

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Item 5	
Title	Wolves at Work 18-24 - Youth Employment
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That Cabinet approves (subject to the support and endorsement of Full Council on 3 November 2021):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The launch of a new Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme of targeted interventions which puts our young people at the centre of activity and urgently delivers the step change needed in our City to give unemployed young people opportunities for secure, sustainable employment, apprenticeships, education or training. 2. An initial £3 million budget, from a combination of the Recovery Reserve and Covid Emergency Grant, to deliver Wolves at Work 18-24 and galvanise a 'One City' approach to create opportunities for our young people. 3. The establishment of a £100,000 'City Ideas Fund', initially (funded from the £3 million available), for City employers and partners to bid for and put forward ideas that will get more young people into sustained employment, apprenticeships, education or training. 4. The delegation of authority to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, to approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wolves at Work 18-24 targeted interventions and the allocation of the associated budget (from the £3 million available). b. The scope and governance arrangements for the 'City Ideas Fund'. <p>That Cabinet notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering Wolves at Work 18-24 is the Council and City's number one priority and needs a coordinated and sustained response from the Council, City employers and partners, the West Midlands Combined Authority and Government Departments, as a result:

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	<p>a. The Leader of the Council will be the Lead Cabinet Member.</p> <p>b. The Chief Executive will fulfil the role of Accountable Director, with day-to-day responsibility being delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, who will fulfil the role of Senior Responsible Officer (SRO).</p> <p>2. The Council is committed to holding a Wolves at Work 18-24 City Summit to bring together a range of key partners (local, regional and national) and employers to forge a ‘One City’ approach to tackling the underlying issues which transcend organisational boundaries.</p> <p>3. The progress and impact of Wolves at Work 18-24 would be reported to Councillors as part of the established corporate performance and budget monitoring arrangements.</p> <p>4. The existing Governance arrangements relating to youth unemployment within the Council and across the City, would be mapped and reviewed to ensure that they are making a positive contribution towards Wolves at Work 18-24.</p>
Options Considered	There is only one real option to tackle this problem - adopting a ‘One-City’ approach with the Council taking on a City and system leadership role.
Reasons for Decision	This is the recommended option for decision as the Council is in a unique position to lead on developing and resourcing a comprehensive programme of targeted intervention – Wolves at Work 18-24 - to support young people currently claiming benefits and aged 18 to 24 into sustainable employment, apprenticeships, education or training.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	4 November 2021

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Item 6	
Title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2023-2024
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the updated draft budget strategy for 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 be approved. 2. That work continues to further develop proposals and further review the assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), in order to ensure that a balanced budget can be set for 2022-2023 and future years. 3. That it be noted that the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial strategy remains aligned to the Council's priorities. The Wolves at Work 18-24 –Youth Employment report on this same agenda demonstrates the alignment of budgets to priorities and seeks approval to lead on developing and resourcing a comprehensive programme of targeted intervention to support young people currently claiming benefits and aged between 18-24, into sustainable employment, apprenticeships, education and training. 4. That it be noted that the Council needs the Government to provide confirmation on future years funding as soon as possible, in order to ensure that the Council has a clear direction of funding available over the medium term. 5. That it be noted that, despite austerity since 2010, the Council has a strong track record of managing money well, planning ahead and delivering excellent services. The financial implications of the pandemic have significantly distorted the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. 6. That it be noted that, a number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that would be made available to the Council as detailed in the report. It is important to note that there continues to be considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future income streams for local authorities over the forthcoming Spending Review period.

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	<p>At the point that further information is known it would be incorporated into future reports to Councillors. Any reduction in Government’s allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit forecast over the medium term.</p> <p>7. That it be noted that, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council.</p> <p>8. That it be noted that that the overall risk associated with the 2022-2023 draft budget and medium term strategy is assessed as Red.</p>
Options Considered	<p>In determining the financial strategy, consideration has been made to the deliverability of budget reduction and income generation proposals, and budget pressures. If we were not to implement the strategy outlined in this report, alternative options would need to be identified in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2022-2023.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>It is recommended that the updated draft budget strategy linked to the Five Year Financial Strategy, including changes to corporate resource assumptions and growth and inflation, for inclusion in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 is approved by Cabinet. Cabinet will be provided with an update on progress in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 report which will be presented to Cabinet in February 2022. In approving this strategy, the Council will be working towards identifying options to be able to set a balanced budget for 2022-2023.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	<p>None</p>
Dispensation Granted	<p>Not applicable</p>
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	<p>26 October 2021</p>

