

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel

29 July 2020

Time 5.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Executive
Venue Online

Membership

Chair Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Vice-Chair Cllr Louise Miles (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Quorum for this meeting is five Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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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 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meetings** (Pages 5 - 20)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 8 July 2020 and the joint meeting of Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 23 June 2020]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET AND CABINET (RESOURCES) PANEL)

- 5 **Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter One 2020-2021** (Pages 21 - 80)
[To approve the Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter One 2020-2021 report]
- 6 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 - 2023-2024**
(Pages 81 - 102)
[To present the Draft Budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period of 2021-2022 to 2023-2024]
- 7 **City Centre Public Realm - Phases 1 and 3 Progress and Approvals for Project Delivery** (Pages 103 - 110)
[To provide an update on progress with the City Centre Public Realm - phases 1 and 3 and to delegate authority for approvals required to deliver the works]
- 8 **Renewal of the Public Space Protection Order - Drinking Restrictions** (Pages 111 - 128)
[To grant a renewal of the Public Space Protection Order for a further three years]
- 9 **Amendments to All Age Travel Assistance Policy** (Pages 129 - 134)
[To approve changes to current travel and subsidy guidance]
- 10 **External Funding Update Quarter Four 2020/2021** (Pages 135 - 148)
[To seek necessary approvals relating to external funding bids]
- 11 **Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notice** (Pages 149 - 152)
[To note the summary of open and exempt decision notices approved by cabinet members in consultation with employees]

12 **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below]

Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public

- | | | | |
|----|--|--|-----|
| 13 | Procurement – Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services (Pages 153 - 172)
[To approve the award of contracts for works, goods and services] | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | (3) |
| 14 | Civic Centre Occupation - Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group Central Office (Pages 173 - 202)
[To outline the utilisation of the Civic Centre for Council purposes and recommend options for third party occupation] | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | (3) |
| 15 | District Heating - Funding for a Feasibility Study (Pages 203 - 210)
[To approve a funding agreement for a successful funding bid for a feasibility study into a District Heating Scheme] | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). | (3) |
| 16 | Priority Capital Works for Schools (Pages 211 - 220)
[To approve undertaking priority works at a school] | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | (3) |

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<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<p>Meeting of the Cabinet Agenda Item No: 3 Minutes - 8 July 2020</p>
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Louise Miles (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Tracey Christie	Head of Legal Services
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and External Relations
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Denise Pearce	Head of Human Resources
Laura Phillips	Head of Democratic and Support Services
Alison Shannon	Chief Accountant
David Watts	Director of Adult Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jasbir Jaspal and Linda Leach. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
Councillor Stephen Simkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 (Capital Budget Outturn 2019-2020 including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2020-2021) insofar as it refers to projects, Bradley Canal Arm Restoration and Bilston Memorial Restoration Bilston Remembered. |

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting - 3 June 2020**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 June 2020 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.

5 **Capital Budget Outturn 2019-2020 Including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2020-2021**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the Capital Budget Outturn 2019-2020 including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2020-2021 for approval and recommendation to Full Council. She reported that the capital programme reflected the Council's continuing vision for the City and was a significant investment programme. The impact of Covid-19 on the economy both locally and nationally made the programme even more essential. However, as a result of the Covid-19 emergency, the programme was subject to delays to its delivery time scales and to some projected increases in costs. She also drew to Cabinet's attention increases to the capital programme which had been approved since the last update.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

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.
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.

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the virements for the General Revenue Account capital programme detailed at Appendix 5 to the report for:
 - i. Existing projects totalling £12.0 million;
 - ii. New projects totalling £1.6 million.
2. Approve the virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 5 to the report for:
 - i. Existing projects totalling £12.9 million.
3. Notes the General Revenue Account outturn position for 2019-2020 which stands at 87.6% of the approved capital budget.
4. Notes the HRA outturn position for 2019-2020 which stands at 91.8% of the approved capital budget.
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.

6 **Treasury Management - Annual Report 2019-2020 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2020-2021**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2019-2020 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2020-2021 for noting and recommendation to Full Council. She informed Cabinet that the report showed very strongly the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances and on the rules and regulations and accounting measures by which the Council operates.

Councillor Ian Brookfield congratulated Councillor Miles and the Finance Team for their continued good stewardship of the Council's finances. He said, without that stewardship the Council could not do the things for the people of Wolverhampton that they deserve and what the Council wants to deliver.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

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.

That Council be asked to note:

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.
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.
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.
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.

7 **Revenue Budget Outturn 2019-2020**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the report on the Council's revenue budget outturn position for 2019-2020 compared with approved budget and targets. A net underspend of £2 million had been achieved against the General Fund net budget. One of the areas where this had been achieved related to the Pensions Fund take up. Councillor Miles took the opportunity to encourage the Council's employees join the pension fund and take up the opportunities the scheme offers.

Councillor Louise Miles also reported that from a recent Government announcement the Council had been informed, in relation to the indirect losses it had suffered as a result of Covid-19, that it would have to meet the first 5% of those costs and then the Government would meet 75p in every £1 of the income losses. This meant that the Council would have to meet 25p in every £1 of these income losses. The revenue

budget 2019/2020 underspend would be used for the Covid-19 related issues and costs and to assist further in the costs for the Council's recovery proposals.

Resolved:

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.
2. That 11 virements totalling £3.9 million, for transfer within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report be approved.
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.
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.
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.

8 **Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the report on the Council's earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as at 31 March 2020 taking account of the outturn position for 2019-2020. In doing so she drew to Cabinet's attention the newly created Recovery Reserve to support the Council's Covid-19 recovery strategy. She also informed Cabinet that in order to be prudent and to strengthen the Council's position regarding Covid-19 costs, it was proposed that the General Fund balance be increased to £13 million. It was also the intention to protect earmarked reserves that had been set aside.

Resolved:

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.
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.
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.
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.

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

9

Housing Managing Agents Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter Four January to March 2020

Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman presented the report on the performance of Wolverhampton Homes (WH) and the Tenant Management Organisations (TMO) in managing and maintaining Council owned properties during quarter four (January to March) of 2019-2020. Overall Wolverhampton Homes and TMOs had generally performed well on rent management, repairs management and voids and allocations during the period, but there were indicators that the Council would need to be aware of. The report also included performance of Wolverhampton Homes in the delivery of homelessness services as part of a service level agreement with the Council. The performance indicators showed an improved position from the previous year. Councillor Sweetman also reported on action the Council had taken with its partners to move residents out of a homelessness situation into appropriate accommodation. Ongoing work to support people to transition from homelessness and to take more control of their lives would be monitored to assess how they are working.

Resolved:

That the performance of Landlord Services, Homelessness Services and the Home Improvement Agency for quarter four 2019-2020 be noted.

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Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Minutes - 23 June 2020

Attendance

Members of the Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Cllr Louise Miles (Chair)
Cllr Ian Brookfield (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and External Relations
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
David Pattison	Director of Governance
Denise Pearce	Head of Human Resources
Laura Phillips	Head of Democratic and Support Services
David Watts	Director of Adult Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**
No apologies for absence were received for the meeting.
- 2 Declarations of interest**
Mark Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 6a, 11 and 12 insofar as he is a Director on WV Living.

Councillors Jacqueline Sweetman and Louise Miles both declared non-pecuniary interests in the same items insofar as they are members on WV Living Shareholders Board.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting - 3 March 2020**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel held on 3 March 2020 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 of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

5 **Better Homes for All: Small Sites Newbuild Council Housing**

Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman presented the report on an update on the delivery of phase four of the small sites newbuild council housing programme. Following the success of the first four phases of the programme, and in light for the need to increase council housing delivery across the City, approval was sought for an additional 56 properties across 16 sites to support the continued delivery of the programme. In support of the next phase of the programme, approval was requested for delivery of schemes within an approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme budget of £8.0 million.

Members of Cabinet welcomed the commitment of the Council to move on small sites for development which would free them from anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that the small sites would not be of interest to the large developers. In order to encourage local skills development and local jobs, the Council should do what was permissible within the tendering process to make sure the small sites are available for local builders. It was also requested that when the site in Bilston North Ward is developed that the condition of the road surface be addressed.

Resolved:

1. That development totalling £8.0 million as part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme for Small Sites for the delivery of the small site council housing newbuild programme providing an additional 56 homes across 16 sites in the City be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Director of City Environment to approve any variation from the identified sites for Phase Five of the small sites new build programme.
3. That surplus areas of land fronting Park View Road former garage site, Bilston North be declared surplus to improve the access and appearance of the site.

4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director of City Environment, to approve the award of a contract for the works required to construct several traditional build homes on various site across Wolverhampton City when the tender evaluation process is completed.
5. That authority be delegate to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Director of City Environment and the Director of Finance, to approve agreements including deed of covenants, wayleave and easement agreements, collateral warrantees, assignments and other such ancillary agreements, including capital variations as may be deemed necessary to facilitate the developments.
6. That the success to date of the small sites newbuild Council Housing programme, which is currently delivering 39 new homes across the City through J. Harper & Sons (Leominster) be noted.

6 **Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices**

Resolved:

That the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees be noted.

7 **Covid-19 - Impact on the Capital Programme**

The Chair announced that this item had been included on the agenda in the public section to be transparent on the important issues of the costs of Covid-19 on the Council's Capital Programme, as it had impacted on capital projects across the world as well as nationally and regionally. The detailed figures would need to be covered in private session as these included key financial information that if included could prejudice the Council's or its partners financial position. If for example the actual budget provision was disclosed in relation to Covid-19 costs that would prejudice the Council's ability to seek to reduce those Covid-19 costs to their bare minimum.

Councillor Louise Miles presented the open session report on the true cost and impact on the Council's finances of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two of the Council's projects had been identified as experiencing difficulties purely as a result of Covid-19. The first of those was the Civic Halls which is a very important project for the City. Immediately prior to the Covid pandemic it was on target and on budget. Unfortunately, it had been impacted on because of delays in construction work as a result of Covid-19 safety measures that would have to be introduced for construction workers. WV Living found itself in a similar position with projected delays in construction but also because of a drop in the housing market. It was proposed to continue the Council's support for the projects. The exempt report on the private session on the agenda outlined in more detail how it was proposed to continue the Council's support. The immediate step was to stabilise the position on the projects.

Members of Cabinet commented reiterated that Civic Halls remained a key priority for the Council and would play a major role in the City's economic recovery. They also noted that WV Living had successfully built and sold houses over a period of years and were projecting a profit on current committed schemes. It was is therefore clear it was a viable and sustainable business and was delivering much needed properties and meeting all of its obligations to the Council.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Note that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a damaging impact on capital projects, internationally, across the UK and in the city, leading to cost pressures associated with new 'social distanced' operating models, materials and how they are sourced. Major development projects such as the Civic Halls and WV Living sites have been affected by this global issue.
2. Approve budgetary provision for specific risks emerging from the Covid-19 global pandemic in relation to the Civic Halls project, that cannot be contained within the contingencies already provided for within the existing budget.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy in consultation with the Director for Regeneration, to approval the award of the construction contract for the Civic Halls restoration project, to Willmott Dixon Interiors Ltd of Lock House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG for a total contract value of £X.
4. That, due to the impact of Covid-19, a capital repayment holiday is provided to WV Living.
5. That, due to the impact of Covid-19, equity of £X million is provided to WV Living once evidence has been provided to satisfy the Director of Finance and the Director of Governance that the investment would comply with the relevant rules.
6. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the final terms of the capital repayment holiday and the equity provision.
7. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to execute the necessary agreements to give effect to the decisions made.

8 Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Part 2 – items closed to the press and public

[The Chair announced that the meeting was now in private session. As stated previously the meeting was in confidential session as the information included in the reports could, if released into the public domain, prejudice the financial position of the Council or its partners. As such all present are under a legal duty of confidentiality and must not disclose any confidential information. To do so would not only be a breach of the Council's code (for councillors and employees) but also a breach of the legal duty of confidentiality]

9 **23 June 2020 Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services**

Councillor Louise Miles presented for approval the report on the award of contracts for works, goods and services. In doing so she drew to the meetings attention exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance for the periods 1 to 31 March and 1 to 30 April; and an exemption from Contract Procedure Rules to award an interim contract for Emotional Wellbeing Service.

Resolved:

1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to approve the award of contracts for Alternative Provision – Flexible Framework when the evaluation process is complete.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Strategy, to approve the award of a contract for Information Technology Service Management Application when the evaluation process is complete.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Strategy, to approve the award of a contract for Microsoft Enterprise Licences when the evaluation process is complete.
4. That the exemption from Contract Procedure Rules to award the interim contract for Emotional Wellbeing Service to Base 25 for a duration of six months from 1 September 2020 to 28 February 2021 with a value of £272,000 be approved.
5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance, in consultation with the Director of Governance, to approve the award of a contract for Elections Printing when the evaluation process is complete.
6. That authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Services to execute the contracts in respect of the above as required.
7. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance for the periods 1 March to 31 March 2020 and 1 April to 30 April 2020, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be noted.

10 **Schools Capital Programme 2020-2021**

Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre presented the report on the priorities for the schools' capital programme 2020-2021. Government grant of £1.3 million had been made available for the capital investment into the City's schools for urgent works to prevent school closures or health and safety breaches. Councillor Hardacre announced that the condition survey on which the Government grant was made, included urgent items totalling circa £3 million.

Resolved:

1. That the detailed projects for schools' condition allocation capital funding in 2020-21 as listed in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to initiate works in relation to emergency works preventing a school closure.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to initiate works in relation to asbestos removal preventing a school closure.
4. That it be noted that the resources available for implementing the 2020-21 schools' capital maintenance programme is £1.3 million against a condition backlog of £3 million for priority 1 items.
5. That it be noted that the resources available for basic need have been fully committed toward the expansion of the primary and secondary school estate, to support the provision of additional pupil places given a continued increase in demand.

11

Leisure Private Finance Initiative - Deed of Variation

Councillor Steve Evans presented the report on negotiations with the Leisure Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contractor regarding changes to the Project Agreement in light of Covid-19 issues.

Resolved:

1. That the Council enter into a Deed of Variation to the Private Finance Initiative Project Agreement relating to the Wolverhampton Swimming and Fitness Centre at Bentley Bridge, together with any ancillary documents necessary to give effect to the Deed of Variation.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, the Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Cabinet Member for Governance in consultation with the Director of Public Health, the Director of Finance and the Director of Governance to approve the final details of the Deed of Variation and any ancillary documents.

12

Covid 19 - Impact on the Capital Programme (private)

Councillor Louise Miles presented the report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's capital programme. The report contained the detailed figures on the financial impact of the Council's projects and programmes referred to in the public section of the agenda, that if released could prejudice the Council's or its partners financial position.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Note that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a damaging impact on capital projects, internationally, across the UK and in the city, leading to cost pressures associated with new 'social distanced' operating models, materials and how they are sourced. Major development projects such as the Civic Halls and WV Living sites have been affected by this global issue.

2. Approve budgetary provision for specific risks emerging from the Covid-19 global pandemic in relation to the Civic Halls project, that cannot be contained within the contingencies already provided for within the existing budget
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy in consultation with the Director for Regeneration, to approve the award of the construction contract for the Civic Halls restoration project, to Willmott Dixon Interiors Ltd of Lock House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG for a total contract value as prescribed at paragraph 2.3 to the report.
4. That, due to the impact of Covid-19, a capital repayment holiday is provided to WV Living.
5. That, due to the impact of Covid-19, equity of £2 million is provided to WV Living once evidence has been provided to satisfy the Director of Finance and the Director of Governance that the investment would comply with the relevant rules.
6. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the final terms of the capital repayment holiday and the equity provision.
7. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to execute the necessary agreements to give effect to the decisions made.

13

Loan to Wolverhampton Homes for Purchase of Properties

Councillor Louise Miles presented the report on a request from Wolverhampton Homes for a loan for the purchase of properties.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Approve that Wolverhampton Homes are authorised to purchase properties from WV Living for the purpose of market rental.
2. Approve that a loan of up to £1.6 million is provided to Wolverhampton Homes to facilitate the purchase of the properties.
3. Approve that budgetary provision is made in the capital programme to facilitate the loan.
4. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the final terms of the loan.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to execute the necessary agreements to give effect to the decisions made.

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Report title	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	16 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the use of £732,000 from the Regeneration Reserve to fund various regeneration schemes as detailed at paragraph 5.4.
2. Approve the use of £200,000 from the Our Technology Reserve to fund continued development of Agresso system as detailed at paragraph 5.5.
3. Approve the use of £73,000 from the Adults Safeguarding Reserve to offset additional costs of running the Safeguarding Partnership Board as detailed in paragraph 5.6.
4. Approve the creation of a new reserve and the transfer of £190,000 in year underspend against local elections to cover future elections costs as detailed in paragraph 5.7.
5. Approve the establishment of supplementary expenditure budgets within the 2020-2021 approved budget as detailed in section 6.0 for grant funded expenditure.

6. Approve 37 virements totalling £6.2 million, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 4.
7. Approve the write-off of two Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £13,115.60 as detailed in Appendix 5.
8. Approve the write-off of one Council Tax debt totalling £5,203.61 as detailed in Appendix 6.
9. Approve the write-off of one Housing Benefit debt totalling £6,910.76 as detailed in Appendix 7.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The overall projected outturn for the General Fund for 2020-2021 is forecast to a break-even outturn position, excluding the impact of Covid-19.
2. That at this stage in the financial year it is difficult to forecast redundancy costs. However, as forecast in recent years it is anticipated that the cost of redundancies can be met from reserves.
3. That a £10.4 million surplus on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is projected compared with a budgeted surplus of £10.8 million as shown at Table 20 and in detail at Appendix 3. The projected reduction to the surplus of £443,000 will reduce redemption of debt by £443,000.
4. That 41 sundry debt accounts totalling £21,923.34, as detailed in paragraph 9.3, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
5. That 320 council tax accounts totalling £112,538.25, as detailed in paragraph 9.5, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
6. That 18 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £63,983.68, as detailed in paragraph 9.6, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
7. That 9 housing benefit overpayments totalling £5,240.48, as detailed in paragraph 9.9, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with a projection of the likely revenue outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts when compared with the Council's approved revenue budgets for 2020-2021, and the projected financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 This is the first report of this financial year detailing the likely outturn projection for 2020-2021.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 4 March 2020, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2020-2021 of £248.2 million for General Fund services. This report details the likely outturn projections against this net budget requirement.
- 2.2 It is important to note that the budget was prepared prior to the announcement of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of reporting to Council, the full impact of Covid-19 was not anticipated and the impact on both the finances and operating environment could not have been foreseen.
- 2.3 Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for 2020-2021 is currently forecast to achieve a breakeven position against the net budget as analysed in Table 1. This excludes the impact of Covid-19.

Table 1 – 2020-2021 General Fund Revenue Budget Projected Outturn

	Net Controllable Budget 2019-2020	Projected Outturn 2019-2020	Projected Variation	
			Over/(Under)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Adult Services	68,454	69,031	577	0.84%
Children's Services and Education	53,720	52,886	(834)	(1.55%)
Public Health and Wellbeing	776	771	(5)	(0.64%)
City Environment	27,871	29,095	1,224	4.39%
City Assets and Housing	9,385	9,715	330	3.52%
Regeneration	6,241	6,022	(219)	(3.51%)
Finance	13,677	13,323	(354)	(2.59%)
Governance	7,894	7,698	(196)	(2.48%)
Strategy	8,316	8,055	(261)	(3.14%)
Chief Executive	183	183	-	-
Communications and External Relations	953	919	(34)	(3.57%)
Deputy Chief Executive	2,153	2,153	-	-
Corporate Budgets	48,600	48,372	(228)	(0.47%)
Net Budget Requirement	248,223	248,223	-	-
Council Tax (including Adult Social Care Precept)	(108,843)	(108,843)	-	-
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	(2,700)	(2,700)	-	-
Top Up Grant	(26,578)	(26,578)	-	-
Business Rates (net of WMCA growth payment and Collection Fund deficit)	(73,769)	(73,769)	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(1,614)	(1,614)	-	-
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates Support	(11,703)	(11,703)	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund	(12,947)	(12,947)	-	-
Winter Pressures and Social Care Grants - Adult Social Care	(3,727)	(3,727)	-	-
Additional Social Care Grant	(6,342)	(6,342)	-	-
Total Resources	(248,223)	(248,223)	-	-
Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	-	-	-	-

- 2.4 It is currently forecast that the Council would outturn at a breakeven position for 2020-2021, excluding the impact of Covid-19.
- 2.5 The 2020-2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 presented to Cabinet on 19 February 2020 and Full Council, recognised that during 2020-2021 budget setting process, a number of emerging pressures had been identified and continue to be kept under review. In order to be prudent and recognise these budget pressures, a Corporate Contingency budget for growth in 2020-2021 was established. This projected outturn position currently assumes this contingency budget is required in

full in 2020-2021. This will be monitored throughout the year in line with the policy set out in the Budget Report, and efficiencies identified against this budget, in the first instance will be used to offset the use of capital receipts.

