

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Olivia Birch	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Chris Burden	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Alan Butt	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Claire Darke (V)	Cllr Asha Mattu	Cllr Gillian Wildman
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby	Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Simon Bennett	Cllr Andrew Randle (V)
Cllr Adam Collinge	Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Jonathan Crofts	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Dalton	Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Stephanie Haynes	Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Sohail Khan	Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
Emma Bennett	Executive Director of Families
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and External Relations
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
John Roseblade	Director of City Housing and Environment
Becky Wilkinson	Director of Adult Social Services

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Sweet.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Philip Bateman and Councillor Mary Bateman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – 2022 – 2023 Final Budget Report as members of the Board of Governors for Ashmore Primary School.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26 January 2022, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. Honorary Alderman Patricia Patten

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of Honorary Alderman Pat Patten, who passed away on 5 February 2022. She served two terms as a Councillor, 1992-1996 representing the Oxley Ward and 2002-2018 representing the Penn Ward and was appointed an Honorary Alderman in 2018.

The Mayor passed on condolences to her family and friends.

2. Nick Edwards

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of former Service Director Nick Edwards. Nick had joined the Council in December 1986 and had left the Council in May 2016.

The Mayor passed on condolences to his family and friends.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Pat Patten and Nick Edwards.

3. Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne

The Mayor reported that Sunday 6th February marked 70 years since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne, upon the death of her father King George VI. The Mayor had recorded and published a video message to mark the occasion.

4. British Art Show 9

The Mayor reported the British Art Show 9 (BAS9) a contemporary touring art show was a real coup for the City and would undoubtedly bring visitors to the City centre and the newly refurbished Art Gallery, along with other venues. He encouraged everyone to visit this exhibition to help make it a great success.

5. Literature Festival

The Mayor reported the annual Literature Festival was once again a great success, attracting both star performers and more locally focused contributors. The Mayor was able to attend a lovely event on 3rd February where our existing Poet Laureate for the City of Wolverhampton, Emma Purshouse, handed over the reins to her successor, Kuli Kohli.

The Mayor thanked Emma for representing the City so well for the last 3 years and wished Kuli every success as our new Poet Laureate.

6. Krazy Karts Soapbox Races

The Mayor reported he attended the launch event for a new outdoor event for the City in the Mander Centre last week. On Sunday 21st August, Queen Square would be filled with families to watch loads of courageous competitors race down the hilly course in home-made carts.

7. Fair Trade

The Mayor reported that Fair Trade Fortnight was upon us, and he would be hosting a civic reception in the City Suite this Friday to mark the occasion. Wolverhampton City Fairtrade Partnership would also be presenting prizes to local school pupils to winners of the Fairtrade Art Competition.

8. Quiz Night in aid of the Mayoral Charity Trust

The Mayor reported that the Charity Quiz night was scheduled to take place the day after this day.

5 Urgent Motion on Notice

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield moved the following motion:

“The City of Wolverhampton Council stands with and expresses its support for the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in our City following the illegal invasion by the Russian State of the independent democratically elected sovereign Ukrainian nation state.”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield outlined the rationale for the motion. Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

Resolved:

That the motion on support for Ukraine be agreed.

6 Report of Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield provided Council with an update on Wolves at Work and the cost of living.

The update was debated by Council.

7 **Our City: Our Plan**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on Our City: Our Plan for approval. The refreshed council plan, Our City: Our Plan was detailed in appendix 1 to this report. This report also provided an update on the new council performance framework and how the council would monitor progress towards delivering the councils priorities.

The plan sets out an ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives'. Delivery of this ambition would be supported by six overarching priorities: strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential; fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it; healthy, inclusive communities; good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods; more local people into good jobs and training and thriving economy in all parts of the city. Supporting these six overarching priorities were three cross cutting principles: climate conscious; driven by digital and fair and equal.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council.

Resolved:

1. That the Our City: Our Plan, the City of Wolverhampton Council Plan be approved.
2. That cross party engagement be sought to deliver the priorities set out in Our City: Our Plan the strategic framework to level up our city.
3. That it be noted, the priorities of Our City: Our Plan have been developed through a continuous conversation with our communities and partners with over 3,000 people engaged building on the Relighting Our City recovery commitment.
4. That it be noted, a presentation and draft strategy of Our City: Our Plan was received by Scrutiny Board on the 8 February 2022.

