

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 26 October 2022**

<b>Title</b>	Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme (2022-2025) attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved upon formal confirmation that the Draft Black Country Plan is no longer proceeding.</li> <li>2. That a further report to approve Issues and Preferred Options consultation on a Wolverhampton Local Plan covering the period to 2040, which would build on work already completed through the Draft Black Country Plan be submitted to a future meeting.</li> <li>3. That it be noted that the Black Country Plan preparation process has now ceased following the announcement of the intended withdrawal of Dudley Council.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The alternative option would be to pause the preparation of the Local Plan, potentially waiting for reforms to the planning system out in in the 2021 Planning White Paper. The programme and scope of these reforms is unclear, and could mean that the City would not have an up-to-date Local Plan in place for a number of years. The clear advice from the relevant Government department within the last few days is that this approach should not be taken and would put the authority at risk of intervention.</li> <li>2. As set out above, failure to have a Local Plan that is based on sound evidence could result in the City having insufficient land to meet the need for housing, employment and other land uses that are necessary to support the economic and environmental well-being of the area. It could also result in development taking place in the wrong locations, leading to an inefficient use of resources, traffic congestion and other harm. Having an up-to-date Local Plan in place is also essential to defend the Council’s position at planning appeals. Lack of an up-to-date Plan risks intervention from central government and may compromise our ability to make decisions locally.</li> </ol>

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<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	It is important that Wolverhampton is covered by an up-to-date Local Plan and Local Development Scheme, in order to meet statutory requirements and to support regeneration and investment in the City and protect areas of value from development. Cabinet approval is required for each consultation stage of the Local Plan preparation process.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	31 October 2022