

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

26 April 2018

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Training Room (Ground Floor), Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Ian Angus (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Christopher Haynes (Con)

Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Mak Singh

Conservative

Cllr Arun Photay

Quorum for this meeting is four Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Apologies
[To receive any apologies for absence]. |
| 2 | Declarations of interest
[Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate]. |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matter arising from the minutes] |
| 5 | Private Sector Housing (Pages 7 - 30)
[To receive an update report on the previous Vibrant and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel recommendations on the Private Sector Housing Sector and an update on the Private Sector Housing service, including the development of a Private Sector Housing and Health Strategy]. |
| 6 | Work Plan (Pages 31 - 44)
[To receive the current Scrutiny Work Plan and suggest items for scrutiny for the forthcoming Council year]. |
| 7 | Air Quality (Pages 45 - 48)
[John Roseblade - Head of City Transport, to present a report on air quality] |

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 3

Minutes - 21 March 2018

Attendance

Members of the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Ian Angus (Chair)
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Christopher Haynes (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Arun Photay

In Attendance

Cllr Steve Evans

Employees

Martin Stevens (Scrutiny Officer) (Minutes)
Earl Piggott-Smith (Scrutiny Officer)
Ross Cook, Service Director-City Environment)
Shaun Walker (Service Lead – Residential)

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Philip Bateman, Cllr John Rowley and Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz.

- 2 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 **Matters arising**

The Cabinet Member for City Environment stated an amicable resolution had been reached with waste and recycling contractor Amey. The Council's waste and recycling contract with them would be terminated in September 2018 and the service would be brought back in-house.

5 **Parking Outside Schools Scrutiny Review**

Earl Piggott-Smith (Scrutiny Officer) presented a report on the Parking Outside Schools Scrutiny review. The report had recently been considered at Cabinet where all the recommendations had been accepted. He recommended the Scrutiny Panel receive a progress report on the recommendations contained within the report in October 2018.

The Cabinet Member for City Environment praised the review. The evidence had been obtained from a wide range of sources. He was unsure whether the funds of approx, £40,000, could be obtained for the second camera vehicle recommended.

The Chair stated there had been some good coverage of the issue in the local press recently. He wanted the Council's communication team to be more proactive as per the recommendations in the report.

Resolved: That the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel receive a progress report on the recommendations of the Parking Outside Schools Scrutiny review at the meeting scheduled for October.

6 **Dog Control in Wolverhampton**

Shaun Walker, Service Lead – Residential, presented a report on Dog Control. The Dog Fouling Patrol Service had been outsourced to Kingdom in the last two to three years. Micro chipping had significantly reduced the number of stray dogs. 85-90% of the dog population were now microchipped. The legislation had caused a positive impact and had reduced the budget required for stray dogs by over £60,000. The number of reported dog fouling cases had reduced. There used to be 400 to 500 cases reported each year. For the first 9 months of this year there had only been 157 cases reported. The Council abided by the Black Country enforcement policy.

The Service Lead – Residential referred to the figures in the report listing the fixed penalty notices for dog fouling by year. In 2017 there had not been many fixed penalty notices issued compared to the previous year. As a consequence of seeing these figures he had asked Kingdom to increase their dog fouling patrols. It was clear litter patrols were more of a priority for Kingdom. He would be introducing some key performance indicators to ensure there were more dog patrols in the future.

The Cabinet Member for City Environment commented that press coverage in the Express and Star had raised public awareness of the fines people could face. Radio 4 had also done an interview with the Council on the issue. The Council needed to work with Kingdom on their unsociable hours patrols.

The Service Lead – Residential referred to the Social Media platforms which the public could use to report issues with dogs. They could also use the website and traditional methods of communication.

A Panel Member asked if the canals were ever patrolled as there were a few issues with dog fouling by the canals in Wednesfield. There also needed to be more bins in canal areas, particularly as children often walked by the canals. The Service Lead – Residential said he would raise the issue of patrols by the canal with Kingdom. Requests for additional bins should be made with the Council's Customer Services Centre.

The Chair stated people needed to be encouraged to report dog fouling so the Council and Kingdom could have a more accurate picture of the problem.

Resolved:

- A) The Council explore with Kingdom that their Dog Control Enforcement Officers patrol at different hours such as early in the morning and later in the evening.
- B) That Members encourage their constituents to report issues of dog fouling.
- C) That Officers approach Kingdom about more enforcement and the placement of bins by the Canals.

7

Future Work Plan

The Chair referred to the Work Plan circulated with the agenda. He asked Members of the Panel for suggestions to the work plan to be emailed to the Scrutiny Officer or raised at the next meeting of the Panel. There would be a further opportunity to suggest items for the Work Plan at the Annual Scrutiny day proposed for June.

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Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

26 April 2018

Report title	Private Sector Housing Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson City Assets and Housing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kate Martin, Service Director Housing	
Originating service	City Housing	
Accountable employee(s)	Ravi Phull Anthony Walker	Service Manager Private Sector Housing Homelessness Strategy & External Relationships Manager
	Tel	01902 552812/1631
	Email	Ravi.phull@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Place Leadership Team	9 April 2018

Recommendations:

The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider:

1. An update on the Private Sector Housing service including the development of a Private Sector Housing and Health Strategy.
2. The progress made following recommendations made by the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel on 29 June 2017.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To give an overview of the current function of the Private Sector Housing service and proposals for the development of a strategy which will be in line with local and national priorities.
- 1.2 To update the Scrutiny Panel on progress made following recommendations by the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel on 29 June 2017.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Between 2001 and 2011 the population of Wolverhampton rose by 5.5% and continues to grow. In this time the number of private renters nearly doubled from 7,000 to 13,500. The Census of 2011 showed that the Housing market in Wolverhampton was made up of the following statistics:

Owner Occupier	56%
Council Rented	22.3%
Social Landlord	5.7%
Private Rented Sector	13.2%

- 2.2 Within the last 5 years, however, the Private Rented Sector (PRS) has gone through a period of prolific growth. With many existing and new investors choosing Wolverhampton as a place to capitalise in. It is predicted that the extensive growth of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) will lead to it taking over Council and Social housing by 2020.
- 2.3 This rise in the PRS will bring with it great benefits for the economy of Wolverhampton; with better choice and improvement for our customers; however, this growth will also bring with it challenges and opportunities for the more unscrupulous landlords to exploit such growth, by providing poor housing and targeting the most vulnerable people who are limited in the choices they can make.

3.0 Private Sector Housing Service

- 3.1 The size and complexities of the private rented sector in Wolverhampton, has meant that the service provided by the Council has been predominantly reactive in nature. However, with the growth of the market, the increasingly dangerous conditions found by officers in privately rented properties, the increasing vulnerabilities of people residing within the private rented sector of the City, a more proactive, targeted and strategic approach is necessary to target issues head on.
- 3.2 Despite central government empowering local authorities with more tools to penalise the very worst landlords and providing further powers to licence an even bigger portion of houses in multiple occupation within the City, it is imperative that the use of these tools and powers yields the desired outcome of a better and safer market and not merely an additional administrative burden on the service.

3.3 The Homeless Reduction Bill requires local authorities to discharge more of our duties into the private sector; however, without proper intervention, we could be at risk of sending some of our most vulnerable clients into properties owned and managed by some of our most unscrupulous landlords.

4.0 Private Sector Housing and Health Strategy

4.1 It is proposed that a new strategy is developed, tested and implemented over the next 12 months. It is proposed that this will involve the following steps:

4.2 Evaluation of the Existing Service

4.3 A full review will be carried out of the service as it is currently being delivered. This will include an evaluation of the delivery of our statutory functions as well as national, regional and local priorities. This will be broken down into the following principal areas of work:

4.4 Requests for Service

4.5 Private Sector Housing receives approximately 550 requests for service each year. These are from tenants living in private rented properties in need of our assistance, as well as referrals from other agencies such as the Police and Fire Services.

