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# **Council Meeting**

24 March 2026

**Booklet 1**

Answers to Written Questions

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Lewis</b></p> <p><b>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</b></p>
<p><b>TEXT OF QUESTION:</b></p> <p>“There are reports of proposed job losses at the Herbert Gallery and Coventry Transport Museum. Was the Cabinet Member made aware of them by CV Life/ involved in this decision making? And is the Cabinet Member concerned that the reduced staffing numbers will impact the services provided to residents, as they look to be concentrated around front-line staff and not senior management?”</p> <p><b>ANSWER:</b></p> <p>CV Life initiated a staff consultation on change proposals at Culture Coventry Trust (CCT) in February 2026. As Cabinet Member I was briefed on the process and proposals relating to the restructure of service delivery, but as the Trust is a separate charitable organisation with its own governance structures, I was not involved in the Trust’s decision-making process.</p> <p>The restructure at the Trust is being undertaken in response to a number of concurrent challenges facing the Trust and the wider sector – including increased costs, impacts of the increased cost of living and a landscape of reduced public funding. The CV Life restructure aligns with wider innovations and efficiency proposals within the work of the Trust, with a view to ensuring that service delivery remains consistent whilst protecting the financial future of the Trust. To that end, the Trust’s leadership have set out that this represents a restructure of service delivery, not a cut in service delivery.</p> <p>With regards to senior management, across the CV Life Executive there is one Chief Executive and four Executive Directors, of which only one is employed by Culture Coventry Trust. Of the 15 members of the Senior Management Team, only four are employed by Culture Coventry Trust, with the remainder (including all Corporate Services) provided within CV Life. Therefore, the in-kind support that the Trust receives from CV Life as part of the organisation’s shared management functions significantly outweighs the efficiencies that may be realised from the restructure of specific CCT management functions.</p>	

<b>2.</b>	<p><b>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Sawdon</b></p> <p><b>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor N Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</b></p>
<p><b>TEXT OF QUESTION:</b></p> <p>“When the late Bill Sheridan was Lord Mayor (1973-4) Courtaulds, for whom he worked, donated a tapestry screen which was positioned at the rear of St</p>	

Mary's Hall. What happened to it when the hall was renovated?"

**ANSWER:**

The tapestry screen (formed of decorative curtains) which was positioned at the rear of St. Mary's Guildhall was removed from St. Mary's Guildhall prior to the renovation works and is being stored safely and securely by the Council within the Council House.

3.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin**

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

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Could the Cabinet Member advise Council how the additional street wardens will be deployed across the City?"

**ANSWER:**

Deployment will be intelligence-led and targeted, with wardens focused on identified hotspots and locations where residents experience higher levels of anti-social behaviour. This will be informed by data, community intelligence, and close working with partners through the Coventry Community Safety Partnership.

Community Wardens will operate as part of an integrated, city-wide enforcement model, working alongside Community Safety, neighbourhood teams and West Midlands Police to provide a more visible and consistent presence across the city. Their role will include proactive street patrols, engagement with residents and businesses, and early intervention to prevent issues from escalating.

4.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor K Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Could the Cabinet Member provide a report to council on the current condition of the tennis courts at the War Memorial Park?"

**ANSWER:**

The tennis courts at the War Memorial Park are currently in a declining condition. Four courts are in an average state but require cleaning and remarking ahead of the 2026 season. The remaining four courts need resurfacing, although they remain playable for the 2026 season.

There is also a fault with the court lighting, which is currently being repaired.

The onsite team is working with the local tennis club to clean and mark all courts, with work scheduled to begin on 26 March.

In addition, the Parks & Open Spaces team is developing a long-term plan for the future operation of the tennis facilities. This includes discussions with the current booking system provider, Inspire2Coach, to explore sustainable management options.

The overall aim is to secure sufficient external funding to deliver new court surfacing and modern LED lighting, ensuring the provision of high-quality tennis facilities for the future.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities, Councillor Abdul Khan is also Cabinet Member for Parks and will answer any further questions.

5.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner**

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

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

" Subject: Fly Tipping Cameras

Regarding Council deployed cameras to catch those fly tipping, please could the Cabinet Member provide the following information:

1. The number of mobile cameras available to catch those fly tipping.
2. Of this number, how many are typically deployed?
3. Of those deployed, how many are deployed in a fly tipping hot spot?
4. How many fly tipping perpetrators have been caught via the cameras and how many convictions/ penalty charges have resulted?
5. What criteria is used to determine where to place cameras and how long to leave them there?"

**ANSWER:**

**1. The number of mobile cameras available to detect fly-tipping**

The Council currently operates 30 mobile envirocrime cameras.

**2. Of this number, how many are typically deployed?**

All 30 cameras are currently deployed.

**3. Of those deployed, how many are located in fly-tipping hotspots?**

All deployed cameras are located in known fly-tipping hotspots or other

vulnerable, high-risk locations.

