

# Wolverhampton City Council

## OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

### Audit Committee

Date **11 March 2013**

Originating Service Group(s)	<b><u>DELIVERY</u></b>
Contact Officer(s)/	<b><u>P FARROW</u> <u>R MORGAN</u></b>
Telephone Number(s)	<b><u>4460</u> <u>5612</u></b>
Title/Subject Matter	<b><u>PAYMENT TRANSPARENCY</u></b>

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### **SUMMARY**

That the Council's continued compliance with the Code of Recommended Practice, regarding the publication of all payments over £500 be noted. Also, to note that from 1 April 2013 the Council intends to publish all of its payment data, rather than just restrict it to those with a value of over £500.

## **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 requests for information from the public (as Armchair Auditors) via the mailbox available on the Council's website.

2.2 Following discussion at the last Audit Committee, from 1 April 2013 the Council is proposing to publish all spend data, rather than just that over £500. This move to lower the level at which expenditure will be published will therefore further increase transparency and possibly increase the number of requests received from the public.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. (DM/21022013/J)

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. (MW/20022013/H)

## **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