



# Meeting of the Council

19 March 2014

**Time** 5.45pm  
Council

**Public meeting?** YES

**Type of meeting** Full

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

**Room** Council Chamber (4<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Membership** (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

**Mayor** Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Lab)

**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Michael Heap (Lib Dem)

## Labour

Cllr Ian Angus

Cllr Harbans Bagri

Cllr Harman Banger

Cllr Philip Bateman

Cllr Payal Bedi

Cllr Peter Bilson

Cllr Alan Bolshaw

Cllr Ian Brookfield

Cllr Paula Brookfield

Cllr Ian Claymore

Cllr Craig Collingswood

Cllr Susan Constable

Cllr Claire Darke

Cllr Bishan Dass

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Steven Evans

Cllr Valerie Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal

Cllr Valerie Gibson

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss

Cllr Keith Inston

Cllr Jasbir Jaspal

Cllr Andrew Johnson

Cllr Roger Lawrence

Cllr Linda Leach

Cllr Elias Mattu

Cllr Lorna McGregor

Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Philip Page

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr John Rowley

Cllr Judith Rowley

Cllr Sandra Samuels

Cllr Zahid Shah

Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz

Cllr Stephen Simkins

Cllr Tersaim Singh

Cllr Paul Sweet

Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Cllr Thomas Turner

Cllr Martin Waite

## Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans

Cllr Barry Findlay

Cllr Christopher Haynes

Cllr Matthew Holdcroft

Cllr Christine Mills

Cllr Neville Patten

Cllr Patricia Patten

Cllr Arun Photay

Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Andrew Wynne

Cllr Jonathan Yardley

## Liberal Democrat

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

## Information for the Public

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

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**Email** [john.wright@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:john.wright@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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**Email** [democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Tel** 01902 555045

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# Agenda

*Item No.*    *Title*

## **MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS**

1.        **Apologies for absence**
2.        **Declarations of interests**
3.        **Minutes of the previous meeting (5 March 2014)**  
          [For approval]
4.        **Communications**  
          [To receive the Mayor's announcements]

## **DECISION ITEMS**

5.        **Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan 2014/15**  
          [To seek approval for the Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15]
6.        **Amendments to the Constitution**  
          [To consider amendments to the Constitution]
7.        **Summary of Executive Business – 24 January 2014 to 23 February 2014**  
          [To consider an item of executive business]



# Meeting of the Council

## Minutes – 5 March 2014

### Attendance

**Mayor** Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Lab)  
**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Michael Heap (Lib Dem)

#### Labour

Cllr Ian Angus  
Cllr Harbans Bagri  
Cllr Harman Banger  
Cllr Phil Bateman  
Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr Alan Bolshaw  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Ian Claymore  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Susan Constable  
Cllr Claire Darke  
Cllr Bishan Dass

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Steven Evans  
Cllr Valerie Evans  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Valerie Gibson  
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre  
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss  
Cllr Keith Inston  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Andrew Johnson  
Cllr Roger Lawrence  
Cllr Linda Leach  
Cllr Elias Mattu  
Cllr Lorna McGregor

Cllr Peter O'Neill  
Cllr Philip Page  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr John Rowley  
Cllr Judith Rowley  
Cllr Sandra Samuels  
Cllr Zahid Shah  
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Thomas Turner  
Cllr Martin Waite

#### Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans  
Cllr Barry Findlay  
Cllr Matthew Holdcroft  
Cllr Christine Mills  
Cllr Neville Patten  
Cllr Patricia Patten

Cllr Arun Photay  
Cllr Paul Singh  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Andrew Wynne  
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

#### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett  
Cllr Richard Whitehouse

#### Employees

Keith Ireland  
Tim Johnson  
Sarah Norman  
Martyn Sargeant  
Mark Taylor  
Wendy Trainor  
Simon Warren  
John Wright

Strategic Director Delivery  
Strategic Director Education and Environment  
Strategic Director Community  
Head of Democratic Services  
Assistant Director - Finance  
Chief Legal Officer  
Chief Executive  
Democratic Support Manager

Item Title  
No.

## BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Apologies**  
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Christopher Haynes.

2. **Declarations of Interests**  
No declarations of interest were made

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (18 December 2013)**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 December 2013 be approved as a correct record

4. **Mayor's Communications:**

### **The Late Lord Bilston**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Lord Bilston and asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in his memory.