**4. How many fly-tipping perpetrators have been identified through the use of these cameras, and how many convictions or penalty notices have resulted?**

Since April 2025, CCTV footage has directly supported enforcement action resulting in:

- 44 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly-tipping, duty of care offences, or littering;
- 13 warning letters issued where evidential thresholds for formal enforcement were not met; and
- 25 ongoing investigations arising from CCTV referrals, which are being highlighted through the Council's *Wall of Shame* campaign.

In addition, the cameras are routinely used in partnership with West Midlands Police, as fly-tipping hotspots are often associated with wider criminal activity. Footage from these cameras has played a significant role in evidential gathering for serious criminal investigations, including two murder investigations, alongside other serious offences.

The cameras therefore serve both as an enforcement and deterrent measure, as well as supporting wider community safety outcomes.

**5. What criteria is used to determine camera locations and deployment duration?**

Cameras are deployed at locations identified as fly-tipping hotspots or vulnerable sites. Deployment locations are reviewed on a quarterly basis to assess impact and effectiveness, and cameras are relocated where appropriate.

6.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Street Name Plaques

What is the Council's policy and schedule for inspecting, repairing or replacing street name plaques across the city?

If there is no policy, will the Cabinet Member consider carrying out a review of street name plaques in the City to identify those that need repair or replacement.

Is there a register of street signage?"

**ANSWER:**

Coventry City Council does not currently have a published policy that sets out a routine inspection, repair, or replacement schedule for existing street name plates.

The Council does have a Street Naming and Numbering Policy, but this applies only to new developments and covers:

- Naming of new streets
- Avoidance of duplicate or confusing names
- Developer responsibilities
- Design guidance for new plates

It does not include:

- Inspection cycles
- Maintenance standards
- Replacement schedules
- A citywide asset register of existing plates

### **Policy Development Underway**

A new policy for street name plates is currently being drafted by the Street Lighting and Support Services team. It is expected to be presented to the Cabinet Member for City Services next financial year (2026/27).

**If there is no policy, will the Cabinet Member consider carrying out a review of street name plaques in the City to identify those that need repair or replacement.**

The Council operates a reactive maintenance system:

- Damaged or missing signs are reported:
  - by residents through the “Report an issue with signs and street furniture” service
  - by Highways Inspectors
  - by Elected Members
- Locations are then inspected by Highways Inspectors (if reported by Members or residents).
- Required works are passed to Residual Services, within the Street Lighting and Support Services team.
- Repairs, maintenance, and replacements are delivered in batches through the Council’s contractor. If there is already one nameplate present, then we do not replace the second one.

### **Activity Levels**

In the 2025/2026 financial year, approximately 150 street name plates were repaired, maintained, or replaced by Residual Services.

Maintenance of 55 street name plate is already planned for Quarter 1 of 2026/2027. Further additional works are also planned for Quarter 2.

### **Is there a register of street signage?”**

There is not an existing register of street signage for street name plates or non-illuminated signage. However, all lit signage which is maintained as part of the PFI contract is included in the inventory managed by CCC and Balfour Beatty.

7.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Oil and Chemical Spills

Can the Cabinet Member inform the chamber: -

How many oil spills or chemical spills have been recorded in the city that have affected the wider community or waterways?

Please can you provide this information as a break down by ward?"

**ANSWER:**

Responsibility for recording and regulating oil and chemical spills that affect controlled waters, including rivers, streams and groundwater, sits primarily with the Environment Agency, which is the statutory regulator for pollution incidents of this nature.

The Council does not hold a single, comprehensive dataset covering all oil or chemical spill incidents affecting waterways across the city, nor a ward-by-ward breakdown of such incidents. Where spills occur on land or within the public realm, the Council may become involved in site-specific response, clean-up, or liaison with partners, but these records are held across different services and do not represent a complete picture of incidents affecting the wider environment or watercourses.

For incidents that impact waterways or the wider environment, the Environment Agency is best placed to provide authoritative figures, including any ward-level analysis, as part of its statutory monitoring and enforcement role.

8.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"Subject: Restricted Parking Restrictions Charter Avenue

Can the Cabinet Member explain why the restricted parking restrictions have not been implemented in the lay by on Charter Avenue by St George's Plaice chippy?

This has been postponed numerous times and was promised to be in place in

January, nearly a year after it was agreed by the Cabinet Member and officers.

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for raising this matter again with me. The traffic regulation order referenced formed part of our Variation 13 consolidation order which was formalised in December 2025. Subsequently orders were placed to implement the various changes introduced through this order, which includes over 40 individual proposals located across the city. The introduction of the restriction on Charter Avenue includes changes to signage and lining. These works have been and are on order, and will be introduced as soon as possible, mindful of existing work commitments at the current time.

In addition to these measures the team are currently exploring opportunities to address verge overriding concerns which we are aware occur at the edge of the existing layby at this location, use of which could become intensified when the new restrictions are installed.