- 2.6 The impact of the pandemic has significantly distorted the 2020-2021 budget and current assumptions identified in section 4.0 show a potential cost pressure after the use of grant of £3.0 million for 2020-2021.
- 2.7 It should be noted, that these potential cost pressures are subject to change and do not include the cost of recovery work, or any provision for a second wave of the pandemic.
- 2.8 An update on the General Fund budget risks is provided at section 7.0. Overall the risk for 2020-2021 is currently assessed as Amber.
- 2.9 At this stage in the year it is difficult to forecast redundancy costs. However, as forecast in recent years it is anticipated that the cost of redundancies can be met from reserves.
- 2.10 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 at this meeting. There are 37 General Fund virements that require approval in this report as detailed in Appendix 4. Any virements reflecting a change in management responsibility have been approved under delegation by the S151 Officer.
- 2.11 The most significant variances against the budget are reported on a service-by-service basis in section 3.0 and in detail in Appendix 1. Work is continuing to identify options and opportunities to offset projected budget pressures and updates will continue to be provided on a quarterly basis.
- 2.12 The forecast outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account is a surplus of £10.4 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of £10.8 million. The projected reduction to the surplus of £443,000 will reduce the redemption of debt by £443,000.

3.0 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring: Service Analysis

Adult Services

- 3.1 A summary of the projected outturn against the Adult Services 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 2, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 2 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Adult Services

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Adult Services	68,454	69,031	577	0.84%

- 3.2 Overall a net overspend of £577,000 (0.84%) is projected for the year against Adult Services. The main factors contributing towards this overspend are as a result of:

1. A forecast overspend within Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing, Mental Health Assessment & Care Management and Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing totalling £477,000, £416,000 and £405,000 respectively, as a result of additional demand for care packages.

These overspends are partially offset by forecast underspends within the following services:

2. An underspend is forecast within Learning Disabilities Provider Service, Adult Assessment and Care Management and Quality Assurance and Policies totalling £134,000, £201,000 and £103,000 respectively, as a result of unfilled staff vacancies.

Children's Services and Education

- 3.3 A summary of the projected outturn against the Children's Services and Education 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 3, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 3 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Children’s Services and Education

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Children's Services and Education	53,720	52,886	(834)	(1.55%)

3.4 Overall a net underspend of £834,000 (-1.55%) is projected for the year against Children’s Services and Education. The main factors contributing towards this are:

1. An underspend is forecast within the Children and Young People in Care service totalling £414,000 as a result of reductions against the placements budgets, partially offset by an increase in the budgeted contribution to the Regional Adoption Agency. This continues to be a result of the robust oversight and management of demand across the social care system.
2. An underspend is forecast within the Strengthening Families service totalling £243,000 mainly as a result of one-off staffing vacancies whilst a review of the Early Help offer takes place.
3. An underspend is forecast within the Director of Children’s Service totalling £245,000 as a result of a one-off saving against the emotional health and wellbeing contract, which is due to be re-designed and re-tendered for the contract to commence 1 March 2021.

These forecast underspends are partially offset by an overspend within School Organisation totalling £170,000 as a result of a reduction in traded income from schools.

Public Health and Wellbeing

3.5 A summary of the projected outturn against the Public Health and Wellbeing 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 4, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 4 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Public Health and Wellbeing

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Public Health and Wellbeing	776	771	(5)	(0.64%)

- 3.6 Overall a net underspend of £5,000 (0.64%) is projected for the year against Public Health and Wellbeing. The forecast income for WV Active has been significantly reduced in 2020-2021 as centres have been unable to open and the re-opening will be phased. This loss of income is currently being monitored against Covid-19 grants.

City Environment

- 3.7 A summary of the projected outturn against the City Environment 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 5, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 5 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – City Environment

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
City Environment	27,871	29,095	1,224	4.39%

- 3.8 Overall a net overspend of £1.2 million (4.39%) is projected for the year against City Environment. The main factors contributing towards this overspend are as a result of:
1. An overspend is forecast within Markets totalling £270,000 as a result of reduced income and additional security costs.
 2. An overspend is forecast within Street Lighting totalling £128,000 as a result of budget pressures related to energy costs and delayed LED implementation.
 3. An overspend is forecast within Waste Commercial Services totalling £982,000 as a result of as a result of additional disposal costs due to price increases on these contracts so work will be undertaken to understand the impact on the MTFS.

These overspends are partially offset by forecast underspends mainly within the following services:

4. An underspend is forecast within Operation & Maintenance of Existing Network totalling £231,000 mainly as a result of vacancies held, pending a restructure.

City Assets and Housing

- 3.9 A summary of the projected outturn against the City Assets and Housing 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 6, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 6 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – City Assets and Housing

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
City Assets and Housing	9,385	9,715	330	3.52%

- 3.10 Overall a net overspend of £330,000 (3.52%) is projected for the year against City Assets and Housing. The main factors contributing towards this overspend are:

1. An under recovery of income is forecast within the Estates and Valuations service totalling £193,000 as a result of reduced income relating to ground leases and vacant commercial rental units.
2. An overspend is forecast within Facilities Management totalling £245,000 as a result of reduced income recovery associated with Community Centres and additional costs in relation to holding vacant properties within Facilities Management.
3. An overspend is forecast within the Housing service totalling £135,000 due to increased demand for homelessness provision generally. This is mitigated by reduced costs in Private Sector Housing due to staff vacancies and additional forecast income from Licencing and Civil Penalties.

These overspends are partially offset by forecast underspends within the following service:

4. An underspend is forecast within Corporate Asset Management totalling £182,000 as result of decreased Carbon Reduction costs, offset in part by a reduction in income forecast for Estates and Valuations service.

Regeneration

- 3.11 A summary of the projected outturn against the Regeneration 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 7, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 7 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Regeneration

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Regeneration	6,241	6,022	(219)	(3.51%)

3.12 Overall a net underspend of £219,000 (-3.51%) is projected for the year against Regeneration mainly as a result of an underspend within Visitor Economy totalling £201,000 due to one-off staff vacancies held pending a restructure within this service.

Finance

3.13 A summary of the projected outturn against the Finance 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 8, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 8 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Finance

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Finance	13,677	13,323	(354)	(2.59%)

3.14 Overall a net underspend of £354,000 (-2.59%) is projected for the year against Finance mainly as a result of an underspend forecast within Central Corporate Budgets totalling £331,000 due to significant reductions in enhanced pension costs and bank charges.

Governance

3.15 A summary of the projected outturn against the Governance 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 9, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 9 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Governance

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Governance	7,894	7,698	(196)	(2.48%)

- 3.16 Overall a net underspend of £196,000 (-2.48%) is projected for the year against Governance mainly due to anticipated additional external income generation within Legal Services totalling £122,000.

Strategy

- 3.17 A summary of the projected outturn against the Strategy 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 10, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 10 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Strategy

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Strategy	8,316	8,055	(261)	(3.14%)

- 3.18 Overall a net underspend of £261,000 (-3.14%) is projected for the year within Strategy mainly as a result of an underspend within ICTS totalling £225,000 due to unfilled staff vacancies in year and continuing works to identify and deliver efficiencies in advance of the targets reflected in the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for ICT.

Chief Executive

- 3.19 A summary of the projected outturn against the Chief Executive 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 11, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 11 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Chief Executive

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Total Chief Executive	183	183	-	0.00%

- 3.20 Overall a breakeven position is projected for the year against Chief Executive.

Communications and External Relations

- 3.21 A summary of the projected outturn against the Communications and External Relations 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 12, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 12 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Communications and External Relations

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Communications and External Relations	953	919	(34)	(3.57%)

3.22 Overall a net underspend of £34,000 (-3.57%) is projected for the year against Communications and External Relations.

Deputy Chief Executive

3.23 A summary of the projected outturn against the Deputy Chief Executive 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 13, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 13 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Deputy Chief Executive

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Deputy Chief Executive	2,153	2,153	-	0.00%

3.24 Overall a breakeven position is projected for the year against Deputy Chief Executive.

Corporate Budgets

3.25 A summary of the projected outturn against the Corporate Budgets 2020-2021 revenue budget is provided in Table 14, whilst a detailed analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 14 – 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn – Corporate Budgets

	2020-2021 Controllable Budget £000	2020-2021 Forecast Outturn £000	Projected Variation Over/(Under)	
			£000	%
Corporate Budgets	48,600	48,372	(228)	(0.47%)

- 3.26 Overall a net underspend of £228,000 (-0.47%) is projected for the year against Corporate Budgets. The main factors contributing towards this underspend are:
1. An underspend in the region of £1.5 million is forecast against the Treasury Management budget due to a reduced borrowing need in-year arising as a result of rephasing of the capital programme and lower interest rates forecast on borrowing due to the impact on the economy of Covid-19. This is offset by a reduction in treasury income receivable.
 2. As detailed above, it is anticipated that there will be an underspend against Treasury Management budgets in 2020-2021. In order to be prudent, the underspend will enable the Council to reduce the level of capital receipt flexibility used for revenue transformational activity in 2020-2021 by £1.3 million.

The 2020-2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 presented to Cabinet on 19 February 2020 and Full Council, recognised that during 2020-2021 budget setting process, a number of emerging pressures had been identified and continue to be kept under review. In order to be prudent and recognise these budget pressures, a Corporate Contingency budget for growth in 2020-2021 was established. This projected outturn position currently assumes this contingency budget is required in full in 2020-2021. This will be monitored throughout the year in line with the policy set out in the Budget Report, and efficiencies identified against this budget, in the first instance will be used to offset the use of capital receipts.

4.0 Covid-19 Pandemic

- 4.1 Since the 2020-2021 budget was set in March 2020, the World Health Organisation categorised Covid-19 as a global pandemic. At the time of reporting to Council on 4 March 2020, the full impact of Covid-19 was not anticipated and the impact on both the finances and operating environment could not have been foreseen. The financial implications of the pandemic have significantly distorted the 2020-2021 budget.
- 4.2 The Government has announced grant funding to help local authorities address the pressures they are facing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Wolverhampton's total allocation is £19.4 million.
- 4.3 Under the Council's emergency decision-making powers, a range of short-term initiatives were implemented, in response to Covid-19 including the distribution of food parcels to the city's most vulnerable residents, temporary accommodation for rough sleepers, additional financial support for adult social care providers and the procurement of additional personal protective equipment for key staff and partners.
- 4.4 All of these short-term new initiatives required additional investment and have been funded to-date by the Covid-19 Emergency Funding received from Central Government.

- 4.5 In addition to the short-term initiatives, a number of services were suspended in response to Government requirements. Income streams have been adversely affected from the loss of fees and charges for services, such as car parking, leisure and cultural services.
- 4.6 At the time of setting the 2020-2021 budget, new service budget reduction and income generation targets totalling £10 million were approved. As mentioned above, the budget was established before the impact of Covid-19 could have been anticipated. A number of these planned targets are now at risk because resources that would originally have been focussed on transformation programmes have been redirected to enable the Council to response to the crisis.
- 4.7 The Council has played a proactive, leading role in responding to Covid-19. Some of the new initiatives implemented to support the City's residents may continue to require financial support. As the situation evolves and restrictions continue to ease, some of the new initiatives will cease entirely, ease or will transition into different services which will require financial support.
- 4.8 Our current projections demonstrate that the grant will be sufficient to meet the immediate revenue cost pressures and loss of income but will not address the full year impact, including the delivery of budget reduction targets.
- 4.9 The current projections of the cost implications of Covid-19 are detailed in Table 15 below:

Table 15: Projected Financial Implications of Covid-19

Category	2020-2021 £000
Expenditure	11,855
Loss of Income	8,706
Budget Reduction and Income Generation targets at risk	1,907
Total potential impact	22,468
Government Grant	19,429
Potential Cost Pressure	3,039

- 4.10 It is important to note, that the financial implications detailed above are subject to change and do not include the cost of recovery work, or any provision for a second wave of the pandemic.

- 4.11 In addition, there are longer term implications for the Council's operating model, as the scale of the change post Covid-19 will place new expectations and demands on service delivery in 2020-2021 and future years.
- 4.12 Furthermore, the impact of Covid-19 and the Council's plans for reset and recovery of services over the immediate and medium term will require financial investment. In recognition of the initial investment that will be required to support the recovery work, Cabinet on 8 July approved a specific Recovery Reserve of £3 million. The Council will need to re-prioritise resources for any investment required to support the recovery strategy beyond this initial £3 million.
- 4.13 The Council is currently forecasting a break-even outturn position, excluding the impact of Covid-19. This impact of the pandemic has significantly distorted the 2020-2021 budget and current assumptions identified above show a potential cost pressure after the use of grant of £3.0 million for 2020-2021
- 4.14 The Government have allocated grant totalling £19.4 million to date to support the unprecedented financial situation that the council finds itself in due to Covid-19, however, further funding is required in order to meet the full costs of the pandemic. It is anticipated that the Government will provide sufficient grant funding to cover these pressures, however if this is not the case the Council would need to identify in year efficiencies, which could impact on service delivery. This will be closely monitored, with updates provided in future reports.

5.0 Reserves and Balances

- 5.1 Following a review of the reserves position during 2019-2020, the Council's General Fund balance was increased by £3.0 million to a total value of £13.0 million. The level of reserve is approximately 5% of the 2020-2021 net budget which is in line with recommended best practice.
- 5.2 In addition to the General Fund balance, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves balance that have been set aside by the Council to fund future estimated liabilities and planned expenditure at the end of 2019-2020 was £35.4 million. The Council is also required to hold a number of earmarked reserves due to either specific criteria associated with funding, legal requirements or accounting practice. The total values of these types of earmarked reserves at the end of 2019-2020 was £29.2 million.

Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

- 5.3 Approval is sought for a number of transfers to/from earmarked reserves, as set out in the following paragraphs.

5.4 Regeneration Reserve

Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £732,000 from the Regeneration Reserve to fund expenditure as shown in Table 16.

Table 16 – Allocations from the Regeneration Reserve

Service	Amount Allocated £000	Details
City Development	53	Westside Leisure Scheme. Funding from reserve is requested for commercial and legal fees to progress contracts between Urban & Civic and Wolverhampton City Council, alongside commercial advisor appraisal of tenant leases from developer.
City Development	125	Industrial Sites Strategy - Funding from reserve is requested for commercial and legal advice to support strategy for site release; due diligence, capacity studies and costings.
Corporate Asset Management	50	Funding is requested for Public Service Hub (Broad St Car Park), to secure One Public Estate funding
City Development	80	St Georges -Funding from reserve is requested to update site development brief, review expressions of interest and carryout soft market testing.
City Development	50	Brewers Yard - Funding is sought from reserve to provide commercial and legal support to progress the valuation and sale of the site and associated contracts.
Transportation	160	City Centre Public Realm Phase 3: Civic Halls public realm. Funding from reserve is requested for the design phase of the public realm improvement works in this area of the City.
City Development	60	Funding from reserve is requested for commissions to support commercial understanding of key sites and/or developer proposals.
Transportation	9	Brinsford Parkway - Funding is requested to procure 2nd stage feasibility study for Parkway rail station development proposal in Brinsford
City Development	55	Future High St Fund - funding from reserve is requested for consultancy support around the bid submission and response to grant funder queries.
City Development	65	Molineux Quarters- Funds from reserve are requested to launch a design competition, encourage stakeholder engagement and the legal review of partnering agreements, infrastructure design and redevelopment.
Visitor Economy	25	Civic Halls operator procurement - funding is requested from reserve for additional consultancy

Service	Amount Allocated £000	Details
		support to progress the procurement of the external operator.

5.5 Our Technology Reserve

Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £200,000 from the Our Technology Reserve to fund the continued development of Agresso system. It is forecast that the Finance directorate will underspend in 2020-2021 so it is anticipated that the continued development of Agresso will be funded from this underspend. Reserve approval from the Our Technology reserve is sought in the event that the financial position changes.

5.6 Adults Safeguarding Board

Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £73,000 from the Adults Safeguarding Reserve to offset additional costs of running the Safeguarding Partnership Board.

5.7 New Earmarked Reserve

Approval is sought from this meeting to contribute £190,000 into a new specific reserve from an in-year underspend against local elections due to a fallow election year as a result of Covid-19. Funds in this reserve would then be available to cover future elections costs in excess of the available budget.

6.0 Changes to Grant Funded Expenditure

6.1 It is not always possible to reflect all grant funded expenditure in the budget approved by Full Council prior to the start of the financial year. This is due to late notification from grant awarding bodies of grant amounts, use of historic grants and proactive grant applications during the year.

6.2 Approval is sought from Cabinet to establish supplementary budgets within the 2020-2021 approved budget as set out in Table 17, and in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. This will have no effect on the Council's net revenue budget as the expenditure is fully funded from the grant.

Table 17 – Grant Approval sought from this Panel

Grant Name	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2020-2021 £000
Effective transition pathways for individuals at risk	Pilot the delivery of services for young people at risk of exploitation up to the age of 25	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	150

Grant Name	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2020-2021 £000
of experiencing exploitation			
Business Case Growth Lot1 - Skills for Unemployment	Adult Education Service - to deliver enrolments and outcomes in skills for the unemployed	West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)	400
Windrush Day Grant	This grant will support Windrush project activities.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)	14

7.0 General Fund Budget Monitoring – Risk Management

7.1 The overall level of risk associated with the budget 2020-2021 is assessed as Amber. As detailed in paragraph 2.3 it is forecast that the Council will breakeven in 2020-2021. It is important to note however, that the Council has budget reductions to deliver and income to achieve over the medium term, notwithstanding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. An additional risk has been incorporated into the Risk Register for Covid-19. The main areas of risk are summarised in the table at Appendix 2.

8.0 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Schools’ Budgets

8.1 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October. Table 18 shows the schools’ actual end of year balances for 2019-2020 and the latest projected balances in those submitted budget plans for 2020-2021.

Table 18 – Projected Movement on Schools’ Balances 2020-2021

Sector	Balances as at 31 March 2020 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Use of Balances in 2020-2021 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Balances as at 31 March 2021 Surplus / (Deficit) £000
Secondary	(1,547)	868	(679)
Primary	4,371	1,783	6,154
Junior	191	(33)	158
Infant	136	(35)	101
Nursery	1,145	(769)	376
Special	1,100	(976)	124
Pupil Referral Units	915	(503)	412
Total	6,311	335	6,646

Schools with Surplus Balances

- 8.2 At the end of 2019-2020 maintained schools had balances of £6.3 million. 20 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme (5% for secondary schools and 8% for primary, special and nursery schools).
- 8.3 All schools that have balances above these criteria are being requested to provide plans for their intended use. Local Authority Officers will scrutinise these plans and will be having meetings with the headteachers of these schools. A decision will then be made whether any of these schools will be moved forward into the arbitration process as detailed below and an update on this will be included in the 2020-2021 Revenue Budget Outturn report to Councillors.
- 8.4 The Scheme for Financing Schools establishes an arbitration process to review the Authority's decision and determine if, and to what level, any excess balances should be recovered.

Schools in a deficit balance position

- 8.5 As part of its overview of schools in deficit, a Schools at Financial Risk Board (SFR) chaired by the Head of Service for School Organisation, reviews the financial information from schools in deficit to evaluate the financial position of the schools. The chair of Schools Forum is also a member of the board. The current position of schools that had anticipated a deficit position at the end of 2020-2021 is as follows:

Table 19 – Schools with anticipated deficits in 2020-2021

Name	Actual Balance at end of 2019-2020 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Anticipated Balance at end of 2020-2021 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Status
St Matthias	(687)	25	A licensed deficit and recovery plan have been agreed with the school and progress is as planned.
The King's Church of England	(1,068)	(719)	Licensed deficit application has been received and approved. The school are currently in breach of their licensed deficit and enhanced work is continuing with the school to identify further cost reductions.
Castlecroft Primary	54	(54)	School's situation will be monitored regarding the need for a licensed deficit application.

