

<b>Time</b>	5.00 pm	<b>Public Meeting?</b>	YES	<b>Type of meeting</b>	Executive
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room 3, Third Floor - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH				

## Membership

<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Stephen Simkins (Lab)
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Cllr Steve Evans (Lab)

## Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Chris Burden  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Jacqui Coogan  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Louise Miles

Quorum for this meeting is three voting members.

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

<b>Contact</b>	Dereck Francis
<b>Tel/Email</b>	Tel: 01902 555835 or <a href="mailto:dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk">dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
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<b>Tel</b>	01902 550320

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

### MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1            **Apologies for absence**
- 2            **Declaration of interests**
- 3            **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)  
[For approval]

### DECISION ITEMS (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- 4            **Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Two Review** (Pages 11 - 56)  
[To approve the capital programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 quarter two review]
- 5            **Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2023-2024**  
(Pages 57 - 80)  
[To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2023-2024]

### DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 6            **Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024** (Pages 81 - 174)  
[To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities]
- 7            **Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2022-2023** (Pages 175 - 194)  
[To receive the Annual Report of the Principal Social Worker for Adults and Children's Services in 2022-2023, outlining key activity, priorities and impact]

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the Cabinet</b> <b>Minutes - 18 October 2023</b>
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## Attendance

### Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Stephen Simkins (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Evans (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Jacqui Coogan  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Louise Miles

### Employees

Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and Visitor Experience
Alison Hinds	Director of Children's Services
Richard Lawrence	Director of City Development
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
John Roseblade	Director of Resident Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services and Systems Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i>   |
|-----------------|--|
| 1               | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br>Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Obaida Ahmed and Chris Burden.   |
| 2               | <b>Declaration of interests</b><br>It was reported that Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive would be declaring an interest in items 11 and 13 (Urgent decision relating to City Learning Quarter - Phase 2 College Contract Award ), insofar as he is Chair of Governors at Wolverhampton College. He would leave the meeting when the reports are considered. |
| 3               | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b><br>Resolved:<br>That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.  |

4

### **Draft Budget 2024-2025 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the report on the Draft Budget for 2024-2025 and Medium Term Financial Strategy. Cabinet was asked to approve the work that has been done so far for setting a balanced budget for 2024-2025. In doing so she highlighted that the report shows that the Council is in a relatively secure position, certainly compared to some other councils. At present there was a projected budget deficit of £2.6 million for 2024-2025, however, work was ongoing to address this deficit and she believed that the Council was on target to achieve the necessary savings. Pressure points for the Council in the current budget making cycle included Children and Adult Social Care, children's services, temporary and supported accommodation, and home to school transport. She also highlighted that the report shows the Council using its earmarked reserves for their intended purposes.

Resolved:

1. That the draft budget strategy and medium-term financial strategy which underpins Our City, Our Plan, including changes to corporate resource assumptions, growth and inflation and budget reduction and income generation proposals be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Job, Skills and Education, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Children's Services, to approve changes to the local funding formula for Schools including method, principles and rules adopted.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to agree the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government for the ten-year, 100% Business Rates Retention for the West Midlands, in accordance with the Trailblazing Devolution Deal.
4. That it be noted that, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to change which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position of the Council. This includes assumptions with regards to the level of resources that would be available to the Council. Any reduction in Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit over the medium term.
5. That it be noted that it is forecast that the budget deficit is £2.6 million for 2024-2025, rising to over £20 million in 2025-2026 and that work would continue to be undertaken to bring forward proposals to set a balanced budget for 2024-2025 and deliver a sustainable medium term financial strategy whilst seeking to maintain our ambition for the City in line with Our City: Our Plan.
6. That it be noted that the Council has a good track record of strong financial management. However, as a consequence of the level of uncertainty across both demand for services and funding levels, the overall level of risk associated with the Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy continues to be assessed as Red.

5 **'Event City': a new five-year event strategy for Wolverhampton**

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhil presented the report that set out the importance of developing an exciting and sustainable five-year event strategy for the City of Wolverhampton, as recommended by independent specialist consultants IPW. Events was already a significant part of the city's visitor economy. Figures from the West Midlands Growth Company showed that in 2022-2023 Wolverhampton welcomed 10 million visitors and the visitor economy in Wolverhampton was worth £400 million. Last year the Council helped bring in 450,000 visitors to the city with an estimated contribution of around £15 million to the local economy. For every £1 spent on the Council's events and culture service the city receives £8 back in local indirect economy benefit. The report was part of wider plans to secure the city's status and reputation regionally and nationally as a 'destination of choice' for visitors.

Resolved:

1. That the strategic aim to use city events as a place-shaping tool to make the City of Wolverhampton a 'destination of choice' for visitors with the vision that: *by 2028, we want people to think differently about the city... as a place where things happen, as a place they visit, maybe as a place they might look to relocate,* be endorsed.
2. That the five-year operational events growth plan, recommended by consultants IPW, which would deliver a commercially focused programme aimed at boosting footfall, increasing economic and social benefit and transforming the reputation of the city be endorsed.
3. That it be noted that additional investment of £399,000 is required to underwrite the delivery of this ambitious strategy. Funding would be considered as part of the 2024-2025 budget-setting process and medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) planning. Whilst this is not yet assumed in the working assumptions, work is being undertaken to determine an optimum funding strategy which may in the short term utilise appropriate reserves. Wherever possible, the aim will be, as the strategy sets out, to offset this expenditure through income from commercial events and external grant-funding as well as indirect benefit to the local economy.

6 **Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery in Wolverhampton**

Councillor Stephen Simkins presented the report on proposals to help the Council prepare for the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Biodiversity Net Gain was a National Planning Policy which would start in January 2024. Developers would have to increase the wildlife value of their sites by 10% or pay to create wildlife areas on other sites. A small portion of sites within Wolverhampton would be affected, as most development was on brownfield land. However, the Council had to be ready to capture any developer money to spend in Wolverhampton, and benefit local wildlife and residents. The report also recommended adoption of the Black Country Local Nature Recovery Strategy while the West Midlands Combined Authority prepare a West Midlands Strategy. It was also proposed to update that the Council's Statement of Community Involvement to support the Wolverhampton Local Plan.

Resolved:

1. That the Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report be adopted for planning purposes, including strategic delivery of biodiversity net gain in Wolverhampton.

2. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of City Development and Director of Finance to authorise completion of Conservation Covenants between the Council and an appropriate responsible body for Pendeford Open Space, Ladymoor Pool and Abbeyfield Parklands (or parts thereof) as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report, and the addition of these sites to the national Biodiversity Gain Site Register.
3. That the Statement of Community Involvement, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved to come into effect from 24 October 2023.
4. That submission of Biodiversity Net Gain grant claims and subsequent establishment and spend of supplementary budgets in line with the grant funding conditions be approved.

7 **Wolverhampton Physical Activity Strategy**

Councillor Jasbir Jaspal presented the Wolverhampton Physical Activity Strategy, a partnership strategy owned by Health and Wellbeing Together. The document set the strategic direction for physical activity in the city until 2030. The strategy and its action plans focussed on getting adults who do less than 30 minutes activity per week and children and young people who do less than 30 minutes a day moving more, delivering the greatest health benefits by reducing their risk of many non-communicable diseases, improving their wellbeing and building connected and cohesive communities. The Council and its partners would also continue to support those who are already taking part in regular sport and physical activity to continue to do so and continue to back the city's clubs and other organisations who are delivering a fantastic range of opportunities for the city's residents.

Resolved:

That the Health and Wellbeing Together Wolverhampton Physical Activity Strategy be noted.

8 **Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review**

Councillor Steve Evans reported on the salient points of the report on the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (the Act) and the impact of its implementation upon the regulatory landscape for the provision of council housing. The report also provided an update of the actions taken by the Council's City Housing Landlord Services in preparation for new regulatory requirements for the delivery of council housing. Cabinet was asked to approve recommendations and an option for the future management of council housing in the city that ensured compliance with the Act and readiness for inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing, and that meets the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan (Our City: Our Plan).

Resolved:

That option 3; to implement the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Independent Strategic Housing Review conducted by Campbell Tickell be approved. With a primary focus on the following:

1. An overarching Shareholder Board as a focus for housing governance.
2. Amend the Management Agreement and Partnership Pledge to reflect the Regulatory landscape and strengthen City of Wolverhampton Council's (CWC's) ability to lead on improvements where necessary.

3. Strengthen the clienting arrangements with defined roles and responsibilities, accountabilities for demonstrating assurance and re-assurance, and clear reporting structures.
4. Develop a shared evidence base to demonstrate Regulatory compliance, to support re-assurance testing, a clear line of sight and single view of the truth. CWC lead on creating a Data Process Strategy that ensures data is being recorded consistently across all teams with associated automated Data Quality and reporting.
5. Align Wolverhampton Homes business planning cycles with those of CWC, including the objectives of the refreshed housing strategy.
6. Review all Service Level Agreements and functions delivered to ensure services are fit for purpose, that adequate monitoring and oversight is in place across CWC which provides assurance to the Council and value for money for residents.
7. Following the implementation of the recommended governance changes, review the effectiveness of the new Management Agreement in strengthening CWC expectations, providing sufficient oversight and whether this has provided the direct line of sight required for Regulatory compliance.

## 9 **Families First for Children Pathfinder**

The intention to make a key decision on the report, 'Families First for Children Pathfinder Update' at the meeting was not published in advance as required by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The decision was urgent and could not be reasonably delayed for the following reasons:

1. Wolverhampton were approached by the Department for Education (DfE) to be one of the three wave one local authorities for the Families First for Children pathfinder programme. The programme is the delivery mechanism for implementing some of the most significant reforms to family help, child protection, kinship care and the safeguarding partnership.
2. The programme was launched in July 2023 and is a fast moving initiative. There is significant focus on engaging agencies across the wider partnership, and in ensuring the proposed new delivery model for children's social care is co-designed with all key stakeholders.
3. There is an emerging requirement as part of the programme to ensure Cabinet and wider Councillors are aware of progress made prior to the submission of the proposed delivery model to the DfE at the end of October. The report would provide the required update.
4. It was also apparent that there is a need for strategic leadership in a new Deputy Director role across the children's system to support the successful delivery of model and implementation. A delay in this would impact on the programme delivery.

In light of the above, consent had been obtained for the key decision to be made at the meeting under the General Exception provisions.

Councillor Jacqui Coogan presented an update report on progress made with the Council's participation in the DfE's Stable Homes, Built on Love: Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme (FFCP). The programme was the delivery mechanism for implementing some of the most significant reforms to family help, child protection, kinship care and the safeguarding partnership. Approval was requested to create a Deputy Director for Families First post within Children's Services to entirely focus on leading the development and implementation of the Programme. The post would be fully funded by grants from the DfE.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to approve:

1. The creation of a Deputy Director for Families First post with immediate effect to strategically lead the implementation and delivery of the Families First Programme. The post would be fully funded by grant from the Department for Education.

That Cabinet notes:

1. The progress made with our participation in the Department for Education Stable Homes, Built on Love: Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme.
2. That the new delivery model would be presented to Cabinet in November 2023 and Full Council in December 2023.

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#### **Investment Prospectus First Phase Delivery Plan - City Centre West**

Councillor Stephen Simkins presented an update report on the progress of the City Centre West development. The Council had been working with the English Cities Fund, a partnership between Homes England, Legal and General and developers Muse with a strong track record of delivery, to bring forward a comprehensive plan for the City Centre West site for development. Approval was requested to delegated authority to develop and approve the scheme's heads of terms with the English Cities Fund. A further report would be presented to a future Cabinet meeting on the scheme business case and the development agreement.

Resolved:

1. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council together with the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Development, Director of Finance and Chief Operating Officer to approve the final heads of terms for the City Centre West development.
2. That subject to recommendation 1 above, the appointment of Morgan Sindall Consortium (Muse) be approved, and it be agreed to subcontract its development obligations to the English Cities Fund (ECF) through a direct award via the Pagabo Developer Led Framework to deliver the City Centre West development.

11

#### **Urgent decision relating to City Learning Quarter - Phase 2 College Contract Award**

Having previously declared an interest, Mark Taylor - Deputy Chief Executive left the meeting whilst Cabinet considered the report.



Councillor Stephen Simkins present, for information, the report on an urgent decision taken to enable the Council to enter into contract with McLaughlin and Harvey Limited for the design and construction of the Phase 2 College (a critical element of the City Learning Quarter) in a timeframe which ensured that the project proceeded as planned to deliver this priority scheme for the city, and was not put further at risk of not continuing, owing to dependencies on third parties outside of the direct control of the Council.

Resolved:

That the following decision relating City Centre Learning Quarter – Phase 2 College Contract Award made under Urgent Decisions for Cabinet be noted:

1. Approved the use of the urgent action powers outlined in Part 12.9 of the Council's constitution detailed in paragraphs 2.1 regarding the use of Urgent Decision.
2. Approved that the Council enters into a NEC4 construction contract for the Phase 2 College with McLaughlin and Harvey Limited to progress and complete the Phase 2 College element of the City Learning Quarter subject to the following:
  - a. Agreement of terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Finance.
3. Authorised the Chief Operating Officer to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the above recommendations.

12 **Exclusion of press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following 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).

## **Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public**

The Chair reported that as stated previously the meeting was in confidential session as the information included in the report could, if released into the public domain, prejudice the financial position of the Council or its partners. As such all present are under a legal duty of confidentiality and must not disclose any confidential information - to do so would not only be a breach of the Council's codes (for councillors and employees) but also a breach of the legal duty of confidentiality.

13 **Urgent decision relating to City Learning Quarter - Phase 2 College Contract Award**

It was noted that having previously declared an interest, Mark Taylor - Deputy Chief Executive had left the meeting prior to Cabinet considering the report.

Councillor Stephen Simkins present an exempt version to the Urgent Decision relating to City Learning Quarter - Phase 2 College Contract Award report discussed at item 11 above.

Resolved:

That the following decision relating City Centre Learning Quarter – Phase 2 College Contract Award made under Urgent Decisions for Cabinet be noted:

1. Approved the use of the urgent action powers outlined in Part 12.9 of the Council's constitution detailed in paragraphs 2.1 regarding the use of Urgent Decision.
2. Approved that the Council enters into a NEC4 construction contract for the Phase 2 College with McLaughlin and Harvey Limited to progress and complete the Phase 2 College element of the City Learning Quarter subject to the following:
  - a. Agreement of terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Finance.
3. Authorised the Chief Operating Officer to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the above recommendations.

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>15 November 2023</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Two Review	
<b>Decision designation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Claire Nye Tel Email	Director of Finance 01902 550475 Claire.nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board Council	31 October 2023 6 December 2023

**Recommendations for decision:**

The Cabinet recommend that Council approve:

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.

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the virements for the General Fund capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for:
  - i. existing projects totalling £5.4 million;
  - ii. new projects totalling £1.3 million.

2. Approve the virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for:
  - i existing projects totalling £8.9 million.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the 2023-2024 financial performance of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes, whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 as at quarter two 2023-2024.
- 1.2 To recommend revisions to the current approved capital programme covering the period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 19 July 2023, Council approved a General Fund capital programme totalling £338.2 million and a HRA totalling £528.5 million for the period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028. Since reporting to Council on 19 July 2023 further reports have been approved, increasing the General Fund capital programme by £11.6 million to £349.8 million, funded by external resources.
- 2.2 The capital programme underpins Our City: Our Plan, which was approved by Council on 1 March 2023.
- 2.3 The plan continues to identify an overarching ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives' delivered through six Council Plan priorities:
  - Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
  - Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it
  - Healthy, inclusive communities
  - Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
  - More local people into good jobs and training
  - Thriving economy in all parts of the city
- 2.4 These priorities together with the associated key outcomes, objectives and activity form a framework to improve outcomes for local people and deliver our levelling up ambitions.
- 2.5 Supporting the six overarching priorities are three cross cutting principles
  - Climate Action
  - Driven by Digital
  - Fair and Equal
- 2.6 The capital programme includes significant investment programmes that endeavour to create an environment where new and existing business thrive, people can develop the skills they need to secure jobs and create neighbourhoods in which people are proud to live.
- 2.7 The capital programme also reflects the priorities of the Strategic Asset Management Plan. Individual capital project delivery milestones are set and financial analysis is undertaken over the lifecycle of each project, by project managers in conjunction with Strategic Finance, and is captured in the Council's project management system. Regular

project delivery updates are provided through the relevant governance structures (including Project Assurance Group where appropriate) enabling robust governance and challenge.

- 2.8 Inflation has been at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty and risk of inflationary pressures across the capital programme, increases in the cost of materials are already being realised, which have resulted in budget increases on a number of projects across the capital programme. The Council will continue to monitor and report on the ongoing impact of inflation.
- 2.9 In addition to inflation risks, there are also supply chain delays, which could impact completion dates on projects and result in further cost pressures. The Council continues to assess the potential implications on its wider capital programme in terms of delivery timescales and increases in costs. Project contingency budgets are viewed in light of these pressures in order to mitigate against such cost increases, however these are unprecedented market conditions and the ongoing risk should be noted. The capital programme makes a significant contribution to the shaping of the City and on the economy of the City and therefore will contribute to the Council's plans for Our City: Our Plan.

### **3.0 Capital programme - Summary**

3.1 On 17 July 2023, Council approved a General Fund capital programme totalling £338.2 million for the period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028. Since then, further reports have been approved to increase this amount by £11.6 million to £349.8 million, funded by external resources. Full details can be found in Appendix 1 to the report and are summarised below:

- £9.5 million for the City Learning Quarter (CLQ). The revised budget and funding strategy for the CLQ was approved to enable completion of Phase 2 project (Main College and Central Library), this is funded by various external income streams: contributions from the College and additional grants from the Government including Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC);
- £1.5 million for the Newhampton Art Centre project, fully funded by Towns Fund grant from DLUHC;
- £400,000 for the development of the A454 City East Gateway – Willenhall Road project, fully funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) grant from the Department for Transport (DfT);
- £235,000 for the creation of a Family Home for Our Children in Care, fully funded by grant from the DfE Children's Home Capital Fund.

3.2 In addition to this, reallocation of resources totalling £6.6 million from the Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes budget to various individual projects

has been approved, details of which can be found in Appendix 2 to the report and are summarised below:

- £5.5 million for the Corporate Asset Management Fund to undertake priority projects to ensure that the Council's properties are fit for purpose, are in line with the statutory requirements and meet current and future service needs;
- £550,000 for the purchase of electric vehicles to support the decarbonisation of the Council's Fleet;
- £527,000 for the Energy from Waste (EFW) plant to ensure its compliance with legislative requirements and to meet appropriate market standards.

- 3.3 This report reflects all known approvals to 3 November 2023. However, the Council continues to operate as usual, and reports subject to delegated authority may still progress during the period of preparing the report and it being considered by the Cabinet and Full Council. Where this situation arises, an update will be provided at the relevant meeting on any material changes to the information being presented.
- 3.4 This report considers further specific changes to budgets. A full list of the proposed capital programme can be found in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.5 Table 1 shows the approved General Fund capital programme budget compared with that proposed, along with the resources identified to finance the proposed change.

**Table 1: Summary of the General Fund capital programme**

General Fund capital programme	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Budget</b>						
<b>Approved</b>	142,984	148,711	40,008	17,135	1,000	<b>349,838</b>
<b>Variations</b>						
New projects	1,524	140	-	-	-	<b>1,664</b>
Existing projects	(38,363)	15,478	28,549	1,650	-	<b>7,314</b>
	<b>(36,839)</b>	<b>15,618</b>	<b>28,549</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,978</b>
<b>Projected</b>	<b>106,145</b>	<b>164,329</b>	<b>68,557</b>	<b>18,785</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>358,816</b>
<b>Financing</b>						
<b>Approved</b>						
Internal resources	63,144	56,075	19,325	11,110	1,000	<b>150,654</b>
External resources	79,840	92,636	20,683	6,025	-	<b>199,184</b>
	<b>142,984</b>	<b>148,711</b>	<b>40,008</b>	<b>17,135</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>349,838</b>
<b>Variations</b>						
Internal resources	(16,427)	2,733	20,832	1,488	-	<b>8,626</b>
External resources	(20,412)	12,885	7,717	162	-	<b>352</b>
	<b>(36,839)</b>	<b>15,618</b>	<b>28,549</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,978</b>
<b>Projected</b>						
Internal resources	46,717	58,808	40,157	12,598	1,000	<b>159,280</b>
External resources	59,428	105,521	28,400	6,187	-	<b>199,536</b>
<b>Projected</b>	<b>106,145</b>	<b>164,329</b>	<b>68,557</b>	<b>18,785</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>358,816</b>

- 3.6 This report recommends variations to the approved capital programme totalling an increase of £9.0 million which brings the total revised programme to £358.8 million.

3.7 Details of all projects that have contributed to the overall increase of £9.0 million in the General Fund capital programme can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, however, the key projects are as follows:

- The Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes budget have been revised upwards by £8.2 million over the medium-term capital programme, to ensure sufficient contingency is in place for future budget requirements, including works to support and enable Fleet electrification and projects supporting the events strategy, such as the reopening of the Chubb Cinema and the delivery of the Bell Street Box Space scheme. Budget provision has been incorporated into the Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes to be prudent at this stage and will be allocated to individual projects using appropriate delegations. It anticipated that income streams will be generated contributing to the borrowing costs of some of the new projects, which will be highlighted in relevant reports requesting the allocation of funds. Allocations will be reported at each Quarterly Review. Future requirements across the capital programme remain under review;
- There is an increase of £500,000 relating to the Maintenance of classified roads, which is fully funded by additional CRSTS Pothole grant allocation from the DfT;
- In addition to this, an increase of £397,000 is proposed to the Future High Street Fund funded Public Realm phases 1 and 3 project, as a result of the change of scope of the scheme to support future markets and events opportunities and accessibility enhancements, including works to support and enhance the area around the Halls;
- An increase of £231,000 relating to the Northwood Park - refurbishment of existing play area project within the Parks Strategy and Open Space capital programme. This increase is fully funded by additional Developer contributions via a Section 106 (S106) agreement;
- Finally, there is an increase of £141,000 relating to the Family Hubs programme, fully funded by grant allocation from the DfE;
- The increases above have been offset by a reduction of £467,000 relating to the Civic Centre - Office refurbishment works to accommodate Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHFT), this project, which was externally funded, is no longer required;
- There is a further reduction totalling £432,000 relating to the Home Upgrade Grant project within the Housing Sustainable Warmth capital programme, this is due to the timescales of project delivery;



- Further change to the budgets for existing projects relates to proposed virements to enable progress of new projects which are also seeking approval in this report. This amounts to £1.3 million and is discussed in section 5 of the report.

- 3.8 On 19 July 2023, Council approved a revised HRA capital programme totalling £528.5 million for the period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028.
- 3.9 To reflect the most up to date forecast for the HRA capital projects available at the time of writing this report, it is proposed to re-profile the programme resulting in a net re-phasing of £128,000 from 2023-2024 into future years.
- 3.10 However, high inflationary costs are having an impact on the HRA. The impact will be reviewed as part of the 30 year HRA Business Plan which will be reported to Cabinet in January 2024.
- 3.11 Table 2 shows the approved HRA capital programme budget compared with that proposed, along with the resources identified to finance the proposed change.

**Table 2: Summary of the HRA capital programme**

Housing Revenue Account capital programme	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Budget</b>						
<b>Approved</b>	112,575	140,506	109,150	95,531	70,749	<b>528,511</b>
<b>Variations</b>						
Existing projects	(128)	(13,577)	2,630	7,389	(1,314)	<b>(5,000)</b>
	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(13,577)</b>	<b>2,630</b>	<b>7,389</b>	<b>(1,314)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>
<b>Projected</b>	<b>112,447</b>	<b>126,929</b>	<b>111,780</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>69,435</b>	<b>523,511</b>
<b>Financing</b>						
<b>Approved</b>						
Internal resources	109,300	138,506	109,150	95,531	70,749	<b>523,236</b>
External resources	3,275	2,000	-	-	-	<b>5,275</b>
	<b>112,575</b>	<b>140,506</b>	<b>109,150</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>70,749</b>	<b>528,511</b>
<b>Variations</b>						
Internal resources	2,863	(11,577)	2,630	7,389	(1,314)	<b>(9)</b>
External resources	(2,991)	(2,000)	-	-	-	<b>(4,991)</b>
	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(13,577)</b>	<b>2,630</b>	<b>7,389</b>	<b>(1,314)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>
<b>Projected</b>						
Internal resources	112,163	126,929	111,780	102,920	69,435	<b>523,227</b>
External resources	284	-	-	-	-	<b>284</b>
<b>Projected</b>	<b>112,447</b>	<b>126,929</b>	<b>111,780</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>69,435</b>	<b>523,511</b>

- 3.12 This report recommends variations to the approved HRA capital programme totalling an overall decrease of £5.0 million which brings the total revised programme to £523.5 million for the HRA.
- 3.13 A decrease of £5.0 million relates to the Remedial Works to non-traditional properties project. The scope of the project was adjusted downwards due to anticipated external grant funding for the energy efficiency works being unavailable at this time.

## **4.0 Existing projects**

- 4.1 The changes proposed for existing projects within the General Fund capital programme total an increase of £9.0 million as outlined in paragraph 3.5. A more detailed listing of the individual projects can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.
- 4.2 Requests for budget virements between existing projects within the General Fund capital programme total £5.4 million, a summary of these is available in Appendix 4 to the report.
- 4.3 The following paragraphs provide commentary on the key changes to budgets and an update on key projects.

### **Interchange**

- 4.4 The focus of activity is finalising the tram extension works and external public realm / plaza space outside of the station in collaboration with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Midlands Metro Alliance (MMA), who are delivering the project.
- 4.5 Services commenced operating from the two new tram stops (Pipers Row and Wolverhampton Railway Station) on 17 September 2023. In doing so, services calling at the existing tram stop at St. George's have been temporarily suspended to allow works to be undertaken to support the dual operation of services to St. Georges and the two new stops. Works continue on site to support the re-opening of the St. George's tram stop.

### **City Learning Quarter**

- 4.6 City Learning Quarter (CLQ) is one of the Council's top regeneration priorities being fundamental to the levelling up approach for the City. The Council is managing the delivery of the CLQ programme which includes Phase 1, the City of Wolverhampton College Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre (ATAC – formerly CoWTechC) and Phase 2, which will create a lifelong learning hub in Wolverhampton City Centre comprising a new, refurbished and extended College building, integrated and improved Library and Adult Education facilities at land around the existing College's Metro One building at Bilston Street.
- 4.7 The CLQ Programme has successfully secured public funding of approximately £69.2 million from multiple sources. Phase 1, ATAC has benefited from Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) grant awards while Phase 2 will be funded by a combination of BCLEP, Council & College Contributions, Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund and Department for Education Capital Funding.
- 4.8 Works on ATAC have commenced, with completion of the new building anticipated in July 2024, to enable the college opening for the new term in September 2024.
- 4.9 Cabinet approved the revised budget for the programme including Phase 2 of the programme in September 2023. The Council and City of Wolverhampton College

continue to work in partnership with the contractor McLaughlin & Harvey to deliver the Phase 2 College. Works to Central Library (internal and external) will be procured in Autumn 2023. Due to circumstances outside the direct control of the Council and College in relation to third-party consents for the scheme, the start on site for the Phase 2 College has been delayed, but the main contract with its chosen constructor has now been agreed and signed to ensure the new City Learning Quarter city centre site is completed for the start of the 2025/26 academic year, with the aim that the scheme is now completed in September 2025.

#### **I54 Western Extension**

- 4.10 This is a joint venture project with Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire District Council to construct access roads and serviced platforms ready for development. The works reached completion of the physical works in June 2023. Financial projections over the last twelve months have indicated that there will be significant savings against the joint venture budget of £38.5 million. Whilst the project is still incurring residual capital expenditure as it moves through to full plot occupation and the implementation of various Management Company process and activities, latest estimates (including contingencies) indicate that there will be an overall joint venture project saving in the region of £12.6 million. The project has also secured additional grant support during its life as well as firm interest in the developed plots, both of which will have a positive impact on the Council's capital programme.
- 4.11 A major global manufacturer, Fortune Brands Innovations is in the process of completing their building and starting the fitout of their specific manufacturing equipment to meet their manufacturing commencement target date in February 2024. The new state-of-the-art manufacturing centre of excellence will also be the Company's EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) headquarters facility and is expected to bring to the area circa 250 permanent jobs over the next few years as they ramp up production, including training opportunities for apprentices and graduates. The HQ building will also include a Customer Experience Centre and Training Facility. Marketing continues for the remaining 25 acres which has seen some positive interest which is being considered by the JV Partners.
- 4.12 There are several inter dependencies between the final project expenditure, final grant secured and the final value of capital receipts achieved which impact on the overall budget requirement for the City of Wolverhampton Council. As a result, the projections in this report continue to reflect the original budgetary position for the Council and will continue to do so until there is greater certainty across these variables as the disposal of the final 25 acres nears completion.

#### **Investment Prospectus Phase 1 Delivery Strategy**

- 4.13 A programme of 'Accelerated Sites' was developed by the Council following a request from DLUHC to demonstrate schemes that could be brought forward to enable spend of funding and output realisation. Accordingly, five schemes across four sites were put

forward based on criteria around land ownership, existing development agreements, developed scheme proposals and understanding of funding requirements. A Cabinet paper was approved in March 2023 which endorsed selection of these schemes and secured a series of delegations towards their advancement.

- 4.14 As part of this programme, the delivery of a higher quality hotel has been identified by CWC as a priority for the city linked to the existing and emerging leisure demand.
- 4.15 Key challenges exist in the delivery of new hotel, a business case and delivery options paper with clear recommendations on implications in respect of any requirement for Council investment is being progressed alongside external commercial advice on market assessment, best practice and profit & loss models, alongside reviewing any potential commercial terms arising from the preferred delivery route.
- 4.16 At City Centre West, the English Cities Fund (ECF), the joint venture between nationwide placemaker, Muse, Legal & General, one of the UK's leading financial services groups and major global investor, and Homes England, will enter a partnership with the Council to deliver development plans. The partnership was approved at a Cabinet meeting on 18 October 2023. It follows a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and ECF, which functions as a delivery vehicle to work in partnership with the public sector to transform urban areas and create exceptional new places. Work is underway to explore scheme proposals and potential routes to formally engage development partners to bring forward a comprehensive scheme on a phased basis.
- 4.17 Similarly, at St Georges, the Council as landowner is working with Homes England as a strategic partner to agree objectives for the scheme, identify any market failure challenges and seek the optimum route to securing a development partner capable of delivering upon the stated objectives for the site with a demonstrable track record. The approach to readying St Georges for delivery involves specialist inputs to support the Council on due diligence, commercial negotiation and development of business cases including planning.

#### **Brewers Yard Phase 1 – Culwell Depot relocation and new wholesale markets**

- 4.18 The first phase of the Brewers Yard masterplan, a scheme aiming to unlock three key brownfield sites to enable the delivery of up to 1,300 homes is now in progress. Phase 1 involves the relocation of Fleet services operations from the existing Culwell Street site to a new facility at the Council owned Wholesale Market site, supporting the modernisation of the Fleet and Meals on Wheels services, enabling land remediation works of the Culwell Street site to allow for disposal for residential development. The project has received grant funding from WMCA and the Towns Fund, with the balance of monies supported by Council prudential borrowing.
- 4.19 The scheme has received outline planning consent and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 4 design is complete with tender documents being finalised. The ground investigation and mineshaft remediation works are complete at the Wholesale

Market site for the first of two mineshafts. The project is due to go out to tender next month with a plan to start on site in February 2024. To help minimise any programme delays a number of enabling packages have commenced.

- 4.20 The project pre-tender estimate is within budget but requires Value Engineering proposals to be put forward by the tenderers. Based on the advice from the Quantity Surveyor and Project Manager the scheme has been de-risked and the budget and contingencies will be reviewed when the tender process is completed.

### **Oxley Health & Wellbeing Facility and Self & Custom Build New Homes**

- 4.21 The Council owned former Oxley Day Training Centre is a vacant asset. It is subject to ongoing anti-social behaviour and holding costs. With the support of the Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB) a proposal has been prepared to consider the site for a much needed health & wellbeing facility.
- 4.22 The existing structures on site have now been demolished, with the budget for this included in the Corporate Asset Management Fund capital programme.
- 4.23 Following a range of stakeholder engagement activities, an outline planning application was submitted last year and has received consent. The project sought approval for two complimentary buildings consisting of a modern health & wellbeing facility and 23 new homes. Tendering and evaluation processes for all professional consultants has been concluded with the Procurement team preparing authorisation to award letters, tender reports, and contracts. The team have been mobilised and actively working on stage 4 of the project.

### **One Public Estate – Asset Transformation Programme (Loxdale, Stowheath & Hickman Avenue Depot)**

- 4.24 The proposed project is the relocation of existing services from the former Loxdale Primary School (Loxdale) and Stowheath Day Training Centre (Stowheath) to Hickman Avenue Depot, to unlock the Stowheath and Loxdale brownfield sites for residential development. This project forms part of the wider Asset Transformation Programme. Council approval was obtained for this project to proceed, subject to grant, on 29 March 2023.
- 4.25 The funding bid with the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BLRF2) was unsuccessful, and work is ongoing to secure the grant funding required for the scheme. Part funding has been secured from the WMCA for the project, with Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funding secured for the Stowheath scheme.

### **Asset Decarbonisation**

- 4.26 The Council has committed to becoming a net zero organisation, with the largest contributors to its carbon footprint being heating and electricity across the corporate estate. Work is ongoing to understand fully the cost implications related to the decarbonisation of the Council's estate and an energy survey and feasibility programme

is underway. This will help to ensure that any interventions are targeted appropriately and are in line with the Council's Strategic Asset Plan.

- 4.27 In addition, the Council is currently undergoing a fleet electrification programme to help meet its net zero target. So far, it has introduced 34 ultra-low emission vehicles and installed 31 chargers in its depots. It is also trialling the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to fuel its fleet as a way of reducing carbon emissions.

### **Bell Street Box Space**

- 4.28 The Bell Street Box Space project aims to create an event and hospitality destination venue to enhance the City's visitor offer and to drive footfall along the recently pedestrianised Victoria Street. The project is moving into the delivery phase, alongside this, an options appraisal around operating models is being developed. Phase 1 works, including the demolition of 1-7A Cleveland Street, have been completed at below original forecast cost estimate. The Neville Garratt building has been acquired to enhance the site to enable it to accommodate on site Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) servicing and to divert national grid buried cables and associated easements and facilitate the relocation of the existing sub station to enable emergency vehicular access without adverse impact on the Box Space scheme.
- 4.29 The next phase of construction works is dependent upon planning permission and vacant possession of the Neville Garratt Centre for enabling works, with the main construction contract being aligned with plans to secure an operator of the required calibre to deliver the Council's vision for this exciting visitor economy project.

### **City East Gateway – Phase 1 and 2**

- 4.30 City East Gateway Phases 1 and 2 is one of the City of Wolverhampton's top transportation scheme priorities, delivering transformational change to the highway network on the A454, linking the city centre to the wider region as part of the Key Route Network and providing access to regeneration priority sites within the Canalside Quarter. The scheme includes improvements to ensure journey time reliability for all road users, new infrastructure to encourage use of sustainable transport including walking and cycling and delivering environmental and air quality benefits.
- 4.31 The estimated £36 million scheme is in advanced stages of Outline Business Case (OBC) discussion with the DfT to secure £30 million from the Major Road Network funding, with an aspiration to have the OBC approved in Autumn 2023. In addition, the scheme has allocated £6 million in principle match funding through CRSTS funding. Further development funding to continue the progression of the scheme has been secured for the 2023/2024 financial year, with delivery of the scheme expected to commence on site in Autumn 2024.

### **City Centre Public Realm**

- 4.32 With support from the Towns Fund and CRSTS, a £16.5 million next phase of improvements for the Lichfield Street and Queens Square environment is now under consultation. The scheme aims to provide an environment which supports café culture, provides spacious areas for pedestrians and events, and encourages use of active and sustainable travel modes to access and move around the city centre. The Full Business Case (FBC) has been submitted to the West Midlands Combined Authority for CRSTS funding, early contractor engagement is due to commence in Late 2023, with delivery starting in Summer 2024.

### **Active Travel Schemes**

- 4.33 The Active Travel Fund (ATF) provides a competitive opportunity for Local Authorities to bid for delivery of schemes which facilitate cycling and walking in their areas. The Council successfully secured funding in all rounds to date, and have delivered schemes which ease congestion, improve access to opportunity across the city and support residents in making active lifestyle choices.
- 4.34 ATF 3 bids have secured a total of £3.5 million This will deliver a section of new cycle route from Noose Lane along the A454, connecting across the borough boundary into Willenhall. This will complement other schemes along the A454 corridor aiming to achieve a continuous cycle route between Wolverhampton and Walsall. It also includes further investment to extend the successful scheme from ATF2 along the Wednesfield Road to connect with an existing cycleway on Wednesfield Way. Both of these schemes are in design stages, with delivery on site expected to commence in Autumn 2023.
- 4.35 Recently announced ATF4 includes a grant of £2.6 million to fund the extension of the successful ATF2 ring road scheme from Chapel Ash to Broad Street, providing a key link between the city centre and several existing and planned cycle routes along the key radial routes Stafford Road, Wednesfield Road, Willenhall Road and Birmingham New Road. Construction on this is anticipated to begin in 2024.

### **Wednesfield Towns Fund**

- 4.36 Through the successful award of £3.3 million the project will deliver a series of high street interventions that will activate and regenerate the Town Centre. Following extensive and ongoing engagement with the public and stakeholders in the area, a series of priority actions have been agreed including improvements to the north and south gateways to the town which are aimed at improving the linkages and connectivity with existing retail and residential, particularly with Bentley Bridge to the south. Other improvements include upgrades to retail frontages and pedestrian access points onto the high street and canal. Links to new and existing cycle routes are also a priority to encourage greater take up of active travel in the area.
- 4.37 The Council has been working closely with the High Streets Task Force to focus on a Placemaking strategy for the town and as well as those activities already identified, the

Towns Fund will also help with activations within the town centre such as creating the infrastructure for and supporting the organisation of events and attractions including the creation of new play areas and improvements to how the current market looks and functions.

- 4.38 Detailed design work for these interventions has already begun and further consultation will follow. It is anticipated that works will take 18 months to complete.

### Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 4.39 The forecast at quarter 2 is for total spend of £112.4 million which includes some reprofiling and reallocation of budgets between schemes with an overall net impact to reprofile £128,000 to future years. Work programmes to improve the condition of existing stock continue to progress well with £5.3 million of expenditure on the High Rise infrastructure programme being accelerated and a further £2.1 million being accelerated on the Heath Town refurbishment programme. The general condition of void properties is resulting in a large increase in those requiring significant works and therefore the costs for void refurbishment continue to increase creating a budget pressure of £4.9 million. It is proposed that this is funded from acceleration from future years of £2.9 million and a virement from the Internal Decency programme. There is a reduction to the forecast for remedial works to non-traditional properties of £4.4 million. The initial programming for this project was based on assumptions that external grant funding would be available to fund energy efficiency works but there is no funding available at this time.
- 4.40 £3.1 million of expenditure on new build projects has been re-profiled to allow for the review of Pipeline schemes that has been taking place to ensure they meet current housing need and the latest safety and fuel efficiency standards. A framework has been procured which will enable faster procurement of the developments going forward.

### 5.0 New projects and virements

- 5.1 Table 3 provides a summary of new projects requiring approval, covering the period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028, and identifying where additional funding is required and where the new expenditure can be met from existing resources. A detailed analysis of the individual projects included in this table can be found in Appendix 4 to the report.

**Table 3: Summary of new projects requiring approval**

Directorate	Forecast outturn	2023-2024 to 2027-2028		Virements from existing projects
		Additional internal resources required	Additional external resources required	
		£000	£000	
General Fund	1,664	14	381	1,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1,269</b>



5.2 The new projects requiring approval are funded from a mixture of internal (£14,000) and external (£381,000) resources and virements totalling £1.3 million. This is discussed below whilst a list of the virements can be found in Appendix 4 to the report:

- an increase of £381,000 funded externally relates to two new projects within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) capital programme. Approval is sought for the Net Zero Grants (£151,000) and the Support to SMEs (£230,000) projects, both being fully funded by the UKSPF regional grant allocation from DLUHC which is administered by WMCA;
- an increase of £14,000 funded internally, via a revenue contribution to capital outlay (RCCO) relates to new project within Education. The revenue contribution is funded by a contribution from the school.

5.3 New projects created through virements relate to the Corporate Asset Management Fund and Schools Capital Maintenance capital programmes and are summarised below. A detailed list of new projects can be found in Appendix 3 to the report.

5.4 In summary, approval sought for the following new projects created through virements totalling £1.3 million:

- £771,000 is required for 16 new projects within the Corporate Asset Management Fund capital programme to enable priority works ensuring all council assets are statutory compliant and fit for purpose. This is funded by utilising savings of existing internal resources within the programme and a virement from the Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes budget;
- £498,000 is proposed for 23 new projects within the Schools Capital Maintenance capital programme to facilitate works across various schools in the City. Virements are funded from a mixture of the existing external resources available within the programme and a virement from the Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes budget.

5.5 On 6 July 2023, Cabinet approved the recommendation to delegate authority to the Deputy Director of Assets to approve virements from the provision for future projects budget within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to individual schemes in order that corporate priorities can be addressed in an agile and timely manner. It should be noted that there were three virements totalling £50,000 approved through the delegated authority to support urgent works. These can be seen in the Appendix 5 to the report.

## **6.0 Medium term capital programme financing**

6.1 Table 4 details the approved financing for the capital programme for 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 and incorporates the requested approvals for projects included in this report.

**Table 4: Approved and forecast capital financing 2023-2024 to 2027-2028**

2023-2024 to 2027-2028				
General Fund capital programme	Approved budget	Recommended budget	Variance	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>349,838</b>	<b>358,816</b>	<b>8,978</b>	
<b>Financing</b>				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	53,833	53,445	(388)	14.9%
Prudential borrowing	95,733	104,718	8,985	29.2%
Revenue contributions	1,088	1,117	29	0.3%
Reserves	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>150,654</b>	<b>159,280</b>	<b>8,626</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
External resources				
Grants & contributions	199,184	199,536	352	55.6%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>199,184</b>	<b>199,536</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>55.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>349,838</b>	<b>358,816</b>	<b>8,978</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2023-2024 to 2027-2028				
Housing Revenue Account capital programme	Approved budget	Recommended budget	Variance	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>528,511</b>	<b>523,511</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	
<b>Financing</b>				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	26,700	27,180	480	5.2%
Prudential borrowing	381,440	380,951	(489)	72.8%
Revenue contributions	2,289	2,289	-	0.4%
Reserves	112,807	112,807	-	21.5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>523,236</b>	<b>523,227</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
External resources				
Grants & contributions	5,275	284	(4,991)	0.1%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>(4,991)</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>528,511</b>	<b>523,511</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- 6.2 Capital receipts totalling £53.4 million have been assumed within the General Fund capital programme over the medium term period 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 and can be seen in Table 5. This is reduction of £388,000 when compared to the approved budget, which has arisen due to re-profiling of receipts and capital requirements.
- 6.3 In order to be prudent, a detailed review of the schedule of asset disposals is undertaken to identify only those that are likely to be completed. The planned utilisation of capital receipts will reflect the need to balance the benefit for both the capital programme and the revenue budget and will form part of the ongoing Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.4 Whilst the forecast of capital receipts is deemed prudent at this stage, it will continue to be monitored closely throughout the financial year. In the event that capital receipts assumptions change, updates will be provided in future reports to Councillors.

**Table 5: Receipts assumed in the revised General Revenue Account capital programme**

General Fund	Projected					Total £000
	2023 - 2024 £000	2024 - 2025 £000	2025 - 2026 £000	2026 - 2027 £000	2027 - 2028 £000	
Capital programme receipts	10,100	11,000	15,900	9,400	7,000	53,400

6.5 It is the Council's strategy to use capital receipts to reduce the Council's need to borrow to fund the approved capital programme. Capital expenditure has a direct impact upon the Council's revenue budgets and therefore needs to be restricted to projects essential to the Council's priorities. Any proposals to increase the level of the capital programme are considered in accordance with the Capital Strategy.

## 7.0 Key budget risks

7.1 A key risk currently to the Council's capital programme is the market rate of inflation and the impact this could have on costs to deliver projects. Inflation is at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty which is impacting contract pricing. In addition to the inflationary risks there are also supply chain delays, which could impact completion dates on projects and result in further cost pressures. The position in relation to these risks, continues to be monitored and to mitigate these risks contingency budgets are being reviewed. The current market conditions are however unprecedented, therefore quantification of the value of risk to the Council at this time is difficult.

7.2 An analysis of the risks associated with the capital programme, along with the details of the risk control measures that are in place in order to manage and mitigate these risks as far as possible can be viewed online on the Council's website by following the link below:

[Capital Programme | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

7.3 The overall risk associated with the programme continues to be quantified as amber.

## 8.0 Evaluation of alternative options

8.1 This 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.

## 9.0 Reasons for decisions

9.1 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.

## 10.0 Financial implications

10.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report. The revenue implications of the new and existing projects seeking approval for additional or changes in resources for the General Fund are fully reflected in the treasury management budget

forecasts included in the report 'Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2023-2024' also on the agenda for approval at this meeting.

- 10.2 New capital grant notifications received during quarter two 2023-2024 can be seen in the table below. Notifications can either confirm new, or additions to existing grants, or reflect reductions in existing grants where resources are no longer required:

Service	Funding body	Name of grant	£000
Transportation Enterprise	Department for Transport via WMCA	CRSTS Pothole Allocation	500
	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities via WMCA	UK SPF Regional Allocation	381
City Housing	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	Home Upgrade Grant	(432)
City Development	Black Country LEP	Local Growth Fund	(4)
<b>Grand total grant notifications</b>			<b>445</b>

[RJ/06112023/W]

### 11.0 Legal implications

- 11.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- 11.2 The Local Government Act 2003 brought in the current regime for capital finance for local authorities. It reduced the level of central control over local authority borrowing and capital expenditure.
- 11.3 Each project mentioned in this report will have its own specific legal implications, raised and tailored in their respective reports.

[TC/31102023/C]

### 12.0 Equalities implications

- 12.1 There is a range of individual projects delivered through the Council's capital programme that have significant impacts on specific groups and equality implications should be considered when individual capital projects are being developed.
- 12.2 This requirement would also apply if there were to be any redirection of capital funding in year to ensure that the impact of any changes is considered.

### 13.0 All other implications

- 13.1 A wide range of projects delivered through the capital programme have significant environmental implications and are geared to promote improvements to the physical environment.
- 13.2 Projects funded and delivered through the Council's capital programme typically have significant impact on the Council's property portfolio. Corporate landlord implications must be considered and included in relevant documents and reports when individual capital projects and programmes are being developed.

13.3 There is a range of individual projects delivered through the Council's capital programme which could have health and wellbeing implications, these should be considered when individual capital projects are being developed.

#### **14.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 14.1 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 25 April 2023 – [Creating a Family Home for Our Children in Care;](#)
- 14.2 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 5 July 2023 - [Corporate Asset Management Fund - Approval of Virement of Funds for Schemes 2023-2024;](#)
- 14.3 Council, 19 July 2023 - [Capital Budget Outturn 2022-2023 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2023-2024;](#)
- 14.4 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 25 July 2023 – [Penn Hall School Project;](#)
- 14.5 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 6 September 2023 – [Acquisition and Redevelopment of Newhampton Arts Centre;](#)
- 14.6 Cabinet, 6 September 2023 – [City Learning Quarter;](#)
- 14.7 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 6 September 2023 – [UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2023/24 Vibrant High Streets Capital Budgets;](#)
- 14.8 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 29 September 2023 – [Creating a Family Home for Our Children in Care;](#)
- 14.9 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 10 October 2023 – [Allocation of budget for EFW Enhancement work \(BREF\);](#)
- 14.10 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 13 October 2023 – [Children and Young People in Care – foster parent housing adaptations application;](#)
- 14.11 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 18 October 2023 – [Well Connected Communities – A454 City East Gateway Phases 1 & 2 Progress Report;](#)
- 14.12 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 25 October 2023 – Allocation of the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes – Fleet Replacement Programme – 10 Electric Vans for Wolverhampton Homes.

#### **15.0 Appendices**

- 15.1 Appendix 1: Detailed projected budget
- 15.2 Appendix 2: Detailed forecast change
- 15.3 Appendix 3: Projects requiring approval
- 15.4 Appendix 4: Virements for approval
- 15.5 Appendix 5: Virements to note

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Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Finance	Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	3,903	16,560	11,700	4,000	-	36,163	(36,163)	-
	Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	4,000	(4,000)	-
	WV Living - Loans	3,000	10,000	8,900	7,000	1,000	29,900	(29,900)	-
Communications	Bell Street Box Space	1,446	3,115	-	-	-	4,561	(4,224)	(337)
	Cleveland Street - Demolition & Site Preparation	617	-	-	-	-	617	(296)	(321)
	Acquisition of Neville Garratt Centre	12	-	-	-	-	12	(12)	-
Governance	Webcasting Infrastructure	129	-	-	-	-	129	(129)	-
Strategy	ICT General Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Security Enhancement (ICT Main Prog)	250	-	-	-	-	250	(250)	-
	Software Upgrades (ICT Main Prog)	354	100	-	-	-	454	(454)	-
	Infrastructure Upgrades (ICT Main Prog)	330	100	-	-	-	430	(430)	-
	Data Centres (ICT Main Prog)	108	-	-	-	-	108	(108)	-
	IT Service Management	101	-	-	-	-	101	(101)	-
	Storage Refresh (ICT Main Prog)	200	78	-	-	-	278	(278)	-
	Future Developments	600	51	-	-	-	651	(651)	-
	ICT Disaster Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disaster Recovery	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	ICT Desktop Refresh	721	-	-	-	-	721	(721)	-
	Service Led ICT Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	IDOX/GIS Cloud Migration	31	-	-	-	-	31	(31)	-
	Fleet management system	75	-	-	-	-	75	(75)	-
	Migrate Care First to Eclipse_Adults and Finance Module	579	196	-	-	-	775	(30)	(745)
	Digital Inclusion	138	180	-	-	-	318	(318)	-
	Employee Alert System	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Self-Service Kiosk	160	-	-	-	-	160	(160)	-
	Connected Services Programme - purchase of adaptive equipment	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Full Fibre Network	120	29	-	-	-	149	(149)	-
City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Haymarkets – internal / external renovation works	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Grand Theatre - FRA priority works	160	-	-	-	-	160	(160)	-
	Bingley Enterprise Centre - replace roof and insulate and replace 11 windows	125	-	-	-	-	125	(125)	-
	Fordhouse Road Ind. Estate - roof replacement	794	793	-	-	-	1,587	(1,587)	-
	Parkfields Centre - Plant room alteration and refurbishment	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre – mechanical plant upgrade	27	-	-	-	-	27	(27)	-
	Ashmore Park Community Hub – new ventilation system	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Former Oxley Day Training Centre - demolition of buildings	300	-	-	-	-	300	(300)	-
	Hickman Avenue - demolition of void buildings	275	-	-	-	-	275	(275)	-
	Merridale Offices (Youth Offending Team) – installation of new ventilation system	44	-	-	-	-	44	(44)	-
	Former Loxdale School – conversion of site	11	-	-	-	-	11	(11)	-
	Former Oxley Moor House – demolition of buildings	78	-	-	-	-	78	(78)	-
	Mayoral Garage – installation of new roller shutter door and security system upgrade	-	25	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Graiseley Healthy Living Centre - roof works	-	31	-	-	-	31	(31)	-
	Parkfields – replacement of upper floor windows	294	100	-	-	-	394	(394)	-
	Shaw Road HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	113	-	-	-	-	113	(113)	-
	Anchor Lane HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	125	-	-	-	-	125	(125)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre - fire door replacement and refurbishment	41	-	-	-	-	41	(41)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot (Office) – lighting upgrade	215	-	-	-	-	215	(215)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - roof replacement	53	-	-	-	-	53	(53)	-
	Civic Centre - reconfiguration of Customer Services area	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery – upgrade of security systems/CCTV	103	-	-	-	-	103	(103)	-
	Civic Centre – upgrade of CCTV to Ceremonial Car Park	29	-	-	-	-	29	(29)	-
	Civic Centre – replacement of heat exchanger	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Civic Centre – upgrade fire alarm	29	-	-	-	-	29	(29)	-
	Wolverhampton Sea Cadets – demolition of void hall	141	-	-	-	-	141	(141)	-
	Land adjacent to Bilston Town FC – ground clearance and removal of knotweed	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Bilston Cemetery – installation of boundary fence	25	-	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Bushbury Crematorium – upgrade of fire alarm	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Bilston Market – installation of CCTV	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Central Baths – installation of CCTV	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Wolverhampton Retail Market - installation of CCTV	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
City Assets	Tettenhall Paddling Pool - Plant Enclosure / Welfare Facilities	-	250	-	-	-	250	(250)	-
	18/19 Queen Square - window replacement	52	-	-	-	-	52	(52)	-
	Bingley Enterprise Centre – door and window replacements	179	-	-	-	-	179	(179)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - flooring replacement	-	13	-	-	-	13	(13)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - boiler and pumps replacement	-	10	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - lighting upgrade	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - flooring replacement	1	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	-
	Tettenhall Wood Institute - flooring replacement	-	22	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – replacement of doors	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – lighting upgrade	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – replacement of plant room doors	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Whitmore Reans SFH – replacement of flooring	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village - refurbishment of 6 Changing Rooms	85	-	-	-	-	85	(85)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery – lighting upgrade	49	-	-	-	-	49	(49)	-
	Civic Centre – kitchen induction hob	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Newhampton Arts Centre – ventilation chillers	189	-	-	-	-	189	(189)	-
	Queens Building – external stonework	13	-	-	-	-	13	(13)	-
	The Whitehouse project	888	-	-	-	-	888	(888)	-
	Bilston Retail Market - safe roof access	-	27	-	-	-	27	(27)	-
	Land fronting Wednesfield Way - redevelopment of land to a community/orchard garden	-	20	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Crown Street Recycle Waste - Site Refurbishment	875	-	-	-	-	875	(875)	-
	Wolverhampton Contact Centre - fencing replacement	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Duke Street Bungalows - toilet refurbishment works	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Lawnswood Campus - entrance refurbishment and securing void area	60	-	-	-	-	60	(60)	-
	Avenues (Low Hill) SFH – CCTV upgrade works and reconfigure the kitchen into a break-out space area	36	-	-	-	-	36	(36)	-
	Graiseley SFH - internal reconfiguration of rooms and refurbishment works	130	-	-	-	-	130	(130)	-
	Smestow Valley Park Nature Reserve - access point restrictions	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Former Tettenhall Railway Station (Cupcake Lane Carpark) - CCTV & lighting	180	-	-	-	-	180	(180)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village - new AC units	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Civic Centre - Electrical system devices	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	Ashmore Park Community Hub - new internal fire doors	12	-	-	-	-	12	(12)	-
	City Centre Skills and Employment Hub	117	-	-	-	-	117	(117)	-
	Action 4 Independence – Refurbishment works	250	-	-	-	-	250	(250)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village – External steelwork fire resistant protection	-	90	-	-	-	90	(90)	-
	Ashmore Pak Community Hub – Window replacements	11	-	-	-	-	11	(11)	-
	Bert Williams Centre – CCTV system upgrade	120	-	-	-	-	120	(120)	-
	Bert Williams Centre – Renewal of pool water filtering system	-	60	-	-	-	60	(60)	-
	Bilston Community Centre - BMS upgrade & air tech controls	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Bilston Community Centre – External stoneworks and roof works	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Bilston Library – Refurbishment to accommodate Community Shop from the Bilston Hub	-	30	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Bilston Retail Market – BMS upgrade	80	-	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Bilston Town Hall – CCTV upgrade	-	22	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	Bingley Strengthening Family Hub – Creation of new Health Room	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Birch Street Car Park – Structural safety works and lighting upgrade	20	280	-	-	-	300	(300)	-
	Bob Jones Community Hub – Roof refurbishment	-	250	-	-	-	250	(250)	-
	Bradmore Community Centre – Door replacements	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Central Baths - Air conditioning unit upgrade in Gym	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Civic Centre – Basement electrical mains panel and lighting upgrade	110	-	-	-	-	110	(110)	-
	Civic Centre – Drainage tank cleaning system in car park	-	10	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Civic Centre - Union Offices refurbishment	-	25	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Civic Centre – Mayoral EV & relocation	35	-	-	-	-	35	(35)	-
	Civic Centre – Cheapside flower bed water proofing system	-	40	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Civic Centre – Hearing inductions loops	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Cleveland Passage – Wall demolition and new retaining wall	-	225	-	-	-	225	(225)	-
	Duke St Bungalows – Windows replacements to 3 bungalows	200	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-
	Eastfield Strengthening Family Hub – Roof replacement	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Eastfield Strengthening Family Hub – Creation of new health room and front door access system	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-



Detailed projected budget

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Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
City Assets	Graiseley Music School – Internal refurbishment to entrance and offices	90	-	-	-	-	90	(90)	-
	Graiseley Strengthening Family Hub – Roof replacement	-	100	-	-	-	100	(100)	-
	Grand Theatre – Stage life upgrade	-	41	-	-	-	41	(41)	-
	Grand Theatre – BMS upgrade	50	40	-	-	-	90	(90)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot - Replacement and part renewal of roofs	-	80	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot - Dry rot removal and new replacement in the old School building	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot – Flooring replacement	-	10	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot – External door replacement	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Land adjacent Bilston Town Football Club – Mineshaft treatment	-	400	-	-	-	400	(400)	-
	Low Hill Community Centre - 2 x Plant room upgrades	-	20	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Merridale Cemetery – Roof replacement works	-	20	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Merridale Cemetery – Resurfacing works & security gate	-	20	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Parkfields – Demolition of void area	838	559	-	-	-	1,397	(1,397)	-
	Pendeford Offices - Building Management Controls upgrade	14	-	-	-	-	14	(14)	-
	Pendeford Nature Reserve – Refurbishment works to buildings and external grounds	-	80	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Qualcast Road Salt Depot – Demolition and reinstatement of Salt Bay	185	-	-	-	-	185	(185)	-
	Warstones Library - Boiler replacements & hot cylinder upgrade	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Wednesfield Community Hub – Renewal of timber cladding	-	90	-	-	-	90	(90)	-
	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields – Roof replacement	-	40	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery – Chiller unit replacement	130	-	-	-	-	130	(130)	-
	Central Baths - Hot water system replacement	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	Wcistop - Boiler replacement	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	Ernest Bold Centre - FRA works	18	-	-	-	-	18	(18)	-
	- 18/19 Queen Square - Airtech control system	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village – perimeter fencing required	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Bantock House - Conservatory external stonework and timber replacement	55	-	-	-	-	55	(55)	-
	I10 - monitoring system for alarm	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	Landport Road Industrial Estate - electric gate installation	26	-	-	-	-	26	(26)	-
	Maltings - Fire Alarm System	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Maltings - roof replacement	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Tettenhall Library - Fire Alarm System	25	-	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Upper Pendeford Farm - plant upgrade works	150	-	-	-	-	150	(150)	-
	Whitmore Reans Strengthening Family Hub - fencing replacement	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Civic Centre - safety fencing	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre - New shower facilities	140	140	-	-	-	280	(280)	-
	Dunstall Community Centre - new boiler flu and burners	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	1-2 Worcester Road - roof replacement	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	3 Worcester Road - roof replacement	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Civic Centre - rainwater pumping system	35	-	-	-	-	35	(35)	-
	Oxley Health and Wellbeing Facility and Residential Accommodation	740	9,184	6,908	976	-	17,808	(15,760)	(2,048)
	One Public Estate - Asset Transformation Programme	-	5,668	6,622	560	-	12,850	(3,640)	(9,210)
	i11 Building, 4-5 Victoria Square - Investing in the City's Offer	430	430	-	-	-	860	(860)	-
	Bilston Health & Wellbeing Facility	937	6,261	12,339	1,315	-	20,852	(4,013)	(16,839)
Resident Services	Disabled Facilities Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	1,800	-	-	-	-	1,800	-	(1,800)
	Small Adaptations Grants	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	(1,500)
	Stair Lift Maintenance	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Care & Repair Fees	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Social Care Minor Adaptations	90	-	-	-	-	90	-	(90)
	Discretionary Bathrooms Adaptations Grant	1,223	-	-	-	-	1,223	-	(1,223)
	Discretionary Top Up Grants	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Contribution assistance grants	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Dual residency grant	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Technology enabled care	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Living well grant	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Home Not Hospital	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Relocation grant	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	DFG Capitalised Salaries	1,100	-	-	-	-	1,100	-	(1,100)
	Rehabilitation Equipment	522	-	-	-	-	522	-	(522)
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Small Works Assistance (SWA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Small Works Assistance	150	-	-	-	-	150	(150)	-
	Capitalised Salaries	60	-	-	-	-	60	(60)	-

Detailed projected budget

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Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Resident Services	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Empty Properties Strategy	241	-	-	-	-	241	(241)	-
	Sustainable Warmth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local Authority Delivery 3 : Green Homes	1,352	-	-	-	-	1,352	-	(1,352)
	Home Upgrade Grant	1,000	1,478	-	-	-	2,478	-	(2,478)
	Maintenance of classified roads	250	3,575	3,325	3,325	-	10,475	-	(10,475)
	Transport Structural Maintenance - Street Lighting	225	-	-	-	-	225	-	(225)
	Response patching	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Specialist Surface Treatments	81	25	-	-	-	106	(16)	(90)
	Replacement of non-compliant safety fencing	-	50	-	-	-	50	(25)	(25)
	Development of the Highway Asset Management Plan and Strategy	60	108	-	-	-	168	(128)	(40)
	Purbrook Road	65	-	-	-	-	65	(65)	-
	Stafford Street Reinstatement	163	-	-	-	-	163	(43)	(120)
	Deans Road - Entirety	406	-	-	-	-	406	(406)	-
	School Road (Phase 2)	200	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-
	Bushbury Road	260	-	-	-	-	260	(260)	-
	Jeffcock Road	150	-	-	-	-	150	(150)	-
	Stafford Street (Inbound, Cannock Road to Ring Road including Ring Road junction)	325	-	-	-	-	325	(325)	-
	Ring Road - Waterloo Road Junction	190	-	-	-	-	190	(190)	-
	Finchfield Hill	62	-	-	-	-	62	(43)	(19)
	Development of Highway Maintenance Schemes and Future Programmes	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Scheme Preparation - Advance Works	73	-	-	-	-	73	-	(73)
	Neachells Lane (Roundabout Wednesfield Way)	90	-	-	-	-	90	-	(90)
	Castlecroft Lane - Windmill Lane to Castlecroft Road	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	Wergs Road	236	-	-	-	-	236	(6)	(230)
	Lower Horseley Fields	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Oxford Street Footway Works	125	-	-	-	-	125	-	(125)
	Rookery Road	47	-	-	-	-	47	-	(47)
	Bridgnorth Road	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)
	Stafford Road (SB roundabout Three Tuns Lane - Greenwood Road)	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Stafford Road - (NB roundabout Three Tuns Lane - Wobaston Road)	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Oxford Street	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Stafford Road (Roundabout Three Tuns Lane - North)	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Ettingshall Road (Parkfield Road roundabout Bilston Road)	19	-	-	-	-	19	(19)	-
	Penn Road (WB Pennhouse Avene to Springhill Lane)	71	-	-	-	-	71	(36)	(35)
	Rookery Road Footway Works	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Broad Lane Footway Works	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Highway Improvement Programme	-	1,441	1,441	1,441	-	4,323	-	(4,323)
	Integrated Transport - Advance Design	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	UTC - Wireless Communications	87	-	-	-	-	87	-	(87)
	Ring Road & City Centre Signage	300	-	-	-	-	300	-	(300)
	Bus infrastructure improvements	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	UTC Expansion ITS/CCTV/Driver Information/ANPR	145	-	-	-	-	145	-	(145)
	Lyndale Drive Culvert - Highways Improvement	80	-	-	-	-	80	(2)	(78)
	Willenhall Road Culvert - Highways Improvement	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	UTC Expansion CCTV	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	ITS Improvements	70	-	-	-	-	70	-	(70)
	Development of Network Management Plan Inc Route Analysis and Traffic Counts	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Development of ITS - Schemes - Future Programmes and Asset Management	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Vehicles (Procurement)	2,868	3,140	514	-	-	6,522	(6,522)	-
	Bowman's Harbour - Former Landfill Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bowman's Harbour Repository - Tech Investigation	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Parks Strategy and Open Space	175	-	-	-	-	175	(175)	-
	Heath Town Park	45	-	-	-	-	45	-	(45)
	Spring Road - (Taylor Road / Hilton PF)	34	-	-	-	-	34	(34)	-
	Fowlers Park	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Land North East of 72 Church Street, Bilston	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Ward Street Neighbourhood Park	93	-	-	-	-	93	-	(93)
	Penk Rise - refurbishment of Open Space	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Bushbury Recreation Ground - open space improvements	101	-	-	-	-	101	-	(101)
	Kingsclere Walk - refurbishment of existing play area	51	-	-	-	-	51	-	(51)
	Northwood Park - refurbishment of existing play area	57	288	-	-	-	345	-	(345)
	Ashmore Park, Wednesfield - open space improvements	47	46	-	-	-	93	-	(93)
	Ward Street railway cutting – gas main diversion works for new open space	17	-	-	-	-	17	-	(17)
	Prouds Lane Open Space Improvements	71	-	-	-	-	71	-	(71)
	Wednesfield Link Open Space Improvements	-	72	-	-	-	72	-	(72)
	Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve Open Space	-	16	-	-	-	16	-	(16)

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Resident Services	Prouds Lane Playing Field - Open Space Improvements	301	-	-	-	-	301	(276)	(25)
	Wednesfield / Coleman Avenue Open Space - Play Area	57	-	-	-	-	57	-	(57)
	Bantock Park - Offsite Open Space Improvements	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)
	Peascroft Wood - Open Space Improvements	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	East Park Improvements	630	-	-	-	-	630	(587)	(43)
	Hickman Park Improvements	67	-	-	-	-	67	-	(67)
	Black Country Blue Network Phase 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ward Street Railway Cutting	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	(4)
	Pendeford Park Open Space	46	-	-	-	-	46	-	(46)
	Walsall MBC Parks and Open Space	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Dudley MBC Open Space	239	-	-	-	-	239	-	(239)
	Severn Rivers Trust Cradley Projects	54	-	-	-	-	54	-	(54)
	Bereavement Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bereavement Services Improvement Programme at Bushbury Crematorium site (drainage, pavements)	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Bushbury Crematorium	186	-	-	-	-	186	(186)	-
	Safety Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local Safety Schemes - TROs/ Signs&Guardrails / Road Markings	200	-	-	-	-	200	-	(200)
	Vehicle actuated speed warning signs	38	-	-	-	-	38	(8)	(30)
	Newhampton Road East & West - local safety improvement	150	-	-	-	-	150	(50)	(100)
	Etingshall Road/Manor Road	40	-	-	-	-	40	(26)	(14)
	Old Heath Road Area Local Safety Scheme	116	-	-	-	-	116	(116)	-
	SRTS - 20's Plenty Roll Out	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Development of Road Safety Schemes and Future Programmes	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	BCR Lunt Island	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Oxford Street/Hare Street	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Bushbury Road/Thornycroft Road	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Bushbury Lane/Showell Road	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Tettenhall Road/Henwood Road	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)
	Compton Road near Linden Lea - Crossing Upgrade	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Stowlawn Primary School	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Bhyls Acre Primary School	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	Casatlecroft Road Zebra Crossing	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Network Development - Safer Routes to School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	School Gate Parking	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Active Travel Programme	161	1,449	-	-	-	1,610	-	(1,610)
	Wednesfield Road - footway widening and introducing shared cycle route	34	-	-	-	-	34	(34)	-
	National Cycle Routes	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17)	17
	Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route - Wolverhampton	359	1,047	-	-	-	1,406	-	(1,406)
	Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route - Walsall	500	-	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	Walsall BC Active Travel Route	57	-	-	-	-	57	-	(57)
	A461 Walk, Cycle and Bus Corridor - Dudley	500	-	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	A461 Walk, Cycle and Bus Corridor - Sandwell	350	150	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	Major Roads Network	240	200	-	-	-	440	(40)	(400)
	A4123 Corridor - A4150 Ring Road to A456 Hagley Road	158	-	-	-	-	158	-	(158)
	A454 Wolverhampton to Neachells Lane, Phases 1,2 and 3	364	-	-	-	-	364	-	(364)
	A449 Stafford Road North Only	118	-	-	-	-	118	-	(118)
	A461 Dudley	62	-	-	-	-	62	-	(62)
	A461 Sandwell	215	-	-	-	-	215	-	(215)
	A461 Rushall Junction Walsall	229	-	-	-	-	229	-	(229)
	A456 Dudley	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	A41 Sandwell	150	-	-	-	-	150	-	(150)
	M5, J1 Sandwell	231	-	-	-	-	231	-	(231)
	WBHE Sustainable Access Measures - Dudley	516	-	-	-	-	516	-	(516)
	WBHE Sustainable Access Measures - Sandwell	195	-	-	-	-	195	-	(195)
	A457 between Oldbury town centre and Smethwick Galton Bridge station	58	-	-	-	-	58	-	(58)
	BCT Walk/Cycle and Bus Priority Improvement Measures - A4123	500	-	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	Black Country ULEV - Development	114	-	-	-	-	114	-	(114)
	Street Lighting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Street Lighting replacement programme (Invest to Save)	337	1,000	-	-	-	1,337	(1,337)	-
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	5	20	-	-	-	25	(20)	(5)
	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Moathouse Lane Bridge	26	-	-	-	-	26	-	(26)
	Emergency Structural Maintenance repairs	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	Wightwick County Bridge Works	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Meadow View Terrace Bridge Works	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Structural Reviews of Priority Weight Restricted Bridges	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)
	Moseley Road Retaining Wall	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Resident Services	Maintenance of unclassified roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Public Rights of way improvements	5	25	-	-	-	30	(25)	(5)
	Public Realm Dudley Street	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
	Ashland Street	55	-	-	-	-	55	(8)	(47)
	Needwood Drive	45	-	-	-	-	45	-	(45)
	Sweetman Place	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Fitzmaurice Road	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Gatis Street	19	-	-	-	-	19	(1)	(18)
	Ormes Lane	26	-	-	-	-	26	-	(26)
	Bradley Lane	62	-	-	-	-	62	(1)	(61)
	Hickman Avenue	-	90	-	-	-	90	-	(90)
	Sutherland Avenue	-	58	-	-	-	58	-	(58)
	Lambert Road	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	Bayliss Avenue	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	(16)
	Bidding Lane	46	-	-	-	-	46	-	(46)
	Bank Street	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Mandale Road	31	-	-	-	-	31	-	(31)
	Mill Lane	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Wightwick Bank	93	-	-	-	-	93	(53)	(40)
	Tinacre Hill	71	-	-	-	-	71	(45)	(26)
	Windmill Lane	55	-	-	-	-	55	(55)	-
	Earlswood Close	56	-	-	-	-	56	(56)	-
	Alderford Close	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	Patshull Avenue and Marsh Lane (inc Whitney Grove, Patshull Grove and Slade Road)	76	-	-	-	-	76	(7)	(69)
	Third Avenue	66	-	-	-	-	66	(46)	(20)
	Wright Avenue estate (inc Day Avenue, Pritchard Avenue and Davenport Road)	350	-	-	-	-	350	(60)	(290)
	Lambert Road Footway Works	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	(16)
	Mill Lane Footway Works	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Powell Street Footway Works	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Ashland Street Footway Works	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	(6)
	Bank Street Footway Works	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Mandale Road Footway Works	14	-	-	-	-	14	-	(14)
	Bidding Lane Footway Works	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Prestwood Road Footway Works	27	-	-	-	-	27	-	(27)
	Bayliss Avenue Footway Works	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Butts Road Footway Works	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	(6)
	Gatis Street Footway Works	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	(2)
	Future High Street Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Victoria Street Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 1)	1,796	-	-	-	-	1,796	(897)	(899)
	Civic Halls Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 3)	150	-	-	-	-	150	-	(150)
	Security Enhancement works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Improving Pedestrian Safety	12	-	-	-	-	12	(12)	-
	Waste & Recycling Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Garden waste bins	74	-	-	-	-	74	(74)	-
	Commercial Waste Services Bins	233	50	-	-	-	283	(283)	-
	Paladin Bins	17	-	-	-	-	17	(17)	-
	Domestic Bins	203	30	-	-	-	233	(233)	-
	Smart and Accessible City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ultra Low Emission Bus (ULEB) Pantograph	143	-	-	-	-	143	-	(143)
	ORCS Bid Local Contribution	351	-	-	-	-	351	-	(351)
	SupaTrak system and in-cab Garmin devices	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Flood Defence and Land Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Waterhead Brook Flood Defence Works - Primrose Avenue	103	-	-	-	-	103	-	(103)
	Storm Water Retention Structure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Energy from Waste plant	527	-	-	-	-	527	(527)	-
	Brewer's Yard - Phase 1	1,558	8,927	5,122	168	-	15,775	(6,050)	(9,725)
	Bilston Market Redevelopment	2,168	4,180	-	-	-	6,348	-	(6,348)
	Towns Fund Phase 2 - Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wednesfield High Street Redevelopment Public Realm Works	650	2,209	-	-	-	2,859	-	(2,859)
	Public Realm Improvements on Lichfield St/Queens Square and Darlington Street	883	2,038	-	-	-	2,921	-	(2,921)
	AI Enabled SMART Cameras	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	UKSPF - Vibrant High Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	UKSPF - Wednesfield Public Realm	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	UKSPF - City Centre Public Realm	86	-	-	-	-	86	-	(86)
Regeneration	i54 Access and Infrastructure	648	17	-	-	-	665	1,317	(1,982)
	Targeted Disposals Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disposal of Heath Town Baths	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-
	Targeted Disposals - Hoardings	-	36	-	-	-	36	(36)	-
	Bilston Urban Village	36	-	-	-	-	36	(36)	-
	Black Country Growth Deal – Cultural Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Civic Halls Improvements	7,470	-	-	-	-	7,470	(4,041)	(3,429)

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Regeneration	Interchange - Ph2 Train Station/MSCP/Metro Extension	2,556	-	-	-	-	2,556	(2,157)	(399)
	i54 Western Extension	3,249	10,509	3,236	-	-	16,994	(12,109)	(4,885)
	City Learning Quarter	12,749	38,276	8,075	-	-	59,100	(2,469)	(56,631)
	War Memorial Restoration	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Strategic Land Acquisitions	-	310	-	-	-	310	(310)	-
	AIM for GOLD - ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	AIM for GOLD - ERDF	365	-	-	-	-	365	-	(365)
	Towns Fund Phase 2 - Regeneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Newhampton Arts Park	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	(1,500)
	Bilston Public Realm Improvements	200	1,581	-	-	-	1,781	-	(1,781)
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Regional Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Net Zero Grants	151	-	-	-	-	151	-	(151)
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Support to SMEs	230	-	-	-	-	230	-	(230)
Children's Services	Co-Location Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Children's Transformation - Bingley	-	8	-	-	-	8	(8)	-
	Children and young people in care - extensions/vehicles	-	3	-	-	-	3	(3)	-
	Extensions Mr and Mrs C	75	-	-	-	-	75	(75)	-
	Children's Residential Homes	1,370	-	-	-	-	1,370	(1,135)	(235)
Family Hubs Capital	66	77	-	-	-	143	-	(143)	
Public Health	Sports Investment Strategy	86	-	-	-	-	86	(84)	(2)
	Synthetic Pitch at Our Lady & St Chad's School	203	-	-	-	-	203	(203)	-
	Peace Green sport facilities	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-
	Leisure Centres Enhancement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WV Active - Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement	58	-	-	-	-	58	(58)	-
	Bowling provision	102	-	-	-	-	102	-	(102)
	Grants to other organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NACRO Premises Refurbishment	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)	
Education and Skills	Primary Expansion Programme	-	8,347	-	-	-	8,347	-	(8,347)
	Loxdale Primary Phase 4	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	Stowlawn Primary Phase 4	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School - phase 4	319	-	-	-	-	319	-	(319)
	Hill Avenue Academy - phase 4	1,415	-	-	-	-	1,415	-	(1,415)
	Westacre Infants Nursery - Accommodation	25	325	-	-	-	350	-	(350)
	Schools Devolved Formula Capital	700	700	375	-	-	1,775	-	(1,775)
	Asbestos Removal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dovecotes Primary - asbestos flooring removal	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Colton Hills Community School - asbestos removal to pool plant room	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Castlecroft Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	9	-	-	-	-	9	-	(9)
	Stow Heath Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Uplands Junior - asbestos removal to plant room	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	(11)
	Whitgreave Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	St Andrews Church of England Primary - asbestos removal	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Graiseley Primary - asbestos containment to plant room	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Fallings Park Primary - asbestos containment	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Electrical Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Christ Church Junior - replacement lighting Phase 1	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Midpoint PRU - new fire alarm	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Dovecotes Primary - replacement lighting	54	-	-	-	-	54	-	(54)
	Christ Church Nursery - replacement lighting	13	-	-	-	-	13	-	(13)
	Ashmore Park Nursery - replacement emergency lighting	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Bushbury Nursery - replacement lighting	38	-	-	-	-	38	-	(38)
	Bushbury Hill Primary - replacement lighting	-	50	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Colton Hills Secondary - replacement lighting to activity studio	53	-	-	-	-	53	-	(53)
	Graiseley Primary - replacement lighting and distribution boards	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Lanesfield Primary - replacement lighting	92	-	-	-	-	92	-	(92)
	Phoenix Nursery - replacement lighting	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	St Andrews Church of England Primary - replace fire alarm	98	-	-	-	-	98	-	(98)
	Warstones Primary - replacement lighting	95	-	-	-	-	95	-	(95)
	Wodensfield Primary - replace intruder alarm	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	West Park Primary - replacement intruder alarm	24	-	-	-	-	24	(14)	(10)
	Contingency for Emergency Works	847	-	-	-	-	847	-	(847)
	Building Schools for Future ICT Infrastructure	-	112	-	-	-	112	(112)	-
	Post BSF infrastructure upgrades	155	-	-	-	-	155	(155)	-
	ICT Equipment - The Kings, Church of England Academy	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	ICT Equipment - Lawnswood Campus	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	St Andrews, Church of England Primary - Fire Safety Work	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Uplands Junior - replacement fire doors	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Castlecroft Primary - kitchen fire shutters	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
Westacre Infants - replacement fire doors	21	-	-	-	-	21	-	(21)	
Low Hill Nursery - fire safety work	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)	
Castlecroft Primary - replacement fire doors	132	-	-	-	-	132	-	(132)	

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
		2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026	2026- 2027	2027- 2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
Education and Skills	Capital Maintenance - heating pipework upgrades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Springdale Junior - replacement heating pipework	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	(2)
	Colton Hills Secondary - replacement boilers	260	-	-	-	-	260	-	(260)
	Bilston Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	(2)
	Claregate Primary - boiler plant upgrade	118	-	-	-	-	118	-	(118)
	Graiseley Primary - Upgrade BMS	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Lanesfield Primary - Upgrade BMS	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Phoenix Nursery - replacement boilers	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Uplands Junior - 1st floor ventilation	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	(16)
	Warstones Primary - upgrade hot water and BMS	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Capital Maintenance - roof / ceilings replacements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Green Park Special School - flat roof	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Spring Vale Primary - flat roof	68	-	-	-	-	68	-	(68)
	Merridale Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	(4)
	Fallings Park Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	82	56	-	-	-	138	-	(138)
	Colton Hills Secondary - flat roofing	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Eastfield Primary - corridor roofing	55	-	-	-	-	55	-	(55)
	Lanesfield Primary - replacement hall roof	190	-	-	-	-	190	-	(190)
	Wodensfield Primary - replace roof to KS2	22	-	-	-	-	22	-	(22)
	Stowlawn Primary - Sedum roof	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Low Hill Nursery - roofing work	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	(11)
	Christ Church Infants - nursery roofing	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Capital Maintenance - Structural Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Kings CE School Priority Remedial Works	800	-	-	-	-	800	-	(800)
	Dovecotes Primary - replace fascias	38	-	-	-	-	38	-	(38)
	Dovecotes Primary - replace floors	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	(12)
	Midpoint PRU - fencing	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Claregate Primary - resurface paving	44	-	-	-	-	44	-	(44)
	Long Knowle Primary - replace fences Phase 1	70	-	-	-	-	70	-	(70)
	Springdale Primary - toilets refurbishment	158	-	-	-	-	158	-	(158)
	Uplands Junior - toilets refurbishment	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Dovecotes Primary - perimeter fencing	58	-	-	-	-	58	-	(58)
	Phoenix Nursery - replacement fencing and gates	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Bantock Primary - toilet refurbishment	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Uplands Junior - resurface playground	75	-	-	-	-	75	(7)	(68)
	Warstones Primary - replacement water goods	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Warstones Primary - repointing brickwork	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Wodensfield Primary - refurbish KS2 toilets	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	Christ Church Nursery - replace gates and entry system	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Lanesfield Primary - resurface playground	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)
	Lanesfield Primary - replacement fencing	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Claregate Primary - replacement fencing and gates	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Claregate Primary - toilet refurbishment	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Green Park Special - car park drainage and tarmac	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Christ Church Junior - security gates and entry system	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Midpoint PRU - access controls and gates	45	-	-	-	-	45	-	(45)
	Christ Church Infants - replacement floor covering	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	(7)
	Springdale Primary - fire exit pathways	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Castlecroft Primary - conversion of KS1 cloakrooms	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Perry Hall Primary - fencing	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Kings Church of England School - fencing	60	-	-	-	-	60	(60)	-
	Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wodensfield Primary - replacement windows and doors to KS1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)
	Christ Church Infants - replacement windows	53	-	-	-	-	53	-	(53)
	Springdale Primary - replacement doors & windows	110	-	-	-	-	110	-	(110)
	St Andrews Church of England Primary - replacement windows to quadrangle	75	-	-	-	-	75	-	(75)
	Castlecroft Primary - replacement fascias and doors	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Graiseley Primary - replacement windows and doors	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	West Park Primary - replacement windows and fascias	120	-	-	-	-	120	-	(120)
	Spring Vale Primary - replacement kitchen windows	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	(16)
	Orchard PRU - replacement windows and fascias	21	-	-	-	-	21	-	(21)
	Secondary School Expansion Programme	-	6,275	-	-	-	6,275	-	(6,275)
	St Edmund's Catholic Academy	404	-	-	-	-	404	-	(404)
	Colton Hills Secondary - Dining Hall Extension	542	-	-	-	-	542	-	(542)
	Schools ICT & equipment RCCO funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stow Heath Primary - Minibus	35	-	-	-	-	35	(35)	-
	SPCF Special Provision Capital Fund	326	-	-	-	-	326	-	(326)
	SPCF Resource base St Michaels Church of England Primary	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	(12)
	High Needs Capital Programme - Future Schemes	272	6,763	-	-	-	7,035	-	(7,035)
	Aldersley High School - Resource Base	150	-	-	-	-	150	-	(150)
	Penn Hall School - Building Alterations	478	47	-	-	-	525	-	(525)
	Stow Heath Primary - Resource Base	-	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	-	(1,200)
	Broadmeadow Special School Expansion Phase 1	850	-	-	-	-	850	-	(850)
<b>Total General Fund - existing and new projects</b>		<b>106,145</b>	<b>164,329</b>	<b>68,557</b>	<b>18,785</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>358,816</b>	<b>(159,280)</b>	<b>(199,536)</b>

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>Housing Revenue Account capital programme</b>									
Housing Revenue Account	Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	High Rise M&E Infrastructure Refurbishment	21,920	12,000	8,794	6,500	4,400	53,614	(53,614)	-
	Heath Town Refurbishment of Retained Properties	13,600	12,602	8,460	2,200	-	36,862	(36,862)	-
	Internal Decency Works	10,430	12,400	10,000	9,422	9,000	51,252	(51,252)	-
	Bushbury Improvement Programme	158	-	-	-	-	158	(158)	-
	Mid Rise Infrastructure	3,125	3,900	1,429	4,000	4,000	16,454	(16,454)	-
	Door Entry	910	410	250	250	300	2,120	(2,120)	-
	Repairs - Pathways/Unadopted Roads	210	220	220	230	230	1,110	(1,110)	-
	Adaptations for People with Disabilities	1,649	1,346	1,400	1,110	1,100	6,605	(6,605)	-
	Sale of Council Houses Admin	60	60	60	60	60	300	(300)	-
	Wolverhampton Homes - Capitalised Salaries	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	10,500	(10,500)	-
	Housing Services Capitalised Salaries	500	500	500	500	500	2,500	(2,500)	-
	Refurbishment of Voids to Decent Homes Standard	12,139	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	30,139	(30,139)	-
	Boiler Replacement	1,030	816	810	830	860	4,346	(4,346)	-
	Heath Town	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Structural works	1,851	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	6,411	(6,411)	-
	Remedial Works to non-traditional properties	14,820	13,820	3,245	3,000	2,834	37,719	(37,719)	-
	Lift Improvements	394	460	460	460	460	2,234	(2,234)	-
	Fire Safety Improvements - Medium and Low Rise	3,100	-	-	-	-	3,100	(3,100)	-
	Roofing Refurbishment Programme - City wide	6,900	4,036	3,400	3,400	2,900	20,636	(20,636)	-
	New Build Programme	-	1,000	13,162	15,000	15,000	44,162	(44,162)	-
	Old Fallings Crescent	100	2,817	2,200	-	-	5,117	(5,117)	-
	Sustainable Estates Programme	867	300	300	300	300	2,067	(2,067)	-
	Non Traditional Surveys	454	400	50	50	300	1,254	(1,254)	-
	Bond House conversion to residential	200	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-
	Heath Town New Build Phase 1	1,350	-	-	-	-	1,350	(1,350)	-
	Heath Town New Build Phase 2	50	7,500	7,500	10,000	1,500	26,550	(26,550)	-
	WVL Units - Wednesfield	100	-	-	-	-	100	(100)	-
	WVL Units - Northcote	2,000	1,717	700	-	-	4,417	(4,417)	-
	Medium Sites	600	5,500	600	-	-	6,700	(6,700)	-
	High Rise External Works	1,652	17,900	16,500	16,168	5,451	57,671	(57,671)	-
	Reedham Gardens	315	1,885	1,500	-	-	3,700	(3,700)	-
	Additional Social Housing	3,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500	(12,216)	(284)
	Small Sites Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bushbury Hill Community Housing	592	1,100	-	-	-	1,692	(1,692)	-
	Inkerman Street Community Housing	91	1,500	-	-	-	1,591	(1,591)	-
	Small Sites 5	1,463	-	-	-	-	1,463	(1,463)	-
	Estate remodelling - New Park Village	2,223	5,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	41,223	(41,223)	-
	City Wide Non traditional structural repairs	2,484	8,000	8,000	7,200	-	25,684	(25,684)	-
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account - existing projects</b>		<b>112,447</b>	<b>126,929</b>	<b>111,780</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>69,435</b>	<b>523,511</b>	<b>(523,227)</b>	<b>(284)</b>

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Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>					
Finance	Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	28,335	36,163	7,828	The Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes have been revised upwards by £8.2 million over the medium term capital programme, to ensure additional contingency is in place for the future budget requirements. There are potential future budget requirements across various projects, including works to support and enable Fleet electrification and projects supporting the events strategy, such as the reopening of the Chubb Cinema and the delivery of the Bell Street Box Space scheme. Budget provision has been incorporated into the Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes in order to be prudent at this stage and will be allocated to individual projects using appropriate delegations. Allocations will be reported at each Quarterly Review. Future requirements across the capital programme remain under review. Further change in this budget reflects net virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Capitalisation Directives	4,000	4,000	-	
	WV Living	29,900	29,900	-	
Governance	Governance Initiatives	129	129	-	
Communications	Bell Street Box Space	5,178	5,178	-	
Strategy	ICT General Programme	2,672	2,272	(400)	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	ICT Disaster Recovery	50	50	-	
	ICT Desktop Refresh	290	721	431	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Service Led ICT Projects	1,445	1,414	(31)	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Full Fibre Network	149	149	-	
City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	13,425	13,261	(164)	The change in this budget reflects budget decrease for existing project offset in part by budget increase for the new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Oxley Health and Wellbeing Facility and Residential Accommodation	17,836	17,808	(28)	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement.
	One Public Estate - Asset Transformation Programme	12,850	12,850	-	
	i11 Building, 4-5 Victoria Square - Investing in the City's Offer	860	860	-	
	Bilston Health & Wellbeing Facility	20,852	20,852	-	
Resident Services	Disabled Facilities Grants	6,590	6,590	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Small Works Assistance (SWA)	150	150	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Capitalised Salaries	60	60	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Empty Properties Strategy	241	241	-	
	Sustainable Warmth	4,262	3,830	(432)	The change in this budget reflects revised downwards budget requirement due to the timescales of project delivery.
	Maintenance of classified roads	13,660	14,065	405	The change in this budget reflects additional grant allocation offset by virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Highway Improvement Programme	5,307	5,345	38	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Vehicles (Procurement)	6,522	6,522	-	
	Bowman's Harbour - Former Landfill Sites	5	5	-	
	Parks Strategy and Open Space	1,967	2,195	228	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement funded by S106 offset by virements as detailed in Appendix 4.

