

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 4</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Our City: Our Plan Refresh 2024-2025
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the Our City: Our Plan refresh for 2024-2025, the City of Wolverhampton Council Plan.</li> <li>2. Seek cross party engagement to deliver the priorities set out in Our City: Our Plan the strategic framework to level up our city.</li> </ol> <p>That Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the priorities of Our City: Our Plan have been developed through a continuous conversation with our communities and partners.</li> <li>2. That a presentation and draft Our City: Our Plan was received by Scrutiny Board on the 6 February 2024.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p><b>Option 1</b> to not refresh Our City: Our Plan.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> and the chosen option is to refresh Our City: Our Plan which will enable the city to address key emerging challenges and priorities, and to capitalise on new opportunities to level up our city.</p>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<p>The Council Plan is a key component of the Council’s policy framework and supports development of the medium-term financial strategy and annual budget. Cabinet is recommended to approve the refreshed Our City: Our Plan to ensure the Council is to have a strong strategic framework which reflects the needs of local people and ensures resources continue to be aligned to city priorities.</p>

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<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	29 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Three Review and 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 Budget Strategy
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updated City of Wolverhampton Capital Strategy.</li>   <li>2. The revised, medium term General Fund capital programme of £373.7 million, an increase of £14.6 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.</li> </ol> <p>That Cabinet approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The virements for the General Fund capital programme detailed at Appendix 5 to the report for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. existing projects totalling £6.4 million;</li> <li>ii. new projects totalling £833,000.</li> </ol> </li>   <li>2. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education, in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance and the Director of Children’s Services, to approve the allocation of the Childcare Expansion Programme capital budget to individual capital projects and to enter into required grant agreements and to make grant payments where appropriate, in order that projects can be progressed in an agile and timely manner.</li>   <li>3. Continuation of both delegations to the Portfolio Holder responsible for Resources, in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance, to approve the allocation of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Corporate Provision and Contingency for Future Programmes budget to individual projects in order that corporate priorities may be addressed in an agile and timely manner;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p>ii. The Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy to individual transformation projects in order to benefit from the capital receipts flexibility announced in the Autumn Statement 2015 and in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>That Cabinet notes:</p> <p>1. That the City of Wolverhampton Capital Strategy detailed at Appendix 1 to the report is due to undergo further development and refinement. The result of this would be presented to members at a future meeting.</p>
<b>Options Considered</b>	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.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	To seek Cabinet’s recommendation to Council to approve the revised capital budgets. This will ensure that the capital programme reflects the latest forecasts and budget requirements.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	29 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The authorised borrowing limit for 2024-2025 to support the capital strategy as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 to be set at £1,261.30 million (Reference PI 3, Appendix 3 to the report). The forecast borrowing is below the authorised borrowing limit.</li> <li>2. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024-2025 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.</li> <li>3. The Annual Investment Strategy 2024-2025 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.</li> <li>4. The Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.</li> <li>5. The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2024-2025 as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.</li> <li>6. The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices as set out in Appendix 6 to the report.</li> <li>7. That authority continues to be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance to amend the Treasury Management Policy and Practices and any corresponding changes required to the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual MRP Statement to ensure they remain aligned. Any amendments would be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.</li> </ol>

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	<p>8. That authority continues to be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance to lower the minimum sovereign rating in the Annual Investment Strategy, in the event of the UK's credit rating being downgraded by the third credit rating agency, due to the current economic climate.</p> <p>9. That authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance, to amend the MRP statement should this be required following the outcome of the consultation.</p> <p>That Council be asked to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the MRP charge for the financial year 2024-2025 would be £20.8 million; it is forecast to increase to £23.2 million in 2025-2026 (paragraph 2.13 of the report).</li><li>2. That Cabinet or Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council would receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2024-2025 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy, as set out in the paragraph 2.11 and Appendices 2 and 3 to the report.</li></ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025 outlined reflect the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance along with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC's) Guidance on Local Government Investments and Minimum Revenue Provision.</li><li>2. The DLUHC guidance defines a prudent investment policy as having two objectives, security which must be achieved first, followed by liquidity. Only after these have been met should yield be considered. The criteria included in this report are that which meet all the above guidance.</li></ol>

