

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 meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)
[For approval]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting]

DECISION ITEM (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- 5 **Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2022 Including Rents and Service Charges** (Pages 9 - 50)
[To recommend that Council approves the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2022 including rents and service charges]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 6 **Council Tax Base and Business Rates (NDR) Net Rate Yield 2021-2022, Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement Update and Outcome of Scrutiny Review** (To Follow)
[To approve the Council Tax Base and Business Rates (NDR) Net Yield 2021-2022 and to consider the responses from the scrutiny review process in relation to the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024][**report to follow**]
- 7 **Collection Fund Estimated Outturn 2020-2021** (To Follow)
[To approve the Collection Fund estimated outturn 2020-2021] [**report to follow**]
- 8 **Wolverhampton Pound: Spend Local for More Jobs and Opportunities** (Pages 51 - 72)
[To present the Council's commitment to work with partners to support the City's economic growth and recovery]
- 9 **City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022** (Pages 73 - 162)
[To provide the outcome of the external consultation exercise and to approve the strategic policy document]

- 10 **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 item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below.]

Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public

DECISION ITEM (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 11 | The Marches Help to Own Project (Pages 163 - 168)
[To consider a proposal on the Help to Own project] | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | (3) |
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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the Cabinet Minutes - 16 December 2020
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

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

Employees

Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
David Pattison	Director of Governance
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
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 was submitted on behalf of Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive and Ross Cook, Director of City Environment both declared a non pecuniary interest in item 4 (WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions) insofar as they are both Directors of WV Living. |
| 3 | 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 item of business as it involves 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 - exempt item, closed to press and public

The Chair reported that as stated previously the meeting was in confidential session as the information included in the report 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 codes (for councillors and employees) but also a breach of the legal duty of confidentiality.

4 **WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions**

The intention to make a key decision on the report 'WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions' at the meeting was not publicised in advance as required by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The decision was urgent and could not be reasonably delayed for the following reasons:

- The WV Living Business Plan was provided by WV Living Limited, a separate limited company, to the Council on Friday 27 November 2020 and therefore the Council has not had enough time to advertise the proposed decision on the Business Plan – the Business Plan has had to be reviewed by external auditors before the Council was happy to take it forwards, this has now happened.
- In addition other decisions related to this including potential funding of WV Living Limited's Business Plan and provision of affordable housing flow from this and also could not be brought forwards until the Business Plan was considered to be viable.

In light of the above, consent had been obtained for the key decision to be made at the meeting under the General Exception provisions.

Councillor Louise Miles asked Cabinet to approve the recommendations in the report WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions.

An updated version of the WV Living Business Plan referred to at Appendix 1 to the published report, had been circulated. The updated version corrected some minor errors in the business plan that had been spotted.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Approve investment of equity in WV Living to support the business plan and the delivery of housing in Wolverhampton and that the entering into of any ancillary agreements or documents between the Council and WV Living arising out of the funding to WV Living be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Assets and Housing and Resources in conjunction with the Managing Director and the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer).

That Cabinet approves:

1. The updated business plan for the WV Living.

2. That the loan facility for WV Living be refreshed in line with the updated business plan and that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Assets and Housing and Resources in conjunction with the Chief Executive and Director of Finance to approve the loan facility.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Assets and Housing and Resources in conjunction with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance to approve detailed loan agreements, amendments to any loan agreements and the execution of any loan agreements or other financial instruments between the Council and WV Living.
4. That the Council would act as guarantor for contracts entered into by WV Living where appropriate and that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for Resources and Governance in conjunction with the Directors of Finance and Governance to authorise any such guarantees.
5. That in the light of the new Business Plan the Council confirms that it has confidence that WV Living is a going concern for at least the next 12 months.
6. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in conjunction with the Director of Governance to vary development agreements for the purchase of affordable homes from WV Living.
7. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in conjunction with the Director of Finance to amend the Capital Programme to recognise expenditure funded by Homes England Grant if awarded.

That Cabinet notes:

1. That updated business plans would be brought to Cabinet for approval on an annual basis.
2. That proposals to update the Shareholder Board terms of reference would be brought forwards to provide for enhanced monitoring of the performance of WV Living by the Shareholder Board with the following in place:
 - Detailed quarterly reports
 - Monthly key performance indicators

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 20 January 2021
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Report title	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2022 including Rent and Service Charges		
Decision designation	RED		
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman, City Assets and Housing Councillor Louise Miles, Resources		
Key decision	Yes		
In forward plan	Yes		
Wards affected	All Wards		
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment Claire Nye, Director of Finance		
Originating service	Housing, Finance		
Accountable employee	Jenny Lewington	Service Manager Housing Strategy and Policy	
	Tel	01902 554845	
	Email	Jenny.lewington@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team	8 December 2020	
	Strategic Executive Board	10 December 2020	

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Adopts the Business Plan set out at Appendix 1 to this report as the approved Housing Revenue Account Business Plan including:
 - a. The revenue budget for 2021-2022 at Appendix 1 to this report.
 - b. The Capital Programme for 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 at Appendix 2 to this report that includes the following among the proposed investment plans;
 - £134.0 million for new build development
 - £41.3 million provision for Estate Remodelling
 - £3.6 million for a new programme for low and mid-rise infrastructure replacement

- £2.0 million budget provision for conversion of commercial property to residential to provide additional homes
 - £44.5 million to complete the refurbishment of the Heath Town estate
 - £86.5 million for programmes to high rise estates to include fire safety improvements, infrastructure replacement, retrofitting of sprinklers and external works.
2. Approves the implementation of an increase of 1.5% to social housing rents in accordance with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and to give 28 days notice to all secure and introductory tenants of the rent increase from 1 April 2021.
 3. Approves the rates for garage rents and service charges set out in Appendix 3 to this report and formally notifies tenants.
 4. Approves Management Allowances for Managing Agents as follows;
 - Wolverhampton Homes - £39,425,000
 - Bushbury Hill Estate Management Board - £1,720,000
 - New Park Village Tenants Management Organisation - £383,000
 - Springfield Horseshoe Tenants Management Organisation - £360,000
 - Dovecotes Tenants Management Organisation - £1,113,000

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The consultation responses as outlined at Appendix 3 to this report. The issues raised during the consultation have been communicated to the managing agents and will also be provided to tenants as areas for possible tenant scrutiny during 2021-2022.
2. From 1 April 2020 the Regulator of Social Housing has regulated social rents charged by Local Authorities. The Rent increase at 1.5% is chargeable in line with Government policy set out in the Rent Standard 2020.
3. The issues discussed in the 2018 Social Housing Green Paper which sets out five principles for a new fairer deal for social housing residents focusing on the provision of safe and decent homes, resolving complaints, empowering tenants, tackling stigma and building new homes.
4. The National Building Safety Programme of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Grenfell Inquiry pending its full outcomes, will impact upon future building safety planning. The Hackett Review 2018 makes recommendations for residential building safety and improvements to be considered as part of all future HRA asset management and improvement planning and the Building Safety Bill introduces regulation seeking greater assurance on the safety of multi-occupied buildings.
5. Asset planning in 2020-2021 will look at the future management and asset planning for non-traditional homes, including high-rise homes.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents an updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2021-2022 for recommendation to Full Council which is intended to balance the provision of new homes for rent, whilst continuing to invest in better and safer homes programmes to the existing stock and improving and redeveloping housing estates.
- 1.2 The report also provides, as an integral part of that Business Plan, a proposed HRA budget for 2021-2022, including proposed rents and service charges to take effect from 1 April 2021, and a proposed HRA Capital Programme for the period 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 for recommendation to full Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since the implementation of Housing Revenue Account self-financing in 2012, the Council has been required to set out its Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. The Business Plan is monitored quarterly and reviewed annually to ensure that assumptions remain robust and resources within the plan are sufficient to meet expenditure requirements. Appendix 4 provides more detail on HRA self-financing.
- 2.2 In February 2019, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government gave a direction which set out the Government's rent policy for social housing for the next five years and the requirement for the Regulator of Social Housing to undertake the regulation of Local Authority Social Housing Rents, aligning the regulation with that of private-registered providers. The resulting Rent Standard came into force on 1 April 2020.
- 2.3 Key elements of the direction are to restrict rent increases on social and affordable rent properties by up to CPI plus 1% annually from 2020 for a period of at least five years. CPI is based on the published figure for September of the previous year. The direction also allows discretion over the rent set for individual properties with a 5% flexibility for general needs stock.
- 2.4 On 29 October 2018 an announcement as part of the Government's Budget confirmed that the HRA borrowing cap was abolished completely with immediate effect. The Government issued a determination that revoked the previous determinations specifying local authority limits on indebtedness. As a result, local authorities are now able to borrow for housebuilding in accordance with the Prudential Code.

3.0 The HRA Business Plan 2021-2022

- 3.1 The Business Plan has been reviewed in 2020 and updated to revise planning assumptions on rent increases, interest rates, and right to buy sales. The forecast for 2020-2021 includes a reduction in rental income due to it taking longer to refurbish and re-let empty properties because of COVID 19.

- 3.2 The number of HRA dwellings is currently around 21,900; of which around 12,000 are houses and bungalows, 5,000 are in medium and high-rise blocks and the balance of around 4,900 are low rise flats.
- 3.3 Around 2,100 of these properties are non-traditional construction and reaching a stage where it will be uneconomical to continue to maintain all of them. These properties will form part of a detailed asset strategy and proposed estate regeneration. Therefore, the focus is on maximising resources available to finance capital expenditure to balance the needs of the existing stock, improve and redevelop estates and provide much needed additional social and affordable housing units.
- 3.4 The Business Plan is based on applying a rent increase of CPI plus 1% to social and affordable rents for the next four years, commencing 1st April 2021, in line with government policy set out in the Rent Standard 2020. Based on the CPI figure of 0.5% published at September 2020 the rent increase proposed for 1st April 2020 is 1.5%. The same increase is applied to garage rents.
- 3.5 Inflationary increases to budgets have been applied where appropriate and a prudent provision for increases to the bad debt provision, taking into account the challenge Universal Credit has brought to rent collection and the additional impact of COVID 19 on rent arrears.
- 3.6 No increases to service charges are proposed since they are all forecast to achieve cost recovery.
- 3.7 **HRA Revenue Budget**
- 3.8 The number of right-to-buy properties since discounts were increased in 2012 has had an impact on stock numbers, not wholly offset by new build and acquisition of additional stock. However, the rate of decrease has slowed in the last three years. Table 1 below illustrates the decrease in stock numbers over the last five years, an overall decrease of 3.9%.
- 3.9 Table 1 – Stock numbers over five years

Stock Numbers	2016-2017 Outturn	2017-2018 Outturn	2018-2019 Outturn	2019-2020 Outturn	2020-2021 Forecast
Opening	22,725	22,491	22,214	21,995	21926
Right to Buy sales	(249)	(288)	(265)	(228)	(160)
Other disposals	(4)	(5)	-	-	-
Additions	19	16	46	159	74
Closing	22,491	22,214	21,995	21,926	21,840
Cumulative reduction	(234)	(511)	(730)	(799)	(885)

- 3.10 95% of the management and maintenance budget is spent on Management agents' allowances. These have in general been based on a historic calculation and not linked to property numbers. An independent review of the HRA Business plan by consultancy firm Savills has confirmed that current management and maintenance budgets within the HRA are comparable with other councils.
- 3.11 The Council will incur increased costs from the regulatory role which are reflected in the revenue budget.
- 3.12 The retained element of the budgets includes an annual budget of £70,000 for Tenants Scrutiny, which is in the process of being procured, with a contract to be awarded from 1 April 2021.
- 3.13 During November 2020 the government announced that there will be a pay freeze to parts of the public sector in 2021, although at the time of writing the impact on local government has not been confirmed. Therefore, it is proposed that although there will be no general increase to management allowances in 2021-2022 this could be reviewed during the year if required.

4.0 The HRA Capital Programme

- 4.1 The Council wishes to use capital resources to maximise new build as far as possible but also needs to consider and prioritise the needs of the existing stock. As part of a long term, estate-based approach to asset management the remaining life of stock should be taken into account and alternatives to refurbishment considered where appropriate.
- 4.2 The programme includes new build provision of £116.7 million for the next five years from 2020-2022, including £47.0 million set aside for future schemes. £20.0 million has been earmarked as provision to purchase affordable housing developed by WV Living on key future schemes around the city. Proposals will come forward for member approval on a site by site basis.
- 4.3 The Council's development programme seeks to prioritise the type of housing stock developed in order to increase homes available for those with priority need under the allocations policy, alleviate homelessness and help people to live independently in their own homes.
- 4.4 Alongside the application of HRA capital borrowing and capital receipts, homes will be delivered using grant from Homes England and the Local Enterprise Partnership where appropriate, as well as applying S106 commuted sums for affordable housing arising from private developments in the city.
- 4.5 The Heath Town estate refurbishment managed by Wolverhampton Homes is progressing well, and detailed design works to the Tower Blocks has started. Additional works to improve fire resistance and meet the standard of the Building Safety Act have increased costs by £4.5 million. Additional structural works required to stair cores costing

£2.1 million are also required and the impact of COVID on the programme is estimated at £1.4 million.

- 4.6 The work programmes being carried out on the high-rise estates to upgrade the Mechanical and Electrical Infrastructure, improve fire safety and retrofit sprinklers have combined budgets of £67.5 million. The budget includes an additional £6.9 million to reflect the issues identified at the design phase as the programme moves on to the Merry Hill and Graiseley estates and meet the required fire safety standards. There is also a programme of £12.1 million for external works.
- 4.7 Paragraph 3.3 refers to the 2,100 non-traditional built homes and the detailed Asset Management Strategy that is being prepared to address in what instances these homes will continue to be maintained or replaced, which should also provide some opportunity to make use of unallocated new build funding to bring forward additional homes. This work will be done in consultation with local communities as it progresses.
- 4.8 The programme already includes a budget of £41.3 million for estate remodelling, but it is expected that a large proportion of this budget will be required to fund the programme at New Park Village. A report will be coming forward to February 2021 Cabinet Resources Panel, which sets out the progress being made with the New Park Village redevelopment, working closely with the Tenants Management Co-operative and the tenants and residents to shape the plans. The report will set out the next key phases of the project; seeking approval for acquisitions of the 20 freehold and leasehold properties, commissioning of specialist site surveys, phased demolition and the appointment of an Architect and Master Planning consultant to determine scheme units numbers and type of property to be built on the total redevelopment area.
- 4.9 These issues are reflected in the five-year HRA Capital Programme in Appendix 1C. The programme will be monitored quarterly and reviewed annually to ensure a balanced budget.
- 4.10 Early work indicates that, to make provision in the longer term capital programme to reduce the carbon impact of the housing stock in line with the Council's strategic priority to be carbon neutral by 2030, it is likely to add in the region of £400 million to future costs. External funding contributions will be sought to ensure that this does not impact on the ability of the HRA to fund additional homes over and above the requirements to replace the non-traditional properties referred to 4.7.

5.0 Legislative and Policy Changes

- 5.1 On 17 November 2020 the Government published its Social Housing White Paper 'A New Charter for Social Housing Residents', which follows on from the Social Housing Green Paper released in 2018 and sought to set out the issues facing social housing tenants and the actions that could be taken so they are safe, protected, listened to and able to influence how their homes are managed.

- 5.2 The White Paper sets out a number of new requirements for social housing landlords, one of the most significant is the strengthening of the Regulator of Social Housing, moving them from a reactive to a proactive consumer regulatory regime. This will require the proactive oversight of the Consumer Standards; regulation which aims to ensure tenants are safe in their homes, given appropriate degree of choice and protections, and can hold landlords to account. This will mean that social housing landlords will be subject to four yearly inspections as well as an annual review of newly introduced key performance indicators (KPIs). The White Paper makes clear that the Regulator will be seeking assurance that where a Council contracts out its housing management service, to an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) or managing agent, as is the case in Wolverhampton, compliance with the standards remains with the Council. To ensure Councillors are provided with oversight and assurance that the standard is being met, reports will be provided to Scrutiny Panel from April 2021.
- 5.3 The White Paper sets out that Government will review the Decent Homes Standard to consider if it should be updated, including how it can better support the decarbonisation and energy efficiency of social homes, and improve communal and green spaces. Nationally Decent Homes funding ceased in 2012, as did the requirement for local authorities to establish alternative models for the delivery of housing and residential landlord services. There are 29 ALMO management arrangements that remain active in the UK in 2020.
- 5.4 In its commitment to supporting more households into home ownership, the White Paper makes clear Government wants to see local authorities make the most of borrowing flexibilities and to innovate to deliver more homes for the future.
- 5.5 Government has also published a Fire Safety Bill which puts in place an enhanced regulatory regime for all buildings, including a more stringent regime for the design, construction, day-to-day management and maintenance of higher-risk buildings including high rise. Any significant additional requirements relating to improvements to building safety (including fire safety management), energy efficiency, decency and the planning for Better Homes from 2022 will have implications for the Business Plan period.
- 5.6 The Fitness for Human Habitation Act; came into force in 2019, gives tenants a right to take action in the courts when a landlord fails to maintain a property that is fit for human habitation. The Act covers all existing tenancies in both the social and private rented sectors.
- 5.7 During 2019-2020 the Council and its managing agents led the development of an updated Housing Allocations Policy. Supported by extensive consultation, the updated policy was adopted by the Council in February 2020 updated the Councils objectives to reflect the need to:
- A. Ensure people in the greatest housing need have the greatest opportunity to access suitable housing that best meets their needs.

- B. Make use of a range of housing options and tenures to prevent and relieve homelessness.
 - C. Make best use of the Council's and partner registered providers' housing stock.
 - D. Manage applicants' expectations by being realistic about availability of stock, to support them in making informed choices about their housing options, and the extent to which they are able to express reasonable preference.
 - E. Ensure that the Council's legal duties and corporate responsibilities are met and that the policy contributes to delivering the Council's priorities.
- 5.8 Following significant changes to the Northgate IT system during 2020-21, the new Allocations Policy will apply from August 2021. A programme of support will be developed to support applicants to Homes in the City to move from the existing system to the new policy.
- 5.9 Further developments will be made to the way Council homes are allocated to contribute to the 'best use of stock' including; scoping of an Accessible Homes Register, renewal of the Nominations Agreements with Registered Housing Providers and analysis of the use of flexible tenancies for high demand properties, such as purpose build built adapted properties and houses which are four bed or larger.
- 6.0 Evaluation of alternative options**
- 6.1 The proposed rent increase of 1.5% is chargeable in line with Government policy set out in the Rent Standard 2020. Not applying an increase would reduce the resources available to fund services and the capital programme. The proposed service charges are consistent with existing policy to recover the cost of the service. An alternative option could be to reduce the charges, in which case the cost would not be recovered, and a subsidy required from general rents.
- 6.2 The Council could decide not to plan to increase capital expenditure in response to the abolishment of the HRA borrowing cap and instead use the HRA net surplus to pay off debt instead of financing borrowing. However, it would not then be using available resources to improve and increase its housing stock as well as the requirement to respond to national building safety requirements.
- 7.0 Reasons for decisions**
- 7.1 The Council is asked to approve the 1.5% increase to dwellings rent and approve the proposed service charges and garage rents to enable the aspirations in the business plan to be met.
- 7.2 The Council is required to approve a balanced HRA budget which is based on income forecasts, maintains supervision and management expenditure, provides for depreciation and finances borrowing.

7.3 A risk matrix is attached at Appendix 5. The risk register has been updated to reflect the economic and legislative setting in which it operates.

8.0 Financial implications

8.1 A full listing of non-dwelling rents and service charges is set out in Appendix 3.

8.2 The Business Plan model has been reviewed, assumptions updated and additional capital expenditure built in with the aim of providing sufficient resources to maintain existing stock and maximising new build. By increasing the rent the HRA is expected to have sufficient resources to fund £2.2 billion of capital works required over the next 30 years, as well as meeting its management and maintenance obligations in the same period and adding to the housing stock. Inflation forecasts have been updated in line with the latest economic forecasts. Due to the possible forthcoming period of economic uncertainty it will be necessary to closely monitor the data underpinning assumptions in the model and forecast the effect of any changes.

8.3 The five-year Capital Programme is reviewed quarterly and the latest version to include a budget for estate remodelling, increased budgets for Heath Town refurbishment and works programmes at the high-rise estates is shown in Appendix 2.

8.4 The Council now has the freedom to borrow to increase the provision of new build housing in line with prudential indicators. HRA borrowing is monitored to ensure that the revenue surplus will always be sufficient to fund forecast interest on debt with a margin built in to allow for interest rate fluctuations.

[JM/21122020/H]

9.0 Legal implications

9.1 Statutory requirements as to the keeping of a Housing Revenue Account are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act'). The 1989 Act includes a duty, under Section 76 of the 1989 Act, to budget to prevent a debit balance on the HRA and to implement and review the budget.

9.2 Under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985, local housing authorities have the power to "*make such reasonable charges as they may determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses*". Section 24 also requires local authorities, from time to time, to review rents and make such changes as circumstances may require. This provision conferring discretion as to rents and charges made to occupiers, is now subject to further restrictions arising from the provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.

9.3 Rent and other charges are excluded from the statutory definition of matters of housing management in respect of which local authorities are required to consult their tenants pursuant to Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 and Sections 137 and 143A of the Housing Act 1996 in relation to secure, introductory and demoted tenants respectively.

- 9.4 The Council has nevertheless undertaken to consult with tenants before seeking to change rent and other charges.
- 9.5 It is further provided by Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985 in relation to secure tenancies, which also applies in respect of introductory tenancies, that its tenants are notified of variation of rent and other charges at least 28 days before the variation takes effect by service of a notice of variation.
[DC/17122020/H]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 Notwithstanding the legal requirement to increase rents by no more than Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) plus 1%, there is a difficult balance to be struck in deciding the levels at which rents and services charges are set and the income required to maintain and to improve services and properties. This is based upon a thirty-year forecast which sets out indicative levels of future rental income and forecast changes to expenditure levels. The Council has always operated a very open and consultative approach to service and rent reviews.
- 10.2 Whilst usually face-to-face consultation opportunities would be provided (via the Wolverhampton Homes Get Togethers, Tenant Management Organisation facilitated opportunities and Wolverhampton Federation of Tenants Association), this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions these events have not been possible. The Council conducted consultation online on the Council's webpage (4 November to 3 December 2020), promoted the opportunity using social media and email to 10,000 (45.7%) of Council tenants.
- 10.3 As part of the Council's commitment to involving tenants and other service users in the management of housing services, City of Wolverhampton Council invites views from tenants and leaseholders in respect of rent and service charges and the Council's priorities for 2021-2022.
- 10.4 An Equality Analysis has been completed and there are no implications to consider further. Details of the consultation with residents and stakeholders are attached at Appendix 4.