Name	Actual Balance at end of 2019-2020 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Anticipated Balance at end of 2020-2021 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Status
Graiseley Primary	45	(94)	A licensed deficit application will be required if deficit outturn is as forecast.
St Paul's CofE (A) Primary	29	(17)	The authority is working with the school and monitoring their financial situation. Licensed deficit application may be necessary.
Penn Hall Special School	-	(293)	Penn Hall's financial position is being monitored. A licensed deficit application is required to support this deficit.
Phoenix Nursery	(8)	(58)	Phoenix Nursery has fluctuating pupil numbers. A licensed deficit will be required if the deficit outturn is as forecast.
Windsor Nursery	42	(7)	A licensed deficit will be required if the deficit outturn is as forecast.
Braybrook Centre	69	(24)	A licensed deficit will be required if the deficit outturn is as forecast.

Deficits Following Sponsored Academy Conversion

8.6 The schools surplus or deficit balance on conversion to academy status usually transfers at the same time. However, where the conversion is directed by the Department for Education (DfE) through a sponsorship arrangement any deficit remaining must be met by the local authority's General Fund. On 17 December 2019, Cabinet approved the use of £300,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve to meet the conversion costs of St Patrick's RC Primary. This school converted on 1 March 2020 and it is still anticipated that the approved amount will be more than enough to cover the costs of conversion.

8.7 The Local Government Association (LGA) has stated that this policy is unfair on local authorities. However, DfE have said that academies are a vital part of the plan for transforming education and that the accumulated deficits for sponsored academies must be met by local authorities.

9.0 Debt Write Offs

9.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.

Sundry Debtors

- 9.2 Income is due to the Council for a wide range of services provided to individuals and businesses. To reflect the fact that, despite the Council's best efforts, not all of this income will actually be collected, the Council makes provision for bad and doubtful debts, which it charges directly to the General Fund.
- 9.3 Overall, 41 debt write offs totalling £21,923.34 have been incurred. All have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

The Collection Fund

- 9.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council acts as billing and collecting authority for council tax and non-domestic rates income. The Council administers a separate Collection Fund account for this purpose. The Collection Fund accounts for the receipt of council tax and business rates (non-domestic rates) income and payments to precepting authorities such as the Fire Authority and the Police. Within this account, provisions are made for bad and doubtful debts and any write offs are charged to the council tax or business rates provision as appropriate.
- 9.5 **Council Tax** – Overall, 321 debt write offs totalling £117,741.86 have been incurred. All but one valued at £5,203.61 in total, which require the approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 6), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- 9.6 **Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)** – Overall, 20 debt write offs totalling £77,099.28 have been incurred. All but two valued at £13,115.60 in total, which require approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 5), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Housing Benefits

- 9.7 Housing benefit overpayments occur when rent rebate or rent allowance awards exceed a recalculated entitlement. Whilst the Council aims to limit the incidence of overpayments, they may occur for a number of reasons including as a result of fraud or error. In general, overpaid benefit is written off in line with Government guidance where recovery would cause hardship, where the debtor has died or cannot be traced.
- 9.8 The Council receives Government subsidy in respect of overpaid housing benefit at rates of between 40% and 100% according to the circumstances in which the overpayment arose. The unsubsidised element of any overpayment is charged to the General Fund.
- 9.9 Overall, ten overpayments totalling £12,151.24 have been incurred. All but one valued at £6,910.76 in total, which require the approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 7), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

10.0 Housing Revenue Budget Monitoring

10.1 Table 20 shows the latest forecast revenue outturn against budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The forecast outturn position for the year is a surplus of £10.4 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of £10.8 million. The projected reduction to the surplus of £443,000 will reduce redemption of debt by £443,000.

Table 20 – Housing Revenue Account Projected Outturn 2020-2021

	Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variation
	£000	£000	£000
Total income	(96,518)	(95,716)	802
Total expenditure	67,056	67,175	119
Net cost of HRA services	(29,462)	(28,541)	921
Interest payments etc.	10,917	10,439	(478)
Contribution to capital financing	7,707	7,707	-
(Surplus)/deficit before transfers to/from reserves and provision for redemption of debt	(10,838)	(10,395)	443
<i>Allocation of (surplus)/deficit</i>			
Provision for redemption of debt	10,838	10,395	(443)
Balance for the year	-	-	-

10.2 Income from rents is forecast to be £802,000 lower than budgeted, due to loss of income resulting from the impact of Covid-19. This has caused delays to the re let of empty properties and the completion and handover of new build homes.

10.3 Expenditure on depreciation is £220,000 above the budget. This is due to the number of properties due to be depreciated being higher than anticipated due to the forecast for the number of right-to-buy sales being revised.

10.4 Expenditure on loan interest payable is forecast to be £478,000 lower than budgeted for. This is because of slippage on the HRA capital programme.

11.0 Evaluation of alternative options

11.1 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.

12.0 Reason for decisions

12.1 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 Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.

13.0 Financial Implications

13.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.
[MH/20072020/R]

14.0 Legal Implications

14.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It is a legal requirement under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.
[TS/20072020/S]

15.0 Equality Implications

15.1 This report provides details of the projected outturn for 2020-2021. The necessary equalities analysis formed part of the 2020-2021 budget setting process.

16.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

16.1 A range of services focused upon the Council's climate change and environmental policies is supported through revenue budgets reviewed in this report.

17.0 Human resources implications

17.1 Revenue Budget Monitoring reports on forecast outturn position of all Council services. There are no relevant human resources implications arising from this report.

18.0 Corporate landlord implications

18.1 There are no relevant corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

19.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

19.1 Revenue Budget Monitoring reports on forecast outturn position of all Council services including services which seek to improve the health and wellbeing of all population of City of Wolverhampton.

20.0 Covid Implications

20.1 Covid-19 implications are discussed throughout the body of the report.

20.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council.

21.0 Schedule of Background Papers

21.1 [2020-2021 Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024](#) - Cabinet, 19 February 2020.

21.2 [Budget 2020-2021 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024](#) - Full Council, 4 March 2020.

21.3 [Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020](#) - Cabinet, 8 July 2020.

21.4 [Revenue Budget Outturn 2019-2020](#), - Cabinet, 8 July 2020.

21.5 [Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024](#) - Cabinet, 29 July 2020.

22.0 Appendices

22.1 Appendix 1 – Revenue Budget Monitoring.

22.2 Appendix 2 – General Fund Budget Risks 2020-2021.

22.3 Appendix 3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring

22.4 Appendix 4 – General Fund Budget Virements

22.5 Appendix 5 – Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Write-offs

22.6 Appendix 6 – Council Tax Write Offs

22.8 Appendix 7 – Housing Benefit Write Offs

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Adult Services					
Adults Assessment and Care Management	5,220	5,019	(201)	(3.85%)	An underspend is forecast due to unfilled staffing vacancies.
Better Care Fund	-	-	-	-	
Business Support	40	40	-	-	
Carer Support	828	832	4	0.44%	
Community Financial Support	1,536	1,501	(35)	(2.29%)	
Community Support	546	546	-	-	
Director of Adults services and Additional Monies	(6,697)	(6,697)	-	-	
Emergency Duty Team	317	317	-	-	
Independent Living Service	1,787	1,737	(50)	(2.80%)	
Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	21,484	21,961	477	2.22%	An overspend is forecast due to additional demand for care packages.
Learning Disability Provider	4,621	4,487	(134)	(2.89%)	An underspend is forecast as a result of unfilled staff vacancies.
Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	5,320	5,736	416	7.82%	An overspend is forecast due to additional demand for care packages.
Older People Care Purchasing	21,829	21,800	(29)	(0.13%)	
Older People Provider Services	4,222	4,147	(75)	(1.78%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	4,783	5,188	405	8.48%	An overspend is forecast overspend due to additional demand for care packages.
Quality Assurance and Policies	364	261	(103)	(28.26%)	An underspend is forecast due to unfilled staffing vacancies.
Strategic Commissioning	2,254	2,156	(98)	(4.35%)	
Total Adult Services	68,454	69,031	577	0.84%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Children's Services					
Children & Young People In Care	31,381	30,967	(414)	(1.32%)	There is a forecast underspend against placements budgets, partially offset by an increase in the budgeted contribution to the Regional Adoption Agency. This continues to be a result of the robust oversight and management of demand across the social care system.
Director of Children's Services	1,279	1,034	(245)	(19.16%)	The underspend is due to a one-off saving against the emotional health and wellbeing contract, which is due to be re-designed and re-tendered for the contract to commence 1 March 2021.
Head of Children's Improvement	1,017	1,017	-	-	
Headstart	-	-	-	-	
Inclusion Support	1,177	1,173	(4)	(0.34%)	
Regional Adoption Agency Consortium	-	-	-	-	
Safeguarding	2,861	2,859	(2)	(0.07%)	
Social Inclusion & Play Service	-	-	-	-	
Specialist Support	2,792	2,792	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Strategic Commissioning - Children's	1,555	1,459	(96)	(6.17%)	
Strengthening Families	10,447	10,204	(243)	(2.33%)	The underspend is a result of one-off staffing vacancies whilst a review of the Early Help offer takes place.
Youth Offending	1,123	1,123	-	-	
Central Education	(1,207)	(1,207)	-	-	
Director of Education	80	80	-	-	
Early Years	292	292	-	-	
School Improvement	961	961	-	-	
School Organisation	259	429	170	65.64%	An overspend is forecast mainly as a result of a reduction in traded income from schools.
Schools	-	-	-	-	
Special Educational Needs	(297)	(297)	-	-	
Children's Services and Education	53,720	52,886	(834)	(1.55%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Public Health and Wellbeing					
Business Continuity & Emergency Planning	4	4	-	-	
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	
Community Safety & Community Cohesion	30	25	(5)	(16.67%)	
Healthier Places Service	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Ageing	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Life Expectancy	-	29	29	-	
Leisure Services	742	742	-	-	The forecast income for WV Active has been significantly reduced in 2020-2021 as centres have been unable to open and the re-opening will be phased. This loss of income is currently being monitored against Covid-19 grants.
Public Health Business Management	-	(29)	(29)	-	
Starting and Developing Well	-	-	-	-	
System Leadership	-	-	-	-	
Total Public Health and Wellbeing	776	771	(5)	(0.64%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
City Environment					
Bereavement Services	(2,099)	(2,098)	1	(0.05%)	
Black Country Transport	31	31	-	-	
City Events	383	383	-	-	
Coroners Service	223	223	-	-	
Customer Services	1,719	1,726	7	0.41%	
Director City Environment	204	204	-	-	
Energy and Sustainability	163	170	7	4.29%	
Environmental Services	6,194	6,194	-	-	
Fleet Services	1,848	1,848	-	-	
Highways Maintenance	1,566	1,566	-	-	
Landscaping	29	29	-	-	
Licensing	243	243	-	-	
Markets	(615)	(345)	270	(43.90%)	An overspend is forecast as a result of reduced income and additional security costs.
Operation & Maintenance of Existing Network	971	740	(231)	(23.79%)	An underspend is forecast as result of vacancies held towards a restructure.
Parking Services	(2,963)	(2,963)	-	-	
Public Protection	1,911	1,947	36	1.88%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Register Office	(57)	(57)	-	-	
Street Lighting	2,867	2,995	128	4.46%	An overspend is forecast as a result of budget pressures related to energy costs and delayed LED implementation.
Transportation	4,730	4,814	84	1.78%	
Waste and Recycling	6,001	6,001	-	-	
Waste Commercial Services	4,522	5,444	922	20.39%	An overspend is forecast as a result of as a result of additional disposal costs due to price increases on these contracts so work will be undertaken to understand the impact on the MTFS.
Total City Environment	27,871	29,095	1,224	4.39%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
City Assets and Housing					
Projects and Works Team – Capital Programmes	69	114	45	65.22%	
Catering	(89)	(89)	-	-	
Cleaning	1,404	1,346	(58)	(4.13%)	
Corporate Asset Management	7,947	7,765	(182)	(2.29%)	The forecast underspend reflects decreased Carbon Reduction costs, offset in part by a reduction in income forecast for the Estates and Valuations service.
Corporate Landlord Support	162	162	-	-	
Estates and Valuations	(4,184)	(3,991)	193	(4.61%)	An overspend is forecast as a result of reduced income recovery relating to ground leases and vacant commercial rental units.
Facilities Management	1,086	1,331	245	22.56%	The forecast overspend is due to reduced income recovery associated with Community Centres and additional costs in relation to holding vacant properties within Facilities Management.
Head of Corporate Landlord	96	48	(48)	(50.00%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Project and Works Team - Maintenance Programme	1,977	1,977	-	-	The 2020-2021 Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 report to Cabinet on 19 February 2020 approved a £3 million budget to be built in to the Corporate Contingency for Budget Growth acknowledging a potential pressure, flagged for the Maintenance Programme, relating to building compliance and reactive maintenance works. Work is progressing to understand the situation in detail and future proposals are anticipated that will require the release of the £3 million budget built into the Corporate Contingency subject to completion and approval of individual business cases.
Housing	917	1,052	135	14.72%	A forecast overspend is due to increased demand for homelessness provision generally. This is mitigated by reduced costs in Private Sector Housing due to staff vacancies and

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					additional forecast income from Licencing and Civil Penalties.
Total City Assets and Housing	9,385	9,715	330	3.52%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Regeneration					
Adult Education	(311)	(311)	-	-	
City Development	543	543	-	-	
City Planning	763	763	-	-	
Director Regeneration	411	411	-	-	
Enterprise	644	644	-	-	
Land and Property Investment Support	-	-	-	-	
Local Economy	1,561	1,565	4	0.26%	
Skills	1,561	1,539	(22)	(1.41%)	
Visitor Economy	1,069	868	(201)	(18.80%)	The underspend reflects a one-off staff vacancies, held pending a restructure.
Total Regeneration	6,241	6,022	(219)	(3.51%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Finance					
Audit Services	1,918	1,918	-	-	
Central Corporate Budgets	3,942	3,611	(331)	(8.40%)	An underspend is forecast due to significant reductions in enhanced pension costs and bank charges.
Commercial Services	154	154	-	-	
Finance Director	158	158	-	-	
Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	48	48	-	-	
Procurement Services	508	558	50	9.84%	
Revenues & Benefits	2,581	2,525	(56)	(2.17%)	
Strategic Finance	2,737	2,737	-	-	
The Hub	1,631	1,614	(17)	(1.04%)	
Total Finance	13,677	13,323	(354)	(2.59%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Governance					
Director of Governance	133	133	-	-	
Governance Services	2,605	2,536	(69)	(2.65%)	
Legal Services	2,022	1,900	(122)	(6.03%)	The forecast underspend is due to anticipated additional external income generation.
Business Change	2,934	2,929	(5)	(0.17%)	
Ward Funds	200	200	-	-	
Total Governance	7,894	7,698	(196)	(2.48%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Strategy					
ICTS	5,892	5,667	(225)	(3.82%)	An underspend is projected as a result of unfilled staff vacancies in year and continuing works to identify and deliver efficiencies in advance of the targets reflected in the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for ICT.
Organisational Development	1,161	1,125	(36)	(3.10%)	
Strategy	1,263	1,263	-	-	
Total Strategy	8,316	8,055	(261)	(3.14%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Chief Executive					
Chief Executive	183	183	-	-	
Total Chief Executive	183	183	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Communications & External Relations					
Communications	953	919	(34)	(3.57%)	
Total Communications	953	919	(34)	(3.57%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Deputy Chief Executive					
Deputy Chief Executive	196	196	-	-	
Human Resources	1,706	1,706	-	-	
Digital Transformation Programme	88	88	-	-	
Service Improvement	163	163	-	-	
Total Deputy Chief Executive	2,153	2,153	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Corporate Budgets					
Corporate Budgets	(4,234)	(2,973)	1,261	(29.78%)	At the point of writing, it is anticipated that there will be an underspend against Treasury Management budgets in 2020-2021. In order to be prudent, the underspend will enable the council to reduce the level of capital receipt flexibility used for revenue transformational activity in 2020-2021.
Treasury Management	36,835	35,349	(1,486)	(4.03%)	An underspend in the region of £1.5 million is forecast against the Treasury Management budget due to a reduced borrowing need in year arising as result of re-phasing of the capital programme and lower interest rates forecast on borrowing due to the impact on the economy of Covid-19. This is offset by a reduction in treasury income receivable.
Corporate Adjustments	4,388	4,388	-	-	
Apprenticeship Levy	495	495	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring – Service Analysis

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2020-2021	Net Controllable Forecast 2020-2021	Net Controllable Variance 2020-2021 Q1		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
West Midlands Transport Levy	10,309	10,306	(3)	(0.03%)	
Environment Agency Levy	76	76	-	-	
Birmingham Airport - Rent	(69)	(69)	-	-	
Central Provision for Auto-enrolment and Pay Award Costs	800	800	-	-	
Total Corporate Budgets	48,600	48,372	(228)	(0.47%)	

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General Fund Budget Risks 2020-2021

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of the impact of non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Amber
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and childrens social care.	Amber
	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber
Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering the reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber
Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts. The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	Amber
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber

General Fund Budget Risks 2020-2021

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties including the impact of exiting the European Union.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT and taxation rules.	Amber
Covid 19	Risk that the financial implications of Covid 19 including the Council's recovery will exceed the grant allocations awarded by Government and place further financial pressures on the council financial position.	Red

Housing Revenue Account Revenue Outturn 2020-2021

	2020/2021 Budget £000	2020/2021 Forecast Outturn £000	2020/2021 Forecast Variance £000
Income			
Gross rents – dwellings	(89,740)	(88,972)	768
Gross rents – non dwellings	(537)	(537)	0
Charges to tenants for services and facilities	(6,241)	(6,207)	34
Total income	(96,518)	(95,716)	802
Expenditure			
Repairs and maintenance	26,230	26,230	-
Supervision and management	20,168	20,067	(101)
Rents, rates and taxes	350	350	-
Increase in provision for bad debts	2,000	2,000	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	18,308	18,528	220
Total expenditure	67,056	67,175	119
Net cost of HRA services	(29,462)	(28,541)	921
Interest payable	10,996	10,518	(478)
Interest and investment income	(79)	(79)	-
Contribution to capital financing	7,707	7,707	-
(Surplus)/deficit before transfers to/from reserves and provision for	(10,838)	(10,395)	443
Allocation of (surplus)/deficit			
Provision for redemption of debt	10,838	10,395	(443)
Balance for the year	-	-	-

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General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Chief Executive	Strategy	Chief Executive	Strategy	10	Transfer of non-salary budget to salary budget following staff regrades through job evaluation
Children's Services	Specialist Support	Children's Services	Specialist Support	35	Creation of sessional budget from non-staffing budgets.
Finance	Audit Services	City Assets and Housing	Corporate Asset Management	99	Transfer of posts between services.
Finance	Procurement Services	Finance	Procurement Services	328	Reduction in income budgets matched by corresponding reductions in Agency and Professional Fees expenditure budgets.
Adult Services	Adults Assessment and Care Management	Governance	Business Change	108	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Adult Services	Carer Support	Governance	Business Change	12	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Adult Services	Community Support	Governance	Business Change	12	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Adult Services	Learning Disability Provider	Governance	Business Change	65	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
					the Business Support Unit.
Adult Services	Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	Governance	Business Change	46	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Adult Services	Older People Provider Services	Governance	Business Change	106	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Strategic Director People	Strategic Commissioning	Governance	Business Change	36	Transfer of posts as part of the phased formation of the Business Support Unit.
Finance	Central Corporate Budgets	Governance	Ward Funds	200	Establishing Ward Fund budgets for the 2020-2021 initiative.
Governance	Ward Funds	Governance	Ward Funds	67	Creation of Ward Fund expenditure budgets matched by a recharge to Public Health (carrying forward underspends from the 2019-2020 initiative).
Public Health	Commissioning	Public Health	Starting and Developing Well	52	Transfer grant funding.
Public Health	Commissioning	Public Health	Starting and Developing Well	52	Transfer budget to fund post.
Public Health	Community Safety	Public Health	Community Safety	727	Creation of budget, funded by grant funding for contracts.

