



**Information Governance Team**

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19 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI681950735**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness.

You have requested the following information:

**AI Strategy**

**1. Does the council have an official AI strategy or roadmap?**

**o If yes, please provide a copy or summary.**

**o If no, are there plans to develop one?**

We confirm we do not currently have an official AI strategy at this time, however we are in the process of developing one which aligns with our existing Digital Strategy.

**2. Has the council allocated a specific budget for AI initiatives in the last three financial years?**

**o If so, please provide details of the budget allocation and expenditure.**

No specific budget has been allocated as of yet.

**3. Are there specific teams, departments, or individuals responsible for overseeing AI strategy or implementation within the council?**

**o If yes, could you provide their name, role, and contact information (email address and phone number)?**

Our AI strategy is currently being overseen by our Digital Services Directorate and Paul Ward, who is the Director of Digital Services. Email: paul.ward@coventry.gov.uk

**4. Has the council engaged with external consultants or organisations to develop or implement AI projects? If so, please provide details.**

**AI Projects and Use Cases**

**5. Is the council currently using or piloting any AI tools or solutions?**

**o If yes, what are the primary use cases (e.g., chatbots, fraud detection, process automation)?**

**o Please list any vendors or solutions used.**

In response to Questions 4 and 5, we confirm we are currently piloting Microsoft CoPilot for general administrative productivity improvements.

Our Children's Services Team are also working with Palantir to look into case note transcriptions along with general administrative productivity improvements.

**6. Has the council completed or planned any feasibility studies or pilot projects related to AI?**

**o If yes, please provide a summary of findings or expected outcomes.**

We confirm that work is currently ongoing with regards to feasibility studies based on the work described in our response to Questions 4 and 5.

**Governance and Ethical Considerations**

**7. How does the council ensure ethical considerations in the use of AI, such as avoiding bias in algorithms or ensuring transparency?**

**o Are there governance frameworks in place to address these issues?**

We are currently developing our position in this area as we undertake pilots as described in our response to Questions 4 and 5.

**8. Has the council undertaken any risk assessments for the implementation of AI technologies?**

**o If yes, please provide details or copies of any assessments.**

Our standard approach to risk management that we use in all of our Digital projects, has been applied to any AI projects.

**9. How does the council comply with data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR) when implementing AI projects?**

Our standard approach to data protection that we use in all of our Digital projects, has been applied to any AI projects.

**Talent and Skills**

**10. What proportion of the council's staff has received AI-related training or upskilling in the past three years?**

No specific AI-related training has been delivered to Council staff.

**11. Does the council employ data scientists, AI specialists, or other technical staff dedicated to AI initiatives?**

**o If yes, how many, and in what roles?**

There are no staff specifically allocated to AI initiatives.

**Infrastructure and Budget**

**12. What technological infrastructure is currently in place to support AI initiatives (e.g., data storage, computing resources, cloud platforms)?**

In response to Question 12, the Council under Section 31(3) neither confirms nor denies whether the information you have requested exists or is held by us.

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) and Section 31 (3) of the FOIA Act 2000. Section 31 of the FOIA relates to Law Enforcement and Section 31(3) removes the public authority's duty to confirm or deny whether information is held if to do so would, or would be likely to prejudice law enforcement.

It is the Council's view that the confirmation or denial of the possession of information relating to the Council's technological infrastructure, would be likely to compromise the Council's information security strategies by giving cyber criminals insight into vulnerabilities which may, or may not, exist.

Section 31(3) is a qualified exemption, as such we have gone on to perform a public interest test in order to assess the public interest arguments for and against declaring whether or not the requested information is held.

For Disclosure:

- Confirmation of possession would demonstrate a commitment to transparency with regard to the Council's undertaking and could provide assurance that the council have robust IT infrastructure in place.

Against Disclosure:

- Maintaining the integrity and security of the Council's systems.
- Preventing cyber-attacks and similar against the Council systems.

Revealing the information may assist cyber criminal's insight into not only the strengths of the Council's cyber security, but also any potential weaknesses that may exist. This could ultimately result in a future cyber-attack. Cyber security measures are in place to protect the integrity of personal and sensitive personal information.

The occurrence of a future cyber-attack would prejudice the Council's legal duty to safeguard personal information from loss, theft, inappropriate access or destruction, which is why Section 31 has been employed in this case.

On balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in confirming or denying whether information is held and therefore the Council neither confirms nor denies, whether this information is held.

**13. Has the council faced challenges in implementing AI due to resource or infrastructure limitations?**

**o If yes, please provide details.**

We have not faced any challenges in implementing AI at this stage.

**14. Is there a long-term budget allocation plan for AI adoption or expansion?**

We have not allocated a long-term budget for AI adoption or expansion at this stage.

**Public Engagement**

**15. Has the council conducted any public consultations or outreach efforts regarding the use of AI in council operations?**

We have not yet conducted any public consultations or outreach efforts regarding the use of AI, however this has been planned for the future.

**16. Are there mechanisms for residents to understand or influence how AI is being used by the council?**

We confirm that these mechanisms will be developed and public engagement will be undertaken in the future.

**Contact Information**

**17. Could you provide the name, role, and contact details (email address and phone number) of the person(s) responsible for IT or AI adoption within the council?**

In response to Question 17, please refer to our response to Question 3.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**