

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

29 September 2022

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN (Lab)

Vice-chair Cllr Christopher Haynes (Con)

Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Carol Hyatt
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Gillian Wildman

Conservative

Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Andrew McNeil

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Scrutiny Team:

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies**
[To receive any apologies for absence].
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
[To receive any declarations of interest].
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 14)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4 **Community Safety** (Pages 15 - 26)
[To receive a presentation on Community Safety].
- 5 **Energy Efficiency of Housing Stock and Fuel Poverty** (Pages 27 - 46)
[To receive a report on the energy efficiency of the housing stock and fuel poverty].
- 6 **Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 47 - 70)
[To consider the Scrutiny Work Programme].
- 7 **Date of Next Meeting**
[The date of the next scheduled meeting is Thursday, 17 November 2022 at 6pm].

Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny

Agenda Item No: 3

Panel

Minutes - 14 July 2022

Attendance

Members of the Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Christopher Haynes (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Carol Hyatt
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN (Chair)
Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Gillian Wildman

Employees

David Pattison
Simon Bamfield

Ian Gardener

Julia Cleary
Earl Piggot-Smith
Kimberly Dawson

Chief Operating Officer
Head of Assets and Stock Investment –
Wolverhampton Homes
Director for Property Services –
Wolverhampton Homes- attending on behalf
of Shaun Aldis
Scrutiny and Systems Manager
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- 1 **Apologies and Notification of Substitutions**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre and Councillor Jasbinder Dehar. The Chair commented that the Senior Governance Manager, Martin Stevens was unwell. She sent good wishes on behalf of the Panel and wished him a speedy recovery.
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
Councillor Zee Russell declared an interest as a Board Member of Wolverhampton Homes.

3 Minutes of the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 WV Living Governance and Linked companies.

The Chief Operating Officer gave a presentation on WV Living Governance and Linked companies. The Chief Operating Officer stated the importance of transparency by Local Authorities about the Local Authority bodies that they control.

The Chief Operating Officer had taken an overall report to the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel setting out the approach for all the controlled companies and committed for each of those bodies to bring a report to the relevant Scrutiny Panel. The Residents Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel clearly had WV Living within its remit.

The Chief Operating Officer went through the background, under the Local Government Act 2003 (LGA 2003) and Localism Act 2011 (LA 2011), Local Authorities could own and control certain types of companies and other bodies such as Limited Liability Partnerships. As of 2018 Grant Thornton estimated that there were over 740 Local Authority owned companies with the largest proportion related to property and investment.

The types of bodies that there were, included; trading companies, certain joint ventures with other organisations, property companies, service provision companies including so called "Teckal" companies, whereby some Local Authorities ran services through companies they owned. A Legal framework provided that Local Authorities could trade using the power in the acts mentioned above. More innovative methods to reduce costs were introduced due to the decline in popularity of outsourcing to the private sector and increased funding pressures on Local Authorities. The types of companies Local Authorities could have were those wholly owned companies by a single Local Authority, wholly owned by a collection of authorities, joint venture companies - such as Birmingham Airport and Limited Liability Partnerships, provided they were not used to trade commercially.

The Chief Operating Officer commented that in relation to WV Living as a trading company there were several measures put in place by LGA 2003. It was about making sure there was a level playing field between Local Authorities and private sector companies. Local Authorities received no direct advantage over the private sector, required greater transparency arising from the company law requirements, avoiding subsidy control restrictions, and had to make sure there was a lot of control over the way that trading took place.

The additional hurdles for trading companies were:-

- that approval was obtained from full Council for the establishment of the company;
- that the Local Authority prepared a business case supporting the exercise of the trading power;
- a prohibition on subsidising trading activities; and
- they could only trade in services other than those in which they had a statutory duty to provide to residents.

Critically for each of those linked bodies (trading companies etc.) best practice stated there should be:

- a Shareholder Agreement between the Council and the linked body defining the arrangement;
- a business case;
- a business plan which was regularly refreshed setting out the Key Performance Indicators and expected financial performance; and
- governance arrangements to monitor the compliance with the Shareholder Agreement/business case/business plan.

The Chief Operating Officer remarked that if the Local Authority had set up a limited company, you would expect that linked body to have a certain amount of autonomy to act. The Council as shareholders did have some critical powers, including the power to appoint/remove directors, approve/reject business plans and importantly the power to wind up the linked company. Whilst most of the Local Authority Linked Bodies had worked well, assisting in the delivery of key services, there has been issues with some such bodies including those in Nottingham City Council and London Borough of Croydon. Local Authority companies had led certain Local Authorities to face significant financial risks. It was critical the Council learnt lessons from other authorities and that was part of the Council's culture.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that Lessons from Nottingham City Council were laid out in a report in August 2020 from auditors Grant Thornton regarding Robin Hood Energy "RHE" which was a trading company set up by Nottingham to provide energy to its residents. However it was not successful and led to a substantial financial loss to the Local Authority. The business failed and led to a bill to the tax payer which resulted in a report for the public interest. The auditors noticed that there was very much a mudding of the water between Robin Hood Energy the company and the Council itself. The company which was a separate legal body had Councillors on its board, there was confusion and a lack of control. The two sets of interests were merging, when it came to winding the company up there was a delay, which led to a further decline in finances.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that there was also a report produced relating to the London Borough of Croydon and its company Brick by Brick. This led to the Council issuing a s114 notice. This was when the Director of Finance considered that the finances of the Local Authority were in such a perilous state that anything other than urgent expenditure cannot be incurred. Brick by Brick was said to have been managed extremely poorly, there should have been better oversight of Brick by Brick, improved monitoring, and communication. Over 200 million pounds was invested into Brick by Brick with the local authority seeing no dividends or return.

The Chief Operating Officer assured Members that in Wolverhampton for all Linked Bodies there was greater oversight. This included the Council's Annual Governance Statement taken to Audit and Risk Committee each year and monitored on a 6 month basis. The Monitoring Officer had a duty to report to the Council that they had confidence that the relevant rules were being complied with and there was good oversight with each of the linked bodies.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that he believed that, as the Monitoring Officer, he did have good oversight. Every month to two months an update was provided on

those bodies either owned by the Council or potentially large liabilities to the Council (such as Wolverhampton College) to Cabinet Members/Leader of the Opposition. At these meetings they went through the Budget, compliance with the business plan, the Key Performance Indicators and future planning. In addition, the Council also had regular discussions with external auditors about the linked bodies. Auditors noted that regular check and challenge would lead to greater insight relating to Local Authority controlled companies across the board. The Chief Operating Officer stressed the importance of regularly bringing the details of each of the relevant Linked Local Authority Bodies to the relevant Scrutiny Panel. The Chief Operating Officer stated that they made sure they had a detailed review of the arrangements of every single one of the Linked Bodies at least every three years.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that WV Living was a City of Wolverhampton Council owned Housing Company. It had been established in 2016 following approval from Council as a Limited Company, wholly owned by the Council, set up under the trading powers in the LGA 2013. WV Living focused on developing properties within the City to meet the Council's aspirations in terms of affordable housing, particularly on sites which the market would not otherwise meet. The accounts were audited each year as part of the Council's due diligence. The accounts were looked at by the Council's auditors in addition to the auditors at WV Living.

The Chief Operating Officer remarked that it was good practice to have a clear Shareholder Agreement setting out the terms between the Council and the Linked Body defining the arrangement. This had been setup in January 2017, it set out the parameters of what WV Living could decide and what was prohibited without Council approval. It was good practice to have a business case and regularly refreshed business plans. The Council also had governance arrangements to monitor the compliance with the Shareholder Agreement, business case and business plan. There was a Shareholder Board which was made up of a cross party selection of Councillors to comprehensively check and challenge these arrangements.

The Chief Operating Officer said that in 2020/2021 there was a detailed review of the governance of WV Living by the Chief Operating Officer. The review resulted in several changes including the appointment of a Non-Executive Director of the relevant sector, a new business plan, strengthening of the Shareholder Board and transparency and appropriate separation between the Council and the company.

The Chief Operating Officer commented that the WV Living Board was made up of four Directors and a Company Secretary. Directors were appointed through Individual Executive Decision Notice's made by Cabinet Members for City Housing and City Assets and Resources, in conjunction with the Director of Finance. Through Delegated Authority those appointed had the power to run the business and ensure it was operating properly within the clear parameters set by the Council. A Board of Directors was made up of Council and Wolverhampton Homes Senior Officers. Council's "key" controls were its ability to appoint and remove directors, amend the articles and exercise controls over shares and dividends and ultimately to wind the company up if it was not operating properly. The WV Living Board did not set remuneration policy, this needed to be approved by Council.

The Chief Operating Officer remarked that when a review took place back in 2021 there was a new business plan produced setting out clearly what the business would

focus on, and it would be renewed each year. The Business Plan was approved by Cabinet in April 2022, it made clear that work would not be carried out beyond the City boundaries. If that were to change it would need to go through the business plan and the Shareholder Board. Critically borrowing from the Council to WV Living had significantly reduced to less than £3 million. WV Living assets which the Council owned significantly exceeded the Council's lending.

In the worst case scenario the tax payer would not lose out and would receive their money back. When looking at the Shareholder Board the Robin Hood Energy set out that the failures were down to poor sharing of quality information on a regular basis both with the Shareholder Board and with lead Councillors. Key Performance Indicators were now central, all asks of the Council were directed to lead Councillors. There was an improved use of the Shareholder Board, such as quarterly meetings and an annual governance review on WV Living by the Monitoring Officer, as part of the Annual Governance Statement. It was important to be transparent about the risks and manage those risks.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that the role of the Shareholder Board was to provide oversight on the operation of WV Living. Their focus was on review and compliance with the Annual Business Plan and other key principles. There was a Governance and Finance update for each Shareholder Board Meeting. WV Living needed the space to operate commercially within the business plan, along with clear measures and controls in place to understand how it was working and quarterly meetings. Officers from WV Living attend the Shareholder Board meetings and are challenged and questioned. Advice was given by Governance and Finance departments.

The Chief Operating Officer commented that Clear Blue Water was a term under the LGA 2003. Under Local Government legislation the Council could not subsidise the running of trading companies. Additional checks through internal audits were being carried out to provide assurance on the matter. Audits were there to provide early warning and assurance that things were working well. There should be a clear approach on conflicts and separate legal representation for WV Living when dealing with the Council. When looking at land transactions, all sales to WV Living by the Council must be at best consideration under s123 of the LGA 1972. This required testing through a market sale or through the report of a qualified independent chartered surveyor providing clear evidence that this was the right level.

A report on all land sales was to come to the relevant Scrutiny Panel in Autumn. The subsidy provisions in relation to national legislation that provided the extent to which Local Authorities could subsidise business was tightly controlled to ensure public money was being used effectively. Clear blue water provided for transparency, ensuring that external audit reports were available publicly.

