

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Item 5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Capital Budget Outturn 2019-2020 Including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2020-2021
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Forward to Council
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the revised medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £380.8 million, an increase of £2.0 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.</li> <li>2. Approve the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £462.2 million, a reduction of £20,000 from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.</li> </ol> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the virements for the General Revenue Account capital programme detailed at Appendix 5 to the report for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Existing projects totalling £12.0 million;</li> <li>ii. New projects totalling £1.6 million.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Approve the virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 5 to the report for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Existing projects totalling £12.9 million.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Notes the General Revenue Account outturn position for 2019-2020 which stands at 87.6% of the approved capital budget.</li> <li>4. Notes the HRA outturn position for 2019-2020 which stands at 91.8% of the approved capital budget.</li> </ol>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

	<p>5. Notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on development projects internationally, nationally and regionally and also on projects within the City.</p>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p>This report provides an update on progress of capital projects during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and anticipated budget requirement for future years. The evaluation of alternative project options is detailed in individual investment proposals.</p>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<p>To seek Cabinet's recommendation to Council to approve the revised capital budgets. This will ensure that the capital programme budget reflects the latest forecasts and requirements.</p>
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	<p>Councillor Stephen Simkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in the report in so far as it refers to projects, Bradley Canal Arm Restoration and Bilston Memorial Restoration Bilston Remembered.</p>
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	<p>To be confirmed</p>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Item 6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Treasury Management - Annual Report 2019-2020 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2020-2021
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Forwarded to Council
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>That Council be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance to lower the minimum sovereign rating in the Annual Investment Strategy, in the event of the UK's credit rating being downgraded by the two credit rating agencies, due to the unprecedented impact of Covid-19 on the economy.</li> </ol> <p>That Council be asked to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council operated within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2019-2020.</li> <li>2. That revenue underspends of £440,000 for the General Revenue Account and £273,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were generated from treasury management activities in 2019-2020.</li> <li>3. That revenue underspends of £1.5 million for the General Revenue Account and £434,000 for the HRA are forecast from treasury management activities in 2020-2021.</li> <li>4. That due to receipt of grants from Central Government in response to Covid-19 the Council temporarily exceeded the limit of £10.0 million to be held in the Council's bank account. The temporary increase of the limit to £32.7 million was approved by the Director of Finance under the authority delegated by Council and was in place for the period 1 April 2020 to 9 April 2020.</li> </ol>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Options Considered</b>	As this is a monitoring report of treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, there are no alternative options available.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	This report provides an update on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	To be confirmed

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Item 7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Revenue Budget Outturn 2019-2020
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the write off of; three non-domestic rates totalling £21,739.16, one sundry debt totalling £6,239.45 and two council tax account totalling £12,186.24 as detailed in Appendices 4 to 6 respectively to the report be approved.</li> <li>2. That 11 virements totalling £3.9 million, for transfer within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report be approved.</li> <li>3. That it be noted that the revenue outturn position for 2019-2020 for the General Fund; a net underspend of £2.0 million (-0.85%) was achieved against the net budget requirement of £234.9 million, after meeting the net cost of redundancy and pension strain and contributions to essential earmarked reserves. The underspend is due to a combination of budget efficiencies across a number of services; including holding posts vacant pending restructures, additional income generation, contingency budgets held for in-year pressures not being required in full, the early achievement of budget reduction targets and a lower number of employees enrolling into the pension scheme. More information is detailed throughout the report.</li> <li>4. That it be noted that whilst the positive General Fund outturn position during 2019-2020, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, would help to support the Council's short term financial position, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; namely identifying further projected budget reductions which were estimated at £15.5 million in 2021-2022, rising to around £20 million over the medium term to 2023-2024 when reported to Full Council in March 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council. Cabinet would be presented with a report in July 2020 which would provide more detail on the budget implications and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</li> </ol>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