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>					
Resident Services	Bereavement Services	190	190	-	
	Safety Programme	994	994	-	
	Active Travel Programme	4,607	4,607	-	
	Network Development - Safer Routes to School	5	5	-	
	Major Roads Network	3,450	3,450	-	
	Street Lighting	1,337	1,337	-	
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	25	25	-	
	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls)	346	331	(15)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Maintenance of unclassified roads	2,962	4,377	1,415	The change in this budget reflects revised scope of the Public Realm Phases 1 and 3 projects to support future markets and events opportunities and accessibility enhancements, including the area around the Halls, and virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Security Enhancement works	12	12	-	
	Waste & Recycling Strategy	607	607	-	
	Smart and Accessible City	517	494	(23)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	General Waste Service Improvement	10	10	-	
	Energy from Waste plant	527	527	-	
	Future High Street Fund	1,085	162	(923)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Black Country Blue Network Phase 2	353	353	-	
	Flood Defence and Land Drainage	103	103	-	
	Brewer's Yard - Phase 1	15,775	15,775	-	
	Towns Fund Phase 2 - Regeneration	1,500	1,500	-	
	Towns Fund Phase 2 - Transportation	5,780	5,780	-	
Towns Fund Phase 2 - Markets	6,348	6,348	-		
UKSPF - Vibrant High Streets	121	121	-		
Bilston Public Realm Improvements	1,781	1,781	-		
AI Enabled SMART Cameras	22	22	-		
Regeneration	i54 Access and Infrastructure	665	665	-	
	Targeted Disposals Programme	39	39	-	
	Bilston Urban Village	36	36	-	
	Black Country Growth Deal – Cultural Programme	7,470	7,470	-	
	Interchange - Ph2 Train Station/MSCP/Metro Extension	2,556	2,556	-	
	i54 Western Extension	16,994	16,994	-	
	City Learning Quarter	59,104	59,100	(4)	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement.
	War Memorial Restoration	9	5	(4)	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement.
	Strategic Land Acquisitions	310	310	-	
	AIM for GOLD - ERDF	365	365	-	
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Regional Fund	-	381	381	The change in this budget reflects new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
Children's Services	Co-Location Programme	8	8	-	
	Children and young people in care - extensions/vehicles	78	78	-	
	Children's Residential Homes	1,370	1,370	-	
	Family Hubs Capital	2	143	141	The change in this budget reflects additional grant allocation.
Education and Skills	Primary Expansion Programme	10,490	10,496	6	The change in this budget reflects additional grant allocation.
	Schools Devolved Formula Capital	1,775	1,775	-	
	Asbestos Removal	20	106	86	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Electrical Works	588	720	132	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new project for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Contingency for Emergency Works	1,449	847	(602)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>					
Education and Skills	Building Schools for Future ICT Infrastructure	337	337	-	
	Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety	54	202	148	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Heating Pipework Upgrades	713	548	(165)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceilings Replacements	468	606	138	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Structural Works	1,519	1,815	296	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade	410	506	96	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Secondary School Expansion Programme	7,221	7,221	-	
	Schools ICT & equipment RCCO funded	35	35	-	
	SPCF Special Provision Capital Fund	329	329	-	
	Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	12	12	-	
Public Health	High Needs Capital Programme - Future Schemes	9,760	9,760	-	
	Sports Investment Strategy	292	292	-	
	Leisure Centres Enhancement	58	58	-	
	Bowling provision	102	102	-	
	Grants to other organisations	8	8	-	
<b>Total General Fund capital programme - existing and new projects</b>		<b>349,838</b>	<b>358,816</b>	<b>8,978</b>	

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>					
Housing Revenue Account	Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	161,279	158,340	(2,939)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Minor Works/Door Entry Rolling Programme	1,112	2,120	1,008	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme	1,110	1,110	-	
	Adaptations for People with Disabilities	6,605	6,605	-	
	WH Service Sales Admin & Capitalised Salaries	10,800	10,800	-	
	Housing services capitalised salaries	2,500	2,500	-	
	Refurbishment of Voids	27,200	30,139	2,939	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Boiler Replacement Programme	4,346	4,346	-	
	Heath Town	10	10	-	
	Structural works	49,068	44,130	(4,938)	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement offset by virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Lift and DDA Improvements	2,234	2,234	-	
	Fire Safety Improvements	3,870	3,100	(770)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Roof Refurbishment Programme	21,136	20,636	(500)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	New Build Programme	52,117	49,279	(2,838)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Sustainable Estates Programme	2,067	2,067	-	
	Non Trad Surveys	1,254	1,254	-	
	Commercial Conversions	-	200	200	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Heath Town New Build Programme	23,601	27,900	4,299	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	WVL Units	4,417	4,517	100	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Medium Sites	7,846	6,700	(1,146)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
High Rise External Works	57,671	57,671	-		
Reedham Gardens	4,215	3,700	(515)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.	
Additional Social Housing	12,500	12,500	-		
Small Sites Programme	4,646	4,746	100	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.	
Estate Remodelling	66,907	66,907	-		
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account - existing projects</b>		<b>528,511</b>	<b>523,511</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>					
Housing Revenue Account	Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	191,020	190,320	(700)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Minor Works/Door Entry Rolling Programme	1,300	1,300	-	
	Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme	1,307	1,259	(48)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	External Improvement Programme	-	(9)	(9)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Adaptations for People with Disabilities	8,710	8,710	-	
	WH Service Sales Admin & Capitalised Salaries	12,260	12,860	600	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement.
	Housing services capitalised salaries	2,400	2,963	563	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement.
	Refurbishment of Voids	34,405	35,105	700	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Boiler Replacement Programme	5,560	5,379	(181)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Heath Town	543	11	(532)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Tap Works site	5	5	-	
	Structural works	50,996	51,002	6	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Lift and DDA Improvements	2,670	2,670	-	
	Fire Safety Improvements	6,000	6,000	-	
	Roof Refurbishment Programme	26,000	26,000	-	
	New Build Programme	51,831	52,131	300	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Sustainable Estates Programme	3,600	3,600	-	
	Non Trad Surveys	1,350	1,350	-	
	Commercial Conversions	3,533	4,171	638	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Burton Crescent	14	5	(9)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Heath Town New Build Programme	30,031	30,229	198	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	WVL Units	5,447	5,345	(102)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Medium Sites	7,878	7,878	-	
	High Rise External Works	58,400	58,400	-	
Reedham Gardens	4,224	4,224	-		
Additional Social Housing	15,000	14,739	(261)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.	
Small Sites Programme	7,202	7,202	-		
Estate Remodelling	68,200	68,200	-		
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account - existing projects</b>		<b>599,886</b>	<b>601,049</b>	<b>1,163</b>	

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Projects requiring approval

Appendix 3

New projects created from virements and additional resources	2023 -	2024 -	2025 -	2026 -	2027 -	Total	Additional resources		
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		Virement	Internal	External
A full set of virements can be found in Appendix 4	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund capital programme</b>									
<b>Schools Capital Maintenance Programme</b>									
Approval is sought for capital maintenance works across the following schools:									
Castlecroft Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	9	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	-
Stow Heath Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Uplands Junior - asbestos removal to plant room	11	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	-
Whitgreave Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	5	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-
St Andrews Church of England Primary - asbestos removal	8	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-
Graiseley Primary - asbestos containment to plant room	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-
Fallings Park Primary - asbestos containment	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-
West Park Primary - replacement intruder alarm	24	-	-	-	-	24	10	14	-
Low Hill Nursery - fire safety work	15	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-
Castlecroft Primary - replacement fire doors	132	-	-	-	-	132	132	-	-
Stowlawn Primary - Sedum roof	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-
Low Hill Nursery - roofing work	11	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	-
Christ Church Infants - nursery roofing	8	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-
Green Park Special - car park drainage and tarmac	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Christ Church Junior - security gates and entry system	15	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-
Midpoint PRU - access controls and gates	45	-	-	-	-	45	45	-	-
Christ Church Infants - replacement floor covering	7	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-
Springdale Primary - fire exit pathways	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Castlecroft Primary - conversion of KS1 cloakrooms	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-
Perry Hall Primary - fencing	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Kings Church of England School - fencing	60	-	-	-	-	60	60	-	-
Spring Vale Primary - replacement kitchen windows	16	-	-	-	-	16	16	-	-
Orchard PRU - replacement windows and fascias	21	-	-	-	-	21	21	-	-
<b>Corporate Asset Management Fund</b>									
Approval is sought to progress with the following priority projects ensuring all council assets are statutory compliant and fit for purpose.									
Upper Pendeford Farm - plant upgrade works	150	-	-	-	-	150	150	-	-
Bantock House - Conservatory external stonework and timber replacement	55	-	-	-	-	55	55	-	-
Maltings - Fire Alarm System	40	-	-	-	-	40	40	-	-
Maltings - roof replacement	40	-	-	-	-	40	40	-	-
Landport Road Industrial Estate - electric gate installation	26	-	-	-	-	26	26	-	-
Tettenhall Library - Fire Alarm System	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-
Aldersley Leisure Village – perimeter fencing required	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-

Projects requiring approval

Appendix 3

New projects created from virements and additional resources	2023 -	2024 -	2025 -	2026 -	2027 -	Total	Additional resources		
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		Virement	Internal	External
A full set of virements can be found in Appendix 4	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Corporate Asset Management Fund</b> (continued)									
Whitmore Reans Strengthening Family Hub - fencing replacement	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-
110 - monitoring system for alarm	16	-	-	-	-	16	16	-	-
18/19 Queen Square - Airtech control system	15	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-
Civic Centre - safety fencing	4	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-
Bradley Resource Centre - New shower facilities	140	140	-	-	-	280	280	-	-
Dunstall Community Centre - new boiler flu and burners	15	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-
1-2 Worcester Road - roof replacement	20	-	-	-	-	20	20	-	-
3 Worcester Road - roof replacement	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Civic Centre - rainwater pumping system	35	-	-	-	-	35	35	-	-
<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b>									
Approval is sought for the following new projects, fully funded by grant allocation:									
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Net Zero Grants	151	-	-	-	-	151	-	-	151
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Support to SMEs	230	-	-	-	-	230	-	-	230
<b>Total General Fund capital programme new projects</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>Financing</b>									
Internal resources	715	140	-	-	-	855	841	14	-
External resources	809	-	-	-	-	809	428	-	381
<b>Grand total financing</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>381</b>



Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
<b>General Fund</b>			
<b>Re-allocation virements to new projects</b>			
Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	(250)	-	
Corporate Asset Management Fund			
Parkfields Centre - Plant room alteration and refurbishment	(386)	-	
Grand Theatre – BMS upgrade	(60)	-	
St Chads Community Centre - replacement of Flue & Boilers	(50)	-	
Hickman Avenue Depot - Dry rot removal and new replacement in the old School building	(15)	-	
Eastfield Strengthening Family Hub – roof replacement	(5)	-	
Long Knowle Community Centre – mechanical heating system replacement	(5)	-	
Upper Pendeford Farm - plant upgrade works	-	150	
Bantock House - Conservatory external stonework and timber replacement	-	55	Virements are proposed to allocate resources to new projects within the Corporate Asset Management Fund capital programme to enable priority works ensuring all council assets are statutory compliant and fit for purpose.
Maltings - Fire Alarm System	-	40	
Maltings - roof replacement	-	40	
Landport Road Industrial Estate - electric gate installation	-	26	
Tettenhall Library - Fire Alarm System	-	25	
Aldersley Leisure Village – perimeter fencing required	-	20	
Whitmore Reans Strengthening Family Hub - fencing replacement	-	20	
I10 - monitoring system for alarm	-	16	
18/19 Queen Square - Airtech control system	-	15	
Civic Centre - safety fencing	-	4	
Bradley Resource Centre - New shower facilities	-	280	
Dunstall Community Centre - new boiler flu and burners	-	15	
1-2 Worcester Road - roof replacement	-	20	
3 Worcester Road - roof replacement	-	10	
Civic Centre - rainwater pumping system	-	35	
Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	(70)	-	
Schools Contingency for Emergency Works	(428)	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Asbestos Removal			
Castlecroft Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	-	9	
Stow Heath Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	-	10	
Uplands Junior - asbestos removal to plant room	-	11	
Whitgreave Primary - asbestos removal to plant room	-	5	
St Andrews Church of England Primary - asbestos removal	-	8	
Graiseley Primary - asbestos containment to plant room	-	20	
Fallings Park Primary - asbestos containment	-	20	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Electrical Works			
West Park Primary - replacement intruder alarm	-	10	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety			
Low Hill Nursery - fire safety work	-	15	
Castlecroft Primary - replacement fire doors	-	132	Virements are proposed to allocate resources to new projects to facilitate various works across schools in the City.
Stowlawn Primary - Sedum roof	-	25	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceilings Replacements			
Low Hill Nursery - roofing work	-	11	
Christ Church Infants - nursery roofing	-	8	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Structural Works			
Green Park Special - car park drainage and tarmac	-	10	
Christ Church Junior - security gates and entry system	-	15	
Midpoint PRU - access controls and gates	-	45	
Christ Church Infants - replacement floor covering	-	7	
Springdale Primary - fire exit pathways	-	10	
Castlecroft Primary - conversion of KS1 cloakrooms	-	20	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade			
Spring Vale Primary - replacement kitchen windows	-	16	
Orchard PRU - replacement windows and fascias	-	21	
Perry Hall Primary - fencing	-	10	
Kings Church of England School - fencing	-	60	

**Virements for approval**

**Appendix 4**

Capital project	Virement		Comments	
	Existing project £000	New project £000		
<b>General Fund</b>				
<b>Re-allocation virements to existing projects</b>				
Schools Contingency for Emergency Works Provision for future projects	(212)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources to individual projects within the Education capital programme.	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety Westacre Infants - replacement fire doors	1	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Asbestos Removal Dovecotes Primary - asbestos flooring removal	3	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceilings Replacements Spring Vale Primary - flat roof	30	-		
Green Park Special School - flat roof	25	-		
Eastfield Primary - corridor roofing	25	-		
Wodensfield Primary - replace roof to KS2	10	-		
Merridale Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	4	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade Springdale Primary - replacement doors & windows	59	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Electrical Works Colton Hills Secondary - replacement lighting to activity studio	23	-		
Lanesfield Primary - replacement lighting	32	-		
Primary School Expansion Programme Provision for future projects	(10)	-		Virements are proposed to reallocate resources to individual project within the Primary School Expansion capital programme.
Stowlawn Primary Phase 4	10	-		
<b>Project to project virements</b>				
Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	(53)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources across projects within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to ensure that current corporate priorities are met and reflected.	
Corporate Asset Management Fund				
Former Oxley Day Training Centre - demolition of buildings	(173)	-		
Hickman Avenue - demolition of void buildings	(96)	-		
Mortuary at Alfred Squire Road - roof replacement	(69)	-		
Haymarkets – internal / external renovation works	(60)	-		
Eastfield Community Centre – Roof replacement	(60)	-		
Civic Centre – replacement of Fire Detection Panels	(50)	-		
Bilston Community Centre - BMS upgrade & air tech controls	(30)	-		
Civic Centre – replacement of heat exchanger	(18)	-		
St Chads Community Centre – replacement of flooring	(17)	-		
West Park – replace boilers within conservatory	(15)	-		
Old Hall Street / The Foyer - installation of security system	(11)	-		
76 Worcester Street – internal/external refurbishment	(3)	-		
Land at Wednesfield Road – monument / brickwork enhancement	(3)	-		
Neil Docherty Resource Centre - replacement of plant room doors	(3)	-		
Civic Centre - Electrical system devices	(3)	-		
Neil Docherty Resource Centre - heating pump replacement	(1)	-		
Whitmore Reans SFH – lighting upgrade	(1)	-		
Bushbury Crematorium – upgrade of fire alarm	2	-		
Wolverhampton Retail Market - installation of CCTV	2	-		
Ashmore Park Community Hub – new ventilation system	2	-		
Land adjacent to Bilston Town FC – ground clearance and removal of knotweed	5	-		
Bilston Cemetery – installation of boundary fence	6	-		
Bilston Market – installation of CCTV	6	-		
Wolverhampton Contact Centre - fencing replacement	6	-		
Aldersley Leisure Village - refurbishment of 6 Changing Rooms	7	-		
Pendeford Offices - Building Management Controls upgrade	7	-		
Central Baths – installation of CCTV	9	-		
Civic Centre – upgrade of CCTV to Ceremonial Car Park	10	-		
Bradley Resource Centre – mechanical plant upgrade	15	-		
Wolverhampton Art Gallery – upgrade of security systems/CCTV	25	-		
Wolverhampton Art Gallery – lighting upgrade	25	-		
Wolverhampton Art Gallery – Chiller unit replacement	30	-		
Shaw Road HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	35	-		
Provision for future projects	50	-		
Graiseley SFH - internal reconfiguration of rooms and refurbishment works	50	-		
Parkfields – replacement of upper floor windows	53	-		
Grand Theatre - FRA priority works	61	-		
Anchor Lane HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	85	-		
Hickman Avenue Depot (Office) – lighting upgrade		-		

Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments	
	Existing project £000	New project £000		
<b>General Fund</b>				
<b>Project to project virements</b>				
Active Travel Programme				
Wednesfield Road - footway widening and introducing shared cycle route	(1,610)	-		
Active Travel Programme	1,610	-		
Major Roads Network				
A449 Stafford Road North Only	(214)	-		
A449 Stafford Road - M54 J2 to A4150 Ring Road	(15)	-		
A454 Wolverhampton to Neachells Lane, Phases 1,2 and 3	229	-		
Future High Street Fund				
Civic Halls Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 3)	(923)	-		
Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls)				
Emergency Structural Maintenance repairs	(15)	-		
Maintenance of unclassified roads				
Mill Lane	(73)	-		
Windmill Lane	(10)	-		
Castlecroft Road – remove concrete crossings	(9)	-		
Bradley Lane	4	-		
Bank Street	5	-		
Gatis Street	5	-		
Needwood Drive	7	-		
Ashland Street	8	-		
Bayliss Avenue	11	-		
Patshull Avenue and Marsh Lane (inc Whitney Grove, Patshull Grove and Slade Road)	18	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources across the projects within the Transportation capital programme to ensure that priorities are met and reflected.	
Third Avenue	18	-		
Bidding Lane	20	-		
Tinacre Hill	28	-		
Wightwick Bank	63	-		
Victoria Street Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 1)	923	-		
Smart and Accessible City				
ORCS Bid Local Contribution	(23)	-		
Highway Improvement Programme				
Lyndale Drive Culvert - Highways Improvement	38	-		
Maintenance of classified roads				
Jeffcock Road	(110)	-		
Neachells Lane (Roundabout Wednesfield Way)	(57)	-		
Castlecroft Lane - Windmill Lane to Castlecroft Road	(50)	-		
Oxford Street Footway Works	(45)	-		
Lower Horseley Fields	(20)	-		
Coseley Road	(12)	-		
Rookery Road	(5)	-		
Deans Road - Entirety	6	-		
Stafford Street (Inbound, Cannock Road to Ring Road inc Ring Road junction)	15	-		
Finchfield Hill	19	-		
Wergs Road	74	-		
Ring Road - Waterloo Road Junction	90	-		
Secondary School Expansion Programme				
Secondary Expansion Programme - Moreton Academy	(500)	-		
Provision for future projects	500	-		
SEN Special Provision Capital Fund				
SPCF Resource base St Michaels Church of England Primary	(79)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources within the Education capital programme to utilise savings for future projects.	
Provision for future projects	79	-		
Healthy Pupil Capital Fund				
HPCF Primary school - sports & fitness	(7)	-		
HPCF Special schools - sports & fitness	(3)	-		
HPCF PRUs - sports & fitness	(2)	-		
Provision for future projects	12	-		

Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
<b>General Fund</b>			
<b>Project to project virements</b>			
Schools Capital Maintenance - Heating Pipework Upgrades			
Lanesfield Primary - Upgrade BMS	(60)	-	
Warstones Primary - KS1 heating	(50)	-	
Warstones Primary - upgrade hot water and BMS	(50)	-	
Phoenix Nursery - replacement boilers	(35)	-	
Graiseley Primary - Upgrade BMS	(5)	-	
Uplands Junior - 1st floor ventilation	(4)	-	
Springdale Junior - replacement heating pipework	2	-	
Bilston Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	2	-	
Claregate Primary - boiler plant upgrade	15	-	
Colton Hills Secondary - replacement boilers	20	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Structural Works			
Claregate Primary - toilet refurbishment	(20)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources within the Schools Capital Maintenance programme to enable works within the various schools by utilising savings within the programme.
Dovecotes Primary - replace floors	4	-	
Dovecotes Primary - replace fascias	15	-	
Uplands Junior - resurface playground	23	-	
Wodensfield Primary - refurbish KS2 toilets	40	-	
Springdale Primary - toilets refurbishment	50	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade			
Christ Church Infants - replacement windows	(12)	-	
Wodensfield Primary - replacement windows and doors to KS1	1	-	
Springdale Primary - replacement doors & windows	11	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Electrical Works			
Christ Church Nursery - replacement lighting	(7)	-	
Castlecroft Primary - rewiring inc. alarms and emergency lighting	(1)	-	
Bushbury Nursery - replacement lighting	13	-	
Warstones Primary - replacement lighting	15	-	
St Andrews Church of England Primary - replace fire alarm	33	-	
Parks Strategy and Open Space			
Tettenhall Paddling Pool	(1)	-	Virement is proposed to reallocate unspent resources as budget is no longer required, project completed.
Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes	1	-	
ICT General Programme			
Future Developments	(400)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources to individual projects within the ICT capital programme.
IDOX/GIS Cloud Migration	(31)	-	
ICT Desktop Refresh			
Desktop Refresh	431	-	
Leisure Centres Enhancement			
Bert Williams - Plant Room Filters/Air Handling	(30)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources that no longer required within the Leisure Centres Enhancement capital programme.
WV Active Leisure Centres - Lockers	(7)	-	
WV Active - Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement	37	-	
<b>Total General Fund capital programme</b>	<b>(1,269)</b>	<b>1,269</b>	

Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>			
<b>Re-allocation virements to existing projects</b>			
New Build Programme			
Provision for future projects	(2,838)	-	Virement is proposed to reallocate resources to individual project to accommodate increased costs due to inflation.
Heath Town		-	
Heath Town New Build - Phase 2	2,838	-	
<b>Project to project virements</b>			
Reedham Gardens	(515)	-	
Medium Sites			
Ettingshall Road, Showell Circus and Villiers Avenue	(1,146)	-	
Heath Town			
Heath Town New Build - Phase 2	1,311	-	
Heath Town New Build - Phase 1	150	-	
Small Sites Programme			
Bushbury Hill Community Housing	100	-	
WVL Units			
WVL Units - Wednesfield	100	-	
Decent Homes - Stock Improvements			
Internal Decency Works	(2,918)	-	Virements are proposed within the HRA capital programme to utilise savings to cover increased costs due to inflation.
Bushbury Improvement Programme	(21)	-	
Refurbishment of Voids			
Refurbishment of Voids to Decent Homes Standard	2,939	-	
Fire Safety Improvements			
Fire Safety Improvements - Medium and Low Rise	(770)	-	
Minor Works/Door Entry Rolling Programme			
Door Entry (2005/06 Spend Onwards)	1,008	-	
Roof Refurbishment Programme			
Roofing Refurbishment Programme - City wide	(500)	-	
Structural works			
Structural works	262	-	
Remedial Works to non-traditional properties	(200)	-	
Commercial Conversions			
Bond House Conversion to Residential	200	-	
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account capital programme</b>	-	-	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>(1,269)</b>	<b>1,269</b>	

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**Virements to note**

**Appendix 5**

<b>Capital project</b>	<b>Existing project</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>£000</b>	
Corporate Asset Management Fund		
Provision for future projects	(50)	Virements to individual projects to support urgent works were approved through delegated authority.
Central Baths - Hot water system replacement	16	
Wcitystop - Boiler replacement	16	
Ernest Bold Centre - FRA works	18	
<b>Total General Fund virements to note</b>	-	

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>15 November 2023</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2023-2024	
<b>Decision designation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board	31 October 2023
	Council	6 December 2023
	Resources and Equality	7 December 2023
	Scrutiny Panel	

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**Recommendations for decision:**

That Cabinet recommend that Council is asked to note:

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.



2.8 The plan continues to identify an overarching ambition that ‘Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives’ delivered through six Council Plan priorities:

- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
- Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it
- Health, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

2.9 These priorities together with the associated key outcomes, objectives and activity form a framework to improve the outcomes for local people and deliver our levelling up ambitions. Supporting the six overarching priorities are three cross cutting principles – Climate Action, Driven by Digital, Fair and Equal.

### 3.0 2023-2024

3.1 The Performance and Budget monitoring report to Cabinet, also on the agenda for this meeting, seeks approval to a virement of £1.5 million from the General Fund treasury management budget to go towards the efficiency target for 2023-2024. The General Fund budget has therefore been reduced from £40.3 million to £38.8 million in this report.

3.2 In addition, the Performance and Budget monitoring report is also seeking approval for a virement of £1.8 million from Housing Revenue Account held to fund interest payments to support additional cost pressures on repairs and maintenance. The HRA budget has therefore been reduced from £14.7 million to £12.9 million.

3.3 The forecast outturn for treasury management activities in 2023-2024 compared to budget is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Treasury management budget and forecast outturn 2023-2024**

	Approved Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance at Quarter Two £000
General Fund	38,765	37,972	(793)
Housing Revenue Account	12,999	11,512	(1,487)
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,764</b>	<b>49,484</b>	<b>(2,280)</b>

3.4 Overall, underspends of £793,000 for the General Fund and £1.5 million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are projected for the year 2023-2024.

3.5 In the main, the General Fund underspend is due to; no borrowing being undertaken so far in 2023-2024 and better interest rates achieved on the investment of surplus cash balances than budgeted.

- 3.6 Due to the uncertain economic climate and the increase in interest rates the forecast outturn is difficult to project, and the position will continue to be monitored and updates provided over the remainder of 2023-2024 financial year.
- 3.7 The forecast positions will be considered and incorporated in the Performance and Budget monitoring report to Cabinet also on the agenda for this meeting.
- 3.8 The Council's strategy is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure rather than external borrowing. Borrowings are actively managed to achieve savings wherever possible.
- 3.9 Appendix 1 to this report shows a comparison of the latest estimates of Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators over the medium term period with the equivalent figures which were approved by Council in March 2023.

**4.0 Borrowing forecast for 2023-2024**

- 4.1 The Council's need to borrow and the rates available continue to be monitored in order to achieve optimum results. The Council's medium term forecast is regularly updated to reflect actual borrowing that takes place along with any revisions to future anticipated borrowing.
- 4.2 Table 2 shows the average rate of interest payable in 2022-2023 and forecast for 2023-2024.

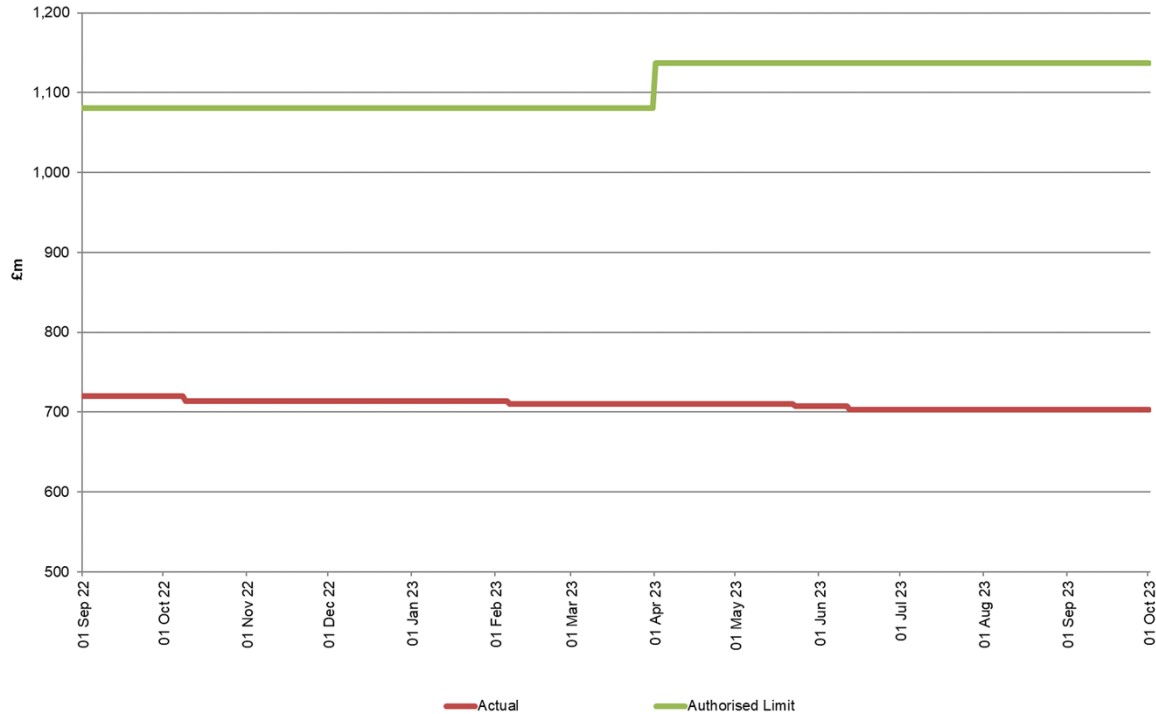
**Table 2 – Average interest rate payable in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024**

	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Average Interest Rate Payable	3.78%	3.81%

- 4.3 The average interest rate payable for 2023-2024 in Table 2 includes the latest rates forecast provided by Link on 25 September 2023. Although interest rates have been rising, due to the majority of the maturing loans in 2023-2024 being a higher rate than those available now, the weighted average rate is forecast to be only marginally higher than that achieved in 2022-2023.
- 4.4 Each year it is usually necessary to raise new loans to finance capital expenditure and to replace existing maturing borrowing. Any borrowing (whether internal or external) must comply with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance, importantly this means that borrowing has to be within prudent and sustainable levels and can only be used to invest in local priorities and services that deliver benefits for the City and residents, including physical regeneration with communities, job creation, economic growth etc. The Council's policy is to prioritise the use of capital receipts to finance capital expenditure. Balances which are set aside to meet credit liabilities (i.e. to repay borrowing) are used to reduce the external borrowing requirement.

- 4.5 Decisions to take borrowing will be made by the Director of Finance when it is judged that rates are likely to be at their lowest levels, and probably about to rise according to market indications, and only when an inflow of funds is required to meet imminent cash flow commitments. This will keep overall surplus cash balances to a minimum, in line with the current strategy. Appendix 2 to this report shows the maturity profile of external borrowing.
- 4.6 At 31 March 2023, the Council held nine Lender Option Borrower Option loans (LOBOs) totalling £48.0 million which were due to mature in 2065-2066 and 2066-2067. LOBOs carry the risk that the lender can 'call' the loan i.e. change certain conditions of the loan such as the dates and the interest rate. If this occurs, the Council then has the option of either continuing with the loan or redeeming it in full without a penalty, so long as this is done within the allowed timescale. Due to current market conditions some LOBO lenders are 'calling' their options and offering inflated long term rates deliberately set unattractively high so it would not be accepted. In October, the Council received one such 'call' for a £7.0 million loan with an interest rate of 4.60%, proposing a new interest rate of 5.94%. Following consultation with Link and a review of alternative options available to the Council, the Council decided to reject the proposal and the loan was repaid, it will be shown as repaid in the quarter three report. In order to be prudent, an assumption that more LOBOs will be called has been reflected in the borrowing requirement for 2023-2024.
- 4.7 As always, the Council needs to be mindful that the opportunity to secure short term efficiencies by postponing longer term borrowing requirements takes into account the risk of long term rates increasing in the future. Appendix 3 to this report includes the Link interest rate forecast for quarter two 2023-2024 which forecasts that Bank Rate may remain at 5.25% for the remainder of the 2023-2024 financial year. The Director of Finance will continue to keep actual and forecast rates under close review.
- 4.8 The Council's borrowing profile continues to operate within the overall limits previously approved by Council, as shown in Chart 1.

**Chart 1 – Comparison of borrowing within approved borrowing limits over the previous 12 months**



4.9 The level of borrowing at 30 September 2023 is £703.2 million, Appendix 4 to the report shows a summary of this position. During quarter two no new loans or repayments have occurred, £7.0 million of existing borrowing is due to be repaid between quarters three to four. There was also no debt rescheduled during quarter two.

4.10 In March 2023, Council approved a net borrowing requirement for 2023-2024 of £158.8 million. The forecast net borrowing requirement for 2023-2024 is £160.7 million, as shown in Appendix 5, mainly due to the inclusion of the potential for repaying any LOBO loans being called during the remainder of the financial year, offset by re-phasing of both the capital programme and the allowance made for switching some internal borrowing into external borrowing. This appendix also shows the details for the disclosure for certainty rate, which enables the Council to access discounted borrowing at 0.20% below normal PWLB rates.

## 5.0 Investment forecast for 2023-2024

5.1 The approach during the year is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure so as to keep cash balances low.

5.2 Table 3 shows the total amount of surplus funds invested as at 31 May 2023 and 30 September 2023.

**Table 3 – Total amounts invested 2023-2024**

	<b>31 May 2023</b>	<b>30 September 2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Business Reserve Accounts	288	322
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	-	-
Money Market Funds	29,705	17,035
<b>Total invested</b>	<b>29,993</b>	<b>17,357</b>
Average cash balance for the year to date	34,233	37,750

- 5.3 Money Market Funds and Business Reserve Accounts are the main investments used as these have high credit ratings and instant access.
- 5.4 The Council's cash flow balance for the second quarter of the current financial year has moved between a low of £17.4 million and a maximum of £57.2 million. The average cash balance for the quarter being £39.1 million.
- 5.5 Table 4 shows the budgeted average rate of interest receivable in 2023-2024 and the forecast for the year.

**Table 4 – Average interest rate receivable in 2023-2024**

	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Average Interest Rate Receivable	2.20%	5.20%

- 5.6 At the time the budget was set a prudent percentage was used for budgeting purposes as the economic uncertainties made it difficult to forecast what future investment rates could be achieved. As the Bank of England has increased the base rate since budget setting, the rates achieved on investments has increased. With the current inflation uncertainties remaining and the subsequent impact this may have on future base rate levels, a prudent rate is forecast based on the increased rates achieved to the 30 September 2023.
- 5.7 While investment rates continue to be below long term borrowing rates, the Council can minimise its overall net treasury costs in the short term by continuing to avoid new external borrowing and by using internal cash balances to finance new capital expenditure or to replace maturing external borrowing (this is referred to as internal borrowing).
- 5.8 The Council manages its investments in-house and invests only in the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list, which is reviewed each time a counterparty is subject to a credit rating amendment. The Council's strategy allows for investments for a range of periods from overnight to five years, depending on the Council's cash flows, its interest rate view and the interest rates on offer. However, in order to maintain sufficient

liquidity whilst total investment levels are relatively low, investments have been placed for shorter durations.

- 5.9 The Council's approved Treasury Management Practices sets out the criteria to be used for creating and managing approved counterparty lists and limits. As a result of any changes to credit criteria, the Director of Finance is authorised to make changes to the list of approved counterparties. In the event that any of these counterparties fall below the Council's minimum lending criteria, activity in that account will temporarily cease and any balance withdrawn immediately. Appendix 6 to this report shows the Council's current specified investments lending list.
- 5.10 In quarter two 2023-2024 no upper limits with approved counterparties were exceeded. In addition, no institutions in which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying investments or, interest in full, during the quarter and no arrangements had to be made to prematurely withdraw funds from any investments, as a result of a downgrade in their respective credit rating.

## **6.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 6.1 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.

## **7.0 Reasons for decisions**

- 7.1 This report provides an update on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-2024.

## **8.0 Financial implications**

- 8.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report.  
[SH/26102023/G]

## **9.0 Legal implications**

- 9.1 The Council's treasury management activity must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003. In addition, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out requirements for local authorities in respect of capital controls, borrowing and credit arrangements. The Council is also required to comply with the relevant secondary legislation including the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- 9.2 Treasury management relates to the management of the Council's cash flow, borrowing and cash investments. This involves seeking the best rates of interest for borrowing, earning interest on investments, whilst managing risk in making financial decisions and adopting proper accounting practice.
- 9.3 The area is heavily regulated. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regulates the operation of the Housing Revenue Account. The 'CIPFA Code of Practice for



Treasury Management in the Public Services', contains treasury management indicators and advice on treasury management strategy. Investment strategy is regulated by 'DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments' issued initially in 2004 and reissued in 2010 and 2018. This guidance includes statutory guidance.

[TC/26102023/B]

## **10.0 Equalities implications**

10.1 Whilst there are no direct equalities implications arising from treasury management activity, the Council's capital programme of individual projects can have significant impact on specific groups and equality implications. These implications are considered when the individual capital projects are being developed.

## **11.0 All other implications**

11.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

## **12.0 Schedule of background paper**

12.1 [Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2024](#), Report to Cabinet, 22 February 2023

12.2 [Treasury Management – Annual Report 2022-2023 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2023-2024](#), Report to Cabinet, 12 July 2023

12.3 [Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024](#), Report to Cabinet, 15 November 2023

## **13.0 Appendices**

13.1 Appendix 1: Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

13.2 Appendix 2: Borrowing maturity profile

13.3 Appendix 3: Link interest rate forecasts

13.4 Appendix 4: Borrowing type, borrowing and repayments

13.5 Appendix 5: Disclosure for certainty rate

13.6 Appendix 6: Lending list

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Prudential Indicators (PI) required by The Prudential Code

PI for Prudence - Ensuring that external debt is sustainable and compliance with good professional practice are essential features of prudence.

**PI 1 - Estimates and actual capital expenditure.**

Full details of capital expenditure plans and funding can be found in the quarter two capital budget monitoring 2023-2024 report.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
General Fund *	168,372	69,053	9,810	106,145	164,329	68,557
HRA	131,111	142,117	106,290	112,447	126,929	111,780
	299,483	211,170	116,100	218,592	291,258	180,337
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	13,000	11,900	3,000	3,563	10,430	8,900

**PI 2 - Estimates and actual capital financing requirement General Fund and HRA.**

The capital financing requirement measures the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
General Fund *	719,461	719,195	685,234	679,266	711,659	710,222
HRA	391,937	493,346	561,714	373,963	462,606	539,040
	1,111,398	1,212,541	1,246,948	1,053,229	1,174,265	1,249,262
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	44,792	42,692	32,776	35,390	42,064	40,011
<b>Movement in capital financing requirement represented by:</b>						
New borrowing for capital expenditure	156,049	138,600	71,882	117,980	156,217	107,838
Less minimum revenue provision/voluntary minimum revenue provision	(33,299)	(37,457)	(37,475)	(34,346)	(35,181)	(32,841)
Movement in capital financing requirement	122,750	101,143	34,407	83,634	121,036	74,997

**PI 3 - Authorised limit for external debt.**

These limits apply to the total external debt gross of investments and separately identify borrowing from other long term liabilities such as finance leases including Private Finance Initiatives (PFI). This is a self determined level reviewed and set each budget setting cycle.

	As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024 Limit £000	2024-2025 Limit £000	2025-2026 Limit £000
Borrowing	1,137,035	1,284,348	1,336,593
Other Long Term Liabilities	75,960	76,416	72,939
Total Authorised Limit	1,212,995	1,360,764	1,409,532
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2023:			
Borrowing	829,850	966,430	1,047,903
Other Long Term Liabilities	73,960	74,416	70,939
	903,810	1,040,846	1,118,842
Variance (Under) / Over Authorised limit	(309,185)	(319,918)	(290,690)
<b>Authorised limit for service investments included in the above figures</b>			
Authorised Limit	57,928	72,778	71,762
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2023:	45,273	51,947	50,993
Variance (Under) / Over Authorised limit	(12,655)	(20,831)	(20,769)

Prudential Indicators (PI) required by The Prudential Code

**PI 4 - Operational boundary for external debt.**

This is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but directly reflects the Director of Finance's estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario, without the additional headroom included. This is a self determined level reviewed and set each budget setting cycle.

	As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024 Limit £000	2024-2025 Limit £000	2025-2026 Limit £000
Borrowing	1,098,093	1,251,917	1,318,658
Other Long Term Liabilities	73,960	74,416	70,939
<b>Total Operational Boundary Limit</b>	<b>1,172,053</b>	<b>1,326,333</b>	<b>1,389,597</b>
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2023:			
Borrowing	829,850	966,430	1,047,903
Other Long Term Liabilities	73,960	74,416	70,939
	903,810	1,040,846	1,118,842
Variance (Under) / Over Operational Boundary Limit	(268,243)	(285,487)	(270,755)
<b>Operational boundary for service investments included in the above figures</b>			
Operational Boundary Limit	54,678	72,778	71,762
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2023:	45,273	51,947	50,993
Variance (Under) / Over Operational Boundary Limit	(9,405)	(20,831)	(20,769)

**PI 5 - Gross debt and the capital financing requirement.**

"In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years".

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000	2025-2026 Forecast £000	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000	2025-2026 Forecast £000
Forecast Capital Financing Requirement at end of Second Year	1,212,541	1,257,210	1,257,915	1,249,259	1,296,124	1,296,906
Gross Debt	1,028,001	1,138,144	1,174,550	903,810	1,040,846	1,118,842
Capital Financing Requirement Greater than Gross Debt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**PI for Affordability** - These indicators are used to ensure the total capital investment of the Council is within a sustainable limit and the impact of these decisions are considered with regard to acceptable council tax and housing rent levels.

