

Scrutiny Board

14 November 2023

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny
Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Philip Bateman MBE (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Ellis Turrell (Con)

Labour

Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Qaiser Azeem
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Conservative

Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Simon Bennett

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 and Substitutions**
[To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutions].
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
[To receive any declarations of interest].
- 3 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2023** (Pages 3 - 14)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023 as a correct record.]
- 4 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 October 2023** (Pages 15 - 20)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2023 and be signed as the Chair as a correct record].

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5 **Wolverhampton Pound** (Pages 21 - 44)
[To consider an item on the Wolverhampton Pound which will include progress on the recommendations from the Select Committee].
- 6 **Our Approach to Communications** (Pages 45 - 64)
[To consider the Council's approach to communications].
- 7 **Scrutiny Work programme** (Pages 65 - 94)
[To consider the Scrutiny Work Programme].
- 8 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 95 - 112)
[To consider the Forward Plan of Key Decisions].

Attendance

Members of the Scrutiny Board

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE (Chair)
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ellis Turrell (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Qaiser Azeem
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Sally Green

In Attendance

Cllr Steve Evans (Cabinet Member for City Housing)
Cllr Louise Miles (Cabinet Member for Resources)

Employees

Martin Stevens DL (Scrutiny Team Leader)
John Roseblade (Director of Resident Services)
Charlotte Johns (Director of Strategy)
Jenny Lewington (Deputy Director of City Housing)
Alison Shannon (Chief Accountant)
Laura Collings (Head of Policy and Strategy)
James Amphlett (Head of Data and Analytics)
Laura Noonan (Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Earl Piggott-Smith (Scrutiny Officer)

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies for absence and substitutions**
An apology for absence was received from Cllr John Reynolds.

Cllr Sally Green was substituting for Cllr John Reynolds.

The Leader of the Council, whilst not a Member of the Board, sent his apologies to the meeting.

2 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Rita Potter declared an interest in relation to item 4 - Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review, as a Wolverhampton Homes Board Member.

Cllr Susan Roberts MBE declared an interest in relation to item 4, Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review, as the Chair of the Wolverhampton Homes Board.

Cllr Val Evans stated she would leave the meeting for item 4, Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review, as she was married to the Portfolio Holder. This was in accordance with the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance, which stated that you should not scrutinise your close relatives.

Cllr Phil Bateman MBE declared a non-pecuniary interest on the Devolution Deal item, as he was a Member of the Board for Birmingham International Airport

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (20 July 2023)**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review**

The Cabinet Member for City Housing made it clear that the item was before the Scrutiny Board as a Pre-Decision item.

The Director of Resident Services stated that the report was scheduled to be received by Cabinet in early October. The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and the impact of its implementation upon the regulatory landscape for provision of Council housing. The second purpose was to provide an update on the actions taken by City Housing in preparation for the new regulatory requirements for the delivery of Council Housing. The report provided recommendations and options for the future management of Council housing that ensured compliance with the Act and readiness for inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing.

The Director of Resident Services commented that City of Wolverhampton Council owned approximately 21,600 Council Homes. Wolverhampton Homes was an arm's length management company. There were also there other managing agents, Bushbury Hill Estate Management Board, Dovecotes Tenant Management Organisation and New Park Village Tenant Management Co-operative. The tragedy at Grenfell Tower, had reported concerns about building and fire safety. It was felt that at Grenfell there had been a one-way leadership culture from the landlord that did not welcome, listen to, or fully understand tenant's views and concerns. The Social Housing Green Paper (2018) followed by The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) sought to set out the issues facing social housing tenants and the actions that could be taken so they were safe, protected, listened to and able to influence how their homes were managed.

The Director of Resident Services stated that the Act strengthened the role of the Regulator of Social Housing moving from a reactive to a proactive consumer regulatory regime. The Act placed the regulatory responsibility solely with the

Council. The Council would be subject to 4 yearly inspections by the Regulator. The Council would be required to evidence their compliance with the Regulator's 5 Consumer Standards. The Council would be required to publish the results of Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) annually from Summer 2024. The Council would need to strengthen their oversight, governance and assurance to be regulation and inspection ready.

The Director of Resident Services stated that they had commissioned Savills to assess the Council's compliance against the Consumer Standards. These findings had been reported to the Council in July 2021. Savills concluded that, "For most areas CWC / WH has an adequate policy framework in place to ensure compliance against the RSH Consumer Standards, however, there are discrete areas that require material improvement primary Repairs (Part of the Home Standard) and Tenant Involvement and Empowerment."

The Director of Resident Services commented that an Internal Audit Review of Wolverhampton Homes progress against Savills recommendations had taken place. Wolverhampton Homes acknowledged 37 workstreams where areas for improvement had been identified followed by an action plan and project group to monitor the improvements identified to fully meet compliance. In July 2022 the Audit had taken place. They observed that *"overall, recommendations regarding improvements to documentation / policy revisions are substantially improved"*. In addition:-

"Improvements to the existing repair and maintenance system are also advancing but implementation of a multifaceted improvement project in respect of quality of accommodation will involve implementing a new IT system and improved data collection, it is accepted that this project requires a longer timeframe to implement."

The Director of Resident Services remarked that the Council was not aware of the presence of RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in the housing stock. A clause in the new Act, "Awaab's Law required social landlords to investigate reports of damp mould and condensation (DMC) within specific timescales. The Council's Landlord Services Department had reviewed each of the TMO's compliance with the Consumer Standards. Some areas for improvement had been identified and action plans had been put in place and would be regularly monitored. A follow up review would be carried out in 12 months. He referred to the big 7 compliance indicators and spoke on them. He also spoke in detail on the requirements to meet the Home Standard.

The Director of Resident Services spoke on Tenant Satisfaction Measures. The overall satisfaction score was 68%. The areas which required the most focus was on complaints handling which scored at 31%. In general the satisfaction levels, other than complaints, were reassuring.

The Director of Resident remarked that City Housing has commissioned Campbell Tickell to review City of Wolverhampton Council's future revenue Housing Account (HRA) and the management agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Homes. The review was carried out between September 2022 and January 2023. In summary Campbell Tickell found Wolverhampton Homes to be a focussed and effective housing manager. Campbell Tickell had found Wolverhampton Homes to be:-

- Maintaining Service Delivery Standards
- Tenants generally trust and value the services provided
- Wolverhampton Homes benchmarks as a solid performer against its peers
- Stakeholders view Wolverhampton Homes as a safe pair of hands
- Although day to day focus was needed to restore performance and satisfaction to pre pandemic levels, and ensure services remain fit for purpose in an increasingly challenging operating environment

The Director of Resident Services stated that the Campbell Tickell review had four areas of focus.

On the question of whether the service was performing as required, their view was that the service being delivered by Wolverhampton Homes had core underlying strengths and was being digitally enabled. However, focus had to be maintained on day to day customer service and locality based delivery, to support the most vulnerable, and to restore high levels of resident satisfaction.

On the matter of whether governance and oversight arrangements were effective, Campbell Tickell had concluded that a closer realignment of aims and objectives, refreshed governance, contract management and performance arrangements would ensure the partnership remained effective over the next five years, and able to demonstrate compliance to the Regulator.

On the subject of whether the ALMO model delivered value for tenants. Campbell Tickell had concluded the ALMO had an inbuilt layer of overheads, but Wolverhampton Homes was a relatively lean organisation, and shared service relationships worked effectively. Returning the ALMO to Council control in the current environment risked a loss of focus when external risks were high.

On the matter of what role should housing play in the Council. Campbell Tickell had formed the view that, housing could play a significant role in delivering the levelling-up objectives of Wolverhampton, in reducing inequality and building equity of outcomes for all. Wolverhampton Homes could play a pivotal role as a significant resource manager, locality-based service provider, resident and community advocate, employer, and service commissioner, working through partnerships within a whole system approach.

The Director of Resident Services stated that the Cabinet report was reporting on three possible options. Option one was to make no change to the existing Management Arrangement and Service Level Agreements. This option was not being recommended to Cabinet. Option two was for the Council to end the Management agreement with Wolverhampton Homes ahead of its end date of 2028. There was a risk to this approach as it could detract from working towards being regulation and inspection ready. The option was therefore not being recommended to Cabinet. Option three was to implement the key findings, conclusions and recommendations in the Campbell Tickell report. He detailed these as follows:-

- An overarching Shareholder Board as a focus for housing governance.

- Amend the Management Agreement and Partnership Pledge to reflect the Regulatory landscape and strengthen CWC's ability to lead on improvements where necessary.
- Align WH business planning cycles with those of CWC, including the objectives of the refreshed housing strategy.
- Strengthen the clienting arrangements with defined roles and responsibilities, accountabilities for demonstrating assurance and re-assurance, and clear reporting structures.
- Develop a shared evidence base to demonstrate Regulatory compliance, to support re-assurance testing, a clear line of sight and single view of the truth. CWC lead on creating a Data Process Strategy that ensures data is being recorded consistently across all teams with associated automated Data Quality and reporting.
- Review all SLAs and functions delivered to ensure services are fit for purpose, that adequate monitoring and oversight is in place across CWC which provides assurance to the Council and value for money for residents.
- Following the implementation of the recommended governance changes, review the effectiveness of the new Management Agreement in strengthening CWC expectations, providing sufficient oversight and whether this has provided the direct line of sight required for Regulatory compliance.

Members debated the report. A Member commented that bringing the responsibilities of Wolverhampton Homes back into the Council would cause less confusion for the public, where sometimes it was the Council responsible and other times Wolverhampton Homes for services such as hedge and grass cutting. There could also be savings as only one management team would be required.

A Member welcomed the detailed report and effort that had been put into the report before the Board. She could see the value in Option 3. She raised that some of her constituents had communicated the importance of being able to talk face to face with someone from Wolverhampton Homes, rather than just relying on digital means. She asked where the current challenges were.

The Cabinet Member for Housing sympathised with the views on different Service Level Agreements leading to people being frustrated and confused about what standard of service had been agreed would be delivered and who was responsible for the contract. Option 3, meant that the Council could revisit at a later date, before 2028 the possibility of bringing things inhouse to the Council. He felt Option 3 would bring improvement in governance which was needed. A new Shareholders Board would bring a greater level of accountability for Wolverhampton Homes to the Council. This was needed given the new regulations and inspections that would take place in the future. He stressed the importance of face-to-face contact still being an option for residents. It was particularly important for Wolverhampton Homes to have a base in the Civic Centre, if the Cabinet approved Option 3.

The Director of Resident Services spoke on the challenges. He cited tenant satisfaction levels as an example. Surveys had to be followed with an improvement in service delivery on areas identified requiring improvement, which could need a shift in capital investment programmes.

The Vice-Chair spoke about consumer standards and the fact that KPIs had been recommended. The review had pointed out that a report on consumer standards had not been to Cabinet on a regular basis which had caused some concern. He asked for a commitment that these two areas would be resolved moving forward. He asked for some more information on how the Council managed the risk of asbestos. He raised the question of whether Cabinet would consider whether it was good governance for the Chair of Wolverhampton Homes Board and the potential new Shareholders Board to both be from the controlling group. He felt this point needed to be addressed to maintain independence and have proper oversight.

A Member raised the importance of scrutiny and transparency when reviewing housing matters and agreed with the Vice-Chair's point about the Shareholders Board. He seconded the motion.

The Cabinet Member responded that he would consider the Vice-Chair proposal about the Chairmanship of the Shareholders Board. He gave an assurance that no Chair of the Shareholders Board would be obstructive. The Shareholders Board would ensure accountability of Wolverhampton Homes to the Council. The tenants were the most importance concern. He would also seek legal advice from the Chief Operating Officer. The Council were taking a proactive approach to resolving damp and mould issues and collecting data, which was much better than other areas. The Cabinet Member assured Panel Members that asbestos was checked. The Director of Residents confirmed that houses requiring asbestos inspection were at a 100% compliance rate currently. Other safety checks such as, electrical and gas inspections, were also completed. Data on these checks were reported on a quarterly basis to Performance Board.

