

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

Audit Committee

Date **17 DECEMBER 2012**

Originating Service Group(s)

DELIVERY

Contact Officer(s)/

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Title/Subject Matter

PAYMENT TRANSPARENCY

SUMMARY

That the action taken on the previous Payment Transparency report submitted to the Audit Committee on 24 September 2012 and the Council's continued compliance with the Code of Recommended Practice, regarding the publication of all payments over £500 be noted.

1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 As part of the wider transparency agenda, internal audit continue to review the Council's compliance with the Code of Recommended Practice issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and associated guidance, regarding the publication of all payments over £500, to ensure the Council meets the obligations placed upon it.

2. DETAILS

2.1 The latest update position on the Council's payment transparency activity is as follows:

- Monthly spending data continues to be published in accordance with the Code of Recommended Practice, with spending over £500 published in a timely manner.
- Since last reported to the Audit Committee, there have been no Armchair Auditor requests for information via the 'spend' mailbox available on the Council's website.

2.2 Following the issue of our Payment Transparency Internal Audit Report in July 2012, the following action has been taken against the two recommendations made:

Issue arising	Priority	Suggested/Agreed action	Update position
The Council should review the continued use of the Spotlightspend online platform, including whether or not this information could be produced internally or through an alternative route.	Green	This will be discussed with the Assistant Director, Corporate Services, in order to establish if we would want to change the way in which we provide the transparency information, and whether it could be seen as a saving. Responsibility: Head of Operational Finance Target date: September 2012	The continued use of Spikes Cavell has been agreed with the Assistant Director (AD) Corporate Services and the Head of Strategic Sourcing as an essential tool in analysing and understanding Council spending and procurement.
As the 'Spend' mailbox is used very infrequently for these types of enquiry, future requests for information should be routed through the Council's 'Contact us – Freedom of Information' mailbox.	Amber	This will be discussed with the Assistant Director, Corporate Services. Responsibility: Head of Operational Finance Target date: September 2012	Discussions have been held with the AD and it is in transition to FOI ownership.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. [GE/19112012/D]

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. (MW/19112012/V)

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7. SCHEDULE OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None