8 **2022-2023 Final Budget Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on 2022-2023 Final Budget Report for approval. The report encompassed the Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 quarter three review and 2022- 2023 to 2026-2027 budget strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2023, the Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 and Council Tax Formal Resolutions.

The Council were advised that the Final Budget Report was underpinned by the Our City: Our Plan to ensure that resources were aligned with the priorities of the Council.

The Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 quarter three review and 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 budget strategy provided Council with an update on the 2021-2022 financial performance of the General Revenue Account and Housing Revenue

Account (HRA) capital programmes, whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 as at quarter three 2021-2022. The report also recommended revisions to the current approved capital programme covering the period 2021-2022 to 2026-2027.

The Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2023 report sets out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-2023 for approval by Council. The report incorporates six elements, which were detailed in separate documents, appended to this report.

The Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 report presented a balanced budget for 2022-2023 aligned to the Council Plan priorities and an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-2023 to 2025-2026.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Paul Appleby provided the principal speech in response to the budget report and moved the report Conservative Group Alternative Budget and outlined the rationale to the amendment to the budget. Councillor Udey Singh seconded the amendment to the budget and outlined the rationale for supporting the amendment.

The Conservative Group Alternative Budget was debated by Council.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows for the amended motion:

Conservative Group Alternative Budget	
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	Against
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	Against
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Against
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	Against
Councillor Mary Bateman	Against
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	Against
Councillor Simon Bennett	For
Councillor Olivia Birch	Against
Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Against
Councillor Ian Brookfield	Against
Councillor Paula Brookfield	Against
Councillor Christopher Burden	Against
Councillor Alan Butt	Against
Councillor Adam Collinge	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	Against
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	For
Councillor Wendy Dalton	For
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	Against
Councillor Steve Evans	Against
Councillor Val Evans	Against

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	Against
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Against
Councillor Christopher Haynes	For
Councillor Stephanie Haynes	For
Councillor Celia Hibbert	Against
Councillor Keith Inston	Against
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	Against
Councillor Rashpal Kaur	Against
Councillor Sohail Khan	For
Councillor Linda Leach	Against
Councillor Asha Mattu	Against
Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	Against
Councillor Andrew McNeil	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	Against
Councillor Lynne Moran	Against
Councillor Anwen Muston	Against
Councillor Phil Page	Against
Councillor Rita Potter	Against
Councillor John Reynolds	Against
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	Against
Councillor Zee Russell	Against
Councillor Stephen Simkins	Against
Councillor Clare Simm	Against
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	For
Councillor Paul Singh	For
Councillor Udey Singh	For
Councillor Jacqui Sweetman	Against
Councillor Wendy Thompson	For
Councillor Ellis Turrell	For
Councillor Gillian Wildman	Against
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	For
Lost	

The amended motion was LOST by 37 votes. There were 14 votes for.

Councillor Paul Singh moved the following amendment to the budget:

“Trial extension of HWRC operating hours

Background

The Conservative Group have long campaigned for increased opening hours at the Council’s two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). As a result of this campaigning the HWRCs are now open seven days a week.

Currently both Anchor Lane and Shaw Road HWRCs are open 8am – 4pm meaning that those working a standard 9-5 work pattern are unable to access the tips around 75% of the time.

Proposal

The Conservative Group propose a trial extension to the operating hours of the HWRCs to 6pm on both Saturdays and Sundays for the majority of British Summer Time (02/04/2022 – 31/10/2022).

The cost of this is £100,000, composed of:

- *Additional staffing costs of £87,000*
- *Additional Supplies and Services of £13,000 – these estimated costs are linked to increase in energy costs, operation of plant and equipment. These costs are unknown and will be monitored and updates reported during the year.*

As a trial scheme this will be funded from the Budget Contingency Reserve

This proposal does not impact on the tables detailed in the 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 Report. These changes will however, impact on the Budget Book – page 62. Gross expenditure will increase by £100,000 with a contribution from reserves. ”

Councillor Paul Singh outlined the rationale to the amendment to the budget.
Councillor Udey Singh seconded the amendment to the budget.