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Strategic Director People	Strategic Commissioning	Public Health	Community Safety	727	Transfer of contract management responsibilities .
Public Health	Community Safety	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	39	Replacement Funding.
Public Health	Healthy Life Expectancy	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	11	Transfer Pension cost saving to professional fees
Public Health	Community Safety & Community Cohesion	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	3	Transfer Pension cost saving to professional fees.
Public Health	Healthy Ageing	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	24	Transfer pension cost saving to professional fees.
Public Health	Starting and Developing Well	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	20	Transfer pension cost saving to professional fees.
Public Health	Commissioning	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	6	Transfer pension cost saving to professional fees.
Public Health	Public Health Business Management	Public Health	Public Health Business Management	765	Additional Public Health Grant.
City Environment	Customer Services	Adult Services	Adults Assessment and Care Management MASH	165	Transfer of Customer Services Employees to Adults (MASH).
Governance	Governance Services	Deputy Chief Executive	Business Change	20	Transfer saving from Organisational Development to Business Support Programme

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Regeneration	Skills	Deputy Chief Executive	Business Change	40	Transfer saving from Organisational Development to Business Support Programme
City Environment	Licencing	Various	Various	551	New controllable recharges to licencing (Fixed Internal).
Various	Various	City Environment	Licencing	309	Removal of old controllable recharges to Licencing (Variable Print).
City Environment	Waste and Recycling	City Environment	Fleet Services	70	Vehicle Cleaning costs.
Adult Services	Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	131	Realign Care purchasing budgets in light of finalised 2019-2020 outturn
Adult Services	Older People Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	394	Realign Care purchasing budgets in light of finalised 2019-2020 outturn.
Adult Services	Older People Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	139	Realign Care purchasing budgets in light of finalised 2019-2020 outturn
Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	133	Reflect an increase in external contributions
Adult Services	Older People Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Older People Care Purchasing	37	Additional grant income - War pensions in social care financial assessments

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Adult Services	Community Support	Adult Services	Learning Disability Provider	250	Realign budgets in light of 2019-2020 outturn
Adult Services	Director of Adult Services and Additional Monies	Adult Services	Older People Care Purchasing	372	Reflect increase in Health contribution to social care

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Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Write Offs to be approved by Cabinet

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
5053054	Recovery prohibited by statute	7,684.60
5053785	Recovery prohibited by statute	5,431.00
	Total	13,115.60

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Council Tax Write Off to be approved by Cabinet

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
22630010208	Unable to trace	5,203.61
	Total	5,203.61

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Housing Benefit Write Off to be approved by Cabinet

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
MATDX001	Recovery prohibited by statute	6,910.76
	Total	6,910.76

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye Tel Email	Director of Finance 01902 550478 Claire.nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	16 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to approve:

1. The draft budget strategy linked to the Five Year Financial Strategy, including changes to corporate resource assumptions and growth and inflation, for inclusion in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024, to be reported to Cabinet in October 2020.
2. That work continues between August and October 2020 to further develop budget reduction and income generation proposals, in order to ensure that a balanced budget can be set for 2021-2022.
3. That progress on the development of budget reduction and income generation proposals be reported to Cabinet in October 2020 for approval to proceed to the formal consultation stage of the budget process.

4. That further options are explored between August and October 2020 to address the updated projected budget deficit of £8.7 million for 2021-2022 based on the Council's Five Year Financial Strategy.
5. The establishment of supplementary revenue expenditure budgets totalling £2,775,198 funded by the Covid-19 Emergency Funding Grant for Local Government. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve all virements required to support additional costs and loss of income relating to Covid-19.
6. The establishment of supplementary revenue expenditure budgets totalling £393,536 funded by the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies and delegated authority to Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve all virements required to allocate expenditure and grant to individual schemes.
7. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to establish supplementary revenue budgets funded by grant and approve all virements required to support loss of income relating to Covid-19 once this allocation has been confirmed. As detailed in paragraph 6.5, the Government have announced a co-payment mechanism for irrecoverable sales, fees and charges income, and at this time of writing this report the full details of the scheme had not been released.
8. That external grant of £999,000 awarded for the Arthur Street Bridge Project be built into the Transport capital programme and that the borrowing previously set aside in contingency for this project be vired to the corporate contingency.
9. The capital budget of £1 million for the Towns Fund Project, funded by the external grant. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Director of City Environment, to approve virements to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner.
10. The capital budgets of £110,000 for the Ring Road St Peters Crossing, and £193,282 for Active Travel Scheme, funded by external grant and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of City Environment to approve any virements required to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner. The establishment of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £44,096 funded by external grant to support the Active Travel Scheme. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Environment and the Director of Finance to establish revenue and capital budgets should the council be successful in securing further funding from this grant fund.

Recommendations for noting:

That Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That, a number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that will be available to the Council as detailed in section 8 of this report. It is important

to note that there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future income streams for local authorities over the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review period. At the point that further information is known it will be incorporated into future reports to Councillors. Any reduction in the Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit forecast over the medium term.

2. The impact of Covid-19 has had and will continue to have a significant financial impact on the 2020-2021 budget and Medium Term financial Strategy.
3. That, if Government do not provide sufficient grant to fund the full financial implications of Covid-19, the council would need to identify in year efficiencies, which may impact on service delivery.
4. The Council will need to re-prioritise resources to fund the Recovery Strategy if further funding is not made available from Central Government.
5. That, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council.
6. That the updated projected deficit assumes the achievement of budget reduction and income generation proposals amounting to £8.8 million over period 2020-2021 to 2023-2024.
7. That the 2021-2022 budget timetable will, as in previous years, include an updated report presented to Cabinet in October 2020 detailing budget reduction and income generation proposals that will be subject to formal budget consultation during October to December 2020. Further to this, an update on all budget assumptions and the Provisional Local Government Settlement will be presented to Cabinet by January 2021, with the final budget report due to be approved by Full Council in March 2021.
8. That the overall level of risk associated with the 2020-2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 is assessed as Red.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update to the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022 to 2023-2024; the projected financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic and agree the core principles and next steps that will be taken in order to address the financial pressures faced by the Council over the medium term.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since 2010-2011 despite successive cuts in Council resources, which have led to significant financial challenges, the Council has set a balanced budget in order to deliver vital public services and city amenities. Over the last ten years the Council has identified budget reductions in excess of £235 million.
- 2.2 The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 was presented to Full Council for approval on 4 March 2020. The Council was able to set a balanced budget for 2020-2021 without the use of General reserves. However, it was projected that the Council would be faced with finding further estimated budget reductions totalling £15.5 million in 2021-2022 rising to around £20 million over the medium term to 2023-2024.
- 2.3 It is important to note that the budget was prepared pre the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of reporting to Council, the full impact of Covid-19 was not anticipated and the impact on both the finances and operating environment could not have been foreseen.
- 2.4 The updated projected budget deficit assumes the achievement of budget reduction and income generation proposals amounting to £8.8 million over the four year period from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024. A number of these proposals are one-off and therefore are reversed out in the following year. The recurrent budget reduction and income generation targets over this period total £19.3 million.
- 2.5 In March 2020, Full Council approved that work started immediately to identify budget reduction and income generation proposals for 2021-2022 onwards, in line with the Five Year Financial Strategy, and for progress to be reported to Cabinet in July 2020.
- 2.6 On 8 July, Cabinet approved an increase to the Council's General Fund Balance by £3 million to a total value of £13 million. The level of reserves is approximately 5% of the 2020-2021 net budget which is in line with recommended best practice.
- 2.7 Whilst the Council does not have a high level of reserves, the favourable outturn position for 2019-2020 (reported to Cabinet on 8 July 2020), has enabled the council to protect the current level of reserves to some extent. This will help support the Council's short-term financial position but, it does not address the challenging financial position the Council finds itself over the medium term.

2.8 It should be noted that due to external factors, specially surrounding the covid-19 pandemic and Brexit, budget assumptions remain subject to change. This could therefore result in alterations to the financial position faced by the Council.

2.9 This report provides an update on the progress towards the budget strategy for 2021-2022 and future years, whilst also detailing the emerging pressures that the Council currently faces in response the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.0 Five Year Financial Strategy

3.1 The Council's strategic approach to address the budget deficit is to align resources to Our Council Plan 2019-2024 which was approved by Full Council on 3 April 2019.

3.2 Our Council Plan 2019-2023 sets out how we will deliver our contribution to Vision 2030 and how we will work with our partners and communities to be a city of opportunity. The plan includes six strategic priorities which come together to deliver the overall Council Plan outcome of 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.' Resources will continue to be aligned to enable the realisation of the Council's priorities of achieving:

- Children and young people get the best possible start in life
- Well skilled people working in an inclusive economy
- More good jobs and investment in our city
- Better homes for all
- Strong, resilient and healthy communities
- A vibrant, green city we can be proud of

3.3 Covid-19 has had a significant international, national and regional impact and will continue to do so over the short and medium term. The pandemic has made the challenges faced in our local economy much harder. As detailed in section 5, the Council is currently developing its Recovery Strategy, this may result in a change to the Council's priorities and the re-prioritisation of resources to support critical work.

3.4 The Financial Strategy, approved by Council in March 2019, consists of five core principles underpinned by eight core workstreams. Using the Core Workstreams as the framework for the Financial Strategy detailed delivery plans are being developed all with a lead director. The Core principles and workstreams are:

- **Core Principles:**

- **Focusing on Core Business.** Focus will be given to those activities that deliver the outcomes local people need and which align to our Council Plan and Financial Strategy.
- **Promoting Independence and Wellbeing.** We will enable local people to live independently by unlocking capacity within communities to provide an effective and supportive environment.
- **Delivering Inclusive Economic Growth.** We will continue to drive investment in the City to create future economic and employment opportunities.

- **Balancing Risk.** We will ensure we base decisions on evidence, data and customer insight.
 - **Commercialising our Approach.** We will boost social value in our City by maximising local procurement spend with people and businesses.
- **Core Workstreams:**
- **Promoting Digital Innovation.** Improve access to digital services to empower local people to self-serve at a time and place that suits them whilst reducing ‘traditional’ operating costs.
 - **Reducing demand.** Through early intervention and closer collaboration with local people we aim to reduce demand for services and support greater independence and resilience.
 - **Targeted Service Delivery.** Our efforts will be focused in the areas and places that need us the most and where we can deliver the best possible outcomes within the resources available.
 - **Sustainable Business Models.** We will develop the most efficient and effective services possible, within the significant financial constraints we face, to meet the needs of local people.
 - **Prioritising Capital Investment.** Aligned to our strategic plan, investment will focus on the priorities that deliver the best possible return and outcomes for local people.
 - **Generating Income.** Better understanding the markets we operate in will enable us to develop new, innovative income generation opportunities with partners where appropriate.
 - **Delivering Efficiencies.** By reviewing our resources, business processes and better using technology, we will deliver services which meet customer needs efficiently and cost-effectively.
 - **Maximising Partnerships and External Income.** We will take a much more strategic role, working with our partners, to identify opportunities to collaborate, share resources, reduce costs and seize funding opportunities

4.0 Covid-19 Pandemic

- 4.1 In March 2020, the World Health Organisation categorised Covid-19 as a global pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council.
- 4.2 At the time of reporting to Council on 4 March 2020, the full impact of Covid-19 was not anticipated and the impact on both the finances and operating environment could not have been foreseen.
- 4.3 As detailed in paragraph 6.3, to-date, Wolverhampton has received £19.4 million in Government Covid-19 Emergency Grant funding, intended to help local authorities address the pressures they are facing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.4 The Council has played a proactive, key role in responding to the pandemic and implemented urgent crisis response and business continuity plans. Paragraph 7.3 of this

report lists some of the new initiatives delivered by the Council in response to the pandemic.

5.0 Recovery Strategy

- 5.1 Whilst the Council has been responding to the unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic, it has also been planning for recovery. A City Recovery Co-ordinating Group has been established to drive the transition from emergency response to reset and recovery of services over the immediate and medium term.
- 5.2 Along with discharging the local authority's statutory responsibilities, our strategic recovery planning will consider whether there will be 'new normals' post Covid-19. It is anticipated that there will be longer-term implications for the Council's operating model, as the scale of post Covid-19 changes.
- 5.3 Our recovery planning will consider both short term and operational transition of services from lockdown, alongside a longer term strategic approach to shape future service delivery. Covid 19 has made the challenges we faced in our local economy much harder.
- 5.4 There are longer-term implications for the Council's operating model, as the scale of the change post Covid-19 will place new expectations and demands on service delivery.
- 5.5 The overarching principle is to deliver public value: Everything that we do will be to support and empower our communities in our city. This will be delivered through:
- **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.
- 5.6 Detailed work will continue to take place over next few months to understand the full financial implications of the Recovery Strategy. It will be necessary to consider to what extent we need to re-prioritise the use of our resources in order to fund the recovery work but also to seek external funding to support this critical work. It is anticipated that the Recovery Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in September.

6.0 Funding announcements

- 6.1 Over the last few months, Government have announced a number of one-off grants for 2020-2021 to support local authorities in their response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.2 To-date, Government have announced three tranches of an un-ringfenced revenue grant for local authorities; 'Covid-19 Emergency Grant Funding for Local Government'. This funding is intended to help local authorities address the pressures they are facing in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic across all services they deliver. In particular, this funding is intended to:
- Meet the increased demand for adult social care and enable councils to provide additional support to social care providers
 - Meet the extra demand and higher business-as-usual costs of providing children's social care.
 - Provide additional support for the homeless and rough sleepers
 - Support those at higher risk of severe illness from Covid-19
 - Meet pressures across the services, as a result of reduced income, rising costs and increased demand.
- 6.3 Local authorities' allocations for the third tranche grant was announced on 16 July 2020. Wolverhampton's allocation from tranche three was £2.8 million, taking the total allocation to-date to £19.4 million.
- 6.4 Approval to establishment of supplementary expenditure budgets for the first two tranches of grant were made under the Council's emergency decision-making powers. Approval is now sought in this report to establish supplementary revenue budgets totalling £2,775,198 funded by the Covid-19 Emergency Funding Grant for Local Government and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve all virements required to support additional costs and loss of income relating to Covid-19.
- 6.5 Government have also announced a co-payment mechanism for irrecoverable sales, fees and charges income, with Government covering 75% of losses beyond the first 5% of planned income. Although at the time of writing this report, the full details of the scope of the scheme had not been published, initial guidance sets out the principles of the scheme to help guide local authorities in ensuring claims are responsible, and in line with the government intention.
- 6.6 The principles-based approach acknowledges that individual councils will be best placed to determine what losses they should be claiming for. The principles are:
- Transactional income from customers and clients receipts (excluding rents and investment income), which is generated from the delivery of services which was budgeted for in 2020-2021.

- As a result of Covid-19 and consequent reduction in economic activity, these income sources have been unavoidably lost and won't be recovered in the financial year.
 - Compensation is based on net losses, where a local authority has been able to reduce expenditure or has received over compensation for.
- 6.7 Approval is sought in this report to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to establish supplementary revenue budgets funded by this grant and allocate it against any losses of income as required.
- 6.8 It should be noted, that whilst the grants detailed in the paragraphs above are un-ringfenced and can be used to support both additional expenditure and income losses, the Government have not made any specific reference to funding commercial income losses.
- 6.9 Furthermore, local authorities are reporting losses against council tax and business rates income collected during 2020-2021. Due to the accounting treatment of these income streams (known as the collection fund) the impact of these losses is felt in the 2021-2022 budget. On 2 July 2020, Government announced that the repayment of collection fund deficits arising in 2020-2021 can be spread over a three year period (2021-2022 to 2023-2024). In addition, the Secretary of State has committed to consider the apportionment of irrecoverable Council Tax and Business Rates losses between central and local government. Further announcements will be made in the Spending Review.
- 6.10 On 10 June 2020, Government announced an emergency assistance grant fund for food and essential supplies for local authorities totalling £63 million to be distributed to local authorities to help those who are struggling due to Covid-19, as a one-off contribution in 2020-2021. Wolverhampton's allocation is £393,536. Approval is now sought to establish supplementary revenue expenditure budgets totalling £393,536 fully funded by grant and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approval all virements to allocate expenditure and grant to individual schemes.
- 6.11 In addition to the revenue grants detailed in the above paragraphs, the Council has been awarded a number of capital grants.
- 6.12 The Council has been awarded £1 million from the Town Fund to encourage projects that will support towns in responding to the immediate challenge, including:
- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
 - Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
 - Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit.
- 6.13 Approval is sought in this report to approve the capital budget of £1 million for the Towns Fund Project, fully funded by grant, and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the

Director of Regeneration and the Director of City Environment, to approve virements to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner.

- 6.14 In addition to the funding announcements above, funding has also been awarded from the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund, Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund 2020-2021 for Arthur Street Bridge repairs. The Capital Programme for 2020-2021 as approved by Cabinet on 8 July 2020, has an approved budget of £1.2 million for Arthur Street Bridge. This is fully funded by prudential borrowing, originally a virement from Corporate Contingency. Approval is now sought that external grant of £999,000 awarded for the Arthur Street Bridge Project is built into the transport capital programme and that the borrowing previously set aside in contingency for this project be vired to the corporate contingency.
- 6.15 The Council has also been successful in securing funding from the Emergency Active Travel Fund from the Department of Transport. To-date, Wolverhampton has secured £347,378 (£303,282 capital and £44,096 revenue) from tranches 1 and 1b. Approval is sought in this report to establish capital budgets of £110,000 for the Ring Road St Peters Crossing and £193,282 for the Active Travel Scheme, funded by external grant, and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with Director of City Environment to approve any virements required to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner. Approval is also required to establish supplementary revenue budgets totalling £44,096 funded by external grant to support the Active Travel Scheme. The Council will be submitting further expressions of interest for additional funding, if successful, delegated authority is also sought for the Cabinet Member for City Environment, and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Environment and the Director of Finance to establish revenue and capital budgets funded by this grant.

7.0 2020-2021 Budget Update

- 7.1 Since the 2020-2021 budget was set in March 2020, Covid-19 was declared a national pandemic. At the time of reporting to Council on 4 March, the full impact of Covid-19 was not anticipated and the impact on both the finances and operating environment could not have been foreseen. The financial implications of the pandemic have significantly distorted the 2020-2021 budget.
- 7.2 As detailed in section 6, the Government has announced grant funding to help local authorities address the pressures they are facing in response to Covid-19. Wolverhampton's total allocation is £19.4 million.
- 7.3 Under the Council's emergency decision-making powers, a range of short term initiatives were implemented, to response including the distribution of food parcels to the city's most vulnerable residents, temporary accommodation for rough sleepers, additional financial

support for adult social care providers and the procurement of additional personal protective equipment for key staff and partners.

- 7.4 All of these short-term new initiatives required additional investment and have been funded to-date by the Covid-19 Emergency Funding received from Central Government.
- 7.5 In addition to the short-term initiatives, a number of services were suspended in response to Government requirements. Income streams have been adversely affected from the loss of fees and charges for services, such as car parking, leisure and cultural services.
- 7.6 At the time of setting the 2020-2021 budget, new service budget reduction and income generation targets totalling in excess of £10 million were approved. A number of these planned targets are now at risk because resources that would originally have been focussed on transformation programmes have been redirected to enable the Council to response to the crisis.
- 7.7 The Council has played a proactive, leading role in responding to Covid-19. Some of the new initiatives implemented to support the City's residents may continue to require financial support. As the situation evolves and restrictions continue to ease, some of the new initiatives will cease entirely, ease or will transition into different services which will require financial support.
- 7.8 Our current projections demonstrate that the grant will be sufficient to meet the immediate revenue cost pressures and loss of income but will not address the full year impact, including the delivery of budget reduction targets.
- 7.9 The current projections of the cost implications of Covid-19 are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Projected Financial Implications of Covid-19

Category	2020-2021 £000
Expenditure	11,855
Loss of Income	8,706
Budget Reduction and Income Generation targets at risk	1,907
Total potential impact	22,468
Government Grant	19,429
Potential Cost Pressure	3,039

- 7.10 In addition to the costs above, Covid-19 has had an impact on development of capital projects. Given the unprecedented circumstances, there has understandably been some delay on capital projects due to the pandemic. The council continues to assess the potential implications of Covid-19 on the wider capital programme in terms of delivery timescales and increase in costs. Any additional costs on the capital programme will result in an increase in the Treasury Management revenue budget. The joint meeting of

Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 23 June 2020, received a report on the Covid-19 impact on the Capital Programme. In order to be prudent, additional capital budget has been built into the Capital Programme to cover potential risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The potential annual revenue impact could be up to £430,000 per year, the impact of this will not be seen until after 2020-2021.

