



# Cabinet Meeting

22 January 2014

**Time** 5.00pm                      **Public meeting?** YES                      **Type of meeting** Executive

**Venue** Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

**Room** Committee Room 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

*A pre-meeting for members of the Cabinet will be held in meeting room 4 at 4pm.*

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Roger Lawrence (Lab)

**Vice-chair** Cllr Peter Bilson (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Gibson

Cllr Andrew Johnson

Cllr Elias Mattu

Cllr Phil Page

Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr Sandra Samuels

Cllr Paul Sweet

### Conservative

### Liberal Democrat

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

**Contact** Dereck Francis

**Tel** 01902 555835

**Email** [dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**Address** Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

**Website** <http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking>

**Email** [democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**Tel** 01902 555043

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*     *Title*

### MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

1.            **Apologies for absence**
2.            **Declarations of interest**
3.            **Minutes of the previous meeting (8 January 2014)**  
[For approval]
4.            **Matters arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]

### DECISION ITEM (Red – for decision by the Council)

5.            **2014/15 Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget and Rent Levels**  
[To present an updated Housing Revenue Account business plan for recommendation to Full Council]

### DECISION ITEMS (Amber – delegated to the Cabinet)

6.            **Voluntary Sector Community Initiatives Grant Funding 2014/15 and 2015/16**  
[To approve proposals relating to voluntary sector community initiatives grant funding]
7.            **Warstones Community Service Hub**  
[To present the results of the Warstones community service hub joint community engagement process]
8.            **Comments from Scrutiny on the Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19**  
[To consider the comments of the Scrutiny Board and panels]
9.            **Council Tax Base and NNDR (Business Rates) Net Rate Yield 2014/15**  
[To set the estimates for the Wolverhampton collection fund for 2014/2015, which the Council manages on behalf of local precepting bodies and Central Government]

10. **All Age Disability Strategy**

[To consider the outcomes of the consultation and approve the revised strategy]



# Cabinet Meeting

Minutes – 8 January 2014

## Attendance

### Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Roger Lawrence (chair)  
Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr Steve Evans  
Cllr Val Gibson  
Cllr Andrew Johnson  
Cllr Elias Mattu  
Cllr Philip Page  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr Paul Sweet

### Employees

Keith Ireland	Strategic Director - Delivery
Tim Johnson	Strategic Director - Education and Enterprise
Sarah Norman	Strategic Director - Community
Robert Baldwin	Head of Service, Delivery
Dereck Francis	Democratic Support Officer

## Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sandra Samuels.

---

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item Title*  
*No.*

### MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

#### Deferred/Withdrawn items

Cllr Lawrence deferred the report referred to at item 7 on the agenda (Council Tax Base and NNDR (Business Rates) Net Yield 2014/15) to the next meeting on 22 January 2014. He also withdrew the report referred to at agenda item 9 (Living Wage and Wolverhampton Pay Policy) for further research.

#### 2. Declarations of interests

No declarations of interests were made.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (4 December 2013)**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**DECISION ITEMS (Amber – delegated to the Cabinet)**

5. **Draft Budget Strategy 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Cllr Johnson outlined the salient points of the report on the draft budget strategy for 2014/15 and the medium term financial strategy for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19. The report incorporated the outcome of the further detailed budget work that had been performed over the last two months, in order to further develop the strategy to address the projected budget deficit, as well as reflecting the impact of the provisional Local Government finance settlement announced on 18 December 2013. The report focussed solely on the changes arising since the last report to Cabinet during October.

Resolved:

1. That the changes to the budget and medium term financial strategy for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19 for general fund services, previously approved by Cabinet on 23 October 2013, as detailed at paragraph 5 of the report and shown in the table below be approved:

	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	Total £000
<b>Projected budget challenge – October</b>	<b>26,693</b>	<b>22,240</b>	<b>15,911</b>	<b>18,953</b>	<b>13,762</b>	<b>97,559</b>
Changes to growth projections	2,257	25	1,453	7,379	(1,130)	9,984
Changes to savings projections	2,596	(3,000)	500	(500)	-	(404)
Changes to corporate resources projections	(75)	10,603	2,901	(2,970)	6,100	15,881
<b>Net change to projected budget challenge</b>	<b>4,101</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>25,461</b>
<b>Revised projected budget challenge</b>	<b>30,793</b>	<b>29,868</b>	<b>20,765</b>	<b>22,862</b>	<b>18,732</b>	<b>123,020</b>

2. That the adapted strategy to address the increased deficit as set out at paragraph 7.7 of the report, requiring services to be cut deeper and faster be approved, namely:
  - a. Cease expenditure during the remainder of 2013/14 on all but absolutely essential items, in order to limit the call on general balances.
  - b. Subject to the outcome of budget consultation accelerate the implementation of some of the existing 165 savings proposals to bring forward a minimum of £4 million into 2014/15, in time to be incorporated into the February 2014 Cabinet budget report.
  - c. Identify a minimum of £5 million of new savings proposals, or increases in the value of the existing 165 proposals, for 2014/15, in time to be incorporated into the February 2014 Cabinet budget report, subject to consultation as necessary.
  - d. Identify a further minimum of £10 million of new savings proposals, or increases in the value of the existing 165 proposals, for 2015/16, in time to be incorporated into the July 2014 Cabinet budget report.
  - e. That a report be presented to Cabinet to change the terms of the Council's redundancy policy to statutory minimum. It should be noted that it cannot be guaranteed that the Council will be able to allow employees to access a full pension between the ages of 55 and 60 after 31 March 2014.
  - f. Review the capital programme and treasury management strategy to identify further savings
3. That the opening of a phase three of the voluntary redundancy programme with a closing date of 31 March 2014 ahead of the introduction of the revised redundancy policy be approved.
4. That the implications of the provisional local government finance settlement for the Council, as detailed at section 3.3 of the report be noted and in particular:
  - a. The £118 million (42%) cash cut in Government funding from 2010/11 to 2015/16, equivalent to a cut of £147 million (52%) in real terms.
  - b. That the provisional settlement for 2014/15, a cut of 13.2%, was in line with that in the draft budget and medium term financial strategy and, together with other minor adjustments, resulted in an increase in budgeted corporate resources of £0.754 million.
  - c. That the illustrative settlement for 2015/16 was substantially worse than projected with a cut of 19.3% (29.9% over just two years), resulting in a reduction in corporate resources compared to the medium term financial strategy of £9.851 million.

5. That The remaining projected budget deficit for 2014/15 of £14.431 million rising to £58.572 million by 2018/19 after taking account of savings proposals of £64.448 million be noted
6. That it be noted that all other aspects of the budget and medium term financial strategy for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19 for general fund services, previously approved by Cabinet on 23 October 2013, remain unchanged;
7. That it be noted that taking account of the revised projections, including the projected cost of redundancy, the Council's general balances could be exhausted by the beginning of 2015/16 and the Council could effectively be insolvent soon after that. Urgent action is therefore required to identify further significant savings before the 2014/15 budget is set by Full Council in March 2014.
8. That it be noted that due to the significant uncertainty facing the Council in the future, particularly relating to Government funding, pay and price pressures and demand for services, the remaining projected deficit of £58.572 million, after savings proposals, over the medium term could change significantly over the coming years as more information becomes available.
9. That it be noted that due to the scale of the projected cuts that are now required over the next five years the ability of the Council to deliver its priorities is now at significant risk.
10. That it be noted that having delivered savings in excess of £100 million since 2009/10, combined with the significant savings already proposed over the next five years, the scope to deliver further savings is ever decreasing and as a result this would almost certainly be the most challenging period that the Council has ever faced.

6. **Collection Fund – Estimated Outturn 2013/2014**

Cllr Johnson presented a report on the estimated outturn for the council tax transactions on the collection fund in 2013/14.

Cllr Lawrence reported that any outstanding council tax would continue to be collected. Slippage in the collection rate would not be acceptable and the Council would continue to work to maintain a high collection rate. He also reported that there would be some residents who had been exempt from paying council tax and but would now be required to do so and collection from some of these residents would make the high collection rate more difficult to attain.

Resolved:

1. That the payment by the precepting authorities' of their share of the deficit in equal instalments be approved.

2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Assistant Director – Finance, to confirm any final changes to the forecast outturn reflecting any further information received ahead of the statutory deadline of 15 January 2014.
3. That it be noted that the estimated outturn on the collection fund's council tax transactions in 2013/14 is a cumulative deficit of £782,000.
4. That it be noted that the precepting authorities' shares of the deficit, based on each of the precepting authorities' proportion of the 2013/14 council tax bill, as approved by Council in March 2013 is calculated as follows:
  - Wolverhampton City Council £700,000
  - West Midlands Police Authority £54,000
  - West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority £28,000





# Cabinet Meeting

22 January 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan (Including 2014/15 Budget Rents and Service Charges)	
<b>Decision designation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Delivery	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Assistant Director Finance
	Tel	01902 556609
	Email	<a href="mailto:Mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

**Report to be/has been considered by**

---

## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to recommend that Council:

1. Adopt the business plan set out at appendix A as the approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan, including:
  - (a) The revenue budget for 2014/15 set out in the plan;
  - (b) The capital programme for 2013/2014 to 2017/18 set out in the plan.
2. Approve an increase in rents for HRA dwellings of an average of 6.23%, and in accordance with the Government's rent restructuring formula (including its constraints on individual rent increases), with effect from 7 April 2014.

3. Increase rents for HRA garages by 6.23%, with effect from 1 April 2014.
4. Approve that HRA service charges and district heating charges are set at the levels detailed in appendix B3, with effect from 1 April 2014.
5. Approve that Hostel and Carelink rents and charges are set at the levels detailed in appendix B4, with effect from 1 April 2014.
6. Note the charges to be levied on tenants and leaseholders by Wolverhampton Homes set out in appendix B5 are noted.
7. Note that the council places on record its sincere thanks to all those tenants' representatives and all other stakeholders and partners who put forward views and comments during the consultation process.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents an updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan for recommendation to full council.
- 1.2 The report also provides, as an integral part of that business plan, a proposed HRA budget for 2014/15, including proposed rents and service charges to take effect from 7 April 2014, and a proposed HRA capital programme for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18, for recommendation to full council.

## 2.0 Executive summary

- 2.1 The HRA is expected to have sufficient resources to fund the £1.8bn of capital works that will be required to its houses over the next 30 years, as well as meeting its management and maintenance obligations over the same period. Further details of the business plan can be found at Appendices A1-A5.
- 2.2 Appendix A2 graphically presents the forecast debt curve alongside forecast capital expenditure. Where the debt curve rises steeply, for example in 2032/33, this reflects a step up in capital expenditure for the year compared to the previous year, reflecting a number of components coming to the end of their intended lives and needing to be replaced.
- 2.3 The recommended average rent increase to take effect from 7 April 2014 is **6.23%**. This would yield an estimated total rent income of £91.4 million in the 2014/15 financial year, and lead to an average actual rent of £81.41 per week. Further detail on the recommended rent increase can be found at Appendix B1. At the time of writing limit rent was not confirmed, but is based on our own calculations using last year's formula and data.
- 2.4 The table below summarises recommended changes to other HRA income streams to take effect from 7 April 2014. Further details on these can be found at Appendices B2-B4.

**Table 1 – Summary of income recommendations 2014/15**

Item	Increase £ per week	Increase %
Garage Rents <sup>1</sup>	£0.26 - £0.37	6.23%
Service Charge increases:		
Sheltered Schemes and Communal Facilities	Nil	Nil
24-hour on-site concierge support <sup>4</sup>	Nil	Nil
8-hour on-site concierge support without remote CCTV and door entry <sup>4</sup>	Nil	Nil
Concierge: mandatory only – essential caretaking duties <sup>4</sup>	Nil	Nil
Concierge: mandatory plus remote	Nil	Nil

CCTV and door entry <sup>4</sup>		
Central Heating	Nil	Nil
Digital TV	Nil	Nil
Communal Cleaning	£0.43	18.3%
Fencing	Nil	Nil
District Heating Maintenance	Nil	Nil
District Heating Usage (excluding Ellerton Walk)	£0.82 - £3.74	23%
District Heating Usage (Ellerton Walk)	£2.17 - £2.39	15%
Hostel Charges (max) <sup>2</sup>		
Gross Rent <sup>3</sup>	£11.76	6.23%
Support / Care	£3.30	6.23%
Heating Lighting & Water	£1.08	6.23%
Minimum Cash Payable	£1.08	6.23%
Maximum Cash Payable	£4.38	6.23%
Carelink Charges	Nil	Nil

Note 1 – these figures exclude VAT, which is payable on some garage rents.

Note 2 – rental charges are levied on the Whitehouse and other properties: the Whitehouse attracts a higher charge and the figures given are therefore the maximum increases.

Note 3 – This charge is fully recovered through housing benefit which is expected to rise in line with guideline rents.

Note 4 – Due to the protection given to tenants in 2013/14 limiting the price increase to a maximum of £2 some tenants will see an increase in charges this year

- 2.5 The recommended service charges are set out at appendix B3, and reflect the phasing-in of the new concierge charges since the abolition of the old single charge and the limit on the maximum increase in the amount payable by any individual charge payer to £2 per week.
- 2.6 The recommended total management and maintenance budget for 2014/15 is £45.3 million, £300,000 higher than the 2013/14 budget. This incorporates:
- a freeze in managing agents' allowances;
  - an increase of £520,000 in the net cost of Housing Support Services due to a review of the apportionment of the costs of the services between the HRA and the General Fund;
  - A reduction in miscellaneous item costs of £163,000.

Detailed management and maintenance budgets are provided at Appendix A4.

- 2.7 Detailed capital budgets are provided at Appendix A5. There have been no significant changes since the last update to Cabinet Resources (Panel) in November 2013.
- 2.8 It should be noted that these capital budgets fund the requirements to bring the existing stock to Decent Homes standard and maintain it thereafter, and do not include anything for major developments such as estate re-modelling. Provision for such schemes will be made once the outcome of master planning is known, and subject to the availability of funding within the business plan.
- 2.9 Consultation with tenants on the 2014/15 budget has been carried out by Wolverhampton Homes on behalf of the council. A summary of their findings is attached at Appendix C.

2.10 Further background about the HRA is provided at Appendix D.

2.11 Appendix E provides a detailed analysis of the risks associated with the HRA Budget and Capital Programme, along with details of the risk control measures that are in place in order to manage and mitigate the risks as far as possible. The overall risk associated with the budget has been quantified as amber.

### **3.0 Financial implications**

3.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.  
[CF/15012014/B]

### **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended by the Leasehold Reform Housing and Urban Development Act 1993, the Housing Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2003) set up the financial regime for local authority housing.

4.2 The system requires the ring-fencing of the HRA and introduced a government subsidy scheme (subsequently abolished in 2012) and controls on local authority borrowing to meet capital expenditure.

4.3 This report embodies those requirements.  
[JH/14012014/H]

### **5.0 Equalities implications**

5.1 In making decisions on the options set out in the report, the Cabinet should be aware of the impact on the public, particularly tenants. There is a difficult balance to be struck in deciding the levels at which to increase income, and thereby seeking to protect services.

5.2 The council has always operated a very open and consultative approach to service and rent reviews. This is based upon a thirty-year forecast which sets out indicative levels of future average rent rises and forecast changes to expenditure levels. Consultation has been carried out on the council's behalf by Wolverhampton Homes (attached at Appendix C). It should also be noted that the Government's limits on individual rent increases (of RPI + ½% + £2 per week) protect tenants from excessive increases.

### **6.0 Environmental implications**

6.1 This report has no environmental implications.

### **7.0 Schedule of background papers**

- HRA Manual (DCLG)
- Guide to Social Rent Reforms in the Local Authority Sector (DCLG)

## 8.0 Schedule of appendices

<b>App</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account business plan</b>	
A1	30-year business plan	8
A2	Forecast capital expenditure and debt curve	10
A3	Medium term business plan	11
A4	Management and maintenance budgets and forecasts	13
A5	Capital programme	14
<b>B</b>	<b>Recommendations concerning income</b>	
B1	Dwelling rents	17
B2	Non-dwelling rents	18
B3	Service charges and district heating charges	19
B4	Hostel and Carelink rents and charges	22
B5	Charges levied by Wolverhampton Homes	23
<b>C</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses</b>	24
<b>D</b>	<b>Background to the Housing Revenue Account</b>	26
<b>E</b>	<b>Risk analysis</b>	29

## Appendix A1

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### 30 year business plan 2013/14 to 2042/43

REVENUE ACCOUNT	Years 1 - 5 £000	Years 6 - 10 £000	Years 11 - 15 £000	Years 16 - 20 £000	Years 21 - 25 £000	Years 26 - 30 £000
<b>Income</b>						
Dwelling Rents	(469,178)	(533,375)	(603,958)	(682,309)	(768,714)	(863,598)
Other Rents	(8,344)	(9,163)	(10,091)	(11,192)	(12,500)	(14,055)
Service Charges	(26,342)	(27,628)	(28,491)	(29,567)	(30,881)	(32,472)
	<b>(503,864)</b>	<b>(570,166)</b>	<b>(642,540)</b>	<b>(723,068)</b>	<b>(812,095)</b>	<b>(910,125)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Management and Maintenance (net of retained surpluses)	238,452	258,414	299,652	347,510	403,076	467,571
Depreciation and Provision for Redemption of Debt	182,336	234,811	278,182	331,298	356,354	375,495
Net Financing Costs	83,076	76,941	64,706	44,260	52,665	67,059
	<b>503,864</b>	<b>570,166</b>	<b>642,540</b>	<b>723,068</b>	<b>812,095</b>	<b>910,125</b>
<b>Balance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Appendix A1

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
	1 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Capital Expenditure	232,542	213,673	184,027	304,370	398,415	482,849
	<b>232,542</b>	<b>213,673</b>	<b>184,027</b>	<b>304,370</b>	<b>398,415</b>	<b>482,849</b>
<b>Financing</b>						
Decent Homes Funding	(22,718)	-	-	-	-	-
Major Repairs	(110,850)	(114,603)	(106,123)	(104,556)	(102,910)	(101,178)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(6,880)	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing	(92,094)	(99,070)	(77,904)	(199,814)	(295,505)	(381,671)
	<b>(232,542)</b>	<b>(213,673)</b>	<b>(184,027)</b>	<b>(304,370)</b>	<b>(398,415)</b>	<b>(482,849)</b>
<b>Balance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

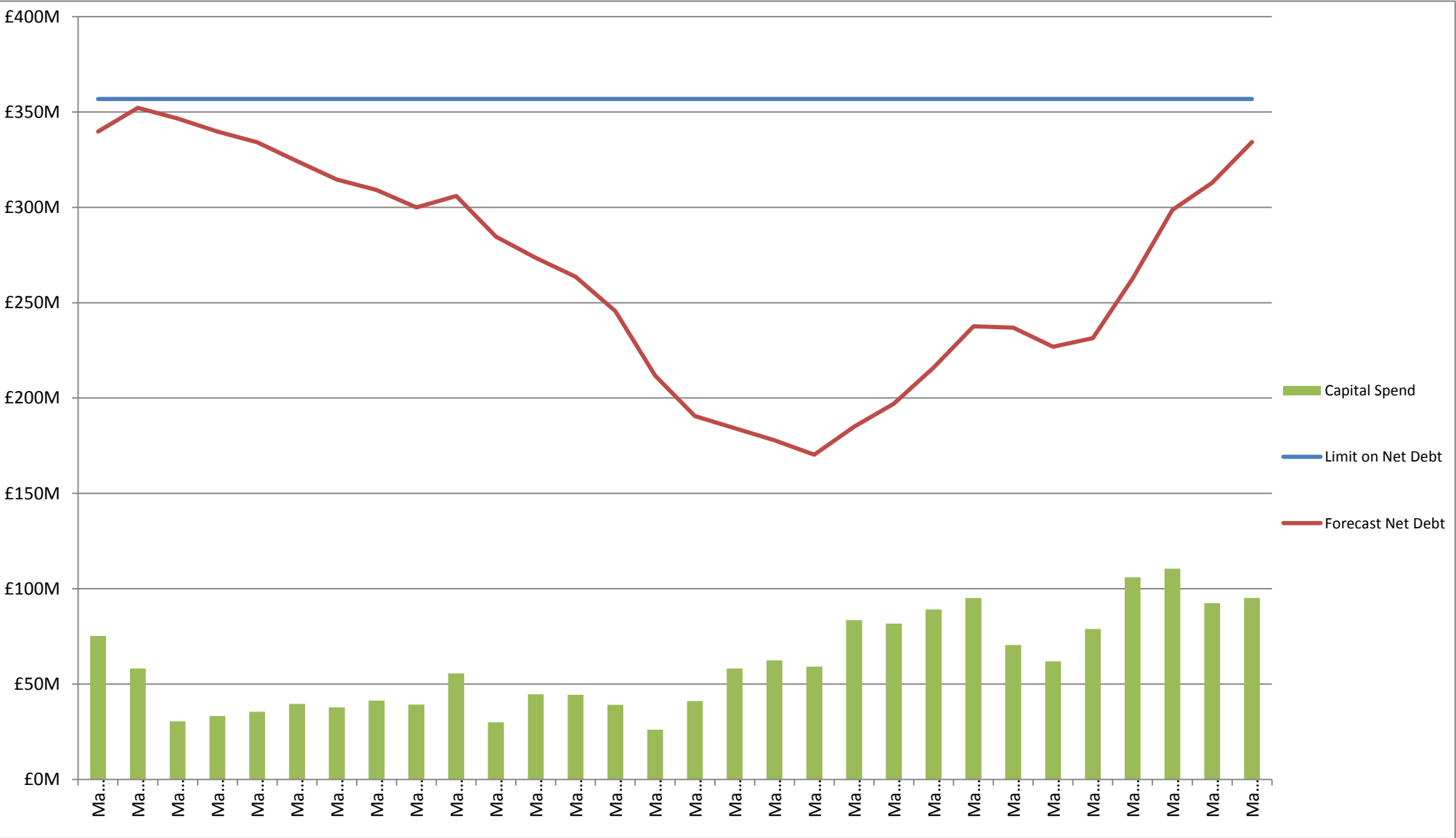
CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
	1 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>315,294</b>	<b>334,075</b>	<b>305,949</b>	<b>211,794</b>	<b>184,866</b>	<b>226,927</b>
Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing	92,094	99,070	77,904	199,814	295,505	381,671
Provision for Redemption of Debt	(73,313)	(127,196)	(172,059)	(226,742)	(253,444)	(274,317)
Net Movement in Capital Financing Requirement	<b>18,781</b>	<b>(28,126)</b>	<b>(94,155)</b>	<b>(26,928)</b>	<b>42,061</b>	<b>107,354</b>
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	<b>334,075</b>	<b>305,949</b>	<b>211,794</b>	<b>184,866</b>	<b>226,927</b>	<b>334,281</b>
Borrowing Cap	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770
<b>Borrowing Headroom</b>	<b>22,695</b>	<b>50,821</b>	<b>144,976</b>	<b>171,904</b>	<b>129,843</b>	<b>22,489</b>