A Member commented that a fellow Member had reported to her that the standard of financial reports coming to the Wolverhampton Homes Board could be improved. They were not as detailed as they would have liked. She referred to the issues which Campbell Tickell had raised about Governance in the report. She felt the issues raised were very important and the Council needed to take note and in particular when they were setting up the proposed new Shareholders Board. It was important to ensure the rights skills and advice came to the new Board Members.

A Member raised the importance of improving the customer service level at Wolverhampton Homes. He hoped Option 3 would improve the customer service level.

There was a discussion about the importance of data and Wolverhampton Homes staff using the data team at the Council. It was confirmed that some Wolverhampton Homes staff were now co-located at the Council.

The Chair commented that Tenants would see an improvement in the future given the new regulations and the advent of new technologies.

Resolved:

- a) To recommend to Cabinet that, Scrutiny Board supports Option 3 to implement the key findings, conclusions and recommendations in the Campbell Tickell report.
- b) For Cabinet to consider whether it is good governance for the Chair of Wolverhampton Homes Board and the potential new Shareholders Board to both be from the controlling group.

- 5 **Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 and Budget Update 2023-2024**
The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 and Budget Update 2023 -2024 report. The report provided an overview and update on the Budget and Performance. It also outlined the Office for Local Government new initiative on data analysis.

The Chief Accountant stated that it was the first report of the new financial year on finance, performance and the Strategic Risk Register. It highlighted where the cost pressures were, which included Adults and Children's social care, temporary accommodation and SEND Passenger transport.

A Member asked about the problems at Birmingham City Council given the Council's relationship with them and partnership arrangements. She asked what risks were emerging as a consequence of the financial problems faced by Birmingham City Council. The Cabinet Member for Resources responded that as a result of the problems faced by Birmingham City Council, the Council's Auditors had asked the Council to explore in depth whether the same issues faced by Birmingham, in particular on equal pay and single status, would be relevant to the Council. The Council had responded to the Auditors to explain that they did not face the same difficulties. The Council were continuing to monitor their own budget, given the situation faced by many Councils across the UK.

A Member asked if the Council taxes which had been written off, whether that was a permanent position or if the Council would try and pursue the debt at a future stage. The Chief Accountant responded that Cabinet had written off the debts indefinitely.

A Member queried why there was only a single line regarding the Communications and Events Budget, when other areas had a much more detailed explanation of the budget position. This caused him some concern.

The Cabinet Member for Resources responded that she would ensure there was more detail in future reports. The Director of Communications and Visit Experience offered to provide more information on the Communications and Events Budget if Members requested.

The Vice-Chair asked what the total Communications and Events Budget was for the financial year. The Chief Accountant responded it was £2.4 million for the Directorate.

Resolved: That the points raised in the Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 and Budget Update 2023-2024 be noted.

- 6 **West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal**
The Head of Policy and Strategy opened the presentation by commenting that the West Midlands had been at the forefront of Devolution since 2015. The first Devolution deal saw the establishment of a directly elected Mayor for the region and also introduced a number of powers in relation to skills, transport and productivity. In 2017 Devolution was deepened with a particular focus on transport and infrastructure. In the Spring statement earlier in the year, the Government had announced a new Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal. It had been, The Levelling Up White Paper, published on the 2 February 2022 which announced a Trailblazer Devolution deal for the West Midlands. Over the last 12 months the WMCA and local

authorities had worked alongside Government to develop the best deal for the region.

The Head of Policy and Strategy remarked that the Deeper Devolution Deal was agreed in principle by the Mayor and Portfolio Leaders on 10 March 2023 and announced in the Chancellor's Budget on 15 March 2023. Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet considered the deal on 26 September 2023. The WMCA would seek to formally ratify the deal on 13 October 2023. Some of the key highlights which would have the biggest impact on the region included:-

- Fiscal Devolution: Extension of the 10 year business rates retention pilot for the region.
- Levelling up Zones: Priority areas identified jointly by the WMCA and its partner authorities that would attract 25 years business rate retention, to accelerate growth, development and regeneration.
- Housing and Regeneration: Local leadership of the Affordable Homes Programme for the first time outside of London, which was worth at least £200 million to the West Midlands, possible rising to £400 million. There was also devolution of £100 million Brownfield land funding.
- Adult Skills and Employment: Greater responsibility and oversight of post 16 and post 19 education and skills and over careers advice, and the establishment of a unique partnership with Department for Work and Pensions to target employment support.
- Business and Productivity: A stronger role in supporting business productivity, trade and investment and innovation through a new strategic partnership.
- Retrofit: Commitment to devolving retrofit funding (from 2025).
- The Head of Policy and Strategy commented that one of the key points of the deal was a single department style settlement for the WMCA area from 2025. This would be set at the next spending review and set against thematic functions covering five pillars:
 - Local growth and place
 - Transport
 - Housing and Regeneration
 - Adult Skills
 - Net Zero

It would be supported by new accountability arrangements and an outcomes framework. It was a significant opportunity to move away from 'one off' funding pots and streams to move towards a more holistic approach which supported medium and long term planning.

The Head of Policy and Strategy stated that the majority of the deal was made up of provisions which related to existing functions held by the WMCA. There was only one provision which required further statutory processes, this was the devolution of the Bus Services Operators Grant. To support the process a Governance Review

and Scheme had been developed by the WMCA which would be considered by the WMCA Board on 13 October 2023. If Board approved the scheme and review these would be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport to start the formal statutory process to devolve the function.

The Head of Policy and Strategy commented that there was a significant Implementation Plan, which was attached to the Cabinet report. This set out how Local Authorities would work with the WMCA. She stated that a Wolverhampton Place Plan was what they hoped to develop. The plan would set out how the maximum benefit and leverage could be achieved to benefit the City. Ultimately it was about developing a golden thread between the opportunities of devolution to create change for local people and the City of Wolverhampton.

The Head of Policy and Strategy on the matter of the Single Statement stated that a Memorandum of Understanding was being developed between the WMCA and the Government. The detail of the settlement would be brought back to Cabinet. On the Bus Services Operator Grant, following the submission of the Governance review and Scheme to the Secretary of State, the WMCA Constituent Authorities would be requested to give formal consent to the making of the Order. On the West Midlands Investment Zone and Levelling Up Zones, Officers were working with the WMCA to develop a proposition for the City.

The Chair commented that the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee had raised some concerns on how the sessions with the MPs in the Region and the Mayor of the WMCA would work on a practical level. The sessions were intended to be held four times a year. He described the new Devolution deal as a step change for Local Government and something that Members need to have full awareness on.

A Board Member asked about how the Council would ensure that it was not just Birmingham which felt the benefit of the Devolution deal, it was important for the benefits to Wolverhampton to be maximised. She asked about the implications on the Devolution deal following Birmingham City Council having recently issued a Section 114 notice. It was important that Scrutiny Members had a full understanding of the implications. She added a critical point was to understand the question of what was meant by innovation and its parameters within the new Devolution deal. There was no mention in the deal of the impact of entrepreneurs on innovation. She felt entrepreneurs were critical to innovation and innovation was critical to entrepreneurs. She was of the firm view that innovation had to be rooted in entrepreneurial activity.

The Vice-Chair welcomed the new Devolution deal adding that it was a huge vote of confidence within the region and for the West Midlands Mayor and his leadership. He asked if the Wolverhampton corridor was going to be a great innovation corridor as had been talked about in the past. On the matter of the £100 million Brownfield funding that had been awarded, he asked what discussions were taking place with the WMCA to try and obtain some of the funding to target the many Brownfield sites in Wolverhampton. A Member added would the money from the Devolution deal be equally divided among the authorities and would it be a Service Level Agreement.

The Director of Strategy confirmed that there were active discussions with the WMCA on Brownfield funding. This was very much linked to the Wolverhampton Place Plan, which would highlight clearly how the Devolution Deal could deliver the

priorities for Wolverhampton. These Local Plans would also help to ensure that the money given to the Combined Authority as part of the single settlement would be appropriately distributed as part of a long-term strategic plan.

A Member echoed the Vice-Chair's comments describing the Devolution deal as an excellent piece of work by the Mayor Andy Street, the WMCA, the Member authorities and the Government. He was pleased the City would be able to benefit from Levelling Up Zones and Investment Zones. He felt data sharing amongst the WMCA Members and to Government would be key. Any future Devolution deal could be better informed with good information.

The Chair stated that he had asked for the Overview and Scrutiny WMCA Committee Chair to attend the Scrutiny Board in December 2023.

A Member added that reports back from the representation from Wolverhampton on the WMCA and the Police and Crime Panel were important. The Chair confirmed that he and his substitute were happy to report back from the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: That the West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal report be noted.

7 **Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Draft Proposals**

The Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager spoke on the proposed Scrutiny Task and Finish Group protocol. The Scrutiny Team Leader detailed the draft terms of reference for the Flooding Scrutiny Review Group, and the Night-time Economy.

A Member asked for Wolverhampton Wanders to be included as a stakeholder in the Night-time Economy Scrutiny Review Group. The Chair confirmed that the draft terms of reference stated local businesses would be included as part of the work of the group.

The Vice-Chair gave his full support for the Scrutiny Review Group on the Night-time Economy. He hoped it would conclude with a solid set of recommendations for Cabinet. The WMCA Night-time economy advisor he was particularly looking forward to hearing evidence from.

The Chair gave his full support for both Scrutiny Review Groups and spoke about the previous work of a Night-time Economy Scrutiny Group which had taken place in the past.

No comments or amendments were suggested to the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group protocol.

8 **Scrutiny Work programme**

The Vice-Chair encouraged Members to consider additional items to be added to the Scrutiny Work Programme.

9 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

The Vice-Chair referred to the Wolverhampton Local Plan on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions which was listed as coming before Cabinet in October 2023. He asked if this item could be considered by the Scrutiny Board.

It was agreed that the Wolverhampton Local Plan be added to the Work Programme for Scrutiny Board.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.

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Attendance

Members of the Scrutiny Board

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE (Chair)
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ellis Turrell (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Qaiser Azeem
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Zee Russell (Substituting)

Employees

Martin Stevens DL (Scrutiny Team Leader)
David Pattison (Chief Operating Officer)
Laura Noonan (Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Ian Culley (Lead Planning Manager – Regional Strategy)
Earl Piggott-Smith (Scrutiny Officer)

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence and Notification of Substitutions**
An apology for absence was received from Cllr John Reynolds.

Cllr Zee Russell was substituting for Cllr John Reynolds.
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Scrutiny Annual Report May 2022 - May 2023**
The Chief Operating Officer introduced the Scrutiny Annual Report May 2022 – May 2023. He remarked that a mark of good governance was to have good and effective Scrutiny as a Council. The report was cross-party, with quotes from the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The report set out an extensive number of really important issues that had been considered by Scrutiny. He cited the work on the Wolverhampton Pound as having achieved good outcomes. A report was in fact due to be received by

Scrutiny Board shortly again on the very latest progress from the recommendations made by the Select Committee.

The Chief Operating Officer stated that originally 31 Scrutiny meetings had been scheduled in the Municipal calendar and by the end of the Municipal year May 2022 – May 2023, 43 meetings had taken place. Ultimately no matter how challenging some of the meetings may have been, they had taken place to improve the lives of the City's residents. He was personally very pleased to see that Scrutiny regularly reviewed performance, budget and risk.

The Chief Operating Officer remarked that it was his professional view that the Council was complying well with the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance. He felt Scrutiny was working well within the authority, which was of utmost importance. When Scrutiny did not work well in other authorities, that was when problems arose. Scrutiny and Audit were two critical functions within any Council for good Governance to ensue. Important and wide-ranging issues were scrutinised at the Council which directly impacted on people's lives. He commended the report to Scrutiny Board and paid a personal tribute to the Scrutiny Team, describing the team as a real strength for the authority.