4.6 Until now it was believed that these were the most vulnerable members of the private rented market and the service was targeting our time and resources into this area.

4.7 However, following proactive checks on properties as part of multi agency operations such as with colleagues from the United Kingdom Visa and Immigration; these properties were found to be in poor condition. However due to the vulnerable nature and status of this particular cohort of residents they were unable to complain to our service and draw attention to themselves. These circumstances lend themselves for unscrupulous landlords to exploit such people and keep them in some of the worse conditions, safe in the knowledge that there will be no recourse.

4.8 Another such area of concern is that of the migrant population within the PRS; who again due to language barriers or simply not knowing their rights or where to go to get help can be easily exploited by unscrupulous landlords. This cohort are also at particular risk of issues such as modern-day slavery.

4.9 With regard to the residents who do access our services; the following areas will be reviewed:

- Number of complaints that result in action being taken.
- Complaints that can be dealt with by advice only.
- Inappropriate use of the service, i.e. for personal injury claims, retaliatory complaints or in pursuance of a Council house.
- Number of category 1 hazards remedied by the involvement of the service.
- Level of landlord engagement and sign up to Rent with Confidence.

- Number of legal notices served.
- Number of prosecutions.
- Income generated from fees and fines.
- Annual cost of running the service as it stands.

4.10 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

- 4.11 The definition of a HMO in the Housing Act 2004 is a house or flat containing 3 or more people forming 2 or more households.
- 4.12 The larger, higher risk HMOs require a mandatory licence to operate.
- 4.13 The definition of a licensable HMO is where there are 5 or more unrelated occupants, in a property comprised of 3 or more storeys with some sharing of amenities (kitchens, bathrooms).
- 4.14 Currently there are 123 licensed HMOs in the City.
- 4.15 HMOs are more at risk of fire than any other dwelling type. Furthermore, overcrowding is also most prevalent in HMOs.
- 4.16 Due to the solitary nature of individual occupancy within a HMO; these properties are further regulated under the Housing Act 2004.
- 4.17 The following areas of review will be carried out:
- To understand what the government set out to achieve by the licensing of HMOs and if we have fulfilled that thus far.
 - If we have improved property conditions, in particular fire precautions in our licensed HMO's.
 - If we have been able to check on the compliance of licence conditions.
 - If any of our requests for service originate from our licensed HMOs.
 - If we are able to ascertain how many landlords have evaded licensing to date.
 - If we have been able to start on any proactive work to find properties of a poor standard or landlords operating in an illegal manner.
 - If we have been targeting the right group i.e., high risk property, high risk occupant, worst landlords.
 - A review will be carried out of how much the licensing regime has cost the Council to date and if we have been able to recover these costs.
 - Information will be gathered on numbers of fires, accidents that resulted in hospital admissions or deaths from our licensed HMOs.
 - Consultation will be carried out public health, fire service, homeless services and other agencies, internal and external to see where partnership working could achieve more.

4.18 Extension to Mandatory HMO Licensing

- 4.19 In December 2017 the government announced an extension to the mandatory licensing scheme of HMOs.
- 4.20 From 1st of October 2018 all HMOs containing 5 or more unrelated people who are sharing amenities, will require a licence. The requirement for 3 or more storeys has been removed.
- 4.21 It is believed that an additional 500 properties will meet this definition.
- 4.22 The following reviews will be undertaken:
- Based on previous compliance history and numbers of landlords known to us through the Rent with Confidence scheme, we will estimate how many we believe will proactively come forward to apply for a licence.
 - Resource requirements will be estimated based on these initial figures.
 - Similar to the initial requirements of mandatory licensing, we will set out how we will ensure property standards and conditions will be improved as part of the new licensing regime.
 - It is anticipated that landlords will change occupancy numbers in order to evade licensing. This factor will be taken into account when determining inspection criteria and courses of action.
 - Cost and recovery of the new licensing regime will be forecasted.
 - We will align our service and advice with planning and article 4 direction, including the setting up of a working group and the formulation of a policy document as requested by members at the last Planning Committee meeting, to ensure we are giving a one Council approach to prospective landlords of HMOs.

4.23 Empty Properties

- 4.24 There is a great emphasis on local authorities working to bring empty properties back into use. Not least due to the shortage of housing but also when left unattended, properties can become a blight on neighbourhoods.
- 4.25 There is an average of around 1,300 properties empty over 6 months at any one time in the City (council tax base return definition). There are a further 350 properties empty over 6 months that are exempt from council tax. These exemptions mainly relate to properties where probate has not been granted or where an owner is in care/ being cared for elsewhere.
- 4.26 The empty property team have a long-standing target of bringing 200 properties back into use following interactions with owners. Interventions range from simple advice and encouragement to enforcement action such as compulsory purchase.
- 4.27 Action taken to reduce empty properties is both reactive (where a property is reported) and proactive (where empty property owners are contacted directly). Around a third of the properties brought back into use are reactive cases with two thirds arising from reactive interventions. The target has been exceeded in the last two years through a

close working relationship with revenues and benefits and the introduction of an incentive for empty property owners to make contact.

- 4.28 The reasons that properties remain empty for long periods are complex and intelligence gained through increased interaction with owners informs the strategy to minimise the number of long-term empty properties in the City. The following combination of policy, interventions and incentives will minimise long term empty properties:
- The target to bring 200 empty properties back into use each year drives both reactive and proactive efforts and innovations to minimise the number of empty properties in the city.
 - Continued work with Revenues and Benefits to ensure that records relating to empty properties are as accurate as possible.
 - A premium of 50% council tax is currently applied to properties empty over two years in the City. Discretionary powers will be available from April 2019 to increase the premium to 100%. This option is likely to form part of wider budget consultations in 2018.
 - The incentive pilot scheme during 2017/ 2018 financial year has generated an increased level of engagement with empty property owners at a relatively modest cost to the Council. Cabinet have approved the continuation of the pilot in 2018/ 2019.
 - Incentives aimed at maximising the use of long term empty properties are currently being considered based on feedback from owners. A scheme aimed at assisting first-time buyers interested in purchasing a long term empty property will be the subject of a further report if considered viable.
 - An identified group of owners with empty properties are the elderly who are in hospital or care. An incentive will be devised to help them bring their property back into use, thus helping them with their care costs. This will also be the subject of a further report if considered viable.
- 4.29 Bringing empty properties back into use attracts New Homes Bonus to the City Council and results in additional council tax revenue. The costs of both reactive and proactive interventions can be offset against both increased income and reduced costs to the public purse by both the council and other public services such as the police and fire service. Having a safe and affordable home is likely to improve the health and wellbeing of the occupants and have wider benefits to the general location.
- 4.30 Fuel Poverty**
- 4.31 Until recently, the usual definition of fuel poverty was that a household was considered to be in fuel poverty when it needed to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel – or energy as it is often called. However, in June 2013, the [Department for Energy and Climate Change \(DECC\)](#)* published 'A framework for future action' which set out the Government's intention to adopt a new definition of fuel poverty for England. This new definition states that a household is said to be in fuel poverty if:
- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level), and

- Were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

This also uses a fuel poverty gap - i.e. the difference between a household's 'modelled' (average) bill and what their bill would need to be for them to no longer be fuel poor.

4.32 The key factors that can contribute to fuel poverty are:

- The energy efficiency of the property (and therefore, the energy required to heat and power the home)
- The cost of energy
- Household income

4.33 The number of households experiencing fuel poverty is rising at the moment for several reasons:

- The cost of energy keeps increasing, which means we need to spend more of our income on paying these bills
- Many of us live in draughty homes, from which lots of heat escapes, and rely on heating systems that are old and inefficient. And because we do not have much money to spare, it is difficult to make our homes more energy efficient, which would reduce our bills
- The general cost of living is rising and this is also putting pressure on our finances so we have less money to go around.