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<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	To seek approval of the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025 in accordance with both government guidance and Codes of Practice.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	29 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	2024-2025 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2025 to 2026-2027
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The net budget requirements for 2024-2025 of £332.0 million for General Fund services.</li> <li>2. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024-2025 to 2026-2027 as detailed in Section 9 of the report and the key assumptions underpinning the MTFS as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report.</li> <li>3. A Council Tax for Council services in 2024-2025 of £2,004.27 (Council element) for a Band D property, being an increase of 4.99% on 2023-2024 levels, which incorporates 2% in relation to Adult Social Care.</li> <li>4. The refreshed Reserves Strategy as detailed in Appendix 8 to the report.</li> </ol> <p>The Cabinet approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updated assumptions used in the Budget 2024-2025 and the MTFS 2024-2025 to 2026-2027 as detailed in the report.</li> <li>2. That £1.7 million is transferred from the Sustainable MTFS Reserve (formally named the Transformation Reserve) and Re-organisation Reserve to the General Fund Reserve in order that it can be maintained at approximately 5% of net budget over the medium term, which is in line with the Reserves Strategy.</li> <li>3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Finance, to approve the calculation and allocation of growth in the central share of business rates for 2024-2025 and future years to be passported to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).</li> </ol>



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	<p>4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to allocate budgets from the Corporate Contingency for Budget Growth / Emerging pressures once business cases have been completed.</p> <p>5. That the Council enter into the Better Care Fund Section 75 Agreement along with the necessary ancillary agreements from the main agreement for 2024-2025 with the Black Country Integrated Care Board, and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care and the Director of Finance to approve the final terms of the agreement.</p>
<b>Options Considered</b>	In determining the proposed 2024-2025 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2025 to 2026-2027, consideration has been made to the deliverability of budget reduction and income generation proposals and budget pressures. If we were to not implement the budget strategy as proposed in this report, alternative options would need to be identified in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2024-2025.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer to report to the Council when it is making the statutory calculations required to determine its Council Tax. The Council is required to take this report into account when making its budget decision. The Chief Financial Officer's report must deal with the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	29 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 8</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan for 2024 – 2025
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Wolverhampton Homes Business Plan 2024-2025.</li> <li>2. The Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan 2024-2025.</li> <li>3. The arrangements for monitoring the delivery of the Wolverhampton Homes Business Plan and Delivery Plan.</li> </ol> <p>That Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the governance and monitoring arrangements of Wolverhampton Homes are to be reviewed following the recommendations of Cabinet 18 October 2023 (Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 – Landlord Services Review).</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	CWC could choose not to adopt the WH Business Plan and associated Delivery Plan. Where a delivery plan cannot be agreed, the management agreement sets out that it will be determined in accordance with its dispute resolution process.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is recommended that the WH Business Plan at Appendix 1 and the Delivery Plan at Appendix 2 is adopted along with the additional appendices. The suite of key performance indicators (KPIs) are at Appendix 3. The KPIs, business plan and delivery plan have been developed in collaboration with the Council and assists the Council to meet its priorities and regulatory requirements.</li> <li>2. Appendix 4 sets out WH's procurement plan for 2024-2025 as required by the management agreement, Appendix 5 are those contracts let in 2023-2024 and Appendix 6 sets out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme projects where management is delegated to WH.</li> </ol>

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<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	21 March 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Good Growth Strategy
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Wolverhampton Council strategic economic plan, Good Growth Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.</li> </ol> <p>That Council be asked to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the priorities set out in the Good Growth Strategy have been developed through consultation and engagement with communities and partners across our city.</li> <li>2. That a presentation and draft Good Growth Strategy was considered by Economy and Growth Scrutiny Panel on the 29 November 2024.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p><b>Option 1</b> not to develop a new strategic economic plan for the city.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> and the chosen option is to develop a new strategic economic plan which will enable the city to</p>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The Good Growth Strategy is a key component of the Council’s policy framework and supports development of the medium-term financial strategy and annual budget. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Good Growth Strategy to ensure the Council is to have a strong strategic economic framework which identifies opportunities for growth, tackles key challenges and reflects the needs of local people.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable

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<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	21 March 2024
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**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 10</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Wolverhampton Local Plan - Issues and Preferred Options Consultations
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Report, Sustainability Appraisal Report, and Summary Leaflet attached as appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report, be approved for consultation during spring 2024.</li> <li>2. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration, to make any necessary minor amendments to the Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Report, Sustainability Appraisal Report, and Summary Leaflet, prior to commencement of the consultation process.</li> <li>3. That a further report summarising key issues raised during the consultation and seeking approval for consultation on the Publication Wolverhampton Local Plan be received.</li> <li>4. That a new Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme (2024-2027) attached as Appendix 4 to the report be approved.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The alternative option would be to make no change to the existing Black Country Core Strategy. This would mean that the City would not have an up-to-date Local Plan in place for a number of years.</li> <li>2. Failure to have a Local Plan that is based on sound evidence could result in the City having insufficient land to meet the need for housing, employment and other land uses that are necessary to support the economic and environmental well-being of the area. It could also result in development taking place in the wrong locations, leading to an inefficient use of resources, traffic congestion and other harm. Having an up-to-date Local Plan in place is also essential to defend the Council's position at planning appeals. Lack of an up-to-date Plan risks intervention from central government and may compromise our ability to make decisions locally.</li> </ol>

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<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	It is important that Wolverhampton is covered by an up-to-date Local Plan, in order to meet statutory requirements and to support regeneration and investment in the City and protect areas of value from development. Cabinet approval is required for each consultation stage of the Local Plan preparation process.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	26 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 11</b>	
<b>Title</b>	West Midlands Combined Authority Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet ratify the Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding at Appendix 1 to the report.</li> <li>2. That the high-level next steps for Single Settlement negotiations and implementation between the West Midlands Combined Authority and His Majesty’s Government be noted.</li> <li>3. That it be noted that working with the West Midlands Combined Authority and other constituent members the Council would seek to secure the best possible single settlement for the region which tackles inequalities and drives economic growth.</li> <li>4. That it be noted that a presentation and report on the Single Settlement would be received by Scrutiny Board on the 21 February 2024.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p><b>Option 1</b>, to not ratify the Single Settlement MoU. This would delay or prevent work from progressing between His Majesty’s Government (HMG), the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), and local authorities according to the above workstreams.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b>, and the chosen option, is to ratify the Single Settlement MoU in line with the in-principle agreement by Mayoral and Portfolio Leaders on 3 November. This would enable work to progress between HMG, the WMCA, and local authorities according to the above workstreams.</p>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	Cabinet is recommended to consider and ratify the Single Settlement MoU and note the high-level next steps for Single Settlement negotiations and implementation, in order to progress work to receive long-term, consolidated funding, which will replace the individual, short-term and restrictive grants the region currently receives from HMG. This will enable a long-term, joined-up approach to funding delivery, which will, in turn, support the development and delivery of locally-led place-based strategies.



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<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	26 February 2024

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 12</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2025-2026
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for secondary and primary school admissions at the normal year of entry for 2025-2026 be approved and the Secretary of State be notified by 28 February 2024.</li> <li>2. That the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2025-2026, including the reduction of 15 places at Lanesfield Primary School be approved. There are no proposed changes to any other aspect of the arrangements.</li> <li>3. That the outcome of the external consultation in relation to the Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2025-2026 included in section 5 of the report be noted.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	An alternative option would be to approve the admissions arrangements without the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) for Lanesfield Primary School. This would result in an oversupply of school places and continued complexity of planning and delivering the curriculum.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Due to the outcome of consultation, it is recommended that the reduction in PAN of 15 places at Lanesfield Primary School be included in the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) School Admission Arrangements (SAA) for maintained &amp; voluntary controlled schools for 2025-26. No responses or concerns were received in respect of this proposal.</li> <li>2. Approval of the admission arrangements without the proposed change may result in an oversupply of school places, leading to inefficient use of resources and increased complexity of planning and delivering the curriculum.</li> </ol>

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	3. It is also recommended that the proposed CWC School Admission Arrangements for 2025-26 be approved as proposed as all comments have been considered and addressed.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	26 February 2024