

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Item 4	
Title	Pay Policy Statement 2023-2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Pay Policy Statement for 2023-2024. 2. The publication of the Pay Policy Statement in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. <p>That Council be recommended to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the national pay award for 2023 - 2024 has not been agreed, at the time of writing the Pay Policy Statement.
Options Considered	The authority is required to prepare and publish a Pay Policy in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.
Reasons for Decision	To ensure that the authority complies with the relevant legislation and best practice guidance.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	30 March 2023

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Item 5	
Title	Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan 2023 -2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan 2023-2024. 2. The arrangements for monitoring the delivery of the Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan.
Options Considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council entered into a 15-year management agreement with WH in 2013 to continue to deliver housing management services on behalf of the Council. 2. It is a requirement of this management agreement that the Council and WH work to develop and adopt a delivery plan which sets out how WH will deliver the services delegated to them and help to deliver the Stock Maintenance and Improvement Programme (WH Capital Programme at appendix 5). 3. Option one would be to adopt the WH Delivery Plan that has been developed jointly with CWC Housing Strategy. 4. Option two would be not to adopt an annual delivery plan. Where a delivery plan cannot be agreed, the management agreement sets out that it will be determined in accordance with its dispute resolution process.
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is recommended that the Wolverhampton Homes (WH) Delivery Plan at Appendix 1 is adopted. It is accompanied by performance indicators at Appendix 2, both of which have been developed in conjunction with the Council. Appendix 3 sets out WH's procurement plan for 2023-2024 as required by the management agreement, Appendix 4 those contracts let in 2022-2023 and Appendix 5 sets out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme specifying the areas of WH's responsibility for delivery.

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	2. Additionally, the Council continues to monitor and review WH to ensure that the organisation remains high-performing, well-governed and delivering a housing service in line with the Council's strategic objectives.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	30 March 2023

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Item 6	
Title	Gender Pay Gap Report – 2022
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That it be noted that the content of the attached report on the Gender Pay Gap is as of the snapshot date of 31 March 2022. 2. That it be noted that the median Gender Pay Gap for 31 March 2022 is 1.18% and the mean is 4.00%. 3. That the difference in comparison to March 2021 data – the median Gender Pay Gap was 0.64% and the mean was 4.04% be noted. 4. That the proportion of men and women in each quartile in our pay structure as of 31 March 2022 be noted. 5. That the actions the Council continues to take to improve equality, diversity and inclusion within the workplace (pages 14 – 17 within the appendix to the report) be noted. 6. That it be noted that the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) regulations 2017 only require organisations to report on the gender pay gap. In addition to this, the Council would report on the ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation pay gaps. These reports are currently in development.
Options Considered	There are no alternative options in terms of the way that data is collected as legislation defines the requirement for gender pay gap reporting.
Reasons for Decision	Information is being provided to meet legislative requirements as prescribed in section 2.0 in the report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None

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Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	23 March 2023

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Item 7	
Title	Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the establishment of supplementary expenditure budgets for 2022-2023 as detailed in section 7.0 of the report be approved. 2. That the use of £108,682 from the HRA Homelessness Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.6 of the report and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets be approved. 3. That the use of £35,000 from the Building Control Service Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.7 of the report and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets be approved. 4. That the use of £254,650.36 from the Our City Our Plan Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.8 of the report and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets be approved. 5. That the contribution of £750,000 to the Licencing Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.9 of the report and the establishment of associated budgets be approved. 6. That the use of £193,350 from the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.10 of the report and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets be approved. 7. That the use of £120,000 from the Budget Contingency reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.11 of the report and the establishment of supplementary budgets be approved. 8. That the write-off of five Sundry debts totalling £88,681.99 as detailed in Appendix 8 to the report be approved. 9. That the write-off of one Council Tax debt totalling £6,144.95 as detailed in Appendix 9 to the report be approved.