The Chair of Scrutiny Board gave a statement on the Scrutiny Annual Report May 2022 – May 2023. He said that looking forward and looking back was what the excellent Annual Scrutiny Report May 2022 – May 2023 was successful in achieving, which mirrored his vision for Scrutiny Board going forward. It was always important to bring fresh new items to Scrutiny. It was equally important that the Council did not lose sight of the impact Scrutiny had made through recommendations. There could be great value in evaluating recommendations and reviewing the status of important services, policy and strategy. This was why in the last Municipal year Scrutiny Board had continued to monitor the recommendations from the Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee. Another great example was the work on evaluating the Blue Badge Service.

The Chair of Scrutiny Board commented that he was very pleased that there would be two Scrutiny Task and Finish groups in the current Municipal year. There would be one on flooding and one on the night-time economy, as agreed at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Work Programme came to almost every meeting of Scrutiny Board and he was always keen to have Members comments on the agenda for the forthcoming meetings. Member led Scrutiny was always best practice. Asking pertinent questions and making strong recommendations could make a real difference to the lives of Wolverhampton residents. He was aware that the Leader of the Council, Cllr Simkins, who was once a Chair of Scrutiny Board himself, fully supported the work of the Board and the Panels and could see its incalculable precious value to the Council.

The Chair of Scrutiny Board commented that when you looked back on the 43 official public meetings of Scrutiny held last Municipal year the breadth of topics was wide ranging. He added that Members, Officers and the Council's external partners who had contributed to Scrutiny should be proud of the work which had taken place. He gave a particular thanks to Cllr Paul Sweet, the Chair of Scrutiny Board last Municipal year. In addition, he gave a special thank you to all the Chairs and Vice-Chairs who had worked tirelessly to help steer Scrutiny. Every Member of Scrutiny had also played their part and he thanked them for their contributions.

The Chair of Scrutiny Board stated that the Scrutiny function was the best example of a One Council approach in action, working in a matrix style across multiple departments and sectors. He was certain that the work of Scrutiny last year had led to better decisions and policy making. All the meetings of the Panels and Board were webcast and could be viewed up to 12 months afterwards, which he believed had enhanced the profile of Scrutiny within the City.

He thanked the Scrutiny Team for their support in the last Municipal year, namely Laura Noonan, Martin Stevens, Earl Piggott-Smith and Lee Booker. He also thanked David Pattison, the responsible Director for Scrutiny, who's guidance he described as invaluable. He was pleased that this year the report included quotes from both the Chair and Vice-Chairs, which he was very pleased to read. He commended the report, and said he was very happy for it to come before Full Council on the 8 November 2023.

The Vice-Chair remarked that the Scrutiny Annual Report May 2022 – May 2023 was a good report. He was pleased to see the photographs contained within the report. The Scrutiny system in his opinion had worked very well last Municipal year and had been very productive. There had been a considerable number of additional meetings, with a considerable amount of topics covered. Scrutiny Board had considered the Civic Halls project and there had been an important meeting about the Relaunch grant for the Victoria Street Traders. These two examples proved that the Scrutiny function was looking at issues of huge importance. He paid a personal tribute to the Scrutiny Team who he described as doing a very good job for the Council. He thanked fellow colleagues for their contributions and in particular Adam Collinge, a former Councillor for Oxley who had been the Vice-Chair of the Stronger Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, during the Municipal year the annual report covered. He had contributed to the Annual Report.

The Vice-Chair stated that there was always room for improvement in the Scrutiny function, with no local authority's Scrutiny function being perfect. He personally wanted to see more scrutiny recommendations coming from Scrutiny meetings. He was of the view that the Chairs of the Panels and the Board should not be appointed by the Leader of the Council. Scrutiny was an independent function of the Executive and therefore he hoped this would be considered in the future. He was pleased that there would be two Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups in the current Municipal year, Flooding and the Night-time economy were both important issues for the City. He looked forward to their progression and an even better Scrutiny Annual report next year.

A Member described the good working relationship she had with the Scrutiny Officer Team and thanked them for their efforts across the year. She asked who scrutinised the scrutineers. In response the Chief Operating Officer stated that the Democratic Process through elections meant the public could determine who they wished to be represented on the Council. Officers were scrutinised by elected Members. Peer reviews could also take place, and this had been done in the past and would be considered again for the future. The Member responded that there had been improvement in the Scrutiny in almost every area in the last ten years and since the last peer review.

A Member commented that the function of Scrutiny was very important in the democratic process of the Council. Many reports had been to Scrutiny that later went on to Cabinet and Full Council. He was pleased to see that the Scrutiny procedure rules were being developed.

A Member praised the Scrutiny Annual Report and raised the importance of reviewing the implementation of recommendations.

The Chair asked for a hard copy of the Scrutiny Annual Report to be placed in Libraries across the City. When he looked back over the last Municipal year, he had no doubt that there were crucial pieces of work completed by Scrutiny, which had an impact. The Members of Scrutiny Board and the Panels were delivering a very important service for the citizens of Wolverhampton. He had a strong appetite for continuous improvement of the function.

4 **Wolverhampton Local Plan**

The Lead Planning Manager (Regional Strategy) gave a presentation on the Wolverhampton Local Plan, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

Members debated the information contained within the presentation and asked questions to the Lead Planning Manager.

The Vice-Chair commented that it had been a useful update presentation and that the Local Plan was something which the Board should continue to monitor progression. He asked about the process for “call for sites” and how housing need was calculated. The Lead Planning Manager responded that there was a permanently open “call for sites”. This information was available on the planning section on the website. This was unlike some authorities which had clear cut off dates. Government informed the authority on the formula that should be used to calculate housing need for the City. The first stage was based on population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics. Government, for the 30 largest cities in England, then increased that number by 30%.

A Member stated that the green belt amount of land in Wolverhampton administrative area was less than 11% of the total area, which she understood to be the smallest percentage amount out of all the other Black Country authorities. Many residents appreciated the green belt in Wolverhampton and in South Staffordshire. The Lead Planning Manager confirmed that the Member was correct in her figure of 11%. The Leader’s statement in January confirmed how serious the Council took the green belt land in Wolverhampton and the importance to local communities.

A Member asked if the statistics on housing need could be challenged. The Lead Planning Manager responded if it was clear there were issues with the Office for National Statistic figures, then there would be justification to challenge the target. There was however no evidence of an issue in Wolverhampton. Coventry had some issues as there had been errors in the census date.

A Member asked if social housing waiting lists was taken into consideration for housing need and adult children who were unable to leave the parental home due to a lack of housing provision. The last time they had checked Wolverhampton Homes had over 10,000 people on the waiting list for a home. The Lead Planning Manager

responded that adult children living with parents was taken into account in the modelling. There was not a direct connection on waiting lists for social housing, but the modelling was based on strategic housing needs for the City.

A Member asked what would happen when there was no longer any land left to build homes in Wolverhampton. The Lead Planning Manager responded that it would lead to higher house prices, multiple households effectively living in the same household and an impact on the local economy.

A Member asked if high rise apartment blocks would be built, when land became in short supply. She also raised the importance of local infrastructure where new homes were built. The Lead Planning Manager responded that increasing density of new development was something which would occur. This however was finite because of the existing character of the City and the impact of people living already in the City. There was clearly a limit on how far increasing density could ultimately go within the City. They did assess infrastructure and sometimes would require new developers to pay for new infrastructure based on population needs.

A Member asked if the housing needs of the City could be met within the City boundaries or if neighbouring areas needed to contribute to the plans. The Lead Planning Manager responded he felt the housing needs could be accommodated within the City's boundaries. In the event there was a shortfall there was the duty to cooperate with other local authorities in the area, to see if they could assist with the shortfall. Some success in this area had already been achieved working with Shropshire and South Staffordshire.

A Member referred to the Land Hero App he had been using which enabled people to identify derelict sites. Payment was provided from the providers of the app for new sites identified. He encouraged Members to consider using the app.

The Vice-Chair asked for confirmation of the status of the South Staffordshire Local Plan. As in the draft plan he believed there were a number of sites which were effectively extending the Wolverhampton urban area. The Lead Planning Manager responded that a couple of months ago they had issued a statement saying they were unpasing work on the Local Plan review. He anticipated that as soon as the National Planning Policy framework was released, they would review the allocations in the plan they had consulted the Council on and then move forward with an updated plan as necessary.

The Chair asked about the Neighbourhood plans of which Wolverhampton currently had two, Tettenhall and Heathfield. He asked if others in the City were being developed. The Lead Planning Manager responded that neighbourhood plans were led by the community through neighbourhood forums. The Council couldn't instruct communities to prepare neighbourhood plans. They were however happy for communities to approach them and support them in the construction of any plan.

The Chair asked how many housing permissions had been granted which had not yet been built and the same for neighbouring authorities. The Lead Planning Manager responded that he did not have the figure at the meeting but could provide this after the meeting.

The Chair complemented the Lead Planning Manager on his presentation and in his answers to Board Member questions. There was clearly a lot of work ahead on the Local Plan, which was critical to the development of the City.

5 **Scrutiny Work programme**

The Vice-Chair commented that he had one item he would like seen added to the Scrutiny Work Programme. It was the last night of the Wolves Speedway on 23 October 2023, following the decision of the stadium owners not to allow any more Speedway Racing events. He knew the Council had been involved in detailed discussions with the club and other interested parties about how Speedway could be kept in the City. It had been confirmed that there would not be a Wolverhampton Speedway Team for next season. He asked if there could be an item on the Scrutiny Work Programme on the Council's involvement in the discussions. He wanted it to cover the current situation and any potential future plans.

The Chair supported the Vice-Chair's proposal for Speedway to feature as an item on the Scrutiny Work Programme and he suggested the most appropriate Panel was the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Panel, Chaired by Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman.

A Member raised the importance of mental health and particular children's mental health. The Scrutiny Team Leader remarked that the last Health Scrutiny Panel had considered acute adult mental health services following the downgrading of the Trust by the CQC in the service area. The Health Scrutiny Panel would also be having a further meeting on the Trust's Action Plan relating to adult acute Services. Children's mental health services was scheduled to be considered by the Panel in March 2024. Scrutiny Board had also agreed to consider mental health from a strategic Council approach. This item was to be scheduled but was likely to take place next calendar year.

A Member stated that she had personally asked the issue of waiting lists for children's mental health services to be considered by Corporate Parenting Board. The item would be considered by the Board in the next few weeks.

6 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

The Scrutiny Team Leader introduced the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Members received the Forward Plan without further comment.

The meeting concluded at 7:29pm.

Wolverhampton Pound Update

14th November 2023

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Agenda Item No: 5

Background and Context

Ambition

“Use the combined power of institutions, businesses and communities to retain local wealth, creating new jobs and opportunities”.

Background and Context

5 Key Objectives

- Retain local growth
- A leader in green transition
- A health and wellbeing economy
- Creative and cultural city
- Embed social value in the city

Anchor Partners: City of Wolverhampton Council, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Homes, City of Wolverhampton College.

Background and Context

- Wolverhampton Pound Strategy was launched September 2020
- Select Committee work was undertaken on the objective to ‘retain local growth’ and a report was presented to Cabinet in July 2022
- Previous update to Scrutiny on the Select Committee action plan November 2022

Update on progress following the Select Committee

Completed Actions

- ✓ 1. That the Council enter dialogue with the University in relation to identifying any students nearing the end of their studies who may be interested in a role in procurement.
- ✓ 2. That opportunities be considered in relation to engaging with partners to utilise their skills and resources in areas such as procurement to help deliver major capital schemes.
- ✓ 3. That the Council enter dialogue with the University, College and other local providers, in relation to providing the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Diploma qualification
- ✓ 4. That the Council investigate using market forces supplements in the short term to recruit to the more senior posts whilst at the same time ensuring that clear succession planning is in place by continuing to develop our own staff through the apprentice and procurement buyers posts and the Diploma.

