

# Wolverhampton City Council

## OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

### Audit Committee

Date **8 July 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 has started to publish all of its payment data, rather than just restrict it to that 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. In a move to increase transparency, from 1 April 2013 the Council has begun to publish all spend data, rather than just that over £500.

## **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. The raw data downloads for April and May 2013 should be available on spotlightspend during week commencing 17 June 2013 following enhancements to now publish all of the Council's spending data rather than just the £500 as required by the Code of Recommended Practice.
  - Since last reported to the Audit Committee, there has been one request for information from the public (as an Armchair Auditor) via the mailbox available on the Council's website. This recent request was for monthly spending data for the period April – June 2012, as at the time of the request the data was unfortunately not available on the spotlightspend site due to short term technical issues being experienced by Spikes Cavell, which prevented the monthly raw data downloads being shown on the website. However, the error was quickly rectified and the raw data was again made available for download.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. [GE/24062013/W]

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. (MW/24062013/U)

## **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