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CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

# Scrutiny Board Meeting

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

Dear Councillor

## **SCRUTINY BOARD - TUESDAY, 14TH JULY, 2020**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Tuesday, 14th July, 2020 meeting of the Scrutiny Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>
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8	<b><u>Scrutiny work programme</u> (Pages 3 - 30)</b>
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# Scrutiny Board

14 July 2020

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Agenda Item No: 8

# Meeting Etiquette

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**Please keep your microphones on mute unless you have been invited by the chair to speak.**



**Please do not speak over one another, the Chair will bring you into the meeting at an appropriate time.**



**If you wish to speak please do so by indicating via the chat function for those of you participating by teleconferencing signal by verbally requesting the Chair.**



**If you are referring to specific documents, clearly state the document and page number.**

**Councillor Paul Sweet,  
Chair, Scrutiny Board**

# Our focus for today

## Agenda items:

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020
4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2020
5. Matters arising

# Our focus for today

## Pre decision scrutiny:

6. Public Space Protection Order Consultation  
(Lynsey Kelly/Chris Jellyman)

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## Discussion items:

7. Recovery update (Charlotte Johns)
8. Scrutiny Work Programme (David Pattison)
9. Scrutiny Next Steps (Councillor Paul Sweet)

# Recovery update, Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy

# Guiding Principles

## Overarching Principle

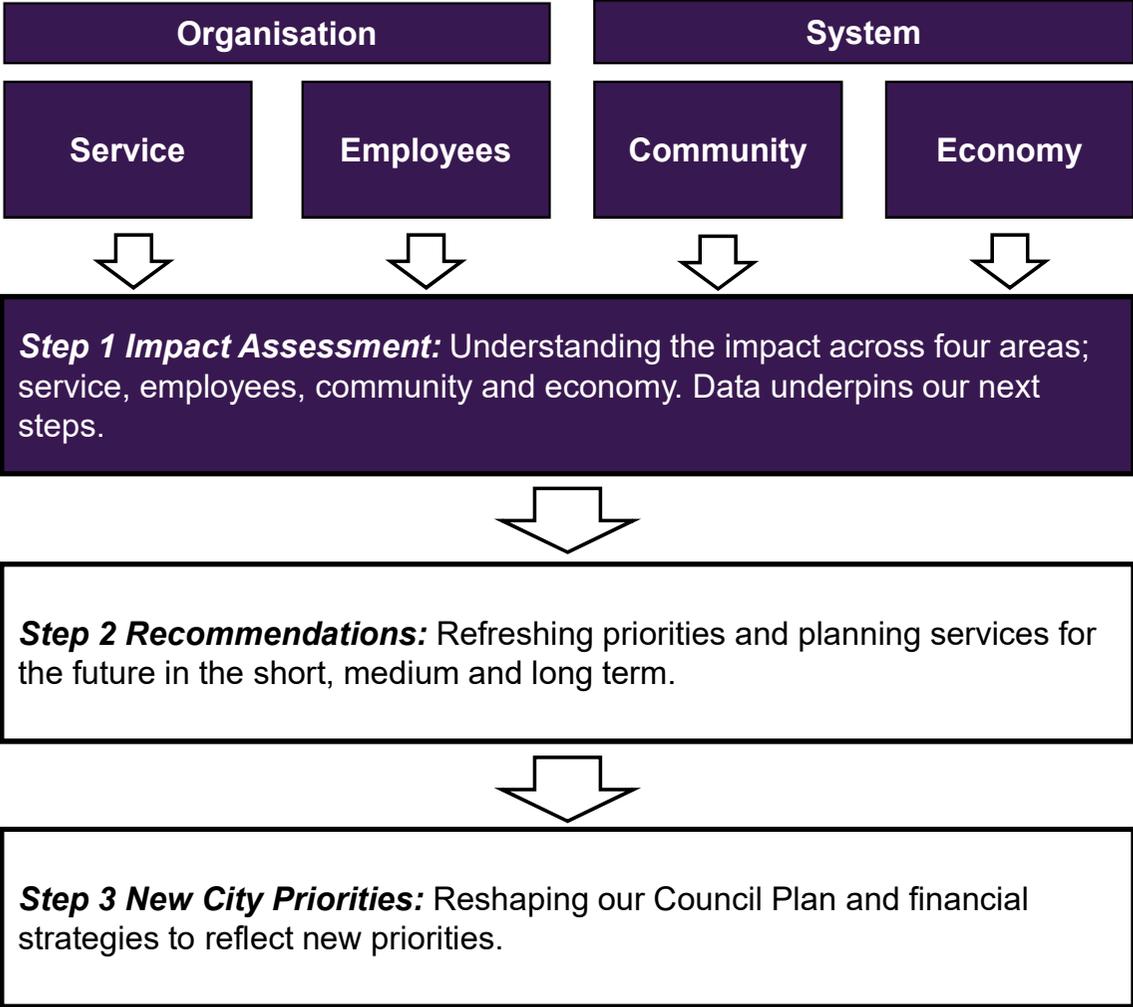
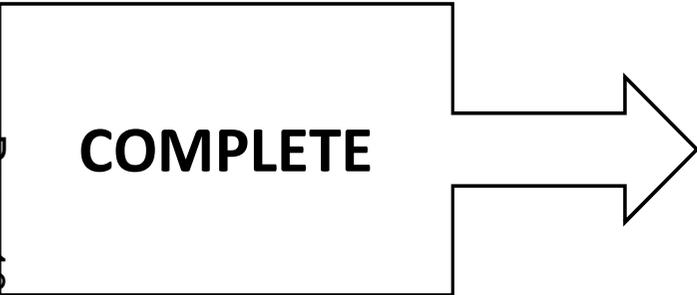
***Deliver public value:*** Everything that we do will be to support and empower our communities in our city

