
Council Meeting

8 September 2026

Booklet 1

Answers to Written Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J McNicholas, Cabinet Member for
Community Safety and Cohesion**

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Can the Cabinet Member inform me of the number of HMO properties in each of the following areas of Tile Hill and Canley that have valid HMO licenses?

Answers below in bold

- 2 - 74 Charter Avenue

36 licensed HMOs

- 223 - 261 Sir Henry Parkes Road (on the Centenary Road side)

7 licensed HMOs

- 190 - 264 Sir Henry Parkes Road (opposite side of the road, up to Canley Fire Station)

26 licensed HMOs

- 1 - 66 Centenary Road

17 licensed HMOs

- 153 - 183 Fletchamstead Highway

11 licensed HMOs

Local residents are concerned at the number of HMO's and the effectiveness of any enforcement / checks as it seems some properties are being extended without local residents being informed.

How many properties have been extended since the original HMO licenses were issued in each of these locations?”

Answer:

All licensed HMOs are subject to a programme of inspection throughout the life of their licence. Typically, this includes:

1. An inspection on application before a licence is granted, enabling the Council to assess the suitability, condition and management of the property and apply appropriate licence conditions.
2. A further inspection to check compliance with licence conditions.
3. An inspection before the licence is renewed.

In addition, inspections may be carried out in response to complaints or intelligence received by the Council.

The HMO licensing regime regulates the management, safety and standards of HMOs. It does not control whether a property can be extended or altered. Matters relating to extensions, alterations and development are considered through the planning and building control process and are subject to the

relevant legislation and consultation requirements. Some extensions may be undertaken through permitted development rights and therefore do not require a planning application.

Planning records show that, within the locations identified, there have been 28 planning applications relating to extensions at licensed HMOs and a further 27 Lawful Development Certificates or Prior Approvals.

2.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Woodlands Ward Greenspace maintenance has deteriorated significantly over the last two years, with the current year being the worst that I have known in my seventeen years as a ward councillor. Residents in Woodlands ward will be among the highest council taxpayers in the city and deserve a much better service than they currently receive.

Answers in bold

Can the Cabinet Member explain why?

An investigation into the concerns raised has been undertaken. It was found that some areas identified as poorly maintained were not Council-owned land and had been removed from maintenance maps while ownership issues were being resolved. Issues identified on Council-managed land have been addressed directly and remedies put in place. Some concerns also related to third-party landowners and reinstatement works following utility excavations. Concerns related to grass cutting are being considered alongside a citywide review of funding for grounds maintenance activities.

What measures will be undertaken to improve the service going forward.

Additional inspections are being undertaken, and acceptable standards have been discussed with teams, along with additional training.

During this hot summer we have seen an increase in wildfires across the country which puts some areas in Coventry at risk of wildfires. Allesley Green has a vast area of greenspace that has been allowed grow significantly, in addition to one side of the estate backs on to the Windmill Village golf course. How many areas in the city do we have that are in a similar position?

There are currently 44 Low Mow sites across the city which are intentionally managed with reduced cutting frequencies to support biodiversity and improve habitats for pollinators and wildlife.

What measures will be taken to reduce the risk of wildfires to protect residents and their properties?”

We recognise the increased wildfire risk during periods of hot, dry weather and are identifying mitigation measures. These include reviewing

the location of existing sites to ensure that the risks associated with the changing weather conditions are understood. Regularly cut firebreaks adjacent to homes, roads and footpaths, and targeted mowing of higher-risk areas is being implemented along with regular monitoring of sites during prolonged periods of hot dry weather.

3. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Blundell**

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Could the Cabinet Member please supply the number of missed bin collection (those not collected on the due day) there have been over the past 3 and 6 months and what provision is made for collection of such. Also, how many communications have the council received over the past 3 months and 6 months regarding missed bin collections.”

