



# Meeting of the Council

## 6 November 2013

**Time** 5.45pm **Public meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

**Venue** Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

**Room** Council Chamber (4<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Membership** (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

**Mayor** Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Lab)

**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Michael Heap (Lib Dem)

### Labour

Cllr Ian Angus

Cllr Harbans Bagri

Cllr Harman Banger

Cllr Philip Bateman

Cllr Payal Bedi

Cllr Peter Bilson

Cllr Alan Bolshaw

Cllr Ian Brookfield

Cllr Paula Brookfield

Cllr Ian Claymore

Cllr Craig Collingswood

Cllr Susan Constable

Cllr Claire Darke

Cllr Bishan Dass

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Steven Evans

Cllr Valerie Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal

Cllr Valerie Gibson

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss

Cllr Keith Inston

Cllr Jasbir Jaspal

Cllr Andrew Johnson

Cllr Roger Lawrence

Cllr Linda Leach

Cllr Elias Mattu

Cllr Lorna McGregor

Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Philip Page

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr John Rowley

Cllr Judith Rowley

Cllr Sandra Samuels

Cllr Zahid Shah

Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz

Cllr Stephen Simkins

Cllr Tersaim Singh

Cllr Paul Sweet

Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Cllr Thomas Turner

Cllr Martin Waite

### Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans

Cllr Barry Findlay

Cllr Christopher Haynes

Cllr Matthew Holdcroft

Cllr Christine Mills

Cllr Neville Patten

Cllr Patricia Patten

Cllr Arun Photay

Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Andrew Wynne

Cllr Jonathan Yardley

### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

### Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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**Tel** 01902 555045

# Agenda

*Item No.*    *Title*

## MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

1.            **Apologies for absence**
2.            **Declarations of interests**
3.            **Minutes of the previous meeting (18 September 2013)**  
[For approval]
4.            **Communications**  
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

## DECISION ITEMS

5.            **5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19**  
[To approve recommendations from Cabinet]
6.            **2014 Primary School Expansion Programme - Funding Strategy**  
[To approve the funding strategy]
7.            **Blocks 10 and 11, Wolverhampton Interchange**  
[To seek approval to commit capital and revenue investment to the construction of Block 10 and the purchase of Block 11 at Wolverhampton Interchange]
8.            **Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan Including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan – Publication and Submission**  
[To approve the submission of the Bilston Corridor area action plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to agreed minor modifications]
9.            **Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan – Publication and Submission**  
[To approve the submission of the Stafford Road Corridor area action plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to agreed minor modifications]
10.           **Review of the Constitution – Article 9 - Councillor Code of Conduct**  
[To approve the revision to the Constitution]
11.           **Summary of Executive Business – 24 September to 23 October 2013**  
[To receive the summary of executive business and for Cabinet Members to answer any questions thereon]



# Meeting of the Council

## Minutes – 18 September 2013

### Attendance

**Mayor** Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Lab)  
**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Michael Heap (Lib Dem)

#### Labour

Cllr Ian Angus  
Cllr Harbans Bagri  
Cllr Philip Bateman  
Cllr Payal Bedi  
Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr Alan Bolshaw  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Ian Claymore  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Claire Darke  
Cllr Bishan Dass  
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Steven Evans

Cllr Valerie Evans  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Valerie Gibson  
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre  
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss  
Cllr Keith Inston  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Andrew Johnson  
Cllr Roger Lawrence  
Cllr Linda Leach  
Cllr Elias Mattu  
Cllr Lorna McGregor  
Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Philip Page  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr John Rowley  
Cllr Judith Rowley  
Cllr Sandra Samuels  
Cllr Zahid Shah  
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Thomas Turner  
Cllr Martin Waite

#### Conservative

Cllr Neil Clarke  
Cllr Mark Evans  
Cllr Barry Findlay  
Cllr Matthew Holdcroft  
Cllr Christine Mills  
Cllr Neville Patten

Cllr Patricia Patten  
Cllr Paul Singh  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Andrew Wynne  
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

#### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

#### Employees

Simon Warren  
Keith Ireland  
Tim Johnson  
Sarah Norman  
Mark Taylor  
Fiona Davis  
Martyn Sargeant  
Dereck Francis

Chief Executive  
Strategic Director Delivery  
Strategic Director Education and Environment  
Strategic Director Community  
Assistant Director Finance  
Head of Service (Regulatory and Governance)  
Democratic Services Manager  
Democratic Services Officer

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The proceedings opened with prayers

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## Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Malcolm Gwinnett, Christopher Haynes and Arun Photay

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*Item No.*      *Title*

2.      **Declarations of Interests**

The following declarations of interest were made on items on the agenda for the meeting:

Item	Cllrs	Interest	Particulars
Agenda Item 8 – Approval of financial close and contract award for building schools for the future – phase 3c scheme schools	Cllr Banger	Non disclosable pecuniary interest	Chair of Governors of Deansfield Community School
	Cllr Dr Hardacre	Non disclosable pecuniary interest	Chair of Governors of Deansfield Community School
	Cllr Inston	Non disclosable pecuniary interest	Chair of Governors of Deansfield Community School

3.      **Minutes of the previous meeting (10 July 2013)**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 July 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4.      **Mayors Communications:**

**Cllr Leach**

The Mayor asked colleagues to join him in congratulating Cllr Linda Leach on the occasion of her marriage to Peter Mason, which took place on 31 August and in wishing them a very happy future.

**The Late John Mellor, OBE**

The Mayor referred with great sadness to the death of former Councillor, John Mellor, OBE, on 7 August 2013 aged 84 years. John had served on the Council from 1987 to 2003 representing Graiseley Ward.

Following his service with the Royal Marines between 1947 and 1949, John Mellor began a 35 year career with the police, during which he served in Staffordshire, Wednesbury, Wolverhampton and Bilston, reaching the rank of superintendent in West Bromwich before retiring from the force in 1984.

During his sixteen years as a Councillor, John had been a member of many committees, most notably Education, Housing, Highways and Transportation, Environmental Health and Consumer Services, the Social Care, Housing and Health and Regenerating Wolverhampton Cabinet Teams, Human Resources Panel and as Shadow Chair of Licensing. He also represented the Council on many outside bodies.

Upon retirement from the Council he continued to serve the community as chair of the patient watchdog Link and the Wolverhampton Pensioners' Convention. He was very active within the ex-service community and was president of the Royal British Legion Wolverhampton Central Branch and chaired the United Ex-Service Council.

### **The Late David Hawkins**

The Mayor also referred with great sadness to the unexpected death of former Councillor, David Hawkins, on Friday 23 August. David was elected to the City Council in May 1994 and served until May 1998, representing Park Ward. During his four years as a Councillor David was a member of Education, Finance and General Purposes, Social Services and Highways and Transportation Committees and was the Council's representative on the West Midlands Health Service Monitoring Unit, Black Country Joint Advisory Group, the Post Office Advisory Committee, St Columba's Day Centre, Aquarius and Spurgeon's Childcare.

The Mayor asked all those present to stand in silence in tribute to the late former Councillors John Mellor, OBE and David Hawkins.

## **5. Annual Treasury Report 2012/13 and Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Quarter 1 2013/14**

It was moved by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Potter and

Resolved:

That the Council notes the contents of the Annual treasury report 2012/13 and treasury management activity monitoring – quarter 1 2013/14 (23 in report book 13) as recommended by Cabinet, and particularly that:

- (i) Overall the Council is continuing to operate within the Prudential and other indicators approved by the Council, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy Statement.
- (ii) Revenue savings of £3.3M for the general fund and £2.6M for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2012/13.
- (iii) Revenue savings of £592,000 for the general fund and £2.7M for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2013/14.

6. **Review of the Constitution 2013/14**

Cllr Turner proposed an amendment to the scrutiny-call in arrangements set out in appendix 1 of the report of the Standards Committee (24 in report book 13) so that section 12:2 Pre-decision Scrutiny include a new paragraph 2.5 which would read “Any item being considered as pre-decision scrutiny will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by the Executive.”

And all relevant papers would carry the message “This item is being considered as pre-decision scrutiny and will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by the Executive.”

Subject to the amendment, he moved the report and recommendations from the Standards Committee on the Review of the Constitution. Cllr Wynne seconded the motion as now amended.

