

This report is PUBLIC [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Amber 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17

The following are the reported strategic risks that are currently/ were previously assessed as high/medium (10 +) that the Council faces in delivering its corporate priorities

Risk ref	Ris	k title	e and	descr	iption			Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
1 01/14	If the this bud den	ne nu may lget nanc	umber y rest overs d on c	r of LA ult in a pends hildre	n incre and a n's ser	ot reduction to the contract of the contract o	costs, ased	15 Red		10 Amber	5 Amber March 2017	Overseen by the Transforming Children's Services Board, this risk continues to be managed through the Families r First work. The 2016/17 savings target for LAC is £2 million. £1.1 million of this target is expected to come through a LAC target for March 2017 in the range of 580 - 550 (currently 650) children, and the balance of £0.9 million expected from further reductions in the cost of placements. The actions being taken to achieve these targets include:
	Ber	Risk owner: Linda Sanders (Emma Bennett) Cabinet Member: Cllr Val Gibson										The Fostering for Wolverhampton Team taking part in foster care fortnight, the UK's biggest foster carer recruitment campaign during May and June 2016. The aim is for the Council to recruit an additional 30 carers during the year.
	poo	5 4 8 3									The resource panel continues to review expensive placements and has extended its remit to looking at early intervention and edge of care services. A governance structure and revised Terms of Reference for the panel is currently being established.	
	Likelihood	2					10					 Legal Services continue to look at process improvements to shorten the timeframes for adoption hearings. This is against the backdrop of having no control over the time taken for courts to hear individual cases.
		1 2 3 4 5 Impact		5					The majority of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub's (MASH) work to date has concentrated on Children In Need and Child Protection cases, with any effect on LAC numbers more likely to be in the longer term.			
												The reduction in the risk score reflects the underspend achieved in Children and Young People in 2015/16, through the delivery of the children's transformation work and the associated reduction in LAC.

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
2 01/14	Skills for Work If the city residents do not have the appropriate skills that employers require then they will be unable to access the jobs and opportunities available resulting in high rates of unemployment and increased demand on Council services. Risk owner: Tim Johnson (Keren Jones) Cabinet Member: Cllr John Reynolds	15 Red		15 Red	10* Amber March 2017	This risk is currently managed through the City Board. The Wolverhampton Skills and Employment Action Plan which is the City's response to the independent report and recommendations from the independent Skills and Employment Commission, chaired by Professor Tony Travers from the London School of Economics, has been completed and was presented to the City Board. Compilation of the Plan was led by the Council in collaboration with a range of local partners. The Plan consists of three programmes: The City Workplace: support to employers to obtain the skills and workforce they need to grow. City Workbox: an on-line system providing information needs assessment, career choices and signposting local people to the right progression routes. Learning City: focused on creating a dynamic learning environment across the city centre with strong connections into local communities. This will form an integral part of the City centre Regeneration programme, and as such is a longer term ambition. The Plan will be reviewed in detail for its resource implications, and a report on resourcing will be presented to the City Board in due course. It is envisaged that a number of the actions can be delivered within existing resources. The report will also explore the opportunities for securing external funding and partner contributions in addition to re-prioritising existing Council resources. The West Midlands Devolution Agreement and in particular the devolution of the 19+ adult skills budget will be critical to the delivery of the Plan. The plan will be overseen and co-ordinated by the newly established Skills and Employment Board which will report into the City Board. A majority of the key actions within the Plan are deliverable by March 2017 and the target risk date reflects this position.

