

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 4</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, in consultation with the Deputy Director of City Assets, to approve the award of a contract for Washroom Services when the evaluation process is complete.</li> <li>2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Black Country Transport Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) Early Development Works Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 when the evaluation process is complete.</li> <li>3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Hire of Winter Service Vehicles including Maintenance when the evaluation process is complete.</li> <li>4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education, in consultation with the Deputy Director of Education, to approve the award of a contract for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Employment Support when the evaluation process is complete.</li> <li>5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care to approve the award of a contract for Dementia Community Support Service when the evaluation process is complete.</li> <li>6. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to approve the award of a contract for Our People Project when the evaluation process is complete.</li> </ol>

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	<p>7. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care, to approve the award of a contract for Service, Repair and Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) testing of Community Equipment when the evaluation process is complete.</p> <p>8. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the award of a contract for Leaseholder Insurance Services when the evaluation process is complete.</p>
<b>Options Considered</b>	The options considered are detailed within the individual contract reports.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The reasons for the decisions are detailed within the individual contract reports.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	26 February 2024

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<b>Item 5</b>																										
<b>Title</b>	Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2024-2025																									
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved																									
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<p>1. That the proposed increases in care fee levels for 2024-2025 as set out in the table below be approved to ensure sufficiency and sustainability across the external Adult Social Care market.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Type of Care Provision</b></th> <th><b>Recommendation</b></th> <th><b>Current Rate 2023-2024 £</b></th> <th><b>% Increase</b></th> <th><b>Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Home Care</td> <td rowspan="4">Increase to reflect the cost impact of the National Living Wage (NLW) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. To be applied to care and support delivered through the CWC19112 – Home Care – Light Touch Flexible Framework, as well as spot purchased care commissioned outside of the contract.</td> <td>18.84* (Hourly rate)</td> <td>7.45</td> <td>20.28* (Hourly rate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Care – Reablement</td> <td>20.12 (Hourly rate)</td> <td>7.45</td> <td>21.64* (Hourly rate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Based Respite</td> <td>18.00 (Hourly rate)</td> <td>7.45</td> <td>19.36* (Hourly rate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Children’s – Agency Rate</td> <td>18.00 (Hourly rate)</td> <td>7.45</td> <td>19.36 (Hourly rate)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				<b>Type of Care Provision</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Current Rate 2023-2024 £</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £</b>	Home Care	Increase to reflect the cost impact of the National Living Wage (NLW) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. To be applied to care and support delivered through the CWC19112 – Home Care – Light Touch Flexible Framework, as well as spot purchased care commissioned outside of the contract.	18.84* (Hourly rate)	7.45	20.28* (Hourly rate)	Home Care – Reablement	20.12 (Hourly rate)	7.45	21.64* (Hourly rate)	Home Based Respite	18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36* (Hourly rate)	Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Children’s – Agency Rate	18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36 (Hourly rate)
<b>Type of Care Provision</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Current Rate 2023-2024 £</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £</b>																						
Home Care	Increase to reflect the cost impact of the National Living Wage (NLW) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. To be applied to care and support delivered through the CWC19112 – Home Care – Light Touch Flexible Framework, as well as spot purchased care commissioned outside of the contract.	18.84* (Hourly rate)	7.45	20.28* (Hourly rate)																						
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	Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Childrens – Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW.	12.80 (Hourly rate)	9.79	14.08 (Hourly rate)
	Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Childrens – Self-Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW.	15.68 (Hourly rate)	9.79	17.24 (Hourly rate)
	Individual Service Funds	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation.	Dependent on care type	7.45	Dependent on care type
	Residential Care – Older People	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW and CPI inflation. All placements are spot purchased rather than through a framework or contract.	551.18 (Weekly rate)	7.45	592.27 (Weekly rate)
	Residential Care – Older People with Dementia		592.55 (Weekly rate)	7.45	636.72 (Weekly rate)
	Nursing Care – Older People		620.76 (Weekly rate)	7.45	667.03 (Weekly rate)