11.0 All other Implications

- 11.1 The investment and improvement of the city housing stock will have a significant positive impact on the overall city environment. The strategic planning that will take place to ensure that all council homes are as energy efficient as they can be will make a major contribution to ensure that the council meets its carbon reduction targets.
- 11.2 The investment and improvement of the current city housing stock and the additional housing created by new build programmes will have a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of current and future tenants.

11.3 Consultation opportunities have excluded face-to-face consultation with tenants this year due to covid-19 restrictions.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016](#)

12.2 [Housing and Planning Act 2016](#)

12.3 [The Housing Revenue Account self-financing determinations 2012](#)

13.0 Appendices

13.1 Schedule of Appendices

	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan
1	30-year and medium term business plan
2	Capital Programme
	Recommendations concerning income
3	Non-dwelling rents, service charges and other rents and charges
4	Summary of consultation responses
5	Background to the Housing Revenue Account
6	Risk analysis

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Appendix 1

This report is PUBLIC –
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

30-year Business Plan 2021-2022 to 2050-2051

REVENUE ACCOUNT	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
	1 - 5	6-10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Income						
Dwelling Rents	(483)	(532)	(577)	(630)	(683)	(751)
Other Rents	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(4)	(5)
Service Charges	(32)	(36)	(40)	(43)	(48)	(54)
	(518)	(571)	(620)	(677)	(735)	(810)
Expenditure						
Management and Maintenance (net of retained surpluses)	257	283	313	345	382	421
Depreciation and provision for redemption of debt	191	192	176	170	167	168
Net Financing Costs	70	96	131	162	186	221
	518	571	620	677	735	810
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix 1

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CAPITAL ACCOUNT	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
	1 - 5	6-10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure	394	340	373	318	329	421
Financing						
Major Repairs Reserve	(97)	(110)	(116)	(126)	(136)	(146)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(39)	(20)	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)
Borrowing	(258)	(210)	(239)	(174)	(175)	(257)
	(394)	(340)	(373)	(318)	(329)	(421)
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix 1

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Medium term Business Plan 2020-2021 – 2024-2025

REVENUE ACCOUNT	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025
	Estimate	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income					
Dwelling Rents	(88,645)	(91,021)	(93,521)	(96,345)	(101,130)
Other Rents	(537)	(544)	(555)	(568)	(582)
Service Charges	(6,190)	(6,264)	(6,364)	(6,472)	(6,716)
	(95,372)	(97,829)	(100,440)	(103,385)	(108,428)
Expenditure					
Repairs and maintenance	26,560	26,457	26,880	27,337	27,857
Supervision and management	20,514	20,848	21,185	21,545	21,953
Rents, rates and taxes	646	400	406	413	421
Increase in provision for bad debts	2,000	2,000	2,009	2,068	2,169
Depreciation of fixed assets	18,527	18,823	19,267	19,677	20,109
Capital Financing	7,707	5,336	2,990	2,289	-
Interest Payable	10,235	10,817	12,554	14,218	15,851
	86,189	84,681	85,291	87,547	88,360
Surplus/deficit for the year	(9,183)	(13,148)	(15,149)	(15,838)	(20,068)
Provision for the redemption of debt	9,183	13,148	15,149	15,838	20,068
Balance	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix 1

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CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2020-	2021-	2022-	2023-	2024-	2025-
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure	56,343	88,330	86,260	84,280	73,330	61,930
	56,343	88,330	86,260	84,280	73,330	61,930
Financing						
Major Repairs Reserve	(18,177)	(18,467)	(18,903)	(19,305)	(19,729)	(20,136)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(14,267)	(12,676)	(9,990)	(7,749)	(4,460)	(4,460)
Borrowing	(23,899)	(57,187)	(57,367)	(57,226)	(49,141)	(37,334)
	(56,343)	(88,330)	(86,260)	(84,280)	(73,330)	(61,930)
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Appendix 2

Capital Programme Forecasts 2020-2021 to 2025-2026

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
New Build Programme							
Tap Works site	100	-	-	-	-	-	100
Tower and Fort Works	300	-	-	-	-	-	300
Small Sites Phase 4	670	-	-	-	-	-	670
Burton Crescent	1,161	-	-	-	-	-	1,161
Heath Town New Build Phase 1	500	4,500	4,500	-	-	-	9,500
Heath Town New Build Phase 2	500	4,500	4,500	3,500	-	-	13,000
Heath Town New Build Phase 3	-	2,500	5,000	2,500	-	-	10,000
WVL Units (future)	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	10,000	20,000
WVL units - Prouds Lane	1,640	-	-	-	-	-	1,640
WVL units - Wednesfield	4,500	4,050	-	-	-	-	8,550
WVL units - Former Residential Care Home sites	1,400	300	-	-	-	-	1,700
Northicote	-	500	2,000	-	-	-	2,500
HRA Medium Sites	1,371	4,000	2,900	-	-	-	8,271
Reedham Gardens	1,137	2,792	-	-	-	-	3,929
Additional Social Housing	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	12,500
Inkerman St Community Housing Development	500	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,500
Bushbury Hill Community Housing Development	500	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,500
Small Sites Phase 5	750	4,750	-	-	-	-	5,500
Old Fallings Crescent	100	-	4,900	-	-	-	5,000
New Build Programme	-	-	-	8,050	8,500	8,500	25,050
New Build Programme Total	17,629	31,892	25,800	21,050	15,500	20,500	132,371
Estate Remodelling							
Heath Town	1,262	-	-	-	-	-	1,262
Estate Remodelling	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000

Appendix 2

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Estate Remodelling – New park Village	500	1,606	-	-	-	-	2,106
Estate Remodelling Total	1,762	1,606	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	43,368
Adaptations for People with Disabilities	850	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,250
Disabled Adaptations Total	850	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,250
Decent Homes Stock Condition							
Refurbishment of Voids	5,640	4,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	22,140
External Improvement Programme	1,100	600	-	-	-	-	1,700
Boiler Replacement Programme	726	680	680	680	680	680	4,126
Internal Decency Works	1,760	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	24,760
Heath Town - Refurb of Retained Properties	9,500	12,000	9,600	9,300	4,100	-	44,500
Bushbury Improvement Programme	100	900	-	-	-	-	1,000
High Rise M&E	3,740	6,530	6,930	5,790	4,830	850	28,670
Low and Mid Rise infrastructure	-	100	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,600
Sustainable Estates Programme	360	1,600	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	6,760
Non-traditional property surveys	-	142	50	50	200	250	692
High Rise Sprinkler Programme	3,160	6,160	6,530	5,460	4,300	500	26,110
High Rise External Works	-	-	-	4,800	4,700	2,650	12,150
Decent Homes Stock Condition Total	26,086	36,212	33,490	36,280	29,010	15,130	176,208
Other Stock Condition Improvements							
Structural Works	814	1,120	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,934
Lift and Disability Discrimination Act Improvements - High Rise	250	400	500	520	500	520	2,690
Fire Safety Improvements - High Rise	2,280	4,310	4,590	3,800	3,730	850	19,560

Appendix 2

	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fire Safety – Medium and Low Rise	150	2,100	2,250	3,000	3,100	3,100	13,700
Roofing Refurbishment Programme	3,440	4,460	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	27,100
Door Entry Security Programme	370	370	370	370	370	370	2,220
Remedial Works to non-traditional properties	-	-	-	-	1,860	2,200	4,060
Other Stock Condition Improvements Total	7,304	12,760	13,510	13,490	15,360	12,840	75,264
Other Improvements to the Public Realm							
Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme Total	200	200	200	200	200	200	1,200
Service Enhancements and Miscellaneous							
Right to Buy Sale Administration	60	60	60	60	60	60	360
Wolverhampton Homes Capitalised Salaries	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	10,200
City Council Capitalised Salaries	502	500	500	500	500	500	3,002
Jericho House	50	200	-	-	-	-	250
Commercial to Residential conversion	200	1,800	-	-	-	-	2,000
Service Enhancements and Miscellaneous Total	2,512	4,260	2,260	2,260	2,260	2,260	15,812
GRAND TOTAL	56,343	88,330	86,260	84,280	73,330	61,930	450,473

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Appendix 3

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Non-dwelling rents

Garage rents

1. The table below sets out recommended garage rents to take effect from 1 April 2021. (before VAT).
2. Under VAT rules, garages that are let along with a dwelling do not attract VAT, whereas those that are let separately do. Furthermore, exemption from VAT only extends as far as two garages per tenant/leaseholder. Therefore, there are three different levels of garage rents

	Rent per week 2020-2021 (excl VAT)	% increase 2021-2022	Rent per week 2021-2022 (excl VAT)	Rent per week 2021-2022 (incl VAT)
Dwelling tenants and leaseholders (No VAT)	£4.53	1.5	£4.60	
Dwelling tenants and leaseholders – three or more garages (VAT)	£4.53	1.5	£4.60	£5.52
Privately let garages	£6.52	1.5	£6.59	£7.91

Appendix 3

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Service charges

Service Charge	Services funded	Rationale for charge	Charge paid per week 2020-2021	Proposed change	Charge paid per week 2021-2022
Communal Facilities	Communal facilities in former sheltered schemes	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£2.88	No change	£2.88
Concierge with CCTV (Phased)	Essential caretaking duties and remote CCTV and door entry	Cost of service will be fully recovered at £9.43	£7.36	£2.07 (agreed stepped increase)	£9.43
Concierge with CCTV (full cost recovery)	Essential caretaking duties and remote CCTV and door entry	Cost of service fully recovered with stepped increase	£9.43	No change	£9.43
Concierge with CCTV	Essential caretaking duties and remote CCTV and door entry	Cost of service is fully recovered by current charge	£9.43	No change	£9.43
Communal cleaning	Cleaning services in communal areas in certain properties	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£3.12	No change	£3.12
Digital TV	Installation and maintenance of the wiring required to convey digital TV signals to certain high rise blocks	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£0.62	No change	£0.62
Fencing	Replacement of boundary fencing delivered by Wolverhampton Homes. All funds raised by this charge are ring-fenced to replacement fencing	Sufficient income raised to fund fencing programme	£1.92	No change	£1.92

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Service Charges and other charges– Heating

Service Charge	Services funded	Rationale for charge	Charge paid per week 2020-2021	Proposed change	Charge paid per week 2021-2022
District Heating maintenance	Maintenance of boilers and district heating at Heath Town	Cost of service fully covered by current charge	£4.33	No change	£4.33
District Heating maintenance owner occupiers*	As above	As above – annual charge	£225 p.a	No Change	£225
District Heating maintenance	Maintenance of boilers and district heating at Hickman Estate	Cost of service fully covered by current charge	£4.33	No change	£4.33
District Heating Usage (Heath Town)	Provision of heating and hot water at Heath Town Estate	Cost of full recovery of fuel costs based upon current metered usage	5.8p per kw/h	Increase of 0.5p	6.3p per kw/h
District Heating Usage (Lincoln and Tremont)	Provision of heating and hot water at Lincoln House, Tremont House and Wednesfield Road, Heath Town	Cost of full recovery of fuel costs based upon current metered usage	4.9p per kw/h	Increase of 0.5p	5.4p per kw/h
District Heating Usage (Hickman Estate)	Provision of heating and hot water at Wodensfield and William Bentley Courts	Cost of full recovery of fuel costs based up on current metered usage	6.7p per kw/h	No change	6.7p per kw/h

Appendix 3

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Central Heating – Gas	Servicing, maintenance and replacement of gas central heating systems	Current charge increasing until recovers 100% of costs. Raise by 50p per week each year until 2019-2020	£3.85	No change	£3.85
Central Heating - Electric	Servicing, maintenance and replacement of electric heating	Charge reducing to reflect actual costs of service	£0.96	No change	£0.96

Appendix 3

Supported Housing Charges

Service Charge	Services funded	Rationale for charge	Charge paid per week 2020-2021	Proposed change	Charge paid per week 2021-2022
Digital TV	Service provision at Trent Gardens	Cost recovery	£1.27	No change	£1.27
Communal cleaning	Communal cleaning at Tap Works	Cost recovery	£3.43	No change	£3.43
Communal cleaning	Internal communal cleaning at Trent Gardens	Cost Recovery	£9.35	No Change	£9.35
Communal Heat Light and Water	Tapworks/Trent Gardens	Cost Recovery	£1.70	No change	£1.70
Fencing	Tap Works boundary fencing	Provision for replacement	£0.30	No change	£0.30
Capital Replacement – Tap Works	Capital equipment in communal areas	Provision for replacement	£8.00	No change	£8.00
Capital Replacement – Trent Gardens	Capital equipment in communal areas	Provision for replacement	£16.00	No change	£16.00
Window Cleaning	Tap Works	Charge for service	£0.20	No change	£0.20
Window Cleaning	Trent Gardens	Charge for service	£0.71	No change	£0.71

Appendix 3

Hostels and temporary accommodation rents and charges

1. No changes are proposed for 2021-2022.

Hostel and Temporary Accommodation charges	2020-2021 White House £pw	2021-2022 White House £pw	2020-2021 Other* £pw	2021-2022 Other* £pw
Self-Contained standard rent and service charges	-	-	73.53 – 112.91	74.52 - 114.29
Self-contained management fee	-	-	34.33	34.33
Self-contained Furniture replacement 1	-	-	25.69	25.69
Self-contained Furniture replacement 1	-	-	33.07	33.07
water/light/heat	18.97	18.97	13.45	13.45
Whitehouse Room Rate - Reduced	206.97	206.97	-	-
Whitehouse Room Rate 1	265.06	265.06	-	-
Total minimum charge	225.94	225.94	133.55	134.54
Total maximum charge	284.03	284.03	175.82	176.94

*Properties at Ellerton Walk, Lathe Court and Heath Town. Rent and service charges consistent with neighbouring properties will vary dependent on location, furniture replacement charge applied dependent on property size.

Charges for Land Enquiries

The following fees are chargeable for land enquiries;

£150 land enquiry processing fee

£350 land valuation fee

REPORT OF CONSULTATION ON RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2021-2022

As part of Council's commitment to involving tenants and other service users in the management of housing services, Housing Strategy undertook consultation with tenants and leaseholders for 2021-2022.

In February 2019 the government confirmed that it will resume the policy to increase rents by consumer price index (CPI) plus 1% from 1 April 2020 for five years.

For the financial year 2020-2021 a 2.7% increase was approved, this increased allowed us to build more Council homes and make improvements to housing quality by helping to fund the projects set out below:

- A pitched re-roofing programme.
- A re-roofing programme converting flat roofs to pitch roofs.
- Year 2 of the Heath Town refurbishment project.
- Year 2 of the programme to improve high-rise flats including improving fire safety and renewing services in tower blocks (electric and water supplies). It also includes installing sprinkler systems.
- Infrastructure works.
- Improving the decency of homes as they become empty as well as homes used for temporary accommodation.
- Delivering 38 new build homes in addition to new build homes brought forward by the Council's housing company WV Living.

For the financial year 2021-2022 an increase of 1.5% will be proposed to Cabinet in January 2021.

The impact of the rent increase is detailed in the table below:

CWC Social Rent	Average Rent 2020-2021 (£)	1.5% (CPI plus 1%) (£)	Average weekly increase (£)
1 bedroom	68.54	69.57	1.03
2 bedrooms	76.62	77.77	1.15
3 bedrooms	87.18	88.49	1.31
All properties	79.08	80.27	1.19

This increase would allow the Council to maximise investment in new build Council housing and improve housing quality and the safety of homes.

For 2021-2022 our priorities will include:

- Repairs - continue to improve our repairs and maintenance service.
- Customer experience - enabling customers to deal with us easily and ensure that they are listened to through a variety of channels.

Appendix 4

- Community focused - being more visible out in the neighbourhoods. As we move towards more digital channels with more customers using services online, we want to ensure that that we're more visible in the community too. The Estate Custodian approach allows us to go to the customer rather than they having to come to us.
- Smart working - developing digital platforms and a new website that will provide ease of access and speed in responding to calls.
- Helping communities to stay safe and secure.
- Keep neighbourhoods clean and tidy.
- Planned maintenance, investment and improvements to homes - responsive repairs, planned repairs, improvements and adaptations; asbestos and fire reviews - materials used, and specifications.
- Supporting the City Housing Strategy to provide more homes.
- Wrap around services - supporting the challenges Universal Credit poses; welfare benefits and money advice.
- Making improvements to aids and adaptations - quicker and easier for people with a disability to have access to what is needed.
- Capital Programme.
- Working to make the city a more environmentally friendly city.

The Council launched an online consultation from 4 November – 3 December 2020. The consultation was published on all the Council's social media platforms and all tenants with a registered email address were contact directly.

A total of 358 responses to the consultation were received, a summary of responses is detailed below:

1: Do you agree with the Council's priorities for 2021-2022?

There were 358 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	249	69.6%
No	109	30.4%
Not Answered	0	0%

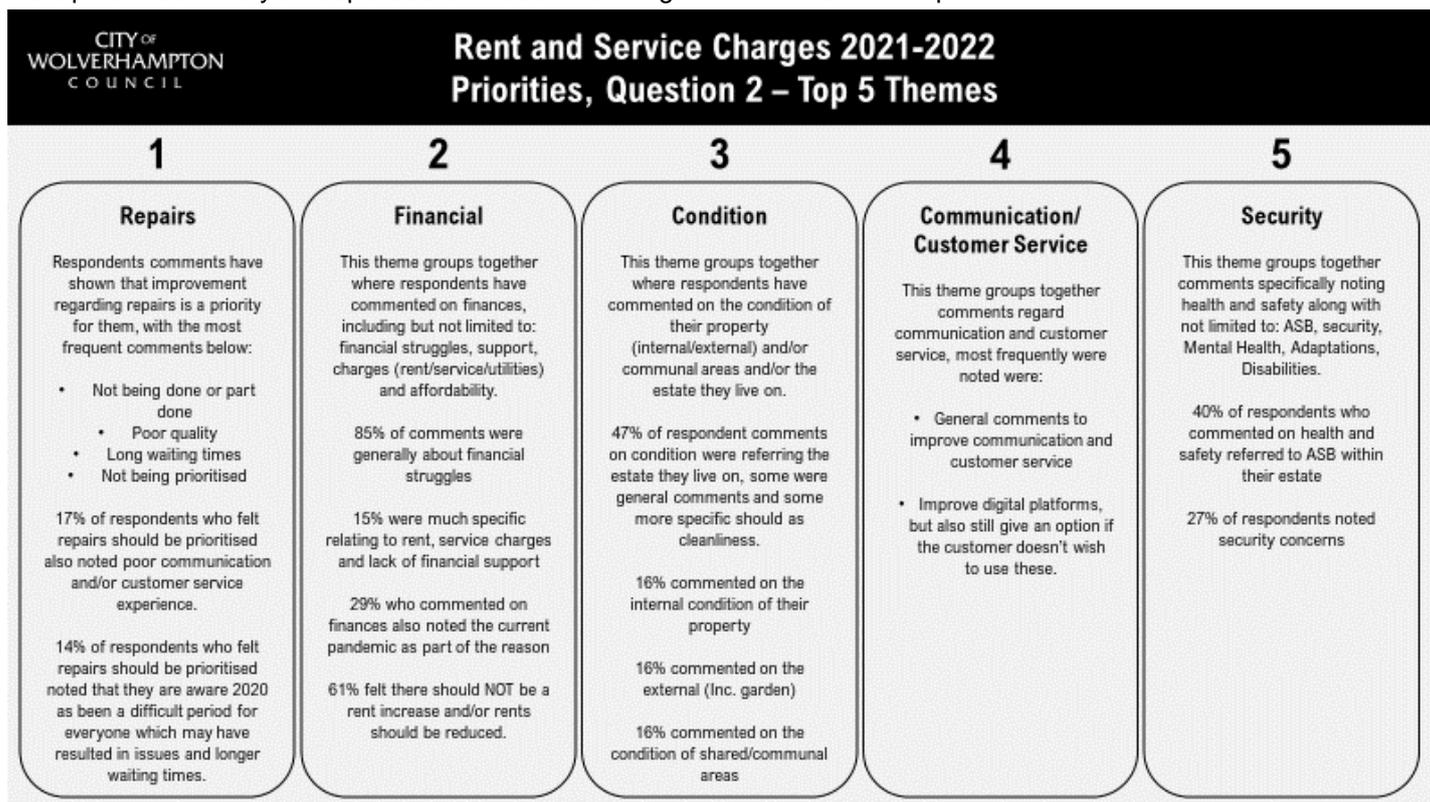
2: Do you feel the amount of rent you pay offers value for money?

There were 358 responses to this part of the question.

