

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Item 5	
Title	Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment to approve the award of a contract for Independent Tenant and Homes Advisor following the completion of a procurement process.
Options Considered	In order to maintain independence as service provider would need to be engaged, failure to provide would mean opportunities would be missed when engaging with residents around the regeneration process.
Reasons for Decision	The delegation is requested to ensure the contract can be awarded in good time, once the evaluation process is complete.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	22 June 2021

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Item 6	
Title	Restart Employment Programme
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That the report be considered during the confidential session of the meeting on the grounds that the report contains commercially sensitive information under Part 1, paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
Options Considered	Not applicable.
Reasons for Decision	The report contains commercially sensitive information.
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 7	
Title	External Funding Update 2021/2022
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council act as Lead Authority for the following Community Renewal Fund (CRF) bids to deliver key priorities for the city including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. iGNITE (innovate, Grow, Navigate, Ideas, Technology, Entrepreneurship) – to support our vital local entrepreneurs, business start-ups and small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) around e-commerce skills; b. Working towards Improved Resource Efficiency and De-carbonisation (WIRED) – to support our city carbon reduction commitment and vital local businesses through a large-scale innovative resource efficiency and energy reduction programme; c. Wolverhampton Employment and Skills Support for All (WESSA) – to generate more jobs and learning opportunities for local residents, through piloting innovative, targeted approaches to delivering support to get Wolverhampton residents back to work; d. West Midlands Youth Engagement – to ensure we create more opportunities for our children and young people, through a bid to commission critical research into youth engagement. 2. That the Council act as delivery partner in the West Midlands Cultural Renewal and Creative Skills bid to the Community Renewal Fund, to support the revitalisation of our high streets with key activity around cultural and creative industries. 3. That the Council support other key bids to the Community Renewal Fund that benefit Wolverhampton, including bids led by the voluntary community sector to support enterprise and employability, and the Good Things Foundation to provide intensive support to get people online which is in line with our ambitions around a fully digitally inclusive city.

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	<p>4. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with Director of Strategy and Director of Finance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve acceptance of the grant funding agreements if the projects referred to in recommendation 1 above are successful. b. Enter into back-to-back agreements with delivery partners if the projects referred to in recommendation 1 above are successful. c. Approve necessary revenue and if required capital budgets in line with the funding agreement if the projects referred to in recommendation 1 above are successful. d. Approve the use of the indirect costs element of any CRF grant to cover any additional administrative costs associated with the above funded programmes. e. Approve reimbursement of CRF grant to delivery partners who are awarded CRF. f. Approve the payment of grants to businesses who are awarded CRF grant for WIRED. <p>5. That stressing importance of timely decisions from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Strategy and Director of Finance to deal with project adjustments if required.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>No bid - projects would not proceed or would proceed at a lesser scale or over a longer timescale if external funding was not available.</p> <p>Bid - external funding enables the Council to deliver priority projects at a faster pace with greater impact with positive impact on regeneration activity and economic growth including gross value added (GVA) gain, learner assists. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iGNITE: CRF funding will fund a package of e-commerce training to complement and fill a gap in the current business support landscape complementing the physical enterprise hub in I10. • WIRED: will provide a package of support for businesses to decarbonise through a package

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	<p>of support and grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WESSA: will complement the city’s current employment support offer Wolves at Work and the Youth Hub filling gaps including job matching, in work support and growth sector employer engagement. • Regional Youth Engagement: will develop an approach to engaging young people in the plethora of support available. • West Midlands Cultural Renewal and Creative Skills programme will pilot activities within Cultural Action Zones including meanwhile uses and COVID safe events to generate footfall and increase visitors to high streets and develop creative skills.
Reasons for Decision	<p>External funding enables priority projects to proceed, at a faster pace and with greater impact. External funders usually require the Council to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement outlining what the resource can be used for and rules and regulations relating to the funding source. There is a risk of clawback of grant if rules and regulations are not followed, therefore dedicated Project Managers are built into costings for larger external funded projects to minimise risk.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
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Item 7a	
Title	Celebrating our city's diversity: Commemorating Saragarhi
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a £25,000 grant from the Recovery Reserve to the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Wednesfield for landscaping work on council-owned land around the proposed monument to the Battle of Saragarhi in Wednesfield which celebrates the city's Sikh community heritage, recognises its contribution to our country and would also help 'Relight our City' and town-centre vibrancy be approved. 2. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Communications and External Relations and the Director of Finance to approve a further grant up to £10,000 from the Recovery Reserve for any unforeseen issues.
Options Considered	<p>Option one would be to provide no funding to the existing project but without additional funding to secure the project this would mean it is possibly delayed or the project would not be completed. This would result in no potential benefits in terms of footfall and income to the local economy, no international profile for our city and to our vision for a city that celebrates diversity.</p> <p>Option two would be to partially fund the project. However as above it is possible the shortfall may not be met from fundraising resulting in the project not being completed.</p> <p>Option three, the recommended option, is that the Council provides up to £35,000 from the Recovery Reserve to fund the Battle of Saragarhi statue project in Wednesfield to celebrate the diversity of our city, recognise the contribution of our Sikh community to our country and increase visitor footfall to Wednesfield.</p>

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Reasons for Decision	Option three is recommended because of the wider benefits set out in the report and reinforced in paragraph 4.7 of the report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel declared a long standing association with the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Wednesfield and left the meeting while the item was considered.
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
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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 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 9	
Title	Procurement - Exempt- Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the award of contracts for the Supply of Independent Living Equipment to London Borough of Croydon of Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA for two years and eight months from 1 June 2021 to 30 November 2023 up to the contract value of £667,000 be approved. 2. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 – 30 April 2021 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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Item 10	
Title	Disposal of Beckminster House
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Beckminster House be declared surplus to the Council's requirements. 2. That disposal of the asset listed via the open market disposal methods of either auction or informal tender upon terms and conditions to be agreed be approved. 3. 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 disposal through an Individual Executive Decision Notice.
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)	22 June 2021

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Item 11	
Title	Lonsdale Road, Pennfields - Property acquisition and refurbishment.
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposal for the refurbishment of the property and reinstate the building to the original large house as detailed in Option 4 of paragraph 4.11 to the report be approved. 2. That the commencement of consultation with the tenants within the council owned properties be approved and discuss their housing needs and rehouse them into alternative accommodation. 3. That the payment of home loss and disturbance compensation for the tenants displaced by the planned refurbishment of the property, in accordance with the Land Compensation Act 1973 be approved. 4. That negotiations begin with the leaseholder of 43 Lonsdale Road to acquire the leasehold interest, with vacant possession and the payment of home loss and disturbance compensation, in accordance with the Land Compensation Act 1973 be approved. 5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment to approve the purchase of the leasehold property as detailed in Option 4 of paragraph 4.11 to the report. 6. That the current condition of the council owned properties at 43A and 43B Lonsdale Road and investment required be noted. 7. That the current condition of the leasehold property at 43 Lonsdale Road and investment required be noted.

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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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Item 12	
Title	Restart Employment Programme
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve the Council agreeing the final terms and entering into the required agreement with Serco for the Council to deliver employment and skills support to local unemployed residents, as a sub-contractor to Serco, as part of the Department for Work and Pensions Restart programme. b. Approve the Council creating appropriate supplementary expenditure and income revenue budgets, including staffing, for the delivery of the Restart Programme. c. Approve the Council entering into lease agreements with delivery venues, where required.
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)	22 June 2021