**Appendix A2**

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

**Forecast capital expenditure and debt curve 2013/14 to 2042/43**



## Appendix A3

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Medium term business plan

REVENUE ACCOUNT	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	Forecast	Approved Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Income</b>					
Dwelling Rents	(88,963)	(91,440)	(93,867)	(96,318)	(98,590)
Other Rents	(1,594)	(1,641)	(1,672)	(1,703)	(1,734)
Service Charges	(5,008)	(5,217)	(5,320)	(5,377)	(5,420)
	<b>(95,565)</b>	<b>(98,298)</b>	<b>(100,859)</b>	<b>(103,398)</b>	<b>(105,744)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Management and Maintenance (net of retained surpluses)	46,817	47,583	47,797	48,016	48,239
Depreciation and Provision for Redemption of Debt	32,628	33,781	36,135	38,761	41,031
Net Financing Costs	16,120	16,934	16,927	16,621	16,474
	<b>95,565</b>	<b>98,298</b>	<b>100,859</b>	<b>103,398</b>	<b>105,744</b>
<b>Balance</b>	-	-	-	-	-

## Appendix A3

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Capital Expenditure	75,255	58,149	30,477	33,228	35,433
	<b>75,255</b>	<b>58,149</b>	<b>30,477</b>	<b>33,228</b>	<b>35,433</b>
<b>Financing</b>					
Decent Homes Funding	(11,962)	(10,756)	-	-	-
Major Repairs	(25,857)	(21,861)	(20,575)	(21,994)	(20,563)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(2,272)	(1,121)	(1,173)	(1,154)	(1,160)
Borrowing	(35,164)	(24,411)	(8,729)	(10,080)	(13,710)
	<b>(75,255)</b>	<b>(58,149)</b>	<b>(30,477)</b>	<b>(33,228)</b>	<b>(35,433)</b>
<b>Balance</b>	-	-	-	-	-

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>315,294</b>	<b>339,738</b>	<b>352,229</b>	<b>346,630</b>	<b>339,701</b>
Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing	35,164	24,411	8,729	10,080	13,710
Provision for Redemption of Debt	(10,720)	(11,920)	(14,328)	(17,009)	(19,336)
Net Movement in Capital Financing Requirement	<b>24,444</b>	<b>12,491</b>	<b>(5,599)</b>	<b>(6,929)</b>	<b>(5,626)</b>
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	<b>339,738</b>	<b>352,229</b>	<b>346,630</b>	<b>339,701</b>	<b>334,075</b>
Borrowing Cap	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770
<b>Borrowing Headroom</b>	Page 17,069	<b>4,541</b>	<b>10,140</b>	<b>17,069</b>	<b>22,695</b>

## Appendix A4

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Management and maintenance budgets and forecasts

	2013/2014 Forecast £000	2014/2015 Forecast £000	2015/2016 Forecast £000	2016/2017 Forecast £000	2017/2018 Forecast £000
Wolverhampton Homes – Basic	37,920	37,920	37,920	37,920	37,920
Wolverhampton Homes - Fencing	122	120	120	120	120
Bushbury Hill EMB	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261
New Park Village TMO	375	375	375	375	375
Springfield Horseshoe TMO	353	353	353	353	353
Dovecotes TMO	1,091	1,091	1,091	1,091	1,091
Housing Support	364	884	910	937	966
SLA Charges	1,155	1,159	1,193	1,229	1,266
Pension Contributions	2,270	2,284	2,353	2,424	2,497
Retained Repairs and Maintenance	(97)	1	1	1	2
Miscellaneous Items	47	(116)	(117)	(120)	(122)
<b>Total Management and Maintenance</b>	<b>44,862</b>	<b>45,332</b>	<b>45,460</b>	<b>45,591</b>	<b>45,729</b>

## Appendix A5

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Capital programme forecast

	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	TOTAL FORECAST
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><u>Decent Homes Stock Condition</u></b>						
Scotlands Estate Phase 7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotlands Estate Phase 8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bushbury Roof Replacement	87	-	-	-	-	87
New Park Village	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Saints Voids	619	-	-	-	-	619
Heating and Insulation Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln and Tremont	33	-	-	-	-	33
Sunset Place	58	-	-	-	-	58
Merridale Court	109	2,731	-	-	-	2,840
Graiseley Repairs	250	267	-	-	-	517
Refurbishment of Voids	4,905	4,191	4,050	3,814	3,597	20,557
Non Residential Conversion to Residential	74	1,282	-	-	-	1,356
External Improvement Programme	1,800	1,800	2,800	1,800	1,800	10,000
Boiler Replacement Programme	900	900	900	900	900	4,500
Capitalised Insurance costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Decent Homes Pilot	-	-	-	-	-	-
Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	34,752	27,125	7,853	9,212	10,933	89,875
Decent Homes - Capitalised Salaries	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
<b>Decent Homes Stock Condition</b>	<b>44,587</b>	<b>39,296</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>16,726</b>	<b>18,230</b>	<b>135,442</b>
<b><u>Decent Homes Public Realm</u></b>						
Communal Areas Improvement	239	655	2,395	3,034	3,022	9,345
Street-scaping	-	328	780	1,103	1,099	3,310
<b>Decent Homes Public Realm</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>12,655</b>

## Appendix A5

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	TOTAL
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	FORECAST
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Major Stock Condition Improvements</b>						
Low Hill Residential Repairs	10,750	8,840	-	-	-	19,590
<b>Major Stock Condition Improvements</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>8,840</b>	-	-	-	<b>19,590</b>
<b>Estate Remodelling</b>						
Blakenhall Gardens	122	-	-	-	-	122
East Park Tarran Bungalows	264	-	-	-	-	264
Heath Town	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Build Programme	4,538	-	-	-	-	4,538
Thompson Avenue	3,825	-	-	-	-	3,825
Tap Works site	850	-	-	-	-	850
Right To Buy Buy Back	500	-	-	-	-	500
Commercial Conversions	370	-	-	-	-	370
<b>Sustainable Communities Estate Remodelling</b>	<b>10,469</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10,469</b>
<b>Adaptations for People with Disabilities</b>						
<b>Disabled Adaptations</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>5,656</b>
<b>Other Stock Condition Improvements</b>						
Structural Works	864	874	891	883	879	4,391
Purchase of former RTB	997	-	-	-	-	997
Lift and Disability Discrimination Act Improvements - High Rise	1,701	565	574	568	670	4,078
Fire Safety Improvements - High Rise	891	382	501	496	494	2,764
Roofing Refurbishment Programme	1,888	3,521	4,328	5,661	5,980	21,288
Energy Efficiency Works	780	1,184	1,610	1,993	2,382	7,949

Appendix A5

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	TOTAL
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	FORECAST
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Door Entry Security Programme	428	378	382	379	378	1,945
Communal Rewiring Programme	109	111	116	114	115	565
<b>Other Stock Condition Improvements</b>	<b>7,658</b>	<b>7,015</b>	<b>8,402</b>	<b>10,094</b>	<b>10,808</b>	<b>43,977</b>
<b><u>Other Improvements to the Public Realm</u></b>						
Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme	54	273	724	717	714	2,482
<b>Other Improvements to the Public Realm</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>2,482</b>
<b><u>Service Enhancements and Miscellaneous</u></b>						
Information Technology Developments	-	-	-	-	-	-
WH Other Technology Requirements	-	-	-	-	-	-
WH Document Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digital TV Cabling etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Council House Administration	10	10	10	10	10	50
Capitalised Salaries - W'ton Homes	400	400	400	400	400	2,000
Heath Town Biomass Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Service Enhancements &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>2,050</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>75,255</b>	<b>57,928</b>	<b>30,477</b>	<b>33,228</b>	<b>35,433</b>	<b>232,321</b>

## Appendix B1

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Dwelling rents

1. The table below compares the recommended rent for 2014/15 to the formula and limit rents for the year. In recent years the council has followed a policy of setting rents below the limit rent, in order to avoid benefit subsidy penalties. As can be seen below the recommended rent is below the limit rent level.

	<b>Rent 2014/15 £ p.d.p.w.</b>	<b>Increase over 2013/14</b>
Formula rent	83.73	+ 3.00%
Limit rent	82.60	+ 4.25%
Recommended rent	81.41	+ 6.23%

2. At the time of writing, limit rent was not confirmed, but is based on our own calculations using last year's formula and data



**Non dwelling rents**Garage rents

1. The table below sets out recommended garage rents to take effect from 1 April 2014. It is recommended that the increase in the basic rent (before VAT) mirror the increase in guideline dwelling rents. These rent levels would generate total income of £797,000 (a 6.23% increase over 2013/14).

Recommended garage rents

	£ pdpw (exc VAT)	%age Increase over 2013/14 (exc VAT)	£ pdpw (inc VAT @ 20%)	%age Increase over 2013/14 (inc VAT)
Dwelling Tenants and Leaseholders (no VAT)	4.40	6.23%	4.40	6.23%
Dwelling Tenants and Leaseholders – three or more garages (VAT)	4.40	6.23%	5.28	6.23%
Other (VAT)	6.31	6.23%	7.57	6.23%

2. Under VAT rules, garages that are let along with a dwelling do not attract VAT, whereas those that are let separately do. Furthermore, exemption from VAT only extends as far as two garages per tenant/leaseholder. There are therefore three different levels of garage rents.

Shop rents

3. Shop rents are negotiated on an individual basis by the council's property services department, and do not require approval by the full council. For 2014/15, total rental income from shops is estimated to equal £839,000 (equal to 2013/14).

**Appendix B3**

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

**Service charges and district heating charges 2014/15**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service(s) Funded by this Charge</b>	<b>Rationale for Recommended Charge</b>	<b>Recommended Charge 2014/15 (£ pdpw)</b>	<b>Increase (£ pdpw)</b>	<b>Increase (%age)</b>	<b>Forecast Cost Recovery 2014/15</b>	<b>Sensitivity - 1% equates to £000:</b>
Sheltered Schemes Communal Facilities	Communal facilities in sheltered schemes.	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>3.00</b>	-	-	98%	1
24 hour concierge support *	24 hour on site concierge support	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>16.45</b>	-	-	100%	6
8 hour concierge support *	8 hour on site concierge support without remote CCTV and door entry	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>8.04</b>	-	-	100%	1
Concierge: mandatory only *	Essential caretaking duties	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>5.25</b>	-	-	100%	1
Concierge: mandatory plus remote CCTV and door entry *	Essential caretaking duties plus remote CCTV and door entry	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>9.25</b>	-	-	100%	1
Central Heating	Maintenance of central heating systems.	No increase, consistent with policy applied in recent years.	<b>2.00</b>	-	-	51%	21
Digital TV	Installation and maintenance of the wiring required to convey digital TV signals to certain high-rise blocks.	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>0.64</b>	-	-	100%	2

Appendix B3

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

Name	Service(s) Funded by this Charge	Rationale for Recommended Charge	Recommended Charge 2014/15 (£ pdpw)	Increase (£ pdpw)	Increase (%age)	Forecast Cost Recovery 2014/15	Sensitivity - 1% equates to £000:
Communal Cleaning	Cleaning services in communal areas in certain properties.	Increase in order to pursue full cost recovery.	<b>2.79</b>	0.43	18.3%	76%	2
Fencing	Installation and maintenance of boundary fencing. All funds raised by this charge are passed on to Wolverhampton Homes, who maintain a ring-fenced account.	Sufficient resources forecast at current level: no change required.	<b>2.00</b>	-	-	N/A	1
District Heating Maintenance	Maintenance of district heating systems (except Ellerton Walk).	Charge forecast to achieve full cost recovery at current level: no change required.	<b>6.00</b>	-	-	100.0%	3
District Heating Usage (except Ellerton Walk) (See schedule 2 below)	Provision of heating (except Ellerton Walk)	Increase in order to pursue full cost recovery: reflects significant increases in fuel costs.	<b>4.47 – 20.30</b>	0.82 – 3.74	23.0%	84%	5
District Heating Usage (Ellerton Walk) (See schedule 2 below)	Provision of heating (Ellerton Walk)	Increase in order to pursue full cost recovery: reflects significant increases in fuel costs.	<b>16.61 – 18.32</b>	2.17 – 2.39	15.0%	93%	2

\* Due to the protection given to tenants in 2013/14 limiting the price increase to a maximum of £2 some tenants will see an increase in charges this year.

**Appendix B3**

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

**Service charges and district heating charges 2014/15****Recommended district heating charges**

	<b>Maintenance Charge £pdpw</b>	<b>Consumption Charge £pdpw</b>	<b>Total £pdpw</b>
<b>Tremont Street</b>			
1 Bed Flat	6.00	6.77	12.77
2 Bed Flat	6.00	9.04	15.04
2 Bed Maisonette	6.00	9.04	15.04
<b>Ellerton Walk</b>			
2 Bed Maisonette	-	16.61	16.61
3 Bed Maisonette	-	18.32	18.32
<b>Heath Town</b>			
1 Bed Low Rise Flat	6.00	6.77	12.77
2 Bed Low Rise Flat	6.00	9.04	15.04
1 Bed High Rise Flat	6.00	6.77	12.77
2 Bed High Rise Flat	6.00	9.04	15.04
2 Bed Low Rise Maisonette	6.00	11.32	17.32
3 Bed Low Rise Maisonette	6.00	13.63	19.63
3 Bed House	6.00	15.83	21.83
4 Bed House	6.00	18.18	24.18
5 Bed House	6.00	20.30	26.30
Bedsit	6.00	4.47	10.47

**Hostel and carelink rents and charges**

Hostel rent and charges

1. It is recommended that rent be increased by the same level as dwelling rents (6.23%), and other charges set as detailed in the table below.

**Hostel Rents and Charges**

	2013/14 White House £ pw	2013/14 Other <sup>1</sup> £ pw	2014/15 White House £ pw	2014/15 Other <sup>1</sup> £ pw	Increase
Gross Rent	188.75	120.06	200.51	127.54	6.23%
Charges:					
- Support/Care	52.97	50.57	56.27	53.72	6.23%
- Heating, Lighting and Water	17.30	17.30	18.38	18.38	6.23%
Minimum Cash Payable	17.30	17.30	18.38	18.38	6.23%
Maximum Cash Payable	70.27	67.87	74.65	72.10	6.23%

Note 1 – 46 units of temporary accommodation

Carelink Charges

2. These charges contribute directly towards the cost of the Carelink (pendant/alarm) service. There are approximately 6,200 users of the service, the majority of which receive a free service (because they are in receipt of housing benefit or have a housing association connection), leaving about 600 who pay.
3. There are two levels of service provision, charged at differing rates:
  - (i) a full service, comprising rental and maintenance of equipment, and the response of both the 24 hour contact centre and the Mobile Carelink Officer;
  - (ii) a reduced service, comprising monitoring of the alarms only.
4. It is recommended that the charges be kept at their existing level, to reflect the fact that the costs of providing the service are unchanged. The recommended charges are set out in the table below.

**Carelink Charges**

	2013/14 £/month	2014/15 £/month	Increase £/month
Privately-owned Dwellings			
- Full Service	14.20	14.20	Nil
- Monitoring Only	8.10	8.10	Nil
Housing Associations			
- Monitoring Only	6.10	6.10	Nil

## Appendix B5

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Charges levied by Wolverhampton Homes

1. The following table presents charges receivable by Wolverhampton Homes. These charges are set by Wolverhampton Homes, and are presented here for information only.

	<b>2013/14 Charge £pdpw</b>	<b>2014/15 Charge £pdpw</b>	<b>Year-on-Year Change £pdpw</b>	<b>Year-on-Year Change %age</b>
Laundry	2.75	2.75	-	-
Tidy Garden <sup>1</sup>	7.75	7.75	-	-

Note 1 – includes VAT at 20%

### Appendix C - Feedback from consultation on rent & service charge proposed increases for April 2014

Low Hill Community Centre 19/11/13  
Seven attended

District Heating – Some people at the meeting expressed concerns that the Heath Town district heating system is still being subsidised by other tenants. Their view was the full 100% cost of the service should be being re-charged back to service users. A view was expressed that people living in Council houses were not being treated equally because they have to meet all the cost of their own heating without subsidy.

The rent increase for 2014 was expected to be higher than the 6.25% figure. Some tenants had expected 9%-14%. That having been said, some tenants commented that the proposed rise was above inflation. A concern was also expressed that those in arrears would find it harder to get themselves out of arrears if rents go up because they will have more to pay, as well as catching up their arrears.

Wolverhampton Homes Merry Hill Office 20/11/13  
Twelve attended

Comments were made that Universal Credit will have a bad effect on ability to pay and arrears are likely to rise, with the result of numerous letters being sent out for small debts. Arrears letters should not be sent when direct debits are in place, even if there are technical arrears. There was concern that the wording on arrears letters where people are in arrears may be frightening to the elderly.

Rent Setting – there were concerns that the potential changes in new Government rules (universal credit) effective from 2015 should be made clear to tenants and Tenants & Residents Associations so people can be prepared for them.

Wolverhampton Homes Market St Office 20/11/13  
Five attended

The 6.25% increase proposed was lower than anticipated by some attending the meeting.

Concerns expressed about the effect on rent arrears caused by welfare reform. One tenant felt that the Council should cut the increase by half to enable people to get themselves out of debt. This tenant also said he knew a lot of people who would like to downsize over the bedroom tax but they cannot. He wanted to downsize to a bungalow but there were none available.

The feedback was that there were very few bungalows but we did have sufficient and available downsizing options for tenants who were flexible about the location and type of property they moved to.

## Appendix C

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

St Chad's Community Centre, Bilston 25/11/13

Twenty Five attended

Tenants felt that Housing Associations charged higher rents more but the increase has not been as much as for Wolverhampton Homes properties. (Note that in practice, most housing associations had achieved the convergence target rents and so did not need to increase their rents by as much as the council).

Some tenants felt that this year they had been told what the increase had been and this had not been genuine consultation. In effect they felt that their rights have been taken away.

People at the meeting thought it was important that WCC understand people are struggling, especially those on minimum wage. Wages are not going up and there are more people going to food banks, people are being pushed to the brink. One tenant detailed precisely how much money she received every week and how it was spent (food, electricity, gas etc.) she said there was no scope to pay a higher rent without cutting back on essentials.

Pickering Road Community Centre, Wednesfield 28/11/13

10 attended

There were concerns that if people are responsible for paying their own rent and are in debt already this rent increase will not help to get them out of debt and enable them to still pay their rent.

Some tenants attending were pensioners not receiving housing benefit. They need to pay for rent from their pensions and will struggle to manage the increase. Two are in 3 bedroom houses and would like to downsize to smaller properties in order to pay lower rents. They said there are no bungalows or prefabs available to downsize to.

Wolverhampton Federation of Tenants Associations 9 December 2013

Comments from the Federation were broadly in line with those at the other meetings. Strong concerns were raised about the affordability of the increases in rents and charges.

There were specific comments saying that gas and electricity meters would be preferred to a set district heating charge. This was because tenants would then be able to save money by turning the heating down. At the moment there is a lack of personal incentive because the charge is based on what everyone else is using. A view was also expressed that it is unfair that staff with electric storage heaters pay the same central heating charge as tenants with gas central heating. This was viewed as unfair because gas central heating systems are more expensive to maintain.



### The Housing Revenue Account

1. Local authorities are required by the Local Government and Housing Act (1989) to maintain a ring-fenced revenue account containing expenditure and income relating to their housing landlord service. This is known as the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
2. Statute governs what may be charged and credited to the HRA, the underlying principle being that housing rents and service charges should only pay for the housing landlord service. In particular, it prevents cross subsidy of those income streams and others that the council receives, for example council tax. The main items which are shown in the HRA are:
  - Income from rents and lettings from dwellings and non-dwellings
  - Costs associated with maintaining the rental stock (but not improving it or the Decent Homes programme, which are capital budget items)
  - Costs and income associated with providing landlord services to tenants such as heating and concierge services
  - The net costs of providing Housing Support services such as those to Homeless Families and Carelink
  - Until 2011/12, the subsidy payable to or from central government each year, as calculated using the national formula, published as a draft determination in December of each year
3. Authorities have a duty to prepare and make available to rent payers an annual budget for the HRA in advance of the year in question. The budget must identify how all planned expenditure is to be funded. This may include the use of retained surpluses from previous years, but the HRA must never go into an overall deficit.
4. In accordance with the council's financial procedure rules, the budget, rents and service charges must be approved by full council, which receives recommendations from the Cabinet.

### Administration of the HRA at Wolverhampton

5. The HRA Budget is split into three parts for the purpose of day to day management, each of these being managed by a different party:
  - Wolverhampton Homes and the Tenant Management Organisations who manage the rent collection, day to day maintenance and in the case of Wolverhampton Homes, the Decent Homes programme.
  - The council's Housing Support service, which manages specialist housing services such as Homelessness, Carelink and warden-supported dwellings.
  - Education and Enterprise, in conjunction with Strategic Finance, manage the central costs and recharges between the General Fund and the HRA.

### HRA Subsidy and Self-financing

6. Until April 2012, one of the key factors in the budget preparation process was the Government's annual HRA subsidy determination. HRA subsidy was a housing resource redistribution system administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Authorities either paid into or received money from a national pool, based on a formula that assessed their assumed need to spend and assumed income.

## Appendix D

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

7. HRA subsidy was complex and difficult to predict, but had significant impacts on the funds available to an authority's HRA, which made it central to the budget process.
8. With effect from 1 April 2012, HRA subsidy was abolished. Instead of annual determinations, authorities paid or received a one-off settlement at the end of March 2012. This settlement was calculated as the net present value of forecast subsidy payments or receipts over the next 30 years. The final HRA subsidy payment was made in 2012/13.

### Rent Restructuring

9. Rent restructuring is another Government initiative which plays a major role in the preparation of the HRA budget. It has been in place since 2002/03 and its aim is to standardise rents across social housing landlords, ie between the private, social housing and public sectors.
10. Rent restructuring is based on a national average rent, which is varied on a property-by-property basis for the value of the property, the number of bedrooms, and local average wages. This is known as the formula rent.
11. Authorities have been encouraged to move from their actual 2002/03 rents to their formula rents in equal annual steps. This convergence has also been built into the assumptions around HRA subsidy and housing benefit subsidy, making it difficult for an authority to vary much from the rent levels implied by rent convergence without suffering adverse financial consequences.
12. The Government has also put in place constraints on the amount by which any individual rent can increase. The first of these is the 'cap', which requires that no rent can increase by more than RPI+1/2% + £2 per week. The second, which has varied from time to time, is a simple limit on the percentage increase.
13. Finally, the Government sets a limit rent for the year for each authority. If an authority's actual average rent exceeds the limit rent, it will forfeit benefit subsidy. In recent years the council has pursued a policy of ensuring that the average actual rent does not exceed the limit rent.

### Service Charges

14. Service charges are intended to pay for the receipt of services over and above the provision of a standard dwelling, and not provided to all tenants. They should meet the full cost of providing the service in question, but never exceed it. The constraints on service charges are much less than those on dwelling rents, meaning the council retains the discretion to set service charges at the level it sees fit.

