

# Scrutiny Board

12 October 2022

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

**Venue** Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Paul Sweet (Lab)

**Vice-chair** Cllr Ellis Turrell (Con)

### Labour

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE

Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Susan Roberts MBE

Cllr Zee Russell

Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN

Cllr Louise Miles

Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

### Conservative

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Simon Bennett

Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is four 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 for absence**  
[To receive any apologies for absence].
- 2 **Declarations of interest**  
[To receive any declarations of interest].
- 3 **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022** (Pages 5 - 10)  
[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022 as a correct record].
- 4 **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022** (Pages 11 - 20)  
[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022 as a correct record.]

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5 **Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023** (Pages 21 - 100)  
[To consider the Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023 position as reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2022].
- 6 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 101 - 118)  
[To consider the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions].
- 7 **Scrutiny Work programme** (Pages 119 - 148)  
[To consider the Scrutiny Work Programme].
- 8 **City Regeneration / Civic Halls** (Pages 149 - 154)  
[To consider an item on City Centre Regeneration / Civic Halls].

[The public Cabinet Report titled “Amendment to Capital Programme” is attached. A presentation will be given on the evening covering the subject area of City Centre Regeneration / Civic Halls].

Cabinet did make the following decisions on 7 September 2022 on the Amendment to Capital Programme item:-

1. That the virement from the Capital Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to the Civic Halls Refurbishment programme as outlined in the report be approved.
2. That the use of the Covid contingency for Civic Halls Refurbishment for general project purposes be approved.
3. That the Council be authorised to enter into a Deed of Variation with AEG Presents to incorporate the additional works outlined in the report.

## Attendance

### Members of the Scrutiny Board

Cllr Paul Sweet (Chair)  
Cllr Val Evans  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE  
Cllr Zee Russell  
Cllr Ellis Turrell (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN  
Cllr Louise Miles  
Cllr Udey Singh  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

### Employees

Martin Stevens DL (Senior Governance Manager)  
Charlotte Johns (Director of Strategy)  
Sarah Campbell (Customer Engagement Manager) (Via MS Teams)  
Julia Cleary (Scrutiny and Systems Manager)  
Kim Reynolds (Business Improvement Manager)

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*     *Title*

1            **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Phil Bateman MBE.

2            **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3            **Minutes of the previous meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4            **Quarter 3 Social Care, Public Health, Corporate Complaints & Compliments Report 2021-2022**

The Customer Engagement Manager gave a presentation on Quarter 3 Social Care, Public Health, Corporate Complaints and Compliments.

A Panel Member raised a matter regarding the issuing of Blue Badges and in particular the renewal of Blue Badges. A renewal request had recently been refused

because the Council wanted more detail from Medical Consultants letters about the individual concerned. Another person had been declined a Blue Badge as the Occupational Therapist had said they could use a mobile Chair. She objected to the way the letters had been written. She was aware of four cases where it had taken over 40 minutes for the Council to answer calls from member of the public. She believed this to be poor customer service, which required improvement. Another Panel Member spoke about the inconsistency, in her opinion, of how Blue Badges had been issued in the past. There was a further question regarding whether the Occupational Therapists the Council used were NHS or from a private company.

A Panel Member raised a concern that she was aware of a case where the Council had asked for payment details over the phone for a Blue Badge. She had thought this was a scam and expressed concern about the practice.

The Director of Strategy responded that they were in the process of completing a deep dive on the issue of Blue Badges and were gathering data. She suggested that Blue Badges could be added as a future item for Scrutiny Board or as an item for the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel, where answers to all the questions raised would be included.

A Panel Member stated the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel had received a report on Blue Badges at his request in March 2019. A further briefing note update had been given in January 2020 on the outcomes of the review. He suggested that any report on Blue Badges in the future should consider the earlier reports to Scrutiny so any changes could be seen.

A Panel Member praised the ratio of compliments to complaints as detailed in the presentation slides. He asked for the average time it took for a member of the public to speak to someone from Customer Services. He was aware of residents who had tried to call the Council to complain but had hung up the call due to their call not being answered and so instead went to him directly. He asked how a complaint was defined by the Council. In addition, he asked if the figures in the report incorporated the issues which Councillors raised through the Portal.

The Customer Engagement Manager responded that there were various ways a Customer could log their complaint. The options were telephone, via letter, via an online form, via email or face-to-face. The Complaints team were within the Information Governance Department and had been since 2019, when they moved from the Customer Services Team. They met with the Waste Team regularly for Waste Liaison meetings to try and help reduce complaint numbers. Councillor enquiries raised were not included within the figures for the complaints report, that was a separate function. If a customer was receiving a service which they were unhappy with and especially if it was repeated, then it would be defined as a complaint. Using waste as an example if a member of the public was continually not having their bin emptied then it would be classed as a complaint. If it was a one-off incident, it would be classed as a service request and be resolved.

A Panel Member asked if there had been a significant increase in phone calls to the Council as a result of Covid and how the situation looked at the present time. The Director of Strategy responded that call data could be included as part of a performance report to Scrutiny in the future.

The Vice-Chair stated that there had been 334 informal complaints within a 3 month period according to the report. There had also been an increase in the stage two corporate complaints compared to the previous year, which was regrettable. He was particularly concerned about complaints relating to waste management, which was always the highest area for complaints. The average response time had gone up from 13 days to 15 days and consequently the Council had not reached its target of a 95% response rate within 21 calendar days. He stressed that some people did not complain or gave up due to waiting time on the phone.

The Customer Engagement Manager remarked that some of the informal complaints did not come under the jurisdiction of the Council, but they were logged and then the Customer was signposted. There had been 7 Stage two Corporate complaints in the period covered in the report in comparison to the 5 in the previous year timeframe. On the annual figures they had increased to 20 from 18. Waste complaints had always been historically high, but they were working with the waste service to try and reduce them. Waste complaints had decreased from the previous year. Due to the complexity of some complaints, sometimes Officers needed longer than 21 days to investigate and hence why sometimes the response to complaints target was sometimes missed.

Some Panel Members expressed their dissatisfaction that Councillor enquiries, particularly where the Councillor had said it should be treated as a complaint, were not included in the overall figures in the quarterly Social Care, Public Health, Corporate Complaints report. The Director of Strategy responded that feedback would be given to the CEU (Councillor Enquiries Unit).

## 5 **Select Committee Report: The Wolverhampton Pound**

Cllr Susan Roberts, the Chair of the Select Committee on the Wolverhampton Pound gave an opening statement on the report produced by the Select Committee. She stated that times had changed in Local Government and new approaches were needed more than ever before to help Level-Up the most deprived communities and support the City's vulnerable citizens. The local economy needed to be rejuvenated and local businesses supported. The City needed a thriving voluntary and community sector. The Wolverhampton Pound was a new approach which would help the Council achieve its aims. With the Council working with large partner institutions to share resources and knowledge, they hoped to deliver an additional £21.8 million per year and create 430 jobs per year.

The Chair of the Select Committee stated that working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and other major stakeholders in the City, the City of Wolverhampton Council had developed an approach which would reorganise and support the local economy. The aim of the strategy was to ensure that wealth was not taken out of the City but kept within. They wanted to see local roots, where income was recirculated, communities were put first, and where the people of Wolverhampton were provided with opportunities, dignity and well-being.

The Chair of the Select Committee remarked that the Wolverhampton Pound and in particular the move of the procurement function to a more strategic level with a renewed focus on social value, would enable better identification of priority areas in Wolverhampton communities. By embracing the Wolverhampton Pound, the Council

could enable not only economic recovery but also support the health and wellbeing of Wolverhampton's most in need communities and sectors.

The Chair of the Select Committee thanked all the organisations and groups who gave up their time to provide the Committee with the information contained within the report. They had heard evidence from CLES, partner organisations, Voluntary and Community sector representatives, local businesses, service providers and internal Council departments. The report provided a summary of the evidence sessions and a set of recommendations which the Committee considered important for the implementation and success of the Wolverhampton Pound.

The Scrutiny and Systems Manager and Business Improvement Manager displayed a slide which showed the 20 recommendations from the Select Committee report. There were a number of recommendations relating to: -

- Skills, Training and Resource Management
- Recruitment
- Communication and Collaboration
- Procurement and Contract Management
- Ongoing Monitoring of Processes

Panel Members thanked the Officers and Members who were involved in the Select Committee. A Panel Member asked for timings against the recommendations. She thought a definitive time link would be very valuable and this would help with determining priorities.

The Vice-Chair commented on the importance of small businesses having the same opportunities as larger businesses in the procurement process. As per the recommendations there were steps which could be taken to improve communication with small businesses in the City. He wanted to ensure that everything the Council did was value for money. Sometimes contracts could go very wrong, he cited the market relocation, the Civic Halls and potentially West Side as examples. He highlighted recommendation number 15 within the report, which he believed to be of high importance. He thought it was important that the Wolverhampton Pound work was regularly scrutinised. He thanked the Chair of the Select Committee and all the Members for their efforts.

A Panel Member agreed with the intent of the Wolverhampton Pound strategy, which was to keep money in the local economy. He thought achieving success would be harder. There wasn't a large amount of big businesses in Wolverhampton with infrastructure and resources to succeed in procurement processes. He raised the idea of asking larger national businesses to engage with local smaller businesses for their services as part of the contract conditions.

A Panel Member referred to recommendation 17 within the Select Committee report. Smaller business did not have the resources to complete the bureaucratic tender documentation, whereas larger businesses did.

A Panel Member requested that when the recommendations were evaluated in the future, that the businesses which were engaged with as part of the process were also included.

The Chair of Scrutiny Board congratulated the Members and Officers who had produced the Select Committee report on the Wolverhampton Pound.

The Scrutiny and Systems Manager advised the report had to be received by Cabinet next and Cabinet could suggest timescales for the recommendations.

**RESOLVED:** That Scrutiny Board endorse the recommendations in the action plan attached at Appendix 2 to the main report, prior to consideration by Cabinet on 6 July 2022.

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**Date of next meeting**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was reported as Tuesday, 6 September 2022 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7:16pm.

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## Attendance

### Members of the Scrutiny Board

Chair - Cllr Paul Sweet  
Vice Chair - Cllr Ellis Turrell  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Zee Russell  
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN  
Cllr Clare Simm - acting as substitute for Cllr Susan Roberts

### In Attendance

Cllr Stephen Simkins - Deputy Leader for the Council

### Employees

Claire Nye	Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Alison Shannon	Chief Accountant
Lamour Gayle	Head of Customer Engagement
Julia Cleary	Scrutiny and Systems Manager

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- 1 Apologies for absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Philip Bateman MBE, Cllr Val Evans, Cllr Susan Roberts MBE, Cllr Louise Miles, Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman and Cllr Udey Singh. The Chair wished the Panel Members and Finance Cabinet Member who were not able to attend, due to illness, a speedy recovery.
- 2 Declarations of interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 Blue Badge Update 2022**  
Councillor Simkins, Deputy Leader of the Council introduced the report on Blue Badges. He remarked that Blue Badges were for the most vulnerable in the community and it needed to be looked at on a constant basis to see how the Council could increase its performance. There were issues with communications, and this would be addressed in detail by Officers. The Deputy Leader was happy to answer any questions posed and was pleased that special meetings could be held, which proved that Scrutiny worked. He hoped the Panel would make some recommendations and moving forward could see how effective they had been.

The Director of Strategy stated at the last Scrutiny Board there had been feedback from the Board about the Blue Badge process. The Director of Strategy undertook an action to do some further work and bring forward a future item on the performance around the Blue Badge service. Within the agenda pack there was a Briefing Note which set out the performance of the Blue Badge service.

The Head of Customer Engagement spoke on the Performance Report for the last financial year for Blue Badges giving a snapshot. For the period 2021 – 2022 the Council processed 4,676 applications, dealt with 10,401 calls and were able to answer 10,216 of those calls which equated to an abandonment rate of 1.8% for the service. The average wait time for the period was 51 seconds.

The performance from 2019 to quarter one of the financial year was highlighted. For the period 2019 – 2020 the Council processed 4,209 applications and the average processing time for those applications was 8 weeks. For 2020 – 2021 3,376 applications were processed which was slightly reduced due to the pandemic. The Department for Transport eased some of the rules around Blue Badges, they put an additional 6 months on for people whose Badges had expired and you saw in the following year application had gone back up. The Badges that weren't applied for during that period contributed to the increase for 2021 – 2022 and the average processing time was 9 weeks. For quarter one the processing time was 5 weeks but that could fluctuate throughout the year dependent on how many applications were received during that time. There was a reliance on applicants providing sufficient evidence in the form of identification, making sure everything asked for was submitted. When they have not submitted the right information it would impact on the average processing time.

The Head of Customer Engagement reiterated the Deputy Leader's Comments, explaining the Council delivered a good service for Blue Badges. It was not perfect but the Council's performance in comparison to neighbouring authorities was good. The Council followed Government guidance on applications, a decision on applications was made within 12 weeks. The Council were averaging the last financial year at 9 weeks, which included Badges being posted out. It took 7 – 10 days for a Badge to be ordered once a decision had been made. Some Local Authorities processing time did not always include Badge delivery, several authorities also started their processing time from the point they received all the information they had requested. The Council wanted to continue to improve the service that it delivered, making it a slicker journey for all.

The Head of Customer Engagement explained one of the things that they wanted to trial was additional resources within the team and to trial having an Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA) within the Blue Badges Department. The Occupational Therapist (OT) sat within Adult Social Care. Customer Services process the applications to the point where they needed a space or mobility assessment, it then went over to the OT. The OT had a day per week where they considered the Blue Badge applications. The assessments would be done daily and not once per week. The additional resource would enable them to see if that would impact on the customer journey and if that made the time slicker. They could share some additional knowledge with the Customer Service Officers who undertook the initial administrative function.

The Head of Customer Engagement commented that they had made improvements to the website because of feedback from Scrutiny and from customers. They had placed a video on the website explaining how people could apply and what they needed to submit. They wanted to do a time and motion study of each type of application. It was very difficult to say how long an application which met the criteria automatically would take to process and how long an application that was a desk-based assessment would take. They wanted to set some Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The Service Development Team was working with the Blue Badges Team to look at processing time and how many Badges they generated to set some meaningful targets for staff. The KPIs would be published once in place. There wasn't a benchmarking marking group regionally or nationally for Blue Badges, the Council had reached out to neighbouring authorities to setup a group. They wanted to look at how they were processing their Badges to see if there was any learning for them and to benchmark performance.

The Head of Customer Engagement confirmed that the system used was Northgate, the contract was up for renewal in January. They had gone out to the digital marketplace to look at other systems. They wanted to have a system that enabled the customer to track their applications online, instead of them having to phone in to ask what was happening. The current system didn't auto-generate letters, for example, when customers were asked for more information, this added to the timescale as it was a manual process. They wanted a system which generated letters automatically.

The Head of Customer Engagement stated they had surgeries in Bilston and Wednesfield. They selected these areas as this was where the highest concentration of Blue Badge applications came from, but it changed on a year-to-year basis. If someone applied for a Blue Badge this year the Badge would last for 3 years, that did not mean in 3 years' time that person would be in the same position. Their condition could have deteriorated, it was very difficult to forecast the number of Blue Badge applicants. The Council worked with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to look at the number of residents that were on Personal Independence Payment (PIP) that had enough points to generate an automatic application to help better predict the number of applications they would receive each year. She was happy to provide a further update in the future to see how their latest improvements had impacted on the processes and to see if Members wanted to make any further recommendations.

The Deputy Leader stated that the Council needed to ensure the system was demand led. He was quite proud of the way the Blue Badge service was delivered. They were well within the processing timescales.

The Deputy Leader asked the Head of Customer Engagement to explain how complex it could be getting the right information at the right time especially from doctors. He suggested that the Council might need to be more specific on the forms or on the website about what was needed. This was because every single case was individual and those needs had to be catered for.

The Head of Customer Engagement stated that decisions were taken within 12 weeks. In the last financial year the average was 9 weeks for the decision and the delivery of the Badge. There were things that impacted on processing, not just supporting information but the customers themselves. Whether the application form

was online or paper, it outlined what you needed for identification. They regularly had incidents where people were sending in their original bus passes as a form of identification. They then had to contact the customer to let them know it was not valid and wait for them to send the valid information in. When it went to desk-based assessments or OT they followed the guidelines set by the Department for Transport. If a customer said they had a certain condition or they had medication, then the OT had to assess whether that condition or medication impacted their mobility. They asked for additional supporting information from a GP or a consultant, some GP's and consultants were efficient, and some were much slower. There had been a couple of cases where the 12-week timescale had been exceeded. They were when they were waiting for additional information from consultants and GPs. It was very difficult to control that, the team chased the GP's and consultants where there was outstanding information. They liaised with the customers, but it was a difficult process.

A Board Member stated there were still members of the public who for whatever reason wouldn't apply for a Blue Badge. He had a brother-in-law that was registered blind who would not be able to apply online or fill out the Blue Badge form. He supported the idea of the Blue Badge surgeries, he thought they could make a big difference to people that couldn't fill out the application or go online.

A Board Member stated that they had a resident in Springdale who had applied for a Blue Badge in April, and he had not yet received one, which affected his standard of life because he did not go out. The Board Member had put this through as a customer service problem but had not yet had a response.

The Deputy Leader responded that if there were any individual cases the normal service was to report it to the service area, they would get back to you straight away. There was the separate Councillor contact unit, which Councillors used. When there were individual cases that weren't dealt with appropriately, it was important to learn lessons from them for the future.

There were a lot of external factors that could delay the process, from the quarterly performance the Council were 5-7 weeks ahead of the Government's recommendations. In the pandemic there was a 10 week wait which was still 2 weeks less than what the Government had recommended, who had put it back to 6 months. If there were any individual cases that Councillors were concerned about, these could be raised with Officers.

A Board Member spoke on the overall system, some people did not have access to a computer, particularly the elderly. They relied on the telephone they were aware of a resident who had been waiting an hour and a half for their call to be answered.

The Head of Customer Engagement responded that she would be interested in the details of the case mentioned because the Blue Badge line for customer services had the shortest wait time and it was a dedicated phone line. If somebody has been waiting an hour and a half she could investigate and give an explanation.

A Board Member raised a concern that a few residents had received a phone call asking for the £10 fee and it sounded like it was coming from a call centre. Her own mother had put the phone down thinking it was a scam, she had been present at the time and was of the same view.

The Head of Customer Engagement stated that customers, had the option to pay online at the point of application, but not everybody wanted to do that. They would then have to call them and ask them to make payment. Where they had legitimate concerns, they gave them the Councils contact number, which they could also find on the Council's website and asked them to phone back.

The Head of Customer Service commented on how they were continuing to promote and increase surgeries. They were looking to find a suitable venue in Tettenhall. The library had been considered but there were not enough private areas for people to complete their application with a staff member. There were surgeries at the Civic Centre, Bilston and Wednesfield.

The Vice Chair commented that it was an interesting area, and an important part of the Council's work. He wanted to clarify a point raised by the Deputy Leader. The 12-week timescale that he referred to regarding the Government guidelines was not a target to meet it was a hard stop, meaning no application should take longer than 12 weeks. The fact that that the Council was processing applications on average under 12 weeks was clearly good and it would be alarming if the Council came close to the 12-week hard stop. The report referred to the fact that Birmingham had a 4 – 6-week average processing time and they outsourced their service. They asked if the Council had ever looked at outsourcing, which could incur savings and also relieve pressure on customer service staff, who were having to solely work on the Blue Badge phone line. He thought that having a surgery in Tettenhall would be good for the Council as the area had an older population on average. The Vice Chair suggested the institute in Tettenhall Wood, which was a Council owned building with capacity.

The Head of Customer Engagement remarked that they had looked at the costs of outsourcing. Birmingham outsourced all their Blue Badges to the point of mobility. They had looked at Birmingham's processing times in comparison to their own, considering Birmingham's larger population, if they tested the additional resources within customer services they could reduce the processing time to the same as Birmingham's. To outsource year 1 was circa £90,000 and increased yearly. Trialling the additional resources model in the team initially was the first step, however, they would not discount the outsourcing option, but wanted to see what could be done in-house first.

The Director of Strategy assured the Scrutiny Board that they would continue to look at all options to ensure the Council delivered value for money and an appropriate service to customers. She referred to the Head of Customer Engagement's point about a regional benchmarking group. The team had discovered the different methodologies that had been used to count the processing time. This included a stop the clock function whereby if they needed to ask the customer for further information, they stopped the clock. This did not happen at Wolverhampton. The benchmarking group was not intended to be just be about sharing data but about understanding how the process worked and appropriate value for money information.

The Deputy Leader commented that he believed outsourcing was against the principles of the Wolverhampton Pound policies, he wanted to keep resources in the City. There were some complications with the telephone systems but there was a

dedicated phone line for Blue Badges. The service needed to be championed as they were dealing with complex issues and people who needed assistance with their mobility. He thought engaging with the deaf and blind community to obtain their thoughts on how the service could be improved was a good idea. He agreed a Blue Badge surgery in Tettenhall would be beneficial. A Board Member commented that outsourcing the Blue Badge service was not necessarily against the Wolverhampton Pound principles as it could be outsourced to a business within the City.

A Board Member raised an issue about renewal applications where Wolverhampton City Council felt additional information was required but the applicant felt their needs had not changed. The service had made some important reforms which should be recognised. Change was important in order to be ready for an aging population.

The Director of Strategy agreed that the Council needed to continue to improve the Blue Badge Service. There was opportunity with the regional benchmarking group to widen the net of the West Midlands definition. The Team could explore with other Local Authorities how to improve performance. The performance did show that the dip in applications in the Covid year had meant an uptake. They would monitor those trends, look at PIP payments to try to predict demand to make sure they were putting the resources in the right part of the system, to ensure they were supporting the most vulnerable people.

A Board Member asked how long the Council had used the Northgate system. They expressed reservations about the limits of the system. The Head of Customer Engagement responded they did not have an exact date for how long they have been using Northgate. Looking at data from the last 4 years the system did not have the functionality to carry out everything they wanted. There were two systems that had been identified that seemed to have the functionality they desired. Northgate had the Council requirements in a plan, but they had not been able to give a timescale for completion. Two systems were booked in for a demo in the coming weeks. There were quite a few other authorities who used Northgate with some using excel spreadsheets.