- ✓ 5. That a clause be added when a qualification is undertaken and funded by the Council, that should the employee leave within a certain amount of time after studying, that all or part of the fee for the course be reimbursed.
- ✓ 6. That when advertising for procurement roles, the Council go beyond the normal compensation package. This should also include highlighting the less tangible elements that make working for the City of Wolverhampton Council special and using the website to highlight and promote this.
- ✓ 7. That to provide coordination and consistency of approach across all departments, that resources for the Wolverhampton Pound initiative are reviewed by officers, and that additional capacity is identified to ensure delivery against this key priority.
- ✓ 8. That the Procurement Pipeline be kept under review and monitored on a regular basis through the relevant scrutiny panels.

- ✓ 11. That a working group be set up to investigate and balance areas of risk in relation to the procurement process and where processes might be streamlined and areas such as liability insurance reduced. The working group should include representatives from legal, procurement, audit and risk and governance.
- ✓ 13. That there be mandatory training for all contract managers included as part of their induction process.
- ✓ 16. That a single point of contact for the procurement processes and contract management processes be identified.
- ✓ 17. That existing application and bureaucratic processes be assessed and where possible, streamlined.

- ✓ 18. That visible leadership be used to promote the Wolverhampton Pound at both councillor level and officer level and that a champion from both areas be appointed to raise awareness and champion the work being done. These champions will provide visible leadership at the highest levels and help to raise the profile of the Wolverhampton Pound to local businesses, the VCS and our communities.

- ✓ 19. That regular reports in relation to the work of the VCS be provided to Scrutiny Board or the All-Councillor briefings to help to raise awareness and support for the organisations.

Summary of outcomes achieved

Employees being sponsored for qualifications, that are not under the apprenticeship levy, now sign an agreement stating they will pay costs back to the Council if they leave employment within the first 2 years of the qualification.

The single point of contact for Procurement is now identified as the Head of Procurement.

Recruitment outcomes:

- A dedicated recruitment website has now been developed for any Procurement recruitment moving forward.
- The University are now advertising trainee procurement roles with their third-year law students.
- Market forces has now been utilised to recruit two Procurement Business Partners for Social Care and Corporate categories.

Summary of outcomes achieved

- Procurement now have 6 trainees (in both front-line Procurement and support services) in post at various stages of their career path as part of the grow our own approach.
- Two Procurement managers are currently being mentored, alongside their professional training, to prepare them for more senior roles in the future.
- There is already less reliance on interim staff and, as a result of all these measures, over the next 12 months to 18 months the Head of Procurement believes that we will significantly further reduce our reliance on interim staff.

Summary of outcomes achieved

Contract Lifecycle Management

- A contract has been awarded to Intend Ltd for the new system and implementation is in progress.
- The new system will enable greater visibility and monitoring of our spend and social value achieved.
- Officers across the council are being supported by the Commercial Team with contract management work e.g. drafting specifications, KPIs, monitoring, reviews. This will bring improved supplier accountability.
- The CLM strategy has been drafted and will be going through the governance process shortly – clearer vision for suppliers and officers.

Summary of outcomes achieved

- There has been an investment in the Commercial team to create permanent roles to continue driving the programme forward– increased support and monitoring.
- The Council is also part of the DLUCH’s Contract Management Pioneering Programme – sharing best practice and feedback to central government.
- All of this will put the Council in good stead for the Procurement Act 2023 and contribute to the key priorities, compliance and VFM.

Actions in Progress

- 9. That when the Pipeline is published, at least three upcoming contracts be identified to be used as pilots for the new approaches to procurement and the Wolverhampton Pound and that a report in relation to these and the ongoing management of the contracts be monitored through the scrutiny process.

Progress and next Steps

The Strategic Lead is working with the Head of Procurement/ Head of Commercial to identify appropriate contracts. A contract oversight officer group will be established which will lead on this process.

Actions in Progress

- 10. That any social value and ethical priorities relating to procurement link to the Our City: Our Plan and that there be a refresh of the Council social value strategy.

Progress and next steps

The Social Value strategy has been developed, including a framework to provide context. It will be going to Pre decision Scrutiny and Cabinet for approval in the new year.

Once approved an implementation group will work to embed the strategy across the council, with key performance indicators to monitor impact and delivery utilising the new contract management system. This will also link to the contract oversight panel for consistency.

Actions in Progress

- 12. That a structured and consistent approach is developed in relation to pre procurement supplier engagement.

Progress and next steps

The new Procurement Act 2023 gained Royal Assent on Oct 26 2023, we will implement this recommendation in line with the requirements under the new legislation – this will be completed prior to the end of the transition period (October 2024).

In the mean-time process mapping has been undertaken to ensure consistency across the organisation.

Actions in Progress

- 14. That moving forward, training is developed in-house in relation to procurement and contract management and includes references to the Our City: Our Plan, Vision 2030, the Wolverhampton Pound, Relighting our City and the Social Value Framework.

Progress and next steps

This internal training builds on the mandatory external training that has been rolled out across the council.

Procurement and Commercial teams have started to develop bespoke internal training. Now that the Procurement Act has been given Royal Assent, it is possible to reflect this legislation in the training material.

- 15. That regular reports be provided to the Our Council Scrutiny Panel to include:
 - how and where social value is being achieved and measured/ figures in relation to how we are retaining increased economic wealth/ information on new job creation / how we are ensuring value for money throughout the procurement and contract management process/ updates on training for contract and service managers / successes to be celebrated

Progress and next steps

The Procurement Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 22 March 2023, which includes the following elements to ensure Value for Money is achieved:

- The evaluation of Whole Life Costs must be undertaken to ensure value for money is obtained to release the benefits of a service or product.
- Identify the correct route to market
- Ensure make or buy options are considered
- Utilise outcome specifications to drive innovation
- Procurement, commercial and legal are working together to develop training for officers

Actions in Progress

Progress and next steps continued

The contract management system is currently being implemented, training will be provided to the Commercial team at the end of November, following which it will be rolled out to the wider organisation. Once the system is fully implemented, we will be able to more easily provide evidence of social value delivery and performance.

The contract lifecycle management strategy has been developed once embedded this will provide a robust framework for developments.

This will be embedded into the council's overarching performance framework.

The Strategic Lead will work with internal stakeholders to identify baseline data.

Actions in Progress

20. That consideration be given as to whether the VCS might have a place on the Anchor Network and that if this is not possible, that processes be put in place to ensure that the VCS is regularly and routinely consulted by the Network.

Progress and actions

Anchor Network Leads meeting December 2023 and wider representation and engagement is on that agenda

Next Steps

- Strategic Lead in place to ensure WP is a golden thread across council business and drive the strategy forward with partners and create new opportunities.
- Currently mapping progress against the WP strategy objectives and actions within the council, including analysing spend to date.
- Refresh and update the WP strategy – align and embed into new initiatives/directions with clear evidence of impact.
- Further build upon the Anchor Network and repeat mapping process externally.

Next Steps

- Agree achievable action priorities with Anchor leads going forward and how impact can be measured.
- Representation on the Black Country Anchor Network. Profile the work of Wolverhampton, share good practice and development opportunities.
- Establish structure to monitor and evidence impact
- Implement Social Value Strategy and Framework including identifying key performance indicators to monitor delivery.
- Wider engagement extend partnerships for increase opportunities

wolverhampton.gov.uk

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Our approach to Communications

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Ian Fegan: Director of Vibrant City
Richard Wyatt: Head of Communications
Scrutiny Panel November 14, 2023

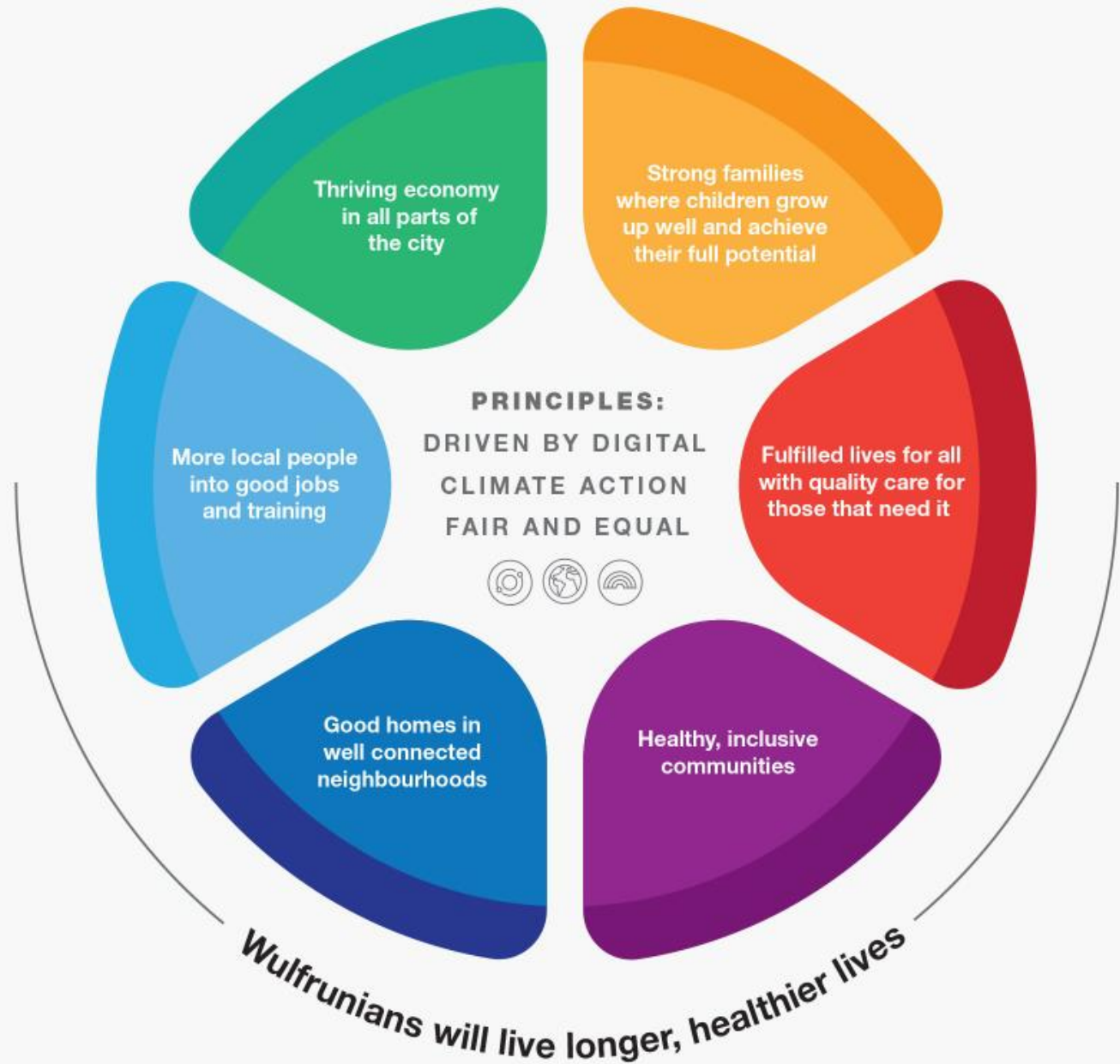
Agenda Item No: 6

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OUR CITY, OUR PLAN

Working together to be a city
of opportunity, a city for everyone
and deliver our contribution to
Vision 2030

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Brief overview: What we do

Our role is to inform, engage and influence.

Via our communications, we connect residents/taxpayers to information and services that can help support them and improve their lives, while giving assurance that we are well-prepared to handle emergencies.

Brief overview:

What we do...

- Media relations
- Stakeholder engagement
- Internal communications
- Corporate marketing
- Oversight of service marketing
- Place marketing
- Social media
- Photography/videography
- Brand management
- Emergency/crisis communications
 - key role in Covid

What we have to do it with...