4.34 It is believed that one in five households renting from a private landlord are in fuel poverty.

4.35 The figures from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy show the West Midlands is the worst affected.

4.36 Private Sector Housing provide affordable warmth grants to vulnerable owner occupiers and have recently received Cabinet approval to extend this to private renters.

4.37 The delivery of these grants has moved to Wolverhampton Homes from October 2017.

4.38 The service ensures that every privately rented property it deals with has an Energy Performance Certificate as required by law.

4.39 From 2016, through the Rent with Confidence scheme, we further incentivise landlords by requiring them to have an EPC rating of E and above in order to become a 5 star landlord.

4.40 In April 2018 it will become a legal requirement, prior to the commencement of all new tenancies in privately rented properties to have an energy performance rating of E and above.

4.41 As part of our ongoing work to reduce fuel poverty within the City; in 2017 the Building Research Establishment (BRE) were commissioned to carry out two studies in

Wolverhampton. One was a stock modelling study, showing numbers of private rented properties and what kinds of hazards they contained by ward. The second report was on health impact assessments of those hazards identified in the stock modelling report.

- 4.42 The Council's Corporate Landlord is procuring a "white label" energy which will provide access to sustainably low energy tariffs for the inhabitants of Wolverhampton. This will assist in the reduction of fuel poverty in the City.
- 4.43 The work done to date will form the basis of the review; including the following:
- Stats from the BRE report show concentrated areas containing excess cold hazards
 - From April 2018 it will be illegal to commence new tenancies where a property has an EPC rating of E and below
 - For us to educate landlords proactively.
 - To proactively find landlords who knowingly rent energy inefficient properties and take action against them.
 - To ensure we promote and provide our affordable warmth grants to the most vulnerable people.
 - To work collaboratively with public health; based on the health impact work around hazards in properties.

4.44 Rent with Confidence (RwC)

- 4.45 Rent with Confidence is a star rating scheme for privately rented properties, landlords and agents. The star rating system is an uncomplicated way for landlords, agents and tenants to understand the quality of property and management service being provided. It works to educate and incentivise landlords to comply with the law. To date nearly 1700 properties belonging to 700 landlords/agents have registered on the scheme. It is timely to carry out a review of the service:
- To determine if we have improved conditions in those properties.
 - If the scheme has been successful in incentivising landlords to join and thus improve their properties.
 - To find other incentives for landlords to join the scheme.
 - To determine if the scheme been appealing enough to disincentive bad landlords.
 - To determine if tenants are using the star ratings to make better choices when looking for potential properties.

4.46 Proactive Priorities

- 4.47 Once a review of the service as it stands is carried out. A more targeted and proactive approach will be considered. Areas of intervention will be determined using the following key principles:
- Areas with the worst property conditions.
 - Properties with the highest concentrations of category 1 hazards.
 - Target properties by area, type and/or age.

- To determine where we can make small interventions with a big impact.
- To determine where we can make big interventions with a big sustainable impact.
- Review of selective licensing area/lessons learnt.
- To find properties containing the most expensive/dangerous hazards to the NHS.
- Where we can we make preventative interventions with public health on a spend to save basis to reduce curative cost.

4.48 Homeless Services

4.49 The Private Sector Housing service is working closely with homeless services/housing options to provide landlords and tenants with a holistic housing offer approach dealing with property standards and tenancy issues. The review will include the following:

- Determining the main reasons for the service of a section 21 (notice served by landlord to tenant requiring possession of property) notice.
- Determining who are most at risk of homelessness.
- To determine what proactive work can be done to sustain tenancies.
- Work with homeless services on preventative opposed to spend on fulfilling duty.

4.50 Analysis will be done of areas within the City to see where the worst housing conditions exist and where the most vulnerable clients reside. Data will be analysed from our internal records derived from our requests for service over the past 5 years, the information provided in the reports by the Building Research Establishment on stock modelling and health impact assessments within the PRS of Wolverhampton. A working group within City Housing as well as affiliated departments will be set up to understand what the wider needs of the Council are and how we can build them into our strategy. Peer reviews will be carried out with other local authorities both regionally and nationally to share and understand best practise. Consultation with cabinet members will also be carried out to understand priorities and ensure the work being proposed will be in line with the wider objectives of the Council. Landlord and tenant groups will be asked to comment on their priorities.

4.51 This consultation period is envisaged to take 3 months.

4.52 Following this period and taking into account all knowledge obtained from this consultation period, proposals will be made as to how the service will function. What changes will be proposed and why. This may result in changes of priorities for the service, but our statutory function will always be met.

4.53 The endeavour will be to proactively target the worst areas, housing the most vulnerable clients, in control of the most unscrupulous landlords. With priority being given to HMOs.

5.0 Housing and Health

- 5.1 The new strategic approach will move away from housing working in isolation to health, but more towards the amalgamation of housing and health. It is widely known that one of the key priorities nationally is housing and health.
- 5.2 Poor housing can lead to poor health and exacerbate existing health conditions. A warm, dry and secure home is associated with better health. The Building Research Establishment (BRE) in 2015 suggested that the cost to the NHS of poor housing in England was £2billion per annum (based on first year treatment costs only): an increase from the previous (2010) estimate of £600million. The English Housing Survey has identified a higher prevalence of poor housing in the private rented sector (PRS) compared to other tenures.
- 5.3 Collaborative work with colleagues from Public Health has already begun through our rent with confidence programme. In a spend to save bid, public health are currently working to quantify the cost of a category 1 hazard on the NHS. This has been further compounded by the health impact assessment work done in the BRE report. Jointly funded projects will look to remedy category 1 hazards that cost the NHS the most.
- 5.4 Consultation will be sought in conjunction with the Council's equalities and diversity team to ensure all cohorts of the City are consulted and their priorities are considered within our new strategic approach. This will include attending various groups and forums where private sector residents will be present. Similarly, landlord groups, charitable organisations and other public-sector bodies such as the police and fire service will be consulted.
- 5.5 Following this period of review and consultation a new method of working will be implemented. Teams will change within the service. Broadly being split into three teams of Education and Engagement (Rent with Confidence team), HMOs and licensing team and a specialist enforcement team will be introduced to target the very worst landlords.
- 5.6 In continuance with the excellent work done so far with public health on the rent with confidence project, further landlord engagement will be proactively done.
- 5.7 The aim therefore will be that every inspection or intervention made will result in a holistic approach of improving housing conditions, whilst ensuring tenants are given the right level of care and support within their homes and ensuring longevity of their tenancy. Landlords will be provided with the same level of support to ensure they can run their businesses legally, morally and profitably.

6.0 House of Commons Select Committee Review on Private Sector Housing

- 6.1 A national review of private sector housing commenced in January 2018 by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee. Some of the main areas of review to date were highlighted as:
- 6.2 New powers given to local authorities such as civil penalties up to £30,000 per offence. The private sector housing service in Wolverhampton has obtained cabinet approval for

the issuing of civil penalties within the revised enforcement policy. Prior to the commencement of issuing of such penalties and due to the high levels of fines involved, work with legal services and the corporate communications team is underway to ensure these powers are used properly and that landlords have been communicated with adequately.