## DECISION ITEMS

5. **Budget for 2014/15**

It was moved by Cllr Lawrence and seconded by Cllr Johnson:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. That the net budget requirement for General Fund services for 2014/15 be £237.6 million
2. That the implementation of the additional savings proposals, subject to the outcome of appropriate scrutiny, consultation and equality analyses be approved.
3. That the Council Tax for council services in 2014/15 be £1,342.92 for a Band D property, being an increase of 1.99% on 2013/14 levels.
4. That the agreement and arrangements to phase the increased cost of pension contributions to West Midlands Pension Fund, following the results of the 2013 actuarial valuation, over the following six financial years, be approved.
5. That the Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) be given delegated authority to agree a composite employer's contribution rate with the West Midlands Pension Fund.
6. That the formal response to the budget consultation, and in particular the reinstatement of three Neighbourhood Warden posts, which had been reflected

in the 2014/15 net budget requirement, be approved.

7. That a minimum of £25 million of additional savings for 2015/16 be identified and reported to Cabinet in June 2014, in order to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be achieved and that general reserves can be partially replenished.
8. That additional savings for 2014/15 be identified and reported to Cabinet in June 2014 and Council in July 2014 in order to revise the 2014/15 budget and reduce the call on general reserves.
9. That a further £35 million of additional savings be identified, taking the total additional savings to be identified to £60 million, in order to address the projected budget deficit over the medium term to 2018/19.
10. That due to the extreme uncertainty facing the Council and the potentially significant impact that this has on the accuracy of financial projections the period of the medium term financial strategy ,should, for the foreseeable future continue to extend to 2018/19 only.
11. That the existing Wolverhampton City Council scheme for awarding Discretionary Rate Relief under Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 be ended on 31 March 2015, in order that a new scheme can be implemented with effect from 1 April 2015.

#### Treasury Management

12. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2014/15 as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be set at £1,006.6 million.
13. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 be approved.
14. That the Annual Investment Strategy be approved.
15. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators be approved
16. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement setting out the method used to calculate Minimum Revenue Provision for 2014/15 onwards be approved .
17. That the method used to calculate Minimum Revenue Provision for 2013/14 as set out in the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, be amended to the method detailed in Appendix D to the report.
18. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices be approved.
19. That Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council continue to receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2014/15 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy
20. That the Assistant Director Finance be given delegated authority to amend the

Treasury Management Policy and Practices to ensure that they remain aligned with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and that any amendments made be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.

#### Capital Programme

21. That the revised medium term General Fund (excluding housing revenue account) capital programme of £315.6 million for the period 2013/14 to 2018/19.
22. That additional capital resources, totalling £3.6 million, be approved for existing schemes over the medium term period to 2018/19.
23. That additional capital resources, totalling £5.3 million, be approved for new schemes over the medium term period to 2018/19
24. That the capitalisation of redundancy costs of £1.3 million under the capitalisation direction received from the Secretary of State on 17 January 2014 be approved.

Upon being put to the meeting, and a division having been demanded and taken voting thereon was as follows

#### **For 41**

The Mayor  
Councillors

Angus	Evans (Steve)	Potter
Bagri	Evan (Val)	Reynolds
Banger	Gibson	Rowley (John)
Bateman	Hardacre	Rowley (Judith)
Bilson	Hodgkiss	Samuels
Bolshaw	Inston	Shah
Brookfield (Ian)	Jaspal (J K)	Siarkiewicz
Brookfield (Paula)	Johnson	Simkins
Claymore	Lawrence	Sweet
Collingswood	Leach	Sweetman
Constable	Mattu	Turner
Darke	McGregor	Waite
Dass	O'Neill	
Dehar	Page	

#### **Against 13**

Councillors

Evans (M)	Mrs Mills	Paul Singh
Findlay	Patten (N )	Thompson (Mrs)
Gwinnett	Patten (Mrs P)	Whitehouse

Holdcroft

Photay

Wynne  
Yardley

**Abstain 1**  
Councillor

Heap

Resolved:

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10. That due to the extreme uncertainty facing the Council and the potentially significant impact that this has on the accuracy of financial projections the period of the medium term financial strategy, should, for the foreseeable future continue to extend to 2018/19 only.
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20. That the Assistant Director Finance be given delegated authority to amend the Treasury Management Policy and Practices to ensure that they remain aligned with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and that any amendments made be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.

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24. That the capitalisation of redundancy costs of £1.3 million under the capitalisation direction received from the Secretary of State on 17 January 2014 be approved.