The Deputy Leader asked whether the criteria for the Consultants letters were set out by the Department for Transport. If the Council were adhering to their criteria some further information could be provided by Officers. Comments made by Board Members could help shape some of the contract provisions. They could also look at the Council's procurement system to see if they could find an internal provider within the City, thereby contributing to the Wolverhampton Pound. They could also look to bring in extra OT's, by developing them and liaising with adult services especially social workers.

The Head of Customer Engagement remarked that the promotion of Blue Badges was the key. They were working with Wolverhampton Homes who had got stands and were regularly out in the community. They were trying to co-locate with other services to facilitate pop up sessions. When attending Scrutiny Board on the last occasion, there had been a suggestion from a Board Member regarding promotion at GP surgeries. Applicants had given positive feedback regarding the implementation of this idea. Moving forward their work would be centred around having a better system and more community-based services.

The Chair commented that the Blue Badge Service seemed to be a good functioning service, with issues like any other considering the level of input. They asked for a report to the Panel once the tendering process had been completed and within the next six months. The Chair and Board Members thanked the Officers for the presentation.

#### 4 **Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022**

The Director of Finance confirmed that the Outturn Report was presented to Cabinet in June, it brought together the performance and financial position for the Council until the end of March. The Council had strengthened links last year between performance and budget to ensure they were robustly monitoring delivery of Council priorities under pinned by the budget. This was the last report before the Relight our Council Performance and the Our Council Plan Performance framework that had started earlier in the year. The report revealed that 18 out of 29 indicators showed an improvement, a further 10 indicators was showing similar performance and one indicator saw a decrease in performance during the last 12 months.

The Director of Finance stated that the report noted areas where the Council needed to invest to improve performance, such as the £3 million that was put into Wolves at Work to help youth employment in the City. The appendix to the report had considerable detail regarding the budget. Some areas saw improved financial positions at the end of the year and other areas where there were merging pressures. Overall there was an underspend of approximately £2 million and they had been able to protect a lot of the Council reserves as well as part of the Outturn position. It was however still subject to the external audit which had started in the previous week and these numbers would be validated as part of that process. The level of reserve had been reviewed as part of the of the year end process and would go through the Scrutiny process, as normal, through the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel. Council tax and business rates were better than they had forecasted last year, although collection rates were still below pre-pandemic levels. They were working to understand what this meant for the income during the year and what it might mean for future years.

The Director of Finance commented that they were mindful of the high cost of living which could affect residents' ability to pay Council tax and the impact of inflation on businesses. The Housing Revenue account had seen a reduction in the level of rent collected last year. They had seen a reduction in expenditure and so overall the revenue account had still come in within budget. The general fund continued to be monitored throughout the year and would refresh the long-term monitoring planning. The schools' budget was managed by them, but the work of the Council was to make sure that their budgets were being managed well for the education of the children in the City. They used the financial and performance data from last year to inform in year forecasting to understand what it might mean and how the budgets were linked to the delivery of performance.

An update on the in-year monitoring would be taken to Cabinet which would be the quarter one position, with further reports going through in the Autumn. When looking at last year and in year there were risks and uncertainty. The level of Government funding for next year in particular, the changes in adult social care, the fair cost of care in child reform, high levels of inflation and the cost of living.

The Vice Chair asked a question about the reserves. The general fund remained at £13.7 million, approximately 5% of this year's net budget. They asked if they envisaged having to use any of those general funds to meet the budget. He asked for the total figure of the earmarked reserves. The pressures mentioned on parking services as it related to income levels, had not returned to pre-pandemic levels. There were no variants in the appendix and the Vice Chair asked how this adds up? It was a concern to see that the restrictions were lifted in 2021 – 2022 but the income was still below pre-pandemic levels. Another point under the communications and external relations budget, is city events. There was a 50% overspend on city events, which equated to £221,000 extra into the budget, comments stated it was due to establishing the new events in the city. At Scrutiny Board last year the Vice Chair had asked about City events and for a breakdown of the costs involved. The Scrutiny Board wanted to see a breakdown of costs for each event.

The Director of Finance responded to each question starting with the general fund reserves at 5% which was best practice. This would continue to be reviewed as part of the budgeting around costs. They did not intend or anticipate having to use the reserves during the year or next year, but there was a lot of risks and uncertainty. In Parking services they did see about a £1 million continued reduction in income. It had been funded by the COVID grants which was why you couldn't see the variants in the appendix. They had seen some improvements since, but they did not think they were back to pre-pandemic levels. They were monitoring it carefully to consider what was a reasonable budget or income level for next year's budget. They could bring forward the financial information on the breakdown of events.

The Chief Accountant remarked that earmarked reserves were at £56 million with a further £56 million held with those that held the criteria for legal reasons or accounting treatments. For example, reserves were held because of conditions held on grants or licencing which meant you could only spend on specific activity.

A Board Member asked about the 25% reduction in rough sleepers in the year. They questioned if some of the rough sleepers slipped back into sleeping rough and asked about the challenges to keep them housed

The Director of Finance stated she could look into the matter and report back on the question. There were financial implications, helping rough sleepers' did take up significant financial resources. The Deputy Leader added that the Council policy during the pandemic was to house everyone and to have no one on the streets, which continued with the associated costs. Temporary housing would be a priority as soon as Government resources were allocated. The Director of Strategy suggested that an update on rough sleepers could be taken to the Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel.

A Board Member mentioned the high unemployment detailed in the report that Wolverhampton had suffered for 30 years. They asked when they could see further monitoring reports on the unemployment figures. Wolves at Work and the Black Country Impact were receiving Government money. They asked if there would be a report on how the money was being spent and its impact. In the general fund the adult services budget was extremely high again with considerable amounts of Government money coming in. Many County areas were finding that the adult care budget could be a concern to them. They asked if there was any concern about the adult social care budget at Wolverhampton and how well it was being monitored.

The Deputy Leader stated that the performance of Wolves at Work should be scrutinised. The Council were going above and beyond the statutory requirement by providing a career service. They were active in the communities matching jobs to citizens. Even in the most affluent areas the unemployment rate was higher than the national average. A report could come before the appropriate Scrutiny Panel. It should be celebrated that any job taken by a citizen of Wolverhampton contributed to the Wolverhampton Pound, which made it circular. Adult Care Services was not just a problem for Wolverhampton. Every Local Authority across the country, where health spending did not match social care, was a major concern. It could only be resolved by legislation from Government. He said it could be possible to get additional funding from the Government but even that would not necessarily be enough. Wolverhampton was working with partners and the DWP to get the best jobs for Wolverhampton.

The Director of Finance responded regarding the size of the budget and the risks associated with adult social care. The Council had built in over £9 million of growth into the budget to recognise the demand and the increase in cost. The budget was now £81 million in the current financial year which was monitored very carefully. The Council had a specific reserve to manage adult social care pressures and demands. The Fair Cost of Care and charging reforms came in next year. They were working with providers to work out what Fair Cost for Care might mean and working with other Local Authorities to inform the budget requirements going forward. They needed to understand to what extent the money set aside by Government would go to the fund. They knew that they had an envelope and the National Insurance increases that had been introduced went towards the fund. They needed to establish whether there was sufficient funding. It had been flagged as a specific risk in the most recent budget report.

A Board Member highlighted a section of the report detailing school budgets. There were 5 schools that had a balance of over 50% of their income for around 5 years and the Local Authority could be open to a challenge from the Department for Education. They asked what the Council did to encourage the schools to utilise the rest of their budget. As there was a table for schools with deficit balances, they asked if there was a table for schools that had got surpluses as well.

The Director of Finance stated that it was very important that schools managed their budgets well, that they did not get into a deficit position or hold onto money they could be spending on children in the City. Officers monitored the position for each school to see the whole picture for the school, as often what was happening with their finances was not always indicative of what was going on in schools. They needed to look at school performance alongside the funding. There were mechanisms for the Council to work with schools who had a deficit position who had to provide a plan. Schools in surplus were monitored as well, they could keep a reasonable amount of the surplus to manage risks. The Schools forum was made up of representatives from different types of schools as well as colleagues from the Council attending meetings to support. There was a Board set up that could call in schools with surpluses that they thought were unreasonable and to demonstrate if they had got specific risks they were managing or plans on how they intended to use the surplus. This was particularly important if it had been held onto for multiple years. If they were not satisfied as a collective, they had a mechanism to call the money back and that had been done in previous years, to put the money back into

the school improvement budget. There was not a balance table for surpluses but this information could be added moving forward.

The Deputy Leader stated how positive Scrutiny was and thanked the Officers who supported him. The Chair and Board Members thanked the Officers for their report.

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board</b> <b>12 October 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
<b>Originating service</b>	Strategic Finance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	<a href="mailto:Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
	Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board	23 August 2022
	Cabinet	7 September 2022

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**Recommendation:**

Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Consider the Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023 position as reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2022.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny with the performance and budget monitoring 2022-2023 position as reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2022.
- 1.2 This is the first report of the financial year detailing the likely outturn projection for 2022-2023.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 2 March 2022, Council approved Our City: Our Plan, a new Council Plan building on the Relighting Our City Plan and providing the strategic framework for delivering the ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives'. Reporting against this framework for both performance and budget will take place from 2022-2023 onwards.
- 2.2 Within Our City: Our Plan, the Council has published a robust performance framework to track progress against key indicators and to encourage scrutiny of its key decisions. Performance information will be published quarterly alongside analysis and business commentary to give context.
- 2.3 The City of Wolverhampton Council has built up a strong track record over many years of managing its finances well and consistently setting a balanced budget. Our approach to strategic financial management, aligning budgets to service priorities and improving services, and investing in transformation priorities, continues to put us in a strong financial position.
- 2.4 On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services. This report details the forecast outturn projection for 2022-2023.
- 2.5 This report brings together performance against our Our City, Our Plan priorities, and the financial performance for quarter 1.

### **3.0 Performance Update**

- 3.1 The Council continues to use a variety of means in which to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of operations against organisational strategic priorities and statutory requirements.
- 3.2 Critically it continues to manage resources effectively, consistently setting a balanced budget, and delivering against the Medium Term Financial Strategy, despite austerity.
- 3.3 External verification of performance is also undertaken through external audit of the council's accounts, and key inspections such as Ofsted and other regulatory bodies. Risks continue to be managed through the strategic risk register which is reported to Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. Please see Appendix 3 for most recent risk register
- 3.4 Internally, the Council is evolving the way it performance manages services, with the creation of a centralised Data and Analytics team which is ensures performance data and intelligence is readily available to all staff and is analysed and reviewed regularly by operational and strategic management.

#### **Our City: Our Plan Performance**

- 3.5 Our City: Our Plan sets out the six overarching priorities which will guide the Council's approach to ensure Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives, with an additional priorities looking at how the Council operates. These are;
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
  - Fulfilled Lives for All With Quality Care For Those Who Need It
  - Healthy, Inclusive Communities
  - Good Homes in Well-Connected Neighbourhoods
  - More Local People into Good Jobs & Training
  - Thriving Economy in all Parts of the City
  - Our Council
- 3.6 A performance framework has been created to monitor performance against these priorities and includes two different types of indicators, city indicators and impact indicators.
- 3.7 City indicators are high level indicators which although the council can influence, may not be able to directly affect. Data on these indicators is published nationally, to enable a comparison against regional, statistical, and national averages. City indicators are high level indicators which although the council can influence, may not be able to directly affect. Data on these indicators is published nationally, to enable a comparison against regional, statistical, and national averages. Impact indicators demonstrate how council interventions are working to improve outcomes for residents against key priorities.

3.8 This report sets out a summary of performance against city and impact indicators, relevant financial information, and key areas of activity. A dashboard of the performance against impact indicators is included at Appendix 1.

### **Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential**

- 3.9 Our ambition is that children and young people have the best possible opportunities to fulfil their potential. As a result, we are investing to connect young people to opportunities, support our schools to improve standards, ensure education provision is inclusive whilst continuing to support our most vulnerable young people.
- 3.10 Supporting our young people, especially those that need support is a strength of the Council, as seen through the recent 'Good' rated OFSTED inspection for our Childrens Services, that included an 'Outstanding' judgement for leadership and management.
- 3.11 The Council has seen decreasing numbers of children open to the services against a backdrop of increasing numbers regionally and nationally. This performance reflects the outcome of targeted work, to ensure that children are supported in line with their assessed needs and are receiving services at the right level for as long as is necessary to their safety and wellbeing.
- 3.12 Referrals into Social Care have fluctuated during the last 12 months with an average of 320 referrals a month. At the end of the quarter the rolling twelve month period reflected a re-referral rate of 20.8%, consistent with the rate of 20.9% reported at the end of the last quarter.
- 3.13 Against decreasing numbers of Child Protection cases, the percentage that are repeat cases has increased in the quarter however is still below national and regional comparators.
- 3.14 Placement stability of our children in care remains an area of strength for the Council. Only 6% of our children and young people in care had 3 or more placements in the year. This performance is stronger than national, regional and statistical averages and Wolverhampton is in the top quartile of national performance. Wolverhampton also performance favourably against the long-term stability of placements. When older young people leave care, the Council support them to find suitable accommodation. 94% of our care leavers are currently in suitable accommodation, substantially above national and regional averages.
- 3.15 The Strategic Risk Register recognises the risk associated with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Children and the mitigations in place, details of Risk 2 on this area can be found in Appendix 3.
- 3.16 The percentage of Wolverhampton's care leavers aged 19-21, in education, training or employment saw a significant decrease in the 2020-2021 year, a reduction of 11% to 46% from the previous year's performance. This drop in performance was linked to the effect of the pandemic. However, current performance at the end of Quarter 1 shows

Wolverhampton with a rate of 60%, a higher percentage of care leavers in EET than the latest published percentage for the West Midlands, statistical neighbours, and the national average.

- 3.17 The impact of 'DIVERT' and the use of Outcome 22 on Wolverhampton's First Time Entrants into the youth justice system has already shown significant impact. At the end of Quarter 1 the rate per 100,000 youths aged 10 -17 years had reduced from 201 to 158. The data produced for the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) showed that first time entrant comparative rates for Quarter 3 2020-2021 (18 young people) and Quarter 3 2021-2022 (4 young people) reported a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of Outcome 22. We expect this trend to continue, and as long as young people successfully complete their Outcome 22 interventions, this will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.
- 3.18 There has been a steady and sustained improvement in education outcomes across the City. The Education Excellence Strategy was launched September 2021 and built on the previous School Improvement Strategy. The new Strategy brought a similar response to Early Years settings as for schools.
- 3.19 The city continues to see an increase in the percentage of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, and at quarter end was at 88%, above the national average. Ensuring inclusivity in access to this high standard of education remains a key priority. At quarter end, 89.9% of children and young people from an ethnic minority background were attending a good or outstanding school. The percentage of early years and childcare settings rated good or outstanding is slightly higher than the school's rate at 92%, consistent with the previous quarter end and slightly lower than statistical neighbours (96%).
- 3.20 There has been an improvement in the percentage of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education in the last 12 months by 11%, however this remains lower than west midlands, statistical neighbours and national average. Since 2019 the direction of travel has been increasing.
- 3.21 Average Attainment 8 score per pupil for both disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils both compare favourably against both the west midlands and national averages. For disadvantaged pupils the rate is at 42.2% and at 55.8% for non-disadvantaged pupils.
- 3.22 16 and 17 year olds in education, employment or training is an area of strength with current performance increasing by 2.2% to 98.3% when compared to last published data where the rate was 96.1%. Current performance is also higher than Wolverhampton's statistical neighbours and the national average
- 3.23 Juxtaposed to 16 and 17 year olds in education, 16 and 17 year olds with special educational needs in education has declined to 81% from 88% and is currently 9% below the next quartile target. Work in this area continues to be targeted. 16 and 17 year olds in

education, employment or education continue to be tracked through the Activity Survey. For those with special educational needs and an education, health and care plan, Connexions Careers Advisers continue to offer support whether transitioning to a new or remaining in their existing provision.

- 3.24 The percentage of children in year 6 with excess weight has decreased by 2.19 to 42.2% in 2020 (latest available data) since the pre-pandemic figure of 2019, however in comparison to west midlands, statistical neighbours and national averages the rate remains higher, even with all comparators reporting an increase in 2020. The overall direction of travel is down but Wolverhampton remains in the lowest quartile of performance.
- 3.25 Regarding financial performance, Children's Services and Education is currently forecasting an underspend of £1.2 million, due to strong financial management and transformative projects and programmes which have achieved significant and positive changes for children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. To date, Wolverhampton has not seen a significant increase in demand on children's social care as a result of the pandemic, however, as with adult services, there continues to be significant uncertainty over the impact of Covid-19 on this service over the short to medium term, and more recently the increased cost of living. Work will continue to model the potential financial effects of the pandemic and the impact of the increase in the cost of living on the service. Further financial analysis is included at Appendix 2.
- 3.26 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October. At the end 2021-2022, maintained schools had balances totalling £15.6 million. 40 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme. In addition, there are three schools with anticipated deficits at the end of 2022-2023. Actual end of year balances for 2020-2021 and the latest projected balances in those submitted budget plans for 2021-2022 are shown at Appendix 6, along with details of the processes in place to review deficit and surplus balances.

### **Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it**

- 3.27 The Council continues to provide support to those facing hardship, working with our partners to keep our city safe and build resilience to ensure all our communities can thrive.
- 3.28 Social care performance remains an area of strength in the city. Current performance, taken from the initial results of the 2021-2022 statutory returns for Adults Social Care, shows improvements or sustained strong performance against all key indicators.
- 3.29 The Adult Social Care vision is that the young people and adults we connect with lead fulfilled lives, with quality advice, care and support for those who need it. Council services are working hard to maximise people's independence and to remain living at home for as long as they are able. 71% of all residents open to Adult Social Care being supported in

their own homes, decreasing slightly from 73%. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that there were challenges in people accessing the community and family support ordinarily available for people. The Council continues to promote community support and is re-developing its early help offer.

- 3.30 The Council has seen an increase in performance in terms of reablement, with 77% of residents aged 65 or over remaining at home 91 days after discharge from hospital at quarter end. Although this indicator shows much improvement, Wolverhampton is behind the most recently published data for statistical neighbours, West Midlands, and the national average. Work continues with health colleagues to continue the upwards trend in performance to ensure progress against comparator averages.
- 3.31 The percentage of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment has experienced a slight drop in performance to 5.1% from 5.4%, it does however compare favourably to the most recently published data for the West Midlands and national average. A new In House Supported Employment Team has been established and will be launched Autumn 2022 to start to improve performance in this area.
- 3.32 Wolverhampton Adult Social Care adopt a strengths-based approach to social work, supporting young people and adults to be as in control of their own lives as much as possible. This was advocated by 81.6% of residents in the most recent Adults Social Care Survey, an improvement on the previous survey.
- 3.33 A focus of Adult Social Care is ensuring people access the right support at the right time to keep or regain their independence. People are always asked about what is important to them to make them feel safe and secure. This is reflected during the most recent survey where the indicator demonstrated strong performance at 88.3%, reporting improvements since the last survey.
- 3.34 The risk associated with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Adults can be found in risk 3 of the Strategic Risk Register in Appendix 3.
- 3.35 During the budget setting process for 2022-2023, significant cost pressures were forecast for Adult Social Care and, as a result, growth totalling £9.2 million was approved. Appendix 2 provides detail of current forecasts which indicate that, overall, the service is managing costs within the increased budget available. However, specific cost pressures are being reported across Learning Disability and Physical Disability Care Purchasing, which is currently forecast to be offset from efficiencies from across other services.
- 3.36 There continues to be uncertainty of the forecast position of Adult Services in 2022-2023 and over the medium term, as the service adjusts to the post-covid environment and also the recent increases in inflation. The redesign of Adult services has commenced and with the aim of addressing any longer term under or overspend relating to staffing, as well as stabilising the care market.

- 3.37 In December 2021, the Government presented the People at the Heart of Care – Adult Social Care Reform White Paper to Parliament. The paper sets out the 10-year vision for how care will be transformed in England.
- 3.38 Wolverhampton has agreed to be a ‘trailblazer’ authority and implement the changes from January 2023. The reform includes two key changes to charging arrangements.
- Extended mean test - From October 2023 (January 2023 for trailblazers) the Government propose to extend the means test for accessing local authority funded support. The lower capital limited, the threshold below which a person does not contribute towards their care costs from their capital will change
  - Care Cap – From October 2023 (January 2023 for trailblazers), the Government plans to introduce a new £86,000 cap on the amount a person in England will contribute towards their care costs over their lifetime
- 3.39 The Governments proposal also includes a further two elements aimed at levelling out the financial distribution of care costs. This is on the principle that local authorities can use their position as large purchasers of adult social care to obtain lower fee rates from care provides, which is less than the actual cost of care. The Government, through the proposals aim to reduce the current disparity through two key components:
- Section 18(3) - The provision in the Care Act 2014 which allows self-funders to ask the local authority to commission care on their behalf
  - Faire Cost of Care – To support the implementation of the wider reforms, local authorities need to prepare their markets and build upon their existing market sustainability plans.
- 3.40 The Council is currently undertaking a fair cost of care exercise, as prescribed by the Government, with the resulting report to be submitted to Government and published in some form for the local market. The stated aim of this exercise is to ensure local authorities are paying a ‘fair’ cost of care and also to ensure the market is compensated for the changes that charging reform will bring. The guidance states the Council needs to move ‘significantly’ towards paying the fair cost of care over the next 3 years.
- 3.41 Work is going to forecast the potential cost of these reforms, however, local authorities are concerned that the proposed level of funding will not be sufficient to cover the associated costs.
- 3.42 Risks 5 and 18 of the Strategic Risk Register recognise the pressures in our provider market, details can be found in Appendix 3. In addition, the risk of grant funding not being sufficient to cover the costs of the reform is flagged as a risk in the General Fund Budget Risk 2022-2023 at Appendix 4 and will be incorporated into the Strategic Risk Register in September for consideration by Audit and Risk Committee.