### HRA Contingency Reserve

15. The contingency reserve is set aside for emergencies and other unforeseen expenditure, and is the minimum level below which the council does not allow its reserves to fall when preparing budgets and medium term forecasts. On 25 February 2012, the council approved the setting of the contingency reserve at 5% of gross HRA turnover (rounded to the nearest million pounds).

## Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

### Risk analysis

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
1	Financial and Budget Management	Ineffective budget management.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Councillors.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
2	Financial and Budget Management	Non pay inflation increase insufficient.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	2	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
3	Financial and Budget Management	Pay award greater than budgeted (1%).	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of Housing Revenue Account balance.	2	1	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
4	Financial and Budget Management	Staff turnover below assumed levels.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of general fund balance.	2	1	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the development of 2014/15 budgets staff turnover levels were reviewed and revised where possible and affordable.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at Service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly

## Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
5	Financial and Budget Management	The HRA borrowing cap preventing the council from carrying out essential capital works.	Inability to borrow to fund capital projects results in delays or cancellations.	3	3	9	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close monitoring of capital spend requirements and borrowing limits.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
6	Financial and Budget Management	The 30 year asset management plan is inaccurate.	Capital expenditure is not budgeted correctly.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close interrogation of information generated from asset management systems.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
7	Financial and Budget Management	Assumptions which inform decision making regarding the balance of the need to reduce debt, invest in revenue or invest in capital are inaccurate.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A prudent approach to assumptions is taken.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at Service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly

## Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
8	Financial and Budget Management	Treasury Management Activity, including increases in the cost of borrowing (e.g. LOBO loans being called) and/or reductions in the return on investments.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	3	4	12	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust Treasury Management Strategy.</li> <li>Established and experienced Treasury Management function.</li> <li>Proactive approach to the management of the council's cash flow, on a daily basis, including seeking opportunities to take advantage of borrowing opportunities when interest rates are favourable and seeking to maximise returns on investment whilst effectively managing the risk associated with those investments.</li> <li>External treasury management advisors who provide a proactive and timely service and advice.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Daily
9	Financial and Budget Management	Loss of ICT facilities, e.g. due to failure of systems and/or disaster recovery arrangements or key personnel	Lack of robust financial information on which to monitor budgets, leading to in-year budget deficit requiring savings to be identified or the use of Housing Revenue Account balances	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT disaster recovery project and arrangements.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
10	Income and Funding	Reduction to other income.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 2014/15 budget process income budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly

## Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
11	Income and Funding	Higher than anticipated bad debts.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	3	3	9	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust debt collection and recovery mechanisms in place.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
12	Income and Funding	Lower than anticipated levels of capital funding.	Capital schemes are cancelled or delayed or have to be funded from revenue budgets and/or prudential borrowing resulting in an over spend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The capital programme is actively and closely managed and when so doing expenditure and income streams are continuously monitored.</li> <li>Quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
13	Service Demands	Increased demand for services including the impact of social and demographic pressures on demand for services, these pressures can be compounded in an economic downturn.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	3	3	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 2013/2014 budget process budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly taking account of known and anticipated increases in demand.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Budget Holders	Monthly

## Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
14	Third Parties	Third parties and suppliers / contractors cease to trade or withdraw from the market.	Short term expensive solutions may be necessary. Requirements to undertake tender exercise. Increased ongoing cost due to reduced competition. Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	4	4	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departments using external service suppliers work closely with them and are kept abreast of their service and business situation. At worst this gives the council notice of emerging problems.</li> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> </ul>	Budget Holders	Monthly
15	Government Policy	There are changes to Government policy that have in year service and budget impact.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members.</li> <li>Close monitoring of developing national position and reporting to Members.</li> </ul>	Budget Holders	Monthly
16	Income and Funding	Inflation rates are lower than budgeted for.	Rents cannot be raised as much as has been forecast.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prudent estimates of inflation rates are used in forecasting.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly
17	Income and Funding	Right to Buy sales are higher than forecast.	Less revenue will be received over the life of the plan than has been forecast.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prudent estimates of the level of Right to Buy sales are used in forecasting.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly

**Appendix E**

This report is PUBLIC –  
[NOT PROTECTED]

<b>Risk Number</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Risk- cause/event</b>	<b>Impact of Risk</b>	<b>Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5</b>	<b>Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5</b>	<b>Score (Pxl)</b>	<b>Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)</b>	<b>Risk Control Measures</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Review Period</b>
18	Income and Funding	General interest rates are higher than forecast.	If interest rates are higher than forecast there will be greater interest payments.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prudent estimate of interest rates are used in forecasting.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Finance	Monthly





# Cabinet Meeting

## 22 January 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Voluntary Sector Community Initiatives Grant Funding 2014/15 and 2015/16	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In Forward Plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Sarah Norman, Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Community	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Karen Cross: Community Initiatives Team Manager Tel: 01902 55(4034) Email: karen.cross@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
<b>Report has been considered by:</b>	Strategic Executive Board	19 December 2013

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the savings proposal to reduce the voluntary sector grant funding to the Voluntary Sector by £1.6 million as detailed in the table at Appendix A.
2. Agree continued grant funding support for the foreseeable future to twelve voluntary sector organisations whose work is most closely aligned to the Corporate Plan priorities as identified in the table at paragraph 6.5 and Appendix A., namely: Access to Business; Afro-Caribbean Community Initiative (ACCI); Age UK; Citizens Advice Bureau, Haven; Heath Town Senior Citizens; Job Change; Little Brothers; St Columba's Day Centre; Wolverhampton City Credit Union; Wolverhampton Volunteer Service and establish a single allocation for Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Service (formerly WVSC & YOW).

3. Agree continued grant funding support during 2014/15 to 17 voluntary sector organisations as identified in the table at paragraph 6.5 and Appendix A during which time they will be able to investigate other, more sustainable, sources of external funding, other ways of delivering services and other income streams. These are Base 25; Church of God of Prophecy; Equality & Diversity Fund Projects (Aspiring Futures, Bilston Resource Centre, Engage Youth Empowerment Services (EYES), Equality & Diversity Forum (a 1 year project ending June 2014); Jubilee Community Support Centre; and Wolverhampton Somali Community) Gazebo Theatre in Education; LGBT Network (approval for 2014/15 only); One Voice; SEWA Centre (a 1 year project ending June 2014); Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support; St Georges Charity; Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum; Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and Youth Organisations of Wolverhampton (YOW) (6 months funding ending 30 September 2014)
4. Agree that, subject to final approval by Council in March 2014, three months' notice be given to those voluntary sector organisations whose funding will cease in April 2014. These are Blakenhall Community Advice Centre; BME United; Central Youth Theatre; Jericho House; Relate; Stratton Street Community Project; Wildside Activity Centre; Wolverhampton Community Radio; Wolverhampton Community Transport; Wolverhampton Gateway Clubs; Wolverhampton Samaritans; YMCA and Young in Wolverhampton Clubs.
5. To approve Innovate to Save grants totalling £145,433 for Age UK Wolverhampton, BME United and Gazebo Theatre in Education.

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The response received from the Third Sector Partnership to consultation on the savings proposals from the voluntary sector grants as set out at Appendix B to this report.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To maximise the use of the community initiatives voluntary sector grants funding to target priority outcomes outlined in the Corporate Plan. To achieve £1.6 million savings from the grant funding in order to achieve the financial savings identified in the Council's Five Year Budget Strategy.
- 1.2 To report the outcome of consultation with the voluntary and community sector about proposals as part of the Council's Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/19 and to make proposals for the allocation of the remainder of that grants budget in 2014/15 and beyond.

## 2.0 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report takes forward proposals for saving £1.6 million from the Council's voluntary sector grants budget. The proposals ensure that of the approximate £26.0 million external funding attracted by the voluntary sector £24.7 million would be safeguarded in 2014/15. Wherever possible the proposals aim to mitigate the impact upon individual organisations, services and citizens. These proposals will impact upon 42 organisations currently funded by the Council grant. Twelve organisations will continue to receive funding for the foreseeable future, seventeen organisations will continue to receive funding during 2014/15 and funding will cease for thirteen organisations. The Council will continue to work with all organisations to identify other sources of funding.

## 3.0 Background

- 3.1 In October 2013 Cabinet agreed, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, a proposal to reduce the voluntary sector grants budget by £1.6 million (£1.1 million in 2014/15 and £533,000 in 2015/16). The proposal has formed the basis of consultation with the voluntary and community sector (VCS).
- 3.2 In addition to the proposed reduction in the grants budget it is also proposed that the existing Community Initiatives Team will be disbanded. The remaining commissioning duties will be reallocated to the commissioning teams within the Community Directorate and one central VCS co-ordination post will be created.
- 3.3 This report sets out:
  - Details of future grant funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in 2014/15 and 2015/16 (Appendix A).
  - The outcome of Third Sector Partnership Consultation with the city's VCS (Appendix B).
  - Summary of the impact assessments determined with each currently funded VCS organisation (Appendix C).
  - Priority framework that demonstrates the basis of the decisions in regard to future funding (Appendix D).
  - Summary of Innovate to Save (I2S) Fund applications recommended for approval (Appendix E)
  - .

#### **4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 In line with the principles of the Wolverhampton Compact consultation with the VCS ran for 12 weeks from 16 October 2013 to 9 January 2014.
- 4.2 The VCS Third Sector Partnership (TSP) and organisations in receipt of Council grants from the Community Initiatives budget have been fully briefed on the savings proposals contained in the Cabinet report. The VCS response to the consultation was led by the TSP. The TSP and funded organisations attended a consultation meeting with the Lead Member for Leisure and Communities, the Director of Community and senior officers on 23 November 2013.
- 4.3 Following that meeting the TSP produced a response to Appendix 0029 of the MTFS report considered by Cabinet on 23 October 2013 – a copy of that response is attached, in full, at Appendix B to this report.
- 4.4 As part of the Council's statutory budget consultation this proposal was discussed at a meeting of the Third Sector Partnership on 5 December 2013. The outcome of the Council's statutory budget consultation process will be reported to Cabinet on 26 February 2014.

#### **5.0 Process for the Determination of Future Grants**

- 5.1 Under its general equality duty the Council is required to assess the impact of these proposals. Equalities, service and economic impact questionnaires have been completed by each grant funded organisation.
- 5.2 Attached at Appendix C is a table that sets out the headline impact data drawn from the questionnaires submitted by each currently funded organisation; this also details the ward where each service is located, the geographic focus of those services and the forecast impact upon continuation of service, current users, staff and externally generated income.
- 5.3 More detailed information from 39 of the currently funded organisation can be found by following the link <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/3929/Equality-impact-assessments> . A paper copy of the complete appendix will be made available to each member of Cabinet.
- 5.4 Each summary has been approved in its current format by the organisation concerned and includes excerpts from the annual monitoring of each grant and individual impact questionnaires.
- 5.5 A stage one and two Equality Analysis have been developed. As part of the process a focus group of 4 representatives from equalities organisations drawn from the Third Sector Partnership met to quality assure the Analysis.

## **6.0 Priorities for Funding in 2014/15**

- 6.1 The Cabinet is recommended to agree that in 2014/15 the voluntary sector grants budget should be focused upon organisations that deliver services of a strategically important nature for the city and the Council.
- 6.2 In line with the outcome of the budget consultation held over the summer months VCS projects to be supported in future will be delivering services to the most vulnerable of the city's Children and Adults, focussed upon Economic and Social Inclusion, Training and Employment; and Volunteering. There will also be an allocation, albeit reduced, to support voluntary sector infrastructure.
- 6.3 A framework has been developed which scores each of these priority areas out of a maximum of 5; the completed framework is attached to this report at Appendix D. Organisations that scored over 20 or above, on the basis of monitoring information submitted and the outcome of the impact assessments will continue to be funded by the Council. Those organisations that achieved an evaluation score between 16 and 20 will continue to receive a grant allocation until March 2015.
- 6.4 A group of 13 currently funded organisations achieved a score of 15 or less; those organisations will be given three months' notice that the Council's grant will conclude in April 2014.

6.5 The outcome in 2014/15 can be summarised as:

Proposal	Organisation
The Council is recommended to continue to fund 12 organisations and services at the level specified in Appendix A. These are organisations that achieved an evaluation score of 20 or above.	Access to Business; Afro-Caribbean Community Initiative (ACCI); Age UK; Citizens Advice Bureau, Haven; Heath Town Senior Citizens; Job Change; Little Brothers; St Columba's Day Centre; Wolverhampton City Credit Union; Wolverhampton Volunteer Service and a single allocation for Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Service (formerly WVSC & YOW).
To continue to support 16 organisations at the level specified in Appendix A until March 2015. These are organisations that achieved evaluation score between 16 and 19.	Base 25; Church of God of Prophecy; Equality & Diversity Fund Projects (Aspiring Futures, Bilston Resource Centre, Engage Youth Empowerment Services (EYES), Equality & Diversity Forum (1 year project ending June 2014); Jubilee Community Support Centre; and Wolverhampton Somali Community) Gazebo Theatre in Education; LGBT Network (approval for 2014/15 only); One Voice; SEWA Centre (1 year project ending June 2014); Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support; St Georges Charity; Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum; Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.
To continue to support YOW for a period of 6 months to enable the organisation to consider a merger with WVSC.	Youth Organisations of Wolverhampton (YOW)
To serve notice upon 13 organisations of the Council's intention to end grant support in April 2014. These are organisations that achieved evaluation score of 15 or less.	Blakenhall Community Advice Centre; BME United; Central Youth Theatre; Jericho House; Relate; Stratton Street Community Project; Wildside Activity Centre; Wolverhampton Community Radio; Wolverhampton Community Transport; Wolverhampton Gateway Clubs; Wolverhampton Samaritans; YMCA; and Young in Wolverhampton Clubs.

**7.0 Equality and Diversity Fund**

7.1 Nine of the currently funded organisations have been allocated grants from the Equality and Diversity Fund (E&D Fund) which was designed to ensure that BME led organisations were allocated a share of funding which is reflective of local demographics and that people from across the remaining eight protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> identified by the Equalities Act 2010 were allocated adequate funding.

<sup>1</sup> The protected equalities characteristics covered by the Equalities Act 2010 are:- Age; Disability; Ethnicity; Gender; Gender reassignment; Marriage & Civic Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Religion/belief and Sexual orientation

- 7.2 Funding for the Refugee and Migrant Centre is scheduled to conclude in February 2014.
- 7.3 The remaining seven E&D funded organisations have grant agreements that are scheduled to conclude between June and December 2015. It is proposed under this savings proposal that these projects are given notice that the Council grant will conclude at the earlier date of 31 March 2015. For this reason they are identified individually in the summary table at paragraph 6.5 and in Appendix A.

## 8.0 Innovate to Save Proposals

- 8.1 The Innovate to Save (I2S) fund was developed to encourage VCO's to reduce their dependency on Council funding by using it to diversify and/or attract other funding. The 2013/4 fund was further refined to deliver in year savings in the current financial year and further permanent savings between 2014/16.
- 8.2 The advent of proposals for £1.6 million of savings in this budget has not only changed the context but has impacted upon the viability of proposals submitted by VCS groups. Initial appraisal has established that 3 of the 9 proposals submitted forecast a reduced dependency on Council grant by more than 50% over a 2.5 year period.
- 8.3 Attached at Appendix E is a schedule that details the viable I2S bids; the table below summarises those projects recommended for support and identifies the return on the I2S investment which will achieve permanent savings by March 2016:

Organisation	Amount Requested £	Savings £	Continued WCC Grant requested £
Age UK Wolverhampton	64,808	72,080	48,050
BME United	39,805	51,370	0
Gazebo Theatre In Education	40,820	40,820	31,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>145,433</b>	<b>164,270</b>	<b>79,050</b>

- 8.4 Each of these bids was predicated upon a level of grant continuing from the City Council. Under these savings proposals these grants will continue into 2014/15 thereby giving each the best chance of delivering their I2S proposal and moving further towards self-sustainability.

## 9.0 Risk Analysis

- 9.1 There is a risk that this proposal could impact disproportionately upon locally based VCS providers as other contracts awarded by the Council are mainly to regional or national VCS providers:

	Number	2013/14 £000
VCS Organisations funded or commissioned by WCC	106	18,209
Local VCS organisations receiving grants	42	2,689
Wolverhampton based VCS providers contracted by WCC	18	3,143
National or Regional VCS Providers delivering Council services under contract	46	12,378

9.2 In terms of the cohort of 13 VCS organisation that will no longer be funded by the Council in 2014/15:

- The impact assessments have identified that 9 of those organisations forecast a loss of the Council's grant will mean they have to close whilst the remaining 4 will reduce levels of service but continue to provide services.
- The level of income from external sources that is forecast to be lost as a result of the proposal in 2014/15 is £1,452,000.

9.3 The Council previously agreed to act as 'guarantor' for some VCS organisations that have 'Admitted Body' status within the West Midlands Pension Fund (WMPF). Under the terms of that guarantee if an organisation is unable to meet its pension obligations following the withdrawal of Council grant, liability could fall to the Council. A detailed assessment has been made on the potential impact of these proposals which has revealed that the maximum pension exposure would be £13,000.

## 10.0 Conclusions

10.1 If the recommendations contained in this report are approved 29 organisations and projects will continue to be supported by the Council and can continue to operate in the city in 2014/15. This would mean that:

<b>Impact of the 2014/15 grant proposals:</b>	
Individual Service Users will see VCS services continue	64,135
VCS Staff posts safeguarded	262
Volunteering roles safeguarded	2,028
Levels of External Income safeguarded	£24,753,552*
Staff in membership of WM Pension Scheme	58

\* This total external income generated includes the return from the Refugee and Migrant Centre whose E&D Fund grant will conclude in February 2014.

10.2 During 2014/15 the 29 organisations that continue to be funded will have time to investigate other, more sustainable, sources of external funding, other ways of delivering services and other income streams.

## 11.0 Financial implications

11.1 The approved budget for VCS grant support is £2.7 million and the Community Initiatives Team is £225,000. The Cabinet report on 23 October 2013 proposed savings of £1.6 million by way of a reduction in voluntary sector grant funding (£1.1 million in 2014/15 and £533,000 in 2015/16).

11.2 Appendix A lists the organisations that are recommended to receive funding for 2014/15 and 2015/16. It identifies savings of £1.1 million in 2014/15 and £598,000 in 2015/16, £68,000 above the proposed target.

11.3 The costs of £145,433 as set out in paragraph 8.3 will be funded from the Efficiency Reserve.



11.4 The Council previously agreed to act as ‘guarantor’ for some VCS organisations that have ‘Admitted Body’ status within the WMPF, the maximum costs payable would be £13,000. [AS/13012014/M]

## 12.0 Legal implications

12.1 A supplementary legal report will be presented to Cabinet detailing the legal implications of this report. Wolverhampton Compact obliges the Council to consult with the VCS on the proposals, ideally for a period of 12 weeks – which will conclude on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. VCS Grants are provided under a standard set of terms of Conditions which requires three months’ notice to be given of termination of the grant. If three months’ notice is given to the 13 affected organisations following the meeting of Cabinet on 22 January 2014 the Council support for those services will end in April 2014. There is no liability for the Council arising from those notices. [JH/08012014/K]

## 13.0 Equalities Analysis

13.1 An Equalities Analysis (E.A.) of this savings proposal has been completed. A Stage One E.A. was compiled by officers, following which, a focus group of representatives from the Third Sector Partnership met to quality assure Stage Two of the E.A. process.

13.2 The key messages from the Focus Group meetings were:

13.2.1 The E.A shows the very positive impact that the VCS makes across the 9 protected characteristics. The Focus Group felt strongly that the equalities profile of overall provision by the VCS should be maintained.

13.2.2 The Stage Two E. A. identifies a potential adverse impact upon people across all protected characteristics. A reduction in VCS operational capability or infrastructure has the potential to reduce or eliminate the potential for support to some of the most vulnerable people in local communities and, in consequence, reduce the Council’s ability to deliver important programmes.

13.2.3. There will be an initial impact upon 13 organisations, that will see funding conclude in April 2014 (these are listed in paragraph 6.5). Because there are two stages to this savings proposal the E.A will need to be reviewed and updated during 2014/15. This will ensure it reflects changes to level of need in Wolverhampton and the impact of the proposals to end funding for a further 16 organisations at 31 March 2015. This will see the number of groups funded by the Council reduced to 12 and will have significant impacts across the 9 protected characteristics.

13.3 The table below summarises the known equalities and impact data in regard to the 13 organisations that will see funding end in April 2014:

Service Users	BME Service Users	% of BME Service Users	Gender (where known or collected)		Disabled People	Jobs at risk	Ext. Funding
			Male	Female			
32,801*	7,004	22.5%	5,713	5,105	1,513	93	1,452,883

\*Includes 20,287 telephone calls received by one organisation.

#### **14.0 Environmental implications**

14.1 There are some environmental implications as one funded organisation delivers environment based activities and awareness and one is delivering recycling services.

#### **15.0 Human Resources Implications**

15.1 The 13 organisations affected by these proposals forecast that up to 93 posts will be at risk if their Council grants are withdrawn.