Following a debate the amended resolution was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the following minor changes to the Constitution be approved-

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
Appendix 1, p15 – delegations to Cabinet (Resources) Panel	Replace ‘Council Tax benefit’ with ‘Localised Council Tax Support Scheme’ [multiple references].
Appendix 1, p93 – E31	Replace ‘Independent Members of the Standards Committee’ with ‘Independent Persons’.
Appendix 2, p96 – financial procedure rules	Replace ‘Head of Human Resources Strategy’ with ‘Chief Human Resources Officer’.
Various – but particularly sections on the Forward Plan and Access to Information Rules (appendix 2)	Amendments made to incorrect or defunct cross-references.

2. That subject to the inclusion in section 12:2 Pre-decision scrutiny of a new paragraph 2.5 to read “Any item being considered as pre-decision scrutiny will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by Executive.” And all relevant papers would carry the message “This item is being considered as pre-decision scrutiny and will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by Executive,” the revisions to the scrutiny call-in procedures as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the inclusion of an index to the Constitution be approved.

7. **Audit Committee Annual Report 2012/13**

It was moved by Cllr Inston seconded by Cllr Mrs Thompson and

Resolved:

That the contents of the 2012/13 Audit Committee Annual Report (25 in report book 13) be approved.

8. **Approval of Financial Close and Contract Award for Building Schools for the Future – Phase 3C Scheme Schools**

It was moved by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Bilson and

Resolved:

That Council approves the report and recommendations from Cabinet on the financial close and contract award for Building Schools for the Future – phase 3c scheme schools (26 in report book 13) and:

1. Approves the draft Final Business Case (FBC) for the Phase 3C PFI project for Heath Park and Deansfield Community School, noting that the total capital expenditure costs of £42.166million have been included within the PFI financial model. These costs are confirmed as affordable with no requirement of a contribution from the Council and negotiations are currently on-going to reduce this down closer to the Council's revised shadow tariff target of £40.2million
2. Approves the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning and Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise, the Assistant Director, Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), and the Interim Chief Legal Officer to:
  - Complete and finalise the draft FBC, including making amendments and submission of other appropriate documentation to achieve approval by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), Department for Education (DfE) and HM Treasury.
  - Complete and finalise negotiations with the LEP to improve upon the worst case financial position quoted within this report. It should be noted that these negotiations will not be concluded until immediately prior to financial close.
  - Approve the draft Phase 3C Section 151 Letter, attached as an appendix to the report, and authorise the Council's Section 151 Officer to submit the letter to the EFA, subject to any adjustments to reflect final updates to the FBC.
  - Authorise the execution of any of the project documents and ancillary documents by affixing the Council's common seal in accordance with the Council's Constitution and to approve that the Interim Chief Legal Officer and Interim Assistant Director, Education and Enterprise, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, may take any necessary action (including

the execution of legal documents by the Interim Chief Legal Officer) to complete the Project, including any final amendments to the project documents, and give effect to Councillors' resolutions and authorised delegated decisions referred to in the report.

- Approve that in order to give effect to the resolutions set out above, the Interim Chief Legal Officer, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and relevant Cabinet Member, as necessary, be authorised to approve any variations to the terms of the contractual documentation and any other related documentation and/or other commitments given by the Council at financial close.
  - That the Council's investment in the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) be approved to the value of £600,000 and authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to agree the final sums to be committed and establish the necessary budgets in the capital programme.
3. Approves that TUPE apply to the transfer of relevant staff from the service commencement date to the PFI service provider and that the necessary on-going consultation and communication taking place in respect of this be continued.
  4. Approves that the Admission Agreements for the West Midlands Local Government Pension Scheme be entered into and executed by the Interim Chief Legal Officer to enable those transferring employees to retain their current pension benefits.

9. **Summary of Executive Business**

The Council received and noted the summary of executive business for the period 11 July to 11 September 2013 (27 in report book 13).

## QUESTIONS

10. **Information from the electoral register**

The following question, which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedure rules, was asked by Cllr Neville Patten to Cllr Paul Sweet, Cabinet Member for Governance and Performance (28 in Report Book 13):

“Could the Cabinet Member advise Council on the number of sales of information held in the Register of Electors for Wolverhampton, to private individuals or corporations for their own purposes, and how much money the Council raised from these sales in the last two completed financial years?”



Cllr Sweet responded that during 2011/12 there were no sales of the edited register and 5 sales of the full register. During 2013/14 there was 1 sale of the edited register and 5 sales of the full register.

Cllr Patten asked the following supplementary question:

“Can I have an assurance that in future it is made clear on the electoral registration form that if an elector does not wish their name to be passed forward they should sign the box on the form.”

Cllr Sweet advised that the facility already existed within the registration process and that he was happy to promote it.

## MOTIONS

### 11. **Wholly Owned Company**

It was moved by Cllr Findlay, seconded by Cllr Neville Patten:

“That this Council resolves to reverse the Cabinet decision of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to cease work on the Wholly Owned Company for Operational Services, in the light of the forecast that this will add to the Council’s financial challenge by at least £500,000.”

An amendment was moved by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Johnson:

That the motion be amended to read:

“The Council resolves to confirm the decision of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel of 26 June 2013 to cease work on the wholly owned company Joint Venture Company (WOC/JV) to provide operational services.

In the light of further significant Government cuts which have resulted in a budget gap of £89 million in the MTFs, the Council needs to maintain the maximum possible flexibility to obtain savings by keeping direct control of operational service budgets.

A business decision was taken that retaining such flexibility was significantly in the Council’s interests to offset the removal of the £500,000 saving relating to the WOC that was reflected in the medium term financial strategy for 2014/15. The report to the Cabinet (Resources) Panel of 26 June 2013 set out a work programme for the Delivery Directorate to progress to achieve further efficiencies and savings.”

Immediately before the vote was put on the amendment, Cllr Neville Patten questioned whether Cllr Findlay should have been given the right to replay at the close of the debate on the amendment. He was advised that the right to reply was with the mover of the amendment.

Upon being put to the meeting, the amendment was declared to be carried and a division having been demanded and taken voting thereon was as follows:

**For 44**

The Mayor

Councillors

Angus	Evans (V)	Potter
Bagri	Evans (S)	Reynolds
Banger	Gakhal	Rowley (John)
Bateman	Gibson	Rowley (Judith)
Bedi	Dr Hardacre	Samuels
Bilson	Hodgkiss	Shah
Bolshaw	Inston	Siarkiewicz
Brookfield (Ian)	Jaspal (J K)	Simkins
Brookfield (Paula)	Johnson	Tersaim Singh
Claymore	Lawrence	Sweet
Collingswood	Leach	Sweetman
Constable	Mattu	Turner
Darke	O'Neill	Waite
Dass	Page	Whitehouse
Dehar		

**Against 12**

Councillors

Clarke	Holdcroft	P Singh
Evans (M E)	Mrs Mills	Thompson (Mrs)
Findlay	Patten (N A)	Wynne
Heap	Patten (Mrs P A)	Yardley

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting, declared to be carried and it was

Resolved:

That this Council resolves to confirm the decision of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel of 26 June 2013 to cease work on the wholly owned company Joint Venture Company (WOC/JV) to provide operational services.

In the light of further significant Government cuts which have resulted in a budget gap of £89 million in the MTFs, the Council needs to maintain the maximum possible flexibility to obtain savings by keeping direct control of operational service budgets.

A business decision was taken that retaining such flexibility was significantly in the Council's interests to offset the removal of the £500,000 saving relating to the WOC that was reflected in the medium term financial strategy for 2014/15. The report to the Cabinet (Resources) Panel of 26 June 2013 set out a work programme for the Delivery Directorate to progress to achieve further efficiencies and savings."

12. **Blacklisting in the Construction Industry**

It was moved by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Bilson and

Resolved:

"That this Council notes and supports the campaign to stamp out the deplorable practice of 'blacklisting' of individuals because of their affiliation and association to a trade union within the construction industry. Blacklisting is a national scandal and too many construction workers have had their lives ruined as a result."

"The Council expects our joint venture partners or any organisation or contractor working with or on behalf of the council to have a zero tolerance policy towards this practice and if applicable to be co-signatories to the Construction Industry Joint Council Working Rules Agreement which aims to ensure that this practice is not prevalent in the construction industry."

"This Council will take every legitimate step necessary to ensure that the City Council does not engage or contract with a company that continues to operate a blacklist."

