

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Item 4	
Title	Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Two Review
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Cabinet recommend that Council approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The revised, medium term General Fund capital programme of £358.8 million, an increase of £9.0 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources. 2. The revised, medium term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £523.5 million, a net decrease of £5.0 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources. <p>That Cabinet approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The virements for the General Fund capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. existing projects totalling £5.4 million; ii. new projects totalling £1.3 million. 2. The virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i existing projects totalling £8.9 million.
Options Considered	The report provides an update on progress of capital projects during 2023-2024 and anticipated budget requirement for future years. The evaluation of alternative project options is detailed in individual investment proposals.

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Reasons for Decision	To seek Cabinet's recommendation to Council to approve the revised capital budgets. This will ensure that the capital programme budget reflects the latest forecasts and requirements.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	7 December 2023

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Item 5	
Title	Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2023-2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Council be recommended to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement has been undertaken and the Council has operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2023. 2. That revenue underspends of £793,000 for the General Fund and £1.5 million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are forecast from treasury management activities in 2023-2024.
Options Considered	As this is a monitoring report on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-2024, there are no alternative options available.
Reasons for Decision	The report provides an update on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-2024.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	7 December 2023

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Item 6	
Title	Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Cabinet note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Fund projected outturn for 2023-2024 is currently forecast to be an overspend of £1.0 million due to the forecast pressures outlined in this report. Work is ongoing in order to identify ways to reduce this pressure and bring the outturn back within budget. 2. That early indications are that the outturn for 2023-2024 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) would be within budget. 3. That the Director of Finance has approved write-off of debts against the expected credit loss provision as detailed in Appendix 5. <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve to increase the management fee payable to Wolverhampton Homes of £1.5 million from the Housing revenue Account (HRA) for 2023-2024 to support inflationary and demand pressures associated with repairs and maintenance. 2. Approve a programme of £250,000 for remedial works to canopies at Bushbury Hill Estate to be delivered by Wolverhampton Homes and funded by the HRA. 3. Approve that authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to approve any necessary virements required to support the 2023-2024 pay award. 4. Approve the Strategic Risk Register which is shown at Appendix 6 to the report. 5. Approve the use of £600,000 from the Transformation Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.5 of the report and establishment of associated supplementary budgets.

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	<p>6. Approve the use of £321,900 from the Regeneration Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.6 of the report and establishment of associated supplementary budgets.</p> <p>7. Approve 38 virements totalling £6.5 million on the General Fund, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 8 to the report.</p> <p>8. Approve the write-off of debts against the expected credit loss provision as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.</p> <p>9. Approve the General Fund Budget Risks 2023-2024 register as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.</p> <p>10. Approve virements totalling £11.4 million, on the General Fund as detailed in Appendix 8 to the report.</p> <p>11. Approve virements totalling £1.8 million, on the Housing Revenue account as detailed in Appendix 8 to the report.</p> <p>12. Approve the establishment of supplementary budgets within 2023-2024 as detailed in Section 7 of the report.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>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 the report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.</p>
<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<p>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 the report which</p>

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	seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Councillor Louise Miles declared a non-percuniary interest, as a Councillor for East Park Ward, in the report insofar as it refers to 'Well Connected Communities – A454 City Gateway Phase 1 & 2 Property Acquisitions'.
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	20 November 2023

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Item 7	
Title	Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2022-2023
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the work of the Principal Social Worker (PSW) and the continued impact it has on social work practice across Children’s and Adult’s Services be endorsed. 2. That the main priorities for the Principal Social Worker identified for 2023-2024 be approved. 3. That the work carried out in respect of quality assurance activity, the commitment to supporting the continual professional development of social workers and the actions taken to support the recruitment and retention of social workers which is helping the Council meet demand and supply needs now and for the future be noted.
Options Considered	<p>This report highlights the impact on the service, city and residents that the PSW role can bring, including ensuring the quality of social work practice and improved outcomes for people. There is evidence that this role has a positive impact on the profession and consequently the people being supported across Adult and Children’s Services.</p> <p>There is an option of not having a PSW, but it needs to be noted that the PSW role in adults is set out in statutory guidance. Without a PSW there could be a decline in quality of practice which would affect the lives of those children, young people and adults who seek social care support.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>The role of the PSW contributes to a number of key priorities across Children’s and Adult Services including Restorative Practice and strengths based practice which are approaches and models that enable social workers to build professional relationships with people who need services that help and promote an asset based approach to their practice. These approaches enable the workforce to strengthen families where children are at risk, promote the independence of older people and people with disabilities as well as safeguarding people in vulnerable situations.</p>

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	<p>The PSW provides dedicated resource to the recruitment and retention strategy which in turn should help the Council reduce the spend on agency staffing. The role is also responsible for raising the profile of social work in the city which also contributes to making the City of Wolverhampton a social work employer of choice.</p> <p>The role provides the professional knowledge required to drive local and regional workforce development plans that will contribute to high quality, excellent practice.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	16 November 2023