Answer:

Between March and August 2026 (last 6 months), the Council received 6,103 reports of missed bins. Of these, 4,035 reports were received during June, July and August. During the same six-month period, the service was scheduled to collect approximately 4.22 million bins (4,221,224). The reported missed bins therefore represent around 0.14% of all scheduled collections.

Reports increased during the June, July and August alongside periods of extreme hot weather, which affected working conditions, placed additional pressure on collection operations and contributed to service delays. Access issues and other operational challenges also affect the Council’s ability to complete some collections on their scheduled day. These figures only represent missed bins reported to the Council, so the actual number of delayed or incomplete collections may have been higher.

4. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Reddy**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor L Kelly, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“With around 2.15 million electric cars now running on UK roads (July 2026), how will we manage the increasing number of EV batteries reaching end of life, potentially generating up to 100,000 ton of battery waste every year?

Could we give consider to the proposed Coventry gigafactory at Greenpower Park by integrating EV battery recycling, reuse and remanufacturing into the facility?

This is a great opportunity which can turn an environmental challenge into a major industrial opportunity—creating jobs, recovering critical materials, strengthening the UK supply chain, and positioning Coventry as a national and international leader in the circular battery economy.”

Answer:

The planning permission for Greenpower Park is for battery manufacturing with associated recycling facilities and this would allow us to accommodate recycling, reuse and remanufacturing of batteries on the site.

A new planning application is being prepared that will allow a broader range of advanced manufacturing activities at Greenpower, but this will not prevent battery manufacturing with associated recycling from coming forward.

Battery manufacturers will be keen to co-locate with recycling facilities, or to establish their own in order to minimise waste and maximise the value of the raw materials used in their manufacturing processes, and the work that we have done so far with Greenpower Park puts us in a good position to make the most of these opportunities and create good quality jobs for Coventry people.

5.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Reddy

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“At the June 2026 Council meeting, it was confirmed that evening parking charges have generated £596,044 in income since their introduction in November 2023. It was also subsequently reported that no information was available to explain the increase in evening parking transactions recorded in February and April 2025.

Answers in bold

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

1. Whether the Council has undertaken any assessment of the economic impact of evening parking charges on Coventry city centre businesses, particularly restaurants, cafés, hospitality venues and other businesses’ that rely on the evening economy.

A specific impact assessment has not been undertaken to evaluate the effect of evening parking charges on businesses; available city centre performance indicators do not suggest that the introduction of nighttime parking charges has resulted in a decline in activity.

2. Whether any analysis has been carried out comparing the additional income generated by evening parking charges with any impacts on city centre footfall, business activity, trade levels or business closures.

Parking income is monitored on an ongoing basis. However, our monitoring considers all parking income and activity rather than assessing evening parking income separately from income generated during other periods of the day.

3. What business engagement, consultation, surveys, footfall data or economic evidence has been used to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy.

The introduction of standard evening parking charges was approved by Cabinet in November 2023 due to the prevailing financial climate at that time and was not subject to wider business engagement or consultation.

It should be noted that the car park charging structure is consistent with other towns and cities across the region.

4. Whether the Council has now identified the reasons for the significant increases in evening parking income and transactions during February and April 2025, and if so, what those reasons were.

At this stage, the fluctuations in parking income recorded during February and April 2025 cannot be attributed to a specific cause, as they may have been influenced by a range of prevailing factors at the time, including weather conditions, local events and attractions, and the availability of parking spaces.

5. If no economic impact assessment has been undertaken, whether the Cabinet Member will commit to carrying out a review of the effect of evening parking charges on Coventry's evening and night-time economy."

It is acknowledged that a range of economic factors, including inflationary pressures and increases in parking charges, may influence the nighttime economy. However, these factors should not be considered in isolation. The performance of the nighttime economy is affected by a variety of additional considerations, including the quality and availability of leisure and entertainment opportunities, levels of consumer confidence, perceptions of safety, and access to public transport, and any assessment should adopt a holistic approach, taking account of the full range of contributing factors rather than focusing on individual influences in isolation.

