

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 15 June 2022

Item 4	
Title	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council
Status	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That the 'Good' overall judgement from the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services be celebrated and our continued excellent position in the West Midlands and the country be noted.
Options Considered	There are no alternative options.
Reasons for Decision	Cabinet are asked to note the outcome of the inspection of our Children's Service, with overall effectiveness being grade as Good with outstanding and innovative areas of practice. It is strong external assurance that our children and young people in the city are being safeguarded and cared for.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	20 June 2022

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Item 5	
Title	Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2021-2022
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as detailed in tables 2, 3 and 4 of the report be approved. 2. That expenditure from provisions for their purposes as set out in Appendix 3 and 4 to the report, up to the value held in each provision as at 31 March 2022 be approved. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to allocate funds from all reserves which fall within the Corporate remit as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report. 4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City and the relevant Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the relevant Director/Deputy Director to allocate funds from all other reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report. 5. That the level of the Council's earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as at 31 March 2022 and the purposes for which they are being held, as detailed in Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the report be noted. 6. That it be noted that the reserve strategy is currently being reviewed in light of Our City Our Plan priorities and the budget challenge facing the Council over the medium term, and an updated Reserves Strategy would be reported back to Cabinet at a future meeting. 7. That it be noted that the relevance and adequacy of earmarked reserves and general balances would be reviewed as required by the Constitution during the 2023-2024 budget setting process.

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	<p>8. That it be noted that allocation of funding from all earmarked reserves would be reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel in the scheduled quarterly performance and budget monitoring reports.</p> <p>9. That it be noted that the Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel would scrutinise the use of reserves as part of the budget setting process as in previous years.</p> <p>10. That it be noted that the Director of Finance considers that the overall level of all reserves, provisions and balances is sufficient to meet the likely level of obligations to be met from reserves, provisions and general balances in the short term.</p> <p>11. That it be noted that whilst the positive General Fund outturn position during 2021-2022, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, would help to support the Council's short term financial position, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; namely identifying further projected budget reductions which were estimated at £12.6 million in 2023-2024, rising to £25.8 million over the medium term to 2025-2026 when reported to Full Council in March 2022.</p> <p>12. That it be noted that the figures quoted in the report are still subject to statutory audit by Grant Thornton as part of the 2021-2022 accounts closedown process.</p>
Options Considered	The reserve, provision and balance adjustments are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City.
Reasons for Decision	Contribution to and from reserves requires the approval from Cabinet. The reserve amendments detailed in the report are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	20 June 2022

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Item 6	
Title	Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the write-off of two Council Tax debts totalling £13,450.90 as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report be approved. 2. That the write-off of nine Sundry Debts totalling £111,259.34 as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report be approved. 3. That it be noted that the Council has once again managed its money well and delivered within budget - despite hugely challenging circumstances. Overall, the revenue position for 2021-2022 is an underspend of £2.2 million, after meeting the net costs of redundancy and pension strain and contributions to essential earmarked reserves. 4. That it be noted that the Housing Revenue Account revenue outturn position for the year was a surplus before allocations of £13.1 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of £13.1 million. 5. That it be noted that the capital programme has an outturn position of £82.5 million for the General Fund and £55.9 million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A summary of the outturn is detailed in section 10 of the report. A full detailed report on the Capital Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2022-2023 would be reported to Cabinet in July 2022. 6. That it be noted that 605 council tax accounts totalling £344,368.87, as detailed in paragraph 11.2 and Appendix 5 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. 7. That it be noted that 19 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £164,898.52, as detailed in paragraph 11.2 and Appendix 5 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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	<p>8. That it be noted that 15 housing benefit overpayments totalling £10,085.40 as detailed in paragraph 11.2 and Appendix 5 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>9. That it be noted that 212 sundry debt accounts totalling £133,325.24, as detailed in paragraph 11.2 and Appendix 5 to the report, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>10. That the performance against the key indicators as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.</p>
Options Considered	<p>In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between employees and other controllable expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contributions to and from reserves and the creation of supplementary budgets also require Cabinet approval. The write-offs, virements, use of reserves and creation of supplementary budgets detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City and the Director of Finance.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	<p>None</p>
Dispensation Granted	<p>Not applicable</p>
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	<p>20 June 2022</p>

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Item 7	
Title	Our Commitment to All Age Carers
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Our Commitment to All Age Carers be approved and endorsed. 2. That the Health and Well-being Board consider Our Commitment to All Age Carers and oversee the implementation of the plan. 3. That it be noted that the priorities set out in Our Commitment to All Age Carers have been developed through engagement and conversations with carers and professionals in the city.
Options Considered	<p>Option one would be to make no change to the existing strategy. This would result in the City of Wolverhampton Council remaining with a strategy that is no longer in date.</p> <p>Option two would be to not have any Commitment to All Age Carers leaving the Council at risk of failing to meet its statutory requirements.</p> <p>Option three would be to update the existing strategy with the proposed plan Our Commitment to All Age Carers in Appendix 1. This evidences the Council’s commitment to supporting carers of all age and also the Council’s commitment to co-production with carers and partner agencies in the city.</p>
Reasons for Decision	Option three is the preferred option. The reason for the decision to approve and endorse Our Commitment to All Age Carers is to meet the Council’s statutory duties as part of the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 and also align with the priorities of Our City: Our Plan 2022.

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	Consultation with carers of all ages and other stakeholders has been undertaken throughout the development of the plan through focus groups, postal questionnaires and online surveys. Our Commitment to All Age Carers is clear, ambitious and has been co-produced with carers in the city.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	20 June 2022