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
4 01/14	Medium Term Financial Strategy If the Council is unable to agree and operate within its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) this may exhaust reserves, result in the potential loss of democratic control and the inability of the Council to deliver essential services and discharge its statutory duties. Risk owner: Keith Ireland Cabinet Member: Cllr Andrew Johnson	15 Red		15 Red	15* Red	 The MTFS 2016/17 to 2019/20 was presented to full Council in March. The report detailed the following matters: A balanced budget for 2016/17 which does not necessitate the use of contingency reserves was approved. The budget is based upon a 3.99% increase in council tax, which includes the 2% precept for adult social care announced by the Chancellor in the last comprehensive spending review. At this stage, the Council is looking to accept in principle the government's offer of a four year settlement by October 2016 and will begin to prepare a financial plan and efficiency strategy for approval by Cabinet prior to accepting the offer. Savings of £54.6 million need to be identified for the three year period from 2017/18 to 2019/20 to address the projected budget deficit. Budget assumptions over the MTFS continue to be subject to significant change and are adjusted based upon the most up to date information available. Work has begun to identify savings of £22.2 million for 2017/18 and proposals will be presented to Cabinet on 20 July. The Council has invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to carry out a Finance Peer review to provide some assurance over this risk. The review took place over three days in June and the findings will be reported to the Committee. The review looked at how the Council is setting financial strategies, making the relevant decisions required and implementing changes that will give it the best chance of balancing the books in the medium and long term. The risk assessment remains red as there continues to be significant financial challenge, uncertainty and risk for the Council.

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
7	Safeguarding		k			
01/14	If the Council's safeguarding procedures and quality assurance processes are not consistently and effectively implemented then it will fail to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and lead to reputational damage.				Next Ofsted inspection	 A self - assessment has been completed for the Unildren's Safeguarding Board against the Ofsted descriptors. This has identified some improvements that are required in areas including challenge, audits and annual reporting. An action plan has been developed for approval by the Safeguarding Board in June who will also monitor progress in implementing the actions.
	Risk owner: Linda Sanders Cabinet Member: Cllr Val Gibson and Cllr Sandra Samuels					 Although the adults safeguarding board meets all statutory requirements, governance of the Board continues to be developed in terms of its constitution and sub committees, to reflect similar structures that are in place for the children's safeguarding board.
	5 4 pooding 2 10					 Work continues to address the increases in Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) referrals and resulting assessments. As a result, the interim arrangement for a team of Best Interest Assessors which was created in July 2015 has been made a permanent arrangement since March 2016. Significant improvements have been made in clearing the backlog which is expected to be cleared by December 2016.
	1 1 2 3 4 5 Impact					 The Wolverhampton's children Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which was launched at the start of the year, is now firmly embedded and regular progress reported to the MASH Board which in turn reports to the Safeguarding Board. Audits and reports to date confirm that decision making is consistent, information is being readily shared and that there is a swifter response to referrals.
						 A project is also underway to ensure that as of September 2016 those agencies providing support to adults become part of the MASH, resulting in the only MASH in the region which includes adults and children.
						 The safeguarding schools officer contract has been extended as a result of a number of schools taking up the service through SLA's.
						 The Council's safeguarding manager is starting a piece of work to raise safeguarding awareness amongst parents who use tutoring services. This is alongside work being done to develop a toolkit for safeguarding in Madrassahs.

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
8 01/14	Business Continuity Management (BCM) Failure to develop, exercise and review plans and capabilities that seek to maintain the continuity of critical functions in the event of an emergency that disrupts the delivery of Council services. Risk owner: Linda Sanders (Ros Jervis) Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Sweet	10 Amber		10 Amber	8 Amber December 2016	See Appendix C for the update on this risk which will be presented to the Committee by the risk owner.