It is recommended that parking charges form part of the Council's annual review of fees and charges. The outcome of this review should be used to inform the budget-setting process for 2027/28.

It should be noted that city centre performance indicators do not suggest that the introduction of nighttime parking charges has resulted in a decline in activity. The most recent data shows that:

- **Coventry city centre footfall increased by 16.8% compared with June 2025.**
- **Footfall between January and July 2025 was 6.4% higher than during the same period in 2024.**
- **July 2025 footfall was 5.1% higher than in July 2024.**

6.	QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services
	TEXT OF QUESTION: “Given the continuing problem of fly-tipping across Coventry, what assessment has the Council made of whether the mandatory booking system at the Household Recycling and Reuse Centre creates unnecessary barriers for residents wishing to dispose of their waste responsibly, and will the Cabinet Member review whether the booking requirement remains necessary?” Answer: The Council has not identified any evidence that the tip booking system has increased levels of fly-tipping in Coventry. The system helps manage demand and ensure residents can access the site safely and efficiently, with appointments generally readily available. The booking system helps ensure that the site remains available for Coventry residents. By verifying residency and managing demand, it reduces the risk of significant use by people from outside the city, helping to protect capacity, control costs and maintain access for Coventry residents at the cities only site. The Council recognises that some residents may face barriers in accessing the site. To help address this, the Bringing the Tip to You service is trialling an alternative way for residents to responsibly dispose of bulky household items within areas that experience high levels of fly tipping and other environmental antisocial behaviour. Data relating to fly-tipping, Bringing the Tip to You and use of the Tip is closely monitored. At present, there is no evidence to suggest that the booking system is contributing to fly-tipping levels in Coventry. The Council will continue to monitor both fly-tipping trends and usage of the site to ensure the arrangements remain effective and meet the needs of residents.

7.	QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J McNicholas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion
	TEXT OF QUESTION: “How many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Coventry during 2025/26, how many resulted in the person responsible being identified, and how many resulted in fixed penalty notices, prosecutions or other enforcement action?” “What was the total cost to the Council of investigating, clearing and disposing of fly-tipped waste during 2025/26, and how does this compare with each of the previous three financial years?”

Answer:

In 2025/26, activity included 1,044 written warnings, 929 formal notices, 139 FPNs, 117 duty-of-care inspections and 4 prosecutions

The costs of investigating, clearing and disposing of fly-tipped waste are incurred across multiple service areas and two Directorates.

Fly-tipping enforcement, investigation and associated environmental crime activity are undertaken as part of the wider Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, which delivers a range of statutory enforcement functions across the city.

The actual expenditure of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service was:

Financial Year	Actual Expenditure (£m)
2023/24	1.592
2024/25	1.360
2025/26	1.473

As Neighbourhood Enforcement officers undertake a wide range of duties, including environmental crime enforcement, littering, waste-related investigations and other regulatory functions, it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the proportion of these costs attributable solely to fly-tipping investigations, clearance and disposal without undertaking a detailed manual analysis. Consequently, the Council does not hold a verified figure for the total annual cost of fly-tipping activity alone.

8.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Heaven

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“How many enquiries and requests for treatment of rat infestations has the Council received during 2024/25 and so far in 2026/27, and how does this compare with previous years?

What is the current number of outstanding cases awaiting treatment, what is the average waiting time for an appointment, and what measures is the Council taking to reduce the backlog and ensure residents experiencing rat infestations receive timely treatment?”

Answer:

Numbers relating to enquiries and requests for rat treatments are not separately recorded. Where an enquiry leads to a treatment being undertaken the numbers are shown below.

Rat treatments undertaken over the last 5 years.

Year	Treatments Undertaken
2022 / 23 (full year)	2457

2023/ 24 (full year)	2518
2024 / 25*	-
2025 /26 (full year)	2054
2026 / 27 (Apr to July)	556

* Please note that the figure for 2024/25 has been omitted due to the implementation of a new data recording system during that period, which means the relevant data is not available.