#### **16.0 Schedule of background papers**

16.1 **(26.10.13) Cabinet - Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 (Appendix 00029)**

**Appendix A - allocation of grants 2014/15 and 2015/16**

<b>Voluntary organisation:</b>	<b>Base Budget 2014/15 £</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2014/15 £</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2015/16 £</b>
Access to Business	56,010	56,010	56,010
Afro-Caribbean Community Initiative	56,440	56,440	56,440
Age UK, Wolverhampton (I2S intervention)	120,130	48,050	48,050
Base 25	27,160	27,160	0
Blakenhall Community Advice Centre	61,440	5,120	0
BME United	51,370	4,280	0
Central Youth Theatre	13,520	1,130	0
Church of God of Prophecy	50,620	50,620	0
Citizens Advice Bureau	367,200	358,200	358,200
City Challenge Legacy	3,000	0	0
<i>City Challenge Legacy Rental Income</i>	(3,000)	0	0
Gazebo (I2S intervention)	71,820	31,000	0
Haven Project	204,230	175,000	175,000
Heath Town Senior Citizens Welfare Project	116,780	116,780	116,780
Jericho House	15,530	1,290	0
Job Change	59,290	59,290	59,290
Little Brothers	53,410	53,410	53,410
One Voice - Disability Forum	34,680	34,680	0
Relate	52,820	4,400	0
Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Support	31,640	31,640	0
St Columbus Day Centre	51,360	51,360	51,360
St George's Charity	36,520	36,520	0
Stratton Street Community Project	22,430	1,870	0
Wildside Activity Centre	73,160	6,100	0
W'ton City Credit Union (I2S in 2014/15)	102,000	67,000	35,000
W'ton Community Radio	46,870	3,910	0
W'ton Community Transport	90,910	7,580	0
W'ton Domestic Violence Forum	58,770	58,770	0

<b>Voluntary organisation:</b>	<b>Base Budget 2014/15 £</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2014/15 £</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2015/16 £</b>
W'ton Gateway Clubs	2,080	170	0
W'ton Samaritans	2,250	190	0
W'ton Voluntary Sector Council	98,080	98,080	0
W'ton Volunteer Service	39,770*	90,000	90,000
YMCA - Wolverhampton Project	49,510	4,130	0
Young in Wolverhampton Clubs	37,780	3,150	0
Zip Theatre Closed Aug 2013	30,480	0	0
Youth Organisations Wolverhampton	112,350	50,000	0
Holiday Play schemes	5,000	0	0
Supporting Compact Development	2,000	0	0
Voluntary Sector Training	1,000	0	0
Infrastructure Support Grant	0	0	100,000
Contingency	84,480	0	0
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Fund Projects:</b>			
Aspiring Futures	39,060	39,730	0
Bilston Resource Centre	37,610	35,580	0
Equality & Diversity Forum	16,890	8,450	0
EYES	38,610	38,720	0
Jubilee Community Support Centre	40,000	40,000	0
LGBT	40,000	20,000	0
Refugee & Migrant Centre	40,000	0	0
SEWA	34,860	0	0
Wolverhampton Somali Community Organisation	14,340	11,610	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,692,260</b>	<b>1,787,420</b>	<b>1,199,540</b>

Community Initiatives Team	225,000	60,000	50,000
----------------------------	---------	--------	--------

<b>Overall Budget Required</b>	<b>2,917,260</b>	<b>1,847,420</b>	<b>1,249,540</b>
--------------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

Savings Identified		1,069,840	597,880
--------------------	--	-----------	---------

\* 2013/14 grant payment was £90,000; £50,000 was funded from budgets outside CIT

## Appendix B: Proposed Reduction in Voluntary Sector Grant - Response from Third Sector Partnership January 2014

Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013	Response from Third Sector Partnership										
<p><b>1.0 Description of Savings Proposal</b> The council currently commissions / grant funds £12.5 million schemes in the voluntary sector. This proposal specifically targets the voluntary sector grant funding which has a current budget of £2.5 million and looks to reduce that by a further £1.6 million over the next year and a half. However, this would only equate to a 13% reduction in voluntary sector funding overall. The remaining budget of £940,000 would be allocated to organisations that deliver services that are considered strategically important to the delivery of the City Strategy. This proposal would also result in the downsizing of the Community Initiatives Team with the remaining commissioning elements of the role being undertaken by existing commissioners in the Directorate and one central post remaining to coordinate support to the voluntary sector.</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to reduce the £2.5m which currently supports a range of voluntary and community organisations to deliver services in the city by £1.6m leaving a total of £0.94m. This is a cut of 64%. The cut is front-loaded into years 1 and 2 of the Five Year Strategy.</p> <p>The most recent Council figure in terms of total council resources spent with the VCS is £18.2million. Of this, only £10.5 million is coming from the Council's revenue resource, with the balance funded from external sources. Much of the £18.2M is not spent with the local third sector with, for example, £5.5M being spent with NACRO, a London based national organisation. A further £3.15 million is going to Housing Associations for Housing Related Support, of which all except one are based outside Wolverhampton. This budget itself is facing a 30% cut over the next two years.</p> <p>That said, apart from the CIT budget, all remaining funds represent contracts awarded to third sector organisations primarily through competitive processes, and as such they fall outside the scope of this report. All contracts are also subject to their own savings proposals in negotiation with the provider.</p>										
<p><b>2.0 Table Setting out financial proposal</b> <b>2.1 Total base budget savings</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 1145 810 1385"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Base Budget Savings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014 -15</td> <td>£1,067,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015 -16</td> <td>£ 533,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-18</td> <td>£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>5 YR Total</b></td> <td><b>£1,600,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total Base Budget Savings	2014 -15	£1,067,000	2015 -16	£ 533,000	2016-18	£0	<b>5 YR Total</b>	<b>£1,600,000</b>	<p>Achieving this level of reduction within the timescale presented and in line with the Council's Compact commitments would lead to the first year cuts being delivered over 9 months, exacerbating the damage to organisations and services available to our communities from 2014.</p>
Year	Total Base Budget Savings										
2014 -15	£1,067,000										
2015 -16	£ 533,000										
2016-18	£0										
<b>5 YR Total</b>	<b>£1,600,000</b>										

Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013	Response from Third Sector Partnership														
<p><b>2.2 Staffing Implication</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 328 658 702"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017 -18</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>5 YR Total</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	2014-15	3	2015-16	0	2016-17	0	2017 -18	0	2018-19	0	<b>5 YR Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>142 FTE staff are directly employed by Community Initiatives funding. A 64% saving on this would therefore equate to 91 FTE job losses as well as the 3 posts within the CIT team. This does not take into account the knock on effect for other income sources captured under point 6 below, which will in turn result in additional job losses.</p> <p>In addition a reduction in staffing within voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) will lead to a significant reduction in volunteering. For example one funded organisation utilises input from volunteers valued at £755K. The demise of that organisation or any significant reduction in paid staff will significantly impact on the scale and value of volunteering, and this will be replicated across other funded organisations that face a cut or withdrawal of funding.</p> <p>The current monetary value of volunteering across the City, based on national figures equates to £90million.</p>
Year	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)														
2014-15	3														
2015-16	0														
2016-17	0														
2017 -18	0														
2018-19	0														
<b>5 YR Total</b>	<b>3</b>														
<p><b>3.0 Communications Strategy Implications</b> The Communications Strategy Implications of this proposal represent considerable risk as detailed below. The proposal would result in funding being withdrawn from a number of voluntary sector organisations. Continued funding would need to be focussed on corporate priorities.</p>	<p>The implications for communication and public relations represent a considerable risk. Wolverhampton has a national reputation relating both to its vibrant and effective voluntary sector, for example successfully bidding for large BIG Lottery awards, and its work around the Compact. These proposals undermine both.</p> <p>There is also the risk that neighbourhoods affected by the cuts will feel devalued and more isolated.</p>														
<p><b>4.0 Corporate Landlord Implications</b> The Corporate Landlord Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Voluntary Sector Organisations (VSOs) could consider asset transfer opportunities through the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Strategy to help build financial security. The CAT</p>	<p>There are risks in this area too as Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) which might have been in a position to consider asset transfer opportunities may no longer be in place or have the capacity to pick up service delivery where the Local Authority has withdrawn its services delivered in local, neighbourhood-based premises.</p> <p>The fact that there is a Community Asset Transfer strategy in place will be less relevant if there are fewer VCOs in place to take up the baton of local service delivery.</p>														

<b>Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013</b>	<b>Response from Third Sector Partnership</b>
<p>Strategy creates a single gateway approach that provides a clear point of contact for VSOs with asset transfer enquiries and will act as a conduit and a source of information and support. The Corporate Landlord strategic pathway and effective use of the Asset Management Plan will assist with this process.</p>	
<p><b>5.0 Customer Implications</b></p> <p>The implications for customers of this proposal represent considerable risk as detailed below. The proposal would result in funding being withdrawn from a number of voluntary sector organisations. Funding will need to be focused on priorities and assistance offered to voluntary organisations to access alternative sources of funding.</p>	<p>There are considerable risks in this area in particular.</p> <p>VCOs deliver services to some of the most vulnerable people in the city, often in the more deprived neighbourhoods. These proposals risk the closure of a wide range of VCOs and the loss of those services to our communities.</p> <p>A full impact assessment needs to be carried out to assess the way in which these proposals might impact on customers, particularly the more vulnerable and isolated who typically make up the greatest proportion of customers to VCOs.</p> <p>As Council services are reduced, the risks to community cohesion and greater social exclusion increase. VCOs work to achieve greater community cohesion and increase social inclusion, and the reduction of support to the VCS undermines that role. Before agreeing any reduction in this fund, an impact assessment should be carried out to consider VCOs contribution to community cohesion and social inclusion within the City.</p>
<p><b>6.0 Economic Implications</b></p> <p>Funding received by voluntary sector organisations from the council may be used to attract further funding from other organisations. This proposal may therefore lead to an overall reduction in funding received by the city as a whole, which could have an impact on the local economy.</p>	<p>Council figures confirm that for every £1 accessed by the VCS an additional £4.20 is raised to deliver services to local people. Based on these Council figures, a reduction of £1.6m will lead to a reduction of external funding being brought in to the city of around £5 million per annum.</p> <p>There is an increasing emphasis on partnership working across the Public and Voluntary and Community Sectors, in order to secure additional significant resources such as European funding, and resources from large lottery programmes and Central Government programmes. Weakening the local VCS in this way risks</p>

<b>Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013</b>	<b>Response from Third Sector Partnership</b>
	undermining our ability to secure these additional resources that would, in themselves help mitigate the disproportionate impact of Central Government cuts on our City.
<p><b>7.0 Environmental Implications</b> The Environmental Implications of this proposal are minimal.</p>	No comment from the Third Sector Partnership.
<p><b>8.0 Equality Implications</b> An equalities analysis screening has been completed, a full analysis is required.</p>	<p>The city's voluntary and community sector works with individuals and communities from all the protected groups under the Equalities Act 2010. Therefore these proposals represent a considerable risk in the area of equalities. This is laid out in more detail in the Council's initial equality analysis of this proposal (attached)</p> <p>This initial analysis shows that a full equalities analysis and impact assessment will be required.</p> <p>Depending on how robustly this is carried out, this impact assessment may be open to challenge in the courts.</p>
<p><b>9.0 Financial implications</b> The Financial Implications in terms of savings and investments areas as described above.</p>	<p>There are considerable financial implications for the Council to the proposals outlined in this report.</p> <p>Many VCOs funded through the Community Initiatives budget provide prevention and / or early intervention services.</p> <p>It is inevitable that further reducing funding to preventative and early intervention services will result in an increased demand for higher tier, statutory services such as child / adult protection, Looked After Children, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Adult Mental Health services, residential support etc.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Troubled Families programme has estimated that each family within this cohort costs on average £75K per year that can be avoided with effective, good quality early intervention. The VCS plays a significant role within</li> </ul>



<b>Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013</b>	<b>Response from Third Sector Partnership</b>
	<p>this programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately designed early support services around mental health can delay the date of admission to high level hospital based care by 2 years</li> </ul> <p>A number of organisations currently funded through the Community Initiatives budget have significant pension liabilities within the West Midland Pension Fund that are underwritten by the Council. The closure of organisations within this cohort will lead to significant costs for the Council, for example the closure of the Community Safety Partnership in previous years led to a pension liability of C£600K for the Council. Obtaining accurate estimates of current liabilities is challenging and cannot be accurately assessed until such time as an organisation closes, but the figure for CIT funded organisation would run to many hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>A number of VCO organisations also pay rent to the Council and the closure of these organisations will result in a loss of that income.</p>
<p><b>10.0 Health Implications</b></p> <p>The Health Implications of this proposal are minimal. Further information required regarding the voluntary services affected to ensure reduction or cessation of service provision does not affect health and widen the inequalities gap.</p>	<p>There is a considerable risk to health from these proposals, including the widening of health inequalities across the city by geography or by community.</p> <p>As outlined above, VCOs deliver a wide variety of preventative and early help services, many of these impacting directly on health, particularly mental health and the wider determinants of health such as employment, poverty, social isolation, support networks and resilience.</p> <p>VCOs are the source of the vast majority of volunteering opportunities in the city, and reductions in the numbers or capacity of VCOs will lead to a mirrored reduction in volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Volunteering has major health benefits for the individuals who volunteer as well as for the people supported directly by the volunteering work.</p>
<p><b>11.0 Legal Implication</b></p> <p>The Legal Implications of this proposal are minimal.</p>	<p>There are potential legal implications from these proposals.</p> <p>If it can be demonstrated that inaccurate or incomplete information was used to make a decision about reductions in funding this could leave the Council open to</p>

<b>Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013</b>	<b>Response from Third Sector Partnership</b>
	<p>legal challenge.</p> <p>If it is demonstrated that these savings proposals have a disproportionate impact on people from protected groups, and the proposals are implemented with no amendment, this could also leave the Council open to legal challenge.</p>
<p><b>12.0 Policy implications</b></p> <p>The Policy Implications on agreed Council policy represents some risk. The proposal would result in funding being withdrawn from a number of voluntary sector organisations. Continued funding would need to be focused on compact priorities. There is a risk to the delivery of the corporate priority 'Empowering People and Communities' around 'encourage, support and work with the voluntary and community sectors'.</p>	<p>There are significant implications for policy in these proposals.</p> <p>The VCS contributes to all of the priorities in the City Strategy: people living longer, healthier lives; reducing child poverty; higher employment rate; and more jobs.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of VCOs will lead to a reduction in the capacity of the sector to contribute to achieving the goals set out in the City Strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the outcome of recent budget consultations in the City confirmed that the top priority was protecting the vulnerable; this scale of reduction within organisations whose main role this is will be at significant odds with this stated policy priority.</p>
<p><b>13.0 Procurement Implications</b></p> <p>The Procurement Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Testing the market for alternative innovative services and terminating contracts early. Should the future services be commissioned, full procurements will be needed for each opportunity ensuring fair, open and transparent processes. This will require resource and potentially impact the timetable.</p>	<p>There is significant risk associated with the procurement implications of these proposals.</p> <p>Making the cuts in line with the proposed timetable will severely limit procurement options for the Council.</p> <p>There will be little time for testing the market if current agreements are terminated early.</p> <p>Should services be commissioned rather than grant aided, full procurement processes will need to be followed for each opportunity to ensure processes are fair, open and transparent.</p> <p>This will significantly impact on the proposed savings timetable.</p>
<p><b>14.0 Staffing Implications</b></p> <p>This proposal has HR implications for the</p>	<p>Voluntary organisations have much less scope than the Council to redeploy staff whose posts are lost. Therefore the proposal will almost certainly lead to a significant number of compulsory redundancies. The front-loading of the cuts in</p>

<b>Report to Cabinet 23 October 2013</b>	<b>Response from Third Sector Partnership</b>
Community Initiative Team. The need for compulsory redundancies will be avoided as far as possible through maximising opportunities for voluntary redundancies, redeployment and the deletion of vacant posts.	2014-15 will give little scope for organisations to put alternative funding in place. The cost of these redundancies could in turn destabilise the finances of the organisations concerned, making it more likely that organisations will be forced to close down.
<b>15.0 Trade Union Implications</b>	Many employees within the VCS are not Union members. Those that are may chose to be represented through any redundancy process. For some, particularly smaller, organisations this would be the first experience of a redundancy process and support may be required to ensure that policies are in place and adhered to.

**Appendix C: Summary of impact assessments submitted by each funded organisation**

Ref	Organisation	Service Location	Ward/s Served	Third Sector Equality & Diversity Fund End Date	Service Implication End, Reduce or Continue	Alternative provision Available?	Individual Service Users Affected	Jobs at Risk	Volunteers at Risk	W Mids Pension Fund Members	Other Income at Risk £	2013/14 WCC (CIT) Grant £
1	Access To Business	SP	CW		Reduce	No	225	1	51		338,585	56,010
2	Afro-Carib Community Initiative	SP	CW		Red/End	No	77	2	75		78,899	56,440
3	Age UK Wolverhampton	SP	CW		Reduce	No	2,950	8	135	6	871,183	120,130
4	Aspiring Futures	BL	BL/GR/HT/PK	Jun 2015	End	No	180	6	3		89,636	39,055
5	Base 25	SP	CW		Red/End	No	367	14	40		36,240	27,160
6	Bilston Resource Centre (BRC)	BE	BE/BN/ETT	Aug 2015	Reduce	No	810	4	45		79,000	37,610
7	Blakenhall Comm Advice Centre	BL	BL		End	No	2,080	4	9		35,377	61,440
8	BME United	BL	CW		End	Yes	2,928	2	5	5	154,936	51,370
9	Central Youth Theatre	SP	CW		Reduce	Yes	104	5	5		59,928	13,520
10	Church of God of Prophecy	SP	CW		End		6,230	5	69		69,323	50,620
11	Citizens Advice Bureau	SP	CW		Red/End	No	12,761	32	80		3,340,000	367,200
12	(EYES) Engage Youth Empowerment	ST P	CW	Dec 2015	End	No	46	3	20		61,000	38,610
13	Equality & Diversity Forum	AS	CW	Jun 2015	End	No		1	0		0	16,886
14	Gazebo	BE	CW		End	No	13,841*	30	30		700,000	71,820
15	Haven Project	SP	CW		Reduce	No	790	65	120		2,331,351	204,230
16	Heath Town Snr Citizens Welfare Proj	HT	HT		End	No	74	9	30		40,714	116,780
17	Jericho House	PK	CW		End	No	27	1	0		1,026,000	15,530
18	Job Change	CW	CW		End	No	6,804	30	12		800,000	59,290
19	Jubilee Comm Support Centre	GR	GR/MH/CW	Jun 2015	End	No	26	4	6		0	40,000
20	LGBT	SP	CW	Feb 2014	End	No	684	1	54		500,000	40,000
21	Little Brothers	SP	CW		Reduce	No	220	1	40		28,438	53,410
22	One Voice - Disability Forum	SP	CW		End	No	457	14	40		107,098	34,680
23	Refugee Migrant Centre	SP	CW	Feb 2014	Reduce	No	6219	1	86		343,552	40,000

Ref	Organisation	Service Location	Ward/s Served	Third Sector Equality & Diversity Fund End Date	Service Implication End, Reduce or Continue	Alternative Provision Available?	Service Users Affected	Jobs at Risk	Volunteers at Risk	W Mids Pension Fund Members	Other Income at Risk £	2013/14 WCC (CIT) Grant £
24	Relate	SP	CW		End	No	781	23	9		99,695	52,820
25	SEWA Centre	AS	AS/BL	Aug 2015	Reduce	Yes	579	2	4		0	34,862
26	Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Support	SP	CW		Red/End	No	432	1	8	11	213,005	31,640
27	St Columbas Day Centre	TW	BL/PK/PNSP		End	No	66	6	10	6	120,810	51,360
28	St George's Charity	SP	CW		Reduce	No	191	2	46		144,625	36,520
29	Stratton Street Comm. Project	BBS/LH	LH		End	No	300	7	15		19,352	22,430
30	Wildside Activity Centre	SP	CW		End	Yes	3780	9	30	5	0	73,160
31	Wolverhampton City Credit Union	SP	CW		Reduce	No	6,860	4	10		2,300,000	102,000
32	W'ton Community Radio	SP	CW		End	Yes	173	3	103		0	46,870
33	W'ton Community Transport	BN	CW		Reduce	Yes	2,000	6	18		0	90,910
34	W'ton Domestic Violence Forum	SP	CW		End	Yes	1,193	5	0		132,203	58,770
35	W'ton Gateway Clubs	PK	CW		No submission received				77		No details	2,080
36	W'ton Samaritans	PK	CW		Reduce	No	20,287	0	80		No details	2,250
37	W'ton Somali Community	HT	HT	Jun 2015	End	No	89	0	10		0	14,340
38	W'ton Voluntary Sector Council	SP	CW		Reduce	No	466*	4	-	33	12,000,000	98,080
39	W'ton Volunteer Service	SP	CW		End	No	1,200	3	1,000	2	No details	39,770
40	YMCA - W'ton Project	SP	CW		End	No	298	4	4		28,000	49,520
41	Young in W'ton Clubs	TW	CW		End	No	226	30	5		57,545	37,780
42	Youth Orgs W'ton (YOW)	TW	CW		End	No	115*	3	5		0	112,350
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>96,936</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>26,206,495</b>	

\* **Number of attendances/visits/audience/groups supported number rather than individuals counted**

**WARD KEY:** Bilston East (BE) Bilston North (BN) Blakenhall (BL) Bushbury North (BBN) Bushbury South (BBS) Low Hill (LH) East Park (EP) Ettingshall (ETT) Fallings Park (FP) Graiseley (GR) Heath Town (HT) Merry Hill (MH) Oxley (OX) Park (PK) Penn (PN) Spring Vale (SV) St Peter's (SP) Tettenhall Regis (TR) Tettenhall Wightwick (TW) Wednesfield North (WN) Wednesfield South (WS)

**Appendix D – Matrix for the determination of funding priorities**

Ref	Organisation	Vulnerable Children & Adults	Training and Employment	Economic Inclusion	Social Inclusion	Volunteers	Total Priority Score	Grant to End 30 April 2014	2014/15 WCC Grant £	2015/16 WCC Grant £
1	Access To Business	4	5	5	5	3	<b>22</b>		56,010	56,010
2	Afro-Caribbean Comm Initiative (ACCI)	5	4	3	5	5	<b>22</b>		56,440	56,440
3	Age UK, Wolverhampton	5	3	4	4	4	<b>20</b>		48,050	48,050
4	Aspiring Futures	<i>Equality and Diversity grant concluding on 31 March 15</i>							39,730	0
5	Base 25	5	4	2	4	4	<b>19</b>		27,160	0
6	Bilston Resource Centre (BRC)	<i>Equality and Diversity grant concluding on 31 March 15</i>							35,580	0
7	Blakenhall Comm Advice Centre	4	1	4	4	2	<b>15</b>	✓	5,120	0
8	BME United	<i>Innovate to Save bid will make organisation self sufficient</i>							4,280	0
9	Central Youth Theatre	3	4	0	3	3	<b>13</b>	✓	1,130	0
10	Church of God of Prophecy	4	3	3	4	4	<b>18</b>		50,620	0
11	Citizens Advice Bureau	5	3	5	5	5	<b>23</b>		358,200	358,200
12	Engage Youth Emp't Services (EYES)	<i>Equality and Diversity Grant concluding on 31 March 15</i>							38,720	0
13	Equality & Diversity Forum	<i>1 year Equality and Diversity grant to conclude on 30 June 14</i>							8,450	0
14	Gazebo	2	4	3	4	3	<b>16</b>		31,000	0
15	Haven Project	5	4	3	5	5	<b>23</b>		175,000	175,000
16	Heath Town Snr Citizens Welfare	5	4	2	5	4	<b>20</b>		116,780	116,780
17	Jericho House	4	1	2	4	0	<b>11</b>	✓	1,290	0
18	Job Change	4	5	5	3	4	<b>21</b>		59,290	59,290
19	Jubilee Comm Support Centre	<i>Equality and Diversity grant concluding on 31 March 15</i>							40,000	0
20	LGBT	<i>1 year underwriting to allow Lottery bid to be developed</i>							20,000	0
21	Little Brothers	5	3	4	4	5	<b>21</b>		53,410	53,410
22	One Voice - Disability Forum	5	2	3	4	3	<b>17</b>		34,680	0
23	Refugee Migrant Centre (RMC)	<i>Equality and Diversity grant scheduled to conclude in Feb 14</i>							0	0

Ref	Organisation	Vulnerable Childrer & Adults	Training and Employment	Economic Inclusion	Social Inclusion	Volunteers	Total Priority Score	Grant to End 30 April 2014	2014/15 WCC Grant £	2015/16 WCC Grant £	
24	Relate	3	2	1	2	4	12	✓	4,400	0	
25	SEWA Centre	<i>1 year Equality and Diversity grant concluding in June 14</i>								0	0
26	Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Supp.	5	3	1	4	3	16		31,640	0	
27	St Columbas Day Centre	5	4	2	5	4	20		51,360	51,360	
28	St George's Charity	4	4	3	3	3	17		36,520	0	
29	Stratton Street Comm. Project	4	1	1	3	3	12	✓	1,870	0	
30	Wildside Activity Centre	3	2	2	3	3	13	✓	6,100	0	
31	Wolverhampton City Credit Union	5	3	5	4	4	21		67,000	35,000	
32	W'ton Community Radio	1	3	1	2	3	10	✓	3,910	0	
33	W'ton Community Transport	4	4	2	3	2	15	✓	7,580	0	
34	W'ton Domestic Violence Forum	5	0	3	5	3	16		58,770	0	
35	W'ton Gateway Clubs	5	0	0	4	4	13	✓	170	0	
36	W'ton Samaritans	5	0	0	4	5	14	✓	190	0	
37	W'ton Somali Community	<i>Equality and Diversity grant concluding on 31 March 15</i>								11,610	0
38	W'ton VSC	<i>Revised allocation for Infrastructure to be allocated in 2015</i>								98,080	0
39	W'ton Volunteer Service	Service being developed and new grant allocation underway								90,000	90,000
40	YMCA – W'ton Project	3	3	3	3	3	15	✓	4,130	0	
41	Young in W'ton Clubs	3	3	2	3	3	15	✓	3,150	0	
42	Youth Orgs W'ton (YOW)	<i>Part year allocation for Infrastructure to be allocated</i>								50,000	0
43	New Infrastructure Support Grant	<i>A new allocation for Infrastructure service yet to be allocated</i>								0	100,000

**Appendix E: Summary of Innovate to Save (I2S) fund applications recommended for approval**

<b>Provider Org</b>	<b>Budget 13/14</b>	<b>Amount Req</b>	<b>Forecast Savings 2014 onwards</b>	<b>Proposal Summary</b>
<b>Age UK</b>	£120,130	£64,808	£72,080	I2S funds will be used to fund 2 posts: A Trading Manager to develop AGE UK's trading arm (volumise sales, product range etc.) and increase amount of unrestricted funding an continue to fund the Income Manager Development post for a further 18 months to obtain funding from alternative sources.
<b>BME United</b>	£51,370	£39,805	£51,370	I2S funds will be used to increase BME United's sustainability by employing a full time Business Development Officer for 1 year to develop a 2 year trading plan and implement a new Community Interest Company (CIC).
<b>Gazebo Theatre in Education</b>	£71,820	£40,820	£40,820	I2S funds will be used to generate income through marketing and promoting Bilston Town Hall as a commercial venue and also by offering a range of additional services and events including theatre and education programmes to increase commissions. Income generation will also support the development and delivery of new services and activities. Funding of £23,284 secured through Wolverhampton University's "Knowledge, Exchange & Enterprise Network" (KEEN) to subsidise marketing development post.





