Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 15 July 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor H Rehman (Chair)

Councillor A Bryant
Councillor A Kaur
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor C Phillips (substitute for Councillor A Albert)

Other Members: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

Employees:

Finance and Resources: B Hastie (Director), T Pinks

Governance Services: E Jones, C Sinclair, A West

Apologies: Councillor A Albert

Public Business

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2026 were noted and accepted as a true record.

3. **Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025-26**

The Board considered the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 report which had been considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 7 July 2026 and was presented to the Board to consider whether further scrutiny of the Council's financial position was required.

The report set out the overall financial position and included the following headline items:

- An underspend of £3.2m, balanced by a contribution to earmarked reserves.
- Capital Programme expenditure of £154.3m
- An increase in the level of available Council revenue reserves from £119m to £145m

The Council had faced significant pressures within Adult Social Care and Regeneration & Economic Development. These financial pressures were being caused by a combination of continued service demand, complexity and market conditions in social care, legacy inflation impacts, and income shortfalls due largely to the economic climate.

The underlying revenue position had improved by £4.8m since Quarter 3 where an overspend of £1.6m was being forecast. The majority of the improved position related to improvements in City Services within both Environmental Services & Highways, as well as an improved position in Property Services and Development following the recognition and removal of the City Centre South demolished properties from the National Non-domestic Rates (NNDR) rating list by the Valuation Office, and finally significant improvements realised in demand for Temporary Accommodation. These improvements are set out in section 2.1.4 in the report at Appendix 1.

Good practice in financial scrutiny recommended that financial scrutiny takes place at a service level. It was therefore recommended that the Board identify any further areas within the report for further discussion.

During consideration of the report and presentation, the Board questioned Officers and received responses on a number of matters including the following:

- In respect of the £3.2m underspend, Members questioned whether this could be used in Wards in order to resolve any outstanding matters raised by residents.
- The financial assumptions for this year in respect of Adult Services.
- Management of risk and due diligence in place to protect the City Council's Commercial investments.

Arising from discussion in respect of the last point above relating to commercial investments, Officers agreed to bring further information on this matter to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Board note the financial position of the Council as shown in the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 report and agree to receive further information on the Council's Commercial Investments at their next meeting to be held on 9 September 2026.

4. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues**

The Board noted the Work Programme 2026/27.

There were no outstanding issues.

5. **Any other items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.40 pm)