The Chief Operating Officer concluded that Linked Bodies were likely to continue to operate to assist Local Authorities with budgetary challenges and to find innovative ways of working. City of Wolverhampton Council had robust measures in place to check and challenge how the linked bodies operated. Those measures would continue to be reviewed. A full review every three years of all linked bodies including WV Living would occur and be reported on to Councillors, including relevant Scrutiny Members. The City of Wolverhampton Council has good governance in place for its linked bodies. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed the importance of learning from

other Local Authorities, this could mean that the Council's monitoring arrangements or approach could change.

The Chair acknowledged that there was a lot stated that the key thing was transparency and lesson learning from other Local Authorities so the Council did not end up in the same situation as Nottingham or Croydon.

A Panel Member thanked the Officer for the presentation, they had been particularly interested in hearing about the governance structure. With reference to the scrutiny of land transactions, they asked how those transfers were scrutinised before they took place. The Chief Operating Officer responded that the financial viability of WV Living was based on its assets and the assets it had were based on the transfers from the Council. In one sense we had gone from land that has not been developed by the Council to potentially land that was being developed by WV Living or land banked, if it was not being developed.

A Panel Member in reference to Key Performance Indicators asked if the Council transferred land with any clauses, penalties, or conditions. Citing as an example a piece of land must have a planning application submitted within 2 years etc. This was normal business practice. The Deputy Chief Executive had a large role at the Council in overseeing City Assets as well as being a Director on WV Living. They asked if the Deputy Chief Executive could say WV Living was not working from a Council perspective and would he be able to do so given his management of City Assets.

The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that there was prior approval, any significant land transaction had to go through Cabinet or Cabinet Resources Panel for approval and this information was publicly available. There could be a commercial confidential aspect, when reporting so some reports were exempt from the public, but this information was often made available later or after the decision had been made.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that WV Living would have to look at what other options there were in relation to assets and whether it needed to purchase land not just from the Council but from other bodies. WV Living was still required by the Council in the view of Senior Officers. There were clear provisions in the agreement in the contracts, such as when the Council would expect the sale to have taken place by a certain date or conditional agreements. The key point was not to subsidise and to undertake business on a commercial basis. The Deputy Chief Executive was very clear on making sure that any conflicts were avoided, any decisions relating to assets he was scrupulous in making sure there was clear blue water. Disposals were managed entirely separate from him.

A Panel Member asked how many of the Directors were Officers within the Council.

The Chief Operating Officer stated there were two, the Chief Accountant and the Deputy Chief Executive. The other members were from Wolverhampton Homes and one who had no connection to the Council but had significant expertise working for registered social landlords.

5 **Heath Town Regeneration**

The Head of Assets and Stock Investment for Wolverhampton Homes gave an overview of the Heath Town Regeneration Project. Heath Town had been originally constructed with considerable deck access blocks linking, in theory allowing people to walk from one side of the estate to the other without ever having to touch the ground following the “streets in the sky” concept of the 1960’s.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investment stated that the estate was opened in 1969 by HRH Princess Margaret and there was just over 1250 dwellings on that estate, most being in either tower blocks or deck houses. Pictures were shown of the view in the 1970’s of Hobgate Road, Hampton View, the shopping centre and Chervil Rise. There were large amounts of brick façade and cladding which made it virtually impossible to see in. This type of layout overtime created quite a few issues. Since construction two blocks were demolished in 1990, six were converted into houses under “lopped and topped” programmes also in the 1990’s. In 2018 as part of regeneration a further four deck access blocks were demolished to open the heart of the estate. Issues with the deck access block were with crime and policing. This was because there were several different escape routes and the Police did not have the resources to combat that effectively.

Consultation had taken place with the residents in 2015, which concluded that their principal concerns at the time were safety, security, and car parking. The link bridges were in immensely poor condition with significant amount of the concrete damaged. The timber cladding was losing its bearing, panels were falling off and there was a real concern for the general condition of the estate at the time.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investment stated that the reality was that the future of the estate had been uncertain for so long, consequently there had been a lack of planned improvements. In 2014 the Council made the decision to regenerate the Heath Town estate. They had created a “master plan” which included selective demolition and the remaining blocks to be refurbished. The Heath Town Masterplan was shown to the Panel which had Phase 1 and Phase 2. It involved a range of infilled sites primed for development and the plan was to build over 200 new family homes with a mix of affordable and open market sale housing. The first phase was still under way, they were involved with a company called Black Country Make to construct six homes. The second phase was currently being procured with a view to work starting next Summer.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investment remarked that the strategy to combat the issues with some of the deck access blocks was trying to get people on the ground working to create a secure environment. They wanted to create a more welcoming environment to each of the deck access blocks. To create secure points of access, to monitor the entrances and circulation spaces with CCTV. To address long standing parking issues by creating additional parking spaces, where needed, and ensuring there was brand new lighting so people could feel confident when walking from their cars or buses. As part of the refurbishment there was the removal of linked bridges between the blocks, external cladding had been installed to increase thermal insulation all of which was non-flammable.

They had improved the aesthetics of the building and repaired failed wall ties which stopped the outer leaf from falling out. They had put in new mono-pitched roofs, recovered the walkways, renewed walkway flooring, replaced the entrance screens

with aluminium sectional frame system and replaced all windows with new PVCu. Additionally, the refurbishment had constructed new lift enclosures to blocks, removed timber cladding from the existing stair-cores, installed new access controlled entrance doors, redesigned car parking to create more spaces, improved landscaping, improved lighting of circulation spaces and improved CCTV coverage. At Wednesfield road and Lincoln Street, new air handling fans would take away moisture from the bathrooms and there were new gutters, windows, and entrance points. A new entrance had been created at Chervil Rise with the car park being moved to the front of the block. A new staircase on Hobgate road, with a new lift on Chervil rise and play areas.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investment commented that as well as construction the project was also trying to improve the social value outcomes for residents such as volunteering hours, community events, trade apprentice's appointments and employment through the Government Kickstart Programme.

The original plan had been to refurbish the boiler house, the next stage was to replace the current boiler house which fed the entire estate, providing heating and hot water to all the dwellings. They would create a new low carbon energy centre which would be more energy efficient and reduce heating costs for residents. He hoped this would be completed within the next couple of years. The proposal was to remove warm air heating across the estate and to install radiators. They wanted to resolve any remaining building or fire safety issues. They would replace the windows, roofs, any external wall insulation, replace worn out components and install sprinklers. Some of the defects identified on the tower block were things like cracking and spalling to brick work, areas of missing mosaic tiles, remedial wall ties failing and communal fire doors needing replacement. The project was trying to be creative about the design and making sure the entire estate looked the same.

The Chair and Panel Members thanked the Head of Assets and Stock Investments for his presentation. They had seen the difference when driving past the Heath Town Estate, it was looking colourful and bright.

A Panel Member asked how they dealt with existing residents when works were being undertaken.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments responded by confirming that before the starting of any phase, a consultation had been held with the residents. This provided them with materials to give visibility as to what was coming and sought their input, especially in the design phase. It was sometimes quite difficult to get that engagement and so working with the contractors were Tenant Liaison Officers who kept in regular contact. They talked to the residents about the project. Since it was such a long project, there had been very good relationships established and community leaders identified across the estate.

A Panel Member commented that the regeneration project was outstanding. They asked if there were any plans for development on Wednesfield Road.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments responded that this was the old pub site and it would be developed. There were plans in Phase 2 for it to be a new block of flats from his recollection, five or six floors.

The Panel Member asked if crime had started to reduce because of some of the wide open spaces. The Head of Assets and Stock Investments responded that crime had reduced. There had been a lot of problems with gang related activity, the anti-social behaviour team was eager to remove one individual who was at the heart of that, and significant nuisance had been created by his associates. Dealing with this issue had a significant impact in creating what was called a defensible space. There were no longer people loitering in those areas using and abusing various chemicals. The problem with anti-social behaviour was that the offenders did not necessarily stop, they moved on. They were certainly seeing some benefits in Heath Town but there could still be problems in other parts of the city.

A Panel Member reiterated that aesthetically the regeneration did look very pleasing. Around 30 years ago a Residents Estate Management Board was established which gave ownership and residents a real voice, unfortunately that had seemed to wane. Following the key findings in the Hackett Review it was vitally important to obtain residents voices. He asked what Wolverhampton Homes were doing to try and enhance the residents voices in the area.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments confirmed that in terms of residents voice, the challenge primarily was engagement. There had been a fair bit of work done regarding reaching out, building the customer base of willing volunteers. There were now over 1000 residents who were actively involved in engagement which gave a strong basis for discussion around things such as fire safety. They were ensuring that they were talking to residents in each individual block around fire safety in their area. This gave residents extra confidence in what had happened, and they planned to address any issues.

A Panel Member stated that when residents voices were considered the issues were wider than just fire safety. The Board had a real key influence on the estate which made a huge difference. He was pleased to see the fire-retardant lacing of the insulation and sheet materials and fire doors which was really pleasing to see as a Member of the Council's Fire Safety and Scrutiny Group. Wolverhampton Homes had an excellent reputation when it came to fire safety. Wolverhampton wanted to avoid tragic incidences, such as Grenfell Tower. He asked if Wolverhampton Homes were considering now or in the future having low rises fitted with sprinklers. He also asked if they were considering having solar panels placed on roofs and if have the Bridge could be repainted black and gold when it was finished?

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments stated There was a very delicate balance between the amount of revenue that could be raised and the affordability of the rent. They would be focusing on higher risk blocks of flats where there were any additional risks created to occupants regardless of height, beyond that it was a financial issue. They were already forecasting a significant shortfall against the climate change directives. They were seeking to gather grants wherever possible, but that grant would not cover everything. It was for Councillors to set directions as to what were the overarching priorities they wanted Wolverhampton Homes to deliver for them.

A Panel Member agreed that it was a matter of funding, they wanted more but due to the economic circumstances it was not necessarily very likely. The Council did need to keep pushing the mantra that legislation was minimum standards and the Council should be setting their own standards. Wolverhampton Homes were doing such a good job in so many different areas.

A Panel Member asked how we monitored the new efficiencies in Heath Town such as heating and was there a continual improvement set up in blocks.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments confirmed that the work that was being designed now or that has been implemented over the last 5 years was future proof. They could have simply done the structural repairs and facelift. It had been agreed that it was more effective and efficient solution to deal with those issues and ensure they have got such a sufficient length of life that they could make it to the 2050's and beyond. There had been quite a significant step up in the efficiency on the demand for heat, thus effecting the cost of energy and achieving lower heating bills comparatively. They were, bringing money forward so they could deliver more efficient heating solutions and more energy efficiency to buildings generally.

A Panel Member suggested to the Chair that it would be worth a site visit to the estate soon.

A Panel Member added that if a site visit were to be arranged it would be beneficial for the Fire Safety Officer from the West Midlands Fire Service to attend. This was agreed by the Panel.