How will we do this;

- ***Work with our communities:*** Re-shape with, and not to, our citizens, businesses and partners.
- ***Right spatial level:*** A collaborative approach, but one that can be mirrored at a local level to ensure a consistent framework.
- ***Build on our strengths:*** Utilise and build on the city's assets and opportunities, including existing groups, and planned major events and infrastructure.
- ***Reshape and Reset:*** We should not be limited by an aim of going back to 'how it was'. Our focus will be on the opportunity to reform, re-imagine and re-invent in order to 'reset' the norm.
- ***Long term focus:*** Programmes, projects and activity to address long-term impact and need, and ensure a focus beyond the short-term interventions of an emergency response.
- ***Interdependency:*** Recognising the interconnected facets that will contribute to the city's overall recovery, and that none of those should be tackled in isolation.

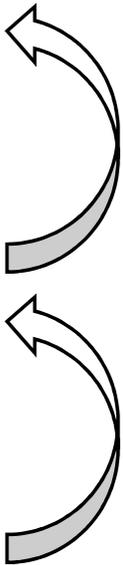
# Local Recovery Approach

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## Identified;

- **Vulnerable cohorts**
- **Vulnerable areas**
- **Cross cutting themes**



# Learning from Covid – Summary of Key Themes

## Organisation

- Agile and Flexible working (in its broadest sense)
- Continued financial challenge
- Channel shift and demand management
- Opportunity for asset rationalisation
- Partnership working and system change
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Climate change

## System

- Health inequalities; BAME communities
- New vulnerable groups; Clinical, economic and socially vulnerable
- Business vulnerability and resilience of key sectors
- Housing and Homelessness
- Unemployment; Increase across all cohorts
- Young people; Disproportionately affected
- Digital skills and inclusion
- High Street and Town Centres
- Impact on key partners; Health and Care sector, University....