The amended motion was debated by Council.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows for the amended motion:

<i>Trial extension of HWRC operating hours Amendment</i>	
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	Against
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	Against
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Against
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	Against
Councillor Mary Bateman	Against
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	Against
Councillor Simon Bennett	For
Councillor Olivia Birch	Against
Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Against
Councillor Ian Brookfield	Against
Councillor Paula Brookfield	Against
Councillor Christopher Burden	Against
Councillor Alan Butt	Against
Councillor Adam Collinge	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	Against
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	For
Councillor Wendy Dalton	For
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	Against
Councillor Steve Evans	Against
Councillor Val Evans	Against

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	Against
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Against
Councillor Christopher Haynes	For
Councillor Stephanie Haynes	For
Councillor Celia Hibbert	Against
Councillor Keith Inston	Against
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	Against
Councillor Rashpal Kaur	Against
Councillor Sohail Khan	For
Councillor Linda Leach	Against
Councillor Asha Mattu	Against
Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	Against
Councillor Andrew McNeil	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	Against
Councillor Lynne Moran	Against
Councillor Anwen Muston	Against
Councillor Phil Page	Against
Councillor Rita Potter	Against
Councillor John Reynolds	Against
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	Against
Councillor Zee Russell	Against
Councillor Stephen Simkins	Against
Councillor Clare Simm	Against
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	For
Councillor Paul Singh	For
Councillor Udey Singh	For
Councillor Jacqui Sweetman	Against
Councillor Wendy Thompson	For
Councillor Ellis Turrell	For
Councillor Gillian Wildman	Against
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	For
Lost	

The amended motion was LOST by 37 votes. There were 14 votes for.

Councillor Ellis Turrell moved the following amendment to the budget:

“One year city centre parking boost

Background

In recent years Wolverhampton city centre has seen a decline in economic activity with stores such as Beatties and Debenhams closing and future projects such as West Side stalled.

Proposal

The Conservative Group proposes a one-year scheme of free parking in council owned car parks in the city centre at weekends in a bid to entice shoppers back and support the local economy.

The one-year scheme is anticipated to cost £410,000 due to lost income. This loss of income to parking services may be somewhat off set through increased weekday parking when the Civic Halls finally re-opens.

Whilst there is a direct cost to the Council it is expected to deliver a boost to local businesses and cultural offers such as the Grand Theatre and Art Gallery.

This will be funded from the general reserve. ”

Councillor Ellis Turrell outlined the rationale to the amendment to the budget.
Councillor Chris Haynes seconded the amendment to the budget.

The amended motion was debated by Council.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows for the amended motion:

One year city centre parking boost Amendment	
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	Against
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	Against
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Against
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	Against
Councillor Mary Bateman	Against
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	Against
Councillor Simon Bennett	For
Councillor Olivia Birch	Against
Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Against
Councillor Ian Brookfield	Against
Councillor Paula Brookfield	Against
Councillor Christopher Burden	Against
Councillor Alan Butt	Against
Councillor Adam Collinge	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	Against
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	For
Councillor Wendy Dalton	For
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	Against
Councillor Steve Evans	Against
Councillor Val Evans	Against
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	Against
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Against
Councillor Christopher Haynes	For
Councillor Stephanie Haynes	For
Councillor Celia Hibbert	Against
Councillor Keith Inston	Against
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	Against
Councillor Rashpal Kaur	Against
Councillor Sohail Khan	For
Councillor Linda Leach	Against
Councillor Asha Mattu	Against

Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	Against
Councillor Andrew McNeil	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	Against
Councillor Lynne Moran	Against
Councillor Anwen Muston	Against
Councillor Phil Page	Against
Councillor Rita Potter	Against
Councillor John Reynolds	Against
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	Against
Councillor Zee Russell	Against
Councillor Stephen Simkins	Against
Councillor Clare Simm	Against
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	For
Councillor Paul Singh	For
Councillor Udey Singh	For
Councillor Jacqui Sweetman	Against
Councillor Wendy Thompson	For
Councillor Ellis Turrell	For
Councillor Gillian Wildman	Against
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	For
Lost	

The amended motion was LOST by 37 votes. There were 14 votes for.