A Panel Member acknowledged that there had been a vast improvement at Heath Town. He asked if rainwater harvesting had been considered as those were big surface areas which could be used to supplement sprinkler systems. He commented that what made a community was what else was available, such as engagement for community assets for the elderly and pop libraries. He asked how this was planned to work, to build the wider community.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments agreed with the Panel Member that the community engagement really had to come from the residents. They could help facilitate the process and play a strong role. Without a willingness and desire for residents to almost demand that they get this, it was difficult to tell them that they then should be doing this. There would be a new community hub built, a multi-use facility for things such as knitting clubs with a community room. Customer engagement was powerful in understanding what the desires are within that community and what was needed to create that cohesion. Due to changes in public services, it was also evident that those local services had retreated over the years and so there has been a reduction in those sorts of facilities in places like Heath Town.

There was only so much of that Wolverhampton Homes could bridge as they had a clear mandate in terms of what services they could provide. It was about engaging with other organisations and bringing those in wherever possible. It was also about using what assets they had within the housing revenue account that they could repurpose. They did also not want to spend a lot of time and money creating an empty space that wouldn't be utilised by the community. The problem with the rainwater and solar panels was that those had to be fed into a communal supply. The issue with solar panels was that it should be providing a benefit directly to the residents but because the space was communal it would be providing minimal benefit to Wolverhampton Homes. There was very low energy lighting in the homes with special controls. There was an opportunity to provide electrical vehicle charging points. Water could be harvested but they did not have a direct place to put it, as it

would have to be pumped to sprinkler and so whilst it had been considered it had been dismissed.

The Director for Property Services commented on the community and community resilience. They would be bringing the Customer Engagement Strategy to Members later in the year. He stated that the Council should be proud of what they have achieved in Heath Town, and the compliments given by Members at the Panel would be taken back to the team. He also thanked the communities and people living on a building site for several years, most customers were now so proud to live there.

A Panel Member mentioned the Ashmore Park Community Hub which was run by volunteers and requested Wolverhampton Homes Officers visit.

The Head of Assets and Stock Investments suggested that residents of Heath Town could visit to help stimulate ideas.

A Panel Member thanked Wolverhampton Homes not only for Heath Town, but also for Ashmore Park and Wednesfield in Bloom, which involved volunteers and people in the community.

The Chair stated that it was not just about housing it was about the community, she praised the fact that Wolverhampton Homes were bringing the community together.

The meeting closed at 7:34 pm.

6 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel was a scheduled for Thursday, 29 September 2022 at 6pm.

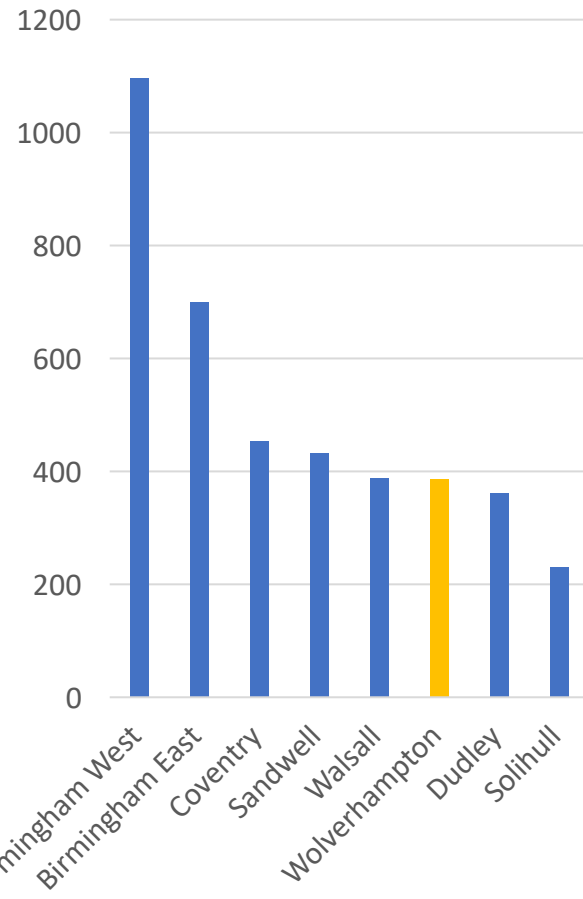
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Scrutiny Presentation – Community Safety

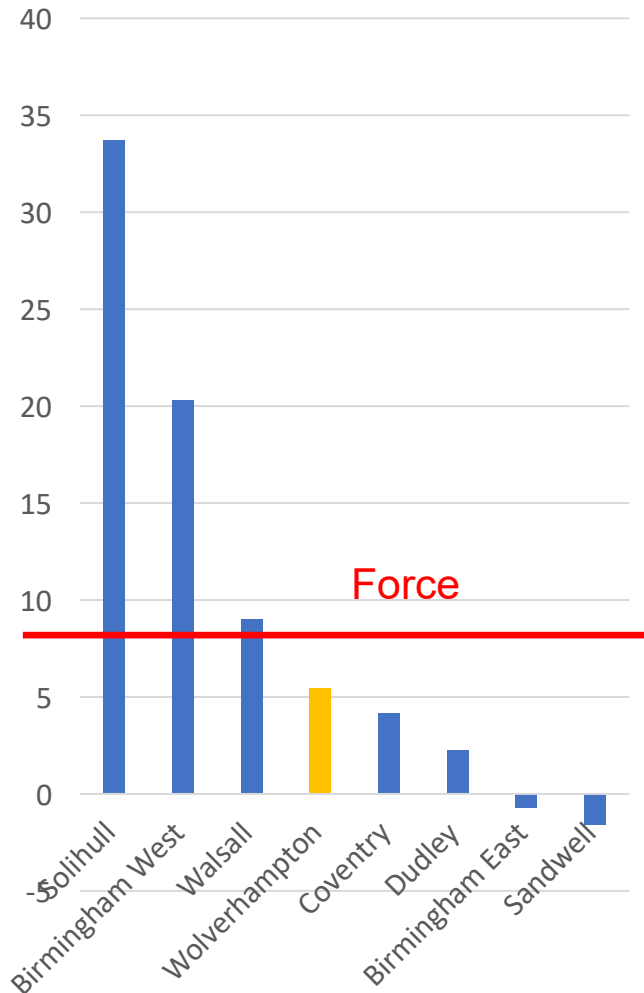
Serious Youth Violence

Serious Youth Violence

Number of Serious Youth Violence Offences from 1st April 2022



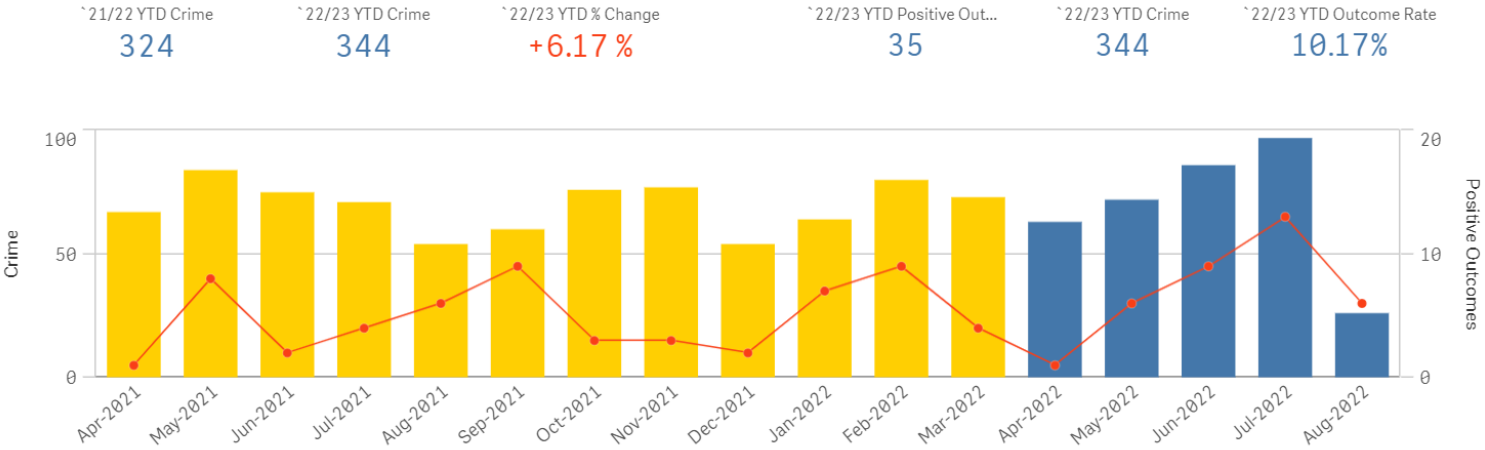
YTD % Change from 2021/2022



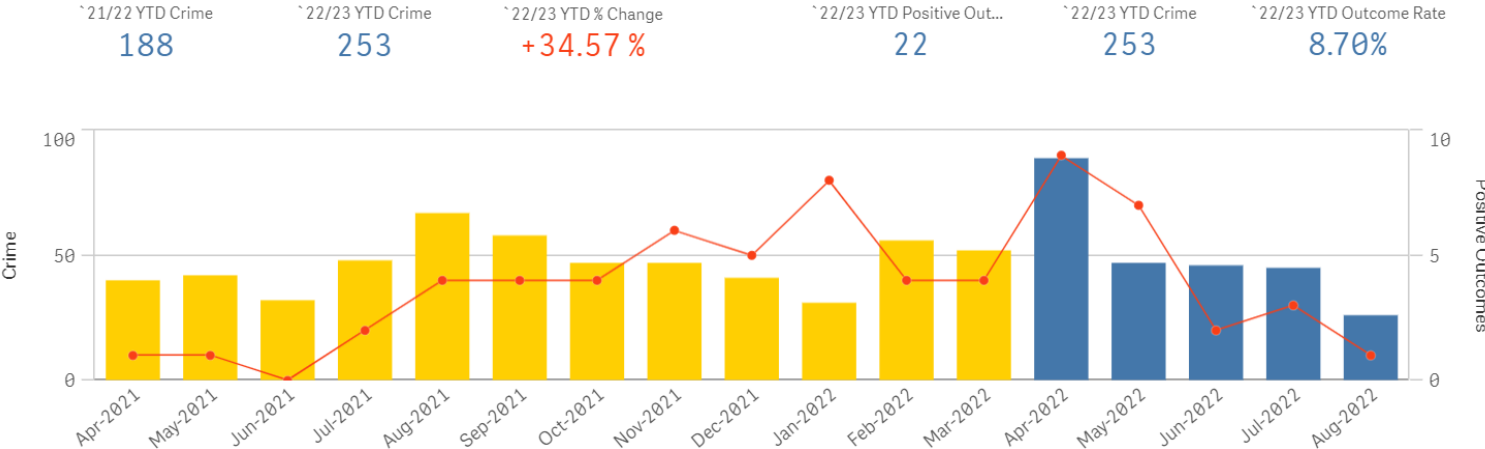
Defining Serious Youth Violence

- Assault with injury (s.47 & s.20)
- Assault with intent to cause Serious Harm (or attempted) (s.18)
- Assault with injury – administering poison
- Assault police
- Racially or religiously aggravated assault

WV Serious Youth Violence Data



WV Robbery Data



Case Study: Divert



The word "DIVERT" is rendered in a bold, 3D, blocky font. The letters are a vibrant red color and are set against a soft, glowing blue aura. The font style is reminiscent of classic comic book lettering, with thick strokes and a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. The letters are arranged horizontally and are the central focus of the image.