- 7.11 It is important to note, that the financial implications detailed above are subject to change and do not include the cost of recovery work, or any provision for a second wave of the pandemic.
- 7.12 In addition, there are longer term implications for the Council's operating model, as the scale of the change post-Covid-19 will place new expectations and demands on service delivery in 2020-2021 and future years.
- 7.13 Furthermore, the impact of Covid-19 and the Council's plans for reset and recovery of services over the immediate and medium term will require financial investment. In recognition of the initial investment that will be required to support the recovery work, Cabinet on 8 July, approved a specific Recovery Reserve of £3 million. The Council will need to re-prioritise resources for any investment required to support the recovery strategy beyond this initial £3 million.
- 7.14 The Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021 report on this same agenda, shows that the Council is currently forecasting a break even out-turn position, excluding the impact of Covid-19. The Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021 report provides details of the projected revenue outturn position compared to the Council's approved budget, it also details the assumptions about the use of corporate contingency budgets set aside to support financial pressures identified during the 2020-2021 budget setting process. This impact of the pandemic has significantly distorted this 2020-2021 budget and current assumptions identified above show a potential cost pressure after the use of grant of £3.0 million for 2020-2021.
- 7.15 The Government have allocated grant totalling £19.4 million today to support the unprecedented financial situation that the council finds itself in due to Covid-19, however, further funding is required in order to meet the full costs of the pandemic. It is anticipated that the Government will provide sufficient grant funding to cover these pressures, however if this is not the case the Council would need to identify in year efficiencies, which could impact on service delivery. This will be closely monitored, with updates provided in future reports.

8.0 Budget Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024

- 8.1 Since the 2020-2021 budget was set in March 2020, work has been ongoing to identify budget reduction and income generation opportunities to address the projected budget challenge of £15.5 million in 2021-2022, rising to around £20 million over the medium-term period to 2023-2024.

- 8.2 2019-2020 was the final year of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2015. As reported to Cabinet in October 2019, the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020 was delayed due to the extension of ongoing negotiations surrounding Brexit. On 4 September 2019, the Government announced the Spending Round 2019 which set out the Government's spending plans for 2020-2021 only. It was confirmed that the full multi-year Spending Review would take place in 2020 for funding post 2020-2021. It was envisaged that the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reforms would also be addressed as part of this multi-year Spending Review.
- 8.3 On 24 March, the Government announced that the Comprehensive Spending Review, would be delayed from July to enable the government to remain focused on responding to the public health and economic emergency. Local authorities will therefore receive a one-year settlement for 2021-2022.
- 8.4 Due to the response required to the Covid-19 crisis it has not been possible to progress work on the budget for 2021-2022 at the pace which would normally be expected. However, some work has continued, and the following paragraphs provide detail of updated assumptions in a number of areas. Work will continue over the next couple of months to review all assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and a full update will be presented to councillors in the Autumn.
- 8.5 At the time of budget setting it was recognised that there was a high level of uncertainty facing local authorities over the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. A number of assumptions were therefore made as to the level of resources the Council could expect to receive in 2021-2022 and beyond. In light of the current situation, these assumptions have been further reviewed and updated projections are detailed in the paragraphs below.
- 8.6 The various opportunities, as detailed in the paragraphs below, may in some instances require further analysis and consideration, which will take place between August and October 2020, prior to being incorporated into the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 report which will be presented to Cabinet for approval in October 2020.

Corporate Resources

- 8.7 A number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that will be available to the Council. It is important to note that there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to the future funding streams for local authorities. Any reduction in the Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and increase the budget deficit forecast over the medium term.

Social Care Grants

- 8.8 In order to project the potential budget challenge faced by the Council, a number of assumptions have been made on the level of resources that will be available to the Council. The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 presented to Full Council in March 2020, assumed that a number of one-off Social Care Grants received in 2019-2020 would cease after 2020-2021.
- 8.9 As detailed above, the Comprehensive Spending Review has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, local authorities are likely to receive a one-year settlement for 2021-2022 only. Taking this into account, in conjunction with historical trends that the Council has seen over the last few years, it is anticipated that the Government will announce that local authorities receive the social care grants in 2021-2022. The resources available to the Council have therefore been revised to incorporate forecast Adult Social Care winter pressures, adult social care one-off funding (spring 2017), and children and adult social care grant funding, totalling £5.7 million for 2021-2022 only.

Collection Fund Deficit

- 8.10 In addition to the projected financial implications detailed section 7 above, current projections indicate that there will be a significant reduction in the amount of funds that are collected in 2020-2021 from Council Tax and Business Rates.
- 8.11 Due to collection funding accounting treatment, any Collection Fund losses from 2020-2021 do not impact upon the budget until 2021-2022.
- 8.12 Current working assumptions indicate that there could be a 15% reduction in the collection rate and appeals for remaining business rates, and a 6% reduction in the collection rate on Council Tax. In addition, we are forecasting losses to the increase in the number of Council Tax Relief cases. In total, the current projected losses are expected to be in the region of £15.4 million.
- 8.13 As detailed in paragraph 6.9, Government have announced that the repayment of collection fund deficits arising in 2020-2021 can be spread over a three year period (2021-2022 to 2023-2024). Based on current projections this could result in an annual cost of £5.1 million.

Changes to Growth and Inflation

- 8.14 The assumptions used in the preparation of the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy remain under constant review and update.

- 8.15 The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Full Council on 4 March 2020, recognised that during the 2020-2021 budget setting process, a number of emerging pressures had been identified and continued to be kept under review. In order to be prudent and recognise these budget pressures, a Corporate Contingency budget for budget growth in 2020-2021 was established, pending completion of the relevant reviews. Updated assumptions on pay related budgets and growth for Corporate Landlord have now identified that some of this growth may be reduced for 2021-2022.
- 8.16 Options are currently being explored on identifying efficiencies from potential technical financial transactions. This work is in the early stages, but high-level assumptions indicate that one-off efficiencies in the region £5 million could be generated in 2021-2022 reducing to £2 million over the medium term. Work will continue on these proposals over the next few months, with further reports in Cabinet in due course.
- 9.0 Update on Emerging Factors for 2021-2022 and the Medium Term.**
- 9.1 The assumptions used in the preparation of the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy remain under constant review and update.
- 9.2 Over the next few months, detailed reviews will be undertaken on the current budget reduction and income generation proposals included in the MTFs to ensure they are still deliverable over the medium term in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 9.3 In addition, assumptions around inflationary and growth and the impact of the pandemic on the capital programme and treasury management budgets will be reviewed.
- 9.4 Furthermore, detailed work will be undertaken to project the financial implications on services across the Council as a result of responding the Covid-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that income streams could still be adversely affected in 2021-2022 as the Council continues to respond to Government requirements, and demand continues to differ from the norm. Costs for services are also likely to change as new expectations and demands are placed on service delivery.
- 9.5 As detailed in section 5, the Council is developing its Recovery Strategy which will consider both the short term and operational transition of services from lockdown, along with the longer-term strategic approach to shape future service delivery. Over the next few months, detail service design will be undertaken, ensuring the Recovery Strategy is aligned to the Financial Strategy.
- 9.6 If further funding is not made available from Government, the Council will need to re-prioritised resources in order to fund the Recovery Strategy.
- 9.7 The overall impact of the revisions to the draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024, arising as result of the items detailed in the paragraphs above, have been reflected in Table 2 below

Table 2 – Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
	£000	£000	£000
Projected Budget Challenge as approved by Council, March 2020	15,531	20,245	19,049
Changes to Resources			
- Social Care Grants	(5,674)	5,674	-
- Collection Fund deficit flexibility (spread over three years)	5,133	-	-
Changes to Growth and Inflation			
- Changes to Corporate Contingency budgets	(1,300)	(250)	(250)
- Potential technical financial transactions	(5,000)	3,000	-
- Cost Pressures of Covid-19	TBC	TBC	TBC
Annual Change	(6,841)	8,424	(250)
Cumulative Change	-		
Projected deficit after cumulative impact of targets	8,690	21,828	20,382
Projected change in deficit	-	13,138	(1,446)

10.0 Next Steps and Budget Risk Management

- 10.1 Work will continue to take place over the next few months to develop budget reduction and income generation opportunities for the medium term, in order to ensure that a balanced budget can be set in each individual year.
- 10.2 Furthermore, Directors are currently undertaking in-depth reviews on the 2019-2020 outturn position to identify further opportunities to reduce costs and / or increase income estimates for 2020-2021 and future years.
- 10.3 The Medium Term Financial Strategy detailed above currently covers a three year period, however work is going to extent this period to five years, progress will be reported in October budget report.
- 10.4 A summary of the 2020-2021 budget setting process timetable is detailed below in Table 3.

Table 3 – Budget Timetable

Milestone	Deadline
Report to Cabinet	29 July 2020
Intensive work to develop proposals	August – October 2020
Draft Budget and Medium- Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 report to Cabinet	7 October (provisional date)
Formal Budget Consultation	October 2020 – December 2020
Report to Cabinet following Local Government Financial Settlement	13 January 2021 (provisional date)
Final Budget Report 2021-2022 to Cabinet	17 February 2021(provisional date)
Full Council Approval of Final Budget 2021-2022	March 2021

- 10.5 The overall level of risk associated with the Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 is assessed as Red. An additional risk has been incorporated into the Risk Register for Covid-19. The following table provides a summary of the risks associated with the MTFS, using the corporate risk management methodology.

Table 4 – General Fund Budget Risk Register

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of the impact of non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Amber
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and childrens social care.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber

Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering the reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber
Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of the multi-year Spending Review, and reforms to Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts. The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	Amber
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties including the impact of exiting the European Union.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT and taxation rules.	Red
Covid-19	Risk that the financial implications of Covid 19 including the Council's recovery will exceed the grant allocations awarded by Government and place further financial pressures on the council financial position.	Red

11.0 Evaluation of alternative options

11.1 In determining the proposed Five Year Financial Strategy, consideration has been made to the deliverability of budget reduction and income generation proposals and budget pressures. If we were to not implement the budget strategy as proposed in this report, alternative options would need to be identified in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2021-2022. This may therefore potentially impact upon service provision.

12.0 Reasons for decisions

12.1 It is recommended that the Five Year Financial Strategy, is approved by Cabinet for further development between August and October 2020. Cabinet will be provided with an update on progress in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 report which will be presented to Cabinet in October 2020. In approving this strategy, the Council will be working towards identifying options to be able to set a balanced budget for 2021-2022.

13.0 Financial implications

13.1 The Financial Implications are detailed throughout this report.

[AS/20072020/R]

14.0 Legal implications

14.1 The Council's revenue budgets make assumptions which must be based on realistic projections about available resources, the costs of pay, inflation and service priorities and the likelihood of achieving any budget reduction proposals.

14.2 The legal duty to spend with propriety falls under S.151 Local Government Act 1972 and arrangements for proper administration of their affairs is secured by the S.151 Officer as Chief Financial Officer.

14.3 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer to report to the Council when it is making the statutory calculations required to determine its Council Tax. The Council is required to take this report into account when making its budget decision. The Chief Financial Officer's report must deal with the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides. Both are connected with matters of risk and uncertainty. They are inter-dependent and need to be considered together. In particular, decisions on the appropriate level of Reserves should be guided by advice based upon an assessment of all the circumstances considered likely to affect the Council.

14.4 The relevant guidance concerning reserves is Local Authority Accounting Panel Bulletin 77, issued by CIPFA in November 2008. Whilst the Bulletin does not prescribe an appropriate level of reserves, leaving this to the discretion of individual authorities, it does set out a number of important principles in determining the adequacy of reserves. It emphasises that decisions on the level of reserves must be consistent with the Council's

MTFS, and have regard to the level of risk in budget plans, and the Council's financial management arrangements (including strategies to address risk).

- 14.5 In addition, Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the Chief Financial Officer to ‘...make a report ... if it appears to her that the Authority, a committee or officer of the Authority, or a joint committee on which the Authority is represented’:
- (a) has made or is about to make a decision which involves or would involve the Authority incurring expenditure which is unlawful,
 - (b) has taken or is about to take a course of action which, if pursued to its conclusion, would be unlawful and likely to cause a loss or deficiency on the part of the Authority, or
 - (c) is about to enter an item of account the entry of which is unlawful.
- 14.6 The Chief Financial Officer of a relevant Authority shall make a report under this section if it appears to her that the expenditure of the Authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.
- 14.7 These statutory requirements will have to be taken into account when making final recommendations on the budget and council tax requirement for 2021-2022.

[TS/20072020/W]

15.0 Equalities implications

- 15.1 The method by which the MTFS for 2021-2022 is developed is governed by the Council Plan priorities described in paragraph 3.2 which itself was guided by consultation and equality analysis. The further development of the various budget proposals for Cabinet’s consideration in October will include an initial equalities screening for each proposal and, where necessary, a full equalities analysis which will provide for an initial understanding of the equality impact of the draft proposals. All of this will enable Councillors to pay, “due regard” to the equalities impact of their budget decisions at that point in the budget development process. The Council will then publish details of its income generating and budget reduction proposals as part of its public consultation around the 2021-2022 budget. No proposal will be approved until the details of the responses to public consultation have been analysed for their impact on equalities. The resulting and final report to Cabinet and Council will contain a supporting equality analysis that will offer information across the whole range of proposals and in doing so enable Councillors to discharge their duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

16.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 16.1 There are no relevant climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

17.0 Human resources implications

- 17.1 In line with the Council's statutory duties as an employer under the Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, an HR1 form was issued to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills identifying the intention to reduce employee numbers by up to 500 across the Council in the period 1st April 2019 up to 31 March 2020. A further HR1 was scheduled to be issued on 1 April 2020 for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, this has been postponed due to the COVID19 emergency. A HR1 will be issued on 1 August 2020 for the period 1 August 2020 – 31 March 2021. This will identify a further 500 posts. The reductions will be through both voluntary redundancy and budget reduction targets which could result in compulsory redundancies.
- 17.2 The numbers included in an HR1 include posts held by colleagues who, as part of business review, redesign and/or restructure, need to be included, as they will need to be put at risk of redundancy. However, many of these employees will apply for and be offered jobs in the new structure or elsewhere in the organisation and therefore the number of employees leaving the authority is anticipated to be far fewer than the number declared on an HR1.
- 17.3 As detailed in the report, budgetary reductions will be made through efficiencies with new and smarter ways of working, income generation and transformation initiatives.
- 17.4 If any reductions in employee numbers are required, these will be achieved in line with the Council's HR policies. Compulsory redundancies will be mitigated as far as is possible through seeking voluntary redundancies in the first instance, and through access to redeployment.
- 17.5 The Council will ensure that appropriate support is made available to employees who are at risk of and selected for redundancy, and will work with partner and external agencies to provide support. If any of the budget reduction targets require service delivery to move from direct Council management to private, community or third sector providers, this may have implications under the TUPE regulations. If TUPE were to apply, appropriate consultation with relevant Trade Unions and affected employees, would take place.
- 17.6 There is on-going consultation with the trade unions on the impact of the Council's budgetary position and the targets being made to meet the challenges posed by

18.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 18.1 As detailed in the body of the report, the corporate contingency held for potential budget pressures has been reviewed. This report includes a targeted reduction to this contingency over the medium term.

19.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 19.1 There are no relevant health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

20.0 Covid Implications

- 20.1 The Covid implications are discussed throughout the body of this report.
- 20.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council.

21.0 Schedule of background papers

- 21.1 [Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024](#) - Cabinet on 16 October 2019
- 21.2 [2020-2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024](#) Cabinet on 19 February 2020 and Full Council on 4 March 2020
- 21.3 [Revenue Budget Outturn 2019-2020](#) - Cabinet on 8 July 2020
- 21.4 [Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020](#) - Cabinet on 8 July 2020.
- 21.5 [Amendments to Council Budgets and Decisions related to Council actions as result of Covid-19, Special Urgency Decision](#) - 27 March 2020
- 21.6 [Amendments to Council Budgets and Decisions related to Council actions as result of Covid-19, Special Urgency Decision](#) - 5 May 2020
- 21.7 [Capital Budget Outturn 2019-2020 including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2020-2021](#), report to Cabinet on 8 July 2020

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	City Centre Public Realm - Phases 1 and 3 Progress and Approvals for Project Delivery.	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	St Peters	
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee	Ruth Taylor Tel Email	Senior Regeneration Officer 01902 555635 Ruth.Taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Environment Leadership Team	1 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director for City Environment, to approve the award of the main works contract for City Centre Public Realm phase 1 (Victoria Street) and phase 3 (North Street) at a total estimated contract value within expected funding limits, upon completion of the evaluation process and subject to grant funding being secured.
2. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance and City Environment in consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of City Environment to approve the creation of any supplementary budgets for the two phases of the project.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. The progress with the design and delivery of the scheme.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The report outlines the progress with the design and delivery of the City Centre Public Realm improvement projects (formally Westside Link) and seeks approval to actions to move the project to the next stage in advance of securing funding from Central Government sources.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City Centre Public Realm project is a programme of transformational schemes designed to repurpose Wolverhampton City Centre by creating a high quality pedestrian environment, improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity within the city core and creation of new public spaces capable of hosting large scale events and activities in support of the “Events City” concept. The strategic objective of the project is to reinvigorate and drive economic investment into the city core by increasing footfall and visitor spend.
- 2.2 Outcome of the extensive public and stakeholder engagement on phase 1 (Victoria Street) and phase 2 (Queen Square) was reported back to Cabinet in April 2019. As no objections were received in respect of phase 1 progress has continued on the detailed design of this phase of the project.
- 2.3 Phase 2 however did receive some objections and as such it was agreed that further options should be looked at as part of the overall options appraisal. An informal Member Reference Group was set up to oversee discussions with external stakeholders and ensure that the appraisal of the options was given sufficient scrutiny before a decision was made on the proposed preferred option for delivery. As a result, phase 2 is outside of the scope of this report.
- 2.4 Phase 3 which incorporates North Street and adjoining streets around the Civic and Wulfrun Halls will create a much improved customer experience which includes a safe, usable events area in front of both entrances, which includes antiterrorism compliant measures at the heart of the design. Much work is required to understand the operational requirements of the Council's approved operator of the Halls and some work has already been undertaken to ensure that surrounding occupiers access arrangements are maintained. Phase 3 was initially intended to be brought forward at a later date and was not part of the initial round of consultation. However, to ensure alignment of works, phase 3 is being designed ahead of schedule to ensure that the programme of works for this scheme and the Civic Halls refurbishment programme can be delivered in a coordinated approach in order to meet the scheduled opening of the halls.
- 2.5 Both phases 1 and 3 are the subject of the Future High Street Bid which was submitted to the Government on 5 June 2020. The outcome of the bid is expected in September 2020. Details of the bid are contained within the Financial Implications section of the report.

