YOUR COVENTRY

News about what's going on in your city ♥ winter edition 2026



- Festival of Christmas for all the family
- New Tip to You service roll out
- Investing in services that matter to you
- City centre wardens making an impact

Festive Snow Globe back by popular demand

Coventry City Council

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Coventry City Council WORKING FOR YOU



NOVEMBER

LEADER'S MESSAGE

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

Welcome to the winter edition of Your Coventry.

Christmas is on the horizon, and the city centre is ready to celebrate. The big wheel and festive market return to Broadgate from 13 November, and our free Festival of Christmas on Saturday 21 November promises a fantastic day out for all the family. We're also offering free parking in Council car parks on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays in the run-up to Christmas, so there's every reason to come into town and support our local traders.

Last year, a fairer funding settlement from Government meant we could invest an extra £7.7 million in local services. We asked you where that money should go, and we listened. In this edition you can see the difference it is already making. Our Tip to You service has collected more than 8,000 bulky items and cut illegal dumping by over half in the streets it has visited. Four new road repair gangs are out fixing roads and pavements, and new wardens are helping to make our city centre safer.

You can also read about work that often goes unseen, from Adult Social Care to support for people sleeping rough this Christmas and warmer, more energy-efficient homes for thousands of families. And you can hear what more than 6,000 children and young people told us about growing up in Coventry.

There is plenty to be proud of. Our visitor economy is now worth £1 billion, double the figure in 2016. Our much-loved Coventry Market is also getting a £1.25 million boost as part of the regeneration of City Centre South.

We know there is more to do, and we will keep working for you.

On behalf of everyone at the Council, I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Cllr George Duggins
Leader of Coventry City Council



£1.25m boost for Coventry Market

Coventry's much-loved Grade II listed Indoor Market is to benefit from £1.25 million to put in new glazing and create wider doorways.

A team of architects who specialise in listed buildings has created designs for the ambitious improvement works.

The investment comes from the West Midlands Combined Authority, Pride in Place funding and the Hill Group.

Cllr Dr Lynnette Kelly, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

"Coventry Market is at the heart of the new City Centre South public regeneration. This will make a genuine difference to the businesses who work there every day, and to the shoppers who use the Market."

Work on the Market is likely to begin in the new year.

The redevelopment of City Centre South is expected to bring more than 1,500 new homes, along with public space, restaurants, shops and other leisure facilities.

Coventry's visitor economy has benefited from £1 billion

This is twice as much as 2016 and is the result of major events, cultural experiences, sport and leisure.

The latest 2025 figures, using the trusted STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Measure) Economic Impact Model, show that visitor numbers were up 6.5 per cent compared to the previous year and that value to the economy jumped by 9.3 per cent.

It's hoped that Coventry City Football Club's Premier League status will be a further boost to this year's figures.









The city centre will welcome back the **Festival of Christmas** -

a FREE family event on Saturday 21 November

A packed and interactive live programme of festive fun for families to enjoy, including aerial acrobatics with our Christmas Fairy, Santa Claus telling the story of The Night Before Christmas, the giant Snow Queen snow globe and illuminated stilt walkers.

Cllr John McNicholas, Cabinet Member for Events, said:

"It promises a wonderful mix of performances, humour and traditional festive characters. It's a great way for families and visitors to begin the winter season together."

Cllr Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, added:

"I'm pleased we will once again be offering free car parking in our car parks.

"Our lights also support other important celebrations, including Remembrance Day and Diwali, with lights lit up along Foleshill Road and Stoney Stanton Road."

The wheel and market will be open daily until Sunday 3 January, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Festive big wheel is back

From **Friday 13 November**, a 30m-high big wheel and festive Christmas market will return to Broadgate, helping to bring the Christmas spirit to Coventry city centre.

Open daily from 11am to 9pm, visitors can enjoy a selection of seasonal stalls offering handcrafted gifts, festive food, winter treats and warming drinks, all set against a magical winter backdrop.

Free parking

Enjoy free parking in Council-run car parks in the run-up to Christmas, **from 3pm on Wednesdays starting 25 November** and **from 10am to 10pm on Sundays from 29 November.**

The offer applies in the following car parks:

- **Salt Lane**
- **West Orchards**
- **Bishop Street**
- **Gosford Street**
- **Grove Street**
- **Lower Ford Street**
- **Manor House Drive**
- **New Union Street**
- **Spon Street**
- **Whitefriars Street**



The city's Christmas programme is delivered by Coventry City Council in partnership with Visit Coventry and Coventry BID.

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Your care could change a child's life.
Training, ongoing support and fostering allowance provided.
You'll need a spare bedroom.