"Further this Council request that the Pensions Committee requests the West Midlands Pension Fund to identify whether it has any investments in companies operating a blacklist with a view to raising this issue at those companies AGM to ensure that their practices do not adversely affect either the profitability of the companies or the value of the funds' investments."



# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet, 23 October 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Councillor Andrew Johnson	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Members with Lead Responsibility</b>	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Simon Warren, Chief Executive Sarah Norman, Community Keith Ireland, Delivery Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Financial Services	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Assistant Director Finance 01902 (55)6609 <a href="mailto:mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk">mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to approve:

1. The revised reserves policy which reduces the minimum level of general balances to £10.0 million and also enables the balance to fall below this minimum in certain circumstances.
2. The transfer of £7.155 million from existing specific reserves into the general balance.
3. That for the purposes of calculating the Council's provision for the redemption of debt in 2013/14, the value of variable E, within the formula to calculate the provision, shall be minus £10.0 million and that the £10.0 million one-off benefit in 2013/14 is transferred into general balances.

4. That the redundancy costs arising in 2013/14 and 2014/15 are funded from general balances once all other funding opportunities have been exhausted.
5. An application to West Midlands Pension Fund to spread the cost of actuarial strain, arising from redundancies in 2013/14 and 2014/15, over a three year period.
6. That any capital resources that are able to be utilised to fund the cost of redundancy during 2013/14 and 2014/15, in accordance with accounting rules and regulations, will be incorporated into the Capital programme.
7. That authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance to approve the final funding strategy relating to the cost of redundancy in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Council is recommended to approve report recommendations included within the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 23 October 2013.
- 1.2 The report sets out the Council's strategy to address the projected budget deficit, proposed Council Tax levels and a programme of savings proposals to be implemented over the next 5 years.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Cabinet on 23 October 2013 considered and approved the five year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. The report has been circulated separately with Cabinet papers and Councillors are asked to refer to these when considering the recommendations of the Cabinet set out below. A copy of the report can also be accessed online on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) on the Council's website by following the link:

<https://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking/Calendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8400/Committee/1446/Default.aspx>

## 3.0 Medium Term Financial Strategy

- 3.1 Following presentation of the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, the Council is recommended to approve:
  - (i) The revised reserves policy which reduces the minimum level of general balances to £10.0 million and also enables the balance to fall below this minimum in certain circumstances.
  - (ii) The transfer of £7.155 million from existing specific reserves into the general balance.
  - (iii) That for the purposes of calculating the Council's provision for the redemption of debt in 2013/14, the value of variable E, within the formula to calculate the provision, shall be minus £10.0 million and that the £10.0 million one-off benefit in 2013/14 is transferred into general balances.
  - (iv) That the redundancy costs arising in 2013/14 and 2014/15 are funded from general balances once all other funding opportunities have been exhausted.
  - (v) An application to West Midlands Pension Fund to spread the cost of actuarial strain, arising from redundancies in 2013/14 and 2014/15, over a three year period.

- (vi) That any capital resources that are able to be utilised to fund the cost of redundancy during 2013/14 and 2014/15, in accordance with accounting rules and regulations, will be incorporated into the Capital programme.
- (vii) That authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance to approve the final funding strategy relating to the cost of redundancy in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 report presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, which can be accessed by following the link detailed above.  
[MH/30102013/P]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 The legal implications are discussed in the body of the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 report presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, which can be accessed by following the link detailed above.  
[AS/30102013/Q]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 The equalities implications are discussed in the body of the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 report presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, which can be accessed by following the link above.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 The environmental implications relevant to individual savings proposals are discussed in the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 report presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, which can be accessed by following the link above.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

- 8.1 The human resources implications are discussed in the body of the 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 report presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013, which can be accessed by following the link above.

#### **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 5 Year Budget and Medium Term Financial 2014/15 to 2018/19 – Cabinet, 23 October 2013



# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	2014 Primary School Expansion Programme – Funding Strategy	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 24 September 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Councillor Philip Page	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Councillor Philip Page Schools, Skills and Learning	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Tim Johnson Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Schools, Skills and Learning	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	James McElligott	Assistant Director, Education and Enterprise 01902 (55)4100 james.mcelligott@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the funding strategy for the 2014 Primary school expansion programme.
2. Approve the use of capital receipts, including both sites ring-fenced to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme and sites not ring-fenced to any particular programme, to support the 2014 Primary school expansion programme's funding strategy.
3. Agree to the establishment of a new capital budget to support the funding strategy for the 2014 Primary school expansion programme (estimated total cost £13.3 million).
4. Approve the need for the Council to underwrite the costs of prudential borrowing prior to receipts being realised, in the event that these costs cannot be charged to schools' budgets, and the impact on the Council's budget.



**Recommendations for noting:**

The Council is asked to note:

1. The need to undertake a 2015 Primary school expansion programme to ensure that the Council can continue to meet its statutory duties.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Council of the proposed funding strategy to support the 2014 Primary school expansion programme.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within its area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and to help fulfil every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental choice.
- 2.2 Levels of demand for primary school places in Wolverhampton have increased in recent years. In order to meet demand, the Council has recently invested in the provision of a significant number of additional primary school places in areas of high demand across the City. However, projections suggest that the size of Reception cohorts will increase further in future years and that additional school places will be required.
- 2.3 Additional primary school places are urgently needed in order to ensure that sufficient school places are available in 2014. As identified within the Primary School Organisation Strategy 2013-2016, a level of surplus is essential to provide for parental choice, to allow for unexpected fluctuations in demand and to offer flexibility to cater for mid-year entrants. The Strategy recommends that a minimum level of surplus within each year group of 4% is available at a citywide level and aspires to offer pupils a school place within their local community.
- 2.4 On 24 September 2013 Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report detailing the proposed funding strategy to support the delivery of the 2014 Primary school expansion programme. The exempt report can be accessed by Councillors online on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's website by following the link:

<https://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking/Calendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8413/Committee/1448/Default.aspx>

- 2.5 Cabinet (Resources) Panel recommended that Council approve the funding strategy for the 2014 Primary school expansion programme. Councillors are asked to refer to the report when considering the recommendations from Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

## **3.0 2014 Primary School Expansion Programme**

- 3.1 The 2014 Primary school expansion programme proposes the introduction of an additional 630 primary school places and comprises the proposed expansion of three primary schools on their existing sites.
- 3.2 Dunstall Hill Primary School (St Peter's Ward) is currently a one form entry (fe) school catering for up to 210 pupils. It is proposed that the school is expanded to cater for up to 420 pupils. The school currently provides 30 places per year group. It is proposed that,

with effect from September 2014, the school's Reception admission limit is increased to 60. Subject to approval of the proposal, future Reception intakes would also have admission limits of 60.

- 3.3 Fallings Park Primary School (Fallings Park Ward) is currently a 2fe school catering for up to 420 pupils. It is proposed that the school is expanded to cater for up to 630 pupils. The school currently provides 60 places per year group. It is proposed that, with effect from September 2014, the school's Reception admission limit is increased to 90. Subject to approval of the proposal, future Reception intakes would also have admission limits of 90.
- 3.4 Trinity Church of England (CE) Primary School (Heath Town Ward) is currently a 2fe school catering for up to 420 pupils. It is proposed that the school is expanded to cater for up to 630 pupils. The school currently provides 60 places per year group. It is proposed that, with effect from September 2014, the school's Reception admission limit is increased to 90. Subject to approval of the proposal, future Reception intakes would also have admission limits of 90.
- 3.5 Statutory consultation processes have been undertaken with regard to the proposed expansions and a final decision on the 2014 Primary school expansion programme will be made by Cabinet on 4 December 2013.
- 3.6 Should this Programme not be delivered there are significant risks to the Council including, an inability to continue to effectively meet the Council's statutory duties to ensure the provision of sufficient school places, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and to increase parental choice. In addition, there will be a significant risk of damaging the Council's reputation.

#### **4.0 Estimated Costs for Delivery**

- 4.1 The estimated costs (produced by Property Services) of the schemes included in the 2014 Primary school expansion programme are detailed in the aforementioned exempt Cabinet (Resources) Panel Report (paragraph 5.3 Figure 1). Councillors can access the exempt Cabinet (Resources) Panel report via the link at paragraph 2.4 above. Estimates reflect all costs associated with the development of the schemes and include construction, preliminaries, contingencies, professional fees, indexation, enabling costs, allowance for consequential improvements (10%), allowance for ICT and furniture (10%) and an allowance for temporary accommodation. Proposed schemes are in line with the latest School building design guide and are only providing the minimum areas required for such expansions in pupil numbers.