**PI 6 - Estimates and actual ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.**

This represents the cost of financing capital expenditure as a % of net revenue for both General Fund and HRA.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2025-2026 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2025-2026 Forecast
General Fund *	15.8%	16.3%	16.4%	15.0%	15.6%	16.5%
HRA	34.8%	37.0%	40.4%	31.9%	35.4%	38.6%
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%

**PI 7 - Estimates and actual ratio of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.**

This represents the financial exposure of the Council to the loss of income from commercial and service investments. Only costs directly attributable to the investments are netted off, so unlike PI 6, the costs of borrowing (interest and MRP) cannot be deducted as they are not directly attributable to managing the investments and will continue regardless of the existence or performance of the investments.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2025-2026 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2025-2026 Forecast
Commercial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Service	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

Treasury Management Indicators (TMI) required by The Treasury Management Code

**TMI 1 - Upper limits for long-term treasury management investments (previously called 'upper limits to the total of principal sums invested over 365 days').**

This details the maximum amount which can be invested for up to 5 years (as per paragraph 1.5 of the Annual Investment Strategy). It has been determined that a maximum of 50% of total investments with a cap of £35.0 million could be prudently committed to long term investments should the Director of Finance decide it is appropriate to.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023		
	2023-2024 Limit £000	2024-2025 Limit £000	2025-2026 Limit £000
Upper limit for long-term treasury management investments	35,000	35,000	35,000
Actual and Forecast Invested at 30 September 2023	-	-	-
Variance (Under) / Over Limit	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)

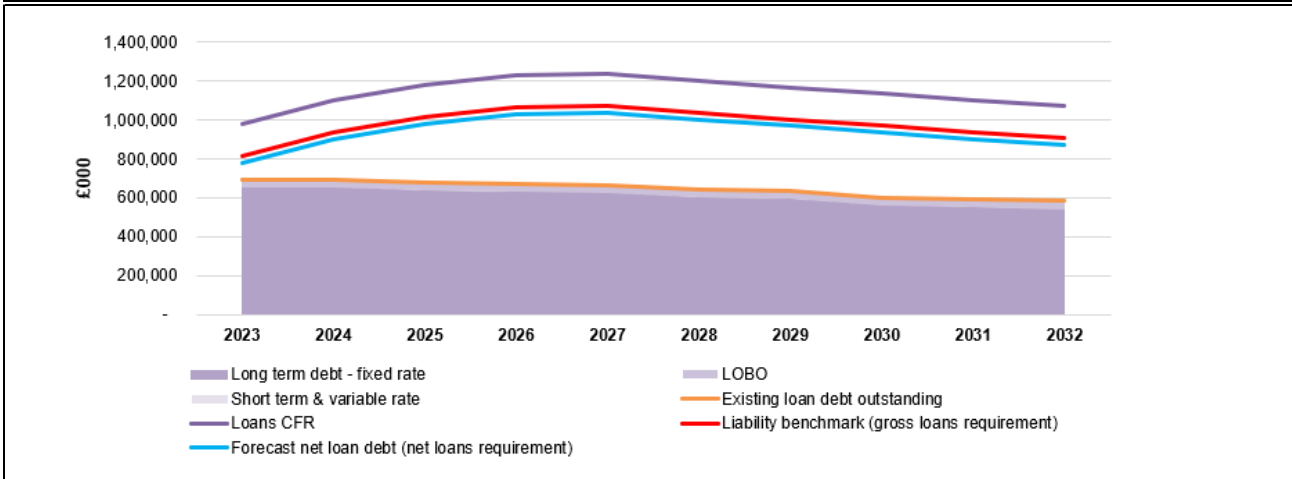
**TMI 2 - Upper and lower limits to the maturity structure of its borrowing.**

These limits relate to the % of fixed and variable rate debt maturing.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023		As at 30 September 2023 2023-2024 Forecast Borrowing
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	
Under 12 months	25%	0%	0.81%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	6.46%
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	5.40%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%	7.05%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	16.71%
20 years and within 30 years	50%	0%	33.31%
30 years and within 40 years	50%	0%	13.50%
40 years and within 50 years	50%	0%	16.76%
50 years and within 60 years	50%	0%	-

**TMI 3 - Liability benchmark**

A liability benchmark is a measure of how well the Council's existing loans portfolio matches its planned borrowing needs. It is a projection of the amount of loan debt outstanding that the Council needs each year into the future to fund its existing debt liabilities, planned prudential borrowing and other cash flows. This indicator highlights any mismatches between actual loan debt outstanding and the planned borrowing needs. Where actual loans are less than the benchmark, this is an indication of a future borrowing requirement. Whereas actual loans exceeding the benchmark indicate an overborrowed position which will result in excess cash balances requiring investment



Non-treasury management investment indicators

The statutory guidance on local government investments encourages local authorities to develop qualitative indicators that allow the reader to assess the Council's total risk exposure as a result of commercial investment decisions.

**NTM 1 - Estimates and actual non-treasury management investment expenditure.**

This identifies the level of any non-treasury management investments ( e.g. service and commercial investments).

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
Service investments	13,000	11,900	3,000	3,563	10,430	8,900
Commercial investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13,000	11,900	3,000	3,563	10,430	8,900

**NTM 2 - Estimates and actual net debt for service and commercial investment to net service expenditure ratio.**

This indicator measures the level of net debt for service and commercial investments in comparison to the Council's forecast net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
Net debt for service and commercial investments	44,792	42,692	32,776	35,390	42,064	40,011
Net service expenditure	306,414	316,409	315,580	306,414	316,409	315,580
Debt to net service expenditure ratio	14.6%	13.5%	10.4%	11.6%	13.3%	12.7%

**NTM 3 - Estimates and actual service and commercial income to net service expenditure ratio.**

This indicator measures the level of service and commercial investment generated income in comparison to the Council's net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority. The % indicates the Council's financial resilience and how reliant on the service/commercial investment income it is. A low % indicates the Council is not heavily reliant on service/commercial investment income.

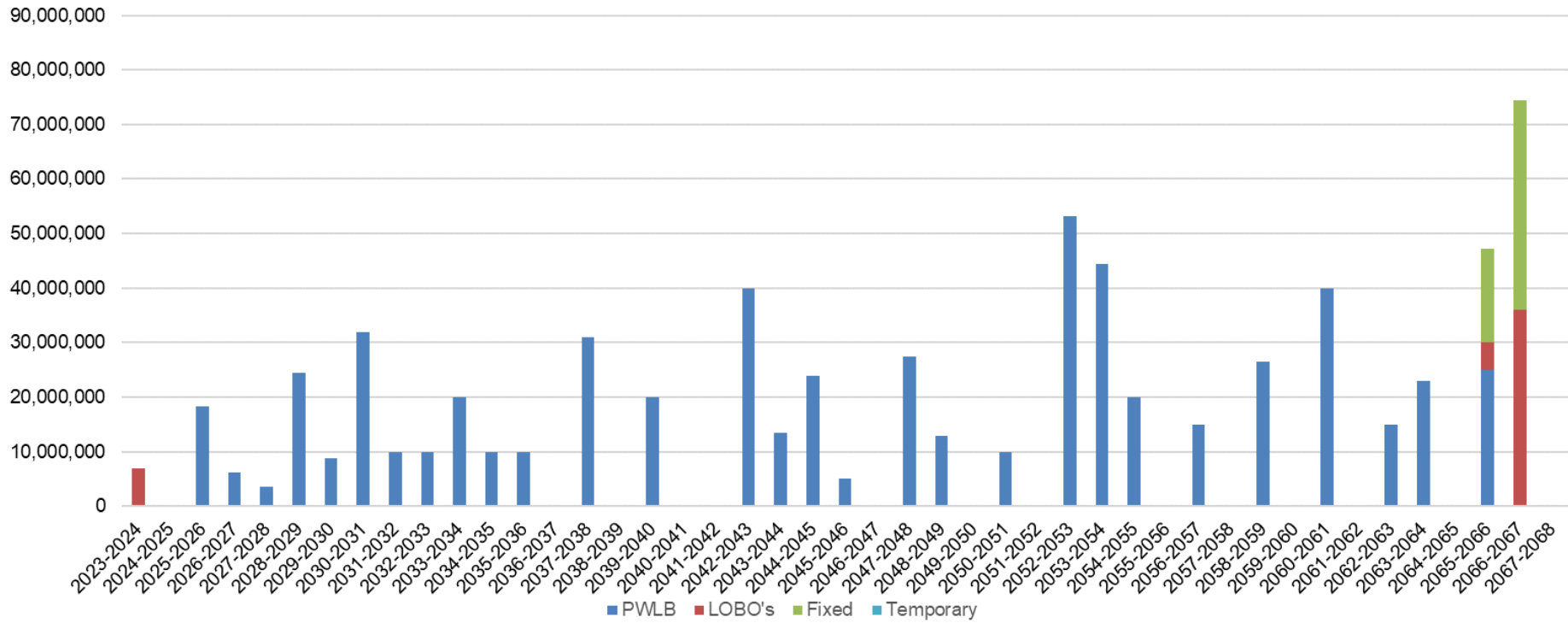
	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
Service and commercial investment income	1,573	1,666	1,666	1,642	1,742	1,648
Net service expenditure	306,414	316,409	315,580	306,414	316,409	315,580
Service and commercial income to net service expenditure ratio	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%

**NTM 4 - Estimates and actual loan to value ratio**

This indicator measures the net debt for service and commercial investments compared to the forecast total asset value. A decrease in the ratio over the medium term indicates a reducing level of borrowing due to repayments, whereas an increase indicates an increase in the level of borrowing due to new loans being issued.

	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Loan to value ratio	72.9%	70.7%	63.7%	60.5%	64.2%	62.1%

### Borrowing Maturity Profile at 30 September 2023



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**Link interest rate forecasts**

The Council's treasury advisor, Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 25 September 2023 (PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80bps):

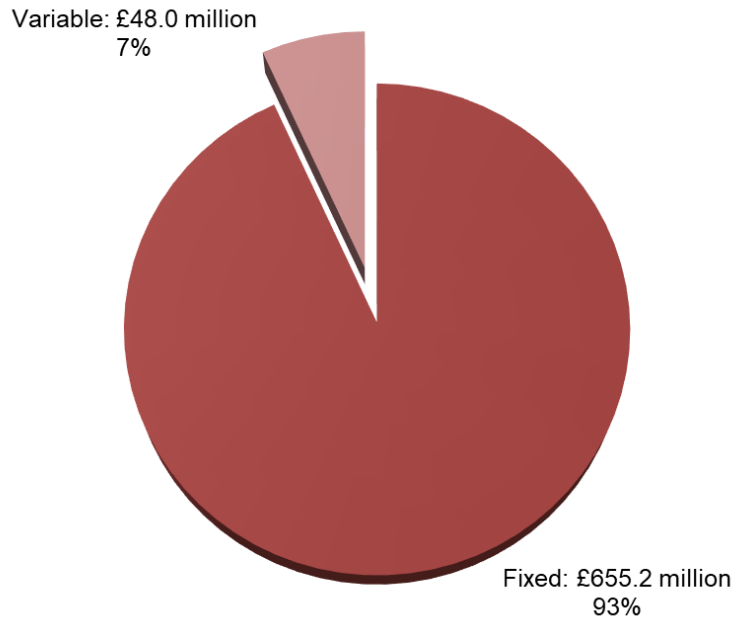
<b>Link Group Interest Rate View</b>		<b>25.09.23</b>											
	<b>Dec-23</b>	<b>Mar-24</b>	<b>Jun-24</b>	<b>Sep-24</b>	<b>Dec-24</b>	<b>Mar-25</b>	<b>Jun-25</b>	<b>Sep-25</b>	<b>Dec-25</b>	<b>Mar-26</b>	<b>Jun-26</b>	<b>Sep-26</b>	<b>Dec-26</b>
<b>BANK RATE</b>	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
6 month ave earnings	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.60	3.10	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90
12 month ave earnings	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
5 yr PWLB	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50
10 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50
25 yr PWLB	5.40	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80
50 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.60

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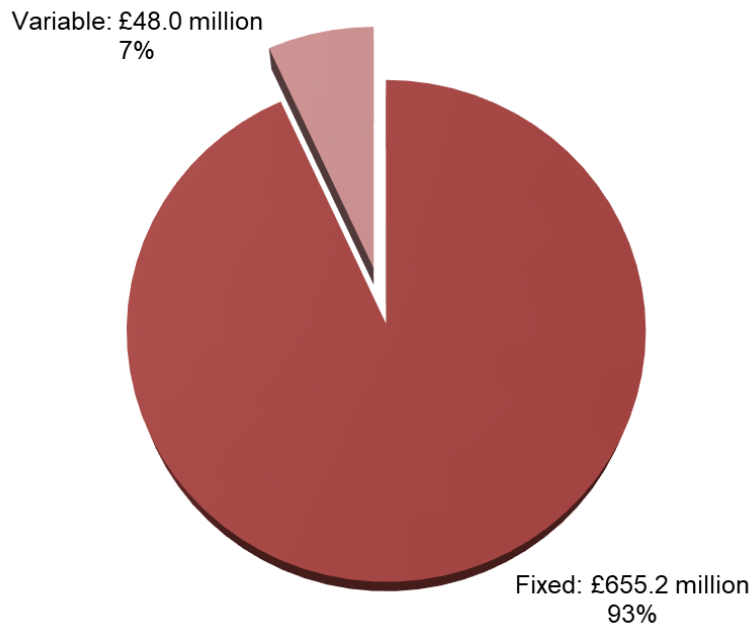
**Borrowing: Graphical Summary**

**Borrowing by Type**

**As at 30 June 2023**



**As at 30 September 2023**



**Borrowing and Repayments in 2023-2024**

	Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount £000	Length	Interest Rate	Full Year Interest £000
<b>2023-2024 Borrowing</b>						
<b>PWLB Fixed Maturity:</b>						
No activity to date						
<b>Sub total for PWLB</b>			-			-
<b>Temporary Loans:</b>						
No activity to date						
<b>Sub total for Temporary Loans</b>			-			-
<b>Grand total borrowing</b>			-			-

	Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount £000	Length years	Interest Rate	Full Year Interest £000
<b>2023-2024 Repayments</b>						
<b>PWLB Fixed Maturity:</b>						
479749	01/08/1997	23/05/2023	2,661	26	6.875%	183
479644	10/07/1997	12/06/2023	4,434	26	7.000%	310
<b>Sub total for PWLB</b>			<b>7,095</b>			<b>493</b>
<b>Temporary Loans:</b>						
No activity to date						
<b>Sub total for Temporary Loans</b>			-			-
<b>Grand total repayments</b>			<b>7,095</b>			<b>493</b>
<b>Net movement</b>			<b>(7,095)</b>			<b>(493)</b>

### Disclosure for Certainty Rate

<b>Certainty Rate</b>						
This table details the information that is required to enable the Council to submit a return for 2023-2024						
	Approved by Council 1 March 2023			As at 30 September 2023		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Net Borrowing Requirement:</b>						
Borrowing to finance planned capital expenditure	155,770	134,724	71,741	117,701	152,341	107,697
Existing maturity loans to be replaced during the year	33,095	65,000	70,264	74,095	73,000	71,264
Less:						
Minimum Revenue Provision for debt repayment	(20,577)	(22,381)	(23,175)	(20,436)	(20,877)	(22,167)
Voluntary debt repayment	(9,475)	(11,656)	(10,683)	(10,663)	(10,884)	(7,057)
	(30,052)	(34,037)	(33,858)	(31,099)	(31,761)	(29,224)
Loans replaced less debt repayment	3,043	30,963	36,406	42,996	41,239	42,040
<b>Net Advance Requirement</b>	<b>158,813</b>	<b>165,687</b>	<b>108,147</b>	<b>160,697</b>	<b>193,580</b>	<b>149,737</b>
<b>Analysed by:</b>						
Service delivery	19,201	7,930	-	23,637	14,684	12,218
Housing	110,819	111,965	70,151	85,362	106,527	82,391
Regeneration	25,750	14,829	1,590	8,702	31,130	13,088
Preventative action	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury Management	3,043	30,963	36,406	42,996	41,239	42,040
Primarily for yield	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>158,813</b>	<b>165,687</b>	<b>108,147</b>	<b>160,697</b>	<b>193,580</b>	<b>149,737</b>

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## Lending List

### 2023-2024 Specified Investments as at 30 September 2023

Institution	Country (Sovereign Rating)	Limit £000	Term Limit
Bank Netherlandse Gemeenten	Netherlands (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Bank of Montreal	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
DBS Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
HSBC Bank plc	UK (AA-)	5,000	3 mths
Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank	Germany (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi (U.A.E) (AA)	5,000	3 mths
Nordea Bank Abp	Finland (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
NRW.BANK	Germany (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Royal Bank of Canada	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Svenska Handelsbanken AB	Sweden (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Swedbank AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Toronto Dominion Bank	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
United Overseas Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Wells Fargo Bank NA	USA (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
<b>Nationalised Banks</b>			
<b>Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc</b>			
National Westminster Bank plc	UK (AA-)	10,000	3 mths
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	UK (AA-)	10,000	3 mths
<b>AAA Rated and Government Backed Securities</b>			
Debt Management Office	UK (AA-)	20,000	30 mths
<b>Money Market Funds</b>		<b>Fund Rating</b>	
Invesco STIC Account	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund (LUX) Class 2	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Black Rock Sterling Liquidity Fund	Moody's Aaa-mf	20,000	Instant Access

#### Non-rated Institutions

County Councils, London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities - limits £6m and 12 months.  
Shire District Councils, Fire and Civil Defence Authorities, Passenger Transport Authorities and Police  
Authorities - limits £3m and 12 months.

NB: This is a list of institutions that could be used if the Council wished to do so, as they meet the Council's minimum credit criteria.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>15 November 2023</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
	Tel	01902554240
	Email	Charlotte.johns@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board	31 October 2023
	Scrutiny Board	12 December 2023

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**Recommendations for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

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) will 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.

**Recommendations for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

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.
5. Approve the use of £600,000 from the Transformation Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.5 and establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
6. Approve the use of £321,900 from the Regeneration Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.6 and establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
7. Approve 38 virements totalling £6.5 million on the General Fund, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 8.
8. Approve the write-off of debts against the expected credit loss provision as detailed in Appendix 5.
9. Approve the General Fund Budget Risks 2023-2024 register as detailed in Appendix 7.
10. Approve virements totalling £11.4 million, on the General Fund as detailed in Appendix 8.
11. Approve virements totalling £1.8 million, on the Housing Revenue account as detailed in Appendix 8
12. Approve the establishment of supplementary budgets within 2023-2024 as detailed in Section 7.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an integrated finance and performance update against Our City: Our Plan priorities for 2023-2024.
- 1.2 This is the second report of the financial year for 2023-2024 and provides an overview, highlighting early assumptions against Our City: Our Plan performance framework and financial performance.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 1 March 2023, Council approved Our City: Our Plan refresh which sets out how the Council will continue to work alongside local, regional, and national partners to improve outcomes for local people. Our City: Our Plan is the strategic framework for delivering the ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives.' Reporting against this framework for both performance and budget will take place during 2023-2024 onwards.
- 2.2 Within Our City: Our Plan, the Council has published a robust performance framework to track progress against key indicators and to encourage scrutiny of its key decisions.
- 2.3 Local authorities across the country are struggling with unprecedented financial challenges with reduced income and increased demands. Councils are also faced with additional uncertainty of factors such as the ongoing cost of living crisis and rising inflation. A rising number of councils have issued Section 114 notices meaning they can no longer set a balanced budget. It is anticipated that additional authorities will be in the same position in the coming months.
- 2.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council has built up a strong track record over many years of managing its finances well and despite reductions in government funding, consistently setting a balanced budget. Our approach to strategic financial management, aligning budgets to service priorities, improving services, and investing in transformation priorities, continues to put us in a strong financial position.
- 2.5 Many councils are seeing budget pressures relating to Adult and Children's social care, temporary and supported accommodation, and home to school transport. We are also experiencing these pressures, and whilst currently they are being contained within the overall budget this will become increasingly difficult with projected further demand pressures in coming years.
- 2.6 On 1 March 2023 the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2023-2024 of £306.4 million for General Fund services. This report is the second report of the financial year and provides an update on the forecast outturn projections for 2023-2024, performance against Our City: Our Plan priorities, and an update on the Strategic Risk Register.

### **3.0 Performance Update**

- 3.1 The Council continues to use a variety of means in which to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of operations against organisational strategic priorities and statutory requirements.
- 3.2 Critically it continues to manage resources effectively, consistently setting a balanced budget, and delivering against the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, despite funding reductions and high levels of uncertainty on future funding.
- 3.3 External verification of performance is also undertaken through external audit of the Council's accounts, and key inspections such as Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and other regulatory bodies.
- 3.4 Risks continue to be managed through the strategic risk register which is approved by Cabinet and also reported to Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. The Strategic risk register has gone through an extensive refresh exercise since it was last reported to Cabinet and the Audit & Risk Committee. The wording of the risks has been reviewed to ensure they accurately reflect what the Council can control. The medium-term financial savings (MTFS) risk has been split into two risks to reflect the uncertainty around funding made available to the Council and its own financial management of the resources available to the Council. There is also a new risk recognising the impact on financial resources of implementing the urgent requirement to implement statutory legislation.
- 3.5 The strategic risk register has also been updated to reflect nationally publicised risks such as: reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), equal pay, and housing standards, including damp and mould. Although the number of risks has increased from 15 risks to 32 risks this should not be viewed negatively. Having a detailed risk register shows the Council are a mature and transparent organisation in terms of the way it manages their risks. Having an effective risk management process in place demonstrates good corporate governance. By effectively identifying new and emerging risks on the horizon the Council can ensure that early mitigations can be put in place to manage risks effectively. The Strategic Risk Register can be found in Appendix 6.
- 3.6 The Council is evolving its approach to performance management, with the creation of a centralised Data and Analytics team which ensures performance data and intelligence is readily available to all staff and is analysed and reviewed regularly by operational and strategic management.
- 3.7 In July 2023, Government launched the Office for Local Government (Oflog) with a vision "to provide authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government and support its improvement". Four initial areas of data have been published: waste management, adult social care, skills and finance. Work continues to analyse this data, with initial commentary on these areas for Wolverhampton included under the respective part of Our City: Our Plan performance below.

## **Our City: Our Plan Performance**

- 3.8 Our City: Our Plan sets out the six overarching priorities which will guide the Council's approach to ensure Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives, with an additional priority looking at how the Council operates. These are;
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
  - Fulfilled Lives for All With Quality Care For Those Who Need It
  - Healthy, Inclusive Communities
  - Good Homes in Well-Connected Neighbourhoods
  - More Local People into Good Jobs & Training
  - Thriving Economy in all Parts of the City
  - Our Council
- 3.9 Our six overarching priorities are supported by three cross cutting principles:
- Climate Action. The plan is aligned to the Council's climate change strategy 'Future Generations' and our target to make the Council net carbon zero by 2028. Reducing carbon emissions will continue to be a local and national priority.
  - Driven by Digital. Wolverhampton is at the forefront of digital infrastructure and innovation, and now more than ever we have seen the importance of digital skills and connectivity to social and economic participation for the City's residents.
  - Fair and Equal. The Council will continue to tackle the inequalities in our city which impact on the opportunities of local people. The plan is aligned to our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy which is underpinned by directorate level action plans.
- 3.10 A performance framework was created to monitor performance against these priorities and included two different types of indicators, city indicators and impact indicators.
- 3.11 City indicators are high level indicators which although the Council can influence, may not be able to directly affect. Data on these indicators is published nationally, to enable a comparison against regional, statistical, and national averages. Impact indicators demonstrate how council interventions are working to improve outcomes for residents.
- 3.12 Further to this, the Office for Local Government (Oflog) have created the 'Local Authority Data Explorer' to provide data and analysis around the performance of local government to support its improvement. The new online tool brings together a key selection of existing metrics across a subset of service areas including Waste management, Adult Social Care, Adult Skills and Finance.
- 3.13 Although Waste Management, Adults Social Care and Finance data is published at a Local Authority level, Adults Skills data is only published at a combined authority level.
- 3.14 The performance in these four areas that is currently published does not capture the totality of what local authorities are responsible for, but the tool has focused on a small number of areas and indicators.

### **Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential**

- 3.15 In 2022-2023's performance report, 'Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential' was an area of strong performance. Early indications show that performance in this area remains high.
- 3.16 Wolverhampton has seen a continued decrease in numbers of children open on Child in Need, Child Protection or Children and Young People in Care plans against a backdrop of increasing numbers regionally. This performance reflects the outcome of targeted work, to ensure that children are supported in line with their assessed needs and are receiving services at the right level for as long as is necessary to their safety and wellbeing.
- The percentage of repeat referrals into Social Care within 12 months has remained stable at 23% at the end of Q2 2023-2024. The current rate sees the local authority continuing to surpass the latest published comparator data, after reporting a rate either in line or below these rates at the end of March 2022. Two pieces of reassurance work have been completed this year which has confirmed that there are no issues with the application of thresholds or practice at the point of closure.
- 3.17 Ensuring children and young people in care have stable placements is a key priority for the Council. Placement stability of our children in care remains an area of strength, with over 90% (92.7%) of our children and young people in care having less than 3 placements in the previous 12 months. This performance is stronger than national, regional, and statistical neighbour averages and Wolverhampton is in the top quartile of national performance.
- 3.18 When older young people leave care, the Council support them to find suitable education, employment, or training. Currently almost 57% of our care leavers are engaged in suitable work or education, remaining above national, statistical and regional averages. This shows continued improved performance over the past two years compared with performance at 46% in March 2021 and 56% in March 2022.
- 3.19 The continuation of 'DIVERT' alongside the introduction of the 'Turnaround Programme' continues to have a significant impact on Wolverhampton's First Time Entrants into the youth justice system and therefore the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton. At the end of Quarter 1 the rate per 100,000 youths aged 10 -17 years had increased from 109 at the end of the last financial year to 161, however continues to follow a longer-term downward trajectory over the past five years and remains lower than national, regional and statistical comparators. Due to a change in Ministry of Justice (MoJ) reporting cycles, the methodology used to calculate the rate of First Time Entrants has recently changed, with data now taken from case level data supplied to YJB instead of MoJ data as reported previously, therefore comparisons with previous periods should be made with caution.
- 3.20 The city continues to see an increase in the percentage of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, and at quarter end was at 89%, above west midlands average by

2%. The percentage of early years and childcare settings rated good or outstanding is slightly higher than the school's rate at 90% but has slightly decreased since end of quarter 1.

- 3.21 The percentage of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education has remained consistent at 78% at the end of quarter 2. Wolverhampton ranks 4th out of 11 compared to its statistical neighbours and 9th out of 14 west midlands regional LAs.
- 3.22 The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds in education, employment or training saw a slight dip in performance for 2023-2024 Q2 at 95.6% compared to 2023-2024 Q1 (95.8%); but remains an area of strength with the city in quartile banding A.
- 3.23 The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds in education, employment or training with SEND has seen a dip in average within the latest quarter at 80.8%. The total cohort for SEND aged 16 and 17 is 12% higher than same quarter last year.
- 3.24 The Council has seen a significantly improved performance of Education, Health & Care Plans issues within 20 weeks over the year to date with more than double now in timescale compared to the same point last year.
- 3.25 Regarding financial performance, the transformative projects and programmes have achieved significant and positive changes to children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. There is currently an overspend of £1.0 million across Children's Services and Education mainly due to forecast pressures relating to complex high cost residential placements and inflation. The MTFs has not included any growth for children and young people in care for many years, the last significant growth was in 2017-2018. The increasing cost of residential placements is a national trend resulting from inflation and increasing demand in a provider led market. This forecast position is after a one-off virement of £1.1 million from the growth built into Adult Services from the grants allocated to local authorities to support both Children and Adult Services (more information can be found in paragraph 3.38).
- 3.26 The draft 2024-2025 budget, reported to Cabinet on 18 October 2023, currently incorporates a working assumption of £1.0 million growth to support cost pressures going forward. Due to the nature of the market for placements in this area, there continues to be significant uncertainty over potential cost increases over the short to medium term. The Council is addressing these pressures as far as possible through measures such as the creation of two internal residential homes and the participation in a regional bid for potential funding from the Department of Education to develop a Regional Care Co-operative. The Council has recently been awarded significant funding to be part of the government's Families first for Children Pathfinder Programme, which will be the next phase in the transformation of Children's services. The current assumptions will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports.
- 3.27 The approved budget for the High Needs Block of Dedicated Schools grant in 2023-2024 is £48.0 million, and current forecast expenditure is £50.1 million, meaning there is a

forecast overspend of up to £2.1 million, work is going to reduce this pressure. The forecast overspend is mainly due to increased demand and significant fee increases for independent education placements (although the majority of the placements have still been made within the city), and the challenge of having to commission additional places where a setting graded inadequate by Ofsted could not offer appropriate learning opportunities.

- 3.28 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October. At the end of 2022-2023, maintained schools had balances totalling £15.2 million. 33 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme. In addition, there were three schools with deficits at the end of 2022-2023. Actual year end balances for 2022-2023, and the latest projected balances for 2023-2024 in those submitted budget plans, along with details of the processes in place to review deficit and surplus balances are shown in Appendix 3.
- 3.29 Further detail on the financial performance across Children's Services and Education can be found in Appendix 2.
- 3.30 The Strategic Risk Register recognises the risk associated with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Children and the mitigations in place. Details can be found in Appendix 6.

#### **Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it**

- 3.31 Due to changes in the statutory performance indicators in Adults Social Care, the Council has now adapted indicators in this area to match national reporting so comparisons can easily be made.
- 3.32 There is significant change occurring within Adult Social Care measurement both locally and nationally, including the government led 'Care Data Matters' roadmap for better data for adult social care (this contains ASCOF changes and the introduction of Client Level Data). In addition, Adult Social Care as a service will be inspected by CQC and therefore it is highly likely that many of these measures included in Oflog will be refined and changed, and so close monitoring will need to take place regarding this new data tool.
- 3.33 New indicators cover new quarterly Adults Client Level Data (CLD) return and updated list of Adults Service Survey indicators taking feedback of residents using services
- 3.34 The new Oflog online data tool brings together a key selection of existing metrics across a subset of service areas including Adults Services.
- 3.35 Wolverhampton Adult Social Care adopt a strengths-based approach to social work, supporting young people and adults to be as in control of their own lives as much as possible. The council has seen improved and strong performance relating to how services make residents feel safe and secure and in control of their own lives, both areas in the top two quartiles of national performance.



- 3.36 Latest performance around how accessible information is to carers has seen a decrease. Current data in this area is set to be published shortly and it is hoped there will be improvement in this indicator based on the work linked to the Council's Commitment to the All-Age Carers strategy.
- 3.37 The Council has seen an increase in performance in terms of reablement, with 75% of residents aged 65 or over remaining at home 91 days after discharge from hospital in the most recent published data. Although this indicator shows improvement, Wolverhampton is behind the most recently published data for statistical neighbours, the West Midlands, and the national averages. Work continues with health colleagues to continue the upwards trend in performance to ensure progress against comparator averages is achieved.
- 3.38 Carers play a vital role in society and the authority wants to empower carers by providing the right information and advice to help make decisions to lead their best life. The latest performance shows that 54.8% of Carers found it easy to find information about services and / or support, which is a decrease from 59.1% reported in 2019. This survey has recently been completed again and initial analysis shows an improvement in performance link to the Council's Commitment to 'All Age Carers' strategy.
- 3.39 Overall, the authority performs well in most of the Oflog chosen measures, either in line with the median of all authorities or in a positive position when compared to many CIPFA nearest neighbours / regional authorities. These measures already form part of the Adult Social Care performance framework and are tracked regularly during performance meetings to identify areas of concern for indicators that are outliers and track success of those where we perform well.
- 3.40 Regarding financial performance, the 2023-2024 budget setting process recognised the uncertainty around the cost of Adult Social Care over the medium term due to increase in demand for services, the impact of the fee uplift required to sustain the provider market, the pandemic and the increasing cost of living. The 2023-2024 Budget approved by Council on 1 March approved growth totalling £14.0 million for Adult Social Care to support these pressures. This growth included grants allocated to local authorities to support pressures across Children's and Adult Social Care. It is currently projected that this growth is more than sufficient to address the inflationary and cost pressures across Adult Social Care, and therefore as detailed in paragraph 3.23, it is proposed to re-allocate £1.1 million of this growth to Children's Services to support in year cost pressures. Further information on the financial performance across Adult Social Care can be found in Appendix 2.
- 3.41 The Strategic Risk Register recognises the pressures in our provider market and along with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Adults, details can be found in Appendix 6.

## Healthy, Inclusive Communities

- 3.42 The 2023-2024 performance report includes a new suite of indicators that give more visibility to the work of the Council against the outcomes of this area. National level indicators are now being updated on the Public Health Fingertips and ONS platforms. However, some of the indicators have been modified to different reporting periods, due to a lack of recorded information over the pandemic period.
- 3.43 The council understands the link between the take up of the over 40-year-olds attending health checks and many key public health outcomes. This data is calculated on a rolling 5-year average. Slow uptake of the health checks in 2018-2019 is currently lowering the 5-year average to 24.2%. More recent quarterly data shows large improvements in performance in this area and data for the individual quarter shows Wolverhampton's performance above national averages. This improvement has moved Wolverhampton into 53rd position and closed the gap significantly to reaching the top quartile. In forthcoming quarters, the Wolverhampton five-year average will start to show a significant improvement as the early years take up will no longer be included in the calculation. As we have moved out of the covid lockdown periods health checks have begun to resume, with the rate of uptake being higher than the 2019-2020 periods before lockdown.
- Increasing NHS health check activity to return to pre-pandemic, top quartile levels is an ambition of the One Wolverhampton Living Well Group. The latest quarterly activity demonstrates positive progress, with current uptake above the England average and on track to return to top quartile levels by April 2024.
- 3.44 The latest published data for alcohol specific mortality shows that the rate per 100,000 has fallen to 21.5 (PHOF, 2021). Previously this was 29.3 per 100,000 (PHOF, 2020), the value has now fallen to near to the 2019 value and is also close to the average of the CIPFA areas, 21.4 per 100,000. This data still covers periods that were affected by Covid and lockdowns and we are waiting to see the long-term effects of interventions being offered in the city. The 2020 data showed Wolverhampton with the worst alcohol specific mortality rate in the country however most recent data shows an improvement to 14th position, whilst other authorities have seen their rate remain the same or increase.
- 3.45 The % of physically inactive adults has seen an increase from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022, from 28% to 30.5%, the inactivity rate in adults in our CIPFA neighbours is 28.5%. During the same period of time, the national average has seen a slight decrease from 23.4% to 22.3%. The reported adult's inactivity rate has now returned to close to the pre-covid reported rate.
- 3.46 Regarding the financial performance, WV Active, within Public Health and Wellbeing are currently projecting an increase in membership income for 2023-2024 This is attributed to the competitive pricing policy that has been applied as a way of improving health and wellbeing by helping residents to be able to afford to participate in physical activity;

particularly during the current cost of living crisis. Further detail can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Good homes and well-connected neighbourhoods**

- 3.47 The new Oflog online data tool brings together a key selection of existing metrics across a subset of service areas including Waste Services.
- 3.48 The indicator Household Waste Recycling Rate (%) shows Wolverhampton's rate for the year 2021-2022 is 37.3%, this is higher than the nearest neighbour median average of 35.9%, but less than the England median which is 41.9%. When compared to the Black Country local authorities, Wolverhampton is the best performing authority.
- 3.49 The indicator Residual Household Waste (kg per household) shows that Wolverhampton has 575kg residual waste, 72.6kg more than England average. Wolverhampton is performing slightly better than its CIPFA nearest neighbour median (578.7kg). When compared to its Black Country neighbours, Wolverhampton is the best performing local authority.
- 3.50 Wolverhampton's housing affordability performance is improving. Performance has consistently been in the top quartile for this indicator meaning the housing stock in the city is affordable when comparing house prices to median earnings. The lower the ratio, the more affordable the housing stock of the area.
- 3.51 In the year to date there have been 17 major planning applications, all of them have been completed within timescale. The non major applications figure has dipped slightly since last quarter but the overall trend is positive and 85% is an increase from the same time last year. This is indicative of very good performance that is well above the target of 70% set by DLUHC.
- 3.52 When a carriageway is assessed as high quality it is given a green rating, this indicator tells us how many green ratings Wolverhampton's carriageways received. Performance for each road type has slightly increased since last year, showing an increase in green ratings. The unclassified roads survey for this year has not started but performance will be updated once completed.
- 3.53 Regarding financial performance for Resident Services, the 2023-2024 budget built in significant growth to support inflation, demand pressures and loss of income post the pandemic (parking services and markets). The Resident directorate is currently forecasting an overspend of £3.2 million. However, this is after the allocation of efficiency targets totalling £2.0 million as detailed in paragraph 4.9 and Table 1. Cost pressures are currently projected across a number of services including Environmental, Fleet, Highways maintenance, operation & maintenance of existing network, Parking, Transportation, Travel Unit and Waste. These pressures are in part being offset by underspends within Street Lighting as a result of the efficiencies against the growth awarded for rising energy costs not being required in full due to the roll out of the LED

replacement programme. Further details on the cost pressures can be found in Appendix 2.

- 3.54 It has previously been reported to Cabinet that there are significant cost pressures within New Communities and Homelessness (Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate) and on Housing Benefits and Subsidy (Finance Directorate) as a result of increased demand in relation to temporary and supported accommodation. In recognition of these ongoing pressures, the 2023-2024 budget includes significant growth totalling £2.0 million. This report seeks approval to allocate this growth across the services as detailed in Appendix 8. However, the overall cost pressures across the two services are forecast to be in the region of £3.0 million. Wolverhampton Homes have seen a large increase in the number of homeless people being placed in temporary accommodation due to a number of factors including an increase in the cost of living, increase in people being evicted from the private sector and increased number of families being asked to leave due to relationship breakdowns. The service is focusing on preventative action where possible to reduce this pressure and also looking at expanding council owned temporary accommodation by bringing back into use some empty properties. This will be kept under review and updates provided to Councillors in future reports.
- 3.55 Cost pressures are also being reported on the Housing Revenue Account, in particular a £2.1 million overspend is projected across repairs and maintenance, of which £1.5 million is as a result of inflationary and demand pressures reported by Wolverhampton Homes. This report seeks approval to increase the management fee payable to Wolverhampton Homes by £1.5 million in order address these forecast pressures. In addition, approval is sought to fund a £250,000 programme of remedial works to canopies at Bushbury Hill estate. It is proposed that these pressures are funded from a virement from the budget for interest payable, where an underspend is forecast. Further detail can be found in section 6 and Appendix 4.

### **More local people into good jobs and training**

- 3.56 The Council will review indicators in this area through 2023-2024 to ensure they are in line with the new Education, Skills and Employment Strategy. The Council will also start to provide the split between the number of graduates and apprentices employed internally.
- 3.57 After increases in the Unemployment Claimant Count through the end of 2022-23, the claimant count for working aged residents remained stable through 2023-2024. The Council continues to try and influence improved performance in this area through partnership working and initiatives such as Wolves @ Work.
- 3.58 The number of apprentices and graduates placed within the council has doubled over the past 15 months through the Council's commitment to contributing to its employment support offer to help get local people into jobs and training and growing our own leaders of the future.

- 3.59 The new Oflog online data tool brings together a key selection of existing metrics across a subset of service areas including Adult Skills. Adult skills comprise a range of education services for adults that support individual learning and progression of workplace skills, as well as economic growth. The Oflog data tool only includes selected performance metrics for adult skills services delivered by Mayoral Combined Authorities. This includes the % of adults with a level 3 qualification which was at 54.9% for the region in 2021, the second lowest out of Mayoral Combined Authority areas.
- 3.60 The Strategic Risk Register details the risk of high unemployment in the City and the work in place to mitigate this, can be found in Appendix 6.
- 3.61 Regarding financial performance, Adult Education, within the Children's and Education Directorate is currently forecasting a potential inflationary cost pressure which exceeds the level of grant available. The service is currently looking at ways to mitigate this in-year.

### **Thriving Economy in all parts of the City**

- 3.62 The number of jobs that have been created/safeguarded by the City Investment team has decreased between quarter one and quarter 2 but remains higher than at the same point last year. The City Investment team continues to support existing businesses in the city with projects and expansion plans as well as seeking new investment through a range of lead generation activities. The team have worked closely with Fablink during the last quarter and has supported their relocation and expansion in the city, including supporting an application to Innovate UK for funding and support with recruitment and skill development.
- 3.63 Latest published data shows that Wolverhampton is in the second highest quartile of performance for businesses that survive over one year. Latest data shows that 94.6% of businesses in Wolverhampton survive over one year and Wolverhampton is very close to being in the highest quartile of performance, the cut off being 94.7 (just 0.1pp more). Wolverhampton's one year survival rates are higher than the national average of 92.9%, and the West Midlands with 93.8%. Data for survival rates over five years has not yet been updated, however historical data shows performance lower than the national average. Work to address this will continue as part of developing regional and local business support offers.
- 3.64 The proportion of full fibre coverage continues to increase with all fixed network operators installing or upgrading their infrastructure across the city. Futureproofed digital infrastructure acts as the backbone to improved service delivery as part of the development of a smart city. The city now has the second highest levels of full fibre to the premise in the region and has been nationally recognised as a 'rising star' in fibre. The proportion of full fibre coverage continues to increase with all fixed network operators installing or upgrading their infrastructure across the city. Futureproofed digital infrastructure acts as the backbone to improved service delivery as part of the development of a smart city.

- 3.65 The regional year 2 UKSPF grant was received in August 2023, and work continues to utilise this for business advice, and grants for local businesses including low carbon support. The regional Business Growth West Midlands was launched in September 2023. Alongside this the council has been exploring what a Council business support offer looks like in this new context. Establishing a coherent business support offer for the city which reduces fragmentation and delivers Our City: Our Plan is a priority to reduce the risk that local businesses cannot access the appropriate support to survive.
- 3.66 Regarding financial performance, Enterprise, within the Strategy Directorate is currently forecasting an underspend as a result of attracting additional external funding.

### **Our Council**

- 3.67 The new Oflog online data tool brings together a key selection of existing metrics across a subset of service areas including Finance. One of the initial sections to be published relates to contextual information for local authority finances, with a small number of metrics around local authority funding, constraints, and financial resilience.
- 3.68 Data has been published which shows that the council has a larger level of Band D council tax than our comparators, however the overall rate per property is lower.
- 3.69 In addition, the data also reports on the level of debt. Whilst it is recognised the Council has relative high levels of borrowing when compared to our nearest neighbours, the Council continues to deliver a treasury management strategy in line with the Prudential Code and has not had to undertake any new borrowing since March 2019. As reported previously to Cabinet, any borrowing must comply with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Finance, importantly this means that borrowing has to be within prudent and sustainable levels and can only be used to invest in local priorities and services that deliver benefits for the City and residents, including physical regeneration with communities, job creation, economic growth etc.
- 3.70 The net debt position reported by Oflog does not consider income which contributes to funding the borrowing costs, savings delivered through investment or the wider economic benefits of investing in our City.
- 3.71 The Sickness absence rate - non covid 2023-2024 Q1 has increased slightly by 0.12 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. Mental health issues, musculoskeletal and operations were recorded as the top three sickness absence reasons. Preventative support is offered through a wide range of methods such as practical, emotional and mental wellbeing support, including financial wellbeing via our employee assistance programme, confidential counselling, and access to our 60 Mental Health First Aid practitioners. Other training and support includes manual handling, Toolbox talks, Workstation and Homeworking risk assessments supported with reasonable adjustments to working arrangements and the provision of specialist equipment. Access to Occupational Health practitioners and Physiotherapists is available

quickly and health benefits such as subsidised gym membership and cycle to work schemes are also promoted.