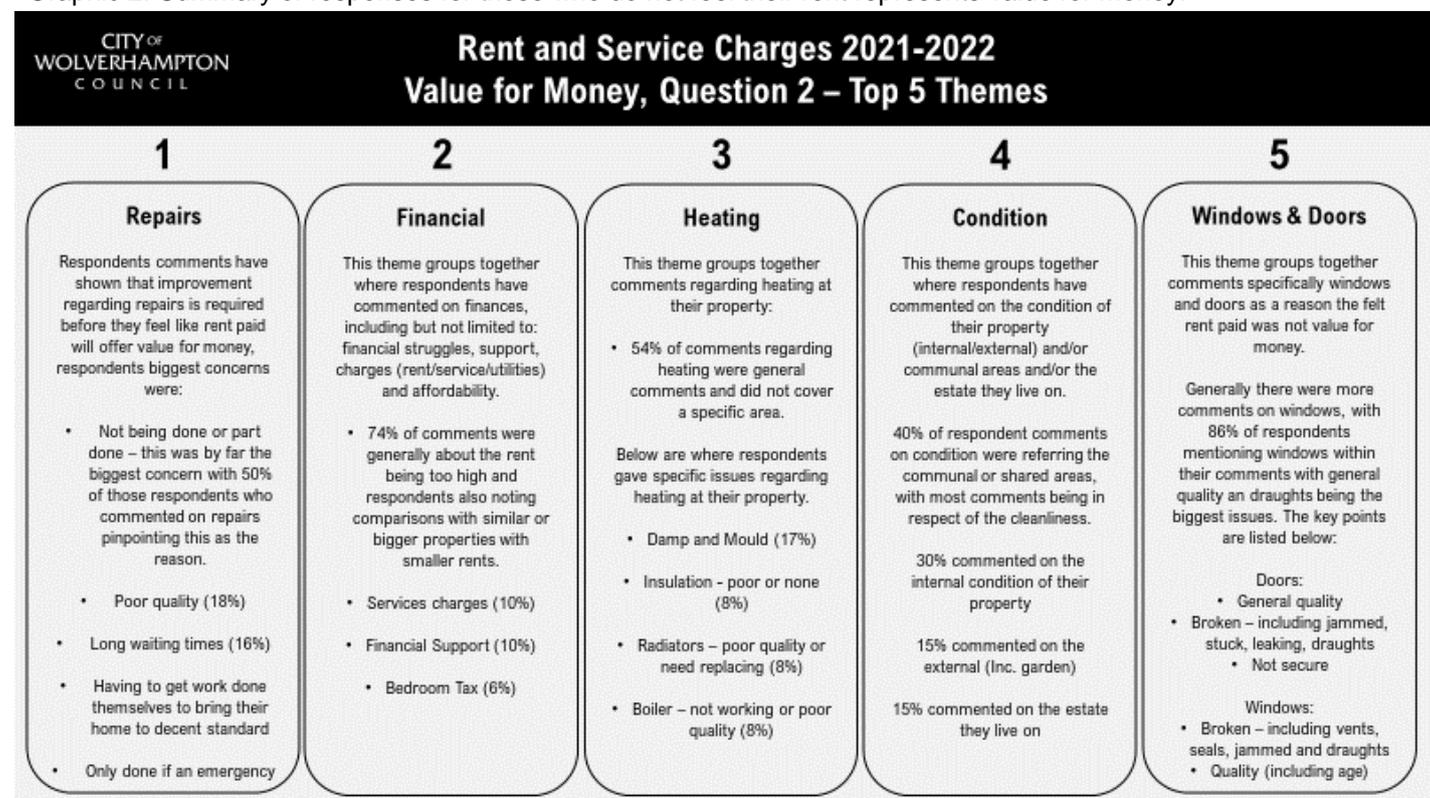
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	218	60.9%
No	140	39.1%
Not Answered	0	0%

Respondents who answered 'no' to either question were then given an opportunity to provide further comments for the Council to consider, the following provides a summary of the additional comments received:

Graphic 1: Summary of responses for those who disagree with the Council's priorities.



Graphic 2: Summary of responses for those who do not feel their rent represents value for money.



Appendix 4

A breakdown of equalities data of those who have responded can be seen below:

Gender

Option	Total	Percent
Female	235	65.64%
Male	102	28.49%
Gender fluid / Gender neutral / None gender	2	0.56%
Other	1	0.28%
Prefer not to say	17	4.75%
Not Answered	1	0.28%

Gender identity

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	335	93.58%
No	4	1.12%
Prefer not to say	17	4.75%
Not Answered	2	0.56%

Ethnic origin

Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British – Indian	5	1.40%
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Other Asian or Asian British	0	0.00%
White and Black African	1	0.28%
White and Black Caribbean	11	3.07%
White and Asian	3	0.84%
Other Mixed Background	4	1.12%
Black or Black British – African	12	3.35%
Black or Black British – Caribbean	9	2.51%
Other Black or Black British	3	0.84%
White - British	263	73.46%
White - Irish	1	0.28%
White Gypsy / Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
White - Other European	10	2.79%
Other White	4	1.12%
Arab	0	0.00%
Any Other	1	0.28%
Prefer not to say	29	8.10%
Not Answered	2	0.56%

Disability

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	106	29.61%
No	210	58.66%

Appendix 4

Not sure	14	3.91%
Prefer not to say	26	7.26%
Not Answered	2	0.56%

Religion

Option	Total	Percent
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Christian	159	44.41%
Hindu	1	0.28%
Jewish	0	0.00%
Muslim	13	3.63%
Sikh	2	0.56%
No Religion	120	33.52%
Any Other Religion	24	6.70%
Prefer not to say	36	10.06%
Not Answered	3	0.84%

Age

Option	Total	Percent
Under 16	0	0.00%
16 - 24	14	3.91%
25 - 34	69	19.27%
35 - 44	72	20.11%
45 - 54	83	23.18%
55 - 64	55	15.36%
65 or Over	48	13.41%
Prefer not to say	17	4.75%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Sexual Orientation

Option	Total	Percent
Lesbian / Gay woman	6	1.68%
Bisexual	7	1.96%
Gay Man	2	0.56%
Heterosexual / Straight	286	79.89%
Unsure	1	0.28%
Other	6	1.68%
Prefer not to say	48	13.41%
Not Answered	2	0.56%

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Appendix 5

The Housing Revenue Account

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

Administration of the HRA at Wolverhampton:

5. The Director of Environment has responsibility for the overall HRA budget, and administration of
 - The Council's Housing function, which manages central costs and recharges with the General Fund in conjunction with strategic Finance, as well as undertaking housing development, housing strategy, services for rough sleepers and other specialist support.
 - Wolverhampton Homes and the Tenant Management Organisations who manage the rent collection, day to day maintenance and in the case of Wolverhampton Homes, the programme for maintaining properties at decent homes standard, and more recently, the homeless service.

Appendix 5

HRA Subsidy and Self-financing

6. Until April 2012, one of the key factors in the budget preparation process was the Government's annual HRA subsidy determination. HRA subsidy was a housing resource redistribution system administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Authorities either paid into or received money from a national pool, based on a formula that assessed their assumed need to spend and assumed income.
7. HRA subsidy was complex and difficult to predict but had significant impacts on the funds available to an authority's HRA, which made it central to the budget process.
8. With effect from 1 April 2012, HRA subsidy was abolished. Instead of annual determinations, authorities paid or received a one-off settlement at the end of March 2012. This settlement was calculated as the net present value of forecast subsidy payments or receipts over the next 30 years. The final HRA subsidy payment was made in 2012-2013.
9. As part of the self-financing process the government imposed a debt cap of £356.8 million on the HRA, this being the higher of the Subsidy Capital Financing Requirement and the self-financing valuation. On 29 October 2018 the government announced the abolition of the debt cap with immediate effect. The government issued a determination that revoked the previous determinations specifying local authority limits on indebtedness. As a result local authorities are now able to borrow for housebuilding in accordance with the prudential code.

Service Charges

10. Service charges are intended to pay for the receipt of services over and above the provision of a standard dwelling, and not provided to all tenants. They should meet the full cost of providing the service in question, but never exceed it.

Garage Sites

11. HRA garages are not let exclusively to HRA tenants and garage sites do not form part of HRA ringfenced services.

HRA Contingency Reserve

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

Appendix 6

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period	
Page 45	1	Government Legislation	There are changes to Government policy that have in year service and budget impact.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	4	5	20	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. Close monitoring of developing national position and reporting to Members. 	Director of Finance	Quarterly
		Income and Funding	Right to Buy sales are higher than forecast.	Less revenue will be received over the life of the plan than has been forecast.	3	4	12	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimates of the level of Right to Buy sales are used in forecasting. Review impact of new government policies Weekly monitoring of sales 	Director of Finance	Monthly
	3	Income and Funding	Inflation rates are lower than budgeted for.	Rents cannot be raised as much as has been forecast.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimates of inflation rates are used in forecasting. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
	4	Income and Funding	General interest rates are higher than forecast.	If interest rates are higher than forecast there will be greater interest payments.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimate of interest rates are used in forecasting. The latest forecasts from the OBR are used. 	Director of Finance	Monthly

Appendix 6

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
5	Income and Funding	Higher than anticipated bad debts.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	3	3	9	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust debt collection and recovery mechanisms in place. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. Monitor effect of Universal Credit. 	Director of Environment	Monthly
6	Financial and Budget Management	Ineffective budget management.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Councillors. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
7	Financial and Budget Management	The 30 year asset management plan is inaccurate.	Capital expenditure is not budgeted correctly.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close interrogation of information generated from asset management systems. 	Director of Environment	Monthly

Appendix 6

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

Appendix 6

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
10	Financial and Budget Management	HRA borrowing rises to unaffordable levels after abolition of borrowing cap	Inability to borrow to fund future capital projects results in delays or cancellations.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close monitoring of capital spend requirements, interest cover ratio and debt levels per unit. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
11	Income and Funding	Reduction to other income.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the 2021-2022 budget process income budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
12	Managing Agent	Performance issues requiring intervention	Income collection Void rent loss Inappropriate use of resources	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly performance monitoring Financial audits Review of financial position 	Director of Environment Director of Finance	Quarterly Annual

Appendix 6

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
12	Third Parties	Third parties and suppliers / contractors cease to trade or withdraw from the market.	Short term expensive solutions may be necessary. Requirements to undertake tender exercise. Increased ongoing cost due to reduced competition. Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	4	4	HA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departments using external service suppliers work closely with them and are kept abreast of their service and business situation. At worst this gives the council notice of emerging problems. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. Strategic Construction Partnership uses two different contractors. 	Budget Holders	Monthly
13	Income and Funding	Lower than anticipated levels of capital funding through receipts and grants.	Capital schemes are cancelled or delayed or have to be funded from revenue budgets and/or prudential borrowing resulting in an over spend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	2	4	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Capital Programme is actively and closely managed and when so doing expenditure and income streams are continuously monitored. Quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly

Appendix 6

Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
14	Financial and Budget Management	Non pay inflation increase insufficient.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	2	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
15	Service Demands	Increased demand for services including the impact of social and demographic pressures on demand for services.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	2	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the 2021-2022 budget process budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly taking account of known and anticipated increases in demand. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Budget Holders	Monthly

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 20 January 2021
----------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------

Report title	Wolverhampton Pound: Spend local for more jobs and opportunities	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy	
Originating service	Policy and Strategy	
Accountable employee	Laura Collings Tel Email	Policy and Strategy Manager 01902550414 Laura.collings@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategy Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	6 January 2021 8 January 2021

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the approach to maximise the Wolverhampton Pound, including the vision, objectives and priority areas for action for the next 12 months to increase local spend, creating more jobs and opportunities (appendix 1)
2. Endorse and support the delivery of the action plan through the Wolverhampton Anchor Network to take forward the actions and recommendations of this report.
3. Approve the allocation of £56,000 from the Recovery Reserve, to fund the costs associated with the delivery of the 12 month action plan to progress with the priority actions identified in this report.
4. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance, to accept external funding and approve supplementary budgets necessary to reflect external funding offered by The Health Foundation as part of their Economies for Healthier Lives fund as a result of a successful grant funding application.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the Wolverhampton Pound vision, principles and action plan were co-produced after extensive engagement with city partners, businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the city's approach to Community Wealth Building (CWB), the Wolverhampton Pound which outlines a partnership approach to local economic development.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On the 16 September 2020 Full Council approved the Relighting Our City recovery framework to guide the Council's approach as we emerged from the Covid 19 pandemic. The plan set out five overarching priorities for recovery:

- Support people who need us most
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Support our vital local businesses
- Generate more jobs and learning opportunities
- Stimulate vibrant high streets and communities

- 2.2 The Council's recovery framework made a further commitment to work as 'one city', alongside our city partners to design and deliver innovative solutions to some of the challenges we are currently facing, and to drive community and economic recovery.

- 2.3 Over the past three months the Council and city partners have worked alongside the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to develop the Wolverhampton Pound approach, which will leverage the combined power of our local institutions to build and retain local wealth in Wolverhampton to improve outcomes for local people. CLES are the national leading organisation for Community Wealth Building in the UK, and the Wolverhampton Pound framework is rooted in this approach.

- 2.4 The actions and activities set out in this report are not exhaustive and the Council will continue to work collaboratively with partners, businesses, residents and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to further develop the Wolverhampton Pound, and our wider recovery framework.

3.0 What is Community Wealth Building and why is it relevant?

- 3.1 CWB is a people centred approach to local economic development which seeks to reorganise local economies so that they are fairer and more equal, stopping the flow of wealth out of our communities, towns and cities. It places the control of wealth in the hands of local residents, businesses, organisations and communities.
- 3.2 CWB has been adopted by several local authorities across the country, as well as the Scottish Government, it has demonstrated improved outcomes for local people in those areas, most notably in Preston. Since adopting a CWB approach to local economic development in 2013 Preston has seen:

- £74m more directed into the city economy
- £200m more into the regional economy
- An additional 1600 new jobs created
- 4000 additional employees across the city receiving the real living wage
- A move out of the bottom 20% most deprived local authority areas in the country

3.3 At its core CWB is a place-based approach which uses the strengths and assets of a local place to drive economic change. While different areas have interpreted the approach differently, they all share a common objective of generating local wealth to benefit the most disadvantaged communities, by employing the following levers:

- Local spend and procurement - Placing a greater emphasis on redirecting public spending to local businesses and organisations wherever possible and maximising the public good from this through social value (which incorporates economic, social and environmental value).
- Economic Development - A more deliberate approach to economic development where the Council uses its levers such as land and assets, workforce and procurement spend to benefit the most disadvantaged communities. For example, by directing an increased amount of spend to local businesses.
- Anchor institutions (local businesses and organisations with a significant presence in the city) - CWB is a partnership approach and a key part of this work involves galvanising partners to work collaboratively with the Council on this agenda. For example, encouraging local businesses to sign up to up to a city-wide social value pledge.

4.0 The Wolverhampton Pound Vision and Objectives

4.1 Working alongside CLES, the Council and city partners have developed a bespoke approach to CWB, 'The Wolverhampton Pound', which will:

'Use the combined power of institutions, businesses and communities to retain local wealth, creating new jobs and opportunities'

4.2 The approach sets out five evidence based strategic objectives, which have been developed after extensive engagement with city partners;

- Retain and grow local wealth – We will prioritise local spending through our procurement and commissioning approaches to strengthen and support local supply chains, encourage the growth of new sectors and create new local jobs.
- Embed social value in the city – Leverage maximum value from our investments through social value to strengthen local supply chains, support local SME's and build skills for future.

- Leader in the green transition – The city is at the forefront of the green transition with the development of the National Brownfield Institute and the National Centre for Sustainable Construction and the Circular Economy. There are growing green energy, retrofit and green construction clusters in Wolverhampton with over 2,000 SMEs engaged in these industries.
- Health and wellbeing economy – Human health and residential care activities are responsible for 12% of GVA in the city and provide 15,000 jobs locally. There is a need to develop a robust skills pipeline for the city's health and wellbeing sectors, strengthen health and care business models and grow local SME's.
- Cultural and creative city – Generating a vibrant city which is built on the city's cultural strengths, we will explore the use of cultural and creative improvement districts to support the growth of the arts, cultural and creative industries.

4.3 Although the Wolverhampton Pound presents a new overarching approach to economic development for the city many of the actions and priority areas associated with it are not. Organisations across the city, in particular those in our VCS have been leading initiatives to support the growth of community wealth. The City of Wolverhampton Charter launched by City Board in 2013 is another example of cross city collaboration in this area, the Charter sets out key principles for commissioning and procurement activity in Wolverhampton and has received wide reaching endorsement across business, the public sector and VCS.

4.4 The priorities included in the Wolverhampton Pound framework are aligned to the Council Plan 2019 – 2024 and the City Vision 2030.

5.0 Wolverhampton Anchor Network

5.1 Acting alone the Council will have limited impact. The Wolverhampton Pound approach has been developed collaboratively with five key city partners who have made a commitment to work together as the Wolverhampton Anchor Network to deliver the priorities and actions set out in this report. Membership of the network includes:

- The City of Wolverhampton College
- The City of Wolverhampton Council
- The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- The University of Wolverhampton
- Wolverhampton Homes

5.2 Establishing a new network of institutions requires commitment and time. It is proposed that the Wolverhampton Anchor Network comprised initially of the five major institutions meets quarterly throughout 2021 to drive forward the 12 month action plan and further develop a city-wide approach to leverage the Wolverhampton Pound. The network will be supported by three working groups of; procurement and commissioning, land and assets

and workforce. These working groups will be comprised of one or more representatives from each institution, reporting back on progress and collectively working together to embed the approach.

5.3 The Wolverhampton Anchor Network will work alongside our existing strategic partnership boards.

6.0 Priority Actions

6.1 A 12 month action plan has been developed to drive forward the vision and objectives of the Wolverhampton Pound, below is a high-level outline of some of the priority actions to be undertaken:

- Spend analysis – We will develop a collective understanding of procurement and commissioning spend across our five anchor institutions, understanding where we currently spend locally and where we could do more.
- Market analysis – Develop an understanding of business supply in the city. This market analysis will also explore where the business base/skills base may demonstrate potential for diversification to new and emerging sectors, particularly the low carbon sectors that will likely drive economic growth in the coming years.
- Procurement and commissioning pipeline – Critical to the Wolverhampton Pound approach functioning is a strong understanding of the procurement and commissioning pipeline of our anchors. A forward-looking pipeline across the next 10 years will identify where there are opportunities to drive public spending into the local area, strengthen local supply chains or grow new sectors.
- Business support model – In order to increase local public sector spending we need to support local businesses to access these opportunities. Building on the emerging opportunity areas identified in our procurement and commissioning pipeline and our identified growth sectors, we will design our business support model to provide tailored support to local businesses to access public sector contracts.
- City- wide social value framework – Collate and map existing approaches to social value across our anchor network members to establish a single framework of measures and indicators for social value. From this we will develop a social value pledge, providing an outward public facing set of messages around ‘doing business’ in Wolverhampton.

6.2 Realising our ambitions and the full potential of the Wolverhampton Pound will require sustained commitment or a long period of time and our focus for the first 12 months is to establish a baseline across our anchor network, identify quick wins and build capacity across partners to take forward the work at pace.

6.3 The cost associated with the delivery of the 12 month action plan is £56,000 which includes consultancy and technical support to progress with the priority actions identified in this report as well as training for Council officers to develop the in house skills to take forward

the Wolverhampton Pound approach. The Council are currently developing an external funding bid to The Health Foundation as part of their Economies for Healthier Lives fund. If successful, this bid would secure three years of funding to support the further development and delivery of the Wolverhampton Pound.

- 6.4 In order to measure the impact of the programme a performance framework will be developed alongside the action plan. Regular updates will be scheduled to Cabinet to share progress on the delivery of the priority actions.

7.0 Scale of the Opportunity

- 7.1 The Council alone employs 4,500 people and owns 20% of the city's land and property. Across the anchor partnership there is an estimated £834m of public spending and more than 14,000 employees – showing the potential power of an effective anchor approach.

8.0 Embedding the approach within the Council

- 8.1 Recognising the importance of leadership and culture, it is proposed that the approach is embedded within the Council. This will enable Council officers to understand the approach; see how their work can support this; and identify further opportunities. Subject to agreement that this is one of the key areas of action, a full engagement plan will be developed.

9.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 9.1 Option one would be to do nothing. This would not be viable as the Council has already made a commitment to work collaboratively with partners to support community and economic recovery of the city.
- 9.2 Option two would be to use our existing Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) to support the city's recovery. This was not considered a viable option as the unique impact of Covid 19 has meant a new approach to local economic development is required.
- 9.3 Option three and the chosen option is to develop a bespoke approach to CWB, the Wolverhampton Pound which embodies our 'one city' approach to recovery and responds to the challenges and opportunities which have arisen from the Covid 19 pandemic.

10.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 10.1 The decision to develop the Wolverhampton Pound approach is in response to the significant impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on our communities and the local economy. The approach outlines a new cross city approach to local economic development in collaboration with key city partners which will support delivery of the Relighting Our City recovery framework.

11.0 Financial implications

- 11.1 The costs associated with the delivery of the 12 month action plan is £56,000. This includes consultancy and technical support to progress with the priority actions identified in this report as well as training for Council officers to develop the in-house skills to take forward the Wolverhampton Pound approach.
- 11.2 The Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020 report to Cabinet on 8 July 2020 approved the Recovery Reserve, as a specific reserve to set aside funds to support the Councils Covid-19 recovery strategy. This report seeks approval to the allocation of £56,000 from this reserve to fund the associated costs mentioned above.
- 11.3 There may be additional costs to ensure that we have sufficient resources to deliver the programme of work. These costs will be approved through IEDNs in accordance with delegations in place to allocate both the appropriate Covid-19 grant and the Recovery Reserve.
- 11.4 The Council are currently developing an external funding bid to The Health Foundation as part of their Economies for Healthier Lives fund. If successful, this bid would secure three years of funding to support the further development and delivery of the Wolverhampton Pound approach and replenish the £56,000 allocated from the Recovery Reserve.
- 11.5 This report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance, to accept external funding and approve supplementary budgets necessary to reflect external funding offered by The Health Foundation as part of their Economies for Healthier Lives fund as a result of a successful grant funding application.
- 11.6 Aligned to the Relighting Our City recovery framework guiding the Councils approach as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council and city partners have worked alongside the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLEs) to develop the Wolverhampton Pound approach. Costs associated with this work totals £25,000. These costs are currently assumed to be funded by one-off Government grants to support local authorities address pressures faced in response to Covid-19.
[TT/11012021/Q]

12.0 Legal implications

- 12.1 There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.
[TS/06012021/R]

13.0 Equalities implications

- 13.1 At its centre CWB and the Wolverhampton Pound approach seek to deliver more prosperous and equal communities by opening access to the local economy for residents and businesses. We will continue to engage with our communities as we have done throughout our recovery planning, which has seen in excess of 2,500 local residents,

businesses, young people, VCS and city partners help shape our next steps. Activities and projects associated with the Wolverhampton Pound approach will all be subject to individual Equality Impact Analysis.

14.0 All other implications

14.1 The Wolverhampton Pound approach will deliver environmental and health and wellbeing improvements for residents across Wolverhampton. Advancing the green economy and the health and wellbeing economy are key elements of the framework.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

15.1 [Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2019-2020 report](#) to Cabinet, 8 July 2020

16.0 Appendices

16.1 Appendix 1 - Wolverhampton Pound Vision and Action Plan

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**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON**



WOLVERHAMPTON POUND

**SPEND LOCAL FOR MORE
JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES**





WOLVERHAMPTON POUND

Use the combined power of institutions, businesses and communities
to retain local wealth, creating new jobs and opportunities

FOREWORD

In September 2020 the Council launched the Relighting Our City recovery framework to guide the Council's approach as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic. We also made a commitment to work as 'one city', alongside our city partners to drive community and economic recovery. Over the last three months the Council and city partners have worked with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies to develop the Wolverhampton Pound approach. The vision and principles of this approach are set out in this document and show the scale and scope of our ambition. We will work alongside our family of Wolverhampton anchor institutions to keep the Wolverhampton Pound in the city and create new jobs and opportunities for all.