#### **5.0 Proposed Funding Strategy**

- 5.1 The estimated cost of delivering the proposed 2014 Primary school expansion programme is available in the exempt Cabinet (Resources) Panel report that can be accessed by Councillors via the link at paragraph 2.4 above.

#### **6.0 Future Demand**

- 6.1 It has been determined that levels of demand for primary school provision will increase further in the short term and as a result, there will be a need for a further 2015 Primary school expansion programme which is likely to have significant financial implications.
- 6.2 In order to effectively meet this challenge it will be necessary for the Council to work closely with the City's schools to develop both effective solutions and a robust funding strategy. This will require early engagement with both Schools' Forum and Wolverhampton Schools' Improvement Partnership.
- 6.3 The 2015 Primary school expansion programme will be run in accordance with guidance from the Corporate Programme Office. Once potential schemes have been identified and estimated costings determined, the anticipated financial implications and proposed funding strategy will be reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

- 7.1 The detailed financial implications are set out in the exempt Cabinet (Resources) Panel report that can be assessed by Councillors via the link at paragraph 2.4 above.  
(CF/21102013/M)

## **8.0 Legal implications**

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish for them to have one.
- 8.2 Where the Council needs to obtain consent to dispose of any sites under Section 77 Schools Standards Framework Act 1988, it will be necessary to follow the conditions of any such consent. The Secretary of State issues these consents and often makes them subject to conditions governing how the proceeds of any sale may be spent.  
(JH/211013/H)

## **9.0 Equalities implications**

- 9.1 An equality analysis has been undertaken for each proposed primary school expansion scheme.

## **10.0 Environmental implications**

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

- Exempt Cabinet (Resources) Panel Report (24 September 2013) – 2014 Primary School Expansion Programme – Funding Strategy
- Cabinet Report (19 June 2013) – Primary School Organisation.



# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	Blocks 10 & 11, Wolverhampton Interchange	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet, 18 September 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson, Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Regeneration	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Eliot Ward	Interim Regeneration Advisor 01902 (55)4360 <a href="mailto:eliot.ward@wolverhampton.gov.uk">eliot.ward@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the allocation of up to £7.6 million capital investment by way of Prudential Borrowing at the Treasury Day Rate to part fund the construction of Block 10 and the purchase of Block 11 at Wolverhampton Interchange, subject to exploring potentially cheaper financing through the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP);
2. Approve the strategy to address the revenue implications over a three year period to cover estimated holding costs and fees as set out in Section 9 of the relevant Cabinet report dated 18 September 2013;
3. Approve the revised Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators shown at Appendix A of the relevant Cabinet report dated 18 September 2013 which have been amended from those approved by Council on 26 February 2013 as part of the Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14, to reflect the proposals contained in this report.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Council approval to commit capital and revenue investment to the construction of Block 10 and the purchase of Block 11 at Wolverhampton Interchange. This is in the context of the Council's strategic regeneration priority in the city centre as outlined in the City Centre Prospectus where the Interchange is identified as a local and regional first priority scheme.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Even though there is identified demand for Grade A offices in Wolverhampton city centre, there is no private sector supply due to a viability gap between the cost and value of development. Public sector intervention is therefore required to break this impasse and ensure that economic regeneration benefits are maximised in Wolverhampton. Block 10, Wolverhampton Interchange is a vacant site (adjacent Sainsbury's Local) which is outlined for Grade A offices and ground floor retail uses as part of the Interchange masterplan. The masterplan also includes for the redevelopment of the railway station and the refurbishment/extension of the multi-storey car park as well as an extension to the Metro. The scheme partners (the Council, Neptune Developments, Centro, Network Rail, Virgin Trains and the Canal & River Trust) are adopting a comprehensive approach to delivering a full transport interchange, improving a strategic gateway to the city and providing sustainable, high quality retail, leisure and office floorspace.
- 2.2 Designs for a new Block 10 building have been progressed which will comprise 4,653 sq.m. (50,066 sq.ft.) gross of commercial and retail floorspace. The building will include 2,696 sq.m. (29,020 sq.ft.) net of Grade A office space over three floors and 1,149 sq.m. (12,369 sq.ft.) net of ground floor retail space. The building will have a BREEAM Excellent standard which will reflect a high level of environmental performance and sustainability. The existing Block 11 is fully let to strong tenants with the exception of the first floor which comprises 10,000 sq.ft. This area has the potential for additional retail or office floor space and may be used in the short term as decanting space for 150 staff as part of the Future Spaces Programme.
- 2.3 The purchase of the long leasehold interest in Block 11 (including the Queens Building) is being recommended by Cabinet in addition to the construction of Block 10 because it makes sense for the Council to exercise strategic control over the future management of these key developments where value can be realised through common management and a common lettings policy.

## 3.0 Progress

- 3.1 At its 18 September meeting, Cabinet considered a report on the strategic investment in the construction of Block 10 and the purchase of Block 11 at Wolverhampton Interchange. Councillors are asked to refer to the exempt report when considering the recommendations of Cabinet which can be accessed on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website by following the link

<https://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking/Calendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8725/Committee/1446/Default.aspx>

- 3.2 Cabinet approved the recommendations contained in the Cabinet report. Council is therefore recommended to approve the recommendations on the cover of this report.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 The financial implications are detailed in the 18 September Cabinet report. [CF/28102013/V]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 The legal implications are detailed in the 18 September Cabinet report. [WT/00011900/I]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 The work outlined in this report is designed to improve the environment for all. Individual schemes of work will be subject to an Equality Analysis in accordance with Council Policy and under the Equality Act. Reasonable adjustments will be made for the needs of disabled people. Economic and community considerations for the city centre will need to be included as part of evaluating the outcomes of completed projects with an Equality Analysis.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report. The development of Block 10 will significantly improve the visual amenity of this area of the city centre and will attract families to an area which is currently underutilised and unattractive.

#### **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

- Cabinet Report 18 September 2013 – Blocks 10 & 11, Wolverhampton Interchange (Private – exempt from publication under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 3)
- Cabinet Report 26 February 2013 - Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14
- Cabinet Report 24 July 2013 – Annual Treasury Report 2012/13 & Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Quarter One 2013/14



# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP) including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan – Publication and Submission	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet, 24 July 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	Bilston East, Bilston North, East Park, Ettingshall, Heath Park, Spring Vale	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Tim Johnson Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Planning	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Michele Ross	Senior Planning Officer 01902 (55)4038 <a href="mailto:michele.ross@wolverhampton.gov.uk">michele.ross@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Approve submission of the Publication Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to minor modifications set out in the 29 October 2013 Individual Executive Decision Notice: Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Road Corridor Area Action Plan Minor Modifications.



## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To update Council on the preparation of the Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP), a planning and growth strategy for one of the City's priority regeneration areas.
- 1.2 To seek approval for submission of the Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to agreed minor modifications.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Bilston Corridor AAP is being produced by the Council as part of Wolverhampton's Local Development Framework. Now that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been adopted by Government, the AAP will form part of the Local Plan for the area. The AAP covers an area extending from the edge of Wolverhampton City Centre down to Bilston and Bradley, as shown on the plan attached to this report.
- 2.2 The Bilston Corridor is a key regeneration priority for the City as identified in the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). Along with the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS), the AAP will be the main consideration when guiding future development in this part of the City. A Neighbourhood Plan approach has been taken to the Bilston part of the Corridor, which forms one of the three Character Areas in the AAP.
- 2.3 The AAP will provide the detailed planning framework for the Corridor which will be a critical area of change, seeking to deliver planned growth, stimulate regeneration, resolve conflicting land uses and prioritise investment. The AAP will take into account and reflect existing regeneration schemes, such as Bilston Urban Village and Ward Street Masterplan Area. It will identify sites for future development to achieve the BCCS targets and will give certainty for communities, investors, developers and other agencies about the regeneration programmes and priorities in the area.
- 2.4 The AAP will provide a masterplan and delivery framework to manage these demands for the period up to 2026. There will be a focus on delivery, and providing an important mechanism for ensuring development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality. The Plan intends to deliver an improved Bilston Corridor which brings people to the City to work and live.