- 3.72 The Employee Turnover rate for 2023-2024 Q2 was 3.23%, which is an increase of 1.32 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter, although lower than at the same point in 2022-2023. The latest published data available for other local authorities across England is for 2021-2022, with the current performance in Wolverhampton being lower than this latest national average. The Council has launched a new process for exit interviews to help understand the reasons why employees are leaving the council. To date, 48 exit interviews have been completed with the outcomes of these being highlighted to People Services to aid learning in this area.
- 3.73 The service continues to take proactive measures to address the national issues associated with recruitment and retention with the creation of a HR jobs site that showcases the careers, rewards, benefits, people offer and culture of the council, engaging with the workforce to review the our people offer including different ways of working, continuously reviewing the health and wellbeing offer and continuing to embed a culture of fairness and inclusivity.
- 3.74 The average customer services wait time decreased by remained fairly static in quarter 2 after large decreases seen in 2022-2023. These decreases are due to focussed work to improve performance in relation to taxi licencing, one of the busiest lines, which has included improved processes and additional operator resources which have taken full effect. During this period Customer Services have also continued to extend face to face services, including those in the community such as surgeries for Schools admissions and Blue Badge applications.
- 3.75 In line with our commitment to the Wolverhampton Pound, the number of local businesses the council spent with in the quarter continues to remain high with 439 local companies used for products and services in the quarter.
- 3.76 The Council has built up a strong track record of managing its finances well. The Council's external auditors, considered financial sustainability in their report to Audit and Risk Committee in January and reported positively on the Council's financial management and planning. The Strategic Risk Register incorporates a new risk to recognises the risk of not having strong financial management across the council.

#### **4.0 2023-2024 Budget Performance**

- 4.1 On 1 March 2023, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2023-2024 of £306.4 million for General Fund services.
- 4.2 In July 2023, it was reported to Cabinet that there were early indications that the council was facing emerging cost pressures. Work has continued to understand these pressures and what measures can be put in place to mitigate against them. Overall, the General Fund is projecting an overspend of £1.0 million. Work will continue to identify ways to reduce this pressure and bring the outturn back within budget.

- 4.3 As reported to Cabinet in July, the 2023-2024 budget also includes efficiency targets of £6.2 million, which were held corporately at the time of budget setting. Work has been undertaken to allocate this target based on underspends and efficiencies delivered in 2022-2023. This report reflects these proposed virements, the delivery of these efficiency targets will continue to be monitored and assumptions updated if required. It was also approved that in the event that this target could not be met in full in-year, any shortfall would be met from the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve. The forecast outturn position assumes the use of £2.5 million from this reserve in-year.

### **Pay Award**

- 4.4 On 1 November 2023, the National Joint Council for local government services confirmed the 2023-2024 pay award. The 2023-2024 budget approved by Council on 1 March 2023, makes provision for a 5% pay award which is held corporately. This report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to approve virements to allocate the pay award to services. In the event that the pay award is above 5% and in-year efficiencies cannot be identified, the Budget Contingency / Re-organisation Reserve will be called upon to fund any in-year shortfall and any recurrent pressure will be built into the MTFS and reported back to Councillors in future reports.
- 4.5 The 2024-2025 budget currently assumes a working assumption of 3%.

### **Inflation**

- 4.6 Inflation in the UK is still the highest it has been for four decades, which means the country is facing an increase in the cost of living, with food, fuel and energy bills all increasing.
- 4.7 The 2023-2024 Budget approved by Full Council on 1 March 2023, incorporated significant growth to support rising inflationary pressures across a number of services. As detailed in section 3 of this report and in Appendix 2, whilst in some areas this growth is sufficient, for example Adult Social Care, however, in some cases this growth is currently not projected to be sufficient – for example temporary accommodation. This will continue to be monitored along with the potential impact on the medium term financial strategy.
- 4.8 Inflation is a significant risk and as such is included in the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 6.

### **Budget Reduction and Income Generation Targets 2023-2024**

- 4.9 The 2023-2024 approved budget incorporates a number of approved budget reduction and income generation targets. Recurrent savings targets total £8.6 million. As detailed above, included in this total are efficiency targets of £6.2 million, which were held corporately at the time of budget setting. Work has been undertaken to allocate this target based on underspends and efficiencies delivered in 2022-2023. This report reflects these virements. It is important to note that the allocation of £4.2 million of this target is



one-off in nature for 2023-2024 only, and work is ongoing to identify how this can be delivered on a recurrent basis going forward.

- 4.10 Table 1 below summarises the delivery of these targets against the original delivery plan. These will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports to Councillors on progress.

**Table 1 – Budget Reduction and Income Generation Targets**

Directorate	Description	2023-2024 Target £000	Progress
Adult Services	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(300)	This target is projected to be delivered in full based on the original allocation.
Children's Services	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(100)	Whilst there are pressures reported across Children's Services, this target is projected to be delivered in full against the service to which it has been allocated - Specialist Support Service.
City Assets	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(50)	£25,000 of this target is projected to be delivered based on the original allocation. However, the projected shortfall is being mitigated against by efficiencies from across the directorate.
Finance	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(50)	This target is projected to be in part at risk based on the original allocation. This position will be kept under review.
Governance	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(1,100)	Whilst there are pressures reported across Governance, this target is projected to be delivered in full based on the original allocation. It should be noted that £1.0 million of this target is one-off for 2023-2024

Directorate	Description	2023-2024 Target £000	Progress
Resident Services	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(1,410)	Whilst there are pressures reported across Resident Services, this target is in part projected to be delivered against the original allocation. £1.0 million of this target is a one-off allocated against additional income from energy from waste, which is being delivered as originally planned. However, other pressures within this service are resulting in a projected in-year overspend across this directorate.
Strategy	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(250)	This target is projected to mainly be delivered against the original plan. However, the current projected shortfall of £45,000 is being delivered by other efficiencies from across the directorate.
Corporate Accounts	Allocation of £6.2m Efficiency Target (Inclusive of £1.5m Target from 22-23)	(2,940)	This target is projected to be delivered in full. However, this is one-off for 2023-2024. Work in ongoing to identify efficiencies to deliver this target on a recurrent basis. As detailed in paragraph 4.3, £2.5 million from the Future Years Budget Strategy is currently projected to be utilised to support the shortfall against the efficiency target in year.
Corporate Accounts	Reduction in Corporate Contingencies	(500)	This target is projected to be delivered in full.
Corporate Accounts	Reduction in bad debt provision	(500)	This target is projected to be delivered in full.
Various	Vacancy Factor	(1,200)	This target has been distributed across the council and is currently projected to be delivered.

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023-2024 Target £000</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Strategy	ICT Review	(150)	This target is projected to be delivered in full.
	<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>(8,550)</b>	

4.11 Table 2 below summarises the projected outturn position for 2023-2024. Further detail on the most significant variances against the budget are reported on a service-by-service basis in Appendix 2.

**Table 2 – 2023-2024 General Fund Revenue Budget Projected Outturn**

	Net Controllable Budget 2023-2024	Projected Outturn 2023-2024	Projected Variation	
			Over/(Under)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Commissioning and Transformation	4,795	5,337	542	11.3%
Adult Social Care	92,108	91,159	(949)	(1.0%)
Children's Services and Education	52,892	53,903	1,011	1.9%
Public Health and Wellbeing	6,234	6,175	(59)	(1.0%)
Resident Services	33,374	36,572	3,198	9.6%
City Assets	14,060	13,141	(919)	(6.5%)
Regeneration	2,018	2,288	270	13.4%
Finance	16,895	17,719	824	4.9%
Governance	14,707	15,517	810	5.5%
Strategy	12,369	11,829	(540)	(4.4%)
Communications and Visitor Experience	2,444	2,376	(68)	(2.8%)
Corporate Budgets	54,518	53,970	(548)	(1.0%)
Contribution from the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve	-	(2,535)	(2,535)	-
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>306,414</b>	<b>307,451</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Council Tax (including Adult Social Care Precept)	(125,983)	(125,983)	-	-
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	(1,410)	(1,410)	-	-
Top Up Grant	(25,215)	(25,215)	-	-
Business Rates (net of WMCA growth payment)	(73,989)	(73,989)	-	-
Collection Fund Surplus	(3,253)	(3,253)	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(709)	(709)	-	-
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates Support	(27,840)	(27,840)	-	-
Services Grant	(3,222)	(3,222)	-	-
Social Care Grants	(30,032)	(30,032)	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund	(14,761)	(14,761)	-	-
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>(306,414)</b>	<b>(306,414)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

## 5.0 Risks and Uncertainties

- 5.1 Local authorities across the country are struggling with unprecedented financial challenges with reduced income and increased demands. Councils are also faced with

additional uncertainty of factors such as the ongoing cost of living crisis and rising inflation. A rising number of councils have issued Section 114 notices meaning they can no longer set a balanced budget. It is anticipated that additional authorities will be in the same position in the coming months.

- 5.2 Many councils are seeing budget pressures relating to Adult and Children's social care, temporary and supported accommodation, and home to school transport. We are also experiencing these pressures, and whilst currently they are being contained within the overall budget this will become increasingly difficult with projected further demand pressures in coming years. The Budget and MTFs assumes significant growth for Adult Social Care, as detailed in paragraph 3.38, current projections indicate that this is sufficient for 2023-2024. In addition, in paragraph 3.23, Children's Services are also projecting potential cost pressures across placement budgets. The update budget assumptions reported to Cabinet in October 2023, built in £1.0 million for 2024-2025. These assumptions will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports.
- 5.3 In addition, there continues to be significant uncertainty, such as the cost of rising inflation, and impact of future pay awards, and the level of resources that will be made available to the Council over the medium term. Inflation and the level of resources is incorporated in the Strategic Risk Register and the General Fund budget risk register.
- 5.4 As detailed in paragraph 4.4, the 2023-2024 pay award has been approved. The 2023-2024 budget incorporates growth to support a pay award of 5% which is currently held corporately. In the event, the costs exceeds this, any shortfall will be funded from Budget Contingency / Re-organisation Reserve. In addition, any recurrent impact will be considered as part of the 2024-2025 budget setting process. The current MTFs assumes a 3% provision for future pay awards. This will be kept under review and updates provided to Councillor in future reports.
- 5.5 As detailed in paragraph 4.9, the budget and MTFs incorporates efficiency targets totalling £6.2 million in recognition of the in-year efficiencies delivered across a number of services. Current projections are that in the main, this target is projected to be delivered in line with original plans.
- 5.6 The 2023-2024 funding settlement was for one year only and whilst it provided some high-level indications for 2024-2025, such as national figures for Social Care grants, it did not provide confirmation of our allocations beyond 2023-2024. In order to develop a budget strategy, a range of funding scenarios will be calculated.
- 5.7 The Council is no different to any other organisation and will always face risks in achieving its objectives and priorities. Sound risk management can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to an acceptable level.
- 5.8 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed in conjunction with risk owners, reviewed by SEB and presented to Cabinet and the Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. The updated Strategic Risk Register is appended is shown at Appendix 6.

5.9 In addition to the Medium Term Financial Strategy being incorporated in the Strategic Risk Register, there is also a separate General Fund budget risk register for 2023-2024. The overall level of risk associated with the budget 2023-2024 is assessed as Amber and is shown at Appendix 7.

## 6.0 Housing Revenue Budget Monitoring

6.1 The paragraphs and the table below detail the latest forecast revenue outturn position against budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

**Table 3 – Housing Revenue Account Projected Outturn 2023-2024**

	Revised Budget £000	Projected Outturn £000	Projected Variation £000
Total income	(105,775)	(105,438)	337
Total expenditure	81,018	81,704	686
Net cost of HRA services	(24,757)	(23,734)	1,023
Interest payments etc	12,993	11,512	(1,481)
Contribution to capital financing and provision for redemption of debt	11,764	12,222	458
<b>Balance for the year</b>	-	-	-

6.2 As detailed in paragraph 3, cost pressures are currently projected on the repairs and maintenance budget totalling £2.1 million. Of which, £1.5 million is as a result of inflationary and demand pressures reported by Wolverhampton Homes. In addition, £250,000 relates to urgently required remedial works to canopies on the Bushbury Hill estate. These costs can be accommodated from projected underspends on interest payments linked to the capital programme. This report therefore seek approval for a virement totalling £1.8 million to support these pressures. In addition, approval is also sought to increase the management fee to Wolverhampton Homes by £1.5 million and £250,000 to fund the remedial works to the canopies at Bushbury Hill estate

6.3 In addition, it is projected that there is a pressure on income from rents and service charges of around £337,000. At budget setting projections are made as to when new build properties will be available to let, however, current projections are below target.

6.4 Cost pressures are also projected on rents, rates and taxes of £344,000 due to the number of properties being held for demolition of Phase 1 of the regeneration of New Park Village incurring council tax.

6.5 The above pressures are projected to be offset by £3.2 million forecast underspend on the interest payable in relation to the capital programme. £1.8 million is proposed as a virement to support the repairs and maintenance pressures referred to in 6.1. This forecast underspend is also projected to increase the contribution to debt redemption and

capital financing by £457,000. As detailed in the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Mid year review 2023-2024 report on this same agenda, there is currently a forecast underspend of £1.5 million on the HRA due to lower interest payable costs.

6.6 Further detail is shown in Appendix 4.

## 7.0 Supplementary Budgets

7.1 It is not always possible to reflect all grant and external funded expenditure in the budget approved by Full Council prior to the start of the financial year. This is due to the late notification from grant awarding bodies of grant amounts, use of historic grants and proactive grant applications during the year and confirmation of other external funding.

7.2 Approval is sought from Cabinet to establish supplementary budgets within the 2023-2024 approved budget as set out in Table 2 below, and in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. This will have no effect on the Council's net revenue and capital budgets as the expenditure is fully funded from the grant or other external income source.

**Table 2 – Supplementary Budget Approvals sought from this Panel**

<b>Grant Name/Funding Source</b>	<b>Description of the Activity the grant/income will fund</b>	<b>Awarding Body</b>	<b>Expenditure 2023-2024 £000</b>
Supporting Families Grant	The grant funding will provide a service for supporting parents during pregnancy and reducing the number of children being taken into care where parents have also had previous removal(s). The funding will support the appointment of a manager, mentors with support from therapists, psychologists and health practitioners.	Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities	227
Early Years Block Grant (DSG)	To reflect updated grant notification for the Early Years Budget Allocation 2023-2024	ESFA Department of Education	1,446
Contribution from Black Country Integrated Cared Board (ICB)	This grant will contribution towards suicide prevention training, care homes general exercise, a 12-month active ageing project post, and small grants for community activities in Heath Town	Black Country Integrated Cared Board (ICB)	114

<b>Grant Name/Funding Source</b>	<b>Description of the Activity the grant/income will fund</b>	<b>Awarding Body</b>	<b>Expenditure 2023-2024 £000</b>
Early Years Supplementary Grant	This is part of the Governments spring announcement to provide an additional £204 million to increase the funding paid to childcare providers for existing childcare entitlements	ESFA Department of Education	1,089
RSI Move On and Prevention Grant	Establishment of supplementary grant funded budgets to fund the provision of frontline call us First Officers. These officers will provide point of access housing advice to help prevent homelessness	Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	62
Homelessness Prevention Grant	Establishment of supplementary grant funded budget to fund frontline call us First Officers. These officers will provide point of access housing advice to help prevent homelessness	Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	112
Defra BOTOX Grant	This is new burdens grant from DEFRA to cover the cost of additional premises inspections to ensure they are complying with the Botulinum Toxin (Children) Act which prohibits non-medically prescribed Botox treatments for under 18s.	DEFRA	13
DSG Early years block grant	Payments to Early years providers across the city	Education and Skills Funding Agency	55

## 8.0 Reserves

- 8.1 The Reserves Strategy was approved by Full Council on 1 March 2023 and provides details of the level of reserves held by the Council along with their planned use.
- 8.2 The General Fund balance is £15.3 million, which represents approximately 5% of the 2023-2024 net budget.
- 8.3 In addition to the General fund balance, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves balances that have been set aside by the Council to fund future estimated liabilities and planned expenditure at the end of 2022-2023 was £49.1 million. The Council is also required to hold a number of earmarked reserves due to



either specific criteria associated with funding, legal requirements or accounting practice. The total values of these types of earmarked reserves at the end of 2022-2023 was £36.7 million (including school balances).

### Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

- 8.4 Approval is sought for a number of transfers to/from earmarked reserves, as set out in the following paragraphs and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets in 2023-2024.

#### Transformation Reserve

- 8.5 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £660,000 from the Transformation Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets in respect of the new operating model for Energy from Waste (EfW) in order fund the Wolverhampton Waste Services (WWS) Settlement payment for purchase of spare parts for the new operating model for the EfW plant following the end of contract with WWS.

#### Regeneration Reserve

- 8.6 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £321,900 from the Regeneration Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets as detailed in the table below:

**Table 3 Regeneration Reserve**

Service	Amount £000	Details
City Development	194	Use of Regeneration Reserve to fund feasibility work for Qualcast Road site project
Enterprise	128	use of Regeneration Reserve to fund salaries on W @ W Enterprise Coaches

### 9.0 Debt Write offs

- 9.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.
- 9.2 In recognition that some debts may not be collectable, councils are required on an annual basis to set aside a budget to fund potential debt write offs, this is known as a the expected credit losses provision. At the end of March 2023, this provision for general sundry debts is £11.0 million. In addition, the council makes a provision each year to fund any write offs in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates, at the end of March 2023, this provision was £30.7 million. Therefore, these debt write offs do not impact on the 2023-2024 forecast budget position.

9.3 This report seeks approval to a number of debt write offs in relation to Sundry Debts, Council Tax and Business Rates. The details of these write-offs are provided in Appendix 5.

## **10.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

10.1 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.

## **11.0 Reasons for decisions**

11.1 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.

## **12.0 Financial implications**

12.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.  
[MH/07112023/A]

## **13.0 Legal implications**

13.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It is a legal requirement under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.  
[TC/06112023/A]

## **14.0 Equalities implications**

14.1 The method by which the Budget is developed is governed by Our City: Our Plan priorities, which itself is guided by consultation and equality analysis. The development of various budget proposals includes an initial equalities screening for each proposal and, where necessary, a full equalities analysis which will provide for an initial understanding of the equality impact of the draft proposals. All of this will enable Councillors to pay, "due regard" to the equalities impact of their budget decisions at that point in the budget development process. The resulting and final report to Cabinet and Council will contain a supporting equality analysis that will offer information across the whole range of proposals and in doing so will enable Councillors to discharge their duty under Section 49 of the Equality Act 2010.

14.2 Fairness and inclusion is a key cross cutting theme within Our City: Our Plan. As part of performance reporting, there is ongoing work to ensure that where possible data is collected and able to be analysed by protected characteristic, to ensure that the Council is meeting its responsibilities and commitments in relation to equality and diversity.

### **15.0 All other Implications**

15.1 There are no other implications.

### **16.0 Schedule of background papers**

16.1 [2023-2024 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 202-2026](#) report to Cabinet on 22 February 2023 and Full Council on 1 March 2023.

16.2 [Our City: Our Plan Refresh 2023/2024](#) report to Cabinet on 22 February 2023.

16.3 [Performance and Budget Outturn 2022-2023](#) report to Cabinet on 12 July 2023.

16.4 [Reserves and Provisions 2022-2023](#) report to Cabinet on 12 July 2023.

16.5 [Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 and Budget Update 2024-2025](#) report to Cabinet on 26 July 2023

### **17.0 Appendices**

17.1 Appendix 1 – Performance Update

17.2 Appendix 2 – Budget Monitoring 2023-2024

17.3 Appendix 3 – School Budgets

17.4 Appendix 4 – Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring

17.5 Appendix 5 – Debt Write Offs

17.6 Appendix 6 – Strategic Risk Register

17.7 Appendix 7 – General Fund Budget Risks 2023-2024

17.8 Appendix 8 – General Fund Budget and Housing Account Virements

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# City of Wolverhampton Council Performance Data - Q2 2023/24

*Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential*

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education	LAIT	34.00	88.00	62.50	78	Y
% of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in education, employment or training	LAIT	66.00	100.00	82.50	80.8	Y
% of care leavers in education, employment or training	LAIT	46.00	91.00	50.00	56	
% of children and young people in care who have had 3 or more placements in the year	LAIT	16.00	0.00	8.00	7.7	Y
% of Children in year 6 with excess weight	LAIT	44.50	23.10	40.10	42.5	Y
% of Early Years and Childcare settings rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	89.00	100.00	96.00	90	Y
% of ECHP plans completed within 20 weeks (excluding exceptions)	LAIT	7.30	100.00	61.10	73	Y
% of repeat referrals into Children's Social Care with 12 months	LAIT	35.60	10.60	22.50	23	
% of schools in the city that are rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	71.00	100.00	84.00	89	Y
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	32.10	52.30	38.70	41.1	Y
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - non disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	43.60	65.10	51.70	52.9	Y
First time entrants into the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17yrs population	LAIT	348.00	57.00	173.00	161	Y
Rate of children open to social care per 10,000 population under 18	LAIT	885.00	173.20	399.49	439	Y

## Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of adults in receipt of long-term services who are in control of their own lives	ASCOF	65.6	89.3	77.50	81.60	Y
% of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment	ASCOF	0.3	21.8	3.60	5.10	Y
% of carers who use services who found it easy to find information about services and/or support	Carers Survey	42	82.9	63.20	54.80	Y
% of older people (aged 65 and older) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services	ASCOF	31.9	99.5	71.50	75.10	Y

Internal Indicator	2022/23 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of social care users supported to remain in their own homes	71.00	73.00	

## Healthy, inclusive communities

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of 40-74 years attending offered health checks	PHOF	1.70	65.20	19.70	24.20	Y
% of adult residents in the city who have received their COVID-19 vaccination	NHS England	62.60	90.50		71.60	
% of physically active adults	PHOF			30.50	28.50	Y
Alcohol specific mortality Rate (per 100,000)	PHOF			21.40	21.50	Y

## Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
%of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city	LG inform	5.1	0.7	3.00	2.90	Y
Energy efficiency of housing stock	ONS	45	77	66.30	65.00	Y
Housing affordability ratio	DCLG	2.7	36.5	7.60	6.06	Y
Number of additional dwellings in the city	DCLG	0	4024	654.00	1,315.00	Y
Number of new builds completed in the city	DCLG	0	2530	464.00	160.00	
Total crime recorded per 1000 population	ONS	225	25	124.00	133.00	Y

Internal Indicator	2022/23 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% fly tipping incidents resolved in 5 working days	99.5	94.9	
% of planning application decisions made with 8 weeks or agreed timescales	87	85	
% of carriageways in city assessed as high quality	A Roads 79% B Roads 73% C Roads 79% Unclassified 67%	A Roads 81% B Roads 75% C Roads 82% Unclassified In progress	Y
% of major planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales	100	100	Y



## More local people into good jobs and training

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English Authority	Highest performance rate by English Authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of working age adults (16-64) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	7.6	0.8	5.40	7.50	
% of young adults (18-24) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	10.8	0	8.10	10.70	

Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
Number of apprentices and graduate placements within the council	72	80.00	Y

## Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance by English authority	Highest performance by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
% of premises in the city with full fibre coverage	Ofcom - Connected Nations Update Spring 2022	1.1	97.60	34.30	63.80	Y
Business that survive one year in city	ONS - Business Demography	62.5	100.00	89.40	95.00	Y

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Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Improving or sustained?
Number of jobs created/safeguarded in the city through Investment Team	219	116	
Number of rapid charging electric car points in the city	32	32	Y

## Our Council

Indicator	Previous Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Sustained or Improving
Customer Service call wait times (average call wait time)	00:02:53 (2022-23 Q4)	00:03:14 (2023-24 Q2)	Y
Employee Turnover rate	2.77% (2022-23 Q4)	3.23% (2023-24 Q2)	
Sickness absence rates (non covid)	4.33% (2022-23 Q4)	4.19% (2023-24 Q2)	Y
Spend With Local Businesses	483 Wolverhampton bases companies	439 Wolverhampton bases companies	

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## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

### Quarter Two 2023-2024 Budget Performance

#### Summary

On 1 March 2023, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2023-2024 of £306.4 million for General Fund services.

In July 2023, it was reported to Cabinet that there were early indications that there are some emerging cost pressures and work was ongoing to understand these potential pressures and what measures could be put in place to mitigate against these in year.

It is currently projected that overall, there is a cost pressure of £1.0 million. Work is ongoing in order to identify ways to reduce these pressures and bring the outturn back within budget.

As reported to Cabinet in July, the 2023-2024 budget also includes efficiency targets of £6.2 million, which were held corporately at the time of budget setting. Work has been ongoing to allocate this target based on underspends and efficiencies delivered in 2022-2023. This report reflects these virements and the delivery of the efficiencies will continue to be monitored. It was also approved that in the event that this target could not be met in full in-year, any shortfall would be met from the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve. The forecast outturn position assumes the use of £2.5 million from this reserve in-year.

The tables below provide an analysis by directorate and service.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Commissioning and Transformation</b>					
This area is currently projecting an overspend mainly due to staffing and agency costs across commissioning and quality assurance. The overspend is one-off as a result of the service transitioning to a new structure and once all positions are filled, this overspend will not occur.					
Further detail can be found below.					
Commissioning and Transformation	2,654	3,208	554	20.9%	The forecast is mainly due to overspend relating to staffing and agency costs across commissioning and quality assurance
Community Financial Support	2,141	2,129	(12)	(0.6%)	
<b>Total Commissioning and Transformation</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>5,337</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Adult Social Care</b>					
<p>The directorate is currently showing a small underspend of £949,000 (1.0%). The 2023-2024 budget setting process recognised the uncertainty around the cost of Adult Social Care over the medium term due to increase in demand for services, the impact of the fee uplift required to sustain the provider market, the pandemic and the increasing cost of living. The 2023-2024 Budget approved by Council on 1 March approved growth totalling £14.0 million for Adult Social Care to support these pressures. As detailed in section 3 of this report, this growth included grants allocated to local authorities to support pressures across Children's and Adult Social Care. It is currently projected that this growth is more than sufficient to address the inflationary and cost pressures across Adult Social Care, and therefore, it is proposed to re-allocate £1.1 million of this growth to Children's Services to support in year cost pressures.</p>					
Further detail can be found below.					
Adults Assessment and Care Management	5,776	5,729	(47)	(0.8%)	
Adults Safeguarding	932	948	16	1.7%	
Carer Support	885	812	(73)	(8.3%)	
Community Support	146	115	(31)	(21.2%)	
Director of Adults services	(8,302)	(8,222)	80	(1.0%)	This budget incorporates income from health
Independent Living Service	1,855	1,808	(47)	(2.5%)	
Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	33,465	33,222	(243)	(0.7%)	This budget was allocated considerable growth for 2023-2024 (net uplift £6.4 million) to cover fee uplifts and increased demand, and to date is showing a small underspend against this growth.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Learning Disability Provider	5,284	5,049	(235)	(4.5%)	The forecast underspend is due to various staff vacancies being held in anticipation of the service redesign.
Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	8,592	8,404	(188)	(4.4%)	This budget was allocated considerable growth for 2023-2024 (net uplift £1 million) to cover fee uplifts and increased demand, and to date is showing an underspend against this growth.
Older People Care Purchasing	33,010	32,382	(628)	(1.9%)	This budget was allocated significant growth in 2023-2024 (net up lift of £6 million) to cover the fee uplifts and increased demand, and to date is showing a small underspend against this growth
Older People Provider Services	3,882	3,744	(138)	(3.6%)	The forecast underspend is due to various staff vacancies being held in anticipation of the service redesign, offset in part by projected pressures due to increased warehouse rent and increases to cost of equipment
Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	6,583	7,168	585	8.9%	The forecast cost pressure is as a result of increased demand for care packages.
<b>Total Adult Social Care</b>	<b>92,108</b>	<b>91,159</b>	<b>(949)</b>	<b>(1.0%)</b>	



## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Children's Services and Education</b>					
<p>The directorate is currently projecting an overspend of £1 million (1.9%) The transformative projects and programmes have achieved significant and positive changes to children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. There is currently an overspend of £1.0 million across Children's Services and Education mainly due to forecast pressures relating to complex high-cost residential placements and inflation.</p> <p>The MTFS has not included any growth for children and young people in care for many years, the last significant growth was in 2017-2018. The increasing cost of residential placements is a national trend resulting from inflation and increasing demand in a provider led market. This forecast position is after a one-off virement of £1.1 million from the growth built into Adult Services from the grants allocated to local authorities to support both Children and Adult Services.</p> <p>Further detail can be found below.</p>					
Children & Young People In Care	33,266	34,525	1,259	3.8%	The current forecast overspend is predominantly related to higher placement costs due to inflation and the complexity of placements required leading to higher weekly costs.
Director of Children's Services	544	528	(16)	(2.9%)	
Head of Children's Improvement	1,723	1,811	88	5.1%	
Regional Adoption Agency Consortium	-	-	-	-	
Safeguarding	325	284	(41)	(12.6%)	
Specialist Support	3,844	3,540	(304)	(7.9%)	The forecast underspend mainly relates to the Internal residential provisions which the Council is creating, these will not be

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					opening until the fourth quarter of 2023-2024.
Strengthening Families	9,563	9,413	(150)	(1.6%)	The forecast underspend relates to secondments, maternity leave and vacancies resulting in a staffing underspend.
Youth Offending	1,205	1,109	(96)	(8.0%)	The forecast underspend is due to in year staffing vacancies.
Adult Education	(96)	180	276	287.5%	The forecast overspend includes anticipated staffing and discretionary spend activity above the grant available to deliver the service. The forecast includes in year redundancy costs. The forecast does not currently include an amount for pay award. The service continues to review activity and plans to mitigate pressures going forward.
Central Education	(704)	(704)	-	-	
Director of Education	137	137	-	-	
Early Years	238	238	-	-	
Educational Excellence	620	717	97	15.7%	The forecast overspend mainly relates to the Music service where there has been reduced income and increased costs. Work is ongoing to understand what mitigating actions can be put in place.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Inclusion Support	973	916	(57)	(5.9%)	
School Business and Support Services	693	687	(6)	(0.9%)	
Schools	-	-	-	-	
Skills	852	796	(56)	(6.6%)	
Special Educational Needs	(291)	(274)	17	(5.8%)	
<b>Total Children's and Education</b>	<b>52,892</b>	<b>53,903</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Public Health and Wellbeing</b>					
Overall, the directorate is forecasting an underspend of £59,000 (1.0%). It has previously been reported to Cabinet that there are significant cost pressures within New Communities and Homelessness (Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate) and on Housing Benefits and Subsidy (Finance Directorate) as a result of increased demand in relation to temporary and supported accommodation. In recognition of these ongoing pressures, the 2023-2024 budget includes significant growth totalling £2.0 million. The forecast position below reflects the virement of £800,000. Further information can be found in section 3 of the main report.					
Further Analysis is provided below.					
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	
Community Safety & Community Cohesion	773	773	-	-	
Healthier Places Service	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Ageing	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Life Expectancy	-	-	-	-	
Homelessness and New Communities	2,592	2,638	46	1.8%	This report seeks approval for a virement of £800,000 from the corporate budgets to support the in-year cost pressures. This position reflects this virement. Work is ongoing to forecast the potential pressures as a result of increasing demand for temporary accommodation on the 2024-2025 budget and over the medium term.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Leisure Services	1,096	977	(119)	(10.9%)	The forecast underspend results from higher membership levels meaning income has increased along with efficiencies due to staffing vacancies. Recruitment is currently underway to appoint to these posts.
Libraries	1,575	1,587	12	0.8%	
Local Economy	-	-	-	-	
Public Health Business Management	-	-	-	-	
Starting and Developing Well	-	-	-	-	
System Leadership	-	-	-	-	
Ward Funds	200	200	-	-	
West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership	(2)	0	2	(100.0%)	
<b>Total Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>6,234</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>(1.0%)</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Resident Services</b>					
Overall, the directorate is forecasting an overspend of £3.2 million.					
The 2023-2024 budget built in significant growth to support inflation, demand pressures and loss of income post the pandemic (parking services and markets). The Resident directorate is currently forecasting an overspend of £3.2 million. However, this is after the allocation of efficiency targets totalling £2.0 million as detailed in the main report. Cost pressures are currently projected across a number of services including Environmental, Fleet, Highways maintenance, operation & maintenance of existing network, Parking, Transportation, Travel Unit and Waste. These pressures are in part being offset by underspends within Street Lighting, growth had been provided for rising energy costs, but this not being required in full due to the roll out of the LED replacement programme.					
Further detail is shown below.					
Bereavement Services	(2,131)	(2,082)	49	2.3%	
Black Country Transport	-	-	-	-	
Coroners Service	448	494	46	10.3%	
Director Resident Services	207	201	(6)	(2.9%)	
Environmental Services	6,870	7,283	413	(6.0%)	There are several variances contributing to this overspend, the main ones being for the traffic management on additional works, increased costs of fuel, security, loss of income and additional recharges. These are partly offset from employee vacancies which are currently being recruited to.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Fleet Services	2,264	2,593	329	(14.5%)	The forecast overspends are as a result of additional costs due to vehicle hire, spare parts, agency and redundancy costs, partially offset by savings on vacancies whilst a restructure is being implemented.
Highways Maintenance	1,629	2,391	762	(46.8%)	The forecast overspend is due to several factors including the anticipated cost of winter maintenance. In addition, overspends are projected against gully sweeping, planned and reactive maintenance, rent, fuel, and waste. Projected overspends on salaries and agency costs are partially offset by contract savings due to work being brought in-house during restructuring and also recharges to capital. The 2024-2025 draft budget presented to Cabinet in October 2023 includes a working assumption for growth to support future winter maintenance costs.
Housing	(381)	(377)	4	1.1%	
Landscaping	52	56	4	7.7%	
Licensing	73	0	(73)	(100.0%)	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Markets	(151)	(405)	(254)	(168.2%)	The forecast underspend is due to increased income at Wolverhampton and Bilston Markets, partially offset by additional cost of agency staffing and relocation costs incurred.
Operation & Maintenance of Existing Network	638	1,115	477	(74.8%)	The forecast overspend is from additional pressures for traffic signals, repair and maintenance, system costs and consultancy, partly offset by permitting income.
Parking Services	(1,652)	(1,433)	219	13.3%	The majority of the forecast overspend is as a result of reduced income expected from enforcement and parking services. The projection includes a £709,000 use of the highways management reserve.
Private Sector Housing	561	530	(31)	(5.5%)	
Public Protection	1,928	1,857	(71)	(3.7%)	
Street Lighting	5,125	4,547	(578)	(11.3%)	The 2023-2024 budget incorporated significant growth to support rising costs of energy. This growth is not required in full due to efficiencies following the LED replacement programme. In addition, there are one-off savings due to staffing vacancies, which is partly offset by overspends on supplies and services.



## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					The 2024-2025 draft budget report to Cabinet in October 2023 reduced the working assumption on the growth required in future years for energy as a result of this underspend.
Transportation	748	861	113	15.1%	The forecast overspend is due mainly to additional expenditure on bridges and subways.
Travel Unit	6,381	7,056	675	10.6%	The forecast overspend is due to the additional costs incurred in home to school transport and vehicle hire, partly offset by grant income and payments from other local authorities.
Waste Services	10,765	11,885	1,120	10.4%	The forecast overspend is as a result of increasing costs for waste disposal, fuel, utilities and security. These are partially offset by additional commercial income and a contribution from Reserves for one off costs for energy from waste.
<b>Total Resident Services</b>	<b>33,374</b>	<b>36,572</b>	<b>3,198</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>City Assets</b>					
Overall, the directorate is reporting an underspend of £919,000 (6.5%). The 2023-2024 budget incorporated significant growth for projected inflationary pressures from rising utility costs. Current forecasts project that there are in-year savings against this growth. This is being offset in part, from cost pressures within Estates and Valuations due to additional temporary staff and a reduction in income.					
Further detail is shown below					
Catering	(39)	(61)	(22)	(56.4%)	The forecast underspend is due to staffing vacancies along with increased income.
Cleaning	1,548	1,445	(103)	(6.7%)	The forecast underspend is due to staffing vacancies.
Corporate Asset Management	13,038	11,987	(1,051)	(8.1%)	The 2023-2024 budget incorporated significant growth to support the rising costs of utilities. Current forecasts indicate that there are in-year savings against this growth. The 2024-2025 draft budget report to Cabinet in October 2023 reduced the working assumption on the growth required in future years as a result of this projected underspend.
Estates and Valuations	(5,059)	(4,806)	253	5.0%	The forecast overspend is from additional interim staffing costs and a reduction in rental income.
Facilities Management	1,495	1,470	(25)	(1.7%)	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Project and Works Team – Capital Programmes	178	207	29	16.3%	
Project and Works Team – Maintenance Programme	2,899	2,899	-	-	
<b>Total City Assets</b>	<b>14,060</b>	<b>13,141</b>	<b>(919)</b>	<b>(6.5%)</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Regeneration</b>					
Overall, the directorate is forecasting an overspend of £270,000 (13.4%) due to projected underachievement on planning application fee income.					
Further analysis is detailed below.					
City Development	499	500	1	0.2%	
City Planning	854	1,123	269	31.5%	The forecast overspend is due to anticipated underachievement of income. Planning application fee income is unpredictable and the rates are set by the government. A national 35% fee rise for major applications and a 25% fee rise for all other applications was laid before parliament in July and is expected to come into force soon which should mitigate the risks to some extent, particularly for the 2024-2025 financial year onwards. The service continue to look at other options to mitigate budgetary pressures.
Director Regeneration	665	665	-	-	
Wolverhampton Events Management	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Regeneration</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Finance</b>					
<p>Overall, the directorate is reporting an overspend of £824,000 (4.9%). This is mainly as a result of forecast pressures within Housing Benefit Payments &amp; Subsidy due to an increase in temporary and supported accommodation. The position below is after a virement of £1.2 million from corporate provision for growth to support in year pressures. In addition, there are cost pressures within Procurement and Strategic Finance due to the continued reliance on agency staff as the services are experiencing difficulties in recruiting to some positions. This is offset in part by underspends mainly across Audit Services and The Hub due to in-year staff vacancies.</p> <p>Further analysis can be found below.</p>					
Audit Services	1,763	1,584	(179)	(10.2%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of in-year savings against staffing due to unfilled vacancies within internal audit services and insurance. The new Head of Audit Services is prioritising recruitment to vacant posts to ensure that we have appropriate resources across both Internal Audit and Insurance services.
Central Corporate Budgets	3,356	3,369	13	0.4%	
Commercial Services	504	480	(24)	(4.8%)	The forecast underspend is due to delays with recruitment for Contract Management System implementation.

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Council Tax Rebate and Discretionary Reductions Schemes	500	500	-	-	
Director of Finance	171	169	(2)	(1.2%)	
Energy Grants	-	-	-	-	
Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	1,948	2,924	976	(50.1%)	The forecast overspend is as a result of increased demand for temporary, supported and exempt accommodation where full subsidy grant is not received for this type of accommodation. This report seeks approval for the allocation of £1.2 million from corporate budgets held to support in year pressures. This overspend is after this virement has been reflected.
Procurement Services	902	1,154	252	27.9%	The forecast overspend is due to reliance on agency staff as the service experiences difficulties in recruiting to permanent posts. This challenge is faced by procurement teams across the region. The reliance on agency staff has reduced over recent years, however there are still a number of posts that have been hard to fill.
Revenues & Benefits	3,056	3,056	-	-	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Strategic Finance	2,713	2,798	85	3.1%	The forecast overspend is due to the appointment of agency staff in vacancies pending recruitment. Recruitment to vacant posts is currently ongoing.
The Hub	1,982	1,685	(297)	(15.0%)	The forecast underspend is due to difficulties with recruitment resulting in multiple vacancies during the year.
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>16,895</b>	<b>17,719</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Governance</b>					
Overall, the directorate is forecasting an overspend of £810,000 (5.5%). This is mainly as a result of projected reduced income from recharges, including forecast recharges to the Housing Revenue Account, one-off overspends on elections, agency staffing and the anticipated delivery of savings targets. The Budget and MTFS reported to Cabinet in October considered some of the potential pressures.					
Further detail is shown below.					
Business Continuity & Emergency Planning	5	(9)	(14)	(280.0%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of one- off staff vacancy savings in year, which have now been recruited to.
Chief Operating Officer	187	185	(2)	(1.07%)	
Deputy Director of People and Change	139	139	-	-	
Equalities	174	182	8	4.6%	
Governance Services	3,077	3,633	556	18.1%	The forecast one-off overspend is as result of the elections. A savings target totalling £393,000 for the Directorate is also against this service. The delivery of the savings target will be considered as part of the 2024-2025 budget setting and MTFS. In addition, there are inflationary pressures forecast due to costs for food and postage, along with the use of agency staff.



## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Green Cities and Circular Economy	241	267	26	10.8%	
Health and Safety	303	306	3	0.9%	
Human Resources	2,359	2,306	(53)	(2.3%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of one-off staff vacancies held whilst restructure recruited to.
Legal Services	1,929	2,369	440	22.8%	The forecast overspend is as a result of reduced income along with pressures on staffing budgets due to agency staff.
Organisational Development	1,221	1,110	(111)	(9.1%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of one-off staff vacancy savings along with additional income from other organisations.
Projects and Change	599	576	(23)	(3.8%)	The forecast underspend is a result of additional income projected against budgeted posts.
Support Services	4,473	4,453	(20)	(0.5%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of additional income and recharges offset in part by agency costs.
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>14,707</b>	<b>15,517</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Strategy</b>					
Overall, the directorate is forecasting an underspend of £540,000 (4.4%). This is mainly as a result of forecast underspends due to staff vacancies within Digital and IT and Enterprise.					
Further detail is shown below.					
Archives Services	88	99	11	12.5%	
Customer Services	2,369	2,273	(96)	(4.1%)	
Data and Analytics	1,021	1,037	16	1.6%	
Digital and IT	7,744	7,407	(337)	(4.4%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to staffing vacancies. The service is experiencing difficulties in recruiting to positions.
Enterprise	546	410	(136)	(24.9%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of attracting additional external funding.
External Funding and Digital Projects	281	249	(32)	(11.4%)	
Policy and Strategy	166	211	45	27.1%	
Register Office	(18)	(36)	(18)	(100.0%)	
Strategy	172	179	7	4.07%	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>12,369</b>	<b>11,829</b>	<b>(540)</b>	<b>(4.4%)</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Communications and Visitor Experience</b>					
Overall, the directorate is currently projecting an underspend of £68,000 (2.8%), mainly as a result of staffing vacancies within Communications.					
Further detail is shown below.					
Arts and Culture	854	851	(3)	(0.5%)	
City Events	764	770	6	0.8%	
Communications	659	588	(71)	(10.8%)	The forecast underspend is due to staffing vacancies whilst restructuring. Posts have been advertised and recruitment remains in progress.
Director of Communications and Visitor Experience	167	167	-	-	
<b>Total Communications and Visitor Experience</b>	<b>2,444</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>(68)</b>	<b>(2.8%)</b>	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Corporate Budgets</b>					
Overall, an underspend of £3.1 million is projected for the year. This is as a result of projected underspends within Treasury Management from the rephasing of the capital programme.					
In line with approvals, there is a drawdown of £2.5 million from the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve to fund in year pressures. This use of reserve is shown in Corporate Budgets.					
The provision for the 2023-2024 pay award is currently held corporately. On 1 November, the pay award was approved. This report seeks authority to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to allocate the budget provision across services to support the pay award.					
Further detail is shown below.					
Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive	401	401	-	-	
Corporate Adjustments	2,025	2,021	4	(0.2%)	
Corporate Budgets	(5,835)	(8,121)	(2,286)	(39.2%)	This projection assumes the use of the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve of £2.5 million in line with approvals to support in year budget and recharge pressures and across the council. This projection also assumes the use of capital receipts flexibility in line with budget assumptions.
Apprenticeship levy	540	540	-	-	
West Midlands Transport Levy	10,734	10,734	-	-	

## General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Directorate/Service	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2023-2024	Net Controllable Forecast 2023-2024	Variance		Reason for Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Environment Agency Levy	80	80	-	-	
Birmingham Airport Rent	(69)	(69)	-	-	
Treasury Management	38,765	37,972	(793)	(2.0%)	An underspend is projected against Treasury management budgets as a result of rephasing of the Capital programme.
Central Provision for Pay Award costs	7,877	7,877	-	-	On 1 November 2023, the 2023-2024 pay award was confirmed. This report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to approve the allocation of this budget to services to fund the pay award. Should this budget not be sufficient then the Budget Contingency / Re-organisation Reserve will be used to fund any shortfall and any recurrent implications will be considered as part of the 2024-2025 budget and MTFS.
<b>Total Corporate Budgets</b>	<b>54,518</b>	<b>51,435</b>	<b>(3,083)</b>	<b>(5.7%)</b>	

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## Schools' Budgets

### 1.0 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Schools' Budgets

- 1.1 Table 1 shows the schools' actual end of year balances for financial year 2022-2023. Schools submit three-year budget plans for financial years 2023 to 2026 detailing income and expenditure by 31 May 2023.
- 1.2 The forecast year-end financial position as at 31 March 2024 is taken from the submitted budget plans and used to calculate any usage or increase in the school balance carried forward from 31 March 2023 and to forecast the surplus / (deficit) balance for 31 March 2024.