# Cabinet Meeting

22 January 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Warstones Community Service Hub	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Sarah Norman, Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Commissioning	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Steve Brotherton	Head Of Commissioning
	Tel	01902 555318
	Email	<a href="mailto:Steve.brotherton@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Steve.brotherton@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
	Helen Rowney	Commissioning Officer
	Tel	01902 555495
	Email	<a href="mailto:Helen.rowney@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Helen.rowney@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/had been considered by</b>	Budget Working Party Capital Programme	6 January 2014 20 January 2014

---

## Recommendation(s) for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the continuation of formal negotiations with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to provide up to 26 step-down beds within Warstones Community Service Hub (section 4.0).
2. Endorse for the decision of the CCG Governing Board to go out to tender for intermediate care services.

3. Approve the continued development of a formal business case/plan with detailed cost and benefits analysis on the requirements of the CCG and the outcomes of the community stakeholder engagement process.
4. Receive a further report in Spring 2014 on the outcomes of the discussions on the proposal and the completed business case/plan
5. Note that in the spring 2014 report it will be recommended that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities in consultation with the Assistant Director for Older People and Personalisation to approve the final arrangements.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the results of the Warstones community service hub joint community engagement process

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On the 20 February 2013, Cabinet received the results of a three months formal consultation process and approved the following recommendations in relation to Warstones resource centre:
  1. That the services be decommissioned and relocated to existing in-house services for older people;
  2. That a further three month consultation on proposals for transforming Warstones resource centre into a community service hub be undertaken during the Autumn/Winter of 2013 with a report back to Cabinet scheduled in January 2014.
- 2.2 The delay in starting the stakeholder engagement process was granted because a new Programme Manager was to be appointed in April 2013 to lead the delivery of the Community Hubs and it would fall to this person to also lead the community service hub workstream, and priority should initially be given to the Community Hubs (Chubs).
- 2.3 Nevertheless, work started soon after the appointment of the CHubs Programme Manager on developing a vision for Warstones following the decommissioning of the existing in-house older people services.
- 2.4 In July 2013 the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – an organisation that had been formed in April 2013 – expressed an interest in opening up informal exploratory discussions to examine options for making use of Warstones as a facility to help improve services for the people of Wolverhampton and support them to remain independent for as long as possible.
- 2.5 Throughout the summer, discussions turned into a vision for developing a community service hub alongside a CCG-commissioned service to offer around 26 intermediate care beds. Although the CCG are still to determine their service specification, it is thought that the facility is likely to provide medical treatment, nursing care, administering medication, etc. It will also have a direct route back into the hospital if a patient's condition deteriorates.

## **3.0 Community stakeholder engagement process**

- 3.1 Consequently, a community stakeholder engagement process was developed along with three 'indicative' proposals for the community service hub. As scheduled, the joint engagement process was undertaken over a three month period, commencing on Monday 16th September 2013 and ending on Monday 6 December 2013. This was a comprehensive community stakeholder engagement process involving the public,

National Health Service (NHS), Police as well as Councillors. In total, 63 people participated in the engagement process.

3.2 The headlines from the joint engagement process are:

- This was a ‘golden opportunity for more joint working’
- The Chair of the Penn and Merry Hill Local Neighbourhood Partnership was very supportive of the proposals as it would keep the building open for use by the local community and give increased facilities and activities
- There was support for the proposed plans that incorporated a cafeteria area as that could be used by the local community, users of the service hub and drop in service users
- It was thought that people using the bed based services could also benefit from the range of activities and services in the centre, which in turn could lead to increased use of the activities groups.
- The proposal for including bed based services was seen as a real asset for the city
- The CCG involvement was seen as very positive and people welcomed the idea of more joined up working between health and social care.
- Having an information portal in the building and the opportunity for face to face meetings with the care and assessment team were welcomed and thought to be very helpful to the local community and the South West area of the city.
- A proposal for the local Police to have a presence in the community service hub was again seen as a very positive move for the area and participants were keen to see that confirmed

3.3 A full copy of the reports are available from: Rose Powell, Participation Officer for Older People on 555494 or by visiting the current consultations pages on the council website: [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/consultations)

3.4 The proposal has identified a number of different services that could be co-located within the Warstones site, namely:

- Wolverhampton CCG – to use the bed-based service as a city-wide step-down “intermediate care” facility
- The relocation of Warstones library
- Community drop-in services
- Third-party not-for-profit organisations
- Relocation of South West Assessment and Care Management Team

3.5 Concern was raised throughout the consultation about the adequacy of the parking facilities and the need for more public transport routes to ensure that people from other parts of the Warstones/Penn area could continue to use the library facilities. Concern

was also raised about size of the proposed site for the library since it was generally thought that this would result in a reduction from the current size of library at Warstones.

- 3.6 In relation to where concerns have been raised during the joint engagement process, in reference to the car parking facilities, size of the library and transport routes, all of these have been noted and will be considered as part of the further detailed analysis in the next phase of the programme.

#### **4.0 Clinical Commissioning Group**

- 4.1 The community stakeholder engagement process has focused on the possibility that the Council will enter into a partnership agreement with the CCG for the latter to offer intermediate care facilities. It is envisaged that this will offer around 26 intermediate care beds.
- 4.2 However, in order to facilitate this arrangement, officers from both organisations will finalise the work on the various options and present these back to Cabinet in spring 2014. This paper will provide detailed recommendations based on evidence to proceed, or alternatively offer a range of fully considered and financially worked-out alternative options for the site at Warstones.
- 4.3 Informal exploratory discussions have been on-going with the CCG since July 2013. They have now indicated their willingness to formalise the discussions and have had approval from their Governing Board to proceed and go out to tender for the delivery of intermediate care services. In going out to tender for service delivery, the CCG are committing themselves as far as they can without the Council yet having had the opportunity to fully validate associated costs, secure funds and therefore guarantee access by the CCG to Warstones.
- 4.4 Council employees have now reached the point where they believe they need to seek the approval from Cabinet to enter more formal negotiations with the CCG. This will include negotiating funding agreements around financial contributions, developing and agreeing robust financial planning and control protocols, developing management agreements and length of terms of such agreements, agreeing and committing to building requirements, etc. Authority will be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities in consultation with the Assistant Director for Older People and Personalisation to approve these arrangements.

#### **5.0 Financial Business Case – the next steps**

- 5.1 Approval is now requested for time to develop a detailed business case based on the requirements of the CCG and the outcomes from the community stakeholder engagement process. This includes identifying and confirming associated costs, exploration of sources of finance, any costs associated with accessing these costs and how these costs will be reclaimed and contribute to on-going running costs. The results of these discussions and the business case should be completed so that they can be shared with Cabinet during spring 2014 in the form of another paper.

- 5.2 This timetable will allow time to give proper consideration to how Warstones community service hub can benefit from the accessing Better Care Fund .This will see the establishment of a pooled budget of £3.8bn nationally , which will be committed at local level with the agreement of Health and Wellbeing Board. Work is currently underway with key stakeholder organisations in the development of the integration plans for the allocation of the Better Care Fund. A critical component of success for the transformation fund will be the quality of partnership working at local level. A key element will be aligning the Better Care Fund timetable with the requirements of the CCG.
- 5.3 Some preliminary work has already commenced in terms of commissioning building surveys spanning mechanical, electrical and building condition. These have been carried out on our behalf by Jacobs, an independent and external provider. These have been necessary in order for us to begin to identify likely financial requirements and assess the feasibility of the project going forward.
- 5.4 The overall capital costs of turning Warstones into a health-focused community service hub is currently estimated to be in the range of £3.3 to £3.6 million . The Cabinet report proposed for spring 2014 will firm up these indicative figures, as well as take the opportunity of highlighting options to recover the revenue costs (including the cost of any prudential borrowing).
- 5.5 This will form the first step in the Council's commitment to provide three community service hubs (as set out and approved by Cabinet in December 2012).

## **6.0 Other partners**

- 6.1 Following the engagement process the Police have expressed a keen interest in working with the Council – and specifically in taking space at Warstones based on their observation of the benefits of being part of this proposal and being part of partnership working and community engagement. The relocation of the Police to Warstones would link into providing advice and guidance to the community and users and to the overall theme of health and wellbeing and prevention Early negotiations are taking place and further detail is required to the viability of this potential relocation of the Police. Cabinet will be kept informed of these initial, but informal exploratory discussions.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

- 7.1 A formal business case/plan with detailed cost and benefits analysis (see section 5.0 ) is being developed and will be the subject of future reports to Cabinet for approval. This will include a request to secure £600,000 of Community Capacity Grant Funding towards the estimated capital costs of £3.6 million.

[MK/13012014/Y]

## **8.0 Legal implications**

8.1 At this stage, we are in initial discussions and therefore there are no legal commitments or implications. However, as the negotiations move from positioning to detail, employees are proactively programming the involvement of colleagues from planning, finance, legal and procurement to be an integral part of the Council's negotiating party [JH/08012014/C].

## **9.0 Equalities implications**

9.1 A detailed equality analysis will be completed to inform the on-going development and implementation of this programme, which will be presented back to Cabinet in Spring 2014.

## **10.0 Environmental implications**

10.1 There are no environmental implications attached to this report.

## **11.0 Human resources implications**

11.1 There are no human resources implications attached to this report.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

12.1 Reports have been submitted to Budget Working Party on the 6 January 2014 and Capital Works Programme on the 20 January 2014.



# Cabinet Meeting

22 January 2013

<b>Report title</b>	Comments from Scrutiny on the Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Simon Warren, Chief Executive	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Assistant Director Finance
	Tel	01902 55(6609)
	Email	<a href="mailto:mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk">mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Adults and Community Scrutiny Panel	5 November
	Health Scrutiny Panel	7 November
	Enterprise and Business Scrutiny Panel	19 November
	Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	20 November
	Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	21 November
	Vibrant Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	28 November
	Scrutiny Board	17 December

---

## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Consider the comments from Scrutiny Board and Panels in relation to the draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19.



## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny's feedback on the draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy that was approved as the basis of consultation by the Cabinet on 23 October 2013.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. At its meeting on 23 October 2013, the Cabinet considered a draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy for the period 2014/15 to 2018/19. Cabinet approved the draft budget strategy as the basis of budget consultation and scrutiny over forthcoming months.
- 2.2. The five year budget and medium term financial strategy has been considered by all Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Board during November and December 2013. The feedback from those meetings is included in Appendix A.
- 2.3. Scrutiny Board will consider the budget again in February 2014, following an update to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on the draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy and the Local Government finance settlement, which is scheduled for December 2013. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider the response of Cabinet to the comments made by Scrutiny Board during the November/December round of meetings, together with any new savings proposals that may emerge. The outcome of this Board meeting will be incorporated into the final Cabinet budget report, scheduled for February 2014, ahead of Full Council considering the budget in March 2014.
- 2.4. In order to limit the volume of paper used as part of the budget reporting process, the Cabinet report has not been appended to this covering report. Detail of individual savings proposals can be found on the council's website at: <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/budgetsavings>.

## **3. Budget Proposals**

- 3.1. All comments from Scrutiny Board and Panels are included at Appendix A.
- 3.2. More detailed information on each of the savings proposals is included in the document 'The Cuts – Facing Reality: Your Guide to Wolverhampton City Council's five year budget proposals for the period 2014-2019' which can be found on the council's [website](#).

## **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1. The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report, and in the report to Cabinet. Should any of these proposals and options not be delivered the projected budget deficit will increase by an equivalent sum and alternative savings will have to be identified.

[NA/14012014/M]

## **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 Statutory requirements will be taken into account when making final recommendations on the budget and council tax requirement for 2014/15. Further legal implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

[RB/14012014/A]

## **6. Equalities implications**

- 6.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the council has a statutory duty to pay due regard to the impact of how it carries out its business on different groups of people. This is designed to help the council identify the particular needs of different groups and reduce the likelihood of discrimination. An equality analysis screening has been conducted on each proposal, and fuller equality analysis will be conducted where appropriate. Further equalities implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

## **7. Environmental implications**

- 7.1 Individual proposals include details of potential environmental implications.

## **8. Human resources implications**

- 8.1 Individual proposals include details of the potential human resources implications.

## **9. Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 Cabinet, 23 October 2013 - Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19

## Appendix A - Summary of Scrutiny Panel Discussions

### Key

VSSC	Vibrant Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
CCC	Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel
E&B	Enterprise and Business Scrutiny Panel
CYP	Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
A&C	Adults and Community Scrutiny Panel
Health	Health Scrutiny Panel

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
<b>Summary of Savings Proposals by Scrutiny Panel</b>					
0031	Community	Restructure of safeguarding service	Efficiency	Board	The Invest to Save funding option did not provide an alternative source of funding.
0098	E&E	Phase 2 – Service Review and Reduction – Regulatory Services	Cut in Service	Board	Board sought reassurance from the Cabinet Member that the public would be put at the foremost of the service, and that it was responsive to their need. Public safety was the only priority for the service, and this needed to be tailor made to serve the Wolverhampton public.
0150	E&E	Alternative service model – Bantock House museum	Cut in Service	Board	Further information sought form discussion at panels.
0169	Delivery	Move Shopmobility to be more commercially supported	Cut in Service	Board	Councillors expressed serious concern about the cuts to shopmobility, and felt it needed to be looked at as a priority. The Board enquired what efforts were being undertaken to lessen the risk of a cut to shopmobility, and also asked for clarification on the level of cut outlined in the proposal. It was explained the proposal

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
					was to cut the service in its entirety, however the intention was to find alternative funds and delivery methods to try and keep the service. The shopping centre and key businesses in the centre had been approached to help fund the service.
0166	Delivery	Optimise the use of Winter Service Gritting Fleet	Efficiency	Board	There was concern from Councillors that a reduction in the number of gritters would reduce service, and collaboration with other authorities opened up potential risks to Wolverhampton's service. The Board was advised that the gritter service would be optimised to continue gritting the same proportion of the network. It was acknowledged that in the rare occurrence that both Wolverhampton and a partner authority experienced an issue with the gritters at the same time, the service would be affected.
0173	Delivery	Review and rationalise the number of play areas in the City	Cut in Service	Board	Board expressed reservations that it would create a two tiered structure of play areas, with some being well maintained while others were left to fall into disrepair. They expressed a desire to maintain safety at all times. In response, the Board was advised that there would be a reduction in the number of play areas, but the ones kept open would be maintained at a higher level. It was also noted that inspectors had been retrained in order to be able to carry out routine maintenance on site, in a bid to save money and improve efficiency.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0182	Delivery	Parking services and charges review	Income generation	Board	<p>Board discussed car parking opening times, availability and costs. Board were advised that work would be undertaken to make sure that the car park catered for the demands of the Civic Hall and city alike. Ticket barriers provided detailed demand evidence and alternative car parks were being investigated for the Grand Theatre. The car park would be kept open during Christmas periods, due to the increased demand, and the car park would mirror the expected closing times of the Civic Hall.</p> <p>It was suggested a policy of free parking in the city would help improve footfall and therefore business in the city centre. Board were advised that to offer free parking, the Council would need to find a further £1 million in savings proposals.</p>
0186	Community	Reduction in Children in Need/Child protection costs in line with projected reductions in LAC number	Under Dev	Board	<p>Board raised concerns in regard to the Looked After Children (LAC) budget, and enquired about the numbers of LAC's in the city. Councillors suggested the need to reduce the demand, and noted that LAC age bracket would be raised to 21 which would create extra expenditure for the Council. The Board were advised that the numbers had increased by 20 in a month, and that the Government would provide extra funds to compensate for the increased age limit. This could turn into an additional budgetary pressure.</p>

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0193	Delivery	Reduction in the Christmas Decoration installation-maintenance budget	Cut in Service	Board	Some concern was expressed in regard to the reduction in the number of Christmas decorations. He asked for further information about the geographical spread of the Christmas lights and Councillors suggested costs could be addressed by leaving them up all year. The Board were advised that work had been undertaken to review the costs of LED lights and a more cost effective way to store and supply the decorations.
009	Community	Reduction in library opening hours and introduce charging for internet use	Cut in Service	AC	The panel were concerned about the impact of the reduction in library opening hours and the impact of charges on people who have to claim universal credit online. The panel was further advised that, with regard to welfare reform changes, people would be given one hour free use of computer equipment in order to claim benefits. The impact of this, and whether one hour is long enough, would be closely monitored by the council in conjunction with the Citizen's Advice Bureau.
0018	Delivery	Reduction of the current level of subsidy to Leisure Facilities	Income generation	AC	The panel were concerned about the impact of increased charges on efforts to reduce levels of obesity in Wolverhampton. There was concern that the changes would make it difficult to meet these targets

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0029	Community	Reduction in Voluntary Sector Grant Funding	Cut in Service	AC	A comment was made about the impact of reduction in the voluntary sector grant and the lack of alternative funding of services
0031	Community	Restructure of safeguarding service	Efficiency	AC	More detail was requested and an assurance that the council's legal obligations would continue to be met.
0039	Community	Reduction in Training Funding in line with historical spend	Efficiency	AC	More detailed information was requested. The panel was advised that this represented an historical underspend and would have no impact on current service provision.
0045	Community	Reduce Staffing in Carers Support Team	Efficiency	AC	There was concern that there should be no reduction in the quality of care as we are reliant on the work of carers. The panel was advised that the proposal would have some impact on support provided and would require some smarter working arrangements, but the council would still meet its statutory obligations and provide a good service.
0049	Community	Implement reduced cost delivery models for neighbourhood support and Carelink services	Efficiency	AC	More information was requested on this proposal. The panel was advised that neighbourhood support was included in a group of services due for option appraisal. The services would still be provided but at a reduced cost. Services were regularly statutorily monitored.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0061	Community	Review high cost care packages	Efficiency	AC	A comment was made that this item and references 0063, 0070 and 0071 were all reviews and it was questioned how the council was able to project the budget savings. The individual circumstances would be considered and the learning gained over time in order to review the service.
0063	Community	Review of direct payments	Efficiency	AC	It is the intention for more people to move towards direct payments.
0070	Community	Review care packages using occupational therapists	Efficiency	AC	See 0061
0074	Community	Learning disabilities Assessment and Care management – Care packages	Efficiency	AC	More detail was requested in respect of this proposal. Consideration would be given to the skill mix of the team, that the changes would be small scale and would not affect the timescale for completion of assessments.
0081	Community	Reducing costs within in-house services for older people	Efficiency	AC	More detail was requested in respect of this proposal. The panel was advised that this did represent a significant saving as it represented a large proportion of the budget. Option appraisals would be considered.
0083	Community	Explore options to reduce costs of mental health in-house provision	0083	AC	A question was raised as to whether the council would still have the capacity to respond to a crisis. The panel was advised that the level of service would not reduce, but cheaper options were being investigated.



Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0084	Community	Transfer and de-commission a number of in-house services for older people	Cut in Service	AC	More detail was requested in regard to this proposal.
0088	Community	Deletion of posts in the welfare rights and financial assessments services	Efficiency	AC	A question was raised as to the level of impact of the welfare reform changes would have on the Council responding to the impact as a result of this proposal.
0090	Delivery	Risk Management and Insurance – Revision to workflow, process and procedures	Efficiency	AC	The panel was advised that it was not anticipated that there would be a reduction in the level of service provision. The staff reductions would involve back office staff and not welfare rights team. It was further noted that finance was available to carry out some joint work with the Citizen's Advice Bureau.
0092	Community	Restructure of Physical Disabilities Assessment and Care management – Social Work Teams	Efficiency	AC	The panel was advised that it would not, that consideration would be given to the skill mix and that the council would still meet its statutory obligations.
0147	Community	Restructure of Assistant Directors, Heads of Service and Commissioning	Efficiency	AC	More detail was required in regard to this proposal. The panel was advised that these proposals would be implemented later in the programme as a large amount of rationalisation had already taken place
0183	Community	Management of demographic growth through NHS partnership for Adult Services	Growth avoidance	AC	More detail was requested in regard to this proposal. A comment was made that the issue was not going to go away and should be considered by the health scrutiny panel.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0019	Delivery	Removal of the Historical Contract Growth Costs for Grounds Maintenance and Street Scene Contracts	Growth avoidance	CCC	Consultation is planned to consider proposals for new Council Tax collection schemes and this will be considered by full Council.
0015	Delivery	Internal Audit Services income generation	Income generation	CCC	Income generation is due to Audit Services doing more work for other organisations and making the work more commercial.
0022	Delivery	Removal of growth – increase in pension costs of former employees	Growth avoidance	CCC	The saving is as a result of the rate of deaths off setting how long people draw pension.
0025	Delivery	Removal of growth – carbon reduction commitment	Growth avoidance	CCC	Energy efficiency will reduce the number of carbon credits we buy. WCC will have fewer buildings and smaller satellite offices. There is a move to make all other buildings efficient, if we do not do this we would pay more for carbon credits and that it is a balancing act.
0040	OCE	Research activity reduction	Cut in Service	CCC	Efficiencies can be made by reducing the sample size and frequency of activity such as the Residents' Opinion Survey.
0077	Delivery	Restructures and re-negotiation of commercial contracts across the Delivery Directorate	Efficiency	CCC	The contracts would be renegotiated when coming up for renewal to ensure savings going forward.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0091	Delivery	Fees and Charges review – Bereavement services	Income generation	CCC	The increase will be 10% in the first year and a minimum of 2% in following years; this is comparable to neighbouring authorities and keeps WCC competitive.
0104	Delivery	Revenues and benefits reconfiguration of Mail services	Efficiency	CCC	More information revealed that an external company can reduce postage costs in revenues and benefits and that WCC is looking to make similar efficiency savings across the whole Council in the future.
0106	Delivery	Rationalise the Contract Terms for School Bus Drivers	Efficiency	CCC	Discussions should take place with trade unions in relation to the reduction of eight weeks out of school term payments for the drivers.
0107	Delivery	Health and Safety team employee reduction	Efficiency	CCC	Concerns about the potential impact on the number of health and safety audits carried out with the reduction of one post.
0119	Delivery	Improve collection rate for Council Tax	Income generation	CCC	There is a consultation planned to consider proposals for new Council Tax collection schemes and that this would be considered by full Council.
0125	Delivery	Restructure of facilities management function	Efficiency	CCC	Reduction relates to supervisory posts and should not impact service delivery.
0126	Delivery	Reduction in corporate provision for bad debts	Efficiency	CCC	More investigation needed relating to placing deposits for services.
0135	Delivery	Democratic Services Electoral Services Employee Reduction	Efficiency	CCC	The post deletion was part of a restructure and capacity will not be adversely affected due to online voter registration which will give additional capacity.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0138	Delivery	Review the function and extent of the Mayoral Office	Cut in Service	CCC	Panel suggested investigating new ways of working and income generation through better use of the Mayoral Suite. This included modernising the mayoral functions and making it fit the business of the Local Authority rather than just a ceremonial function. Mayoral function gets involved in selling Wolverhampton and attracting inward investment and suggested this should start from the premise of communications team, economic development team and mayoral team working together to question the function and how it could be part and parcel of Wolverhampton's outward face. The Mayoral function can look to bring resource and investment to the City especially when linked to the corporate priorities and alternative uses for the Mayoral Suite.
0139	Delivery	Reduce the number of Councillors	Cut in Service	CCC	Panel suggested that Cabinet should seriously look at reducing numbers in light of the previous discussion and the importance of the Mayoral role.
0161	OCE	Policy Team Restructure	Efficiency	CCC	This links to savings proposal 0187 which is the centralisation of policy. The function would not lose service specialism when co-located.
0187	OCE	Centralisation and rationalisation of service provision	Efficiency	CCC	This links to savings proposal 0161 which is the centralisation of policy. The function would not lose service specialism when co-located.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0192	Delivery	Efficiencies in service delivery across the Delivery Directorate	Efficiency	CCC	Efficiency savings will be achieved through major programmes such as FutureWorks and FutureSpace which will develop and eventually produce these savings.
0199	Delivery	Centralisation and rationalisation of services – Central Services	Efficiency	CCC	Efficiency savings have been made already and as more services are brought into one place, such as ICT services and Health and Safety, the Council is using less resource to do the same work.
PD-Com01	Community	Looked after children: continued increase in numbers combined with previous inflationary pressures relating to Foster Carers.	Pressure	CYP	Panel acknowledged the on-going preventative work to reduce the rates of children becoming looked after. Panel appreciated the variety of factors which has caused the increase in looked after children numbers.
0021	Community	Re-configuration of Youth Services Centred on Youth Zone and Targeted Youth Support	Cut in service	CYP	The Youth Council expressed concerns about reduced youth provision in neighbourhoods and potential issues arising in a centralised Youth Zone, including territorial group mentality and transport to the centre. 'Epic' (the youth cafe) would still be available to use until the lease ends in 2019. There was emphasis on a managed transition to centralisation and further consultation with users. The Cabinet Member expressed a desire to maintain certain parts of the youth service on a more limited basis e.g. Duke of Edinburgh awards and youth council. The panel asked for more information regarding the possibility of OnSide providing a minibus to transport young people to the Youth Zone for the first year it is open, which had been discussed before the contract was signed.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0042	Community	Restructure of Children with Disabilities Assessment and Care Management Team – Social Work	Efficiency	CYP	More information was requested regarding the restructure and its implications, and emphasised that they were not offering their approval of the proposal until they received further detail. This would be a gradual process and was part of a wider piece of work to bring together adult and children care management.
0048	Community	Introduce individual budgets for Short Residential Breaks for Children with Disabilities	Efficiency	CYP	The current residential break provision was outdated and under-utilised, and that this proposal would provide a more modern facility. The introduction of a personal budget for families meant that a more flexible service was needed. The benefits of the proposed changes, but highlighted the need to ensure the service was closely monitored to ensure value for money and quality provision.
0011	Community	Implement Reduced Cost Delivery Models for the Council's Residential Children's Homes	Efficiency	CYP	The panel asked for more information regarding the staffing restructure, and expressed a desire to scrutinise the proposal again when more detail had been provided. The panel was informed that the deletion of 38 posts meant the whole team would be disbanded.
0067	E&E	Reorganisation of Schools Skills and Learning (SSL) for a structure fit for the purpose of discharging WCC's statutory duties	Cut in Service	CYP	Further details needed when the restructure would be drawn up in the New Year. This proposal would result in the SSL fulfilling only their statutory duties (school improvement, school places and protecting vulnerable children). Other discretionary services would be provided by external groups such as WSIP. Concerns were raised regarding support for schools during the transition period.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0136	Delivery	Increase school meals charge	Income generation	CYP	The cost of school meals would increase by 5p per meal for the next two years and by a further 10p per meal for the following three years. It is the school's decision whether to pass this increase in price on to students. Concerns were raised regarding the comparative cost of external lunch provision, for example take away restaurants. The cabinet member assured the panel that he did not think the nominal rise in cost would deter take-up of school meals, especially considering that the rate of inflation is higher than the proposed price increase.
0137	Community	Commissioning of Early years and Childrens Services using Public Health funding	Efficiency	CYP	The panel emphasised the need for stringent monitoring of commissioned services. They were advised that commissioned children's services were subject to a number of checks including internal Council inspections and Ofsted visits.
0142	Community	Delete Posts from the family and support team	Efficiency	CYP	This team had undergone a number of previous reviews and that its effectiveness was declining. Officers described a new, evidence based work programme which would replace the team. A number of family support worker posts would be advertised for members of the current team to apply for.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0144	Community	Re-configure and rationalise Social Inclusion and Play Service, and eliminate subsidy to schools	Cut in Service	CYP	<p>The service is currently subject of a review, incorporating a value for money exercise, led by Commissioning. The aim of the review is to clarify core priorities for this service going forward which will inform how it will be structured, what the statutory responsibilities and duties are and what statutory responsibilities do we share with schools. This will then inform what services will be provided for schools which links to the specific issue regarding eliminating subsidy to schools.</p> <p>The outcome will be a reconfigured, more efficient and effective service that focusses much more clearly on the needs of children, young people and their families, prioritising early help, together with support to partner agencies including directly to schools.</p>
0145	Community	Reduction in staffing budget in youth offending Service	Efficiency	CYP	<p>The panel expressed concern that the nationally recognised service was being reduced. They were assured that the post being deleted was a long standing vacancy, and that the current workload could be managed without it being filled.</p>
0146	Community	Re-commissioning of early intervention services including reduction in Connexions Service	Cut in Service	CYP	<p>Concerns were raised regarding the effect of reducing Connexions services in a climate of high youth unemployment.</p> <p>It is the duty of the school to provide careers advice, and that most other authorities stopped funding Connexions years ago. Schools will be prompted to fulfil this obligation.</p>



Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0163	Delivery	Review lunchtime crossing patrols	Cut in Service	CYP	There was concern that the removal of crossing patrols could endanger children, particularly on certain roads such as Stafford Road. The panel requested more detail, including the numbers of children using the crossing at lunchtimes and costs of the service. The Cabinet Member advised that there had been no opposition from schools regarding this proposal and that numbers using the service at lunchtime was minimal. There was discussion about the potential to prevent children leaving school during lunchtime, but the panel was told it is the school's decision.
Corp02	Corporate	West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Levy	Pressure	E&B	They levy figure is still in force, however there is likely to be a reduction next year.
PD-E&E01	E&E	Projected shortfall in income against target for Development Control Planning Fee income. (This is an update to the removal of the growth bid included in the 2012/13 MTFS reference E&E01)	Pressure	E&B	Panel were advised that there is a reduction in the number of planning applications and that the income shortfall is being addressed by reduction in resources.
0017	Delivery	Removal of the Historical Contract Growth Costs for the Highways Maintenance Contract	Growth avoidance	E&B	Growth avoidance will be achieved; increases have not been incorporated into the budget.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0037	Delivery	Review of highways maintenance	Cut in Service	E&B	Concerns were raised in relation to the amount of cut in service and the potential reduction to frontline services.
0079	E&E	Phase 1 – Planned removal of vacant posts – Physical regeneration	Cut in Service	E&B	Some concern about the impact of reducing staffing in the team and the team's ability to attract new businesses.
0141	Delivery	Electoral Services Project Manager post deletion	Efficiency	E&B	The post deletion was part of a restructure and capacity will not be adversely affected due to online voter registration which will give additional capacity.
0151	E&E	Alternative Service Model – Bilston Craft gallery	Cut in Service	E&B	A fundamental review would be undertaken in the course of the next two years but highlighted the need to look at alternate sites and to look to third sector and other organisations to work with for external funding. There was suggestion that it would be an opportunity for JLR to invest in the future.
0152	E&E	Reduction in funding for the City Events Programme	Cut in Service	E&B	Concerns were raised about the 40% cut to the funding for the City Events Programme.
0160	E&E	Income generation and Review of Supplies and Services budgets across E&E.	Income generation	E&B	Officers were asked to clarify how officers calculated the figures for this proposal as schools, in particular academies, can use any supplier.
0167	Delivery	Rationalisation of the Highways Maintenance Operation	Efficiency	E&B	The panel discussed how this proposal might impact on the City.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0166	Delivery	Optimise the use of Winter Service Gritting Fleet	Efficiency	E&B	The saving will be made by optimising the use of nine gritting machines in the fleet, eight working and one back up. The standard of gritting and road network covered by the gritting operation in Wolverhampton will not be adversely affected.
0169	Delivery	Move Shopmobility to be more commercially supported	Cut in Service	E&B	Wolverhampton currently provides the Shopmobility service. There were concerns that cuts to this service would have an adverse effect on business in the shopping centre and to the wider City. Cabinet Member re-assured Panel that the intention was not to close the Shopmobility service and indicated the importance of private sector involvement and publicity of the Shopmobility service.
0172	Delivery	Optimise Street Lighting Maintenance	Efficiency	E&B	The planned service restructure would reduce administrative employees by four FTE posts. There are plans to revise the frequency of replacing lights, to prolong from three years to six years as part of the preventative maintenance programme and that this would save on one operative.
0175	Delivery	Optimise the number of Highway Technicians	Efficiency	E&B	There are plans to revise the frequency of replacing lights, to prolong from three years to six years as part of the preventative maintenance programme and that this would save on one operative.
0176	Delivery	Ranger Service Review	Cut in Service	E&B	Concerns that the cuts to three park rangers posts and parks remaining open at night would result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and crime in parks. Concerns that there will be a reduction in numbers of staff to carry out increased duties including security.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0177	Delivery	Review Bedding planting across the City	Cut in Service	E&B	The Panel had concerns around the level of reduction in bedding plants, the image of the City and the effect on the Councils 'Britain in Bloom' entry.
0182	Delivery	Parking services and charges review	Income generation	E&B	All car parking should be free in the City to encourage growth. Councillors should be paying for car parking on the Civic rear car park. Other car parks are available and closer to venues for visitors to the Grand Theatre and Civic Halls. There should be a cost analysis carried out to ascertain if increasing or decreasing parking charges will deter or encourage shopping in the City.
0193	Delivery	Reduction in the Christmas Decoration installation-maintenance budget	Cut in Service	E&B	Other ways of providing funding for Christmas decorations should be considered including Christmas improvement funding bid and approaching local businesses to contribute with a mind to attracting business to the centres. Some concerns about the level and regional spread of the Christmas decoration reductions.
0196	OCE	Communication service review	Efficiency	E&B	A review of corporate communications, including mobile phones, Public Relations Team and marketing. The senior post in Communications Team recently advertised will bring someone with a particular set of skills to rationalise and restructure the communication function.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0010	Community	Renegotiation of funding for Independent Living Service	Efficiency	Health	The panel was advised that the there was a national push on prevention to reduce pressure on the health care system.
0027	Community	Subsume the Sports Development team into the public health workforce	Efficiency	Health	The proposal will bring a new skills mix into team.
0031	Community	Restructure of safeguarding service	Efficiency	Health	The panel was advised that the Viv Griffin was looking at alternative funding options such as a bid to the Invest to Save.
0045	Community	Reduce Staffing in Carers Support Team	Efficiency	Health	The panel was advised that the proposed changes would reduce staffing numbers from 13.5 to 11.5 FTE.
0068	Community	Review the Care packages of People Leaving Hospitals more quickly	Growth avoidance	Health	The panel was advised that work had been to manage demand on the service – for example in terms of provision of step down beds and spot purchases – to ensure that people are discharged in the most appropriate and timely way.
0071	Community	Review of Jointly-Funded Services (Council and NHS)	Efficiency	Health	A question was raised regarding the effect of this proposal on service users and staff. The panel was advised that there are issues about the dividing line between the medical care and social care and who is responsible for meeting the cost.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0080	Community	Restructure of mental health care management – Social work teams	Efficiency	Health	The panel was briefed about the purpose of the Integrated Transformation Fund advised that the proposal would not be implemented until 2016/17 and would follow from a review of care packages. The panel requested further information on the Integrated Transformation Fund.
0083	Community	Explore options to reduce costs of mental health in-house provision	0083	Health	The panel was advised that there cheaper alternatives to delivering the service were being considered.
0087	Community	Mental health care assessment and care management – Packages of Care	Efficiency	Health	The panel was advised that this proposal related to a review of care packages especially a renegotiation of contracts with external providers. In addition, there has already been some work done on this area. The aim would be to provide more supported living packages rather than residential care which could deliver the savings. The saving proposal was a starting point and additional savings were anticipated and would involve a review of individual care packages.
0137	Community	Commissioning of Early years and Childrens Services using Public Health funding	0137	Health	A question was raised about the use of the budget for this service. The panel was advised that there are robust rules about ring fenced allocations and also that nationally funding for early years has been reduced.
0183	Community	Management of demographic growth through NHS partnership for Adult Services	Growth avoidance	Health	The panel were advised and that the Council contribution of £2 million annually. There was a need for clarity about how the fund can be used. The panel were advised that new national guidance on the use of the integrated transformation fund had recently been issued.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0012	Community	Education Library Service – Charge Schools for the Full Cost of the Service	Efficiency	VSSC	Councillors were concerned about the possible relocation of the Education Library Service from the Parkfields site and if this were the case how the costs of relocation would be met and by whom.
0013	Delivery	Removal of Council Subsidy for Central Baths	Cut in Service	VSSC	Central baths was being used at 60% of capacity. Discussions were underway with the Amateur Swimming Association and with Sport England to identify additional funding streams including grant aid to extend the gym facilities.
0016	Delivery	Remove Council subsidy for the operation of the bar at Aldersley Leisure Village	Cut in Service	VSSC	The bar was not making money and not in a prominent position. It would be closed and alternative catering would be provided for larger events.
0027	Community	Subsume the Sports Development team into the public health workforce	Efficiency	VSSC	The costs of the Sports Development Team would be covered by Public Health with no loss of service.
0029	Community	Reduction in Voluntary Sector Grant Funding	Cut in Service	VSSC	Details were requested of which organisations would have their funding reduced. Concern was expressed that smaller organisations would be disproportionately affected. Engagement was already underway with the voluntary sector.
0047	Delivery	Waste Collection Services – Review of bank Holiday Collections	Efficiency	VSSC	Councillors wished to ensure affected residents would be informed of changes to collection days.

Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0062	E&E	Phase 1 – Planned removal of vacant posts – regulatory services	Cut in Service	VSSC	Restructuring across all teams is likely to lead to fewer staff and therefore affect service levels. It will be for employees to decide which areas of work will have the highest priority. Public safety will be a high priority.
0151	E&E	Alternative Service Model – Bilston Craft gallery	Cut in Service	VSSC	Alternative models of service delivery were being explored including co-location and the identification of sources of additional income. Other savings options, including making the building more energy efficient were being explored.
0153	E&E	Reduction in funding to Creative Industries – 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector managed venues	Cut in Service	VSSC	The grant to the Grand Theatre was being reduced whilst work was being undertaken to regenerate the area around the theatre so it could generate more income.
0154	E&E	Reduction to overall cultural service (including art gallery)	Cut in Service	VSSC	By 2016-17 changes would be expected to the opening hours of the art gallery. Additional funding sources were being identified.
0156	E&E	Reduction of Neighbourhood Warden Service	Cut in Service	VSSC	The warden service would be cut by 50%. Concern was expressed at how the priority areas had been identified. This would be revisited through the Police and Crime Board. In principle the savings proposals were supported subject to a review of how priority areas were identified/allocated.
0157	E&E	Transitioning from Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to Community led economic development – stage 1	Invest to Save	VSSC	Noted that a review of the staffing structure would lead to a loss of existing posts. Funding would be provided for each of the LNPs to enable community led economic development.



Ref.	Directorate	Investment in Service	Type	Panel	Comments
0098	E&E	Phase 2 – Service Review and Reduction – Regulatory Services	Cut in Service	VSSC	Restructuring across all teams is likely to lead to fewer staff and therefore affect service levels. It will be for employees to decide which areas of work will have the highest priority. Public safety will be a high priority.
0173	Delivery	Review and rationalise the number of play areas in the City	Cut in Service	VSSC	A review of play areas would be undertaken and those in need of most repair would be closed. It was not clear at present which play areas would be affected. Levels of inspection and repairs and maintenance would be reduced.
0174	Delivery	Review of Fitness, Trim Trails and Skate parks (Inspect and Repair Contract)	Efficiency	VSSC	The proposal related to changes to the inspection regime.
0178	Delivery	Community Management of West Park Conservatory	Cut in Service	VSSC	Community groups would be encouraged to take on the management of facilities such as The Conservatory. This may mean that opening hours may be reduced.
0200	E&E	Transitioning from Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to Community led economic development – Stage 2	Income generation	VSSC	Alternative funding sources would be identified to enable further budget reductions in future years.
0173	Delivery	Review and rationalise the number of play areas in the City	Cut in Service	VSSC	A review of play areas would be undertaken and those in need of most repair would be closed. It was not clear at present which play areas would be affected. Levels of inspection and repairs and maintenance would be reduced.

**Additional comments from the Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel and Board**

	<b>Other proposal</b>	<b>Councillor suggestion</b>	<b>Panel</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Use of facilities by people who are not residents of Wolverhampton	The shared rubbish disposal site with Dudley Council in particular is something we may have to look at more closely in future.	Board	Board were advised that Council is looking at combining the two sites and centralising the service to be more cost effective.
2	Wolverhampton leisure card	Visitors pay the full rate and residents could benefit from a discount rate when using facilities.		
3	Community facilities room hire charges	Importance of charging appropriate rates when hiring rooms and facilities to local groups and business enterprises. The room hire rates should be revisited to generate income where possible.		
4	Maximise the impact of the Town Centre; the Grand Theatre; the Art Gallery and the Civic Halls and encourage them to be self-sustaining.	Encourage Grand Theatre to invest in a restaurant next to the theatre it would increase its income and the Council could reduce subsidy and likewise the Art Gallery could start to charge for special exhibitions. Encourage attractions to find a commercial way to raise funds, using capital resource to bring inward investment to the City. WV One should be doing more to encourage this approach.	Board	Councillors suggested the need for greater co-operation between leisure and restaurant facilities in the city.



# Cabinet Meeting

## 22 January 2014

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Council Tax Base and NNDR (Business Rates) Net Rate Yield 2014/15</b>	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Delivery	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Assistant Director Finance
	Tel	01902 556609
	Email	Mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	None	

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Set the Collection Fund Council Tax Base for 2014/15 at 56,299.12 Band D equivalents.
2. Set the Collection Fund NNDR (Business Rates) Net Rate Yield for 2014/15 at £74.4 million.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance to approve amendments to:
  - a) the final NNDR1 as required as a result of changes to the NNDR1 form by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG);
  - b) the Council Tax Base as a result of any data revisions and changes in projections.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To set the estimates for the Wolverhampton Collection Fund for 2014/15, which the Council manages on behalf of local precepting bodies and central government.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 made a number of significant changes to the operation of local government finance. The two most important in relation to this report were:
- The abolition of Council Tax Benefit (in the Welfare Reform Act 2011) and its replacement by the requirement to establish a local Council Tax discount scheme in the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
  - The localisation of NNDR (Business Rates) such that a proportion of the change from a baseline set at the beginning of the year will be borne by the administering local authority. This means that local authorities can both benefit from, and are exposed to, variation in local business rates.
- 2.2 The Council must set a Council Tax Base before the end of January which will be used to set the Council Tax Requirement for the following financial year. It represents the total number of Band D equivalent council tax payers from whom the council will collect council tax in the year ahead. The total tax collected is shared in agreed proportions with the West Midlands Police Commissioner and the West Midland Fire and Civil Defence Authority.
- 2.3 The Council must also set a Business Rates baseline net rates yield which is used to estimate the amount that the authority will keep as its local share of business rates, and pay over to the West Midland Fire and Civil Defence Authority and central government. It represents the total estimated liability for business rates, net of certain discounts and reliefs, in the council's area in the year ahead.
- 2.4 The setting of the Council Tax Base and the Business Rates baseline net rates yield both impact directly on the council's General Fund budget and medium term financial strategy.
- 2.5 The Council Tax Base for 2014/15 must be determined by 31 January 2014 and notified to the West Midlands Police Commissioner and the West Midland Fire and Civil Defence Authority on or before that date, so that they can use the information in setting their precepts for 2014/15. This will determine cashflows between the Collection Fund and precepting bodies during 2014/15.
- 2.6 The Business Rates baseline net yield must be determined by 31 January 2014 and notified to the DCLG on their NNDR1 form. This will determine cashflows between the Collection Fund and central government and the Collection Fund and the West Midland Fire and Civil Defence Authority during 2014/15.