- 6.3 The introduction of banning orders and a national rogue landlord database was also discussed. These tools will be utilised fully under the new strategy to tackle some of our very worst landlords.
- 6.4 The select committee also discussed the extension of the mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation. From 1st October 2018 all properties with 5 or more unrelated occupants, who are sharing amenities will require a licence. It is envisaged that this will affect approximately 500 additional properties in Wolverhampton. The strategy will aim to deliver reactive and proactive workplans for how to tackle this regime; including additional resource implications.
- 6.5 It was highlighted that government are not happy that housing benefit and the local housing allowance could perversely be encouraging landlords to subdivide properties. This is something we are aware of in Wolverhampton and are working to tackle this issue with our amenity standards, through which we are able to stipulate minimum room sizes and numbers of facility provisions based on numbers of occupants. This work will be further underpinned with the extension to mandatory licensing as well the article 4 direction requiring planning permission to be sought for the conversion of properties into small HMOs. It is accepted that there will always be landlords operating 'under ground' for which the strategy will scope out proactive measures to target landlords and areas.
- 6.6 Another area of review was the controlling migration funding available to local authorities to help with the impact of migration on the private rented sector. The City of Wolverhampton Council were within the first set of local authorities to bid for and successfully be awarded funding of £400,000. This funding will be used in conjunction with the refugee migrant centre in Wolverhampton, to provide tenancy training and support to people within the private rented sector from migrant communities who are less likely to know of their legal rights and thus at risk of exploitation by unscrupulous landlords.
- 6.7 Another key area of review was that of protection from retaliatory, revenge or illegal evictions. The controlling migration funding identified in 6.6 of this report will also be used for the recruitment of an illegal eviction and harassment officer. They will work across agencies between the refugee migrant centre, rent with confidence and the enforcement team of the private sector housing service, to educate tenants and landlords of what illegal eviction and harassment are, but also to prosecute landlords to operate these practises.

7.0 Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

- 7.1 A review was carried out by the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel on 29 June 2017 of the Private Sector Housing Service. Evidence was heard by a number of agencies including local landlords, letting and managing agents and various other charitable organisations who deal with homeless and vulnerable clientele. The Scrutiny Panel asked a series of questions of the attendees as to the current status of the private rented market; their experiences and concerns and how we could improve our services to help and facilitate the positive growth of the sector.
- 7.2 Three recommendations were set by the panel which are detailed below with an update on what actions have been taken based on each recommendation:
- 7.3 **Recommendation 1: (A) the Rent with Confidence Scheme through the introduction of an enhanced rent guarantee scheme, including covering rent in advance, and/or off-setting rent loss as well as training, support and vetting processes for landlords and tenants, to be drawn up in conjunction with the Private Sector Housing Forum referred to in Recommendation (B) below;**
- 7.4 Increased elements to the landlord's incentives were introduced in October 2017 with the introduction of pilot offer of rent in advance and cash deposits.

Deposit	Family Size	Average Case Cost *	Saving
£650	4	£2500	1850
£520	3	£2500	1980
£600	4	£2500	1900
£590	4	£2500	1910
£630	5	£2500	1870
£500	1	£2500	£2000
£500	1	£2500	£2000
£500	1	£2500	£2000
£500	1	£2500	£2000
£500	1	£2500	£2000
£650	3	£2500	£1850
£700	4	£2500	£1800
£550	2	£2500	£1950
Total			£25,110

*figure from crisis cost of homelessness analysis

- 7.5 With each homeless application costing in the region of £2500, savings of over £9500 to the local authority were achieved, via using greater incentives like cash deposits. From 1 December 2017 the rent deposit scheme and budgets are managed by Wolverhampton Homes so any additional incentives can be offered via the new housing options service on a case by case basis.

- 7.6 Recommendation 2: (B) engagement with the sector to include the setting up of a Private Sector Housing Forum, to comprise of councillor representatives, estate agents, landlords, tenants, client side representatives and community/charity groups such as Citizens Advice with the aim of the Forum to improve standards in the private rented housing sector;**
- 7.7 A Private Sector Housing Forum was set up following Scrutiny. To date two well attended and successful events have been held, on the 7th of December 2017 and then the 15th of March 2018; chaired by Councillor Peter Bilson and attended by officers from private sector housing, including rent with confidence officers, benefits and revenues, homeless services and the private sector leasing scheme from Wolverhampton Homes.
- 7.8 A variety of landlords have been in attendance including those already signed up to the rent with confidence scheme, as well as those who are not, with varying portfolios of properties. Some letting agents also attend.
- 7.9 This initiative has proved an excellent way to communicate with landlords. At the last meeting landlords were updated with the new changes in law and consulted about the new private sector housing and health strategy.
- 7.10 Landlords and agents are taking the opportunity to raise their concerns as well as share best practise with officers and each other.
- 7.11 Meetings are held quarterly.
- 7.12 Recommendation 3: (C) publicity of the Rent with Confidence Scheme to include a communications and marketing process and plan that enhances the scheme in a way that covers all parts of the city, to be drawn up in conjunction with the Private Sector Housing Forum referred to in Recommendation (B).**
- 7.13 The rent with confidence team are working with corporate communications to develop a plan and maximise the opportunities that exist from using existing channels and technology.
- 7.14 We have been advised by communications to utilise the 50,000-strong reach of Wolverhampton Today and 14,000-strong reach of @wolvescouncil.
- 7.15 We are working with communications to come up with a content planning schedule to promote the scheme and increase number of landlords who are aware and sign up.
- 7.16 We are working with communications to develop a targeted email approach to keep existing members of the RwC scheme informed and interested using gov delivery email marketing software. This is inexpensive to use, targeted and directly measurable in terms of results. The plan is to provide content monthly on a specially branded RwC template. This also allows use of video and other integrated social media.
- 7.17 We are planning how to target city landlords currently unknown to the service – meeting with corporate communications to identify how to reach, current internal databases, other networks etc.

7.18 A full communication plan is appended to the report.

8.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

8.1 How often would the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel like to be updated on the private sector housing service?

8.2 By what means would the Scrutiny Panel wish to be consulted on the new private sector housing and health strategy?

9.0 Financial implications

9.1 There is an existing budget of £40,000 for the rent bond guarantee scheme which has not been fully spent because the uptake has slowed down. The relaunch of the scheme in collaboration with Rent with Confidence and the Private Sector Housing Forum will provide a better offer from landlords and should ensure more effective use of the budget. If the budget is used to assist more families at risk of Homelessness this can prevent them becoming homeless and prevent the increased costs that will be incurred if they do become homeless.

9.2 There may be a need to increase the budget in the future in line with the increased emphasis on preventing homelessness. This could be funded from existing grant funding for homelessness. [JM/26032018/O]

10.0 Legal implications

10.1 Advice will need to be taken from the legal department as and when new projects are implemented, to make sure of the lawfulness of actions.

10.2 All proposed actions in this report are fully within the law and would make full use of City of Wolverhampton Council powers in this area, also making clear to members of the public that CWC is serious about enforcing against rogue landlords and supporting good quality housing.

LW/04042018/W

11.0 Equalities implications

11.1 Equalities implications for refugee and migrant communities are explored in sections 4.7 and 4.8 of this report. The proposed consultation will contribute towards a full Equalities Analysis of the Private Sector Housing and Health Strategy.

12.0 Environmental implications

12.1 There are no direct environmental implications as a result of actions being taken following recommendations from the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel.

13.0 Human resources implications

13.1 There are no human resources implications at this stage.

14.0 Corporate landlord implications

14.1 Corporate landlord will notify the private sector housing service once the procurement process has been undertaken and if a suitable provider has been identified.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

- 15.1 Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel 29 June 2017 agenda and minutes:
<https://wolverhamptonintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=507&MId=7311&Ver=4>
- 15.2 Cabinet Meeting 18 October 2017 - Housing Enforcement and Charging Policy:
<https://wolverhamptonintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s55687/Housing%20Enforcement%20and%20Charging%20Policy.pdf>

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'Rent with Confidence' Communications Plan – last updated 11/4/18

Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. City of Wolverhampton Council is pioneering the way local authorities work with private landlords after introducing a new five-star rating system to improve the quality of Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing. This is above and beyond the statutory legal minimum requirement.2. It is one of the recommendations from the council's Review of Private Sector Housing, which concluded in June 2014, and part of a wider package of housing measures aimed at improving standards.3. The 'Rent with Confidence' star rating system (RwC) for private landlords came into effect from May 2016 (soft launch). It encourages greater customer choice and aims to raise living standards.4. It works in a similar way to the rating scheme used by the Food Standards Agency for restaurants and takeaways.5. Stars are awarded to landlords who comply with the law and who rent out property above the minimum statutory standards, with financial incentives for five-star landlords.6. Landlords are rated on their properties as well as their practises.7. It is predicted the PRS will overtake council and social housing for a bigger slice of the Wolverhampton Housing market8. There are various accreditation schemes available for landlords to join. However, they are limited in many ways. It was felt necessary that a pro-active, fair, and simple approach should be taken to engage with landlords.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To communicate to landlords and tenants how the scheme works and how it will benefit them.