## Healthy, Inclusive Communities

- 3.43 Much of the data captured for the Healthy, Inclusive Communities indicators date back to 2020. During the pandemic, Public Health England were understandably unable to produce updates non-Covid related health indicators. This means although these are key priorities for the authority with many interventions in place, we are currently unable to fully reflect their effect against the national landscape. As it remains unclear when the national data will be available for release and comparison, measures are being introduced so that this data can be collected at a local level that shows the impact of interventions.
- 3.44 It is also important to note that the indicators within the section require a whole City approach to ensure positive outcomes. As city level indicators, we understand that the Council can influence improved performance but is not fully able or responsible to do so without the work and support of wider partners and stakeholders.
- 3.45 The Council has continued to work with partners to support the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination. At quarter end 73.4% of the adult population of Wolverhampton were vaccinated, a plateauing of the figure. Further to this, almost 94% of our residents aged 80 or above, 89% of our most clinically vulnerable residents and 96% of our care home residents are vaccinated ensuring protection to those most vulnerable.
- 3.46 Infant mortality data shows a slight positive trend with numbers improving and the distance to the statistical neighbors decreasing. Work continues to prioritise the first 1001 days (conception to age 2) with strategic oversight provided by the Children and Families Together Board, as part of the development an integrated best start for life offer with family hubs to support healthy pregnancies.
- 3.47 The indicator for deaths due to coronary heart disease has shown no significant change in the trend in Wolverhampton. However, the national data shows the average for England has improved meaning that distance between Wolverhampton and the national average has increased. Coronary heart disease remains a priority of the Core20PLUS6, an approach adopted by the Integrated Care Board to reduce health inequalities.
- 3.48 The latest available trend data (KIV 2020) showed Wolverhampton's specific alcohol mortality data deteriorating between the last two years of reporting, moving further away from the national average and the average of the city's significant neighbors. The indicator is prioritised as a local response to the 'From Harm to Hope Strategy' which will be overseen by the multi-agency stakeholder drug and alcohol strategic partnership, supported by significant national investment.
- 3.49 Wolverhampton has seen an improvement in the proportion of physically inactive adults. A whole system approach through the Health and Wellbeing Together Board with a sport and physical inactivity strategy is currently under development with a proposed launch date of January 2023.

- 3.50 The data for the over 40 health check works on a rolling 5-year average. A slow uptake in the City at the start of the first year is lowering the 5-year average value to just below a quarter (24.6%) of over 40 year olds attending for the offered health check. In forthcoming quarters, the Wolverhampton uptake will show a significant improvement as the early years take up will no longer be included in the calculation. Increasing NHS health check activity to return to pre-pandemic, top quartile levels is an ambition of the One Wolverhampton Living Well Group. The latest quarterly activity demonstrates positive progress, with current uptake above the England average.
- 3.51 Regarding the financial performance, current forecasts indicate that Public Health and Wellbeing is forecasting a net overspend of £990,000. £270,000 of this pressure relates to inflationary pressures on the leisure PFI contract in relation to utility costs. £681,000 is due to costs associated with temporary housing accommodation which will be considered in paragraph 3.55.
- 3.52 Further financial analysis can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Good home and well-connected neighbourhoods**

- 3.53 At the end of June 2022 there had been 530 new builds completed within the city, a reduction on the previous period. It is anticipated that the number of new build completions will fluctuate across the period due to the nature of the construction sector, as there will be times when large new build projects are in development and will not contribute to each quarter's data. The service remains on target to achieve the three year completion rate and are currently in the process of developing a solution to track their progress against the longer plan, rather than reporting the variations across the period.
- 3.54 Net additional dwellings within the city have also reported a reduction to 614 when compared to 818 during the previous period, linked to an increase in the number of Right to Buy applications reducing the council stock and some small-scale demolitions.
- 3.55 The indicator for housing affordability uses data on house prices and annual earnings to understand the affordability ratios for different areas. The higher the ratio, the less affordable the house prices were when compared to the earnings of residents. At the end of Q1 Wolverhampton's ratio increased from 5.7 to 6.2 indicating that housing has become less affordable. This trend is likely to be seen in many local authorities across the country as house prices are increasing faster than salaries are. Wolverhampton is currently ranked 276th for this indicator, showing that comparatively housing is more affordable in the city.
- 3.56 Wolverhampton's percentage of dwelling stock vacant in the city remain consistent at 3.1%. between 2020 and 2021. It is slightly higher than the statistical neighbour average with Wolverhampton recording more vacant dwellings than the average for other statistical neighbours. Work continues to reduce the void turnaround time and the number of long-term empty privately owned properties.

- 3.57 The indicator for the energy efficiency of housing stock shows an increase of ten when compared to the previous year. The score for this indicator is generated based on data about a building's energy features, with 100 being the most efficient. Wolverhampton is currently at a rate of 65, lower than statistical neighbours. Continuing the same trajectory will see Wolverhampton reach the next quartile rate of 69. The energy performance of privately homes may have affected this increase as homeowners don't always have the means to fully maintain their homes, therefore affecting the energy performance of the property. The Council has secured funding from the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support fuel poverty households with retrofit measures to increase the energy performance of the property.
- 3.58 The percentage of planning application decisions made within 13 weeks or agreed timescales has decreased from 92.1% to 82.4%. All major applications for this quarter had a decision within the 13 week timescale or had an extension of time agreed. This decrease in performance is linked to the increased volume of applications caused by the backlog created by the pandemic, which is reflected nationally.
- 3.59 Wolverhampton's total crime recorded per 1,000 population increased from 127 to 132 over the past year, ranking Wolverhampton higher than its statistical neighbours. The focus remains on reducing crime types with the highest risk and impact, with the figures adversely affected by volume crime which has increased across the West Midlands following the easing of Covid restrictions.
- 3.60 Current performance for the percentage of fly tipping incidents resolved in five working days has increased by 2% to 76%. A joint project group with environmental health and public health based officers has been created to explore additional ways to reduce the levels of fly tipping across the City, whilst continuing to respond to reports from residents. For those streets and locations where, fly tipping is most prevalent, the promotion of the new walk in household waste and recycling centres and the bulky waste collections as an alternative to fly tipping continues. The development of more reactive CCTV placement is currently underway as part of the SMART city agenda.
- 3.61 When a carriageway is assessed as high quality it is given a green rating with the percentage of carriageways in the city assessed as high quality improving across all road types with the largest increase of 5% for C Roads. A and B roads increased by 1%.
- 3.62 Regarding financial performance, City Housing and Environment overall are projecting a net underspend of £276,000. This is mainly as a result of forecast underspends within Waste Services as a result of increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal, along with a reduction in costs within Street Lighting. This is offset in part by forecast cost pressures within Environmental Services, Fleet Services and Transportation.
- 3.63 During the last financial year the council saw budget pressures in relation to temporary and supported accommodation. Wolverhampton Homes have seen a large increase in the number of homeless people being placed in temporary accommodation due to a number of factors including an increase in the cost of living, increase in people being

evicted from the private sector and increased numbers of families being asked to leave due to relationship breakdowns. An action plan is being developed that looks at increasing the amount of local authority stock utilised as temporary accommodation, increased preventative work and increased access to the private sector which will assist in mitigating the increase in cost of households in temporary accommodation. The impact was specifically felt in relation to net Housing Benefit costs which are held under the Finance Directorate. £750,000 growth was built into the Corporate Contingency in anticipation of ongoing pressures in this area. These pressures are being seen again this year and therefore it is proposed that a virement is actioned to move the contingency budget into Finance. In addition to Housing Benefit costs, we are also seeing a cost pressure in temporary housing budgets (held under Public Health and Well Being) of £681,000. Further financial analysis is included in Appendix 2.

- 3.64 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting a pressure against the approved budget of £354,000, this result in a forecast redemption of debt.
- 3.65 As detailed in section 6, there are remains considerable uncertainty around inflationary pressures and the proposed pay award for 2022-2023 on the HRA. As well as the impact on our direct costs within the HRA, we recognise the pressures that will be felt by Wolverhampton Homes and our Tennant Management Organisations. Work is ongoing to understand the implications of these pressures on their management fee which is funded from the HRA. Further detail is included in section 6 and Appendix 5.

### **More local people into good jobs and training**

- 3.66 Historically Wolverhampton has had higher unemployment claimant count rates than the national average, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic and subsequent period. A whole city approach is needed to improve outcomes for our residents and the Council has played a leading role in bringing together key stakeholders in this area. As city level indicators, we understand that the Council can influence improved performance but is not fully able to do so without the work and support of these partners.
- 3.67 Since March 2021, Wolverhampton has seen a 3.20% reduction in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits (16-64). However, at quarter end Wolverhampton had the 2nd highest rate for overall unemployment.
- 3.68 The Wolves at Work team, and its partners are working hard to support residents into sustainable employment. DWP's Restart Scheme is the largest welfare to work programme in a generation with around 2,500 city jobseekers currently participating, with over 450 already having found work. To ensure an easy pathway for residents seeking support, the Council's is opening a new city centre site, where our skills and employment team will co-locate with other partners like the DWP and Princes Trust.
- 3.69 Wolverhampton has the highest Claimant Count rate for 18-24 year olds nationally. The number of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment related benefits has reduced over the last 12 months, although the Claimant Count rate in Wolverhampton has consistently

been considerably higher than both the national, regional and statistical nearest neighbour averages.

- 3.70 The City Council is spearheading Wolves at Work 18 to 24, a citywide programme focused specifically on youth employment. A city taskforce has been established, comprising council leaders, city employers, and representatives from the education sector and voluntary and community sectors. A dedicated team has been created to engage, communicate and listen to young people to understand the barriers they face in finding work, and to implement activities to break down those barriers permanently. The city council is supporting the initiative with £3 million of funding.
- 3.71 Through Wolves at Work 18-24, the City Ideas fund was created, whereby local residents and organisations were able to bid for small grants to enable them to implement new and innovative projects to help young people find work. To date, £212,277 has been spent through this scheme with many jobs and opportunities already created for young people in the city. There has also been 122 jobs have been created or safeguarded in the City through the Investment Team in the quarter.
- 3.72 In the initial release of the Our City: Our Plan performance framework, it was stated that we work track 18-24 year olds who were supported into sustained work by Wolves at Work. However, with the continued development of the programme it is now recognised that this indicator does not cover all impacts of the work being delivered. Work is ongoing to develop a robust performance framework that clearly shows the impact of this important work, with a more appropriate indicator to be published in the next cabinet report.
- 3.73 The Strategic Risk Register details the risk of high unemployment in the City and the work in place to mitigate this, Risk 9 can be found in Appendix 3
- 3.74 The Council pledged to recruit 50 apprentices throughout 2021-2022, to support young people in starting their careers. To date 58 new apprentices and graduates have started with the authority in the last 12 months.
- 3.75 The Council wants to ensure that all staff have access to ongoing training and development through the apprentice levy. Last year the Council were able to spend 84% of its levy an increase from 68% during the previous period. The apprenticeship levy can only be spent on qualifications and not employment, funding the continuous development and the upskilling of staff. The Council has also run many dedicated programmes to aid the progression of minority groups within the local authority.
- 3.76 Regarding financial performance, the Regeneration Directorate, which includes the Skills service, is projecting a net overspend of £46,000. Further analysis is shown at Appendix 2.

### **Thriving Economy in all part of the City**

- 3.77 Post-pandemic, it is more important than ever to deliver against our ambitious plans to transform and reimagine our city, conscious of the changes in how we work, live, travel and spend our leisure time. We continue to deliver our plans to be an events city building on our strong cultural offer and drive investment into our communities, particularly focussed on our council's climate change commitment to be next carbon neutral by 2028.
- 3.78 Latest published data shows that Wolverhampton is in the second highest quartile of performance for businesses that survive over one year. Latest data shows that over 91% of businesses in Wolverhampton survive over one year and Wolverhampton is very close to being in the highest quartile of performance. Comparative data does, however, relate back to data collated pre Covid in 2019, though, a recent study by the School of Marketing named Wolverhampton as one of the top three places in the country to launch a new business.
- 3.79 The city has continued to see high numbers of new business start up in the city and the council's support for this includes the launch of Ignite, a free to use business and enterprise hub, and a commission with Access 2 Business who support people some of whom have previously been unemployed and struggling to find a route to start their businesses.
- 3.80 In the last quarter the Council supported 157 businesses through a combination of business support, tailored programmes and business reviews, remaining comparable to performance during the previous quarter. Current business support is undergoing significant transformation as EU funded programmes come to a close. The council is working with key partners and stakeholders including the WMCA to establish a new business support programme, which will meet the needs of the businesses in the city.
- 3.81 Risks 1 and 8 of the Strategic Risk Register in Appendix 3 identify the specific risks associated with businesses closing and the city wide regeneration.
- 3.82 Throughout the quarter, 11 new investment opportunities were generated. Successes include Wintech Façade Engineering, a local company in the sustainable construction sector, who are creating 70 new jobs and are looking to assist with the nation's net zero building transformation requirement. One of the council's key strategic businesses, Fablink, is also expanding with plans for a new facility at i54 Business Park. Other enquiries received include one from another off-site construction company, building on the city's growing reputation as a leader in sustainable construction. This enquiry resulted from attendance at the UKREIIF event in Leeds in May where a total of 234 new contacts were made with a number of leads being followed up.
- 3.83 At the end of Quarter 1 2022-2023 the percentage of dwelling stock in the city was at 3.10%, consistent with the previous quarter.

- 3.84 The percentage change in activity in city retail and recreational setting shows activity below the baseline, there has however been a large increase in activity seen in the quarter from -40% to -9%.
- 3.85 An additional 16 rapid charging electric car points have been installed across the City during Quarter 1 increasing the number to 43. Further to this there has been the introduction of four 150kw rapid charge points offering higher levels of charge. Plans are also being finalised to procure an operator to deliver 80 charge points to cover the infrastructure requirements up to 2025 as defined in the Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.
- 3.86 Wolverhampton's full fibre coverage has increased significantly since last year from 6% to 18% following a series of initiatives such as Local Full Fibre Network, barrier busting activity and initiatives such as block wayleaves to support the rollout on housing estates. This indicates positive performance, however compared to other local authorities it is still low. The deployment of a new full fibre network (to be completed by 2025) and upgrades to existing networks to full fibre by other infrastructure providers is rapidly improving performance and puts the city on track to significantly improve its quartile position. . Gigabit coverage in the city is now at 93%.
- 3.87 Regarding financial performance, as mentioned above, the Regeneration Directorate which includes Enterprise, is projecting a net overspend of £46,000. Further analysis is shown at Appendix 2.

### **Our Council**

- 3.88 To deliver against our key city priorities, the Council continues to become more efficient and effective through ongoing improvements in relation to assets, use of data, technology and digital, our people and money.
- 3.89 There has been a 1.04% reduction in sickness absence (excluding Covid) during between Quarter 4 2021-2022 and Quarter 1 2022-2023, with mental health and musculoskeletal issues recording the highest issues. Preventative support is offered through a wide range of methods such as practical, emotional and mental wellbeing support, including financial wellbeing via our employee assistance programme, confidential counselling, and access to our 60 Mental Health First Aid practitioners. Other training and support includes manual handling, Toolbox talks, Workstation and Homeworking risk assessments supported with reasonable adjustments to working arrangements and the provision of specialist equipment. Access to Occupational Health practitioners and Physiotherapists is available quickly and health benefits such as subsidised gym membership and cycle to work schemes are also promoted
- 3.90 The Employee Turnover rate for 2022-23 Quarter 1 was 2.47%, an increase of 0.20 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. Published data available for other local authorities across England shows that the turnover rate for Wolverhampton in 2021-2022 Quarter 4 was lower than the national average. The service continues to take

proactive measures to address the national issues associated with recruitment and retention with the creation of a HR jobs site that showcases the careers, rewards, benefits, people offer and culture of the council, engaging with the workforce to review the our people offer including different ways of working, continuously reviewing the health and wellbeing offer and continuing to embed a culture of fairness and inclusivity.

- 3.91 The Mean Gender Pay Gap for Council Employees as of March 2021 decreased by 0.20 percentage points from the previous year. The largest pay gap occurred within the upper pay quartile with a negative pay gap shown in the lower middle pay quartile. The Gender pay gap for March 2021 remains below that of some other local authorities in the region.
- 3.92 The Mean Ethnicity Pay Gap for Council Employees as of March 2021 decreased by 0.42 percentage points from the previous year, with employees from ethnic minority groups earning on average 76p less per hour than white employees. The pay gap between employees from ethnic minority groups and white employees continues to be more prominent for female employees than for male employees. There is no direct comparison to other local authorities at this time as there is currently no statutory requirement to publish this.
- 3.93 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of everything the council does. HR monitor workforce equalities across all areas of employment on a continuous basis and will continue to work in partnership with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team, the appointed equalities officer, and in consultation with our people and the employee forum for Race, Religion and Belief to develop future actions to address inequalities.
- 3.94 The average customer services wait time increased by 26 seconds between Quarter 4 2021-2022 and Quarter 1 2022-2023. During this period Customer Services reopened face to face services, including surgeries for Schools and Blue Badges. Coinciding with the reopening of face to face services, customer services were faced with significant challenges to telephony performance, including increased customer contact due to initiatives such as Council Tax rebate schemes and wider cost of living crisis. Despite the challenges the call and email response rate remained high. A new customer services strategy is in development to support further improvement and will include pre-decision scrutiny.
- 3.95 The Council is due to launch its own ongoing survey based upon the regional LGA Resident Satisfaction Polling so that the satisfaction of residents can be assessed and analysed against regional and national averages.
- 3.96 In line with our commitment to the Wolverhampton Pound, the number of local businesses the council spent with increased to 463 Wolverhampton based companies from 451 between Quarter 4 2021-2022 and Quarter 1 2022-2023.

#### **4.0 Quarter One 2022-2023 Budget Performance**

- 4.1 On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services.
- 4.2 Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for this year is currently forecasting an overspend of £5.4 million, mainly due to the forecast in-year cost implication of the potential pay award.

#### **Pay Award**

- 4.3 At the time of writing negotiations are still ongoing in respect of the 2022-2023 pay award. The current proposal, if accepted, is forecast to cost in the region of £9.0 million in year. The approved budget for 2022-2023 includes a provision of 2% amounting to £2.8 million, we therefore have an in year forecast pressure of £6.1 million. It should be noted that, if this proposal is rejected the costs could be much higher putting further pressure on the budget in year and over the medium term.
- 4.4 In order to manage our costs within the approved budget the Council will continue to work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigate the pay award costs. Our work will focus on a number of specific themes. Firstly, we will be looking to identify further targeted in year underspends from across the council.
- 4.5 Secondly, we will review budgets held corporately to support new initiatives aligned to corporate priorities, this would likely result in activity being delayed or reduced.
- 4.6 We will also review corporate contingencies and assess the risk of reducing these. As a last resort we will consider the use of reserves.

#### **Inflation**

- 4.7 In addition, inflation in the UK is at the highest it has been for four decades, which means the country is facing an increase in the cost of living, with food, petrol and energy bills all increasing. Current projections are forecasting cost pressures of around £1.7 million in 2022-2023, these have been reflected in this forecast outturn position. However, it is not yet known what the full extent this will have on direct costs of the Council and the impact this will have on our contracts, as well as our residents and businesses.
- 4.8 We are tracking the impact of inflation carefully, gathering information from a number of sources to build up an accurate picture however we recognise that the impact will continue to emerge throughout the year.
- 4.9 The current forecast includes projected inflationary costs where they are known, and these are detailed in Appendix 2. This will continue to be monitored and updates will be provided in future reports. Inflation is a significant risk and as such is included in the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 3.

- 4.10 The 2022-2023 approved budget also incorporates a number of approved budget reduction and income generation targets. Recurrent savings targets total £4.6 million, progress against these targets, where appropriate is detailed in Appendix 2.
- 4.11 Table 1 below summarises the projected outturn position for 2022-2023. Further detail on the most significant variances against the budget are reported on a service-by-service basis in Appendix 2.

**Table 1 – 2022-2023 General Fund Revenue Budget Projected Outturn**

	Net Controllable Budget 2022-2022	Projected Outturn 2022-2023	Projected Variation	
			Over/(Under)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Adult Services	81,179	81,152	(27)	(0.03%)
Children's Services and Education	52,259	51,040	(1,219)	(2.33%)
Public Health and Wellbeing	5,428	6,418	990	18.24%
City Housing and Environment	30,507	30,231	(276)	(0.90%)
City Assets	10,671	10,618	(53)	(0.50%)
Regeneration	3,064	3,110	46	1.50%
Finance	15,648	15,729	81	0.52%
Governance	12,477	12,477	-	-
Strategy	11,772	11,430	(342)	(2.91%)
Communications and Visitor Experience	2,408	2,518	110	4.57%
Corporate Budgets	41,746	41,723	(23)	(0.06%)
Net forecast impact of pay award		6,120	6,120	-
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>267,159</b>	<b>272,566</b>	<b>5,407</b>	<b>2.02%</b>
Council Tax (including Adult Social Care Precept)	(118,072)	(118,072)	-	-
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	(1,422)	(1,422)	-	-
Top Up Grant	(27,399)	(27,399)	-	-
Business Rates (net of WMCA growth payment and Collection Fund deficit)	(64,000)	(64,000)	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(1,632)	(1,632)	-	-
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates Support	(21,170)	(21,170)	-	-
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	1,781	1,781	-	-
Services Grant	(5,492)	(5,492)	-	-
Social Care Grants	(16,305)	(16,305)	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund	(14,761)	(14,761)	-	-
Lower Tier Funding	(487)	(487)	-	-
Contribution to / from reserves	1,800	1,800	-	-
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>(267,159)</b>	<b>(267,159)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,407</b>	<b>5,407</b>	<b>2.02%</b>

## **5.0 Risk Management**

- 5.1 The Council is no different to any other organisation and will always face risks in achieving its objectives and priorities. Sound risk management can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to an acceptable level.
- 5.2 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed in conjunction with risk owners, reviewed by SEB and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. The Strategic Risk Register was presented to Audit and Risk Committee on 25 July 2022 and is showed at Appendix 3. A further update will be presented to Audit and Risk Committee in September.
- 5.3 In addition to the Medium Term Financial Strategy being incorporated in the Strategy Risk Register, there is also a separate General Fund budget risk register. The overall level of risk associated with the budget 2022-2023 is assessed as Amber. As detailed in section 4 it is forecast that the Council is currently forecasting an overspend for 2022-2023, mainly due to the proposed pay award which is currently out for consultation. The Council will continue to work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigation against this overspend and provide updates in future reports.
- 5.4 Inflation and the increasing cost of living could are considered to be a significant risk, not only the direct costs of the council but on our businesses and residents. This will continue to be monitored and updates provided in future reports. Inflation is incorporated in the Strategic Risk Register and the General Fund budget risk register.

