

YOUR COVENTRY

News about what's going on in your city ♥ spring edition 2025

- Coventry Job Fest
- Fly-tippers on camera
- Streetlights upgrade
- All smiles at Children's Mile



If you have a spare room in your home and time to support an adult with social care needs in Coventry and Warwickshire, we would love to hear from you.

Full training, support and a generous allowance is included.

coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives





LEADER'S MESSAGE

Your update from the
Leader of Coventry City Council
Cllr George Duggins

I hope you have enjoyed a happy and healthy start to 2025.

It has certainly been a busy few months for Coventry and its continuing development as a leading city for the region and country, and a wonderful place for all who live, work and study here.

One key piece of work saw us set the budget for the next financial year. Coventry, like others, has seen funding reduced over the past 15 years, despite a rise in demand and population, and although we deliver hundreds of services, 83% of our net budget is now spent in three areas – children's social care, adult social care and housing and homelessness.

Thanks to our lobbying, that situation has improved this year, and we have not had to make some of the cuts we first feared – in fact, I am delighted to say we have even been able to invest an additional £2.2m in tackling issues such as fly-tipping and potholes.

However, we still receive £17m less funding than the national average, and the fight for a fairer system will go on. You can read more of our budget plans in this issue.

There is also news of another priority for us as a Council – to stop speeding traffic. I know this is a concern for many, and we are extending our network of Average Speed Enforcement Cameras. This is not about generating revenue, it is about saving lives.

The data shows these cameras really work and I am delighted that the network will now cover three more areas and keep even more people safe.

Another fascinating story tells how we have adopted drone technology to cut down heat loss from homes – a great example of how our city of innovation is adapting for the future to help residents and the planet.

This is a part of our work through the Strategic Energy Partnership we have with E.ON that over the coming months and years will revolutionise energy usage in Coventry for the benefit of local people, the environment and the wider economy. There really are some exciting times ahead! I hope you find this latest edition informative and helpful, and my best wishes to you all.

Budget plans for 2025/26 better than feared

The Council's budget plans for April 2025 to March 2026 are better than expected after improved funding from the government.

A consultation was held in December 2024 and January 2025 which listed possible cutbacks but many of them now won't go ahead.

A fund of £2.2m is also being used for one-off investment to boost services covering highways, street cleansing, community safety and community events. It includes £700,000 extra for road and pavement defects and £500,000 for

tackling fly-tipping – two of the issues highlighted by residents during the recent consultation.

However, financial challenges are still there as the Council tries to deal with the impact of chronic historical underfunding.

Cllr Richard Brown, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said:

"I have always said that we should hope for the best but prepare for the worst and the settlement from the

government is better than expected.

"We can finally see light at the end of the tunnel, but we have lots more work to do.

"We have always been very careful with our financial management, and this ongoing work has also put us in a better financial position than many other local councils.

"It means that many of the savings identified won't be needed, which I'm really pleased about.

"We've listened to the consultation feedback from the public and stakeholders and we are investing extra money into highways, things like potholes and investing more to tackle fly-tipping.

"At the same time, looking at the years ahead, the same challenges are still here. A combination of higher demand on services, inflation, and historical underfunding leaves us still well below the national average of government funding compared to other councils."

Despite the improved financial position, the Council will still be forced to announce an increase in Council Tax.

Where we spend your money

750,000 people visited our libraries last year

Fairer funding

Although this year's funding settlement from government was better than it has been in recent years, the Council's lobbying is ongoing as Coventry receives significantly less funding than the national average.

If the Council was to receive the national average, we would have an additional £17m each year for our services and we would be talking about even more investment in services.

Some of the additional investments we are able to make in the next financial year thanks to the better national settlement, are listed on this page.



© Dean Wainwright



Cracking down on fly-tippers

The Council is spending an additional £500,000 tackling fly-tipping and investing in cameras.

Fines were increased to £1,000 to act as a deterrent and members of the public are encouraged to report fly-tipping by going to coventry.gov.uk/flytipping or calling 08085 834333.

