

Petitions Relating to the Budget Setting Proposals 2024/25

On 27 January, 2025, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources considered three petitions that had been submitted in relation to the budget setting proposals for 2025/26 to 2027/28. In line with the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition organisers and sponsors had been invited to attend the meeting to outline their concerns to the Cabinet Member.

At the meeting it was noted that the comments and issues raised would be considered as part of the consultation process for the Budget Setting proposals for 2025/26 to 2027/28, which would be considered by Cabinet and Council at their meeting on 25 February, 2025.

The first petition submitted was headed 'Cancel proposed increased car parking charges at the War Memorial Park', bearing 1442 signatures, and related to the proposal to remove the current 3 hours free parking at the War Memorial Park and standardise parking charges with those at Coombe Country Park, as follows:

Up to 1 hour - £1
1-2 hours - £3
2-4 hours £3.50

The issues raised at the meeting can be summarised as follows:-

- War Memorial Park plays a vital delivery role in the health and wellbeing of Coventry.
- Comparisons couldn't be made between the park and Coombe Abbey as that operates mainly as a hotel and country park – the War Memorial Park is at its core a memorial to lost loved ones.

The second petition submitted was headed 'Stop the proposed cuts to tackling Fly-tipping in our City', bearing 203 signatures, and related to the proposal to a £690k reduction in the Streetpride (cleansing) service, impacting the City Centre and priority neighbourhoods.

The issues raised at the meeting can be summarised as follows:-

- Cutting funding to fly-tipping was a counterproductive step that will accrue more costs in the future.
- The similarities between cleaning fly-tipping and graffiti – not dealing with these will lead to increased uncleanliness of Coventry's streets.
- The proposed cuts would undermine local initiatives where fly-tipped areas are cleared on a regular basis.
- Cleaning streets prevents vermin infested rubbish near schools and school routes.
- The impact of CCTV and deterrents in the city to prevent fly-tipping.
- The cleaner the city, the potential for more money to be generated.
- Citizen's right to a clean city.

The third petition submitted was headed 'Council Cuts to Grapevine Preventative Support', bearing 920 signatures, and related to the proposed Adult Social Care - Voluntary Sector Review.

The issues raised at the meeting can be summarised as follows:-

- Government studies evidencing the benefit of early help initiatives to reduce costs in the long-term and help those in vital need.
- Ignoring service users at the early help stage until they become a statutory burden to the Council.
- The 41,000 Coventry residents with learning disabilities without statutory care, reliant on voluntary initiatives, who without them could go into crisis.
- The huge public support that the appeal to stop the cuts to Grapevine has gathered across the City.
- Possible costs incurred from litigation as those kept away from statutory support - as a result of Grapevine's closure - assert their legal rights.
- The increased costs, pressures, and overall deterioration of disabled people's rights and needs as a result of the loss of funding.

Note: As at 17 February, 2025 the total number of signatures received in relation to each petitions are as follows:

Car Parking Charges – War Memorial Park – 1561 signatures

Reduction to Flytipping Budget – 208 signatures

Cuts to Grapevine Preventative Support – 1449 signatures received as at 17th February 2025