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10. That the write-off of one Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debt totalling £6,571.51 as detailed in Appendix 10 to the report be approved.
11. That 47 virements totalling £45.9 million, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 11 to the report be approved.
12. That the Strategic Risk Register which is shown at Appendix. 3 to the report be approved.
13. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve any necessary virements required to support the pay award, the allocation of the Efficiency target and Vacancy factor and any recharges required for 2022-2023.
14. That it be noted that the General Fund projected spend for 2022-2023 is currently forecast to be within budget.
15. That it be noted that the forecast outturn position for the year for the HRA shows a pressure against the approved budget of £1.2 million, as shown at Table 3 and in detail at Appendix 5 to the report.
16. That it be noted that it is anticipated that the cost of redundancies can be met from reserves.
17. That it be noted that 548 Council Tax accounts totalling £296,894.99, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
18. That it be noted that 22 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £543,505.01, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
19. That it be noted that 23 housing benefit overpayments totalling £7,009.42 as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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	<p>20. That it be noted that 135 sundry debt account totalling £122,897.49, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>21. That the performance against the key indicators as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.</p>
Options Considered	In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between employees and other controllable expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contributions to and from reserves and the creation of supplementary budgets also require Cabinet approval. The write-offs, virements, use of reserves and creation of supplementary budgets detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.
Reasons for Decision	In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023

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Item 8	
Title	Customer Experience Strategy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the new City of Wolverhampton Council Customer Experience Strategy, setting out how we would work as one council to deliver first class customer services to our communities be approved. 2. That the new City of Wolverhampton Council Customer Promise, included on page 7 of the strategy which defines how we would work with all customers, whether they are residents, businesses, partners or suppliers be approved. 3. That it be noted that the Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Promise priorities have been developed following consultation with over 770 people and pre-decision scrutiny.
Options Considered	<p>Option one - to agree the new Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Service Promise, which would ensure the Council is responding to the feedback of local people and support the Our City: Our Plan outcome of ‘Wulfrunians living longer, healthier lives’.</p> <p>Option two - to not agree the new Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Service Promise, and continue as is, without a strategic framework for customer service delivery.</p>
Reasons for Decision	Option one is recommended, to approve the Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Promise. These were co-designed with local people to ensure they are reflective of what our customers need most.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	23 March 2023

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Item 9	
Title	Black Country Coroner collaboration agreement
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That it be agreed to enter into a new five-year agreement with other Black Country Councils to provide a regional Coronial service. 2. That it be agreed that Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council should continue to act as lead council.
Options Considered	<p>The primary alternative to a Black Country collaboration arrangement would be for each individual Council to work separately or in smaller alliances, However, this would result in increased costs as each area would have to employ one or more coroners, albeit perhaps on a part-time basis. The combined population of the Black Country region offer optimum scale to fully occupy one senior coroner and one area coroner, with assistant coroner support. Birmingham, which has a similar population in its jurisdiction has a much larger team, indicating that the Black Country arrangement provides good value for money. Furthermore, any change to a coronial jurisdiction would require the approval of the Lord Chancellor and a reduction in size would be unlikely to be supported, given the recommendations of the 2003 Luce Review, which advocated increasing the size of coronial areas.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>Over the last few years, the collaboration agreement has ensured that the residents of Wolverhampton have received a steadily improving service, with some of the best turnaround times in the country, whilst managing the delivery costs. The four Councils continue to work with the Coroner to identify further service enhancements and the renewed agreement will provide the basis to take the service forward over the next few years.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023