2. To show how innovative and proactive the scheme is in comparison to others nationwide and how it improves housing standards in the PRS.
3. To help make the scheme instantly recognisable and the first port of call for would-be tenants when searching for accommodation and attempting to identify the best landlords.
4. To highlight the better landlords, reward them, and promote them as the standard bearers. Educate the vulnerable landlords and help them improve. Penalise the rogue landlords.
5. To encourage landlords to work morally and ethically with the council.
6. To improve the health and wellbeing of residents, as well as raise better property and housing management standards and longer term stability in neighbourhoods.
7. To improve the private rented offer and support the economic regeneration of the city.
8. To ask landlords to encourage tenants to sign up to the electoral register by handing out 'how to' leaflet.

Key messages:

Landlords are required to demonstrate some basic technical safety knowledge. This will be in the form of a simple but comprehensive written 'hazard identification and basic legal requirements for landlords' examination.

The scheme means when prosecuting rogue landlords the council is able to better demonstrate its efforts to engage and educate prior to taking such action.

Housing team's time in dealing with rogue landlords who repeatedly and knowingly try and evade the law will be charged for showing cost-effectiveness.

One of the incentives is a five-star landlord does not have to pay for any housing-related licenses.

Landlords are invited to come forward and apply for their property to be star rated through self-certification (via online questionnaire). This helped deal with the initial large influx of requests and has been followed by a programmed, proactive inspection regime to visit these properties.

There is a clear and robust appeals procedure with the onus on the landlord to provide evidence.

Strategy

1. Develop RwC brand around the 5 stars and 'Rent with Confidence' slogan while remaining within Corporate guidelines.
2. The scheme works in conjunction with council's 'Educate, Encourage, Enforce' approach.
3. The rating system is based on 5 key principles (property, maintenance, legal compliance, continued professional development (CPD), investment in the city). Each element is weighted and together will give a final score; based on which a star rating will be achieved.
4. Regularly brief key partners, ward councillors and MPs to help spread the word about RwC.
5. The scheme fits under the Corporate Plan: Improving the Housing Offer.
6. Public Health outcomes are fundamental to the RwC scheme.

Implementation

1. Setting up and administration of RwC website, www.RentwithConfidence.org.uk.
2. Promotion of scheme and communication with landlords and tenants through social media. In particular take advantage of key influencers such as Mary Latham (Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme and National Landlords Association) and Don Robbie (NLA) to spread the message.
3. Move from use of established Landlord blog to monthly newsletter e-bulletin (via council's e-mail marketing system) to promote the scheme.
4. Use of media and trade press coverage.
5. Taking advantage of local landlord and tenant events, such as West Midlands Landlords and Letting Agents Conference, to

spread the message.

6. Production of sidewinders, leaflets and other marketing collateral, such as star window stickers for landlords to display on their properties, and letter-headers and/or footers, to establish RWC brand.

7. Work closely with partner agencies such as the Welfare Rights Team and Citizens Advice Bureau, Wolverhampton Credit Union, council's Empty Properties Team, Wolverhampton Homes, National Landlords Association (NLA), West Midlands Fire Service, Housing Options Team, Wolverhampton Home Improvement Service, council's Homelessness Team and partners, and Council-owned Housing Company WV Living, to spread awareness of the RWC scheme.

8. Use of weeks of action such as Private Sector Housing Week, Residents Week and Business Week; and national conferences such as Housing Week.

9. Adverts about scheme's web portal in lettings pages of local papers and/or popular lettings websites. Also make use of TV screens in Civic Centre and possibly in other city centre locations such as Post Office.

10. Case studies on good and most-improved landlords to show to other landlords what they can achieve by participating in the scheme.

11. Rogue landlords and criminal landlords will be hit with a more robust enforcement policy, and further use of licensing powers. Highlight as warning to other landlords.

12. See Appendix 1 (Action Plan)

Evaluation

1. Tone of coverage in regional and national trade media.
2. Levels of traffic on the Rent with Confidence portal (www.RentwithConfidence.org.uk).
3. Landlord and tenant feedback.
4. Key influencers feedback.

5. Analytics on reduction in service requests; and decrease in prosecutions for lesser offences as compliance grows.
6. Social media sentiment and analytics.
7. Levels of interest from other local authorities in RWC scheme.

Appendix 1

Action	Owner	When	Done
Soft launch to Official launch			
Brief all partner agencies in advance of promoting soft launch in media	RP/LW	May 2016	
Landlord launch event	RP/LW	June 2016	
Letter to all ward councillors explaining RWC – they can help spread the word	RP/LW	August 2016	
Photocall with Cllr Bilson, Cllr Sweet and Lyndon Whitehouse	OB/LW	w/c Aug 22, 2016	
Soft launch of RWC once web portal set up – through media, trade press, social media, key influencers and blogs	OB/RP/LW	Sept 5, 2016	
Piece in Local Government Chronicle about City of Wolverhampton Council pioneering way with RWC	OB	Sept 2016	
Stakeholder consultation period	LW/RP	July 4 – Sept 30	
re:new e-bulletin RWC video focus – video will remain on Council's You Tube channel as promotion for scheme to direct stakeholders to – use 'Landlord A'	OB	Sept 2016	
Promotion of RWC website	OB	ongoing	
RWC advertising sidewinders created	OB	October 2016	
Housing Week (B'ham ICC)	RP/OB	19-23 Sept 2016	

Business Week	OB/RP/LW	26-30 Sept 2016	
Letter to MPs to encourage them to speak positively about RWC on regional and national level	OB/LW/RP	Sept 2016	
Official RWC Launch during Private Sector Housing Week	OB/LW/RP	October 3 2016	
From Official Launch			
PR on first RWC landlord announced	OB	November 2016	
Inside Housing comment piece	OB	May 2017	
Regional TV Coverage on ITV Central News – Video accessible on YouTube	OB/RP	February 2017	
Leaflet for landlords and letting agents promoting scheme	OB	October 2017	
PR on RWC positive impact in city	OB	May 2017	
Six-month Action Plan from April 2018			
At least one RWC post/tweet on official council Facebook and Twitter pages. To include use of #ratemyproperty encouraging tenants to email in to get property star-rated	OB	From April 2018	
PR on Private Sector Housing Strategy consultation – targeting landlords, tenants and external agencies like Fire Service	OB	w/c April 16	
Monthly newsletter to Landlords via email marketing system	OB/RP	From May 2018	
Case study on most improved landlord to support official launch	OB/RP	June 2018	
Case study on tenant that has benefitted directly from RWC	OB/RP	July 2018	
Possible advertising of RWC scheme via online estate agents like Zoopla etc	RP/BH	Ongoing	
Further promotion of RWC to local estate agents	RP	Ongoing	

Look at ways can incorporate RWC leaflet into housing benefit or council tax mail outs	RP	Ongoing	
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Scrutiny Work Programme

Scrutiny Board

The Board will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to:

