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**To: Communities & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Subject: Initial Coventry Design Code Consultation**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) with a review of the initial scoping consultation for the production of Coventry Design Codes.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Support the initial public consultation for the development of Design Codes for Coventry. (Appendix 1)
  - 2) Identify any further recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

## **3 Information and Background**

- 3.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 introduced at paragraph 15F, a requirement for Local Authorities to produce Design Codes which should be considered for planning permissions to be granted.
- 3.2 In September 2025, the City Council adopted its most recent Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the initial timelines of development of Design Codes to meet the requirements of the LURA. The timeline noted an initial anticipation of a number of codes being produced to reflect the distinct variety of contexts which are present within the Local Authority area, however that this approach and the number of codes could develop further based upon the findings of public consultation.
- 3.3 This initial stage of consultation takes the form of a questionnaire to investigate what our residents view as important design characteristics and how they perceive their local context. The findings of this consultation will then inform the future progress and structure of the Design Code(s).
- 3.4 The structure and approach taken to the consultation and our forward programme of production is informed by the 'National Model Design Code' published in October 2021 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

- 3.5 Design Codes will help to inform applicants into the planning system of how to deliver contextually responsive design in the city, prioritising elements of design which have been found to have been valued by our local residents through consultation.
- 3.6 Coventry benefits from a range of distinct character areas, and given the authorities tight administrative boundaries, these character areas are often found to be closely adjoining each other, introducing a challenge of how development proposals positively respond to differences in architectural style, scale and spatial characteristics.
- 3.7 In order that individual districts of the city retain their own identity, the design code seeks to articulate the defining characteristics of an area, to inform how new development can best contribute to a local sense of place.
- 3.8 The development of Design Codes is an important tool in guiding new development. Set in the context of significant local and national housebuilding targets, a locally developed Design Code can provide a framework of how best to deliver challenging housebuilding targets in a way which can best integrate with our communities.
- 3.9 Officers have worked closely with colleagues in the communications team to explore opportunities for promoting levels of consultation in this process. The findings of the initial scoping consultation will help inform both the structure and the number of design codes which are produced for the city, drawing upon feedback which highlights what architectural and character features our residents particularly value.

#### Appendix 1: Design Code Scoping Questionnaire

Chris Styles  
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