



Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Objectives 2026-27

Cllr Naeem Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
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Culture and Creative Economy

Priorities and key policy areas



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1. Delivery of the Creative Economy/Creative Industries Plan priorities	▪ Develop a sustainable model for a creative industries cluster hub as a spoke of the regional model, by December 2026 ▪ Signpost 50 local creative and cultural businesses into local, regional and national creative industries business support opportunities during 2026-27 ▪ Work with Production Central to increase filming days in the city by 10% against the 2025-26 baseline by March 2027
2. Delivery of Cultural Strategy priorities	▪ New Cultural Strategy consultation started by September 2026 (5 roundtables led by Culture Works Collective) progressing to wider consultation at the Future Works IV event.. ▪ Award and fully allocate the City Readiness programme funding, including Made in Cov grants, by March 2027 ▪ Commit 100% of the £247,000 WMCA capital programme (CCIP) allocation by 31 March 2027, with delivery to complete by 31 December 2027. ▪ Complete all culture-related Year 1 Place Partnership Fund activity to agreed milestones by March 2027 ▪ Deliver the Future Works IV conference by March 2027, attracting 300 delegates and generating measurable new investment leads for the city
3. Development of Heritage Framework	▪ Draft strategy/framework consulted on by December 2026 and approved by Cabinet by March 2027
4. Delivery of the City Centre Cultural Gateway	▪ Completion of Phase 1-3 construction works and Phase 4 enabling works in line with the approved construction programme ▪ Development and approval of business plans/tenancies for remaining CCCG floor areas (Phases 4 and 5), achieving a balanced mix of cultural and commercial uses

Housing and Homelessness

Priorities and key policy areas



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Housing & Homelessness

Priorities for 2026/27

Priority		Objective
1	Increase the volume of Temporary Accommodation in Council ownership	Use Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF4) to purchase 15 properties for use as Temporary Accommodation in 2026/27
2	Improve the effectiveness of our Prevention offer	Through use of MHCLG funding which has been deployed to develop a homelessness prevention team to reach preventative results equivalent to West Midlands region
3	Reduce the number of households living in Temporary Accommodation	In addition to improving prevention to use supply side initiatives to move more people out of Temporary Accommodation
4	Achieve zero usage of Bed and Breakfast and Hotel accommodation for families	Maintain zero usage for 2026/27 which has been the case since 2024
5	Mobilise WMCA/MHCLG Supported Housing funding	Procure and implement a number of supported housing initiatives and additional support services including Domestic Abuse & Mental Health
6	Explore the potential for alternative models & maximise the impact of new build provision to increase move-on accommodation.	Different organisational and funding models exist in the market that claim to increase the availability of move-on housing and our objective is to understand the risks, benefits and impacts of these for Coventry.

Housing & Homelessness

Key Policy Areas - 2026/27

Policy area		Requirement
1	Deliver a Supporting Housing Strategy	A requirement from MHCLG is for each Local Authority to produce a Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027. This will require consultation and Cabinet approval
2	Government announcement regarding ending Rough Sleeping	Influence policy development where possible and ensure that once guidance and allocations are established that these are progressed in Coventry
3	Severe Weather Emergency Protocol	We revised our operating model for winter 2025/26 and are engaging with stakeholders on whether any further changes should be made for winter 2026/27

All of the above policy areas might benefit from Scrutiny involvement as they develop



Planning

Priorities and key policy areas



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Planning Priorities for 2026/27

Priority		Objective
1	Adoption of the Local Plan	To have the Local Plan found sound by the Planning Inspectorate. This includes consultation on main modifications from 19 th August to 1 st October 2026 , with further hearing sessions expected at the beginning of November 2026. Inspector's report anticipated before Christmas and report to Full Council in Q1 2027 seeking adoption.
2	West Midlands Combined Authority Spatial Development Strategy	Ensuring the Council's priorities are reflected through the consultation of the SDS when their issues and options are expected to be consulted on first quarter of 2027.
3	Implement the changes following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act.	National Scheme of Delegation - recommending changes to The Constitution to ensure it is consistent with National Legislation, provide a transparent process for consideration of applications through the Gateway. Planning Fee Setting – reviewing our Planning Fees to ensure they are fit for purpose with any changes being recommended from December 2026. Aligning validation to the new NPPF and Local Plan changes
4	Supplement the Planning Enforcement and Conservation/Heritage functions	To improve our heritage assets (identify heritage at risk and update our Conservation Area Appraisals) and tackle issues within our high streets. Progress the properties where works in default have been carried out.
5	Review options for delivery of affordable housing	Working closely with the Housing and Homelessness team to identify opportunity for increased delivery of affordable housing.
6	Updating systems and availability of s106 information.	To ensure information is readily accessible to Members and residents and across teams.