- Current budget for 23/24 of £659,000
- Circa 30% reduction over last three years (£918,000 in 2019/20)
- Core corporate communications team of 12 including apprentice
- Some services fund marketing officers e.g., fostering, Adoption at Heart, WV Active
- Professional qualifications in NCTJ, CIPR, CIM

Strategy: Our approach

1. **Inform, influence** and engage stakeholders and publics
2. **Support the Cabinet and wider council** to deliver our vision for the city
3. **Enhance and protection reputation of the city as a place**
4. **Digital first** – but always accessible - communications
5. Open and transparent
6. Managing the council's brand sub-brands
7. **Data driven working** with CRM to understand city issues and sentiment
8. Focus on key stakeholders
9. Focus on performance and delivering outcomes

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications activity has contributed to...

Voter ID

+++++
+ Hello, Wolverhampton.
+++++

People without ID
55 Lowest numbers in Black Country

Better Health Rewards

Move More Get Rewards

+++++
+++++
+++++
+++++
+++++

Resident sign-ups
28,000



Business Week

~900 people attended 20 events delivered by the city council and partner organisations. 250 people attended the Annual Business Breakfast at The Halls, Wolverhampton.

Cost of Living Community Shops

Members
5,000+

Cost of Living Support

THE GOOD NIGHT PROJECT

+++++
+++++
+++++
+++++
+++++

Following media coverage and appeal

Beds donated
65

Waste and Recycling

Highest annual figures

Garden bin sign-ups
39,260

Wolverhampton featured on Queen's Funeral



Global coverage of 4+ billion

Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram:



5,751
posts



24,653,619
reach



1,159,049
engagements

More than **870 Press releases** and **press enquiries** combined
More than **100 Councillor and MP updates** combined
More than **25 staff engagement messages** from Chief Executive

*Statistics taken from April 2022 – March 2023

rment

Impact of our communications

Better Health Rewards

Page 52

Objective: To raise awareness and interest in the programme with operation target of signing up 25,000 18+ residents

Channels:

Outdoor media / Print media / Radio / Digital / Pop up shop / Touring bus / Influencers

Move More



Get Rewards



Download the FREE Better Health: Rewards app

Let's do this

Impact of our communications

Better Health Rewards: Outcomes

Page 53

- 28,000 residents signed up – 3,000 more than target
- 7,000 completed pilot (target 4,000)
- Engagement on digital channels:
website views 57,885
+60,000 video views on Facebook
- 148,909 challenges to improve health
- 7.8 billion steps completed
- 23.5 million minutes of exercise
- half a million servings of fruit and vegetables consumed

Government

Sign ups now closed

28,000+ residents taking part in Better Health: Rewards



Better
Health

Let's
do this

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Impact of our communications

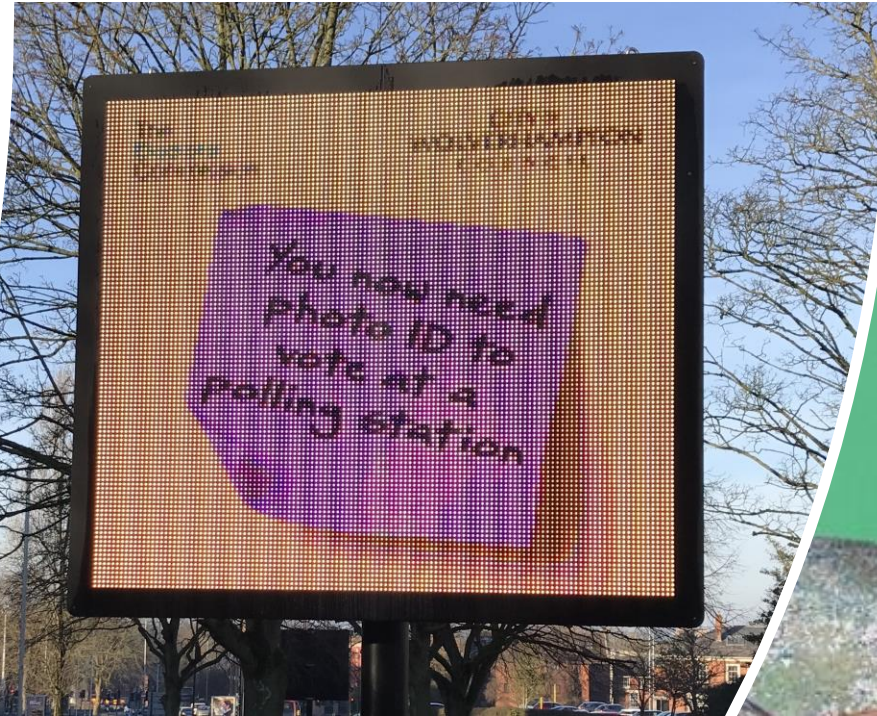
Voter ID

Pages 4

Objective: To increase awareness take up voter ID to maximise democratic process

Channels:

Outdoor media / Radio /
Digital / Drop in sessions /
Direct mail



Wolverhampton Today

20 April · 🌐

Are you don't miss the deadline to apply for your free Voter Authority Certificate – by 25 April.

ons take place on Thursday 4 May and, for the first time, all voters must provide a form of photo ID.

ave any, then you can apply now for a FREE Voter Authority Certificate at [wolverhampton.gov.uk/voterid](#) or call 01902 551 177.

No ID?
Apply for Free
voter ID by
25 April!

Impact of our communications

Voter ID: Outcomes

Page 55

- 29,143 electors voted at 126 polling stations
- 168 electors turned away
- 113 returned with acceptable ID
- 0.2% (55) unable to vote

Compared to:

- Sandwell 1,135 (340)
- Walsall 767 (294)
- Dudley 232 (195)

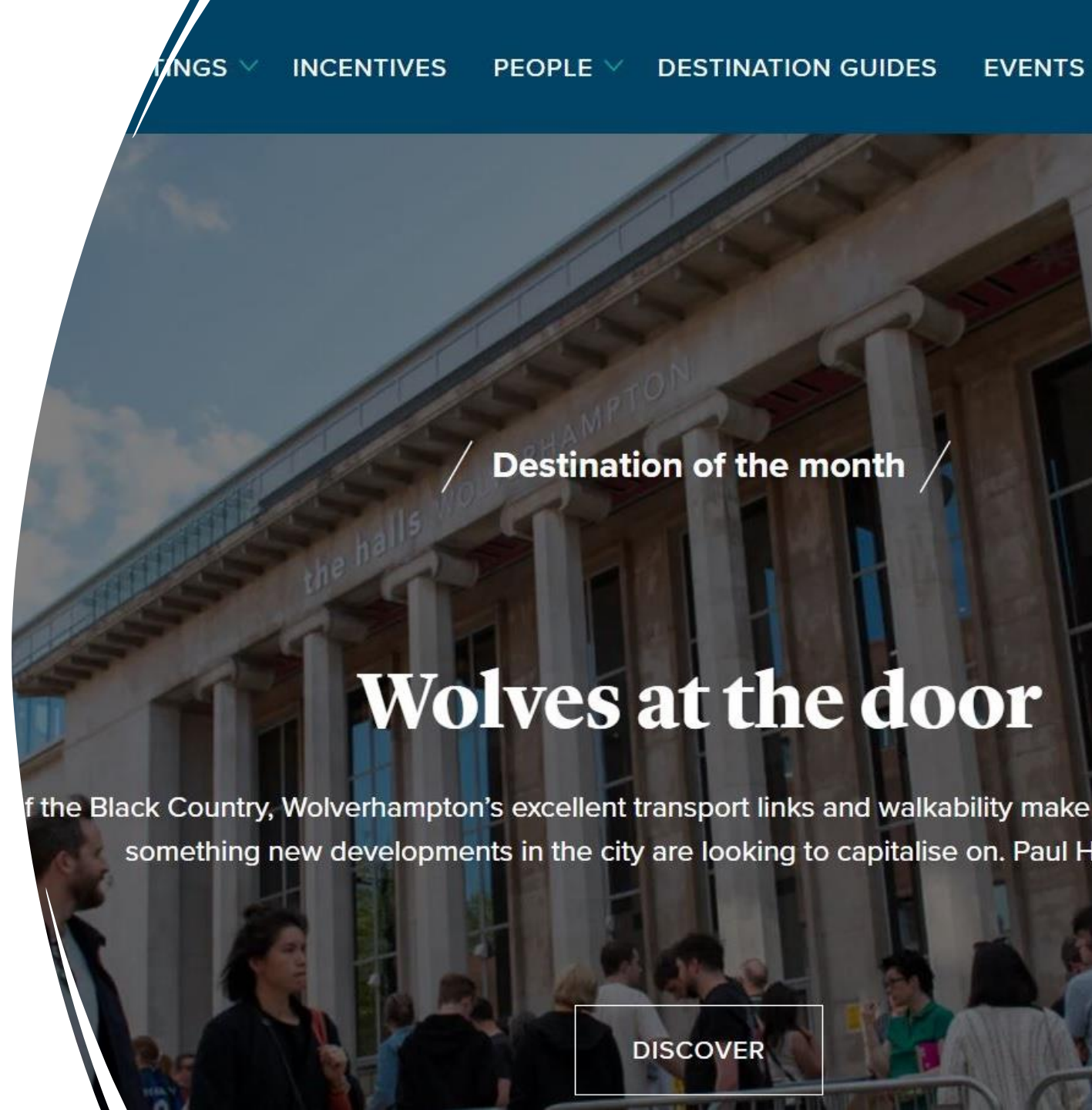


Impact of our communications

Vibrant City Centre

Page 56

- Proactive comms The Halls, Interchange, Commercial District, Public Realm, Box Space, CLQ, Canalside and more
- Newsletters re:new business and regeneration (9k) Relight Businesses support (6k)
- Public Realm: Campaigns to support city centre during public realm works ‘Open for Business’
- Business engagement via Eurovia – customer relationship manager providing regular updates



Destination of the month

Wolves at the door

of the Black Country, Wolverhampton’s excellent transport links and walkability make something new developments in the city are looking to capitalise on. Paul H

DISCOVER

Impact of our communications

Vibrant City Centre

- Business Week and 10th annual Business Breakfast promoting city's Visitor Economy
- Promotion of city centre events including Pride (5,000), Krazy Races (12,000) and The Halls opening season (50,000)

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COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications activity has contributed to...