Councillor Adam Collinge moved the following amendment to the budget:

“SEND Employment Support Scheme Pilot

Background

In September 2021 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Wolverhampton to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As part of this inspection the report found that “Transitions at crucial points in a child’s or young person’s life are frequently not well planned, nor considered.” Amongst other things the inspection raised significant concerns about the effectiveness of “weaknesses in the planning and support of transitions both within statutory school age and from statutory school age to post-19 and post-25”.

Together with partners the Council has prepared a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) as requested by Ofsted. Development five of the WSoA is “To improve the planning and support of transitions both within statutory school age and from statutory school age to post-19 and post-25.”

The WSoA is now under consideration by Ofsted.

Proposal

The Conservative Group proposes to begin tackling this issue through a two-year pilot scheme to both support young people into employment and support employers in taking on young people with SEND.

The pilot scheme will consist of two SEND (Business and Employment) Support Workers at grade 7 and 0.5 FTE Admin assistant at grade 4.

The scheme will cost in the region of £140,000 per annum, total cost of around £280,000 over the two year pilot.

- *£114,000 for two SEND (Business and Employment) Support Workers at grade 7*
- *£15,000 for 0.5 FTE Admin at grade 4*
- *£5,000 for Supplies and Services*
- *£5,000 for Transport*

This will be funded from the Transformation Reserve.

This proposal does not impact on the tables detailed in the 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 Report. These changes will however, impact on the Budget Book – page 77. Gross expenditure will increase by £139,000 with a contribution from reserves.”

Councillor Adam Collinge outlined the rationale to the amendment to the budget. Councillor Wendy Dalton seconded the amendment to the budget.

The amended motion was debated by Council.

Councillor Adam Collinge moved a further amendment to the motion and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work, Councillor Dr. Mike Hardacre seconded the revision to the motion:

“That this Council proposes to begin tackling this issue through a scheme to both support both young people into employment and support employers in taking on young people with SEND through the existing wolves at work budget via a dedicated ringfenced resource within that budget of not less than £100,000 per annum. This would be added to the Written Statement of Action.”

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows for the amended motion:

SEND Employment Support Scheme Pilot Amendment	
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	For
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	For
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	For
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	For
Councillor Mary Bateman	For
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	For

Councillor Simon Bennett	For
Councillor Olivia Birch	For
Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	For
Councillor Ian Brookfield	For
Councillor Paula Brookfield	For
Councillor Christopher Burden	For
Councillor Alan Butt	For
Councillor Adam Collinge	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	For
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	For
Councillor Wendy Dalton	For
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	For
Councillor Steve Evans	For
Councillor Val Evans	For
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	For
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	For
Councillor Christopher Haynes	For
Councillor Stephanie Haynes	For
Councillor Celia Hibbert	For
Councillor Keith Inston	For
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	For
Councillor Rashpal Kaur	For
Councillor Sohail Khan	For
Councillor Linda Leach	For
Councillor Asha Mattu	For
Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	For
Councillor Andrew McNeil	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	For
Councillor Lynne Moran	For
Councillor Anwen Muston	For
Councillor Phil Page	For
Councillor Rita Potter	For
Councillor John Reynolds	For
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	For
Councillor Zee Russell	For
Councillor Stephen Simkins	For
Councillor Clare Simm	For
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	For
Councillor Paul Singh	For
Councillor Udey Singh	For
Councillor Jacqui Sweetman	For
Councillor Wendy Thompson	For
Councillor Ellis Turrell	For
Councillor Gillian Wildman	For
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	For
Carried	

The amended motion was carried by 51 votes.

Resolved:

That this Council proposes to begin tackling this issue through a scheme to both support both young people into employment and support employers in taking on young people with SEND through the existing wolves at work budget via a dedicated ringfenced resource within that budget of not less than £100,000 per annum. This would be added to the Written Statement of Action.