- 2.7 The completion of the NNDR1 Form which sets the Business Rates baseline net yield has been a requirement since the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and has to date been completed by employees. Following the localisation of NNDR the legislative requirement of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 referred to at paragraph 2.1 of this report, the NNDR1 Form takes on greater significance, in that, it provides the forecasting information upon which the retention of Business Rates on behalf of the Authority will be based.
- 2.8 Determination of the Council Tax base is delegated to the portfolio holder for Resources in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer as per Delegation 2.3 of the Council's Constitution, with specific Cabinet Member responsibility being delegated to the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources.
- 2.9 The final NNDR1 form has not been issued as yet by the DCLG. For this reason, approval is sought to delegate authority to the cabinet member for Resources and the Chief Financial Officer to resolve any changes without further recourse to Cabinet approval prior to the deadline for submission of 31 January 2014.

### 3.0 Council Tax Base estimate

- 3.1 The method used to calculate the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 is set out in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 30 November 2012.
- 3.2 The calculation starts with the base figures from December 2013 and then adjusts these for known and projected growth.
- 3.3 The total Tax Base, expressed in terms of the number of Band D equivalents, has then been multiplied by a collection rate of 97.13%, consistent with the rate used in setting the Tax Base for 2013/14.

	<b>Band D equivalent</b>
December 2013 baseline	74,437.1
Benefit becomes discount	(16,846)
New build and growth to March 2015	371.94
Total taxbase before collectability adjustment	57,962.65
<b>Final taxbase including collectability adjustment</b>	<b>56,299.12</b>

### 4.0 Business rates yield estimate

- 4.1 The method used to calculate the Business Rates net rate yield for 2014/15 is set out in the NNDR1 form issued by central government and associated guidance.
- 4.2 It specifies that an authority starts with the base figures from the September 2013 Valuation Office Agency (VOA) list, then adjusts them for known and projected growth in

the base and in reliefs and losses from appeals which are currently in hand. In particular, this includes the effect of the transition of schools to academy status.

	<b>£000</b>
Baseline	89,717
Mandatory reliefs	(9,180)
Discretionary reliefs	(807)
Losses on collection	(1,595)
Cost of collection	(347)
Business rates	(2)
Reduction in RV predicted	(634)
Appeals	(2,495)
Transitional arrangements	(304)
<b>Net rate yield</b>	<b>74,353</b>

## **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 The recommended Tax Base would provide the Council with Council Tax income of £74.1 million before any increase in council tax.
- 5.2 Of the £74.4 million net rate yielded by business rates forecast to be collected in 2014/15 the council will retain £36.6 million. However, the final NNDR1 form has not yet been released so this figure is preliminary and subject to change.

[CF/06012013/Q]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 Relevant legislation is contained in the body of the report.

[JH/14012014/F]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 There are no relevant equalities implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

5 year budget and medium term financial strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 – Cabinet 8  
January 2014

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2014/15 Onwards – Council 18 December 2013



# Cabinet Meeting

## 8 January 2014

<b>Report title</b>	All Age Disability Strategy	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Cllr Val Gibson, Children and Families Cllr Steve Evans – Adult Services	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Sarah Norman, Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Health, Wellbeing and Disability	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Kathy Roper Tel Email	Head of Young Adult Commissioning Group 550975 Kathy.Roper@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Approve the revised All Age Disability strategy and agree the development of an implementation plan.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Cabinet with details of the consultation undertaken in relation to the All age disability strategy and to seek approval for the revised strategy.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The aim of the All age disability strategy is to ensure that all disabled children, young people and adults are able to live full and fulfilling lives. This strategy is also about making sure that disabled people and their families are in control and supported in the way that they choose to achieve their own goals. The strategy will cover the positive contribution disabled people make to the city, and how this can be further developed through access to high quality universal services. For those disabled people who need it, the strategy covers the provision of specialist care and support to access education, employment, housing, and health care, and it also considered the needs of parents and carers.
- 2.2 The Council is changing the way that services are provided to vulnerable people. From April 2013 the Community directorate has integrated all disability services into one All Age Disability service. This brings together, care management, commissioning and services for disabled children, disabled adults, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and sensory impairments in line with the Children and Families Bill. The emphasis in each area will remain on supporting people to access universal services, supporting people to be as independent as possible as part of their communities and the provision of specialist services for those people who need more complex care and support.
- 2.3 The strategy will provide an overarching framework to support the delivery of key legislation and national and local policy including: The Children and Families Bill 2013, The Autism Act 2009, Valuing People Now, and Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK. The strategy will support more detailed service developments that are specific to children, young people and adults who have particular disabilities.
- 2.4 The aim of this strategy is to make the priorities of the City Strategy and the Corporate Plan a reality for all disabled people. Early consultation with disabled adults has indicated that they welcome the strategy and the emphasis on access to universal services, personalised support and the focus on independence. The strategy has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders including parents and carers of disabled children young people and adults, disabled young people and adults, Parent Partnership, ASPIC (Association of Special Provision In the City), and the Aiming High for Disabled Children's Board.

## **3.0 Consultation**

- 3.1 Consultation was undertaken with the following stakeholder groups:



- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Including Everyone
- Long Term Impairments Partnership Board
- Aiming High for Disabled Children Board
- Voice for Parents
- Parent Partnership
- Special Educational Need and Disability Strategy group
- Experts by Experience group (users of Housing Related Support services)

3.2 These groups included disabled people and their family and carers, key professionals across health, housing, social care, regeneration, and service providers from across the sectors.

3.3 There was broad support for aims and aspirations outlined in the strategy. The consultation facilitated productive meetings across Council service areas, to expose those areas and its partners to the aspiration of disabled people, and showcase how engaging with disabled people can enhance the delivery of the corporate priorities.

3.4 A number of positive initiatives have been instigated as a result of the consultation. Following discussions with families of disabled children the lack of changing facilities for larger children and adults in the city were identified. We have therefore been able to develop plans for four changing places around the city, which will be funded with capital money allocated as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda.

3.5 The consultation process also opened up discussions with Carillion and Skills and Learning about the possibility of work placements, apprenticeships for disabled people and supported employment opportunities.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 The strategic vision outlined in the document is compatible with the delivery of existing savings programmes and will support the delivery of future savings initiatives. The strategy will be delivered within the current and future budgets for the service including the savings targets allocated to all age disability services.

**[MK/13012014/M]**

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 Services to people with disabilities are provided as part of the Council's duties as a Social Services Authority under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, otherwise there are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

**[JH/08012014/D]**

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 An equalities analysis has been completed. This strategy seeks to redress the inequalities that disabled people experience and to promote social and financial inclusion in the city and to enable people to be as independent as possible as full and active citizens.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resource implications.

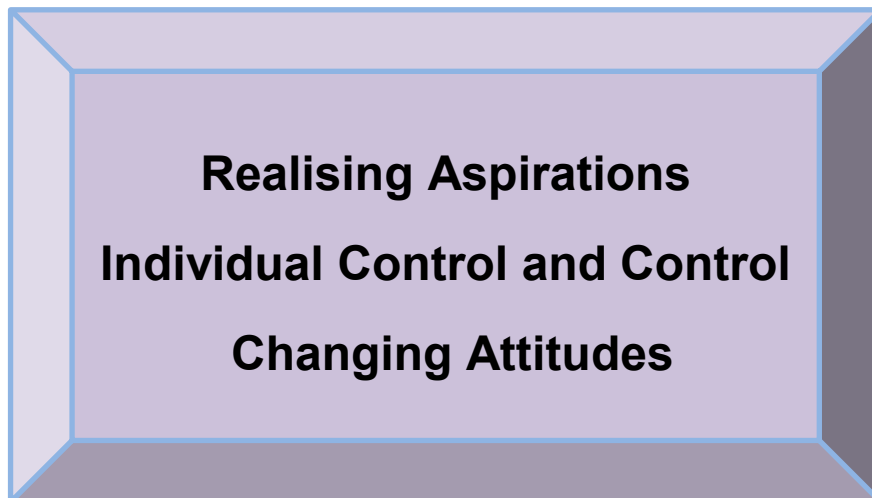
## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

9.1 Cabinet report - 24 July 2013 – All Age Disability Strategy 2013 – 2016.

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



## **All Age Disability Strategy 2013 -2016**



## FOREWORD

The aim of the All Age Disability Strategy is to recognize the diversity of disabled people and their aspirations, and to ensure that all disabled children, young people and adults are able to live active and fulfilling lives. This strategy is also about making sure that disabled people and their families are in control and supported in the way that they choose to achieve their own goals. The strategy will cover the positive contribution disabled people make to the city, and how this can be further developed through access to high quality universal services. For those disabled people who need it, the strategy covers the provision of specialist care and support.

Disabilities come in a wide variety of forms and degrees of severity, and can occur at different stages in our life. Only 3% of disabled people have their impairment from birth. It is likely that the majority of us will experience some degree of disability at some time in our lives, as 54% of people over 70 are disabled and most of us will live beyond this age.

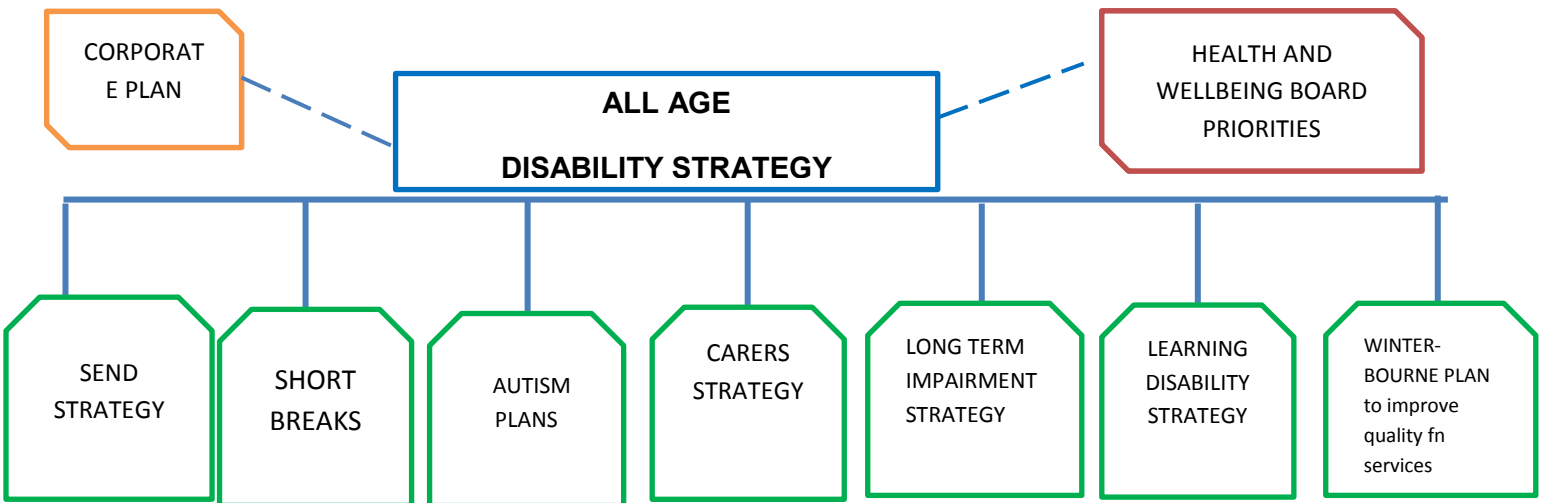
This strategy will cover all disabled people and their families, covered by the Equalities Act, whether they are part of the 1500 young people who have special educational needs (SEN), 3500 adults with some level of learning disability (2011) 14,500 adults with some level of physical or sensory disability (2012) and predicted 1500 adults with Autism (2012).

The strategy will provide an overarching framework (Table 1) to support the delivery of key national legislation, and policy including: The Green Paper: Support and Aspiration: A new approach to SEN and disability, The Children and Families Bill 2013, The Autism Act 2009, Valuing People Now, Think Local Act Personal, Making it Real, Towards, Excellence in Adult Social Care. This strategy draws on the priorities of the Corporate Plan, and the City Strategy, and will support the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities, and enabled the Board to sign up to The Disabled Children's Charter, the Local Account and The Children Young Peoples and Families Plan. The strategy will support more detailed service developments that are specific to children, young people and adults who have particular disabilities, including autism, long term conditions and learning disabilities.

The City Council is changing the way that services are provided to vulnerable people. From April 2013 the Communities Directorate has integrated all disability services into one All Age Disability Service. This brings together, care management, commissioning and services for disabled children, disabled adults, SEND and sensory impairments. The remit of children services will be extended to include disabled children, CAMHs and sensory services for children and young people aged 0-25, in line with the Children and Families Bill. The emphasis in each area will remain on supporting people to access universal services, supporting people to be as independent as possible as part of their communities and the provision of specialist services for those people who need more complex care and support. Priority areas of work are:

• Transition for young people into adulthood	• Housing
• Employment	• Winterbourne
• Short Breaks	• Transformation of learning disability service
• Personalization	• Telecare

**Table 1 Map of Strategies and their interdependencies**



## INTRODUCTION

Disabled people are integral to the success of our economy and society. Research published in The Department for Work and Pension (DWP) *Fulfilling Potential; a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today*, identified that disabled people make a huge contribution to society and the economy. More than three million disabled people have a job or work for themselves, approximately 5 of the 11 million people covered by the Equalities Act do **not** claim disability related benefits, and disabled peoples spending power in the UK is estimated to be at least £80 billion a year.

Choice, individual control and independence are as important to disabled people as they are to non-disabled people. Good health and family life are key to quality of life and family and friends are the main source of help for disabled people with everyday activities.

The barriers experienced by disabled people and their families are reducing, most people today have a positive attitude towards disability, the Paralympics had a positive impact on the way disabled people are viewed, and the gap between disabled peoples employment rate and the rest of the population has closed by nearly a third. Sadly these national improvements are not replicated in our city.

Parents of disabled children report their children face barriers not only to education but also to talking part in leisure and play. Academic research suggests that labelling children can have positive effects because it triggers extra support and also negative effects by lowering expectations. Young disabled people are more likely to experience bullying, and a family which includes a disabled person is a third more likely to live in poverty.

## THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE CITY

The information we have about disabled people in the city is inconsistent, the information about children with disabilities is very comprehensive, a register is maintained of all children who have a disability and it is updated regularly. However a similar data base is not maintained for adults with a disability for a number of reasons. Not all adults who fall within the parameters of the Equalities Act 2010, with a long term impairment consider themselves to be disabled, and many

people don't want to be labelled as disabled because of the negative connotations associated with it. We need to develop more sophisticated ways of gathering and using information to create personalised pathways and support mechanisms.

Wolverhampton is now one of the most densely populated local authority areas in England, with a population of 249,470 people (Census 2011) living in its 26.8 square miles, and is also one of the most deprived.

There are currently 63,000 children in the city. The Disabled Children and Young People team holds the register of disabled children and young people in the city. As of February 2013 934 children under the age of 18 were registered as having a disability, which equates to 1.66% of the child population. There are 1498 children and young people on the SEN register; this includes 706 pupils in mainstream schools and 792 special schools places.

Based on the current prevalence and incident data, the number of adults we could predict to have a moderate or serious physical or sensory disability will remain constant for the next twenty years at 3500 people with a serious disability and 11,000 having a moderate disability.

About 65% of all people who are visually impaired are aged 50 and older. There is a conservative increase predicted in the number of adults aged 18-64 with serious visual impairment in the city in 2011 after which the number of people remains consistent. There are currently 140 children with varying degrees of Visual Impairment. There are two Visual Impairment education Resource Bases. The primary school resource base is at Castlecroft School and the secondary school resource base is at Smestow School.

The prevalence of children with some degree of Hearing Impairment in the city is higher than the national average. This can be attributed to the provision of a comprehensive new-born screening programme. At the time of writing the strategy there are 233 children up to the age of 19 with some degree of hearing loss. The Office of National Statistics predicts the number of adults aged 18-64 with a moderate or severe hearing impairment in Wolverhampton will consistently rise over the next fifteen years peaking in 2025 and then shows a moderate fall.

There will be a steady rise in the number of people aged 18-64 who will have a moderate or serious personal care need across all client groups until 2025 peaking at 6800 people when it is predicted to steadily fall.

Since 2009 adult social care services have been substantially reshaped, giving people more choice and control over the support they receive and placing greater emphasis on reablement and rehabilitation services to enable as many people as possible to continue to live independently.

## FAMILIES TOLD US

- Families often get information about services from other families who have had good experiences.
- There needs to be one place for families to get information from

- There is a lack of effective educational pathways for 16-25 year olds
- There is nowhere for young people to go once they have finished school

- There is not enough emphasis in assessments on the wider needs of young people
- There is a lack of information sharing between agencies and sectors
- Information needs to be available in different formats

**The key message is:** Having Information about the services that are available is really important to support day to day a life and planning for the future.

## DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US.....

I Like.....

- *I would like to be able to meet up with friends, go to cinema, out for something to eat, go to gigs and concerts, meet up with other geeks for conventions"*
- *to do things in small groups, with my friends"*

"I like to.....

- *do activities all by my own*
- *do activities with other people"*
- *go to youth club in a big group with my friends"*
- *Sometimes I like to do activities with staff; sometimes not".*

I Like .....

- *to do playing on the xbox360 computer, xbox live"*
- *watching the same bits from films and tv at the same time and over again"*
- *listening to Coldplay and play with my (brothers and sisters) and my pet rabbit"*

**The Key Message is ...** Disabled children told us that they like to do the same things that children without disabilities like to do, they might just need extra help or more time to do them.

### **DISABLED PEOPLE TOLD US.....**

- 1 in 5 disabled people in employment say that modified hours has helped them work

- I don't like want to have to keep repeating my story
- Continuity of staff is important

- Stop the range of referrals and arguing between services and professionals
- We need the correct range of experts to deal with issues

**The key message is....**We want to say it once and for people to listen to us

### **THE VISION**

We believe that disabled people of all ages and their families know what is best for themselves and that enabling them to shape the help and support they need, is the best way to make disable people equal citizens.

We want to move away from fitting people into services and towards empowering disabled people and their families to take control. We know that people who feel in control are less likely to become reliant on specialist help, and more able to assert themselves which can reduce the likelihood of vulnerability that results in abuse or poor care.

We want to further develop our practice of working with disabled people and their families, to co-produce the simplest possible solutions to achieve the outcomes that they and their families want. We are going to start this process by making a commitment to co-produce the 'Local Offer' for disabled children and young people, with young people and parents.



## LIFELONG LEARNING

Young people said “Even though I have different needs, I want to have the same opportunities as everyone else. To be able learn basic skills for life i.e. writing, cooking and basic communication”.

School is a really important place for all children; its importance is magnified for disabled children and families, as it provides a single point of contact with trusted professionals over many years. It can be the one constant source of support families get.

The Building Schools for the Future programme has been a real success story for Wolverhampton City. A total of £270 million has been invested in the city's 25 secondary schools, with a further £16 million being spent on primary schools. This includes major investment in the special schools across the city which will provide 792 pupil places in 2013/14 for children with the most significant disabilities. The majority of Special Schools are now co-located on site with mainstream schools which promotes integration and reduces stigma.

The number of children entering special educational provision has grown over the previous years and in the academic year 2013/14 there is no capacity in the special schools in Wolverhampton. However there are 27 children in Wolverhampton Special Schools who live outside of the city boundaries.

Since 2010/11 the number of children with high needs entering Independent Specialist Provision (ISP) at 18/19 has increased from 18 to 26. While the number of children accessing out of area educational provision has remained static at 16, the number of high needs learners accessing local college has grown from 3 to 10. This is as a result of increased local provision being developed to respond to increased demands and is a real success.

There are many benefits for young people and their families from having the opportunity to access to local provision. Contact with family, friends and the local community can be maintained, and continuity of health care is available. Evidence shows that this provides better health outcomes for people with long term health conditions, and it supports better future planning for the young person.

The majority of children with SEN leave school and move into local college provision. The pathway out of education for these young people (who will mostly not be eligible for social care services) is not clear, and leaves them vulnerable. Local Evidence shows that these young people are at risk of social isolation and developing mental health problems and are therefore likely to enter services at a later date. Once disabled young people leave education their chances of entering employment reduces, the gap starts to widen from 23 to 36 percentage points by the age of 24. Although there are more disabled apprentices, disabled young people are underrepresented nationally.

In May 2012 the Department of Education (DfE) published *Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational need and disability (Progress and next step)* to report progress following the 2011 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green Paper. This has now progressed to The Children and Families Bill 2013

The Children and Families Bill 2013 provides proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs or with disabilities, and focuses on five key areas:

- Early Identification and Assessment
- Giving Parent Control
- Learning and Achieving
- Preparing for adulthood
- Services working together for families.

The Green Paper seeks to transform the experience for young people between the ages of 0-25, every child/young person will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that is person centred and which describes the aspirations of the young person and how these aspirations will be achieved. The plan will be outcome led not service led.

Local Authorities will be required set out a 'Local Offer' of support that is available for children with SEN or who are disabled and their families. This needs to be co-produced with young people and parents/carers.

The 'Local Offer' is intended to be used to:

- Give confidence to parents about what they can expect to be available
- Enable joint planning and commissioning of services for disabled children and young people with SEND by Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)
- Provide a baseline for improving progress and securing better outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Wolverhampton Adult Education services have long and successful history of providing both recreational and work related courses with excellent take up by disabled adults.

## **CASE STUDIES**

As part of the pilot to develop the Education Health and Care Plans, the city council is trialing the use of a phone App to support families to plan with their young person.

Wolverhampton city college has developed the local provision so that more young people with complex needs can stay in the city to complete their further education.

## NEXT STEPS

### Universal Services

- Access to on-going education needs to be an integral part of the range of options available for all disabled people
- Learning opportunities need to be available in two forms, either as part of a learning pathway (preferably towards employment) or for recreation and leisure
- We need to review the learning opportunities and the support available for disabled people to maximise their take up of appropriate learning activities
- We need to maximise the take up of apprenticeships and access to further education by young people with disabilities
- We need to develop a pathway into employment for young people 19+ who have learning difficulties and disabilities attending local college.

### Specialist services

- Implement the SEND Green Paper
- Develop Education Health and Care Plans by September 2014
- Co-produce the Local Offer with families and young people by September 2014
- Increase local college provision so that young people don't have to go out of city
- Their Develop Individual Budgets for children and their families to increase choice and control
- Need to create capacity to support children with complex needs by reviewing the outreach service so that mainstream schools have the skills to support children with more complex needs
- Need to ensure appropriate re-charging of other local authorities and CCG's where children living outside of the city are accessing educational establishments in the city.

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

*'People from all walks of life and backgrounds are carers - 3 in 5 people in the UK will become carers at some time in their lives. Caring can be a rewarding experience, yet many face isolation, poverty, discrimination and ill-health. (Carers UK 2009).*

Although not always recognised the main source of help for disabled people is family and friends, and well over a million disabled people nationally are unpaid carers themselves.

It is important to recognise the important contribution unpaid carers make to society. Six thousand new people a day across the UK are taking on a caring role, where they will give a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support.

The caring role can be thrust upon an individual following the birth of a disabled baby, by sudden illness or accident or it can be gradual as a person's health, physical wellbeing deteriorates.