## **3. Progress**

- 3.1 The AAP has developed through a number of stages, in line with statutory requirements. Following an Issues consultation in early 2011, the Neighbourhood Plan element of the AAP was developed during 2012 and an AAP Options consultation followed in early 2013. These consultations have given local communities, businesses, developers, and others the chance to input their views on issues and options to guide the future development of the area.

- 3.2 Throughout the process consultees have been generally supportive of the AAP proposals. The Bilston Neighbourhood Plan Group has helped to develop proposals for Bilston Town Centre and employment, housing and environmental proposals in the Bilston Neighbourhood Plan area. The Bilston East Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) endorsed the Publication AAP for public consultation at their meeting on 23 April 2013. The Metro Business Partnership, including local business representatives, have also expressed their satisfaction with the way that their comments have influenced development of key proposals in the AAP.
- 3.3 A number of key issues were raised during the consultations:
- The need to protect employment land and local jobs and put in place a business support and relocation strategy for affected businesses;
  - The need to protect and sustain the vitality of Bilston Town Centre;
  - The need to provide new social housing to meet the needs of local residents.
  - The need to respect the historic character of Bilston but also to take a pragmatic approach to enable regeneration;
  - The need for clarity regarding proposed land uses for employment areas;
  - The need for greater design controls in certain areas e.g. Hickman Avenue, Willenhall Road, along canals.
- 3.4 The Publication AAP will provide the opportunity to deliver 2,600 new homes and an estimated 1,150 net new jobs in the Bilston Corridor area. This will provide 1,900 fewer homes than envisaged in the Black Country Core Strategy, but will retain more employment land and therefore safeguard more local jobs. Housing allocations include development of surplus open space at Thompson Avenue and Alexander Metals Open Space for housing, subject to local improvements in the quality of open space.
- 3.5 21.5 ha of employment development sites have been identified – the largest of these are at Bilston Urban Village (up to 4 ha) and south of Citadel Junction (3 ha). Comprehensive evidence on the historic environment underpins the AAP, supporting proposals to protect buildings and sites of historic character and create a new Canals Conservation Area (approved by 23 October Cabinet), including some canalside industrial estates.
- 3.6 The AAP is accompanied by a Viability Study and Delivery Plan, which will form the basis for a project management approach to bring forward key development sites. This will involve a range of officers and external partners and address the multiple constraints affecting sites to ensure development is viable.

#### **4. Update and next steps**

- 4.1 The Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan was approved by Cabinet on 24 July 2013 for Regulation 19 publication consultation on the 'soundness' of the plan. The consultation ran for six weeks from 16 August to 30 September 2013 and the engagement programme focused on using existing channels of communication (such as through the relevant Local Neighbourhood Partnerships) to ensure that key stakeholders, businesses and communities were involved. In total 37 representations were received from 17 individuals/organisations. Overall, comments were supportive of the plan, with only 5 objections.

- 4.2 Following consideration of the representations a small number of minor modifications to the AAP were agreed by way of an Individual Executive Decision Notice on 29 October 2013, in accordance with the 24 July Cabinet resolution. These minor modifications will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination alongside the Publication AAP. The modifications include changes to the Bilston Corridor Canals Conservation Area boundary, to reflect the boundary adopted by 23 October 2013 Cabinet.
- 4.3 The examination will be undertaken by an independent planning inspector and public hearings, if necessary, are likely to take place in early 2014. During the examination period, officers may be required to agree further minor modifications to the AAP on behalf of the Council. The inspector will determine whether the AAP is sound and, if necessary, can recommend modifications to the AAP to make it sound. If major modifications are recommended these will be reported to Cabinet and further consultation will need to be undertaken. If only minor modifications are required, the Inspectors report and the minor modifications will be reported to Cabinet and Full Council, with adoption by July 2014.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1 The non-staffing costs of preparing the AAP, including submission and public examination, are minimal and are being met from the approved Local Plan budget for 2013/14. The staffing costs will be met from the approved Planning budget. [RT/22102013/U]

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) including Local Development Documents. In accordance with Section 17 of the 2004 Act the AAP will become a Local Development Document which forms part of the Local Plan for Wolverhampton.
- 6.2 The procedure to be followed to prepare the AAP is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/767) which came into force on 6 April 2012 and revoked the 2004 Regulations (SI 2004/2204).
- 6.3 The 2012 Regulations are now being used to guide the preparation of the AAP. It is worth noting that the Regulations (Regulation 38) provide a 'saving provision' to ensure that work done by the Local Planning Authority under the 2004 Regulations are treated as 'done' under the corresponding provision of the 2012 Regulations. [LD/23102013/Z]

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1 The development of the AAP has been informed by an on-going Equality Analysis which has assessed the potential effects of the emerging policies and proposals on different groups of people. No adverse impacts on groups with protected characteristics have been identified through the work to date.
- 7.2 The AAP has been identified as having likely positive effects on a number of groups with protected characteristics, by addressing issues such as safety and accessibility through improved public transport and a well-designed, high quality built environment. The general benefits of regeneration promoted through the AAP (creation of jobs, housing & accessible transport) will help deliver stronger communities in the area and advance equal opportunities. The AAP could also help foster good relations and equality between some groups, by supporting road safety, facilitating social inclusion and promoting community cohesion for those living and working in and around the AAP area.
- 7.3 The AAP policies, and their effect on groups with protected characteristics, will be monitored annually following adoption.

## **8. Environmental implications**

- 8.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out on the AAP throughout the preparation process. SA is a process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policies and proposals to ensure sustainability issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage. The overall aim of the SA process is to inform and influence the development of the AAP, and maximise its sustainability value.

## **9. Schedule of background papers**

1. Draft Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan – Publication Document
2. Draft Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan - Summary of Options Consultation Comments and Council Response
3. Report to 24 July 2013 Cabinet: Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP) including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan – Publication and Submission
4. Individual Executive Decision Notice 29 October 2013: Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Road Corridor Area Action Plan Minor Modifications





# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan – Publication and Submission	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet, 22 May 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	Bushbury North, Oxley, Bushbury South and Low Hill, St Peters	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Tim Johnson Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Planning	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Tom Podd	Planning Officer 01902 (55)5638 <a href="mailto:tom.podd@wolverhampton.gov.uk">tom.podd@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision

The Council is recommended to:

Approve submission of the Publication Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to minor modifications set out in the 29 October 2013 Individual Executive Decision Notice: Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Road Corridor Area Action Plan Minor Modifications.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To update Council on the preparation of the Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP), a planning and growth strategy for one of the City's priority regeneration areas.
- 1.2 To seek approval for submission of the Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination, subject to agreed minor modifications.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Stafford Road Corridor AAP is being produced by the Council as part of Wolverhampton's Local Development Framework. Now that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been adopted by Government, the AAP will form part of the Local Plan for the area. The Corridor follows the Stafford Road (A449) and includes parts of Fordhouses, Bushbury, Oxley, and Low Hill, as shown on the plan attached to this report.
- 2.2 The Stafford Road Corridor is a key regeneration priority for the City as identified in the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). Along with the BCCS, the AAP will be the main consideration when guiding future development in this part of the City.
- 2.3 The AAP will provide the planning framework for the period up to 2026. It identifies sites for future development and will give certainty for communities, investors, developers and other agencies about the priorities for the area.
- 2.4 The AAP will provide a masterplan and delivery framework for the period up to 2026. There will be a focus on delivery, and providing an important mechanism for ensuring development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality. The Plan intends to deliver an improved Stafford Road Corridor which continues to attract appropriate investment and encourages more people to work and live in the City.