Fostering



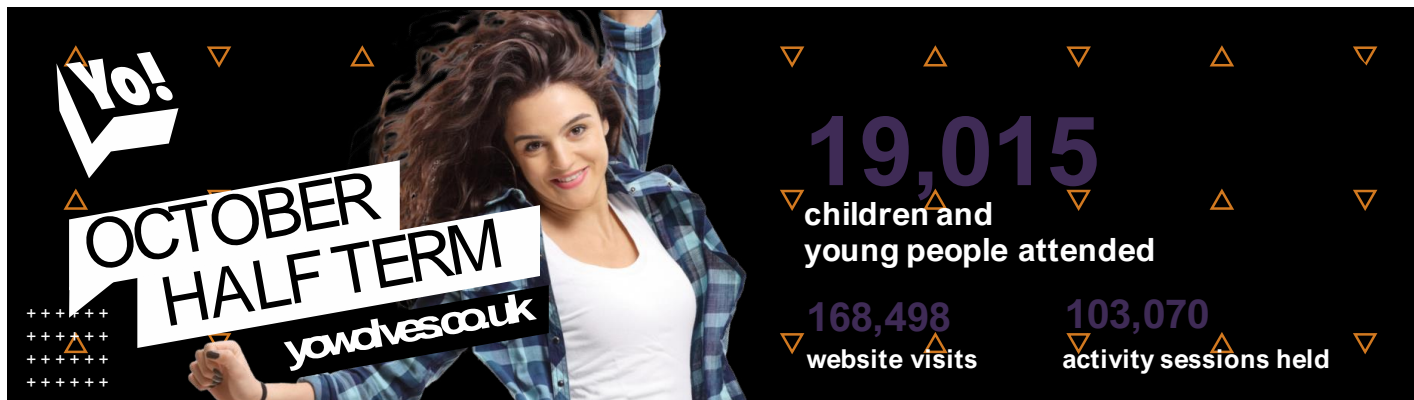
WV Living



WV Active



Yo! Wolves School Holiday Programme



MANAGING OUR RESOURCES

1

Integrated annual campaigns - dedicated full time resource

2

**Ongoing proactive and reactive communications/
Public Relations**

3

**As-required content creation /
Communications outputs**

4

Advice and support for service to communication with stakeholders directly



PRIORITIES FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

1

Integrated annual campaigns

- Yo! Wolves
- Fostering
- Adoption
- WVA
- Arts & Culture
- Events
- Invest
- Resident Services
- Cost of Living

2

Ongoing proactive and reactive communications/ Public Relations

- City and Urban Regen
- Council finances
- WV Living
- Council elections
- Resident engagement
- Internal Communications
- Councillor Updates

3

As-required content creation / communications outputs

- Migration
- Greener City / Climate Change
- Wolverhampton Pound
- Family Hubs
- Corporate/Civic Events
- Public Health campaigns
- Homelessness
- Community Safety
- Social care reform
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Trading standards/public protections

4

Advice and support for you

- Service led social media
- Service area direct comms
- Service area newsletters
- Service area internal communications

How we measure what we do

- Levels of social media engagement
- Traffic generated on webpages
- PR and media stats
- Marketing campaigns – objectives met
- Survey results linked to being satisfied and informed
- Staff engagement on internal communications

In summary

- Small team of communications professionals
- Delivering activity for residents and stakeholders linked to Our City Our Plan
- Adds value to all corporate priorities
- From the highest number of bin sign ups and WV Active members to driving footfall into city centre, improving access to Cost of Living support and providing critical information for the public from Covid to major incidents
- Annual strategy to meet changing priorities and challenges of council

Questions

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Scrutiny Work Programme

2023 – 2024
Version Date – 6 November 2023

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Agenda Item No. 7



The Scrutiny Work Programme – 2023 to 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[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

Scrutiny Board**Chair:** Councillor Phil Bateman MBE**Vice Chair:** Councillor Ellis Turrell**Scrutiny Support:** Martin Stevens DL

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

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
City West Relaunch Scheme - Payments	The Extraordinary Scrutiny Board meeting held on 2 May 2023 was adjourned.	John Roseblade	Isobel Woods / Richard Lawrence	13 June 2023	5 June 2023	Completed
Statutory Scrutiny Guidance and the Governance of Scrutiny Board	A report detailing the purpose of Scrutiny Board and the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance.	David Pattison	David Pattison	13 June 2023	5 June 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Budget Performance Monitoring Q4	Standard Budget / Performance Monitoring Report – Q4.	Claire Nye / Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon / James Amphlett	20 July 2023	12 July 2023	Completed
WMCA Devolution Deal	To consider the Devolution Deal	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	26 September 2023	18 September 2023	Completed
Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review	Pre-Decision Scrutiny. Scrutiny Board requested this item come before them last time it was before them.	John Roseblade	Andrew Bryant / Lynda Eyton	26 September 2023	18 September 2023	Completed
Task and Finish Scrutiny Group Proposals	As requested by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Board.	David Pattison / John Roseblade / Ian Fegan	N/A	26 September 2023	18 September 2023	Completed
Budget Performance Monitoring Q1	Standard Budget / Performance Monitoring Report	Claire Nye / Charlotte Johns	Alison Shannon / James Amphlett	26 September 2023	18 September 2023	Completed
Annual Scrutiny Report	Annual Scrutiny Report for May 2022 – May 2023.	David Pattison	Laura Noonan / Martin Stevens	23 October 2023	13 October 2023	Completed
Wolverhampton Local Plan	Requested by Scrutiny Board in September.	Richard Lawrence	Stephen Alexander / Ian Culley	23 October 2023	13 October 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Communication Plan for the Council	Cllr Phil Bateman requested this at a previous meeting of the Board. Stressing the importance of communications.	Ian Fegan	Richard Wyatt	14 November 2023	6 November 2023	Programmed
Wolverhampton Pound – To include Progress on Recommendations from Select Committee	Review of recommendations from Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee	Claire Nye	John Thompson / Parvinder Uppal / Louise West	14 November 2023	6 November 2023	Programmed
West Midlands Combined Authority	West Midlands Combined Authority falls in the remit of the Panel. Members requested further scrutiny in this area. Chair of Scrutiny Panel from WMCA and the Chief Executive of WMCA have been invited.	Charlotte Johns	Laura Collings	12 December 2023	4 December 2023	Programmed
Housing Revenue Account	Item is received annually each year.	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	12 December 2023	4 December 2023	Programmed
City Learning Quarter	Requested by Director	Richard Lawrence		12 December 2023	4 December 2023	Programmed
Budget and Performance Update	Item is received annually each year.	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	6 February 2024	29 January 2024	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Budget Performance Monitoring Q2	Standard Budget / Performance Monitoring Report – Q2.	Claire Nye / Charlotte Johns	James Amphlett / Alison Shannon	6 February 2024	29 January 2024	Programmed
Wolverhampton Local Plan (Pre-Decision Scrutiny)	Scrutiny Board requested at the 23 Oct 2023 meeting.	Richard Lawrence	Stephen Alexander / Ian Culley Michele Ross	6 February 2024	29 January 2024	Programmed
Flooding Scrutiny Task and Finish Group – Final Report	To receive the final report from the Flooding Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.	David Pattison	Tim Munro/Emma Smallman	5 March 2024	26 February 2024	Programmed
Emergency Planning (Date to be confirmed)	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	David Pattison	Tim Munro/Emma Smallman	5 March 2024	26 February 2024	Programmed
Budget Performance Monitoring Q3	Standard Budget / Performance Monitoring Report – Q3.	Claire Nye / Charlotte Johns	James Amphlett / Alison Shannon	16 April 2024 (Pre-election period)	8 April 2024	Programmed

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To Be Scheduled for Scrutiny Board:-

The Halls – At an appropriate time. (As per resolution when it was last discussed at Scrutiny Board)

Funding Streams available to the Council (Action from 7 March 2023 – Scrutiny Board)

Cross Directorate - Mental Health Item as discussed by Scrutiny Board on 20 July 2023

Economy and Growth Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman

Vice Chair: Councillor Udey Singh

Scrutiny Support: Lee Booker

Remit, Function and Measures

- Help create good quality local jobs
- Working in partnership to support local people into work and better jobs
- Ensuring flexible skills 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
- Level of 16 & 17 year old NEETS
- 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
- Empty properties in the city centre
- Business that survive one year in city
- Businesses that survive five years in the city
- % 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 investment opportunities generated by the Council

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Portfolio for City Inclusive Economy about his Plans and	Chair requested Portfolio Holder to give a	Richard Lawrence	Richard Lawrence	21 June 2023	13 June 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Priorities for the Municipal Year	statement about his plans for the year.					
Supporting the City's Businesses	Item requested at previous Panel meeting due to European Funding coming to an end in April.	Richard Lawrence	Isobel Woods	21 June 2023	13 June 2023	Completed
Supporting more people into jobs and training	Item requested at previous Panel meeting as part of on going Scrutiny on policy.	Emma Bennett	Isobel Woods	21 June 2023	13 June 2023	Completed
IPW Consultants Report on Visitor Economy	Item requested by Chair and agreed by Panel	Ian Fegan / Richard Lawrence	Ian Fegan	11 July 2023	3 July 2023	CANCELLED
IPW Consultants Report on Visitor Economy / 5 Years Event Strategy	Item requested by Chair and agreed by Panel	Ian Fegan / Richard Lawrence	Ian Fegan	27 September 2023	19 September 2023	Completed
National Brownfield Institute & Green Innovation Corridor	Chair of Panel requested NBI to present their business case.	Richard Lawrence		27 September 2023	19 September 2023	Completed
Former Heath Town Baths	Panel requested a further item on	Richard Lawrence		27 September 2023	19 September 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	this to check status of Development.					
Good Growth Strategy	Requested by Deputy Chief Executive for inclusion.	Charlotte Johns/Richard Lawrence	Charlotte Johns/ Laura Collings	29 November 2023	21 November 2023	Programmed
Budget and Performance Update	Standard report received each year.	Claire Nye / Richard Lawrence	Alison Shannon	29 November 2023	21 November 2023	Programmed
Development of Hotels in the City and the Visitor Economy	Panel Members have requested status of bringing new Hotels into the City.	Richard Lawrence	Kasandra	29 November 2023	21 November 2023	Programmed
Heath Town Baths	To consider the latest position.	Richard Lawrence		29 November 2023	21 November 2023	Programmed
Provisional Q&A with Portfolio Holder/Deputy Leader	Question and Answer Session	Richard Lawrence	N/A	7 February 2024	30 January 2024	Programmed
City Business Support Follow up	Request from Richard	Richard Lawrence	Isobel Woods	7 February 2024	30 January 2024	Programmed
Strategies for tackling unemployment in Wards	Resolution from the Panel	Emma Bennett	Julie Obada	7 February 2024	30 January 2024	Programmed

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To Be Scheduled

Creation Festival

Wolverhampton Speedway

Health Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Cllr Susan Roberts MBE

Vice Chair: Councillor Paul Singh

Scrutiny Support: Lee Booker

Remit, Function and Measures

- Keep residents safe by containing and reducing the spread of Covid-19
- Close the gap on healthy life expectancy
- Help people live happier more active lives
- Protect vulnerable people at risk of harm and exploitation
- Inclusive, welcoming communities where people feel safe and look out for each other
- Alcohol specific mortality per 100,000
- % of physically inactive adults (Public Health Outcomes Framework)
- % of less active children (Active Lives Survey)
- Suicide rate (all persons) per 100,000
- % of 40-74 year olds attending offered health checks
- Number of individuals in treatment for alcohol (increase)
- Number of successful completions of alcohol treatment (no representation - increase)
- Number of alcohol detoxes (increase in referred, initiated, and completed)
- Narrowing the gap in % of adult residents in the city who have received their Covid-19 vaccination
- Number of 'free' activities for CYP in the city and uptake by- long term health conditions, disabilities, low socioeconomic groups, minority ethnic groups
- Number of referrals to physical activity opportunities by a health professional