Combined Authority, Future Customer, Future Performance and Communications

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
05.06.2018	Annual Work Plan – invite all chairs and vice chairs (buffet from 4.30pm)	Julia Cleary	
03.07.2018	TBC		
11.09.2018	Scrutiny Review of the City's Apprenticeships Offer – 12-month update	Angela McKeever	
11.12.2018	TBC		
08.01.2019	TBC		
12.03.2019	Digital Transformation Programme Update - tbc		
09.04.2019	TBC		

Other potential items: -

1. Cyber Security
2. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
3. Recommendations from Succession Planning Scrutiny Review

Scrutiny Reviews

1. Budget Task and Finish Group for the Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee
2. Transport- what could transport in the city look like in 20 years' time?
3. Possible Councillor engagement (See M. Sargeant Tettenhall Governance Review Report)
4. Equalities (recommendation from Fire Safety Review Group)

Scrutiny Board – Terms of Reference

- a. To arrange for the consideration of forthcoming Executive Decisions published in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules with a view to identifying issues for early discussion with the Cabinet and/or scrutiny prior to decisions being made.
- b. The Board will oversee the operation of the [call-in mechanisms](#) with the Panels being responsible for hearing those call-ins related to their terms of reference. When the call-in relates to an overarching policy framework / budget issue or a matter that falls within the remit of more than one scrutiny panel it will default to the Scrutiny Board. Further, if the issue is considered to be of particular significance, either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Board can ask for it to come to the Board.
- d. The Board will oversee the work programmes of Scrutiny Panels to avoid duplication of work and to ensure coherence of approach to cross-cutting policy themes. The Board may determine that one named Panel shall take lead responsibility for a cross-cutting policy theme or may determine that the work be shared between one or more named Panels.
- e. The Board will ensure coherence between the policy development work of the named Panels and their role in the consideration of reports received from external auditors and external regulatory Inspectors.
- f. The Board will make recommendations to the Cabinet on the allocation of budgetary and employee resources held centrally for the purpose of supporting scrutiny work.

- g. The Board will ensure that good practices and methods of working are shared between Panels and in particular will seek to optimise the inclusion of citizens, partners and stakeholders in the work of Scrutiny.
- h. The Board will review or scrutinise non-Cabinet business and may make reports or recommendations to the Council. The Board will consider policy and due process and will not scrutinise individual decisions made by Regulatory or other Committees particularly those quasi-judicial decisions relating to development control, licensing etc. which have been delegated by the Council. The Board will not act as an appeal body in respect of non-Cabinet functions.
- i. The Board will oversee the work of any Councillors appointed to act as lead members or 'champions' in respect of any specific priority tasks or areas of policy development identified by the Council.
- j. The Board or another relevant scrutiny panel will consider any petition that contains 2,500-4,999 signatures with a view to making recommendations for action by employees or review by the Executive as appropriate.
- k. The Board will undertake the tracking and monitoring of scrutiny review recommendations.
- L. The Board will oversee the coordination of the budget scrutiny process.

Confident, Capable Council Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

The Panel has responsibility for Scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

Strategic Financial Services, Revenues and Benefits, Strategic Procurement, The HUB, Audit, Human Resources, Corporate Administration, Democracy, Corporate Administration, Democracy, Corporate Landlord, Transformation and ICT

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
18.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agile / Smart working (including different levels of staffing and types of job) • Treasury Management 	Sukhvinder Mattu Sarah Hassell	
13.06.2018	TBC		
26.09.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future use of the Mezzanine area and Temporary Councillor Office Area 	Tim Pritchard	
28.11.2018	TBC		
06.02.2019	TBC		
10.04.2019	TBC		

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

The Panel will have responsibility for Scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

Enterprise and Skills, City Development, Visitor Economy, Adult and Cultural Learning, Economic Inclusion and Service Development.

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
17.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation • Strategic Economic Plan – look at draft of the plan before Cabinet and formal consultation. 	<p>Heather Clark</p> <p>Charlotte Johns</p>	<p>How can we work with the University and other key players to encourage innovation across the city? Focus of the item would be on the work of the University, the Growth Hub and how as a Council innovation is being addressed, including how the Council collaborates with partners. Report covering areas such as the Knowledge Economy, Digital Agenda and Smart City, Springfield Brewery and the Prototype Centre.</p>
26.06.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall and working collaboratively with partners and agencies to fill vacant property • Marketing City Centre Plan 	<p>Isobel Woods / Charlotte Johns</p>	
18.09.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Apprenticeships <p>Note - Ensure – Meredith Teasdale Invited)</p>	<p>Angela McKeever</p>	
20.11.2018	TBC		

12.02.2019	TBC		
02.04.2019	TBC		

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

Other Potential items (when something significant needs a panel recommendation):

1. The potential effects of Brexit on the local economy
2. Policy implications from West Midlands Combined Authority/Regional/National or International Sources
3. How do we monitor our communications?
4. Skills and Employment

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

The Panel will have responsibility for Scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

Operational Services, Public Realm, Commercial Services, Regulatory Services (policy), City Housing, Planning (policy), Strategic Transport, Keeping the city clean, Keeping the city moving, Improving the city housing offer and Strategic Asset Management.

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
26.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality/Transport – Public Health to contribute – looking at ways to improve air quality in hot spots around the city which could include work for the Transport Review Group (John Roseblade) • Private Sector Housing Update 	<p>John Roseblade</p> <p>Ravi Phull</p>	
12.07.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Work of Contractor Kingdom (Provisional – To Be Confirmed) • Waste Management Delivery Plan and Strategy (Provisional – To be Confirmed) • Full Review of Allocations Policy 	<p>Ross Cook</p> <p>Ross Cook</p> <p>Anthony Walker</p>	
04.10.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Waste Management Delivery Plan • Parking Outside Schools – Review Progress of Implementation of recommendations 	<p>Ross Cook</p> <p>Earl Piggott-Smith</p>	

06.12.2018	Director of Public Health – Progress Report Park and Stride Scheme	John Denley	
28.02.2019	TBC		
11.04.2019	TBC		

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Panel will have responsibility for Scrutiny functions as they relate to:-

- All health related issues, including liaison with NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Wellbeing Board and HealthWatch.
- All functions of the Council contained in the National Health Service Act 2006, to all regulations and directions made under the Health and Social Care Act 2001, the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002, The Health and Social Care Act 2012 and related regulations.
- Reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies, relevant health service providers, the Secretary of State or Regulators.
- Initiating the response to any formal consultation undertaken by relevant NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups or other health providers or commissioners on any substantial development or variation in services.
- Participating with other relevant neighbouring local authorities in any joint scrutiny arrangements of NHS Trusts providing crossborder services.
- Decisions made by or actions of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Public Health – Intelligence and Evidence
- Public Health – Health Protection and NHS Facing
- Public Health - Transformation
- Public Health – Commissioning
- Healthier City
- Mental Health
- Commissioning Mental Health and Disability

- Headstart Programme

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
24.05.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust - Quality Accounts 2017/18 		
19.07.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Learoyd, Chief Officer, Healthwatch Wolverhampton Annual Report 2017/18 • Cheryl Etches, Never Events, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 		
20.09.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust 		
15.11.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Courts, Children's Commissioning Manager, WCCG, to present update report on refreshed CAMHS Local Transformation Plan to meeting on 15.11.18 • Public Health Vision – Analysis of consultation responses 		
24.01.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 		
21.03.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Mortality Statistics – update • Public Health Vision – Review of Progress 		

Long list of topics - dates for presentation and method of scrutiny to be agreed

1. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust – Primary Care Vertical Integration
2. West Midlands Ambulance Service - Quality Accounts 2017/18
3. CAMHS – Emma Bennett to lead and Stephen Marshall (CCG)
4. Walsall CCG - Reconfiguration of hyper acute and acute stroke services
5. Healthwatch Work Programme Planning Document 1 April 2017- 31 March 2018

- Urgent and emergency care
- Dementia
- Access to healthcare for the deaf community
- Transfer of services
- CAMHS
- Youth Healthwatch and Oral health

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

Older people assessment and care management, Financial support services, Libraries and community hubs, Independent living centre, Commissioning older people, Carers support and All age disabilities (disabilities).