The Wolverhampton Pound will deliver five key objectives for the city;



**Retain and grow
local wealth**



**Embed social value
in the city**



**A leader in
green transition**



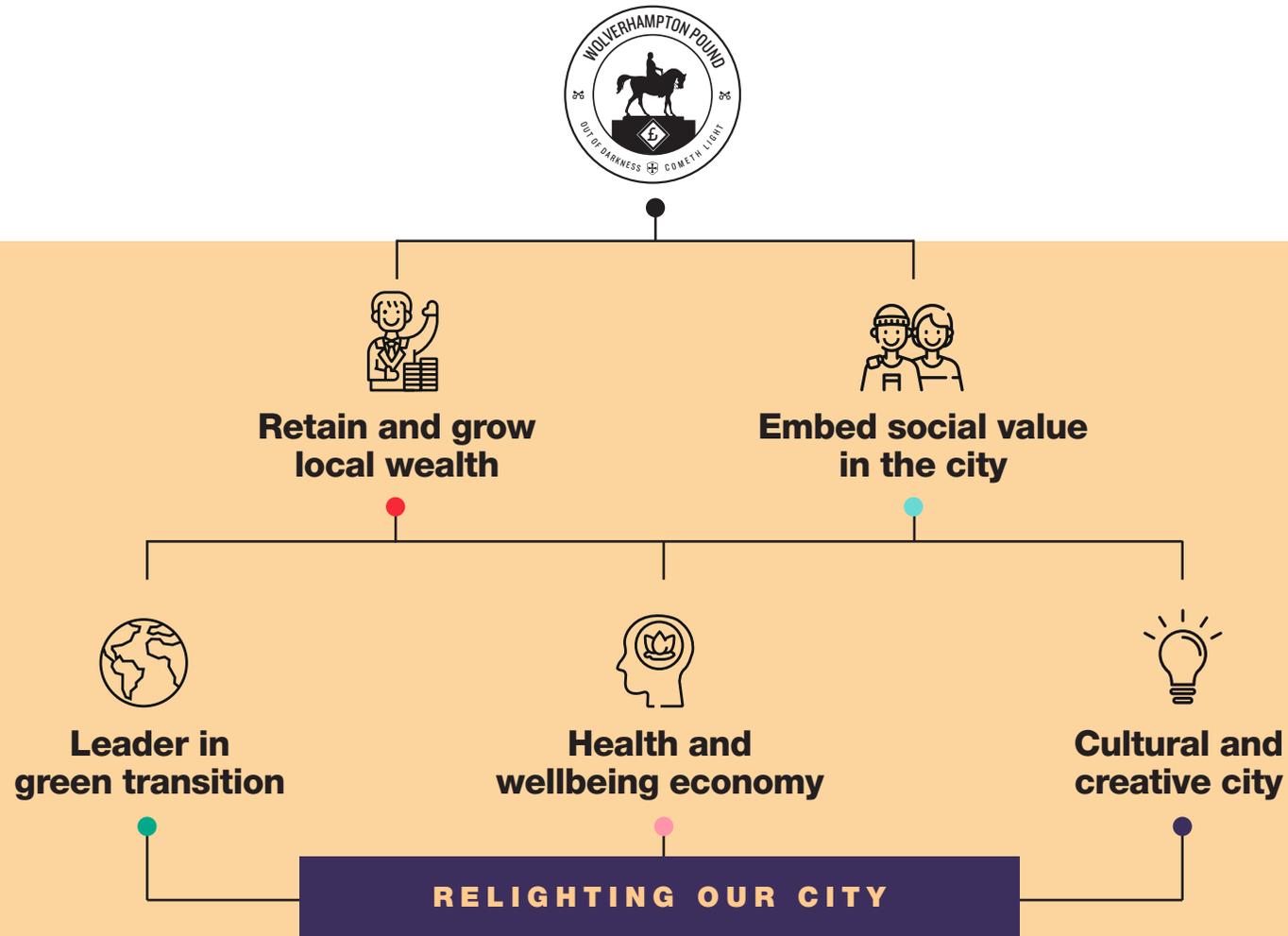
**A health and
wellbeing economy**



**A cultural and
creative city**

WOLVERHAMPTON ANCHOR NETWORK

Use the combined power of institutions, businesses and communities to retain local wealth, creating new jobs and opportunities



Through the local spend of our Wolverhampton Anchor Network members we will seek to retain and grow local wealth and further embed an approach to social value across the city. By doing this we will enable the city to realise its ambitions to be a leader in the green transition, further develop the health and wellbeing economy and establish a cultural and creative city. In doing this we will support delivery of our Relighting Our City recovery plan.

WOLVERHAMPTON ANCHOR NETWORK**ORGANISATIONS**

Acting alone the Council's impact will be limited. The Wolverhampton Pound approach will initially be taken forward by five key city partners who have made a commitment to work together as the Wolverhampton Anchor Network. Moving forward we will grow the city's anchor network with members from across our vibrant communities, organisations and businesses.





RETAIN AND GROW LOCAL WEALTH

Businesses in the city are the building blocks of a strong and resilient local economy. Covid-19 has shown once again the vital role they play in delivering both social and economic benefits for our local people. Many of these crucial businesses are now facing significant challenge but their success is key to a strong and swift recovery. Moving forward we will continue to nurture and support businesses in the city. One of the ways we will do this is by prioritising local spending through our procurement and commissioning approaches. Using a local supplier to provide goods and service will strengthen local supply chains, lead to new jobs and opportunities and grow new sectors in the city.

WHAT WE WILL DO IN OUR FIRST 12 MONTHS

1. Undertake a spend analysis across our five anchor institutions, understanding where we currently spend locally and where we could do more.
2. Analyse city supply chains to develop a 10-year procurement and commissioning pipeline across our anchor network.
3. Review our business support programmes so that they are designed to give local businesses the best possible opportunity to access public sector contracts.
4. Develop a business case for a Community Wealth Building Hub to deliver targeted support to business directly into our communities.



EMBED SOCIAL VALUE IN THE CITY

We will build on the work of our City Charter to further embed social value into everything we do and leverage maximum value from the Wolverhampton Pound. We will harness the significant opportunities that new investment brings to the city through apprenticeships, developing skills for the future, strengthening supply chains and growing new SMEs. Moving forward we will continue to set ambitious expectations about what it means to do business in the city of Wolverhampton to make sure every pound invested in the city benefits local people.

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WHAT WE WILL DO IN OUR FIRST 12 MONTHS

1. Collate and map existing social value approaches across our anchor institutions sharing best practice, challenges and our aspirations.
2. We will work with VCSE and local businesses to co-produce a new city-wide social value framework which builds on best practice across our partners.
3. We will design and deliver a new social value pledge and communicate this through a city-wide campaign to galvanise support and encourage partners to sign up.

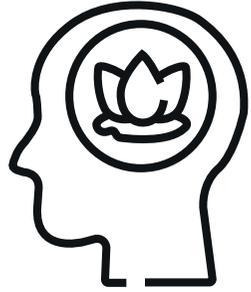


LEADER IN THE GREEN TRANSITION

The city is at the forefront of the green transition with the development of the National Brownfield Institute and National Centre for Sustainable Construction and the Circular Economy. Across the city organisations are working hard to reduce their carbon footprint. The aim to lower carbon emissions will not only bring social and environmental benefits to the city but also unlock economic opportunities for local business to support organisations to achieve their carbon reduction targets. There are already over 2,000 SME's in the green energy, retrofit and green construction sectors in the city providing thousands of jobs. The challenge now is to grow and support these local businesses and others to access these new opportunities, and ensure we have the right skills in the city so that local people benefit from this new investment.

WHAT WE WILL DO IN OUR FIRST 12 MONTHS

1. Build on our existing city partnerships to establish a Green Transition Board which will take forward our ambitious plans to be a national leading centre for the green economy.
2. Design bespoke business support programmes to grow our emerging green industries.
3. Build a pipeline of green investment opportunities over the next 10 years across our anchor network members and communicate this to the local market to build confidence in the city's green economy.
4. Start the development of a Wolverhampton Green Skills plan across our anchor network members to build skills for now and in the future.



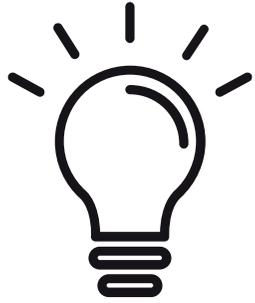
HEALTH AND WELLBEING ECONOMY

Human health and residential care activities are responsible for 12% of GVA in the city and provide 15,000 jobs locally. These sectors play a significant role in providing local jobs and caring for those who need us most. However, we have a health and social care sector which is struggling to meet demand, experiencing skills shortages and facing the impact of Covid-19. There is a need to develop a robust skills pipeline for the city's health and wellbeing sectors, strengthen health and care business models and grow local SME's.

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WHAT WE WILL DO IN OUR FIRST 12 MONTHS

1. We will continue to work with our partners and Health and Wellbeing Together (Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Board) to understand the impact of economic disadvantage on wider determinants of health.
2. Explore the opportunity to develop a Wolverhampton Care Skills plan with a focus on 'growing our own' health care workers building resilience in the sector and responding to growing demand.
3. Develop a joint Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Action Plan which will stimulate new local employment and models of social care.



CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITY

Our creative industries lie at the centre of our plans to reimagine and transform our city centre. We have already made great progress to achieving these ambitions. Our new five-year events programme will bring thousands of people into our city and town centres which will include the launch of the prestigious British Art Show in March 2021. In addition, we have made a £38m investment into our vital entertainment venues creating new jobs and consolidating the city's place as a key cultural hub in the West Midlands. Moving forward we will continue to grow the city's cultural offer, develop new creative spaces and maximise investment from the Wolverhampton Pound for our creative industries.

WHAT WE WILL DO IN OUR FIRST 12 MONTHS

1. Establish a Cultural and Creative Partnership Board with cultural anchors and key partners in the cultural and creative industries.
2. We will develop a shared understanding across our anchor network partners of available property and infrastructure which could provide space for growing cultural and creative SMEs in the city.
3. We will further develop our proposals to establish Cultural and Creative Improvement Districts across the city, which will seek to grow and further develop clusters of creative and cultural industries in the city.
4. Start the development of a cultural and creative skills plan for the city, which will further establish skills pathways for new entrants and a programme of business skills for the cultural and creative sector.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 20 January 2021
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Report title	City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022	
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 Director	Emma Bennett, Director for Children's and Adult Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of Education Business and Support Services
	Tel	01902 555100
	Email	bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People Leadership Team	3 December 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	21 December 2020
	Extraordinary Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	5 January 2021

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The outcome of external consultation in relation to 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.

2. The summary of discussion from the Extraordinary Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel on 5 January 2021, regarding the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.
3. The impact of the demographic uplift on demand for schools in the City.
4. The need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
5. That the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report introduces the School Organisation strategy entitled 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' (The Strategy). The paper reports the outcome of the external consultation exercise and seeks approval of this strategic policy document.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Strategy for school organisation in Wolverhampton outlines the framework for decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the City of Wolverhampton. It highlights the impact of demographic uplift on demand for schools across the City and the need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
- 2.2 The document sets out the opportunities, challenges and recommendations for Education provision in Wolverhampton. It is a key feature of the City of Wolverhampton Council's approach to meeting its statutory duties as an advocate for parents and families, supporting vulnerable children and championing educational excellence. It offers a framework to guide the future development of the school estate in the City.
- 2.3 The Strategy seeks to secure sufficient high-quality school places to improve educational outcomes for all pupils across the City. It contains frameworks to support both the identification of schools for expansion and, in cases where there is considerable surplus capacity, the removal of provision. Surplus places are school places that have not been filled.
- 2.4 Underpinning the Council's Our Council Plan, Wolverhampton's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025 and Wolverhampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy the document details the basic need challenge facing the City and outlines the approach adopted by the Council to meet this challenge.
- 2.5 The Strategy also details that the Council is not in full control of all factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places. To ensure that the needs of families and pupils can continue to be met effectively it may, on occasion, be necessary for the Council to adopt a more responsive approach to school place planning.
- 2.6 A copy of the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022', is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.7 On 5 January 2021, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel conducted pre-decision scrutiny on the strategy, an extract of the minutes can be found at Appendix 2.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 The development of the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' has been informed by contributions from senior representatives across Education during an internal consultation which ran from 18 March 2020 to 3 April 2020. Originally

external consultation was due to take place in June 2020 but due to the impact of COVID it was deemed appropriate to delay this until Autumn Term 2020.

3.2 Following approval from Strategic Executive Board on 8 October 2020 and to support the development of the strategy, key external stakeholders were consulted.

3.3 External consultation commenced on 12 October 2020 until 8 November 2020. Consultation sought to obtain view and comments from the following stakeholders:

- The Headteachers/Principals and Chair of Governors of Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary, Pupil Referral Units, Special Schools and maintained nurseries in Wolverhampton
- Diocesan Authorities
- Academy Trusts
- Trade Unions
- All Councillors
- ConnectEd Directors
- Wolverhampton MP's
- Let us Play
- Give us a break
- Wildside Activity Centre
- The Way Youth Zone
- Changing Our Lives
- Voice for Parents
- Wolverhampton Youth Council
- West Midlands School Organisation Group (this group includes School Organisation Officers from the Councils of Staffordshire, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Dudley, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire)
- Regional Schools Commissioner

In addition, social media channels were utilised, and a press release was issued, sign posting to the Council's Consultation Portal.

4.0 Outcome of External Consultation

4.1 52 responses were received during external consultation. The feedback survey contained 11 questions: 10 relating to new sections of the Strategy and a general feedback question. The number of responses for each question and key points raised during consultation are summarised below. A copy of individual responses can be found in Appendix 3.

4.2 Question 1 - Do you agree with an annual review of the condition and suitability of temporary accommodation across the maintained school estate?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	51	98.08%
No	1	1.92%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.3 Question 2 – Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the annual review of temporary accommodation?

There were nine comments received with the majority in favour of an annual review. The importance of reviewing temporary accommodation was highlighted for the well-being and health and safety of children, teachers and staff across the school estate and to ensure that children are learning in the best possible environment.

4.4 Question 3 - Do you agree with the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of maintained schools to inform priority for rebuilding of schools?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	50	96.15%
No	2	3.85%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.5 Question 4 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of the maintained school estate?

There were 10 comments received and it was highlighted that condition should be a priority and that rebuilding of older schools is of benefit as this can save money.

4.6 Question 5 - Do you agree with the ambition for new school buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	51	98.08%
No	1	1.92%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.7 Question 6 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim?

There were 14 responses received. It was highlighted that any future design features need to be sustainable and that consideration needs to be given to the financial consequences for schools if environmentally friendly methods cost more to maintain and run than traditional methods. It was noted that everyone has a duty to reduce carbon emissions, ensure health and safety of children, staff and teachers. It was highlighted that schools that are environmentally friendly set a good example to pupils and helps children understand how we can all do our part to help the environment when making changes to provision.

4.8 Question 7 - Do you agree with identifying opportunities for strengthening multiagency working through co-location of services and schools?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	88.46%
No	6	11.54%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.9 Question 8 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the co-location of services and schools?

There were 10 responses received. It was highlighted that multi-agency work is vital in schools as it allows easier access to families which achieves better outcomes for both children and families, it might enable outside agencies to obtain a better insight by being co-located. It was noted that the co-location would need to benefit both parties and not as part of a cost saving exercise. It was suggested that repurposing of unused outbuildings or former caretakers' houses could facilitate co-location of services. Safeguarding and logistical arrangements (car parking, staff room space etc.) would need to be considered.

4.10 Question 9 - Do you agree with the recommendation to review the usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to help meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	30	57.69%
No	22	42.31%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.11 Question 10 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the review and rationalisation of the school estate to help the Council meets its wider objectives?

There were 19 responses received. It was highlighted that consideration should be given to rationalisation of the school estate, however, concerns around conserving nature and wildlife, retaining adequate playing fields and green space for recreation and sports was raised.

4.12 Question 11 - Please provide any further comments you would like to make regarding this strategy, stating the section and page number you are referring to.

There were 5 responses received. It was raised that children need to be at the centre of decision making and not money, that working in partnership with schools on change proposals is essential, and the diversity and quality of the education offer should not be reduced.

5.0 Responses to External Consultation

5.1 In response to the outcomes of consultation, representatives of the Education Department would like to make the following comments:

5.2 There is a small number of maintained school sites that house temporary accommodation. Corporate Landlord undertake an annual capital investment programme which is based on condition data as collected from commissioned surveys with the appropriate improvement works then prioritised and undertaken. Education will seek support from Corporate Landlord to identify specific issues relating to temporary accommodation to ensure that this provision continues to be fit for purpose.

- 5.3 The aforementioned annual review undertaken by Corporate Landlord will help identify the schools with the greatest backlog of required building works, which may then assist when determining which maintained school buildings should be prioritised for rebuilding. Previously, Central Government has funded priority school rebuilding programmes, should this opportunity arise again the Local Authority would be in a very good position to submit applications based on the latest data. In addition, should the opportunity arise as part of a citywide strategy to create a network of sustainable schools through rebuilding or relocation, this data is invaluable to help guide policy and meet the needs of the residents.
- 5.4 The feedback received regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim will be forwarded to the Climate Emergency Working Group/Steering Group. In addition, when any new schools or additional accommodation is proposed, climate change and environmental implications will be considered as part of the delivery of the scheme.
- 5.5 As and when opportunities arise to strengthen multiagency working through co-location, the Council would work in partnership with individual schools and services to explore this. It is recognised that any changes would need to ensure that the benefits for both parties can be achieved and will ultimately enhance the overall support and provision for children and families. A pilot of Social Workers located in Secondary Schools is underway at present. The outcome of this pilot would feed into any plans for future co-location.
- 5.6 Concerns were raised regarding rationalisation of the school estate to support wider Council objectives and the impact on playing fields/green space. The Council will not remove any green space or playing fields that are utilised by the school estate. Should removal of green space be required engagement with Sport England, planning requirements and views from relevant stakeholders would all be considered as part of any proposals.
- 5.7 In response to the further comments made in regard to the strategy overall, it should be noted that any changes to the school estate would be fully consulted upon with all relevant stakeholders and any statutory processes would be followed.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 Option 1: no strategy in place. This would mean that the Local Authority would not have a framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the city of Wolverhampton.
- 6.2 Option 2: Approve the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. This will be adopted as the framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places and school sites across the City of Wolverhampton.

7.0 Reasons for decision

- 7.1 If the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' is approved by Cabinet, this framework will be adopted and used to inform school organisation in Wolverhampton. The Strategy will be particularly important in exploring solutions and decisions when introducing additional capacity into the City, maintenance of temporary accommodation, priority for rebuilding of schools, new school buildings designed to be environmentally friendly and identifying opportunities for strengthening multi-agency working through co-location of services and schools and where appropriate rationalisation of the school estate.
- 7.2 This strategic policy document aids the Council in meeting its statutory responsibilities regarding the provision of sufficient school places.

Notwithstanding this, the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 Projected levels of demand suggest that further investment in additional school places will be required in the future to ensure that supply can meet demand. This could be over and above the existing capital programme.
- 8.2 The Strategy outlines how the Council will meet its statutory responsibilities regarding providing sufficient school places. Central Government provide a level of capital funding through the Basic Need formula. Historically, the amount received through the Basic Need funding has been insufficient to cover the costs of expansion schemes. This has led to the Council having to fund the balance, predominantly through borrowing.
- 8.3 The Medium Term Capital Programme includes funding for the Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022. In the event that there is any surplus against these it will first be used to support the next tranche of expansion schemes.
[TS14122020/K]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education Acts 2006 and 2011), a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. The local authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the local authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them.

9.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places.

[TS/07122020/R]

10.0 Equalities implications

10.1 An initial equality analysis has been undertaken with regard to the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. The strategy focuses on the supply of sufficient high-quality school places for primary and secondary school pupils who may belong to groups with different characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. The analysis of the strategy has not found any equality issues at its design stage. The implications of specific significant change proposals developed in line with the policies outlined within the Strategy will be subject to individual equality analyses.

11.0 All other implications

- 11.1 The Strategy includes the ambition that any new school buildings are environmentally friendly and support the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2028.
- 11.2 To support the process Corporate Landlord would work with maintained schools identified within the scope of any place planning exercise to establish the feasibility and likely cost of providing additional pupil capacity on those sites. This process will require the support of a cross section of professionals including Surveyors, Engineers, Architects etc. allowing desk top information and initial sketch proposals to be considered
- 11.3 Corporate Landlord will also liaise with colleagues in Legal Services in the case of feasibility works on Academy, Church or Free School sites that are subject to lease agreements. Corporate Landlord will be able to consider other potential solutions outside of the current traditional school estate if required. It must be noted Education will need to identify a budget prior to commissioning these initial feasibility works.
- 11.4 Any expansion schemes that are delivered by Trusts (but funded by the Council) the Corporate Landlord service would be involved in the project to provide assurance that the proposed scheme is delivering the required capacity in a timely fashion and offering value for money.
- 11.5 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to:
- ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one
 - to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and;
 - to help fulfil every child's educational potential.
- 11.6 The Local Authority must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its area and promote diversity and parental choice.

11.7 These duties contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people and young adults in the education system and a good education is a significant wider determinant of health.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 None.

13.0 Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 - The 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'

13.2 Appendix 2 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel Minutes (extract) (5 January 2021)

13.3 Appendix 3 - Consultation Responses

A Place for Every Child

City of Wolverhampton Education
Place Planning 2020-2022



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1 Executive Summary

The main challenge that the City of Wolverhampton faces in relation to the organisation of school provision, is ensuring that sufficient high-quality school places are available to meet the needs of local communities across the City. Driven by an 18% increase in births between 2002 and 2018, levels of demand for school provision have increased significantly in recent years. In excess of 3,000 additional places have been commissioned since 2012 in primary schools and since 2017 in secondary schools, to cater for the demographic uplift. The recently witnessed increase in demand for primary provision in the City, has already started to impact on the City's secondary estate and significant additional capacity will be required to cater for future cohorts. This strategy outlines anticipated levels of future demand and key policy decisions adopted by the Council to guide the ongoing development of the City's primary and secondary school estate.