Item	Description	Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Hearing Aids	Presentation on Hearing Aid services across the City.	Paul Tulley, Managing Director –	Sally Sandel - ICB	29 June 2023	21 June 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	Access for patients and performance stats.	Wolverhampton ICB				
Patient Participation Groups	Report/Presentation on the status of Patient Participation Groups in the city, including performance information and status of activity.	Paul Tulley, Managing Director – Wolverhampton ICB	Sally Sandel - ICB	29 June 2023	21 June 2023	Completed
Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Officers requested this come before the Panel.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	29 June 2023	21 June 2023	Completed
Healthwatch Urology Survey Report	Healthwatch requested to bring item to the Panel	Stacey Lewis	N/A	29 June 2023	21 June 2023	Completed
CQC Inspection Report on the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Adult Acute Service	Scrutiny on the recent downgrading of the Adult Acute Services at the Mental Health Trust	Marsha Foster (Chief Executive – Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)	Dr Mark Weaver (Chief Medical Officer – Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)	21 September 2023	13 September 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Maternity Services RWT	Chief Executive of RWT requested this come before the Panel due to the national changes and reports on failures at other Trusts.	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	Debra Hickman, Chief Nursing Officer - RWT	21 September 2023	13 September 2023	Completed
RWT Quality Accounts	Standard report received each year.	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	Cody Long, Deputy Director of Assurance - RWT	21 September 2023	13 September 2023	Completed
Healthwatch Annual Report	To receive the annual Healthwatch report. Standard item.	Stacey Lewis – Wolverhampton Healthwatch	N/A	21 September 2023	13 September 2023	Completed
Budget and Performance Update	Standard report received each year.	Claire Nye / Charlotte Johns	Allison Shannon / James Amphlett	14 December 2023	6 December 2023	Programmed
Child to Adult Transition Services	Member of the Panel requested.	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	N/A	14 December 2023	6 December 2023	Programmed
Hospital at Home	RWT requested this item about Virtual Wards.	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	N/A	14 December 2023	6 December 2023	Programmed
Healthwatch GP Services Survey	Healthwatch survey to incorporate feedback on call access times as well as investigating website patient access.	Stacey Lewis – Wolverhampton Healthwatch	N/A	14 December 2023	6 December 2023	Programmed
Public Health Annual Report	Standard Annual Report the Panel receives each year.	John Denley	Madeleine Freewood	14 December 2023	6 December 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Women's Health Services (Gynaecology)	Vice-Chair requested item. Joint item with RWT, Public Health and ICB with a focus on Gynaecology services at New Cross and Trust partners, the Manor and Cannock.	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	N/A	18 January 2024	10 January 2024	Programmed
West Midlands Ambulance Service Review Wolverhampton	Routine item required for review by the Panel	Pippa Wall/Mark Doherty	N/A	18 January 2024	10 January 2024	Programmed
Integrated Care System Review of Strategy, Performance and Priorities	Full review of the strategy and performance against priorities.	John Denley/Paul Tulley	N/A	18 January 2024	10 January 2024	Programmed
Tuberculosis	Item requested by Vice Chair	John Denley	Ainee Khan / Riva Eardley	18 January 2024	10 January 2024	Programmed
RWT Hospital Transport Service	Requested by the Panel when they considered Urology item. To be included, small report on New Cross parking	David Loughton (Chief Executive – RWT)	N/A	21 March 2024	13 March 2024	Programmed
Mental Health Item	Children's Mental Health Services	Marsha Foster	N/A	21 March 2024	13 March 2024	Programmed
Dentistry	Children's and Adults	John Denley	Bal Kaur	21 March 2024	13 March 2024	Programmed
One Wolverhampton - Pharmacy	How Pharmacy services are changing within the new health system framework .	John Denley/Paul Tulley	Bal Kaur	21 March 2024	13 March 2024	Programmed

To be added - How the Care Quality Commission works in Wolverhampton – new municipal year

Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Anwen Muston

Vice Chair: Councillor Wendy Dalton

Scrutiny Support: Earl Piggott-Smith

Remit, Function and Measures

- Work together to deliver 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
- 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 support in the community to prevent further harm
- Number of domestic abuse cases referred to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- WV Active membership numbers with breakdown by- long term health conditions, disabilities, low socioeconomic groups, minority ethnic groups
- % Domestic Abuse related incidents and crimes

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Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Rough Sleepers Update	Presentation on the Councils homelessness team and up to	John Denley	Anthony Walker	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed

	date information on rough sleepers					
Improvement of Housing Standards through Licensing (exempt report)	Report on Housing Standards in the private rented sector with particular focus on licensing.	John Roseblade	Chris Howell & William Humphries	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed
Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Strategic Priorities Consultation	Officer request.	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed
Wolverhampton Homes – Building Safety Strategy (particular focus on Fire Safety)	Member requested at a previous meeting.	Shaun Aldis	Simon Bamfield/Ian Gardner (WHM)	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed
West Midlands Local Transport Plan Status	Panel received a report last year and asked them to come back in the future.	John Roseblade	Alex Greatholder/Marianne Page (TfWM)	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed
Wolverhampton Homes Customer Engagement Strategy - briefing	At Chair's request.	John Roseblade	Shaun Aldis/ Julie Haydon	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Climate Change 2028	Chair requested.	David Pattison	Perminder Balu/Oliver Thomas	19 October 2023	11 October 2023	Completed
Fly Tipping	Member requested at Scrutiny Board.	John Roseblade	Steve Woodward	19 October 2023	11 October 2023	Completed
Community Safety Police Session 1	Panel requested more items on the police after a previous successful meeting with the Police.	John Denley	Supt Martin Hurcomb – West Midlands Police	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Budget and Performance Update	Standard item received each year.	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Community Safety Strategy Consultation – final	The panel agreed to review the recommendations of the consultation	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed
Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour	Item ties in with the Police and Community collaboration theme and enables Panel full overview with a partnership approach	John Denley	tbc	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed
Community Safety Police Session 2	To include Rehabilitation of	John Denley	Lynsey Kelly	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed

	offenders and services for reintegration into community post-sentence					
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To be scheduled

- Aids and Adaptations - concern about delays in assessments - possible joint work with Adults Scrutiny Panel
- One Public Estates Project - Ballal Raza - Regeneration Programme Manager
- City Centre Public Space Protection Order Proposals (Findings from Consultation)
- Invite to Police and Crime Commissioner (July 2024) and West Midlands Chief Constable

- Update on West Midlands Local Transport Plan – March 2024
- Update Wolverhampton Homes Customer Engagement Strategy – 7 March 2024 (Date being consulted on)
- Climate Change Wider Programme – 7 March 2024 (Date being consulted on)

Adults Scrutiny Panel**Chair:** Councillor Val Evans**Vice Chair:** Councillor Christopher Haynes**Scrutiny Support:** Earl Piggott-Smith**Remit, Function and Measures**

- Support the Health and Social Care system to respond to and recover from Covid-19
- Maximise independence for people with care and support needs
- Work as a system to make sure that people get the right support at the right time
- % 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	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
4 July Meeting Postponed	N/A	N/A	N/A	4 July 2023	26 June 2023	Agenda Sent Postponed
Post Covid Position – update briefing	Update on current position	Becky Wilkinson	Becky Wilkinson	17 October 2023	9 October 2023	Completed
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	Becky Wilkinson	Jennifer Rogers	17 October 2023	9 October 2023	Completed

	Principal Social Worker in promoting and improving the quality of social work practice and outline the key priorities for 2023-2024.					
Adult Social Care Winter Planning 2023-24	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda.	Becky Wilkinson and Health Partners	Becky Wilkinson and Sian Thomas, Paul Tulley and Rachel Murphy	17 October 2023	9 October 2023	Completed
CQC Assurance Preparation	Presentation on CQC readiness and assurance for comment	Becky Wilkinson	Meena Dulai	20 November 2023	10 November 2023	Programmed
Our Commitment to All Age Carers 2022	Request from the panel to provide an update on progress. Carers to be invited to present	Becky Wilkinson	Sandra Ashton Jones	20 November 2023	10 November 2023	Programmed
2022 Adult Social Work and Wider Workforce Health Check Actions	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for discussion and comment.	Becky Wilkinson	Courtney Abbott	20 November 2023	10 November 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Budget and Performance Update	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda.	Becky Wilkinson	James Amphlett, James Barlow	5 December 2023	27 November 2023	Programmed
Transforming Adults Service Programme Annual Report 2022-2023	Requested from the Directorate.	Becky Wilkinson	Emma Deakin	5 December 2023	27 November 2023	Programmed
Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2023/24	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for discussion and comment.	Becky Wilkinson	Andrew Wolverson	20 February 2024	12 February 2024	Programmed
Adult Social Care Position Statement – Review of the Year	CQC Quality Transformation	Becky Wilkinson	Becky Wilkinson	19 March 2024	11 March 2024	Programmed
Adult Services Social Work and Wider Workforce Health Check Survey.	This is an annual report that presented to the panel for discussion and comment.	Becky Wilkinson	Courtney Abbott	19 March 2024	11 March 2024	Programmed

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Qaiser Azeem

Vice Chair: Councillor Stephanie Haynes

Scrutiny Support: Earl Piggott-Smith

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
- % 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 per 10,000 population
- 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
- % of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Wolverhampton Children and Young People's Self-Evaluation 2023-24	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment.	Emma Bennett	Alison Hinds	27 July 2023	19.7.23	Completed

Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2022 - 2023	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment.	Emma Bennett	Jennifer Rogers	27 July 2023	19.7.23	Completed
Education, Skills and Employment Strategy – Pre-Decision Scrutiny	At the request of the Director, agreed by the Chair	Emma Bennett	Laura Collings	27 July 2023	19.7.23	Completed
SEND Written Statement of Action - DFE/NHS monitoring meeting - update	This will be a verbal update on the findings from the DFE/NHS monitoring visit on 6 July 2023 and update from Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written Statement of Action	Alison Hinds	Brenda Wile	4 October 2023	26 September 2023	Completed
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for information and comment.	Alison Hinds	Phil Leivers	4 October 2023	26 September 2023	Completed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

WST Exploitation Thematic Review	At the request of the SEB lead	Alison Hinds	Andrew Wolverson	4 October 2023	26 September 2023	Completed
WST Knife Crime Thematic Review	At the request of the SEB lead	Alison Hinds	Andrew Wolverson	4 October 2023	26 September 2023	Completed
Semi-supported accommodation registration and children's homes not registered with Ofsted update	At the request of the SEB lead	Alison Hinds	Jazmine Walker/ Alison Hinds	4 October 2023	26 September 2023	Deferred
Budget and Performance Update	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda.	Claire Nye / Alison Hinds/Brenda Wile	James Barlow	22 November 2023	14 November 2023	Programmed
Transforming Childrens Services Programme Annual Report 2022 - 2023	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Alison Hinds	Emma Deakin	22 November 2023	14 November 2023	Programmed
Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda	Alison Hinds	Rachel King	22 November 2023	14 November 2023	Programmed
Family Hubs and Start for Life Offer Programme – to be circulated for information	The panel requested an update on plans to establish the programme and	Alison Hinds	Alison Hinds	22 November 2023	14 November 2023	Programmed

only prior to meeting	to review progress.					
School Exclusion and Suspension	The panel requested on update on plans to reduce the number of school exclusions and suspensions.	Alison Hinds	Brenda Wile	31 January 2024	23 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 2023.	Alison Hinds	Phil Leivers	31 January 2024	23 January 2024	Programmed
SEND and Inclusion Strategy (pre-decision scrutiny)	At the request of the SEB lead	Alison Hinds	Brenda Wile	31 January 2024	23 January 2024	Programmed
Childrens Services Social Work and Wider Workforce Health Check Survey	This is an annual report that is presented to the panel for comment specifically on the survey findings from	Alison Hinds	Jennifer Rogers	13 March 2024	5 March 2024	Programmed

	social workers and other workers in children's service.					
School's Organisation Plan	To report on the plan following request from the Chair.	Alison Hinds	Brenda Wile / Bill Hague	13 March 2024	5 March 2024	Programmed
School Appeals	Panel requested a report following the item last year.	David Pattison	Laura Gittos / Jaswinder Kaur	13 March 2024	5 March 2024	Programmed

To be scheduled

- Children's Social Care Reform - **Pre-Decision Scrutiny (tbc)** - Alison Hinds
- Children's Oral Health – January 2024 special meeting (tbc)
- Wolverhampton Holiday Activities and Food Programme Annual Report 2022/2023
- Children's Residential Provision Business Case – Briefing Note in October 2023 (Alison Hinds), approved by the Chair.
- Proposed visit to new Childrens Residential Care Homes (Jan 2024 tbc) - Alison Hinds
- Proposed visit to Family Hub network (tbc) - Alison Hinds
- Education, Skills and Employment Strategy update – July 2024

Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor John Reynolds

Vice Chair: Councillor Sohail Khan

Scrutiny Support: Lee Booker

Remit, Function and Measures

- Measuring Success
- Our City Our Plan – Our Council Programme
- Our Assets
- Our Data
- Our Digital
- Our Money
- Our People
- Our City: Our Plan – PRIDE values
- Wolverhampton Pound
- Gender pay gap of council employees
- Ethnicity pay gap of council employees
- Customer Service call wait times
- Sickness absence rates
- Employee turnover rate
- Spend with local businesses
- Overall, how well informed do you think your council keeps residents about the services and benefits it provides? (LGA Resident Satisfaction Survey)