## **3. Progress**

- 3.1 The AAP has developed through a number of stages, in line with statutory requirements. Preparation of the AAP began in 2009 with a public consultation on the Issues Paper. This document sought the views on the issues the AAP needed to address.
- 3.2 The Options Report was the second key milestone in preparing the AAP. Where possible, the report addressed the issues identified through previous consultation and incorporated the conclusions of a number of technical studies. The Options Report gave local communities, businesses, developers, and others the opportunity to give their views on the options to guide the future development of the area.
- 3.3 Throughout the process consultees have been generally supportive of the AAP proposals with recognition of a need for regeneration along the corridor.
- 3.4 A number of key issues were raised during the consultations:

- The need for new jobs and housing and the key role of i54 (adjacent to the AAP boundary).
  - That no part of Fowlers Playing Fields should be developed for housing
  - The need to address local transport concerns and provide clarity on what transport proposals are required
  - The importance of protecting local character and the environment and maximising the potential of the canal network
  - Improvements to the Three Tuns District Centre
  - The need to fully assess the impact of development on Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- 3.5 The Publication AAP will provide the opportunity to deliver approximately 420 new homes in addition to the 830 currently with planning permission (Goodyear/Armitage Shanks). This will provide approximately 400 fewer homes than envisaged in the Black Country Core Strategy, but will retain more employment land and therefore safeguard more local jobs. The new housing sites are located around Park Lane (Blue Bird Trading Estate, Bus Depot, Assa Abloy), and Showell Road
- 3.6 Approximately 165 ha of employment land is identified within the plan with just under 40 ha of development opportunities. These opportunities are mostly focussed around Junction 2/Fordhouses employment area and Wolverhampton Science Park.
- 3.7 The AAP identifies the key infrastructure required to support the delivery of the new homes and jobs, including transport proposals and environmental infrastructure. Local character is also a key part of the plan with buildings and land of local character value being identified.
- 3.8 The AAP is accompanied by a Viability Study and Delivery Plan, which will form the basis for a project management approach to bring forward key development sites. This will involve a range of officers and external partners and address the multiple constraints affecting sites to ensure development is viable.
- 4. Update and next steps**
- 4.1 The Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan was approved by Cabinet on 22 May 2013 for Regulation 19 publication consultation on the 'soundness' of the plan. The consultation ran for six weeks from 19 June to 31 July and the engagement programme focused on using existing channels of communication (such as through the relevant Local Neighbourhood Partnerships) to ensure that key stakeholders, businesses and communities were involved. In total 67 representations were received from twenty individuals/organisations. Overall, comments were supportive of the plan with only six individuals/organisations objecting.
- 4.2 Following consideration of the representations a small number of minor modifications to the AAP were agreed by way of an Individual Executive Decision Notice on 22 October 2013, in accordance with the 22 May Cabinet resolution. These minor modifications will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination alongside the Publication AAP.



4.3 The examination will be undertaken by an independent planning inspector and public hearings, if necessary, are likely to take place in early 2014. During the examination period, officers may be required to agree further minor modifications to the AAP on behalf of the Council. The inspector will determine whether the AAP is sound and, if necessary, can recommend modifications to the AAP to make it sound. If major modifications are recommended these will be reported to Cabinet and further consultation will need to be undertaken. If only minor modifications are required, the Inspectors report and the minor modifications will be reported to Cabinet and Full Council, with adoption by July 2014.

## **5. Financial implications**

5.1 The non-staffing costs of preparing the AAP, including submission and public examination, are minimal and are being met from the approved Local Plan budget for 2013/14. The staffing costs will be met from the approved Planning budget. [RT/21102013/H]

## **6. Legal implications**

6.1 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) including Local Development Documents. In accordance with Section 17 of the 2004 Act the AAP will become a Local Development Document which forms part of the Local Plan for Wolverhampton.

6.2 The procedure to be followed to prepare the AAP is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/767) which came into force on 6 April 2012 and revoked the 2004 Regulations (SI 2004/2204).

6.3 The 2012 Regulations are now being used to guide the preparation of the AAP. It is worth noting that the Regulations (Regulation 38) provide a 'saving provision' to ensure that work done by the Local Planning Authority under the 2004 Regulations are treated as 'done' under the corresponding provision of the 2012 Regulations. [LD/23102013/T]

## **7. Equalities implications**

7.1 The development of the AAP has been informed by an on-going Equality Analysis which has assessed the potential effects of the emerging policies and proposals on different groups of people. No adverse impacts on groups with protected characteristics have been identified through the work to date.

7.2 The AAP has been identified as having likely positive effects on a number of groups with protected characteristics, by addressing issues such as safety and accessibility through improved public transport and a well-designed, high quality built environment. The general benefits of regeneration promoted through the AAP (creation of jobs, housing & accessible transport) will help deliver stronger communities in the area and advance equal opportunities. The AAP could also help foster good relations and equality

between some groups, by supporting road safety, facilitating social inclusion and promoting community cohesion for those living and working in and around the AAP area.

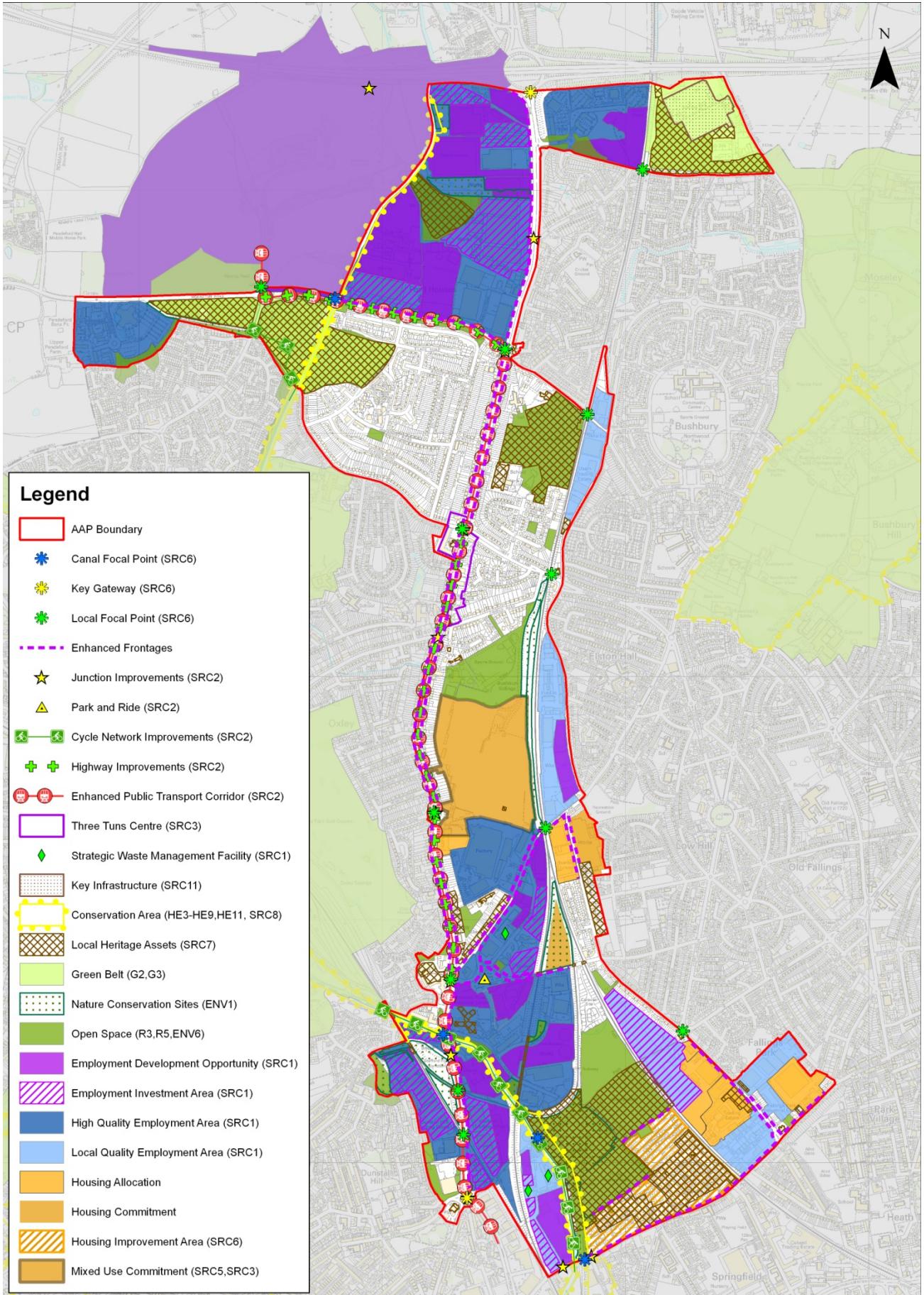
- 7.3 The AAP policies, and their effect on groups with protected characteristics, will be monitored annually following adoption.

## **8. Environmental implications**

- 8.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out on the AAP throughout the preparation process. SA is a process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policies and proposals to ensure sustainability issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage. The overall aim of the SA process is to inform and influence the development of the AAP, and maximise its sustainability value.