**Table 1 – Projected Movement on Schools' Balances between Financial Year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024**

Sector	Balances as at 31 March 2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Use of Balances in 2023-2024 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Balances as at 31 March 2024 Surplus / (Deficit) £000
Secondary	3,533	(2,035)	1,498
Primary	8,255	(3,261)	4,994
Junior	226	(99)	127
Infant	436	(203)	233
Nursery	1,280	(1,255)	25
Special	1,355	(1,266)	89
Pupil Referral Units	151	(169)	(18)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,236</b>	<b>(8,288)</b>	<b>6,948</b>

### Schools with Surplus Balances

- 1.3 For schools where surplus balances exceed 8% of the following year's budget share for primary, special schools and PRUs and by 5% for secondary schools for two consecutive years or in other circumstances where, in the view of the Authority, the level of surplus balances is cause for concern schools will be asked to submit plans detailing their intended use of those excess surpluses. 33 schools have balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme.

## Schools' Budgets

**Table 2 - Number of Schools as at 31 March 2023 with Surplus Balances**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total Number of Schools</b>	<b>Schools with Excess Surplus</b>
Secondary	2	2
Primary	29	21
Junior	2	1
Infant	2	1
Nursery	7	6
Special	2	1
Pupil Referral Units	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>

- 1.4 In July all schools that have balances above these criteria are requested to provide plans for the intended use of the excess by mid-September. We recognise this year schools are likely to see increasing costs associated with inflation and this, alongside the impact of any pay award in excess of budgets, will mean schools with surplus balances are likely to require using these excesses to support the Teachers' Pay Award. However, Local Authority Officers will scrutinise the school plans and may have meetings with their headteachers. A decision will then be made whether any of these schools should be moved forward into the arbitration process and an update on this will be included in the 2022-2023 Revenue Budget Outturn report to Councillors.

### **Schools in a deficit balance position**

- 1.5 Where a school's plan is showing a deficit of less than £10,000, the school should be moved forward into an arbitration process, as set out in the scheme for financing schools. This will be reported on a quarterly basis as part of licensed deficit approval procedures in accordance with the Authority's Constitution. If the school does not expect to be able to recover the deficit in this period, the school will be required to make a formal licensed deficit application. A formal licenced deficit application will be required for schools with deficit balances in excess of £10,000. Section 4.10 Licenced Deficits in the Scheme for Financing Schools outlines the procedure schools should follow with the assistance of the Local Authority. Schools with deficits will be contacted by the Education Finance Team.



**Schools' Budgets**

**Table 3 – Schools with anticipated deficits in financial year 2023-2024**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Actual Balance at end of 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Anticipated Balance at end of 2023-2024 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Status</b>
Castlecroft Primary	3	(97)	School has been asked to submit a licensed deficit request and recovery plan.
Braybrook Centre	74	(214)	School will be asked to submit a licensed deficit request and recovery plan.
Penn Fields Special School	778	(138)	School will be asked to submit a licensed deficit application and a recovery plan.
Phoenix Nursery	(71)	(167)	School has an approved licensed deficit and are submitting progress reports.
Low Hill Nursery	136	(109)	School will be asked to submit a licensed deficit application and a recovery plan.

- 1.6 We recognise that schools with forecast deficit balances in the financial year 2023-2024 will have contributing factors similar to those schools who demonstrate utilising surplus balances carried forward from the financial year 2022-2023 of increasing costs associated with inflation and the impact of any pay award in excess of standard budget percentages increases forecast in prior years

The returned licenced deficit application will be scrutinised by the Education Finance team, working with and supporting the school to return to a balanced budget position.

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## Housing Revenue Budget Monitoring

	<b>2023-2024 Revised Budget £000</b>	<b>2023/2024 Forecast Outturn £000</b>	<b>2023/2024 Forecast Variance £000</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Gross rents – dwellings	(99,026)	(98,740)	286
Gross rents – non dwellings	(600)	(600)	-
Charges to tenants for services and facilities	(6,149)	(6,098)	51
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(105,775)</b>	<b>(105,438)</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Repairs and maintenance	32,065	32,452	387
Supervision and management	23,818	23,773	(45)
Rents, rates and taxes	650	994	344
Financial Assistance	300	300	-
Increase in provision for bad debts	2,000	2,000	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	22,185	22,185	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>81,018</b>	<b>81,704</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Net cost of HRA services</b>	<b>(24,757)</b>	<b>(23,734)</b>	<b>1,023</b>
Interest payable	13,127	12,113	(1,014)
Interest and investment income	(134)	(601)	(467)
Contribution to capital financing and provision for redemption of debt	11,764	12,222	458
<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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## Debt Write Offs

- 1.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.
- 1.2 In recognition that some debts may not be collectable, councils are required on an annual basis to set aside a budget to fund potential debt write offs, this is known as a the expected credit losses provision. At the end of March 2023, this provision for general sundry debts is £11.0 million. In addition, the council makes a provision each year to fund any write offs in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates, at the end of March 2023, this provision was £30.7 million. Therefore, these debt write offs do not impact on the 2023-2024 forecast budget position.

### Sundry Debtors

- 1.3 Income is due to the Council for a wide range of services provided to individuals and businesses. To reflect the fact that, despite the Council's best efforts, not all of this income will actually be collected, the Council makes provision for bad and doubtful debts, which it charges directly to the General Fund.
- 1.4 Overall, 56 debts write offs totalling £120,465.41 have been incurred. All but three valued at £52,439.32, which require approval of Cabinet (see Table 1), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

**Table 1 – Sundry Debts write off**

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
16039423	Deceased (no estate)	£17,339.32
16052960	Unable to Trace	28,000.00
16057804	Unable to Trace	7,100.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,439.32</b>

### The Collection Fund

- 1.5 The City of Wolverhampton Council acts as billing and collecting authority for council tax and non-domestic rates income. The Council administers a separate Collection Fund account for this purpose. The Collection Fund accounts for the receipt of council tax and business rates (non-domestic rates) income and payments to precepting authorities such as the Fire Authority and the Police. Within this account, provisions are made for bad and doubtful

### Debt Write Offs

debts and any write offs are charged to the council tax or business rates provision as appropriate.

- 1.6 **Council Tax** – Overall, 578 debt write offs totalling £390,696.45 have been incurred. All but three valued at £18,361.33, which require approval of Cabinet (see Table 2), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

**Table 2 – Council Tax write off**

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
07510124601	Deceased (no estate)	5,262.56
61234667109	Deceased (no estate)	7,573.60
52110005406	Recovery Prohibited By Statute	5,525.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,361.33</b>

- 1.7 **Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)** – Overall, 39 debt write offs totalling £304,258.07 have been incurred. All but two valued at £61,936.77, which require approval of Cabinet (see Table 3), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

**Table 3 – Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) write off**

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
5121109	Recovery Prohibited By Statute	7,249.75
5134608	Recovery Prohibited By Statute	54,687.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>61,936.77</b>

### Housing Benefits

- 1.8 Housing benefit overpayments occur when rent rebate or rent allowance awards exceed a recalculated entitlement. Whilst the Council aims to limit the incidence of overpayments, they may occur for a number of reasons including as a result of fraud or error. In general, overpaid benefit is written off in line with Government guidance where recovery would cause hardship, where the debtor has died or cannot be traced.
- 1.9 The Council receives Government subsidy in respect of overpaid housing benefit at rates of between 40% and 100% according to the circumstances in which the overpayment arose. The unsubsidised element of any overpayment is charged to the General Fund.
- 1.10 Overall, 24 overpayments totalling £20,345.70 have been incurred. All but one valued at £6,451.70, which require approval of Cabinet (see Table 4),

**Debt Write Offs**

have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

**Table 4 –Housing Benefit write off**

<b>Account Ref</b>	<b>Write-off Reason</b>	<b>Write-Off Amount £</b>
135861	Deceased (no estate)	6,451.70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,451.70</b>

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Ref.	Risk Title and Description	Our City, Our Plan Priority	Risk Owner	Cabinet Member and Portfolio	Target Risk Score	Previous Impact Score	Current Risk Score	Target L'hood Score
<b>Adults and Wellbeing Portfolio – Councillor Jasbir Jaspal</b>								
01.	<b>Safeguarding Adults</b> There is a risk of failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable adults.	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	B. Wilkinson	Cllr J Jaspal	8	12	16	↑
02.	<b>Social Care Providers Adults</b> There is a risk that we may lose service providers and not be able to maintain adequate service provision.	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	B. Wilkinson	Cllr J Jaspal	9	12	12	↔
03.	<b>Asylum and Refugees</b> There is a risk that Council's fails to support new asylum seekers and refugees living in the city thus preventing community cohesion.	Healthy, inclusive communities	J. Denley	Cllr J Jaspal	6	N/A New Risk	9	N/A New Risk
04.	<b>Terrorism Threats – Places and Locations</b> There is a risk the Council fails to implement appropriate anti-terrorism security measures for Council run events in accordance with legislative requirements, such as Martyn's Law. Thus, posing risk to event attendees.	Thriving economy in all parts of the city Healthy Inclusive Communities	J. Denley	Cllr J Jaspal	6	N/A New Risk	8	N/A New Risk
05.	<b>Terrorism Threats - People</b> There is a risk the Council and its local specified authority partners fail to respond to the Prevent Duty putting vulnerable people at increased risk of radicalisation.	Healthy Inclusive Communities	J. Denley	Cllr J Jaspal	4	N/A New Risk	4	N/A New Risk
06.	<b>Inadequate rating from Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection for Adult Social Care (ASC)</b> There is a risk to public trust and confidence around service delivery and provision of ASC. This would have a negative reputational impact for the Council.	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	B. Wilkinson	Cllr J Jaspal	5	N/A New Risk	15	N/A New Risk
07.	<b>Impact of future pandemics</b> There is a risk to the utilisation of Council resources as a result of future pandemics.	Healthy, inclusive communities	J. Denley	Cllr J Jaspal	8	N/A New Risk	8	N/A New Risk
<b>Children and Young People Portfolio – Councillor Chris Burden</b>								
08.	<b>Safeguarding Children</b> Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable children.	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential.	A. Hinds	Cllr C Burden	4	8	8	↔
<b>City Housing Portfolio – Councillor Steve Evans (Deputy Leader)</b>								
09.	<b>Housing Regulator (Damp and Mould)</b> There is a risk that the Council fails to address damp and mould issues in properties, which could lead to the death of a resident in the city.	Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	J. Roseblade	Cllr S Evans	8	N/A New Risk	8	N/A New Risk
10.	<b>Negative assessment against the Consumer Standards – Social Housing (Regulation) Act.</b> Implementation of the Act has redefined the legislative landscape with the Regulator of Social Housing taking a more robust, proactive approach. A new regulatory regime includes publication of performance data, In-Depth Assessments (IDA) and Inspection (4 Yearly)	Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	J. Roseblade	Cllr S Evans	8	N/A New Risk	16	N/A New Risk
11.	<b>Housing Supply</b> There is a risk that the city will not have a suitable housing supply to meet the needs of residents.	Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	J. Roseblade	Cllr S Evans	8	N/A New Risk	16	N/A New Risk
12.	<b>Housing Standards</b> There is a risk that housing standards in the city are not maintained or are poor, which could cause risk to health.	Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	J. Roseblade	Cllr S Evans	8	N/A New Risk	16	N/A New Risk
<b>Digital and Community Inclusion Portfolio – Councillor Obaida Ahmed</b>								
13.	<b>Cyber Security</b> There is a risk of failure to maintain a high level of cyber security (technology, processes and awareness) throughout the Council may result in cyber-attacks and theft or loss of confidential data leading to financial penalties, reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.	Our Council Our Digital	C. Johns	Cllr O Ahmed	6	12	12	↔
14.	<b>Major Core System Failures</b> There is a risk that core digital and IT systems, or their providers, fail resulting in an impact on the delivery of services.	Our Council Our Digital	C. Johns	Cllr O Ahmed	4	N/A New Risk	9	N/A New Risk
<b>Environment and Climate Change Portfolio – Councillor Craig Collingswood</b>								
15.	<b>Climate Change</b> Failure to achieve the Council's commitments in relation to Climate Change, including the pledge to make Council activities net-zero carbon by 2028 may result in significant reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.	Climate Conscious	D. Pattison	Cllr C Collingswood	3	6	6	↔
16.	<b>Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)</b> There is risk that Council owned buildings may have to closed where the use of RAAC has been identified, which potentially has an impact on service delivery.	Our Council	J. Nock	Cllr C Collingswood	4	N/A New Risk	15	N/A New Risk
17.	<b>Private Hire Vehicle Growth</b> There is a reputational risk where members of the public are injured or harmed as a result of using private hire vehicles licensed by the Council.	Our Council	J. Roseblade	Cllr C Collingswood	9	N/A New Risk	12	N/A New Risk
<b>Governance and Equalities Portfolio – Councillor Paula Brookfield</b>								
18.	<b>Employee Wellbeing</b> There is a potential impact on the health and wellbeing of the Council's staff due to unprecedented levels of service demand and changes to working practices.	Our Council	L. Phillips	Cllr P Brookfield	8	12	12	↔
19.	<b>Information Governance</b> If the Council does not put in place appropriate policies, procedures and technologies to ensure the handling and protection of its data is undertaken in a secure manner and consistent with relevant legislation then it may be subject to regulatory action, financial penalties, reputational damage and the loss of confidential information.	Our Council	D. Pattison	Cllr P Brookfield	12	6	16	↑
20.	<b>Employee recruitment and retention</b> Currently experiencing recruitment and retention difficulties that mirrors national issues. This is impacting a number of specialist roles in Adults and Children's Social Care, Procurement, IT and Digital etc.	Our Council	L. Phillips	Cllr P Brookfield	9	9	9	↔

Ref.	Risk Title and Description	Our City, Our Plan Priority	Risk Owner	Cabinet Member and Portfolio	Target Risk Score	Previous Impact Score	Current Risk Score	Target L'hood Score
21.	<b>Equal Pay</b> Due to potential unapproved local working practices, and new case law, there is a risk the Council could be exposed to future equal pay claims, thus impacting Council resources.	Fair and Equal	D. Pattison	Cllr P Brookfield	12	N/A New Risk	12	N/A New Risk
22.	<b>Health &amp; Safety of Council Employees</b> There is a risk of serious injury, or death, to an employee of the Council where health and safety legislative requirements have not been implemented or followed.	Our Council	D. Pattison	Cllr P Brookfield	9	N/A New Risk	12	N/A New Risk
<b>Jobs, Skills and Education Portfolio – Councillor Jacqui Coogan</b>								
23.	<b>High Unemployment</b> There is a risk that historic levels of high unemployment will remain in the city without a systemic shift by a range of partners, as articulated in the city Education, Skills and Employment Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thriving Economy in all parts of the city</li> <li>More local people into good jobs and training</li> </ul>	C. Johns	Cllr J Coogan	12	16	16	↔
<b>The Leader of the Council's Portfolio – Councillor Stephen Simkins</b>								
24.	<b>Business Support</b> There is a risk that economic challenges impact negatively on local businesses and they cannot access appropriate support to thrive.	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	C. Johns	Cllr S Simkins	6	8	8	↔
25.	<b>Reputation / Loss of Public Trust</b> There is a risk that the Council loses public trust and confidence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>failing to respond to the needs of local people, especially those most vulnerable.</li> <li>failure to inform the public about delivery of key City priorities.</li> </ul>	Our Council	I. Fegan	Cllr S Simkins	10	10	10	↔
26.	<b>City Centres – Council Led Development Projects</b> There is a potential impact on the City if the Council does not take effective action to regenerate and repurpose. In addition, there are risks to ongoing Council managed and operated capital projects and programmes in terms of costs, timings and ensuring that original business cases continue to align with the Council's strategic aims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</li> <li>Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	R. Lawrence	Cllr S Simkins	8	12	12	↔
27.	<b>Financial wellbeing and resilience</b> Risk that without the council's plan to coordinate the partnership support across the city, residents will not receive support to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential.</li> <li>Healthy, inclusive communities</li> </ul>	A. Hinds	Cllr S Simkins	9	9	9	↔
28.	<b>City Learning Quarter</b> There is risk that the City Learning Quarter is not delivered as planned resulting in adverse impacts on life chances for young people, and learning for people of all ages, potentially resulting in difficulty for local employers to grow their businesses and for all to contribute to local economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More local people into good jobs and training</li> <li>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential.</li> <li>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</li> </ul>	R. Lawrence	Cllr S Simkins	6	N/A New Risk	12	N/A New Risk
<b>Resources Portfolio – Councillor Louise Miles</b>								
29.	<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b> There remains significant uncertainty in relation to demand for services, inflation and levels of government funding. This uncertainty creates a risk that we cannot set a robust medium term financial strategy.	Our Council	C. Nye	Cllr L Miles	15	20	20	↔
30.	<b>Financial Management</b> If the Council does not have strong financial management there is a risk that the expenditure will exceed the budget, leading to a call on reserves.	Our Council	C. Nye	Cllr L Miles	8	N/A New Risk	8	N/A New Risk
31.	<b>Related Parties</b> The Council has a number of bodies that it either owns or has a potential liability for. There is a risk that poor performance of these bodies could adversely impact on the Council both financially and reputationally.	Our Council	C. Nye	Cllr L Miles	8	12	12	↔
32.	<b>Impact of statutory legislation and guidance on Council budgets</b> There is a risk of pressures on the Council's resources (including financial) as a result of the urgent requirement to implement new statutory legislation or guidance.	Our Council	C. Nye	Cllr L Miles	16	N/A New Risk	16	N/A New Risk

### Scoring Criteria:

#### Risk Scoring - Impact

Impact	Score	Descriptor
Low	1	Minimal loss, delay inconvenience or interruption. Can be easily and quickly remedied
Low/Medium	2	Minor loss, delay, inconvenience or interruption. Short to medium term effect.
Medium	3	Significant waste of time and resources. Impact on operational efficiency, output and quality. Medium term effect which may be expensive to recover.
Medium/High	4	Major impact on costs and objectives. Serious impact on output / or quality. Medium to long-term effect and expensive to recover.
High	5	Critical impact on the achievement of objectives and overall performance. Critical impact on costs and / or reputation. Very difficult and possibly long-term to recover.



#### Risk Scoring - Likelihood

Impact	Score	Descriptor
Low	1	Rare (0-5%) This risk will only materialise in exceptional circumstances.
Low / Medium	2	Unlikely (5-25%) The risk will probably not materialise.
Medium	3	Possible (25-60%) The risk may materialise at some point.
Medium / High	4	Likely (60-80%) The risk will probably materialise.
High	5	Almost certain (80%+) The risk will materialise in most circumstances.

Likelihood	5	10	15	20	25
	4	8	12	16	20
	3	6	9	12	15
	2	4	6	8	10
	1	2	3	4	5
Impact					

# City of Wolverhampton Council – Strategic Risk Register

Risks reviewed by risk owners as reported to the Audit and Risk Committee

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Alignment to the Our City, Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Rationale for target score and update position/further actions to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
01.	<p><b>Safeguarding Adults</b></p> <p>There is a risk of failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable adults.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner:</b> Becky Wilkinson <b>Cabinet Member:</b> Cllr J Jaspal</p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	12 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p>16 Red</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p>8 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b> The impact of this risk materialising, by its very nature, will always be significant hence a score of 4. However, through the work outlined below it is our aim to reduce the likelihood of this risk and therefore are targeting a score of 2.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>There continues to be a month on month increase in Safeguarding referrals which impacts on the ability of Adult Social Care to ensure a timely response and has led to an increase in the time enquiries are taking.</p> <p>Whilst we have responded to the risks with additional temporary posts there are challenges with recruitment and shortage of suitably skilled agency social workers to fill temporary vacancies. There are a significant number of referrals that are inappropriate and do not meet the criteria for a safeguarding enquiry which need to be reviewed and actioned.</p> <p>The nature of referrals being received are more complex meaning they take longer to review and conclude.</p> <p>The long-term plan to manage the increase in demand is being considered through the Adult Social Care redesign.</p> <p>Workstream set up to review Family Front door and MASH responses.</p> <p>MASH Action Plan in place with regular review by Adult Leadership Team.</p> <p>Dashboard developed to help prioritise referrals.</p> <p>A peripatetic team will be considered as part of our redesign – better able to respond as needed.</p> <p>Updated recruitment adverts and templates are now available for recruiting managers to use. The benefits of working for our Council are highlighted, demonstrating our strengths-based approach to social work and the vibrancy and diversity of our city.</p> <p>Electronic Multi Agency Referral Form implemented, this has enabled inappropriate safeguarding referrals to be screened and appropriately sign posted/responded to.</p> <p>Launch of local practice guidance to improve the appropriateness of referrals.</p> <p>Development of new pathways to provide a timelier response from the right team including Domestic Abuse pathway.</p>	<p>Monthly Adult Leadership performance meetings, team dashboards developed which provide performance information to Adult Leadership and Senior Leadership Teams.</p> <p>Thematic Dip Samples undertaken by Managers, and QA Team, Practice Weeks undertaken throughout the year.</p> <p>Multi-Agency Audits undertaken by MASH Management Board and WST. Performance reported at Quarterly MASH Management Board meetings.</p> <p>MASH Managers have daily meetings to review and oversee performance.</p> <p>Monthly Information Sharing meetings take place with Care Quality Commission and partner agencies to share concerns and plan actions to improve quality of services in the city.</p>
02.	<p><b>Social Care Providers Adults</b></p> <p>There is a risk that we may lose service providers and not be able to maintain adequate service provision.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner:</b> Becky Wilkinson <b>Cabinet Member:</b> Cllr J Jaspal</p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	12 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 3</p> <p>12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>This is a national risk recognised by government as well as a local risk, the fair cost of care exercise indicated that Care Provider Fees were low In Wolverhampton that statistical neighbours, this has been rectified in the 2023/3 fee review and therefore lowers the likelihood of provider failure over time.</p> <p>Through the work outlined it is our aim to reduce the likelihood of this risk materialising however it is a national issue and therefore to some extent out of our control. As a result the target likelihood score it set at 3.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The factors contributing to the risks to our providers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market pressures – fragility of the care market and increased risk of provider failure/ sufficiency of provision.</li> <li>Risk of Providers being rated as inadequate following inspection post Covid.</li> <li>Cost of living crisis (inflation and increase in fuel prices)</li> <li>Workforce pressures - challenges with recruitment and retention of staff.</li> <li>Retention of experienced Registered Managers.</li> </ul> <p>Risks to sustainability are being mitigated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust outbreak management processes and robust Quality Assurance Check (QAC) visits</li> <li>Use of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Capacity tracker for updates from provider organisations</li> <li>Exploring interim financial support measures for providers to mitigate against key risks to care delivery.</li> </ul> <p>Risk is amber due to resource and cost of living pressures. Provider support call has been stood up due to these challenges.</p>	<p>Fee uplift agreed at CRP February 2023 which has ensured Wolverhampton is paying a competitive rate for placements and addresses cost pressures highlighted by the sector.</p> <p>With respect to quality, work is underway with OneWolverhampton to produce a Quality Assurance Framework, which will be adopted by all partners and cover all aspects of residential care. This work will also seek to ensure a package of support and training is available for Registered Managers, particularly those new to role.</p> <p>Robust provider failure process, which ensures co-ordinated response and that people remain safe whilst alternative care arrangements are made.</p> <p>Increased activity taking place with WMADASS to understand the financial risk of regional and black country neighbouring authorities</p>

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03.	<p><b>Asylum and Refugees</b></p> <p>There is a risk that Council's fails to support new asylum seekers and refugees living in the city thus preventing community cohesion.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Denley Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	Healthy, inclusive communities	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p><b>9 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 3</p> <p><b>6 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Responsibility for asylum seekers in contingency hotels lies primarily with the Home Office. However, there are potential resource implications for CWC in supporting residents to access local services. Failure to manage this adequately could result in a lack of integration as well as impact on community cohesion. This risk is unlikely to materialise due to the robust processes adopted within the City by CWC and partners to ensure that asylum seekers are able to access support, this has led to an overall score of 6. These actions are outlined below.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Asylum: Wolverhampton currently hosts over 1300 Asylum seekers across dispersed (community-based accommodation) and Contingency Accommodation (2 Hotels). There is a robust and embedded process to mitigate risk and to ensure rapid escalation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication agreement with clear direct points of contact for referral, safeguarding and escalations with Lead Officer New communities and Migration being point of contact and support.</li> <li>• Monthly Serco Operational meeting with key partners and providers across 0-19 services, Education, Health, Social Care, Public Health and VCS in attendance to mitigate any risks and ensure remedial action is implemented.</li> <li>• Clear pathways have been implemented for access to intervention to reduce delays in integration and cohesion; VCS provide support based on individuals needs and to delivery workshops, ESOL and enhance access to education, funding is allocated for school uniform, bus tickets and priority support for school and educational access, additional access to City activities available to young people and adults- HAF.</li> <li>• RWT and ICB have ensured resource allocation to mitigate health inequalities; 0-19 inequalities team have a Health Visitor who works solely with both hotels and there are dedicated GP surgeries to ensure families are able to access Health and Wellbeing intervention without delay.</li> <li>• Strategic meetings are facilitated – cross organisationally to ensure regular communication and ensure any concerns are escalated via Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Asylum PWG without delay; and where required direct meetings with providers or Home Office have been and will continue to be facilitated.</li> </ul> <p>Refugees: Wolverhampton has led via best practice for the welcoming of international Refugee via Home Office and DLUCH resettlement schemes; Syrian Vulnerable Person scheme, UK Resettlement scheme, Homes for Ukraine, Sudan BNO process, Afghan Resettlement Schemes.</p> <p>There is a robust model of reporting, intervention and coordinated approach to ensure the diverse and holistic needs and housing requirement for the arriving cohort are met, with consideration given to reducing impact on the host community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties- sourced to meet household need in the Private rented sector; located across the city to mitigate concentration and to enable better community cohesion. Properties are checked across partnership to ensure safe and suitable for arriving households.</li> <li>• Wrap around support- personalised needs led intervention delivered across partnership of VCS and the Local Authority to mitigate risk and enhance the opportunity integration and resettlement as equal citizens and lead fulfilled lives with access to the best future prospects.</li> <li>• Priority Health access- Health intervention funding allocated at place to enable the health and wellbeing needs of households be met with enhanced access to specialist intervention where requires e.g., SEND support.</li> <li>• Robust monitoring and review documentation and active communication with Home Office, DLUCH and Regional Strategic Migration Partnership.</li> </ul> <p>Newly Granted Refugees – Via Asylum Discontinuation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid intervention process embedded to mitigate the risk of homelessness and destitution withing the Local Authority.</li> <li>• Access to financial inclusion and full rapid assessment of needs to enable newly granted refugees access all entitled services and opportunities.</li> <li>• Working in partnership cross departmentally and organisationally, coordinating pathways based on household requirements and identified barriers to resettlement or cohesion.</li> <li>• Exploration of housing solutions to enhance housing and resettlement options without impact on host community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolverhampton Migration Partnership Forward Plan- aligned to Wolverhampton migration Forum facilitating opportunity for partnership working to readdress and gaps in delivery and meet the needs of this cohort or escalate concerns that would impact cohesion.</li> <li>• Tender for Our People project up to £750k for 3 years to provide bespoke intervention to mitigate the risk and inequalities that may be experienced by household that are Refugee, Asylum and/or migrants.</li> <li>• Attendance at all relevant regional and national meetings to ensure a 'best practice' approach is embedded and any challenges can be highlighted for discussion and where possible remedial action.</li> <li>• Cross organisational and departmental delivery continues to ensure cohesive and interconnected approach to meeting the needs of the cohort and minimising risk.</li> <li>• Implementation of Asylum Discontinuation – Prevention Pilot to mitigate the impact of homelessness and destitution for individuals discontinued from Asylum provision.</li> <li>• Reporting and monitoring compliance as outlined by funders and/or Central Government.</li> <li>• Monitoring and review of service delivered by VCS on behalf of the Local Authority, implementing remedial action where required.</li> <li>• Local authority Structure and staffing implemented to mitigate the increased pressure of Asylum and Resettlement since 2021.</li> </ul>




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04.	<p><b>Terrorism Threats – Places and Locations</b></p> <p>There is a risk the Council fails to implement appropriate anti-terrorism security measures for Council run events in accordance with legislative requirements, such as Martyn's Law. Thus, posing risk to event attendees.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Denley Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	<p>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>Healthy, Inclusive Communities</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score: 8</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact:4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score: 6</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>There is a national threat level system is designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack and is set by the government's Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and security service MI5. Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.</p> <p>The levels are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOW: an attack is highly unlikely</li> <li>• MODERATE: an attack is possible, but not likely</li> <li>• SUBSTANTIAL: an attack is likely</li> <li>• SEVERE: an attack is highly likely</li> <li>• CRITICAL: an attack is highly likely in the near future</li> </ul> <p>The current threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is SUBSTANTIAL. With a national threat level of SUBSTANTIAL, we need to recognise this within our risk register and ensure, within Wolverhampton, we work across partners to mitigate this risk as much as possible. In terms of managing this risk whilst we could try to reduce the likelihood the impact remains high if the risk materialised.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Regular and routine communications with and inputs from West Midlands Counter Terrorism Police (WMCTP) via the Counter Terrorism Security Advisors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School lock down procedures</li> <li>• Comprehensive training programme for CWC and partners</li> <li>• Security advice to events and design of new development schemes to reduce risk of vehicle as a weapon and other threats.</li> <li>• Good practice developments</li> </ul> <p>Significant upcoming city events established as a standing item on the Protect and Prepare Board agenda with opportunity to raise concerns / identify response as required.</p> <p>The newly established Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Subgroup of the Protect and Prepare Board will hold a detailed work programme to continue to reduce risk over time.</p>	<p>Bi-monthly meetings of the Wolverhampton Protect and Prepare Board – strategic, multiagency membership aiming to ensure an appropriate level of joint working, preparedness and resilience to enable an effective multi-agency response to present and emerging terror-related threats that may have a significant impact on the safety of the city.</p> <p>Oversight of Protect and Prepare activity is governed by CONTEST Board. The Board receive regular reports from Counter Terrorism Police on ongoing and emerging risk and threat at international, national, regional and local levels plus information on key activity from the Protect and Prepare Board. Key decisions from Protect and Prepare Board are bought forward to CONTEST for endorsement / ratification.</p> <p>There is connected governance between Protect and Prepare Board and Local Resilience Board (LRB) with Protect and Prepare listed as a standing item on the LRB agenda. Information shared includes key activity of the PPB, opportunities for joint working plus any Protect and Prepare information that is specifically relevant / impactful to the Council.</p> <p>Key representative from the Local Resilience Board has been newly appointed as the Chair of the Training, Exercise and Learning Subgroup of the Protect and Prepare Board continuing the connectivity between the two Board structures.</p> <p>WMCTP undertake an annual review of Local Authority activity relating to Protect and Prepare which includes elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified SRO</li> <li>• Established Board structure.</li> <li>• Breadth of partner membership and engagement</li> <li>• Progress of activity</li> </ul> <p>WMCTP RAG rating for Wolverhampton 2022 – 2023 = Green</p>
	<p><b>Terrorism Threats - People</b></p> <p>There is a risk the Council and its local specified authority partners fail to respond to the Prevent Duty putting vulnerable people at increased risk of radicalisation.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Denley Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	Healthy Inclusive Communities	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>4 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>4 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The likelihood of non-compliance with the Prevent Duty is low, hence a score of 1. However, failure to discharge the Duty could lead to the Secretary of State issuing a direction to the Council via the powers within the Act and so the risk should continue to be monitored. This leads to an impact score of 4.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The Council has a nominated Prevent Lead dedicated to the delivery of activity related to the Duty.</p> <p>Risk and threat is monitored through the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and responded to through the local Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment – part of the benchmarking activity required by the Duty.</p> <p>Routine communications, inputs and monitoring from the regional Home Office Prevent Advisor.</p> <p>Multiagency Prevent Delivery Group brings together local specified authority partners to ensure effective implementation of the partnership Prevent Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Monthly Channel Panel meetings to assess and support people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism with the aim of providing a tailored package of interventions to address the individual's needs and vulnerabilities, and to safeguard them from harm.</p> <p>Channel Chairs receive regular update training from the Home Office to ensure knowledge and skills are optimal.</p> <p>Development of Engagement Strategy and Communications Plan to strengthen messaging to local communities.</p> <p>Prevent Duty requirements embedded within procurement processes and new contracts for services.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of community relations and cohesion.</p>	<p>Oversight of the Prevent Delivery Plan by CONTEST Board with specified authority partners in attendance including Education, University of Wolverhampton, City of Wolverhampton College, Black Country Integrated Care Board (Place) and Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust plus representation from Home Office and West Midlands Counter Terrorism Police – Prevent Team</p> <p>The Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement forms part of the self-assessment for Local Authorities and is signed by the Chief Executive of the Council. It is submitted to the Home Office as evidence of compliance with Channel delivery and practice as required by Channel Statutory Duty Guidance 2020 issued under Section 36 (7) of the Counter Terrorism Security Act 2015. The Annual Assurance Statement provides a local benchmark against requirements contained within the guidance, identifying any areas for improvement to be progressed over the coming year.</p> <p>To corroborate the statement, a formal observation of Channel Panel is undertaken by the Home Office Regional Channel Quality Lead each year.</p> <p>The Home Office completes an annual assurance exercise to evaluate the extent to which the Local Authority is complying with and delivering against the Prevent Duty. This includes self-assessment against the Prevent Local Authority Benchmarking Assessment within the Prevent Duty Toolkit. Assessment is considered against ten benchmarks and a set of performance criteria, and involves regular audits, inspections/observations, feedback, and reviews.</p> <p>This exercise concludes annually with the Home Office Annual Prevent Duty Assurance Statement for Wolverhampton – a report summarising the benchmarking assessment scores and identifying areas of focus for the year ahead.</p>

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06.	<p><b>Inadequate rating from Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection for Adult Social Care (ASC)</b></p> <p>There is a risk to public trust and confidence around service delivery and provision of ASC. This would have a negative reputational impact for the Council.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Becky Wilkinson Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for that need it.	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 5</p> <p><b>15 Red</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 5</p> <p><b>5 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The nature of this risk means that the impact will be always significant and therefore the target impact score remains at 5. However, we believe that it is possible to manage the likelihood of occurrence through the following actions and therefore the target likelihood score is 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance model to oversee inspection preparation work in place.</li> <li>Self – assessment in place and regularly reviewed and refined as necessary.</li> <li>Improvement plan being developed, and actions identified being worked on.</li> </ul> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Encompass continuous learning from pilot sites, inspection guidance and regional support.</p> <p>Continue to prepare the workforce in readiness for inspection.</p> <p>Commissioned Care Act training to revisit Care Act duties and compliance for workforce.</p>	<p>Quality Assurance Framework – Practice Weeks (Practice Conversations, Observations of practice and Dip Samples)</p> <p>Peer Review Feedback</p> <p>Performance Data</p> <p>Feedback from people</p>
07.	<p><b>Impact of future pandemics</b></p> <p>There is a risk to the utilisation of Council resources as a result of future pandemics.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Denley Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	Healthy, inclusive communities	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact:4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>A new pandemic remains one of the most serious risks facing the UK, though it is impossible to predict when it will occur. Its impact will depend on many factors including transmission route, attack rate, and severity of disease. The most likely cause remains a respiratory pathogen (as with Covid-19), even though a range of scenarios is possible. As such, the factors contributing to this risk are largely outside the control of the Council.</p> <p>Impact can be marginally minimised through support provided by national government in the form of funding and guidance. This would help the Council's Public Health team respond effectively to the health impact of the pandemic, as well as mitigate its financial impact on the Council due to reallocation of resources and potential lost revenue. However, that also remains outside of the Council's control.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is responsible for developing national planning arrangements in relation to pandemics. Local pandemic planning and mitigation is coordinated through the resilience forum, with the Public Health, health protection team contributing as appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue with UKSHA</li> <li>Contribution to resilience forum</li> <li>Appropriate training of staff</li> <li>Core Public Health skills and knowledge in Health Protection issues maintained</li> <li>Contributing and leading on preparedness plans and exercises – local and regional</li> </ul>
08.	<p><b>Safeguarding Children</b></p> <p>Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable children.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Alison Hinds Cabinet Member: Cllr C Burden</b></p>	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential	<b>8 Amber</b>	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>4 Amber</b></p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The internal and external assurance that is in place ensures that the robust services we have in place as a council operate effectively as a partner within the statutory safeguarding partnership and hence the likelihood of the majority of vulnerable children not being safeguarded is low. However, whenever this happens and in particular with very serious incidents the impact for the council and for all those involved could be high.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>There has been an increase in referrals to the MASH over the last 18 months which now place Wolverhampton above national and statistical neighbours in this area. This continues to be monitored and understood at performance management board.</p> <p>Mobilisation of remodelled services in child protection, family help and family networks and in our statutory safeguarding partnership arrangements from January 2023 under the DfE funded Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme will offer further opportunity to ensure services are offered to families at the earliest opportunity and test a remodelled multi agency response to child protection utilising Child Protection Lead Practitioners</p> <p>Although the annual turnover rate of social workers remain below national level workforce pressures remain high. Nationally and regionally, there is a shortage of suitable agency social workers to back fill temporary vacancies created by secondment opportunities, and maternity leave. This impacts particularly in the Strengthening Families Service. To mitigate this, we have created a peripatetic team of social workers and continue to recruit to these permanent posts, we are part of a regional MoU to manage the use of agency workers, We have rebranded our social work recruitment, and introduced additional incentives following a regional benchmarking process.</p> <p>There is a risk that the Council is unable to identify suitable placements registered with Ofsted for children in care particularly those with highly complex needs who are subject to a court authorised Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) Order, due to insufficient placement options.</p> <p>Where children's homes are identified these are at high cost due to the current market position. If not, placements can be identified alternative unregulated provision has to be considered.</p> <p>When an unregulated placement is made Ofsted are informed, there is regular senior management oversight, and the arrangements are regarded as temporary whilst alternative regulated options are secured. The opening of two small children's homes in Wolverhampton is in process and this will increase the internal sufficiency options.</p>	<p>Internal Quality Assurance report, alongside monthly analysis of performance information offers Senior Leadership Team reassurance regarding practice.</p> <p>Rereferrals into MASH 24 is regularly monitored and a deep dive into this area has taken place.</p> <p>Quality assurance and performance information is shared with SEB, Cabinet Member and the Leader regularly, together with Ofsted on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Senior leaders have regular oversight of the number of children that social workers are working with. Actions are being taken to try to attract experienced agency workers locally and regionally to cover short term vacancies whilst we also recruit to vacant permanent posts promoting additional motivating factors to join Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Positive outcome of Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services (21 March - 1 April 2022) with services rated overall as good offering external reassurance that children and families are supported and safeguarded well in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Assurance provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership through several mechanisms including scrutiny of practice through priority groups and specific activity such as the Covid response group and multi-agency casefile audits and external scrutineer report. Reviews of the impact of learning from Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews is also assured through the One Panel.</p> <p>Appropriate serious incident referrals are made to the Safeguarding Partnership to consider if a learning review needs to be undertaken into specific incidents. This ensures where appropriate, practice is independently scrutinised, and lessons learned.</p> <p>The Leader/Cabinet Member/SEB and CYP Scrutiny panel are briefed every 6 months to offer reassurance regarding safeguarding of the children in the city.</p> <p>A multi-agency response is in place to work with young people to reduce potential of further violent crimes within the city. This response includes universal responses and more targeted approaches with individuals most at risk.</p> <p>Two recent independent thematic reviews on knife crime and exploitation have offered strong reassurance in this area.</p> <p>Regular oversight by senior leadership team of children placed in unregulated settings and liaison with Ofsted.</p>


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							Opening of two internal family homes for children in care will increase sufficiency. Children are given opportunity to be supported by an independent advocate.
09.	<p><b>Housing Regulator (Damp and Mould)</b></p> <p>There is a risk that the Council fails to address damp and mould issues in properties, which could lead to the death of a resident in the city.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</b></p>	Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>There is a well-established reporting mechanism in place for reporting issues related to damp and mould and a robust repair process to rectify the issue. The likelihood scores remain the same for current and target. The only way likelihood score will reduce is if the condition of existing stock is free from deficiencies before damp and mould occurs and therefore not present in the home. However, this is unlikely due to the age of existing stock, so current measures in place will allow for ease of reporting and rectifying to minimise the likelihood of severe cases resulting in death of a resident.</p> <p>The target impact score is remains at 4 on the basis there has been significant importance on improving processes and providing education material/support for residents and employees to identify and report any issues relating to damp and mould to allow the matter to be rectified. However, this has brought additional investment requirements to ensure systems are in place (SIRI) to allow the reporting of cases to be recorded/processed within required timescales. The impact of the death of a resident or any serious damp and mould case would bring severe reputational damage and failures in our existing processes.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The true extent of damp and mould in the cities private sector housing remains unknown as this can only be truly ascertained by inspection. A BRE conditions report has been commissioned for other purposes which will also provide a desktop assessment of the extent of damp and mould issues.</p> <p>Winter Plan 2023 – 2024 developed.</p> <p>The Private Sector Housing Service enforces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate reasonably economic heating.</li> <li>• Insulation.</li> <li>• Ventilation such as extractor fans.</li> <li>• Landlords required to undertake professional mould removal required for more extensive issues. Works in default if necessary</li> </ul> <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlord Forum - Damp and mould advisory presentation to landlords.</li> <li>• Damp and mould mitigation advice leaflet provided in response to all enquiries regardless of whether they refer to damp and mould.</li> <li>• Website updated to provide educational information in relation to damp and mould.</li> </ul> <p>Support provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damp and mould removal kits provided to PRS tenants.</li> <li>• Provision of household support fund.</li> <li>• Domestic thermometer / hygrometer provided to increase awareness of humidity in the home.</li> </ul> <p>In the social housing sector, complaints received from residents whose homes are managed by a registered housing provider (not the Council) are sent to Private Sector Housing Enquiries. Registered Providers are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing and are responsible for management of their stock. City Housing maintains communication through the Social Housing Provider Forum.</p> <p>Council owned housing stock is managed by four managing agents. Contract management of these organisations provides oversight and assurance of repairs (inc. DMC) and complaints. The largest managing agents is Wolverhampton Homes.</p> <p>The joint Wolverhampton Homes and City of Wolverhampton Council's (CWC) Damp, Mould and Condensation Working Group, formed in early 2022, and continues to regularly meet to drive service and system enhancements,</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes, along with CWC colleagues, has continued to target reports of DMC from customers and has worked with its partners to develop predictive data to proactively identify 'at risk' homes.</p> <p>Regular reporting of DMC is reported to CWC. DMC is now included as one of the BIG 7 risks.</p> <p>Operationally, reporting of DMC has increased significantly. Increasing contractor capacity has been a challenge due to the labour shortage regionally. Performance against the 10 working day inspection and 20 working day 'works' target remain within target or tolerance.</p> <p>A programme of support is provided, including education and advice on DMC. Healthy Homes Advisors are in place. No access procedures have been strengthened. Knowledge sharing with ASC and CS have also been developed to support families with vulnerabilities. Since November 2022, WH has experienced a significant increase in DMC related service requests from customers; linked to increased awareness and proactively communications. All homes reporting DMC will be visited. The highest proportions of DMC reported are minor and treatable with cleaning and remedial works.</p>	<p>Audit Services: Private Sector Housing Enforcement Audit 2022 – 2023 – Overall conclusion was 'satisfactory', specifically noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an effective mechanism in place for handling Private Sector Housing referrals. When, received they are triaged and allocated to Environmental Health officers, who action promptly.</li> <li>• New coding has been introduction to easily identify damp and mould cases.</li> </ul> <p>Council housing BIG 7 risk reporting – monthly, quarterly data analysis. Annual reporting to Scrutiny.</p> <p>DMC risk protocols, now support a robust approach to hazards and risk management and encompass the principles of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).</p> <p>KPI's to monitor remedial work timescales related to Disrepair Claims have been introduced since April 2023 and are reported quarterly to WH Board and CWC's WHDPQMG.</p> <p>Complaints handling KPI and Tenant Satisfaction Measures.</p>


