

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 4	
Title	Education, Skills and Employment Strategy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Education, Skills and Employment Strategy to deliver a whole life approach to learning and work which support children, young people and adults to thrive. 2. The budget from the remaining uncommitted balance of £1.2 million, from the original £3 million programme reserve budget approved by Cabinet on 20 October 2021 for the Wolves at Work 18-24 programme to deliver Wolves at Work Transformation programme. 3. Delegated authority to the relevant Director to approve targeted interventions and the allocation of the associated budget (from the £1.2 million available). <p>That Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the priorities set out in the Education, Skills and Employment Strategy have been co-produced with communities and partners across our city. 2. That a presentation and draft Education, Skills and Employment Strategy was considered by Economy and Growth Scrutiny Panel on the 21 June 2023 and by Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the 27 July 2023.
Options Considered	<p>Option 1 would be to not to develop an overarching framework for the Council which sets out key priorities relating to education, skills and employment. This could mean that local people are not able to access the existing and emerging opportunities in our city and local business do not have access to a talent pipeline which supports their growth.</p> <p>Option 2 and the chosen option is to develop an Education, Skills and Employment Strategy for the Council which will provide a framework to improve learning and employment outcomes for residents, increase economic prosperity and drive local inclusive growth.</p>

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Reasons for Decision	The ESE Strategy has been developed through close engagement with communities and city partners to shape its priorities. A robust evidence base has helped to inform the areas of focus and key activity within the strategy. The strategic framework will help us to galvanise city partners, target interventions in the right places and deliver Our City: Our Plan.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	21 September 2023

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 5	
Title	Director of Children's Services Appointment
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Council be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the 12 month secondment appointment for the Director of Children's post with effect from 7 September 2023, as per the recommendation of the Special Appointments Committee held on 17 August 2023. <p>That Cabinet notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Director of Children's & Adults Services post has been redesignated to the Director of Children's Services with effect from July 2023. 2. The Director of Children's Services appointment was subject to a Special Appointments Committee on the 17 August 2023 as per the Constitution. 3. The Director of Children's Services post has the statutory responsibility for the Director of Children's Services (DCS) function. 4. The Director of Children's Services also has responsibility for the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Children's Social Care Services b. Education Services c. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 24 d. Children's Transformation 5. As a consequence of this appointment backfill arrangements are being made for the Deputy Director of Children's Social Care vacancy – this will also be a 12 month secondment opportunity. 6. The Director of Adults Service post will be redesignated to the Director of Adults Social Care.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

	<p>7. The Pay Policy statement would be updated to incorporate the Director of Children’s Services appointment and subject to Cabinet approval.</p> <p>8. The outcome of an independent pay review would be presented to Cabinet once completed in autumn 2023, ensuring we are a competitive employer responding to local and national recruitment and retention challenges.</p>
Options Considered	<p>1. The secondment opportunity for 12 months not only supports our commitment to ‘growing our own’ talent but also allows the Chief Executive and Strategic Executive Board time to review the impact and review future alternative structural arrangements.</p> <p>2. This appointment will ensure the smooth transition of responsibilities for a statutory function, minimising risk and providing assurance that we will continue to deliver for our families in our city.</p> <p>3. The development of any further proposals will include consultation with senior management.</p>
Reasons for Decision	The recommendations in this report are designed to strengthen the Council’s Senior Management Structure and ensure continuity for a statutory function.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Alison Hinds, Deputy Director of Children’s Social Care
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	14 September 2023