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
10 01/14	Economic Inclusion If the Council and its partners do not work effectively together to promote and enable growth then the risk of economic exclusion will materialise and demand for Council services will continue to increase. Risk owner: Tim Johnson (Keren Jones) Cabinet Member: Cllr John Reynolds	12 Amber		12 Amber	8* Amber September 2017	 The measures to successfully manage this risk continue to be in place as noted previously and include: The Inclusion Board which continues to manage the risks associated with unemployment, economic inactivity and the wider barriers for economic inclusion. The skills and employment action plan (set out under risk 2 Skills for Work) that includes the City Workbox. This is being developed as an on-line system providing information, needs assessment, career choices and signposting local people to the right progression routes. The focus will be on supporting those furthest away from the labour market and employment. European Union Strategic Investment Funds provide considerable resources for local partners and the Council to tackle youth unemployment. The establishment of the West Midlands Land Commission (WMLC), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) will identify and assist understanding of how to address the barriers to development across the region and deliver the WMCA's strategic economic plan. For Wolverhampton, the WMLC will provide important evidence to inform the development of a package of CA wide interventions that can help to unlock investment opportunities. The City has a pipeline of regeneration and development opportunities which have the potential to secure significant levels of growth over the next 10-15 years. The WMLC will provide an opportunity to raise the profile of our regeneration pipeline and City priorities through the development of CA programmes.

Risk ref	Ri	sk ti	tle and	l descr	iption			Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
12 01/14	If the decree recree pro	the (liver quire market) the control of the control	Councir the ined by the done of the acceptance o	il and in inprove the Bet acute so reward the Caddition the Bet addition t	ed outco eter Car- services d mone ouncil v nal reso etter Ca	e Fund, s will not by will not will not ources re Fund	be of be	10 Amber		10 Amber	5 Amber April 2017	Awaiting update from risk owner

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
14 01/14	School Improvement If the Council does not provide effective support, challenge and appropriate intervention to raise standards in schools and school governance, then the Council and these schools are at risk of underperforming, receiving inadequate Ofsted judgements and a potential loss of control and influence. Risk owner: Julien Kramer Cabinet Member: Cllr Claire Darke	10 Amber		10 Amber	5 Amber From July to September 2016	 The risk continues to be managed by the Assistant Director (School Standards). Since last reported, the following has been noted: The Wolverhampton School Improvement and Governance Strategy 2014 has been reviewed and updated based on the experience gained from the first 12 months of the strategy being implemented and in consultation with headteachers and officers. The Strategy continues to have a positive impact on the improvements in Ofsted outcomes. As at April 2016 the City has 79% good or better schools (63% in September 2013). The aim is for this to increase to 83% and 95% by September 2016 and 2018 respectively. The date for the target risk score to be achieved reflects this. All of the schools at the highest risk are now working in strong local partnerships. Where schools 'Require Improvement' and have not demonstrated the capacity to improve themselves, these are being moved into local partnerships that can support school improvement and ensure that no schools in the City fall into Special Measures moving forward. A self- assessment of the Council's school improvement services has been carried out and reported to SEB in April. An action plan to address the key areas for development is being developed and progress against this plan will be monitored by the Assistant Director (School standards). The Council's Local Education Partnership Board- Inspire continues to fund and monitor the accredited programme of training and support that transforms the leadership of Wolverhampton schools. The programme runs parallel to the Council's School Improvement and Governance Strategy and positive outcomes can be demonstrated and evidenced after the first year of this programme. The feedback so far has been positive with clear impact already being seen in schools. The Council will continue to work with Schools to embed benefits in subsequent years. In terms of the performance of Academies in the City, the Council has now developed an Academies Protocol for the City

Risk ref	Risk title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score (June 2016)	Target score and date	Comment
16 01/14	Significant equal pay liabilities have been dealt with over recent years. However, equal pay will remain a potentially significant risk until: • the second generation claims, from trade union members, have been dealt with. • six years after the implementation of single status, until that time "Abdullah" type claims can still be brought. Risk owner: Mark Taylor Cabinet Member: Cllr Andrew Johnson	12 Amber		12 Amber	8 Amber September 2016	 This risk continues to be managed by the Equal Pay Project Group, which is chaired by the Director of Finance and has representation from Audit, Legal and HR services. The risk has two strands and relates to: Second generation claims which involve additional claims made by claimants who had their original equal pay claim settled in 2007/08 on the basis that single status would be implemented by the Council within a year of this time. However delays encountered meant that single status was not implemented until April 2013. There is a risk in dealing with these claims that further claims from the 2007/08 group could be prompted. The Abdullah type claims which have been brought by employees following a Supreme Court ruling which allows claimants to bring equal pay claims for up to six years after the termination of their employment (as opposed to the previous case where the time limit for presenting an equal pay claim to an employment tribunal was, in the majority of cases, six months from the end of employment. In the Council's case therefore, despite the level of risk reducing with time, and there not being any recent activity evidencing additional claims being brought, equal pay claims may continue to be brought until March 2019 when six years will have lapsed from the implementation of single status. In terms of mitigation, the Council is in dialogue with Thompsons who are negotiating settlements on behalf of a significant number of first and second generation claimants. The timescales reflect the time by which an agreement may be reached. In terms of finances, the Council has set aside an equal pay reserve to deal with any such claims, which is audited independently annually by the Council's external auditors as part of the Statement of Accounts.