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Coventry City Council | FOSTER WITH COVENTRY



Bringing the Tip to You

A new Council project aimed at keeping the streets clean is already making an impact.

During the last year, thanks to additional investment, the Council has launched the new Tip to You service.



Council trucks visit local communities to help people dispose of their rubbish easily and legally. The service has been delivered all over Coventry, visiting more than 300 local streets across the city where fly-tipping happens more.

So far, the Council has picked up more than 8,000 big items including fridges, freezers, and sofas. The total tonnage of items collected is 275, equivalent to six elephants.

Making a longer term impact

The Tip to You service is also helping to deal with fly-tipping. In these same streets illegal dumping of rubbish has come down by 53 per cent.

The Council has also invested in two new cleaning teams who will be deployed in the areas of the city where environmental anti-social behaviour is high.

Cllr Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, said:

"Residents have told us that clean streets matter to them. They matter to us too. That's why we have introduced this new service which is making such a big difference and we plan to extend it further."

Investing in what matters to you

Last year, the Council received a fairer funding settlement from Government. This meant that we could invest £7.7 million into services. So, we spoke to people across the city and asked them where we should spend it.

Thanks to your feedback, here's some of what we have been doing:

- launching new employment training programmes and paid work experience opportunities to help young people get access to vital opportunities. Over 200 young people will be helped through these programmes.
- working hard to improve our roads and pavements. Coventry is one of the best 16 performing councils in the UK when it comes to long-term maintenance. This year we invested in four additional repair gangs so we can continue to be proactive and tackle issues affecting roads and pavements. This investment has meant we've been able to tackle 1,620 defects since April 2026.
- tackling fly-tipping; invested in extra CCTV cameras in hotspots where waste has been dumped; and hired new community wardens to work in wards across the city. This additional investment will help us catch and prosecute anyone leaving rubbish illegally.
- supporting the most vulnerable with their bills. We've extended the existing care-leaver Council Tax exemption up to the age of 25, helping 196 young people get the best start in life.



- Investing in 15 houses which will be used as temporary accommodation to help families get back on their feet. So far, we've purchased three but have had offers accepted on the further 12.

Cllr Richard Brown, Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

"As a Council we have been careful to manage local finances and have listened to what you told us. That's why, with the support of fairer government funding, we are starting to see the impact of extra investments. We want and plan to do more."

We've also been investing in keeping the streets clean and tackling anti-social behaviour, which you can read more about further on.

All of these investments are thanks to you and what you told us. For more details about the investments, visit **coventry.gov.uk/ourbudget**

Help for young jobseekers

If you're aged 16-24 and not in education, employment or training (NEET), Coventry Job Shop offers free support. Our Job Coaches can help with career options, training, apprenticeships, CVs, applications and interview preparation.

The Council also commissions Prospects (part of Shaw Trust) to provide targeted support for 16-18 year olds, helping them move into education, employment or training.

Visit the Job Shop in Smithford Way
or call **024 7678 5740** E-mail: **jobshop@coventry.gov.uk**
or visit **coventry.gov.uk/employment-support**



Warmer homes project

More than 2,000 social houses in Coventry have benefited from energy-efficiency improvements.

The energy-saving work has included external wall insulation, installing solar panels, installing heat pumps and adding fans into homes.

Citizen Housing Association has worked in partnership with Coventry City Council, Westdale Midlands and Sustainable Building Services (SBS) to deliver benefits to homes across the city.

Citizen customer, Stephen Cracknell, had solar panels installed and said he has really seen the benefit of them.

He said:

"I've had six solar panels installed on the roof which help me enormously with my electricity bill. Each month I look at my bills and my electricity one has gone down by two thirds, so that means it's more money for shopping."

Caring for rough sleepers

People sleeping rough in Coventry will be offered a roof over their head this Christmas.

It's part of a national drive to boost support for people sleeping on the streets.

Coventry will benefit from £800,000 funding to help. One property just outside the city centre is already helping rough sleepers.

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

"Our Rough Sleepers Outreach Team is out five mornings a week supporting vulnerable individuals and people sleeping rough across the city. The extra funding will offer more ways to help people get off the streets. It's good news."



The new funding will support people like Lucy (not her real name) who is now being supported by the Council after sleeping on the streets.

Lucy said:

"When my husband died everything went downhill. I lost the flat and was rough sleeping for a long time.

"I felt brilliant when I first got help. I got my independence back. I have a lovely room, with everything I need in there. I'm hopeful for what the future holds."

If you see someone who you believe is rough sleeping you can report it on **thestreetlink.org.uk**

Safer housing and protecting tenants

The Council's Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Enforcement Team and partner agencies regularly carry out targeted enforcement visits across the city.

They have uncovered multiple unlicensed properties and potential breaches of housing and safety standards.

