

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 22 February 2023

Item 4	
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 Deputy Director of Assets, to approve the award of a contract for the Crown Street Recycle Waste Site Refurbishment when the evaluation process is complete. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer, to approve the award of a contract for the Provision of Lone Worker Device when the evaluation process is complete. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to approve the award of a contract for Gym Equipment when the evaluation process is complete. 4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Taxi Licensing Signage when the evaluation process is complete. 5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for the Extension of the Colton Hills Community School Dining Café when the evaluation process is complete. 6. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for the Refurbishment of the Ground Floor of the Civic Centre for Relocation of Black Country Health Partnership (BCHP) when the evaluation process is complete.

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	7. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults, in consultation with the Director of Adult Services, to approve the award of a contract for Adult Service redesign when the evaluation process is complete.
Options Considered	The options 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)	27 February 2023

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Item 5																								
Title	Care and Support Provider Review 2023/2024																							
Status	Recommendations Approved																							
Record of Decision	<p>1. That the proposed increases in care fee levels for 2023/2024 as set out in Table 1 be approved to ensure sufficiency and sustainability across Adult Social Care markets.</p> <p>2. That increases be approved with effect from 3 April 2023 to align to corporate payment systems.</p> <p>Table 1 – Proposed Care Fees for 2023/2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Care Provision</th> <th>Recommendation</th> <th>Current Rate (2022/23) £</th> <th>% Increase</th> <th>Proposed 2023/24 Rate £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Home Care</td> <td>Increase to reflect cost impact of National Living Wage (NLW), inflation and market sustainability.</td> <td>16.84* (Hourly rate)</td> <td>11.85%</td> <td>18.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Care – Rapid Response and Reablement</td> <td>Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability. Higher rate than home care to incentivise providers to increase time taken for hospital discharge</td> <td>18.00 (Hourly rate)</td> <td>11.85%</td> <td>20.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Based Respite</td> <td>Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.</td> <td>16.08 (Hourly rate)</td> <td>11.85%</td> <td>18.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Type of Care Provision	Recommendation	Current Rate (2022/23) £	% Increase	Proposed 2023/24 Rate £	Home Care	Increase to reflect cost impact of National Living Wage (NLW), inflation and market sustainability.	16.84* (Hourly rate)	11.85%	18.84	Home Care – Rapid Response and Reablement	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability. Higher rate than home care to incentivise providers to increase time taken for hospital discharge	18.00 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	20.12	Home Based Respite	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.	16.08 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	18.00
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	Direct Payments – Agency Rate	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.	16.08 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	18.00
	Direct Payments – Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.	11.44 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	12.80
	Direct Payments – Self-Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.	14.03 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	15.68
	Individual Service Funds	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW and inflation.	16.08 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	18.00
	Residential Care – Older People	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability.	492.10 (Weekly rate)	12.00%	551.18
	Residential Care – Older People with Dementia	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability.	529.06 (Weekly rate)	12.00%	592.55
	Nursing Care – Older People	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability.	515.55 (Weekly rate)	20.36%	620.76
	Nursing Care – Older People with Dementia	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market sustainability.	554.26 (Weekly rate)	20.36%	667.10
	Extra Care	Increase to reflect cost impact of NLW, inflation and market	Increase to current	12.00%	Increase to current

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	sustainability.	contract		contract
Supported Living	Increase fees to meet the increase to the NLW and inflationary cost pressures.	16.08 (Hourly rate)	11.85%	18.00
Residential and Nursing – under 65 years old	Increase fees to meet the increase to the NLW and inflationary cost pressures.	Individually Negotiated	12.00%	Increase to current placements
Community Activities – Older People	Increase fees to meet the increase to the NLW and inflationary cost pressures.	30.69 (Sessional rate)	11.85%	34.32
Community Opportunities for Adults with Complex Needs	Increase fees to meet the increase to the NLW and inflationary cost pressures. Ensure that the rate is consistent with the supported living rate and proportionate to 1:1 1:2 1:3 staffing ratios	16.08 per hour for 1:1 staffing 8.04 per hour for 1:2 staffing 5.36 per hour for 1:3 staffing	11.85%	18.00

*This is the current maximum home care rate. Where providers have tendered lower than this rate then the same percentage uplift will apply.