Case Study: Divert

- **Reoffending** - As part of the evaluation framework a JDP Reoffending Live Tracker has been created. This will allow us to monitor reoffending rates in relation to offence frequency; demographics; offence seriousness, reoffending disposal outcome and the time between JDP and re-offence.
- **First Time Entrants Data** - The impact of JDP on the YOT's First Time Entrants Data has shown a significant impact already. The data showed a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of outcome 22. We would expect this trend to continue and this will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.
- **Cost Avoidance analyse-** Cost avoidance analysis was applied to the cohort to highlight the financial value of the JDP. The Cost Avoidance tool was used, and the total includes the young people avoiding Court costs (£106,715), Arrest costs (£9,218) and Legal Adviser costs (£6000). To date there is an estimated cost avoidance of £121,933.44 from 22 young people.

Since the start of DIVERT - 88 cases have been presented to JDP and 74 have received an Outcome 22 (Deferred Prosecution). Each young person has completed an agreed number of specific YOT sessions aimed at reducing future offending. 13 cases have received youth conditional cautions and 1 matter was referred to court for non engagement.

59 of the Outcome 22's were for youth violence offences.

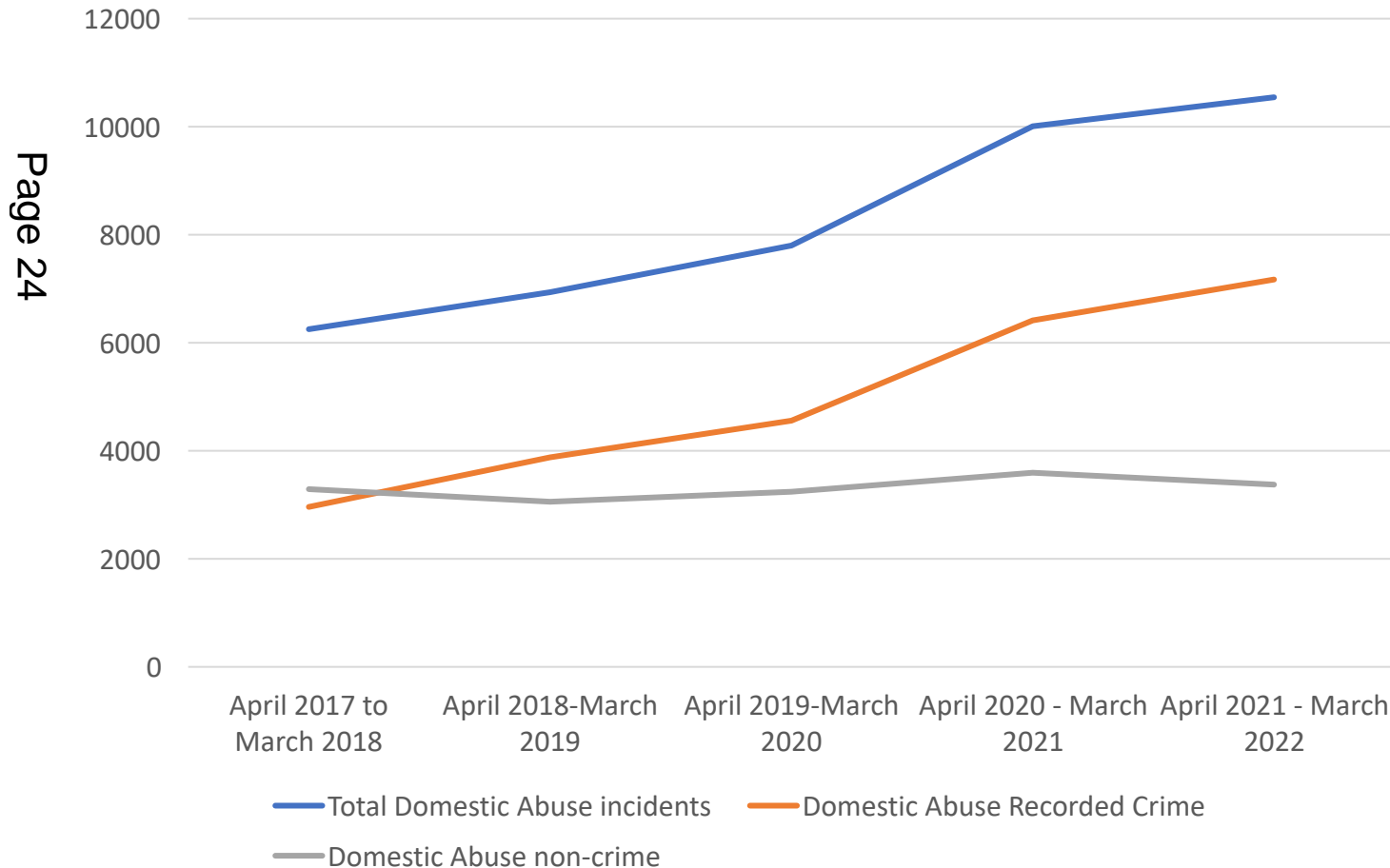
Reflections

- Wolverhampton has a good offer for young people and families with a wide range of support available, however this is not always communicated amongst professionals, parents & communities;
- Following recent tragic events there is a need to proactively engage with young people and families, to deliver key messages and make them aware of support available;
- There are strong pathways in place to support young people once risk is identified, the focus of the partnership will now be on working with partners, communities and families to raise awareness and identify more young people at the earliest possible point;

Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic Abuse

Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents
April 2017- March 2022



Reflections on data

- Impact of Covid-19
- Awareness of what constitutes abuse
- Changes in reporting guidelines and accuracy of recording
- Confidence of victims to report

Activity

Strategic activity	Primary/universal	Secondary	Tertiary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Domestic Homicide Reviews • Review of governance strategy and vision for Wolverhampton • Planning and commissioning of services • MARAC review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe relationships work in schools • Trauma informed practice • Communication campaigns • Wolverhampton Safe Haven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist domestic abuse community services • Training for professionals on Interpersonal Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls • IRIS programme with GPs • Safer Homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency risk assessment case conference (MARAC) • Specialist refuge provision • Criminal justice response • Support for children affected by domestic abuse • Dolphin/Freedom Programme • Perpetrator Programme • Our Futures

Case Study: Safety of Women at Night



Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

29 September 2022

Report title	Energy Efficiency of Housing Stock and Fuel Poverty	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal City Assets and Housing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Roseblade, Director of City Housing and Environment	
Originating service	Housing	
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Beasley	Interim Service Manager, Housing Strategy & Policy
	Tel	01902 554893
	Email	Karen.beasley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Housing and Environment Leadership Team	13 September 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	13 September 2022
	Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing Briefing	14 September 2022

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Support the existing programmes and schemes that will address poor energy performing homes both in the social and private housing sector.
2. Advise on innovative methods of engagement with eligible households in order to promote any future grant funding opportunities.

Recommendations for noting:

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note:

1. The data provided on the energy performance of the City's housing stock.

2. The current and proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) programmes to address poor energy performing properties within the council's housing stock.
3. The current and potential grant funded schemes available to address the low energy performance of all tenure homes.
4. The alignment of current and proposed strategies that support the Council's objectives within the Council Plan and Our Climate Commitments and the delivery of programmes.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Panel with details relating to the recorded energy performance of the City's housing stock.
- 1.2 To inform the Panel of current Housing Revenue Account (HRA) programmes to address poor energy performing properties within the council's housing stock.
- 1.3 To provide details relating to proposed HRA programmes to increase the energy performance of council housing stock, including future grant opportunities.
- 1.4 To inform the Panel of current and potential grant funded schemes available to homeowners to address the low energy performance of privately owned homes.
- 1.5 To provide details of current and proposed strategies that support the Council's objectives within the Council Plan and Our Climate Commitments and the delivery of programmes.
- 1.6 To consider methods of future community engagement to ensure maximum publicity and engagement of available grants to support eligible households.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In 2019 the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) set the region a target to be net zero by 2041 and meet the ambitions set out by the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement saw the world leaders agree to cut carbon emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The UK has brought in new laws that commit to:
 - becoming net-zero by 2050
 - reducing its carbon (based on 1990 levels) by 78% by 2035
- 2.2 The City Council has committed to achieving a city-wide net zero target of 2041 by addressing a number of measures relating to:
 - Transportation
 - Buildings and Energy
 - Waste and Consumption
 - Natural Capital and Land use
- 2.3 The commitment to achieve the goal relating to Buildings and Energy will include:
 - **Improving the energy efficiency of all buildings within the city. Aiming to improve 5,000 homes per year**
 - Reduce energy consumption through low power lighting, appliances, and behaviour change
 - Install low carbon heating in all buildings
 - Ensure industrial processes are efficient and low carbon where possible
 - Install rooftop solar panels across all suitable buildings

- 2.4 There are over 112,600 properties within the City within private ownership, social rented and private rented sector. The data shown in Appendix 1 indicates:
- deprivation score (higher is worse) for each Ward
 - % of households identified as fuel poor by Ward
 - average gross/net incomes per Ward
 - stock tenure per Ward
 - number of properties with Energy Performance ratings E to G
 - number of properties with Energy Performance ratings D
- 2.5 The energy performance of a property is determined by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), and these are required whenever a property is built, sold, or rented. An EPC contains information about a property’s energy use and typical energy costs and recommends how to reduce energy use. The energy efficiency rating ranges from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) and each EPC is valid for 10 years.
- 2.6 There are approximately 24,800 fuel poor households within the city with low incomes and low energy efficiency performance homes. Appendix 2 shows the distribution of the 22% fuel poor households. A very clear mitigation against fuel poverty is the continued delivery of energy efficiency initiatives and large-scale energy efficiency retrofits that not only reduce carbon but more importantly, help to reduce fuel bills and provide healthy and safer environments for vulnerable people to live in.
- 2.7 Council owned housing (social) stock

The Council owns approximately 22,000 homes across the city (plus 2,382 leasehold homes), managed by four Managing Agents – Wolverhampton Homes, Bushbury Hill EMB, Dovecotes TMO and New Park Village TMC.