# Predictive Modelling – Identifying Vulnerability in Communities

## Cohorts

- Those isolating over 60
- Those deemed clinically vulnerable
- Unemployed people over 50
- Unemployed young people between 16-24 years old
- Those living in areas of already high deprivation
- Local small and micro enterprise
- Those business sectors most impacted by social distancing and lockdown

## Areas

- **Springvale**; Has the highest no. of Covid deaths, high no. of vulnerable children and 70% increase in unemployment between January and May.
- **Bushbury South and Low Hill**: Highest no. of people who registered for food parcels, highest no. of people medically vulnerable and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of youth unemployment in the city.
- **Graiseley**; High level of foodbank usage, highest level of support from the Welfare Rights team and significant increase in unemployment.

# What don't we know....

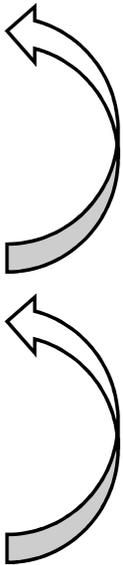
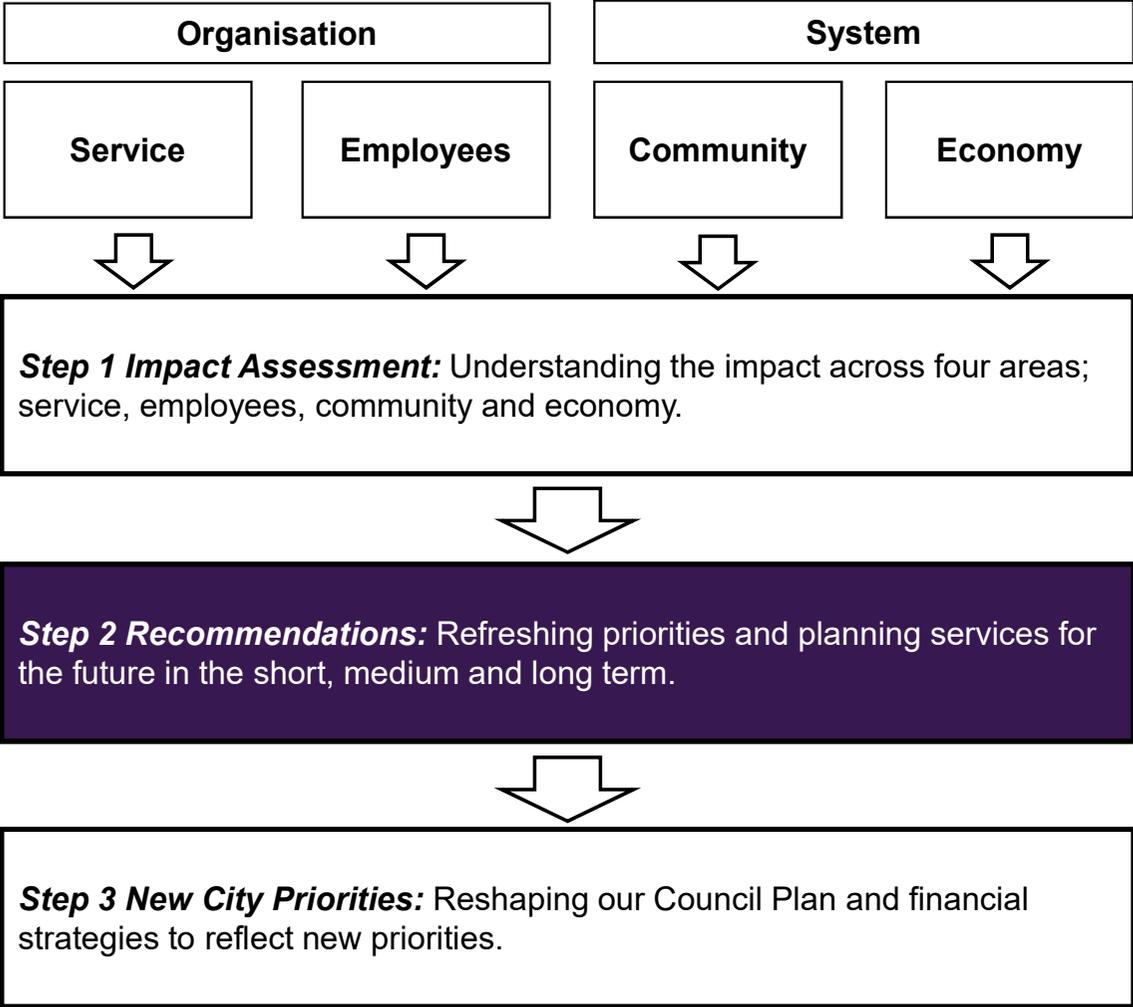
Risks we are aware of but don't yet know how they might affect the city;