## **9. Schedule of background papers**

1. Report to 22 May 2013 Cabinet: Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP) Publication and Submission
2. Individual Executive Decision Notice 29 October 2013: Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Road Corridor Area Action Plan Minor Modifications





# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	Review of the Constitution – Article 9 and Councillor Code of Conduct	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Standards Committee 14 October 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	Cllr Bert Turner	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Keith Ireland Delivery	
<b>Originating service</b>	Legal	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Fiona Davis	Head of Service – Governance and Regulatory 01902 (55)4932 <a href="mailto:fiona.davis@wolverhampton.gov.uk">fiona.davis@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to approve revisions to Article 9 of the Constitution – Standards of Conduct and the preamble to the Councillor Code of Conduct, to incorporate illustrative text published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 20 September 2013.

## **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To recommend revisions to Article 9 of the Constitution and preamble to the Councillor Code of Conduct as a result of two publications from the DCLG on 20 September 2013 relating to Standards.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The current Councillor Code of Conduct contained in Appendix 2 of the Constitution was approved by Council on 11 July 2012 and provides a framework for councillor and co-opted member compliance with the Standards regime contained in the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 Unlike the previous Standards regime, there is no national model code and local authorities have discretion regarding their Councillor Code of Conduct provided it is consistent with the Nolan principles and provides for the registration and declaration of interests. Guidance and advice is, however, issued by central government from time to time.
- 2.3 On 20 September 2013 the DCLG issued a revised plain English guide for councillors on Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests and a revised illustrative text for a code of conduct for councillors and co-opted members of local authorities.
- 2.4 The guide gives straightforward information about how councillors should be open and transparent about their personal interests and has been revised with the aim of making it clear that councillors should treat trade union membership as a personal, non-pecuniary interest. Where a councillor is sponsored by a trade union, this constitutes a disclosable pecuniary interest which should be registered and declared. The government believes that this new guidance will give local people the confidence that their councillors are putting residents' interests before their own and before those of any particular group.
- 2.5 Copies of the updated guidance on openness and transparency on personal interests and illustrative text are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. [GE/03102013/S]

## **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 The Council is required to adopt a Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Members under of the Localism Act 2011. Under Section 28(1) the Code of Conduct must be consistent with the Nolan principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. [FD/02102013/C]

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 6.1 The Constitution and DCLG documentation.



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Openness and transparency on personal interests

A guide for councillors

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# The Guide

This guide on personal interests gives basic practical information about how to be open and transparent about your personal interests. It is designed to help councillors, including parish councillors, now that new standards arrangements have been introduced by the Localism Act 2011<sup>1</sup>.

## Why are there new rules?

Parliament has abolished the Standards Board regime and all the rules under it. It has done this because that centrally-imposed, bureaucratic regime had become a vehicle for petty, malicious and politically-motivated complaints against councillors. Rather than creating a culture of trust and openness between councillors and those they represent, it was damaging, without justification, the public's confidence in local democratic governance.

The new standards arrangements that Parliament has put in place mean that it is largely for councils themselves to decide their own local rules. It is essential that there is confidence that councillors everywhere are putting the public interest first and are not benefiting their own financial affairs from being a councillor. Accordingly, within the new standards arrangements there are national rules about councillors' interests.<sup>2</sup>

Such rules, in one form or another, have existed for decades. The new rules are similar to the rules that were in place prior to the Standards Board regime. Those rules, originating in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, involved local authority members registering their pecuniary interests in a publicly available register, and disclosing their interests and withdrawing from meetings in certain circumstances. Failure to comply with those rules was in certain circumstances a criminal offence, as is failure to comply in certain circumstances with the new rules.

## Does this affect me?

Yes, if you are an elected, co-opted, or appointed member of:

- a district, unitary, metropolitan, county or London borough council
- a parish or town council
- a fire and rescue authority
- a transport or other joint authority
- a combined authority or an economic prosperity board
- the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
- the Broads Authority

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<sup>1</sup> The Guide should not be taken as providing any definitive interpretation of the statutory requirements; those wishing to address such issues should seek their own legal advice.

<sup>2</sup> The national rules are in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and in the secondary legislation made under the Act, particularly in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/1464).



- a National Park authority
- the Greater London Authority
- the Common Council of the City of London
- the Council of the Isles of Scilly

## How will there be openness and transparency about my personal interests?

The national rules require your council or authority to adopt a code of conduct for its members and to have a register of members' interests.

The national rules require your council's code of conduct to comply with the Seven Principles of Public Life, and to set out how, in conformity with the rules, you will have to disclose and register your pecuniary and your other interests. Within these rules it is for your council to decide what its code of conduct says. An illustrative text for such a code is available on the Department's web site.<sup>3</sup>

Your council's or authority's monitoring officer (or in the case of a parish council the monitoring officer of the district or borough council) must establish and maintain your council's register of members' interests. Within the requirements of the national rules it is for your council or authority to determine what is to be entered in its register of members' interests.

## What personal interests should be entered in my council's or authority's register of members' interests?

Disclosable pecuniary interests, and any other of your personal interests which your council or authority, in particular through its code of conduct, has determined should be registered.

Any other of your personal interests which you have asked the monitoring officer, who is responsible for your council's or authority's register of members' interests, to enter in the register.

As explained in the following section, your registration of personal interests should be guided by your duty to act in conformity with the seven principles of public life. You should ensure that you register all personal interests that conformity with the seven principles requires. These interests will necessarily include your membership of any Trade Union.

## What must I do about registering my personal interests?

Under your council's code of conduct you must act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life. One of these is the principle of integrity – that 'Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illustrative-text-for-local-code-of-conduct--2>

order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. **They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.**<sup>4</sup>.

Your registration of personal interests should be guided by this duty and you should give the monitoring officer who is responsible for your council's or authority's register of members' interests any information he or she requests in order to keep that register up to date and any other information which you consider should be entered in the register.

All sitting councillors need to register their declarable interests – both declarable pecuniary interests, and other interests that must be declared and registered as required by your authority's code, or your duty to act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life, such as your membership of any Trade Union. Any suggestion that you should tell the monitoring officer about your pecuniary interests only in the immediate aftermath of your being elected is wholly incompatible with this duty, with which you must comply.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not recorded in the register and which relates to any business that is or will be considered at a meeting where you are present, you must disclose<sup>5</sup> this to the meeting and tell the monitoring officer about it, if you have not already done so, so that it can be added to the register. You must tell the monitoring officer within 28 days of disclosing the interest. For this purpose a meeting includes any meeting of your council or authority, of its executive or any committee of the executive, and of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of your authority.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not shown in the register and relates to any business on which you are acting alone, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of this, tell the monitoring officer about it, if you have not already done so, so that it can be added to the register. You must also stop dealing with the matter as soon as you become aware of having a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to the business.

When you are first elected, co-opted, or appointed a member to your council or authority, you must, within 28 days of becoming a member, tell the monitoring officer who is responsible for your council's or authority's register of members' interests about your disclosable pecuniary interests. If you are re-elected, re-co-opted, or reappointed a member, you need to tell the monitoring officer about only those disclosable pecuniary interests that are not already recorded in the register.

## What are pecuniary interests?

A person's pecuniary interests are their business interests (for example their employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which they are associated) and wider

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.public-standards.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/the-seven-principles/>

<sup>5</sup> If the interest is a sensitive interest you should disclose merely the fact that you have such a disclosable pecuniary interest, rather than the interest. A sensitive interest is one which the member and the monitoring officer, who is responsible for the register of members' interests, consider that disclosure of its details could lead to the member, or a person connected to the member, being subject to violence or intimidation.

financial interests they might have (for example trust funds, investments, and assets including land and property).

## Do I have any disclosable pecuniary interests?

You have a disclosable pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest listed in the national rules (see annex). Interests or your spouse or civil partner, following the approach of the rules under the 1972 and 1989 Acts, are included to ensure that the public can have confidence that councillors are putting the public interest first and not benefiting the financial affairs of themselves or their spouse or civil partner from which the councillor would stand to gain. For this purpose your spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

## Does my spouse's or civil partner's name need to appear on the register of interests?

No. For the purposes of the register, an interest of your spouse or civil partner, which is listed in the national rules, is **your** disclosable pecuniary interest. Whilst the detailed format of the register of members' interests is for your council to decide, there is no requirement to differentiate your disclosable pecuniary interests between those which relate to you personally and those that relate to your spouse or civil partner.

## Does my signature need to be published online? Won't this put me at risk of identity theft?

There is no legal requirement for the personal signatures of councillors to be published online.

