

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Item 5	
Title	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the use of £20,000 from the Regeneration Reserve to fund feasibility and valuation work at i54 Western Extension as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report be approved. 2. That the use of £942,000 from the Licensing Reserve in line with Licensing Committee approvals as detailed at paragraph 5.5 of the report be approved. 3. That the use of £98,000 from the Recovery Reserve to fund a project team for the Kickstart Work Experience Programme, as detailed at paragraph 5.6 of the report and in also in the 'Kickstart Work Experience Programme' report presented to Cabinet (Resources) Panel at this meeting be approved. 4. That the establishment of supplementary expenditure budgets within the 2020-2021 approved budget as detailed in section 6.0 of the report for grant funded expenditure be approved. 5. That the 29 virements totalling £9.7 million, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report be approved. 6. That the write-off of eight Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £85,898.47 as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report be approved. 7. That the write-off of three Council Tax debts totalling £21,112.96 as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report be approved. 8. That it be noted that the overall projected outturn for the General Fund for 2020-2021 is forecast to a break-even outturn position, after a forecast contribution to reserves, excluding the impact of Covid-19.

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9. That it be noted that at this stage in the financial year it is difficult to forecast redundancy costs. However, as forecast in recent years it is anticipated that the cost of redundancies can be met from reserves.
10. That it be noted that a £9.9 million surplus on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is projected compared with a budgeted surplus of £10.8 million as shown at Table 20 and in detail at Appendix 3 to the report. The projected reduction to the surplus of £915,000 would reduce redemption of debt by £915,000.
11. That it be noted that 74 sundry debt accounts totalling £39,830.63, as detailed in paragraph 9.3 of the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
12. That it be noted that 1,215 council tax accounts totalling £441,438.14, as detailed in paragraph 9.5 of the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
13. That it be noted that 70 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £257,198.94, as detailed in paragraph 9.6 of the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
14. That it be noted that 16 housing benefit overpayments totalling £4,098.69 as detailed in paragraph 9.10 of the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
15. That it be noted that 8 debts relating to Business Improvement District (BID) totalling £3,516.00, as detailed in paragraph 9.7 of the report, have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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

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Item 6	
Title	Kickstart Work Experience Programme
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with Director of Regeneration to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve the Council entering into the required grant agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the Council to employ young people aged 16-24 years old at risk of long term unemployment on the Kickstart scheme. b. Approve the Council entering into required grant agreements with DWP for the Council to act as a Gateway for businesses in the city to deliver Kickstart work experience placements to young people aged 16-24 years old. c. Approve payments of grants to employers who are approved as Kickstart work experience providers by DWP, funded from DWP grant. d. Approve reimbursement of Kickstart salaries to employers who participate in the scheme through a claims process agreed with DWP, funded from DWP grant. e. Approve the Council entering into back to back grant funding agreements with employers participating in the scheme. f. Approve the creation of the necessary supplementary budgets to deliver the scheme. 2. That it be noted that the delivery of support to employers and Kickstart participants would be provided through the Council's Enterprise and Skills teams, through Wolves at Work and Education Business Partnership as part of a traded service to employers.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. That it be noted that the Council would be responsible for putting in place the appropriate financial management processes to reimburse Kickstart salaries for participants employed by employers approved for the Council Gateway. 4. That it be noted that the Council would be responsible for managing finance, audit and compliance requirements of the scheme in its role as a Gateway. 5. That it be noted that approval would be sought in the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021 Report presented to Cabinet (Resources) Panel also at this meeting for the use of £98,000 over an 18 month period from the Recovery Reserve to fund a project team for the Kickstart Work Experience Programme.
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>Option One - make no change to our existing arrangements. This would mean that young people in the city would not benefit from this offer through the Council. Also, the Council would not be in a position to support employers with offering work placements as part of this scheme.</p> <p>Option Two – deliver the Kickstart scheme for young people through the Council as an employer only. The Council is proposing to identify an initial cohort of 30 placements as an employer. This number will be reviewed regularly.</p> <p>Option Three – deliver the Kickstart scheme for young people through the Gateway supporting other employers in the city. The Council has already identified 45 employers who are interested in joining the scheme and 122 work placements. This would mean that only those employed by other employers could be supported through the Council.</p> <p>Option Four – deliver the Kickstart scheme both as an employer and as a Gateway employing initially up to 30 Kickstart placements through the Council and up to 150 placements through external employers. This is the preferred option as it allows the Council to deliver the scheme as a reputable employer in the city.</p>

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<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<p>Kickstart will perform a vital role within the Relighting our City strategy priority Generate More Jobs and Learning Opportunities to support young people in their pathway into sustainable employment.</p> <p>Kickstart will form part of a youth offer within the city supporting young people, particularly vulnerable young people, to access training, support, careers guidance and sustainable employment including apprenticeships.</p> <p>Kickstart will form part of a package of measures available to support care leavers in their pathway into sustainable employment.</p> <p>If the Council does not take the decision to become a Kickstart employer, then the Council will not be in a position to take part in the scheme and provide a range of funded Kickstart work placements to young people in our city.</p> <p>If the Council does not take the decision to be a Gateway, it will be more difficult for employers, particularly smaller employers in the city to play their part in delivering the Kickstart programme. These employers rely on Gateways to provide access and support to deliver the Kickstart placements within their businesses.</p>
<p>Record of Conflicts of Interest</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Dispensation Granted</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</p>	<p>15 December 2020</p>

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Item 7	
Title	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees be noted.
Options Considered	Not applicable in relation to the summary report.
Reasons for Decision	In accordance with the Council's Constitution a summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees must be reported to the next available meeting of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive and Ross Cook, Director of City Environment declared a non pecuniary interest in the IEDN 'Loan to WV Living' as they are both Directors of WV Living.
Dispensation Granted	None
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	10 December 2020

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Item 8	
Title	Exclusion of press and public
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	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).
Options Considered	Not applicable.
Reasons for Decision	Not applicable.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Not applicable
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable

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Item 9	
Title	Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of City Environment, to approve the award of a contract for Guarding – Locking and Unlocking of the Council’s Parks and Cemetery sites when the evaluation process is complete. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children’s Services, to approve the award of a contract for Detached Youth Work, when the evaluation process is complete. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director of City Environment, to approve the award of a contract for Housing Tenant Scrutiny and Engagement when the evaluation process is complete. 4. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 to 31 October 2020 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
Options Considered	As detailed in the exempt report.
Reasons for Decision	As detailed in the exempt report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable

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Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	15 December 2020
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