

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities held at
11.00 am on Thursday, 15 January 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)
 Councillor S Agboola (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

Law and Governance O Aremu, E McKindley, T Robinson

Regeneration and S Farey, B Saunders, C Styles
Economy

Apologies: Councillor R Bailey

Public Business

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

14. Local Listing Consultation - The Astoria Cinema, 71 Albany Road and Spigot Mortar off Shilton Lane

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Economy to consider the commencement of a public consultation to consider The Astoria Cinema and Spigot Mortar off Shilton Lane for inclusion on the Local List of heritage assets.

The report stated that the City Council has an established process for the nomination of additions to the Local List of Heritage Assets, available to the public via the authority's website. Having received the two nominations, both were found to be valid, and public consultation was recommended to further inform decision making.

Following a presentation from officers, the Shadow Cabinet Member, Councillor R Bailey, sent in a statement in support of the recommendations. The Cabinet Member, Councillor N Akhtar, reiterated these comments recognising these two sites as important cultural, social and historical assets.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities:

- 1) Approves the commencement of public consultation to consider The Astoria Cinema and Spigot Mortar off Shilton Lane for inclusion on the Local List of heritage assets.
- 2) Delegates authority to Head of Planning Policy and Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to finalise the details of public consultation (including the period of consultation) in line with established processes.

15. Urban Design Consultations - Draft Shop Front Design Guides SPD & Stage One Design Code Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Economy to consider the commencement of public consultations on a revised Shop Front Design Guide SPD and emerging Design Codes for Coventry as previously committed through the adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS).

As outlined in the report, SPDs (Supplementary Planning Documents) provide guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues. The Shop Front Design Guide SPD is a comprehensive review, updating the 2014 Design Guidance on Shopfronts for Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings and would provide clear guidance for applicants considering works to retail shopfronts across the City. As a result, officers stated, changes could have a significant qualitative effect upon the character and quality of streets across the City.

Additionally, the report highlighted the legislative context of design codes within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 to provide residents with the opportunity to highlight what they view as important design characteristics and how they perceive their local context. The findings of the consultation would then inform the future progress and structure of the Design Code process.

Further to the officers' report, the Cabinet Member sought assurances on the role of the SDP in improving the quality of shop frontages. Additionally, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor S Agboola, highlighted the importance of balancing economic growth with shop design and the character of the city.

It was noted that the report was also being considered by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the 29th January, 2026.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities:

- 1) Approves the commencement of public consultation on the Draft Shop Front Design Guide SPD as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2) Approves the commencement of the first stage of consultation of the Coventry Design Code process as detailed in Appendix 2 of this report.

3) Delegates authority to Head of Planning Policy and Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities:

- a) to finalise the details of public consultation (including the period of consultation) in line with established processes; and**
- b) make any necessary minor editing changes to the Draft Shop Front Design Guide SPD and Coventry Design Code questionnaire prior to consultation.**

16. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

17. Any other item of public business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 11.15 am)