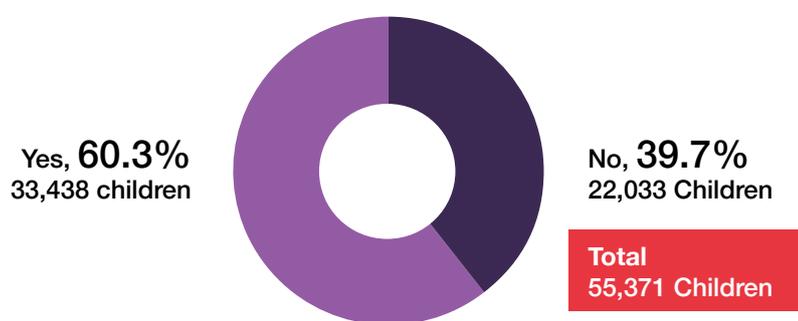
1.1 Wolverhampton Context

Wolverhampton is a superdiverse City and this is another factor that can influence demand for school places. The City's population now stands at over 260,000 and it is estimated that in recent years the number of non UK born residents in Wolverhampton has increased. (Births by parents' country of birth England and Wales: 2019, Office for National Statistics (ONS) and in 2019, 34.4% of births to Wolverhampton residents were to non UK born mothers. As stated in ONS, 28.7% of all live births were to women born outside the UK; the highest since records began in 1969 continuing the long-term increase. (ONS 2019)

As illustrated by both Census data and published Ward Profiles (available at insight.wolverhampton.gov.uk) the ethnic composition of communities varies significantly across the City. It should be noted that the ethnic makeup of communities in Wolverhampton is dynamic, analysis of Census information suggests that the proportion of White British residents of the City fell by 10 percentage points between 2001 and 2011. In contrast, the proportion of Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups increased.

There are considerable challenges with regards to deprivation in the City. In 2019 Wolverhampton was the 24th most deprived of 317 English Local Authorities, although had improved from the 17th most deprived in the prior Indices of Deprivation release from 2015. For the purposes of measuring deprivation, Wolverhampton is split into 158 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Of these 158, 8 are in the top 5% deprived band in England. The scale of the challenge with deprivation is illustrated in Figure 1, which shows that of all the 0 to 15 year olds resident in Wolverhampton in 2018, 60.3% of them live in an LSOA in the top 20%.

Figure 1: Numbers of children aged 0-15 resident in a deprived area, defined as top 20% most deprived LSOA nationally



The health and wellbeing of our children is paramount to securing good outcomes; unfortunately, the health and wellbeing of children in Wolverhampton is worse than the England average. Despite a slight fall in the rate in 2012-14 Wolverhampton remains one of the Local Authorities with highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales. 59% of the primary and secondary schools in Wolverhampton are in the most deprived quintile nationally as defined by Ofsted. There are no Wolverhampton schools classed as being in the least deprived category. 22% of all pupils are eligible for free school meals; for primary schools (including reception) the figure is 20.5% (the national average is 14.5%) and in secondary schools (including Academies) it is 19.7% (the national average is 13.2%).¹

¹ City of Wolverhampton Council Early Years Strategy 2017 – 2021, p16

1.2 Strategic Context

This strategy is a key feature of the City of Wolverhampton Council's approach to meeting its statutory duties as an advocate for parents and families, supporting vulnerable children and championing educational excellence. It offers a framework to guide the future development of the school estate in the City.

Underpinning the Our Council Plan 2019-2024, Wolverhampton's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025 and Wolverhampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy this document details the basic need challenge facing the City and outlines the approach adopted by the Council to meet this challenge.

Priorities in the Our Council Plan include more good jobs and investment in our City and better homes for all.² Our local housing company WV Living is building over 1000 new homes over the next five years.³

The planned housing growth programme for the City will deliver around 7500 homes in 10 years to accommodate need and demand, and to support the economic aspirations of the City. This growth will see significant increases in new homes for certain neighbourhoods, which will inevitably create a pressure of additional resident expectations upon the school place provision in those localities.

Potential housing development sites and their estimated delivery timescales are subject to on-going change. In order to manage these pressures, regular liaison between the Council's Planning, Housing and Education teams provides the latest information on the focus of planned development activity. This will permit a coordinated and planned approach, both to support the delivery of new homes with adequate school places, and to support school place planning with good information on the population increases anticipated from newbuild. The School Organisation Team carefully monitor anticipated future housing development on a quarterly basis to gauge likely pupil yields in each Wolverhampton City Ward to ensure alignment and inform annual pupil projections.

² City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024, p16

³ City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024, p26

Over the longer term the City's population is predicted to grow by 8.9% by 2037, to 273,300, with residents aged 19 and below expected to increase by 7%. Currently children and young people under the ages of 18 years make up 22.9% of the total population in Wolverhampton.⁴ Therefore pupil yield growth is likely to remain an issue in the medium to longer term and this will be taken into account when making longer term plans for housing development across the City.

We recognise the need for Wolverhampton's school estate to continue to develop to meet the changing needs of children in the City. This strategy recommends that a longer term, estate wide approach to school place planning is adopted that both maximises the use of existing facilities and develops flexible provision. The development of flexible provision and facilities will ensure that the estate is ideally positioned to meet both fluctuating demographic requirements and the changing needs of students.

The City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022, aligned with the Council's School Improvement and Governance Strategy, seeks to secure sufficient high-quality school places to improve educational outcomes across the City. The strategy recognises the Council's role in ensuring an appropriate number of school places and in influencing the quality of education provided regardless of how schools are organised or governed.

Our key principles are

- The right of every child to fulfil their potential
- The needs of local communities
- The value of partnership working
- To respond effectively to the dynamic demographic position
- To consider the sustainability of the school estate
- To ensure resources are used efficiently
- To improve educational outcomes in order to support the longer term development and prosperity of the City
- Promoting choice and diversity of provision.

⁴ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017 - 2021, p14

1.3 Key Statutory Duties

Councils are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The Schools Admissions Code states that "Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health"⁵. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The Local Authority, in fulfilling its statutory obligation⁶, writes to parents/carers of children in Year 9 attending a school in the City of Wolverhampton annually to inform them of the opportunities available in relation to schools with atypical points of admission. The correspondence encourages parents/carers to consider the options available to their child as they move into Year 10, providing guidance on the type of schools and context, specifically in relation to University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. The letter informs parents on how to apply for a place at schools with atypical admission points that are within a reasonable travelling distance of the City of Wolverhampton, this includes Thomas Telford UTC and Health Futures UTC.

Primary Context

There is a legal requirement that any class containing infant aged children (five, six and seven year olds) will not exceed a maximum of 30 pupils with a single class teacher, other than when an additional pupil admitted fits the criteria for an 'excepted' pupil (as defined in the School Admissions Code).⁷

In September 2015, the Department for Education (DfE) announced their intention to give summer-born children the right to start in Reception at the age of 5. Children usually start school in the September after they turn 4 but parents of summer-born children (born between 1 April and 31 August) can ask to delay entry into school for a year, they can also ask for early admission or delayed transfer to school (admission outside of normal age group).⁵

⁵ Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014, (p. 25 para. 2.17)

⁶ School Information Regulations 2017

⁷ Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014 (P23, para 2.15)

In 2015, Central Government raised the age of participation to 18. Local Authorities are required to develop a local strategy against the following criteria:

- To work with schools, colleges, training providers and employers to ensure a sufficient local curriculum offer
- To provide careers advice from year 8 to year 13 – minimal statutory role focussing on supporting vulnerable learners
- To track and record young people’s progression from education and training
- To identify numbers of NEET (young people not in education, employment or training) or “unknowns” on local Client Caseload Information Systems
- To provide additional support for young people with special needs (up to age 25); those in care; young offenders; young parents or those with specific support needs including mental health and substance misuse.

The Department for Education monitors progress against the above criteria and evaluates performance against national targets.

Aspiration

We will continue existing, and further expand, collaboration arrangements with educational establishments in the City including secondary schools/academies, the University of Wolverhampton and the City of Wolverhampton College.

1.4 Partnership Working

The Council recognises the value of sustaining an effective partnership with all schools regardless of their status or governance arrangements and we have established a strong working partnership with Free Schools, Academies, Trusts, the Department for Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands, neighbouring Local Authorities, private sector partners and local Diocesan Authorities.

The City of Wolverhampton Council encourages partnership working across education in the City in order to provide the broadest curriculum possible; this can be achieved through the co-commissioning of Post 16 provision.

Opportunity

Since 2013 four Free Schools have opened in Wolverhampton and have become part of the school community. We have embraced opportunities for Free Schools to expand in the City to meet basic need; however, introducing additional Free School provision in geographically appropriate locations and in a timely manner presents a significant challenge. To ensure that the needs of families and students in Wolverhampton can continue to be met effectively it may, on occasion, be necessary for the Council to adopt a more responsive approach to school place planning and to develop contingency plans to cater for external influences on the supply of school places.

Aspiration

We will:

- Work closely with Diocesan Authorities to ensure that an appropriate balance of denominational and community places are available
- Avoid the need for compulsory redundancy, where possible
- Promote equal opportunities and that particular groups of children are not disadvantaged.

1.5 School Size

We recommend that primary schools in the City provide a minimum of 30 places per year group (one form entry) and a maximum of 90 places per year group (three form entry). This will ensure the efficient use of resources, whilst avoiding the loss of a more personal primary ethos.

Admission limits will be managed in accordance with Infant Class Size Regulations and to promote the most efficient use of resources. This strategy recommends that admission limits, which exceed a form of entry (i.e. 30 pupils), are either set as full forms of entry (multiples of 30) or half forms of entry (multiples of 15).

Larger primary schools (2 form entry and above) can potentially offer:

- greater opportunity for specialism
- a workforce that has a wider spectrum of experience and expertise
- increased opportunity to offer a broad and balanced curriculum
- greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased potential to provide strategic leadership succession opportunities
- the opportunity to use resources more efficiently
- an increased ability to respond to change more readily.

We recommend that to ensure the efficient use of resources and to support the longer-term viability of individual establishments, secondary schools in the City offer a minimum of 150 places per year group (Year 7 to 11).

Larger secondary schools can potentially offer:

- an increased opportunity to respond effectively to change
- greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased opportunity to provide leadership succession opportunities
- increased opportunity to use resources more efficiently.

Opportunity

The City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022 supports the development of larger primary or secondary schools, where appropriate.



1.6 The Autonomous School System

Central Government policy initiatives, including the establishment of Free Schools and University Technical Colleges coupled with the conversion of schools to academy status, have recently changed the landscape in which education and the Council's statutory responsibilities are delivered. Figure 2 illustrates the diverse range of education provision in Wolverhampton.

Figure 2: Provision of establishment types within Wolverhampton

PRIMARY	
Establishment Type	Number
Infant School - Community	1
Infant School – Voluntary Controlled	1
Junior School - Community	1
Junior School – Voluntary Controlled	1
Primary Academy	36
Primary Community School	24
Primary Free School	1
Primary - Voluntary Aided	4
Primary - Voluntary Controlled	2
Total	71

SECONDARY	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Secondary	14
Community - Secondary	2
Free School - Secondary	1
University Technical College	1
Voluntary Aided - Secondary	1
Total	19

ALL THROUGH	
Establishment Type	Number
Free School (Primary and Secondary)	1
Total	1

SPECIAL SCHOOL	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Special School	3
Community - Special School	4
Free School - Special School	1
Total	8

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Pupil Referral Unit	1
Community - Pupil Referral Unit	3
Total	4

Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, List of Educational Establishments Summer 2020.
Please note The Royal School Wolverhampton is a free all through school.

Legislation dictates that, when considering the establishment of a new school, Free School/Academy proposals should be considered in the first instance and that Academy Trusts can apply directly to the Secretary of State to make significant changes to individual establishments.

The autonomous school system poses challenges concerning school place planning, and it should be noted that the Council is not in full control of all factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places. In addition, Trusts can decide to admit above their Published Admissions Number and as a consequence, successful partnership working is of paramount importance in order to ensure that the needs of the City's communities can continue to be met effectively.

To enable a localised approach when developing solutions and reporting upon school organisation, the City has been divided into four planning areas for the primary estate (see Appendix A) and three planning areas for the secondary estate (see Appendix B). This approach allows the School Organisation Team to recognise the differing pressures facing local communities across the City. It should be noted that given the significant variations in both localised demand and the popularity of individual establishments, balancing levels of surplus across all schools is a significant challenge; adopting a planned, strategic approach to school place planning maximises opportunities to meet localised demand for school places and for individual establishments' positions to be considered.

1.7 Surplus Place Position

Surplus places are school places that have not been filled. A level of surplus is essential to offer increased opportunity for parental preference to be reflected in allocations, to allow for fluctuations in demand and to offer flexibility to cater for mid-year entrants. Too few surplus places can result in reduced opportunity for parental choice, increased travel times, and increased class sizes. However, too many surplus places can lead to the inefficient use of resources.

When allocating basic need funding to Local Authorities central government operate a level of 2% surplus. Historical patterns of in year growth have seen increases in pupil numbers in excess of this 2%. There is a balance to be found between investment in school places, supporting schools with low pupil numbers and meeting parental preference.

We recommend that a school place is available within a maximum walking distance of two miles (for a child under 8 years old) and up to a maximum of three miles (for a child over 8). To ensure that pupils can access a local school and that travel times are reasonable.

An annual dialogue continues between representatives of Education and Transportation to review school access routes and citywide transportation requirements.

1.8 Cross Border Movement

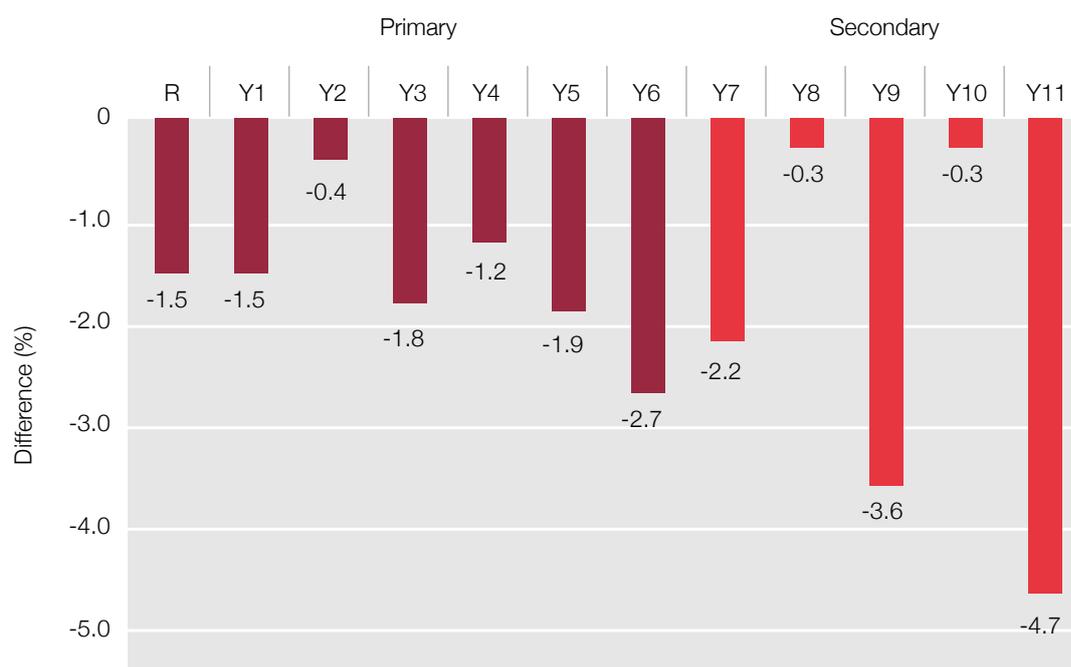
One of the key factors influencing demand for school places in the City, particularly in secondary schools, is the cross-border movement of students. It is essential that we monitor trends in the number of pupils educated in Wolverhampton residing outside of the City (imports) against those pupils educated outside of the City residing in Wolverhampton (exports).

Over the last two years in Wolverhampton the difference between imports and exports to the City has narrowed. Although the City of Wolverhampton has remained a net exporter of pupils, the number of imports into the City has increased against a decreasing number of exports. This indicates that schools within Wolverhampton have become increasingly popular with pupils residing both within the City and outside of its borders. This shift is particularly prevalent within the secondary sector, with a significant reduction in the net exports since 2015.

In terms of the primary sector, between 2007 and 2015 the gap between pupil imports to the City and exports out of the City increased significantly, however more recently this trend has reversed with a 33% reduction in the gap in imports and exports from 2015 to 2019. In January 2019, the City had 925 primary pupil imports and 1311 exports, remaining a net exporter with a difference of -386 (-1.6% of school population).

Overall, in terms of the secondary sector, from 2007 to 2015 the gap between pupil imports to the City and exports out of the City has gradually reduced, however since 2015 to 2019 this gap has grossly reduced by a significant 76%. In January 2019, the City had 1,919 secondary pupil imports and 2257 exports, remaining a net exporter with a difference of -338 (-2.2% of school population).

Figure 3: Difference between Imports and Exports by National Curriculum Year as a percentage of the school population (January 2019)



Source: Department for Education (2019)

Figure 3 illustrates the City's net exports per National Curriculum Year. The graph clearly indicates the narrowing of the gap between imports to the City and exports out of the City in the primary phase of education compared to the secondary phase. In January 2019, the City had a net export of -1.5 as a percentage of the total school population for the Reception phase and -2.7 for Year 6. However, in the secondary phase the gap between the imports and exports is significantly wider, with a net export of -2.2 as a percentage of the total school population in Year 7 and -4.7 in Year 11. This trend indicates less fluidity of movement out of the City during the primary phase.

If the difference between those imports into the City and exports out of the City continue to follow this trend, then levels of demand for school places within the City will increase the strain on resources and additional capacity would be required to cater for the demand.

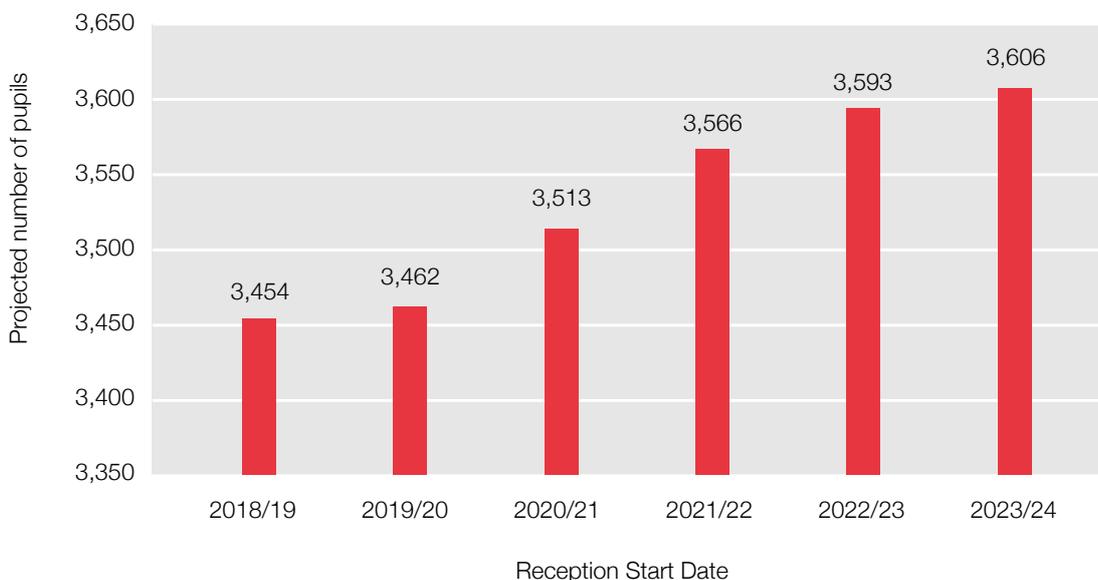
2

Primary School Organisation

Update to read: Levels of demand for primary school provision across the City have increased significantly in recent years, as illustrated in Figure 4. This upsurge has been primarily driven by an increase of 18% in the number of births to Wolverhampton residents between 2002 and 2018.⁸

To meet demand, the Council has recently invested heavily in the provision of additional primary school places in a number of areas of high demand across the City. Recent expansion schemes have been funded through a combination of both central capital funding and constrained Council resources. Since September 2012, Primary School Expansion Programmes have introduced an additional 2,745 additional primary school places across 21 existing primary schools. In addition, two Free Schools have opened (Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton in September 2013 and The Royal School Wolverhampton in September 2016). There remains uncertainty in respect of future central government capital funding allocations to meet basic need in the medium term.

Figure 4: 2019 Projected Citywide Reception Cohorts



Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019.

⁸ City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019.

As demand has increased, the number of surplus school places has reduced and levels of surplus within some primary year groups are now constrained. Surplus places are school places that have not been filled.

Figure 5 illustrates levels of surplus in each national curriculum year group on a Planning Area and citywide level, and Appendix C highlights recent fluctuations in the size of individual cohorts. Levels of in-year growth have accelerated in recent years; anecdotal evidence suggests that this growth is also being experienced by neighbouring Local Authorities and is likely to be the consequence of migration rates.