In fact, Coventry was rated first across the whole of England for the number of HMO-related civil penalties issued in 2021/22–2022/23. The figures were based on feedback from almost 300 councils.

The team aims to tackle rogue landlords, improve housing conditions and protect residents from unsafe or exploitative accommodation.

To report a concern call **024 7697 5495**
or e-mail: **housingenforcement@coventry.gov.uk**

How we're working for you

The Council is here for every resident in the city, throughout their lives. A lot of what we do goes unseen until you need us – but we're here to help from the moment you're born, through your life in the city, and when you need us in later life.

Some services are easy to see, like bins on the kerbside or improvements to high streets and public spaces. Others happen in the background but are no less important.

- Adult Social Care funding means a daily visit from a carer so people can continue living at home.
- Housing support can prevent homelessness and provide advice on finding somewhere stable to live.
- For children at risk, specialist teams provide protection and support when it's needed most.

Your Council Tax also contributes to services that many residents rarely see but almost everyone benefits from, for example, our Trading Standards Team keeping counterfeit and unsafe products out of local shops. These services may not always be visible, but they are no less vital to daily life in the city.

To find out more about the work of the Council, visit **Coventry.gov.uk/workingforyou**

City centre wardens already making a difference

New Council Community Wardens, employed to tackle anti-social behaviour in the city centre, are already making a big impact.



The wardens were recruited with extra investment by the Council.

Between July and September the team recorded almost 700 different issues. Of these, 65 per cent of incidents were sorted without any further action or Police involvement.

These included a number of low level ASB activities, weapons seizures and thefts, alongside support for rough sleepers and other welfare checks.

A City Centre Public Space Protection Order has also been expanded and simplified following feedback from businesses and the public.

New rules that begin on 21 November restrict the use of loudspeakers, microphones, megaphones and other amplification equipment, as well as, restrictions on temporary structures such as gazebos, stalls, canopies and display stands unless they have been authorised by the Council.

Cllr John McNicholas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion, said:

"Our new wardens are helping people and making a difference in the city centre and more are joining the team throughout the city. They are helping to target aggressive, intimidating and nuisance behaviour, while offering help and reassurance to lots of people."

One Big Voice survey

More than 6,000 children and young people from 60 schools have taken part in the latest Coventry One Big Voice survey, sharing their views and experiences, of living and growing up in the city.

The survey will be used as part of Child Friendly Cov, a Coventry City Council-led programme delivered with city partners.

Although most young people report positive experiences around 15 per cent reported that they do not always like where they live and do not always feel safe there.

Online safety was another area of concern. Nearly 30 per cent of primary pupils and 36 per cent of secondary pupils said they had seen something confusing or upsetting online.

Cllr Mal Mutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Coventry City Council, said:

"Thank you to everyone who took part. Their thoughts have provided a valuable insight into living and growing up in Coventry and will greatly help our work to make Coventry a truly child-friendly city over the coming years."

The full Coventry One Big Voice findings report is available at **childfriendlycov.co.uk/one-big-voice**

Adult Social Care support

Adult Social Care is about supporting those aged 18 or over, with a disability or long-term condition, to live independently, healthy, safe and well, and to do the things most important to them.

These services can help if you have mental health needs, are an older person, or you're recovering from hospital treatment.

This also includes support to unpaid carers who play an essential role in supporting people to live independently

Social care is different to support you may receive from the NHS. It is usually provided in your home, the community or in a care home and can include items of equipment or adaptations.

Unlike NHS care social care isn't always free and, depending on your circumstances, you may have to either fully fund or make a contribution.

Before you receive support from Adult Social Care, either as a person with care and support needs or as an unpaid carer, you will need to do an assessment to determine what support you may need.



If you or someone you support may benefit from Adult Social Care please contact Adult Social Care Direct on **024 7683 3003** from **Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm**, or visit **coventry.gov.uk/contactASC**

Contact details for your local Councillor, wherever you live in the city.

BABLAKE

Cllr Lisa Boyle
lisa.boyle@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 234 903

Cllr Jamie Fearn
Jamie.Fearn@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 234 881

Cllr Jennifer Wells
jennifer.wells@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 234 954

BINLEY & WILLENHALL

Cllr Paul Cowley
paul.cowley@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Marcus Fogden
marcus.fogden@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Jennifer Odje
Jennifer.odje@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

CHEYLESMORE

Cllr Roger Bailey
Roger.Bailey@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 2363

Cllr Richard Brown
Richard.Brown@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07563 729 215

Cllr Barbara Mosterman
Barbara.Mosterman@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07711 918 217

EARLSDON

Cllr Dr Lynnette Kelly
Lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1620