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Item 10	
Title	Wolverhampton Investment Prospectus – First Phase Delivery Plan
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposed approach towards development and implementation of three schemes: City Centre West, St George’s and the Accelerated Sites Programme, as part of the first phase of the Investment Prospectus Delivery Plan as detailed in the body of the report be approved. 2. That authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with Director of Regeneration, Director of Finance and Chief Operating Officer to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Declare sites as surplus to requirements (where necessary) to enable them to be brought forward for development. b. Submit HMT Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs) for the Accelerated Sites Programme in accordance with specific requests received from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and in consultation with Homes England. c. Progress outline business cases with prospective development partners that are subject to existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) agreements to enable the presentation of Full Business Cases to Cabinet for approval and delegations. d. Approve and progress alternative marketing, disposal and delivery routes available, in the event that business cases with preferred development partners are unable to satisfy pre-requisite Local Government criteria and value-for-money tests. 3. That it be noted that the Wolverhampton Investment Prospectus has been prepared to highlight key regeneration and investment opportunities and has resulted in a strong market interest for key Council owned sites. This report focusses upon detailing preferred delivery routes for several of the key proposals contained within the Prospectus.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. That it be noted that the schemes detailed in the body of the report as part of the ‘Accelerated Sites Programme’ follows the call for sites from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. 5. That it be noted that further reports to Cabinet would present and seek approval for the full business cases for each project including details of any delivery mechanism and transaction with assurances on how Best Consideration has been achieved. 6. That it be noted that the sites referenced would be brought forward in line with the planning policy framework for the city centre and any site-specific guidance. 7. That it be noted that for each of the schemes detailed, the Council would undertake and assess a review of any existing legal agreements that are in place as part of continued due diligence that support delivery. 8. That it be noted that the existing delegated authority would be utilised to create supplementary budgets for development work. This would be funded through grant contributions and /or reserves where appropriate.
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>The recommendations in this report principally focus on progressing key strategic regeneration objectives for the city. In progressing a phase 1 delivery strategy, it will see council land interests utilised to promote high-quality development that responds to both market demands and the needs of the city offer whilst repurposing and promoting brownfield development.</p> <p>In bringing forward key regeneration and investment opportunities, the Council as major landowner and potential investor is maximising its land interest to leverage investment and delivery that directly supports the outcomes of Our City: Our Plan. In this context, the following options are available to the Council:</p> <p>Do nothing – the opportunity to deliver major strategic regeneration in the city centre supporting housing delivery, jobs, commercial offer, business rates and Council tax as well as wider impacts of vibrancy and footfall will be further delayed. The city’s pathfinder status referenced in the February 2022 Levelling Up White Paper and the opportunities to benefit from wider regeneration and investment could be lost.</p>

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	<p>Continue to promote key regeneration sites outside of partnering arrangements with the Department and Homes England – the Council is a strategic landowner within the city centre and a number of the sites could be brought forward outside of the current engagement with the Department and Homes England. However, it is considered that there are several advantages to working with our partners towards the joint promotion and delivery of these schemes. The Council has previously promoted schemes for the key sites in question that have ultimately not been delivered due to a range of factors including viability challenges, proposals that do not meet the aspiration for the site and reticence of developers to engage without substantial de-risking.</p> <p>Implementation of First Phase Delivery Plan – The Council utilises its role as strategic landowner and regeneration enabler to define full business cases, promote uses and schemes in accordance with key policy strategy and leverages the city’s Levelling Up pathfinding status with key partners such as the Department and Homes England to drive investment into priority regeneration projects.</p>
<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council’s role in enabling key regeneration activity that supports the objectives of the city strategy, maximises benefits for Wulfrunians and shapes delivery in response to both market demand and city need, means that across this diverse set of projects the Council must adopt a proactive role in defining clear delivery strategies in conjunction with our strategic partners. 2. Working in conjunction with the Department and Homes England offers the opportunity to capitalise upon Wolverhampton’s Levelling Up status which has generated significant interest amongst the private sector on the basis that there may be enhanced access to financial support as well as sharing of risk across the public sector with a key focus upon delivery and wider output realisation.
<p>Record of Conflicts of Interest</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Dispensation Granted</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</p>	<p>27 March 2023</p>

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Item 11	
Title	New Procurement Strategy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Procurement Strategy as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report be approved. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City in consultation with the Director of Finance to annually refresh the Procurement Strategy and Procurement workplan in line with the annual refreshes of Our City: Our Plan. Any significant changes will be reported to Cabinet for approval.
Options Considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The alternative option would be to do nothing, this would lead to Procurement not being aligned to the change in approach taken by the Council. This also means the Procurement Strategy would not reflect the current strategic aims of the Council. 2. The Procurement Strategy will be used to develop a Procurement business plan and support the future development of Procurement advice and structure.
Reasons for Decision	Procurement is required to comply with relevant legislation and also identify ways to support the Council with its key priorities. Implementing this strategy supports the Council with compliance and delivering priorities by setting out the vision for Procurement to focus on areas such as the Wolverhampton Pound and equalities.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023