- **Double hit scenario;** A second spike of the virus in 2020 has not been ruled out. Latest OECD predictions are that the UK economy would contract by a further 7% if this was to happen.
- **Government Policy;** We do not yet know the success of key policy and economic interventions e.g. furlough scheme and self employment support or what a future fiscal package might look like.
- **EU Exit;** The pandemic makes it more likely that the UK will exit the EU without a trade deal.

# Next Steps

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**WE ARE HERE**



# Recovery Planning

Evidence base suggests short term priorities for focussed action:

- Jobs, skills and learning
- Supporting our local businesses
- Opportunities for children and young people
- Continue to support people who need help
- Vibrant city and town centres

Cross cutting themes: Fairness and inclusivity / Green and climate change / Digital

Longer term – informing new city vision, Council Plan, Strategic Economic Plan etc, thinking about our role within a wider system

**David Pattison,**  
Director of Governance

# Scrutiny Work Programme

- Scrutiny Work Programmes responding to the evidence informing our priorities
- Chair of Scrutiny Board – initial scope of themes based on priorities
- Cross cutting priorities for Scrutiny to focus on could potentially be;
  - Connected City
  - Employment – post covid
  - Voluntary and Community Partnership Working
- Starting with one cross cutting theme and developing Scrutiny Panels work programmes

# Connected City

- **Digital Revolution** in Wolverhampton underway:
  - Increasing productivity, sparking innovation and driving **economic growth** by creating **new jobs**, attracting **start-ups** and enticing further **inward investment**.
  - Enabling those in **education, health** and **social care** sectors to adopt the latest technologies.
  - Enabling e-learning techniques in **schools, college and universities**.
  - Providing the foundation for crucial **health and social care** solutions such as remote monitoring and remote consultations.
- **Roll out of 5G:**
  - Use of **3D modeling** to demonstrate the impact of new buildings/future proofing new builds (i9)
  - Introduction of **Virtual Reality** techniques linking in with the British Art Show to encourage visitors
- **The Digital divide:** Covid-19 has highlighted more issues than previously realised and if not addressed the identified gap will grow - its not just older people who are being left behind:
  - 59,000 citizens do not have access to basic digital skills & 35,000 citizens have not been online in the last three months
  - **44% of those who have not been online are under 60 and often the more vulnerable citizens**
  - Only 52% of the workforce have the necessary digital skills for work
- **Change** is happening faster than we think – it continues to evolve and adapt as the needs of the end user evolve and change. How do we keep up with this and evolve alongside the technology/infrastructure?

