

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 27 April 2022

| Item 4 | |
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| 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 Assets and Housing in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment to approve the award of a contract for Sustainable Warmth Competition grants when the evaluation process is complete. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults, in consultation with the Director of Adult Services, to award successful providers places on a new supported living framework for Enhanced community living services for people with a forensic history and/or with significant complex challenging behaviour when the evaluation process is complete. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, to approve the award of a contract for Children and Families Support Services when the evaluation process is complete. |
| Options Considered | The options for each contract are detailed within the evaluation of alternative options section of the individual contract reports. |
| Reasons for Decision | The reasons for the decisions are detailed within the relevant section of the individual contract reports. |
| Record of Conflicts of Interest | None |
| Dispensation Granted | Not applicable |
| Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in) | 3 May 2022 |

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| Item 5 | |
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| Title | Providing Good Homes - 78 and 80 Byrne Road - Property appropriation and refurbishment |
| Status | Recommendations Approved |
| Record of Decision | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposal for the appropriation of 78 and 80 Byrne Road from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be approved. 2. That the proposal for the refurbishment of the properties and remodelling as large family living accommodation at a cost of around £80,000 as set out in section 3 of the report be approved. 3. That the current condition of the empty properties at 78-80 Byrne Road and the investment required be noted. |
| Options Considered | <p>Do nothing - The Council owned properties will remain in their current deteriorating condition and will not meet the Decent Homes Standard without significant investment. The properties will continue to attract fly tipping and anti-social behaviour which could be to the detriment of the neighbourhood and wellbeing of its residents.</p> <p>Sell on the open market - There is the option to dispose of the properties on the open market, however, this could bring a potential risk, as the properties may be purchased by a developer/investor for private rental. This will not guarantee an improved condition and once let, may lead to referrals to the Housing Standards Team. Although the properties could be sold with conditions to improve them to an agreed standard, before completing the sale.</p> <p>Also, there is a risk of reputational damage as it could be seen that the Council 'off loads' difficult to maintain properties to the private sector when large, affordable housing is in great demand in the City. This would be contrary to the Council's current acquisition programme to increase the number of affordable units, in particular, purchasing suitable large family houses.</p> |

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| <p>Reasons for Decision</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to the current demand for large family houses, it is recommended that the recommendations are approved. The property would be added to the housing stock and allocated to a family in housing need, possibly in temporary accommodation. 2. The Council currently has thirty, five-bedroom properties in its stock. There are currently no properties of this size within the Blakenhall area. The number of five-bedroom properties which have become available citywide for relet over the last 12 months is zero. 3. There are currently 43 families on the housing register in need of a five-bedroom property. Seven of these families are currently in emergency accommodation at a cost of approximately £200-£300 per week. 4. In order to address the current demand for larger properties, the Market to Affordable Housing Conversion programme has set as one of its priorities, the need to acquire 4+ bedroom properties. Within the last two years, the Council has acquired 2 x four-bedroom, former council properties but has been unable to identify suitable five bedroom+ properties. The Council continues to seek the availability of pairs of former council semi-detached and adjoining terraced properties that could be reconfigured and converted into a larger single property. 5. The appropriation and refurbishment of this property would provide an opportunity for this council owned asset to be converted into a larger family property and added to the Council's housing stock. 6. Bringing this property back into use and into council stock is in line with the Empty Homes Strategy which states, 'Bringing empty homes back into use nearly always involves improving the homes to a standard for their new owners or renters. Using empty homes contributes to reinvigorating neighbourhoods and improving the quality of housing has a positive effect on residents' health' |
| <p>Record of Conflicts of Interest</p> | <p>None</p> |

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| Dispensation Granted | Not applicable |
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| Item 6 | |
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| Title | Police and Crime Commissioner Grant Allocation (2022-2023) |
| Status | Recommendation Approved |
| Record of Decision | That the use of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Fund allocation for 2022-2023 by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), to deliver and commission activity to support mainstream delivery against strategic community safety priorities in line with grant conditions be approved. |
| Options Considered | <p>Option one - to approve delegation of the Police and Crime Commissioner Funding to deliver the strategic aims of the Community Safety Partnership and ring fence the expenditure to the costed plan as shown in section 3.3 of the report. This will allow the partnership to deliver against the statutory responsibilities of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Modern Slavery Act 2015, Counter Terrorism Act 2015 and Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.</p> <p>Option two – to refuse delegation of income from the Police and Crime Commissioner. This is not recommended as the Community Safety Partnership would not be able to deliver against the statutory responsibilities and could not provide account for expenditure to the Police and Crime Commissioner in line with the agreed expenditure shown in section 3.3 of the report.</p> |
| Reasons for Decision | Approving the recommendations set out in the report will allow the Council and the CSP to deliver against statutory and strategic responsibilities and continue to run a strong and resilient CSP in Wolverhampton. |
| Record of Conflicts of Interest | None |
| Dispensation Granted | Not applicable |
| Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in) | 3 May 2022 |

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| Item 7 | |
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| 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 8 | |
|---|---|
| Title | Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services |
| Status | Recommendations Approved |
| Record of Decision | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contract with Jack Moody Recycling Limited of Hollybush Farm, Warstone Road, Shareshill, Wolverhampton, WV10 7LX for Waste Recycling Wood and Chipboard be varied from 1 May 2022 to 31 March 2025 with a variation value of £225,000. 2. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 to 28 February 2022 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) | 3 May 2022 |

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| Item 9 | |
|---|---|
| Title | City East Gateway Phase 3 - Potential Property Acquisition |
| Status | Recommendations Approved |
| Record of Decision | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the purchase of land situated to the north west of Neachells Lane be approved, subject to securing the required external funding through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, and the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of City Housing and Environment, to agree the final value of the land, execute the necessary legal agreements and complete the purchase. |
| 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) | 3 May 2022 |