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 6	
Title	West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal (appendix 1) following the conclusion of negotiations between the West Midlands Combined Authority and government. 2. Consider the prepared Governance Review (appendix 2) and Scheme (appendix 3) outlining the proposed model for Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority governance of the Bus Service Operators Grant subsidy, and feedback to West Midlands Combined Authority Board. 3. Approve the implementation plan (appendix 4) for the deal and agree to further discussions with Government. 4. Agree to receive further reports at the appropriate time resulting from the detailed requirements of the deal. <p>The Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the deal and recognises that it contains a number of commitments to further devolution with the potential for significant further steps. 2. That at a meeting of the West Midlands Combined Authority Board on the 9 June 2023 it was agreed not to pursue the statutory process to provide West Midlands Combined Authority with the ‘health improvement duty’ offered as part of the deal. The health improvement duty, therefore, would not form a part of the deal. 3. That the report would be considered by Scrutiny Board on 26 September 2023.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Options Considered	<p>Option one - and the recommended option is to approve the Deeper Devolution Deal (DDD) and corresponding implementation plan to draw down the benefit of new funding, flexibilities and powers to Wolverhampton and the region.</p> <p>Option two - not to endorse the DDD and implementation plan. Should the necessary agreement not be obtained, there is a risk that all or some of the commitments in the deal, and their benefits to the region, may be withdrawn or modified.</p>
Reasons for Decision	As noted in paragraph 3.1 of the report, the DDD will bring new funding, powers and flexibilities into the region and is another step in the right direction towards rebalancing the national economy towards Wolverhampton and the West Midlands.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 September 2023

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 7	
Title	Levelling Up Wolverhampton
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the City of Wolverhampton Council’s ongoing response to the Levelling Up White Paper, working with key partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver our strategic framework for levelling up, Our City: Our Plan be endorsed. 2. That the progress that has been made to secure significant funding for the City of Wolverhampton through government’s levelling up funds to deliver transformational regeneration schemes which improve outcomes for all in our city be noted.
Options Considered	<p>Option 1: Do nothing.</p> <p>Option 2 and the chosen option: Working with key partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver our strategic framework for levelling up, Our City: Our Plan to level up our city.</p>
Reasons for Decision	Cabinet is recommended to endorse the progress made to deliver levelling up in the city, and support the robust strategic framework set out in Our City: Our Plan and the Wolverhampton Investment Prospectus to realise our ambitions transformation plans and meet the needs and priorities of local people.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 September 2023

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 8	
Title	Supporting Care Leavers with Council Tax Discretionary Relief
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	1. Approve an extension of the Council Tax Discretionary Discount Scheme (CTDDS) to allow a 100% discount to be awarded to care leavers up to the age of 25 from outside the City of Wolverhampton who are now resident and have a liability to pay Council Tax in Wolverhampton.
Options Considered	The alternative option is to make no change to the existing CTDDS. This has been considered and discounted due to the negative impact it would have on those individuals who are trying to settle within the Wolverhampton area.
Reasons for Decision	<p>1. Council Tax is a priority debt and failure to pay may lead to further financial pressure and indebtedness for care leavers who move to the city. The City of Wolverhampton Council’s Financial Wellbeing Strategy sets out the long-term vision for our city, working with partners to improve the lives of all those living in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>2. The decision to support all care leavers with 100% discount until the age of 25 puts them on a fairer footing with other young people who would generally become financially independent at the age of 25.</p> <p>3. Care leavers are likely to be in receipt of a low income and therefore would normally be eligible for council funded council tax support. This will reduce the nett impact of extending the policy.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 September 2023

