enabling priorities:

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

The One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report April 2024 to March 2025 was appended to the report. The annual review is a high-level report that sets out the trends, actions taken where appropriate, and performance metrics against each of the objectives within the One Coventry Plan in order to make an assessment of the progress made against previous years and to benchmark against other places. The appendix also included case studies to capture impacts that were less easy to measure numerically.

The Committee were advised that performance against the One Coventry Plan 2022-2030 is measured against 74 metrics. 7 of these were unable to be reported on this year as information was not available and 1 had not been fully developed and had been recorded within the 'progress not available indicators'.

Of the 66 metrics currently available, for 5 of them it was not possible to say whether they had improved or not as there wasn't a clear desirable direction of change or because there is only data for the current year. For the remaining 61 indicators, 34 have improved their position; 7 remained the same and 20 have declined. Detailed information on each metric was included within the appendix.

It was noted that all key performance indicators that were below target would be considered as part of a deep dive review and that a further report would be submitted to the Committee on 30th October 2025.

Members asked questions and were provided with responses in the following areas:

- Action taken to address fly-tipping, including additional cameras and how their locations should be identified. It was noted that there had been an increase in reporting levels which is encouraging.
- Whether fly-tipping was more than just anti-social behaviour but more serious organised crime and that there should be a multi-agency approach to the issue.
- Concern on levels of Business Rates collection
- That although the indicators on NEETS at 16 and 18 seemed similar they were measuring different things, one about when pupils leave school, the second about experiences at post 16. Poor mental health was considered to be a factor in the decline in the data.
- Whether the introduction of parking charges on Sundays accounted for a decline in footfall in the city centre
- The numbers of children in care who were unaccompanied newly arrived children, compared to those who were in care due to abuse and neglect.
- The drop in school readiness at aged 5 is a complex issue which will be looked at in more detail by the Scruto Deep Dive sessions.
- That the reduction in recycling rates was disappointing and whether the Council was maximising the opportunity of having the new recycling plant to encourage residents.
- The process for agreeing the indicators for biodiversity, as if it's not being measured then losses can't be identified.
- That although the report was not a statutory requirement it was beneficial to report on performance. The external auditors welcomed the report as it enabled them to form a view on their value for money report.
- That there had been community engagement in the development of the plan and the priorities within it. There was commitment from both politicians and senior officers to continue to report on performance in this format.

In addition to those underperforming indicators, the Committee also requested that biodiversity net gain (measure of habitat creation and conservation) be included within the deep dive.

The Committee further noted that the Council's performance management framework and reporting arrangements must have due regard to the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This included the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; to meet the needs of people regardless of their background; and to encourage all people to participate in public life, or in other activities where their participation is low. Many of the key priorities set out in the One Coventry Plan were also equality objectives. In addition, a specific set of equality objectives has been agreed and progress against these is reported annually to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities. This contributes to meeting the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 1. Considers and notes the Council's progress as set out in the performance report set out at Appendix 1 to the report submitted.**
- 2. Recommends that Cabinet accept the recommendations in the report.**
- 3. Requests that Biodiversity Net Gain (measure of habitat creation and conservation) be included within the matters to be considered by the deep dive.**
- 4. Notes the approach for the mid-year progress report.**

16. Scrutiny Annual Report to Council 2024-2025

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee received a Briefing Note of the Director of Law and Governance appended to which was the Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25. The report detailed highlights from the year, including cross-cutting 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 advised the Committee that he was proposing that the Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker be included within the published report in order for in order for recommendations made by the Scrutiny Boards to be shared with Council, along with the progress made.

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee agreed to:

- 1. Accept the content of the draft report at Appendix 1.**
- 2. Request that the Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker be included within the published report so that requests made by Scrutiny Boards can be followed, along with progress made.**

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council considers the Scrutiny Annual Report at its meeting on 2nd September 2025.

17. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2024-25

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Law and Governance in respect of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter for 2024/25.

The Briefing Note indicated that, at its meeting on 30th January 2024, the Committee were assigned lead responsibility for complaints within the Council's governance arrangements, to support a positive complaints handling culture, in accordance with the new Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Code. The LGSCO letter was appended to the report submitted

The Ombudsman provided a review of the Council's annual statistics, which offered a valuable insight into the Council's approach to complaints. was published on the LGSCO website.

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 1. Notes the content of the LGSCO's letter at Appendix 1 of the report submitted.**
- 2. Agrees to consider a further item on the Council's Complaints Report at the meeting on 15th January 2026.**

18. 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 changes to the Work Programme in relation to the report back on the outcome of the deep dive of underperforming indicators within the One Coventry Plan.

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

19. Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.45 pm)