Figure 5: Primary Surplus by National Curriculum Year Group (with Planning Area level)

National Curriculum Year Group (2019/20)	Number on Roll (Spring 2020 Census)	Surplus Places on Planning Area Level				Citywide Surplus Places Against Admissions Limits (Percentage)	
		Planning Area 1	Planning Area 2	Planning Area 3	Planning Area 4		
R	3402	667	732	911	1092	221	(6.1%)
1	3505	721	754	942	1088	125	(3.5%)
2	3431	717	755	891	1068	118	(3.3%)
3*	3634	756	787	944	1147	82	(2.2%)
4*	3725	760	778	1010	1177	61	(1.6%)
5*	3476	737	781	872	1086	57	(1.7%)
6*	3376	714	731	864	1067	60	(1.8%)

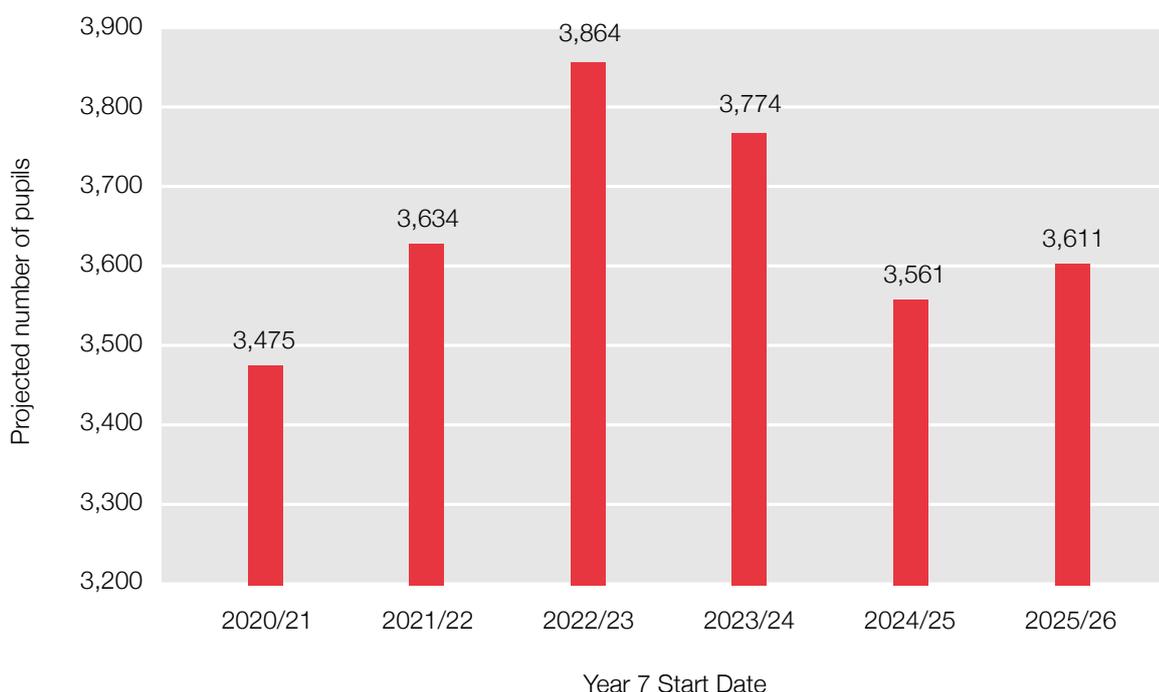
* Please note that in order to meet levels of demand in Key Stage 2, in specific hotspots, primary schools in the City have introduced additional capacity by agreeing to admit above their admission limits.

3

Secondary School Organisation

As illustrated by Figure 6, levels of demand for secondary school provision in Wolverhampton are expected to increase significantly in the future as the bulge in pupil numbers in the City’s primary schools moves through to the secondary estate. The Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020 provided 340 permanent places and 236 temporary places. In addition, 170 permanent places and 105 temporary places have been provided in Year 7 for 2018/19 in secondary schools across Wolverhampton. In 2020/21 185 permanent places will be introduced in Year 7. Moreover the all-through school, The Royal Wolverhampton, opened in September 2016 and the West Midlands University Technical College opened in September 2015. The West Midland University Technical College is lowering its age range to take students from Year 7 with effect from September 2020 and has joined the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust. It is now known as Thomas Telford University Technical College.

Figure 6: Projected Citywide Year 7 Cohorts



Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019

The City faces a considerable challenge to ensure that sufficient high quality school places are available to meet the needs of local communities.

The recently observed growth in the size of younger secondary cohorts is expected to accelerate in the short to medium term and projections suggest that between 2020/21 and 2022/23 Year 7 cohorts are likely to grow by 11%.

As evident in Wolverhampton's primary school estate, the City has recently experienced an acceleration in the in-year growth of some existing secondary cohorts (see Appendix D). Council representatives are closely monitoring fluctuations in the size of existing cohorts to ensure that incoming students can access educational provision within a reasonable distance of their home address.

As shown by Figure 7, currently the level of surplus in secondary schools remains above the 2% that this strategy recommends for secondary schools, however the number of surplus places varies considerably across year groups. It should be noted that in the coming years surplus places are expected to be constrained as existing primary cohorts progress through the education system.

Figure 7: Secondary Surplus by National Curriculum Year Group (with Planning Area level)

National Curriculum Group (2019-20)	Number on Roll (Spring Census 2020)	Planning Area 1	Planning Area 2	Planning Area 3	Citywide Surplus Places Against Admissions Limits (Percentage)
7	3401	11	174	N/A	185 (5.5%)
8	3358	7	117	N/A	124 (3.7%)
9	3164	13	110	N/A	123 (3.8%)
10	3090	43	143	88	279 (8.4%)
11	2945	97	138	111	346 (10.5%)

4

The Introduction of Additional School Places

To meet rising demand for school places the Council will continue to consider, where feasible, the expansion of existing schools across the City. To safeguard the sustainability of the school estate, the expansion of existing schools will be investigated in the first instance, prior to considering the introduction of new provision.

However, it should be noted that, given the scale of recent expansion programmes, there are a limited number of remaining opportunities available within the existing school estate. Based on this we would need to consider the cost effectiveness of expanding existing schools against the introduction of new schools.

All new schools or new refurbishments and expansions will be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. Any planning for school expansions or new schools will take account of the need to continue to align and balance planned housing development and future school place planning.





Factors we consider when prioritising potential school expansion schemes:

- Parental Preference - schools which are most popular with parents
- School Performance - schools judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
- Attainment - schools whose results consistently exceed floor standards
- School Leadership - schools with stable and proven leadership
- Location - schools located within areas of high demand, taking into account local regeneration and housing development priorities
- Viability for expansion - schemes which can be most easily and efficiently implemented.

The Council is committed to ensuring the implementation of practical solutions to meet the basic need challenge and will work closely with schools and Academy Trusts to develop appropriate schemes that consider pupils' needs and support the effective delivery of the curriculum. When an expanding school is in the process of converting to academy status, the Council will seek to ensure that legal mechanisms are employed to ensure that the needs of the City are fulfilled and any approved investment is secured for the future. The Council's legal representatives will seek to include reference to the enlarged capacity within relevant Commercial Transfer Agreements and representations will be made to the DfE to request that Funding Agreements reflect the capacity post-expansion.

The expansion of a school can present challenges for schools and a school may require additional support from the School Improvement Team. This support will be reflected in the school categorisation and the time allocated to each school.

Parental Preference and Expansions

The Council's policy of prioritising popular and successful schools for expansion has proved successful.

Despite the significant growth in demand, in 2020-21

- Primary: 87% of on time applicants were offered a Reception place in their first preference school and 97% were offered a place in one of the preferred schools
- Secondary: 73% of on time applicants were offered a Year 7 place in their first preference school and 93% were offered a place in one of the preferred schools

Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, Capita ONE data

4.1 The Growth Fund

To support the needs of students in expanding schools and in line with the Education and Skills Funding Agency recommended approach, the Council will seek continued support from Schools' Forum for a Growth Fund to support resultant revenue needs of schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need.

Schools currently qualify for funding through the Growth Fund in the following circumstances:

- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to permanently increase its admission limit to meet basic need
- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to provide a bulge class to meet basic need
- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to expand in-year to meet basic need.

Aspiration

We recognise the need for expanding schools to receive appropriate funding, in a timely manner, to meet students' needs.

4.2 Bulge Classes

In specific circumstances, where local demand is predicted to rise and then fall within a short period of time, the Council will consider the introduction of bulge classes. These are time limited expansions of the capacity of individual year groups within a school, for example, a temporary increase of a school's admission limit by one form of entry in an individual year group to meet demand. Bulge classes will only be considered when the permanent expansion of a school to meet demand would not be sustainable.

4.3 Additional Capacity in Existing Cohorts

As illustrated in Figures 5 and 7 some existing school cohorts have grown significantly and demonstrated in-year fluctuations, resulting in reduced levels of surplus. It is recognised that as demand increases and levels of surplus reduce, that the introduction of additional capacity into existing cohorts may need to be considered. To ensure that pupils can access school provision within a reasonable distance of their home address, the Council will continue to work with schools to introduce additional capacity into existing cohorts to cater for rising demand as required.

We recommend that the introduction of additional capacity into existing cohorts is only considered in response to significant demographic challenges and to support the needs of local communities. We recognise that introducing additional capacity, at points other than standard years of entry, can potentially destabilise both individual cohorts and the wider school estate.

To support the needs of pupils in schools that introduce additional capacity into existing cohorts, the Council will seek continued approval from Schools' Forum through the Growth Fund to support the resultant revenue needs of schools.

4.4 Vertical Grouping

Vertical Grouping (or the employment of mixed age classes) is most commonly employed in primary schools with intakes of 45 or 75 and works successfully in many schools across the City. However, the use of this structure can increase the complexity of planning and delivering the curriculum.

When an opportunity or need arises consultation will be conducted with Headteachers, Governors and Trusts to consider increasing or reducing admission limits in schools with existing 45 or 75 admission limits.

We recommend that the introduction of additional 45 or 75 admission limits only be considered once other practical solutions have been exhausted.

4.5 Temporary Accommodation

It is recognised there is temporary accommodation within the maintained school estate. These consist of a range of different styles and ages of building. This Strategy recommends an annual review of the condition and suitability of any temporary accommodation within the maintained school estate and where necessary will make recommendations for repair or replacement to ensure that children and young people are being taught in a suitable environment.

5

Removal of Maintained Provision / Discontinuance of Maintained Provision

In certain circumstances the Council will consider the removal of maintained provision.

We will consider the closure of a school if the school meets two or more of the following criteria:

- The school is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of pupils at the school is unacceptably low
- The school has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the school's accommodation and/or site
- Closure could be effected without denying any pupils access to at least one alternative school with available places within a maximum of two miles or three miles (walking distance of primary and secondary respectively) of their home
- The substantive Headteacher has left or is leaving.

Prior to initiating any statutory processes to close a school, the Council will consult with the school's Headteacher and the Chair of the school's Governing Board to discuss how the criteria may apply to their school.

As part of this process the Council will review and consult with schools' Governing Boards regarding:

- The likely impact of a school's closure on other schools in the local area, taking account of numbers on roll and the capacity of schools to enhance provision for children and families
- Projected levels of future demand
- The importance of the school to the wider community
- The condition, suitability and sufficiency of school facilities.

5.1 Intervention

The Council will consider proposing the adoption of structural solutions (including both federation and sponsored academy status) to improve standards in underperforming schools (federations only in primary).

5.2 Change Management

It is recognised that making significant changes to individual establishments can have a disruptive effect on the delivery of education. This strategy requires that any school reorganisation or development scheme seeks to minimise disruption and avoid any longer-term detriment to students.



5.3 Federations

Federations offer schools the opportunity to share best practice and support one another. The term federation is used to describe the creation of formal shared governance structures, which enable schools to raise standards and enhance provision by sharing resources, staff, expertise and facilities. There are a variety of federation models that allow schools to choose which model best suits their needs.

Regardless of the federation model adopted, individual schools retain their identity, continue to receive individual school budgets, have separate Ofsted inspections and report on performance individually.

Federating schools can have many benefits, including:

- Providing a structured way for schools to learn from each other and share best practice
- Offering opportunities for improved teaching and learning through increased specialism
- Building capacity across the federation
- Saving on planning and administration time
- Offering better support and development opportunities for School Governors
- Providing broader career opportunities across the federation
- Extending curriculum entitlement.

5.4 Sponsored Academies

In certain circumstances, the Council will facilitate the sponsorship of schools to become academies or support eligible schools to convert to academy status. Such steps will only be taken to support the overall improvement of education in the City, including the raising of pupils' attainment and progress.

Where appropriate, the Council will work with other agencies to identify locally sourced sponsors to support the conversion of schools.

We recommend the adoption of structural solutions (including federations and sponsored academy status) and seek to influence the implementation of effective governance arrangements that promote school improvement and advance the quality of education across the City.

6

All-through Schools

An 'All-through school' is a school which provides both primary and secondary education.

Opportunity

To improve the diversity of the school estate in Wolverhampton the introduction of all-through schools will be explored, where appropriate.

Successful all-through schools can offer many benefits including:

- Reducing the number of transitions children face and reducing the risk of delayed learning at the start of secondary school
- Extending opportunities available to primary pupils; all-through schools can offer primary age pupils early access to specialist subject teaching and facilities
- Providing an additional opportunity to fully utilise the whole school estate to meet the anticipated future primary basic need challenge
- Providing school staff with wider career development opportunities
- Offering cost savings through economies of scale.

The introduction of all-through provision will only be considered where there is a demonstrable need for additional capacity in the local area and all-through provision would be an appropriate solution.

7

Specialist Provision

Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND).

The high needs estate is made up of educational settings who are primarily supported by the high needs funding system including special schools, resource bases and alternative provision.

In September 2020, there were eight Special Schools in Wolverhampton:

Special School Establishment	School Type	Age Range	SEND Designation
Broadmeadow Special School	Academy	2-7	Physical Disability Severe Learning Difficulty
Green Park School	Community	3-19	Severe Learning Difficulty Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty
Pine Green Academy	Academy	7-16	Speech, Language and Communication Social, Emotional and Mental Health Physical Disability Moderate Learning Difficulty
Penn Fields Special School	Community	5-19	Specific Learning Difficulty Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty
Penn Hall Special School	Community	3-19	Physical Disability Severe Learning Difficulty Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Tettenhall Wood School			Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Westcroft School	Community	4-19	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre	Academy Free School	5-19 16-18	Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty Specific Learning Difficulty Visual Impairment Hearing Impairment Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder Social, Emotional and Mental Health Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty

In September 2020, there were 11 mainstream schools with resource base provision:

Resource Base Establishment	School Type	SEND Designation
Aldersley High School	Academy	Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Bilston Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties
Bushbury Nursery School	LA Nursery	High Needs and or EHCP
Castlecroft Primary School	Community	Visual Impairment
Low Hill Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties
Palmers Cross Primary School	Academy	Speech, Language and Communication
Springdale Primary	Community	Speech, Language and Communication
Smestow School	Academy	Visual Impairment
St Matthias School	Community	Hearing Impaired
Warstones Primary School	Community	Hearing Impaired
Windsor Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties

In September 2020, there were four Pupil referral Units:

Pupil Referral Unit Establishment	Age Range
Midpoint Centre (Key Stage 4 PRU)	14-16
Evergreen Academy (Primary PRU)	4-11
The Braybrook Centre (Key Stage 3 PRU)	11-13
The Orchard Centre (Home and Hospital PRU)	5-16

7.1 Guiding Principles

It is recommended that the development of high needs provision in the city is guided by the following principles:

- A transparent, choice of provision and providers is available to students and families
- Clear and consistent pathways are offered within Wolverhampton's high needs estate
- A broad range of high needs provision, including a comprehensive graduated response, is available within the city
- High quality, local solutions are developed to support a reduction in the required number of out of city placements
- Solutions are developed to offer opportunities for students with SEND to attend mainstream provision, unless doing so would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education.

7.2 Mainstream Provision

The Children and Families Act 2014 secures the general presumption in law of mainstream education in relation to decisions about where children and young people with SEND should be educated.

Improving access to mainstream education and educational achievement for students with high needs is essential to ensure equality of opportunity, full participation in society, greater independence, and access to employment opportunities.

It is recommended that the vast majority of students with SEND (combined cohorts of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan and those accessing SEND support) in Wolverhampton should access mainstream schools.

The City of Wolverhampton Council's Schools Accessibility Strategy aims to maximise the benefits to children and young people with SEND by; increasing the extent to which pupils with SEND can participate in the school curriculum, ensuring that pupils with SEND are able to gain maximum benefit from their time in education through improving facilities and services provided or offered by schools and improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils.

It is recommended that the accessibility of mainstream facilities is considered within the design and delivery of all school capital projects commissioned by the Council.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise the commissioning of an effective, targeted and transparent outreach offer to provide specialist support to mainstream schools and promote inclusion.

7.3 Resource Base Provision

Resource bases offer specialist provision reserved for pupils with SEND within a mainstream school. The Department for Education (DfE) categorises resource bases as either ‘SEN units’ or ‘resourced provision’.

SEN units are, “...special provisions within a mainstream school where pupils with SEND are taught mainly within separate classes” (DfE 2019), that are formally recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with SEND.

Resourced provisions are, “...places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with a specific type of SEN, taught mainly within mainstream classes, but requiring a base and some specialist facilities around the school” (DfE 2019), that are formally recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with SEND.

Admissions into resource bases are controlled by the City of Wolverhampton Council and are distinct from mainstream admission arrangements. Places are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process.

The City of Wolverhampton Council:

- Recognises the benefit of developing a broad geographic spread of resource base provision across the city
- Recommends that a range of resource bases are developed to cater for the broad areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice i.e. Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Sensory and/or Physical Needs
- Recommends the exploration of opportunities to extend the range of needs that existing resources bases cater for (excluding sensory resource bases).

It is recommended that, when prioritising the potential development of resource base provision in the city, the following factors are considered:

- School Performance – schools judged as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted will be prioritised
- Leadership – schools with stable and proven leadership will be prioritised
- Local Needs – schools in areas of high demand will be prioritised
- Viability – schemes which can be most easily and efficiently implemented will be prioritised.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained resource base provision. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and the setting meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The setting is judged Inadequate by Ofsted.
- The performance of students in the resource base is unacceptably low
- The resource base has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the resource base’s accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise:

- The commissioning of additional resource base provision to enhance the local offer for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)
- The commissioning of additional resource base provision to enhance the local offer for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- The commissioning of opportunities to extend inclusive resource base provision into the primary and secondary phases
- The exploration of opportunities to extend the range of needs that existing resources bases cater for (excluding sensory resource bases).

7.4 Special School Provision

A special school is a school “specially designed to make special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs” (DfE 2014).

Places in special schools are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process.

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of larger special schools, including;

- a workforce with a wider spectrum of experience and expertise
- increased opportunity to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased potential to provide strategic leadership succession opportunities
- the opportunity to utilise resources more efficiently, and;
- an increased ability to readily respond to change.

To promote the efficient use of scarce resources and support the development of robust provision which can flex to meet changing community needs, whilst recognising the importance of a personal ethos; it is recommended that Special Schools in the city offer a minimum of 75 places.

To meet rising demand for special school places the Council will continue to consider, where feasible and required, the expansion of existing special schools across the city. To safeguard the sustainability of the existing special school estate, the expansion of existing schools will be investigated in the first instance, prior to considering the introduction of new provision.

To facilitate the development of appropriate and transparent student pathways within the city's special school estate, it is recommended that special school age ranges are consistently aligned to standard mainstream transition points i.e. nursery, primary, secondary and post 16.

To promote the development of choice in the special school estate it is recommended that the development of both all-through special school provision and primary and secondary phase special school provision is explored.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained special school provision. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and a school meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The school is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of students in the school is unacceptably low
- The school has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the school's accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will:

- Explore potential opportunities to amend the age ranges of existing special school provision to enable timely access to provision and reduce transitions experienced by students with SEND
- Commission additional capacity with the city's special school estate to cater for the anticipated increase in demand in the short to medium term.

7.5 Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units

Alternative provision is recognised by the Department for Education as, "...education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour." (DfE 2013).

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of developing a broader range of pupil referral units/alternative provision which offer specialisms and provide commissioners and families with greater choice from a range of local provision.

There are currently four pupil referral units in Wolverhampton; the City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the invaluable support that local Pupil Referral Units provide to vulnerable students.

Places in pupil referral units are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process. This policy requires that admissions into pupil referral units are informed by clear and transparent admissions policies which support timely access to provision and promote student reintegration.

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of larger pupil referral units; however, it is appreciated that the value of both a personal ethos and appropriate staff to pupil ratios within pupil referral units is fundamental to their success.

Any proposal to expand the capacity of a maintained pupil referral unit to accommodate rising local demand should not detrimentally affect existing students.

It is recommended that the age ranges of pupil referral units in Wolverhampton are consistently aligned to standard mainstream transition points i.e. primary and secondary.

It is recommended that local pupil referral units should provide distinct provision for students with mental and physical health difficulties and students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and that, where appropriate, opportunities to house distinct provision on separate sites are explored.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained pupil referral units. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and a pupil referral unit (PRU) meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The PRU is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of students in the PRU is unacceptably low
- The PRU has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the PRU's accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will:

- Explore opportunities to house distinct PRU provision on separate sites
- Explore opportunities to commission a broader range of local alternative provision.

7.6 Post 19 Educational Provision for Young People with SEND

To enable young people with SEND to effectively complete and consolidate their education and be better prepared for adulthood, the Department for Education requires local authorities to clearly set out what is normally available for 19- to 25-year-olds with SEND to ensure educational and training needs are met, regardless of whether they have an EHC plan.