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Item 12	
Title	Investing in the School Estate
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the allocation of £150,000 from the approved capital budget High Needs Capital Programme – Future Schemes to the Aldersley High School Resource Base project be approved. 2. That the allocation of £300,000 from the approved capital budget High Needs Capital Programme – Future Schemes to the Penn Hall School project be approved. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work and Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families and the Director of Finance, to approve any future allocations and adjustments to existing budgets from the High Needs Capital Programme – Future Schemes to enable future schemes to be progressed in a timely manner. 4. That the allocation of £350,000 from the approved capital budget Primary School Expansion Programme to the Westacre Infant School project be approved. 5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, Work and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Families to approve the details of all agreements authorised under recommendation 6 of the report. 6 That the Council be authorised to enter into all legal agreements in relation to the schemes.
Options Considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are limited options to provide additional specialist places by September 2023. 2. If specialist places are not provided by schools within the City, children would need to be placed out of city or with independent schools (within or outside of the City). This would have significant cost implications as the average cost to the Local Authority is £76,000 per child per annum per place. The cost per place for the schemes proposed in this report (as outlined in paragraph 4.11) demonstrates value for money in comparison.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The alternative option of doing nothing has been discounted as this would lead to a breach in the Council’s sufficiency duty. 4. All temporary buildings in maintained settings have been assessed according to condition. There are no alternative options as the replacement of the temporary accommodation at the two sites has been determined as the highest priority.
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional school places at Penn Hall School and the increase in the number of places at Aldersley High School’s Resource Base will support the increase in demand, ensuring the Council’s sufficiency duty is met and to support the vision to become a highly inclusive city. 2. These schemes align to the key council priority whereby ‘Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential’, which is also underpinned by the SEND Strategy in accordance with the SEND Strategy 2020-2023. 3. The Amethyst Trust are passionate about educating children with SEND in their local community and believe that they are ideally placed to extend their existing specialist Resource Base and Special School provision to enhance the wider school communities and life chances of children with special needs in Wolverhampton. 4. Replacement of the temporary accommodation at Westacre Infant School and Christ Church CE Infant School and Nursery will ensure that the pupils are taught in a suitable environment which is of a high standard.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023

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Item 13	
Title	Young Opportunities (YO!) - Our vision for young people and families
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That that the outcomes of the Youth Engagement Strategy (2020-2023 #YES) be embedded into business as usual. 2. That the principles for development of the Young Opportunities (YO!) brand which would support our vision for children, young people and their families to have access to a range of opportunities that build aspiration and resilience be approved.
Options Considered	<p>Option one - to make no change to the existing #YES and not develop the YO! Wolves offer. This would result in not recognising the developments that have been made to extending the offer under the YO! Wolves and could diminish the investment made so far in the brand.</p> <p>Option two - to partially implement the recommendations of this report. This would result in a weakened offer and hinder any future expansion of the program to support families in making use of the opportunities showcased through this brand.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The decision to embed #YES into business as usual and the learning to influence the YO! Wolves five pillars enables the success of the brand to grow using this knowledge base to inform future developments. 2. It is recognised that the city faces a number of challenges, some that existed before Covid such as youth unemployment and others that have been exacerbated by Covid and other factors such as mental health and the cost of living crisis. We also face challenges around young people becoming aligned to activity that leads to exploitation and in some cases gang affiliation. 3. There is significant work underway to tackle many of the issues outlined in the previous paragraph but they may be seen currently as isolated projects or programmes. The YO! branding offers and opportunity for us to provide a clear focus on what the city is doing to support children, young people and families across a broad spectrum.