The substantive motion on 2022-2023 Final Budget Report was put before Council.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows for the substantive motion originally moved:

2022-2023 Final Budget Report	
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	For
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	For
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	For
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	For
Councillor Mary Bateman	For
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	For
Councillor Simon Bennett	Abstain
Councillor Olivia Birch	For
Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	For
Councillor Ian Brookfield	For
Councillor Paula Brookfield	For
Councillor Christopher Burden	For
Councillor Alan Butt	For
Councillor Adam Collinge	Abstain
Councillor Craig Collingswood	For
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	Abstain
Councillor Wendy Dalton	Abstain
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	For
Councillor Steve Evans	For
Councillor Val Evans	For
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	For
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	For
Councillor Christopher Haynes	Abstain
Councillor Stephanie Haynes	Abstain
Councillor Celia Hibbert	For
Councillor Keith Inston	For
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	For
Councillor Rashpal Kaur	For
Councillor Sohail Khan	Abstain
Councillor Linda Leach	For
Councillor Asha Mattu	For
Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	For
Councillor Andrew McNeil	Abstain
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	For
Councillor Lynne Moran	For

Councillor Anwen Muston	For
Councillor Phil Page	For
Councillor Rita Potter	For
Councillor John Reynolds	For
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	For
Councillor Zee Russell	For
Councillor Stephen Simkins	For
Councillor Clare Simm	For
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	Abstain
Councillor Paul Singh	Abstain
Councillor Udey Singh	Abstain
Councillor Jacqui Sweetman	For
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Abstain
Councillor Ellis Turrell	Abstain
Councillor Gillian Wildman	For
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	Abstain
Carried	

The substantive motion was carried by 37 votes. There were 14 abstentions.

Resolved:

1. That the revised City of Wolverhampton Capital Strategy be approved.
2. That the revised, medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £346.1 million, an increase of £47.7 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources be approved.
3. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2022-2023 to support the capital strategy as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 to be set at £1,163.3 million (PI3, Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report). The authorised borrowing limit includes a forecast provision for potential business cases that may be brought forward during the year, additional borrowing will only be authorised if the business case proves to be affordable over the medium term. The forecast borrowing was below the authorised borrowing limit.
4. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report be approved.
5. That the Annual Investment Strategy 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report be approved.
6. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators as set out in Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report be approved .
7. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 4 of the Cabinet report be approved.
8. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices as set out in Appendix 6 of the Cabinet report be approved.
9. That authority be delegated to Cabinet to approve updates to the Treasury Management Strategy and corresponding practices during 2022-2023 to reflect the additional reporting requirements detailed in the most recent publication of the revised Treasury Management and Prudential Codes. It is important to note that, the Council complies with the principles of the codes

however due to the timing of the release of the new Codes, CIPFA has allowed reporting on the Codes to be deferred until 2023-2024.

10. That authority be continued to be delegated to the Director of Finance to amend the Treasury Management Policy and Practices and any corresponding changes required to the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual MRP Statement to ensure they remain aligned. Any amendments will be reported to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.
11. That authority be continued to be delegated to the Director of Finance to lower the minimum sovereign rating in the Annual Investment Strategy, in the event of the UK's credit rating being downgraded by the third credit rating agency, due to the current economic climate.
12. That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to amend the MRP statement should this be required following the outcome of the consultation.
13. That the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services be approved.
14. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 as detailed in Table 5 and the key assumptions underpinning the MTFS as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report be approved.
15. That a Council Tax for Council services in 2022-2023 of £1,818.27 for a Band D property, being an increase of 2.99% on 2021-2022 levels, which incorporates the 1% in relation to Adult Social Care be approved.
16. That it be noted that the Council Tax base for the year 2022-2023 is calculated at 64,936.94 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"), as reported to Cabinet on 8 December 2021.
17. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022-2023 is £118,072,000.
18. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022-2023 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - (a) £669,030,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £550,958,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £118,072,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £1,818.27 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (section 1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £1,818.27 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its

Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

19. To note that West Midlands Police and Fire Authorities have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as detailed in the report.
20. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022-2023 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings as detailed in the report.
21. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (3) (f) and (4) above, the City Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of the Council Tax for the year 2022-2023 for each of the categories of dwellings as detailed in the report.
22. That a notice of the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for the year commencing on 1 April 2022 be published in at least one local newspaper and that in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, this notice shall also make reference to the National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier set by the Secretary of State, and specify that the Council Tax and the non-domestic rate demands are annual demands which cover the full financial year.
23. The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-2023 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
24. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-2023 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.
25. That it be noted, the MRP charge for the financial year 2022-2023 will be £19.8 million; it is forecast to increase to £21.1 million in 2023-2024 (paragraph 2.20 of the Cabinet report).
26. That it be noted, that Cabinet or Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council will receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2022-2023 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy, as set out in the paragraph 2.18 and Appendices 2 and 3 of the Cabinet report.
27. That it be noted, that the new Treasury Management and Prudential Codes have been published and are effective immediately. However, due to the date of their release some elements, mainly changes to the capital strategy, prudential indicators and investment reporting can be deferred until 2023-2024.
28. That it be noted, the documents covered in this report have been updated where possible to reflect the new Codes, any changes not reflected due to the timescales will be implemented and approval sought during 2022-2023. 4. That the documents covered in this report have been updated to reflect the latest interest rate forecasts available, however, due to uncertainties with the economy, should interest rates increase quicker than forecast, this may create a budget pressure on the treasury management budget. In the event that this were to occur, approval would be sought to accommodate the budget

pressure by making a call on the Budget Contingency Reserve. This will continue to be monitored and reviewed in light of the changing economic environment, with updates provided to Councillors throughout 2022-2023 as part of the quarterly update reports.

10 **Pay Policy Statement 2022 -2023**

The Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, Councillor Paula Brookfield presented the report: Pay Policy Statement 2022-2023 for approval. She advised that the national pay award for National Joint Council (NJC) and Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) Chief Officers and Chief Executives had now been agreed and relevant pay scales would be amended to reflect the pay agreement.

On Monday (28 February) the NJC pay agreement was confirmed which increased pay point 1 by 2.75% and pay point 2 and above by 1.75%. In early February a pay agreement was reached for Chief Executives and Chief Officers of 1.5%.

As a consequence of the national pay agreements being reached the pay ratio's detailed within the report had been reduced and should be amended as follows; the pay ratio between the highest and the lowest paid employees was now 9.28:1 (reducing from 9.39:1 within the report) and the pay ratio between the highest and the median pay was 6.19:1 (reducing from 6.20:1 within the report).

The Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, Councillor Paula Brookfield proposed the recommendations and requested that the third and fourth noting recommendations to be deleted and replaced with 'The national pay award for National Joint Council (NJC) and Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) Chief Officers and Chief Executives had now been agreed and the relevant pay scales would be amended to reflect the pay agreements.' The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2022 – 2023 be approved.
2. That the publication of the Pay Policy Statement in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 be approved.
3. That it be noted, the national pay award for National Joint Council (NJC) and Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) Chief Officers and Chief Executives had now been agreed and the relevant pay scales would be amended to reflect the pay agreements.

11 **Adoption of South Staffordshire District Council's delegated licensing function**

The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Steve Evans presented the report Adoption of South Staffordshire District Council's delegated licensing function for approval. The report detailed the progress made transferring the licensing function from South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC) to City of Wolverhampton (CWC) and for the Council to formally accept the delegated licensing functions subject to the signing of the finalised agreement.

The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Steve Evans proposed the recommendations and the Chair of Regulatory Committee, Councillor Phil Page seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the adoption of the executive licensing functions, as delegated, by South Staffordshire Council be approved subject to the signing of the finalised agreement.
2. That the adoption of the non-executive licensing functions, as delegated, by South Staffordshire Council be approved subject to the signing of the finalised agreement.
3. That authority be delegate to the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment for the signing of the final agreement.

12 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds presented the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel which detailed a review of Councillor's Allowances for approval. The recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds, thanked all members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for undertaking a comprehensive review of councillor allowances.

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds proposed the recommendations and the Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the recommendations and also placed on record her thanks to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel as detailed in Appendix 1 for the Municipal years 2022- 2023 – 2025-2026 be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Scheme of Councillor Allowances according to the decisions taken by Council for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.