The stock comprises of:

High-rise (6+ storey)	
	36 x tower blocks
	11 x deck access blocks
Medium rise (3-5 storey)	
	402 x blocks
Low-rise (1-2 storey)	
	1528 x blocks
Houses	10,868
Bungalows	1,013

Of which were built:

Age Band	Number of Properties	%
Pre 1920	144	0.66%
1920 -69	16,744	76.97%
1970 - 89	4,463	20.52%
1990 to date	403	1.85%
	21,754	100%

Over 4,000 of the council properties built in the 1950s, 60s and 70s were built using non-traditional forms of construction. Within the stock that is classified as non-traditional, there are 16 archetypes, some of which were designated defective under the Housing Defects Act 1984 (consolidated by Part XVI of the Housing Act 1985).

2.8 Private housing stock

Out of the 112,600 properties within the City, around 60% are owner-occupied homes. The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating for all private sector properties in Wolverhampton is 59. For England it is 57 and for the West Midlands it is 56. For owner occupied stock it is 58. However over 4000 private properties are estimated to have an EPC rating of below band E. There are also around 19,500 properties with un-insulated cavity walls and over 13,000 properties with less than 100mm of loft insulation.

2.9 Private rented housing stock

There are over 8,700 properties within the private rented sector in the City. The Council, through its Private Sector Housing Team, work proactively to improve the quality of these properties, enabling residents to live in safe and healthy homes.

They ensure that privately rented properties are free from hazards such as excess cold, damp, and mould, falls and fire, working with tenants to address issues in their homes, in the first instance by positive engagement with the landlord but continue to protect residents from unacceptable living conditions and overcrowding through the use of legislative powers.

Advice and support is given to signpost all occupiers to available affordable warmth schemes to increase the energy performance of their homes.

3.0 Progress

3.1 Council owned stock investment

There have been and continues to be investment in council housing stock to improve the internal/external condition of properties and improve the energy performance.

3.1.1 *High-rise investment programme*

Whilst the primary focus of the investment programme for the Council's high-rise properties is to enhance fire safety standards (and to replace the worn-out mechanical and electrical infrastructure), many of the current and future projects are also delivering enhancements to the fabric of the buildings to improve the thermal efficiency of the blocks.

Over the next five years, the tower-blocks in Heath Town, Vauxhalls, Boscobel and Chetton Green will all receive new external cladding and replacement low-carbon heating. Once these schemes have completed, the blocks on the Merry Hill estate will have the external insulation replaced to meet the latest standards, and new low-carbon heating installed. Subject to the outcome of an options appraisal on the long-term future of the two blocks on the Whitmore Reans estate, may also receive new external cladding and low-carbon heating.

The tower-blocks on the Graiseley, Lakefield, Stowlawn and Millfields estates have already received fabric improvements, so will receive new low-carbon heating solutions. The project to install external wall insulation and low carbon heating to the tower-blocks on the Hickman estate was completed in 2017.

3.1.2 *Non-traditional property investment programme*

In 2018, a specialist structural engineering appraisal was carried out on the non-traditional stock portfolio and identified that four property archetypes had reached or were reaching the end of their life. The Tarran bungalows, Boswell houses, and T-block houses had all reached the end of their serviceable life and the Smith houses were nearing the end of theirs. The next steps are outlined in paragraph 3.2.3 below.

The survey identified that the remaining archetypes were in reasonable to good condition and had at least a further thirty years of serviceable life.

The current EPC ratings for these properties range between C to E, however the Rd-SAP methodology used to determine the EPC rating, wasn't designed to work in non-traditional properties, so full SAP assessments are being prepared for each archetype. It is anticipated this will adjust the EPC ratings between the range D to F. The worst performing properties are those that were constructed using materials such as pre-cast concrete wall panels, or structural steel frames.

Detailed surveys are currently being undertaken in examples of these property archetypes to determine their current condition and to provide recommendations on what measures are needed to address the structural condition and improve energy performance. This information will be used to inform the bid for Wave-2 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), which will be submitted in October 2022.

The worst performing properties will be included within the Wave-2 bid which will see a phased 2-year investment programme commencing in April 2023, comprising structural repairs, improvements to the external envelope (external wall insulation, new windows, roof covering etc.) and the installation of low-carbon heating.

The remaining non-traditional properties will be improved over the next 5-10 years, but where there are further opportunities to deliver programmes with grant funding assistance, we may seek to accelerate delivery.

3.1.3 *Energy Efficiency programmes*

Over the past twenty years the Government has dispersed grant funding via the energy companies, with schemes such as the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), or more recently the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). With the use of this funding there have been programmes to install:

- external wall insulation to traditional dwellings with approximately 2,000 council owned solid wall properties benefitting
- cavity wall insulation with approximately 11,250 council owned properties benefitting.
- loft insulation, with approximately 14,750 council owned properties benefitting

These measures will have helped contribute to lower energy bills, although the extent will vary from household to household, as it is influenced by each person's approach to energy use.

Over this period the energy companies will have made offers for private property owners to obtain one or more energy efficiency measures, but these were always optional offers that the homeowner could choose to take-up (or not as the case may be).

There is more work needed to improve the energy efficiency of the traditionally built housing stock, as we still have 1,867 solid wall properties, plus a further 166 properties with partial solid walls that will need external wall insulation installing in the not-too-distant future.

There are currently circa 5,000 traditional houses, flats and bungalows that have been built and already have an insulated cavity, but the properties are currently rated at an EPC Band D or below. It is anticipated that in most instances the introduction of a low-carbon form of heating and the upgrading to A+ or A++-rated windows will be sufficient to raise the energy performance to a Band C.

Wolverhampton Homes is delivering a boiler / heating replacement programme to about 820 properties a year fitting A+ rated gas boilers. The decision to delay the switch to low-carbon heating is intentional, as:

- this market is developing, and new technologies are still emerging, so delaying the change will ensure we have the choice of the best technologies available (some of which may not yet have been developed)
- low-carbon heating is designed to work in an energy efficient environment, so the installation of low carbon heating needs to be carried out in conjunction with other measures (such as energy efficient windows and external wall insulation).

3.2 Council owned stock regeneration programmes

3.2.1 *New Park Village estate regeneration*

Following the results of a stock condition assessment and a period of resident engagement, approval was given in 2019 to regenerate Ellerton Walk area to address the ongoing issues relating to the 1960's deck access maisonette blocks and adjacent bungalows.

The main concerns related to poor levels of insulation to the properties, inadequate levels of thermal comfort achieved by existing storage heating and roofs and walkways with poor levels of insulation.

The decanting of existing tenants, the acquisition of privately owned properties and the regeneration plans are well underway. The proposals will see the demolition of existing blocks and adjacent properties and bring forward a phased redevelopment programme, delivering high quality, thermal efficient new affordable homes to the estate over the next few years.

3.2.2 *Heath Town regeneration*

A multi-million-pound investment programme has been underway for several years to improve the existing 1,200 council owned properties across the Heath Town estate and to construct approximately 400 new homes.

The deck-access blocks on the estate have had external wall insulation and other fabric improvements installed, and the heating within the properties will shortly be renewed. This has improved the properties from an EPC D / E rating to an EPC C rating.

Improvements to the high-rise properties will be delivered over the next three years as detailed in paragraph 3.1.1.

A new low-carbon energy centre is being constructed over the next few years to power the district heating network that will serve these 1,600 dwellings.

3.2.3 *Non-traditional property regeneration*

Around 25% of the council's non-traditional stock have exceeded their serviceable life. The combination of poor original design, previous repairs now failing and very poor thermal performance, means that the only cost-effective solution is to demolish these properties. An approved programme to address the Tarran (prefab) properties began in June 2022 with resident engagement and further discussions around housing need is due to commence shortly.

3.3 Private Sector stock improvements

3.3.1 The Council's Home Improvement Service, managed by Wolverhampton Homes, can offer grants and loans for repairs and essential maintenance for privately owned properties. The service is dedicated to helping older people, people with disabilities and vulnerable people to live safely and comfortably in their own homes.

For those owner occupiers that are eligible the grant/loan can bring much needed repairs and improvements such as:

- UPVc window and door repairs
- Improving security to doors and windows
- Fitting draught proofing
- free gas safety check and repairs
- use of handyperson service for minor repairs

An advice and information service are also provided on energy efficiency to make homes more energy efficient and reduce energy costs for the occupier.

3.3.2 Homeowners and private tenants can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant which is a grant to allow for adaptations to support the needs of a disabled occupant and make changes to the home to enable them to carry on living safely and independently in their own home. The grant can also provide a heating system suitable for the needs of the occupant.

4.0 **Current grant funding (approved)**

4.1 In April this year, the Council was successful in securing Government funding through the Sustainable Warmth Competition. The funding, around £1.8M, will install energy saving upgrades and low carbon heating in low-income households, in particular upgrading poor insulated owner occupier and private rented homes with energy efficiency rated EPC E, F or G and some D properties.

The funding, through a consortium with other LA's and WMCA, gives the opportunity to deliver two schemes:

(i) Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3) - up to £1,364,000 to support low-income households heated by mains gas in Blakenhall Ward.

(ii) Home Upgrade Grant Phase 1 (HUG1) - up to £456,500 to support low-income households which do not have gas fuelled heating in Blakenhall Ward.

There have been a number of community engagement sessions within the Blakenhall Ward with over 60 applications being received requesting support. These applications are currently being assessed against the funding criteria.

- 4.2 The Council is promoting the government energy efficiency scheme, known as Energy Company Obligation (ECO) which aims to reduce heating costs for low-income, fuel-poor and vulnerable people. Ofgem administers this for the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The current scheme, ECO4, is set up to improve the least energy-efficient homes. ECO4 places a legal obligation on suppliers to reduce heating costs for low-income and vulnerable households by delivering energy efficiency and heating measures.

ECO4 will be a four-year scheme and is intended to run until March 2026.

- 4.3 The Council offers ongoing support through grants and loans to residents through the Home Improvement Agency and Disabled Facilities Grants as outlined in paragraph 3.3.

5.0 Future grant fundings opportunities

- 5.1 The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will shortly invite social housing landlords to apply for Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding to be used to improve the energy performance of social housing, with the aim of raising the energy performance of low EPC rated properties.

The aim is to improve the energy performance of homes to Energy Performance Certificate¹ (EPC) Band C and take homes out of fuel poverty and deliver progress towards the UK's commitment to Net Zero by 2050. The Council, together with Wolverhampton Homes, is currently preparing an application to submit in October 2022 to support the non-traditional investment programme for 940 homes. This will attract a grant of circa £16 million but will require a further £70 million in funding (as there is a wider scope of work than covered by the grant), however, the final decision on the value of the bid will be informed by the on-going discussions about the government's proposal to introduce a rent cap and the implications for the capital programme once it is implemented, as well as the affordability of the project due to the significant inflationary pressure the sector is currently experiencing.

- 5.2 Following the successful grant application for Homes Upgrade Grant Phase 1, it is anticipated that additional phases will be launched in the near future and an opportunity to submit a future grant application to support low-income households. The Council will need to determine which Ward the funding can be applied to in order to meet the eligibility criteria.

- 5.3 A summary of all programmes and grant schemes is detailed in Appendix 3.