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	<p>4. The YO! branding also offers an opportunity to ensure we recognise all of the provision we have within the city delivered by a range of providers and ensure that families know where they can go for support that already exists within their local communities. It will also help in identifying where we have gaps in provision or support and determine what the city's response to this is going to be.</p> <p>5. The funding and confidence shown by Adults Services in using the approaches to support co-production enables views and opinions of all family members in provision that affects them.</p> <p>6. The expansion of the life skills and enrichment opportunities enables families to think big about their aspirations for themselves and have their 'best life.'</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	23 March 2023

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Item 14	
Title	Investing in our Well-Connected Communities Transport Capital Programme 2023-2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the list of projects for development and implementation as part of the Transportation Capital Programme 2023-2024 and future years, as set out in Appendices 3, 4, and 5 to the report be approved. 2. That the Head of Network Management and Head of Strategic Transport be authorised to proceed with development work for each project detailed in Appendices 3, 4, and 5 to the report including surveying, site investigation, options appraisal. Feasibility analysis, traffic modelling, detailed design, statutory advertising and public consultation, as appropriate. 3. That capital budgets for 2023-2024 for the projects marked 'Approve' in the 'Decision' column of Appendices 3 and 4 to the report be approved for implementation, subject to the confirmation of funding. 4. That a supplementary revenue budget of £400,000 in 2023-2024 be approved to support scheme development and management of the Black Country Transport Capital Programme fully funded from the £2.0 million Capacity Funding allocated in 2021-2022. 5. That the virement of existing approved budgets for 2023-2024 totalling £121,000 within the Transport Capital Programme to other projects as per table 3.4 of the report be authorised. 6. That the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services and Director of Finance be authorised to approve the implementation of any development and delivery works on projects in appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report, subject to the satisfactory outcome of public consultation, budget approval and any other relevant considerations.

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7. That the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change and Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services and Director of Finance be authorised to approve appropriate virements between existing approved budgets within the transport capital programme, maximising use of resources.
8. That the Chief Operating Officer be authorised to serve all necessary notices in respect of the projects listed in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report and, subject to there being no unresolved objections, make traffic regulation orders as required.
9. That the Black Country Director of Transport be authorised to enter into funding agreements with Black Country Authorities to passport Black Country Transport scheme funding in accordance with the approved collaboration agreement.
10. That the expenditure and progress made in delivering £48.3 million worth of projects in the Transportation Capital programme during 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and forecast in 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.
11. That the Council's continuing success in bidding for additional funding and delivering new projects through the West Midlands Combined Authority, Active Travel Funding, City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, Future High Street Fund and Towns Fund, and Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) be noted.
12. That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change and Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, Director of Finance and Chief Operating Officer would approve any new supplementary capital and revenue budgets for any projects from Appendix 3, 4 and 5 to the report, fully funded through either external resources or reserves, in accordance with supplementary budget procedures.
13. That the inclusion of revenue funding as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Development Funding package, Capacity Funding and the Local Authority Capability Fund to support the development of the programme and the wider Black Country Transport Programme be noted.

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	<p>14. That it be noted that the Head of Network Management, Head of Strategic Transport and Black Country Director of Transport would make applications and bids for additional external funding noting that agreement ahead of submission would be obtained from the Director of Finance and appropriate governance would be followed to amend budgets on receipt of such funding.</p> <p>15. That it be noted that the Director of Finance would approve the Council entering into funding agreements with the various funding bodies to receive both capital and revenue grant funding in respect of the delivery of projects included in this report including the development of schemes and management of the Black Country Transport Programme.</p>
Options Considered	Options appraisals form part of each individual project development and prioritisation and are not discussed in detail in this report. As this is a comprehensive programme of improvements to manage and maintain the essential highway network – a do-nothing option is not viable.
Reasons for Decision	The decision to approve the recommendations of this report is necessary to enable delivery of the Transport Capital Programme in 2023-2024.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023

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Item 15	
Title	Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Chief Operating Officer, to make any final amendments and authorise the sealing by the Council of the Collaboration Agreement. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Chief Operating Officer, to negotiate, approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Enterprise Zones. 3. That the draft revised Collaboration Agreement detailed at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
Options Considered	Without the collaboration agreement the administration of legacy funding would not be possible.
Reasons for Decision	To seek Cabinet's approval of the revised collaboration agreement. This will ensure continued successful administration of legacy funding in the Black Country following the abolition of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership with effect from 31 March 2023.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023