## **6.0 Housing Revenue Budget Monitoring**

- 6.1 Table 2 shows the latest forecast revenue outturn against budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The forecast outturn position for the year shows a pressure against the approved budget of £354,000. This will result in a forecast redemption of debt.

**Table 2 – Housing Revenue Account Projected Outturn 2022-2023**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Projected Variation</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Total income	(99,833)	(99,495)	338
Total expenditure	72,219	72,235	16
Net cost of HRA services	(27,614)	(27,005)	354
Interest payments etc.	10,233	10,233	-
Contribution to capital financing	2,990	2,990	-
(Surplus)/deficit before transfers to/from reserves and provision for redemption of debt	(14,391)	(14,037)	354
<i>Allocation of (surplus)/deficit</i>	14,391	14,037	(354)
Provision for redemption of debt			
<b>Balance for the year</b>	-	-	-

- 6.2 Income from rents and service charges is forecast to be £338,000 lower than budgeted. When setting the budget, assumptions were made about the loss of income due to empty properties, this level of loss is currently higher than anticipated. Empty properties include properties which are being held for demolition for estate regeneration projects. The impact of these void properties on forecast income levels will be kept under review and updates will be provided in future reports.
- 6.3 Expenditure on repairs and maintenance is currently forecast to be £138,000 higher than the budget, this is as a result of the cost of section 11 legal claims – these are compensation claims made by tenants for repairs not carried out. Offsetting these pressures is a reduction in the forecast in year provision for bad debt of £200,000 based on the current levels of arrears. The assumptions underpinning the budget were prudent, due to the continued roll out of universal credit and the current economic conditions
- 6.4 As detailed in section 4 there remains considerable uncertainty around the cost of inflation and the impact of the proposed pay award for 2022-2023. As well as the impact on our direct costs within the HRA, we recognise the pressures that will be felt by Wolverhampton Homes and our Tennant Management Organisations and we will be working with them to consider the implications for their management fees which are funded through the HRA. The forecast cost pressures will continue to be monitored and updates provided in future reports.
- 6.5 Further detail is shown in Appendix 5

## 7.0 Changes to Grant Funded Expenditure

- 7.1 It is not always possible to reflect all grant funded or externally funded expenditure in the budget approved by Full Council prior to the start of the financial year. This is due to the late notification from grant awarding bodies of grant amounts, use of historic grants and proactive grant applications during the year and confirmation of other external funding.
- 7.2 Approval is sought from Cabinet to establish supplementary budgets within the 2022-2023 approved budget as set out in the table below, and in accordance with the funding terms and conditions. This will have no effect on the Council's net revenue budgets as the expenditure is fully funded from the grant / external income.

**Table 3 – Supplementary budget approvals sought from Cabinet**

<b>Grant Name / Funding source</b>	<b>Description of the Activities this grant will fund</b>	<b>Awarding Body</b>	<b>Expenditure 2022-2023 £000</b>
Homelessness / Rough Sleeping Care Leavers Support Grant	Grant funding to support Care leavers	Department of Education	48
Social Worker in Schools Programme	Grant funding to support social workers within schools	What works for Children's Social Care	322
Re-Imagine	Grant funding to support the Making Space project which will reimagine an exhibition space in Wolverhampton Art Gallery to be a new space for collaboration, creativity, cohesion and community	Arts Fund	40
National Cyber Security Programme	Grant funding for cyber security skills uplift	Improvement and Development Agency	5
Covid-19 Regional Recovery and building Back Better Fund	Grant funding to implement an Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) level 3 regional advisor - Commissioning an external service	West Midlands Association of Director Childrens Services Network-Solihull	50
Strategic Migration Partnership	Grant funding for West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Service	Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	10

Grant Name / Funding source	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2022-2023 £000
Strategic Migration Partnership	Grant funding to support a Strategic Migration Partnership in the West Midlands	Home Office	327
Hong Kong BN (O) 'Welcome Hub' Grant	Grant funding to support the varied needs of Hong Kong BN(O) status holders, their families and the wider community	Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	240
Controlling Migration Fund	Grant funding to support the migration service in the West Midlands	Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	82
Income from licencing fees	Creation of an apprenticeship post funded from licencing income to support the financial monitoring	N/A	25
Safe Streets Fund*	Grant funding to address issues of anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, and neighbourhood crime.	Home Office	366
Implementation Support Funding Grant	Grant funding to support the implementation of the Adult Social Care charging reform	Department of Health and Social Care	98
Early Assessment Funding	Grant funding to support the early assessment related to the Adult Social Care reform	Department of Health and Social Care	227
External income from legal services	An increase in external income to support the creation of an additional solicitor	N/A	68
Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Grant	Grant funding to support drug and alcohol treatment services	Department of Health and Social Care	81

\*A report is on the agenda for Cabinet (Resources) Panel for 7 September 2022 requesting supplementary budget approval.

## 8.0 Reserves

- 8.1 Reserves play a vital role in the financial sustainability of the Council. The Council's General Fund Balance stands at £13.7 million. This represents approximately 5% of the net budget for 2022-2023 and is in line with recommended good practice.
- 8.2 In addition to the General Fund balance, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves balances that have been set aside by the Council to fund future estimated liabilities and planned expenditure. At the end of 2021-2022 these earmarked reserves were £55.9 million. In addition, the Council is also required to hold a

number of earmarked reserves due to either specific criteria associated with funding, legal requirements or accounting practice.

### **Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves**

- 8.3 Approval is sought for a number of transfers to/from earmarked reserves, as set out in the following paragraphs and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets in 2022-2023.

### **Schools Art Service Reserve**

- 8.4 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £6,089 from the Schools Art Service Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets, to support cultural learning within schools, delivering arts projects regarding climate change and developing the digital offer to schools.

### **Budget Contingency Reserve**

- 8.5 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £128,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to fund dilapidations costs following the end of the lease on the Slade Rooms.
- 8.6 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £44,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to fund feasibility work associated with the improvements at East Park.
- 8.7 Approval is sought from this meeting to the use of £983,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to fund the 'true up' payment due to the Pension Fund following the reconciliation of pre-payments for 2021-2022.

### **Budget Efficiency Reserve**

- 8.8 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £120,000 from the Budget Efficiency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to fund one-off additional resources within the Banking, Payments Payroll to support development work.

### **Regional Adoption Reserve**

- 8.9 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £100,000 from the Regional Adoption Agency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budget to support the Regional Adoption Agency.

### **Transformation Reserve**

- 8.10 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £200,000 from the Transformation Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to support the transformation of HR to deliver on additional HR responsibilities to meet organisation needs.

### 8.11 Regeneration Reserve

Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £721,000 from the Regeneration Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets as detailed in the table below:

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount £000</b>
Additional funding is sought for professional consultancy fees to support regeneration projects across the City, including legal, specialist contracting advice and risk reporting and monitoring. As well as funding to support costs associated with required project due diligence, such as feasibility studies; initial design and costings, this work supports project development and bringing forward appropriate business cases. This additional approval of £675,000 will take the overall approval for this work to £1.0 million	675
Additional funding to support the commercial understanding of key sites and / or developer proposals as well as preparing collateral for commercial property. This additional approval will take the overall approval to £100,000	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>

## **9.0 Corporate Contingency**

- 9.1 The 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 report to Cabinet on 22 February 2022, included budget held corporately to fund council priorities and growth. In order that decisions can be made in a timely manner, approval is recommended in this report to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital and the responsible Cabinet Member of the relevant service area in question, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the relevant Director to allocate budgets from the Corporate Contingency to support Council Priorities and Growth, once business cases have been completed.

## **10.0 Debt Write offs**

- 10.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.
- 10.2 This report seeks approval to a number of debt write offs in relation to Council Tax. The details of these write-offs are provided in Appendix 7.

## **11.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 11.1 In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between employees and other controllable expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contributions to and from reserves and the creation of supplementary budgets also require Cabinet approval. The write-offs, virements, use of reserves and creation of supplementary budgets detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.

## **12.0 Reasons for decisions**

- 13.1 In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital.

## **13.0 Financial implications**

- 13.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.  
[EM/30082022/H]

## **14.0 Legal implications**

- 14.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It is a legal requirement under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.  
[SZ/30082022/P]

## **15.0 Equalities implications**

- 15.1 The method by which the Budget is developed is governed by Our City, Our Plan priorities, which itself is guided by consultation and equality analysis. The development of various budget proposals includes an initial equalities screening for each proposal and, where necessary, a full equalities analysis which will provide for an initial understanding of the equality impact of the draft proposals. All of this will enable Councillors to pay, “due regard” to the equalities impact of their budget decisions at that point in the budget development process. The resulting and final report to Cabinet and Council will contain a supporting equality analysis that will offer information across the whole range of proposals and in doing so will enable Councillors to discharge their duty under Section 49 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 15.2 Fairness and inclusion is a key cross cutting theme within Our City, Our Plan. As part of performance reporting, there is ongoing work to ensure that where possible data is collected and able to be analysed by protected characteristic, to ensure that the Council is meeting its responsibilities and commitments in relation to equality and diversity.

## **16.0 All other implications**

- 16.1 There are no other implications.

## **17.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 17.1 [Relighting Our City: City of Wolverhampton Council Recovery Commitment](#), report to Full Council on 16 September 2020
- 17.2 [Relighting Our City Recovery Commitment Refresh](#), report to Cabinet on 17 March 2021
- 17.3 [2021-2022 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026](#), report to Cabinet on 23 February 2022 and Full Council on 2 March 2022
- 17.4 [Our City Our Plan](#), report to Cabinet on 23 March 2022 and Full Council on 2 March 2022
- 17.5 [Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026](#), report to Cabinet on 27 July 2022

## **18.0 Appendices**

- 18.1 Appendix 1 - Performance Update

- 18.2 Appendix 2 - Budget Monitoring
- 18.3 Appendix 3 – Strategic Risk Register
- 18.4 Appendix 4 - General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023
- 18.5 Appendix 5 - Housing Revenue Account
- 18.6 Appendix 6 - School Balances
- 18.7 Appendix 7 - Debt Write Offs
- 18.8 Appendix 8 – Council Tax Write offs
- 18.9 Appendix 9 – General Fund Budget Virements

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## Strong families where children achieve their full potential

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
Rate of children open to social care per 10,000 population under 18	LAIT	885	173.2	399.49	289.4	●
% of repeat referrals into Children's Social Care with 12 months	LAIT	35.6	10.6	22.5	20.8	●
% of children and young people in care who have had 3 or more placements in the year	LAIT	16	0	8	6	●
First time entrants into the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17yrs population	LAIT	348	57	173	158	●
% of care leavers in education, employment or training	LAIT	46	91	50	60	●
% of Early Years and Childcare settings rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	89	100	96	92	●
% of schools in the city that are rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	71	100	84	88	●
% of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education	LAIT	34	88	62.5	65	●
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	32.1	52.3	38.7	Data due Sept 2022	
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - non disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	43.6	65.1	51.7	Data due Sept 2022	
% of Children in year 6 with excess weight	LAIT	44.5	23.1	40.1	42.5	
% of 16 and 17 year-olds in education, employment or training	LAIT	87.4	100	92.4	98.3	●
% of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in education, employment or training	LAIT	66	100	82.5	81	

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of older people (aged 65 and older) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services	SALT	28.3	100	71.5	77	●
% of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment	SALT	0	22.3	3.6	5.1	●
% of adults in receipt of long-term services who are in control of their own lives	ASC User Survey	63	92.4	77.5	81.6	●
% of adults who use services who say social care services help them to feel safe and secure	ASC User Survey	72.6	100	87.1	88.3	●

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## System Indicators

Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance
% of social care users supported to remain in their own homes	73%	71%

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## Healthy, inclusive communities

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of adult residents in the city who have received their COVID-19 vaccination	NHS England	62.6	90.5		73.4	●
Years of life lost - Infant deaths per 1,000	PHOF	6.6	1.7	5	6.3	●
Years of life lost - Coronary heart disease mortality rates per 100,000	PHOF	1519.8	584.2	1153.2	1058.4	
Years of life lost - Alcohol specific mortality per 100,000	PHOF	29.3	5.5	19.9	29.3	
% of physically inactive adults	PHOF	33.5	9.7	29.24	28	●
% of 40-74 years attending offered health checks	PHOF	1.7	65.2	30.3	24.6	●
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Life satisfaction	PHOF	10.4	3.8		5.6	●
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Worthwhile	PHOF	8.3	4		3.7	●
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Happiness	PHOF	14.9	6.2	10.2	8.9	
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - High Anxiety	PHOF	32.4	15.9	24.8	24.6	●

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
Number of new builds completed in the city	DCLG	0	2530	586	643	
Net additional dwellings in the city	DCLG	0	4024	654	614	
Housing affordability ratio	DCLG	2.7	36.5	7.6	5.2	
% of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city	LG inform	5.1%	0.7%	3%	3.10%	
Energy efficiency of housing stock	ONS	45 (Isles of Scilly)	77	66.3	65	●
Total crime recorded per 1000 population	ONS	225	25	127	132	

## System Indicators

Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance
% of carriageways in city assessed as high quality	A Road 78% B Road 72% C Road 74% Unclassified 65%	A Roads 79% B Roads 73% C Roads 79% Unclassified 66%
% of planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales	92.1	82.4
% fly tipping incidents resolved in 5 working days	74%	76%

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## More local people into good jobs and training

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of working age adults (16-64) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	8.60%	1.20%	5.50%	7.50%	●
% of young adults (18-24) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	9.40%	0.00%	6.50%	9.40%	●

## System Indicators

Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance
Spend through Wolves at Work 18-24 City Ideas Fund	N/A	£212,277
Number of jobs created / safeguarded in the city through the Investment Team	N/A	122
Local Authority spend on apprenticeship levy	68%	84%
Number of apprentices and graduate placements within the council	40	58
18-24 supported by Wolves at Work who are in sustained employment after 12 weeks	More appropriate indicator to be added in Q2	

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

● = Increase performance

## Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Indicator	Source	Lowest Performance Rate by English Authority	Highest Performance Rate by English Authority	Statutory Neighbour Average Rate	Latest W'hampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
Business that survive one year in city	ONS - Business Demography	62.50%	100.00%	89.40%	<b>91.20%</b>	●
% change in activity in city retail & recreational settings – Google Analytics	Google - Community Mobility Reports	148%	-49%	-9.10%	<b>-9%</b>	●
% of premises in the city with full fibre coverage	Ofcom - Connected Nations Update Spring 2022	1.10%	97.60%	34.30%	<b>18%</b>	●
% of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city	LG inform	5.1%	0.7	3%	<b>3.10%</b>	●

## System Indicators

Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance
New of new investment opportunities generated	N/A	11
Wolverhampton based businesses supported by the Council	161	157
New businesses supported by commissioned service Access to Business	41	41
Number of rapid charging electric car points in the city	27	43

# Q1 2022 PERFORMANCE DATA

## Our Council

### System Indicators

Indicator	Previous Performance	Current Performance
Gender Pay Gap for Council Employees	4.2%	4.0% (2020-21)
Ethnicity Pay Gap for Council Employees	5.13% (2019-20)	4.71% (2020-21)
Customer Service call wait times (average call wait time)	00:05:07 (2021-22 Q4)	00:05:33 (2022-23 Q1)
Sickness absence rates – non covid	5.42% (2021-22 Q4)	4.38% (2022-23 Q1)
Employee Turnover rate	2.27% (2021-22 Q4)	2.47% (2022-23 Q1)
Spend With Local Businesses	451 Wolverhampton bases companies (2021-22 Q4)	463 Wolverhampton bases companies (2022-23 Q1)

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## **General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring**

### **Quarter One 2022-2023 Budget Performance**

#### **Summary**

On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services.

Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for 2022-2023 is currently forecasting an overspend of £5.4 million, mainly due to the forecast in-year cost implication of the proposed pay award which is currently out for consultation. At the time of writing negotiations are still ongoing in respect of the 2022-2023 pay award. The current proposal, if accepted, is forecast to cost £9.0 million in-year. The approved 2022-2023 budget includes a provision of 2% equating to £2.8 million, we therefore have an in year forecast pressure of £6.1 million. It should be noted that, if this proposal is rejected the costs could be much higher putting further pressure on the budget in year and over the medium term.

In order to manage our costs within the approved budget the Council will continue to work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigate the pay award costs. Our work will focus on a number of specific themes. Firstly, we will be looking to identify further targeted in year underspends from across the council. Secondly, we will review budgets held corporately to support new initiatives aligned to corporate priorities, this would likely result in activity being delayed or reduced. We will also review corporate contingencies and assess the risk of reducing these. As a last resort we will consider the use of reserves.