# Meeting of the City Council

## 19 March 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15	
<b>Referring body</b>	Cabinet – 4 March 2014	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Cllr Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Democratic Support	
<b>Contact employee(s)</b>	Dereck Francis	Democratic Support Officer
	Tel	01902 554841
	Email	dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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

The Council is recommended to:

Approve the Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Under the terms of the management agreement between the Council and Wolverhampton Homes, the latter has to produce an Annual Delivery Plan. Drawn up in consultation with the Council the Annual Delivery Plan sets out:
- How Wolverhampton Homes will manage and maintain council owned properties for the financial year 2014-15
  - The revenue, capital and staffing resources available to deliver the above services
  - Wolverhampton Homes' contribution to meeting the wider strategic objectives of the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership
- 2.2 The management agreement also requires that the final version of the Annual Delivery Plan is considered and endorsed by the Delivery Plan Monitoring Group. This group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity and its membership drawn from senior officers and Board members of Wolverhampton Homes and the Council, together with representatives of the Wolverhampton Federation of Tenants Associations.
- 2.3 The Delivery Plan Monitoring Group receives quarterly reports from Wolverhampton Homes on the progress against the Annual Delivery Plan, enabling the group to monitor the outcomes against the activities detailed in the Action Plan and the Key Performance Targets detailed.
- 2.4 Wolverhampton Homes progress towards achieving performance indicator targets are also monitored monthly or quarterly, as appropriate, at joint performance monitoring meetings between Council employees and officers from Wolverhampton Homes.

## **3.0 Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15**

- 3.1 The contents of the Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15 have been negotiated between Wolverhampton Homes and Council employees over the past three months. The Council's input was led by the Housing Strategy and Development Team and Finance.
- 3.2 At the meeting of the Delivery Plan Monitoring Group on 13 February 2014 the group endorsed the Annual Delivery Plan recommending it to the Council and the Board of Wolverhampton Homes for their acceptance. The Annual Delivery Plan must be accepted by both organisations before the end of March 2014 to allow implementation on 1 April 2014.

- 3.3 The Annual Delivery Plan was submitted for pre-scrutiny review by the Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel on 30 January 2014. The Annual Delivery Plan was well received and members of the panel were reassured that performance is monitored by the Council with regular reports being presented to the Cabinet (Performance Management) Panel.
- 3.4 The Annual Delivery Plan sets out how Wolverhampton Homes proposes to deliver services and support the strategic objectives of the Council.
- The Financial Plan section details the allowances and other income within which expenditure on the delivery of the Plan must be achieved and contained.
  - The Human Resource Plan sets out in detail the need for organisational change within Wolverhampton Homes in 2014-15 in order to facilitate the continued realignment of resources required to cope with the general challenges of Welfare Reform and the specific need to focus on income recovery.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 of the Annual Delivery Plan shows the Performance Review Arrangements which are reviewed annually as part of the Delivery Plan negotiations.
- 3.6 2014-15 is the final year of the Decent Homes Programme. Funding for the final year has been approved by the Homes and Community Agency. Wolverhampton Homes will improve approximately 1750 Council owned properties to the Decent Homes Standard with approximately 1200 properties in priority neighbourhoods.
- 3.7 It is important that the Decent Homes Programme will (as previously) contribute to and align with the delivery of wider regeneration outcomes in the city. The programme will continue to create local employment and training opportunities to help address the issue of unemployment in the City. "Local" is defined as people living within the boundaries of Wolverhampton City Council.
- 3.8 The Priorities Action Plan shown in Appendix 2 of the plan details how the aims and objectives of the delivery plan will be achieved.
- 3.9 The Delivery Plan contains the performance indicator targets agreed between the Council and Wolverhampton Homes for 2014-15 in Appendix 3.
- 3.10 The Cabinet deems the delivery plan to be of sufficient significance to warrant its submission to the Council for approval as part of the budget and policy framework. Copies of the plan have been deposited in the Members' rooms, and can also be accessed online on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) on the council's website via the link <https://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking/Calendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8406/Committee/1446/Default.aspx>

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 The financial implications of the Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15 are set out on pages 9 to 14 of the plan. The Annual Delivery Plan is consistent with the approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.  
[CF/20022014/G]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 The Annual Delivery Plan forms part of the contractual management agreement between Wolverhampton City Council and Wolverhampton Homes.  
[JH/19022014/Z]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 This report has equality implications in that the delivery of services via the Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan will provide housing management services and improvements for residents living in the social housing stock in the City, many of which are situated within the priority areas.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications from this report, however, the delivery of the Decent Homes programme and other estate and property based programmes will contribute to the improvement of living conditions, enhance the visual appearance of neighbourhoods and investment in the housing stock will contribute towards reducing carbon emissions.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications emanating from the Annual Delivery Plan for the Council. The monitoring of the plan will be carried out by Housing Services within current staffing resources. However, the implications of the Council's savings programme proposals will potentially have a detrimental impact upon the Housing Strategy and Development team's ability to fully manage the performance of Wolverhampton Homes. Section 4 of the annual Delivery Plan sets out in detail the human resources implications and the need for organisational change within Wolverhampton Homes in 2014-15.