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
12.06.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report • Modern Slavery - update report 	Karen Samuels	
25.09.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolverhampton Adult Education Service - briefing about the current education offer 	Joanne Keatley, Head of Service	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2016-20 	David Jamieson, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	
27.11.2018	TBC		
29.01.2019	TBC		
26.03.2019	TBC		

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Long list of topics - dates for presentation and method of scrutiny to be agreed

1. Quality of Care – issues of quality assurance - Sarah Smith, Head of Commissioning
2. Draft People Directorate Commissioning Strategy – 13.6.17
3. Responding to Serious and Organised Crime - To provide an outline of partnership proposals to address serious and organised crime in the city and the Council's contribution. (Karen Samuels – CWC Community Safety/Chief Inspector Karen Geddes – West Midlands Police/Andy Moran – CWC Procurement)
4. David Jamieson, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, accepted invitation to attend meeting to present report – date tbc

Briefing notes for distribution via the Document Library:

1. Fatal Contraband and Alcohol - Update requested from meeting in July 2016 – Sue Smith agreed to lead
2. Crime Reduction and Community Safety and Drugs Strategy Update – request from meeting held in July 2017 – Karen Samuels and David Watts
3. Supporting a Safe and Seamless Transfer from Specialist Care or Hospital Setting – Update to be provided following meeting on 31 January 2017 (David Watts).
4. Better Care Fund – Update requested at meeting held on 31 January 2017.
5. Dementia City – Update on how GP services could be improved, any identified strengths and weaknesses and if possible data on which GPs were reporting incidents – lead Kathy Roper

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

Children in need/child protection, Looked after children, Early help 0-5, Early help 5-18, Youth offending, Children's commissioning, School planning and resources and Standards and vulnerable pupils.

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
11.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head Start Phase 3 – Progress and Impact Update 	Emma Cleary - Head Start Programme Manager	
20.06.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for change in Play Service Offer 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Strategy 	Lisa Hill - Early Years' Service Manager	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q4 Children's Improvement Plan and the 18/19 plan 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vision for School Organisation in Wolverhampton 2018-2020 	Katherine Dowd, School Organisation Officer	
05.09.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troubled Families Report 	Kate Lees - Strengthening Families Partnership Manager Intervention People	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Help Strategy 2018-2022 	Denise Williams - Head of Service Early	
14.11.2018	TBC		
16.01.2019	TBC		
27.03.2019	TBC		

Long list of topics - dates for presentation and method of scrutiny to be agreed

1. Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children – pre-suggested item
2. Mental Health Issues/CAMHS (Emma Bennett/CCG) – pre-suggested item
3. Youth homelessness – pre-suggested item

Work Plan Version: 10/04/2018 15:40am

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Title: Air Quality Update

Prepared by: John Roseblade Head of City Transport **Date:** April 2018

Intended audience: Internal Partner Organisations Public Confidential

1.0 Purpose or recommendation

1.1 The purpose of this note is to provide a briefing on Air Quality in the City of Wolverhampton and specifically to update the Panel on recent communications and direction from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

2.0 Summary

2.1 It is now well established that certain areas of the UK are failing to meet European Union (EU) Standards on Air Quality, specifically relating to levels of Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂.

2.2 In Summer last year Defra produced an Air Quality Action Plan mandating certain Councils with the worst air pollution problems to formally report on how they propose to meet EU Air Quality objectives. At that stage the 'marginal' authorities were not included in the plan with Defra happy to take a more informal, pragmatic approach on air quality actions.

2.3 Following a further challenge from Client Earth (a charity led action group) the High Court have recently issued a judgement stating that the government must take a firmer approach with those marginal authorities. All four Black Country Authorities are included in this definition.

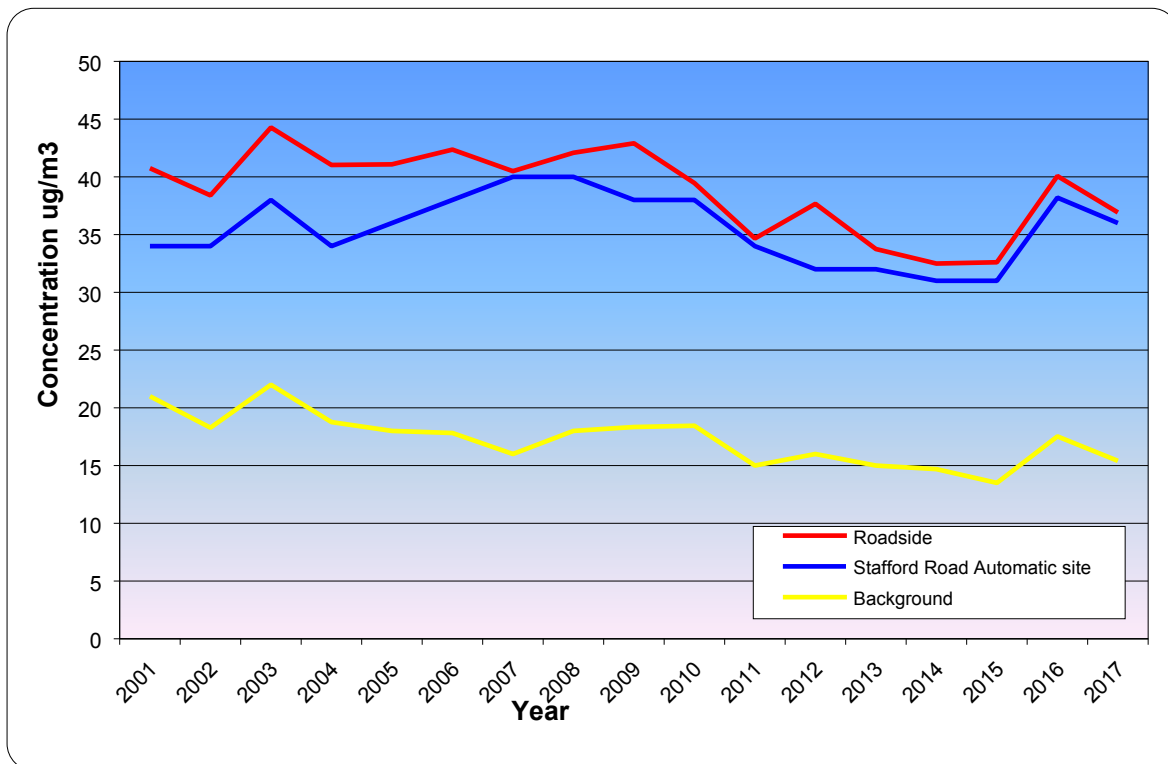
2.4 In March 2018 the government subsequently issued a Ministerial Direction on City of Wolverhampton Council requiring the consideration of measures to bring forward compliance with the EU directives in the shortest possible time.

3.0 Air quality in Wolverhampton

3.1 The entire City of Wolverhampton is declared as an Air Quality Management Area due to exceedances of the statutory limit for Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂. This is predominantly caused by road vehicles and is closely associated with the busiest roads within the City.

3.2 Since 2010 the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Wolverhampton have generally been reducing. This is largely due to the gradual replacement of vehicles for more modern, cleaner models as well as better traffic / bus route flows in the city centre and the reduction of polluting traffic in and around the city centre and other hot spot areas. A graph below shows an example of monitored levels over the last 16 years.

3.3 There was however a general increase in 2016. There is no evidence that emissions dramatically increased in this year and the differences are most likely attributable to weather conditions being less conducive to dispersal at this time.