6.0 Alignment to Council's Plans and Strategies

The programmes and projects outlined in this report will support many of the Council's plans and strategies, but even more importantly support residents within the city with better quality and thermal efficient homes.

6.1 Council Plan

Within **Our City, Our Plan**, there are two key priorities to ensure Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives by providing (i) '*Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods*' and (ii) '*Healthy, inclusive communities*'. These priorities are supported by three principles, one of which is '*Climate Conscious*' – promoting the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the long-term challenges facing the climate emergency.

6.2 Climate Commitment

In 2019, Full Council declared a climate emergency and the Council published **Our Climate Commitments** to set out how it will make the City of Wolverhampton Council carbon neutral by 2028. The programmes and projects detailed within this report will deliver outcomes supporting this agenda.

6.3 Housing Strategy 2019-2024

The Council's Housing Strategy, '**Better Homes for All**' supports one of the strategic objectives within the Council Plan 2019-24 – ***Good Homes in well-connected neighbourhoods*** and will deliver:

More and Better Homes to meet the needs of our economy, communities and the growing number of households looking to work, study and settle in our city.

Ensure Safe and Healthy Homes for all by tackling and challenging criminal landlords and setting excellent levels of housing management and maintenance standards for all our housing management agents. We will make best use of housing in the City, bringing empty properties back into use, improving the quality and thermal efficiency of homes and reducing fuel poverty.

Provide access to secure homes for those in vulnerable situations. We continue to tackle rough sleeping in partnership. We will work to prevent homelessness and provide support and advice to people who need sustainable accommodation options to meet their housing needs. We will work to provide housing options that enable choice, good health and well-being and promote independent living.

6.4 Financial Well-being Strategy 2022

The Council's **Financial Well-being Strategy** – Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis was launched in July 2022. The strategy, through a multi-agency approach, sets out a long-

term vision to support households to access a range of appropriate financial and money advice services, as well as the knowledge, skills, and confidence to maximise their own financial well-being. The strategy will deliver a number of workstreams, with workstream 2 detailing how partners will work towards on **'Tackling Food and Fuel Poverty'**. The objective will be *'to tackle inequalities by reducing the number of residents in fuel poverty both by tackling the causes and by helping to meet the needs of people in crisis'*. There are three responses within this workstream:

- 1) Early – Minimise the impact of fuel poverty for low income and vulnerable households by increasing the number of people who switch energy suppliers or receive direct debit discounts to save money.
- 2) Emerging – Response to the emerging issue around fuel cap post April 2022 and identify households most likely to be impacted to ensure they have appropriate signposting to access the right support.
- 3) Emergency – Provision of emergency support for households experiencing fuel poverty.

The workstream will also support a joined-up system in each community to provide enough no-cost, low-cost and affordable healthy food in moments of crisis and in long-term low-income households, via joined up system of support in the community.

7.0 Future Strategies and Plans

There are a number of strategies and plans currently being developed which will provide further support and compliment the objectives and outcomes of existing published strategies and plans, supporting those households in fuel poverty and improving the energy efficiency of low energy performing homes.

7.1 Draft Carbon Reduction Strategy 2022-2024

Wolverhampton Homes, the Council's Arms-Length Management Organisation, is in the process of developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy 2022-2024, although this is in draft format and awaiting endorsement, the strategy will outline the organisations seven aims and objectives including how it will 'improve and decarbonise the housing stock'. The strategy will support the actions within the Council's *Climate Commitments* and *Our City; Our Plan*.

7.2 Draft Asset Management Strategy 2022-2026

By the end of 2022, the Council will launch its Asset Management Strategy detailing how we will continue to maintain, improve, and develop new housing assets across the short, medium, and long-term. The aims and ambitions of the strategy will align to the Council's *Our City, Our Plan* and *Housing Strategy 2019-2024*.

7.3 Draft Fuel Poverty Strategy (Housing)

The Housing Team are developing a Fuel Poverty Strategy to align with the existing *Housing Strategy* which will detail issues around fuel poverty, outline the work being

done to address this and introduce an action plan of practical actions to work with partners and help our most vulnerable residents to keep warmer in their own homes along with reducing carbon emissions to meet the net-zero targets.

8.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 8.1 In order to maximise the take up by residents of available grants, how do we innovatively reach out and engage with all eligible households as not all residents have access to digital technology?

9.0 Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report, but securing funding to increase energy efficiency in all homes in the city will be a challenge. To achieve its aims the council will need to maximise external funding. Unless eligible for DFG, external grant funding will be the only other means of support the council will be able to provide for owner occupiers and private sector rentals.
- 9.2 Improvements to council owned homes will also require external funding and may require the re-prioritisation of other planned investment. The 30-year HRA Business plan does not currently provide for the additional costs of ensuring all the stock is net zero. Future regeneration programmes will be planned to include low carbon measures, but this may increase costs and could lead to budget reductions in other areas – for example new build programmes.

[JM/15092022/L]

10.0 Legal implications

- 10.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

[TC/06092022/A]

11.0 Equalities implications

- 11.1 This report provides an overview of the Council's Strategies, Plans, approved programmes, and schemes that are focussed on supporting fuel poor, low-income households in a number of ways by either improving the fabric or internal condition of their homes, through investment or grant funded schemes, to help reduce their energy bills.

12.0 All other implications

- 12.1 Climate change: All energy efficiency retrofits or support to fuel poor households will help to reduce energy consumption energy costs during this unprecedented cost of living crisis. Any measures carried out to homes will reduce carbon emissions.

12.2 Health and Wellbeing: any energy efficiency measures will help to improve the fabric of fuel poor properties, many of which may struggle in cold weather. Upgrading the thermal efficiency and general energy efficiency of the building will help to improve living environment and alleviate seasonal impacts of extreme heat and cold. Providing financial support and advice will help the health and wellbeing of vulnerable households during the current cost of living crisis.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 Heath Town - redevelopment – Options appraisal – April 2017
New Park Village – redevelopment options – July 2019
New Park Village – redevelopment update – February 2021
Non-traditional Property Investment and Regeneration – June 2021
IEDN – Sustainable Warmth Competition – Grant Approval – June 2022

14.0 Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Energy Efficiency Data by Ward
Appendix 2 – Fuel Poverty Bands
Appendix 3 – Summary of all programmes and grant schemes

APPENDIX 1 – Energy Efficiency data by Ward

	Deprivation Score <i>(higher is worse)</i>	% of Fuel Poor Households	Gross annual household income	Net annual household income	Stock (%)			EPC ratings	
					Owner / occupier	Private rented	Social rented	E to G	D
Bilston East	46.1	25.1	£31,300	£26,450	51	12	44	785	112
Bilston North	34.9	24.3	£33,000	£28,150	61	9	27	778	97
Blakenhall	31.3	25.5	£36,050	£28,400	62	20	15	1,515	134
Bushbury North	27.4	19.7	£36,600	£28,000	66	7	24	719	109
Bushbury South & Low Hill	45.1	35.7	£32,100	£27,200	38	14	46	1,037	155
East Park	44.7	28.5	£29,200	£29,200	47	13	40	692	131
Ettingshall	38.8	29.9	£30,900	£26,600	44	10	39	941	144
Fallings Park	34.3	25.1	£33,550	£28,100	60	8	30	858	90
Graiseley	37.2	23.1	£35,550	£28,500	50	24	24	1,883	168
Heath Town	37.6	26.4	£31,000	£27,300	33	16	48	926	131
Merry Hill	21.4	15.5	£40,050	£31,400	68	8	23	1,011	87
Oxley	28.9	18.6	£35,200	£28,900	57	10	30	663	102
Park	29.6	20.2	£35,700	£28,600	52	32	14	2,379	146
Penn	14.1	13.8	£44,600	£33,800	83	10	5	1,330	106
Spring Vale	29.8	20.2	£34,350	£28,000	64	9	25	694	96
St Peter's	41.0	29.6	£30,550	£26,050	31	25	41	1,405	188
Tettenhall Regis	13.6	12.7	£43,550	£30,500	80	10	9	1,219	121
Tettenhall Wightwick	15.4	13.5	£42,500	£31,400	76	10	12	1,177	134
Wednesfield North	28.7	18.3	£31,100	£26,300	66	5	27	529	103
Wednesfield South	28.1	18.1	£34,750	£28,500	63	9	25	694	101

APPENDIX 1 – Energy Efficiency data by Ward

Sources:

Fuel Poverty: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-2022>

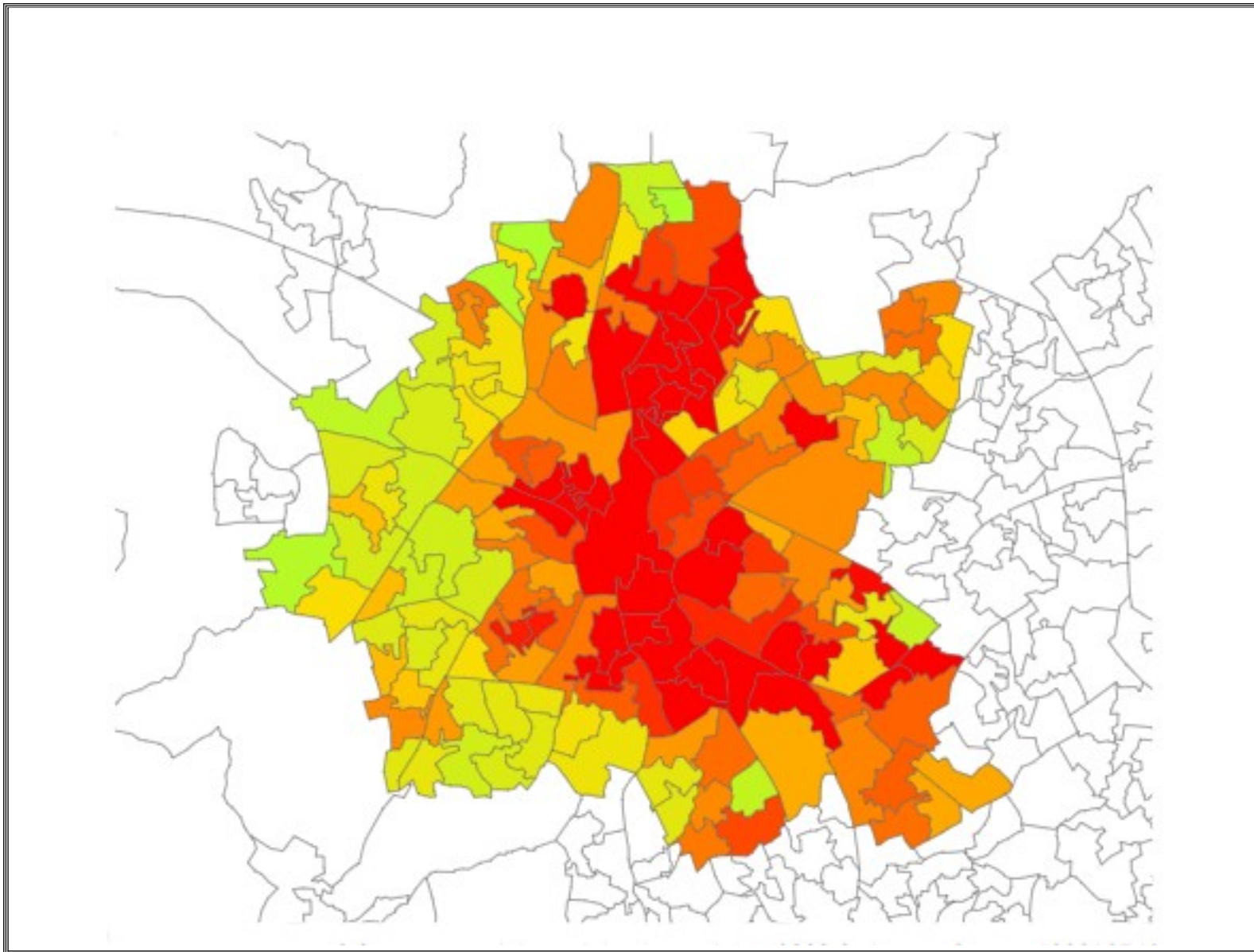
Household income: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/incomeestimates>