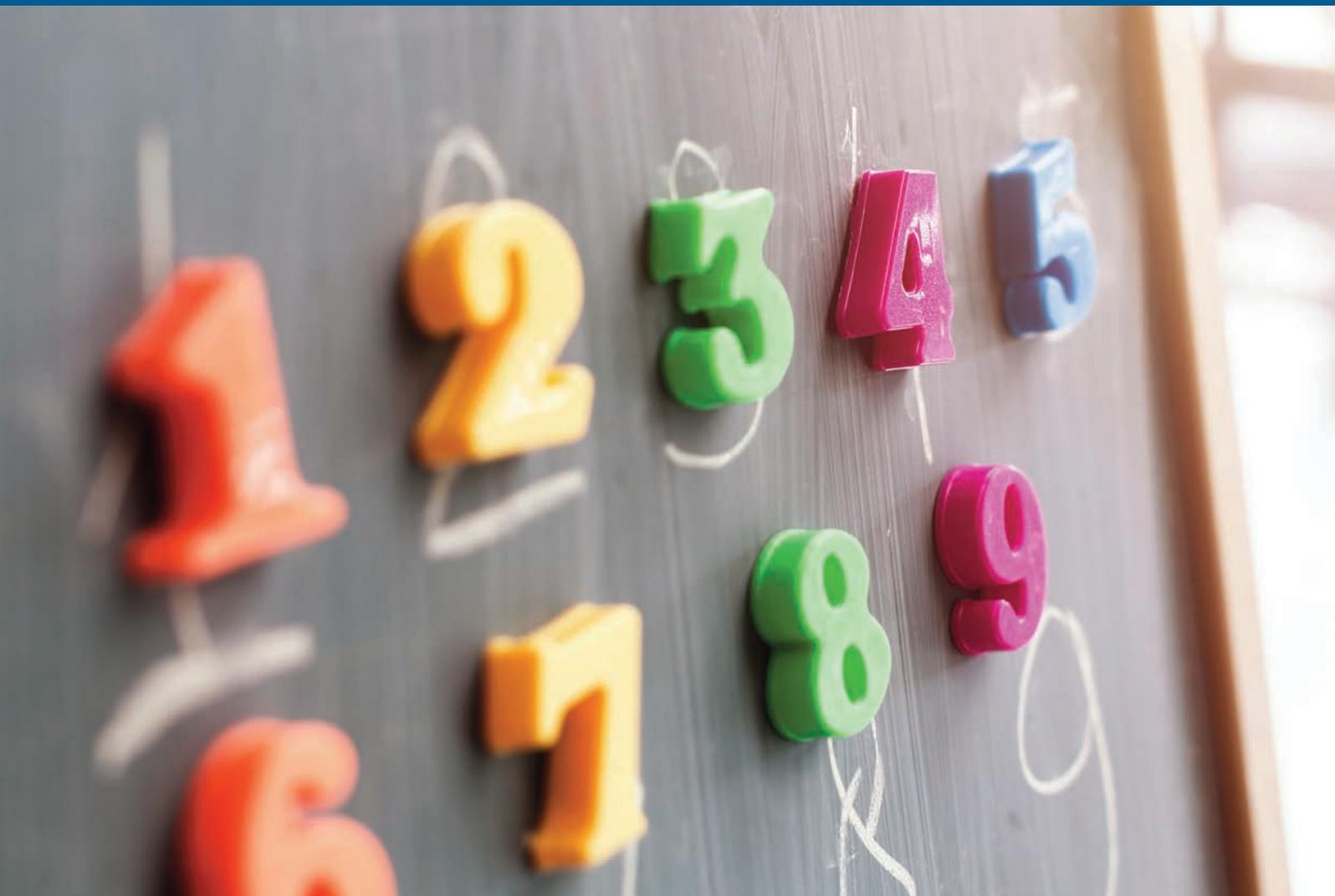
Students aged 19 to 25 with EHC plans who are continuing in education may have a range of options, including attending:

- further education
- training
- a supported internship
- an apprenticeship

It is recommended that young people with SEND in Wolverhampton are provided with a choice of appropriate high-quality provision from a diverse range of local post 19 educational providers.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise the development of a broader local provision offer for young people aged 19+ with SEND.



7.7 Regional Commissioning

To promote the effective use of scarce resources and for the benefit of children and young people with SEND, this policy promotes the opportunity for the City of Wolverhampton Council to work closely with neighbouring local authorities when commissioning provision for students with SEND.

7.8 Local Offer

Wolverhampton's offer is available here:
http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=7_4



Early Years Provision

Early Years provision has a legal duty to generate a report on Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and is organised into four localities, split into eight areas, detailing current supply and demand of registered childcare. The Local Authority offers support, advice and guidance to registered childcare providers who work within the Early Years Statutory Framework. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provides details of legislation on welfare requirements and learning and development. Support is also offered to families through programmes such as Home learning, Bookstart and the Parent Champion programme⁸.

City of Wolverhampton Council have published an Early Years Strategy for parents and professionals. The strategy is based on the assumption that parents are the first educator and to ensure that there is a robust system in place to support them in this vital role. The Local Authority is committed to:

- Putting the best interests of the child at the heart of decision making
- Taking a holistic approach to the wellbeing of a child
- Working with children, young people and their families on ways to improve wellbeing
- Advocating preventative work and early intervention to support young children and their families ensuring they are appropriately safeguarded
- Believing professionals must work together in the best interests of the child.

⁸City of Wolverhampton Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, 2017

The Early Years Strategy has four work plans; Parental Engagement, Workforce Development, High Quality Education and Good Family Health. These are live documents that highlight areas of development to support in providing good quality experiences for families across the City, contributing to improving children's outcomes for learning. An identified key area for development is to ensure children are ready for school, to support this, a school readiness definition has been agreed⁹:

The Early Years Strategy states that “as a child starts full time schooling within Wolverhampton, there is an expectation that children feel prepared and ready to start school socially, emotionally and physically. Children will be able to express their needs, feelings and wants. A school will ensure that children feel heard and understood by their practitioners. Leading to children being excited, enthused and demonstrate a curiosity to learn both inside and outside of the classroom.”

The City continues through the work of the Early Intervention Service, School Improvement and Standards team to strive to ensure that schools, settings, childminders and all early year's providers are delivering high quality early years experiences. The Ofsted ratings for the City continue to rise annually; the figures for all providers within the City demonstrate this¹⁰.

⁹ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017-2021, p.9

¹⁰ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017-2021

9

Infant and Junior School Provision

We recommend that whenever the Headship of a school becomes vacant in an infant or junior school, the Council invites responsible bodies (e.g. Governing Boards) to consider their merger or amalgamation. For merger to be considered, the leadership of the establishment that is proposed for expansion must be at least 'Good'.

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers many advantages, including:

- Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

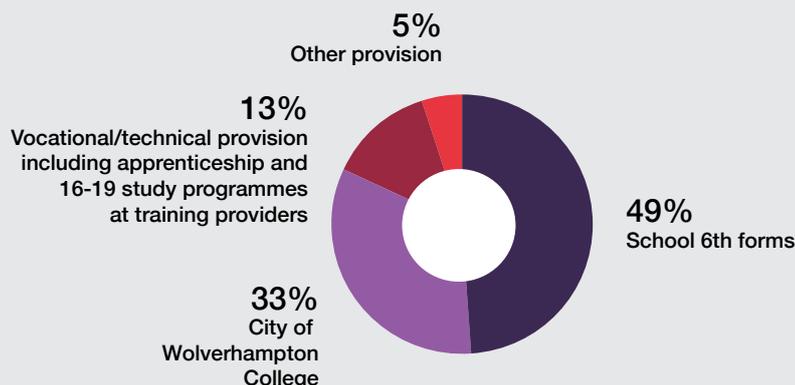
Please note that, in this context:

- The 'merger' of infant and junior schools is the process of joining the schools together by discontinuing one establishment and expanding and altering the age range of the other
- The term amalgamation relates to the process of joining the schools together by discontinuing both establishments and creating a new school.

10

Post-16 Provision

The Post 16 landscape is made up of 24 organisations;



10.1 Current Places and Funding

Across the City of Wolverhampton there are a variety of post-16 providers, offering a mixture of qualifications to 16-19 year olds.

In 2017-18 there were 5,475 funded Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) places within the City. Post-16 provision varies significantly from the secondary education phase due to a breadth of provision offered by specialist academic and technical providers.

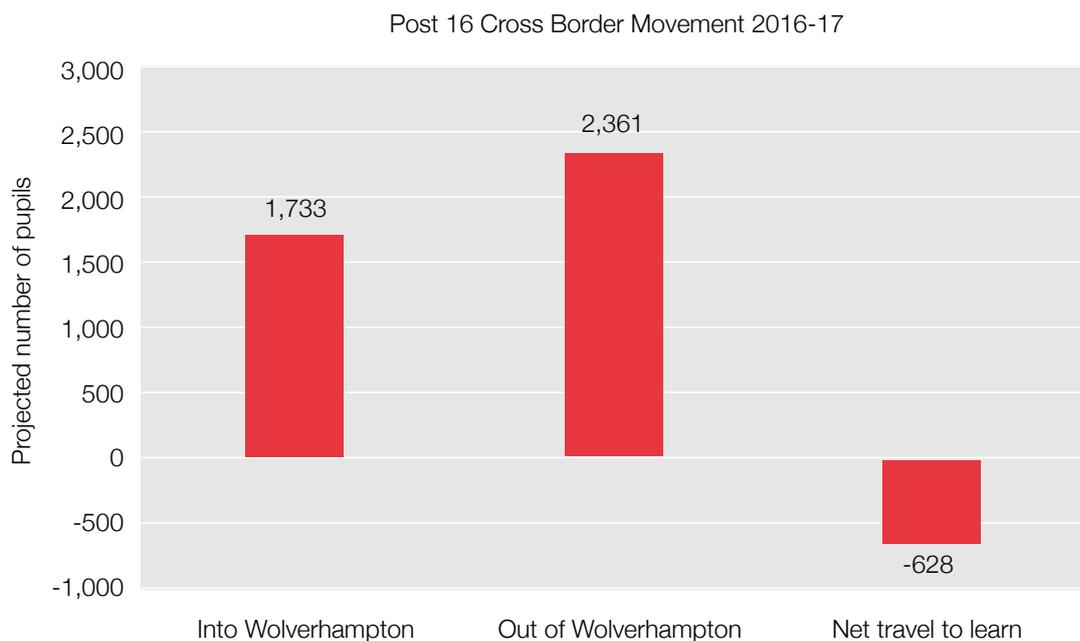
Post 16 provision is based on lagged, (historic) learner numbers, the current allocation does not include capacity to grow or infrastructure development of existing settings.

Effective collaboration between schools and City of Wolverhampton College will be key to successful implementation of the governments skills plan. The strategy for education place planning recognises the aspirations of schools to have efficient and successful 6th form provision, and the need to balance provision and its success between 6th forms and City of Wolverhampton College. With regard to this, the impact of co-commissioning of post 16 courses and any rationalisation of available space will be considered when exploring any future secondary school place planning activities.

10.2 Cross Border Movement

In Key Stage 4 and 5 the City exports more learners than we import. The table below shows that in the academic year 2016-17 more Wolverhampton residents aged (16-19) left the City compared to the numbers from neighbouring Local Authority who travelled into Wolverhampton. In this academic year there was a net loss of 628 learners.

Figure 8: Post 16 Cross Border Movement 2016-17



Source: DFE ESFA Data Sets

Figure 9: Post 16 Cross Border Movement of pupils to Wolverhampton from neighbouring Local Authorities

Local Authority	Export	Import	+/- migration
Dudley	933	208	-725
Sandwell	244	159	-85
Staffordshire	300	355	+55
Walsall	382	315	-67

Sufficiency needs are currently met in Wolverhampton due to the number of learners exported and capacity within the existing Post 16 settings. However due to the forecasted bulge in Year 7 from 2016-17 to 2023-24 and a projected future growth in Post 16 numbers as a consequence, the City could have a shortage in capacity of around 1,855 young people in 2028-2029.

11

Estate Management

School Buildings

It is recognised that generally the maintained school estate has been well maintained with a rolling programme of capital works. However, it is also recognised that some school buildings are costly to maintain effectively due to their age and design. It is recommended that an annual condition review of maintained schools is carried out to inform priority for rebuilding schools. School condition will be considered alongside other factors such as location and proximity to new housing developments when considering rebuilding and/or relocation of schools.

The School Organisation Team will work closely with the Council's regeneration team to review potential sites for new/relocated schools.



New School Buildings

The ambition of this strategy is to ensure that where possible, any new school buildings are environmentally friendly and support the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2028.

We recommend a long term approach to the management of educational assets in order to ensure that fluctuations in demand can be effectively and efficiently catered for. Where appropriate, sites should be reserved as contingency to cater for anticipated increases in demand, such as that resulting from new housing developments.

However, it should be recognised that adopting a longer-term approach will result in short-term budgetary pressures for Corporate Landlord as sites must be secured and maintained.

Any reserved sites that are included on the Council's Disposal Programme will impact on the Council's ability to achieve its capital receipt target.

Where circumstances arise that present the opportunity to use existing school accommodation in different ways, this strategy would require that priority is given to the provision of statutory school places. However, to further align school place planning with the corporate assets programme we will identify any opportunities for strengthening multi-agency working through co-location of services and schools.

Rationalising the School Estate

At present there is land that is not used within some school sites in the city. The strategy recommends reviewing usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to ensure that schools have adequate useable space while ensuring that any agreed excess space is used to meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change.

12

Strategy Review

The strategy is subject to review on a biennial basis.



13

Resources

City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/your-council/council-plan>

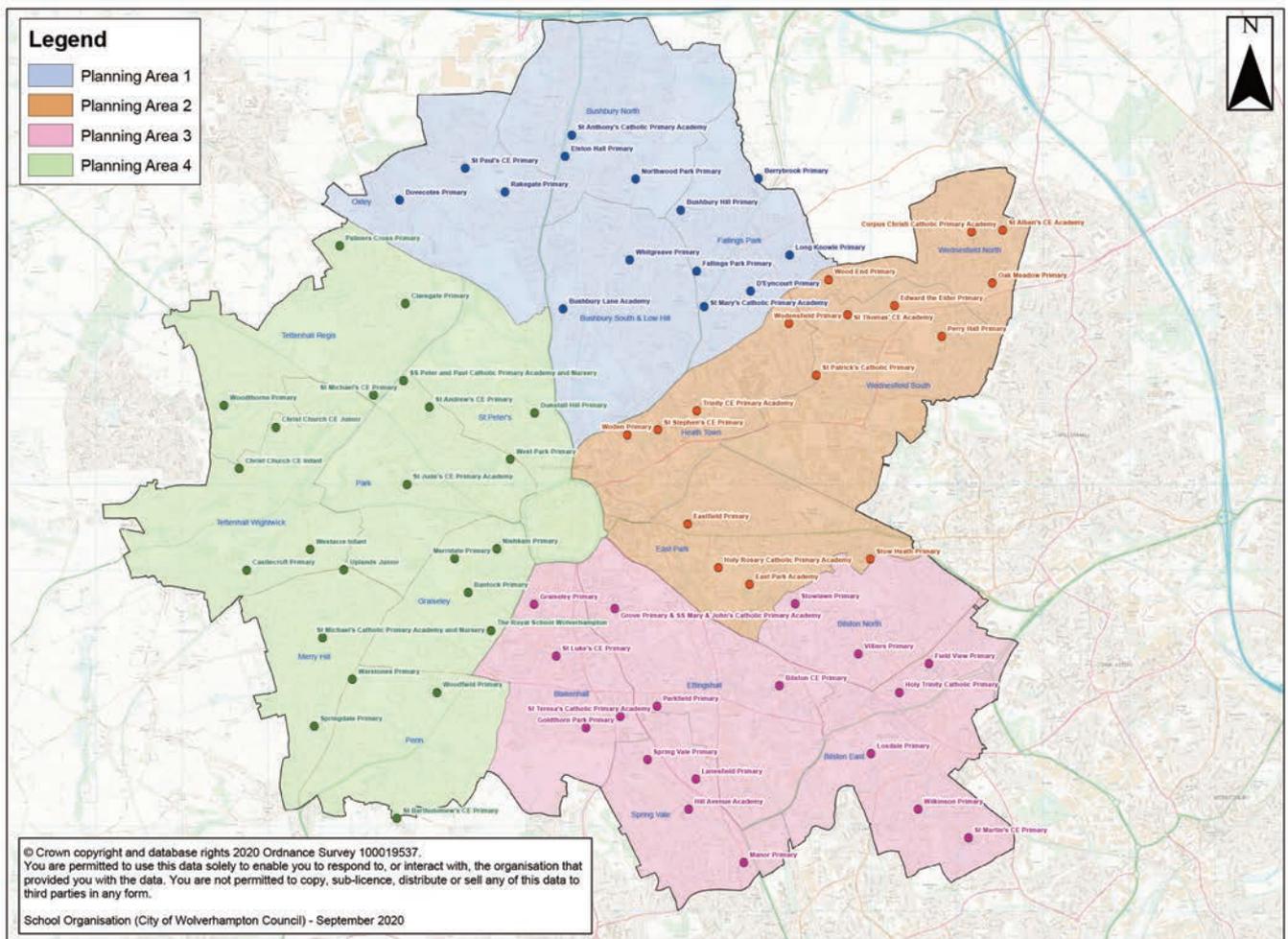
City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017 – 2021
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11544&p=0>

City of Wolverhampton Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14604&p=0>

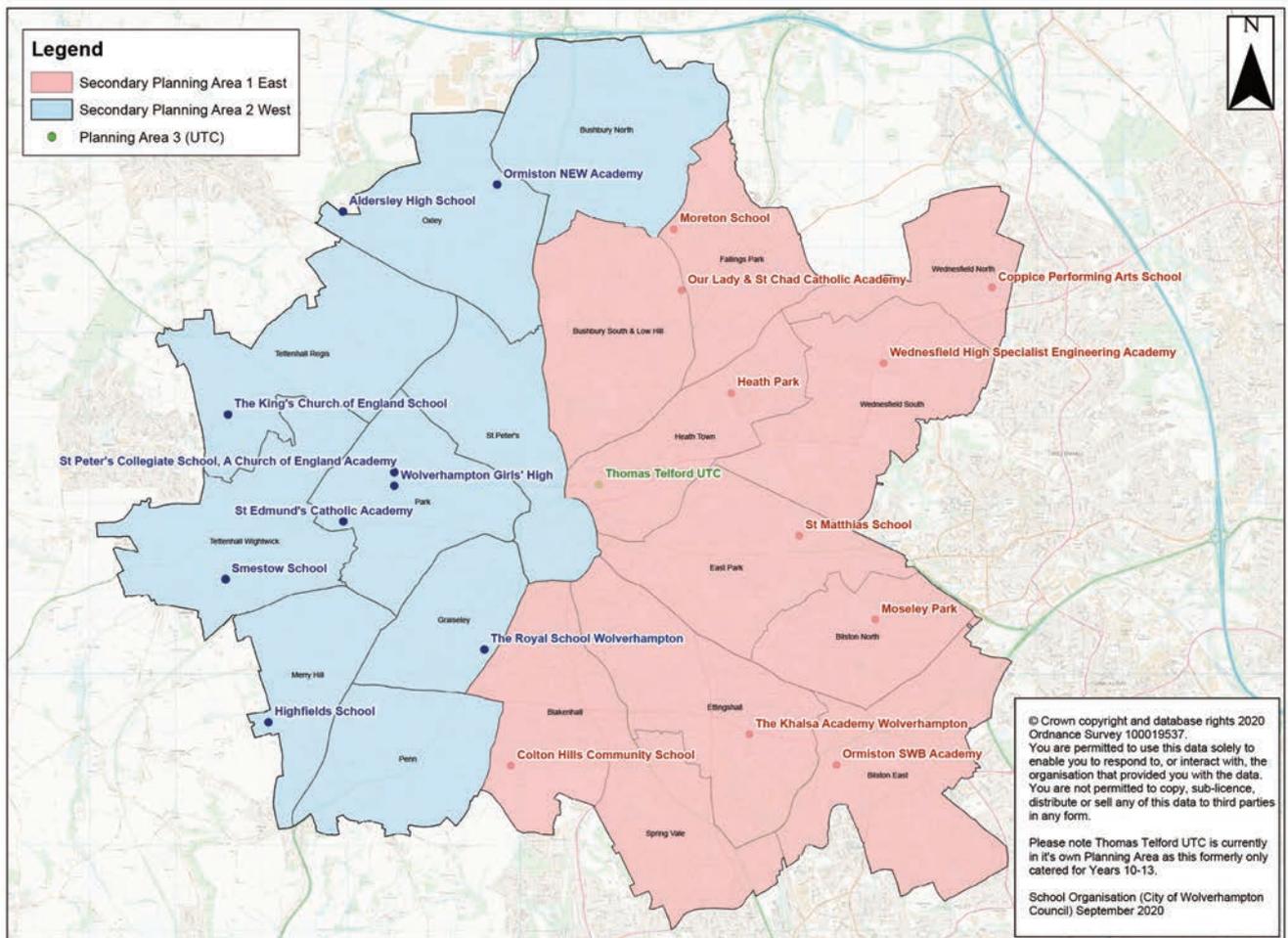
Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A: Primary Provision Planning Areas 2020



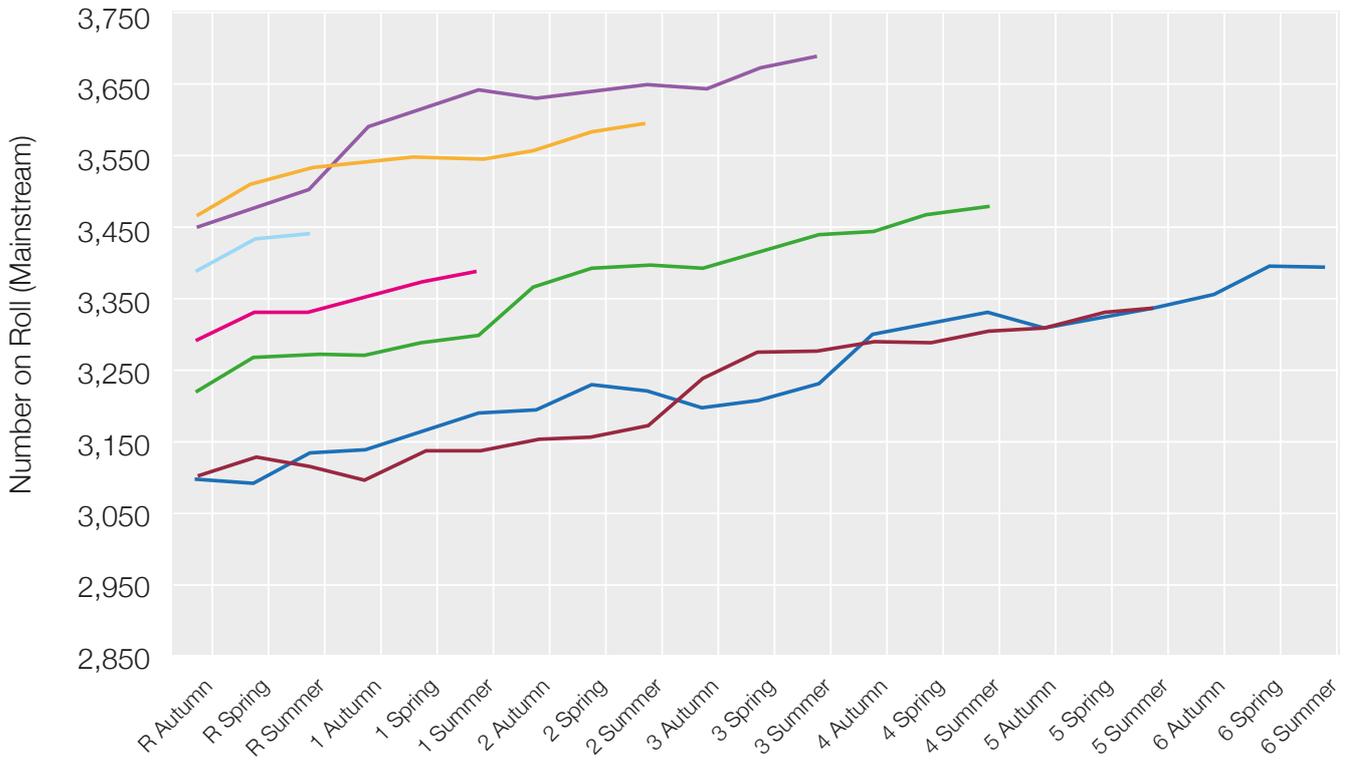
Appendix B: Secondary Provision Planning Areas 2020