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						<p>Staffing and financial resources have needed to be reallocated to DMC to meet the increase in demand. Contractors have also been requested to increase labour resources. This has had limited success due to the region wide shortage in suitable labour. The repairs budget overspend is contributed to by DMC requests.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department equality plan to assess impact of language on DMC cases and case handling.</li> <li>• Continued analysis of rent arrears and the link to DMC, i.e., the ability to afford appropriate heating and warmth. Link to EPC and property condition.</li> <li>• WH has further refined its Predictive Data Analytics tool in collaboration with the Housing Management system provider, NEC. Using algorithms to predict homes that may be at a greater risk of mould forming.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Negative assessment against the Consumer Standards – Social Housing (Regulation) Act.</b></p> <p>Implementation of the Act has redefined the legislative landscape with the Regulator of Social Housing taking a more robust, proactive approach. A new regulatory regime includes publication of performance data, In-Depth Assessments (IDA) and Inspection (4 Yearly)</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</b></p>	Good Homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>16 Red</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The rationale for a current likelihood target of 4 is the number of improvement tasks identified and these are being worked through to deliver a reduced target of 2 once all the actions recommended have been delivered to meet the requirements of the Regulator for all Managing Agents. The team are currently undergoing a restructure to ensure the resources are in place and fit for purpose to meet the new regulations.</p> <p>The rationale for a current impact score of 4 is to acknowledge there is a lot of work to be undertaken and maintain with all Managing Agents to avoid a negative assessment by the Regulator and this will remain a target score until such time all workstreams have been delivered to ensure the Council is in the best position for the inspections. Should the outcome be negative, this could bring reputational damage to the Council in its responsibility as a Housing Authority.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management agreement between CWC and WH to be updated.</li> <li>• Shareholder Board to be established,</li> <li>• Stronger client and governance arrangements</li> <li>• Annual reporting to Scrutiny.</li> <li>• Re-establish performance reporting to Cabinet.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savills review of compliance against the consumer standards</li> <li>• Campbell Tickell review of the management arrangement between CWC and WH</li> <li>• Scrutiny Board approval of recommendations to strengthen governance, reporting and clienting.</li> <li>• Intention to update management agreement and develop Shareholder Board – being progressed by Legal.</li> <li>• Restructure of Landlord Services within the Councils City Housing Team will strengthen the ability of the Council to respond to regulation and inspection</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Housing Supply</b></p> <p>There is a risk that the city will not have a suitable housing supply to meet the needs of residents.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</b></p>	Good Homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>16 Red</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The rationale for a current likelihood score of 4 is the increasing pressure and challenges of the housing needs of our residents. A target score of 2 will ensure the Council works towards exploring every opportunity to increase its housing supply through a number of programmes to add units to its stock.</p> <p>The rationale for a current impact of 4 is that we should not be able to meet the housing demands, the waiting list will increase, and vulnerable residents may need rehousing in temporary accommodation. The target score of 4 will remain as current data research shows the demographics of our residents will increase the demand for council accommodation, including specialist/supported units, for many years to come.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing information and education on housing availability to residents, officers, and Cllrs</li> <li>• Increased support to engage with the private rented sector and landlords directly (e.g., Call Us First, Landlord Forum) to provide access to and maintain tenancies.</li> <li>• Homelessness Task and Finish Group monitoring homelessness numbers, TA use and spend. Identifying improvements and better value TA.</li> <li>• Housing support fund funded by the HRA available to support tenants to remain in their homes where increasing rent costs are unaffordable.</li> <li>• Money Smart Service through WH available</li> <li>• Homelessness Service provided from the Civic 5 days a week; seeing increasing footfall.</li> <li>• Housing Development Team restructured and appropriately resourced to establish a housing development pipeline and access Homes England and WMCA funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPI data on evictions and rent arrears highlight that that rent loss is relatively low compared to peer landlord.</li> <li>• Evictions from council housing remain low (&lt;20pa) – further analysis via the DEP to be completed.</li> <li>• Call Us First Team – capacity expanded with staff recruited.</li> <li>• Ongoing local conversations with Homes England, early indication of support for schemes and larger regeneration proposals</li> <li>• Early conversations between planning and housing relating to housing development – although ongoing challenges around HRA land which over the years has been designated open space or trees.</li> <li>• Continue to explore the options for face-to-face housing advice in the city.</li> </ul>



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12.	<p><b>Housing Standards</b></p> <p>There is a risk that housing standards in the city are not maintained or are poor, which could cause risk to health.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</b></p>	Good Homes in well-connected neighbourhoods	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>16 Red</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The rationale for the current likelihood score of 4 is due to ageing stock, poor energy performing homes and investment requirements. The target score of 2 is due to the HRA Business Plan for a number of investment programmes to address poor condition council homes.</p> <p>The rationale for the current impact score of 4 is to recognise the challenges of the HRA and the investment required to maintain existing stock and improve the standard of housing offer across the city. The target score of 4 will remain until such time additional funding is available and funding opportunities explored to deliver improved and better-quality stock within the city.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening HRA Business Plan development process to provide greater engagement with Councillors on investment plans and options.</li> <li>Non-traditional stock investment planned, and area renewal programmes planned, with initial Cabinet approvals in place for phase 1; redevelopment of New Park Village and the Tarran Bungalows.</li> <li>Retrofit programme of £27.5m to improve 414 not-trads across the city started May 2023.</li> <li>Capital programme approved for new build programme, estate remodelling, disabled adaptations, Decent Homes stock condition improvements and other stock improvements (inc. structural works, lifts, fire safety in med and high rise, roofing, door security and remedial works to non-trads).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan Quarterly Monitoring Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member, provides review of delivery plan objectives, KPIs and financial performance.</li> <li>The WH/CWC Financial Information Group, chaired by the Director of Finance, provides financial monitoring and scrutiny, including the repairs and capital investment programmes.</li> <li>Savills review of HRA</li> <li>Demonstrable improvements to Council housing stock, including fire safety (sprinklers, fire doors) and high-rise improvements.</li> <li>Known stock improvement pressures are considered and further scrutiny and oversight will be provided to Councillors, in particular about investment / disinvestment options.</li> <li>Excellent performance under the BIG 7 risks; fire, asbestos, gas, electrical, legionella, lifts, DMC</li> <li>Part of the TPAS EGAGE project on high rise fire safety</li> <li>Housing Assistance Policy to be reviewed to ensure ongoing suitability.</li> <li>Success in attracting energy funding for private homes.</li> </ul> <p>Audit Services: Private Sector Housing Enforcement Audit 2022 – 2023 – Overall conclusion was 'satisfactory', specifically noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an effective mechanism in place for handling Private Sector Housing referrals. When, received they are triaged and allocated to Environmental Health officers, who action promptly.</li> <li>New coding has been introduction to easily identify damp and mould cases.</li> </ul>
13.	<p><b>Cyber Security</b></p> <p>There is a risk of failure to maintain a high level of cyber security (technology, processes and awareness) which result in cyber-attacks and theft/loss of confidential data leading to financial penalties, reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr O Ahmed</b></p>	Our Council / Driven by Digital	12 Amber	<p><b>Current:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact:3</p> <p><b>12 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 2</p> <p><b>6 Amber</b></p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Nationally there continues to be cyber security threats to local government and the wider public sector, with high profile cyber incidents impacting on some local authorities and other agencies.</p> <p>There is ongoing work to improve the council's security posture to reduce the likelihood and impact of constantly changing threats. Cyber security at the Council is externally verified through both PSN accreditation and Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation.</p> <p>The Council manages the risk through effective controls. However, due to the sensitivity in respect to this area, we cannot provide detailed information here which may compromise the council's security.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Digital and IT continue to deploy enhancements to further improve security and, a summary of key activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Policy and strategy</b> – including ongoing review of existing and development of new policies to support improved cyber security, such as the Information and Cyber Security Policy, Acceptable Use of IT Assets and social media Policy and a new Bring Your Own Device policy.</li> <li><b>Training and development</b> – including a new mandatory cyber security course and bespoke training and awareness sessions dependent on role in development.</li> <li><b>Technology and digital solutions</b> – including roll out of new technology solutions to further tighten security.</li> </ul> <p>There is a continued work programme to address cyber threats which continue to evolve.</p>	<p>The Council has achieved external accreditation of its cyber security, through achievement of Cyber Essentials Plus and PSN compliance. Cyber Essentials Plus reaccreditation for the year was achieved again in December 2022. PSN compliance was achieved again in March 2023. Assessment of the council's cyber security posture is also provided by Microsoft.</p> <p>Internal Audit review of Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery gave satisfactory assurance.</p> <p>Regular updates provided to Resilience Board, SEB and Cabinet Member.</p> <p>A detailed update was provided to Audit and Risk Committee in July 2022 , a link to the meeting papers and minutes is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
14.	<p><b>Major Core System Failures</b></p> <p>There is a risk that core digital and IT systems, or their providers, fail resulting in an impact on the delivery of services.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr O Ahmed</b></p>	Driven by digital	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p><b>9 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 2</p> <p><b>4 Green</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>We continue to work to mitigate against the impact and likelihood of core systems failing, through robust management of our IT infrastructure and management of contracts with key suppliers. Leading to a target likelihood score of 2. Through effective contingency plans already place and tested we believe we can manage this risk and reduce the impact to a score of 2.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Regular and robust contract management with key suppliers of systems is in place to mitigate against supplier failure which may impact on the delivery of systems.</p> <p>Ongoing work to ensure effective IT infrastructure and systems, which links to wider work including cyber security (see risk 12).</p>	<p>Regular and robust contract management with key suppliers of systems is in place to mitigate against supplier failure which may impact on the delivery of systems.</p> <p>Ongoing work to ensure effective IT infrastructure and systems, which links to wider work including assurance such as PSN and Cyber Essentials Plus.</p>

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15.	<p><b>Climate Change</b> Failure to achieve the Council's commitments in relation to Climate Change, including the pledge to make Council activities net-zero carbon by 2028 may result in significant reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: David Pattison</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr C Collingswood</b></p>	Climate conscious	6 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 3</p> <p>6 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 3</p> <p>3 Green</p>	↔	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The impact of not meeting our Net Zero target by the end of 2028 is likely to be significant and has an impact of 3 the likelihood of this target not being met is 2, following detailed consideration of the current progress at the relevant scrutiny panel in October 2023.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Net zero commitment was made in 2019 and a detailed action plan set by Council in 2020 and amended in 2. The action plan clearly sets out all activity needed to meet the Council's net zero ambitions by 2028 as well as setting out the framework for the 2041 target for the whole City.</p> <p>As set out in the scoring update a detailed report was taken to scrutiny panel in October 2023 setting out progress against the target.</p> <p>Following the Internal Audit report covering the position in late 2022/early 2023 several urgent steps have been taken to provide additional assurance that the target will be met. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Chief Operating Officer appointed as the Senior Responsible Officer</li> <li>New Head of green Cities and Circular Economy and other staffing resources put in place including a detailed programme board.</li> <li>The minutes and papers relating to the Climate Change Advisory Group meetings are being made public.</li> <li>A number of additional steps have been taken to ensure we are on track to meet the commitment including the launch of a HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel pilot significantly reducing the climate impact of the Council's fleet whilst we work towards full electrification of the fleet.</li> </ul> <p>Funding for external resource identified to support delivering 2041 strategy – strategy is being worked up and will be taken to Scrutiny Panel in early 2024 for pre decision scrutiny.</p> <p>Training for Carbon Literacy course rolled out across organisation, opportunities for further training in 2023/24 being explored.</p>	<p>Governance and action plan monitoring arrangements in place.</p> <p>Quarterly update to Member reference panel (Climate Change Advisory Group).</p> <p>Internal audit review undertaken in March 2023 of the 2028 Climate Change Action Plan. Monthly Programme Board has been established – with full supporting team now in place to provide the necessary support to deliver.</p> <p>Regular reporting against action plan now taking place and will be brought through to Climate Change Advisory Group and paper reporting on substantial progress made will be brought to Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel in October 2023.</p>
	<p><b>Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)</b></p> <p>There is risk that Council owned buildings may have to closed where the use of RAAC has been identified, which potentially has an impact on service delivery.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Julia Nock</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr C Collingswood</b></p>	Our Council	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 5</p> <p>15 Red</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 1 Impact: 4</p> <p>4 Amber</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>City Assets Service are reviewing all Council owned buildings (excluding Schools and Housing) within a short timescale utilising a methodical process. This will ascertain whether any buildings contain RAAC, and if any is identified action will be taken to address. A realistic target score to manage this risk would be a low likelihood score, however if RAAC was identified in any of the Council's assets the impact would be high in terms of disruption in delivering Council services.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>School position now understood.</p> <p>Non- school buildings – work has begun to identify potential locations using DFE methodology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desk top exercise</li> <li>Initial site visit assessments</li> <li>Where potential RAAC is identified get specialist to review and provide a mitigation solution</li> <li>Implement mitigation and monitoring scheme.</li> </ol> <p>Currently at stage 1 – 300 sites to review for desktop work.</p> <p>This work will de-risk significantly as we will understand far better the estate for RAAC and will be able to implement good systems of practice to manage.</p>	<p>Using established DFE process for RAAC identification.</p> <p>Large range of experienced staff who have good knowledge of the estate over a large number of years.</p>

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17.	<p><b>Private Hire Vehicle Growth</b></p> <p>There is a reputational risk where members of the public are injured or harmed as a result of using private hire vehicles licensed by the Council.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr C Collingswood</b></p>	Our Council	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>12 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p><b>9 Amber</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Whilst the service continues to introduce additional safeguarding measures which are discussed below, the relative risk of untoward or criminal behaviour of a driver licensed by CWC continues to increase as the numbers of licensed drivers increases. Despite having robust licensing, monitoring and enforcement operations the likelihood of such an event post licensing is beyond the direct control of CWC and as such likelihood scores remain the same for current and Target. The only way likelihood score will reduce is if the number of licensed drivers reduces which will in all likelihood require a change in legislation.</p> <p>The target impact score is reduced to 3 on the basis that the team are implementing the detailed findings of an internal audit and external review. Whilst the findings demonstrated a well-managed and robust service with many areas of good practice there are several enhancements to the current operations which the team are working to implement urgently.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>As with any regulatory scheme, there is an inherent risk that those being regulated will breach the regulations. Even a perfect applicant on paper can go on to commit serious offences and the Council is limited to what it can require from applicants without being successfully appealed in court or being subject to judicial review. Whilst the likelihood of a serious incident has increased, due to the increase of drivers from 1k to 35k, the risk is further mitigated due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digitisation of applications, reducing the chances of administration and human error relating to paper/written records.</li> <li>• Increased financial resources allowing the Council to take advantage of further technological solutions, such as APIs to automate checking of information with databases in other organisations.</li> <li>• More experience with investigating licence holders.</li> <li>• Ability to attract investigatory talent from other licensing authorities due to the reputation of the Council as an industry leader.</li> </ul> <p>The Council was the first in the country to undertake daily DBS checks of its drivers, with 32,000/35,000 on the Update Service. Work is ongoing to increase this percentage, however three-year licences issued prior to April 2021 have not yet had the chance to renew.</p> <p>The Council is developing its own 'Access to Driver Data' Application Programming Interface (API) with the DVLA, allowing more frequent checks of drivers driving licences.</p> <p>The council is working with the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) to be the first authority with an API with the National Register of Refusals, Revocations and Suspensions (NR3S). This will allow the Council to check every day if a driver has lost their licence elsewhere in the country without telling the Council.</p>	<p>An annual internal audit is being undertaken, with a report for 2023 drafted.</p> <p>An external audit by Bevan Brittan has been undertaken, with a report drafted.</p> <p>Chair the West Midlands Taxi Licensing Authorities Officer Working Group</p> <p>Member of West Mercia Taxi Licensing Authorities Officer Working Group</p> <p>Member of National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers (NALEO)</p> <p>Member of Institute of Licensing</p> <p>Regularly in contact with the Department for Transport, who are interested in the technological solutions we apply, have approved the legitimacy of the licensing regime and have not raised concerns.</p> <p>Medical certification of all driver applicants is undertaken by General Medical Council (GMC) certified medical practitioners.</p> <p>All MOT testing stations are green rated by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)</p> <p>Right to work verification uses state of the art document scanners, comparable to what is used at airport border control. An illegal immigrant was caught using this system.</p> <p>Legal advice, often from KC, has been sought throughout the transformation and is acted in accordance with.</p> <p>Our decision-making processes have been highlighted by the Home Office as regional best practice.</p> <p>From 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, Wolverhampton undertook 421 compliance operations across the country. This resulted in 151 vehicles being suspended.</p> <p>In partnership with local councils, the Council has compliance teams based in a northern office in Cheshire and an eastern office in Leicestershire. This provides a base for them to operator from and undertake checks on drivers across those regions.</p> <p>South Staffordshire Council have entrusted its taxi licensing function to the Council.</p> <p>All training is undertaken by Worcestershire County Council.</p> <p>All licence holders are checked with the Disclosure and Barring Service, at the appropriate level.</p>
18.	<p><b>Employee Wellbeing</b></p> <p>There is a potential impact on the health and wellbeing of the Council's staff due to unprecedented levels of service demand and changes to working practices.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Laura Phillips</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	<b>12 Amber</b>	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 3</p> <p><b>12 Amber</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: :2</p> <p><b>8 Amber</b></p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Whilst sickness absence locally and nationally is on the rise it is envisaged that with the proactive measures and support being put in place this will support the Council in reducing sickness absence and improving the health and wellbeing our workforce. There are external factors that are outside of our control i.e employees waiting for operations which affect our ability to mitigate this risk but with what is within our control we can aim to have 8 Amber as a realistic future target.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Employee well-being continues to be a Council priority, a number of initiatives have been embedded for employees which include (but are not limited to) the Council's Our People Portal, access to mental health first aiders, access to face to face well-being checks and workouts led by WV-Active, the introduction of Council wide wellbeing leads and the creation of wellbeing pledges.</p> <p>Organisational Development (OD) are continuing to work with Human Resources and Health and Safety to monitor, analyse and proactively respond to sickness absence data to ensure appropriate support is provided for employee health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our employees and the effectiveness of Our People support offer. Targeted work is continuing with our frontline workers and there has been increased engagement initiatives and communications regarding health and wellbeing across the organisation.</p>	<p>Operational Health and Wellbeing Group</p> <p>Our People Board</p> <p>Employee Surveys</p> <p>Professional Conversations which include discussions around well-being</p> <p>SafeSpace Reporting Line</p> <p>Mental Health Support App for employees (My Possible Self)</p> <p>Regular employee communications and engagement digitally and physically (OD Wellbeing Roadshows – 17 to date) to ensure all employees have the resources/support available.</p>

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						<p>The Organisational Development team have carried out site visits to provide support information and signpost the current offer around health and wellbeing for our employees. The Wellbeing@work pages on the Our People portal are updated weekly to ensure employees have access to the most up to date wellbeing information.</p> <p>We continue to support employees with the cost-of-living crisis by providing resources and support on financial wellbeing. We promote the support and resources available on a regular basis through a range of communication channels, including City People, toolbox talks, site visits and employee forums to ensure people are signposted to the support available.</p> <p>We have completed an employee Mental Health survey, analysed the results, and prepared an action plan to respond to our employees needs in terms of support, advice and guidance as mental health sickness absence continues to be on the increase within the Council and nationally.</p> <p>Organisational Development (OD) have commissioned the creation of a Wellbeing Data Dashboard. The dashboard will allow for deeper analysis of the correlation between Learning and Development Opportunities at all levels and the impact on rates of sickness. This will allow a proactive and targeted approach to supporting employees accessing wellbeing training opportunities and support.</p> <p>Our Employee Assistance Programme is being reviewed – the results of the mental health survey will help inform the procurement exercise for this and the content of the Our People Portal is under review in response to the mental health survey outcomes.</p> <p>Mental wellbeing learning &amp; development offer has been enhanced from a personal and professional perspective. Training included Mental Health England Mental Health Awareness accredited training, NHS Suicide Prevention Workshops and a future roll out of Substance Misuse Insight, delivered by key community partners.</p>	
19.	<p><b>Information Governance</b></p> <p>If the Council does not put in place appropriate policies, procedures and technologies to ensure the handling and protection of its data is undertaken in a secure manner and consistent with relevant legislation then it may be subject to regulatory action, financial penalties, reputational damage and the loss of confidential information.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: David Pattison</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	6 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact:4</p> <p>16 Red</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood:3 Impact:4</p> <p>12 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The risk has increased for IG overall this year due to the increased risk regarding cyber. The likelihood and impact rating have both increased due to the volatile cyber environment and evolving threats within this arena. Over the last few months there has been a noted increase in cyber breaches being reported, in particular those of third-party suppliers. Although Cyber risk falls under Digital and IT arena, there are operational considerations in terms of process, policy, and training to mitigate risks to Council data and by implementing these we aim to have a target score of 12 Amber.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>To ensure that our due diligence processes through our supply chains remain rigorous and compliant, a review of our current processes and procedures is planned and collaborative work with Procurement and Legal has been scheduled into the IG work programme for the year. In addition, ongoing collaborative work continues with Digital and IT in terms of the execution and delivery of their cyber action plan.</p> <p>Mandatory training levels continue to be monitored; a new dashboard has been produced with support from Data &amp; Analytics which will produce up to date statistics both on an adhoc basis and at individual Leadership teams in their scheduled quarterly update meetings. A new Data Breach management dashboard has also been developed which will provide more trend and targeted reporting of breaches; implementation has been delayed but is scheduled for Q3. A series of short raising awareness communications have been scheduled with internal Communications to highlight IG and Cyber themes. Incidents reported during the period have been contained, investigated with mitigating actions put in place locally with relevant teams.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execute the ongoing training and awareness raising plan around IG and Cyber risk – continue to schedule communication through city people, Operational Management network forums and leaderships meetings to raise current risk themes.</li> <li>Continue to collaborate with Digital and IT on cyber risk.</li> <li>Robustly monitor the mandatory training levels via new dashboard to ensure above 95% take up in any given period. Further discussion arranged with OD to finalise and rollout of Level 2 and level 3 training for specialist roles. Continue to provide ad hoc training as requested or where required.</li> <li>Progress the collaboration with Audit Services to support the DPO reporting function and ongoing corporate compliance assurance.</li> <li>Caldicott Guardian meetings have been rescheduled and initial meeting held with new CGs.</li> </ul>	<p>E-learning take up and ongoing training development.</p> <p>Communications and awareness raising of IG and Cyber themes has been scheduled for the year.</p> <p>Privacy by design – DPIA, IG Impact Assessments</p> <p>Quarterly updates and regular touch points with Leadership teams</p> <p>Robust breach management procedures in place with assessment and monitoring at service level (leadership feedback)</p> <p>SEB/IG Board and Caldicott function to continue to monitor, challenge, support and champion IG compliance initiatives.</p> <p>A detailed annual report on Information Governance was taken to the Council's Governance and Ethics Committee in September 2023.</p>



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20.	<p><b>Employee recruitment and retention</b></p> <p>Currently experiencing recruitment and retention difficulties that mirrors national issues. This is impacting a number of specialist roles in Adults and Children's Social Care, Procurement, IT and Digital etc</p> <p><b>Risk Owners: Laura Phillips Cabinet Member: Councillor P Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	9 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Recruitment and Retention is a local and national issue that has been exacerbated by the effects of Covid. UK wide issues related to talent demand and availability due to covid. The council is responding by ensuring flexibility, agility and placing more of an emphasis on growing our own. Further initiatives such as succession planning will also support the council to respond to this risk however, due to the number of external factors and our increase in turnover (still below national levels) we are maintaining a target of 9 Amber as we believe the likelihood and impact will remain at 3 for some time until there are changes in the market.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Recruitment and Retention is not only a local but national issue that we will continue to monitor and respond to - it is important we have robust recruitment and retention initiatives to enable the council to have resources to deliver our services.</p> <p>Our current turnover rate remains at 10.7% and continues to be monitored via KPI reports and Powerbi dashboards. Recent local government turnover information is not available. However, XPerHR conducted a turnover survey in 2022 that shows total labour turnover for 2021 as 14.4% nationally amongst all organisations surveyed and 12.4% within the Public Sector.</p> <p>As an example of the issues being faced, the average turnover for Children's Services is 11.9% which is lower than the national average of 15.4% but the vacancy rate is 18.1% compared to national 16.7% which highlights the difficulties we face in recruiting to specialist roles.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <p>To support us to be an attractive employer 'employer of choice' we have created WV Jobs, this tool is used to promote jobs and careers at CWC including information for applicants and benefits for working for the council.</p> <p>We have reviewed employee benefits to ensure we have an attractive and competitive offer (changed to Vivup with increased promotion) and conducted a deep dive review of benefits in areas where the impact is high – e.g., social worker recruitment. – now offer re-imbursment of costs for the blue card scheme and payment of professional body membership that is a legal requirement to undertake certain roles.</p> <p>As per Our People strategy we continue to have a strong emphasis on employee development, progression and 'growing our own'.</p> <p>Removal of artificial barriers from job descriptions/person specifications. Updated advert template with employee benefits.</p> <p>National/local graduate programme, collaborative recruitment with Wolves at Work 18–24-year-olds for specific posts.</p> <p>Recruited a Recruitment and Retention lead within People Services to lead on our response.</p>	<p>Introduction of exit interview to understand why employees leave the employment of the council</p> <p>Market forces policy</p> <p>Structural changes within HR to improve the offer/ support for our people, candidates and the on-boarding experience for new starters and consider outcome of exit interviews to take targeted action.</p> <p>Our People Board</p> <p>Benchmarking against other Local Authorities</p>
21.	<p><b>Equal Pay</b></p> <p>Due to potential unapproved local working practices, and new case law, there is a risk the Council could be exposed to future equal pay claims, thus impacting Council resources.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: David Pattison Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b></p>	Fair and Equal	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact:4</p> <p>12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 4</p> <p>12 Amber</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Although we have procedural assurance in place for the risk associated with equal pay, based on observations nationally it is appropriate to retain the target risk at the current risk level and for us to continue to monitor and mitigate the risk.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The Council has a job evaluation scheme in place for the evaluation of posts on NJC terms and conditions.</p> <p>The Council implemented the Single Status Collective Agreement on 1 April 2013. This agreement provides assurance that employees on NJC terms and conditions are employed under an equality proof pay and grading model.</p> <p>The Collective Agreement was subsequently revised in 2019 in order to accommodate changes to local pay points as a result of the annual pay award.</p> <p>There are clear governance arrangements in place, through the Pay Strategy Board, to oversee and maintain the integrity of the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>There are appropriate policies and guides for managers to ensure they apply the terms of the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>Payroll Services gate keep the integrity of the Collective Agreement as they will only accept payroll related changes based on instructions from the Pay Strategy Board and Human Resource Officers.</p> <p>Periodic audits of the Council's payroll system take place to ensure all payments and allowances have been applied in accordance with the Collective Agreement.</p>	<p>Councils job evaluation scheme.</p> <p>Internal audit report provides satisfactory assurance.</p> <p>External audit to review job evaluation scheme and process.</p> <p>External legal advice.</p> <p>Pay Strategy Board approvals of job evaluation and ensuring the integrity of job evaluation.</p> <p>Union involvement in job evaluation.</p>

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						The Council therefore concludes that it is structurally sound in relation to the equal pay risk based on the information before it.	
22.	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety of Council Employees</b></p> <p>There is a risk of serious injury, or death, to an employee of the Council where health and safety legislative requirements have not been implemented or followed.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: David Pattison</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 4</p> <p>12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b> The Council believes it has a sound and detailed set of procedures/policies in place to manage health and safety but recognises that whilst structurally there is a sound system there will at times be the risk that this does not lead into practice in certain instances and the key is ensuring that the practice reflects the policies and structures agreed.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b> City of Wolverhampton Council has its general legal responsibilities outlined in Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.</p> <p>City of Wolverhampton Council has a Corporate Health and Safety Policy which outlines its aim to achieve so far as is reasonably practicable the health, safety and wellbeing of employees (Statement of Intent) The Policy also describes responsibilities for implementing the Councils health and safety arrangements (Organisational Responsibilities). Finally, the Policy describes the arrangements for ensuring communication and implementation of its Policy (Organisational Arrangements). The policy is signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.</p> <p>City of Wolverhampton Council has a dedicated health and safety team who report to the Chief Operating Officer. The team provide support to all services (including schools) on the implementation of effective health and safety policy and arrangements. The team which has been invested in the previous 3 years and which has expanded in numbers, is made up of qualified health and safety professionals with appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to deliver to the needs of the organisation.</p> <p>Health and safety arrangements include 6 operational health and safety groups which all services are represented at, and which are chaired by a Head of Service with appropriate decision-making authority. These groups form a key element of health and safety communication, both up and down the organisation.</p> <p>These operational groups all report into the Strategic Health Safety and Wellbeing Board chaired by the Chief Operating Officer on behalf of the Chief Executive.</p>	<p>Director with nominated responsibility for health and safety ensuring visibility of health and safety management at SEB (Chief Operating Officer)</p> <p>Quarterly health and safety reports to Cabinet Member and Chief Executive</p> <p>Annual health and safety report to Cabinet</p> <p>Review of reported health and safety data including incident reports at Strategic Health Safety and Wellbeing Board</p>
	<p><b>High Unemployment</b></p> <p>There is a risk that historic levels of high unemployment will remain in the city without a systemic shift by a range of partners, as articulated in the city Education, Skills and Employment Strategy.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr J Coogan</b></p>	<p>Thriving Economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>More local people into good jobs and training</p>	16 Red	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p>16 Red</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 3</p> <p>12 Amber</p>	↔	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Claimant count has been historically high within Wolverhampton, and remains so, representing a whole city systemic challenge, which results in a likelihood score of 4.</p> <p>In September 2023 Full Council approved the <a href="#">Education, Skills and Employment Strategy</a> which sets out a whole life approach to learning and work which support children, young people and adults to thrive. This has led to a target impact score of 3.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Delivery of the <a href="#">Education, Skills and Employment Strategy</a> will require a whole system, whole city approach to support children, young people and adults to thrive. Delivery will be driven through robust partnership mechanisms.</p>	<p>In September 2023 Full Council approved the Education, Skills and Employment Strategy which sets out a whole life approach to learning and work which support children, young people, and adults to thrive. This is supported by a performance management framework and will be delivered through an action plan and specific change projects governed via the Wolves@Work Programme Board.</p> <p>There is a pipeline of planned activity with a focus on partnership collaboration and actively engaging with those directly impacted. This is all regularly reported to SEB, the Leader, and the Cabinet Member. There are also key partnership groups to oversee progress including the Education Skills and Employment Board, and specific partnerships with key partners such as DWP.</p> <p>The performance framework is supplemented by detailed monthly analysis of the unemployment data in the city and have provided comprehensive analysis of the historical picture and present trends. A performance framework for the Education.</p>
24.	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>There is a risk that economic challenges impact negatively on local businesses and they cannot access appropriate support to thrive.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	8 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact:2</p> <p>8 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 2</p> <p>6 Amber</p>	↔	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The regional and local business support landscape has changed. There are key issues such as low carbon, shifting government policy and reduced funding envelope. On 1 April 2023 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions integrated into the West Midlands Combined Authority. The regional Business Growth West Midlands was launched in September 2023. Alongside this the council has been exploring what a Council business support offer looks like in this new context.</p> <p>Establishing a coherent business support offer for the city which reduces fragmentation and delivers Our City: Our Plan is a priority to reduce the risk that local businesses cannot access the appropriate support to survive. This leads to us targeting to reduce the likelihood score to 3.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The business growth offer, funded via UKSPF, includes advisor support and grants to local businesses including low carbon support. Furthermore, as part of the business support offer, the council continues to work in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton and the Black County Chamber of Commerce to offer support to new and young businesses at Ignite. This is a free to use business and enterprise hub which offers professional environment and business advice and guidance working with partners and private sector.</p>	<p>Qualitative and quantitative economic data including business intelligence is used at a regional and local level to ensure that the business support ecosystem is appropriately responding to need.</p> <p>Project governance established with regular reporting to SEB and Cabinet Member.</p>

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25.	<p><b>Reputation / Loss of Public Trust</b></p> <p>There is a risk that the Council loses public trust and confidence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>failing to respond to the needs of local people, especially those most vulnerable.</li> <li>failure to inform the public about delivery of key City priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk Owner: Ian Fegan Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	Our Council	10 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 5</p> <p>10 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 5</p> <p>10 Amber</p>	↔	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Reputational issues have the potential to carry significant risk which is recognised by the high impact level. The council is not currently facing significant issues around key reputational issues (e.g., cost of living / financial position) so the likelihood is low at present.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Maintaining public trust and confidence is essential to the effective and efficient operation of public services. The way in which the Council delivers upon local people's priorities and how it deals with old, new and emerging challenges e.g., council finances, the pandemic, cost of living crisis, helps determine levels of trust and confidence which are essential to measuring reputation. The Council is delivering several key city priorities that need to be delivered efficiently and effectively including delivering opportunities for young people, regeneration and investment projects, a high-quality events programme and tackling health inequalities.</p> <p>SEB and Cabinet are aware of the issues and challenges facing local people and developed Our City: Our Plan – the Council plan, which was launched last year and provides a framework on how we will deliver our objectives to ensure Wulfrunians live longer, healthier lives.</p> <p>The plan aims to demonstrate that we are dealing with the things that matter to local residents and businesses. Keeping stakeholders informed through proactive and sustained communication will help to demonstrate that we are dealing with the things that matter, thereby building trust and confidence in, as well as support for the Council's work.</p> <p>The corporate communications team will continue to support service leads to provide timely, relevant, and accurate information on council services in order to build and maintain public trust and confidence in the council.</p> <p>The council has prioritised connecting residents with support to help tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Following the launch of the Council's Financial Wellbeing Strategy last year, a bespoke communications strategy and plan was developed and is being delivered. All other interventions for those in need, including financial support, is included in the plan.</p> <p>A Cost-of-Living public information campaign was launched early this year to ensure residents are aware of what support is available and how to access it.</p>	<p>Data provided by Insight and Performance team relating to key city challenges.</p> <p>Monitoring of local media.</p> <p>Monitoring of social media channels.</p> <p>Monitoring of external stakeholder environment.</p> <p>Data via the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system on customer calls and issues logged.</p> <p>Councillor Enquiry Unit data issues logged.</p> <p>Engagement with residents to shape services e.g., Lifestyle Survey and LGBT+ consultation. Reviewing data for those accessing Cost of Living (COL) support</p> <p>The support content is currently under review and will be updated as appropriate.</p>
26.	<p><b>City Centres – Council Led Development Projects</b></p> <p>There is a potential impact on the City if the Council does not take effective action to regenerate and repurpose. In addition, there are risks to ongoing Council managed and operated capital projects and programmes in terms of costs, timings and ensuring that original business cases continue to align with the Council's strategic aims.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	<p>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods</p>	12 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 4</p> <p>12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 4</p> <p>8 Amber</p>	↔	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>It may be difficult to reduce the potential impact of this risk occurring owing to the potential impact on the city of key capital schemes not being delivered and therefore not delivering outputs and outcomes. There is therefore a focus on minimising the likelihood of the risk (to a score of 2) resulting in an overall target score of 8.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The Levelling Up Board continues to monitor the City-wide regeneration and Levelling Up agenda to Our City Our Plan objectives as part continuous engagement with DLUHC, Homes England and West Midlands Combined Authority.</p> <p>The Regeneration Capital Projects Board ensure that the mandates for projects are fulfilled with cross directorate decision making forum aligning with the corporate assurance decision making processes. This will provide continued assurance and escalation processes for key capital programmes.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resource plan is being developed to review externally funded programmes over the next 18-24 months of programme.</li> <li>The Council continues to work with partners and stakeholders to mitigate risk and continue operations in accordance with Government guidelines.</li> <li>Engagement and the progress of grant funding request to deliver programmes continue with WMCA, Homes England and DLUHC.</li> <li>Inflationary pressures provide an increase in project risk and viability by both the Public and Private Sector on the delivery of Capital Programmes and the Council ensure sufficient contingency budgets are in place (both inflation and construction related) and a review of output realisation are regularly reviewed considering these pressures.</li> </ul>	<p>The Regeneration Capital Projects Board is supported by the Regeneration Capital Project Board Advisors Group made up of key officers in their areas of specialism to undertake robust assurance and due diligence of recommendations submitted to Board. Decisions will be subject to audit and provide clear visibility and scrutiny.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for key capital schemes (CLQ) and funding bids (Levelling Up Round 2 bid process).</p> <p>Investment and Economy Matrix Board provides an additional level of assurance in the conception and development of significant, cross service themes, projects, and programmes, and also ensures oversight from senior officers who provide direction and challenge to secure delivery of mandated schemes.</p>

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Alignment to the Our City, Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Rationale for target score and update position/further actions to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
27.	<p><b>Financial wellbeing and resilience</b></p> <p>Risk that without the council's plan to coordinate the partnership support across the city, residents will not receive support to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p><b>Risk owner: Alison Hinds</b> <b>Cabinet members: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	<p>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Healthy, inclusive communities.</p>	9 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 3</p> <p>9 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The joint delivery with partnership agencies across the city is integral to supporting the financial wellbeing of our residents, particularly during the current cost of living crisis.</p> <p>We currently have good partnership arrangements with over 75 statutory and voluntary faith and community agencies across the city co delivering this support.</p> <p>Whilst we have robust mitigation measures in place, we believe that the target score should remain at 9, due to the scale of influence we have and the level of resources available.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>The Council's Financial Wellbeing Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2022.</p> <p>The strategy details our partnership approach to tackling the cost-of-living crisis in the city through our graduated response offering essential support when required, responding to emerging need and offering an early intervention approach to support resilience in the city.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <p>Partnership approach to support coordinated by the council through the Financial Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>Additional City of Wolverhampton Council investment.</p> <p>Developing financial resilience in communities by promoting and supporting the development of sustainable models.</p> <p>Utilisation of tools and data to support the partnership to understand and proactively respond to emerging need at a local level.</p>	<p>Strong governance arrangements, with Health and Wellbeing Board being responsible for the implementation of the strategy, monitoring the progress of the partnership cost of living action plan.</p> <p>Robust implementation plan with clear impact measures.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation and engagement with residents and the wider partnership to ensure the cost-of-living plan continues to address local and emerging issues.</p> <p>Regular reviews presented to Families Leadership team, SEB, and the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Risk reviewed by Audit Committee.</p>
28.	<p><b>City Learning Quarter</b></p> <p>There is risk that the City Learning Quarter is not delivered as planned resulting in adverse impacts on life chances for young people, and learning for people of all ages, potentially resulting in difficulty for local employers to grow their businesses and for all to contribute to local economic growth.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	<p>More local people into good jobs and training</p> <p>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current Score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 3 Impact: 4</p> <p>12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 2 Impact: 3</p> <p>6 Amber</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>Reducing both the likelihood and impact of the City Learning Quarter not being realised is a priority for the Council. A reduction of both scores from 3 and 4 respectively is a core aim of the Programme Board.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Phase 1 (Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract let and building being constructed (industry standard building contract; external project managers; reputable principal contractor and designers)</li> <li>Funding secured.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring and reporting to the Programme Board supported by Council officers.</li> </ul> <p>Phase 2 (College)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract award imminent (industry standard building contract; external project managers; reputable principal contractor and designers)</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring and reporting to the Programme Board supported by Council officers.</li> <li>Funding agreed through Cabinet (6 September 2023) with dependencies on Government/ external funding being actively managed by the Programme Team (including legal, finance, procurement)</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring and reporting to the Programme Board supported by Council officers.</li> </ul> <p>Phase 2 (External Library Façade and Works to Library to accommodate Adult Education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal for single tender covering both elements.</li> <li>Use of accessible construction framework (supported by Procurement)</li> <li>Funding agreed through Cabinet (6 September 2023) being actively managed by the Programme Team (including legal, finance, procurement)</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring and reporting to the Programme Board supported by Council officers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Learning Quarter Programme Board meets monthly with Board Members including Director of City Development (SRO), Director of Finance, and College representatives.</li> <li>Board is supported by the Programme Director and Programme Team (including City Assets, Legal, Procurement, Finance, Audit and Assurance, Communications)</li> <li>Additional presentation/ assurance to SEB/ I&amp;E Matrix Board as required to ensure linkage and alignment with other Council strategies</li> </ul>



Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Alignment to the Our City, Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Rationale for target score and update position/further actions to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
29.	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b> There remains significant uncertainty in relation to demand for services, inflation and levels of government funding. This uncertainty creates a risk that we cannot set a robust medium term financial strategy.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Miles</b></p>	Our Council	20 Red	<p><b>Current Score:</b> L'hood: 4 Impact: 5  20 Red</p> <p><b>Target score:</b> L'hood: 3 Impact:5  15 Red</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b> The factors leading to this risk are largely outside of the Council's control and therefore at best the likelihood can be categorised as 3. The impact of changes in demand, inflation and funding are always likely to be significant which has led to a score of 5. The target score also reflects the uncertainties around a general election next year.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b> At the time of writing the financial settlement for 2024-2025 and future years is unknown. The level of uncertainty regarding funding and economic factors results in the level of risk associated with the MTFS remaining as red despite the strong financial management within the council.</p> <p>Despite the cause of this risk being outside of the control of the Council, work can be undertaken to mitigate the impact. Scenario modelling, having appropriate contingencies and a strategic reserves strategy are important mitigations.</p> <p>In October Cabinet received an update on the budget and MTFS and it was forecast that the budget deficit is £2.6 million for 2024-2025, rising to over £20 million in 2025-2026 and that work will continue to be undertaken to bring forward proposals to set a balanced budget for 2024-2025 and deliver a sustainable medium term financial strategy whilst seeking to maintain our ambition for the City in line with Our City: Our Plan</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:  The assumptions underpinning the MTFS will continue to be reviewed throughout 2023-2024 and updates will be reported to Cabinet.  Benchmarking is used to validate assumptions.  External advice will be sought where appropriate to support financial modelling as an when further information is available on a 2-year settlement and or fair funding review.</p>	<p>Regular budget monitoring at all levels.</p> <p>A local more detailed risk register is maintained within Finance.</p> <p>The budget and MTFS will be considered by scrutiny panels during November and December 2023 and Scrutiny Board in February 2024</p> <p>Recent and upcoming meetings:</p> <p>External Audit Annual Report – Full Council <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Performance and Budget Outturn 2022-2023, Cabinet July 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Reserves and Provisions, Cabinet July 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Budget and MTFS, Cabinet October 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p>
	<p><b>Financial Management</b> If the Council does not have strong financial management there is a risk that the expenditure will exceed the budget, leading to a call on reserves.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Miles</b></p>	Our Council	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current:</b> L'hood: 2 Impact: 4  8 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b> L'hood: 2 Impact:4  8 Amber</p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rational for Target Risk Score:</b> Robust financial management is essential to protecting the financial position of the council. A weakness in financial management can have a significant impact and results in an impact target of 4.</p> <p>The Council has robust financial management and therefore both the target and current likelihood scores are at 2.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b> The Council continues to have strong financial management and mitigates this risk.</p>	<p>Training for all budget managers, contract managers, Agresso users (determined by role and access)</p> <p>Regular budget monitoring at all levels.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the delivery of MTFS programmes is undertaken and reported to Strategic Executive Board</p> <p>Quarterly joint performance, budget and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Board.</p> <p>Budget and MTFS, Cabinet October 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Review of the CIPFA Financial Management Code as part of the Annual Governance Statement</p> <p>Internal audit of Key financial controls.</p> <p>External audit of the Statement of Accounts and Value for Money Annual Report.</p>
31.	<p><b>Related Parties</b> The Council has a number of bodies that it either owns or has a potential liability for. There is a risk that poor performance of these bodies could adversely impact on the Council both financially and reputationally.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Miles</b></p>	Our Council	12 Amber	<p><b>Current Score:</b> L'hood: 3 Impact:4  12 Amber</p> <p><b>Target score:</b> L'hood: 2 Impact: 4  8 Amber</p>		<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b> The impact of poor performance in our related parties is likely to be large and has led to the impact score of 4.</p> <p>The council can influence the probability of this risk occurring through robust governance and monitoring. It is the aim to continue the work that is in place to continually reduce the likelihood and therefor the target score is 2.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b> Each of the Council's companies have filed audited Statement of Accounts with Companies House, each with an unqualified opinion for the year ended 31 March 2022.</p> <p>As part of the Value for Money review, the External Auditor undertook a detailed review of the governance arrangements of group companies and reported that they did not find any significant issues. They also concluded that there are appropriate agreements in place and coinciding monitoring arrangements for all group entities.</p> <p>A detailed financial review of each company was undertaken as part of the budget process and was detailed in the Final Budget Report to Cabinet on 22 February 2023. Regular monitoring is undertaken and there are no areas of concern.</p>	<p>The Annual Governance Statement incorporates related parties.</p> <p>External audit of each related party.</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of governance arrangements in place to monitor linked bodies by Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel: <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>The External Auditor's Annual Report presented to Full Council in January 2023 can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Annual audited accounts:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yoo Recruit Ltd <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>WV Living – City of Wolverhampton Housing Company Ltd <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>Wolverhampton Homes Ltd <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> </p> <p>Yoo Recruit Review, Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel March 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Updated plans:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan, Full Council April 2023 <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>WVL Business Plan, Cabinet April 2023 <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> </p>