The current number of outstanding cases waiting for treatment is 437 with the average waiting time to receive a pest control treatment currently being 12 weeks.

Waiting times for pest control services fluctuate significantly throughout the year due to seasonal variations in demand. Requests typically increase during warmer months when pest activity is higher, which can lead to longer response times.

A review of the service was undertaken to identify measures required to protect and enhance the free pest control services provided to residents in the face of increasing demand, while also strengthening the commercial activities that generate income to help support and sustain the service.

As a result, additional funding has been allocated to the service and recruitment is underway to increase staffing levels, strengthen operational capacity and resilience, and improve response times for residents.

9. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor A Albert**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Following the reported loss of a substantial number of ICT assets, considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee on 2 February 2026, will the Cabinet Member please provide the following information:

- How the differing reported figures of approximately 210, 300 and up to 500 missing laptops can be reconciled?
- The verified number and value of these devices lost or remaining unaccounted for?
- How the loss, insurance recovery, reported £100,000 excess and any unrecovered balance were recorded in the Council's accounts?
- Evidence that the strengthened ICT asset-management controls are operating effectively.

Answer:

As reported to Audit and Procurement Committee in February 2026, a concern was raised in 2022 that a number of laptops had been misappropriated. The

matter was reported to the police, and they undertook a criminal investigation which resulted in a prosecution. The prosecution was concluded in July 2025 and the individual pleaded guilty to the theft of 210 laptops. Further information regarding the investigation into the incident and reconciliation of assets is retained by the police. Separately, the Council received a payout of £190k from its insurers. Following the incident, Digital Services took immediate steps to strengthen the controls in place to manage the risk of theft and have worked closely with Internal Audit to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place. More recently, the Service have implemented a specific software package to provide a robust solution to managing digital assets.

10.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Can the Cabinet Member give us a breakdown by type of the total number of items of IT equipment/electronic including phones that have gone missing within the last 5 years.

What was the value cost of these missing items?

Answer:

Since April 2022, the number of Council devices reported lost or stolen by employees / councillors and not recovered were:

Laptops	36
Mobile Phones	85
Tablets	6

It is not possible to calculate a value for these devices.

11.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Can the Cabinet Member explain the procedure for seeking to recover council tax instalments that have just become overdue?

Answer:

If a council tax instalment is missed, a resident is issued with a reminder notice 7 days after the missed instalment. The reminder notice asks the resident to pay the defaulted sum within a further 7 days. If the account is not brought up to date within 7 days, the resident loses the right to pay by instalments and the full annual balance becomes payable. At this point, the resident is issued with a

court summons and the Council seeks a liability order from the Magistrates Court. The liability order provides further enforcement options in the event that payment is not forthcoming.

Council tax collection and enforcement is subject to annual review by the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (SB1) and biennial reviews by internal audit.

12.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor C Phillips

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

Please could the Cabinet Member answer the following questions regarding the pilot scheme "Bringing the Tip to You"

- Have any agency workers been utilised to deliver the pilot scheme since its commencement?
- If agency workers have been used, what has been the total cost to the council of agency workers?
- What is the total number of hours worked by agency workers?
- What percentage of the total labour hours worked on the pilot have been undertaken by agency workers, compared with employed Council Staff?"

Answer:

As the Bringing the Tip to You service was initially introduced as a 12-month pilot, the additional workforce required to operate the service has been provided through temporary agency staff. This has allowed the Council to deliver the trial without creating permanent staffing commitments while demand, performance and future service requirements are evaluated.

The exact costs and total hours worked by agency staff on this project are not readily available. Agency workers recruited to deliver the service are paid per hour for the work undertaken and all costs are covered by the funding allocated to the project.

Staff work an average of 35 hours per week and are paid only for the hours they actually work.