

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 20 January 2021

Item 5	
Title	Art Gallery Improvement Scheme Works
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the restart of the Art Galley Improvement Scheme Project - Phase Two from June 2021 be approved. 2. That the acceptance of the grant funding of £159,758 from Arts Council England Cultural Capital Kickstart funding be approved and that the supplementary capital budget be created from this grant. 3. That a virement of £290,000 from the Corporate capital contingency budget to create the required capital project budget to complete the Art Galley Improvement Scheme Project - Phase Two, as detailed in the report be approved. 4. That it be noted that the additional cost required to restart the project would bring the total budget of the Art Galley Improvement Scheme Project - Phase Two to £1,526,000 and that this total includes £132,000 that was approved through an Individual Executive Decision Notice in February 2020. Total project costs for Phase one and Two are now £1,829,000.
Options Considered	<p>Option One to restart the Art Gallery Improvement Scheme and Option Two to Stop the Art Gallery Improvement Scheme were both considered in respects of the benefits each would achieve, the evaluation of the options was agreed with Regeneration Leadership Team, Strategic Executive Board and Councillor Member for City Economy.</p> <p>Option Two is not recommended, this option was rejected on consideration that the benefits to restart the project outweighed the benefits to stop the project.</p> <p>Most notably Option Two would mean that expenditure to date on this phase of the project, may not be capitalised and may have to be written back to revenue. If the project is stopped the grant received to date from the Arts Council of £108,000 may be clawed back as the full project for which the grant has been awarded has not been delivered.</p>

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	<p>Option Two would not support the Council’s Relighting Our City Strategy which is a significant contributor to the city’s strategic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Option Two would also not support the Council’s equality objectives as improvements for improved accessibility to the Art Gallery would not be built.</p> <p>Stopping the project is also likely to result in damage to the Council’s relationship with Arts Council England. If the Council does not continue the project it presents a disjointed approach to its cultural offer, which subsequently may impact on future funding opportunities for the Council.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>Option One to restart Phase Two of the Art Gallery Improvement scheme Project from June 2021 carries an additional cost of £450,000, bringing the total budget for phase two to £1,526,000, this is the preferred option.</p> <p>Option One was agreed as the preferred option on the basis that the benefits to restart the project outweighed the benefits to stop the project.</p> <p>The Council successfully won the Arts Council Capital Kickstart bid on 30 November 2020 and have secured £159,758 to restart the project which was halted due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Most notably this option supports a number of key objectives in the Council’s “Relighting Our City” Strategy. This project will be a key driver for the ‘Stimulate vibrant high streets and communities’ priority and will be crucial in delivering this priority to consolidate the city’s place as key cultural hub in the West Midlands.</p> <p>Following the aftermath of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Art Gallery remains a significant cultural destination with a vibrant public events programme that brings thousands of people into the city. Option One ensures that the Art Gallery can improve and widen the cultural experience for local residents and visitors to the city as part of the overall regeneration of the City Centre and will help drive forward the city’s economic recovery.</p>

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	<p>There will be wider social benefits for the city as a whole, as cultural venues make a huge contribution to local quality of life, local people's perception of the place and greater individual aspiration, as well as improving health and wellbeing and enriching the city's education offer.</p> <p>The revised project delivery plan would ensure that the prestigious British Art Show 9 can commence from March 2021 uninterrupted by construction works.</p> <p>The option also meets the corporate priority around diversity and equality by creating a more accessible Art Gallery entrance and relocating the café to the ground floor, resulting in a better customer experience and a wider cultural offer for everyone.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 January 2021

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Item 6	
Title	Leasing of Former Compton Youth Centre
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the letting of the former Compton Youth Centre to Windmill Community Church on a 99-year peppercorn lease, subject to terms be approved. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive to approve the terms of the lease.
	<p>An alternative option is to not undertake the leasing of the asset and continue to hold the property as a void asset until an alternative suitable use is identified. This will increase the likeliness of continued vandalism and anti-social behaviour and the Council will continue to incur holding costs.</p> <p>The asset could also be sold on the open market in return for a capital receipt, but this would be at the detriment of losing a vital community asset within this part of the city.</p> <p>The Council could alternatively demolish the existing building and utilise as amenity land, again to the detriment of losing a valuable community asset.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>The proposed letting provides a viable, robust and sustainable solution to ensure that the asset is efficiently utilised and will provide complete refurbishment and modernisation of a valuable community asset ensuring that community needs are met both now and in the future.</p> <p>In consideration of complying with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the social and economic benefits to be derived from leasing the former Compton Youth Centre to WCC are significant within the local community that it serves. These benefits include improved access to community facilities on an all-inclusive basis with an 'open door' policy, benefits to physical and mental health from activities to be held at the centre, regeneration of a visible public asset,</p>

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	community prosperity, reduction in current holding costs for the Council and an opportunity to utilise the asset in future for polling station provision creating asset efficiency and further reducing costs for the Council.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 January 2021

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Item 7	
Title	Local Government Association (LGA) Behavioural Insights Programme
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council delivers a physical activity intervention in line with the Local Government Association's (LGA's) Behavioural Insights Programme using the awarded grant of £20,000. 2. That the creation of the necessary supplementary budget to deliver this project in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules be approved. 3. That it be noted that an external commissioned provider would be appointed to deliver of this project as per the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
Options Considered	The only alternative option would be to not accept the funding. This would result in a missed opportunity to again insight into why residents are not undertaking sustained physical activity.
Reasons for Decision	The funding has been made available and will be beneficial to the Behavioural Insights Programme in Wolverhampton.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 January 2021

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Item 8	
Title	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices
Status	Recommendations 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	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable

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Item 9	
Title	Exclusion of press and public
Status	Recommendations 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 items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
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 10	
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 Public Health, to approve the award of a contract for Leisure Management Software when the evaluation process is complete. 2. That the award of a contract for Fixed Phone Lines to Virgin Media Business 500 Brook Drive, Reading, RG2 6UU for a duration of one year from 20 January 2021 to 19 January 2022 for a total contract value of £539,000 be approved. 3. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 to 30 November 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
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 January 2021