

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 6 July 2022

Item 4	
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 Governance and Equalities, in consultation with the Director of Strategy, to approve the award of a contract for Apprenticeship Training Provider Call Off when the call off process is complete.
Options Considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative option would be to approach training providers individually, however this would be time consuming, not offer economies of scale and could potentially breach the Public Contract Regulations 2015. • A further alternative option is not to deliver the services. This would mean that the Council would not be carrying out its statutory duty.
Reasons for Decision	Procuring a training provider for the provision of apprenticeship training will ensure the Council can meet its statutory duty, while also providing high quality training to staff and apprentices.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 July 2022

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Item 5	
Title	Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the construction of a segregated cycle route from Noose Lane to School Street, a project that would form part of the A454 corridor active travel scheme be approved. 2. That the commencement of Early Contract Involvement totalling a spend of £15,000 be approved. 3. That it be noted that approval of a capital budget for delivery of the scheme, subject to a signed grant agreement, would be sought as part of the Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023 report at this same meeting. 4. That it be noted that the Director of Finance would review and enter into the grant agreement for Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 for delivery of the scheme.
Options Considered	If the recommendation were to be dismissed, there would be a gap in the A454 corridor scheme, as the section from Noose Lane to School Street would be unfunded. This would be an impediment to the programme's aim of delivering a consistent end-to-end cycling route from Wolverhampton ring road to Walsall ring road.
Reasons for Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The route from Noose Lane to School Street would form an integral section of the A454 corridor programme, which is currently in its development stage. Phases 1 and 2 between Middle Cross and Hickman Avenue and Phase 3 around Neachells Lane have already been approved for development and funding is being sought to allow implementation. • The scheme would provide a safe and direct cycling route along the carriageway, which is completely segregated from road traffic. This will encourage residents to shift from using cars to using active travel modes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing residents with high-quality cycling infrastructure will give them more opportunity to lead healthy and active lifestyles and will also contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions (as there will be a safe and convenient option to travel by bicycle).
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	11 July 2022

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Item 6	
Title	Children's Residential Provision - Phase 2 (Business Case)
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council develops two Children's Homes, the first at a corporate asset site still to be confirmed and purchases a private property for the second home. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families and the Deputy Chief Executive to approve the location and site of the two homes following consultation with key stakeholders and approve the allocation of the capital provision to the individual capital projects in order that they may be progressed in a timely manner. 3. That it be noted that the capital costs included in this report have been incorporated into the 'Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023' report which is on the Cabinet agenda for today and would subsequently be reported to Full Council for approval on the 20 July 2022, assuming that Cabinet (Resources) Panel approval to progress with the project is given. As the progression is dependent on that decision, if the project is not approved, the capital programme would be reduced accordingly.
Options Considered	<p>Corporate Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feasibility business case has considered all available corporate asset options. Of these assets, a number have been ruled out due to the location and style of the buildings. However, it is recognised that there are benefits to utilising a corporate asset as work to renovate/ rebuild could be progressed immediately and at pace. There are suitable assets within the corporate asset portfolio, but consultation with key stakeholders is required prior to a site being identified. In order to ensure the provision created is of high quality and creates a homely environment for children in care, it is possible that demolition and a purpose built rebuild will be required. The anticipated cost of demolition and rebuild is £450,000.

Corporate Land

- All of the corporate land identified has been visited by the project team, discussed and agreed that it is not suitable for development. This is due to a number of reasons; however, the continual theme is that the land options are already in densely populated residential areas; it would be difficult to blend a new build into the existing surroundings and the plots of land are too small to provide a truly detached and spacious property to benefit and meet the needs of the young people who will be residing there.

Lease a property from a local provider

- Discussions have taken place with local providers, however, no suitable properties have been identified. There is also a risk around security of being able to obtain a long enough lease.

Private Land to Purchase

- Private land in a suitable location and of a suitable size is difficult to source. Throughout the feasibility study only two possible plots were identified. However, planning permission would be required to build a home on private land and there is no guarantee permission would be granted. In addition, there may be a need to apply for a change of use from residential to business. The risks associated with this option and the length of time it could take to obtain the necessary permissions, makes this a less favourable option. The cost of the land options considered ranged from £245,000 to £400,000. There would also be costs associated with the build of approximately £265,000, as well as legal fees.

Purchase a private property

- The option for the Council to purchase a private property would result in an increase in the Council's assets. This is contrary to the ongoing review and rationalisation of assets. However, there are a number of benefits with this option. Firstly, this would maximise the element of choice over the area and style of the property. It would already be within the style of a 'family home' and fit in with surrounding properties. Secondly, purchasing a property rather than building a property, would hopefully result in the home being open and operational sooner. This could possibly be within six months, pending the completion of the sale of the property and the registration process with Ofsted. Having explored properties currently available on the market, the cost of a 3-4 bed property is estimated to be between £375,000

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	and £550,000. Budget to undertake any refurbishment work would also need to be taken into account, along with legal fees, surveyance fees and stamp duty estimated at £135,000.
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal supported by Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 23 February 2022 was to open two internal children’s home in the city. Given the options that have been explored and outlined in section 4, there are two options being recommended. 2. Option 1 is to utilise an existing corporate asset to develop a new children’s home within the city. This may require renovation work or a complete rebuild. Work will be able to be progressed quickly, with an anticipated completion timescale of 10-12 months. 3. Option 2 is to purchase a private property in a location close to home number one. By doing this it will enable the recruitment of only one manager across both homes as Ofsted support multi-building registration. Purchasing a property will allow there to be a high degree of influence over the location and style of the property, and will ensure children in care are provided with a ‘family home’ environment to live in. This option will be able to be progressed more quickly than purchasing a private piece of land and building a home. 4. It is recommended that both of these options are progressed. If these options are not approved, the local authority will continue to struggle to meet the needs of the most complex, vulnerable young people in care. Whilst this cohort of young people is relatively small, it is often difficult to identify high quality, specialist provision.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	7 July 2022

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Item 7	
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	Recommendation Approved
Record of Decision	That the variation with Engie Regeneration Ltd of Regeneration House, Gorse Lane, Coleshill, Birmingham, B46 1JU for Heath Town Regeneration Project from 30 June 2021 to 30 November 2022 with a variation value of £2,043,375 be endorsed.
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)	11 July 2022

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Item 9	
Title	Southside Asset Transfer and Disposal Strategy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council’s landholdings as detailed in the body of the report be declared as surplus to regeneration requirements and transferred from the Regeneration portfolio to the City Assets portfolio. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with Deputy Director of Assets to determine the future disposal method, if applicable. 3. That the current status of regeneration plans and proposals for the Southside area in accordance with previous updates to Cabinet be noted. 4. That the move of responsibility of properties recommended for long term retention from City Development to City Assets be noted. 5. That it be noted that City Assets would manage the disposal process for properties which would not be retained.
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)	11 July 2022