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	Nursing Care – Older People with Dementia		667.10 (Weekly rate)	7.45	716.87 (Weekly rate)
	Residential and Nursing – under 65 years old		Individually Negotiated	7.45	Increase to current placements
	Supported Living Disabilities Framework	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. To be applied to the CWC19045 – Supported Living for Adults with Disabilities contract and spot purchased care outside of the contract.	18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36 (Hourly rate)
	Supported Living Forensic Framework	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. Applied to CWC20029 – Supported Living Framework for Individuals with Forensic History or Significant Complex Behaviour	21.28 (Hourly rate)	7.45	22.88* (Hourly rate)
	Supported Living Block Contracts	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation	Negotiated with provider	7.45	Negotiated with provider
	Day Care Sessional Rates	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation.	34.32 (Sessional rate)	7.45	36.88 (Sessional rate)

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Day Care Hourly Rates	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. Ensure that the rate is consistent with the supported living rate and proportionate to 1:1 1:2 1:3 staffing ratios	18.00 per hour for 1:1 staffing 9.00 per hour for 1:2 staffing 6.00 per hour for 1:3 staffing	7.45	19.36 per hour for 1:1 staffing 9.68 per hour for 1:2 staffing 6.46 per hour for 1:3 staffing
<p>The proposed percentage uplifts have been applied to 2023-2024 rates and rounded up so that hourly and weekly rates are divisible by four and seven respectively. This is to allow corporate systems to accurately and correctly facilitate payment to providers. Actual rates would be communicated with each individual provider through implementation.</p>				
<p>*This is the current maximum rate. Where providers have tendered lower than this rate then the same percentage uplift and rounding will apply.</p>				
<p>2. That increases be approved with effect from 1 April 2024 to align to corporate payment systems.</p>				
<p>3. That it be noted that engagement had been undertaken with providers and the feedback received had informed the fee review amongst other factors such as the increase to the National Living Wage (NLW), Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation and the legal duties for a sustainable market and setting a balanced budget.</p>				
<p>4. That it be noted that this report was presented to the Fulfilled Adult Lives Scrutiny Panel on 20 February 2024. The Panel's comments were fed in verbally at the meeting of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 21 February 2024.</p>				
<p>5. That it be noted that any proposed care fee increases would create an ongoing expectation to continue paying fees at this new minimum level.</p>				

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	<p>6. That it be noted that all other care contracts not explicitly referred to within the report are out of scope for the care and support provider review 2024-2025 and therefore any price adjustments to such contracts are managed through separate mechanisms.</p> <p>7. That it be noted that new contracts, including re-tendering, would include indexation clauses which would set out the mechanism for adjusting prices throughout the contract period. Indexation may include linking prices to changes in the National Living Wage (NLW) and indices for inflation, to be determined based on the specific nature of services being procured.</p>
<p><b>Options Considered</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1:</b> Do nothing. This is not an option the Council has considered given the known cost pressures of the increase to the NLW and inflation. This would not demonstrate the Council's legal duty of supporting market sufficiency and sustainability.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> for residential and nursing placements that start on or before the government's autumn statement are not uplifted. This assumes that care home providers, following the government's intentions being announced, will factor in known cost pressures for all future placements during negotiation with the Council. Given that the assumption has not been validated with the provider market and providers may not factor in known costs before they manifest, but rather as they impact then the option has been discounted on the basis the Council would not be fulfilling its duty for market sustainability.</p> <p><b>Option 3:</b> for residential and nursing placements for people under 65 years of age are not automatically increased. This provision is not funded at or against standard rates and is for people who have complex needs. Care costs are individualised based on the persons eligible assessed need and are negotiated with providers on a case-by-case basis. Similarly to option 2, the Council cannot assume that providers have future proofed costs by accounting for known cost pressures and therefore to ensure equitability and sustainability this option has also been discounted.</p>
<p><b>Reasons for Decision</b></p>	<p>1. The recommended increase to care fees satisfies both of the Council's legal duties in relation to market sustainability and setting a balanced budget. The Council recognises the significant challenges within the market, has accounted for known information and data, and has maximised the available budget to pass through to care providers.</p>

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	2. The preferred option accounts for key cost pressures, namely the NLW and CPI inflation.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	22 February 2024



**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Exclusion of press and public
<b>Status</b>	Recommendation Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
<b>Options Considered</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

<b>Item 7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Partnership Arrangement to deliver Public Health Services with The Royal Wolverhampton Trust of New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP be varied for a three-year programme of annual investment from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with a total variation value of £1,725,000.</li> <li>2. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 November to 31 December 2023 be noted.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	26 February 2024