Indices of Deprivation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

EPC Ratings: <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/> at Feb 2022

Stock: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census>

Appendix 2 – City Housing Stock – Fuel Poverty Map



Fuel Poverty % Bands
Greater than 30% band
25% to 30% band
20% to 25% band
15% to 20% band
10% to 15% band
5% to 10% band
Less than 5% band

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APPENDIX 3 – Summary of all programmes and grant schemes

Stock	Property Nos.	Deliverables	Funding
Council homes			
High-rise properties	Approx. 2500	(On-site and future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire safety measures • Improve thermal efficiency • New cladding • Low carbon heating 	HRA Capital Programme
Non-traditional properties	Approx. 3000	(Future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural repairs • Improve thermal performance 	HRA Capital Programme Potential Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Wave 2.1
General stock	Approx. 2000	(All completed) External Wall Insulation	Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)
	Approx. 11,250	Cavity Wall Insulation	Carbons Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)
	Approx. 14,750	Loft insulation	Energy Company Obligation (ECO) earlier phases
General stock	Approx. 820	Replacement of A+ rated boiler/heating replacement	HRA Capital Programme
Private homes			
Owner occupier & private rented	532	Repairs, improvements, DFG adaptations	CWC General fund through grants
Available schemes to deliver energy efficiency measures to homes across the City			
Private (Eligibility criteria applies)	unknown	Replacement of broken heating systems/upgrade of inefficient systems/the installation of insulation	Government scheme - The Energy Company Obligation (ECO), administered by Ofgem. ECO4 – runs until March 2026
Current regeneration projects			
Council	Approx. 290	Replacement of poor thermal performance and poor design council stock – New Park Village, Bushbury, Wednesfield and Portobello.	HRA Capital Programme

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Scrutiny Work Programme

Agenda Item No: 6

Version Date: September 2022

OUT OF DARKNESS

The Scrutiny Work Programme – 2022 to 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be powerful committees that can contribute to the development of Council policies and hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions. Another key part of the overview and scrutiny role is to review existing policies, consider proposals for new policies and suggest new policies.

Overview and scrutiny should be carried out in a constructive way and should aim to contribute to the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the needs and aspirations of local inhabitants. Overview and Scrutiny Committees should not shy away from the need to challenge and question decisions and make constructive criticism.

The Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Each Scrutiny Panel will, subject to guidance from the Scrutiny Board, be responsible for setting and reviewing their priorities and work programme for the year.

Any member of the Scrutiny Board or a Scrutiny Panel shall be entitled to give notice to the Head of Paid Service that he/she wishes an item relevant to the functions of the Panel be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Board or Panel. On receipt of such a request the Head of Paid Service will ensure that it is included on the next available agenda.

In addition to their rights as Councillors, members of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels have additional right to documents, and to notice of meetings, as set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4.

The Scrutiny Board and Panels may scrutinise, and review decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any Council functions. As well as reviewing documentation, in fulfilling the scrutiny role, it may require any Cabinet Member, the Head of Paid Service and/or any Designated Officer to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit:

- a) any particular decision or series of decisions;
- b) the extent to which the actions taken implement Council policy; and/or
- c) their performance,
- d) and it is the duty of those persons to attend if so required.

Key Links:

[Part 2 - Article 7 - Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Part 2 - Article 4 - The Full Council.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Part 4c - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) [Part 4d - Access To Information Procedure Rules.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Should contact the Scrutiny Team please email: Scrutiny@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Detailed Scrutiny Work Programmes

Scrutiny Board**Chair:** Councillor Sweet**Vice Chair:** Councillor Turrell

Strategic oversight

- WMCA interface
- MTFs (overall oversight on Revenue/Capital/Assets)
- Overall performance (including Our City: Our Plan)
- Levelling Up
- Pre Decision
- Call in
- Petitions
- Wolverhampton Pound
- Oversight of Select Committee work – reporting on outcomes

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Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer/Report Author Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee report	N/A	David Pattison	Julia Cleary	Martin Stevens	14 June 2022	6 June 2022	Complete
Quarter 3 Social Care, Public Health, Corporate Complaints and Compliments Report	N/A	David Pattison	Sarah Campbell	Martin Stevens	14 June 2022	6 June 2022	Complete
Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022	N/A	David Pattison	N/A	Martin Stevens	26 July 2022	18 July 2022	Complete
Blue Badge Update	N/A	Charlotte Johns	N/A	Martin Stevens	26 July 2022	18 July 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Quarter 1 – Performance Report including budget	N/A	David Pattison and Claire Nye	James Amphett and Alison Shannon	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	
Cabinet Forward Plan	N/A	David Pattison	N/A	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	
Scrutiny Work Programme for Municipal Year	N/A	Martin Stevens / Earl Piggott-Smith	N/A	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	
Civic Halls	To include a site visit on the same day of the meeting	Richard Lawrence		Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	
Minutes from Special Meeting and June Meeting	N/A	Martin Stevens	N/A	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	
Wolverhampton Pound: Update on Progress	TBC	David Pattison, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	N/A	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	TBC
City Events – Budget Questions	Vice-Chair Requested	Ian Fegan	TBC	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	TBC
City Centre Regeneration	Economy and Growth Members to be invited for this item.	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	
Levelling Up	TBC	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	Martin Stevens	6 December	28 November 2022	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

WMCA Update	TBC	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	Martin Stevens	6 December	28 November 2022	TBC
Council Plan, MTFS & Performance Framework	TBC	David Pattison, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon and James Amphlett	Martin Stevens	Jan 2023 – TBC	Jan 2023 – TBC	TBC
Blue Badge Update	TBC	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	Martin Stevens	Jan 2023 – TBC	Jan 2023 – TBC	TBC
Annual Scrutiny Review	TBC	David Pattison	Laura Gittos / Scrutiny Manager	Martin Stevens	7 March 2023	27 February 2023	TBC

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Items to be scheduled

- Leisure PFI Contract (Pre-decision before Cabinet)

Economy and Growth Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Sweetman

Vice Chair: Councillor Khan

Remit, Function and Measures

- Creating good quality local jobs
- Working in partnership to support local people into work and better jobs
- Ensuring flexible systems which support local businesses to grow and residents to access good jobs
- Supporting local businesses to start up, scale up and thrive
- Attracting new investment which brings social and economic benefit to all
- Creating vibrant high streets with quality culture and leisure offers
- Growing the low carbon and circular economy
- Number of working age adults (16-64) claiming unemployment benefits
- Number of young adults (18-24) claiming unemployment benefits
- Number of jobs created / safeguarded in the city through the Investment Team

- Number of young adults (18-24) supported by Wolves at Work who are in sustained employment after 12 weeks
- Spend through Wolves at Work 18-24 City Ideas Fund
- Local Authority spend on apprenticeship levy
- Number of apprentices and graduate placements within the council
- Business that survive one year in city
- % change in activity in city retail & recreational settings – Google Analytics
- % of premises in the city with full fibre coverage
- Number of rapid charging electric car points in the city
- Empty properties in the city centre
- Business that survive one year in city
- % change in activity in city retail & recreational settings – Google Analytics
- % of premises in the city with full fibre coverage
- Number of rapid charging electric car points in the city
- Wolverhampton based businesses supported by the Council
- New of new investment opportunities generated
- Wolverhampton based businesses supported through Business Relight Programme
- New businesses supported by commissioned service Access to Business

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer/Report Author Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Portfolio Holder Statement (including Questions and Answers)	Please note Councillor Simkins was the lead on this item.	N/A	N/A	Kimberley Dawson	22 June 2022	14 June 2022	Complete
Visitor Experience, Culture and Leisure Offer	TBC	Richard Lawrence, Ian Fegan, John Denley	Chris Kirkland and Crissie Rushton	Kimberley Dawson	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	TBC
Inward Investment	TBC	Richard Lawrence	Richard Lawrence	Kimberley Dawson	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

City Public Realm Works	TBC	John Roseblade / Richard Lawrence	John Roseblade / Richard Lawrence	Kimberley Dawson	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	TBC
Heath Town Baths	TBC	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	TBC
Business Support at place level - Link to Wolverhampton Pound	TBC	Richard Lawrence	Isobel Woods	Kimberley Dawson	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	TBC
Performance Update / Budget - Fulfilled Economy	TBC	Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Kimberley Dawson	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	TBC
I54 – New Businesses	TBC	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	TBC
The Green Economy. Including a site visit to the National Brownfield Institute	TBC	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	TBC
Empty units in the City Centre and Train Station	TBC	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	TBC
Levelling Up Agenda / Future of LEP / Work with WMCA	TBC	Richard Lawrence	Liam Davis	Kimberley Dawson	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	TBC

Other items raised or requested by panel and yet to be scheduled:

- Skills and Unemployment – request from Scrutiny Board
- Taxi Licensing Process (driver applications and vehicle plating)
- Pre-Decision – City Centre Hotel Delivery

Health Scrutiny Panel**Chair:** Councillor Roberts**Vice Chair:** Councillor P Singh**Remit and Function**

- Wulfrunians live longer, healthier lives
- Healthy Inclusive Communities
- The scrutiny of health provision in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent relevant legislation and Government guidance.
- Health related issues in partnership with:
 - Public Health
 - NHS
 - CCG/ICS
 - Health and wellbeing Board
 - Healthwatch
 - Neighbouring Authorities

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer/Report Author Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Primary Care (Healthwatch are conducting another survey).	N/A	John Denley	N/A	Kimberley Dawson	30 June 2022	22 June 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