3. That it be noted that engagement has been undertaken with providers and the feedback received has informed the fee review amongst other factors such as the increase to the National Living Wage (NLW), inflation and the legal duties for a sustainable market and setting a balanced budget.
4. That it be noted that the report was presented to Fulfilled Adult Lives Scrutiny Panel on 8 February 2023. The Panel supported the details and recommendations of the report and agreed to receive an update at a future meeting.

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	<p>5. That it be noted that any proposed care fee increases would create an ongoing expectation to continue paying fees at this new minimum level.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>Option 1: Do nothing. This is not an option the Council has considered given the known cost pressures of the increase to the National Living Wage (NLW), inflation and cost of living. This would not demonstrate the Council’s legal duty of supporting market sufficiency and sustainability.</p> <p>Option 2: Apply uplifts based solely on the NLW and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. Discounted on the basis that whilst it covers core cost pressures, it only maintains the current market landscape and does not move towards rates being appropriately aligned to market sustainability and risk.</p> <p>Option 3: Apply uplifts based on the NLW, CPI inflation and an equal factor for market sustainability. This has been discounted as whilst it supports all providers equally, it does not align to the risks of ensuring a sufficient and sustainable care market.</p> <p>Option 4: Uplifting care fees based solely on the outcome of the “Fair Cost of Care” (FCoC) exercise completed through the now delayed charging reform. As mentioned in the report, the Council has concluded that there are concerns with using the information based on low response rates and issues with data quality. The original intention of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) was to “move towards” the FCoC over the next three years. The Council, amongst all other local authorities, continuously raised the issue of affordability and that grant funding would not cover the additional cost liability. This option would not be affordable within the available funds and therefore the Council would not meet its legal duty to set a balanced budget.</p>
<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<p>1. The recommended increase to care fees satisfies both of the Council’s legal duties in relation to market sustainability and setting a balanced budget. The Council recognises the significant challenges within the market, has accounted for known information and data, and has maximised the available budget to pass through to care providers.</p> <p>2. The preferred option accounts for key risk areas in residential and nursing, whilst also</p>

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	exceeding NLW and inflationary cost pressures for the market as a whole.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	23 February 2023

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Item 6	
Title	Adult Services Equipment and Stores Renewal
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council enter into a lease renewal on Units 4-6 Racecourse Road upon expiry of the existing lease for a term of five years commencing 27 January 2023 with the lease to contain a tenant break option exercisable at the end of year three (on service of 6 months formal notice). 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Deputy Director of Assets to approve the rental value and terms of the proposed lease renewal through an Individual Executive Decision Notice.
Options Considered	The current lease could be terminated and alternative premises utilised.
Reasons for Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No viable alternative premises for the storage of Adult Services vehicles and equipment have been identified either within the Council's portfolio or private market. 2. The approval of the new lease will ensure the continued successful delivery of the Adult Services outcomes in supporting the needs of the residents of Wolverhampton.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 February 2023

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Item 7	
Title	Youth Employment Hub - Year 2 Funding
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Executive Director of Families and the Chief Operating Officer to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve the Council entering into the required grant agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to continue to deliver the Youth Employment Hub in Wolverhampton to support young people aged 16-24 years old into employment and training opportunities. b. Approve the creation of the necessary supplementary revenue budgets to deliver the project. c. Approve the Council entering into any agreements necessary for it manage the Hub at agreed premises in the city centre. d. Approve the continuation of such funding arrangements with DWP at the end of 12 month period should further funding be made available by DWP Flexible Support Fund to support the ongoing delivery of a Youth Employment Hub in Wolverhampton city centre. 2. That it be noted that European Social Fund (ESF) funded Black Country Impact key workers would be based at the Hub and would provide support to young people at the Hub. Black Country Impact funding has been approved to be continued for another year until October 2023.