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
EDI strategy - Equalities Impact Assessments	Standing item How the Council evaluates Equalities implications on projects and policy.	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	08 June 2023	31 May 2023	Completed
Land and Property Disposal Annual Report	Presentation on the handling of Asset Disposals	Claire Nye	Julia Nock	08 June 2023	31 May 2023	Completed
Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter Three 2022-2023	A quarterly report	Claire Nye	Allison Shannon	08 June 2023	31 May 2023	Completed
EDI strategy Progress against Objectives	Our People, Adult, Children, Education and People. EDI Performance and KPIs	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	12 October 2023	4 October 2023	Completed
Race at Work Charter & Pay Gap Reporting	Presentation on progress with Race at Work Charter responsibilities	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	12 October 2023	4 October 2023	Completed
Treasury Management	For Information Only	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	12 October 2023	4 October 2023	Completed
Reserves	To discuss the Council's Reserves	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	7 December 2023	29 November 2023	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Budget and Performance Update	Request from Director to add this item to the agenda – the report to include Our Council and Performance/Budget information.	Claire Nye	Laura Phillips/ James Amphlett/ Alison Shannon	7 December 2023	29 November 2023	Programmed
Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025 report	pre-decision scrutiny – this is an annual report.	Claire Nye	Allison Shannon	7 December 2023	29 November 2023	Programmed
Yoo Recruit Review	Request from the Panel	David Pattison	Michelle Rowe	1 February 2024	24 January 2024	Programmed
EDI strategy Progress against Objectives	Standing item Progress	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	1 February 2024	24 January 2024	Programmed
Digital Wolves Strategy Update (paper)	This is an update to the report presented in February 2023 aimed at maximising the benefit of digital to residents and businesses in the city.	Charlotte Johns	Heather Clark	1 February 2024	24 January 2024	Programmed
Strategic Asset Plan 2024-2029	Pre-Decision - Extended briefing as requested by the Chair to discuss Asset Disposal Strategy	Claire Nye	Julia Nock	1 February 2024	24 January 2024	Programmed
Contract Management and Procurement Report	this reports updates previous report that was presented to	Claire Nye	John Thompson	12 March 2024	4 March 2024	Programmed

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

	the panel in October 2022.					
Gender Pay Gap review	Standing item	David Pattison	Jin Takhar	12 March 2024	4 March 2024	Programmed
Customer Service Strategy	Request from panel on update on changes to the strategy following a presentation in October 2022.	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	12 March 2024	4 March 2024	Programmed
LGA Resident Satisfaction Polling	The panel requested a report on the findings.	Charlotte Johns	Lamour Gayle	12 March 2024	4 March 2024	Programmed

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Agenda Item No: 8

Date: 17 October 2023



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**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

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

Telephone: 01902 550320

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:
Our Council					
Draft Budget 2024-2025 and Medium Term Financial Strategy To provide an update to the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2025 to 2026-2027; 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 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
18 October 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
18 October 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 18 Oct 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	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>Pay Policy Statement update To approve the Pay Policy Statement update.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	Amanda Porter Senior People Business Partner Tel: 01902 554066
<p>Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2023-2024 To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2023-2024.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Two Review To approve the capital programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 quarter two review.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>15 November 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554561

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<p>15 November 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Collection Fund Estimated Outturn 2023-2024 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 2023-2024.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 13 Dec 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Council Tax Base and Business Rates (NDR) Net Rate Yield 2024-2025 To set the estimates for Wolverhampton Collection Fund 2024-2025, which the Council manages on behalf of local precepting bodies and central government.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 13 Dec 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>13 December 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 13 Dec 2023	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503

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13 December 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 13 Dec 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
Annual Health and Safety Report - 2023 To review progress and health and safety performance during 2023 and highlight key priorities for the year 2024.	All Wards	Cabinet 17 Jan 2024	Open	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	Tim Munro Head of Service Health and Safety Tel: 01902 554058
17 January 2023 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 17 Jan 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
17 January 2023 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 17 Jan 2024	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025 To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2025.	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<p>Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Three Review and 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 Budget Strategy</p> <p>The approve the Capital Programme 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 Quarter Three Review and 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 Budget Strategy</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>2024-2025 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2025 to 2026-2027</p> <p>To present a balanced budget for 2024-2025 aligned to the Council Plan priorities and an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2025 to 2026-2027</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Performance and Budget Monitoring 2023-2024</p> <p>To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561
<p>Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter Three 2023-2024</p> <p>To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter Three 2023-2024 report.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	Alison Shannon Chief Accountant Tel: 01902 554561

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

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21 February 2024 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
21 February 2024 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 21 Feb 2024	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
20 March 2024 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 20 Mar 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
20 March 2024 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 20 Mar 2024	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503

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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:
24 April 2024 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 24 Apr 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
24 April 2024 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 24 Apr 2024	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
22 May 2024 - Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Public Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 May 2024	Open	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503
22 May 2024 - Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services Exempt Procurement Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 22 May 2024	Fully Exempt	Councillor Louise Miles Cabinet Member for Resources	John Thompson Head of Procurement Tel: 01902 554503

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
Thriving economy in all parts of the city					
'Event City': a new five-year event strategy for Wolverhampton To set out a framework, strategy and plan for a new City Five-Year Event Strategy.	All Wards	Cabinet 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal Cabinet Member for Visitor City	Ian Fegan Director of Communications and Visitor Experience
Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery in Wolverhampton To seek approval for a Wolverhampton approach to national Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Nature Recovery policies to operate from November 2023.	All Wards	Cabinet 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Stephen Simkins Leader of the Council	Michele Ross Lead Planning Manager Tel: 01902 554038
Wolverhampton Local Plan - Issues and Preferred Options Consultations To approve the Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Report.	All Wards	Cabinet 17 Jan 2024	Open	Councillor Stephen Simkins Leader of the Council	Michele Ross Lead Planning Manager Tel: 01902 554038
Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential					
Youth Engagement budget requirements Youth Engagement Budget requirement 2024.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Chris Burden Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Alice Vickers Children's Innovation Lead Tel: 01902 556703

[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:
SEND and Inclusion Strategy To approve the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Jacqui Coogan Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education	Helen Bakewell Head of Inclusion & Empowerment Tel: 01902 551582
Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it					
Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2022-2023 Annual report of the Principal Social Worker for Adults and Children's Services in 2022-2023, outlining key activity, priorities and impact.	All Wards	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Chris Burden Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing	Jennifer Rogers Principal Social Worker Tel: 01902 553209
Healthy, inclusive communities					
Wolverhampton Physical Activity Strategy To present the Health and Wellbeing Together physical activity strategy that sets out key recommendations for delivering physical activity interventions within the city.	All Wards	Cabinet 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing	Richard Welch Head of Partnerships and Tel: 01902 552161

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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:
Adult Services Self-Assessment Solution To agree the investment required to fund the procurement and implementation of an online self-assessment tool to support accessing adult social care services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing	Mark Gibbs Project Manager Tel: 01902 554778
Lifestyles service Adult tier 2 weight management and smoking cessation services.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing	Victoria Downes Senior Public Health Specialist
Wolverhampton EFW Contract Amendment To approve the Wolverhampton EfW Contract Amendment.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Craig Collingswood Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change	Anna Spinks Programme Manager EfW
Health Hub To seek approval for establishing a Health Hub located at the Mander Centre.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 13 Dec 2023	Open	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing	Madeleine Freewood Partnership and Governance Lead Tel: 01902 553528

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods					
Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 - Landlord Services Review To provide an overview of Act, the impact of its implementation upon the legislative landscape and City of Wolverhampton Council's readiness for consumer regulation and inspection; and a review of the service functions delivered by Wolverhampton Homes, the Council's wholly owned Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO).	All Wards	Cabinet 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Jenny Lewington Deputy Director of City Housing Tel: 01902 554845
Investment Prospectus First Phase Delivery Plan - City Centre West To delegate authority to appoint through a direct award – a Development Partner.	St Peter's	Cabinet 18 Oct 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Stephen Simkins Leader of the Council	Simon Hall Senior Development Manager (Interim)
Investment Prospectus First Phase Delivery Plan - St Georges To delegate authority to appoint through a direct award process - DMS provider.	St Peter's	Cabinet 15 Nov 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Stephen Simkins Leader of the Council	Simon Hall Senior Development Manager (Interim)

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
<p>5-11 Gough Avenue, Wednesfield - Property Condition and future options To report on the current structural condition of council owned properties (7, 9 11) and the privately owned property at 5 Gogh Avenue; and to recommend the preferred option to address the current issues.</p>	Fallings Park	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Karen Beasley Head of Housing Development Tel: 01902 554893
<p>Hampton View, Heath Town - Surrender of lease To approve the agreed Heads of Terms with Sanctuary Housing Association for the surrender of lease for Hampton View and to agree the future use of the high-rise block.</p>	Heath Town	Cabinet 13 Dec 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Karen Beasley Head of Housing Development Tel: 01902 554893
<p>Revision to the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy Revision to be made to the Private Sector Assistance Policy following review.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 13 Dec 2023	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Michelle Garbett Service Lead Housing Strategy Tel: 01902 552954

[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>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024 - 2025 including Rent and Service Charges To seek approval of the Housing Revenue Account business plan for 2024 - 2025 including the revenue budget, capital programme, rents and service charges.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 17 Jan 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Senior People Business Partner Tel: 01902 554066
<p>Wolverhampton Homes Delivery Plan 2024 - 2025 A report to present the Delivery Plan for Wolverhampton Homes 2024 - 2025, to seek approval and recommendation for adoption by Council.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 21 Feb 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Jenny Lewington Deputy Director of City Housing Tel: 01902 554845
<p>City Housing Decant Policy Approval of the Council's approach to the decanting of tenants and leaseholders.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet 20 Mar 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Michelle Garbett Service Lead Housing Strategy Tel: 01902 552954
<p>Housing Asset Management Strategy 2024 - 2028 To approve the Asset Management Strategy 2024-2028 for council owned housing stock.</p>	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 20 Mar 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Karen Beasley Head of Housing Development Tel: 01902 554893

2023-10-17

Title of key decision:	Wards affected:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Public or private:	Lead Cabinet Member:	Employee to contact:
Home Loss and Disturbance Policy To approve a Home Loss and Disturbance Policy.	All Wards	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 20 Mar 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Meryl Tsagli Housing Policy Officer
Homelessness Prevention Strategy To approve the Homelessness Prevention Strategy.	All Wards	Cabinet 24 Apr 2024	Open	Councillor Steve Evans Deputy Leader: City Housing	Daniel Cartwright Homelessness Policy Officer
More local people into good jobs and training					
Well Connected Communities - A454 City East Gateway Phases 1 & 2 Progress Report To present a progress report on the project including a review of implementation options and potential authority to proceed to Full Business Case.	East Park; Heath Town	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 18 Oct 2023	Open	Councillor Craig Collingswood Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change	Orla Duffey Black Country Transport Project Manager
Well Connected Communities - A454 City East Gateway Phase 1 & 2 Property Acquisitions This report is the open version detailing the property acquisition details and approvals required to progress the A454 City East Gateway Phases 1 and 2 (Willenhall Road) project.	East Park	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Open	Councillor Craig Collingswood Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change	Orla Duffey Black Country Transport Project Manager

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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:
Well Connected Communities - A454 City East Gateway Phase 1 & 2 Property Acquisitions Report This report is the exempt version detailing the property acquisition details and approvals required to progress the A454 City East Gateway Phases 1 and 2 (Willenhall Road) project.	East Park	Cabinet (Resources) Panel 15 Nov 2023	Fully Exempt	Councillor Craig Collingswood Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change	Orla Duffey Black Country Transport Project Manager

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