3.0 Progress and next steps

- 3.1 Phase 1 (Victoria Street) has now been detail designed and Early Contractor Involvement is nearing completion with target cost soon to be available for scrutiny and discussion. Target costs will need to be agreed and the contractor appointed prior to commencement of a start on site. It is therefore necessary for Delegated Authority to be granted to the Cabinet Member for City Environment in consultation with the Director for City Environment, to approve the award of the main works contract when the evaluation process is complete and the approval for grant funding is subsequently secured.
- 3.2 Whilst phase 1 (Victoria Street) will be directly delivered by the approved contractor, phase 3 will be detail designed up to Early Contractor Involvement, however, the Civic Halls contractor Wilmott Dixon will then be responsible for the costing and delivery of the scheme thereafter. Approvals and reporting for which will be dealt with at the appropriate time. Detailed design of the space and streets has already begun and is anticipated to be complete by November in advance of full project costing by the contractor.
- 3.3 Whilst the City Centre Public Realm designs were being progressed, in May, the Government announced measures to prioritise public safety and encourage more walking and cycling as part of a response to the Covid 19 pandemic. In the City centre this has necessitated the temporary redesigning of some of our public spaces in order to facilitate social distancing and for the safe operation of buses around the city. This has taken the form of repurposing the roadway to create more space for walking and cycling by creating temporary cycle routes, and widened footways. In order to achieve this the creation of one way traffic flows and pedestrianisation of streets were required.
- 3.4 As the rationale and outcomes for the City Centre Public Realm phases mirrored those required for this emergency response, it was felt appropriate that the works designed for the permanent scheme be delivered on a temporary basis. This included the pedestrianisation of the north part of Victoria Street and the one way movement of vehicles in Lichfield Street, Queen Square and Darlington Street, creating a much improved and safer pedestrian and cycling environment.
- 3.5 The temporary works proposals also benefitted from the fact that there was already an established dialogue with Transport for the West Midlands, National Express, and other stakeholders in the City Centre such as the Wolverhampton Business Improvement District in respect of the details of the scheme.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Significant work has already been undertaken to identify the most appropriate option and sequencing for delivery, which has been reported through Cabinet and Scrutiny and for which the Informal Member Reference Group has responsibility.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The preferred option for delivery has already been agreed and is the subject of an external funding bid.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The design stages for phase 1 and 3 have so far been funded by a combination of Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership funding and the Council's Highways and Regeneration Reserves.
- 6.2 Phases 1 and 3 constitute a significant element of the Council's Future High Street Fund bid, with allocations of £11.6 million and £4.2 million respectively, which represents the total future spend on the project. The Council's contribution to the design work so far has been included in the bid. A decision on the outcome of the bid is expected in September and it is the intension that phase 1 will be in a "shovel ready" state to begin as soon as possible after approval. Phase 3 will also be at detailed design for the Civic Halls team to then progress to early contractor involvement and target costing, for delivery within the agreed programme.
- 6.3 Other sources of external Central Government funding to deliver all or part of the project are also being pursued should the Future High Street Fund allocation not be forthcoming or be insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety. The Council will only award the contract once the necessary funding has been secured so there will be no net impact on Council resources. Delegated approval is therefore sought to create fully funded capital budgets as required. The detail the final funding package will be included in the Individual Executive Decision Notice.
- 6.4 Any grant funding will be subject to specific terms and conditions with which the Council will have to comply.
[RT/07072020/U]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council will be required to enter into a legal grant agreement in respect of the anticipated Future High Street Fund. Details of which will be forthcoming under separate cover.
- 7.2 Any Traffic Regulation Orders for the control of traffic or parking will be subject to statutory legal procedures and further public consultation.
- 7.3 Authorisation has already been given to the advertising of Traffic Regulations Orders related to the scheme and authority delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment to approve the sealing and implementation of the Orders subject to the appropriate approvals being in place.
- 7.4 The Contract award will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant legislation.
[TS/23062020/Q]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is being continuously informed by ongoing consultation with individual interest groups to ensure that the design and implementation proposals provide appropriate measures to ensure accessibility for all.

9.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

- 9.1 The City Centre Public Realm project more so than ever, offers a clear and targeted response to the challenges the high street will face by creating the environment for change brought about by changes in consumer and visitor behaviour to enjoy activities around events rather than high street shopping and more particularly walking and cycling over car borne travel as we have become to appreciate the benefits for the environment, health and climate change.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

- 10.1 The Connected Places Strategy, which identified the City Centre Public Realm (Westside Link) Project as an early project for delivery, plays an important role in the delivery of the Council's Health and wellbeing agenda.

11.0 Covid 19 Implications

- 11.1 As detailed in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 the delivery of certain elements of the Westside Link project has already had significant positive implications to the City's emergency transport response to the Covid 19 measures introduced by Central Government. Going forward the delivery of the full permanent scheme for phase 1 and 3 will further strengthen these positive outcomes of increased walking, cycling and public safety.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

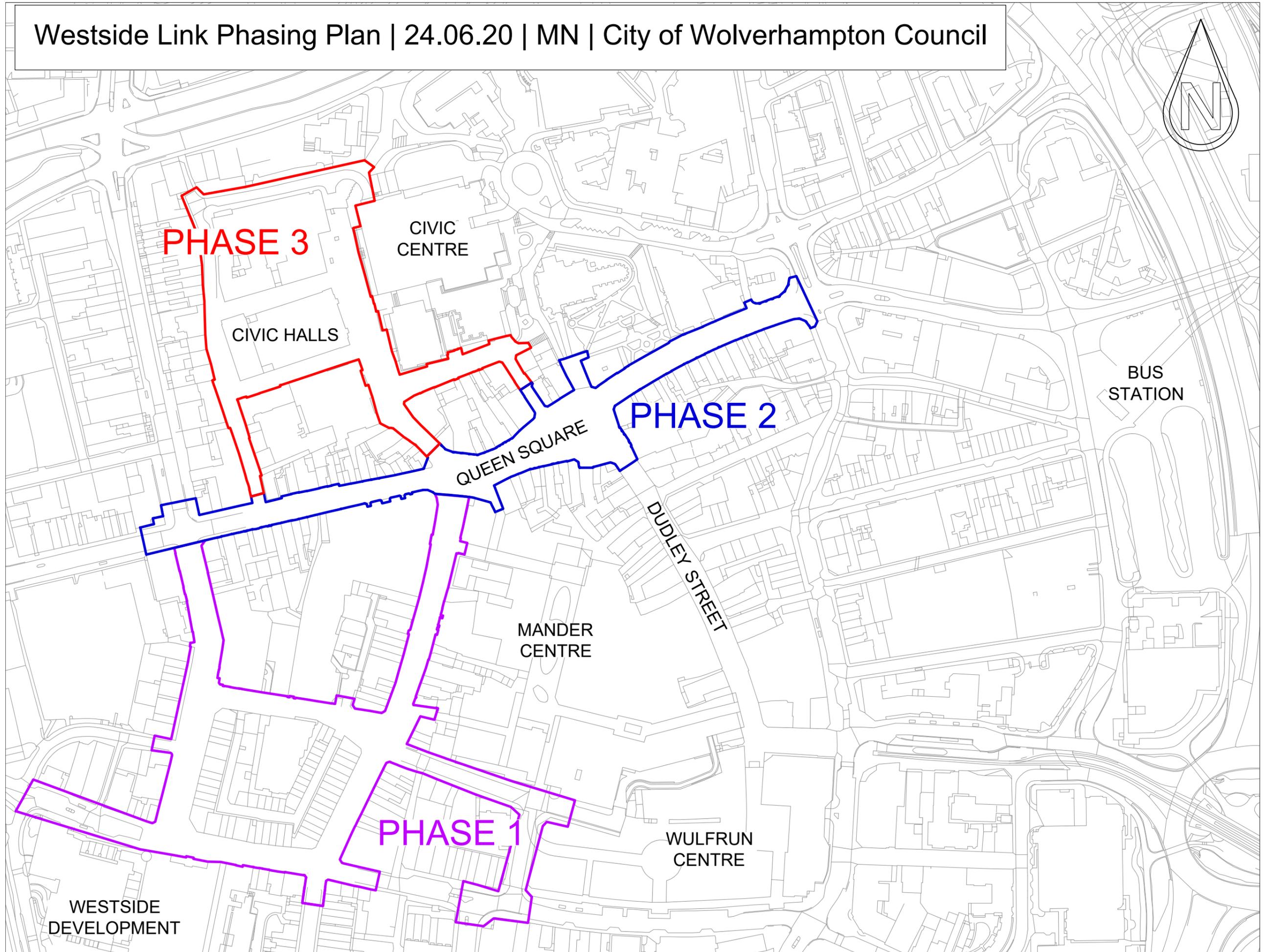
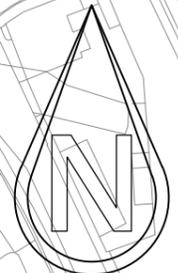
14.0 Schedule of background papers

- 14.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 6 November 2018 – [Westside Link Proposal Phases 1 and 2](#)
- 14.2 Cabinet, 10 April 2019 – [Westside Link Public Realm Proposals – Outcome of Consultation for Phases 1 and 2 and Potential Delivery Programme for phase 1.](#)

15.0 Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1 – Westside Link phasing plan

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	Renewal of the Public Space Protection Order – Drinking Restrictions	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Public Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable Director	John Denley	
Originating service	Community safety, Public Health and Wellbeing	
Accountable employee	Lynsey Kelly	Head of Community Safety
	Tel	01902 550042
	Email	Lynsey.kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Public Health Leadership Team	29 June 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	30 June 2020
	Scrutiny Board	14 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) drinking restrictions.
2. Approve the recommendations for a city-wide PSPO, subject to the mandatory six-week legal challenge period allowed, which includes the same proposals as the previous order. To extend prohibitions on public drinking within Park and St Peter's wards (to include the city centre)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To present the findings from the review of the existing PSPO which was in force from April 2017 – April 2020.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the PSPO to be renewed with the same restrictions as the previous order, this order is sort due to the powers extended to Local Authorities from the Anti-social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At a Cabinet meeting in February 2017, Cabinet authorisation was granted for the introduction of a city-wide PSPO which introduced drinking restrictions. The order gives Police the power to require a person or persons drinking in a public space to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol if they care causing or are likely to cause an anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 2.2 Failure to comply with this request can lead to a fine/arrest or prosecution. The city-wide PSPO granted further restrictions for Park and St Peter's wards; in the boundaries of these wards there was an outright ban on public drinking. This requirement was included in the order due to the disproportionate number of community complaints and calls to service the Police attended.
- 2.3 The PSPO has been successful in reducing the number of complaints received from our communities and calls to service, more detailed information can be found in section 3 of this paper.
- 2.4 The proposals directly support the following Council plan priorities;
 - Strong, resilient and healthy communities – by reducing the prevalence of alcohol-associated litter in designated locations and using legislation to tackle nuisance and ASB
 - More goof jobs and investment in our city – improving the city image by targeting hotspot locations where public drinkers congregate

3.0 Review of the existing arrangements

- 3.1 The PSPO is not a public drinking ban, with the exception of Park and St Peter's Wards. Therefore, in the majority of the city it does not stop people from drinking alcohol in public spaces. It provides discretion for Police officers and officers identified by the Local Authority, such as Enforcement Officers to determine if ASB is being or is likely to be caused as a result of a person's consumption of alcohol.
- 3.2 During the period the PSPO has been in place Police records show that there have been over 2845 calls to service to alcohol related incidents (figures are recorded from 1 March 2017 – 29 February 2020). A breakdown of the annual figures is show below. The number of incidents has reduced year on year, in part to use of the PSPO legislation to

prevent public space drinking. Over the three-year period, there has been a 35% decrease in public space drinking where a nuisance or ASB has been caused.

- 2017-2018 – 1202 calls to service
- 2018-2019 – 862 calls to service
- 2019-2020 – 781 calls to service

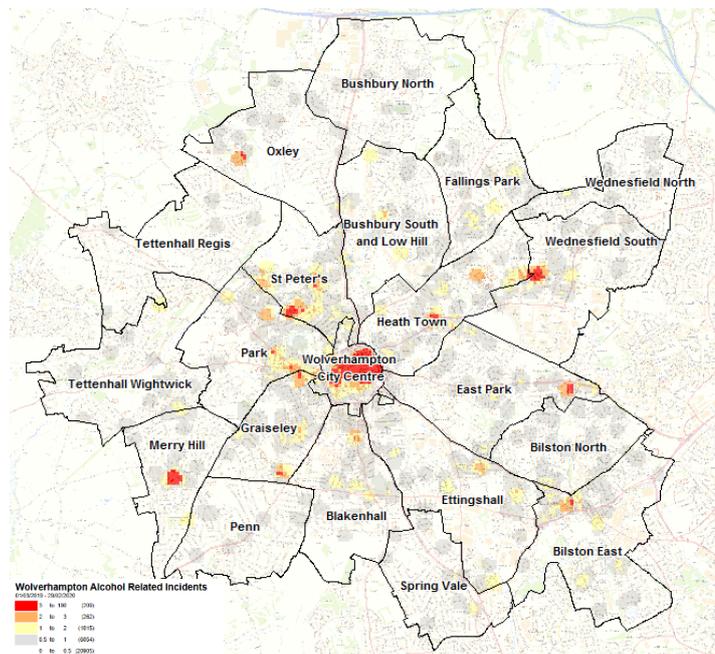
3.3 Data also shows that most complaints and calls to service are contained within Park and St Peter’s wards. City Centre falls within these wards, therefore it is understandably higher, and therefore appropriate for an outright drinking ban.

Year	Calls to service City Centre	St Peter’s and Park
2017 -2018	243 calls (20.2%)	176 (14.6%)
2018- 2019	150 calls (17.4%)	122 (14.1%)
2019-2020	147 calls (18.8%)	121 (15.5%)

Both locations account for the majority of calls from across the city and are disproportionately affected by street drinkers causing nuisance and ASB.

3.4 The reduction in calls to service does demonstrate that the PSPO is a valuable tool in tackling ASB and street drinking and has effectively been applied by officers to reduce incidents, using arrests and prosecution as a last resort.

Reviewing the success of the PSPO consideration was also given to ASB and nuisance caused as a result of street drinking in other locations across the city. The map below (2019-2020) shows that there are some other high service areas. Many of which link to areas where there is a night time economy. However, outside of these areas all neighbourhood policing teams report receiving complaints of ASB or nuisance relating to street drinking. This varies for example from 121 incidents in Park and St Peter’s wards, to 42 incidents in Wednesfield South, strongly related to the Bentley Bridge area and 5 in Tettenhall Regis and provides evidence of the need for the continuation of existing police powers to confiscate alcohol where alcohol related nuisance or ASB is occurring.



4.0 Multi-agency response to tackling alcohol-related ASB

4.1 A PSPO to restrict the nuisance caused by alcohol-related ASB will not on its own achieve the desired impact of curbing this nuisance behaviour. It will, however, be used in conjunction with a wide range of multi-agency initiatives, which together, are used to reduce the risk of this source of ASB occurring, provide the necessary powers for relevant agencies to act when it does occur and take a stronger enforcement line against perpetrators. A summary of supporting initiatives is detailed below:

A partnership response addresses reports of alcohol-related ASB which has included initial engagement/advice given to perpetrators including:

- Signposting to support agencies
- Advice/liaison with housing providers where perpetrators live
- Advice to off-licences selling alcohol
- Targeted outreach with Recovery Near You, the city's drug and alcohol provider
- Enforcement action against perpetrators including warning letters, and civil action such as civil injunctions and tenancy enforcement
- Restricting the sale of alcohol in areas deemed to be particularly vulnerable to alcohol related ASB
- Police adopt an early intervention approach whilst patrolling to prevent ASB occurring

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The process for seeking authorisation of a PSPO requires consultation to be undertaken with Police and with communities impacted by the order. Police are in support of the introduction of a PSPO to retain the existing city-wide discretion of officers to seek surrender of alcohol and for a public drinking ban to be applied to St Peter's and Park wards, in line with the proposals detailed in section 5 of this report.

5.2 West Midlands Police are lending full support to the inclusion of the City Centre within prohibitions for a public drinking ban, as this would aid ongoing positive working relations between Police and the business sector, supporting a range of joint initiatives such as Pubwatch, Facewatch and existing partnership working with the Business Improvement District.

5.3 A four-week public consultation on the proposals supported by the City Council's communications Team has been undertaken. The consultation ran from 27.05.2020 until 29.06.2020. The consultation has comprised direct communications to councillors, which includes briefings with ward councillors for St Peter's and Park wards, the business sector including the City Centre BID, designated service leads within the City Council and external partners such as Police and Wolverhampton Homes.

5.4 Opportunities to feed in to the consultation have been widely advertised through council communications, websites, via partner organisations, community networks and social media.

- 5.5 From the 537 responses received there was widespread support for continuation of the existing city-wide Police powers to confiscate alcohol where it was a feature of ASB; whilst there was also support and an understanding of the rationale for proposals to introduce an outright public drinking ban in St Peter's, Park and City Centre.
- 5.6 Respondents overwhelming let support to the renewal of the PSPO without any changes, and supported Police maintaining the Powers granted by the PSPO.
511 respondents were in support 95%
26 respondents did not support 5%
- 5.7 When asked about the outright ban in St Peters and Park wards (Inc. City Centre), respondents who lived or visited that area were again in support of continuation of the outright ban.
381 respondents were in support of the outright ban 71%
30 respondents did not support the outright ban 6%
126 respondents did not live or visit the area 23%
- 5.8 Scrutiny Board were consulted on 14 July 2020. The board were in favour of the renewal of the order, ensuring that there was the ability to review the order. Allowing the ability to vary the order as required if there was an evidence base to suggest that other locations would benefit from an outright drinking ban to reduce alcohol related ASB and nuisance.
- 5.9 A full summary of feedback can be seen in **Appendix 2**
- 6.0 Evaluation of alternative options**
- 6.1 **Option One;** The recommended proposal is for a continuation of the PSPO powers on a city-wide basis, with an outright drinking ban in St Peters and Park wards. This would allow the Police to require a person or persons to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol where ASB is occurring or likely to occur. The outright ban in St Peters and Park wards would allow police to require a person drinking to stop immediately regardless of any ASB being caused. Enabling swifter action to be taken by Police on the confiscation of alcohol where public drinking is occurring and for fixed penalty notices to be issued by Police or officers authorised by the Council where a breach of the PSPO has occurred.
- 6.2 The proposed prohibitions would include a waivering option to allow for public drinking at organised events within these locations, such as City Centre and West Park when applications are made for temporary event notices through the Council's Licensing Team. With the exception of this requirement to apply for a waiver, there would be an outright public drinking ban within these designated locations with no discretion applied regarding its enforcement. The designated geographic boundaries relating to the PSPO is detailed on **Appendix 1**

- 6.3 There are limitations within the legislation of using a PSPO to restrict the consumption of alcohol where a premises or its curtilage (a beer garden or pavement seating area) is licensed for the supply of alcohol or where licensing or Highways legislation already exists to control alcohol-related ASB; the proposals within the PSPO would therefore not be used to impede legitimate business functions or to undermine existing safeguards in place to monitor and regulate licensed premises
- 6.4 Sergeant Sean Corrigan covers the City Centre. On 15th May 2020, he stated “*the PSPO has been invaluable in the policing of the night time economy.*”
- 6.5 Sergeant Lee Plant covers St Peters and Park wards. On 15th May 2020, he stated “his officers engage with drinkers on an almost daily basis (during the warmer months in St Peters and Park ward.” Sergeant Plant continues “Whitmore Reans, along Newhampton Road, the Avion Centre and West Park continues to have issues with ASB and nuisance drinking that’s unpleasant for the community having to walk past groups, of men generally drinking.”
- 6.6 **Option Two**; To renew the city wide PSPO, without the requirement for an outright drinking ban in St Peters and Park Ward. This option would still allow Police and other agreed enforcement operatives to require a person or persons to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol where ASB is occurring or likely to occur and confiscate alcohol if deemed necessary but would not stop people from drinking at all in the highest call to service areas.
- 6.7 A huge amount of multi-agency and partnership work has taken place in St Peter and Park wards over the last two years. This work has included reducing street drinking and drug use in the Ward areas, improving the physical look of the area, improving security and removing the fear of crime. Not enforcing the outright ban in these ward areas would allow people to drink opening on the streets without the Police being able to take any action (unless ASB was, or was likely to occur), removing a vital tool available to us. This may also harm the community trust and relationships which have been developed and cause some reputational damage.
- 6.8 **Option Three**: No renewal of the PSPO. The PSPO is an excellent deterrent and is tool used frequently by the Police to protect the public. It would reduce the preventative measures available to us as a Local Authority and the local Police and would likely lead to an increase in street drinking, particularly around the night time economy. The PSPO provides reassurance to members of the public visiting the city and allows for swift police action to address issues.
- 7.0 Reasons for decision(s)**
- 7.1 It is recommended that the PSPO be renewed in full -a citywide drinking ban, including an outright ban in St Peter and Park wards. This would allow the Police to require a person or persons to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol where ASB is occurring or likely to occur. The outright ban in St Peters and Park wards would allow police to require

a person drinking to stop immediately regardless of any ASB being caused. Enabling swifter action to be taken by Police on the confiscation of alcohol where public drinking is occurring and for fixed penalty notices to be issued by Police or officers authorised by the Council where a breach of the PSPO has occurred. The recommendation has been supported by the consultation results highlighted in section 6 of the report and is welcomed by West Midlands Police.

8.0 Implementation

- 8.1 Subject to Cabinet authorisation of the PSPO, the proposals must be publicised and will be subject to a six-week period during which an appeal against the proposals can be made to the High Court before coming into force. This will include communications through partner and community networks, social media, the Council and SWP websites and an advertisement in the local press.
- 8.2 Subject to Cabinet approval and assuming no appeal against the proposals is lodged with the High Court within the six-week timeframe, the PSPO would come into force on Monday 14 September 2020.
- 8.3 The conditions of the PSPO would be in place for a period of three years; revisions to the drinking ban prohibitions relating to St Peter's and Park wards, including the City Centre can be incorporated following a 12-month review capturing the impact of the restriction and consideration for any variation of the order to include other specified locations. The impact of the order will be closely monitored. The PSPO will be subject to review before its expiry in September 2023.