The tables below provide an analysis by directorate and service.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Adult Services</b>					
<p>Overall Adult Services is projecting a small underspend of £27,000 (-0.03%). During the budget setting process for 2022-2023, significant cost pressures were forecast for Adult Social Care and, as a result, growth totalling £9.2 million was approved. Appendix 2 provides detail of current forecasts which indicate that, overall, the service is managing costs within the increased budget available. However, specific cost pressures are being reported across Learning Disability and Physical Disability Care Purchasing, which is currently forecast to be offset from efficiencies from across other services. There continues to be uncertainty of the forecast position of Adult Services in 2022-2023 and over the medium term, as the service adjusts to the post-covid environment and also the recent increases in inflation. The redesign of Adult services has commenced and with the aim of addressing any longer term under or overspend relating to staffing, as well as establishing the care market. In December 2021, the Government presented the People at the Heart of Care – Adult Social Care Reform White Paper to Parliament. The paper sets out the 10-year vision for how care will be transformed in England. The Council is currently undertaking a fair cost of care exercise, as prescribed by the Government, with the resulting report to be submitted to Government and published in some form for the local market. The stated aim of this exercise is to ensure local authorities are paying a ‘fair’ cost of care and also to ensure the market is compensated for the changes that charging reform will bring. The guidance states the Council needs to move ‘significantly’ towards paying the fair cost of care over the next three years. Work is ongoing to forecast the potential cost of these reforms, however, local authorities are concerned that the proposed level of funding will not be sufficient to cover the true costs. The Strategic Risk Register will be updated in September to incorporate this risk. In addition, it is also flagged as a risk in the General Fund Budget Risk 2022-2023 at Appendix 4.</p> <p>Further analysis is provided below.</p>					
Adults Assessment and Care Management	5,650	5,619	(31)	(0.55%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Adults Safeguarding	1,123	890	(233)	(20.75%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to the delay in the introduction of new Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards legislation (Liberty Protection Safeguards) which will require the forecast staffing costs to meet the new statutory duties required of the local authority.
Carer Support	742	679	(63)	(8.49%)	
Community Financial Support	1,629	1,629	-		
Community Support	142	142	-	-	
Director of Adults services and Additional Monies	(6,878)	(6,878)	-	-	
Emergency Duty Team	-	-	-	-	
Independent Living Service	1,731	1,685	(46)	(2.66%)	
Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	27,155	27,451	296	1.09%	The forecast overspend is due to additional demand for care packages.
Learning Disability Provider	4,984	4,966	(18)	(0.36%)	
Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	7,522	7,503	(19)	(0.25%)	
Older People Care Purchasing	26,413	26,338	(75)	(0.28%)	
Older People Provider Services	3,866	3,838	(28)	(0.72%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	5,519	5,709	190	3.44%	The forecast overspend is due to additional demand for care packages.
Strategic Commissioning – Adults	1,581	1,581	-	-	
<b>Total Adult Services</b>	<b>81,179</b>	<b>81,152</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(0.03%)</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Children's and Education Services</b>					
<p>Overall Children's and Education Services is projecting an underspend of £1.2 million (-2.33%), due to strong financial management and transformative projects and programmes which have achieved significant and positive changes for children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. To date, Wolverhampton has not seen a significant increase in demand on children's social care as a result of the pandemic, however, as with adult services, there continues to be significant uncertainty over the impact of Covid-19 on this service over the short to medium term, and more recently the increased cost of living. Work will continue to model the potential financial effects of the pandemic and the impact of the increase in the cost of living on the service. Savings targets totalling £100,000 have been incorporated into the 2022-2023 budget for Children's and Education Services, these are currently projected to be delivered in full.</p> <p>Further analysis is provided below</p>					
Children & Young People In Care	31,539	31,400	(139)	(0.44%)	A forecast underspend against placement budgets as a result of the robust oversight and management of demand across the service.
Director of Children's Services	652	644	(8)	(1.27%)	
Head of Children's Improvement	1,054	1,023	(31)	(2.94%)	
Headstart	-	-	-	-	
Regional Adoption Agency Consortium	-	-	-	-	
Safeguarding	681	680	(1)	(0.13%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Specialist Support	3,791	3,196	(595)	(15.69%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to one-off, in year savings from the closure of Key to Inspiration. Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 6 July 2022, received a report on the strategy to develop two new Children's Homes within the City.
Strengthening Families	10,385	9,940	(445)	(4.29%)	The forecast underspend is due to one-off in-year social worker vacancies (partially offset by agency costs) as the service has experienced difficulties in recruiting to these posts. The majority of unfilled posts are expected to be in post by September 2022.
Youth Offending	1,174	1,174	-	-	
Strategic Commissioning – Childrens	1,582	1,582	-	-	
Central Education	(1,174)	(1,174)	-	-	
Director of Education	128	128	-	-	
Early Years	315	315	-	-	
Inclusion Support	1,225	1,225	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Schools	-	-	-	-	
Education Excellence	810	810	-	-	
Special Educational Needs	(359)	(359)	-	-	
School Business and Support Services	456	456	-	-	
<b>Total Children's and Education</b>	<b>52,259</b>	<b>51,040</b>	<b>(1,219)</b>	<b>(2.33%)</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>City Assets</b>					
Overall, a net underspend of £53,000 (-0.50%) is projected for City Assets, mainly due to projected lower running costs for the Civic Centre. Further analysis is provided below.					
Catering	(117)	(52)	65	(55.56%)	
Cleaning	1,268	1,268	-	-	
Corporate Asset Management	9,315	9,315	-	-	Inflationary pressures in relation to energy costs are currently forecast within this service. This break-even position is after a virement of £491,000 from corporate budgets held to fund increases in utility costs.
Estates and Valuations	(4,884)	(4,884)	-	-	This breakeven position is after a virement of £65,000 from corporate budgets to support loss of income due to the pandemic.
Facilities Management	1,497	1,379	(118)	(7.88%)	The forecast underspend is primarily due to the projection of lower running costs for the Civic Centre.
Project and Works Team – Capital Programmes	166	166	-	-	
Project and Works Team – Maintenance Programme	3,426	3,426	-	-	
<b>Total City Assets</b>	<b>10,671</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>(53)</b>	<b>(0.50%)</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>City Housing &amp; Environment</b>					
<p>Overall, a net underspend of £276,000 (-0.90%) is projected for City Housing and Environment. This is mainly as a result of forecast underspends within Waste Services as a result of increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal, along with a reduction in costs within Street Lighting. This is offset in part by forecast cost pressures within Environmental Services, Fleet Services and Transportation. City Housing and Environmental Services include a savings target of £250,000 for 2022-2023, the majority of this target is forecast to be delivered in line with the original plan, with £30,000 currently being reported to be at risk of delivery, based on the original plan. Further analysis is provided below.</p>					
Bereavement Services	(2,050)	(2,104)	(54)	(2.63%)	
Black Country Transport	-	-	-	-	
Coroners Service	364	364	-	-	
Director City Environment	284	284	-	-	
Energy and Sustainability	117	117	-	-	
Environmental Services	6,772	6,903	131	1.93%	An overspend is forecast due to an increase in forecast fuel costs.
Fleet Services	1,698	2,153	455	26.80%	An overspend is projected as a result in increased costs of hiring vehicles, partly offset by additional income. There is a planned fleet replacement capital programme in delivery to mitigate the increasing hire costs.
Highways Maintenance	1,579	1,579	-	-	
Housing	(379)	(388)	(9)	2.37%	
Landscaping	49	49	-	-	
Licensing	-	-	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Markets	(196)	(57)	139	(70.92%)	The forecast overspend is mainly due increase in agency costs incurred whilst implementing a restructure.
Operation & Maintenance of Existing Network	844	835	(9)	(1.07%)	
Private Sector Housing	543	545	2	0.37%	
Parking Services	(1,712)	(1,712)	-	-	Parking Services is forecasting a reduced levels of income as a result of lower economic activity post pandemic. A virement of £1.2 million is proposed from corporate budgets to support this shortfall in 2022-2023.
Public Protection	1,884	1,897	13	(0.69%)	
Street Lighting	3,109	2,863	(246)	(7.91%)	This forecast underspend is due to efficiencies in energy costs following the implementation of the LED lighting scheme.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Transportation	6,097	6,247	150	2.46%	A virement of £358,000 is proposed to support the increased costs due to demographic growth on Special Educational Needs transport. The service is currently forecasting costs pressures due to an increase in fuel costs. This increase will be monitored, and mitigating actions will be taken were possible to offset this pressure.
Waste and Recycling	11,504	10,656	(848)	(7.37%)	The forecast underspend is due to increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal and efficiency savings, partly offset by additional employee costs and increased fuel costs due to rising inflation.
<b>Total City Housing and Environment</b>	<b>30,507</b>	<b>30,231</b>	<b>(276)</b>	<b>(0.90%)</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Communications and Visitor Experience</b>					
<p>Overall, the projected overspend of £110,000 (4.57%) for Communications and Visitor Experience is mainly due to forecast overspends within Communications due to a reduction in income within the service. In addition, the saving target of £50,000 which is currently being forecast at risk of delivery, this will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports.</p> <p>Further analysis is provided below</p>					
City Events	641	641	-	-	
Arts and Culture	911	888	(23)	(2.52%)	
Communications	856	989	133	15.54%	An overspend is forecast due to a reduce income within the service. The savings target of £50,000 for 2022-2023 is at risk of delivery. This will be kept under review and an update will be provided in future reports.
<b>Total Communications and Visitor Experience</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4.57%</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Finance</b>					
Overall an overspend totalling £81,000 (0.52%) is forecast for the year against Finance. This is as a result of forecast overspends within Procurement and Strategic Finance due to the appointment of agency staff covering vacancies whilst recruitment is ongoing. This is offset in part by underspends across Audit Services due to in-year vacancies and underspends on Central Corporate Budgets. The directorate is experiencing difficulties in recruiting to permanent posts across a number of service areas. Finance includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023, in Central Corporate Budgets, this is on target to be delivered in full. Further analysis is provided below.					
Audit Services	1,810	1,610	(200)	(11.05%)	An underspend is forecast as a result of in-year savings against staffing due to unfilled vacancies within internal audit services and insurance.
Central Corporate Budgets	3,060	2,912	(148)	(4.84%)	An underspend is forecast due to a significant reduction in enhanced pension costs, combined with other lesser underspends against a range of corporate budgets. This service includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023 – which is being reported to be on target for delivery.
Commercial Services	394	394	-	-	
Finance Director	167	167	-	-	
Procurement Services	857	1,184	327	38.16%	The forecast overspend is due to continued reliance on agency staff as the service experiences difficulties in recruiting to permanent posts. This challenge is faced by procurement teams across the region.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	1,498	1,498	-	-	Forecast pressures are being reported due an increase in temporary accommodation. As part of the 2022-2023 budget setting, this risk was anticipated and in response £750,000 was set aside in corporate to fund forecast pressures. A virement is recommended at quarter 1 from corporate budgets to support this forecast cost pressures, thereby resulting in a breakeven position for this service.
Revenues & Benefits	2,900	2,900	-	-	
Strategic Finance	3,175	3,277	102	3.21%	The forecast overspend is due to the appointment of agency staff in vacancies pending recruitment. Recruitment to vacant posts is currently ongoing.
The Hub	1,787	1,787	-	-	
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>15,648</b>	<b>15,729</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>0.52%</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Governance</b>					
Overall a breakeven is forecast for the year against Governance. The Governance Directorate includes a saving target of £100,000 for 2022-2023, this is currently being forecast to be on target for delivery.					
Further analysis is provided below					
Deputy Director of People and Change	133	133	-	-	
Chief Operating Officer	180	180	-	-	
Governance Services	3,324	3,324	-	-	
Health and Safety	262	257	(5)	(1.91%)	
Human Resources	1,871	1,871	-	-	
Legal Services	1,568	1,655	87	5.55%	
Ward Funds	200	200	-	-	
Projects and Change	428	428	-	-	
Equalities	173	173	-	-	
Support Services	4,338	4,256	(82)	(1.89%)	
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>12,477</b>	<b>12,477</b>	-	-	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
Overall an overspend totalling £990,000 (18.24%) is projected for the year against Public Health & Wellbeing which is mainly due to an increase in the number of referrals for bed and breakfast accommodation and inflationary pressures on the leisure PFI in relation to utility costs. Further analysis is provided below.					
Business Continuity & Emergency Planning	8	8	-	-	
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	
Community Safety & Community Cohesion	697	697	-	-	
Healthier Places Service	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Ageing	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Life Expectancy	-	-	-	-	
Homelessness and New Communities	1,792	2,473	681	38.00%	The forecast overspend is due to an increase in the number of referrals for bed and breakfast accommodation.
Leisure Services	1,430	1,700	270	18.88%	The forecast overspend is due to inflationary pressures on the PFI in relation to utility costs.
Public Health Business Management	-	-	-	-	
Starting and Developing Well	-	-	-	-	
Local Economy	1,501	1,540	39	2.6%	
System Leadership	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>5,428</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>18.24%</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<b>Regeneration</b>					
Overall an overspend of £46,000 (1.5%) is projected for the year against Regeneration mainly due to reduction in income within Adult Education and City Planning. In total Regeneration have savings targets totalling £665,000 in 2022-2023, these are reported to be on target to be delivered, with the exception of £13,000 against a target of £30,000 within Adult Education. Further analysis is provided below					
Adult Education	(334)	(321)	13	3.89%	
City Development	541	541	-	-	
City Planning	868	901	33	3.80%	
Director Regeneration	495	495	-	-	
Enterprise	570	570	-	-	
Skills	924	924	-	-	
Visitor Economy	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Regeneration</b>	<b>3,064</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	

13/09/23

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023 £000	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023 £000	Q1 Variance £000      %		Reason for Variance Q1
<p><b>Strategy</b> Overall an underspend totalling £342,000 (-2.91%) is projected for the year against Strategy, mainly as a result of budget efficiencies within ICTS. In total Strategy have savings targets totalling £200,000 across ICT and Data and Analytics, these are reported to be on target for delivery in full in 2022-2023 Further analysis is provided below</p>					
Customer Services	2,172	2,315	143	6.58%	The forecast overspend is due to an increase in staffing costs due to staff sickness levels and an increase in demand for Blue Badges. To meet the demand, a team has been established to process blue badge applications and respond to queries and provide Blue Badge surgeries in the community. In order to continue with to meet the increase in demand for Blue Badges and processing of desk based assessments and the reduce processing times there needs to be an increase in resources. An update on Blue Badges was presented to Scrutiny with a proposal to increase support on a 12 month trial to measure impact and improve processing times. This cost pressure includes a forecast for these additional resources. The forecast cost of this additional resource can be funded from efficiencies across from across the wider directorate.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
ICTS	6,613	6,199	(414)	(6.26%)	An underspend is projected as a result of part year vacant positions and additional income from printing. This service also includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023 which is forecast to be delivered in full.
Data and Analytics	927	927	-	-	This service includes a savings target of £50,000 for 2022-2023, which is forecast to be on target for delivery.
Policy and Strategy	450	324	(126)	(28.0%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of part year vacancies
Organisational Development	1,200	1,254	54	4.50%	
Register Officer	(38)	(38)	-	-	
External Funding and Digital Projects	277	278	1	0.36%	
Strategy	156	156	-	-	
West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership	15	15	-	-	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>11,772</b>	<b>11,430</b>	<b>(342)</b>	<b>(2.91%)</b>	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
	<b>Corporate Accounts</b>				
<p>Overall an overspend totalling £6.1 million (14.60%) is forecast for the year. This is mainly as a result of the projected impact of the proposed 2022-2023 pay award. At the time of writing pay negotiations are still ongoing in respect of the 2022-2023 pay award. As reported to Cabinet in February 2022 and July 2022, the approved 2022-2023 budget includes an annual provision within the pay budget for a 2% pay award. The proposed pay award for 2022-2023 which is currently out for consultation is forecast to cost an addition £9 million, a cost pressure of £6.2 million. The Council will continue to work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigate against this potential cost pressures if accepted and provide updates in future reports. Savings targets totalling £2.7 million, of which £1.2 million relates to a staff vacancy factor and £1.5 million for efficiencies is held within corporate budgets. Excluding the potential impact of the pay award, it is currently forecast that these targets can be delivered in full from across the council. Further analysis is provided below</p>					
Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive	397	397	-	-	
Corporate Adjustments	2,342	2,342	-	-	
Corporate Budgets	(13,560)	(10,860)	2,700	19.91%	This service includes savings targets totalling £2.7 million, of which £1.2 million is for a staff vacancy factor and £1.5 million for general efficiencies. This is forecast to be delivered from efficiencies and vacancies held across the Council. However the impact of the proposed pay award creates a corporate pressure.
Apprenticeship Levy	540	540	-	-	
West Midlands Transport Levy	10,523	10,523	-	-	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q1 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Environment Agency Levy	78	78	-	-	
Birmingham Airport – Rent	(69)	(69)	-	-	
Treasury Management	38,614	35,891	(2,723)	(7.05%)	An underspend is forecast against the Treasury Management budget as a result of rephasing of the capital programme.
Central Provision Pay Award costs	2,881	9,001	6,120	212.43%	At the time of writing, negotiations in respect of the pay award for 2022-2023 are ongoing. However, the proposed pay award for 2022-2023 is in excess of the 2% provision built into the 2022-2023 budget. The Council will work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigate against this cost pressure. Updates will be provided in future reports.
<b>Total Corporate Accounts</b>	<b>41,746</b>	<b>47,843</b>	<b>6,097</b>	<b>14.60%</b>	

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**City of Wolverhampton Council – Strategic Risk Register**

Risks reviewed by risk owners as reported to Audit & Risk committee on 25 July 2022

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance	Updated
1	<p><b>Businesses Closing</b> Loss of businesses within the City, potentially impacting on regeneration and the achievement of the Council Plan.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	8 Amber	8 Amber Target 4 Amber	↔	<p>Across all sectors reports are coming in about difficulties to recruit staff. This is impacting on services and production in the local economy. The cost of inflation fuel prices and the impact on the war in Ukraine are also creating challenges for business around affordability and managing global supply chains, construction and food businesses have been particularly affected by the challenges in the supply chain.</p> <p>All covid support grants closed on 31 March 2022 and the Council has now returned to delivery of existing programmes of support, the main one being AIM for GOLD. This is an EU funded programme and comes with criteria around the sector and type of business who can be supported.</p> <p>The team is 70% funded by EU money which is going to come to a close on 31 March 2023. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) doesn't offer the same level of funding. Currently a review and plan for future of business support including the role of the Council is being prepared.</p> <p>With the announcement of Levelling Up and the focus towards Business Support the Council is taking steps to have a clear proposition for the City to be included in regional asks through the West Midlands Combined Authority. This takes in to account the work Metro Dynamics has helped inform the council on key focus areas and provided a framework for taking forward the immediate and longer-term business support model for the council and the city</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> The Council is continuing to support local businesses to adapt and invest in new ways of working and strengthen areas which the pandemic has highlighted as weakness in their business through existing programmes and with partners including the Chamber of Commerce. The Council is also funding IGNITE, a new business and enterprise hub to support small businesses in the city.</p> <p>Working with key partners such as WMCA, and other business support delivery partners to ensure Wolverhampton businesses can access relevant support.</p>	<p>Regeneration have commissioned an external consultancy group (Metro Dynamics) to review the City's strategic priorities, the economic/ business context and current business support offer and develop an approach to business support that will help deliver the City's ambitions for future success. This work is to be captured in the City's investment plan for Levelling up and Shared Prosperity funds</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the IGNITE business and enterprise hub.</p>	
2	<p><b>Safeguarding Children</b> Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable children.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Emma Bennett</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr B Momenabadi</b></p>	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential	8 Amber	8 Amber Target 8 Amber (being met)	↔	<p>Referral rates have consistently been higher than 2019-2020 since June 2021. This has resulted in higher numbers of children in Assessment.</p> <p>There has been an increase in social work turnover, although the annual turnover rate remains below national levels. Additionally, in line with the national and regional position there is a shortage of suitable agency social workers to back fill temporary vacancies we have created by secondment opportunities, and maternity leave. This does mean that we have seen an increase in caseloads for social workers, particularly in the Disabled Children and Young People's team and in the Strengthening Families Service. As we successfully recruit to permanent posts and secondments come to an end, we are starting to see social workers returning to working with an appropriate level of children</p> <p>A newly established peripatetic team of nine permanent social workers are being deployed into teams where there are uncovered vacancies. Recruitment to these posts is underway. Social workers across Children's social care have been supporting the work of the teams most affected to ensure caseloads across all services are manageable.</p> <p>MASH24 was launched on 14 June 2021, these arrangements support greater consistency of practice and response during the daytime, evening and at weekends. A 12-month review of the new arrangements is currently taking place.</p> <p>The Executive Team are briefed every 6 months to offer reassurance regarding safeguarding of the children in the city.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Actions are being taken to try to attract experienced agency workers locally and regionally to cover short term vacancies whilst we also recruit to vacant permanent posts. Actions to support this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regional memorandum of understanding regarding the use of agency workers within the West Midlands has been updated</li> <li>Recruitment is ongoing to recruit permanent social workers, both newly qualified and experienced social workers. Recruitment processes have been adapted to speed up start dates for new employees.</li> <li>Rebranding of recruitment material is underway</li> <li>A review of progression opportunities for experienced social workers is taking place</li> </ul>	<p>Internal Quality Assurance report, alongside regular analysis of performance information offers Senior Leadership Team reassurance regarding practice.</p> <p>Quality assurance and performance information is shared with SEB, Cabinet Member and the Leader regularly, together with Ofsted on a quarterly basis,</p> <p>Monthly data continues to be submitted to the DfE and is being closely monitored.</p> <p>Although referral rates are higher, overall, they appear to remain in line with the England/West Midland average.</p> <p>Feedback from a deep dive undertaken in Wolverhampton by members of the National Independent Care Review team was positive and offered further reassurances about practice with children and families.</p> <p>Senior leaders have regular oversight of caseloads and have responded by ensuring social work resource and capacity is utilised across the service</p> <p>Positive outcome of Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services,(21 March - 1 April 2022) with services rated overall as Good offering external reassurance that children and families are supported and safeguarded well in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Assurance provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership through a number of mechanisms including scrutiny of practice through priority groups and specific activity such as the COVID response group and Multi-agency casefile audits. Reviews of the impact of learning from Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews is also assured through the One Panel.</p>	
3	<p><b>Safeguarding Adults</b> Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable adults.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Becky Wilkinson</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Leech</b></p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>All statutory assessments and safeguarding enquiries are undertaken and more face to face visits are taking place. Service providers and inhouse provision continue to reopen services safely. An increase in contacts to MASH and Adult Social Care has been experienced.</p> <p>Covid related safeguarding risks have reduced, current risks are related to resources through sickness and vacancies which is being picked up through the Adult Service redesign.</p>	<p>Additional short-term measures including increasing staff in the MASH are in place to manage the caseloads coming directly into the service.</p> <p>Assurance provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership through a number of mechanisms including scrutiny of</p>	

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance	Updated
						<p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> The long-term plan to manage the increase in demand is being planned through the adult service redesign.</p>	practice through priority groups and specific activity such as the Covid response group and Multi-agency casefile audits. Reviews of the impact of learning from Serious Adult Reviews is also assured through the One Panel.	
4	<p><b>Reputation / Loss of Public Trust</b> There is a risk that the Council loses public trust and confidence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• failing to respond to the needs of local people, especially those most vulnerable</li> <li>• failure to inform the public about delivery of key City priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk Owner: Ian Fegan</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr I Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 10 Amber	↔	<p>As the City continues its recovery from the pandemic, new challenges have emerged such as the national cost of living crisis. The Council is also delivering a number of key City priorities including delivering opportunities for young people, regeneration and investment projects, a high-quality events programme and tackling health inequalities.</p> <p>Strategic Executive Board (SEB) and Council Cabinet are aware of the issues and challenges facing local people and developed Our City: Our Plan – the new Council plan, which launched in May 2022 and provides a framework on how we will deliver our objectives to ensure Wulfrunians live longer, healthier lives.</p> <p>The plan aims to demonstrate that we are dealing with the things that matter to local residents and businesses. Proactive and sustained communication with residents, businesses and key stakeholders will inform and engage with the aim of demonstrating that we are dealing with the things that matter, thereby building trust and confidence in, as well as support for the Council's work.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Comprehensive targeted and regular communications with residents and other key stakeholders on all council priorities will play a key role supporting specific plan and priority objectives.</p>	<p>National youth employment figures</p> <p>Supportive data provided by Insight and Performance</p>	
5	<p><b>Social Care Providers Adults</b> There is a risk that we may lose service providers and not be able to maintain adequate service provision.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Becky Wilkinson</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr L Leech</b></p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	16 Red	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↓	<p>Levels of sickness has reduced, and closures/outbreaks have reduced. Spot purchasing is still in place to mitigate pressures on the framework.</p> <p>Risks to sustainability are being mitigated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust outbreak management processes</li> <li>• High percentage of staff and residents are now vaccinated</li> <li>• Use of the daily provider survey to alert to trigger contact and support if providers report they are having issues remains in place through the Capacity Tracker</li> </ul> <p>Risk is amber due to resource and cost of living pressures. Provider support has been stood down following consultation with providers. National Level 4 emergency stood down.</p>	<p>Daily capacity tracker provides daily information on outbreaks, sickness levels and staff turnover – this provides the necessary data for commissioning to act to support outbreaks or protect residents.</p> <p>Regular updates to SEB/Cabinet Member are provided with respect to home care.</p>	
	<p><b>Employee Wellbeing</b> There is a potential impact on the health and wellbeing of the Council's staff due to unprecedented levels of service demand and changes to working practices.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Laura Phillips</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b></p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>Employee well-being continues to be a Council priority, a number of initiatives have been embedded for employees which include (but are not limited to) the Council's Our People Portal, access to mental health first aiders, access to face to face well-being checks and work-outs led by WV-Active, the introduction of Council wide wellbeing leads and the creation of wellbeing pledges. Further directed work has been undertaken to promote financial wellbeing support to support employees with the cost of living rises.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Organisational Development (OD) are continuing to work with Human Resources and Health and Safety to monitor, analyse and proactively respond to sickness absence data (both Covid and non-Covid) to ensure appropriate support is provided for employee health and wellbeing. We continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our employees and the effectiveness of Our People support offer. Targeted work is continuing with our frontline workers and there has been increased engagement initiatives and communications regarding health and wellbeing across the organisation. The OD team will be creating more opportunity to meet with employees face to face to ensure they are getting information on Wellbeing and understand where to access all the support that is available to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Health &amp; Wellbeing Group</li> <li>• Our People Board</li> <li>• Employee Surveys</li> <li>• Professional Conversations which include discussions around well-being</li> <li>• SafeSpace Reporting Line</li> <li>• Mental Health Support App for employees (My Possible Self)</li> <li>• OD Wellbeing roadshows out to sites across the City.</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Education Provision</b> There is a risk to the consistent provision of education to all children and young people in Wolverhampton due to Covid-19 outbreaks in schools, children and young people not regularly being in school and parents' confidence that children are safe in schools due to the pandemic</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Emma Bennett</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr C Burden</b></p>	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential	8 Amber	8 Amber Target 4 Amber	↔	<p>School attendance continues to be a concern. There are higher numbers of children and young people with persistent absenteeism than pre-pandemic and school attendance overall disappointingly low, particularly in the secondary sector.</p> <p>Formal examinations and assessment tests have recommenced in schools (the first since 2019) and there are concerns that the performance and outcomes may be negatively impacted as a result of the lockdowns as well as the absence of staff and students affected by Covid.</p> <p>Increasing numbers of referrals are being made through the Special Needs Early Years' Service and for Education Health and Care Plan assessments following the lockdown periods. Electively home education numbers have increased throughout the pandemic and continue to rise (although at a slower rate).</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> The Inclusion service has undertaken an analysis of school attendance across the city and work is ongoing with targeted schools to increase the focus on attendance. Statutory powers have been reinstated to ensure parents and carers understand their responsibilities in respect of ensuring their children access learning. Proactive engagement between parents and the local authority is ongoing. Extensive support is also being made available by the Education Psychology Service to address emotional and mental health and well-being issues that are emerging for pupils and school staff. This is being well-received by schools with take-up at a high level. A graduated response toolkit to support children in schools with Special Educational Needs (who are not at the level of need to require an Education Health and Care Plan) is in development and will be launched in September 2022.</p>	<p>Regular updates to Lead Member and SEB on attainment of pupils in schools although data from this year's formal assessments will not be available until end of Autumn term 2022.</p> <p>Each school has had School Improvement Advisor support, guidance and challenge to mitigate the impact of Covid on outcomes.</p> <p>As more young people are vaccinated the numbers contracting the virus are reducing slowly but steadily.</p>	