• The following are/ were the medium/ low (assessed at less than 10) strategic risks that the Council faces in delivering its corporate priorities.

Risk ref	Ris	k title	and de	scription				Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score June 2016)	Target score and date
3	Info	ormat	ion Go	vernanc	e (IG)			8	N	8	4
01/14	If th	ne Co	ıncil do	es not pı	ut in pla	ace app	propriate policies, procedures and technologies to ensure:	Amber		Amber	Amber
							its data is undertaken in a secure manner and consistent ection Act 1998;				March 2017
	•	comp	liance v	vith the F	reedor	n of In	formation Act and Environmental Information Regulations				
				ubject to rmation.	regula	tory ac	ction, financial penalties, reputational damage and the loss of				
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		5									
		4									
	b	3									
	ļ										
	Likelihood	2									
		1									
			1 2	2 3	4	5					
				Impact							

Risk ref	Risk	title and description	Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score June 2016)	Target score and date
9	City	Centre Regeneration	8		8	8*
01/14	If the	e city centre regeneration programme is not effectively managed in terms of project timings, s and scope, then it will be unable to maximise opportunities including: the attraction of private sector investment the creation of space to accommodate new businesses and economic growth the enhancement and creation of visitor attractions the creation of well paid employment	Amber		Amber	Amber
	Risk	owner: Tim Johnson				
	Cab	net Member: Cllr John Reynolds				
	Likelihood	5				
15 01/14	Failu or m incid	ergency Planning are to develop, exercise and review plans and capabilities for preventing, reducing, controlling itigating the effects of emergencies in both the response and recovery phases of major a ent. owner: Linda Sanders (Ros Jervis) net Member: Cllr Roger Lawrence and Cllr Paul Sweet	6 Amber			4 Amber June 2016

Risk ref	Risl	k title and des	cription				Previous score (Feb 2016)	Direction of travel	Current score June 2016)	Target score and date
17	Em	ployee Mana	gement				8		8	4
10/14		olicies dealing lemented and				ement and in particular appraisals are not effectively	Amber		Amber (Appendix	Amber From July to
	Risl	achieveremployeeperforma	nent of thes may nance cil may r	nem, an ot have not have	id the ap	re of the Council's objectives and their contribution to the propriate training and support to achieve high standards of quired capability to deliver its objectives.			В)	Sept 2016
	Cab	inet Member:	Cllr Milk	inderpa	l Jasp	al				
	Likelihood	5 4 3 2		8						
			0	4	_					
		1 2	3 Impact	4	5					
19a	Dev	olution Deal					8		Closed	
11/15	The dev Cou	ere is a risk that olution deal no uncil may not t	ot include be able to onal eco	e sufficion sufficion sufficient e	ent en the pro	uld the process leading up to formal consent of the gagement with members and stakeholders then the posed deal and the Council's objectives in respect of ment and skills, business investment and regeneration	Amber			
	Risl	k owner: Keith	Ireland							
		inet Member:		er Lawr	rence					

^{*} The target assessment for these risks remains constant as they are risks which are likely to remain at their current level over the medium term and as such these risks may not have target dates.