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 9	
Title	City Learning Quarter
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised budget and funding strategy for the City Learning Quarter (CLQ) as detailed in the report be approved. 2. That the building known as Wolf Mountain, at Paget Road, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and disposal to achieve best consideration be approved. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Deputy Director of Assets to approve the terms of the disposal for Wolf Mountain through an Individual Executive Decision Notice and to ringfence the net disposal proceeds as part of the CLQ funding strategy. 4. That the transfer of ownership of Phase 2 Main College site to the College upon completion of the construction phase subject to S123 Consent being obtained by Council be approved. 5. That approval be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital in consultation with the Directors for Regeneration and Finance for the Council to enter into the required Development Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton College for Phase 2 of the project. 6. That approval be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital in consultation with the Directors for Regeneration and Finance for the Council to enter into a NEC4 construction contract for the Phase 2 College with McLaughlin and Harvey Limited to progress and complete the City Learning Quarter project subject to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confirmation of full funding for the Phase 2 project. b. The execution of a grant agreement with the Department for Education. c. The execution of the Development Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton College.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. That the Chief Operating Officer be authorised to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary and ancillary documents to give effect to the above recommendations. 8. That the Director of Finance be authorised to enter into all necessary grant agreements. 9. That it be noted that, in line with existing approvals, the Council would continue to cash flow the project until external funding streams are received. 10. That it be noted that, a future report would set out the proposals, and procurement strategy, for the works to Central Library related to façade restoration and provision of facilities for Adult Education. 11. That it be noted that, in line with the Constitution, that the Director of Finance and Chief Operating Officer would complete all necessary and ancillary documents, in respect of Government grants received in support of the City Learning Quarter.
<p>Options Considered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has an option to do nothing as the PSSC has ended and there is no legal obligation to proceed with the NEC4 Construction Contract with McLaughlin & Harvey. However, this will result in construction costs increasing and further delays, ultimately resulting in the cancellation of the project as it becomes unaffordable. There may be clawback implications as spend to date on Phase 2 has been part funded from Levelling Up Fund and Towns Fund. 2. A further option is to reduce the scope of the planned project for the Phase 2 College. This would result in significant risk to the delivery of agreed outputs and intended outcomes, including maximising opportunities for learning for young people. This option would result in delays to the project and risks to grant funding if agreed outputs cannot be delivered as agreed. 3. Each of the government grants are conditional on delivery of agreed outputs and to agreed timescales. Any further delay to the delivery of phase 2 could put the project at risk of losing grant funding. 4. The Council’s Procurement Team and external Cost Management consultants have reviewed the tendered Phase 2 Construction Contract Sum issued by McLaughlin and Harvey and advised that

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

	<p>this still represents good value for money in the current economic climate. An uplift to the approved overall capital budget would provide funds to enter into the NEC4 Contract to enter into the construction phase to complete this project and is therefore the preferred option to realise this key priority scheme for the City.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>The approval of revised budget and funding strategy will enable the Phase 2 project to be implemented as intended.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	<p>Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive - Chair of Governors of Wolverhampton College</p>
Dispensation Granted	<p>Not applicable</p>
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	<p>11 September 2023</p>

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 10	
Title	Exclusion of press and public
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Options Considered	Not applicable
Reasons for Decision	Not applicable.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Not applicable.
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Item 11	
Title	City Learning Quarter
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised budget and funding strategy for the City Learning Quarter (CLQ) as detailed in the report be approved. 2. That the building known as Wolf Mountain, at Paget Road, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and disposal to achieve best consideration be approved. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Deputy Director of Assets to approve the terms of the disposal for Wolf Mountain through an Individual Executive Decision Notice and to ringfence the net disposal proceeds as part of the CLQ funding strategy. 4. That the transfer of ownership of Phase 2 Main College site to the College upon completion of the construction phase subject to S123 Consent being obtained by Council be approved. 5. That approval be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital in consultation with the Directors for Regeneration and Finance for the Council to enter into the required Development Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton College for Phase 2 of the project. 6. That approval be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital in consultation with the Directors for Regeneration and Finance for the Council to enter into a NEC4 construction contract for the Phase 2 College with McLaughlin and Harvey Limited to progress and complete the City Learning Quarter project subject to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confirmation of full funding for the Phase 2 project. b. The execution of a grant agreement with the Department for Education. c. The execution of the Development Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton College.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

	<p>7. That the Chief Operating Officer be authorised to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary and ancillary documents to give effect to the above recommendations.</p> <p>8. That the Director of Finance be authorised to enter into all necessary grant agreements.</p> <p>9. That it be noted that, in line with existing approvals, the Council would continue to cash flow the project until external funding streams are received.</p> <p>10. That it be noted that, a future report would set out the proposals, and procurement strategy, for the works to Central Library related to façade restoration and provision of facilities for Adult Education.</p> <p>11. That it be noted that, in line with the Constitution, that the Director of Finance and Chief Operating Officer would complete all necessary and ancillary documents, in respect of Government grants received in support of the City Learning Quarter.</p>
Options Considered	As detailed in the exempt report.
Reasons for Decision	As detailed in the exempt report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive - Chair of Governors of Wolverhampton College
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 September 2023