Reporting a pothole

An additional £700,000 is also going on roads and pavements. To report an urgent issue, please contact our Customer Services Team. When reporting a pothole please tell us exactly where it is. Visit coventry.gov.uk/potholes



Potholes can form quickly but we have teams working across the city to report and repair them.

We also investigate all reports of potholes and we repair them on a worst first basis.

Litter bins

Did you know we install, maintain and empty approximately 2,700 litter bins throughout Coventry?

If you've spotted an issue with a litter bin, report it to us at:

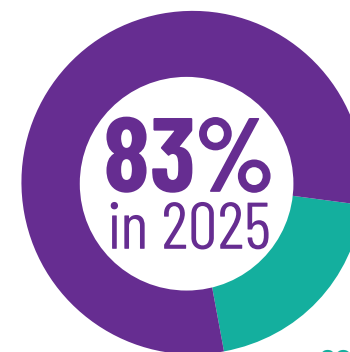
coventry.gov.uk/litterbins

Bulky waste

Need to dispose of big items? No problem!

Did you know we offer a bulky waste service in the city?

Book your collection for a maximum of 10 items at: coventry.gov.uk/rubbish



Financial pressures still facing the Council

Approximately 83 per cent of the Council's net budget is spent on three areas – homelessness, adult social care and children's social care – up from just over 50 per cent in 2010. It leaves less than 17 per cent to pay for hundreds of other services the Council delivers every year.

Over the past 15 years, Coventry's core spending power has fallen in real terms by £1.6bn. That's more than £100m (on average) every year.

Coventry's spending power is also one of the lowest funding per head at £46 less per head compared to other councils nationally. The equivalent of £17m a year.

Where we spend your money

In 2024 the Council repaired around 12,000 potholes across the city

Improving road safety

The Council is getting ready to extend the Average Speed Enforcement (ASE) network by introducing three more ASE camera locations in a bid to improve road safety.



Data from Transport for West Midlands shows that ASE locations across Coventry are contributing

to a more than 40 per cent reduction in personal injury collisions.

Three new areas are approved at Moseley Avenue and Four Pounds Avenue, Wheelwright Lane and Holbrook Lane, and Alderman's Green Road, including Parrotts Grove. The Council works closely with West Midlands Police, who operate the

enforcement of speed limits, as well as speed surveys. **Councillor Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services** said:

"Road safety is a priority for the Council. The cameras help reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads."

The cameras are due to go live this spring.

Streetlights upgrade planned

The Council is investing £10m in new, LED streetlights that are more efficient than the halogen lights they will replace.

Once the LED lights are installed, the lights will be kept on overnight through the savings made.

Over 29,000 individual lights, will be changed. The investment will provide economic and environmental benefits across the city. The new LED lighting

will use almost half the energy that the current ones do, resulting in energy and maintenance savings of £900,000 per year based on current costs. LED lights also last up to four times longer than the current lanterns.



Parking problems and improving traffic flow

Need to report an issue with parking somewhere in the city?

Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) are on hand to help enforce parking restrictions throughout Coventry. Let us know what issue you have and we'll see if it's something we can help with.

Visit: coventry.gov.uk/parking-enforcement

Highlighting best bars and restaurants

Coventry's bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs have been urged to achieve a leading industry accreditation scheme called Best Bar None which demonstrates excellence in providing safe experiences for visitors.

Delivered by Coventry City Council's Licensing Team and Coventry Business Improvement District (BID), the scheme is effectively an MOT of a business.

Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council, said:

"Knowing that a venue is Best Bar None accredited offers a massive reassurance

to customers. Pubs, clubs and restaurants that offer a warm welcome and have safety as their priority can only be good for everyone."

For details contact licensing@coventry.gov.uk

Cost of living support is available

08085 834 333
coventry.gov.uk/costofliving



Where we spend your money

The Council maintains more than 3,000 roads

New children's home opens

A new children's home has been opened in the city to help children and young people in need of care, stay close to home and their families.

The home can care for up to four children and young people at a time and is the city's first purpose-built home for children in care with disabilities.

Building extra homes enables more children to be given the care and support they need while remaining

near to their family, friends, community and support networks and continuing their education.