RWT Quality Accounts (Possible inviting Staffordshire County Council)	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	TBC
PH Annual Report	TBC	John Denley	N/A	Kimberley Dawson	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	TBC
Health Checks and Screening (including cancer)	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	TBC
Integrated Care System Strategy	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	TBC
Integrated Care System Priorities	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	TBC
One Wolverhampton Strategy and Priorities	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	TBC
Performance Update / Budget – Healthy Inclusive Communities	TBC	John Denley, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon and James Amphlett	Kimberley Dawson	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	TBC
Primary Care	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	TBC
One Wolverhampton	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Performance Review							
RWT Hospital Transport Service including links to Walsall Manor Hospital	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	TBC
Urology Update and Monitoring	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	TBC
One Wolverhampton Priorities	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	TBC
Maternity Services at RWT	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	TBC
Hearing Aids	TBC	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	TBC

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Other items raised or requested by panel and yet to be scheduled:

- Mental Health Trust Update
- Transition Services – Child to Adult
- How the CQC Works in Wolverhampton
- Sexual Health Referral Centres

Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor McGarity

Vice Chair: Councillor C Haynes

Remit, Function and Measurements

- Closing the gap on healthy life expectancy
- Ensuring people live happier more active lives
- Ensuring inclusive, welcoming communities where people feel safe and look out for each other
- Delivering more new homes
- Ensuring safe and healthy homes for all
- Ensuring access to a secure home
- Ensuring clean, green neighbourhoods and public space
- Well-connected businesses and residents
- Community Safety
- % of adult residents in the city who have received their COVID-19 vaccination
- Years of life lost Infant deaths per 100,000
- Coronary heart disease mortality rates per 100,000
- Alcohol related mortality per 100,000
- % of physically inactive adults
- % of 40-74 years attending offered health checks
- Number of Domestic Violence incidents reported to the police
- Personal well-being estimates by local authority Life satisfaction Worthwhile Happiness Anxiety
- Number of new builds completed in the city
- Net additional dwellings in the city
- % of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city
- Housing affordability ratio
- Total crime recorded per 1000 population
- % of planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales
- Number of homeless families moved into secure housing
- Energy efficiency of housing stock
- % fly tipping incidents resolved in 5 working days
- % of trees on public land every serviced every two years
- % of carriageways in city assessed as high quality

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
WV Living Governance and Linked companies.	N/A	David Pattison	N/A	Kimberley Dawson	14 July 2022	6 July 2022	Complete
Heath Town Regeneration Presentation	N/A	John Roseblade	N/A	Kimberley Dawson	14 July 2022	6 July 2022	Complete
Community Safety Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including • Domestic Violence • Violent knife crime Total crime performance measure • Scrutiny Board Members to be invited for this item. 	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	Kimberley Dawson	29 September 2022	21 September 2022	TBC
Energy efficiency of housing stock and fuel poverty		External: Shaun Aldis / Simon Bamfield	Karen Beasley	Kimberley Dawson	29 September 2022	21 September 2022	TBC
Performance Report / Budget– Good Homes in Well Connected Neighbourhoods		Charlotte Johns and Claire Nye	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Kimberley Dawson	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	TBC
Update from Public Realm – well		Richard Lawrence	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

connected businesses and residents							
Private Sector Housing - Standards		John Roseblade	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	TBC
Wolverhampton Homes to include maintenance and housing allocation policy		External: Shaun Aldis	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	TBC
Personal well-being update including life expectancy, infant deaths, health checks, personal wellbeing estimates, physical inactivity, alcohol and gambling related health issues	Invite Health Scrutiny Panel Members for this item – for discussion between the Chairs of the Panels.	John Denley	TBC	Kimberley Dawson	16 February 2023	8 February 2023	TBC
Rough Sleepers Update	Request form Scrutiny Board	John Denley	Anthony Walker	Kimberley Dawson	16 February 2023	8 February 2023	TBC
Tree Policy Update	Request from Chair and Vice-Chair	John Roseblade	Steve Woodward	Kimberley Dawson	16 February 2022	8 February 2022	TBC

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Other items raised or requested by panel and yet to be scheduled:

- Street Scene
- Panel requested progress report on Customer Engagement Strategy
- Panel requested update on Heath Town Regeneration plans

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- Proposed visit to Heath Town following meeting on 14 July 2022
- Visit to Wednesfield Community Hub requested
- Climate change
- Funding from WMCA
- Benchmark exercise to see how WH meets [fire safety standards for 2024](#), details of the specific targets

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Fulfilled Adults Lives Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor V Evans

Vice Chair: Councillor S Haynes

Remit and Function

- Ensuring that the Health and Social Care system to respond to and recover from Covid-19
- Ensuring independence for people with care and support needs
- Ensuring that people get the right support at the right time
- Ensuring the health and care reform agenda is delivered for people in Wolverhampton
- Protecting vulnerable people at risk of harm and exploitation
- % of older people (aged 65 and older) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services
- % of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment
- % of social care users supported to remain in their own homes
- % of adults who use services who say social care services help them to feel safe and secure
- % of adults in receipt of long-term services who are in control of their own lives

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Update on Health and Social Care Act - Fair Funding		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 July 2022	27 June 2022	Complete
Adult Services Transformation Programme		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 July 2022	27 June 2022	Complete
Principal Social Worker Annual Report		Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 July 2022	27 June 2022	Complete
Provision of Services and Support to provide independence for people with care and support needs		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	18 October 2022	10 October 2022	Confirmed
Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2023-2024 and Market Sustainability		Becky Wilkinson	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed
City of Wolverhampton Council's Local Account		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed
Implementation of Carer Commitment and ambition for		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

carers going forward							
Principal Social Worker Annual Report		Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	TBC
Implementation of Social Care Commitment		Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	TBC
Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2023-2024 and Market Sustainability – Follow Up Report		Becky Wilkinson	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	TBC
Adults Social Work and Workforce Health Check 2022		Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	TBC

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Strong Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Potter

Vice Chair: Councillor Collinge

Remit, Function and Measures

- Ensuring that Children have the best start in life and good early development
- Ensuring high quality education that closes the attainment gap
- Ensuring that children and young people grow up happy with good physical, social and mental health and wellbeing
- Ensuring that every young person in the city is equipped for adulthood with life skills and ready for work
- Ensuring that families are strengthened where children are vulnerable or at risk.
- % of Early Years and Childcare settings rated Good or Outstanding

- % of take up of 2-year-olds benefitting from early education
- % of schools in the city that are rated Good or Outstanding
- Average Attainment 8 score per pupil
- % gap in Attainment 8 score gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children
- Children in year 6 with excess weight
- % of 16 and 17 year-olds in education, employment or training
- % of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in education, employment or training
- % of care leavers in education, employment or training
- First time entrants into the Youth Justice System
- Attendance at holiday schemes run by the council
- Rate of children open to social care per 10,000 population under 18
- % of repeat referrals into Childrens Social Care with 12 months
- % of children and young people in care who have had 3 or more placements in the year

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Children's Residential Provision Phase 2 – Business Case	N/A	Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds and Rachel King	Earl Piggott-Smith	23 June 2022	15 June 2022	Complete
Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written Statement of Action	N/A	Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	23 June 2022	15 June 2022	Complete
Work Plan	Urgent Item agreed by Chair and Vice Chair	Emma Bennett	Julia Cleary	Earl Piggott-Smith	23 June 2022	15 June 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Draft Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (LACS) action plan		Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds and Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 July 2022	5 July 2022	Complete
Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2021 - 2022		Emma Bennett	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 July 2022	5 July 2022	Complete
Children and Young People Social Work Self Evaluation		Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 July 2022	5 July 2022	Complete
Youth and holiday offer in the City		Emma Bennett	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 October 2022	27 September 2022	TBC
Performance Update / Budget - Our City: Our Plan		Emma Bennett and Claire Nye	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 October 2022	27 September 2022	TBC
Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written Statement of Action	A verbal update on progress and outcome from meeting on 27.9.22	Emma Bennett	Martin Stevens	Martin Stevens	5 October 2022	27 September 2022	

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Children's Services Transformation Programme Annual Report		Emma Bennett	Andrew Wolverson and Emma Cleary	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 October 2022 ,	27 September 2022	TBC
Update from Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group: Written Statement of Action		Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	TBC
Education Excellence: Update and monitoring		Emma Bennett	Phil Leivers	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	TBC
Virtual School Head Annual Report		Emma Bennett	Darren Martindale	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	TBC
Response to Schools White Paper		Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	TBC
Social Work and Workforce Health Check		Emma Bennett	Jenny Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	15 March 2023	7 March 2023	TBC
Family Hubs		Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds	Earl Piggott-Smith	15 March 2023	7 March 2023	TBC

Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Russell

Vice Chair: Councillor U Singh

Remit, Function and Measures

- Measuring Success
- Our City Our Plan – Our Council Programme
- Our Assets – Workplace Strategy and Strategic Asset Plan
- Our Data
- Our Digital
- Our Money
- Our People
- Our City: Our Plan – fairness and inclusion including equalities
- Gender pay gap of council employees
- Ethnicity pay gap of council employee
- Customer Service call wait times
- Sickness absence rates
- Employee turnover rate
- Spend with local businesses
- LGA Resident Satisfaction Polling

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Linked Bodies	N/A	David Pattison	N/A	Earl Piggott-Smith	29 June 2022	21 June 2022	Complete
Ethnicity Pay Gap	N/A	David Pattison / Laura Phillips	Sukhvinder Mattu	Earl Piggott-Smith	29 June 2022	21 June 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

EDI strategy	<p>Standing item</p> <p>Progress to date against the Race at Work Charter standards</p> <p>Progress to date against the Gender Equality Plan</p> <p>Progress to date against Rainbow City Plan</p>	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	TBC
Treasury Management	Information Item	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	TBC
Reserves Working Group	membership and terms of reference	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	TBC
Customer Services performance and future strategy		Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	TBC
Contract Management and Procurement Update		Claire Nye	John Thompson and Parvinder Uppal	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

External Grant Funding		Claire Nye		Earl Piggott-Smith	Date TBC	Additional meeting tbc	TBC
Our People Strategy and Performance		David Pattison	Laura tbc	Earl Piggott-Smith	Date TBC	Additional meeting tbc	
Our Council and Performance/Budget		Claire Nye	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	Date TBC	Additional meeting tbc	
Yoo Recruit Review		David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	TBC
EDI strategy	Update on peer assessment undertaken against the Race Equality Code Progress on Diversity in the Workplace	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	TBC TBC
Our City: Our Plan and MTFS		Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	TBC
Assets – inc. use of the Civic Centre and Council owned buildings (inc. agile working strategy)		Mark Taylor	Julia Nock	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	TBC

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Specific Reserves Working Group report		Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	TBC
EDI strategy		David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	TBC
Digital Wolves Strategy Update		Charlotte Johns	Heather Clark	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	TBC
Treasury Management Strategy	pre-decision scrutiny	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	TBC
Ethnicity Pay Gap report 2021 update report		David Pattison	Sukhvinder Mattu	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	TBC
school exclusion and suspension rates		David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	TBC

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