From the 2001 census and local data for Wolverhampton the following information is available;

- Over 25,000 people in Wolverhampton, identified themselves as carers undertaking caring tasks for a significant amount of time, without payment
- One in every nine people was a carer
- Over 16,000 people provided between 1 and 19 hours care each week
- Over 3,000 people provided between 20 and 49 hours care each week
- Over 6,000 of those who identified themselves as carers said that they were providing 50 or more hours of care each week
- Whilst the majority of carers are under 65, significant proportions of carers continue their role over 70. There are 140 registered carers over the age of 70 caring for a disabled person
- The majority of carers are white and female with significant numbers of carers from BME communities including many for which English is not their first language.

The majority of people being cared for are older people who will either have a physical disability or dementia, followed by disability adults, adults with mental health and adults who have learning disabilities.

Information about the number of carers and those in receipt of services is complicated to report accurately. Many carers do not register themselves as 'carers' because they either do not feel they have a need to do so, or because they do not identify themselves as a carer. The most accurate way to account for the number of carers in need of a service is directly from the services the access.

Parents and Carers need to be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support needs to be tailored to meet individuals' needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring.

Carers must be respected as expert care partners and have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role, and carers need to be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.

Parents of disabled children often report feeling like they are 'falling off the edge of a cliff' as their child moves from children to adults services. This is not just because of the change of services and professionals, but also because of the change of ethos between children and adult services. In broadest terms this is the difference between children services where the focus is on nurturing and supporting children to grow, learn and develop and adult's services where the emphasis is on choice, control and empowerment. Children and young people need be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve.

The Council has a duty to provide short breaks provision for disabled children and their families, as part of the Children's Act 2008. The city council with the Clinical Commissioning Group funds a range of short breaks service to support parents and carers. These services are provided either in the community, the family home, a residential unit or via a direct payment. However parent of disabled children report feeling like they have 'fallen off a cliff' when they

move from children's to adults services as the range and amount of short breaks on offer reduces considerably.

Parents and carers value short breaks provision and recognise it has benefits for all family members: It has many benefits for disabled children and young people; it allows them to develop independence and time away from home, have opportunities to socialise and make friends, develop new skills and interests and have fun. It allows parents and carers the opportunity to recharge their batteries, have a break or a rest, and catch up on everyday activities like the weekly shop and to have time to spend with other family members and children.

## CASE STUDIES

Wolverhampton Young carer's project has contact with a hundred carers, aged six to eighteen years old, all of whom come to get a break from the heavy responsibilities of caring that they have at home. The Project offers two groups that meet every week and offer activities including arts and crafts, cookery and music.

Carer Emergency Home Based Respite – Provided by an external care agency, although it's not heavily used when it has been used it has made a difference and the cared for person has been supported to remain in their home environment.  
E.g. Carer at GP needed a hospital admission but would not leave the person they cared for – this service enabled them to go to hospital for treatment.

## NEXT STEPS

### Universal Services

- Co-produce with carers, an information service for carers
- Re-design the Parent Partnership service in line with the SEND green paper
- Publish information about the range of carer services available and the access criteria where applicable
- Encourage older carers to actively plan for the future
- Refresh the Carers Strategy.

### Specialist services

- Redesign, with parents, the short breaks service for children with disabilities to reflect the move towards services available for 0-25 year olds
- Review and redesign, with carers, the short break services for adults aged 25+
- Develop 'Individual Budgets' for parent and carers.

## ACHIEVING INDEPENDENT WITH CHOICE AND CONTROL

“I want to have the right support so I can achieve the best that I can out of my future” - young person with a learning disability.

The government has a long term ambition of a fair and equal society, the aim is to create equal opportunities for all, devolving power to people and supporting social action and embedding equality. Over half of disabled people play an active role in civic society e.g. voluntary work, local councillor, school governor.

Personalisation has become a unifying theme and a dominant narrative across public services in England. Whilst personalisation was first developed in the social care setting it is now being applied to other service areas. As with all Local Authorities Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) was given broad guidance and requirements by successive Governments to implement a 'personalisation agenda'. The agenda does have a certain ambiguity but that ambiguity has helped us to be creative and implement at a desired pace.

Much research has been carried out on the implementation of the personalisation agenda and the experience of City Council fits in with previously documented themes:

- Personalisation works, transforming people's lives for the better
- Person-centred approaches reflect the way people live their lives, rather than artificial departmental boundaries
- Personalisation is applicable to everyone , not just to people with social care needs
- People are experts on their own lives.

The latest research through 'Think Local, Act Personal' discusses marking progress on Personalisation and highlights key themes and criteria:

- Information and advice
- Active and supportive communities
- Flexible integrated care and support
- Workforce
- Risk enablement
- Personal budgets and self-funding.

The City Council is working towards the goal of becoming a 'Making it Real' organisation initially through its implementation of a Self-Directed Support process. This includes use of a Resource Allocation System for defining an Indicative Personal Budget followed by a Support Planning process where those seeking support can exercise choice and control over the final support package they wish to see in place to meet their desired outcomes.

Personalisation is very much an iterative process and the City Council will be looking in the future to expand on its current 'offer' through market stimulation and enhanced support planning across all client groups.

The development of personalised support is a fundamental part of Education, Health and Care Plans for disabled children with Individual Budgets being a key to the delivery of these plans from 2014. At present the personalisation process is being developed separately between children

and adult services. For continuity for families and the delivery of better outcomes for disabled children and adults the personalisation agenda needs to develop consistently across all ages.

Fundamental to the delivery of personalised services is Person Centred Planning (PCP). Person Centred Planning is a way of supporting people to plan their lives in a structured and supported way, and with the people who are important to them. It is rooted in the belief in all people as equal citizens who can make a positive contribution to their communities.

PCP is concerned with the whole of a person's life (things that are important now, along with aspirations for the future) and not just their needs or entitlement to services. This sets it apart from the function of care management.

It is now widely acknowledged that most disabled people are able to live in a range of accommodation with the appropriate support. This support can come from a variety of sources including family, friends, paid carers, the use of Tele-care and other equipment in conjunction with having access to the right type of accommodation.

The Draft Wolverhampton Housing Strategy recognises the housing needs of vulnerable people and is committed to providing a range of housing options, and support to enable vulnerable and disabled people to live independently in our City.

We know that some disabled people may need support to achieve what they want to do in terms of education, work, health, housing etc. Disabled people in receipt of personal budgets say that they feel that they have more choice and control, but often find the process of managing them very complex. Some disabled people may need significant support from advocates, family, and carers to make decisions.

## CASE STUDIES

The Peoples Parliament: Run by 'Changing Our Lives' The Peoples Parliament is a self-advocacy model for adults with a learning disability that challenges decision making at the highest level. Shortlisted for a Guardian Public Sector Award in 2012 this service empowers disabled children and adults to challenge poor practice and to champion change.

Person Centred Planning support has been available to adults with learning disabilities in Wolverhampton through a contract with an independent (charitable) provider since 2009. It has supported people with learning disabilities to share their aspirations, raise their expectations and be clear about the support they might need to reach certain goals.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### Universal Services

- To provide accurate and up to date information about the range of universal services and how to access them, making maximum use of the City Council App and the remodelled website
- To make sure that all City Council customer focused staff have a good understanding about the needs of disabled children and families and can support them appropriately
- To further influence the corporate housing strategy to ensure that sufficient social housing is developed in the city for disabled people and families that include a disabled person.

### Specialist Services

- To develop a consistent range of alternative ways to receive an Individual Budget across children and adults services, including Individual Service Funds, and Provider Managed Accounts in addition to Direct payments, to increase the take up
- To develop a single consistent Direct Payments process across children and adults services
- To increase the use of Tele-care by disabled children and adults
- To increase the range of advocacy services available to support people
- To increase the range of housing options available, including access to family homes to support families that include a disabled person.

## **BEING ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE**

“When I started work in March after being unemployed for a year I realised how hard it is to find work and especially harder if you have a disability or health problem”. Disabled person living in Wolverhampton.

Disabled People’s spending power in the UK is estimated to be at least £80 billion a year. More than three million disabled people have a job or work for themselves in the UK, not all disabled people are in receipt of disability related benefits, and fewer than half the families with a disabled child nationally receive health or disability related benefits. Disabled people want to be economically active, disabled young people aspire to get a job, despite this disabled workers earn on average 8% less than non-disabled people.

Among Wolverhampton’s general population 61.3% of people aged 16 – 64 are counted as economically active (in employment). 52.5% being employed and 8.5% being self-employed. 69.9 % of people in employment working ‘full time’ and 30.4% part time. Among people with learning disabilities living in Wolverhampton it is estimated that just 2.1% of people are working and of these 0.3% full time and 1.8% part time, and 10% of disabled people in the city work.



There is a significant disparity between the employment rates of disabled people nationally and locally. Evidence from research shows that access to work or employment activities increase peoples self-esteem reduces social isolation and prevents the need for more intense social care services at a later date. Wolverhampton's Corporate Plan aims to encourage enterprise and business by building a prosperous economy. The employment of disabled people must be a key strand of the delivery of this ambition.

Recent evidence suggests that national Work Programme schemes to support people into employment are not effective for disabled people. The pathways into employment will vary for people with different disabilities and at different ages. However support to access employment needs to form a fundamental part of assessments and Individual Budgets for all people coming into contact with statutory services. A suitable individualised employment pathway needs to be developed, which include access to appropriate support if required or signposting to the right agency.

If we can support disabled people to work as a real alternative to accessing long term care services, they will more be economically active in the city. Initiatives such as Job Carving (where one or more jobs are carved to create a specialised job role for a disabled person) access to job coaches (who work alongside the disabled person while they learning the job) and modified hour of work and reasonable adjustments are all proved to support disabled people into paid work.

Although there has been little national research into the financial value of the 'Disability Market' other than in its widest terms (which estimates the UK spending power to be around £80 billion) there are now a growing number of individual pieces of evidence to support the need to invest in this area.

### Example

- Pure Innovations (Stockport) provided Valuing Employment Now with three costed case studies each looking at the potential lifetime savings of supporting people different of ages into and to remain in employment rather than traditional day services – predicating savings of £440,000 over 2 years, £60,344 over 4 years and £176,204 over 14 years
- Research commissioned from Deloitte in 2008 as part of the Night Time Economy Review of Wolverhampton demonstrated that investment in the city to make it accessible could produce £0.6m Gross Value Added return over a 5 year period.

Research needs to be commissioned not only into the Social Return on Investment but also the financial return of supporting a disabled people into work instead of into long term care, to support the city's economic regeneration programme.

### **Welfare Reform**

The implementation of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 has wide ranging implications for disabled people. From October 2013 anyone of working age who is unemployed, to sick to work, a carer, a lone parent or low paid will need to claim Universal Credit instead of the range of benefits they would have previously claimed.

The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged between 16 and 64. It is estimate that there are c15,880 DLA claimants in the city of which c1690 are under 16, c9500 are aged between 16-64 and c4680 are aged over 65. It is estimated that c1902 people will lose benefits as a result of this change which could represent a loss of income to the city of c£7 million per year.

The fewer disabled people who qualify for PIP or who have an award of PIP below DLA levels, the more people will become dependent on local authorities for adults social care services.

From February 2011 people who are too sick to work are being migrated from Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) which has a more stringent eligibility test. There are 13,200 people claiming Incapacity Benefit of which 5000 have a mental illness or learning disability. To date 44% of those people who have been reassessed have been found capable of work, and will cease to receive benefits. This is one of the highest medical failure rates in the country.

One third of children (17,925) in the city live in child poverty, and national research indicates families that include a disabled person are a third more likely to live in poverty.

There are two priority areas of work that need to be undertaken. Firstly to support disabled people into a range of employment opportunities with appropriate support both to offset the impact of the Welfare Reform and to support the regeneration of the city. Secondly to monitor the impact of the Welfare Reforms so that the disproportionate impact on disabled people can be mitigated.

## Case Studies

Access 2 Business: The SEED project was a jointly funded programme run by Access 2 Business to support disabled people into paid work. The A2B employed a disabled person to run the project which worked with 68 unemployed disabled people of which 12 moved into paid employment by the end of the project.

Self-employed advocates: The service is commissioned to be organised and delivered by disabled people. Advocacy delivered by trained advocates all with a disability who were previously unemployed, all have received training and after a period of shadowing act as advocates supporting a range of issues. Advocates are supported to earn an amount from sessional work that does not affect their benefits. Over 20 advocates now trained and this effective model has enabled this disability user led organisation to successfully bid for and secure other contracts. More disabled people are being recruited and 2 have gone on to secure full time permanent work.

## **Next Steps**

### Universal support

- To have effective information, advice, guidance and signposting for people
- To improve links with the regeneration team to ensure that disabled people are included in the city wide regeneration plans
- Commission Social Return on Investment and Financial Return on Investment analysis to fully understand the spending power of Disability Market
- To promote the Welfare Reform Helpline to disability people, to monitor the impact of the Welfare Reform on disabled people to understand the impact and plan service developments.

### Specialist support

- To develop and implement an Employment Pathway for young people in transition to support the delivery of young people's Education Health and Care Plans
- To increase the number of people in 'Job Carved' roles
- To include employment support in assessments and the Resource Allocation System

## **AN ACCESSIBLE CITY**

"The ambition to build inclusive communities is an important national initiative that will greatly improve the lives of disabled people" Professor Jeremy Myerson.

We need to change the way we view disability, demographic trends mean that increasingly we will all experience disability either as individuals or through family and friends.

There are also few locations nationally that actively provide or promote 'an offer' to attract the disability community. This is a community that continues to expand and if considered alongside older people and people with dementia forms a significant proportion of our local population, who are increasingly economically active.

Wolverhampton City Council recognises British Sign Language (BSL) as a recognised language that is a living language that grows and develops in the same way as other languages.

Key drivers in 'Valuing People Now' and 'Fulfilling Potential' advocate for greater emphasis to be put on supporting people to access their local community, and in 2012 the Prime Minister laid down the following challenge:

*'By 2015, up to 20 cities, towns and villages will have signed up to become more dementia friendly..... Leading national organisations will look at how they and others can play a part in creating a more dementia friendly society and raise awareness on dementia '*

*(Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2012)*

Wolverhampton has taken up the Challenge on Dementia and aims to create a city where people with dementia are better understood and offered the help and support they need. This challenge needs to be expanded out to cover all disabled people as part of the city's commitment to its citizens.

Improved accessibility for local disabled residents and the development of a city wide culture that promotes a positive view of disability can support the delivery of the Corporate Plan objective to create an attractive, accessible and lively city of choice. However real accessibility is not just about adaptations to buildings, it is about changing people's attitudes and perceptions about disabled people.

Initiatives such as The Safe Places Scheme, Dementia Opera, and Autism friendly performance of the pantomime at the Grand Theatre in 2013 are excellent examples of how our community, including the business and leisure sectors are embracing the disability agenda and changing the way they work to be inclusive of disabled people.

Recent consultation with families of children and young people with disabilities identified that the lack of accessible affordable transport in the city is a key barrier to them using all of the sports leisure and recreational activities available as a family, and is a barrier to them being active citizens in the city. Adults with disabilities report feeling vulnerable on public transport and this also prevents them going 'out and about'.

A further barrier for disabled people of all ages accessing the city centre is the lack fully accessible toilet changing facilities. For many years Mencap has run a campaign to increase the availability of adult changing facilities. With the current level of regeneration in and around the city centre, this would be the best opportunity for many years to have a 'Changing Places' standard changing toilet.

## **Case Studies**

### Safe Places Scheme:

The Learning Disability Peoples Parliament have worked with the Police to find places like shops and businesses, who will support people who are in need of help.

As a result of good strategic partnerships with the police they agreed to manage its implementation. The Community Wardens lead the project in partnership with adults with a learning disability.

There are now: 150 Safe Places in the city, 100 staff trained about Hate Crime 'Safe Places' include Bus Terminal, retail chains, council buildings and leisure facilities. The 'Safe Places' logo has a high profile in shops in Wolverhampton high street.

The Grand Theatre has a programme of Accessible performances, including performances that are Audio Description, Signed Performance, Captioned and a relaxed performance for people with autism.

Dementia Opera: 30 people with dementia were invited to work with a writer, composer and musicians. People with dementia wrote their own songs which will be brought together in the final performance staged in front of a specially-invited audience of family and friends at the Grand Theatre on 17 April 2013. Not only it was therapeutic for those involved, but it also send out a message to others that a diagnosis of dementia is not the end and people with dementia can still have an interest in life and engage in new and extraordinary activities.

## Next Steps

### Universal Services

- To work more closely with partners leading the city regeneration agenda to make sure the needs of disabled people and their family are fully considered
- To improve the accessible information available for disabled people using a variety of media including social networking, websites, Wolverhampton City App etc.
- To develop a local disability Quality Mark that can be awarded to disability aware organisations who as a minimum have been trained to recognise and report hate crime in the city
- To work with local transport providers to develop more accessible and affordable transport.

### Specialist Services

- To expand the remit of the Prime Minister challenge to create a disability and dementia friendly city
- To continue to work with the local police to further expansion of the Safe Places scheme, this will encourage vulnerable people to come into the city centre
- To create one or more Changing Places toilets in or around the city centre to support families with a disabled person to access all of the facilities and increase footfall into the city centre.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

As a result of receiving unequal healthcare, people with a learning disability are dying when their lives could be saved.

The Health and Wellbeing Board aims to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of our most disadvantaged people and reduce inequalities in health and well-being across the city
- Raise the aspirations of people so they are motivated to take healthy choices to enable them to live longer, healthier and happier lives
- Create environments where the healthy choice is the easiest choice and support improvement in the wider determinants of health such as employment, poverty and housing that affect people's health and their ability to make healthier choices.

Wolverhampton faces considerable needs around health and wellbeing. We know this, because our JSNA process reviewed the national outcomes frameworks and highlighted 51 indicators (out of a total of 105 where we had local data) where we can be sure that Wolverhampton is performing worse than the England average.

The health and wellbeing priorities have been selected to provide a number of high level evidenced based priorities which are a challenge to resolve and span organisational responsibilities. The Boards strategic priority outcomes are:

- Increase life expectancy
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce child poverty.

Some people are more likely to experience disabilities than others. For example people above the state pension age, people with low or no qualifications, and people on low incomes.

Within the disability population there are groups of people who are more likely to experience health inequalities. People with learning disabilities have a poor history of accessing services such as dentistry, screening, sexual health and general primary care.

Mencap has launched a charter to eliminate health inequalities for adults with a learning disability in the NHS, as new research reveals that over 1,200 people with a learning disability die prematurely every year in NHS care. The charity has aimed the charter at GP-led Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which replaced Primary Care Trusts on 1st April. Mencap believes that CCGs will be key to eliminating the health inequalities within the NHS which mean that on average, people with a learning disability die 16 years earlier than people in the general population.

The charter, Getting it right for people with a learning disability, a charter for Clinical Commissioning Groups, will see CCGs sign up to a number of pledges, including ongoing learning disability awareness training for NHS staff in their area; supporting all GP surgeries to offer annual health checks to people with a learning disability; and providing evidence of what

they have done to meaningfully involve patients and their families in the planning of health services.

The existence of Joint Commissioning in the area of learning disability has successfully supported improved understanding of the health needs of adults with a learning disability across the health economy and should mean that the CCG is well placed to sign Mencap's Health Charter.

Winterbourne View, an independent hospital provided by Castlebeck Care, was featured in a Panorama documentary in 2011 and showed adults with learning disabilities and autism being assaulted and mistreated by staff. Initially brought to the attention of the TV programme makers by a whistle blower, an undercover reporter spent five weeks at Winterbourne View as a paid care worker and filmed his observations of systematic bullying, ill treatment and abuse of patients by staff.

Between now and June 2014 all Local Authorities and PCTs/CCGs must take action to transform the way services are commissioned and delivered to stop people being placed in hospital inappropriately, provide the right model of care, and drive up the quality of care and support for all people with behaviour that challenges. It is envisaged that significantly fewer inpatient and institutional-type beds (e.g. residential and nursing) will be purchased in the future.

Wolverhampton currently commissions 5 Assessment and Treatment places for people with learning disabilities, these all being provided by Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT) as part of the mental health contract. They are all at Pond Lane, in Parkfields, Wolverhampton. We have rarely purchased out-of-city Assessment and Treatment services for people with learning disabilities.

The Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) have been working with Black Country Commissioners and colleagues across the West Midlands region to ensure that we have robust ways of monitoring and safeguarding people placed in Assessment and Treatment facilities. A multi-agency steering group is overseeing the implementation of the action plan in response to Winterbourne Concordat.

Obesity in people with learning disabilities is common. (Bhaumik, Watson, et al). Causes may be medical E.g.: some learning disabilities are the result of syndromes which also cause weight gain and many learning disabilities are associated with low base metabolic rate, hypotonia and hyperthyroidism. Other reasons may include limited understanding about health risks, limited opportunities to gain appropriate knowledge, reliance on ready-meals, low levels of physical activity and possibly the use of food as an emotional tool. In addition learning disabilities may exist alongside lower income with associated increased risk for obesity.

An audit of GP notes found that GPs report obesity for 39% of those on the learning disability register but only 13% of the general population.

## CASE STUDIES

Adults with a learning disability and downs syndrome. There is now a dementia screening project in place, which screens people with Down's syndrome over the age of 30. The aim of the project is to get good base line information about the person so that any changes can be quickly identified. Adults with a learning disability are accessing the same dementia drugs to, and with early identification their quality of life is being extended.

Carer health liaison worker; Within the carer support team there is a dedicated worker who links with GP surgeries to raise awareness of the health needs of family carers. They support monthly drop in sessions at 8 surgeries including West Park hospital, attend doctors and front line staff team meetings being the link to the Carers Service, support the Expert Patient Programme and the Dementia Carer support group run at New cross hospital., and attended team meetings for the district nurses and stroke coordinator.

They also link up with Parkfields medical centre who run a Carer support group for their patients, and talk to Team W and the CCG to encourage other Doctors to set up their own carers support groups.

Through these connections G P's have a better understanding of the health and support needs carers have and the best way to support them.



## NEXT STEPS

### Universal Services

- Support to continue to be given to GP practices to help them to identify patients with learning disabilities to enable them to more proactively promote access to annual health checks and the range of preventative and re-enablement services available through primary care
- To continue the work with oral health services to ensure that mainstream services are more able to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities
- Work with the CCG to sign up to Mencap's Charter
- To work with the health economy to increase the take up of health screening and health promotional projects by disabled people.

### Specialist Services

- Develop and implement the strategic plan in response to the Winterbourne Concordat to improve the quality of local care services
- Re-model specialist health services for adults with a learning disabilities to increase access to mainstream health and reduce the number of specialist assessment and treatment beds
- To support the on-going work between specialist Learning disability health services and mainstream dementia services to increase dementia screening for adults with downs syndrome and improve access to mainstream clinical interventions
- Recommend that the Health an Bellbeing Board endorses the Disabled Children's Charter

## MONITORING THE IMPACT OF THE STRATEGY

Impact of the strategy will be overseen by The Health and Wellbeing Board. The strategies effectiveness will be evaluated by undertaking a series of 'Quality of Life' Audits. These audits will be completed by disabled young people and adults who will be trained to use the tool, and they will include disabled children and adults in the 0-25 age range and the 25 plus age range. They will be undertaken annually and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.