# Connected City

Health	CYP	Adults	Our Council	Stronger City	Vibrant
<p>Inability to connect digitally impacting on <b>isolation and mental health.</b></p> <p>Access <b>services from home</b> and not have to go into a care home or hospital.</p> <p><b>Remote monitoring, telemedicine and remote consultations</b></p> <p>Technologies to better <b>diagnose, treat, monitor and support</b> patients.</p>	<p>Ensure that all young people have <b>access to the 'kit'</b> needed to be successful in their studies - Including internet access.</p> <p>Digital skills required for <b>future jobs.</b></p> <p>Improved access to a better and <b>broader range of education</b> - no longer has to be in a classroom. Use of <b>Virtual Reality</b> (visits to museums etc. linking to <b>equalities</b>).</p> <p><b>Enhanced research facilities and transform back office efficiency.</b></p>	<p><b>50% of students in adult education unable to access equipment or have the skills for digital learning.</b></p> <p>Adult digital skills will increase <b>job opportunities</b> and jobs in digital sectors.</p> <p>Better <b>HD CCTV, Smart Street lighting and traffic controls link to community safety.</b></p> <p><b>Improve isolation and loneliness</b> and ability to remain at home longer or be discharged to home (link to Health).</p>	<p><b>Digital by design to Digital by default</b> and the provision of ICT equipment and devices to those who need them creating efficiencies in service delivery and impact on equality of access to services, information and support.</p> <p><b>Future Proofing</b> new builds as Council Assets, such as I9 Whilst creating connected networks for areas such as the Canalside quarter.</p>	<p>Introduction of <b>5G and the Gigabit revolution.</b></p> <p><b>Impact across majority of sectors.</b></p> <p>Work readiness (link to unemployment).</p> <p><b>I54 Business Park</b> – use of 5G to streamline manufacturing processes and drive efficiency.</p> <p>Rethinking the <b>value chain</b> and the '<b>end product</b>'</p>	<p>Libraries and community venues – <b>British Art Show</b> and use of digital and VR to bring visitors into the City Centre.</p> <p>'Smart' solutions in the public realm such as <b>Smart Street Lighting. HD CCTV, traffic control and City-wide Wi Fi.</b></p> <p>'Smart' technologies play important role in <b>reducing carbon emissions – City travel data</b> providing real time and accurate information for public transport (connectivity)</p>

# Discussion

# Employment – post covid

- Since January, the City has seen an increase of 7,195 unemployment claimants; 74% increase.
- Wolverhampton has a higher rate of youth unemployment (14.1) than the national (8.8).
- Wolverhampton has the 4th highest claimant rate in England for those aged 16-64.
- Correlation between unemployment and deprivation in most wards.
- Many traditional industries will be affected long term by the effects of social distancing.

## Our response:

- Development of an Employment and Skills delivery model
  - Delivery Mechanisms:
    - Wolves at Work
    - Employer Engagement through utilising social value
    - Upskilling and Reskilling
    - Spotlight on young people through youth employment initiative and apprenticeships
  - Leader chairing the Youth Task Force (regional and partnership response)
  - Work carried out by Scrutiny – various scrutiny reviews
- **Linking developing digital skills into the model due to recognition of the need for people to have digital and IT skills, equipment and access to WIFI**
- Response to redundancy model (used following Carillion).

# Employment – post covid

Health	CYP	Adults	Our Council	Stronger City	Vibrant
<p>Evidence to show that there are more medically vulnerable people in deprived areas with large numbers of new unemployment claims.</p> <p>Wards with the highest number on the medically vulnerable list link to high unemployment claimants for 18-24 year old's.</p> <p>Deprivation</p>	<p>Higher numbers of vulnerable children in areas with large numbers of new unemployment claims.</p> <p>Additional <b>1330 young people claiming unemployment</b> in May 2020 compared to January 2020.</p> <p>Youth Violent Crime – young people not in education or work. <b>Link to previous scrutiny review.</b></p>	<p>Over 50's claimant rate is 7.9% compared to 5% in the West Midlands</p> <p>Nationally – traditional industry more affected by Covid due to social distancing – retraining and support.</p> <p>Unemployment links to <b>physical and psychological ill health</b> and possible other vulnerabilities.</p> <p><b>Community safety</b> and youth violent crime – lack of good role models. <b>Link to previous review.</b></p>	<p>How much support can the Council provide to the new unemployed and those who have been furloughed. <b>Work already underway noted in previous slide.</b></p> <p>Impact on debt recovery and council tax payment.</p>	<p>Impact of furlough scheme and increase in unemployment – 28.5% jobs in the City are furloughed</p> <p>Wolves at Work – regular item at Panel.</p> <p>Apprenticeships and Skills gaps – <b>previously considered by Panel</b> and a review undertaken.</p>	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>Transport to work</p>