Planning

Key Policy Areas - 2026/27

Policy area		Requirement
1	Local Plan Adoption	In-line with Legislation.
2	Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance; Shop Front Design Guide, Health Impact Assessment, Biodiversity Net Gain, Coventry Connected, Sustainable Drainage.	The Legislation states that, from June 2026, the council can no longer introduce new/updated SPDs. We will therefore need to review documentation to consider its status and relevance and the use of guidance notes.
3	Conservation Area Appraisals	Agree a programme and timetable for the review of the Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans. Section 69(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Migration, Integration and Community Wellbeing Priorities and key policy areas



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Migration, Integration and Community Wellbeing

Our focus this year is to:
sustain successful programmes, strengthen early help, and make sure newly arrived residents can settle, contribute and belong in Coventry.

1 Our Coventry

Continue to commission a visible city-wide welcome offer that helps residents connect to advice, support and inclusion opportunities.

3 Health Access to Refugees

Re-commission the programme, so families can access health advice, primary care and prevention support earlier.

2 Transitional Housing Project

Reduce pressure on homelessness services by supporting move on, tenancy readiness and more stable housing pathways.

4 Community Confidence

Focus on issues locally: cohesion, timely communication and practical support for newly arrived communities.

Council outcome: less crisis response, stronger neighbourhood confidence, and better routes into health, housing and community life.



Councillor Akhtar

Proposed Priorities for Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 2026/27

Empty dwellings

Private rented sector standards

Safer, better managed homes

Priorities at a Glance

Two priorities. One clear narrative: making best use of housing stock, improving standards and protecting residents through effective housing regulation.

1 Empty Dwellings

What success looks like

Residents should see long-term empty homes brought back into use, with priority action on properties causing nuisance, blight or wider neighbourhood impact.

Key message

“We want to make best use of housing in the city and reduce the negative impact of long-term empty properties on neighbourhoods.”

2 Raising Standards in the Private Rented Sector

What success looks like

Residents should benefit from safer, healthier and better-managed private rented homes, with clearer expectations for landlords and consistent enforcement where standards fall short.

Key message

“We want tenants to feel safe and secure in their homes, and landlords to understand and meet their responsibilities.”

3 Cabinet Member Scrutiny Narrative

What success looks like

Scrutiny can help test whether the Council has the right policy framework, intelligence, partnerships and delivery grip to make a visible difference for residents.

Key message

“These priorities focus on making better use of homes, improving housing conditions and giving residents confidence that poor standards will be challenged.”

Cabinet Member narrative

“The focus for Scrutiny is housing that supports safer, healthier and more stable communities: bringing empty dwellings back into use, raising standards in the private rented sector and using regulation in a fair, consistent and proportionate way.”

Empty Dwellings

What is it?

A clear priority to bring long-term empty homes back into use through advice, engagement, partnership working and, where needed, enforcement routes such as enforced sale, CPOs or EDMOs.

Why are we doing it?

Empty homes reduce available housing supply and can cause nuisance, disrepair and neighbourhood blight. A refreshed strategy gives Scrutiny a clear route to test impact, pace and delivery grip.

Resident impact

Residents should see more empty homes returned to use, fewer long-term problem properties and clearer action where vacant homes are affecting streets and communities.

Cabinet Member message

“We want to make best use of housing in the city and reduce the negative impact of long-term empty properties on neighbourhoods.”

Supporting narrative

This priority gives Scrutiny a practical, resident-facing theme. It links housing supply, neighbourhood confidence, enforcement options and partnership action. The key message is that the Council is moving from individual case handling to a clearer strategic approach, with priority cases, agreed options and an updated Empty Homes Strategy.

Key delivery milestones

Q1

Options paper and Cabinet Member steer on the future Empty Homes Strategy.

Q2

Refresh priority case list, intervention route and partner escalation pathway.

Q3

Progress priority cases and test use of enforcement tools where informal routes fail.

Q4

Impact review and new Empty Homes Strategy delivery plan for 2026/27 onward.

Raising Standards in the Private Rented Sector

What is it?

A priority to embed the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2026-2031, implement Renters' Rights Act duties, target poor property conditions and support fair, consistent regulation of landlords and agents.

Why are we doing it?

The private rented sector is changing significantly. New duties and powers mean the Council needs clear policy, trained officers, good intelligence and visible enforcement where landlords fail to meet standards.

Resident impact

Residents should feel safer, better protected and more secure in private rented homes, with poor conditions tackled and responsible landlords supported to comply.

Cabinet Member message

"We want tenants to feel safe and secure in their homes, and landlords to understand and meet their responsibilities."

Supporting narrative

This priority provides Scrutiny with a clear line of sight on implementation of the Renters' Rights Act, the Council's strengthened enforcement policy and the wider aim of raising housing standards. It links tenant safety, landlord accountability, proactive intelligence and consistent use of enforcement tools.

Key delivery milestones

Q1

Policy live, delegations updated and officer readiness confirmed.

Q2

Landlord and tenant communications, training and enforcement procedures embedded.

Q3

Intelligence-led inspections, HMO/unlicensed landlord activity and PRS data work reviewed.

Q4

Impact report on enforcement outcomes, compliance learning and tenant confidence.