Cllr Dr Kindy Sandhu
Kindy.sandhu@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Antony Tucker
Antony.Tucker@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

FOLESHILL

Cllr Abdul Khan
Abdul.Khan@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 7120

Cllr Shakila Nazir
Shakila.Nazir@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Habib Rehman
habib.rehman@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

HENLEY

Cllr Alistair Cole
alistair.cole@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Mel Gregory
mel.gregory@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Ed Ruane
Ed.Ruane@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

HOLBROOKS

Cllr Stephen Gray
Stephen.Gray@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Tom Jewell
tom.jewell@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Esther Reeves
Esther.Reeves@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

LONGFORD

Cllr Amor Albert
amor.albert@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Linda Bigham
Linda.Bigham@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1627

Cllr George Duggins
George.Duggins@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1627

LOWER STOKE

Cllr Dr Shanaz Akhter
shahnaz.akhter@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr John McNicholas
John.McNicholas@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07968 498 860

Cllr Rupinder Singh
Rupinder.Singh@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07960 962 642

RADFORD

Cllr Patricia Hetherton
Patricia.Hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 7120

Cllr Angela Hopkins
Angela.Hopkins@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Mal Mutton
Mal.Mutton@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 7120

SHERBOURNE

Cllr Jackie Gardiner
jackie.gardiner@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1621

Cllr Charles Phillips
charles.phillips@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Daniel Stainton
daniel.stainton@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1621
07721 234 811

ST MICHAELS

Cllr Naeem Akhtar
Naeem.Akhtar@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07747 003 141

Cllr Matt Greenhalgh
matt.greenhalgh@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Sanjida Jobbar
Sanjida.Jobbar@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

TILE HILL & CANLEY

Cllr William Davies
william.davies@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 236 162

Cllr Steven Keough
Steve.Keough@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 236 070

Cllr Marcus Lapsa
Marcus.Lapsa@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1621
07976 780 746

UPPER STOKE

Cllr Kamran Caan
KamranCllr.Caan@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Gurdev Hayre
Gurdev.Hayre@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Amirjit Kaur
Amirjit.Kaur@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

WAINBODY

Cllr John Blundell
John.Blundell@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
024 7641 9794

Cllr Mattie Heaven
Mattie.Heaven@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07974 668 163

Cllr Pratibha Reddy
pratibha.reddy@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 235 259

WHOBERLEY

Cllr Pervez Akhtar
Pervez.Akhtar@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 7120

Cllr Jayne Innes
JayneCllr.Innes@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Julie Jones
julie.jones@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

WOODLANDS

Cllr Adrian Bryant
adrian.bryant@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555
07721 235 828

Cllr Dunc Clark
dunc.clark@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Julia Lepoidevin
Julia.Lepoidevin@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 2835

WYKEN

Cllr Frank Beechey
frank.beechey@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 1621
07721 235 007

Cllr Andrew Bullock
andrew.bullock@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Cllr Dawn McCann
dawn.mccann@coventry.gov.uk
024 7697 5555

Christmas bin collection days



There will be some changes to scheduled bin collections over the festive period depending on your usual collection day.

Want bin collection reminders sent straight to your email? Sign up at **coventry.gov.uk/bin-reminders**

Usual collection dates	Christmas collection dates
Domestic (green-lidded) and recycling (blue-lidded) collections	
Tue 22 – Thurs 24 December 2026	Normal collections
Friday 25 December 2026	Monday 28 December 2026
Tue 29 – Thurs 31 December 2026	Normal collections
Friday 1 January 2027 (Bank Holiday)	Saturday 2 January 2027
Food waste caddy collections	
Mon 21 – Thurs 24 December 2026	Normal collections
Friday 25 December 2026	No collections
Mon 28 – Thurs 31 December 2026	Normal collections
Friday 1 January 2027 (Bank Holiday)	Saturday 2 January 2027





Garden waste collections brown-lidded bin

- If you have subscribed to brown-lidded bin collections, these will **pause** from **Monday 7 December 2026** until **Monday 11 January 2027.**
- Collections will start again from **Monday 11 January 2027** depending on your scheduled collection day.

Bins out by 7am please



Don't get yourself on Santa's 'naughty' list by putting these in your blue-lidded recycling bin...

✗ **Black bags** ✗ **Nappies** ✗ **Clothing**

These items can't be recycled at our recycling centres.
When they find their way into a recycling load, that load gets spoilt and we have to throw it all away.

If you're unsure of what belongs in your recycling bin this festive season, visit **coventry.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/household-bins** for a full list of what's on the 'nice' list.

*If you have any comments contact the Your Coventry newsdesk at **communications@coventry.gov.uk** All details correct at time of print (Friday 23 October 2026).*