



Audit Committee

16 December 2013

Report title	Payment Transparency	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Governance and Performance	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Delivery	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee(s)	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable	

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The council's continued compliance with the Code of Recommended Practice, regarding the publication of all payments over £500. Also, that from 1 April 2013 the council has continued to publish all of its payment data, rather than just restrict it to that with a value of over £500.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report is to update members of the Committee, that 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. Also, that in a move to increase transparency, from 1 April 2013 the council has continued to publish all spend data, rather than just that over £500.

2.0 Background

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

- Internal audit is able to confirm that monthly spending data continues to be published in accordance with the Code of Recommended Practice. The raw data is available on the spotlightspend web site, which can be accessed via the council's transparency and accountability internet pages. Spotlightspend now includes 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 have been no requests for information from the public (as an 'armchair auditor') via the mailbox available on the council's website.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 Quarterly updates on the number of any such 'armchair auditor' requests, will continue to be reported to the Committee.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report (CN/06122013/Z).

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report (JH/281113/Z).

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers - None