

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 26 August 2026

Present:

Members:

Councillor R Singh (Chair)
Councillor A Kaur (Deputy Chair)
Councillor F Beechey
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor S Gray (substitute for Councillor E M Reeves)
Councillor M Heaven (substitute for Councillor J Blundell)
Councillor S Jobbar (substitute for Councillor E Ruane)
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor H Rehman

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Non-Voting Members of the Committee:

Councillor M Greenhalgh (substitute for Councillor S Gray)

Other Members:

Councillor G Duggins (Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership)
Councillor D McCann
Councillor J McNicholas (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion)

Employees (by Service Area):

Law, Governance, and Safer Communities

J Newman (Director), J Barnett, G Holmes, L Nagle, T Robinson

Planning and Performance

C Boden-Haton (Director)

Others Present:

Chief Inspector (West Midlands Police)

Apologies:

Councillor J Blundell, E M Reeves and E Ruane

Public Business

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

8. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 June, 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2026, were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

9. **Cabinet Member Portfolio Priorities 2026-27**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator attached to which were two appendices outlining the priorities of the Cabinet Members which sit within the remit of the Committee.

One of Scrutiny's roles is to hold the Executive to account by reviewing decisions made by the Cabinet before they are implemented (pre-scrutiny) or after they are enacted. Therefore, the Committee has the responsibility of scrutinising the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership, Councillor G Duggins, and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion, Councillor J McNicholas. Inputs and comments informed each scrutiny board's work programmes for the remainder of the year.

Each cabinet member outlined the information provided at Appendix 1 and 2 to the Briefing Note and welcomed the opportunity for scrutiny.

The Committee asked questions, received answers and made comments in respect of the following:

- Oversight of the budget.
- The process for appointing scrutiny chairs – statutory guidance relating to scrutiny appointments.
- The Council being more proactive in increasing pressure to shut down illegal premises and encouraging the public to not shop there.
- Increasing fly-tipping and methods used to tackle this:
 - Accessing a more data driven approach – more officer recruitment and the local community's involvement.
 - Increasing fines under caution to £1000 and pursuing surveillance campaigns like the Wall of Shame.
 - Efforts to tackle repeat offenders in problem areas.
 - Assessing whether the online booking system at the London Road Recycling and Disposal Centre had an impact on fly-tipping.
 - Waste education programs for adults and children – already an item on the work programme for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4).
- Improving neighbourhoods and the high-street:
 - Increasing publication of rogue premises licence holders and partnership working with local community activists.
 - Efforts made to lobby government over the length of closure orders and closure orders against individuals instead of premises – focusing on enforcement as disruption to illegal premises.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee ensures that enforcement issues be referred to the Committee in the future.

10. **One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report (April 2025 - March 2026)**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Performance on the One Coventry Annual Performance between April 2025 to March 2026 attached as an appendix to the report.

The report stated that the One Coventry Plan sets out the Council's vision and priorities for the city to 2030. It provides the framework for how the Council works with partners and communities to improve outcomes, tackle inequalities, support economic prosperity and respond to climate change. Using performance indicators, trend data, benchmarking and case studies, the report provided an assessment of progress against the Plan's priorities to show both measurable outcomes and wider impact.

Specifically, performance was monitored against 88 indicators. Of these, 71 were assessed against the previous year. Overall, 44 of the 71 indicators, or 62%, either improved or stayed the same, while 27 declined. Progress could not be assessed for 17 indicators: 8 because current-year data was not yet available, 6 because there was insufficient prior-year data, mainly due to new indicators being introduced, and 3 because they were contextual indicators with no clear desired direction of travel.

Therefore, it was summarised that the overall performance picture was mixed, with more indicators improving or staying the same than declining. Stronger progress was evident in outcomes and inequalities, and in several climate-related measures. Economic performance was more challenging, with strengths in business survival, tourism, investment income and housing pipeline, but concerns remaining around unemployment, youth unemployment, skills inequalities, economic inactivity and city centre footfall.

Councillor G Duggins introduced the item and recognised the significance of the report since its introduction in the early 2010s.