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance	Updated
						The National Tutoring Programme is being promoted in schools to support students whose progress has been negatively impacted by the pandemic.		
8	<p><b>City Wide Regeneration</b> There is a potential impact on the City if the Council do not take effective action to regenerate and repurpose. In addition, there are risks to ongoing Council managed and operated capital projects and programmes in terms of costs, timings and ensuring that original business cases continue to align with the Council's strategic aims.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	<p>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods</p>	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>With regards to the Council's major capital projects work is underway at pace to ensure we secure Levelling Up funding for rounds 2 and 3, with the original submission date being 6 July (this has now been delayed due to technical issues). We continue to deliver funded programmes for Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund.</p> <p>An interim Transformation Programme Management Office (TPMO) function has been set up to deliver Towns Fund and further work is being carried out to address constituent project delivery and development for a wider Levelling Up agenda for the City in delivering regeneration and infrastructure objectives.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Local Enterprise Partnership support will be in place within the next 3 – 6 months to take over the programme role to mitigate any additional risk and to co-develop and implement projects across all funding sources and service areas. The TPMO function will support and complement existing activities and resources to ensure successful project delivery and implementation.</p> <p>The Council is pro-actively working with partners and stakeholders to mitigate risk and continue operations in accordance with Government guidelines.</p> <p>Inflation is at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty and risk of inflationary pressures across the capital programme, increases in the cost of materials are already being realised. Project contingency budgets are viewed in light of these pressures in order to build in and mitigate against such cost increases, however these are unprecedented market conditions, and the ongoing risk should be noted.</p>	<p>Internal audit review of Westside Leisure now complete, and the advisory actions are being undertaken.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 regarding the new TPMO.</p>	
9	<p><b>High Unemployment (previously Rising Unemployment)</b> There is a risk that high levels of unemployment caused by historic trends and more recently the impact of Covid will persist and the gap between Wolverhampton and other areas will continue to grow without focused action.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	<p>Thriving Economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>More local people into good jobs and training</p>	16 Red	16 Red Target 15 Red	↔	<p>Young people (18 – 24) and the over 50s have been particularly affected. With the 18-24 group, at the point of last report, Wolverhampton's unemployment claimant count had dropped one place to the second highest in England, and another monthly decrease in claimants. Whilst this month-on-month decrease is good to see, the gap to regional and national figures persists. For the over 50 group, latest data shows Wolverhampton in 14<sup>th</sup> position overall against the same measure of unemployment with no change in rate from the previous month.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> The Council £3m Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme is underway, with a number of initiatives, including the City Ideas Fund, which has awarded over £212,000 to local organisations to implement a wide range of activities, to help young people access the world of work. The Youth Summits continue to take place across the city, bringing young people together with employers and training providers to understand the barriers facing the young people, and to find ways to collectively work together to create opportunities. Vacancies are being promoted to a wider audience via Wolves Workbox and its regular newsletters, whereby job seekers are able to apply for jobs directly</p> <p>Wolves at Work continues to offer its employment support service for job seekers of all ages. Regular "Let's Talk Jobs" sessions are held, focusing on either vacancies in a particular sector or for specific employer, to which all those organisations who advise job seekers are invited, to hear about the opportunities in detail.</p> <p>Employment Workshops taking place with OD on a monthly basis in conjunction with BCI and Wolves at Work – targeting those applying for Grade 5 posts within the council (or below).</p> <p>Drop-in information/screening session in operation to support Strategic Employers and other large scale vacancies – these operate weekly/bi-weekly dependant on employer need.</p> <p>Black Country Impact continues to deliver support to those aged 16-29 across Wolverhampton, and will continue to do so until the funding ends in mid-2023. Currently there is £1.31m available to support this age group, with a heavy focus on upskilling the workforce via vocational and L3 upwards qualifications in order to provide sustainability.</p> <p>The Restart Scheme was rolled out in June 2021, and referrals to programme will continue until June 2024 at the earliest. Currently the council has £1.64m (talks pending around an increased market share) in funding to support residents.</p> <p>Increased collaborative working between all employability contracts and Yoo Recruit / the Council in order to meet the recruitment needs of the Council with local unemployed residents on the programme. Intrinsicly linked to the One Council approach to tackle Youth Unemployment, and the individual pledges made by various departments.</p>	<p>The Insights team provide detailed monthly analysis of the unemployment data in the City and have provided comprehensive analysis of the historical picture and present trends – which show a general improvement from pandemic peaks. This data monitoring work is now firmly embedded into the ongoing Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme arrangements.</p> <p>Ongoing Covid impact on employment in the City is now monitored and reported regularly as part of this work. The team have been assessing the data alongside labour market information for any signs that the end of furlough arrangements might be having a impact on overall employment statistics, but have not found any evidence so far to suggest this is happening on a scale that would negatively impact the overall figures.</p> <p>The Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme has now been established and there is a pipeline of planned activity with a focus on partnership collaboration and actively engaging with those directly impacted.</p> <p>A scoping session has been held to discuss how all key City partners can be well engaged in the development of effective interventions.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme (Youth Employment Scheme).</p> <p>As of July 2022 2,526 Wolverhampton residents have started on the Restart Scheme, with 597 (24%) entering sustainable employment. Of these 597, 109 (18%) have been supported directly by the Council, despite only receiving 8% of all referrals to programme</p> <p>Conversations pending about possible increase in market share of Restart Scheme for the Council, which will lead to increased staffing levels and funds to support Wolverhampton residents of all ages into sustainable employment</p> <p>Activity to date has seen 749 BCI participants offered employment, with a view to this increasing to approx. 1,200 minimum in the next 11 months (remainder of contract).</p>	
10	<p><b>Information Governance</b> If the Council does not put in place appropriate policies, procedures and technologies to ensure the handling and protection of its data is undertaken in a secure manner and consistent with relevant legislation then it may be subject to regulatory action, financial penalties, reputational damage and the loss of confidential information.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: David Pattison</b></p>	Our Council	6 Amber	6 Amber Target 4 Green	↔	<p>Five newly approved level-1 IG policies were being rolled out to employees during May 22. A review of the internal procedures and guidance documents (level 2) that underpin the new polices continues, with rollout being incremental between now and September 2022. Mandatory training levels (level 1) continue to be monitored through quarterly leadership team updates; a refresh and reset of IG priorities within each leadership area has commenced to maintain compliance at service level. Meetings between the Caldicott Guardian (CG) and the Data Protection Officer (DPO) have recommenced and are scheduled quarterly to provide an update on performance in key areas such as information requests, breaches and training for teams falling under the Caldicott function and to discuss any potential or current risks identified within Caldicott linked projects so that they are flagged to the CG and mitigating actions agreed. Key corporate projects continue to be supported to ensure IG compliance and to ensure privacy by design is initiated in a timely manner. Collaborative working between IG and Digital and IT continues to maintain technical and cyber compliance and to mitigate associated risks; collaborative work has commenced between IG and Data &amp; Analytics with monthly meetings scheduled. Information incidents reported during the period have been contained,</p>	<p>E-learning take up and ongoing training development</p> <p>Privacy by design – DPIA, IG Impact Assessments</p> <p>Quarterly updates and regular touch points with Leadership teams</p> <p>Robust breach management procedures in place with assessment and monitoring at service level (leadership feedback)</p> <p>SEB/IG Board and Caldicott function to continue to monitor, challenge, support and champion IG compliance initiatives</p>	

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance	Updated
	<b>Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</b>					<p>investigated with mitigating actions put in place locally with relevant teams. An additional temporary resource has been successfully recruited and will support the IG team for a 12-month period in terms of the delivery of statutory functions and work programme activities.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to progress the review and creation of level two procedures and guidance to support level one policies</li> <li>Progress the development and rollout of Level 2 and level 3 training for specialist roles</li> <li>Progress the collaboration with Audit Services to support the DPO reporting function and ongoing corporate compliance assurance.</li> </ul>		
11	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b></p> <p>If the Council does not manage the risks associated with the successful delivery of its in year budget and medium term financial strategy then this may exhaust reserves, result in the potential loss of democratic control and the inability of the Council to deliver essential services and discharge its statutory duties.</p> <p>Specific risks include the impact of Covid-19, rising inflation, demand pressures and the effective management of the key MTFS programmes.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr Obaida Ahmed</b></p>	Our Council	20 Red	20 Red Target 12 Amber	↔	<p>On 16 December 2021, the Government announced the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022-2023. The announcement was for one year only.</p> <p>The 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 report (Cabinet 23 February and Council 2 March) presents a balanced budget for 2022-2023 without the use of general reserves.</p> <p>The report notes that the Council is now faced with finding further projected budget reductions estimated at £12.6 million in 2023-2024, rising to £25.8 million over the medium-term period to 2025-2026. Work to develop budget reduction and income generation proposals for 2023-2024 onwards in line with the Five-Year Financial Strategy will continue, with an update on progress to be reported to Cabinet in July 2022.</p> <p>The level of uncertainty over future funding levels continues to be a significant risk. A prudent approach has been taken to forecasting resources over the MTFS period and all assumptions are detailed in the report.</p> <p>On 28 June 2022 the Secretary of State announced that there will be a 2 year settlement and that a consultation will be launched shortly.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b></p> <p>The assumptions underpinning the MTFS will continue to be reviewed throughout 2022-2023 and updates will be reported to Cabinet, with the next update to Cabinet on 27 July 2022.</p> <p>External advice will be sought where appropriate to support financial modelling as an when further information is available on a 2-year settlement and or fair funding review.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the delivery of MTFS programmes is undertaken and reported to Strategic Executive Board.</p>	<p>Regular budget monitoring at all levels.</p> <p>A local more detailed risk register is maintained within Finance.</p> <p>External Audit Annual Report</p>	
80	<p><b>Cyber Security</b></p> <p>Failure to maintain a high level of cyber security (technology, processes and awareness) throughout the Council may result in cyber-attacks and theft or loss of confidential data leading to financial penalties, reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr O Ahmed</b></p>	Our Council / Driven by Digital	6 Amber	9 Amber Target 6 Amber	↑	<p>Nationally there has been an increase in cyber security threats to local government, with high profile cyber incidents impacting on some local authorities. Cyber security at CWC is externally verified through both PSN accreditation and Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation.</p> <p>Digital and IT continue to deploy security enhancements across the infrastructure to further improve security, key activity undertaken includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of multi factor authentication</li> <li>Conditional policies which prevent access to the Council's network on personal devices unless it is via the internet.</li> <li>Amending the Council's password policy to move to passphrases.</li> <li>Implementation of Windows Defender Advance threat protection, user risk detection and mitigation.</li> <li>Training and development</li> <li>Working with the LGA on a £10,000 grant to further invest in cyber security enhancements</li> </ul> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b></p> <p>There is a continued work programme to address cyber threats and a further update will come forward to a future Audit and Risk Committee.</p>	<p>The Council has achieved external accreditation of its cyber security, through achievement of Cyber Essentials Plus and PSN compliance.</p> <p>Internal Audit review of Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery planned for this year.</p> <p>Quarterly updates provided to SEB.</p>	
13	<p><b>Civic Halls</b></p> <p>There is a significant reputational and financial risk to the Council and to the City's wider visitor economy if the revised Civic Halls refurbishment programme is not effectively managed in terms of project timings, costs, and scope.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</b></p>	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>In conjunction with the professional project team the ongoing scrutiny and monitoring of the project continues at pace. In preparation for AEG's opening and the recommencement of commercial events (subject to Covid restrictions and national guidance), the Council continues its collaborative working relationship with AEG.</p> <p>This world class operator is bringing forward exciting and ambitious plans for the venue with bigger and better acts and events. Plans will also benefit local businesses, see new jobs created and raise the city's profile. The public realm works are progressing well and are on schedule to complete in time for the opening of the building.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b></p> <p>Monthly Civic Halls Restoration Boards take place in order to ensure assurance on the project. This is supported by bi-weekly operational group meetings, end user operator and public realm meetings, which all feed into the overall programme board. Directors are also supplied with weekly project updates.</p>	<p>Project Assurance Group</p> <p>Civic Halls Restoration Board</p> <p>AEG Contract</p> <p>Specialist external advice – project and risk management</p> <p>Internal Audit representation on Civic Hall's Operational Group</p>	
14	<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p>Failure to achieve the Council's commitments in relation to Climate Change, including the pledge to make</p>	Climate conscious	6 Amber	6 Amber Target 3 Green	↔	<p>The Council's Climate Change Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. The action plan clearly sets out all activity needed to meet the Council's net zero ambitions by 2028 as well as setting out the framework for the 2041 target for the whole City.</p>	<p>Governance and action plan monitoring arrangements being established.</p> <p>Quarterly update to SEB and Member reference panel.</p>	

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance	Updated
	<p>Council activities net-zero carbon by 2028 may result in significant reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Roseblade</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</b></p>					<p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Resource requirements identified – certain posts have been created and have/are being recruited to. Additional graduate support for sustainable staff travel policy has been secured. SEB update with draft structure approved and supported.</p>	Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the Climate Change Action Plan.	
15	<p><b>Related Parties</b> The Council has a number of bodies that it either owns or has a potential liability for. There is a risk that poor performance of these bodies could adversely impact on the Council both financially and reputationally.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: Claire Nye</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr Obaida Ahmed</b></p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>A detailed financial review of each company was undertaken as part of the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, this included the going concern position of each party. It was concluded that there is currently no material financial impact on the Council. Regular monitoring is undertaken and there are no areas of concern.</p> <p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of Yoo Recruit Ltd which will in turn inform a refreshed business plan being prepared by the Company.</p> <p>WV Living presented an updated Business Plan which was approved by Cabinet on 27 April 2022.</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes presented an updated Delivery Plan which was approved by Full Council on 6 April 2022.</p> <p>On 29 June the Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel received a report from the Chief Operating Officer on the arrangements in place to monitor linked bodies, further reports are being taken on the approach to each specific body to the relevant Committee/Panel.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Regular monitoring of the related parties is undertaken, and monthly reports are provided to the Executive Team.</p> <p>Financial implications of our related parties have been referenced in the 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 report (Cabinet 23 February and Council 2 March) and will be referenced in future budget reports.</p>	<p>The Annual Governance Statement incorporates related parties.</p> <p>External audit of each related party.</p>	
16	<p><b>Safeguarding Ukrainian refugees from exploitation.</b> Risk to Ukrainian refugees ability to access safe and appropriate local accommodation.</p> <p><b>Risk Owner: John Denley</b> <b>Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</b></p>	Healthy Inclusive Communities	New risk	9 Amber Target 4 Amber	Not applicable	<p>Development of CWC criteria, home visits for residents who have been offered accommodation, continued dialogue with Government via West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Ongoing dialogue with the Department for Levelling Up, Home Office and local and national multi-agency Homes for Ukraine forums.</p>	Department for Levelling Up, Home Office and local and national multi-agency Homes for Ukraine forums.	
17	<p><b>Financial wellbeing and resilience –</b> <b>Risk that the financial wellbeing strategy does not address the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for residents of the city</b></p> <p><b>Risk owner: Alison Hinds/ Emma Bennett</b> <b>Cabinet members: Councillor B Momenabadi, Councillor L Leach and Councillor J Jaspal</b></p>	<p>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential</p> <p>Healthy, inclusive communities</p>	New risk	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	Not applicable	<p>The Council's Financial Wellbeing Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2022.</p> <p>The strategy details our partnership approach to tackling the cost-of-living crisis in the city through our graduated response offering essential support when required, responding to emerging need and offering an early intervention approach to support resilience in the city.</p> <p><b>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</b> Partnership approach to delivery of the strategy Supporting our faith, community, and voluntary sector to build resilience Continued distribution of any Department of Work and Pension or government grants to ensure those in need are supported by those closest to them, maintaining dignity and choice wherever possible.</p>	Strong governance arrangements, with Health and Wellbeing Board being responsible for the implementation of the strategy, monitoring the progress of the partnership cost of living action plan	

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**General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of interest rates, energy costs, non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Red
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and childrens social care.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber
Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering the reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber
Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts.	Amber
	The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber

**General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties including the impact of exiting the European Union.	Amber
	Risk that the cost pressures from the implementation of the polices outlined in the Adult Social Care Reform White paper are greater than Government Grant Funding	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT, taxation rules and economic measures	Red
Covid 19	Risk that the financial implications of Covid 19 including the Council's recovery will exceed the grant allocations awarded by Government and place further financial pressures on the council financial position.	Amber

Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring

	<b>2022-2023 Budget £000</b>	<b>2022-2023 Forecast Outturn £000</b>	<b>2022-2023 Forecast Variance £000</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Gross rents – dwellings	(93,126)	(92,908)	218
Gross rents – non dwellings	(564)	(580)	(16)
Charges to tenants for services and facilities	(6,143)	(6,007)	136
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(99,833)</b>	<b>(99,495)</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Repairs and maintenance	27,530	27,668	138
Supervision and management	21,501	21,513	12
Rents, rates and taxes	800	866	66
Increase in provision for bad debts	2,000	1,800	(200)
Depreciation of fixed assets	20,388	20,388	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>72,219</b>	<b>72,235</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Net cost of HRA services</b>	<b>(27,614)</b>	<b>(27,260)</b>	<b>354</b>
Interest payable	10,234	10,234	-
Interest and investment income	(1)	(1)	-
Contribution to capital financing	2,990	2,990	-
<b>(Surplus)/deficit before transfers to/from reserves and provision for</b>	<b>(14,391)</b>	<b>(14,037)</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Allocation of (surplus)/deficit</b>			
Provision for redemption of debt	14,391	14,037	354
<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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## Schools' Budgets

### 1.0 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Schools' Budgets

- 1.1 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October.
- 1.2 Table 1 shows the schools' actual end of year balances for 2021-2022 and the latest projected balances in those submitted budget plans for 2022-2023.

**Table 1 – Projected Movement on Schools' Balances 2022-2023**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Balances as at 31 March 2022 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Forecast Use of Balances in 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Forecast Balances as at 31 March 2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>
Secondary	2,523	228	2,751
Primary	8,271	(1,954)	6,317
Junior	284	(161)	123
Infant	495	(130)	365
Nursery	1,202	(847)	355
Special	2,239	(636)	1,603
Pupil Referral Units	601	(368)	233
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,615</b>	<b>(3,868)</b>	<b>11,747</b>

**Table 2 – Number of schools as at 31 March 2022 with surplus balances**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total number of schools</b>	<b>Schools with Excess Surplus</b>
Secondary	3	2
Primary	30	25
Junior	2	1
Infant	2	2
Nursery	7	5
Special	4	3
Pupil Referral Units	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>

## Schools' Budgets

### Schools with Surplus Balances

- 1.3 At the end of 2021-2022 maintained schools had balances of £15.6 million. 40 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme.
- 1.4 All schools that have balances above these criteria are being requested to provide plans for their intended use. Local Authority Officers will scrutinise these plans may have meetings with the headteachers of these schools. A decision will then be made whether any of these schools will be moved forward into the arbitration process as detailed below and an update on this will be included in the 2021-2022 Revenue Budget Outturn report to Councillors.
- 1.5 The Scheme for Financing Schools establishes an arbitration process to review the Authority's decision and determine if, and to what level, any excess balances should be recovered.