9.0 Financial implications

- 9.1 The cost of the statutory notice, consultation and signage will be met from existing budgets within the Community Safety Team. Breach of PSPO prohibitions can result in fixed penalty notices being issued by authorised Council Officers or other persons designated by the Council. A penalty charge of £80 will be applicable in these circumstances, though it is not expected that the PSPO will generate any notable income as the main focus is to deter ASB or follow through with enforcement against perpetrators of ASB

[JB/06072020/V]

10.0 Legal implications

- 10.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") came into effect on 20 October 2014.
- 10.2 Section 59 of The Act gives local authorities the power to make PSPOs which are intended to deal with ASB and nuisance in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area.

- 10.3 The Act places limitations on how a PSPO can be used to restrict the consumption of alcohol in a public space where the test has been met. A PSPO cannot be used to restrict the consumption of alcohol where the premises or its curtilage (a beer garden or pavement seating area) is licensed for the supply of alcohol. There are also limitations where either Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 or section 115E of the Highways Act 1980 applies, as these already provide safeguards against ASB.
- 10.4 Before making a PSPO, councils must consult with the local police (section 72(3) and 72(4) of the Act). Formal consultation was held with West Midlands Police on this matter on 20th May 2020, where support for these proposals were recorded.
- 10.5 The Act also stipulates that councils must consult with the local community on any proposed PSPO. Consultation opportunities have been widely publicised across the city, a survey was run on the consultation pages of the Council's Website (28 May to 29 June) within communities, councillors, business sector and partner agencies.
- 10.6 Anyone who lives in or regularly works or visits the area can appeal a PSPO in the High Court within six weeks of issue. The PSPO will be publicised locally. Signage will not be erected until after the six-week period or, if an appeal is lodged, after any High Court ruling.
- 10.7 Section 61 of the Act makes provision to review a PSPO which is in force and to vary the terms of the order which can be based upon the review findings. Furthermore, the maximum duration of a PSPO is three years, so proposals to undertake a full review prior to its expiry in September 2023 would be appropriate. The recommendations in section 10.1 (iii) and (iv) can therefore be accommodated within the legal framework.

[AS/02072020/A]

11.0 Equalities implications

- 11.1 An equalities screening has been carried out. There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal may be directly or indirectly discriminatory. Data relating to use of the existing DPPO and the proposed PSPO is reliant on Police recording systems which will not capture data concerning the individuals concerned unless a crime has been committed; anecdotal reports regarding the use of the existing DPPO indicate no identified disproportionality regarding its use.
- 11.2 The proposed public drinking ban covering St Peter's, Park Wards and the City Centre would be applied universally to avoid the potential for discriminatory practice.

12.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 12.1 The proposals would have a positive environmental impact by reducing the litter associated with public drinking within City Centre, St Peter's and Park wards.

13.0 Human resources implications

- 14.0 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this proposal.

15.0 Corporate landlord implications

16.0 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this proposal.

17.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

17.1 The PSPO will have a positive impact on alcohol related crime and along with other tools reduce the number of people drinking and alcohol dependency across the city. Positively impacting on both the health and wellbeing of individuals.

18.0 Covid Implications

18.1 The PSPO can be used along with a suite of other tools to deter people from drinking in park and green spaces. This is particularly pertinent during the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown measures. There has been an increase in people enjoying parks and green spaces, including drinking in these areas as they are not able to frequent public houses. The prompt renewal of the PSPO will allow police to confiscate alcohol from those causing a nuisance and reduce the number of ASB complaints. This measure may also contribute to deterring people from gathering to drink.

19.0 Schedule of background papers

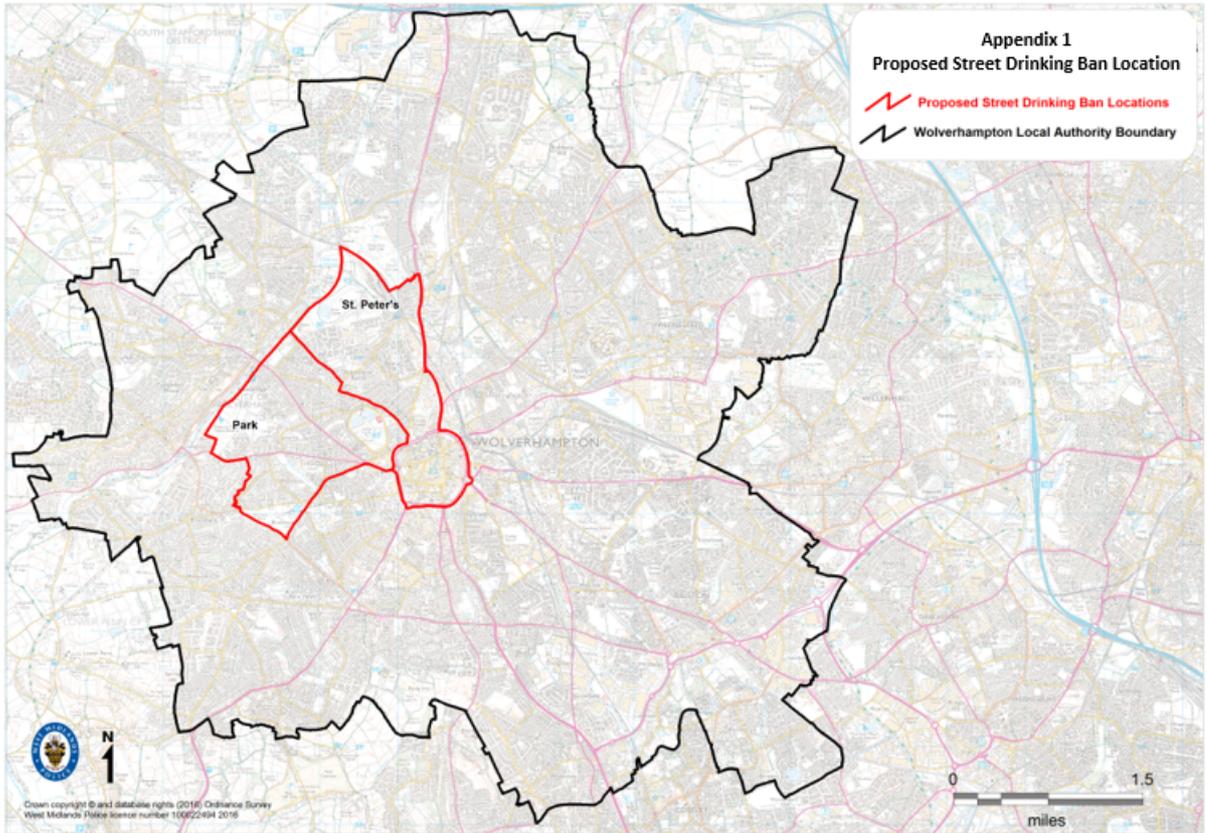
19.1 There are no background papers

20.0 Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Ban Areas PSPO Renewal

20.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation outcomes PSPO Renewal

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Wolverhampton Citywide Public Space Protection Order

<https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cwc/public-space-protection-order>

This report was created on Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 08:05

The consultation ran from 27/05/2020 to 29/06/2020

1: Please tell us which ward you live/work in:

Ward

Option	Total	Percent
Bilston East	18	3.35%
Bilston North	12	2.23%
Blakenhall	14	2.61%
Bushbury North	23	4.28%
Bushbury South and Low Hill	27	5.03%
East Park	13	2.42%
Ettingshall	17	3.17%
Fallings Park	14	2.61%
Graiseley	20	3.72%
Heath Town	11	2.05%
Merry Hill	24	4.47%
Oxley	27	5.03%
Park	59	10.99%
Penn	47	8.75%
Spring Vale	12	2.23%
St Peter's inc. City Centre	48	8.94%
Tettenhall Regis	45	8.38%
Tettenhall Wightwick	36	6.70%
Wednesfield North	26	4.84%
Wednesfield South	10	1.86%
None: Visitor to the city	6	1.12%
Other *	28	5.21%
Not Answered	0	0%

Other (please specify)

There were 33 responses to this part of the question.

2: Does this locality suffer from disorder, nuisance and/or annoyance associated with street drinking?

Y/N

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	262	48.79%
No	275	51.21%
Not Answered	0	0%

Detail

There were 258 responses to this part of the question.

3: The PSPO would provide a renewal of previous powers held by the Police to request the surrender of alcohol where anti-social behaviour is occurring or is likely to occur as a result of alcohol consumption.

Would you be in support of Police retaining this power?

Y/N

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	511	95.16%
No	26	4.84%
Not Answered	0	0%

4: The PSPO to include an outright street drinking ban in St Peter's and Park wards. The selection of these locations has been informed by data from the previous PSPO, and reports of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in these locations. This would not affect the activity of legitimate licenced premises or organised events within these areas.

If you live, work or visit these areas of the city would you support the introduction of a street drinking ban within these locations?

Y/N/NA

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	381	70.95%
No	30	5.59%
I do not live in this area	126	23.46%
Not Answered	0	0%

5: If you have any further comments to make please do so below:

If you have any further comments to make please do so below:

There were 157 responses to this part of the question.

6: What gender are you?

Gender

Option	Total	Percent
Female	311	57.91%
Male	188	35.01%
Gender fluid / Gender neutral / None gender	2	0.37%
Other	0	0%
Prefer not to say	31	5.77%
Not Answered	5	0.93%

7: Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Gender identity

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	497	92.55%
No	1	0.19%
Prefer not to say	30	5.59%
Not Answered	9	1.68%

8: What is your ethnic origin?

Ethnic origin

Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British – Indian	45	8.38%
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	1	0.19%
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	2	0.37%
Chinese	0	0%
Other Asian or Asian British	2	0.37%
White and Black African	0	0%
White and Black Caribbean	4	0.74%
White and Asian	2	0.37%
Other Mixed Background	1	0.19%
Black or Black British – African	2	0.37%
Black or Black British – Caribbean	7	1.30%
Other Black or Black British	1	0.19%
White - British	403	75.05%
White - Irish	5	0.93%
White Gypsy / Irish Traveller	0	0%
White - Other European	12	2.23%
Other White	8	1.49%
Arab	0	0%
Any Other	0	0%
Prefer not to say	36	6.70%
Not Answered	6	1.12%

9: Do you have a disability which affects your day to day activities, which has lasted, or you expect to last, at least a year?

Disability

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	80	14.90%
No	407	75.79%
Not sure	2	0.37%
Prefer not to say	40	7.45%
Not Answered	8	1.49%

10: What religion are you?

Religion

Option	Total	Percent
Buddhist	3	0.56%
Christian	282	52.51%
Hindu	6	1.12%
Jewish	1	0.19%
Muslim	4	0.74%
Sikh	25	4.66%
No Religion	145	27.00%
Any Other Religion	4	0.74%
Prefer not to say	60	11.17%
Not Answered	7	1.30%

11: Please indicate how old you are:

Age

Option	Total	Percent
Under 16	0	0%
16 - 24	21	3.91%
25 - 34	52	9.68%
35 - 44	91	16.95%
45 - 54	108	20.11%
55 - 64	120	22.35%
65 or Over	104	19.37%
Prefer not to say	34	6.33%
Not Answered	7	1.30%

12: What is your sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation

Option	Total	Percent
Lesbian / Gay woman	1	0.19%
Bisexual	12	2.23%
Gay Man	6	1.12%
Heterosexual / Straight	439	81.75%
Unsure	0	0%
Other	2	0.37%
Prefer not to say	68	12.66%
Not Answered	9	1.68%

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	Amendments to the All Age Travel Assistance Policy	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Directors	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services David Watts, Director of Adult Services	
Originating service	Education and Skills	
Accountable employee	Sandy Lisle Tel Email	SENSTART Manager 01902 555943 Sandy.lisle@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Adults Leadership Team Children and Young People Leadership Team	14 July 2020 16 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve a change section 8.8 of the All Age Travel Assistance Policy as detailed in section 3, to include exceptional circumstances and ensure there is not a 'blanket approach' towards charging for post 16 transport.
2. Approve an amendment to the definition of 'low income families' in the All Age Travel Assistance Policy glossary as detailed in section 3, to ensure clarity that an individual or family is considered to be from a low income family if they are in receipt of free school meals as opposed to a list of 'qualifying benefits'.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to make two minor amendments to the All Age Travel Assistance Policy in readiness for it to operate fully as from September 2020.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 18 March 2020 Cabinet approved the All Age Travel Assistance Policy and agreed the phased implementation of the All Age Travel Assistance Policy over 18 months.
- 2.2 It should be noted that charging for post 16 transport will not go live until September 2021. Please see the indicative timeline below:

Date	Activity
18 March 2020	All Age Travel Assistance Policy Cabinet sign off
April 2020	All Age Travel Assistance Policy assessment process go live date for new applicants requesting travel assistance for September 2020
May 2020	Publish post 16 Transport Policy Statement for young people of sixth form age
September 2020	All Age Travel Assistance Policy comes into effect for school age children
September 2021	Start of post 16 charging for young people entering year 12
September 2022	Start of post 16 charging for young people entering year 13
September 2023	Start of post 16 charging for young people entering year 14. Policy fully implemented.

- 2.3 It has recently come to light that Hampshire County Council is subject to ongoing judicial review proceedings in relation to the application of certain aspects of its Travel Assistance Policy. The Claimants in the case are a group of parents of disabled students who claim certain aspects of Hampshire County Council's Travel Policy is unlawful. Permission for judicial review has been granted by the High Court and it is understood there will be a full hearing in the Autumn of 2020.
- 2.4 In light of this development and notwithstanding that there is no guarantee the claim against Hampshire County Council will be successful, the Council has had cause to review its new All Age Travel Assistance Policy ("the Policy") and a recommendation has been made at the Delivering Independent Transport Board on 25 June 2020 to make minor amendments to the Policy

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Considering the Judicial Review brought against Hampshire County Council it is recommended that two minor amendments should be made to the Policy.

- 3.2 To ensure there is not a 'blanket approach' towards charging for post 16 transport it is advised that exceptional circumstances should be considered and therefore added to the Policy.
- 3.3 By allowing a case of "exceptional circumstances" to be presented by parents and considered, such information about financial circumstances and related matters could be considered, and, on a case-by-case basis, a decision could be made as to whether to charge the £300/£600 annual fee in full or at all.
- 3.4 Therefore, it is proposed that section 8.8 of the All Age Travel Assistance Policy should read:
- 3.5 *'If a student is eligible for travel assistance and it is assessed that they require a seat on a vehicle, they will be charged a contribution towards the cost of this. The level of contribution is set at £600 per academic year or £300 for students from low income families, save in exceptional circumstances. Any parents who considers there are exceptional circumstance that apply to them, with the result they should not be charged (or should not be charged in full), are encouraged to make that information known to the Council so their representations can be considered. If a parent is not satisfied with the Council's decision on the provision of travel assistance based on this policy, they can appeal (please see section 21 of this policy). The level of contribution will not vary according to what type of educational establishment they are attending e.g. mainstream, special or specialist post-16 education provisions, independent schools or further education colleges or other suitable training establishments.'*
- 3.6 It has been identified that the definition of low income families outlined in the glossary needs to be changed to ensure clarity that an individual or family is considered to be from a low income family if they are in receipt of free school meals as opposed to a list of 'qualifying benefits'. It is proposed to amend the definition of low income families in the glossary of the All Age Travel Assistance Policy to read:

'Students or families are considered to have a low income if they are eligible for free school meals or pursuant to the Government Guidance for post-16 students in education or training as may be in force from time to time would be eligible for financial assistance/free meals.'

Alternative definitions:

'Students or families are considered to have a low income if they are eligible for free school meals or, are otherwise in education and training and but for their age would be eligible for free school meals.'

Students or families are considered to have a low income if they are eligible for free school meals'

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 If amendments are not made to the All Age Travel Assistance Policy, depending on the outcome of the judicial review claim against Hampshire County Council this could leave the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) at risk of legal challenge.

5.0 Reasons for decisions

- 5.1 Should Cabinet approve the recommendations to amend the Policy this would clarify the glossary and allow for the Council's discretion to be exercised in relation to one part of the policy. Should Cabinet resolve not to amend the Policy this leaves one aspect of the glossary confusing and does not allow for any discretion in one area of the policy which risks that aspect of the Policy being considered of "blanket" application without any scope for discretion which may be considered disproportionate in the circumstances.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 A judicial review could have significant adverse financial implications for the Council, including the costs of defending an action and potentially paying Claimant costs. The amendments to the Policy proposed in this report clarify the definition of low income families and mitigate the risk of legal challenge that has arisen in the Hampshire case.

[RT/06072020/F]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The detailed legal implications and rationale behind the proposed decision are contained within a briefing paper which is subject to legal privilege and will not be disclosed.

- 7.2 As a local authority, the Council is required to adopt and conduct itself within best practices of good governance and make decisions and implement, apply and review policies in a way which is lawful, reasonable, proportionate, rationale, fair and exercising good procedural propriety. If a local authority does not do so, it is at risk of judicial review. Save in exceptional circumstances, policies which do not permit the local authority to exercise discretion as to the operation and implementation of the policy (so called "blanket policies") have been held by the courts to offend those principles. Successful judicial review actions against the Council could lead to the Policy being quashed by the Court and could be financially and reputationally damaging to the Council.

[AS/21072020/A]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The proposed amendments to the Policy ensure that exceptional circumstances will be considered for low income families. This will result in more positive outcomes and work to help families/ individuals that may have been adversely affected by the implementation of charges.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

9.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 This will result in a positive health and wellbeing impact for residents in the City of Wolverhampton that have otherwise been negatively impacted by charges for post 16 transport.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 [All Age Travel Assistance Policy](#) - Cabinet 18 March 2020

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	External Funding Update 2020	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy	
Originating service	Strategy	
Accountable employee	Heather Clark	Service Development Manager
	Tel	01902 555614
	Email	Heather.Clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Environment Leadership Team	11 July 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	10 July 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Environment and Director of Finance to:
 - a. Approve acceptance of the grant funding agreements and the Council entering into such agreements if the Black Country Blue Network 2, Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy and the Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme projects are successful at final bid stage.
 - b. Create the necessary supplementary revenue budgets in line with the funding agreements if the projects referred to in recommendation 1 above are successful at final bid stage.

- c. Create the necessary supplementary capital budgets in line with the funding agreements if the projects referred to in recommendation 1 above are successful at final bid stage.
 - d. Approve additional capital budget of £2.1 million funded through £1.1 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant and £976,000 Council capital match for the Black Country Blue Network 2 project. The Council capital budget will be fully funded through Section 106 agreements received.
 - e. Approve reimbursement of ERDF grant to delivery partners who are awarded ERDF grant for Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme.
 - f. Approve the payment of grants to businesses who are awarded ERDF grant for Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme.
2. Approve acceptance of memorandum of understanding and creation of required supplementary budgets to deliver the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Integration Project.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. The submission of full bids for key schemes to meet our climate change commitment including environmental improvements through the Black Country Blue Network 2 project, energy efficiency improvements through the Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy project and supporting the uptake of ultra low emission vehicles through the Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme.
2. The successful outcome of the ESOL for Integration Fund to deliver a series of community based to support English language practice and social integration in the city.
3. The virement of funding from the Corporate Capital Contingency to create a capital budget for Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy, subject to business case approval.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approvals in relation to the final bids for external funding to meet the Council's priorities following the recent submission of outline bids. The bids will attract £4.2 million of external funding contributing to our climate change commitment and Council Plan priorities.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The securing of external monies is important to funding the delivery of the Council's key priorities as set out in Our Council Plan and the Five Year Financial Strategy. Over the last three years, externally funded projects worth over £85 million have been delivered and secured across all Council priorities.
- 2.2 The Black Country European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy, developed on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), outlined the Black Country's priorities for allocating European funding between 2014 and 2020. The Black Country's allocation between 2014 and 2020 was €177 million (£152 million based on exchange rate 24 October 2019) split 50/50 between European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). Despite the result of the EU referendum, the UK is committed to the existing programme period for European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) funding with potential for projects to run until 2022. The recent call for outline applications is the final opportunity to draw down resources. The final call for outline applications for ERDF was made June 2019 with full bids submitted 6 March 2020. The Council have been very proactive at identifying suitable projects and match funding to secure resources for projects that support City priorities.