The cost of external residential placements made by Coventry has increased by 57 per cent in recent years.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"Our looked after children are happiest and most settled when they are near their own homes and families and their friends and these new homes will allow more children to have that support network when they need it most."

The home is part of the ongoing work by Coventry City Council to improve care across the city and put children and families at the heart of all it does.

A further children's home is due to open soon and two smaller homes are due to open later in 2025/early 2026 for children with the most complex needs.

In addition, we continue to seek to recruit more potential foster carers, for Coventry's children in care.

Restoration of Victorian Summerhouses

Work is almost finished to restore three 19th Century summerhouses in Coventry.



The Grade II listed summerhouses are within the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden at Stoney Road Allotments in Cheylesmore.

The summerhouses had fallen into disrepair and are the last remaining plots of the Park Gardens, established 200 years ago.

It is one of only four remaining detached Victorian town gardens that are listed on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Historic England has provided a £250k grant for the restoration of

the buildings. Railway Heritage Trust has also made a contribution, while support has also been provided by Network Rail.

The site is still actively used as allotments and sub-tenanted by the Stoney Road Gardens Association (SRGA).

Repairs include replacement roofs, new windows and doors, reconstruction of walls with lime mortar and original bricks, timber frame restoration, and other internal repairs.

Building family homes on disused garage sites

Former garage sites or areas of under utilised or disused land are being transformed into family homes in Coventry.

Citizen, working with the Council alongside Excelsior Land and LoCaL Homes, is building 19 properties at eight sites across the city including Whoberley, Stoke Aldermoor, Holbrooks, Cheylesmore and Bell Green (pictured).

The homes are being built using timber frames which is a modern method of

construction. The frames are built in the LoCaL factory in Walsall and are transported to the sites in Coventry where they are assembled.

Cllr Naeem Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said:

"I was really impressed when I saw the way the homes are built. I visited the site on



Henley Road in Bell Green and saw a derelict site now set to provide homes for families in Coventry."

The homes are assembled on site quickly which means they can be built at a much faster pace compared to traditional build.

The houses pictured on Henley Road will be a mix of one and three bed houses.

Low-cost courses

The Council's Adult Education Service offers more than 500 low-cost courses.

Anyone who wants to learn a new skill or gain a qualification can enrol onto a course. Visit: coventry.gov.uk/adulted

Where we spend your money

In 2024 we welcomed **37,653** people to our **Family Hubs**

Very Light Rail to trial in city centre

The Council will be constructing an on-road test of its ground-breaking Very Light Rail (VLR) track and electric vehicle for four weeks during summer 2025.

The vehicle will run on 220 metres of track along Greyfriars Road and Queen Victoria Road.

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and Climate Change, said:

"The trial will allow us to showcase the technology working in the city centre as well as test the revolutionary track-laying system which can be installed without significant disruption to utilities such as gas and water pipes."

Coventry's VLR does not use overhead cables and just needs a shallow track to be laid. The track is cheaper and quicker to lay than other tram systems.

The project is currently funded via West Midlands Combined Authority and HMG through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.



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600 solar panels installed at community leisure centre

Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre is benefiting from work that has meant it is saving on its running costs and using renewable energy throughout the venue. It is no longer using any fossil fuel.



The Centre has 600 new solar panels that will generate approximately 224,000 kWh per year of renewable energy (roughly 55% of the current building's electricity usage). Old gas boilers have been replaced with UK-made air source heat pumps for

heating and hot water. LED lights have been put in too. It is funded by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant. It will save over 100 tonnes CO2 per year and reduce running costs by around £70k per year.

Fast way to measure energy efficiency of homes

A pilot scheme is also using the latest technology to improve energy efficiency by measuring heat loss from city homes.

E.ON and Coventry City Council are working with tech startup Kestrix to use thermal camera drones and heat loss modelling on thousands of homes. The scheme will allow better and faster targeting

of improvements to make homes more energy efficient and, ultimately, cheaper to heat. Using thermal imaging cameras, drones scan a bird's-eye view of homes in minutes from about 50

metres high, measuring how and where heat escapes from buildings. The new solutions provide a far clearer picture of how much it costs to run a house and how to fix heat loss issues.