- 3.4 Defra use a specific Air Quality prediction model called Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) to predict where there may be ongoing Air Quality issues. This is a fairly coarse national model designed to meet the requirements of the EU Directive. It is acknowledged by Defra and the High Court that there will be discrepancies between this national model and more localised conditions.
- 3.5 Using the PCM Defra have identified ongoing exceedances of the EU NO_2 limit at the following locations (note the EU annual average limit is $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$): Sections of St David's ring road and the Black Country Route near Bilston. These areas are shown on the Map (provided by Defra) attached.
- 3.6 The plans show the year in which the PCM predicts when the sections of road will comply with the EU Directive. The Ministerial Directive Legally obliges the Council to undertake a targeted feasibility study of how compliance can be accelerated. This must be submitted by 31 July 2018. There is also an interim milestone of 30 April 2018 where pre-existing knowledge such as monitoring/modelling data, traffic counts etc must be submitted.

4.0 Next Actions

- 4.1 Defra are looking to work with the Council in identifying measures that may have already been undertaken but not accounted for in Defra's model; any information we can provide to refine the national PCM; any actions or schemes that are planned or programmed which could accelerate the dates for compliance as listed in 5 below.
- 4.2 In addition to City of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Solihull have also been identified in the West Midlands. (This is in addition to Birmingham and Coventry who have been included in previous phases). It is subsequently proposed to work collaboratively with the potential for a single commission, possibly procured through existing frameworks, to assist in delivering the project.

4.3 In order to achieve these very tight timescales Defra have made a grant available of £50,000. Progress will be reported to Strategic Directors and to Chief Executives through the Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA).

4.4 Our Air Quality Monitoring equipment is in need of upgrading and expanding, especially given we will need to demonstrate real world pollution levels using EU Directive compliant methods. We will explore if the Defra funding being made available gives us opportunity to do this. However the primary focus must be to achieve Defra's deadlines.

5.0 The role of the West Midlands Combined Authority/Transport for West Midlands

5.1 Under the legislation governing Air Quality the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has concurrent powers to constituent authorities. At this stage a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is required to clarify how these powers will be applied in reality. At this stage the MoU has not been produced and it is expected that the WMCA could take a more overseeing/coordinating role especially were transboundary issues are being dealt with.

5.2 Importantly, Defra has served the ministerial directions directly on local authorities and not the WMCA. This means that the associated obligations fall to local authorities.

6.0 Examples of Progress and measures to improve air quality that may form part of our submission to Defra.

6.1 Examples of completed measures which impact on Air Quality:

Wolverhampton Interchange Project Phase 1

This multi-modal interchange will provide a hub of sustainable travel options (national rail network, Metro, bus station, and direct access to national cycle routes and the forthcoming Bike Share)

Wolverhampton City Centre Scheme

This includes junction improvements, cycle and bus lane provision and enhancements, pedestrianisation works. Over £1 million has been spent improving cycle routes across the City in the last few years alone.

Urban Traffic Control Major Scheme

Modernisation of the traffic signals and CCTV capability allows for maximising junction capacities, smoothing flows and minimising congestion.

Railway Station access improvements

6.2 The council has a number of other measures to be completed.

Midland Metro City Centre extension

This is now well in progress and will provide a direct link between the metro and national rail.

Advanced quality bus partnership (AQPS)

This is currently under consultation and proposes to introduce stringent emission (and other) standards for any buses entering the ring road after 2020/2021.

Highways improvements

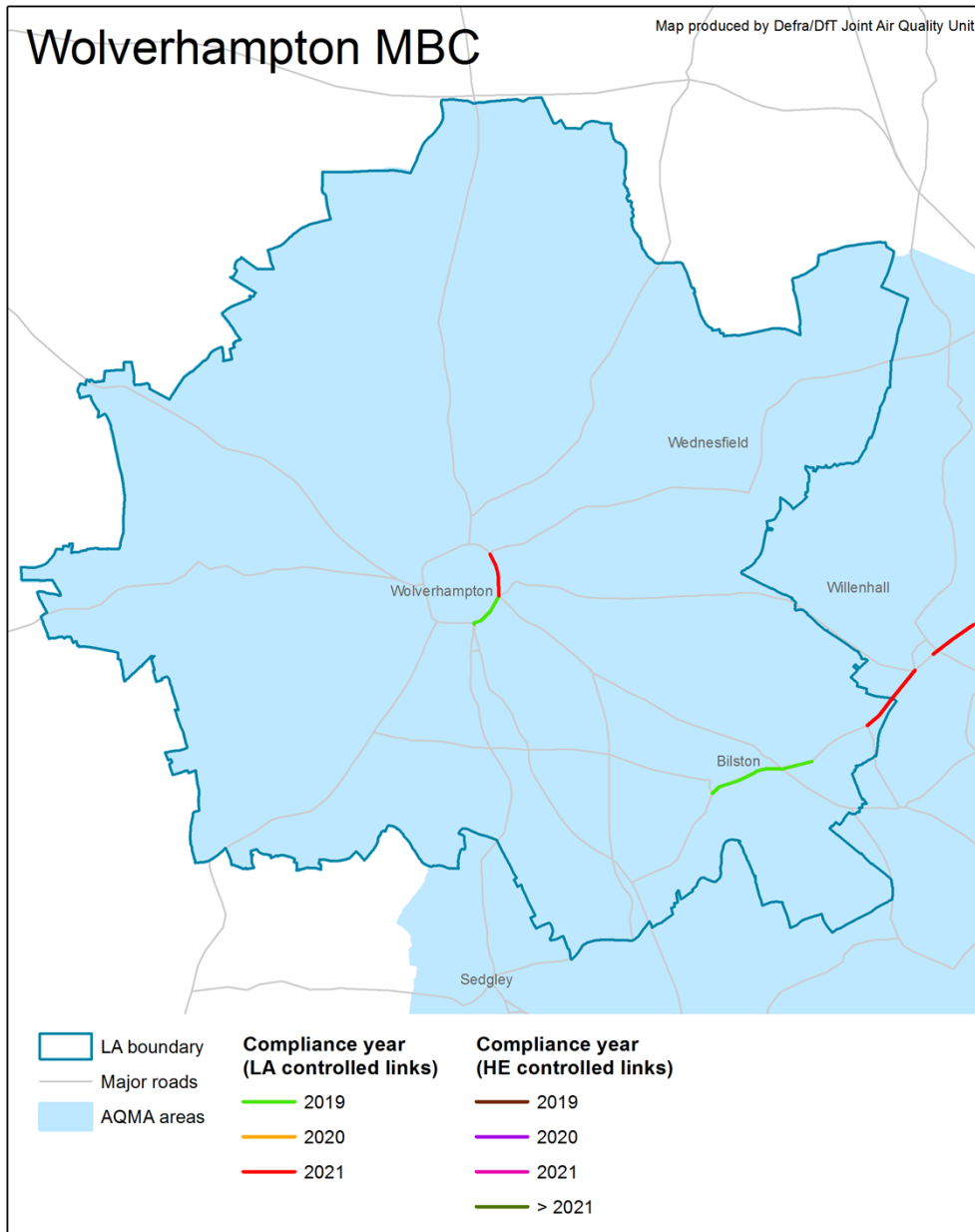
Making the most of the large investment opportunities to improve transport and roads, recognising where there are clear Air Quality benefits.

Promotion of ultra low emission vehicles

This includes ongoing programmes to install vehicle charging infrastructure.

6.3 In the interests of transparency City of Wolverhampton Council publishes available data on line at:

<http://airquality.wolverhampton.gov.uk/home/googleMapWithForcast>



Roads in exceedance	Census ID	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Source apportionment
A4150	28464	49	46	43	41	38.7	22% diesel cars; 12% HGVr; 11% LGV diesel; 10% bus; 5% cars petrol; 3% HGVa
A463	99402	49	46	43	41	38	
A4150	57739	44	42	40	38	36	
A463	99404	43	41	39	37	34	