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# **Council Meeting**

13 January 2026

**Booklet 1**

**Written Questions**

**1. QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Following the unlawful demolition of a heritage asset on Earlsdon Street last year a stop notice was issued by the Council. The developer launched an appeal against this decision with the planning inspectorate. Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the status of this appeal and tell us what further actions he intends to take to resolve this issue?"

**2. QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Several local authorities have been piloting the use of drones to tackle fly-tipping. Will the Cabinet Member consider providing officers with this equipment to tackle fly-tipping in Coventry?"

**3. QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs Regeneration and Climate Change**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Following the announcement that Coventry Airport will close in June 2026, can the Cabinet Member provide Council with an update as to progress in finding a partner to establish a Giga factory on the airport site?"

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

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Children and Young People taken abroad against their will.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please advise:

1. How many reports have been received by the Council in the last three

years of children or young people being taken abroad against their wishes, including cases involving suspected forced removal, abandonment, or detention overseas?

2. What safeguarding procedures are in place when the Council becomes aware that a child or young person has been taken out of the UK without consent or is being prevented from returning?"

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

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Somali girl from Coventry detained in Somalia.

In the context of children and young people being taken abroad against their will, a young Somali girl from Coventry is currently being held in a detention centre in Somalia. It has been reported that she has attempted to escape on three occasions and has approached local police requesting assistance to be taken to the British Embassy.

Given that this young person is from Coventry, can the Cabinet Member clarify:

1. What steps the Council has taken to establish the facts of this case, including liaison with the family, relevant safeguarding partners, and national agencies?
2. What actions, if any, the Council has taken to raise this case with central government, including the Home Office, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, or Members of Parliament?
3. How the Council is using its influence to apply pressure on the UK Government to ensure this young person's safety, welfare, and return to the UK, in line with its safeguarding responsibilities?"

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

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Sharia Councils and Sharia Courts

Is the Deputy Leader aware of the existence or operation of any Sharia councils, Sharia-based courts, or informal religious arbitration bodies within Coventry?

If such bodies are operating, can the Deputy Cabinet Member clearly set out:

1. What knowledge the Council has of their activities, structure, and scope

of decision-making, and whether the Council has conducted any assessments to determine their impact on residents.

2. What concrete safeguards are in place to ensure that no decisions, advice, or pressures arising from such bodies contravene British law, including but not limited to family law, safeguarding legislation, equality law, and human rights protections.
3. How the Council ensures that women, children, and vulnerable adults are not subjected—directly or indirectly—to coercion, intimidation, or discriminatory practices, particularly in matters relating to marriage, divorce, custody, or personal liberty.
4. What mechanisms exist for individuals who feel pressured or harmed by such bodies to safely report concerns, and how the Council responds when such concerns are raised.
5. Whether the Council has engaged with statutory partners, including the police and safeguarding boards, to ensure that no parallel or unregulated systems of justice are operating in Coventry in a way that undermines the rule of law or statutory safeguarding responsibilities.”

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

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Subject: Neighbourhood Enforcement

For each ward, how many incidents have the Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams dealt with in the last two years, broken down by type of incident?

By ward, how many Penalty Notices were issued for these types of incidents and how many Penalty Notices were paid in that time period?

I would be grateful if the information could be presented in a clear table format where possible.”

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

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Subject: Social Housing Waiting List

For each of the Homefinder housing bands for the last four years, please could you detail the numbers of claimants needing to be permanently housed?

What proportion of claimants in each housing band category, for the last four years were British citizens?

What were the average wait times to receive the housing type required (e.g. for 1 bed, 2 beds, three bed family home, 4 beds etc) for each housing band for each of the last four years?

How many families are there currently awaiting a permanent three bed family home and what proportion of these are British citizens?"

9.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Temporary Housing

How many single people and families have been housed in temporary housing accommodation for each of the last four years and what proportion of these claimants are British citizens?"

10.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor K Sandhu, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: SEND Pressure

Please could you quantify the demand for SEND provision over the last 4 years, year on year. What proportion of this demand relates to non-British nationals?

What proportion of SEN language support relates to supporting children for whom English is a second language and what is the rate of change for this kind of language support over the last four years?"

11.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Lewis**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"For Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities on the Subway Project

In July 2024, Unity in Coventry were advised by the Council's officers that there were "no indications that the project wouldn't be signed off," and work subsequently proceeded on that basis, including the award of Prevent funding and extensive community engagement.

However, in March 2025 the project was halted on the grounds of conservation requirements.

Could the Cabinet Member clarify:

- a) Which specific conservation designation, policy, or protection applies to this subway or its tiles, given that the location is neither listed nor within a designated conservation area, and that similar tiled subways elsewhere in the city have been painted?
- b) Why this conservation issue was not identified or communicated at the start of the process, before funding was awarded and public activity commenced?
- c) What concrete steps will the Council take to improve safety for LGBTQ+ residents using this subway between our cities two queer venues."

12.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Lewis**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change and Councillor K Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"1. Recent data published by Friends of the Earth shows 58% of Coventry homes are rated EPC D or below leaving 85,000 households with avoidably high energy bills, and 19% of households in fuel poverty. Given the significant public benefit of warmer homes could the Cabinet Member outline:

- a) What specific programmes the council is currently encouraging or delivering to improve insulation and energy efficiency, particularly in the private rented sector?
- b) How the council intends to ensure compliance with minimum EPC standards and support households most at risk from cold homes and fuel poverty?

2. The same data published by Friends of the Earth shows 100% of Coventry Neighbourhoods experience air pollution above World Health Organisation guidelines. Could the Cabinet member confirm what steps were being taken across the city to improve air quality?"

13.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Lewis**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor G Duggins, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

- a) Will the Leader of the Council be making a statement about the review of Coventry's Palantir contract?
- b) What is the timeline for review?
- c) and how will members of the public be consulted?