The data captured could also help social landlords and local authorities to build up a map of heat



losses community-wide. More than 4,000 homes in Hillfields are part of the pilot.

Both schemes are the result of the city's Strategic Energy Partnership between E.ON and the Council.

Coventry Job Fest



A new initiative bringing job opportunities to local communities is coming to a neighbourhood near you on Monday 28 April, 11am-2pm, St Peters Church, Charles Street, Hillfields and Victoria Street Square, Hillfields, Wednesday 30 April, 11am-2pm, Merica Venue, 123 Lockhurst Lane and Saturday 3 May, 11am-2pm, Foxford School, Longford. It will include: Live job vacancies, CV and interview workshops, work experience opportunities and much more. Visit coventry.gov.uk/jobfest

To find out more, contact or call into the

Job Shop in Smithford Way and speak to one of the Employment Coaches on 024 7678 5740 or e-mail jobshop@coventry.gov.uk

Where we spend your money

Last year our Job Shop helped 1,433 people into work

Events round-up

Keep up-to-date on all Coventry events at coventry.gov.uk/events

13th Coventry Open Exhibition

● **Friday 28 March to Sunday 8 June**

The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum is once again showcasing the quality and diversity of art being produced in Coventry and the wider West Midlands region, providing valuable selling opportunities for artists. It includes the return of the Young Artists category, allowing artists aged 15-18 the chance to exhibit their work.

School holiday activities at Coventry libraries

Lots of activities are happening in the April school holidays at your local library, including Lego Club, Rhymetime and Stay and Play, Puppy Picture

Craft, Boardgame Club, Colouring and Puzzles, story and craft sessions and Chatterbooks. There is lots for adults too. All details at coventry.gov.uk/libraries



Easter Bunny Trails

● **Saturday 12 to Sunday 27 April**

At Coombe Abbey Park and the War Memorial Park help track down six hidden items that have been lost, each with a letter. Find them all, write down the letters and arrange them to make the Easter word.

Trail pack includes activity sheet, pencil, and small prize - while stocks last.

St George's Day

● **Wednesday 23 April**

Free family-themed event, Coventry City Centre

VE Day 80th Anniversary

● **Thursday 8 May**

VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8 May 1945. This May, there will be the raising of a unique VE Day flag at 9am, and a national lighting of Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace at 9.30pm, and the city will also be marking the day.



Children's Mile

● **Sunday 22 June**

Taking place at Coventry's War Memorial Park, this event is a fully accessible, one-mile route for pupils and staff from primary schools across Coventry to run, jog or walk. To express interest in taking part, please speak to your child's school.

Armed Forces Day

● **Saturday 28 June**

A service will be held at Holy Trinity Church followed by a parade in the city centre. It is to mark the annual thanks and commemoration for current and former serving armed service personnel.



Godiva Festival

● **Friday 4 to Sunday 6 July**

Coventry's family festival is returning to the War Memorial Park. Join us for another fantastic Godiva weekend, great live music, including a celebration of wonderful Coventry musical and cultural talent plus family attractions. Keep up-to-date on ticket announcements, last line-up news and key information by signing up for the free Godiva newsletter at godivafestival.com

FOSTER WITH COVENTRY



Coventry needs more foster carers

Together we can help children live in a loving, caring environment, so that they can reach their full potential.

As a foster carer with Coventry, you can get up to £50,000* per year, and you can make a massive difference to a child's life. *for Next Step carers only

024 7683 2828 pssfostering@coventry.gov.uk coventry.gov.uk/foster



Garden waste bin collection charge £40 for 12 months

Renew or apply for your permit from 1 May

- pay online at coventry.gov.uk/gardenwaste
- over the phone on 080 8583 4333 or
- pay by cash/cheque or card at the Customer Service Centre in Upper Precinct

If you have any comments contact the Your Coventry newsdesk at communications@coventry.gov.uk All details correct at time of print (Monday 3 March 2025).

Keep up-to-date with the news with our weekly newsletter. Sign up at coventry.gov.uk/newsupdates