## Who can see the register of members' interests?

Except for parish councils, a council's or authority's register of members' interests must be available for inspection in the local area, and must be published on the council's or authority's website.

For parish councils, the monitoring officer who is responsible for the council's register of members' interests must arrange for the parish council's register of members' interests to be available for inspection in the district or borough, and must be published on the district or borough council's website.

Where the parish council has its own website, its register of members' interests must also be published on that website.

This is in line with the Government's policies of transparency and accountability, ensuring that the public have ready access to publicly available information.

## Is there any scope for withholding information on the published register?

Copies of the register of members' interests which are available for inspection or published must not include details of a member's sensitive interest, other than stating that the member has an interest the details of which are withheld. A sensitive interest is one which the member and the monitoring officer, who is responsible for the register of members' interests, consider that disclosure of its details could lead to the member, or a person connected to the member, being subject to violence or intimidation.

## When is information about my interests removed from my council's register of members' interests?

If you cease to have an interest, that interest can be removed from the register. If you cease to be a member of the authority, all of your interests can be removed from the register.

## What does having a disclosable pecuniary interest stop me doing?

If you are present at a meeting of your council or authority, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of your authority, and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

In certain circumstances you can request a dispensation from these prohibitions.

## Where these prohibitions apply, do I also have to leave the room?

Where your council's or authority's standing orders require this, you must leave the room. Even where there are no such standing orders, you must leave the room if you consider your continued presence is incompatible with your council's code of conduct or the Seven Principles of Public Life.

## Do I need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting council tax or a precept?

Any payment of, or liability to pay, council tax does not create a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the national rules; hence being a council tax payer does not mean that you need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support.

If you are a homeowner or tenant in the area of your council you will have registered, in accordance with the national rules, that beneficial interest in land. However, this disclosable pecuniary interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter of setting the council tax or precept since decisions on the council tax or precept do not materially affect your interest in the land. For example, it does not materially affect the value of your home, your prospects of selling that home, or how you might use or enjoy that land.

Accordingly, you will not need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support, which is in any event a decision affecting the generality of the public in the area of your council, rather than you as an individual.

## When and how can I apply for a dispensation?

The rules allow your council or authority in certain circumstances to grant a dispensation to permit a member to take part in the business of the authority even if the member has a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to that business. These circumstances are where the council or authority considers that:

- without the dispensation so great a proportion of the council or authority would be prohibited from participating in that business as to impede the council's or authority's transaction of that business,
- without the dispensation the representation of different political groups dealing with that business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote,
- the granting of the dispensation is in the interests of people living in the council's or authority's area,
- without the dispensation each member of the council's executive would be prohibited from participating in the business, or
- it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

If you would like your council or authority to grant you a dispensation, you must make a written request to the officer responsible for handling such requests in the case of your council or authority.

## What happens if I don't follow the rules on disclosable pecuniary interests?

It is a criminal offence if, without a reasonable excuse, you fail to tell the monitoring officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests, either for inclusion on the register if you are a newly elected, co-opted or appointed member, or to update the register if you are re-elected or re-appointed, or when you become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not recorded in the register but which relates to any matter;

- that will be or is being considered at a meeting where you are present, or
- on which you are acting alone.

It is also a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information, or to participate in the business of your authority where that business involves a disclosable pecuniary interest. It is also a criminal offence to continue working on a matter which can be discharged by a single member and in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

If you are found guilty of such a criminal offence, you can be fined up to £5,000 and disqualified from holding office as a councillor for up to five years.

## Where can I look at the national rules on pecuniary interests?

The national rules about pecuniary interests are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011, which is available on the internet here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/part/1/chapter/7/enacted>

and in the secondary legislation made under the Act, in particular The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 which can be found here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1464/contents/made>

# Annex A

## Description of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the monitoring officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests following your election or re-election, or when you became aware you had a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to a matter on which you were acting alone.
- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
  - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
  - which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
  - the landlord is your council or authority; and
  - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where –
  - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
  - (b) either –
    - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
    - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



### **Illustrative text for code dealing with the conduct expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when acting in that capacity**

You are a member or co-opted member of Wolverhampton City Council and hence you shall have regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member –

You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.

You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.

When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.

You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.

You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, including your membership of any Trade Union, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in the box below.

You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

### **Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.

In addition, you must within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your authority has decided should be included in the register or which you consider should be included if you are to fulfil your duty to act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life. These non-pecuniary interests will necessarily include your membership of any Trade Union.

If an interest has not been entered onto the authority's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'.

Following any disclosure of an interest not on the authority's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the monitoring officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.

Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your authority places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest as defined by your authority.



# Meeting of the City Council

## 6 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	Summary of Executive Business – 24 September to 23 October 2013	
<b>Referring Body</b>	Cabinet - 23 October 2013	
<b>Councillor to Present Report</b>	N/A	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson, Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Keith Ireland, Delivery	
<b>Originating service</b>	Democratic Support	
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer 01902 (55)5835 dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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### Recommendation(s) for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

The executive business for the period 24 September to 23 October 2013

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To receive the summary of executive business for the period 24 September to 23 October 2013 and for the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity to answer any questions thereon.

## **2.0 Background**

### **Cllr Peter Bilson, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity Proposed Bilston Corridor Canals Conservation Area**

- 2.1.1 Cabinet has approved the designation of a new canal based conservation area to be called the Bilston Corridor Canals Conservation Area as the basis of a recently completed assessment of the canal corridor undertaken in the context of the Bilson Corridor Area Action Plan (referred to at item 8 on the agenda). The conservation area includes 6km of waterway and towpath plus various areas of additional canalside land and historic buildings identified as being of architectural or historic interest and that make a significant contribution towards the character and setting of the canal.
- 2.1.2 Cabinet has also approved the following additions to the Local List in the proposed conservation area:
- a. Central Trading Estate (former Victoria Iron Works) units 9-11, 38, 47 and 53
  - b. Wulfrun Coal Company office building and basin, Minerva Wharf, Horseley Fields
  - c. Ward Street Bridge (sometimes known as Jibbett Lane Bridge)
  - d. Bilston Road Bridge
  - e. Horseley Fields Bridge, Lower Horseley Fields
  - f. Deepfields Junction Roving Bridge
  - g. Pothouse Bridge, Loxdale Street
  - h. Canal and River Trust Depot Pumping Engine House, Cross Street, Bradley
  - i. Highfields Works building, Highfields Road, Bradley
  - j. New Griffin Works buildings, Stanton Road

### **2.2 Cllr Peter Bilson, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity Mortgage Rescue Scheme**

- 2.2.1 Mortgage Rescue is a Government funded scheme, operated in the West Midlands by Orbit Housing Association. The scheme is aimed at home-owners who have not been able to meet their mortgage payments, and who are at risk of becoming homeless because they face repossession. The Council currently refers homeowners that approach the Housing options team to Mortgage Rescue, with Orbit then working with a syndicated (partner) Registered Provider (RP) to purchase their property. The former homeowner would then become a tenant of that RP
- 2.2.2 Orbit recently asked the Council to become a syndicate member of the scheme, which will allow the Council to take ownership of properties that are rescued. In doing so the Council will receive a Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) grant of 47% toward the purchase price and a further 47% of the costs of any improvements needed to be made to the property to bring it up to the Decent Homes Standard (up to a maximum of £20,000)

- 2.2.3 Orbit currently has five households in Wolverhampton that are awaiting assistance through mortgage rescue with potential for a further fourteen households/properties (based on historical patterns) to be referred up until the close of the scheme on 31st March 2014
- 2.2.4 Mortgage Rescue provides an opportunity to increase the Council housing stock at a significantly discounted rate due to the grant available, but more importantly this activity is key to homelessness prevention, a corner stone of the Council's Homelessness Strategy. It will assist individuals or families to remain in their own home as a tenant of the Council, preventing them from becoming homeless, where we would have a duty to rehouse them in accordance with homelessness legislation
- 2.2.5 Cabinet has approved the Council becoming a syndicate member of the Orbit Housing Association Mortgage Rescue Scheme and approved making funds available from the Housing Revenue Account HRA sufficient to purchase properties referred through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

### **3.0 Financial, legal, equalities and environmental implications**

- 3.1 The financial, legal, equalities and environmental implications are detailed in the individual reports that were presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013.

### **4.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 4.1 Report to Cabinet on 23 October 2013 - agenda items 6 and 11