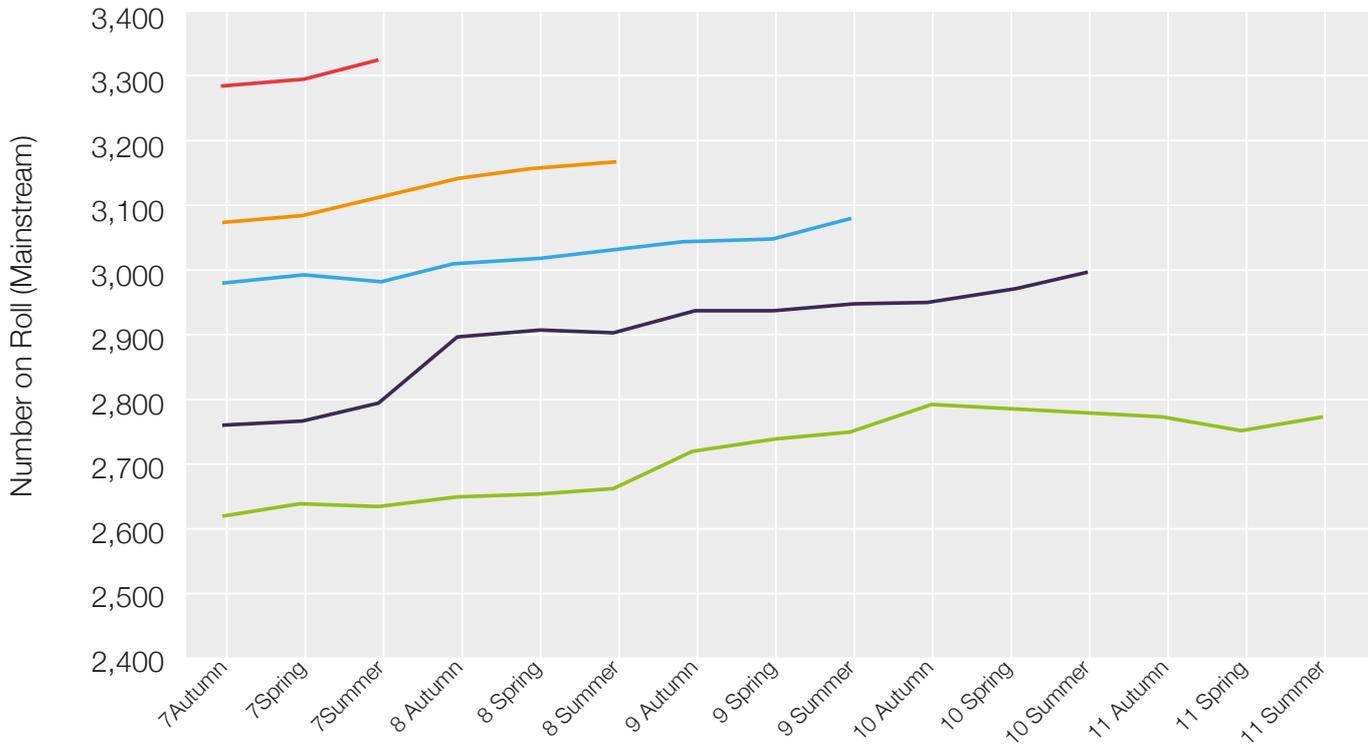
Appendix C:

Primary Cohort Fluctuations

(Autumn, Spring and Summer census data)



Appendix D: Secondary Cohort Fluctuations (Autumn, Spring and Summer census data)



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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel – Draft Minutes 5.1.21 9 (extract)

5. School Place Planning in Wolverhampton

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, introduced the report and explained that the Local Authority has a duty to provide a sufficient number of appropriate places for all the children who wish to be educated in Wolverhampton. The Cabinet Member commented on the challenges to achieving this as a result of legislative changes which have led to the introduction of free schools, academies schools over the years. As a result, the local authority has had to adopt a much more subtle process of negotiation and consultation with the various educational providers working in the City. The Cabinet Member commented on the difficulty in preparing the report and praised the contributions which have required a whole department effort to complete.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the importance of having correct data to inform planning decisions and the document gives the framework needed to ensure that children of all ages and abilities have a school place available to them whilst at the same time helping to maintain a healthy school environment. The Cabinet Member commented on the predicted increase in the demand for school places in the future and work being planned to meet the need for places as detailed in the document.

The Cabinet Member commented on the work done to consult with a wide range of organisations in the preparation of the document that was considered to be fit for purpose to ensure that over the next few years that the Local Authority has the right number of spaces in the right places.

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support, introduced the report and briefed the panel on the key points of the report and the main findings from the responses to the consultation. The Head of School Business and Support advised that the document is the latest iteration of the school place planning strategy for the City.

The document was being presented for pre-decision scrutiny and comment before the report is presented to Cabinet for approval at a meeting on 20 January 2021.

Cabinet will be asked to note the outcomes of the external consultation and the impact of demographic uplift on the demand for future school places and the need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand. The consultation started on the 18 March 2020 to gather views from key partners.

The Head of School Business and Support advised the panel that the Council is not in full control of all the factors in meeting the demand for school places and commented on the role of Regional Schools Commissioner in the process.

The Head of School Business and Support commented that the strategy also covers the closure of schools as well. The Head of Business Support commented that the strategy will help to deliver an inclusive education system in the City and expressed the commitment to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

The consultation received 52 responses which was much higher than the previous consultation which had only 25 responses. The Head of School Business and Support commented on the changes made to the strategy document in response to Government announcements on capital funding for schools rebuilding programmes.

The aim is to be in the position where the Local Authority can readily react to any opportunities that may arise to secure funding for either rebuilding existing schools or the building of new schools in the City.

The Head of School Business and Support advised the panel of the plan to publish an annual review of the condition and suitability of temporary accommodation in maintained schools. There is a small number of temporary buildings used for teaching still within the city in varying conditions and some which have fallen into disrepair. The Head of School Business and Support added that while some are relatively new there are some of that will start costing money in order to be kept in an appropriate condition. The plan is to undertake an annual condition review survey of temporary buildings and to use this with information provided nationally by DFE which has a scheduled timetable for undertaking a building condition survey. There was concern expressed about the time taken by Government to produce their report and also that it was considered to be subjective and tended to rely on repairs and maintenance reports.

The Head of School Business and Support commented on the commitment to develop environmentally friendly school buildings and cited examples of eco-friendly primary schools that are more energy efficient. A local primary school is due to open in the City which will be first passivhaus school of this type in the country to be built this way and a good news story.

The Local Authority is keen that any new school builds or any large expansions in the City are also environmentally friendly and developed using modern methods of construction to meet passivhaus standards.

The panel were advised that a new free school is due to open in 2022. This school will be a two-form entry primary school in the Wednesfield South Ward. A meeting has been arranged with Ward Councillors tomorrow just to update them on the proposals

The Head of School Business and Support commented on the need to have strong working relationships between schools and the City and also between the different council services in particular children services.

The panel were briefed on panel on a pilot project which will involve the co-location of social workers in a school which is expected to make better use of land and building assets.

The Head of School Business and Support commented on a recommendation in the document to review the usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to help the Council meet its climate change objectives. The point was made that the policy would not be about taking land from schools but having professional conversations with schools around land that is not being used and which is over and above what the current guidelines require. This is; however, a longer-term aspiration and will be discussed further with colleagues across the Council.

The Head of School Business and Support commented on charts in the report which showed the movement of pupils between Wolverhampton and areas outside at both primary and secondary school levels. There charts showed a closing of gap in recent years between parent wanting to send their children to schools neighbouring authorities rather than apply to local schools. This change reflects the improving educational performance of schools in the City.

The Head of School Business and Support commented on the graph in the report which shows growth in primary school which will need action being taken in future years to make sure the local authority is providing sufficient school places.

The increased demand for primary school places has impacted on the projected demand for secondary school places which peaks in 2022. The Head of School Business and Support commented on the work being done to produce sufficient school places for 2022 and the criteria that would be applied when deciding which schools should be expanded.

The Local Authority has a responsibility for spending public money and it is important to make sure that any schemes provide value for money and are located in areas of high demand and can meet the needs of existing communities and those of emerging communities in the future. The document will be used as a framework for introducing extra school places.

The panel were invited to comment on the report and make any recommendations as appropriate. The panel queried for process for approving the establishment of an academy. The Head of School Business and Support responded that following legislative changes and advised that any schools must either be an academy or a free school and explained the process. The Local Authority cannot build any new maintained schools. In recent years the introduction of new schools has been done with the creation of free schools which are centrally funded. In this situation, local authorities would be expected to find a site for the school

The panel welcomed the focus in the report in delivering quality education and expressed concern about expanding schools that are not performing well and wanted assurance that school educational performance and quality of provision would be among factors considered and not just the opportunity to increase the number of places to meet demand. The Head of School Business and Support reassured the panel of the commitment in the strategy to creating high-quality school places.

The panel welcomed the initiative in the report to co-locate different services and the current pilot to locate social workers in secondary schools. The panel requested a more detailed report to a future meeting of the panel to include feedback from both the social workers teachers and pupils at those schools where the pilots happening to understand the successes and challenges. Emma Bennett, Director of Children's and Adult Service, agreed to the request and suggested that a report could be presented to the panel in September 2021.

The Director of Children's and Adult Service advised the panel that Wolverhampton was selected as one of number of pilot areas across the country to trial the scheme. In the scheme there are social workers placed in six secondary schools, and then another six schools that will be used as comparators. The scheme has been running since October 2020.

The panel queried the reference in the report about the use of land around schools to build extra provision and the limits that would be applied. The Head of School Business and Support explained the policy and offered reassurance that the policy would not mean using all the available space around a school when planning a school expansion. The overall viability of the proposed expansion would be considered and there is a commitment to maintaining green space areas around schools. There are some sites in the City that have huge amounts of land that are in excess of the school's needs, which could be used other purposes, but any decision would also need to fit with the overall school expansion strategy.

The panel were queried whether the service had employees or external people with the necessary skills and experience to successfully deliver the expansion of school places to meet the expected increase in demand. The Head of School Business and Support reassured the panel that the service has access to the necessary expertise internally and where necessary externally to deliver the programme. The service has successfully provided sufficient school places of high quality in the past.

The panel discussed the issue of the recommendation in the document that a school place is available within a maximum walking distance of two miles (for a child under 8 years old) and up to a maximum of three miles (for a child over 8). To ensure that pupils can access a local school and that travel times are reasonable. The panel queried when decisions are made about increasing the number of places at a school if consideration is given to any transport issues such as the frequency of bus service for children and bus routes available to them that may already be an issue before it is agreed. The Head of School Business and Support reassured the panel the travel and accessibility issues are factors that will be considered when planning for schools and explained the work done to try to ensure that pupils have access to schools within a reasonable distance. The Head of School Business and Support accepted the challenges presented to young people as a result of changes to bus service routes across the City. The ongoing challenge for the service is to have outstanding education for everybody in the City and making what is on offer at primary and secondary levels as good as it can possibly be.

The panel queried the response from schools to the issues caused by the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on partnership working. The Head of School Business and Support commented on the positive response from schools and the praised how well schools are working together across the City to respond to the various challenges. The Head of School Business and Support commented on the positive partnership working relationships between schools and the local authority.

The panel welcomed the report and supported the recommendations detailed in the City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document and refer report.

The panel wanted to place on record their congratulations to Cllr Momemabadi on her award as Young Councillor of the Year by the LGIU national award in November 2020.

Resolved:

1. The panel agreed that the minutes of the panel meeting be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration.
2. The panel agreed to receive a report on the national project which is trialling the co-location of social workers within schools to a meeting September 2021.

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Do you agree with an annual review of the condition and suitability of temporary accommodation across the maintained school estate? - Y/N	Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the annual review of temporary accommodation? - Comments or feedback	Do you agree with the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of maintained schools to inform priority for rebuilding of schools? - Y/N
Yes		Yes
Yes	An annual review is very important as we have to look after the wellbeing of children and teachers and staff across the school estate	Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	<p>Its should be a consistent approach across all schools.</p> <p>The temporary accommodation should be on traffic light system with state of repair</p>	Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	Thorough investigation is needed considering the practical, realistic use of such buildings considering the well-being of teachers and children	Yes
Yes	If there is an annual review, afterwards something should be put in place so children are learning in the best environment/building possible	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	Temporary accommodation should be temporary and a initial limit should be set out as to how long it will be used for.	Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	no	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	It is necessary to complete annual reviews to check on the condition of temporary accommodation so that this can be taken into account for future school place planning., as well as from a Health and Safety aspect.	Yes

Yes	Financial support needs to be available to enable schools to action recommendations.	Yes
Yes		Yes
No	There should be no temporary accommodation in the 1st place	Yes
Yes		Yes

Question 4	Question 5	Question 6
<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of the maintained school estate? - Comments or feedback</p>	<p>Do you agree with the ambition for new school buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim? - Y/N</p>	<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim? - Comments or feedback</p>
<p>A broad review should consider bold decisions such as the changing of purpose of accommodation, if there are sufficient factors (cost, alternative use, access etc).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As long as there are not shorter term financial consequences to the upkeep and maintenance of the new buildings e.g. a particular system that is 'environmentally friendly' could cost significantly more than traditional methods and put pressure on a school budget.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I agree with the need to be environmentally friendly, but this must support that these buildings are set to last. Any design features need to be sustainable for the future.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This should've happened long ago.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>No</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Annual review is important to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents whilst they are doing the school run.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We all have a duty to reduce carbon emissions and to be environmentally friendly. This also ensures health and safety of children, teachers and staff. We have to think about the future of our children and the climate.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>Yes, it is useful to plan works. However, not just applying sticking plasters.</p> <p>Ensuring that there is a capital works and maintenance programme that is SMART Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This should also be taught to kids to explain how we can all do our part to help the environment.</p> <p>Also, if local suppliers and contractors are available this should be considered along side value for money.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>I think generally when older schools are rebuilt it is of benefit as they can save money in the long run</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I think schools which are environmentally friendly set a good example to pupils.</p>

<p>School condition should be priority not position of school relating to new houses. Why should quality and safety of building not be of higher priority compared to providing more places. ALL school building should be prioritised based on condition of buildings. ALL children matter.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Great also for children's learning about making change for environment</p>
<p>However as before, no maintained school should be in such disrepair.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Absolutely brilliant idea. This should be a priority for all schools not just those falling apart</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>I have found LA projects very rushed and last minute, which indicates lack of strategic planning. Often, major work is reactive and lacks planning. Headteachers should not have to be chasing LA for work on buildings and then having to manage chaotic planning.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Providing the cost is not at the expense of building more accommodation/ refurbishing schools as needed.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>There may be competing demands on whether a particular school has capital spending and location a to new housing developments may be one of very many factors, including transport links, quality of educational offering, distinctiveness of offering requiring additional external support or area of disadvantage that has little recourse to capital funds, but serves a specific community with particularly high needs. It is likely to be in existing and long standing (no pun intended) communities where greatest need is and investing in new housing areas risks further deteriorating existing stock or isolating some communities from a good or outstanding school.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Absolutely and built into this would be transport connectivity and access to schools within communities whilst retaining the opportunity for parents and their children to have choice in the educational journey.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>no</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>no</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>AS long as the fundamental ideas do not compromise teaching & learning</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	

	Yes	God ambition but I am not sure how realistic it is. Are schools adequately supported to enable them to achieve this?
	Yes	
I believe that all schools not just maintained ones should have regular inspections to ensure all children allocated a school place by Wolverhampton council go to a school with appropriately maintained buildings. Not every child gets a place at a preferred schools, parents expect the council to send pupils to schools without holes in the roof etc	Yes	It should be the council's priority that pupils needs are put before environmental e.g a class room or more trees planted on site. The class room should always take priority.
	Yes	

Question 7	Question 8	Question 9
Do you agree with identifying opportunities for strengthening multiagency working through co-location of services and schools? - Y/N	Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the co-location of services and schools? - Comments or feedback	Do you agree with the recommendation to review the usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to help meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change? - Y/N
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	Multi agency work is vital in schools. It allows families to be engaged sooner therefore achieving better outcomes for children and families	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
No		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	None	Yes
Yes		No

Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
No		Yes
Yes		No

Yes	Obviously with appropriate safeguarding procedures but also keeping in mind these may need to be allocated back to school in years that follow.	No
No	Needs more clarity. Co-locarion could work as long as these locations are next to each other and services benefit each side.	No
Yes		Yes
No		No
No		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes	I would welcome workers in school - it would provide better and easier access for our families who need support	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	Where that is not merely a cost-saving exercise, but one which will realise the synergy of co-located resources and accessible to all partners across the city. This can only occur where capacity exists or can be made. Sensitivity and creativity in creating and maintaining suitable spaces for a range of educational provision is critical for welfare and futures of children and young people in the city.	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	no	No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	If there is spare building capacity eg outbuildings or unused caretaker's house then co-location of schools and education services could be a good use of underused facilities. The primary focus of the site ie school education shouldn't be lost or hindered by other services. It might enable outside agencies to obtain a better insight by being close to or part of a school site. However, safeguarding and logistical arrangements (car parking, staff room space, reception....etc.) might be difficult to meet.	No
No		No
Yes		No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes	With public libraries so children have access to books	No
Yes		Yes
Yes	SEN pupils in mainstream school should have access to the same provisions as pupils in specialist SEN provision e.g specialist dental service, onsite OT and physio, paediatrician visits etc. The pupils in mainstream are receiving a second class service than their peers in specialist provision	No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Question 10	Question 11
<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the review and rationalisation of the school estate to help the Council meets its wider objectives? - Comments or feedback</p>	<p>Please provide any further comments you would like to make regarding this strategy, stating the section and page number you are referring to. - Comments</p>
<p>My concern would be that a precedence could be set of green and open space being used for housing.</p>	
<p>Although I agree this mustn't be at the cost of cutting playng fields for children and young people</p>	
<p>Safeguarding and safety is very important for the wellbeing of children and staff. Extra security measures will need to be put in place to ensure safety all around.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>I believe that there should be additional consideration given to rationalisation of the school estate around regeneration.</p> <p>I believe it is important to also maintain and conserve our nature and wildlife when rationalisation of the estate is considered.</p>	
<p>If unused land is used to build houses, this will put pressure on places on the school it is next to, therefore they might need to expand, but now can't because their land is now houses. Bit of a catch-22. Unused land should perhaps be used instead for green spaces or community projects.</p>	
<p>I do not feel there are sufficient schools in Wolverhampton any way I would also have concerns that schools on more desirable sites with large grounds would be at risk. I feel strongly that school grounds provide important outdoor spaces for youngsters.</p>	
<p>Using school land to build houses on for example will mean children's outdoor learning will be greatly affected.</p>	
<p>I agree with the above provided each school is left with adequate green space for recreation and sports and that the school and its surroundings do not become a concrete jungle.</p>	
<p>I think it is important for schools to keep their outdoor spaces to give enough room for children to play safely. I don't think that it is a good idea for school grounds to be lost. If anything they could build extra classrooms on land not being used to meet demand for school places.</p>	

<p>Schools should be supported in making use of these groups / spaces. They often have been left due to funding. With some support from businesses and volunteers land could provide amazing learning spaces that could inspire and engage our children in learning. Also school fields should be protected, as a child I loved the playing fields at school. They provide outdoor space that has positive impact on children's mental health and should not be taken away.</p>	<p>Children need to be at the heart of these decisions not making money.</p>
<p>If schools have excess land, it should be utilised for the children, especially as a green zone. There are not enough parks and extra space would encourage healthy lifestyles and fitness of children.</p>	
<p>It depends on definition of 'excess space'. School fields are an essential part of what makes schools so enjoyable to children at unstructured times and for physical activity. West Park PS - every cm of the space is used and enjoyed.</p>	
<p>As long as it IS unused by the school, and they have no future plans to use it to benefit the children's educational offer.</p>	
<p>Are you referring to the use of school playing fields? I believe that this is an area that must be protected, even more so in the current climate.</p>	

<p>Huge caveat to former reply. Open spaces, places to recreate and have purposeful outdoor experiences are crucial to wellbeing and mental health for pupils, teachers and wider community. Following the current situation there will continue to be a need for young people to reconnect with their surroundings and outdoors. Any loss of amenity must be carefully assessed and balanced against the less measurable, but equally important wellbeing and welfare issues.</p> <p>However, where excess capacity exists that could be repurposed to more flexible and positive use that contributes to the urban landscape then it may be a positive impact.</p>	<p>I agree with the need to offer choice to pupils and their parents and for the continual striving to offer a high quality, enriching learning experience for every child in the city must be a goal.</p> <p>Sharing of plans and specific locations, outcomes and intentions is more than helpful, it is critical to the success of education and the future of young people now and in the future. It cannot remain a cost/benefit analysis on a spreadsheet, but must increasingly offer an aspirational route for the young people of Wolverhampton to not only survive, but thrive and push forward the regeneration of their city and region.</p>
<p>As long as the school can challenge and refuse too</p>	

<p>If the whole class site is not being used I would ask why? How can the provision of education be improved through better use of the site? Schools should make full use of any outdoor space for sport and outdoor learning opportunities especially at a time when mental health and wellbeing are so important. Surrounding schools with more housing is also likely to create greater pressure on admission numbers. School space should be used to enhance education not create more pressure on it.</p>	<p>The school community - staff, governors, pupils and local residents and businesses should be part of any proposal to significantly change school sites.</p>
<p>I don't think space should be taken from schools to build houses on , although schools should make best use of their land , it should be for the children rather than new developments .</p>	
<p>All schools should have access to sporting provision onsite they should not have to chose e.g a rugby or a football pitch an athletics track or tennis courts. Having a wider variety of sport available in schools encourages pupils to be more active and may encourage them to continue being active into adult life.</p>	<p>Don't reduce the diversity and quality of education on offer in Wolverhampton, it's imperative that pupils receive high quality teaching with a variety of subjects and facilities. Less does not equate to more.</p>

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