#### **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 Cabinet Report 4 March 2014 - Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2014-15



# Meeting of the City Council

## 19 March 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Review of the Constitution – Financial Procedure Rules	
<b>Referring body</b>	Standards Committee, 6 March 2014	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Cllr Bert Turner – chair of Standards Committee	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Cllr Andrew Johnson Resources	
<b>Strategic director</b>	Keith Ireland Delivery	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Contact employee(s)</b>	Mark Taylor	Assistant Director, Finance 01902 556609 <a href="mailto:mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk">mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Special Advisory Group Standards Committee	3 March 2014 6 March 2014

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

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules for inclusion into the Constitution.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The current financial procedure rules in the Constitution have been reviewed, and where necessary updated, to take account of changes to working practices as a consequence of the FutureWorks programme, in particular the replacement of existing mainframe systems with Agresso in April 2014.
- 1.2 The updated procedure rules will continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis by Assistant Director, Finance to ensure that they are up to date and comply with best practice and any internal or external policies that apply.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The vision for the FutureWorks programme is to transform the ways of working within the wider Council to support the vision of a Confident, Capable Council; a better, stronger Council, ready and able to deliver the change this city needs.
- 2.2 This will be achieved through the implementation, in partnership with Agilisys, of new technology (Agresso) and working practices in finance, HR, procurement and payroll.
- 2.3 The Council is seeking to re-establish a strong, corporate core which will provide a framework to achieve its ambitions as set out in the 2012-2015 Corporate Plan, under the Confident, Capable Council objective.

## **3.0 Recommended changes to the Constitution.**

- 3.1 The recommended changes to the financial procedure rules are detailed in the report to Special Advisory Group and Standards Committee which can be accessed at this link <https://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking/Calendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8868/Committee/1502/Default.aspx>

## **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the report recommendation to ratify the revised financial procedure rules into the Constitution. Implementation of the changes will form an integral part of the internal financial control framework and should thereby contribute to ensuring the effective management of resources.  
[DM/05022014/W]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The officer designated by the Council as having the statutory responsibility set out in Section 151 of the 1972 Act is the Assistant Director, Finance.

5.2 The financial procedure rules provide the framework for the financial administration of the Council with a view to ensuring that the Council's financial affairs are conducted in a sound and proper manner, constitute value for money and minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council.

5.3 This review has been undertaken to ensure that the Council's Financial Procedure Rules continue to provide such a framework, following the implementation of the new technology in April 2014.  
[MB/31012014/R]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 An initial equality assessment was completed for the FutureWorks programme when procurement commenced in 2012 and was included as an appendix to the Final Business Case that was approved by Cabinet in July 2013. Work is now underway to review and update the analysis using the latest corporate guidance and templates in preparation for when the new systems and processes go-live in April 2014.

6.2 The recommendations in this report do not lead to any further equality implications.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 Bidders' environmental management and sustainability policies were assessed for the FutureWorks programme at pre-qualification questionnaire stage during the procurement process to ensure that they meet the Council's minimum requirements.

7.2 Implementation of new technology and working practices through this programme will significantly reduce the requirement to hold paper records.

7.3 A key deliverable from the programme will be improved management information for decision-making. This includes information, for example, about usage of supplies and services, to enable more sustainable procurement decisions.

7.4 The recommendations in this report do not lead to any further environmental implications.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 The Financial Procedure Rules include cross-references, as appropriate, to the requirement to comply with relevant HR policies and procedures.

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

9.1 Report to Officer Constitution Review Group – 11 February 2014 - *Review of the Constitution – Financial Procedure Rules*



# Meeting of the City Council

## 5 February 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Executive Business	
<b>Referring body</b>	Cabinet - 25 February 2014	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Cllr Phil Page, Schools, Skills and Learning	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Strategic director</b>	Tim Johnson Education and Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Delivery/Democratic Support	
<b>Contact employee(s)</b>	Dereck Francis Tel Email	Democratic Support Officer 01902 (55)5835 dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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

The Council is recommended to:

Receive the summary of executive business and for Cabinet Members to answer any questions thereon.



**Executive business including  
Policy development/operational issues**

**Councillor Phil Page  
Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning**

- **Kingswood Nursery and Infant Centre – Update and Approval to Transfer to a Charitable Body**

Cabinet received an updated on progress regarding the implementation of a proposal to transfer Kingswood Nursery and Infant Centre to the Kingswood Trust. In receiving the report it approved the following recommendations:

1. The business transfer agreement and lease for the transfer of Kingswood Nursery and Infant Centre to the Kingswood Trust from 1 April 2015.
2. The transfer, under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) arrangements, of Wolverhampton City Council employees located at Kingswood to the Kingswood Trust.
3. That in the light of the passage of time and changed Council circumstances, a grant agreement as recommended in the Cabinet report dated 11 April 2012, will not now be necessary.
4. That the Council will act as pensions “Guarantor” for six of its employees who are members of the West Midland Pensions Fund transferring to the Kingswood Trust.
5. The appointment of the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning as a director on the Board of the Kingswood Trust.