# Discussion

# Voluntary and Community Partnership Working – From Consumer to Citizen

- Wolverhampton is the 24<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority out of 317 in England
- There a need to further build relationships between the Council and the voluntary and community sectors.
- We must create **future resilience** and reduce inequalities.
- Devolution of real power to voluntary and community groups through new ways of **commissioning** should be considered.
- Centralised Vs local approaches to governance.
- Adoption of a **place-based approach**.
- Councillor knowledge of wards and intelligence from constituents is vital
- Scrutiny adding value by working with the voluntary and community sector - not a 'scrutiny review'
- University of Wolverhampton – researching and gaining intelligence – should we have a role?
- **Is now the right time to be doing this as community and voluntary groups continue to deal with the ongoing impact of the pandemic – possible future theme?**

# Voluntary and Community Partnership Working – From Consumer to Citizen

Health	CYP	Adults	Our Council	Stronger City	Vibrant
<p>Co-ordinated <b>Commissioning</b></p> <p><b>Place based approaches</b> to health and wellbeing</p> <p>Identification of vulnerable people</p>	<p><b>Sense of belonging</b> for young people</p> <p>Inclusion and identity</p> <p><b>Empowerment</b></p> <p>Links to <b>Youth Violent Crime</b> review</p> <p>Youth Provision (<b>holiday squad, #YES</b>)</p>	<p><b>Volunteering opportunities</b> – ways into work and learning</p> <p>Violent Crime and antisocial behavior</p>	<p>Ward Funds</p> <p>Quality Communications and promotion of services</p> <p><b>Deliberative democracy</b> and citizen assemblies</p>	<p>Need to <b>build communities.</b></p> <p>Shared training opportunities</p> <p><b>Connecting People (link to digital)</b></p> <p><b>Citizens</b> shaping the services they want not consumers choosing from predetermined options.</p>	<p>Planning Policy</p> <p>Crowd Funding</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Housing</p>

# Discussion

**Scrutiny – Next steps**  
Councillor Paul Sweet,  
Chair, Scrutiny Board

# Scrutiny Next Steps.....

- Scrutiny Panels to take place from September
- Scrutiny Board next meeting - 8 September 2020 (tbc)

Page 28 Work programme for Scrutiny Panels to be developed further based on agreed theme - Chairs of Scrutiny Panels, working alongside Strategic Executive Board lead and Scrutiny support to report back to Scrutiny Board

# Panel Information and Link Officers

Meeting	SEB Lead	Chair/Vice Chair	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Scrutiny Board</b>	David Pattison	<b>Cllr Paul Sweet</b> <b>Cllr Jonathan Crofts</b>	Julia Cleary
<b>Our Council Scrutiny Panel</b>	Mark Taylor	<b>Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal</b> <b>Vacant</b>	Earl Piggott-Smith
<b>Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel</b>	Richard Lawrence	<b>Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur</b> <b>Cllr Udey Singh</b>	Martin Stevens
<b>Vibrant and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel</b>	Ross Cook	<b>Cllr Mak Singh</b> <b>Cllr Paul Appleby</b>	Martin Stevens
<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel</b>	Emma Bennett	<b>Cllr Rita Potter</b> <b>Cllr Sohail Khan</b>	Earl Piggott-Smith
<b>Adults and Safer Scrutiny Panel</b>	David Watts	<b>Cllr Val Evans</b> <b>Cllr Simon Bennett</b>	Earl Piggott-Smith
<b>Health Scrutiny Panel</b>	John Denley	<b>Cllr Phil Page</b> <b>Cllr Paul Singh</b>	Martin Stevens

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