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	<p>3. That it be noted that Wolves at Work 18-24 funded recruitment staff would operate from the Hub to support young people to access job opportunities. This project is currently in place until March 2024.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>Option one - to agree to Year 2 funding for the continuation of the city centre Youth Hub. This would ensure continuation of service to young people in our city and would ensure that the Council with its partners is able to offer this service to all young people within the city.</p> <p>Option two - to partially implement the Youth Hubs in the city. This would involve supporting the development of the Bilston Youth Hub at the College premises in Wellington Road only. If this were the case, young people outside of Bilston would not benefit from this facility. This would be a backward step, and whilst the development of a Youth Hub in Bilston is welcomed, it would not provide support to all young people in our city.</p> <p>Option three - to close the Youth Hub in the city centre. The Youth Hub has become part of the offer within the city centre supported jointly by the Council and DWP with a number of partners who are delivering their services regularly from the Youth Hub in the city centre. This would be a backward step and would not support the number of unemployed young people within our city who require our support on a daily basis.</p>
<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city centre Youth Employment Hub performs a vital role in our Wolves at Work 18-24 work to support young people in their pathway into sustainable employment. 2. The Youth Hub provides a centrally located recognisable venue for young people to access services during the daytime, which can be extended to evenings and weekends once Council premises are secured. 3. The Youth Hub has over-achieved in its first year and is seen as a flagship Youth Hub in the West Midlands area. The model and working relationship between the Council, DWP and other partners has proved to be effective in moving young people into employment.

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	<p>4. If the Council does not take the decision to continue to lead, manage and resource the Youth Hub in the city centre then it will be more difficult for young people to access the services they need.</p> <p>5. The Council is aware of the opening of the Youth Hub at the College location in Bilston and is already collaborating in a joined up approach to delivering both Youth Hubs by sharing resources and skills within the Hubs. The Bilston Youth Hub will deal with a different and separate cohort of customers who will be referred from Bilston Job Centre, whereas the central Youth Hub will deal with customers from the two city centre Job Centres, Molineux House and Wulfrun.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	27 February 2023

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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 item of business as it involves 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 - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contract for Water Elements Testing be awarded to Integrated Water Services Limited of Green Lane, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 7PD for a duration of 18 months from 1 March 2023 to 31 August 2024 with a contract value of £487,750. 2. That a variation of the contract for Provision of Voluntary and Community Services be approved for a duration of six months from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. With Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council of 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN for Lot 1 Infrastructure Support with a variation value of £50,000. b. With Jobchange 2007 of 10 Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4HL for Lot 2 Job Brokerage with a variation value of £50,000. c. With Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council of 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN for Lot 3 Structured and Supported Volunteering with a variation value of £30,000. d. With Access to Business of The Curve, 81 Tempest St, Wolverhampton WV2 1AA for Lot 4 Self-employment with a variation value of £34,500. e. With Jobchange 2007 of 10 Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4HL for Lot 5 Information Advice and Guidance with a variation value of £25,000. f. With Citizens Advice Bureau Wolverhampton of 26 Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AD for Lot 6 Welfare Support Service with a variation value of £132,500.

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	<p>g. With Good Shepherd Wolverhampton of 65 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4QU for Lot 7 with a variation value £26,705.</p> <p>3. That the contract for Pre-paid Cards be awarded to EML Payments Limited, trading as Prepaid Financial Services Limited, 4th Floor 35 Great St. Helens, London, England, EC3A 6AP for a duration of four years from 28 February 2023 to 27 February 2027 for a total contract value of £316,800.</p> <p>4. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 to 31 December 2022 be noted.</p>
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)	27 February 2023