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Alignment to the Our City, Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Rationale for target score and update position/further actions to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
						<p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of Yoo Recruit Ltd which will in turn inform a refreshed business plan being prepared by the Company. The review was considered by the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel in March. Further updates will be presented to the Scrutiny Panel in due course.</p> <p>In April 2023 Cabinet approved a refresh to the WV Living business plan.</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes is drafting an updated Delivery Plan which was presented to Cabinet and Full Council and approved in March 2023. The Delivery Plan for 2024-25 will be presented to Council in February 2024.</p> <p>The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, including the management fee for Wolverhampton Homes, will be presented to Council in January 2024.</p> <p>The Director of Finance has undertaken a year-end review of the companies, considering the most recent business plan information and draft outturn positions. In each case it has been concluded that the companies can each be considered a going concern and in the case of WV Living there is no impairment to the Council's equity investment. This review feeds into the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2022-2023 which will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee and subject to external audit.</p> <p>Further actions to mitigate risk include the following:</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the related parties is undertaken, and monthly reports are provided to the Executive Team.</p> <p>Financial implications of our related parties will continue to be considered in budget reports.</p>	
32.	<p><b>Impact of statutory legislation and guidance on the Council</b></p> <p>There is a risk of pressures on the Council's resources (including financial) as a result of the urgent requirement to implement new statutory legislation or guidance.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Miles</b></p>	Our Council	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Current score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>16 Red</b></p> <p><b>Target score:</b></p> <p>L'hood: 4 Impact: 4</p> <p><b>16 Red</b></p>	N/A New Risk	<p><b>Rationale for target risk score:</b></p> <p>The factors leading to this risk are largely outside of the Council's control and experience indicates that this is likely to occur, therefore at best the likelihood can be categorised as 4. The impact of changes in legislation can be significant which has led to a score of 4. Also, the impact of emerging case law has an impact. For example, recent cases in terms of equal pay and term time only workers.</p> <p><b>Update position and further actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>Measures in place to manage unforeseen events such as contingency budgets and reserves are the best mitigation for the financial impact of this risk.</p> <p>Horizon scanning and sharing of knowledge and information with other authorities, professional bodies and central government helps to inform of potential changes at the earliest opportunity. The Council regularly lobbies through bodies such as the LGA to ensure that the Government follows the new burden principles that additional funding is provided where legislation/guidance changes the costs to authorities.</p> <p>A good example of the challenges that changes in guidance can cause is that given at the Council's Scrutiny Board on 23.10.23 in relation to the changes consulted on by Government to the Planning Regime and specifically the proposed changes to Green Belt Policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2022. Since that date the Council has, along with many other authorities, been awaiting the release of the new NPPF before it takes the next formal steps in the Local Plan process.</p>	<p>Recent and upcoming meetings:</p> <p>External Audit Annual Report – Full Council <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Performance and Budget Outturn 2022-2023, Cabinet July 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Reserves and Provisions, Cabinet July 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Budget and MTFS, Cabinet October 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Consideration of the impact of new legislation/guidance in relevant reports including through the financial and legal coding and reference to engagement with other authorities and through bodies such as the LGA</p>

**General Fund Budget Risks 2023-2024**

The General Fund Budget Risks below have been assessed for 2023-2024. It is projected that there are some cost pressures within some Directorates, therefore as a result to overall risk been assessed as Amber.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of in-year changes to interest rates, energy costs, non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Red
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of in-year demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and children's social care.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of in-year demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber
Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering in-year reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber
Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of a multiyear funding settlement and reforms to Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts.	Amber

**General Fund Budget Risks 2023-2024**

	The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties.	Amber
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT, taxation rules and economic measures	Red

Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Directorate	Service	Directorate	Service		
<b>General Fund Budget Virements</b>					
Adults Social Care	Various	Children's Services	Children & Young People In Care	1,100	Realignment of growth to support pressures within Children's Services
Children's Services	Children & Young People In Care	Children's Services	Children & Young People In Care	158	Education SENSTART Team Budget Realignment
Children's Services	Youth Offending	Children's Services	Youth Offending	107	Realignment of Youth Offending Team Budgets which is funded from grant
Children's Services	Strengthening Families	Adult Services	Carer Support	96	Young carer's service transferred in-house and to be delivered by Carer Support (Adults)
Children's Services	Head of Children's Improvement	Children's Services	Head of Children's Improvement	210	Adjustment of Head of Children's Improvement budgets within service to reflect current service
Communications and Visitor Experience	City Events	Communications and Visitor Experience	City Events	377	Reprofiling of budget the Darts event
Commissioning and Transformation	Commissioning and Transformation	Children's Services	Head of Children's Improvement	100	Reverse contribution after 3-year agreement has come to an end
Education and Skills	Various	Education and Skills	Various	3,103	Reduction in grant and to realign High Needs Block with budgets as approved at school's forum
Resident Services	Housing	Resident Services	Housing	271	Adjustments to budget to reflected updated recharges to the Housing Revenue Account
Resident Services	Transportation	Resident Services	Operation Management of Existing Networks	255	Reallocation of posts from Transportation to Operation Management of Existing networks
Resident Services	Director of Resident Services	Resident Services	Green Cities and Circulate Economies	51	Reprofiling of vacancy factor
Resident Services	Transport	Resident Services	Operation Management of Existing Networks	118	Reallocation of income budgets from Transportation to Operation Management of Existing networks
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Budgets	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	200	To support costs associated with care leavers discount scheme for council tax
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	Finance	Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	1,200	Reallocation of growth built in corporately to support cost pressures on Housing benefits payments and subsidy
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	Public Health & Wellbeing	Homelessness and New Communities	800	Reallocation of growth built in corporately to support cost pressures in temporary accommodation
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budgets	Adult Services	Safeguarding & Older People Care purchasing	300	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target

**Budget Virements**

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Directorate	Service	Directorate	Service		
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budgets	Children's Services	Specialist Support	100	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budgets	City Assets	Estate and Valuations and Facilities Management	50	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budgets	Finance	Central Corporate Budgets	50	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budgets	Governance	Various	1,100	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budget	Resident Services	Various	1,410	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
Corporate Budget	Corporate Budget	Strategy	Policy and Strategy	250	Allocation of £6.2m efficiency target
<b>Housing revenue Account Budget Virements</b>					
Housing Revenue Account	Housing Revenue Account	Housing Revenue Account	Housing Revenue Account	1,750	Reallocation of budget for interest costs to fund repairs and maintenance pressures

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>15 November 2023</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2022-2023	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Chris Burden Children and Young People	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Adults and Wellbeing
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Alison Hinds, Director of Children's Services Becky Wilkinson, Director of Adult Social Care	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People's Service / Adult Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Jenny Rogers Tel Email	Principal Social Worker 01902 555704 Jennifer.rogers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Directorate Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Scrutiny Board	8 June 2023 20 June 2023 4 July and 17 October 2023

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse 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.
2. Approve the main priorities for the Principal Social Worker identified for 2023-2024.

**Recommendation for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. 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.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the work of the Principal Social Worker in promoting and improving the quality of social work practice and outline the key priorities for 2023-2024.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Designated Principal Social Workers (PSW) were first proposed by Professor Eileen Munro in her review of child protection in 2011, which identified the importance of better communication and understanding between social workers and senior management. Munro stated that Principal Social Workers should:
- A. Create a clear line of communication between frontline staff and senior management.
  - B. Champion best practice.
  - C. Encourage a “reflective approach” to social work.
  - D. Support social workers to use their core skills and interventions which make a real difference to people.
- 2.2 The role of a PSW is a statutory requirement in Adults and Care Act guidance states that the PSW should be visible across the organisation, from elected members and senior management, through to frontline social workers, people with care and support needs and carers. Local authorities should make arrangements to have a qualified and registered social work professional practice lead in place to lead and oversee social work practice, support effective decision making and develop excellent social workers. This also includes overseeing quality assurance and improvement of social work practice as well as advising on areas of complex or controversial practice and on social work-related legislation, as well as ensuring the quality and consistency of safeguarding practice.
- 2.3 Social work is a unique profession and social workers are responsible for making potentially life changing decisions about individuals, often during very difficult and distressing circumstances. The role is extremely rewarding and the potential for making a positive difference for children, adults and families is immense. However, it is also emotionally demanding and can be subject to at times intense, often public, scrutiny and criticism. Austerity, increased demand, a culture of blame fuelled by the media and public figures as well as a national shortage of social workers resulting in increased workloads and stress, are all having a significant impact on the profession and outcomes for children, young people and adults. Research suggests that social workers and students see the profession as the worst ranked in society, well behind the respect other professions receive such as for doctors, nurses and lawyers<sup>1</sup>. The average working life of a frontline social worker is just over seven years, compared to 25 years for doctors and 15 for nurses<sup>2</sup>. The Principal Social Worker role is critical to help raise the profile of the

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<sup>1</sup> Social Work England, A Report on the Social Work Profession, June 2020

<sup>2</sup> Curtis et al, 2010, British Journal of Social Work



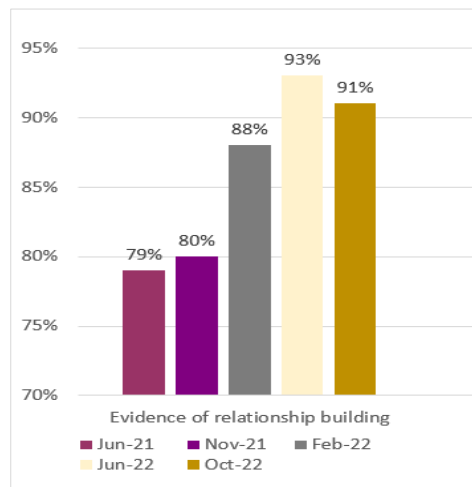
profession, creating a strong professional identity and challenge the blame narrative. PSWs call for change at a national, regional and local level, are key to transforming public perception, advocating for the wellbeing of social workers and attracting more into the profession. PSWs provide a strong collective voice on behalf of all social workers and strive to make a positive difference for the workforce and the people social workers support.

- 2.4 There has been a PSW with joint responsibility for Adult and Children's Services since March 2016. The decision to appoint one PSW across both service areas was informed by a commitment to promote a "think whole family approach", support better joined up working and inspire greater aspirations for children, families and adults with care and support needs.
- 2.5 The PSW role links to several of the Our Council Plan priority areas including strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential and fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it most. Strengths based approaches in social work also encourage a focus on community resources and building on the assets available locally to support families and people who need us, so there is also a role for the PSW in the healthy and inclusive communities priority.
- 2.6 The PSW reports directly to a Deputy Director responsible for commissioning and transformation with a dotted line to the Deputy Director in Children's Services and the Director of Adults Services (DASS). The work of the PSW is overseen and prioritised by the local Social Work Development Board. A degree of independence is required of the role in order to provide challenge within the organisation.
- 2.7 It is important that the role has a presence at, and is able to contribute to, national and regional PSW forums. These meetings are learning and development opportunities and also enables the Chief Social Workers for Adults and Children to share the direction of travel, answer questions and receive feedback from PSW's which can influence national policy and guidance. These events also provide opportunity for the sharing of good practice.

### **3.0 Progress**

- 3.1 The PSW in Wolverhampton has responsibility for policies and procedures, the recruitment and retention of social workers and quality of practice, which includes leading on implementing and further developing the quality assurance frameworks for Adult and Children's Services. The remit of the PSW's team also includes support for inspection and Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance activity. Although not directly leading on all projects involving social workers across the service, the PSW has a key role in promoting and supporting innovation in social work, such as the Social Workers in Schools project.

- 3.2 This year priorities have included building on the training and development offer for social workers that enables them to continue to develop their practice, as well as further developing the quality assurance frameworks and associated quality assurance activity for Adults, Children's Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The PSW and her team have continued to support excellence in social work practice and taken a lead role with Adults Services in preparing for the CQC regulatory framework from 2023-2024. There has also been significant activity once again this year to counter the challenges being faced in the recruitment and retention of social workers and also an ongoing focus on challenging inequality.
- 3.3 Highlights of the work undertaken by the PSW in the last 12 months since April 2022 is outlined below.
- 3.4 Quality of Practice – Children's Service**
- 3.5 Restorative Practice (RP) has been the overarching practice framework for the Children and Young People's Service since November 2016. It is a strengths-based approach that is about building, maintaining and repairing relationships. It is a way of being that supports working "with" children and families and not doing "to" them, identifying strengths but also being able to effectively challenge where necessary.
- 3.6 In June 2020 a Senior Restorative Practice (SRP) Lead was appointed to support the PSW in further embedding RP across the service. This year the main priority has been to re-establish face to face RP training which is now being delivered by champions from across various partners including police, health, education and the voluntary sector. This will provide a consistent and joined up approach to improving outcomes for children and families. Twelve champions have now been trained and the workshops resumed in November 2022, arranged via Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST). Internal RP refresher training is also offered, with 211 practitioners across Children's Services completing it over the last twelve months. A 'building and maintaining relationships with children and families who are reluctant to social care support' workshop was also developed in 2022, providing staff with tools to help develop effective restorative relationships where circumstances are challenging. A priority this coming year will be changing language to support the restorative practice approach.
- 3.7 In this year's social work health check survey, 98.7% of social workers agreed that "Wolverhampton has a clear model of social work practice that promotes relationship working and strengths-based approach to achieve best outcomes for individuals and families". This is an increase from 93% in 2021. Respondents referred to the Restorative Practice approach with its emphasis on relationship based practice and the positive impact this has had, which was echoed by Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) during its inspection of CWC in 2022.
- 3.8 The impact of RP can also be seen in the outcomes from practice conversations (audits) where relationship-based practice is now a consistent area of strength and the number of files rated good or outstanding have been generally improving over the year:



3.9 A key part of quality assurance in Children’s Services continues to be practice weeks, which is a more restorative approach to undertaking traditional file audits. The Executive Director of Families, Deputy Director along with all Heads of Service, the PSW, Service Managers and Team Managers spend time over a week having conversations on a one-to-one basis with practitioners looking at a child’s file and reflecting on practice. The advantages include being able to hear about practice rather than just reading about it, being able to see and feel how teams are functioning and being able to offer social workers immediate feedback. Practice weeks are well received with 87% of social workers reporting that they are a positive experience and some comments have included:

- A. “It’s good to see what you are doing well and where you need to improve...good experience to gain feedback and develop my skills”.
- B. “It made me feel like I was doing a good job...provides a safe space for reflection”.

3.10 This year the PSW and her team have continued to embed the revised quality assurance framework for Children’s Services which, in addition to practice weeks and observations of practice, includes moderation workshops to check the consistency of auditing against the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) descriptors. There is also a process for triangulating intelligence from across the wider system, such as complaints, data, child safeguarding practice reviews, feedback from children and families etc, to help better inform the service’s understanding of social work practice and identify where further quality assurance may be needed. The PSW plans to develop quality assurance activity further in 2023-2024 by introducing a 360 approach during practice conversations where more direct feedback will be sought from young people / parents / families to better understand the impact of specific practice being audited.

3.11 A few of the key areas of strength, as identified through practice weeks during 2022-2023 include:

- A. Practitioners know the children and families they work with well.
- B. Direct work through the establishment of relationships is linked to sustained changes.
- C. Risk is identified, children are safe, and services are making a positive difference.
- D. Evidence of strengths-based approaches and collaborative working.
- E. Assessments have made things better for the child / young people and are timely, comprehensive, and are leading to appropriately focused help and effective interventions.

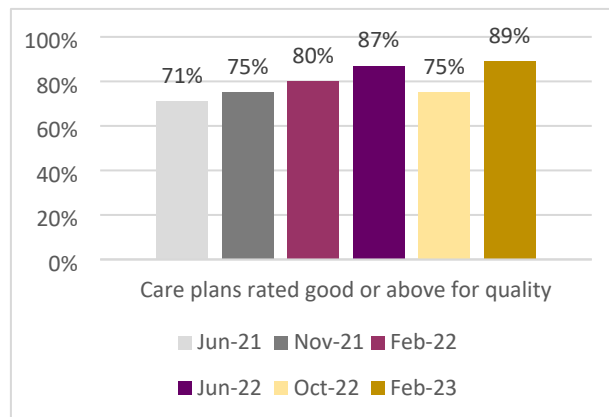
3.12 There has been a steady improvement in the quality of social work practice and this year's practice conversations (audits) are showing an increase in the number of files rated good or outstanding and a reduction in those rated requires improvement or inadequate:

<b>Audit Period</b>	<b>Total rated Good or Outstanding</b>	<b>Total rated Requires Improvement or Inadequate</b>
2019-2020	57%	43%
2020- 2021	72%	28%
2021-2022	82%	18%
2022-2023	91%	9%

3.13 The PSW is the lead for the Aiming for Excellence Plan, the service's practice improvement plan, which is supporting excellent social work practice by focusing on six key areas where intelligence is indicating that practice can be inconsistent. A team of Advanced Practitioners (APs), line managed by the newly appointed Deputy Principal Social Worker, play a key role in leading on the areas for excellence and improving practice. The APs also provide practical support to newly qualified social workers, students and social work teams, carrying out dips and embedding a reflective and learning culture across the service.

3.14 A review of the Aiming for Excellence Plan took place this year to assess the impact of actions taken and to identify where areas needed to be revised or removed from the plan if practice has improved. A number of areas are now considered consistent and as such have become areas of strengths, including practice in relation to care planning that can evidence progress and is supporting high expectations and aspirations for the child.

Actions that have supported this progress have included refresher workshops led by the APs and the sharing of good examples within teams and as part of reflective sessions.



- 3.15 This commitment to quality assurance and continual improvement and learning was recognised by Ofsted in their inspection in March 2022, commenting that “quality assurance arrangements are strong, with a comprehensive approach to learning from audits.” As a result, they concluded that “senior leaders know themselves very well and endeavour to meet the needs of children and families through high-quality effective services...This has led to a high level of consistent, strong social work practice.”
- 3.16 The PSW’s team will continue to support the service in preparing for future inspections, updating action plans and co-ordinating any improvement actions where appropriate.
- 3.17 Quality of Practice – Adult Services**
- 3.18 A refresh of the quality assurance framework for Adult Services was one of the key priorities in 2022-2023. This was in readiness for the new duty introduced through the Health and Care Act 2022 whereby the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will conduct reviews of local authorities adult social care performance. This will specifically look at its regulated functions under part one of the 2014 Care Act.
- 3.19 As part of this, the PSW and her team have successfully introduced a practice week model to Adult Services this year which is aligned to the Three Conversations© approach and supports a culture of learning and reflection. Feedback from practitioners and managers has been positive with many reporting that it brings the person to life and is more strengths based compared to traditional auditing. Almost 80% of those who have had a practice conversation this year felt it was a beneficial experience, with comments such as:
- A. “The learning experience was very positive – I was able to identify areas of development as well as strengths. Having the time to talk through practice was incredibly beneficial as well as having an experienced practitioner to critically challenge me in a supportive way”.
- B. “Good space to reflect, discuss and learn”.

C. “Some really reflective conversations”.

- 3.20 Quality assurance activity in Adult Services during 2022-2023 has evidenced that overall social work practice is of a high quality and shows adherence to statutory duties with 90% of files rated good or outstanding during practice weeks:

Audit Period	Total rated Good or Outstanding	Total rated Requires Improvement or inadequate
2019 - 2020	83%	17%
2020 - 2021	78%	22%
2021 - 2022	92%	8%
2022 - 2023	90%	10%

- 3.21 Consistently good practice has also been evidenced over the year in many specific areas, such as in use of advocacy, Care Act eligibility, Making Safeguarding Personal, managing safeguarding risk, effective management oversight and involving the person in decision making as well as promoting dignity and demonstrating respect. Good outcomes have been evidenced for people with care and support needs over the year, with an average of 97% of files rated good or above for demonstrating that social work intervention has made a positive difference to the person.
- 3.22 There has also been improvement in practice. For instance, professional curiosity was an area which had improved to some extent by the start of 2022-2023 but was not a consistent strength. A session was arranged with noted academic Professor David Shemmings in June 2022 on professional curiosity, and the learning was reinforced at subsequent social work briefings, which also provided time for social workers to reflect and apply their learning to practice. By the end of the year there has been a steady increase in the number of files rated good or outstanding, with an average of 76% of files evidencing professional curiosity compared to just under 65% in 2021-2022. There has also been some improvement in the use of the Mental Capacity Act and the quality of mental capacity conversations with a number of actions having been taken to improve practice, including refresher training. However, this remains an area for further focus in 2023-2024.
- 3.23 Three Conversations©, the strengths-based approach introduced in 2018, is well embedded in practice. Three Conversations© is a way of working which replaces the traditional “assessment for services” mindset with a meaningful conversation about what matters to them, making connections to people and places that will help them and better support their wellbeing. Practice conversations evidence that use of strengths-based approaches continue to be applied consistently, with an average of 84% of social work

files rated good or outstanding in this area in 2022-2023. Over 80% of social workers in this year's social work health check survey also agreed that Wolverhampton has a clear model of social work practice that promotes relationship working and a strengths-based approach to achieve the best outcomes for individuals and families.

- 3.24 The redesign of adult social care in Wolverhampton, which is now underway, will build on this and consider what more is needed to enable this approach to work even more effectively. It will review demand, workflow, systems as well as workloads and skill mix across the service to explore how adult social care in the city could work more effectively and efficiently without losing the person at the centre.
- 3.25 Another key priority for the PSW this year was to promote a culture of co-production and personalisation in Adult Services. An example of this was the collaboration with Think Local Act Personal (TLAP), a national partnership committed to transforming health and care through personalisation and the voice of people with lived experience. The PSW submitted a proposal to TLAP, setting out the commitment to using their [Making It Real](#) "I/we" statements in Adult Service's 2021-2022 annual report (the Local Account). Making it Real is a framework of best practice for personalised care and support. It is an easy to read set of principles that focus on what matters to people. This year's [Local Account](#) has been shaped by a number of people with lived experience, and the Making It Real statements frame the report and have informed the service's priorities. The learning from this will now be taken forward by Adult Services as part of the redesign work and the commitment to further developing co-production and more personalised approaches.
- 3.26 The PSW has also continued to be part of regional practice reviews to support the peer challenge process and prepare CWC for future CQC assurance.

### **3.27 Workforce**

- 3.28 The recruitment and retention of high-quality social workers is a key function that supports the delivery of good and safe social work practice. Effective recruitment and retention enables the development of a stable workforce, which in turn can improve the quality of work undertaken with children, young people, adults with care and support needs and families. However social work nationally is challenged by high turnover and vacancy rates, which can leave social workers trying to work with too many individuals. There is ongoing and increasing pressure on local authorities not only to recruit but also to retain experienced social workers and social work is on the national occupational shortage list.
- 3.29 The PSW continues to lead on the development and delivery of a robust and proactive recruitment and retention plan with colleagues from human resources, organisational development and the communications team. Some key activity this year has included attendance at recruitment fairs, piloting weekly interviews, delivering welcome events, as well as a continued investment in "grow your own" initiatives and other social work recruitment programmes.

- 3.30 There are many routes into social work, and it is important that CWC takes a mixed economy approach to investing in the training of new social workers to not only meet its own sufficiency needs but also contribute to the needs of the region. Some of the programmes and initiatives that supports this include the West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership (WMSWTP), Step up to Social Work, the Frontline Programme and social work degree apprenticeships.
- 3.31 The new level six degree apprenticeship in social work was agreed in December 2018. It provides an exciting opportunity for existing social care employees to undertake a social work degree whilst remaining in full time employment. There are 13 social work apprentices currently on the social work degree apprenticeship programme in CWC and four who have completed their social work degree this year, three of whom have now moved into newly qualified social work (NQSW) positions. This year the PSW has formalised the social work degree apprenticeship as a career pathway to ensure that once apprentices have qualified, they will automatically be offered a social work position with CWC. This has encouraged more to apply for the programme in Children's Services this year and as a result five apprentices are being taken on instead of the usual three. However, a priority for next year is to promote this opportunity more in Adult Services.
- 3.32 Step up to Social Work and Frontline Programmes are post graduate fast track social work programmes for people interested in the profession who have a 2.2 Honours Degree or above. Step up to Social Work is co-ordinated regionally and is delivered in partnership with the University of Birmingham as a 14-month condensed course. The first cohort qualified in June 2021 and are now all employed as newly qualified social workers in Children's Services. This year CWC has supported a second cohort of Step-Up students and two of the three students have now been appointed into newly qualified posts. CWC plan to take on a third cohort in 2024.
- 3.33 Frontline is a fast-track training scheme for social workers in child protection, which aims to attract outstanding graduates who may not previously have considered a career in social work. Participants complete most of their theoretical training whilst in social work placements, this allows them to transfer their learning into practice immediately. Since starting in 2017, 29 participants have been through the programme or are currently on it. A further cohort has been agreed for next year.
- 3.34 The West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership (WMSWTP) is in its fifth year of delivery and is the largest in the country consisting of 27 partners. Social work teaching partnerships are designed to enhance partnership arrangements between higher education institutions and employers; attract more able students; embed the knowledge and skills (post qualifying standards) into academic curricula; support continuing professional development (CPD) for existing social workers and overall raise the quality of social work practice. This year CWC have benefitted from participating in the WMSWTP in a number of ways, for instance by being able to access over 20 training sessions including trauma informed selfcare, domestic abuse and coercive control, and the lived experience of young people in residential care, as well as being able to access



conferences about co-production and practice education. CWC booked 90 places on courses offered by the WMSWTP this year and feedback has been positive.

- 3.35 This year a revised Practice Educator strategy was launched locally which sets out the commitment to incrementally increase the number of statutory placements offered to social work students over the next three years. This is crucial to better prepare students for practising as social workers and also increases the number of students who are likely to consider applying for newly qualified positions with CWC, which supports recruitment. This year the number of statutory placements being offered has increased slightly (26 compared to 25 in 2021-2022), but it is forecasted that this can increase further to around 29 next year. Actions such as welcome events and an interview skills workshops led by the PSW has encouraged more final year students to apply for NQSW position with CWC. To date seven of the ten NQSWs posts that have been appointed to from a recent campaign were final year students with CWC.
- 3.36 To increase the number of students placements also requires existing, experienced social workers to act as practice educators. The role of a practice educator (PE) is a key part of Wolverhampton's social work development and career progression pathway and as such supports retention. This year practice education has been well promoted by the PSW's team and specific sessions delivered to encourage social workers to consider this opportunity to help progress in their career and develop their skills and knowledge. This has resulted in significantly more social workers expressing an interest in becoming a PE this year than in previous years and so 22 social workers will be undertaking the course in September 2023 (stage 1 and stage 2) compared to 16 in 2022.
- 3.37 Other actions taken to support recruitment and retention has included creating and launching a new campaign, co-produced with local social workers, to better promote vacancies and help CWC stand out in a highly competitive arena as a social work employer of choice. The "be the social worker you want to be" brand was launched at Compass Recruitment fair on 20 March 2023 with positive feedback. Promotional materials include quotes from and photos of social workers from across Adults and Children's Services. The local social work [microsite](#), which sets out the benefits of working for CWC and hosts social work vacancies has also been refreshed and now includes the new branding. This will be developed further to include photos of young people and people with lived experience to promote specific campaigns and use of videos from social workers explaining why they choose to work in Wolverhampton.
- 3.38 To further support recruitment and retention, particularly in the Strengthening Families service where turnover can be most challenging, the PSW has been instrumental in supporting the creation of a new progression opportunity. This is aimed at experienced social workers who want to be recognised for their expertise, but do not necessarily want to progress to other senior social worker roles. This new role would not have supervisory responsibilities but would enable the social worker to remain in a social work team and carry out complex child protection work. It links to the recommendation made by the National Independent Review of Children's Social Care to create a new Expert Child

Protection Practitioner role, which has been since been supported by the Government's response "Stable Homes Built on Love" (February 2023). The PSW has also introduced Advanced Practitioner roles for adult social workers, which are also progression and development opportunities.

- 3.39 The PSW has also led on proposals to reimburse social workers locally for the costs involved in renewing their annual professional registration with Social Work England (SWE) if they are required to do this as part of their job description. Proposals also included reimbursing costs of membership to the Blue Light card discount scheme to any eligible employees across social care. This will not only help to ensure CWC stands out in a highly competitive recruitment market along with other actions being taken but will also help promote CWC as a social work employer of choice.
- 3.40 At the end of March 2023 the local social work turnover rate in Children's Services was lower than national and regional averages at 12.9% (compared to 17.1% nationally; 16.4% regionally) however recruiting experienced social workers into vacancies remains a challenge.
- 3.41 In Adult's Services the turnover rate of social workers was also lower than the national average, with a rate of 10.1% by the end of March 2023, compared to 17.1% reported nationally.
- 3.42 The annual social work health check survey asks social workers for their views on working conditions and there is a strong sense of pride with on average 83% saying they would recommend CWC as an employer to family and friends. Some comments included:
- A. "CWC are proactive and forward thinking".
  - B. "Having been given the opportunity to progress in my career I have been more than happy over the last 12 months. I have gained a new pride and positivity in my role."
  - C. "A great organisational culture...Fantastic colleagues with vast skills and experience."
  - D. "Positive culture and learning opportunities".
  - E. "CWC actively promotes cultural competence and diversity. It promotes an all-encompassing workforce which is excellent in its consideration of minority groups and making all members of the community feel included".
- 3.43 Positively the majority of social workers said they plan to continue working for the Council for at least the next 12 months and fewer said they definitely intend to leave compared to 2021. More manageable workloads would influence those who are unsure about staying. The adults redesign as well as other actions that are being taken to fill vacancies across both adults and children's services, will be key in ensuring workloads are manageable and will further support the retention of social workers. Recruiting and retaining social workers remains an ongoing priority for 2023-2024.

- 3.44 One of the key tasks of PSWs is to carry out an annual social work health check survey and ensure the Local Government Association (LGA) Standards for Employers of social workers are being upheld. The local social work health check was carried out between September and November 2022 and identified a number of key themes:
- A. Social work is a notoriously demanding profession, and, by its very nature, the role carries a certain level of stress. The number of those always or often feeling stress due to work has reduced or stayed the same this year except for children's social workers and feelings around manageability of workloads has had an impact on this.
  - B. Quality of supervision is high with around 90% or above this year reporting satisfaction rates.
  - C. Satisfaction with learning and development opportunities has increased significantly – actions from last year's Health Check to improve this has had a positive impact.
  - D. There is effective and appropriate communication between senior management and staff with a notable year on year improvement.
  - E. Most know where to go in the council to support their wellbeing and said CWC makes them feel encouraged and empowered to make time for self-care - they can discuss stressful situations / wellbeing with managers.
  - F. Social workers are spending more time working directly with people.
- 3.45 Action plans have been developed for both Children's and Adult Services to address areas for improvement.

### **3.46 Professional Standards and Practice Development**

- 3.47 One of the PSW's priorities this year has been the training and development of social workers, ensuring that there is a good development offer that enables them to continue to develop their practice. All social workers are required to record evidence of continuing professional development (CPD) each year with the social work regulator Social Work England (SWE) in order to continue to practice as a social worker. It is imperative that social workers are highly skilled as it is known that good social work intervention can reduce the risk of children needing to be received into care and can enable adults with care and support needs to remain, or become, as independent as possible. It also ensures that council resources are being used appropriately and effectively and supports retention.
- 3.48 The PSW has continued to lead on social work development plans for adult and children's social workers and ensured that training opportunities have been offered in line with service priorities, as well as keeping practitioners up to date with changes in legislation and / or supporting with the challenges and complexities being faced in practice. Some examples of commissioned training offered in 2022-2023 has included: child on parent violence, working with perpetrators of domestic abuse/sexual abuse, assessing and supporting parents with learning difficulties, motivational interviewing, advocacy, trauma informed practice, supervision for managers, cultural competence, mental capacity act, supporting autistic people during care act conversations and s42

safeguarding enquiries. Training is also accessed through the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together partnership and webinars and articles are available through the subscription with Research in Practice and Research in Practice for Adults.

- 3.49 The PSW arranges three separate children's and adult's social work briefings a year. The sessions have a learning and development focus often chosen by social workers themselves but are also opportunities for senior leaders to share key updates. This year's briefings have featured sessions on learning from local Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews; Liberty Protection Safeguards; supporting people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; using language restoratively and supporting people who hoard. Social workers have also shared examples from their own practice and talked about approaches that have made a positive difference.
- 3.50 The annual joint adults and children's social work conference took place face to face in November 2022 with the theme of "For the love of social work: celebrating professional identity and contemporary practice". 308 social workers attended, which was the highest attended joint conference in the last five years. Leading social work professionals and authors of the book "Out of the Shadows: the role of social workers in disasters" Angie Bartoli and Maris Stratulis delivered a key note speech reflecting on the valuable role social workers play at times of crisis and tragedy. Lori Goossen, Principal Social Worker for Medway Council, also shared her expertise on secondary trauma and compassion fatigue within social work and the importance of self-care and professional support. There was also a workshop on virginity testing, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation and a session on social work with refugees and those affected by any type of border.
- 3.51 Feedback about the conference was overwhelmingly positive. Some comments included:
- A. "Inspirational and inspiring".
  - B. "Proud to work for Wolves".
  - C. "Thought provoking, empowering and very relevant".
- 3.52 This year's Social Work Health Check surveys showed that significantly more social workers across Children's and Adult Services feel satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them with over 90% reporting this compared to around 70% last year.
- 3.53 The PSW has also continued to act as the single point of contact between SWE and CWC for any local fitness to practice referrals. The role is critical in supporting SWE progress their investigations in a timely way, ensuring that the public is protected and reducing the impact on the wellbeing and productivity of all involved.
- 3.54 Raising the profile of social work and connecting with practice**
- 3.55 This year the PSW and her team have continued to celebrate good practice in monthly newsletters and raised the profile of the profession by recognising key events such as

World Social Work Day, which took place in March 2023. In response to the theme of the day “respecting diversity through joint social action,” the PSW invited noted academic Dr Neil Thompson to speak about anti-discriminatory practice. This was followed by a collaborative session with the University of Wolverhampton and a guest speaker from India which helped attendees reflect on international social work and the Social Graces tool. Over 200 attended and comments included how this year’s local World Social Work Day events were “powerful” and impactful”.

- 3.56 The PSW has promoted the British Association of Social Work’s (BASW) national Amazing Social Work Awards this year, encouraging nominations across Adult and Children’s Services in Wolverhampton. Three social workers from CWC have been recognised and awarded the title of “Amazing Social Worker” for 2023 and been featured on BASW’s social media as well as on CWC’s City People.
- 3.57 The PSW has also continued to maintain a connection to social workers and frontline practice, with more face to face visits to social work teams carried out this year and more planned in 2023-2024. The PSW is also connected to social workers during practice weeks, at workshops as well as other forums such as the quarterly “It’s Your Life” meetings in Adult Services. In this year’s social work health check, the majority of social workers across Adult and Children’s Services said they have access to advice and support from senior social work leaders, including the PSW, with less than 7% saying this isn’t the case.
- 3.58 The PSW also attends PSW regional and national network meetings for adults and children’s and contributes to work plans and workstream activity. From November 2022 the PSW became the co-chair of the Regional Children’s PSW Network and has been connecting with co-chairs nationally.
- 3.59 This year the PSW has also raised the profile of social work by working with the University of Wolverhampton to promote the PhD research being carried out by two social workers in Wolverhampton in a national webinar hosted by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The webinar series, developed on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, highlighted local authorities who are demonstrating innovative and transformative practices. The webinar focussed on the importance of research-mindedness in social work practice and featured two senior social workers who are a year into their PhD research, having been sponsored by the Council to do this on a part-time basis. The research will explore honour based abuse and the use of physical chastisement as a way of disciplining children focussing on parents of African heritage.

### **3.60 Challenging inequality**

- 3.61 Equalities has continued to be a priority this year with the PSW taking an active role in the Rainbow Staff Equality forum as lead ally. The PSW has also been leading on some academic research which will support the rainbow retirement workstream and is supporting the delivery of the Rainbow Families action plan to enable the whole Families

Directorate to improve the support it offers to individuals who identify as LGBT+. This will include identifying relevant resources and training for practitioners.

- 3.62 As well as the sessions offered on World Social Work Day, the PSW has also supported the regional PSW network to progress its ant-racist/ anti-discriminatory practice workstream and has been instrumental in the creation of an equalities statement. This is underpinned by a number of actions now being taken forward by both Adults and Children's PSW networks and supported by the WMSWTP. Actions include establishing a regional forum of social work practitioners, students, universities and Adults and Children's PSW networks to share experiences, reflect on the statement and identify best practice. This will result in a best practice guide to be shared across the region. Training will also be identified and commissioned regionally.
- 3.63 The PSW has also been supporting the regional West Midlands Association of Directors for Children's Services (WMADCS) to procure a training programme aimed at supporting women of colour into leadership roles. The LeadHERship in Colour programme is for women of colour whose next steps are progression to a Head of Service role (or equivalent seniority) in the next few years. It recognises that women of colour are underrepresented in management and senior leadership positions and reflects the regional commitment to address this inequality. Two employees from Children's Services have been successful at obtaining places on this programme, fully funded by the regional ADCS network. Those who were unsuccessful have been supported by the PSW onto local development programmes or other regional leadership courses and been offered mentoring and coaching.
- 3.64 As a result of the strong approach that has been taken to equality and diversity by the PSW, the Children's and Adult's leadership teams and their service areas, as well as the Council as a whole, the vast majority of social workers in this year's health check survey said that CWC is actively committed to tackling inequality and discrimination.

#### **4.0 Key priorities for the PSW's work plan 2023-2024**

- 4.1 In 2023-2024 the PSW will continue to ensure that social work development plans incorporate a good development offer for social workers that enables them to develop their practice. The PSW will work collaboratively with organisational development colleagues to ensure feedback is obtained and analysed following all training attended, which will better inform the social work development plans for 2024-2025.
- 4.2 The PSW will lead the delivery of the revised Aiming for Excellence Plan and Adult's Best Practice Plan, to ensure high quality, consistent social work practice with the support of the Deputy Principal Social Worker and Advanced Practitioners.
- 4.3 There is more to do to further embed Restorative Practice (RP) across Children's Services, with a particular focus on language and on re-establishing a steering group to bring partners together to ensure RP remains a key priority across the system.

- 4.4 The PSW will ensure that anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice continues to be prioritised in training. As lead ally the PSW will, alongside actions already mentioned within this report, promote the leadership equality pledges, support EDI strategy (including being visible and active in forums and EDI events), and actively challenge where needed.
- 4.5 The PSW will continue to take lead responsibility, along with human resources and organisational development, for the implementation of the recruitment and retention plan to support a mixed economy of routes into social work and strengthen current recruitment activity, ensuring the council is able to meet demand and supply needs now and for the future. The plan will also build on existing strategies and explore new ways to retain social workers to ensure social workers see the council as a place where they can develop their practice and career and feel valued, trusted and proud.
- 4.6 A key priority is the annual social work health check and the PSW's team will also continue to support a range of engagement activities between the Directors for Adult and Children's Services and social workers.
- 4.7 The PSW and her team will further develop the quality assurance frameworks and associated quality assurance activity for Adults, SEND and Children's Services. This will particularly focus on exploring how to better utilise feedback from children, young people, adults and families and introduce a 360 approach to practice weeks.
- 4.8 There will be continued preparation for future inspections and also ongoing support for Adult Services in readiness for the CQC regulatory framework.
- 4.9 There is a need for the PSW to continue to play a key role in the ongoing redesign of Adult's Social Care in 2023-2024, offering independent challenge and also advice about regional/national best practice specifically in relation to social work. The PSW will also work with the Director of Adult Services and Heads of Service to collaborate with the national group [SocialCareFuture](#) to learn and share from people with lived experience and other organisations to change the narratives around social care and drive forward co-production and personalisation.
- 4.10 Another key priority for this coming year will be to build on the existing partnership with the University of Wolverhampton and support the link between research and practice particularly with the creation of research circles.
- 4.11 The PSW will also lead on further supporting the wellbeing of social workers, specifically exploring trauma informed approaches to supervision in helping to reduce secondary trauma.
- 4.12 It is important that the PSW continues to maintain a presence in national PSW forums. These meetings are learning and development opportunities and provides opportunity for the Chief Social Workers for Adults and Children to share the direction of travel, answer questions and receive feedback from PSW's. These events also provide opportunity for the sharing of good practice.

- 4.13 The PSW will continue to be the local lead for the regional West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership, co-chair for the regional Children's PSW network and the single point of contact for SWE.

## **5.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.

## **6.0 Reasons for decision**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The role provides the professional knowledge required to drive local and regional workforce development plans that will contribute to high quality, excellent practice.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report. Any costs arising from the actions in the workplan, and priorities set by the PSW will be met from existing budgets.  
[JG/09052023/H]

## **8.0 Legal implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.  
[TC/05052021/B]



## **9.0 Equalities implications**

- 9.1 Social workers provide support to the whole community covering all protected characteristics. This annual report highlights the actions being taken to ensure that social workers are supported to consider and tackle inequalities for all groups. The PSW will continue to ensure that issues relating to inequality for all groups of people with protected characteristics is incorporated into social work development plans.
- 9.2 From a gender perspective there are more female social workers across the children's and adults social work workforce (over 80%). In terms of ethnicity there is generally a slight over representation of social workers from a dual heritage, asian and black background compared to the local population. The Council's approach to fair recruitment is followed robustly for the recruitment of all posts within the Adults and Children and Young People's Directorate. This includes anonymous application forms, progression of people with disabilities to interview and diverse recruitment panels.

## **10.0 All other implications**

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications. However, it is noted that close collaborative working has taken place over the last year on the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy and action plan. This includes back-office support and attendance at social worker interviews and as part of recruitment campaigns.

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 11.1 There are no background papers for this report.

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