3.0 Externally Funded Projects

- 3.1 External funding is sought to deliver Council priorities. Black Country Blue Network, Wolverhampton Investment in Smart Energy and Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme all contribute to a vibrant green city we can be proud of. The Council also led an outline bid for Solar City, however Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust have led this in the full bidding stage. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) adds value to existing planned activity enabling improved quality and efficiencies.
- 3.2 An overview of the grant bids and their current status is shown in the table below. In total, the amount of external funding requested amounts to over £4.2 million.

Table 1 – Overview of Grant Bids

Funder	Project Overview	Funding and Outcomes	Current Status and Approvals Required
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Black Country Blue Network 2: Improve the biodiversity and conservation status of 126 hectares of green space linked by the canal	£1.7 million ERDF towards total cost of £3.5 million Match funding has been	Full application submitted 6 March. Delegated approval to enter into funding agreement and to create

	<p>and river network (blue network).</p> <p>In Wolverhampton: Fowlers Park: improve 8 hectares through woodland management: tree thinning, woodland planting, underplanting native species, wildflower meadow creation and pond improvements. Ward Street: rehabilitate 4.12 hectares through creation of grassland, meadow areas, woodland creation, hedge and native species planting and access improvements. Pendeford Park Open Spaces improve 5.42 hectares through creation of wildflower meadows, woodland management, tree planting, access path improvements and vegetation control</p> <p>Sites were identified on the basis of match funding being in place and developed schemes.</p>	<p>identified by delivery partners for their own projects.</p> <p>Match funding for Wolverhampton sub-projects has been identified from S106 and developer contributions</p> <p>Outputs: 115.49 hectares with improved conservation status and biodiversity and 4.12 hectares rehabilitated.</p>	<p>supplementary budgets is sought in this report if outline bid is successful.</p> <p>Approval for reimbursement of ERDF grant to delivery partners is sought in this bid if successful.</p>
ERDF	<p>Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy (WISE): package of high-impact energy investment initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change: (a) Re-designing the Civic Centre Heating Management system with more efficient boilers; (b) programme of SMART technology installations to maximise the heating</p>	<p>£685,442 ERDF towards total cost of £1.7 million</p> <p>Match from capital assets programme five-year maintenance plan.</p> <p>Outputs: reduction in energy</p>	<p>Delegated approval to enter into funding agreement and to create supplementary budgets is sought in this bid if outline bid successful.</p> <p>Note the draw down of the required funding from the corporate capital contingency budget,</p>

	efficiency of Council buildings; (c) raise awareness to the public / education of climate change initiatives	consumption and greenhouse gases	subject to business case.
ERDF	<p>Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme (EVIGS) will support carbon reduction and air quality improvements by encouraging the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Electric Vehicle (EV) grants to taxi drivers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to reduce the viability gap of purchasing an electric vehicle • 100 workplace chargepoint grants to reduce the viability gap for SME's to install workplace chargepoints • Two rapid charging Hubs for EVs across the black Country with integrated solar and battery storage • Business engagement support and marketing/promotional work to raise public awareness, address misconceptions and encourage uptake of energy efficient transport and energy solutions <p>Delivered through a partnership across all Black Country Authorities</p>	<p>Total: £3.2 million</p> <p>ERDF: £1.6 million</p> <p>Public Match: £1.3 million (City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) £192,000 revenue)</p> <p>Private Match: £300,000</p> <p>CWC grant recipient and Lead Authority</p> <p>Capital match from Transport from West Midlands</p> <p>Revenue match from staff time</p> <p>The project will produce 1,378 CO2 tonnes of carbon savings over the project term and approx. 500 tonnes CO2 each year thereafter.</p>	<p>Delegated approval to enter into funding agreement and to create supplementary budgets is sought in this bid if outline bid successful.</p> <p>Approval for reimbursement of ERDF grant to SME's and delivery partners is sought in this bid if successful.</p>

	to deliver on objectives of the Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Programme that is currently in development.		
Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government	ESOL for Integration Fund: delivery of a series of community based sessions in venues across the city focussing on those individuals with English language needs through a) Community based English language classes for learners at New to ESOL ('Pre-entry' – Entry level 1); and b) Social mixing clubs and activities to support English language practice and social integration.	<p>ESOL: £293,561</p> <p>Providing ESOL support to 567 learners</p> <p>Funding of New to ESOL Level ('Pre-Entry'- Entry Level 1) English language teaching focused on connecting learners to the places, spaces and people in their local area.</p> <p>Successful delivery of the bid is reliant on partnership with local ESOL provider.</p>	<p>Bid submitted to MHCLG on 7 May – approvals provided by S151 Officer and Director of Regeneration.</p> <p>MHCLG informed us of the successful outcome of the bid on 16.6.2020 – Memorandum of Understanding to follow.</p> <p>Approval to enter into the memorandum of understanding and to create supplementary budgets is sought</p> <p>Cabinet (Resources Panel) report to be submitted later in July to approve procurement of community elements of the bid.</p>

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

4.1 **No bid** - projects would not proceed or would proceed at a lesser scale or over a longer timescale if external funding was not available.

4.2 **Bid** - external funding enables the Council to deliver priority projects at a faster pace with greater impact with positive impact on regeneration activity and economic growth including gross value added (GVA) gain, learner assists. For example:

- **Black Country Blue Network 2:** S106 and developer's contribution had been identified for Ward Street Cutting and Fowlers Park however bidding for ERDF has allowed us to double the resource available enabling additional work to be undertaken.

- **Wolverhampton Investment in Smart Energy:** although funding has been identified to upgrade infrastructure, ERDF can fund additional Smart technology that will maximise the heating efficiency of council buildings contributing to the Council’s ambition of reducing carbon omissions to net zero by 2028.
- **Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme (EVIGS)** aims to fill the viability gap to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles and workplace charging points reducing greenhouse gases contributing to the Council’s ambition of reducing carbon omissions to net zero by 2028.
- **ESOL for Integration:** delivers a) Community based English language classes for learners at New to ESOL (‘Pre-entry’ – Entry level 1); and b) Social mixing clubs and activities to support English language practice and social integration.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 External funding enables priority projects to proceed, at a faster pace and with greater impact. External funders usually require the Council to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement outlining what the resource can be used for and rules and regulations relating to the funding source. There is a risk of clawback of grant if rules and regulations are not followed, therefore dedicated Project Managers are built into costings for larger external funded projects to minimise risk.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The financial implications of each bid are outlined in the tables and narrative below.
- 6.2 Where the City of Wolverhampton Council act as lead body for externally funded projects, the Council will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the funder which outlines the project and also sets out rules and regulations that must be complied with. Where partners are involved in the project’s delivery, the Council will enter into back to back grant funding agreements with delivery partners setting out their responsibilities and ensuring compliance with the funder’s rules and regulations. Grants are at risk of clawback if expenditure is not carried out in line with the specific grant terms and conditions.

Black Country Blue Network 2

Required Council budgets	2020- 2021 £000	2021- 2022 £000	2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	Total £000
Revenue					
ERDF	106	271	164	56	597
CWC Existing Match Funding	6	8	8	2	24
Total Revenue Budget	112	279	172	58	621
Capital					
ERDF	53	670	316	71	1,110
CWC Match	0	617	269	90	976
Total Capital Budget	53	1,287	585	161	2,086

- 6.3 Funding has been sought to improve the biodiversity and conservation status of 115.49 hectares of green space and rehabilitate 4.12 hectares across the Black Country linked by the canal and river network, through delivery of various projects across the Black Country by all partners.
- 6.4 Approval, subject to the successful application for the grant, is required for the creation of supplementary revenue budgets as detailed in the table above over the next four years, the CWC revenue match funding of £24,000 will be resourced through Environmental services staff time contribution, the budget to fund the staffing resource is from existing approved revenue budgets already in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The supplementary budget requirement £597,000 will be funded through the ERDF grant.
- 6.5 Further to this, approval is required, subject to the successful application for the grant, for a total capital budget of £2.1 million funded through £1.1 million ERDF grant and £976,000 funded through Section 106 contributions, this being CWC's capital match for the project.
- 6.6 Delivery Partners, Dudley MBC, Walsall MBC, Canal and River Trust and Severn Rivers Trust named in the bid have committed to providing further capital and revenue match funding through their sub-projects and to cover shared costs, this has enabled a larger grant to be secured. The details of the full funding for this project are stated in the table below. Evidence of match funding was included in the bid and back-to-back grant funding agreements will secure these contributions. The required budgets for these projects will be held by the respective delivery partners.
- 6.7 A dedicated project manager will be responsible for ensuring the project is delivered within budget and timescale, compliant with EU rules and regulations. It is anticipated that the profiled revenue and capital spend, which reflects the submitted outline bid, will be as per the table below.

Black Country Blue Network 2 Funding and Phasing

	2020- 2021 £000	2021- 2022 £000	2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	Total £000
Revenue					
ERDF	106	271	164	56	597
CWC Match Funding	6	8	8	2	24
Delivery Partner Match Funding	29	83	47	17	176
Total Revenue	141	362	219	75	797
Capital					
ERDF	53	670	316	71	1,110
CWC Match	0	617	269	90	976
Delivery Partner Match Funding	79	378	200	14	671
Total Capital	132	1,665	785	175	2,757

Total Funding	273	2,027	1,004	250	3,554
Of which CWC	6	625	277	92	1,000

Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy (WISE)

- 6.8 Funding is sought to pay for additional Smart technology that will maximise the heating efficiency of Council buildings contributing to the Council's ambition of reducing carbon omissions.
- 6.9 Approval is required for the creation of a capital budget of totalling £1.5 million, if the bid is successful. This will be funded by ERDF grant of £609,000 and match funding from council resources of £913,000. It is proposed to fund the Council's contribution from virement from the Corporate Contingency Budget held within the capital programme, subject to the review of the business case. The Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance have delegated authority to approve virements from the Corporate Contingency Project.
- 6.10 Further approval is required to create the supplementary revenue budgets. CWC match funding of £115,000 will be resourced through Council staff time contribution, specifically Asset Management, Climate and Strategy services' existing approved revenue budgets. The ERDF funding of £77,000 will contribute to other revenue costs. Delegated approval is requested to create the required supplementary capital and revenue budgets once the grant is confirmed and subject to successful approval of the required capital match funding as detailed above.
- 6.11 A part-time seconded project manager will be responsible for ensuring the project is delivered within budget and timescale, quarterly claims are submitted supported by defrayal evidence and project delivery is compliant with EU rules and regulations.
- 6.12 It is anticipated that the profiled revenue and capital spend, which reflects the submitted outline bid, will be as per the table below.

Wolverhampton Investment Smart Energy (WISE) Funding and Phasing

	2020- 2021 £000	2021- 2022 £000	2022- 2023 £000	Total £000
Revenue				
ERDF	24	33	20	77
CWC Match Funding	37	49	29	115
Total Revenue	61	82	49	192
Capital				
ERDF	165	444		609
CWC Match Funding	247	666		913
Total	412	1,110		1,522

Capital				
Total Funding	473	1,192	49	1,714
Total ERDF	189	477	20	686
Total CWC match	284	715	29	1,028

The Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme

Required Council budgets	2020-2021 £000	2021-2022 £000	2022-2023 £000	2023-2024 £000	Total £000
Revenue					
ERDF	50	125	90	47	312
CWC Match Funding	34	75	63	20	192
Total CWC revenue budget	84	200	153	67	504
Capital					
ERDF	0	195	1,105	0	1,300
Total CWC Capital budget	0	195	1,105	0	1,300

- 6.13 Funding has been sought to pay for purchase of electric vehicles and workplace charging points reducing greenhouse gases contributing to the Council's ambition of reducing carbon omissions to net zero by 2028. The delivery partners involved in this project would be Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley Councils.
- 6.14 The table above sets out the required CWC budgets to enable the project to go ahead. Approval is sought to create the supplementary revenue budgets funded by the ERDF grant of £312,000, subject to the application being successful. The CWC element of revenue match funding, £192,000 over four years will be resourced from existing revenue budgets within the Licensing, Transport and Strategy services.
- 6.15 Approval is also requested to create the capital budgets, subject to the success of the ERDF funding bid. The capital elements of this project are fully funded from external contributions. The ERDF capital monies of £1.3 million will fund in part (50%) the physical charging infrastructure and the grant payments to SME's. The remaining balance of the capital match for the business grants funding is from the grant recipients themselves who will be required to evidence that the electric vehicle has been purchased in order to successfully secure the grant, these are detailed in the table below. The Council is not required to provide capital funding for this project.
- 6.16 The table below demonstrates the full value and match funding elements of this project. Revenue funding from external delivery partners has been confirmed in letters of support included with the application and will be put into place formally through back to back grant funding agreements. A further capital contribution of £1 million from Transport for

West Midlands, will be used to fund the rapid charger hubs, this is a standalone element of the scheme delivered by TfWM at no financial risk to the council. If the hubs are delivered TfWM will reclaim a proportion of this cost (50%) from the ERDF grant that CWC would draw down. This has been confirmed in an application letter of support and will also be formalised through a back to back grant agreement.

- 6.17 A dedicated project manager will be responsible for ensuring the project is delivered within budget and timescale, quarterly claims are submitted, supported by defrayal evidence and project delivery is compliant with EU rules and regulations. It is anticipated that the profiled revenue and capital spend, which reflects the submitted outline bid, will be as per the table below.

The Black Country Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Grant Scheme (EVIGS) Funding and Phasing

	2020- 2021 £000	2021- 2022 £000	2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	Total £000
Revenue					
ERDF	50	125	90	47	312
CWC Match Funding	34	75	63	20	192
Sandwell MBC	5	17	9	9	40
Dudley MBC	5	17	9	9	40
Walsall MBC	5	17	9	9	40
Total Revenue	99	251	180	94	624
Capital					
ERDF	0	195	1,105	0	1,300
Transport for WM (WMCA)	0	0	1,000		1,000
SMEs (Private)	0	195	105	0	300
Total Capital	0	390	2,210	0	2,600
Total Funding	99	641	2,390	94	3,224
Total ERDF	50	320	1,195	47	1,612
Total CWC match	34	75	63	20	192
Other Public Match	15	51	1,027	27	1,120
Other Private Match	0	195	105	0	300

ESOL for Integration

- 6.18 Funding has been secured to deliver a series of community based sessions in venues across the city focussing on those individuals with English language needs. No match funding is required, this project is fully grant funded and therefore there are no financial implications for the Council. Approval is requested to create the supplementary revenue budget of £293,500.

- 6.19 It is anticipated that the profiled revenue spend, which reflects the submitted bid, will be as per the table below.

Revenue MHCLG	2020- 2021 £000	2021- 2022 £000	Total £000
Total Funding	293.5		293.5
Total MHCLG	293.5		293.5
Total CWC match	0.0		0.0

[HM/07072020/G]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Where the City of Wolverhampton Council act as lead body for externally funded projects, the Council will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Funder which outlines the project and also sets out rules and regulations that must be complied with. Where partners are involved in the project's delivery, the Council will enter into a back to back grant funding agreement with delivery partners setting out their responsibilities and ensuring compliance with the funder's rules and regulations.
[TS/11062020/S]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 Equal opportunities are a cross cutting objective of all European funded bids, therefore must be considered in the delivery of all European funded projects with equalities data monitored as part of delivery. The monitored equalities targets are set by the funder as part of the cross-cutting themes.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1 Sustainability is a cross cutting objective of all European funded bids, therefore must be considered in the delivery of all European funded projects. Several of the bids set out above will have a direct positive impact on energy usage and climate change through reduction in greenhouse gases.

10.0 COVID-19 implications

- 10.1 Start dates of ERDF funded projects have been delayed due to the assessment teams at the Managing Authority, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, being redeployed to support the COVID-19 response. For WISE and EVIGS, spend will slip by one quarter but remain as profiled in the bid. For Black Country Blue Network 2, spend originally profiled in quarter two 2020/2021 will move into quarter three.

11.0 Human resources implications

11.1 Dedicated ERDF Project Managers are built into the project costs for all City of Wolverhampton Council projects. ERDF Project Managers are also responsible for submission of quarterly claims supported by defrayal evidence and ensuring project delivery is compliant with EU rules and regulations.

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

12.1 ERDF is sought as part of the WISE project to introduce Smart technology to better manage energy usage in Council buildings.

13.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

13.1 Several projects will have positive health and wellbeing implications. The Black Country Blue Network project will improve access to green spaces encouraging walking and cycling. Impact targets young people with health problems to support them back to employment education and training.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 None.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel 29 July 2020
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Report title	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	All	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	Kirsty Tuffin Tel Email	Democratic Services Officer 01902 552873 Kirsty.tuffin@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. The summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees.

Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices

Part 1 – Open Items

City Environment

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Steve Evans	Director of City Environment	26 June 2020	Steve Woodward 01902 554260
Title and summary of decision			
Ward Street Railway Cutting – Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Capital Programme (phase 2) Approved the commencement of the Ward Street Railway Cutting project in accordance with the section 106 agreement and approved exemption from normal competition requirements under contracts procedure rules to facilitate the gas main diversion works.			

Adults

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Linda Leach	Director of Adult Services	10 June 2020	Mark Gibbs 01902 554778
Title and summary of decision			
NHS Digital Social Care Programme – Grant Agreement 1. Agreed the expenditure of the grant monies in line with the allocation set out in the Cabinet report. 2. Approved the Council entering into agreement with Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) to provide funds to enable the CSU to deliver the services set out in that agreement.			

Part 2 – Exempt Items

City Economy

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Harman Banger	Director of Regeneration	5 May 2020	Simon Lucas 01902 555618
Title and summary of decision			
Former Heath Town Baths and Library - Deed of Variation on proposed Lease arrangement Approved the Deed of Variation as described in this report, to enable the Lease for the site to be signed prior to the submission of a major bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.			

Housing

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Director of City Environment	27 May 2020	Mila Simpson 01902 554841
Title and summary of decision			
Affordable Warmth Grant Assistance Approved the installation of full central heating, taking into consideration that the client does not meet all the qualifying criteria, as the property is in Council Tax Band D.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Director of City Environment	27 May 2020	Mila Simpson 01902 554841
Title and summary of decision			
Request to Complete Small Works Assistance Grant Works Approved the delivery of works to a client falling outside the qualifying criteria.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Deputy Chief Executive	10 July 2020	Julia Nock 01902 550316
Title and summary of decision			
Land and Property Transactions - IEDN 044 Approved the completion of the transactions listed below:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitesfield Playing Field, Cannock Road – Lease Renewal • Coniston Road, Land at West of Railway Line, Codsall – Disposal • Plots of land rear of 59, 75 and 77 Himley Crescent, Bilston – Minor Disposal • St Matthias School (former Deansfield High School) Deans Road, Eastfield - Deed of Surrender former substation • Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme High Street, Temple Street, Pinfold Street, Woodhouse Fold - Car Chargers Wayleave Agreements • Wednesfield Community Hub / Library Hub, Well Lane – Internal tenancy at Library Room for LFFN server ICT purposes 			

City Environment

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Steve Evans	Director of City Environment	19 June 2020	John Roseblade 01902 555755
Title and summary of decision			
Reintroduction of parking charges following pandemic recovery			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the reintroduction of Car Parking charges from 1st July 2020 following their suspension in March 2020 due to the Covid – 19 pandemic. 2. Approved the reduced ongoing rates at three outer car parks (Peel Street, School Street and Market Car Park) to encourage their use for long stay parking, creating capacity at more central car parks and to support Active Travel. 3. Approved the removal of 10 pay and display machines from the three car parks referenced in recommendation 2 and making the payment on these car parks by mobile and App payment only. 4. Approved the reduction of the number of pay and display machines on the remaining car parks to a maximum of two per car park to facilitate cleaning. 5. Approved the reduced rates for payment by mobile phone and App methods at the following rates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 50% of full rate for two weeks from 1 July to the 14 July, then b. 75% of full rate for two weeks from 15 July to 28 July. 6. Approved the reintroduction of enforcement of on and off-street parking offences and the reintroduction of bus lane enforcement action from 22 June 2020. Commencing with the issuing of warning notices for two weeks prior to normal action. 			

Joint Cabinet Member Approvals

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Linda Leach Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Director of Adult Services Director of City Environment	18 June 2020	Lynda Eyton 01902 555706
Title and summary of decision			
Request for Discretionary top-up to Disabled Facilities Grant			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed to the provision of discretionary top-up for the case detailed in the report below at a total cost of £1686.00 subject to any additional unforeseen costs which may increase the amount of discretionary grant required. 2. Determined that the full amount of any discretionary grant becomes repayable if the ownership of the property is transferred by any means within 10 years of the completion of the grant aided works. A local land charge would be registered to reflect this condition. 			

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