### Schools in a deficit balance position

- 1.6 As part of its overview of schools in deficit, a Schools at Financial Risk Board (SFR) chaired by the Head of Service for School Organisation, reviews the financial information from schools in deficit to evaluate the financial position of the schools. The chair of Schools Forum is also a member of the board. The current position of schools that had anticipated a deficit position at the end of 2021-2022 is as follows:

**Table 2 – Schools with anticipated deficits in 2022-2023**

Name	Actual Balance at end of 2021-2022 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Anticipated Balance at end of 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Status
The King's Church of England	(104)	(163)	A licensed deficit application has been received and approved.
Phoenix Nursery	(34)	(73)	The school has an approved licensed deficit and are

**Schools' Budgets**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Actual Balance at end of 2021-2022 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Anticipated Balance at end of 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000</b>	<b>Status</b>
			submitting progress reports.
Windsor Nursery	(14)	(22)	The school has been asked to submit a licensed deficit request.

**Inflation and Pay Award**

- 1.7 We recognise that schools are likely to see increasing costs associated with inflation and the impact of any pay award in excess of budgets. Those schools with surplus balances are likely to require to use these to support the Teachers Pay Award this year. We will work with schools to monitor this.

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## Debt Write Offs

- 1.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.

### Sundry Debtors

- 1.2 Income is due to the Council for a wide range of services provided to individuals and businesses. To reflect the fact that, despite the Council's best efforts, not all of this income will actually be collected, the Council makes provision for bad and doubtful debts, which it charges directly to the General Fund.
- 1.3 Overall, five debt write offs totalling £9,001.76 have been incurred. All of which have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

### The Collection Fund

- 1.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council acts as billing and collecting authority for council tax and non-domestic rates income. The Council administers a separate Collection Fund account for this purpose. The Collection Fund accounts for the receipt of council tax and business rates (non-domestic rates) income and payments to precepting authorities such as the Fire Authority and the Police. Within this account, provisions are made for bad and doubtful debts and any write offs are charged to the council tax or business rates provision as appropriate.
- 1.5 **Council Tax** – Overall, 552 debt write offs totalling £408,885.55 have been incurred. All but one valued at £7,005.66 requires approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 7), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- 1.6 **Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)** – Overall, 56 debt write offs totalling £178,017.01 have been incurred. All have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

### Housing Benefits

- 1.7 Housing benefit overpayments occur when rent rebate or rent allowance awards exceed a recalculated entitlement. Whilst the Council aims to limit the incidence of overpayments, they may occur for a number of reasons including as a result of fraud or error. In general, overpaid benefit is written off in line with Government guidance where recovery would cause hardship, where the debtor has died or cannot be traced.

**Debt Write Offs**

- 1.8 The Council receives Government subsidy in respect of overpaid housing benefit at rates of between 40% and 100% according to the circumstances in which the overpayment arose. The unsubsidised element of any overpayment is charged to the General Fund.
- 1.9 Overall, 12 overpayments totalling £4,286.96 have been incurred. All have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

**Council Tax Write Offs to be approved by  
Cabinet**

<b>Account Ref</b>	<b>Write-off Reason</b>	<b>Write-Off Amount £</b>
61234515561	Recovery prohibited by statute	7,005.66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,005.66</b>

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General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Adult Services	Adults Assessment & Care Management West	Adult Services	Adults Assessment & Care Management West	161	Reversal of prior year one-off budgets funded from reserves
Adult Services	Director of Adults services and Additional Monies	Adult Services	Director of Adults services and Additional Monies	344	Reversal of prior year one-off budgets funded from grant.
Adult Services	Various	Strategic Director of People	Strategic Commissioning	350	Realignment of budgets within Adult Services and Strategic Commissioning.
Adult Services	Various	Adult Services	Various	7,448	Realignment of budgets across Adult Services
Adult Services	Director of Adult Services and Additional Monies	Adult Services	Director of Adult Services and Additional Monies	102	Transfer of salary budgets for two Adults posts to new cost centre.
Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	Adult Services	Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	152	Virement to reflect the reduction in 2022-2023 Community Discharge Grant allocation.
Education and Skills	School Business and Support Services	Finance	Commercial Services	58	Transfer of Contract Manager post between services.
Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Finance	Commercial Services	136	Transfer of budget for ongoing costs of new Contract Management System.
Finance	Central Corporate Budgets	Finance	Strategic Finance	20	Transfer between salary and non-salary budgets to fund 0.5 finance post.
Strategic Director People	Strategic Commissioning	Finance	The Hub	27	Transfer of budget from non-salary to salary budget
Strategic Director People	Strategic Commissioning	Governance	Support Services	27	Transfer of a contract budget to an employee budget.
Strategy	ICTS	Strategy	ICTS	225	Realignment of budgets within ICT to reflect restructure
Strategy	ICTS	Strategy	ICTS	200	Realignment of budgets within ICT reflect a restructure.

**General Fund Budget Virements**

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
City Assets	Facilities Management	City Assets	Project and Works Team – Maintenance Programme	108	Realignment of budgets to centralise repairs and maintenance budgets
Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Regeneration	Director Regeneration	81	Transfer of budget from non- salary budget to salary budget
Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	270	Realignment of budgets within Corporate Accounts
Regeneration	Skills	Regeneration	Skills	83	Removal of unfilled posts budgets with corresponding reduction in grant income.
Public Health & Wellbeing	Various	Public Health & Wellbeing	Various	594	Realignment of Staffing budget across Public Health
Public Health & Wellbeing	Commissioning	Public Health & Wellbeing	Commissioning	72	Removal of budgets no longer required funded from grant
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	491	Virement from corporate contingency to support the cost of increases in utilities costs due to rising inflation.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Assets	Estates and Valuations	65	Virement from the covid contingency budget to fund forecast loss of income.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Housing & Environment	Markets	281	Virement from the covid contingency budget to support the forecast loss of income
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Housing & Environment	Parking Services	1,175	Virement from the covid contingency budget to support the forecast loss of income.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Housing & Environment	Project and Works Team – Maintenance Programme	500	Growth from corporate contingency or budget growth to fund maintenance and compliance works within City assets.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Housing & Environment	Transportation	358	Virement to support demographic growth on Special Educational Needs transport

**General Fund Budget Virements**

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	Communications and Visitor Experience	City Events	135	Virement to fund support core city events
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	City Housing & Environment	Energy and Sustainability	83	Virement to fund a Head of Green Cities and Circular Economy.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Budgets	Finance	Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	750	Growth funding to support costs pressures to fund pressures on housing subsidy grant due to increasing numbers in temporary accommodation.
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Budgets	Finance	Strategic Finance	75	Virement to support additional capacity within the Agresso Business Support Team

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# Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Agenda Item No: 6

Date: 30 September 2022

OUT OF DARTMOUTH

## The Forward Plan

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the Cabinet or one of the Cabinet Panels (the Executive) over the coming months.

Forthcoming decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day rule for each meeting of the Executive. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

### What is a key decision?

A key decision is an Executive decision which is likely:

- to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (in Wolverhampton, this is defined as expenditure or savings **in excess of £250,000**), and/or
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising **two or more wards** in the area of the local authority.

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information). Copies are available on the Council's website or can be requested from Democratic Services.

The forward plan also provides notice of when the Cabinet may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law, details of the exempt categories are available on request from Democratic Services.

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the Council's decision-making arrangements,

should contact the Democratic Services team:

Email: [democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01902 550230

Address: Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

## Forthcoming key decisions

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<b>Our Council</b>					
<b>Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 - 2025-2026</b> To provide an update to the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2024 to 2025-2026; and agree the next steps that will be taken in order to address the financial pressures faced by the Council over the medium term.	All Wards	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<b>19 October 2022 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>19 October 2022 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<p><b>251-253 Tettenhall Road - Acquisition and Disposal Strategy</b>                      Proposal for the acquisition and disposal of 251-253 Tettenhall Road.</p>	Park	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhhal Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Luke Dove Head of Assets Tel: 01902 557121
<p><b>School Caretaker Houses - Disposal Strategy</b>                      School Caretaker Houses - Disposal Strategy.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 16 Nov 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Chris Burden Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work, Councillor Bhupinder Gakhhal Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Luke Dove Head of Assets Tel: 01902 557121
<p><b>Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2022-2023</b>                      To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2022-2023.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 16 Nov 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p><b>Capital Programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 Quarter Two Review</b>                      To approve capital programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 16 Nov 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Alison Shannon Chief

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
quarter two review.				Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<b>Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023</b> To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities.	All Wards	Cabinet 16 Nov 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<b>16 November 2022 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 16 Nov 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>16 November 2022 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 16 Nov 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>Collection and Debt Policy</b> Collection and Debt Policy.	All Wards	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Tracey Richards Head of

2022-09-20

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
				Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Revenues and Benefits
<p><b>Collection Fund Estimated Outturn 2022-2023</b> To report on the estimated outturn for Council Tax and Business Rates, also referred to as Non-Domestic Rates (NDR), transactions on the Collection Fund in 2022-2023.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p><b>Council Tax Base and Business Rates (NDR) Net Rate Yield 2023-2024</b> To set the estimates for Wolverhampton Collection Fund 2023-2024, which the Council manages on behalf of local precepting bodies and central government.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p><b>Housing Customer Involvement and Insight Strategy 2022 - 2026</b> Approval for a Council Housing Customer Involvement and Insight Strategy.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Open	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Michelle Garbett Service Lead Housing Strategy Tel: 01902 552954
<p><b>14 December 2022 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 14 Dec	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed	John Thompson Head of

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
and Services.		2022		Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>14 December 2022 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 14 Dec 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>Former Nelson Mandela House Site - Disposal and Development Strategy</b> Former Nelson Mandela House Site - Disposal and Development Strategy.	Oxley	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 14 Dec 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Luke Dove Head of Assets
<b>Strategic Asset Plan 2023 - 2028</b> Strategic Asset Plan 2023 – 2028.	All Wards	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023	Open	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Julia Nock Deputy Director of Assets Tel: 01902 550316
<b>18 January 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 18 Jan 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet	John Thompson Head of Procurement

2023-09-10

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
				Member for Resources and Digital City	Tel: 01902 554503
<b>18 January 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 18 Jan 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2024</b> To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2024.	All Wards	Cabinet 22 Feb 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<b>2023-2024 Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 - 2025-2026</b> To present a balanced budget for 2023-2024 aligned to the Council Plan priorities and an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2024 to 2025-2026, for recommendation to Full Council.	All Wards	Cabinet 22 Feb 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<b>Housing Asset Management Strategy 2022- 2025</b> Approval to launch Housing Asset Management Strategy 2022-2025.	All Wards	Cabinet 22 Feb 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet	Karen Beasley Interim Service Manager - Housing

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
				Member for City Assets and Housing	Strategy and Policy Tel: 01902 554893
<b>22 February 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Feb 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>22 February 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Feb 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023</b> To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities.	All Wards	Cabinet 22 Mar 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 556913
<b>Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter Three 2022-2023</b> To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter Three 2022-2023 report.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Mar 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
				Member for Resources and Digital City	Tel: 01902 554561
<b>22 March 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Mar 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>22 March 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Mar 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>26 April 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 26 Apr 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>26 April 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 26 Apr 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet	John Thompson Head of Procurement

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Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
				Member for Resources and Digital City	Tel: 01902 554503
<b>24 May 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 24 May 2023	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>24 May 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services</b> Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 24 May 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
<b>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</b>					
<b>Black Country Plan Publication and Submission</b> To approve consultation on Publication (Regulation 19) version of the Black Country Plan in autumn 2022, and to delegate authority to submit the Publication Black Country Plan and any recommended minor modifications to the Secretary of State.	All Wards	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Stephen Simkins Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy	Michele Ross Lead Planning Manager – Sub Regional Strategy Tel: 01902 554038
<b>Surplus Land and Property Disposal Policy</b>	All Wards	Cabinet 14	Open	Councillor	Mitchell

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
A policy outlining how the Council identifies, declares surplus and disposes of land and property assets no longer required for provision of services.		Dec 2022		Bhupinder Gakhhal Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Spencer Estates Officer Tel: 01902 50505
<b>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential</b>					
<b>Broadmeadow Special School</b> To request funding for a capital project.	All Wards	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Chris Burden Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	David Kirby Service Manager School Organisation and Support Tel: 01902 554152
<b>Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023</b> Detailing schools within the programme and capital scheme.	All Wards	Cabinet 16 November 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Chris Burden Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	David Kirby Service Manager School Organisation and Support Tel: 01902 554152
<b>Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it</b>					

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Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<b>City Centre Hotel Delivery</b> To provide an update on the project and to seek approval to the preferred procurement route and to begin procurement/marketing.	St Peter's	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Stephen Simkins Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy	Liam Davies Head of City Development
<b>Healthy, inclusive communities</b>					
<b>Integrated Care System Arrangements</b> To endorse appointments to the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership.	All Wards	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	Jaswinder Kaur Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01902 550230
<b>Energy from Waste Plant Update for Cabinet</b> To present an update on the Energy from Waste Programme.	All Wards	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	Anna Spinks Programme Manager - Energy from Waste
<b>External Funding Update - UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b> To seek necessary approvals and delegate authority in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital	Heather Clark Service Development Manager Tel: 01902 555614

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<b>Adult Social Care Reform Trailblazer</b> To consider whether the Trailblazer should be continued.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Open	City Councillor Linda Leach Cabinet Member for Adults	Mark Gibbs Project Manager
<b>Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy</b> To seek approval of the updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy.	All Wards	Cabinet 16 Nov 2022	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change Councillor Stephen Simkins Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Ric Bravery Strategic Health Lead (City Planning)

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<b>Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods</b>					
<b>Variations to Regional Enhanced Partnership (Bus Services) and Rescinding of the Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme (AQPS)</b> To approve variations to the Regional Enhanced Partnership in 2020 and to rescind the Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme.	All Wards	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	Tim Philpot Professional Lead - Transport Strategy Tel: 01902 555465
<b>Bilston Asset Transformation Programme</b> Bilston Asset Transformation Programme.	Bilston East; Bilston North; East Park	Cabinet 19 Oct 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Julia Nock Deputy Director of Assets Tel: 01902 550316
<b>Citywide Non-traditional Property Investment and Regeneration Programme - Update</b> To provide an update on the phased investment and regeneration programme for the Council's non-traditional housing stock across the City.	Bilston East; Bilston North; Bushbury North; Bushbury South and Low Hill; Fallings Park; Merry Hill; Oxley; Wednesfield North	Cabinet 16 Nov 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Karen Beasley Interim Service Manager - Housing Strategy and Policy Tel: 01902 554893
<b>Wolverhampton Homes Management Agreement -</b>	All Wards	Cabinet	Fully	Councillor	Karen Beasley

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<p><b>Review</b> To provide an update on the independent review of the management agreement with Wolverhampton Homes for the delivery of housing functions on behalf of the Council.</p>		(Resources) Panel 18 Jan 2023	Exempt	Bhupinder Gakhai Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Interim Service Manager - Housing Strategy and Policy Tel: 01902 554893
<p><b>Hampton View, Heath Town - Surrender of lease and future options.</b> To approve the terms negotiated for the early surrender of the lease arrangement with Sanctuary Housing; to approve the future options for the residential block and associated buildings.</p>	Heath Town	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 Feb 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhai Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Karen Beasley Interim Service Manager - Housing Strategy and Policy Tel: 01902 554893
<p><b>More local people into good jobs and training</b></p>					
<p><b>Bell Street Box Space - Demolition of 1-7a Cleveland Street</b> Authorisation to procure a demolition contractor through competitive tender to enable the delivery of the Box Space facility in line with the funding and programme milestones agreed with DLUHC for the Future High Street Fund.</p>	St Peter's	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 19 Oct 2022	Fully Exempt	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	Peter Taylor Regeneration Manager Tel: 01902 555851
<p><b>City East Gateway A454 - Willenhall Road Progress Report</b></p>	East Park; Heath Town	Cabinet (Resources)	Fully Exempt	Councillor Steve Evans	Marianne Page Service Lead -

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Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
To present a progress report on the project including a review of implementation options.		Panel 14 Dec 2022		Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	Transportation Strategy Tel: 01902 551798
<b>City Centre Public Realm Improvements Programme - Phase 2 - Outcome of consultation</b> Outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation on the City Centre Public Realm phase 2 project	St Peter's	Cabinet 14 Dec 2022	Open	Councillor Steve Evans	Ruth Taylor Service Lead – Placemaking Tel: 01902 555835
<b>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-2024 including Rent and Service Charges</b> Approval to adopt the Business Plan.	All Wards	Cabinet 18 January 2023	Open	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhai Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	Karen Beasley Interim Service Manager - Housing Strategy and Policy Tel: 01902 554893

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# Scrutiny Work Programme

Version Date: September 2022

## 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.

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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.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

**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 you need to contact the Scrutiny Team please email: [Scrutiny@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**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	The report from the Select Committee.	David Pattison	Julia Cleary	Martin Stevens	14 June 2022	6 June 2022	Complete
Quarter 3 Social Care, Public Health, Corporate Complaints and Compliments Report	Quarter 3 - Report as standard.	David Pattison	Sarah Campbell	Martin Stevens	14 June 2022	6 June 2022	Complete
Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022	Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022.	David Pattison	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Martin Stevens	26 July 2022	18 July 2022	Complete
Blue Badge Update	As requested at Board in June.	Charlotte Johns	Lisa Powell	Martin Stevens	26 July 2022	18 July 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Quarter 1 – Performance Report including budget	Quarter 1 Performance Report as received by Cabinet.	David Pattison and Claire Nye	James Amphett and Alison Shannon	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	Programmed
Cabinet Forward Plan	The published Cabinet Forward Plan.	David Pattison	Jaswinder Kaur	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	Programmed
Scrutiny Work Programme for Municipal Year	The latest version of the Scrutiny Work Programme.	All of SEB	Martin Stevens / Earl Piggott-Smith	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	Programmed
City Regeneration / Civic Halls	To include a site visit on the day before. Item requested following Cabinet report. Post Decision Scrutiny. Presentation to be given on evening.	Richard Lawrence	Richard Lawrence	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	Programmed
Minutes from Special Meeting and June Meeting	Two sets of minutes as there was the Special meeting in July.	David Pattison	Martin Stevens / Kimberley Dawson	Martin Stevens	12 October 2022	4 October 2022	Programmed
Wolverhampton Pound: Select Committee Progress Report	Following the publication of the Select Committee Report, the report is intended to review progress on the recommendations. Important to include Business Anchor Network.	David Pattison, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	To be discussed as numerous Officers were involved in the review.	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	Programmed
City Events – Budget	Vice-Chair Requested at Preparation	Ian Fegan	Chrissie Rushton	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	Programmed

	Meeting. Has questions following response from Ian Fegan to his email.						
City Centre Regeneration	Economy and Growth S.P Members to be invited for this item. To discuss the replacement to the West Side Project.	Richard Lawrence	Liam Davies	Martin Stevens	1 November 2022	24 October 2022	Programmed
Levelling Up	How Central Government policy is impacting on Wolverhampton at a local level and how the Council can maximise its potential within this policy arena.	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	Martin Stevens	6 December	28 November 2022	Programmed
WMCA Scrutiny Annual Report	To consider the WMCA Annual Scrutiny Report.	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	Martin Stevens	6 December	28 November 2022	Programmed
Council Plan, MTFS & Performance Framework	Standard item received each year on Council Plan, MTFS and Performance Framework.	David Pattison, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon and James Amphlett	Martin Stevens	Jan 2023 – TBC	Jan 2023 – TBC	Programmed
Blue Badge Report	Specifically requested at July meeting to review Blue Badge Service Performance.	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	Martin Stevens	Jan 2023 – TBC	Jan 2023 – TBC	Programmed

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Annual Scrutiny Review	The standard Annual Scrutiny Review Report.	David Pattison	Laura Gittos / Scrutiny Manager	Martin Stevens	7 March 2023	27 February 2023	Programmed
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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
- % 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
- 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.	Richard Lawrence	N/A	Martin Stevens	22 June 2022	14 June 2022	Complete
Visitor Experience, Culture and Leisure Offer	Briefing note and presentation on these strategic areas for the Council.	Richard Lawrence, Ian Fegan, John Denley	Chris Kirkland and Crissie Rushton	Martin Stevens	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	Complete
Inward Investment	Briefing note and presentation on Inward Investment and how it can be attracted.	Richard Lawrence	Richard Lawrence	Martin Stevens	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	Complete
City Public Realm Works	To consider the status of the project.	John Roseblade / Richard Lawrence	John Roseblade / Richard Lawrence	Martin Stevens	28 September 2022	20 September 2022	Complete
Heath Town Baths	Requested by Member of the Council due to graffiti. Report on the future plans for the Baths.	Richard Lawrence	Simon Lucas	Martin Stevens	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	Programmed
Business Support at Place level	Report to cover what the Council is doing to help businesses at a local ward level and	Richard Lawrence	Isobel Woods	Martin Stevens	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	how this links with the work on the Wolverhampton Pound.						
Performance Update / Budget - Fulfilled Economy	Performance and Budget Report – Fulfilled Economy, in line with the new performance framework.	Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Martin Stevens	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	Programmed
i54 – New Businesses	Director requested, to inform the Panel about developments at i54 relating to new businesses.	Richard Lawrence	Chris Kirkland	Martin Stevens	30 November 2022	22 November 2022	Programmed
The Green Economy. <i>Including a site visit to the National Brownfield Institute</i>	Director suggested site visit. Green Economy – Portfolio Holder has spoken about previously and suggested Panel should consider. Item needs to be shaped at a preparation meeting with Chair and Vice-Chair and Officers.	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Martin Stevens	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	Programmed
City Centre Regeneration	Report to consider the latest position on the plans for City Centre Regeneration	Richard Lawrence	Liam Davies	Martin Stevens	14 February 2023	7 February 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Empty units in the City Centre and Train Station	Vice-Chair Requested. How can the Council help ensure units are let in the City Centre and new Train Station.	Richard Lawrence	TBC	Martin Stevens	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	Programmed
Levelling Up Agenda / Future of LEP / WMCA	This item needs to be shaped at a preparation meeting with Chair and Vice-Chair and Officers.	Richard Lawrence	Liam Davis	Martin Stevens	15 February 2023	7 February 2023	Programmed