The Committee asked questions, received answers and made comments in respect of the following:

- The readability of the report, ensuring that accessible font size and spacing was used, so that the report can be read both online and in hard copy.
- That an all-members seminar would be held where officers and Cabinet Members can be asked more detailed questions on performance.

The Committee also identified the following for referral to the appropriate scrutiny board:

- That fly-tipping, including the education programme and the Bring the Tip to You programme be considered by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4).
- That the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) consider the active travel performance as part of the item on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- That the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) consider community involvement in Pride in Place.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considers the Council's progress as set out in the performance report attached at Appendix 1 to the report and forwards the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- 1) Improve the layout and presentation of the report to make the information provided more accessible.**
- 2) That performance measures are identified specifically for active travel, as part of an item to be considered by the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3).**

11. City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report and presentation of the Director of Law, Governance, and Safer Communities on the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2026.

The report outlined that a PSPO is a legal tool designed to address anti-social behaviour in specific public areas allowing local authorities to restrict or prohibit certain activities to improve community safety and quality of life. The City Centre PSPO has been in place for a number of years and remains an important tool in helping partners tackle anti-social behaviour and issues that impact on the quality of life of those using the city centre. The current Order covers a range of measures, including busking, cycling and behaviours that can cause nuisance, alarm or distress.

As the existing Order expires in November 2026, the report proposed a new City Centre PSPO for a further three-year period. The proposed Order retained a number of existing provisions whilst introducing updates to reflect current issues, consultation feedback and operational experience. As part of the development of the proposed replacement Order, a public consultation took place during June and July 2026 and generated 884 responses. Overall support for renewal of the PSPO was high, with 85% of respondents in favour, 8% not in favour and 7% unsure. Detailed consultation findings were set out in Appendix 3a of the report.

Following this consultation, a new City Centre PSPO was proposed for a further three-year period including the following:

- Prohibitions focused on conduct that causes harassment, alarm or distress.
- Provisions regulating the use of amplification equipment.
- Controls on temporary structures, including gazebos and stalls.
- Provisions relating to busking, cycling, e-bikes and e-scooters.

The officer's presentation outlined the following key areas:

- The process for renewal of the PSPO.
- Community engagement and the public consultation.
- Suggested actions of the Committee – e-bikes and e-scooters, scope of enforcement zone, evidence gathering, technical solutions, face coverings, suitable amplification, professional begging, public communication and signage, and temporary structures.
- Enforcement activity.

- Updates – new staff, increased hours, and a focus on reporting.

The Committee asked questions received answers and made comments in respect of the following:

- The requirement for a Temporary Event Notice for significant amplification.
- Safety measures in place for the visually impaired – conducting Equality Impact Assessments and receiving advice from the Disability Equality Advisory Panel.
- Defining reasonable exemptions regarding licences.
- E-bike and e-scooter riders who wear face coverings cycling dangerously:
 - Partnership working with Lime Bike to identify problem riders following incidents.
 - The issue of collecting data on face coverings, including police powers for stop and search and the criteria to do so.
 - Liaising with colleagues in Nuneaton and Bedworth to learn from their experiences of removal of face coverings as part of a PSPO.
 - The practicalities of additional consultation on the removal of face-coverings whilst riding e-bikes and e-scooters.
 - Dismounting data and how this was collected.
 - The role of community wardens in enforcing the PSPO with regards to riders and collecting more data.
 - Contacting ride and food delivery companies to tackle anti-social behaviour connected to e-bikes and e-scooters.
- Extending the enforcement zone to cover the Belgrade Theatre and Earl Street.
- The process for requesting licenses for amplification for events in the city centre, ensuring that it is a quick and easy.

RESOLVED that, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the new City Centre PSPO.**
- 2) Agrees an additional separate public consultation on the removal of face coverings while riding e-bikes and e-scooters.**
- 3) Includes the removal of face coverings as part of the consultation on the renewal of the city-wide PSPO renewal.**

12. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2026/2027

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, that provided information regarding the Committee's Work Programme and Outstanding Issues for 2026/27.

It was agreed that data collected regarding previous work programme items be shared with Committee members.

13. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.35 pm)