5. That it be noted that the General Fund outturn position takes into account a number of proposed transfers to and from reserves, provisions and balances for which approval is sought in the Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020 report to be presented at this meeting.
6. That it be noted that schools which remain under the control of the City of Wolverhampton Council have contributed net £1.2 million of their reserves during 2019-2020 after adjusting for the balance attributable to academies, which takes the total accumulated reserves to £6.3 million at 31 March 2020.
7. That it be noted that the Housing Revenue Account revenue outturn position for the year was a surplus before allocations of £19.9 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of £20.4 million.
8. That the Collection Fund outturned with a £2.3 million deficit during 2019-2020; this resulted in an overall deficit of £1.5 million to be carried forward.
9. That 26 non-domestic rates accounts totalling £233,707.28 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
10. That 759 council tax accounts totalling £158,727.36 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
11. That 37 sundry debt accounts totalling £50,969.14 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
12. That 31 housing benefit debt accounts totalling £14,004.24 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
13. That ten debts relating to Business Improvement District (BID) totalling £3,005.73, have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Options Considered</b>	The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests requiring the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of the Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from the Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in the report which seek the approval of the Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources. The Council's financial procedure rules also require that the Section151 Officer shall submit a report setting out the Outturn within four months of the financial year end.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	15 July 2020

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Item 8</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as detailed in tables 2, 3 and 4 to the report be approved.</li> <li>2. That the expenditure from provisions for their purposes as set out in Appendix 3 and 4 to the report be approved, up to the value held in each provision as at 31 March 2020.</li> <li>3. That the continuation of delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to allocate funds from the Budget Contingency Reserve, the Regeneration Reserve, the Efficiency Reserve, the Transformation Reserve, the Development Reserve, the Regional Work Reserve, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Reserve, the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve, the Treasury Management Equalisation Reserve, the Pension Deficit Recovery Reserve, the Budget Strategy Reserve, the Highways Management Reserve and Community Initiatives and Crowdfund Wolves Reserve be approved.</li> <li>4. That the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to allocate funds from the Recovery Reserve be approved.</li> <li>5. That the level of the Council's earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as at 31 March 2020 and the purposes for which they are being held, as detailed in Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the report be noted.</li> <li>6. That it be noted that the relevance and adequacy of earmarked reserves and general balances would be reviewed as required by the Constitution during the 2021-2022 budget setting process.</li> </ol>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

	<p>7. That it be noted that the allocation of funding from all earmarked reserves would be reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel in the scheduled quarterly budget monitoring reports.</p> <p>8. That it be noted that Our Council Scrutiny Panel would scrutinise the use of reserves as part of the budget setting process as in previous years.</p> <p>9. That it be noted that the Director of Finance considers that the overall level of all reserves, provisions and balances is sufficient to meet the likely level of obligations to be met from reserves, provisions and general balances in the short term.</p> <p>10. That it be noted that whilst the positive General Fund outturn position during 2019-2020, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, would help to support the Council’s short term financial position, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; namely identifying further projected budget reductions which were estimated at £15.5 million in 2021-2022, rising to around £20 million over the medium term to 2023-2024 when reported to Full Council in March 2020.</p> <p>11. That it be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council. Cabinet would be presented with a report in July 2020 which would provide more detail on the budget implications and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>12. That it be noted that the figures quoted in the report are still subject to statutory audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP as part of the 2019-2020 accounts closedown process.</p>
<b>Options Considered</b>	The reserve, provision and balance adjustments are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	Contribution to and from reserves requires the approval from Cabinet. The reserve amendments detailed in this report are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	15 July 2020

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

<b>Item 9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Housing Managing Agents Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter Four January to March 2020
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	That the performance of Landlord Services, Homelessness Services and the Home Improvement Agency for Quarter Four 2019-2020 be noted.
<b>Options Considered</b>	As this is a monitoring report, there are no alternative options to evaluate.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	To maintain oversight of Wolverhampton Homes and the Management of the Council's housing stock in accordance with the management agreements. To comply with the Homelessness Reduction Act which came into force in April 2018.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	15 July 2020