**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

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**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	Report on the Healthwatch Primary Care Telephone survey and a report from the CCG on progress following previous recommendations from the Panel on Primary Care.	John Denley	N/A	Martin Stevens	30 June 2022	22 June 2022	Complete
RWT Quality Accounts	Report on Quality Accounts is received each year by the Pane. Invitation to Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Members to attend virtually.	John Denley	David Loughton	Martin Stevens	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	Complete
Public Health Wolverhampton Annual Report	Annual report received each year by the Panel from Public Health	John Denley	John Denley	Martin Stevens	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	Complete
Health Checks and Screening (including cancer)	Report to consider the local position on health checks and screening. Monitoring performance.	John Denley	Ainee Khan	Martin Stevens	22 September 2022	14 September 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Integrated Care System Strategy	To scrutinise the Integrated Care System Strategy.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	Martin Stevens	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	Programmed
Integrated Care System Priorities	Report should list the Integrated Care Priorities and why they have been chosen. If not yet determined, to review progress on the matter.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	Martin Stevens	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	Programmed
One Wolverhampton Strategy and Priorities	Report to consider the strategy of One Wolverhampton and its priorities.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	Martin Stevens	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	Programmed
Performance Report / Budget – Healthy Inclusive Communities	To consider the Performance Report and Budget – Health inclusive Communities	John Denley, Claire Nye and Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon and James Amphlett	Martin Stevens	10 November 2022	2 November 2022	Programmed
Primary Care	Healthwatch will be doing another telephone GP Survey as requested by the Panel. To consider the findings.	John Denley	Stacey Lewis (Healthwatch Wolverhampton)	Martin Stevens	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	Programmed
One Wolverhampton Performance Review	To review the performance to date of One Wolverhampton.	John Denley	TBC	Martin Stevens	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	Programmed
RWT Hospital Transport Service	Item requested by Panel previously.	John Denley	David Loughton (RWT)	Martin Stevens	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	Programmed

	To consider the RWT Transport Service and links to Walsall Manor Hospital						
Urology Monitoring Report	Panel resolved to scrutinise the Urology Services merger with Walsall after six months of implementation.	John Denley	David Loughton (RWT)	Martin Stevens	19 January 2023	11 January 2023	Programmed
One Wolverhampton	Director requested regular item on One Wolverhampton. Scope of item to be discussed at an agenda preparation meeting.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	Martin Stevens	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	Programmed
Maternity Services at RWT	Item requested by Chief Executive of RWT. To ensure everything is being done to ensure safety and quality of Maternity Services in Wolverhampton	John Denley	David Loughton (RWT)	Martin Stevens	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	Programmed
Hearing Aids	Item requested by Chair. Report to consider how Wolverhampton residents can obtain a good hearing aid service.	John Denley	TBC	Martin Stevens	23 March 2023	15 March 2023	Programmed

**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

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
WV Living Governance and Linked companies.	The governance arrangements of WV Living and Linked companies.	David Pattison	N/A	Martin Stevens	14 July 2022	6 July 2022	Complete
Heath Town Regeneration Presentation	To report on the progress made on the Heath Town Regeneration Project.	John Roseblade	N/A	Martin Stevens	14 July 2022	6 July 2022	Complete
Community Safety Update	Report to include Domestic Violence. Violent knife crime. Total crime performance measure. Scrutiny Board Members to be invited for this item.	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	Martin Stevens	29 September 2022	21 September 2022	Complete
Energy efficiency of Housing stock and Fuel Poverty	To consider the energy efficiency of the social housing stock and private housing in Wolverhampton. To include grants	John Roseblade  External: Shaun Aldis / Simon Bamfield	Karen Beasley	Martin Stevens	29 September 2022	21 September 2022	Complete

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	available and measures to combat fuel poverty.						
Performance Report / Budget– Good Homes in Well Connected Neighbourhoods	Performance and budget report, in line with the new performance framework.	Charlotte Johns and Claire Nye	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Martin Stevens	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	<b>Programmed</b>
Public Realm	To consider progress on the project and the aesthetics for the City Centre.	Richard Lawrence / John Roseblade	TBC	Martin Stevens	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	<b>Programmed</b>
Housing Allocation Policy	To consider the Housing Allocation Policy and recent changes.	John Roseblade External: Shaun Aldis	Michelle Garbett	Martin Stevens	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	<b>Programmed</b>
Cycling in Wolverhampton	Current landscape and future direction	John Roseblade	Tim Philpot	Martin Stevens	17 November 2022	9 November 2022	<b>Programmed</b>
Personal Well-Being Performance Report	Invite Health Scrutiny Panel Members for this item – for discussion between the Chairs of the Panels. Panel has these performance indicators within its remit. Life Expectancy, infant deaths, health checks, personal	John Denley	TBC	Martin Stevens	16 February 2023	8 February 2023	<b>Programmed</b>

	wellbeing estimates, physical inactivity, alcohol and gambling related health issues						
Private Sector Housing Standards	To consider what can be done to improve the standards in private sector housing, including rogue landlords.	John Roseblade	TBC	Martin Stevens	16 February 2023	8 February 2023	Programmed
Rough Sleepers Policy Review	Request form Scrutiny Board. How does the Council continue to help rough sleepers and what more can be done.	John Denley	Anthony Walker	Martin Stevens	16 February 2023	8 February 2023	Programmed
Tree Policy Review	Request from Chair and Vice-Chair. To review the new processes and strategy relating to the maintenance of trees.	John Roseblade	Steve Woodward	Martin Stevens	16 February 2022	8 February 2022	Programmed

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

- Street Scene (Possible extra meeting)
- Panel requested progress report on Customer Engagement Strategy
- Panel requested update on Heath Town Regeneration plans
- Proposed visit to Heath Town following meeting on 14 July 2022
- Visit to Wednesfield Community Hub requested
- Climate change
- Benchmark exercise to see how WH meets [fire safety standards for 2024](#), details of the specific targets

## 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

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Item	Description	SEB Lead	Office Lead	Scrutiny Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Update on Health and Social Care Act - Fair Funding	Request from the Director to add this item to the agenda – report on Health and Care Reform proposals and Wolverhampton being part of the trailblazer local authorities	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 July 2022	27 June 2022	Complete
Adult Services Transformation Programme	Request from the Director to add this item to the agenda –	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 July 2022	27 June 2022	Complete

	the report outlines the vision for adult services and the key elements of the strategy						
Principal Social Worker Annual Report	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for discussion and comment on the work of the Principal Social Worker in promoting and improving the quality of social work practice and outline the key priorities for 2022-2023.	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	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	18 October 2022	10 October 2022	Confirmed
Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2023-2024 and Market Sustainability	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for discussion and comment	Becky Wilkinson	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed
City of Wolverhampton	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Council's Local Account	discussion and comment						
Implementation of Carer Commitment and ambition for carers going forward	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Confirmed
Principal Social Worker Annual Report	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for discussion and comment	Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	17 January 2023	9 January 2023	Programmed
Implementation of Social Care Commitment	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Becky Wilkinson	TBC	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	Programmed
Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2023-2024 and Market Sustainability – Follow Up Report	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for discussion and comment	Becky Wilkinson	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	Programmed
Adults Social Work and Workforce Health Check 2022	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for discussion and comment	Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	21 March 2023	13 March 2023	Programmed

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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	<b>Complete</b>
Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written	N/A	Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	23 June 2022	15 June 2022	<b>Complete</b>

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Statement of Action							
Work Plan	Urgent Item agreed by Chair and Vice Chair	Emma Bennett	Julia Cleary	Earl Piggott-Smith	23 June 2022	15 June 2022	<b>Complete</b>
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	<b>Complete</b>
Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2021 - 2022		Emma Bennett	Jennifer Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 July 2022	5 July 2022	<b>Complete</b>
Children and Young People Social Work Self Evaluation		Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 July 2022	5 July 2022	<b>Complete</b>
Youth and holiday offer in the City	Panel requested details of youth holiday offer and progress since earlier report	Emma Bennett	Andrew Wolverson	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 October 2022	27 September 2022	<b>Programmed</b>
Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written Statement of Action	A verbal update on progress and outcome from meeting on 27.9.22 - The panel agreed the terms of reference and to receive an update at this meeting.	Emma Bennett	Martin Stevens	Martin Stevens	5 October 2022	27 September 2022	<b>Programmed</b>

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Children's Services Transformation Programme Annual Report	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment	Emma Bennett	Andrew Wolverson and Emma Cleary	Earl Piggott-Smith	5 October 2022 ,	27 September 2022	Programmed
Update from Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group: Written Statement of Action	The panel agreed to receive updates on the work of the group at this this meeting.	Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	Programmed
Education Excellence: Update and monitoring	The panel requested an update on progress following the presentation of a previous report draft in January 2021 Education Excellence Strategy (EES) 2021-2024	Emma Bennett	Phil Leivers	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	Programmed
Virtual School Head Annual Report	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for discussion and comment on the progress of children and young people in care and previously in care, for the academic year 2020/21	Emma Bennett	Darren Martindale	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	Programmed
Response to Schools White Paper	The panel requested an update on Council's response to the plans in the White Paper and the impact on education	Emma Bennett	Brenda Wile	Earl Piggott-Smith	11 January 23	3 January 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	provision in Wolverhampton.						
Social Work and Workforce Health Check	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment specifically on the survey findings from social workers and other workers in children's service	Emma Bennett	Jenny Rogers	Earl Piggott-Smith	15 March 2023	7 March 2023	Programmed
Family Hubs	The panel requested details about the range of local support offered to families who support and advice	Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds	Earl Piggott-Smith	15 March 2023	7 March 2023	Programmed

## 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
EDI strategy	Standing item  Progress to date against the Race at Work Charter standards  Progress to date against the Gender Equality Plan  Progress to date against Rainbow City Plan	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	Programmed
Treasury Management	Information Item - this is an annual report presented to	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	Programmed

	the panel for comment						
Reserves Working Group	membership and terms of reference – this a standard group of the panel who review the Council's specific reserves proposals	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	Programmed
Customer Services performance and future strategy	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	Programmed
Contract Management and Procurement Update	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda – this reports updates previous report that was presented to the panel in Jan 2021	Claire Nye	John Thompson and Parvinder Uppal	Earl Piggott-Smith	13 October 2022	5 October 2022	Programmed
External Grant Funding	To include update on Wolverhampton Pound action plan. The panel requested details of different funding programmes	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon/Heather Clarke	Earl Piggott-Smith	November 2022 tbc		Programmed
Our People Strategy and Performance	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	David Pattison	Laura tbc	Earl Piggott-Smith	November 2022 tbc		Programmed
Our Council and Performance/Budget	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda – all panels have been asked to	Claire Nye	James Amphlett and Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	November 2022 tbc		Programmed

	comment on progress						
Yoo Recruit Review	The panel requested a more detailed report on this following an earlier report on the arrangements for monitoring of linked bodies	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	Programmed
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	Programmed
Our City: Our Plan and MTFs	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	Programmed
Assets – inc. use of the Civic Centre and Council owned buildings (inc. agile working strategy)	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda. This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment	Mark Taylor	Julia Nock	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	Programmed
Specific Reserves Working Group report	This is a summary of the findings and any recommendations	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	1 December 2022	23 November 2022	Programmed

	from the working group						
EDI strategy	The panel agreed to add this as a standing item to the panel work progress.	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February 2022	25 January 2023	Programmed
Draft Customer Service Strategy	To update the panel on performance and share the proposals for the strategy detailed in report presented on 13.10.22	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February 2022	25 January 2023	
Digital Wolves Strategy Update	This is an update to the report presented in January 2022 aimed at maximising the benefit of digital to residents and businesses in the city.	Charlotte Johns	Heather Clark	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February 2022	25 January 2023	Programmed
Treasury Management Strategy	pre-decision scrutiny – this is an annual report	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	Programmed
Ethnicity Pay Gap report 2021 update report	This is an update on progress to a previous report presented to the panel in June 2022 on actions to	David Pattison	Sukhvinder Mattu	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	further reduce the ethnicity pay gap at the City of Wolverhampton Council.						
school exclusion and suspension rates	The panel requested a further report following the discussion on Ethnicity Pay Gap report 2021 that was presented in June 2022	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	Earl Piggott-Smith	2 February	25 January 2023	Programmed

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<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<p><b>Cabinet</b> 7 September 2022</p>
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<b>Report title</b>	Amendment to Capital Programme	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Stephen Simkins: Inclusive City Economy	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Claire Nye, Director of Finance David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration	
<b>Originating service</b>	Regeneration	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Julie Bell-Barker	Head of Projects & Works
	Tel	01902550143
	Email	Julie.bellbarker@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

**Recommendations for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the virement from the Capital Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to the Civic Halls Refurbishment programme as outlined in the report.
2. Approve the use of the Covid contingency for Civic Halls Refurbishment for general project purposes.
3. Authorise the Council entering into a Deed of Variation with AEG Presents to incorporate the additional works outlined in the report.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of the paper is to explain the emerging changing pressures across the Civic Halls Refurbishment project due to changes in circumstances with both AEG's scope of fitout and building condition issues.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Civic Halls are essential to the economic well-being of the city centre, generating millions of pounds every year for the local economy. It is also critical to how we are re-inventing and re-imagining our vibrant city centre for the future.
- 2.2 The venue has brought millions of visitors to our city over the last 82 years and the refurbishment programme will guarantee this for another century. The Council's partnership agreement with AEG will facilitate the success of the venue.
- 2.3 The approved capital programme includes a budget of £43.1 million which includes a specific contingency of £5 million for Covid related pressures.
- 2.4 On the 15 August, approval was given, through an Individual Executive Decision Notice (IEDN), to a temporary supplementary budget of up to £10 million to facilitate payments to the contractor through the pain / gain mechanism in the construction contract. On completion of the contract, Willmott Dixon (WD) will be required to repay the Council.

## **3.0 Progress and the AEG Fitout**

- 3.1 The works being undertaken by Willmott Dixon is progressing at pace and the Council's expected completion date for Willmott Dixon's work and their handover of the building is due shortly.
- 3.2 In order to ensure that the overall programme is delivered and that value for money is achieved it is proposed that a limited package of works, which was originally to be undertaken by WD, is transferred to AEG. This work relates to the fit out of the catering kitchens and all of the bar area. It should be noted that the final finishes of the bars were always going to be undertaken by the end operator, namely AEG.
- 3.3 By transferring the works, AEG can take over the occupancy of the building promptly and ensure the seamless fit out and finish of areas that are critical to the AEG brand.
- 3.4 The transfer of works also enables a reduction in programme risk as AEG and the Council have a shared mutual goal and focus to open the building as soon as possible.
- 3.5 The current estimated cost of the AEG work package is £2.2 million, which includes construction costs, professional fees and risk allowance. To ensure best value the Council has obtained assurance from its cost management advisers Faithful & Gould that AEG are using rates which are aligned with current market conditions.

- 3.6 Faithful & Gould have undertaken a detailed evaluation of AEG costs, bench marking against current market rates and market conditions, their conclusion is that AEG's rates are aligned with market conditions.
- 3.7 The Council, through its cost management advisers will continue to review, monitor and where required, challenge AEG's costs throughout the delivery of the programme. The Council will also agree 'open book' accounting with AEG to enable full cost transparency.
- 3.8 The Council will agree a Deed of Variation with AEG Presents Limited to the Agreement for Lease which would allow the transfer for the responsibility of works to AEG.

#### **4.0 Building Condition Issues**

- 4.1 The Contract between the Council and Willmott Dixon is an NEC3 Option C (Target Cost) Contract which is subject to a pain/gain share mechanism by reference to an agreed Target Cost. The Target Cost was £19.1 million.
- 4.2 The terms of payment are largely governed by clause 50 of the Contract under which the Project Manager (Faithful + Gould) assesses the amount due to Willmott Dixon, the amount will be for:

The Price for Work Done to Date;

Plus other amounts to be paid to the Contractor;

Less amounts to be paid by or retained from the Contractor (including Disallowed Costs).

- 4.3 Under the terms of the Contract the Council will continue to pay Willmott Dixon in accordance with paragraph 4.2. At completion of the project, the pain/gain mechanism under Clause 53 will be utilised. In summary, If the final Price for Work Done to Date is equal to the target at completion, then there is no pain or gain to be assessed. If the final Price for Work Done to Date is less than the target at completion, then there will be a gainshare payable to the Willmott Dixon. If the final price for Work Done to Date is more than the target at completion, then there will be a painshare payable to the Council. At the completion of the works, if Willmott Dixon has exceeded the target cost (and subject to the impact of any Adjudicator's findings on Compensation Events) then the Council will be entitled to recover specified amounts.
- 4.4 Compensation Events may entitle the Contractor to additional time and additional costs. Throughout the construction WD have submitted a large number of Compensation Events which if agreed have the impact of increasing the target cost in the contract.
- 4.5 The approved capital budget included a sum of general contingency which was assessed by the Council's advisors Faithful and Gould (F&G) to be adequate at the time of letting the contract to WD. This contingency was used in the first instance to cover the costs of CEs submitted.
- 4.6 The approved budget also included a specific Covid Contingency of £5 million. At the time of writing, CEs totalling £2.3 million have been attributed to Covid. This leaves a

balance of £2.7 million, however we are continuing to review costs that could be attributed to Covid.

- 4.7 F&G have advised the Council that the current forecast cost of submitted CEs along with additional associated project fees creates an overall budget pressure of approximately £2 million. There have been a number of large CEs for items which could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time of letting the contract, most notably in relation to the lamination of steels (concealed within brickwork), works to the parapet walls (concealed within brickwork), substantial increase to foundations due to poor ground conditions etc.
- 4.8 The budget pressure of £2 million is in addition to the sum payable to AEG for the transfer of works and also the full utilisation of the Covid contingency.
- 4.9 There are a number of areas relating to the CEs which the Council continues to challenge, these include scrutinising the scope, the cost and the programme. However, in order that we can legally continue to progress the project it is necessary to ensure that the council has adequate budget provision to cover the potential additional costs. It is therefore proposed that a transfer of budget is approved from the approved Capital Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to cover the additional costs and that approval is also given to allow any remaining funds in the Covid Contingency to be transferred to the main budget for the Civic Halls restoration.
- 4.10 The Council has, throughout, sought to protect its position legally and it will continue to do this in relation to the current CEs and the proposed movement of works to AEG. The Council's position remains that the removal of work from Wilmott Dixon should reduce the cost payable to Wilmott Dixon however as stated above it needs to ensure that any costs that the Council is due to pay can potentially be met from the budget should that be needed even if ultimately the additional budget is not required.

## 5.0 Reasons for decisions

- 5.1 The proposals in this report will ensure that the Council can legally proceed with the restoration project and maintain programme delivery whilst legal processes are undertaken.

## 6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The approved capital budget for the Civic Halls restoration is 38.1 million. The following table provides the breakdown of funding.

	£m
Borrowing	11.5
Capital receipts	20.0
Grant	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.1</b>

- 6.2 In 2020, in response to the impact of Covid on the construction industry, a specific Covid Contingency of £5 million was approved. As detailed in the Section 4, approval is sought to allow this budget to be used on non-covid items relating to unforeseen issues.
- 6.3 As detailed in Section 2 of the report, on the 15 August, approval was given, through an IEDN, to a temporary supplementary budget of up to £10 million to facilitate payments to the contractor through the pain / gain mechanism in the construction contract. On completion of the contract, Willmott Dixon (WD) will be required to make a repayment to the Council.
- 6.4 As detailed in the body of the report there is a need to increase the project budget to cover the costs for AEG and the financial pressure on the contract, it is therefore proposed to increase the budget for the project by £5 million. As explained, the council is challenging the budget pressure for a number of reasons and therefore the increased budget may not be required when final accounts are settled. However, in order that the project can progress it is important that the budget provision is made to cover the potential additional costs.
- 6.5 Taking the recommendations of this report into account, the total potential borrowing requirement for this project is £19.2 million. An analysis of the income generated, indicates that the borrowing costs of the project will be met over the medium term.  
[CN/02092022/N]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1. The continuous delays to the project and the vast number of Compensation Events (CE's) submitted by Willmott Dixon have led the Council to ensure appropriate advice is obtained in order to protect the Council's legal position. The Council need to continue to comply with the terms of the Contract including making payments due to Willmott Dixon as assessed by the Project Manager. The Council has taken a robust approach in holding Willmott Dixon to account through enforcing the terms of the Contract.
- 7.2 The Council and AEG Presents entered into an Agreement for Lease (AfL) on 5 November 2021 following the conclusion of a procurement process under the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The Council must ensure that completion of the refurbishment in addition to handover conditions occur before the Handover Longstop Date otherwise AEG could terminate the AfL.
- 7.4 AEG are required under the AfL to provide various fit-out works to Civic Halls following the completion of the refurbishment by Willmott Dixon. The refurbishment of Civic Halls has been challenging due to various issues. The transfer of the package of works from Willmott Dixon to AEG falls within the safe harbours of Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (Modification of contract during their term).
- 7.5 The Council will agree a Deed of Variation with AEG Presents Limited to the AfL which would allow the transfer for the responsibility of works to AEG. The Council and AEG have agreed a 'target cost' for these additional works which includes construction costs,

professional fees and risk allowance. In order to satisfy the Best Value Duty imposed upon local authorities, the Council has obtained assurance from its advisers Faithful + Gould that AEG are using rates which are consistent within the market. The Council, through its advisers will continue to monitor this throughout the delivery of the programme. The Council will also agree 'open book' accounting with AEG. The Council will pay in accordance with the Contractor's cash flow and in advance of AEG paying the relevant sum.

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## **8.0 Equalities implications**

8.1 This report deals with the need for authority to make changes to the contract and budget approval, the equalities implications of the project have been carefully scrutinised in a number of other reports relating to the project as a whole and continue to be looked at carefully by the Council.

## **9.0 City Assets**

9.1 AEG have signed an Agreement for Lease for a 25 year period, this includes full responsibility for their maintenance and repairs of the building.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 Individual Executive Decision Notice, August 2022 – Temporary Supplementary Budget

10.2 Cabinet, 17 February 2021 - Outcome of the Procurement Process to Appoint an External Operator for the Civic Halls

10.3 Special Urgency Decision, 29 June 2020 – Budget Amendments

10.4 Full Council, 31 January 2018 - Civic Halls Improvements and Full Restoration