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Item 7	
Title	Revised Corporate Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety Update
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the adoption and implementation of the revised Corporate Health and Safety Policy be approved. 2. That the progress with regard to managing health and safety in the organisation be noted.
Options Considered	There are no real alternative options. Having a written Health and Safety Policy is a legal requirement under Section 2 (3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
Reasons for Decision	There are potentially serious risks for City of Wolverhampton Council and its operations from inadequate consideration of health and safety issues.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 October 2021

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Item 8	
Title	Fleet Telematics Policy and System
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the telematics policy proposal to support the introduction of a telematics system be approved. 2. That the introduction of a telematics system to aid in fleet monitoring, driver behaviour, and the Council's climate change targets, subject to business case development be endorsed. 3. That it be noted that the report does not require approval for funding towards the telematics system. A business case would be developed in due course for subsequent budget approvals.
Options Considered	<p>Option 1 – to make no changes to the existing policy. This would result in rejection of the proposed policy and an inability to implement the telematics system required, and the subsequent benefits to the Council.</p> <p>Option 2 – fully endorse the proposed policy for incorporation into council corporate policy. This would enable development of the business case for implementation, and the introduction of a future system to support fleet transformation.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>The policy will lay the foundation for the physical system, which in turn will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support a move towards the Council's commitment to be net carbon zero by 2028. b. Provide additional protection to employees by assisting the management of occupational road risk to meet our health and safety responsibilities. c. Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. d. Support logistics planning and vehicle utilisation for effective service provision e. Reduce costs associated with the maintenance of vehicles

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Assist with the location of vehicles that have broken down or have been stolen. g. Record drivers' hours to evidence of compliance with the Road Transport Directive. h. Help safeguard employees against vexatious complaints and allegations. i. Assist in work planning (e.g. planning routes and schedules, reducing 'dead' mileage, knowing which vehicle is closest to an emergency, making best use of vehicles, etc.). j. Provide information on who is responsible for a vehicle at all times to help meet the requirements of the Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence k. Provide information on driver behaviour to improve safety. l. Assist in protecting the Council and its employees from claims arising from such incidents involving any Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) <p>In June 2022 the Council will be procuring an insurance provider. Progressing with the telematics system in the near term for delivery within the next six months, will have direct consequences on the Council's insurance premiums for the next five years.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
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Item 9	
Title	Wolverhampton Health Inequalities Strategy 2021-2023
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That the Wolverhampton Health Inequalities Strategy for 2021-2023 be endorsed.
Options Considered	<p>Option one - to make no change, and in doing so not endorse the city strategy. This would result in the exclusion of the City of Wolverhampton Council from a strategy delivering against shared partner outcomes, increasing the likelihood of uncoordinated activity across the system and potentially resulting in duplication or lack of action.</p> <p>Option two - to endorse the city strategy thereby supporting the guiding principles in the strategy including the commitment to develop and contribute to a monitoring framework. This will provide the opportunity for partners to align activity, enable system join-up, identify gaps and prevent duplication, giving additional impetus and urgency to address health inequalities in the city.</p>
Reasons for Decision	By endorsing the Wolverhampton Health Inequalities Strategy for 2021-2023 the City of Wolverhampton Council is committing to understanding health inequalities in the wake of the pandemic and undertaking a systematic and joined-up approach to ensure no-one is left behind as we seek to recover and relight the City.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
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Item 10	
Title	Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework 2021
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised Black Country Regulators Operating Framework 2021 be approved. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with Director of City Housing and Environment to agree minor amendments to the Black Country Regulators Operating Framework following future bi-annual reviews. 3. That it be noted that Wolverhampton’s Private Sector Housing service are now included in the operating framework.
Options Considered	<p>Option one - to make no change to the existing policy. This would result in an out-of-date policy, not reflective of recent regulatory practices.</p> <p>Option two - to partially implement the recommendations of this report. For example, requiring minor amendment changes to be approved by Cabinet. This would result in unnecessary time and resources being used for minor matters that can be adequately addressed by the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The policy is due for review. 2. The Private Sector Housing service has moved into the regulatory group of services. This policy sets the regulatory standards to which Private Sector Housing will operate.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	26 October 2021