

# Confident, Capable Council Scrutiny Panel

6 February 2019

<b>Report title</b>	City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Managing Director	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategy and Change	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Deputy Managing Director
	Tel	01902 556609
	Email	<a href="mailto:Mark.Taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Mark.Taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board	15 January 2019
	Executive Team	11 February 2019
	Cabinet	20 March 2019
	Council	3 April 2019

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Provide comment on the draft City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024, to determine the priorities for the next five years.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council is in the process of developing a new Council Plan for 2019-2024, to replace the existing Corporate Plan 2016-2019. The plan will build on the council's transformation journey with a focus on delivering improved outcomes for the city.
- 1.2 It is essential the Council Plan reflects the views of residents, business and stakeholders. Consultation has taken place across the city to attain the views of local people, to identify people's priorities for the next five years and how the council can work more collaboratively with them.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the consultation feedback received to date and the draft City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024 (in Appendix 1) developed in response to the consultation.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The current Corporate Plan covered 2016-2019. This document focused on improving service delivery in line with the council's core objectives of a:
  - Stronger Economy
  - Stronger Communities
  - Confident, Capable Council
- 2.2 We have made many great strides to improve our services and outcomes for local people whilst at the same time managing continued financial pressures. Since 2010, we have reduced our spend by £220 million as a result of funding reductions from Government whilst balancing increased demand on our services. These challenges will continue. Moving forwards we must review how we operate to ensure we are sustainable financially and still able to provide those services our local people most need. This will be guided by our core principles:
  - Focus on core business
  - Promoting independence and wellbeing
  - Deliver inclusive economic growth
  - Balancing risk
  - Commercial approach
- 2.3 Extensive engagement with a wide array of stakeholders has shaped and informed our Council Plan 2019-2024 priorities. Over the past six months, we have engaged with around 3,000 people including residents, young people, employees, councillors, partners and businesses.

2.4 The engagement process was designed so that as many views and thoughts could be heard from a wide and diverse group of people. Many of these sessions were conducted as 'world cafes' which involved splitting people into small groups and asking them targeted questions around what their priorities are for the city, what the strengths of Wolverhampton are, and how they would like the city to look in the future. Online consultation also took place to further expand the reach to gain more stakeholders views.

### **3.0 Proposed Council Plan priorities and values**

3.1 Our Council Plan 2019-2024 strategic priorities have been developed through engagement with the people of our city to ascertain their key priorities and the outcomes they want to see, to enable us to work together to deliver what matters most to local people. The six draft priorities include:

- Children and young people get the best possible start in life
- More good jobs and investment in our city
- Well skilled people working in an inclusive economy
- Better homes for all
- Strong, resilient and healthy communities
- A vibrant, green city we can all be proud of

3.2 We will continue to build and develop our relationships with partners and communities across the city. It is vital that we work together to maximise resources and ensure that local people have the opportunity to reach their potential and support their community. We can only do this by working collaboratively with local people and partners to understand their priorities and embed those outcomes in all that we do.

3.3 The C3 Programme will be taken forward as the Our Council Programme. The Our Council Programme will enable our organisation to deliver the outcomes in the new Council Plan by continuing to drive through efficiencies and align resources to priority outcomes. The programme will need to focus on activity that supports the council's medium-term financial strategy and continues to evolve the organisation. It is therefore proposed that the new workstreams within Our Council Programme focus on:

- Our Assets
- Our Data
- Our Technology
- Our Money
- Our People

3.4 During the internal consultation sessions with employees and councillors, we took the opportunity to review the existing and draft PRIDE values, which determine how we behave and support the delivery of the council priorities. Based on the feedback provided, the revised draft PRIDE values are as follows:

- P – Put people first
- R – Raise the city's profile and reputation
- I – Inspire trust and confidence
- D – Deliver together
- E – Empower people to innovate

3.5 The draft Council Plan 2019-2024 in appendix 1 captures the proposed six priorities, outlines the Our Council Programme and revised PRIDE values, which we are now consulting on.

#### **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

4.1 The draft Council Plan 2019-2024 document will now be open for consultation with residents, employees, Councillors, businesses and partners to ensure their voices have been heard and to solidify their buy-in and commitment to working together to achieve these joint aims. This will take place from 29 January to 20 February 2019.

4.2 Following the consultation, the final Council Plan 2019-2024 will be reviewed by Strategic Executive Board and Executive Team in February 2019 for consideration, before approval at Cabinet in March and Full Council in April 2019.

#### **5.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider**

5.1 To review and comment on the draft Council Plan 2019-2024, considering the proposed priorities, the Our Council Programme and revised PRIDE values.

#### **6.0 Financial implications**

6.1 The Council has been faced with significant funding reductions in recent years, coupled with increasing demand on services, and it is envisaged that these challenges will continue. The Council Plan sets out how the Council will operate moving forward, to ensure financial sustainability and the ability to provide those services local people most need. The Council will continue to build and develop relationships with partners and communities across the city, as it is vital that we work together to maximise resources. This can only be achieved by working collaboratively with local people and partners to understand their priorities and embed those outcomes in all that we do.

6.2 All costs associated with consultation and preparation of the Council Plan will be accommodated within existing budgets. [MH/28012019/P]

#### **7.0 Legal implications**

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [TS/14012019/R]

## **8.1 Equalities implications**

8.1 The Council Plan 2019-2024 is relevant to all residents of Wolverhampton. Consideration was given to the engagement and consultation process to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. The Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Panel was invited to feedback its key priorities during the first phase of consultation and will also be consulted with on the draft plan.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

9.1 The Council Plan development is currently in the consultation phase, the implications will be detailed when the draft plan is taken to Cabinet and Council.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

10.1 The Council Plan development is currently in the consultation phase, the implications will be detailed when the draft plan is taken to Cabinet and Council.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

11.1 The Council Plan development is currently in the consultation phase, the implications will be detailed when the draft plan is taken to Cabinet and Council.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

12.1 Not applicable

## **13.0 Appendices**

13.1 Appendix 1 - City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024